

# Frontline

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

**SPA Conference 2004  
Planning Committee:**

Renee Alfano  
Lori Berquam  
Sara Boggs  
Mike Crawford  
Diana Maki  
Claire Peters  
Stephanie King - chair

**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:**

Ryan Bouchard  
Diana Maki  
James Young  
Amy Zwaska

**Graduate Student  
Representative:**

Janet Heiss

**Undergraduate Student  
Representative:**

Nate Daigle

## SPA CONFERENCE 2004: Celebrating Lifelong Learning in Student Affairs February 20, 2004 - Pyle Center

By Stephanie King (Conference Chair)

This year, we are pleased to announce SPA's annual conference titled, "**Celebrating Lifelong Learning in Student Affairs.**" We will honor our commitment to education by offering student affairs professionals a day to focus on our own learning. Because we are vital contributors to our ever-changing campus community, SPA's conference goal is to re-energize minds, hearts and spirits; nurture and polish professional skills; and celebrate our commitment to learning — whether we are new arrivals to campus or 30-year veterans.

Dr. Barbara Emil, Dean of Outreach and E-Learning Extension at the University of Wisconsin - Extension, will join us as our opening

speaker. With 30 years of experience in education and a wealth of lifelong learning to share, we look forward to having Barbara bring our theme alive and jumpstart our exciting day of learning.

Participants will engage in lifelong learning through:

- General professional development workshops on: effective presentation skills, recent research about higher education, inclusive community building, and supervisory skills.
- Technical skill development, such as: survey design, Web registration design, advanced Power Point training and writing skills.
- Personal and professional development sessions on: resume

building, balance with work and home, stress management, yoga/meditation, and finding passion/meaning in your work.

The SPA conference planning committee is thrilled to be organizing this unique and full day of learning – complete with our opening speaker, workshops, food, new opportunities to share and network, and of course... our annual raffle giveaway! The conference registration fee is \$38 for SPA members, \$48 for non-members and \$25 for students. We look forward to involving you in this exciting event.

Register today at:  
[www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa)  
The last day to register is Friday,  
February 13, no later than noon.

### From the President:

*"Life is like a grindstone, but whether it grinds you down or polishes you up is up to you." ~ Author Unknown*

Welcome to the start of a brand new semester, a brand new year, and yikes – another budget cycle where professional development continues to "usually" take a hit and "grind" us down.

When it came to my professional development goals, attending conferences and workshops was always a way that I re-energized myself. Meeting and talking with folks in the profession - becoming aware of new research being conducted or new publications being printed, learning what people are doing at their schools to address issues or plan new programs — kept ideas flowing for me, and I developed a real sense of support. Now, as budgets are tighter than ever, these opportunities have become non-existent. How can I think differently about my

professional development, still stay current in my field, and not break my pocket book?

Obviously SPA is one way, and I am extremely excited this year about the theme for the conference and the breakout session opportunities for participants. The SPA Conference Committee under the direction of Stephanie King has planned an excellent opportunity for all of us to connect with our colleagues, reflect, learn, and enjoy as we **Celebrate Lifelong Learning in Student Affairs**. Mark your calendars now and join us in the Pyle Center on **Friday, February 20, 2003 from 8a.m.-4 p.m.**

I am really excited about the conference because I think the program will provide us with opportunities to stay current and network. Plus, the cost is the same as last year! I am also hopeful that through the conference I will find other means to stay energized and "polished up" in an environment of fewer resources. Register for the conference today and I hope to see you there!

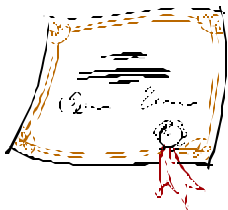
Renee Alfano—SPA President

## SPA AWARDS LUNCHEON

Wednesday  
April 21, 2004

11:30am-1:00pm

Gordon Commons



You can download the SPA Award & Information packet from our Web site  
[www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa)

## SPA AWARDS 2004

### Do you know of someone deserving recognition?

Do you work with someone on this campus who goes above and beyond in their interactions with colleagues and students? If you answered yes then SPA is the place for you! The annual SPA award nomination packet will be arriving at your office soon.

The deadline for nominating someone is Monday, March 15, 2004. The packets will outline the criteria for each award. SPA gives out the following awards: Chancellor's Award, Norman Bassett Awards, Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Student Affairs, Plan 2008

Award of Excellence, SPA Frontline Award, and SPA Campus Impact Award. These awards are made possible by the Office of the Chancellor, Norman Bassett Foundation, Ineva Reilly Baldwin and Ira Balwin Endowment for Student Services, and the SPA membership.

