Welcome to the Newsletter!

It’s Spring again, and the promise of change is in the air! This newsletter is busting with news – I hope you’ll take the time to read it cover to cover.

The biggest news is our program merger with the Higher Education program. We will have a new name (Higher Education & Student Affairs), a new curriculum (on the web), a new home (the department of Education Leadership & Policy Studies), and new colleagues (as we move our primary appointments and our offices to the EPLS Department, effective this summer). I think we’ve constructed a curriculum that carries the best with us, and by joining with our Higher Ed colleagues, we’ve strengthened the ranks of our faculty and opened new opportunities for students.

The upcoming June reunion is very exciting, and marks an opportunity to celebrate our past and our future. Please do join us! A number of activities are happening in tandem with the reunion: a professional conference, tours of campus, a history project, and a foundation campaign. I’m so grateful to our steering committee who has helped plan and implement this tremendous program.

We also celebrate a big year as we welcomed back distinguished alumni to campus. Indiana Chancellor’s Professor George Kuh (PhD ‘75) consulted last spring with the Office of the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs. Bowling Green Professor Carney Strange (MA ‘76/PhD ‘78) was hosted by GSDA this past fall. There was some learning and some singing going on! Professor Mary Howard Hamilton (MA ‘77), from Indiana University, returned to campus to serve as the Diversity Executive in Residence.

Our incoming class looks quite robust! Our applications are up, and represent more diversity (gender, location, ethnicity) than we have had in recent years. Program Assistant Mike Schluckebier has drafted a comprehensive recruitment plan for the program, based on principles of sustainability. Mike has done an amazing job this year helping to shepherd all the changes in the program, and I am so grateful to him!

Stay in touch!
Dr. Deb Liddell, Program Coordinator

A Note on the Merger of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Programs

We’ve completed the final parts of the merger that has produced the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program (HESA), which now resides in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies (EPLS) in the College of Education. This fall, we’ll enroll our first cohort of master’s students in Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA). Last fall we enrolled our first HESA Ph.D. students. As DEO of EPLS, I’m very pleased with the new master’s and doctoral programs we’ve constructed and believe the merger will make what were two strong programs even better.

While I’m new to EPLS, having joined the department in June 2009, I have a significant connection to the Student Affairs Program at the University of Iowa. My wife, Tanya Kooi, is an alumnae of the master’s program (’96) and, as a result, I’ve known about the strengths of the students and faculty in this program for a long time. My colleagues in EPLS share my respect for the Student Affairs Program and its history and have and will continue to work to ensure that the new HESA program preserves the best parts of both programs while building on complementary areas of strength.

Professors Liddell, Watt, and Whitt already have secondary appointments in EPLS, but will move their primary appointments to EPLS beginning this fall. All three have been attending our faculty meetings and contributing to the productive and collegial atmosphere in EPLS. Their attention to building community among students and faculty will serve us well as we move forward.

As we move forward, I welcome input from alumni who have ideas or comments that might improve the way we interact with current or former students. One of my goals for the HESA program is to better communicate what we’re doing and why we’re doing it, so as to make clear just how strong our graduate programs are. To achieve this goal, we’ll need your help.

Cheers,
Dr. Christopher Morphew, Professor and Chair, EPLS
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

Cindy Weber grew up in Shelbyville, located in rural northeast Missouri. She completed a bachelor’s degree in music education in May 2007 from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri where her interest in student affairs was sparked through involvement in residence life, Greek life, and student government. Before beginning her master’s degree at The University of Iowa, Cindy spent time in Iowa City working for West Music as a sales associate and teaching private clarinet lessons. At Iowa, Cindy is the graduate assistant for Leadership Development Programs in the Office of Student Life where she aids in program planning and assessment. She held practica experiences with Career Services at Augustana College and the Honors Opportunity Program in the College of Education. She is currently seeking student affairs positions in career services, academic advising, and leadership development. Cindy enjoys cooking, playing coed softball, and spending time with her partner, Vance, and cat, Sissy.

Amanda Truppe is originally from Wisconsin and received her bachelor’s degree in business administration from The University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. After working in both Nashville, TN and Chicago, IL, Amanda took the plunge, going back to school full time in the cornfields of Iowa. She currently holds a graduate assistantship at Health Iowa where she teaches classes and does presentations on various health related topics. Amanda is also the coordinator for the Health Ninjas, a peer health program. Amanda also worked as a practicum student in Career Services at Coe College, The Civic Engagement Program at Iowa, and currently is at Kirkwood Community College in Student Services. Amanda is seeking positions in career services, advising, civic engagement, and health promotions in various areas in Midwestern and Southern regions. She is an avid outdoors enthusiast, music fan, loves a good laugh, and is looking forward getting a dog upon employment!

