



# CIRCUIT 3 COMPASS

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## ASJA Updates:

The Gehring Academy is June 23-27, 2008 at the University of Utah.

For more information, visit:  
<http://asjaacademy.tamu.edu/>

## Primary Concerns: Potential Conduct Issues this Election Season

By Ryan C. Holmes  
LaSalle University

So far this year, there has been a surge in excitement throughout the United States. A great deal of the social electricity can be attributed to the Presidential primaries and caucuses geared towards determining who will be President in 2009. Though the two major political parties (i.e. Democrats and Republicans) have been hard-pressed to find the candidate best suited to represent their respective aims, more attention has been given to the Democratic Party's process as it represents the first time in U. S. history that either an African-American or a woman, of any color, will ultimately be the Democratic nominee. In the profession of Student Affairs, the appreciation of diversity has been of the utmost importance for years now. Similarly, there is none larger than the presidential stage to suggest that the messages of equality and acceptance, though not completely achieved, have made visible progress.

As I was walking home from the subway, contemplating the country's growth, my

attention was drawn to group of college students who had just disembarked the same train. As they walked ahead, I noticed a large advertisement with the face of Barack Obama on the side of a bus stop shelter. When they approached the shelter, they started to yell and a few of the males started to furiously punch the image, seemingly out of anger. Within a few seconds they all laughed and continued to move on to their final destination;

the residence halls. As the feeling of disappointment began to sink in, I was reminded of recent conversations with colleagues detailing how they had both seen and heard of sexist comments, from college students, aimed at Hillary Rodham Clinton; reports of racial slurs toward Obama, etc. Yet the most salient issue to me, at the time, was

that these students, and others like them, reside within the confines of our campuses.

Our students are young adults. These same young adults come equipped with previously learned behaviors, belief systems, ways of expressing themselves, and potential prejudices. The aforementioned characteristics can be found in all individuals; however, because colleges and universities have additional rules and standards that, in *(continued on pg. 2)*



## Primary Concerns (continued)

some cases, exceed the expectations of general society, college students can find themselves in the midst of a policy violation. Some of the most likely conduct issues during this election season will consist of the following:

Verbal abuse, or harassment, of student members in support, or opposition, of a specific candidate,

Offensive graffiti which includes, but is not limited to, racist and /or misogynistic remarks,

Vandalism of University property (e.g. bulletin boards and doors) bearing a candidate's name and/or likeness, and

Use of electronic mediums (i.e. MySpace and Facebook) to spread inappropriate messages and/or provoke heated responses.

While the aforementioned examples are broad in nature, they cover a wide-range of potential conduct issues. Nevertheless, as this is not an exhaustive list, other situations may arise which will ultimately require Student Affairs professionals to be reactive in nature if a response method has not previously been created. Furthermore, it is important to remember that our students arrive to campus with varying levels of development and maturity. There is a teachable moment present in all situations, and as these instances may benefit our students more so, in addressing students, we stand to be educated about life, and ourselves, in the process.

**New Year...  
New Ideas...  
New People...  
Same Circuit 3  
quality programs  
coming your way!**

## Around the Circuit

### John Smith Reports:

Monmouth University hosted the Circuit 3 New Jersey State meeting on March 7, 2008. John Smith, Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities from Stockton College, presented on the College's Administrative Case Review Process which addresses conduct issues with mental health mitigating factors. A lively discussion followed on best practices for dealing with crisis management and mental health related conduct issues. Meeting participants represented Monmouth University, Stockton College and Atlantic Cape Community College.

### Leonard Brown Reports:

The Circuit will host two drive ins this summer one at Delaware Valley College (TBA) and one at Washington and Jefferson (TBA).





## Circuit 3 Spotlight: DeSales University

Location: Center Valley, PA

Mascot: Bulldog

DeSales University is a Private Catholic Institution with an enrollment of 1445 full time undergraduates (2225 including graduate and evening students) located in the Lehigh Valley Area of Pennsylvania. Seventy (70%) of the full time undergraduate students are residential students and the institution has both a security force and a Police force.