If you have any questions regarding the SPA Awards, please contact Laura Giles at [laura.giles@housing.wisc.edu](mailto:laura.giles@housing.wisc.edu) or 265.7913.

## JAMES YOUNG – Meet One of Our Newest SPA Executive Board Members

### What is your idea of perfect happiness?

I don't know about perfect happiness, but a few things I enjoy very much are hiking in the mountains (especially the Grand Tetons), sharing an excellent meal with friends, and good chocolate.

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

There are many, but one that comes to mind is an extraordinary operatic voice.

### What is it that you most dislike?

Having to rush through a day, feeling that there's no time to savor discrete tasks along the way.

### Who are your heroes?

The kinds of people who live their lives in service to others. There are famous historical personages, of course, but there are also people like this around us every day. That said, I've always admired Lincoln.

### What is your most treasured possession?

The photographs of friends and

family, many now gone, that powerfully recall good times with good people. Life is fleeting, and these images capture its passing.

### What is your most prominent characteristic?

Calmness under pressure. I've always been confident that, with steady application, things will get done and that they'll work out in the end. I have a lot of ingenuity, too. I also hope that people think of me as a warm, kind individual.

### What is your motto?

An insight expressed by the Buddha some 2,500 years ago: "Animosity does not eradicate animosity. Only by kindness is animosity resolved. This law is ancient and eternal." It won't stop despots, but I think it works in most cases. And it need not be bilateral; it can be strictly one-sided.

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

Beautiful music, particularly classical, and particularly vocal. I also like traditional Japanese instrumental music a lot.

What is the quality you most like in a person?

Selflessness, compassion, empathy, altruism.

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

Pretension, arrogance, the attitude that "I'm better than you."

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

Medicine. Were I more inclined to science rather than the humanities, I would have probably become a physician. Medicine and education are, to me, among the noblest of vocations.

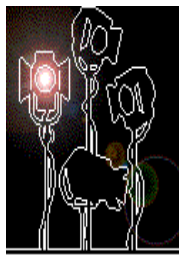
### What profession would you not like to do?

Anything that suppresses imagination and humanity. I probably wouldn't do well as an actor in Hollywood either, where there is, in my opinion, too much emphasis on vanity and the ego.

### What do you consider your greatest achievement?

When I'm advising students, it's always gratifying to see how the conversation often makes a difference, however large or small. What's not to like about young adults who are excited about their education and grateful? My years of teaching German on campus supplied similar experiences.

SPA Spotlight



**James Young**  
Assistant Dean,  
Chadbourne Residential  
College



I had the distinct honor of being able to attend the Social Justice Training Institute held in Tucson, AZ on December 10, 2003. This institute was one of the best professional/personal development opportunities I have ever attended. The premise of SJTI is to learn about power and privilege through the lens of race and race relations. The first two days of the Institute were called "Race Immersion," and the remaining day and a half was spent on such topics as "triggers", learning about dominance in oppression work, and becoming a better facilitator in the area of social justice.

To this day I am still processing what I learned during my time at SJTI. Personally, the two days of race immersion were intense beyond words. I had always considered myself a strong ally on social justice issues, but this Institute challenged me to think and *feel* why I am an ally and for what purpose. Am I an ally so that I am a "good white person," or am I an ally to truly move us forward in the fight against oppression, privilege and power dynamics that are institutionalized in our country?

One of the concepts I learned was how the dominant group (based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.) often responds to issues of oppression. As a white person, it's

## The Social Justice Training Institute

By Laura Giles

**"This institute was one of the best professional/personal development opportunities I have ever attended."**

easier for me to go to a place where I can better relate and talk about how I too have been a victim. I learned how these responses impact the targeted group. SJTI also provided me with the tools to learn how to deal with my "triggers" around the issues of social justice. As a trained facilitator, I continued to learn how to engage people's stories as a means to move forward.

I cannot talk highly enough about my experience at SJTI. I will say that this institute is

not for everyone. You must be willing to look inward in order to be more authentic outward. You must be willing to let go and experience the race immersion — if you keep it at a distance, you will not grow as an individual. You must be willing to see how you are a piece of the power and privilege in today's world on multiple levels.

