



What a year of excellence we've had! This has been one of the best growth experiences I have ever gone through. Although there were many challenges and lots of hard work along the way, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served as your Alabama Division President.

I want to thank all of you for attending our Alabama Division Annual Meeting and showing your support for our Division. A special thanks to the Northwest Region Chapters: Decatur, Redstone Arsenal and Shoals. This has been a fantastic meeting.

In my incoming speech I said that excellence is not a destination we reach, but is an unending process of constant improvement. Although our membership decreased slightly this year from 553 on June 30, 2008, to 526 as of June 1, 2009, that is a net loss of only 27 members. Given the terrible turn the economy took near during this past IAAP year and the ensuing impact to the business world not just in Alabama, but globally, I think we should be proud that we basically held steady. Let's keep up the unending

process of constant improvement and keep working on getting new members and retaining the ones we already have.

I also would like to share our progress on the Pathways to Excellence recognition program for the Division of Excellence category. To achieve the Division of Excellence designation, the Alabama Division needed to obtain 14 of the 19 criteria required. I am disappointed to report despite our hard work, we fell a little short this year. To date, we have only achieved 10 of the 14 required criteria. This is a new program for IAAP and I am optimistic that the Alabama Division will achieve Division of Excellence status in the 2009-2010 year.

I mentioned earlier that this has been one of the best growth experiences I ever had. I've grown both personally and professionally. The personal growth is from the friendships I have forged with my fellow board members, our committee chairs and directors, chapter presidents, student advisors and the countless members that have supported me throughout the year. I treasure these relationships and am a better person today because of them.

The professional growth has been so much fun! I had the opportunity to visit with numerous chapters attending various functions throughout the year. Sometimes presenting, sometimes leading, sometimes just able to attend and enjoy the event. These experiences were awesome and I am thankful to have had the pleasure of going through them to help build my leadership skills and professional abilities.

It is truly amazing how fast the year has passed. It seems like just a few short weeks ago we were in Mobile and I was just stepping up to bat as your Alabama Division President. I appreciate all of your encouragement, help, support and dedication to me and our organization this year. I appreciate it more than words can convey. I would especially like to thank the members of the Huntsville Chapter, they are an incredible group!

I would also like to thank my family here tonight for their love and support. There have been a lot of hours worked and late nights and weekends devoted to accomplishing the business of our Alabama Division and I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful support system.

As I close this evening, I encourage you to continue to strive to be Excellence in Action. Embrace our organization. Get involved, encourage others to get involved. Enthusiasm is infectious. Let's infect all our chapters!! Colin Powell said, "If you are going to achieve excellence in the big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude." I challenge you to continue to make excellence your prevailing attitude and see the difference Excellence in Action makes!

Thank you.