

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



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# Frontline

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APRIL/MAY 2009

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:  
Looking forward to May flow-  
ers...**

That old saying, "April showers bring May flowers" always rings in my head this time of year. However, I would rather skip to the May flowers part because that is the more enjoyable part (not to put down those of you who love rain and mud). However like a lot of things in my life, I wish that I could forward it to end and see the success. April just seems like a time of mucky muck and transition for everyone and nature. I also see this sense of urgency in the stu-

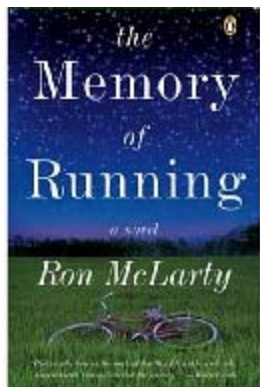


**Nancy Kujak-  
Ford**

dents that I work with and advise on events. They are not quite at the end of their schooling/training and they haven't quite seen all of their hard work pay off. There is a bit of tension and anxiety in the air and I try my best to keep my eyes on their goal...always reassuring them that there is truly an end to this madness and it is beautiful. However, that is easily said. I too have this excitement to see them grow and complete their education. While I am saddened that they must move on, I love to see the glimmer of wonder in their eyes of the future. I will also miss some of our members on the SPA exec board whose terms end this year. A special thank you to: Kristin Lenichek, Katia Albright, Stephanie Cowan, Raul Leon, and Jacklyn John for their hard work and dedication to SPA. Dedication is the one of the many words that I would use to describe a very

special board member Ann Dingman. Ann without you SPA would not have been as enjoyable of an experience for me. I have grown and learned so much from you and your leadership. Thank you for your **7 years** of service to this organization! Along with this sprint we all do towards May, I hope that we also take the time to enjoy and appreciate our fellow colleagues and students. While April can be dreary, it is our chance to celebrate all of the hard work everyone has done throughout the year. Please join the rest of your SPA companions at the SPA Annual Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The food is always delicious and the socializing is the icing on the cake! I look forward to meeting you all at the luncheon and hope your race to May is one full of laughter and joy.  
~Nancy

**Book Review: The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty  
By Ann Dingman**



This book isn't for professional development, but is a nice step up from the trashy novels I consume like candy to get through the winter. The protagonist in The Memory of Running is Smithy Ide, a mid-40s man whose parents die in a car accident and, on the day of their funeral, discovers his mentally ill sister's body was found in California. We learn that Smithy is facing life without a family, obesity, a drinking problem, and a dead-end factory job. His recollections of his more active and happy childhood lead him to a (painful) reunion with his trusty Raleigh bicycle. To escape his demons, he finds himself pedaling across the country to claim his sister's body. Smithy's awkwardness and sincerity make him an easy character to love, and his journey across the country makes for a compelling story. I really enjoyed this book by Ron McLarty, whose quirky writing I discovered when I read his second book, Art in America.



Thank you for attending our conference

### My Experience at the Student Personnel Conference (SPA) 2009 Hiba Zakai, Graduate student in Educational Leadership Policy Analysis (ELPA)

Bob Burg once said: "It isn't just what you know, and it isn't just who you know. It's actually who you know, who knows you, and what you do for a living." This quote reminds me of my experience of March 6, 2009. That day I was fortunate enough to attend the Student Personnel Association (SPA) 2009 Conference at UW-Madison. As a student studying for her masters in the department of Educational Leadership Policy Analysis (ELPA), this was a treat for me. I will be walking, conversing, and learning among the finest student affairs staff in higher education at one of the finest university. I truly believe the conference accomplished its goals implied in the theme: *Building YOUW: Acquiring skills and networking for leadership development*. The networking aspect of the conference was the most beneficial. As a participant I was able to interact with those who work at admissions, residential life, at the student union, or even at the dean's office.

In our round-table discussions issues of concerns were brought-up. We also discussed some suggestions and implementations that could be followed up with. The workshop sessions were very informative, and yet interesting to be able to learn something that may not be thought in class. For example, one of the workshops I attended, *Gender Dialogues: Learning from Student Leaders*, concerns regarding how to approach students and being able to talk about gender was brought up. The other workshop I attended was entitled: *Wisconsinites' Views of UW-Madison*. The research that the presenter presented was extremely fascinating. Being new to the Madison, and the Wisconsin community, it was remarkable to learn how the university I attend not only affects the local community but those in the rural areas that are beyond the perimeters of the city. I do have to mention that for me personally, the highlight of the conference was the keynote speaker – Damon Williams, UW-Madison Vice-Provost for Diversity and Climate. The message he gave us to take home was simple, yet profound: To brand yourself. To form your own identity.