Krista Reeve is originally from Cedar Rapids, IA and completed her bachelor’s degree in psychology at The University of Iowa. Her assistantship has been in Orientation Services, where she has held the role of both Parent Program Coordinator and Assistant Student Program Coordinator. She has worked as a practicum student in the Office of Residence Life at Coe College, the Career Development Center at St. Ambrose University, and as a College Transition instructor. She has also had the opportunity to be involved in the Iowa Student Personnel Association (ISPA) as The University of Iowa’s Graduate Student Representative. Krista is currently job searching in the Denver area in career services, academic advising, orientation, and anything else that happens to pique her interest. In her free time (which she hopes to have more of after graduation), Krista enjoys reading, boating, tennis, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

Stephanie Preschel is originally from Philadelphia, PA home of the best hot pretzels. Growing up, she moved all over and at one point ended in the corn-fed state of Iowa. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 2008 with a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing, and a minor in French. After six years of being a student at Iowa, Stephanie was thrilled to attend the 2010 Orange Bowl to cheer on the Hawkeyes with some fellow SDP classmates. She is proud to be a Hawkeye! During her time in graduate school, Stephanie has held an assistantship in the Office of Residence Life. During her first year her focus was educational programming and this year she is the GA for student learning. When she wasn’t talking about theory, Stephanie has held practica with the Career Leadership Academy and the Office of Spiritual Life at Cornell College, and has taught The College Transition. Stephanie is currently looking for a job in Residence Life out West. When asked why so far away, her response was, "Why not?!"
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

Katie Langesen is originally from Forest City, Iowa, but most recently lived in Des Moines, Iowa, before coming to Iowa City. She completed her undergraduate work at Simpson College, in Indianola and worked in Des Moines following graduation. She discovered her passion for student affairs during a chance encounter while stranded at an airport in Dallas; a random conversation with another stranded passenger caused Katie to realize people actually get paid to work with college students, an area she had never considered but which she quickly realized was something she would love doing. While in the Student Development Program, Katie worked in Fraternity and Sorority Life within the Office of Student Life, and completed practica experiences with the TRiO:SSS program at The University of Iowa and in Career Services at Coe College. Her career interests lie in career services, academic advising, international student programs, and student activities.

Emily Krouse-Gagne, proudly hailing from Minneapolis completed her undergraduate work in sociology and Latin American and Caribbean studies at Beloit College in Wisconsin. It was in the small town of Beloit that she was first introduced to the magic of student affairs as she worked as a Resident Assistant and Head RA for three years. She is excited to be finishing up her graduate study here at Iowa with a master's degree in student development. She has spent the last two years working as an Assistant Hall Coordinator for University Housing where she has learned a lot about students and has had many opportunities to apply theory to her practice. She has supervised RAs, advised the hall government executive board, served as a judicial hearing officer, participated in committee work with the Social Change and Drive-In Workshop committees, and spent many a late night answering duty calls. She was also able to engage in learning through practica at Cornell College in the Office of International and Off-Campus Studies and working on assessment with the Career Leadership Academy. One of her favorite experiences was acting as an instructor for a first year college preparation course, The College Transition. She is looking forward to challenging and supporting students in housing as she looks for a full-time position in Residence Life in the Twin Cities or D.C. area. She enjoys spending time walking though Iowa City, perusing the aisles of New Pioneer Co-op, and cooking with her fiancée, family, and friends.

Elizabeth Krause was born and raised at the base of a volcano in California. She completed her undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley and worked in the mental health field for five years before entering the master's program in student development at The University of Iowa. While at The University of Iowa, Elizabeth has been the manager of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center. Elizabeth has lived in Finland and Australia and enjoys hiking, weight-lifting, poetry and fashion in her spare time.

Becca Don hails from the outskirts of the Windy City, referred to affectionately by Iowa locals as “don’t pretend you are from Chicago, you’re from the burbs!” After an exceptionally enjoyable undergraduate career in the back hills of Ohio at Kenyon College, and an enlightening professional career as a layout designer with the Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper, Becca made her way to Iowa to further her passion for Higher Education and corn (enjoyed together and/or separately). At Iowa Becca oversees the Health Science Living-Learning Community, ensuring that tomorrow’s doctors are on the right path today. Additionally, she works as a Health Educator with Health Iowa, proving to her parents that in fact you can make a career out of sex, drugs and alcohol. Becca spent her summer working at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and her winter studying in rural India. Through these experiences she has developed her ability to make tasteless and underappreciated jokes in any culture. Becca looks forward to a rewarding career in the (hopefully) near future, with the expectation that it will make it easier to explain to her family what exactly “this student affairs business” is.
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

Kate Determan is originally from Clinton, Iowa and completed her undergraduate work in political science, international business and Spanish at The University of Iowa in 2008. Since beginning her graduate work in student development, she has had the opportunity to work for the Office of Residence Life as an Assistant Hall Coordinator for Mayflower and Hillcrest Residence Halls. Both buildings provided Kate with unique learning experiences including supervising amazing RA staffs, working with living-learning communities, and advising hall governments. She has also had the opportunity to teach The College Transition and work with Greek life and summer conferences at Cornell College. Each of these experiences have reminded Kate why she loves college students and helping them grow. May 2010 will be a momentous month for Kate because not only will she graduate with her amazing cohort but she will also marry her best friend, Jordan Garrett!

