



## ACCREDITATION BULLETIN

### Board Message

By Lynn Villeneuve, Chair

For some time there have been efforts to improve communication from the AAAC to its members. The formal format of a long AAAC Newsletter once or twice a year was not seen as the best approach. After discussion, the AAAC Board of directors have decided to move away from the current newsletter.

Instead you'll see a change to a periodic e-blast format. This new format is intended to be a short item (less than 1 page), to inform members of news around accreditation and AAAC. This will include links to the website for larger articles.

JULY 2016

#### Mission Statement:

AAAC supports and empowers its member organizations in their pursuit of excellence in accreditation practices.

#### Our first four Best Practice Guidelines are:

*1: An accreditation process incorporates the principles of quality assurance and continuous improvement, which is transparent, fair and objective, and respects confidentiality.*

*2: The purpose of the accreditation process is to evaluate the quality of academic programs and to promote their continuing improvement.*

*3: The accreditation agency is autonomous from the educational program under*

We hope to hear from you about this new initiative, and hope that members share news with their AAAC colleagues by [submitting news items to us](#).

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## Introducing AAAC's newest member: THE AUSTRALIAN ORTHOTIC PROSTHETIC ASSOCIATION

By Louise Puli, Project Officer, AOPA



[The Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association \(AOPA\)](#) is the peak body for orthotists/prosthetists in Australia and self-regulates the profession. AOPA membership accounts for 80% of the profession nationally. The role that AOPA plays in self-regulation ensures that orthotists/prosthetists are competent and provide quality services through setting standards which the membership are required to uphold including but not limited to: Ethical Code and Professional Conduct, Competency Standards, Course Accreditation Standards and mandatory Continuing Professional Development.

AOPA aims to develop and maintain excellence in the practice of orthotics and prosthetics through the management of a robust, mandatory continuing professional development program. This program ensures that the membership is actively updating their knowledge and skills relevant to their practice for the benefit of consumers and clients.

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*accreditation review.*

*4: The accreditation agency has representatives, and/or appointees, from relevant stakeholders.*



## Spring Annual Professional Development Series and AGM 2016

By Amy Robinson, AAAC Manager

The AAAC Annual Professional Development Series and AGM was well attended on April 25 and 26th, 2016 with ample networking opportunities enjoyed by members. The meeting commenced with an introduction of the outgoing Board and the resources offered to members. There was informative round table discussions with members sharing their Association's rules around Privacy and handling of electronic documentation followed by Challenges in accreditation. This topic had been preceded by a member survey to investigate similar challenges that member associations face.

The AGM was held and the following are the elected members of the AAAC 2016-17 Board of Directors:

- Lynn Villeneuve - Chair
- Deborah Wolfe - Vice Chair
- Joni Boyd - Treasurer
- David Parkes - Member-at-Large
- Rick Tachuk - Member-at-Large

Day two of the Professional Development Series members enjoyed hearing guest speaker



Randall Craig speak on **Landing the e-Learning Strategy Airplane.**

This was followed by questions from members and an open discussion forum. Members then participated in Committee Workshops and Breakout Sessions where considerable steps were made in furthering the working committee's tasks with greater input from the membership at large. Some valuable work was done with the Resource Committee to develop an **Annual Member's Survey**, and The Online Training Committee continued their work at revamping **AAAC's Online Training Modules.**



The Professional Development portion of the meeting ended with a very informative presentation from Joseph Vibert on ASPA updates and news in the industry.

Many thanks to all participants and members in attendance.

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## ASPA Spring Conference 2016 (ASPA News July 2016)

The ASPA Spring Conference and Annual Meeting 2016 was well



attended and received some of the best reviews ever. Sessions prior to the official conference start addressed Title IV and accreditor responsibilities, meeting workforce needs through holistic college admission reviews and a new member orientation. The closed Member session included an update on current issues in accreditation and higher education and committee and task force reports. The conference opened with the Members' meeting followed by a Board meeting. Elections results:

- Laura Rasar King - Board of Directors member and Chair
- Jenny Gunderman - Nominations Committee member
- Mary Reeves - Nominations Committee member

- Sue Graves - Nominations Committee Chair

The following individuals were presented with certificates of appreciation:

- Patti Tice - for service as a member and Chair of the Nominations Committee, May 2012 - April 2016
- Jan Winn - for service as a member of the Nominations Committee, May 2012 - April 2016
- Frank Gerbasi - for service as a member and Chair of the Membership Committee, May 2010 - April 2016
- Barbara Farkas - for service as a member and Chair of the Fall Professional Development Sub-committee, May 2010 - April 2016
- Margaret Schulte - for service as a member and Chair of the Spring Professional Development Sub-Committee, May 2015 - April 2016

Monday morning sessions included Paul Fain's (Inside Higher Ed) commentary on presidential candidates and expectations for higher education, a discussion on succession planning by Joan Walsh (Executive Service Corps of Chicago), and a regular favorite - Elise Scanlon (Elise Scanlon Law Group) talked about good practices and risk management for appeals processes.

The professional development component of the conference - **Consistency and Fairness in Accreditation** - covered a broad range of topics:

- reducing bias and ensuring consistency in accreditation reviews, while recognizing the distinct nature of each educational program;
- working with teams, review committees, and boards to establish fair and reproducible outcomes, including such issues as inter-rater reliability;
- employing decision-making processes that result in fair and reliable outcomes; and
- developing risk prevention practices, fixing internal systems and implementing damage control when bias arises.

Thanks to the Professional Development Committee:

- Margaret Schulte - President & CEO, Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education
- Mary B. Gregoire - Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Karen Martens Brandt - Director of Education & Research, American Veterinary Medical Association
- Benjamin Murray - Director of Accreditation Services, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

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## Ontario Appeal Court upholds law society's stand on Trinity Western University

Sean Fine - Justice Writer  
*The Globe and Mail*

The Ontario Court of Appeal has rejected a Christian law school's bid for recognition in the province, calling its prohibition on intimate activity between same-gendered married couples degrading and reminiscent of similar rules singling out blacks and interracial couples in the United States.

[Read more>](#)

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***Please contact [Amy Robinson](#) with submissions for next month's Bulletin - this is your newsletter so sharing best practices and accreditation information is important to all Members***