



# UASSP NEWSLETTER

Utah Association of Secondary School Principals

## Spring 2011

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**D**r. Russell Quaglia is the President/Founder of Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations.

He received his Bachelor's degree at Assumption College, a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Boston College and a Master of Education and Doctorate from Columbia University specializing in the area of Organizational Theory and Behavior. He has also been awarded numerous honorary doctorates in Humanitarian Services for his work with students around the world.

## Russell Quaglia

Keynote Speaker at Summer Conference

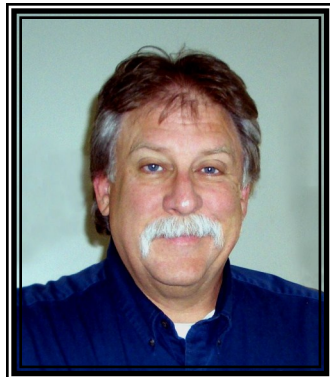
As a dynamic speaker, he travels extensively presenting research-based information on student aspirations and engagement to audiences throughout the United States and around the world. His opinions and comments on educational topics have been sought after and published in national media. His research is published frequently in professional journals. He has written numerous books and has also made several appearances on national and international television and radio.

His presentation will describe the dynamic nature of student aspirations and discuss eight conditions in schools that affect aspirations.

In his presentation, Dr. Quaglia

will share data that has been gathered from over 500,000 middle and high school students that depicts their perceptions of their teaching and learning environment.

Dr. Quaglia is currently a visiting scholar at both Stanford University and Exeter University in the United Kingdom. He has most recently been appointed the Chief Academic Officer of the newly established Student Engagement Trust, a non-profit organization based in the United Kingdom committed to working with schools to make certain that all young people achieve their fullest academic potential.



**S**alt Lake Tribune humor columnist, Robert Kirby was raised in a military family. Following an LDS mission to

## Robert Kirby

To Present at Summer Conference

South America, Kirby became a police officer. He left law enforcement for journalism in 1989.

Robert has written for the Tribune since 1994. His column appears every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, where it is closely followed by World Leaders.

Kirby's awards do not include the

Nobel or Pulitzer prizes, but he did judge a pie contest in Panguitch.

Kirby lives in Herriman with his wife, three married daughters, and eight grandkids.





## Executive Director's Message

by Carl Boyington

Another Legislative session is over and public education fared pretty well in a very difficult economic time. We appreciate the Governor and the Legislature for funding education at a 2.1 percent increase over last year. However, you really have to be careful with how the increase is interpreted as there are a lot of smoke and mirrors. New growth was only funded at \$30 million which is short by \$26 million. This is a step in the right direction because growth has not been funded for the past two years. The WPU has been increased but the value of the flexible allocation spending has been decreased, so the actual WPU funds have been decreased by \$31.00. Aside from funding, there are some serious concerns about legislation which may be considered regressive as legislators attempt to demonstrate that they are the "education gurus" for our State. Some have accused the education policy-makers of not being "qualified" and not having "vision." I have always felt Gerry Tirozzi, Executive Director of NASSP, said it best, "Vision without resources is a nightmare" and we certainly deal with many nightmares. I also have to applaud Jamie Vollmer in his book *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*, when he states that "The further a decision maker is from the child, the dumber the decision gets," and the Legislature is far removed from the child.

These are very challenging times in education and now is the time when great leaders are needed to guide their schools and students through the maze of new programs, new technology, new curriculum, new assessments, new data, new laws and mandates, limited resources and comparisons to other states and nations. The list goes on and on. I do however see this as a time when school leaders must take a look at their school and realize that just because we have done it like this for several years and it is working, may not be good enough. NCLB, if it did nothing else, has focused on the importance of recognizing every child has the right and capacity to learn and we need to insure that we are serving all students in our schools. I remember reading *Good to Great* by Jim Collins and thinking he hit it right on the head. We can't be satisfied to be an average school or a "Good" school, we need to be a "Great" school. "Good is the enemy of Great" and gives cause sometimes for being satisfied with just average.

Every leader should be striving to guide his or her school through the maze and have a "Great" school. Ask yourself about the academic needs of your school. If you have 85 percent of your students at or ahead of the district, State and national benchmarks, you have a very "Good" school. Now ask yourself about the other 15 percent of the students and what you are doing to meet their needs and helping to make them be successful. To be a "Great" school you need to be meeting the

needs of all students. What programs do you have to create relationships with adults and students? Does each student have an adult who cares about them and is genuinely ready to listen to their problems and assist them in their struggle to succeed? How effective is your PLC, do the teachers collaborate, look at data and discuss how they can meet the needs of the individual student as well as their class and the department? I'm sure that any improvement effort made to meet the needs of the few (15%) will strengthen the many (85%) and your school will be "Great."

