



From the President:



Stephanie King

As we move into the homestretch for the 2004-2005 academic year, I am reminded that there is much to appreciate and take pride in as our unique organization continues

to carve out a respectable and much needed niche in lifting up the people and the issues that we care about in student affairs. So how do we keep carving out our niche on this campus? Perhaps one way we do this is by making ideas come alive.

As an "idea" person myself, I am always up for trying new things and taking risks. Of course, for every brilliant thought that I might squeeze out, there are about a hundred hair brained ideas that accompany it....maybe others have better luck than that. Let's not forget my crazy early bird SPA social involving a 6:00 a.m. walk and breakfast (there were two of us nuts out there on the lake!) Okay, so I found out there aren't too many of us interested in "socializing" at that hour. On the other hand, SPA has been a channel to shape a multitude of "better" ideas over the years.

Field Days started as an idea sketched out in an email from Greg Iaccarino, former SPA president and active member, as a suggested "open house" across campus to learn about other departments and connect with staff outside our areas. By working

together with MACAA (Madison Academic & Career Advising Association), this "idea" led to two successful days of visits this February involving 23 campus departments and great momentum for trying it again! (See article inside.) Thanks to the commitment and leadership of Renee Alfano, SPA worked with MACAA to develop Field Days and then, used it as a springboard to revitalize our Professional Exchange program, leaping from a few participants annually to 21 potential participants this year! Field Days planted a seed that grew with the belief and hard work of all those involved. We'll miss you Renee!

Our recent conference theme started with a great idea. President-elect Mike Crawford heard that the outstanding anti-racism speaker, Tim Wise, was coming to campus with the help of Housing and other campus units around our conference date. His idea to co-sponsor, shift a few dates and bring Tim to speak led to one of our largest conference turnouts in recent years with over 150 participants which included 30 students. The initial idea led to real learning and genuine conversations about social justice that might not have happened if it wasn't for Mike's passion and perseverance in making it come alive.

Of course, lots of ideas don't work, don't materialize, don't end up amounting to much. But...there are always those few gems that do. In a fast-paced, efficiently-driven world it is too easy to shut down ideas before they

are ever fully laid out on the table, start critiquing one's own and the creative thoughts of others before they even roll off their tongues -- feeling pressed for time to get to something that is going to "work."

I'm so grateful that SPA continues to make ideas come alive. 25 years ago, someone (or maybe a few folks....if you can tell us the details Mary, I'd love to hear this at your April Forum) so... someone had the idea to formally recognize UW-Madison staff for their outstanding contributions to students. That tradition lives on as we celebrate the silver anniversary of SPA awards that have involved, acknowledged and celebrated so many lives.

As my journey as SPA president comes to an end, I feel truly blessed to have worked with such dedicated and caring professionals on our exec board and all those who have served on committees; facilitated forums, book groups and workshops; and just made that effort to show up -- I applaud you all. At 235 members strong, The Student Personnel Association stands tall as that organization billed for its great programs, excellent networking opportunities and commitment to inclusion. It is certainly one of those gems that -- thank goodness -- weathered the storm of nay-sayers and anyone who doubted it could work. After nearly 50 years at this university, what a great idea it continues to be.

Membership Coordinator:

Ann Dingman

Publicist/Historian:

Dora Valentin

Secretary/Treasurer:

Joey Humke

General Executive

Members:

Ryan Bouchard

Heidi Lang

Gabriel Lefeber

Diana Maki

Graduate Student

Representative:

Alan Paberzs

Undergraduate

Student Representative:

Pangku Moua

SPA WEB ADDRESS:

<http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/spa>

Awards Luncheon

Members and friends of SPA are invited to attend this annual recognition of our colleagues' contributions to students and student-related programs.

Register today to join us in

"Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in Student Affairs"

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Memorial Union
Tripp Commons**

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Dingman at 262-8446 or aedingman@wisc.edu. RSVPs are due April 4.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- SPA Spotlight
- Announcements of upcoming forums and socials
- Exchange Program
- SPA Book Club
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- Reflection of the 2005 SPA Conference



Jennifer Taylor, University Housing, Residence Life

What is your ideal of perfect happiness? I'm very much a realist it's hard for me to think in terms of ideals.

Which talent would you most like to have? I'd like to be able to sing beautifully.

What is it that you most dislike? Deceit.

Who are the heroes in your life? My parents because they set a really good example of how to live a good life. My friends because they are good friends and I certainly could not have made it this far without their support.

What is your most treasured possession? My cell phone because it connects me to my fam-

ily and friends across the country & world.

What is your most marked characteristic? That would certainly be my bubbly personality ~ I'm definitely a extroverted, outgoing, people person!

What is the quality you most like in a person?

What I admire most is honesty - because it's not always easy.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?

What I deplore most is dishonesty.

What is your motto? Be a Shining Light to a

Dying World!

What turns you on creatively, spiritually, or emotionally? Forgetting about myself, the current

situation, and desires - whenever I don't think about myself or my motives I am able to feel much freer and less pressure.

What profession other than your own would you not like to do? Being a mime ~ I've got to talk!!!

