

**Business Professionals of America Alumni Association**

**NEXT STEPS! Newsletter**



**Letter from the President—Kristin McCarron**

**Special points of interest:**

- **Meet your Alumni officers for 2008-2009**
- **NEW! Alumni Spotlight**
- **Highlights from the Fall Meeting in Indianapolis**
- **Getting ready for the National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas!**

Happy New Year Alumni!

On behalf of the Business Professionals of America Alumni Association, welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter: Next Steps!

The Alumni are actively seeking to better the association and increase awareness that we are here! This past year, we have increased membership and began planning for the future of the association. A major revision of our by-laws has taken place, and we are working with the Board of Trustees to get it passed. An online forum has been developed in order to increase communication between our members.

I am very excited to see what the future holds for the association. In working with people like Trent

Roehll from the National Center, and Judy McKinstry, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, we have come up with many new and exciting plans for the upcoming year.

For example, be prepared to see BPA Alumni merchandise in the BPA Marketplace, with all proceeds benefiting the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Also, look out soon for a major overhaul of the Alumni section of the website, as we add photos, important documents, and spotlights of Alumni.

The Alumni Association is well under way for a brand new start.

We have worked together now more than ever to make sure that Alumni can do all that they can in order to help Business Profes-



Kristin McCarron—President

sionals of America.

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**Letter from Judy McKinstry, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

You are a valuable organizational resource. Many of our State Leadership Conferences would not be successful without your assistance coordinating, judging, sponsoring, mentoring, and a myriad of other essential tasks.

Your support at the National Leadership Conference and with other special projects is appreciated. It is critical that as our organization grows and strives to offer more services and opportunities to our members you are their to offer your expertise, sup-

port and assistance.

I know that across the country there are many alumni who appreciate their BPA experiences and understand the importance of insuring that current and future members have the same. There are many ways that we need you to take an active role - and I am sure others that you can suggest that we haven't even thought of yet!

Best wishes with your goal to raise Alumni awareness and

increase your membership. Your National Center Staff and the Board of Trustees are eager to assist you as you take your "next steps".

Take care,

Judy



Alli Davidson –President-Elect

## **Meet your President-Elect!**

Alli Davidson joined Business Professionals of America her junior year of high school and quickly became involved in the state officer leadership team for the Indiana Association. She went on to found the Post-Secondary chapter at Purdue University where she remained the President for three years.

After graduation, Alli moved to Detroit, MI to work in the Information Technology field. She is thrilled to help work with the Alumni Association in the upcoming year as they work towards improving and increasing awareness of the association.

## **Meet your Secretary!**

Nate Cradit was a four-year member of Business Professionals of America as a high school student, a state officer for the Michigan Association, and he now works with the Michigan Association on various projects.

He is a graduate of Central Michigan University, and now works in student affairs at Eastern Michigan University, where he is pursuing his master's degree in educational leadership. He is excited to help the Alumni Division turn a new page this year, and take steps in a positive direction to support the students and the organization.



Nate Cradit—Secretary

## **Meet your President!**

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*Yesterday's  
Students. Today's  
Business  
Professionals.*

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Kristin McCarron was a four year member of Business Professionals of America in the Marlborough High School Chapter. As a high school student, she was a state officer for Massachusetts, and is now the Assistant State Director for MA as well.

Kristin graduated from Southern New Hampshire University and is now an 8th grade Social Studies Teacher at Hudson High School. In her 2 years at Hudson High, she has worked to create a chapter, and is proud to see their numbers increase this year.

Kristin has high hopes for the upcoming year for the Alumni Association, and encourages people to stay in touch and stay involved!

## Letter from the President continued...

As I tell my students, we know what it's like to prepare for hours for a competition. We know what it's like to be waiting outside that meeting room with sweaty palms and butterflies in your stomach. And, we also know the feeling of excitement and pride when you make it up on stage for an award. We've been there, and it is obvious that BPA has had a positive impact on our life. We want to make sure that we can help other students have the same opportunities we did. That's what the Alumni

Association is here for.