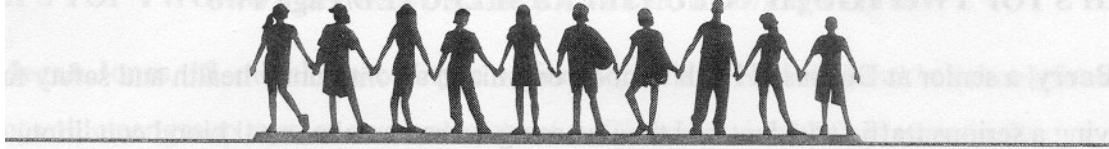
You are the "best of the best" and now is the time for you to create a culture that is not satisfied with "Good," but working hard to be the very best. Through your "Optimistic Leadership," you can share with your staff, teachers, students and community about the successes of your school and let them know that their school is not just "Good" but their school is "Great!"



*The further a decision maker is from the child the dumber the decision gets"*

*Jamie Vollmer*

**TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN EACH STATE  
SELECTED IN 16TH NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM**



**THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS**

HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BY YOUNG AMERICANS

Washington, D.C. America's 102 most outstanding youth volunteers—two from each state and the District of Columbia were named State Honorees today by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for exemplary acts of volunteerism. The awards program, now in its 16th year, is conducted by Prudential Financial, Inc. in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Each of the 102 State Honorees will receive \$1000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., April 30 - May 3 for several days of national recognition events. Ten of them will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2011 at that time.

"These award recipients have proven that young people across America are critical to the future

of our neighborhoods, our nation and our world," said John R. Strangefeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "Each and everyone of these honorees deserve our respect and admiration, and we hope by shining a light on them, they will continue to serve as an example for others."

"The young people recognized by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards demonstrate an enormous capacity for giving and reaching out to those in need," said Gerald N. Tirozzi, Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "NASSP is proud to honor these student leaders because they are wonderful examples of the high caliber of young people in our nation's schools today."

While in Washington, D.C., the 102 State Honorees will tour the Capital's landmarks, attend a gala awards ceremony at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and visit their

congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.

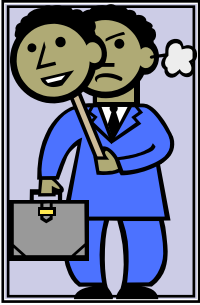
I am happy to inform you that the search for this year's top youth volunteers is now complete, and the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program will recognize each state's high school and middle level honoree. Utah's winners are:

**Aimee Matheson**, 17, Clearfield High school, Clearfield  
**Colten Lee**, 13, Freedom Academy K-8 Charter School, Provo.



***"Help people become more motivated by guiding them to the source of their own power"***

***Paul G. Thomas***



# ELEVEN BENEFITS OF BEING POSITIVE

By Jon Gordon

Over the years I've done a lot of research on the positive effects of being positive and the negative affects of being negative. The research is clear. It really does pay to be positive and the benefits include enhanced health and longevity, happiness, career advancement, athletic performance, team building and financial success. Being positive is not just a nice way to live. It's the way to live. In this spirit here are eleven benefits of being positive.

1. Positive people live longer - In a study of nuns, those that regularly expressed positive emotions lived on average ten years longer. (The Nun Study)
2. Positive work environments outperform negative work environments. (Daniel Goleman)
3. Positive, optimistic sales people see more than pessimistic sales people. (Martin Seligman)
4. Positive leaders are able to make better decisions under pressure. (Heartmath.org)
5. Marriages are much more likely to succeed when the couple experiences a five to one ratio of positive to negative interactions whereas when the ratio approaches one to one, marriages are more likely to end in divorce. (Several Studies)
6. Positive people who regularly express positive emotions are more resilient when facing stress, challenges and adversity. (Several Studies)
7. Positive people are able to maintain a broader perspective and see the big picture which helps them identify solutions where as negative people maintain a narrower perspective and tend to focus on problems. (Barbara Fredrickson)
8. Positive thoughts and emotions counter the negative effects of stress. For example, you can't be thankful and stressed at the same time. (Several Studies)
9. Positive emotions such as gratitude and appreciation help athletes perform at a higher level. (Heartmath.org)
10. Positive people have more friends which is a key factor of happiness and longevity. (Robert D. Putnam)
11. Positive and popular leaders are more likely to garner the support of others and receive pay raises and promotions and achieve greater success in the workplace. (Several Studies)



## Kearns Junior High Joins Eight Utah Schools as a Nationally Recognized “School to Watch”

**K**earns Junior High, in Granite School District, has been awarded the designation as a National School to Watch. Principal Kandace Barber and her staff are recognized for meeting or exceeding thirty-seven criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The school demonstrates academic excellence, a responsiveness to the developmental needs of young adolescents, and a commitment to fostering success for all students.