What do you consider your greatest achievement? Being a person of faith because there are a million and one reasons why I should not believe but I do anyway.

Anything you'd like to let SPA Newsletter readers know about? I'm originally from Florida ~ I work in Ogg Hall for University Housing ~ this is my first Wisconsin winter ~ I'd love to meet other professionals at UW!



SPA Professional Development Exchange

By Renee Alfano

Over the next few months, over 20 students and staff will be spending a day or so with 16 different departments across campus. The SPA Professional Development Exchange Program is in full swing with a record number of participants wanting to get a more in depth look at how various departments function and accomplish their work. If you wanted to participate and missed the deadline, don't worry, the committee is planning on expanding the program to include fall semester. Recruitment for departments will occur in August with potential "exchanges" occurring anywhere between the months of September and January. Questions? Contact Renee Alfano at ralfano@das.wisc.edu.

SPA Forum March

The Changing Face of Campus
Space:

What's Happening and How
it Affects Students

Tuesday, March 29

12 – 1 pm

Memorial Union TITU

Featuring:

Gary A. Brown

Director, Planning & Landscape Architecture
Facilities Planning & Management

Kevin Helmkamp

Assistant Director of Residence Life
Division of University Housing

Join us to learn more about the campus Master Plan, the direction of building projects and our student living communities from a few of our colleagues who are leading the way. For more information, contact Stephanie King at: smking2@wisc.edu or

Alan Paberzs at: adpaberzs@wisc.edu



SPA Forum April

Reflection on Students
Yesterday & Today with Mary Rouse

Thursday, April 28

12 – 1 pm

Memorial Union TITU

Snacks will be served. More details to come in e-mail bulletins.

More SPA Book Club



The SPA Book Club Committee selected a second book for reading this year and

we are now looking to see if there is still interest in reading that selection in late spring or during the summer. *Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education* by

Murray Sperber looks at the relationship of college athletics and higher education. The book focuses on the funding of college athletics and the possible link between athletics and binge drinking and other risky behaviors on college campuses with "big-time" athletics programs. Please contact Geb Lefeber at 265-0790 or gebriel.lefeber@housing.wisc.edu if you would like to be involved in a group reading this book during the late spring or summer.

Not Your Mother's Meet Sheet By Ann Dingman

[thefacebook]

Did you know "To Facebook" is a verb? You may have heard students talking about a relatively new website, The Facebook (<http://thefacebook.com>). According to its website, "Thefacebook is an online directory that connects people through social networks at colleges and universities." Mark Zuckerberg (titles include: "Founder, Master and Commander, Enemy of the State") publicly launched the site on February 4, 2004. He got the idea as a student at Harvard; he wanted a way for students on campus to connect more easily. Since then, the site has spread to about 470 schools as a way for college students to find common interests and meet each other. There are an estimated 13,000 UW-Madison users registered on the site. Students, alumni, faculty, and staff can all register.

to, all but 1 had heard of – and was registered – on Facebook. Most of them described it as an excellent way to track people down and described themselves as "obsessed" with the site. To register means you have a profile that describes you, lists your classes, and has a section for you to post comments. You can use the site to connect to other people you know, who are listed on your profile as "Friends." You can also join discussion groups such as "I Hate Witte Fire Alarms and the [expletive deleted] Who Pull Them" (which has 199 members) as well as the competing "I'm OK with the Witte Fire Alarms and the [expletive deleted] Who Pull Them" (1 member), or create your own group. There is also a function that allows you to search the site by people's name, high school, class, political affiliation, and other criteria. A great feature for staff to know about is the ability to place advertisements on the site, called "Facebook Announcements," which are viewed an estimated 40,000 times each day.

(<http://uwalumni.com/wisconsincircle>), "the online community connecting Badgers in fun and functional friendships." This site has many of the same features as Facebook, including a rating of your "reach," a measure of how connected you or others are to everyone in the network.

What are the implications of Facebook and other services? Benefits include providing another avenue for students to communicate and connect with each other. As one Housing staff member put it, the system provides functions that already exist on campus, such as a class listing search, but somehow it's cool for students to use while the Housing-created class list (for example) isn't as cool. However, in my opinion, communicating with people over the Internet can be good, but should not replace face-to-face relationships. Overall, Facebook reminds us that technology is constantly changing and we should keep that in mind when interacting with students. Feel free to visit my Facebook profile – so far I don't have any friends!

