

# Frontline

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003

## From the President:

In *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey tells of a father who came to him saying, "I can't understand my kid. He just won't listen to me." Covey patiently tried to get the dad to see the inconsistency of his statement. You don't understand people by getting them to listen to *you*. You understand them when you listen to them.

That is my goal as the SPA Executive Board discusses whether to raise membership dues beginning next academic year: we would like to hear how you feel about this issue. You will, if you haven't already, be receiving a web survey asking your thoughts and opinions on raising the membership dues of the organization. The current dues structure of \$10 for employees/\$8 for students has been in existence since the inception of the organization in

1956. For the past several years, SPA has kept a very detailed budget and accounting of all its expenditures. With rising costs and our 225 members, the operating budget for SPA is very slim and, to our credit, we have been able to provide a number of excellent services and programs to the membership under the current structure.

Below is this year's budget as approved by the executive board. The SPA Conference and the Awards Luncheon are expected to break even and are not included in this operating budget. The cash awards for the Professional Awards are paid through a UW Foundation account. In addition, the Office of Human Resource Development has graciously allowed us to host the SPA Web site. As of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, we will no longer pay a Website hosting fee. Your feedback is needed so we



Renee Alfano  
SPA President

can make an informed decision on this issue. Please take a couple of minutes from your busy schedule and complete the survey about our dues and the programs we offer. We are listening!

*The approved budget for 2003-2004 is provided on page #2.*

Watch your e-mail  
for a survey from  
SPA.

**President:**

Renee Alfano

**President-Elect:**

Stephanie King

**Past President:**

Laura Giles

**Membership Coordinator:**

Kathy Kruse

**Publicist/Historian:**

Michael Crawford

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Joey Humke

**General Executive Members:**

Denny Carey

Diana Maki

James Young

Amy Zwaska

**Graduate Student Representative:**

Janet Heiss

**Undergraduate Student Representative:**

Nate Daigle

## SPA's Annual Fall Reception a Huge Success!

WOW, another year is already in full swing. It was great to see so many faces (both new and old) at our annual Fall Reception. We all seem to get so busy with the start of each new year, so it was especially nice to have the opportunity to relax, kick back and take some time to reconnect with old friends and meet new colleagues. Thanks to everyone on the planning committee for your great ideas and suggestions - Bucky Badger sure seemed to be a hit, and the food and atmosphere were wonderful! - Amy Zwaska

*Checkout the pictures of the Fall Kickoff throughout this newsletter.*

## Careers in Student Affairs Annual Event

Tuesday  
December 9th, 2003  
6pm-8pm - Red Gym

(Co-sponsored by the  
Letters & Science Career Services/Human  
Ecology Career Services)

Do you know students who are interested in a career in student affairs?

Or perhaps you know students who would be excellent additions to the field of higher education?

SPA is sponsoring the annual Careers in Student Affairs event on Dec. 9, 2003 in the Red Gym. Shoulder-tap students to attend!

**SPA HAS A NEW WEB ADDRESS!**  
<http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa>

## SPA BUDGET 2003-2004

**Opening Balance: 1,557.00**

Income: *Estimate* 2,250.00  
 (225 members x \$10.00)

**Expenses**

Publications:  
 4 newsletters @ \$300 (\$1200.00)  
 Website hosting @\$35 (180.00)  
 May-September plus \$5 correction  
 Fall Reception (550.00)  
 New Professionals Group (50.00)  
 Careers in Student Affairs (200.00)  
 Forums (50.00)

Social (25.00)  
 Awards (650.00)  
 (plaques & certificate covers-cash awards will be determined after the conference.)

**Ending Balance: \$852.00**



## ERIK W. TREKELL — Position: Director, LGBT CC

**SPA Spotlight**



**Erik Trekell**  
 Director, LGBT  
 Campus Center

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

A cabin near my favorite ski slope, a well-stocked wine rack, and the man of my dreams. All in the same time frame, preferably.

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

To be able to sing like a male version of Sarah Brightman.

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

Besides beets and bubble-gum ice cream you mean? People who make a commitment but then do not follow through.

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

Unlike many gay men, I am fortunate to be able to say "my father." The other person I would identify as a hero is Pedro Zamora. You might recall him as the young HIV+ Cubano in the second season (San Francisco) of MTV's Real World. He inspired me to do the work I do on behalf of LGBT youth.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

I'm not an overly sentimental person, but I'd have to say I have two - my Aggie ring and my Bonfire pot. If you don't know what a Bonfire pot is, stop by the LGBTCC and I'll show you.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

I just asked several of the student staff the same question and I'm flattered to say that their response was "You're very approachable."

**What is your motto?**

If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space.

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

Standing on top of a 14,000 ft. mountain. Once you've done that, you realize how irrelevant a cathedral really is in God's scheme of things.

**What is the quality you**

**most like in a person?**

The ability to take responsibility for your actions.

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

The tendency to blame others when you've made a mistake.

**What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?**

Outdoor education.

**What profession would you not like to do?**

Engineering. Two years into a petroleum engineering degree I asked myself, "Why on earth are you doing this?" The answer was "because my high school teachers told me I ought," so I changed majors.

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

Coming out.