Lona Davenport enjoys water-skiing and roller-blading and the newly created synthesis of the two: roller-skiing. She recently changed her name from ‘Quad-Cities’ in order to differentiate herself from being associated with Rock Island, IL. While at the UI Lona tried out for the position of Kicker on the Hawkeye Football team and while there was noticed by scouts from Residence Life. Director of Residence Life, Kate Fitzgerald, quickly signed Lona to a two-year deal, effectively ending her football dreams. All the better for Lona, her incredible work ethic as a graduate assistant, coupled with her academic prowess made her a force to be reckoned with. Few PhD students, and even fewer of her own M2 cohort would challenge her in direct brain to brain combat. She is currently training for American Idol: Season 10 with her coach Kristen Wurster (MA '08) and is quoted as saying, "tenth time's the charm!"

Cristi Burrill is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. Before coming to Iowa she attended St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin and received degrees in Spanish and sociology. Cristi’s graduate assistantship is in Fraternity & Sorority Life within the Office of Student Life. Cristi has also completed practica at Cornell College in the student activities and civic engagement offices and has taught The College Transition for first year students at Iowa. Her current practicum is in Student Disability Services. Cristi is looking for positions in campus activities, student organization advising, leadership, civic engagement, and Greek life. Wherever she ends up she is most looking forward to buying a dog! She will be sad to leave her incredible cohort, but excited to meet up with them at ACPA/NASPA conferences in the future!

Steph Beecher, originally from Dubuque, received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics and psychology from Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Steph currently holds an assistantship at Health Iowa as a Health Educator. While in the program, Steph taught The College Transition at The University of Iowa as well as assisted Kirkwood Community College with their first year transition class. Steph is currently creating an oral history, documenting the past 50 years of the SDP Program and will present the finished product at the reunion in June. Upon completion, Steph hopes to continue in the direction of health and wellness. Steph wants to thank each and every one of her classmates for their unconditional support and encouragement. They have made her SDP experience truly unforgettable.
Congratulations to the program’s recent PhD graduates!

Melanie Guentzel, 2009
My dissertation research explored the experiences of faculty members in academic and student affairs partnership programs. I selected a qualitative case study approach to address my research questions: (1) what are the professional and personal effects on faculty members of participation in student affairs and academic affairs partnership programs, and (2) what are the primary barriers and motivators to faculty member participation in partnership programs?

There is limited research on educators in partnership programs. This study bridged a gap between several single-institution qualitative studies of faculty in living-learning programs and a large quantitative study of educators participating in academic and student affairs partnership programs. The faculty participants reported mostly positive experiences in partnership programs. Motivations to participate included a positive assessment of fit with the program, a desire to know students better, an opportunity to have a positive impact on student learning, and to benefit from professional learning opportunities. Challenges to involvement for faculty members included extra work, a lack of time, and a mismatch between partnership program work and tenure and promotion processes. The results of the study will be presented at the 2010 ACPA Meeting in Boston and recommendations for practice will be discussed.

On a personal note, I am in my fourth year as the Director of Graduate Student Services at St. Cloud State University. My partner and I are enjoying living in St. Cloud with our 4 year old and being closer to family. However, we have very fond memories of our time in Iowa City and love to find reasons to come back and visit. If I had to do it all over again, I would still choose the University of Iowa.

Noël (Liley) Harmon, 2009
My dissertation was A Study on the Experiences of Black Female Student Athletes at a Predominately White Institution. I used qualitative analysis to better understand their experiences as students, athletes, and developing young women within the context of being in a predominantly White environment.

While at Iowa I worked as a graduate assistant for the Department of Health and Sport Studies as an exercise specialist, and for Athletic Student Services working with student athletes. I also worked as a research assistant for Dr. Sherry Watt assisting with her continuing “PIE” research.

A highlight of my graduate experience was being asked in my second year to develop and teach an undergraduate Multicultural course. I had the pleasure of teaching (and continuing to develop) multiple sections of this course for six semesters. This was truly a rewarding learning experience for me not only as an instructor, but also in furthering my research interests focused on effective pedagogy for multicultural courses.

Though I was slated to continue to teach courses at Iowa this spring, including a master’s multicultural course, life’s amazing twists and turns propelled me to move to Washington, D.C. where I am currently pursuing employment. Despite this major life change, I continue to train for various half-marathons and marathons. D.C. has a strong running community so I guess I’d better start training for the D.C. marathon!

My doctoral experience was truly amazing. I grew professionally and personally during my four and a half years in the program. I had strong support, wonderful role models, and countless opportunities to put theory to practice! A full-hearted to thank you to the program and all who support and continue to make Iowa’s student affairs programs the nation’s best!
What are your faculty up to?

[Deb Liddell] is finishing the 4th year and my 3rd term as Program Coordinator. Aside from the usual recruiting and program management, there were three big tasks facing the program this year. I worked closely on the merger with the Higher Education program and development of a new MA curriculum for the Higher Education & Student Affairs program, which commences this fall 2010. The planning for the June reunion began in May 2009. And a huge summer project was the analysis of data and development of a report for the Provost's Graduate Programs Assessment. You may have read in the Chronicle that several grad programs at the University did not receive positive reviews. I'm proud to report that both our MA and PhD programs received a "High Quality" evaluation.