If you are interested, you can check out the website at: [www.sjti.org](http://www.sjti.org)

The next institute will be held June 9 -13, 2004 in Springfield, MA. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

### Academic Advising: A Rarely Tapped Resource

By Nate Daigle

The spring semester is upon us. A new set of classes and another step closer to the final goal, graduation. There is a beneficial service offered to all students regardless of school or college, major or year in school: academic advising. A common misconception among students is they should only go to an advisor if they have a problem or if that they are doing poorly in school. While these are definitely reasons to seek help, academic advisors are also there when things are looking good.

Picking classes each semester is a daunting task even in your seventh or eighth semester. Despite the university's attempt at making registration more simpler via the Internet, the challenge of understanding the class codes and rules can confuse the most seasoned student. Knowing the difference between the 80-credit rule, the 60-credit rule, and the 120-credit rule is part of the job of an advisor. They can help comb through major requirements, breadth requirements, prerequisites, and the 3-2 combination (incidentally, that is the foreign language fulfillment possibility where students can take three semesters of one language and two of another in the College of Letters and Sciences).

On top of helping to sift through all the rules and regulations that students are bombarded with, advisors have experience and knowledge about specific majors. They are great for the facts but are also there to bounce ideas off of. Students should not go to their offices looking for a list of easy classes or a quick fix so their days start at 11 am and finish at 3 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. What advisors can do is ask the right questions in order to guide students in the right direction.

In good times, advisors are also available to check progress and reassure students that they are on the right track. Some majors and schools require students to meet with someone during registration, time but for those majors that do not, it is up to the students to be proactive and to use the advisors as resources.

Whether it's the beginning of a new semester or exams are starting, meeting with an advisor is beneficial. There is nothing scarier (at least to a professional at a university) than a senior who does not know what they are majoring in.

Nate Daigle  
SPA Undergraduate Representative  
[nidaigle@wisc.edu](mailto:nidaigle@wisc.edu)

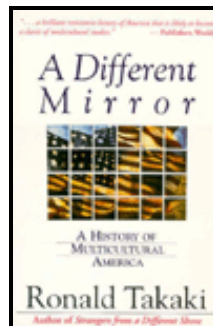
**"Advisors are also available to check progress and reassure students that they are on the right track."**

## IN MEMORY: Denny Carey (1954-2003)

By Renee Alfano

Denny Carey, an SPA executive board member and the director of programming for Recreational Sports, passed away on December 26<sup>th</sup> after battling leukemia. Denny was elected last spring to the SPA executive board and began serving his term until early fall, when he learned he was no longer in remission and had to take a leave of absence to have chemotherapy and eventually a bone marrow transplant. Denny was always very positive and upbeat in our phone conversations, which makes this even more shocking because I thought once they had found a donor, things were looking very positive. Unfortunately, over break, when so many people were away, Denny lost his battle. I will always remember him as a very thoughtful, positive, and caring person on this campus. His presence will be missed in a number of different areas that Denny was involved in and especially with the hundreds, if not thousands, of students he touched.

### SPA Book Club 2004 Is Getting Ready... Join Now!



The book for the SPA  
Book Club 2004

The book that has been selected for the Spring 2004 Book Club is Ronald Takaki's *A Different Mirror*.

The book club is planning on meeting once in February, twice in March, twice in April and perhaps once in May. All sessions will occur over lunch (12pm-1pm) and meet in the Memorial Union. Book Club Members will have to pay SPA for the cost of the book.

If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please e-mail Mike Crawford at [mike.crawford@housing.wisc.edu](mailto:mike.crawford@housing.wisc.edu) by Monday, February 9th, 2004.

For more information, about the book, go to the following web page: [www.bajadestinations.com/books/differentmirror/differentmirror.htm](http://www.bajadestinations.com/books/differentmirror/differentmirror.htm)

A  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
STUDENT  
PERSONNEL  
ASSOCIATION  
(SPA)

Michael Crawford  
SPA Publicist/Historian  
University Housing  
Gordon Commons

Phone: 608.265-4212  
Fax: 608.262-0373  
Email:  
[mike.crawford@housing.wisc.edu](mailto:mike.crawford@housing.wisc.edu)

#### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- A REFLECTION OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE
- SPA AWARDS INFORMATION & ACADEMIC ADVISING

# Frontline

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

Register for the SPA Conference — [www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa](http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa)

Cooperation, Commitment, Community, and Camaraderie Since 1956

PRINTING PARTIALLY PROVIDED COURTESY OF STUDENTPRINT