## SPA Co-sponsored WCPA Keynote Speaker

By Mike Crawford



**Vernon Wall  
Keynote Speaker  
At the WCPA  
Annual  
Conference**

SPA co-sponsored Veron Wall, the Keynote Speaker at the Wisconsin College Personnel Association (WCPA) annual conference in Wisconsin Dells on October 30-31. In case you missed his presentation, here is a quick summary:

Veron Walls is currently employed at Iowa State University as assistant dean of students and director of student activities. During his keynote address, he summarized the findings of the American College Personnel Association's (ACPA) Critical Issues Task Force. The information is a summary of the quantitative and qualitative data collected from the task force. The committee identified 14 critical issues facing college student's. These 14 issues were (in no particular order):

- Multicultural Competence  
"What are we doing to encourage dialogue on differences?"
- Academic Learning and Concerns  
"What are we doing to be engaged in learning?"
- Social Justice
- Financial Concerns and Issues
- Careers
- Character
- Spirituality  
"Spirituality is a big part of our student's lives; why aren't we talking about it?"
- Technology  
"What are we doing to make sure we include technology in the things that we do?"
- Health and well-being
- Consumerism
- Personal Safety
- Personal Identity
- Relationships
- Community

Veron broke down the 14 issues into the following

categories/themes:

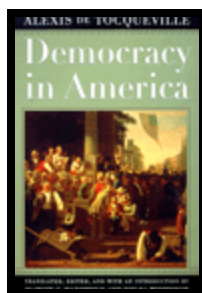
- ◆ Student Learning & Academic Success
- ◆ Spirituality & Character
- ◆ Social Justice & Citizenship
- ◆ Multicultural Commitment and Competence
- ◆ Student Welfare and Well-being

Veron concluded how colleges and universities can best incorporate these critical issues into practice:

- ◇ Review your mission statement
- ◇ Develop a vehicle to listen to your student voices
- ◇ Include these issues in staff development and training activities
- ◇ Strategize around these critical issues.

Additional Resources:

ACPA Website:  
www.myacpa.org  
(eventually the Critical Issues Task Force Report will be available on the ACPA Web site)



### A Closer Look At: Democracy in Higher Education

By Janet Heiss

**"Do universities seek to develop intellectuals, or do we seek to develop good citizens?"**

As student affairs professionals, we recognize that involvement is valuable, but students must first be inspired to get involved on campus and in their communities. What motivates students to get involved? If we consider our history, Americans helped each other because they felt a connection to their communities and needed one another to fulfill basic needs. Why do citizens choose community involvement now? Have we, as a society, become less community-oriented? Is this change affecting students' willingness to get involved on campus?

Alexis de Tocqueville predicted a change in community involvement when he wrote *Democracy in America*. He foresaw that the growth of democracy and equality of social conditions would cause Americans to be more self-sufficient

and individualistic. Since the U.S. has prospered and many Americans have fulfilled the dream of self-sufficiency, de Tocqueville's prediction that this prosperity would lead to detachment and destruction of the American community is proving to be true.

As I read some of de Tocqueville's observations, I wondered how they relate to America's higher education system. If students are raised in self-sufficient families and communities, will they choose to get involved in the campus community? You might question whether this inquiry is relevant, but I believe it is relevant if we consider the purpose behind higher education. Do universities seek to develop intellectuals, or do we seek to develop good citizens? What do you believe is the purpose of higher education?

Here are some pictures from the SPA Fall Kick-Off Reception:



Diana and Amy welcoming everyone



Bucky Badger was working the crowd!

## Take Advantage of the Student Personnel Association Today!!

New Member

Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fees: \$10 per academic year, \$8 for students

Send Forms and Checks Payable to SPA to:

Kathy Kruse, Orientation & New Student Programs

### SPA Spring Conference 2004 is around the corner!

On February 20, 2004, the Student Personnel Association will hold its Spring Conference at the Pyle Center on the UW – Madison campus. As chair of this annual professional opportunity, I invite you to bring to the table your ideas, talents, precious time, energy and passion for putting on great conferences! Whether you are a creative thinker or efficient organizer, have lots of time or limited time, we want to involve those who are committed to putting together a high-quality conference!

### A SPARC is about to ignite!

Where do you turn for professional development and support of your career aspirations? How do you explore your ideas, nurture your dreams, reach for your goals? The Student Personnel Association supports the creation of a professional development support network tentatively named **SPARC (Supporting Professional Aspirations & Rejuvenating Careers)**. The concept of SPARC is to develop a safe and caring environment to engage in open dialogue about your professional journey, express desires for change and growth, and exchange resources and useful means of support. This concept is still in the making, and your involvement can contribute to its success and development.

If you are interested in helping with the Spring Conference or SPARC contact Stephanie King at: [smking2@wisc.edu](mailto:smking2@wisc.edu) or by phone at: 265-4163.

A  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
STUDENT  
PERSONNEL  
ASSOCIATION  
(SPA)

#### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- SPA 2003-2004 BUDGET AND A WCPA KEYNOTE SUMMARY
- MEET ERIK TREKELL

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Find us on the web @  
[www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa)

SPA has a new Web address — <http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa>

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