I've embarked on an interesting project with colleagues Diane Cooper (UGA), Dafina Stewart (BGSU), and Margi Healy (UND) on the role of moral and ethical elders on campuses. We have a piece in About Campus coming out this spring. Last summer my qualitative study "On and off the field: Lessons learned from the coaching elite" was published in the Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education. This was an extensive study that examined elite high school athletes through the eyes of their coaches. It was co-authored by John Westefeld, Nick Colangelo, Angie Kellogg, and Jill Pearson. My work with the Journal of College & Character as their Contributing Editor ended this past fall. I've presented at a number of national conferences this year, including the Institute for College Student Values, ACPA, and NASPA.

My two-year term as Chair of the ACPA Commission for Professional Preparation ends at the Boston conference. With the publication of the ACPA Professional Competencies, and more press to 'do something' about certification, accreditation, or some kind of credentialing in student affairs, it's been a fascinating time to be a part of the CPP.

Personally, John and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary this year, and enjoyed some personal travel to Europe over the summer.

Deb was also chosen this year as an ACPA Diamond Honoree. Diamond Honorees are recognized for their outstanding and sustained contributions to higher education and to student affairs. Funds raised on behalf of the Honorees are used for ACPA and Foundation activities in keeping with the Association’s purposes and strategic goals. Since its inception in 1999 the program has generated over $100,000.

Sherry Watt is in her tenth year as a faculty member with the UI's Graduate Programs in Student Affairs. She continues to do research that explores reactions individuals have to difficult dialogues on race, sexual orientation, and disability. Sherry was awarded a seed grant to do team research as Courage and Renewal Facilitator on participant reactions to a retreat experience focused on the exploration of power, privilege, and oppression with specific emphasis on racism. The Center for Courage and Renewal is an organization founded and supported by the work of Parker J. Palmer. This year, Sherry became a member of the editorial board for the Journal of College Student Development.

Recent publications:
What are your faculty up to?

Ernie Pascarella (Professor and Mary Louise Petersen Chair in Higher Education) has focused most of his scholarly attention on the activities of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education, which is conducting the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education (WNSLAE). A number of research papers from the WNSLAE have appeared, or will appear, in such journals as: Journal of College Student Development, Research in Higher Education, Change, Journal of Higher Education, and Review of Higher Education. In May 2008 he received an honorary doctorate from Blackburn College in recognition of his “important contributions to the understanding of postsecondary education’s impact on students.” The 1991 and 2005 editions of his book (with Pat Terenzini of Penn State) How College Affects Students have now sold a combined total of over 30,000 copies and have been cited more than 4,000 times according to Google Scholar.

Elizabeth Whitt, Professor in the College of Education, has served on the GPSA faculty since 1997 and holds a secondary appointment in the Higher Education program in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies. Since July 2007, Liz has served as UI’s Director of Student Success Initiatives in the Office of the Provost. In that capacity, she works with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education on a variety of tasks, including outcomes assessment in undergraduate education, living-learning communities, and other undergraduate student success initiatives. Her current service to ACPA and the student affairs profession includes membership on the ACPA/NASPA Joint Task Force on the Future of Student Affair, the editorial board for the Journal of College Student Development, and the 2011 ACPA Convention Program Committee (Chair, Pre-Convention Programs). On July 1, 2010, Liz will begin a 3-year term as editor of the New Directions for Student Services sourcebook series; she has been associate editor since 1996. Her recent scholarly activities include working with several co-authors on a book (for Jossey-Bass) on academic and student affairs partnership programs and an update of Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter (Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, Whitt, & Associates, 2005). In addition, she serves as co-director of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education (CRUE) at Iowa.

What is Al Hood up to?

Al turned 80 last August, and to celebrate - or maybe to try and get rid of him - his family gave him a ride in a hot air balloon. Keeping with tradition, Al and his wife, Jean, did quite a bit of traveling in 2009, visiting friends and family in Florida, California, Washington, and Maryland. He was also recently named, with a host of others associated with The University of Iowa, a NASPA legacy scholar and honored at the NASPA Conference in Chicago, IL.

Finally, Al is planning on attending and speaking at the reunion event this summer, so we hope you can all make it to celebrate both the program and one of its distinguished faculty members.
What are you doing this summer?

If you’re an alumni of the program, you should plan to attend the Graduate Programs in Student Affairs Reunion & Conference. The program and its sponsors will host the reunion and conference June 4 & 5 with events planned for Friday evening and all day Saturday. More details are available online (http://www.education.uiowa.edu/hesa) and a short summary of the schedule appears on the next page.