Kearns Junior High has a student population where fifty-one percent are of ethnic minority. Seventy-two percent of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Forty percent of students are English language learners and thirty-five percent are youth with disabilities. Yet this school has CRT scores above the district average with double digit gains the last two years.

The school’s motto is “Success is Our Only Option,” which is apparent in the commitment of the teachers to do all that they can to ensure student mastery of the content.

Students are not allowed to fail and teachers have worked to clearly define learning objectives and to employ data-driven instruction to determine what needs to be retaught and what individual students need to be successful. Principal Barber is credited for doing whatever it takes to make sure that teachers have what they need for effective teaching and learning. Teachers are part of collaborative teams that create Smaller Learning Communities for students and integrated, relevant learning opportunities.

Parents and the community are clearly partners in education from participating in various adult-learning opportunities during the school day with accompanying childcare to contributing to robust after school and summer youth and family programs.

Kearns Junior High joins eight schools in the State of Utah, and approximately 300 nationwide, in eighteen states that have met the rigorous criteria of the National Forum. The eight schools are Mount Logan Middle School , Syracuse Junior High , Sunset Ridge Middle School,

Eisenhower Junior High, Tonaquint Intermediate School, Fort Herriman Middle School, South Hills Middle School, and Cedar Middle School. School administrators and teachers contribute to the replication of effective programs and practices by providing resources and professional development to hundreds of educators in the state of Utah.

Utah *Schools to Watch* provides professional development to school teams at no cost through its Leadership Academy and onsite training. For further information contact Lori Gardner at [lgardner@pschools.us](mailto:lgardner@pschools.us) or Cathy Jensen at [cathy.jensen@schools.utah.gov](mailto:cathy.jensen@schools.utah.gov)



### Pamela Perlich, Ph.D.

*To present at Summer Conference*

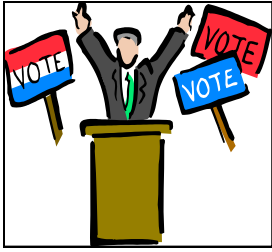
**P**amela Perlich, Ph.D., works as a Senior Research Economist in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the

University of Utah, joining BEBR in 2000. Before joining the BEBR, she worked for seven years in the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget concentrating on long-term economic and demographics projections.

In addition , she is Professor Adjunct in the Department of City & Metropolitan Planning and the College of Architecture &

Planning. She has taught in the program since 1998. Pamela specializes in Utah Demographics, Applied Regional Economic Studies, and Economic and Demographic Modeling.

Pamela received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah and B.S. in Economics and Business from the University of Tulsa.



# Look Before You Vote

*Candidates can be viewed Online*

The UASSP Executive Board, in an attempt to become “greener,” will not include the candidates for Executive Board positions in the newsletter. To view pictures and read short bios and statements you will need to go to our website: [www.uassp.org/newsbriefs](http://www.uassp.org/newsbriefs). It is our plan to have the entire election procedure on line in the future, but we are not ready for the voting process at this time.

We will continue to send hard copies of the Newsletter. We are concerned that people may not open and read the online versions and communication is vital to the success of the Association. Hopefully the Fall Edition of the Newsletter will be an online production unless people indicate they prefer a hard copy on their membership registration form.

## ASK THE INTERNET...



Where do you go when you have a question that needs an answer these days?

### The Internet!

Here are some questions found on the internet and published in the *Write File Quarterly*, Woodville, Ontario, Canada.

- ◆ Why do you need a driver’s license to buy liquor when you can’t drive and drink?
- ◆ Why isn’t phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- ◆ Why are there interstate Highways in Hawaii?
- ◆ If you are in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlight?
- ◆ Why is it when you transport something by car, it’s called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it’s called cargo?
- ◆ Why is it when you are driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?



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Fifty Dollar Reward  
for  
Articles Published in the  
UASSP Impact Magazine  
by members

If you are interested  
contact

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Pennion Junior High  
Granite School District  
[mrhodes@graniteschools.org](mailto:mrhodes@graniteschools.org)

# Mid Winter Conference

St. George — 2011



Non-paid Attendee



See you at Summer Conference!!  
June 13—15, 2011

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