This reporter did an informal poll of a few students in my office. Of the 5 students I talked

The Wisconsin Alumni Association has a similar program for UW-Madison alumni, WisconsinCircle



April Happenings



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Stress Awareness Month— Take A Yoga Class	28	29 Noon SPA Forum @ MU	30	31 4:00pm Bobby Seale @ Madison West High	1 SPA ELECTIONS START 7:00pm Bobby Seale @ Bascom Rm 165	2 Wunk Sheek powwow @ Kohl Center
WI Film Festival (www.filmfest.org)						
3	4 Lakeside Cinema Begins; Weekly @ 7:30pm	5	6 7:30pm Craig Murray @ MU	7 4:30pm SPA Social @ Buraka	8 7pm Hotel Rwanda @ MU	9 77th Annual Student Art Show Begins
10 7:30pm Anne Braden @ CRC Main Lounge	11 7:30pm DLS Robert Siegel	12 7:30pm Diane Nash SPA Ballots Due	13	14 7:30pm Dolores Huerta @ Soc. Science	15 Tax Day	16 8pm Dianne Reeves
← Civil Right Activists Visit UW If not marked, they are in the Union TITU →						
← Transgender Awareness Week →						
17	18	19 Noon MASA Brown Bag Lunch @ MU	20 11:30 SPA Awards Luncheon	21	22 Earth Day Relay for Life Starts	23 Farmers' Market on the Square begins
24	25	26	27 4:30 SPA Social @ Dotty's	28 Noon SPA Forum @ MU	29	30 Crazy Legs
← WASB All Campus Party 4/24 to 5/30 →						
White Privilege Conference, Pella, IA (www.whiteprivilegeconference.com)						

A Reflection of the 2005 SPA Conference By Mike Crawford

"JUSTICE FOR ALL?? The Role of Students Affairs in Creating a Socially Just Community," was the theme for this year's SPA Conference held on February 11th in the Pyle Center. Excitement was in the air as over 150 attendees waited as Tim Wise began the conference with his keynote address: "Trapped in a History They Do Not Understand: How Whites Are Harmed by Racism and Privilege." Most would agree that Tim was very successful at bringing the issues of racism, privilege, and social justice into the spotlight in an enthusiastic, serious and engaging manner. One conference attendee summarized it best: "What I liked most about Tim was his down-to-earth, matter-of-fact way of challenging individuals to think critically about the major themes of the conference."

As usual, break-out sessions were held in the morning and afternoon of the conference. These sessions focused on a variety of topics, such as college students & poverty, defining social justice, identity, racism, the role of inspiring aspiring social justice student affairs professionals, and the role of the media in a socially just community.



Lori Berquam, Associate Dean of Students, concluded the conference with her endnote: "Head, Heart, & Hands." Lori, who herself is an aspiring social justice student affairs professional, provided a fitting end of the day as she presented an honest and inspirational message that helped put all the topics of the day in perspective. Lori reminded everyone that learning about social justice does not stop with this conference and that it's a life long process of learning and reflection. As one conference attendee said about the endnote "I liked the analogy made with head, heart, and hands to social justice, diversity,

and multiculturalism. It helped me understand their important differences." At the end of her presentation, Lori gave everyone buttons that had a variety of messages on them to further remind everyone that the process of being an aspiring social justice student affair professional is a journey that must continue well after the conference. Of course, while the message and topics discussed at the conference were thought-provoking, there was still time to talk and network with colleagues from across campus in between the sessions and at lunch.

For more information about the conference, please visit the SPA Conference Website. For more information about Tim Wise please go to: <http://www.timwise.org>

Special thanks to all the volunteers and presenters who all helped make the conference a success. The members of the 2005 SPA Conference Planning Committee: Mike Crawford, Ann Dingman, Kari Fonstad, Joey Humke, Stephanie King, Christopher Moore, and Dora Valentin.

A
PUBLICATION
OF THE
STUDENT
PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION

SPA Shout Out

When you see Heather Cote, say: THANK YOU for working hard on helping SPA get in shape with a new logo & brochure! Heather works at the School of Human Ecology! Thanks Heather!



SPA Socials

1. Thursday, April 7—4:30 to 6:30pm
Buraka's 543 State St.
 2. Wednesday, April 27, 4:30-6:30pm
Dotty Dumpling's Dowry, 317 N. Francis St.
 3. Tuesday, May 10, 12:30pm
Paisan's Restaurant—more details to come via e-mail!
- Network, Laugh, Relax!**

Field Days Wrap Up by Renee Alfano

On February 22nd & 23rd, we had over 60 visits take place to many of the student services departments that participated in this new program, a collaboration between the Student Personnel Association and the Madison Academic Career Advising Association. The overall evaluation from participants was very positive and people walked away feeling as if the visits were well worth their time. Participant comments included:

- "It was helpful to see how different units of the same "type" operate."
- "I learned how other academic affairs offices function and the philosophy behind their practice."
- "Good, behind the scenes look. Also a nice opportunity to put faces with names and meet new people."
- "Meeting people was the most beneficial part. Met some great people."
- "I was able to learn more about workings of UW departments than what is explained in official campus publications."

A special thank you goes out to all the departments who participated this year. Our plans are to sponsor the program again next year. A special thank you also to the committee members who helped make this program happen; Mo O'Connor, School of Business, Melanie Schneider, School of Pharmacy, Claire Peters & Diana Maki, CCAS, Greg Iaccarino, L&S/HE Career Advising Service, Michaela Aust, Orientation & New Student Programs, Betsy Pandl, School of Human Ecology, Cheryl Michie, UW Extension, & Renee Alfano, Student Organization Office. If you have additional comments or are interested in serving on the next planning committee, contact Renee Alfano at ralfano@das.wisc.edu.



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