A special thanks to the following members of the event planning team:

- Mark Baccei - MA ’06
- Sara Burden - MA ’03
- Joseph Cilek - MA ’03
- Valerie Garr - MA ’95
- Debora Liddell - Associate Professor
- Jodi Linley - MA ’02
- Brooke Paulsen - MA ’07
- Gabriela Rivera - MA ’99
- Libby Spotts - MA ’09
- Sherry Watt - Associate Professor
- Liz Whitt - Professor

We’ve been meeting since the summer of 2009 and each individual has put in numerous hours and invaluable work towards making this event a reality. Registration for the reunion “went live” on Friday, March 12 in anticipation of its launch at the NASPA Conference in Chicago. In the spirit of sustainability, advertising and registration for the event is completely online; we sent out only one direct mail in an effort to capture the email addresses of some of our alumni who are currently “off the grid”. If you know of a program colleague who hasn’t heard from us about the event, please direct him or her to the website listed above. For additional questions, please contact Mike Schluckebier (michael-sluckebier@uiowa.edu) or Deb Liddell (debora-liddell@uiowa.edu).

Reflections on planning for the reunion ...

As a graduate of the program who works on campus, I have been fortunate to join with numerous other alumni and faculty to plan for the 50th anniversary celebration in June. It has been gratifying to see how this event has evolved from an initial idea being tossed around, to the full menu of professional development and reconnecting opportunities that now make up the schedule for the weekend.

As I reflect on the past months of planning, a few highlights stand out regarding what I have most appreciated about being part of the process. The first has been the intentional chance to regularly get together with people connected to the program. Even those of us periodic emails rather than reconnecting in person, and good excuse to be in the same room and share ideas and

The second has been the humbling process of seeing names of all the graduates through the years. It is a clear reminder of the quality of the program, people, and service that has been and continues to be done around the country by those who share common training and ties to Iowa. On a related note, as a member of the task of putting together a day of discussion and content faculty and a number of alumni from various eras.

The third highlight has been the ways being part of the anniversary discussions has reinvigorated my professional life. It can be easy to get lost in our day-to-day work and lives, and my participation on the planning committee has encouraged me to step back and think more deliberately about what I took away from my time in the program and how I use it in my current work with students. Yes, even some of the theories we studied have made their way back into my mind and renewed a desire for continued learning and application. If simply being part of the group doing some of the leg work for the event has done this, I have high expectations for what the actual event will have to offer.
$50 for 50 years?

What’s it worth, being part of a graduate program that is 50 years old? You tell us! Would you consider a $50 donation to celebrate our 50 years in The University of Iowa’s College of Education? All money is earmarked specifically for the program. Once known as the "Student Development Program Fund" we have since changed our name to reflect our new identity: Higher Education & Student Affairs Program Fund. The account number is the same: 30-350-051.

Foundation money is used to support us in a number of ways: 1) to underwrite visiting speakers (Marlin Schmidt Fund), 2) to recruit prospective students, 3) to support student projects and professional travel, and 4) to help maintain alumni activities such as the annual receptions at NASPA & ACPA.

If you would like to contribute one dollar for every year of the program's rich existence, please send your donation to The University of Iowa Foundation, 500 Alumni Center, P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, IA 52244-4550. Or go online to the UI Foundation’s website (www.givetoiowa.org/education); you'll find the HESA Program Fund listed at the bottom of the page.

MA students discover program history through alumni eyes

In conjunction with the upcoming 50th anniversary reunion, three student development program master’s students are compiling a program history through alumni interviews and historical artifacts. Second-year student Stephanie Beecher and first-year students Misty Brents and Kelly Giese plan to publish the finished project as a book that will be available to reunion attendees.

The students have been collecting interviews through emails, phone calls, and in-person visits. They will also be attending alumni receptions at ACPA and NASPA to collect responses. These interviews will set against pictures, timelines, and documents to provide a historical context. The book will be arranged by decade to show the evolution of the program through the past 50 years. By putting the history of the program in a contextual lens, the students hope alumni will be able to see connections between the program and the university and student affairs field as a whole.

Since the first calls for responses went out in February, pictures and stories have been flooding in. True to stereotypical differences between generations, more recent graduating classes were the first to email pictures. However, alumni from later decades had great stories to tell too. "It was amazing to listen to Al Hood talk about the political climate during the protest era, and then tie it back to student affairs," said first-year student Kelly Giese.

The project is a semester-long independent study for the three students, carrying course credit. Before beginning the project, the students sat down in December with program chair Professor Deb Liddell to propose a syllabus and calendar for the project. Liddell has been very impressed with the dedication of her students. "Steph, Kelly, and Misty have been tireless in their pursuit of our history! It’s been quite fun to partner with them as they dig through archives, locate alumni, and take in the stories of our people over the years. The project is adding a depth to our reunion that is very important, and we couldn’t do it without their very capable and creative help."

Besides just chronicling the history of the program, the students have found the project to be an invaluable personal experience. "This project has been so rewarding up to this point. I have gotten to know the alumni and their experiences. It is amazing to see what this program has meant to them and their careers," says second-year student Stephanie Beecher. Both Brents and Giese were history majors as undergraduates, and Beecher has worked on similar projects in the past. Under Beecher’s direction, the group is also putting together a short multimedia presentation that will be unveiled during the reunion conference. It will include pictures, footage from interviews with alumni, and songs relevant to the decade.

