

**A  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
STUDENT  
PERSONNEL  
ASSOCIATION  
(SPA)**



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<http://www.uw-spa.org>

**SPA CALENDAR**

[http://www.uw-spa.org/  
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# Frontline

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## From the President

I recently read a *Wisconsin Week* article about Eric Knueve, the adviser for Adventure Learning Programs in the Student Organization Office. One of his advisees said of Eric, "He brings the organization and continuity that allows us students to be productive with our energy." What a great recognition of Eric's important work on our campus. That's what I hope SPA can do for you: allow you to be productive with your energy. As you have heard many times before, SPA provides opportunities for networking, recognition, and social interaction for student affairs professionals. When things get hectic for you, please take some time to reflect on your work, either for a brief moment at your

desk or at one of our upcoming events. This newsletter lists many kinds of SPA involvement opportunities. We have a very exciting year planned and your involvement is welcomed.

As I write this, Wisconsin is in its 15<sup>th</sup> week without a state budget. This obviously has an impact on our work and the experience of our students. While it is a violation of state law for a UW employee to engage in political activities while at work, I encourage you to stay up-to-date on this issue and take action to express your personal opinion on your own time. For more information, visit the Office of the Chancellor – State Relations website at:

<http://www.staterelations.wisc.edu>

Thanks to those who joined us at the SPA fall reception on September 27. I think everyone enjoyed the time with new and old colleagues and friends – especially Bucky! As the year continues, please feel free to contact me or any one of the executive board with your comments or questions.



**Ann Dingman**  
SPA President

### SPA Involvement Opportunities

There is still time to sign up for a committee! To join, please contact the committee chair listed below, or send an email to: [info@uw-spa.org](mailto:info@uw-spa.org).

- Annual Conference (Chair: Carlotta V. Calmese)
- Awards Luncheon Committee (Co-Chairs: Kathy Kruse & Carlotta V. Calmese)
- Book Club (Chair: Kristin Lenicheck)
- Social Committee/Volunteering (Chair: Nancy Kujak Ford)
- Careers in Student Affairs/Field Days (Chair: Katia Albright)
- Forums (Chair: Charles Holmes-Hope)
- Membership & Recruitment (Chair: Heather Cote)
- Newsletter (Chair: Michaela Aust)

## Storming the Court: How a Band of Yale Law School Students Sued the President— and Won

Brant Goldstein, New York: Scribner, 2005, 371 pps.

Reviewed by Consuelo López Springfield, University of Wisconsin-Madison

All stories have a beginning, middle and end. Faced with great odds, protagonists battle inner demons as they defeat dangerous foes. As readers, we surreptitiously engage in these battles pitting self-aggrandizement against the common good. In the best legal stories—morality tales similar to those of ancient times—attorneys square off against corrupt socio-political economic and legal systems, using



intelligence, grit, and ingenuity to overcome enormous odds. In Storming the Court: How a Band of Yale Law School Students Sued the President—and Won, Brant Goldstein takes readers on a long, convoluted journey through

the portals of a prestigious law school, the Federal Circuit and Supreme Courts, international conventions, and election politics to question the fairness of our legal system. Unlike most morality tales, this one, however, has no end as the powerful political opponent—those who are supposed to protect the public—are none other than the U. S. government which uses its might to violate human rights accords; to this day, many of the lawyers in Storming the Court still confront huge legal hurdles to battle the presidency in efforts to obtain justice for many seeking freedom and safety on U.S. shores.

The heroes of this tale are law students, professors, and human right activists who set out to protect the frailest among us: innocent Haitians intercepted at sea, imprisoned at Guantanamo, and held without legal representation in violation of interna-

tional law. The story, covering a decade of legal battles (1991-2001) pays tribute to the courage and determination of a motley crew of asylum seekers and their defenders who struggle with their own issues to arrive at a point of understanding. What the tale asks of us is that we, in turn, refute the ongoing debasement of human beings detained by the U.S. government. The story demonstrates that the tactics used to imprison innocent Haitians captured by Coast Guard vessels, held on a U.S. base where they are denied their rights to *habeas corpus* are not only unconstitutional but also unconscionable to anyone who subscribes to standards of human decency.

Based on a series of interviews and published long after the major court battles of 1992-93, when Yale's Lowenstein Clinic and the Center of Constitutional Rights put together a team of underdogs who, amid immense odds, acquired access to interview Haitian detainees who were held as AIDS carriers at Bulkeley (an armed camp within Guantanamo). These detainees had escaped misery and death squads following the coup against popularly elected Jean Bertrand Aristide only to be provided inadequate medical treatment, housing, bedding, food, and shelter from harsh weather. Among themselves, they organized to various forms of resistance and subterfuge. In stark contrast to the treatment of Cuban refugees and in violation of the U.N. Refugee Convention's prohibition that refugees not be returned to a place where they might suffer persecution, most held at Guantanamo (children as well as adults) were forcibly returned to Haiti to face political persecution, terror and even death.

Led by Harvard Professor Harold Koh and Michael Ratner, with outside attorneys Lucas Guttentag, Jennifer Klein, Robert

Rubin and Joseph Tringali, the students succeeded at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Later faced with an obstructive Supreme Court, the legal team compromised with the Justice Department (then under President Clinton) in order to receive attorneys' fees and court costs (a bill of \$3.5 million). Judge Sterling's District Court opinion favoring the refugees remains on court records and was used in 2002 in a suit filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights against the Bush administration's holding of "terrorists" indefinitely without formal charges and, like the Haitians a decade earlier, denied access to legal council and communication with the outside world.