The University's Conduct system is encapsulated in a code of conduct that is updated on a yearly basis and can be found online in the student handbook at: <http://www.desales.edu/assets/desales/SLife/DSUHandbook07.pdf>

Facts about DeSales' conduct system:

- Major Case Hearing Board: Disciplinary Affairs Committee (includes faculty staff and students)
- Academic Dishonesty Cases: Not heard by the Conduct Office
- Adjudication of Off Campus Conduct: Yes
- Parental Notification is handled on a case by case basis and is covered under the following policy- The Office of Student Life, the Vice President for Student Life, or his/her designee at their

discretion, may contact parents of dependent students under the following circumstances:

1. Health and safety matter whether or not student is hospitalized.
  2. When a student's housing or student status is in jeopardy.
  3. Violations in the local community.
  4. Disciplinary or judicial matters.
- Medical Amnesty Policy: Yes (available online at the above link)

Jennifer Bunting is the Student Judicial Affairs Coordinator at DeSales University. She has been at DeSales since January 2006. Prior to this position, Jennifer was a Residence Life Coordinator at Penn State University – Berks Campus. She has a BS in Business Finance from Penn State University and will be graduating with a M.Ed. in Student Affairs Administration from Kutztown University this May.

Jennifer reports that one of the major strengths of the DeSales Conduct system is that it is educational as opposed to punitive in nature. With the growth that DeSales is experiencing, Jennifer and other staff member are working hard to make sure that their campus policies and procedures are up to date and currently serving the needs of their community. Jennifer can be reached via email at: [Jennifer.Bunting@DeSales.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Bunting@DeSales.edu)

Who would you like  
to spotlight in an  
upcoming issue—  
let us know!!

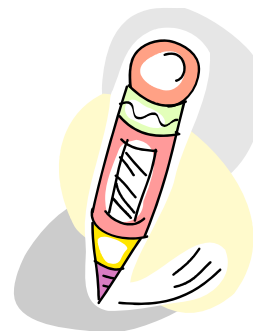
**Have an idea or practice that you want highlight?**

**Do you know a professional or institution that should be recognized?**

**Well then consider submitting an article for the next  
Circuit 3 Compass!!!!**

**The deadline for the next issue is July 1!!!!**

**For more information, contact Gary @ [gmm21@sa.psu.edu](mailto:gmm21@sa.psu.edu)!**





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## ***Professional Development Opportunities:***

### **DRIVE IN CONFERENCE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NJ Higher Education Substance Abuse Summit**

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

**Monmouth University - Rebecca Stafford Student Center**

One doesn't have to look far to find campuses grappling with the problems associated with student alcohol and other drug use. At Monmouth University, the Division of Student Services often finds itself at the heart of trying to solve these issues every year. While Monmouth believes it is making progress, we have found it very helpful to look to other institutions for new ideas, methodologies, and best practices in addressing this challenging issue.

Please join the Monmouth University Division of Student Services on **Wednesday, May 28, 2008** for an informal day of conversation as we seek to identify existing programs, new ideas, and best practices that institutions are employing when tackling student alcohol and other drug use on their campus.

As part of the conference, we'll have space set aside for you to share any departmental resources, handbooks, t-shirts/sweatshirts, etc. We will also hold a raffle for the conference participants. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided **FREE** to everyone attending by the

### ***Monmouth University Division of Student Services.***

As an addition to this year's conference, **John Kriger MSM, LCADC, CPS** will present an educational series on **Current Drug Trends**. In this session, he will explore the current drug abuse trends, as well as discussing what can be done in the home, school and community environments to detect and reduce their usage. This training will give you first hand experience with some of the most insidious elements of drug culture available today.

Please feel free to share this email with any other colleagues at your campus.

Space is limited to the first 100 people so don't delay and register now.

For more information please contact **Suanne Schaad**, Substance Awareness Coordinator, at 732-263-5804. The deadline to register is **Wednesday, May 21, 2008**.

To register, visit: [http://www.monmouth.edu/campus\\_life/res\\_life/conference/default.asp](http://www.monmouth.edu/campus_life/res_life/conference/default.asp)

## ***Helpful Links:***

**ASJA-** <http://asja.tamu.edu/>

**ASJA Career Center-** <http://asja.tamu.edu/jobs/jobs.asp>

**GovTrack.us: Track Federal Legislation-** <http://www.govtrack.us/>

**U.S. Department of Education-** <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml?src=a>