First-year student Misty Brents says that the best part of the project has been seeing cognitive theory in action. "In class we hear these names, and we read these articles that have impacted how student affairs professionals practice today, but becoming more familiar with their evolution has motivated and energized my studies."

Questions or contributions to the History Project should be emailed to sdphistoryproject@gmail.com.
2009 Albert Hood Distinguished GPSA Alumni Award

Michael Freeman (M.A. '83)

Dr. Freeman serves as Vice President of Student Affairs at Tennessee State University. After graduating from the UI, he obtained his PhD in Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland at College Park. Dr. Freeman has over 25 years of experience in higher education administration as well as teaching experience with undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at Maryland. Dr. Freeman is published in The Handbook of Student Affairs Administration, The Black Students Guide to College Success, and Managing Liabilities and Overseas Programs. He is also active in NASPA and ACPA having served as a member of the NASPA Journal editorial board for six years.

What are our alumni up to?

Helen Jameson (MA ’93) was selected for a UI Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Individual Catalyst Award. The Catalyst Awards are designed to honor those who, during the past year, have shown a University commitment to achieving excellence through diversity. She will be honored at this year’s annual Catalyst Award Reception on April 21.

Jeff Stevenson (MA ’78, PhD ’82) is currently the Chief Economic Development Officer at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Florida and teaches doctoral classes for NOVA University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He is the Chairman of the Workforce Educators in the community colleges of Florida and is on the Board of Directors serving the National Council of Workforce Education.

Emily (Villhauer) Lee (MA ’05) married Michael Lee in June 2009, one of several changes for the summer. Emily left her student activities advising position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to return to central Illinois. She began serving as the Director of Career Services at Eureka College in Eureka, IL in September 2009, where she assists the 750 students of Eureka College with résumé development, the job and internship search, and grad school planning. The couple is also expecting their first child in September 2010.

Jerri Drummond (PhD ’07) was promoted to Associate Vice President for Student Development in July, where she supervises counseling services, health services & career development, and will soon add Greek life to her plate. She is also still the Director of Multicultural Affairs.

Steven Hubbard (PhD ’96) is the Director of Student Affairs at New York University’s Paul McGhee Division.

Maria Oropeza (MA ’97) recently completed her doctorate. Her dissertation was Graduating from College: What Does Capital Allow Latinas to Accomplish: A Multi-Method Study of Latina Graduates. The study examined the assumption that a college degree can serve as a panacea for people from marginalized groups. It examined the characteristics of Latinas who graduate from college, the skills, resources, and knowledge (or forms of capital) that they acquire which they identified as helping them to succeed academically, and the extent (if at all) to which forms of capital transfer to post-university contexts. She also recently had her first article accepted for publication: Oropeza, M., Varghese, M. & Kanno, Y. (in press). Linguistic minority students in higher education: Using, resisting, and negotiating labels. Equity & Excellence in Education, 43(2).

Ellen Sunshine (MA ’01) won one of the John Tate Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising. She currently serves as an academic adviser in The Martin Luther King, Jr. Program in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota.

Jamie Schiffman (MA ’00) and her husband, Andrew, welcomed their daughter, Madeline Hope Schiffman, into their home.

Brooke Paulsen (MA ’07) recently became the TRiO Multicultural Coordinator in the Center for Diversity & Enrichment at The University of Iowa. The position provides her with significantly more student contact and she enjoys working in an office with an intentional focus on professional development.
Transcending the wall: Support for Iowa City’s trans population

In the spring of 2009, I returned home from a busy day as the manager of The University of Iowa’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center and started talking with my partner, stef shuster, about a trans support group stef had attended. As we talked about the support group and the lack of programs and services for trans-identified individuals, we were struck by how almost all programs for trans folk are based on a deficit model – everything from support groups to days of remembrance – these events never approach trans identities as something to be celebrated, something that can enrich our world. Out of this conversation the concept of the first annual UI TransWeek: Remembrance & Celebration was born. We envisioned a week of educational activities that would increase awareness of gender variance, deconstruct genderism using an intersectional approach, and create space for trans identities to be celebrated.

Over the summer I enrolled in Dr. Sherry Watt’s course on Advanced Multiculturalism, and took the opportunity to further develop the concept of UI TransWeek: Remembrance & Celebration. Reviewing literature and recent research in trans theory and gender oppression as well as different approaches to multicultural education, I integrated coursework into the original idea and designed a week of programming that stef and I collaboratively implemented in November, 2009.

The week began with "Transcending the Wall: An Exhibition of Trans-Identified Artists." This exhibit marked the first time trans-identified artists had the opportunity to showcase their work in the same space in Iowa City. Photography, sculpture, and other mixed-media work were on display in "Transcending the Wall," symbolically titled to capture the idea that trans-identified artists have multiple walls to transcend. The next event was “(De)Constructing Gender: Transgender Workshop,” held at the Iowa City Public Library. The workshop was framed around the intersection of all role conformity on everyone. Participants were provided challenged to broaden their gendered expressions and at The University of Iowa and Iowa City more safe and

The next event was a screening of the film: “Still Black: A documentary that explores the lives of six black film, rhetoric faculty member and author Vershawn intersections of race and gender. Finally, the week Celebration of Trans Identities.” The celebration included personal narratives and poetry from local trans-identified people, and featured a lecture by Kate Bornstein, a nationally recognized author, playwright and performance artist. Coyote Grace, a folk band from Seattle, also performed during this event.