Over all, the SPA 2009 Conference was a great experience for me. I would encourage more students to attend it – after all it is the lives of students that are being affected at these conferences. As a student who is studying educational science to go into student affairs in higher education, this was a worthwhile experience for me – to be able to approach these student personnel and able to talk about their experience, their day-to-day work, the challenges they face, and eventually how rewarding it is at the end of the day.

# SPA Awards Luncheon Celebrating 29 Years of Excellence in Student Affairs

29th Annual SPA Awards Luncheon  
Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
Tripp Commons, Memorial Union  
11:30 a.m. luncheon

Members and friends of the Student Personnel Association are cordially invited to attend this annual recognition of our colleagues' contributions to students and student-related programs on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Join us to honor this year's recipients.

## Reservation Deadline: Monday, April 6

All meals include: mixed seasonal green salad, assorted rolls with butter, dessert, coffee, tea, and milk. The vegetarian option is *Spinach & Gorgonzola Stuffed Portobella: A delicious and satisfying entree for vegetarians and carnivores alike! Topped with a sun-dried tomato pesto and served over white and wild rice accompanied by green beans.* The meat option is *Harvest Chicken Breast: The bounty of the season is reflected in a savory sauce of cranberries, mushrooms and green peppers over a boneless chicken breast. Served with white and wild rice blend and Garden Vegetable Jariniere.*

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### SPA Luncheon Reservation Form

Yes, please reserve a lunch for (please print): Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SPA Member?  Yes  No      Meal Selection:  Spinach & Gorgonzola Stuffed Portobella  
 Harvest Chicken Breast

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00/member, \$17.00/non-member; payable to SPA

Please return payment by Monday, April 6 to: SPA Awards Luncheon c/o Kristin Lenicsek,  
International Students Office, Rm 217 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street, Madison WI 53706

For questions, contact Kristin at: [lenicsek@odos.wisc.edu](mailto:lenicsek@odos.wisc.edu)

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## Upcoming Events

**April 15**                      **SPA Awards Luncheon**  
**11:30 AM, Tripp Commons, Memorial Union**

For more information and to register, please see previous page. Reservation deadline is April 6. For questions, please contact Kristin at [lenichek@odos.wisc.edu](mailto:lenichek@odos.wisc.edu)

**April 25**                      **Join SPA at Crazylegs**

1. Go to: <http://www.crazylegsclassic.com>
2. Click Fun & Fitness
3. Click "click here to register on-line"
4. Click on "Begin Registration"
5. Click on "Fun & Fitness Team"
6. Click "Sign UP with Existing Team"
7. Find your team (SPA)
8. Type in the password (Cheese)
9. Register

**April 30**                      **Forum on UW-Madison's "WE Conserve Campaign"**  
**12 noon - 1PM, Memorial Union**

**Come learn about UW-Madison's WE Conserve Campaign**

"In April 2006, following a \$29 million investment to increase the energy efficiency of the campus facilities, UW-Madison initiated an aggressive program to strengthen its environmental stewardship programs and to promote education and motivation to the community on this serious matter." <http://www.conserve.wisc.edu/>

According to the campaign's Web site, "aggressive and comprehensive goals" have been set and efforts to reach them are underway. An important part of the "WE" initiative is you and me. To learn more about our role in this campaign we encourage you to attend this SPA forum. At the forum the campaign's Director, Faramarz Vakili, will share with us how UW-Madison has reduced its environmental footprint, as well as ways to make "conservation a conscious part of our daily responsibilities, decisions, activities, and lifestyles."

We hope you can join us to learn more about this topic. Everyone is welcome to attend! Please share this announcement with anyone you think would be interested in this topic – thanks! For more information on this event contact SPA Forums Chair, Katia Albright at [kalbright@dcs.wisc.edu](mailto:kalbright@dcs.wisc.edu). For more information on SPA, please check out our website at <http://www.uw-spa.org/mission.htm>.