The Yale students and the attorneys who helped to craft their case demonstrate raw courage and resolve; and in the interviews forming the basis of this tale, they emerge as tireless in their efforts to overcome the cruelties of our immigration policies that welcome Cuban refugees while punishing Haitian ones. The fortitude of Haitian refugees, especially seen in the bravery of Yvonne Pascal, a spokesperson for the Haitian cause on base and after her release in New York, tugs on the readers' emotional strings. If Goldstein's story has a weakness, it lies in the reductive view of the Haitian overseas community's resources, the work of the Black Caucus and activists like Randall Robinson who took the Haitian's cause to the world at large. The book is essential reading for anyone who enjoys a hard, tenacious fight for equality over incredible odds. For anyone interested in international and immigration law, human rights work, and law school, it will be hard to put away on the shelf. I highly recommend it.





## SPA SPOTLIGHT

**What is your ideal of perfect happiness?**

My idea of perfect happiness is looking out over the fairway on a Saturday morning at the first tee.

**Which talent would you most like to have?**

I would most like to possess the talent to sing like Smokey Robinson.

**What is it that you most dislike?**

Missing an opportunity to help someone else because I wasn't listening or paying attention.

**Who are the heroes in your life?**

I have had many role models throughout my life but my mother and Ms. Bermann are at the head of the class. My mother whom showed me how to carry myself with dignity and grace in the face of adversity is a role model to me. Mrs. Bermann opened doors for me by serving as my advocate in middle school and helped me gain entrance into college. She's helped thousands of students during her forty year career in education.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

I don't know if you can describe your family as a possession, but I would say that they are my most treasured possession.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

I am able to make the connection to the "big picture."

**What is the quality you most like in a person?**

Compassion

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?**

Selfishness

**What is your motto?**

Treat others like you want to be treated

**What turns you on creatively, spiritually, or emotionally?**

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of other turns on my creative, spiritual, and emotional energy.

**What profession other than your own would you not like to do?**

Principal in the K-12 system...you get all the flack and none of the glory. It takes a special person take on this leadership position.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Anytime I am able to help a student realize their dream.

**Anything you'd like to let SPA Newsletter readers know about?**

I am excited about joining the UW community!



**DeVon Wilson**  
Assistant Dean and  
Director UW-  
Madison's Academic  
Advancement Pro-  
gram (AAP)



## Fall Kickoff Reception

On Thursday, September 27, SPA held its annual Fall Reception to welcome colleagues back to campus and recruit for new committee members. On a beautiful evening, we enjoyed appetizers and drinks in the Lathrop Hall parlor. Due to a tragic kitchen mishap, we were missing our traditional chocolate-covered strawberries, but in my opinion Housing Catering's excellent brownies made up for it. Harpist Mary Ann Harr played beautiful background music and her rendition of "On Wisconsin" provided a fitting entrance song for Bucky Badger. This year we added a door prize drawing for people who joined or renewed their membership to SPA, and three lucky people won a fabulous prize. We are grateful to the many people who signed up to join a committee and look forward to working with you. Once again, the Fall Reception was an enjoyable way to start the new school year.





## Upcoming Events

### Thurs 11/1

Careers in Student Affairs

5:30-7:30 pm, Memorial Union

The purpose of this event is to familiarize the audience with the history, values/skills, functional areas, and entry into the field of student affairs. Target audience for this event is undergraduates, graduates, and current professionals.

### Wed 11/14

11:45-1:00 pm

Roundtable Lunch <http://www.union.wisc.edu/roundtable/>

Find the SPA table!

Harold Scheub, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Humanities, Department of African Languages and Literature:

A Storytelling Adventure

### Thurs 11/15

5pm - 6:30pm

Tour of the Overture Center ([www.overturecenter.com](http://www.overturecenter.com))

Please RSVP to Nancy Kujak-Ford at [nmkujak@wisc.edu](mailto:nmkujak@wisc.edu) by Tuesday 11/13 to reserve a spot



### The SPA Book Club begins!!

This fall the SPA book club is reading Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. The first meeting will be on Friday, November 2 from noon to 1 PM at Memorial Union (please check TITU for exact room). The book club will meet every other Friday through February. Stay tuned for updates regarding the chapter assignments, and feel free to let Kristin Lenichek ([lenichek@odos.wisc.edu](mailto:lenichek@odos.wisc.edu)), the chair of the book club, know if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!

### SPA Executive Board Good-Byes and Hellos

We are sorry to report that General Executive Board Member Rodney Horikawa has resigned the board. He was already stretched thin this semester and recently had two new projects added to his plate. He was concerned about the time he could dedicate to SPA and wanted to make a full commitment. We'll miss him a great deal and hopefully will see him at SPA events.

Sadly, we also must say good-bye to Carmen Clark, our Graduate Student Representative to the Executive Board. Carmen's work schedule prohibits her from attending our regular meetings and she can't be on campus very often. We wish her luck and also hope to see her at an SPA function soon.

SPA bylaws allow the executive board to appoint someone to fill these positions. We have two excellent candidates who accepted filling in for these positions for the rest of the term. Megan Schmid will serve as general board member and Chris Moss as graduate student representative. Welcome aboard!

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