All together, the first annual UI TransWeek had over 400 participants. To put that in perspective, the LGBT Resource Center had only 391 participants for the entire academic year in 2007/2008. For those who participated in the week’s programs, lasting learning outcome are listed below with representative quotes from evaluation forms:

(1) A concept of transgender identity that was empowering of trans and non-trans folk to live authentic lives: “I have formed a somewhat better understanding of my own gender and my own perspectives on gender identity.”

(2) An understanding of intersections between ability, race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity: “… it’s all about intersectionality, and where you are privileged, and where you aren’t. And so I don’t like this idea of tacking on different oppressions because like being able-bodied, that’s a privilege. And so that’s why those narratives are told more than disability because there is that privilege. Right, because I’m experiencing race. It’s not like I don’t have a race tucked on to me, but I am experiencing White privilege so I still have race. I think that’s hard for White people to understand that we do have a race. Just like men have a gender. So just because we’re not trans doesn’t mean that we don’t have a gender identity. Because that’s a privilege not to identify with that because it’s like well I’m just normal.”

(3) Concrete social justice action steps toward creating a more inclusive campus and community: “I will start writing transgender on medical forms & advocate in research to include multiple genders not just binary.”

Ultimately, the experience of planning, implementing, and evaluating the first annual UI TransWeek has been an incredibly transformative experience for me. I have a better understanding of how student development theory can be applied to programming in order to create a more inclusive world.
My involvement with the Student Success Team: Pick One

An initiative of the Student Success Team, Pick One aims to increase first-year student involvement in co-curricular activities. The program encourages students to pick one activity to engage in over the course of their first year at The University of Iowa. Such engagement – it is believed – helps students adjust to community; and form positive relationships with other enabled me to take part in behind-the-scenes work on Committee meetings and witnessed collaboration among Student Financial Aid, the Honors Program, and indeed!. I also worked with Sarah Hansen, Director of Student Services, to conduct a survey assessment of Pick and I will soon see whether Pick One enhances students’ it does. Our findings will help Pick One Steering to the program for the 2010-2011 school year. My involvement with Pick One and, consequently, the Student Success Team has enabled me to gain real-world experience and apply much of what I have learned in the classroom (e.g., the need for assessment in student affairs work) to practice.

Excel, Stretch, Choose, Engage, and Serve: A new approach to student success

The IOWA Challenge acts as a mission statement for undergraduate students to live by during their time at The University of Iowa. The IOWA Challenge encourages students to:

- Excel. Set high standards—push yourself academically.
- Stretch. Learn from diverse people, ideas, and experiences.
- Engage. Get involved and be a leader.
- Choose. Make decisions that support your goals.
- Serve. Contribute to a community that’s a great place to live and learn.

Over the last two years I have had the opportunity to be involved in multiple committees and workgroups surrounding The IOWA Challenge. Working on this initiative has allowed me to pull in the research I learn in class to accomplish the goals of the Student Success Team. This past summer at orientation we educated the first wave of students about The IOWA Challenge. I feel honored to be part of such an exciting and rare experience introducing a institutional culture change. Setting high expectations, creating a culture change, promoting student success, and having a lived mission, are all areas I have learned about in my coursework. To work with Dr. Elizabeth Whitt, one of the leading experts on this research has been an invaluable experience for me. Applying my coursework directly to The University of Iowa community has been rewarding and a great experience of true theory to practice work!

The end of an era

Pictured here with Dr. Carney Strange during his October visit, CRSD department secretaries Loreta (Reta) Litton and Virginia (Ginny) Travis are retiring after over forty years (each) in service to The University of Iowa and the College of Education. As Dr. Dennis Maki (Chair of CRSD) said in 2007, “Reta and Ginny have … provided continuity, institutional memory, counsel and advice to faculty and students alike. They serve as both the heart and reality check for our community. On behalf of all of the members of our departmental community past and present I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for all they represent and have done for and with us. We are better because of them.”

We hope that you can join us at the reunion and conference in June to properly thank Reta & Ginny for their service and wish them well for the future.
The human aggregate monster: 
A tale of a first-year MA cohort

It's a bird! It's a plane! No ... it's just Iowa. Just small town Iowa. The land of corn and friendliness. A place where college football is a weekend festival and family comes first, second, and third. Iowa: is it heaven? Well, you know the answer. For a fresh new group of first-year master's students certainly this sounds like the perfect place for us to develop and grow as student affairs professionals ... right? The answer to that question has as much to do with the individuals in the program as it does the state in which we reside.