So, on behalf of the Alumni Association, welcome to the new face of Alumni, as we take the Next Steps! towards a bigger and improved Alumni Association. The Officer Team and I hope that you share in the excitement of what the future holds, and become a part of it! Make sure to read about the other officers, learn about items discussed at the Fall Meeting, and learn about our plans for the National Leadership Conference. Also, if you wish to stay

involved with BPA, contact one of the National Alumni Officers and look online at [www.bpanet.org](http://www.bpanet.org).

Thank you very much, and happy reading!

We're on the web!

[www.bpanet.org/  
alumni](http://www.bpanet.org/alumni)

## Fall Meeting was a success!

The Fall Meeting took place on Saturday, November 8 in Indianapolis, IN.

Several alumni members attended including: Nate Cradit—Michigan, Keith Bex—Indiana, Peggy Smith—Indiana, Alli Davidson—Indiana, Paul Beets—Michigan, and Kristin McCarron—Massachusetts.

Trent Roehll from the National Center also joined us as the new liaison to the Alumni Association. He was an integral part of the meeting, offering advice, insight, and support for the upcoming year.

Many important issues were discussed, but one of the most important and lengthy discussions involved revising the Alumni Association By-Laws. We are hoping to bring the

by-laws current and help create a foundation for us to take our "Next Steps."

As an active Alumni association, we should be doing our best to serve



the organization. One way which we can do this is to offer an Alumni Scholarship. In order to get this off the ground, we are going to start some new fundraising campaigns. While many ideas were discussed, it was decided that this year we would

try offering Alumni merchandise in the BPA marketplace. We hope to start fundraising on a small scale and aim to roll out the first scholarship by 2010.

Committees were also formed towards the end of the meeting. The four standing committees are: the Finance committee, the NLC committee, Membership committee, and By-laws committee. The committees came up with short and long term goals for the upcoming year and are each charged with the task of finding successful strategies in order to meet those goals.

All in attendance agreed that the meeting was a success. We are looking forward to bringing the Alumni Association in a new direction!

## Alumni Spotlight



Jaime Westgate— MA

Jaime Westgate is an alumnus of Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School in Taunton, MA. As a Business Professionals of America member, Jaime served as a Chapter and State Officer from 2004-2005. She participated in several service projects including the Jolly Jaunt for Massachusetts Special Olympics.

Currently Jaime just bought a house in Carver, MA and works at Nestle Waters North America as a Key Account Collector. She continues to be involved with BPA as an Alumni Coordinator, volunteering her time at the MA State Leadership Conference every year, and attending the past two National Leadership Conferences to serve as a judge and volunteer.

Her plans for the future include returning to college in 2009 to earn her degree in Business Operations and continuing her involvement with Business Professionals of America at the State and National level.



Yesterday's Students. Today's Business Professionals.

Please feel free to email us!

[alumni@bpa.org](mailto:alumni@bpa.org)

## NLC here we come!

The National Leadership Conference (NLC) will take place this year in Dallas, Texas on May 6-10.

The Alumni Association takes on many roles at NLC. These include:

- Judging, proctoring, and administering competitive events;
- Working at Registration;
- Volunteering at the Tour Desk;
- Assisting the State Divisions;
- Serving on the Host Committee;
- and many more volunteer opportunities!

All Alumni are encouraged to attend the National Leadership Conference. We are an important part of the conference, and it is a great opportunity to stay involved with the organization.

This year's NLC is expected to be bigger and better than ever! Expect to see a dynamic keynote speaker, valuable leadership workshops, and

a great special event—Six Flags over Texas!

Alumni Registration for the conference includes: Special Event, Conference Gifts, General Sessions, and Workshops. This year, the registration fee is \$109.00. The two hotels to be used for the Conference are the Sheraton Dallas and the Hilton Anatole. For more information please visit: <http://www.bpanet.org/nlc/>

**BLAZING NEW TRAILS**