Our faculty members have taught us that a student’s environment has a significant influence on their potential for success. One particular aspect of the environment that influences students has to do with the people in that environment. These people, their characteristics, and their experiences create a “human aggregate” which affects the entire community. Some of my cohort movie monster bent on terrorizing the inhabitants of a small town. Although we respect and understand the theory behind this concept we still smile when we hear that Godzilla’s brother, the human aggregate, is coming to class. Yet these acts of silliness tell much more about our cohort’s first-year experience than one might think.

During the past several months we have all found that the life of a master's student isn't always wine and roses. The days can be long, the work tiresome, and support might not always be available at a moment's notice. However, for every bad experience we have we know that there is a good one soon to follow. These “good times” unfortunately can't be scheduled or planned for on a regular basis. Often they are just a good laugh, a social night out, or the simple nod of recognition between cohort members showing that they are having the same issue.

Much like the students we learn about, our cohort grows and develops the most when we are together. We receive the true notion of a holistic learning experience by spending countless hours with each other in and out of the classroom. Our experiences, good or bad, are inherently connected to the qualities and characteristics we each bring to the group. These elements along with those of the faculty and student affairs professionals with whom we work make up a human aggregate unlike any other. But that's the point isn't it? Whether it's our current cohort, the University we now attend, or the institutions we'll work at in the future, each will best be described by the dominant elements that surface through its members.

The smile that comes after hearing the words human aggregate is more than just an immature gesture. It’s a signal of understanding from one cohort member to another. That smile is just one of the many elements of our group coming to the surface for each other to see. A sign that tells each other that the bad times will come but there’s always a light at the end of the tunnel. For this first-year cohort of master's students was reaching the half way point of the tunnel, preparing for the second half of the ride.

Special recognition ...

Georgianna Martin, a third-year PhD student in Student Affairs Administration & Research, was selected to receive a 2010 ACPA Annuit Coeptis Award. The Annuit Coeptis Award honors three senior professionals and five emerging professionals at a dinner where there can be wide-ranging discussion and exchange about professional issues. The dinner carries on a tradition established by Professor Philip A. Tripp and Ursula Delworth (a faculty member at Iowa) who dearly loved to challenge their contemporaries and junior colleagues in a spirit of personal and professional sharing, high good humor and thoughtful intellectual debate. The Latin phrase, annuit coeptis, reflects Dr. Tripp's and Dr. Delworth's optimism for the future of the profession by suggesting that "Providence has smiled upon that which we have begun."
What are our students up to?

This fall, the Graduate Student Development Association (GSDA) proudly welcomed Dr. Carney Strange (PhD ‘78), for a two-day visit. Dr. Strange is a professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University and an alumnus of Iowa’s Graduate Programs in Student Affairs. A sub-committee of GSDA members worked hard to plan for Dr. Strange’s visit. During his visit, Dr. Strange was able to attend a first year Master’s class, a second year Master’s class, a PhD brunch, a faculty gathering, and a meeting with all of the Directors in the Division of Student Affairs at Iowa. Dr. Strange also presented a keynote address titled, “Is There Room for Learning on Campus? Purposes and Spaces in the Academy”. His address was open to the entire campus community and attracted over 100 attendees. During his classroom visits, Dr. Strange addressed student spiritual development and faith exploration, the impact of environments on student development, and how to be a successful student affairs professional. The planning committee also enjoyed a dinner with Dr. Strange where he gave the second year master’s students hope in the job search process by giving his “Carney guarantee” that we would all find jobs. Let’s hope that guarantee pulls through!

We ended the visit with a GPSA brunch in Burge private dining that included a sing-along with the Carney Strange Student Development Songbook. Some of us even received a “used signature” on our used Strange and Banning (2001) textbooks. Dr. Strange’s visit was a great opportunity for us to connect with and learn from an Iowa alumnus. Although it was a hectic two days with a busy schedule, we had a lot of fun and we hope he did too!

Dr. Strange’s visit was made possible through many sponsors, including the Iowa Memorial Union, the Office of The Vice President for Student Services, University Housing, the Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Student Development, and Graduate Programs in Student Affairs. A big thank you to all of these sponsors and to Deb Liddell for providing Dr. Strange’s accommodations!

-Cristi Burrill & Katie Langeen

Other notes ...

Kathy Goodman (SAAR PhD) won 1st place in recognition of outstanding contribution and achievement in diversity research at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium in January, 2010.

Krista Reeve (MA ’10) & Elizabeth Krause (MA ’10) won the master’s level case study competition at the ISPA/ICCSSA join conference in Cedar Rapids in October, 2009. That increases Iowa’s winning streak to three in a row!

Recent publications and presentations by from Iowa students and alumni:

Goodman, K., & Mueller, J. (2009, August). Atheist students in a college setting. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Secular Student Alliance, Columbus, OH.


Goodman, K. (2010, January). Race, socioeconomic status, diverse campus environments, and college students’ need for cognition. Poster presented at the University of Iowa College of Education Martin Luther King Jr. Research Symposium, Iowa City, IA.


Wildman, K. (2010, January). Who do you think you are? Perspectives on giftedness from American Indians. Poster presented at the University of Iowa College of Education Martin Luther King Jr. Research Symposium, Iowa City, IA.