

THE VECTOR

GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Greetings! I am entering my third full year as program director, and the CSPA program has continually grown during this time. I could not be more excited! In this brief space I will provide a summary and update for you as there is much to be proud about our young CSPA program.

The past academic year has been busy. First, we have added Dr. J.T. Snipes whose bio appears within this newsletter and his presence will support the expansion of our curriculum. Please welcome Dr. Snipes! Of course we also have the continued support of additional wonderful faculty colleagues.

Our enrollment has surpassed 75 students and we are now one of the largest graduate programs at SIUE and among the largest student affairs programs in the Midwestern region. Since 2018, the mean GPA of our applicants has increased and the applicant pool is also exceptionally diverse. Our student profile is now national in scope as more than 30% of Cohorts IV and V is composed of “out-of-state” students hailing from North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas, California, Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and New York City. We continue to be exceptionally diverse as 49.5% of our students come from historically underrepresented populations. This places us among the most diverse programs in the country.

We recently had a very strong group of applicants to the program, many of whom were sent to us by our now more than 50 alumni. In March 2018, we held our first CSPA Day where almost 40 prospective students visited campus to explore SIUE and interview for graduate assistantships. The outcome was that Cohort V is the largest, comprised of 34 students (30 full-time, 4 part-time).

We are continuing to refine the research sequence and the program curriculum to incorporate the updated *ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Educators (2015)* and the new *ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies Rubrics (2016)*. We have added new electives including Advising and Student Success, Gender in Higher Education, and Organization & Administration of Higher Education. Additional professional development programming has included speakers and continuation of the JobSearch Bootcamp. These program enhancements have led to significant student professional and academic achievements:

- Two students published their final projects in peer-reviewed journals and three are in submission for the coming academic year.
- Eleven students served as graduate staff at the NACADA national conference in St. Louis chaired by Dr. Thomas.
- More than twenty-five students attended professional conferences which included three students giving national presentations.
- Four students attended the American Student Personnel Association annual conference in Houston, TX to participate in the national case study competition. They placed in the top five.
- Seven students were placed into nationally competitive internships through exchanges including NODA, NACA, and ACUHO-I.
- Our job placement rate for our full-time students now exceeds the national average of 86%.

Regards,

Dr. Pietro A. Sasso

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

SIUE's College Student Personnel Administration Program will host a visit day on Friday, March 16, 2017 for those considering a career in higher education.

Full article can be found here:

<https://www.siu.edu/news/2018/02/SIUE-CSPA-Program-Visit-Day.shtml>



This summer, CSPA students will complete their practicum in competitive field placements, building professional experience in various positions and roles in higher education.

Full article can be found here:

<https://www.siu.edu/news/2018/06/SIUE-CSPA-Graduate-Students-Spread-Nationwide-this-Summer-to-Complete-Competitive-Field-Placements.shtml>

With a particular emphasis on social justice, SIUE's CSPA students are often committed to serving historically underrepresented populations in higher education, working with hands-on experience to shape a changing world.

Full article can be found here:

<https://www.siu.edu/news/2017/10/Aspiring-Higher-Education-Leaders-Work-to-Shape-a-Changing-World.shtml>



Congratulations to our CSPA Award Winners:

CSPA Student of the Year- Iván Solis Cruz

This award recognizes a graduating or recently graduated CSPA student in the program who has demonstrated academic success, leadership, and commitment to the CSPA program and the profession of higher education/student affairs administration. In reviewing the nomination, faculty consider outstanding involvement in the classroom (academic achievement), professional practice (employment, practicum, or assistantship), and commitment to the profession (involvement in local, regional, or national associations).

Ivan Solis Cruz was selected for his professional involvement across campus within the Division of Student Affairs and within the profession of student affairs through GLACUHO. Iván Solis Cruz presented at one national conference and attended several more. He won several professional awards which are featured in this newsletter.



Iván Solis Cruz

Outstanding Contributions by a CSPA Student- Rachel Dunning

This award is presented to CSPA student(s) who have provided outstanding, voluntary, non-compensated service and contributed to the enhancement of the CSPA program, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville community, and/or the higher education profession. Examples include but are not limited to contributions to: CSPA and/or SIUE through leadership positions, service on committees or projects, or volunteerism/community service beyond internship/job requirements; or to ongoing research that advances the field; to local, state, regional, and/or national organizations.

Rachel Dunning was selected for her professional involvement within higher education in which she served as an advisor for a sorority and earned numerous professional and conference scholarships. She attended several professional conferences and her accomplishments are featured in this newsletter.

Rachel Dunning



CSPA Faculty Award for Excellence in the Final Project- Megan Gilbert

This award is given to a CSPA student who has completed an outstanding Final Project. This award recognizes the highest achievement in master's degree research based on a completed Final Project and overall efforts to contribute to the body of research and knowledge within the profession of higher education/student affairs administration. This student demonstrates a significant contribution to scholarship in the profession. Faculty consider the academic achievement of the student as demonstrated in the quality of their final project. Any student is eligible who has completed a final project from the preceding academic year.

Megan Gilbert was selected for the quality of her final project *Stress Management & Coping Strategies in Undergraduate Students at a Midwestern State University* which was grounded in theory and strong application to professional practice with implications for supporting student mental health.



Megan Gilbert

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cohort I (Spring/Fall 2016)

- Jennifer Koehne is now an Academic Advisor in the SIUE Student Success Center
- Chantelle Grey is celebrating two years in her position of Academic Advisor in the School of Business at Oklahoma State
- Tarsha Moore is now Assistant Director in the SIUE Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion
- Craig Skinner will celebrate his second anniversary in January as Senior Academic Advisor at Webster University
- Emily Eilers is a Financial Aid Advisor for NCAA Athletes at McKendree University
- Caitlin McLaughlin is now a Coordinator of Assessment at Lewis & Clark Community College
- Danie Schneider published her final project paper on intrusive advising with Drs. Sasso and Puchner in *The Mentor* academic advising journal
- Steven Lawton was recently engaged on July 1st, 2018 to Rebecca Siebert and is an Academic Advisor in the School of Engineering at SIUE

Cohort II (Spring/Fall 2017)

- Justin Rubin is now an Academic Advisor in the School of Business at University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Rani Somers celebrated one year as a Coordinator of Fraternity/Sorority Life at Wichita State University
- Pollyann Walters is now a Transfer Program Administrator at SIUE
- Alexis Paladini is celebrating a year as Hall Director at Minnesota State University and is a committee member of UMR-ACUHO
- Myra Kaufman is celebrating her first year as Assistant Director of the Graduate Public Service Internship Program at University of Illinois Springfield
- Kate Kessler is now an Academic Advisor at SIUE

- Meagan Arnold is now an Academic Advisor in the SIUE School of Engineering and with Dr. Sasso published her final project on spirituality in the *NASPA Journal of College and Character*
- Fallon Potter is now an Academic Advisor in the SIUE School of Engineering
- Liang Ge is a Graduate Assistant for Asian Affairs at Greenville University
- Hayle Gibson is Senior Woman Administrator & Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach at Greenville University

Cohort III (Spring/Fall 2018)

- Anna Schuh began a new position as Program Coordinator for Chicago in the Office of Admissions at Saint Louis University
- Tiffany Shemwell is now a Residence Life Coordinator at Michigan Institute of Technology
- Christie Crowder is now a Student Success Adjunct at St. Louis Community College
- Iván Solis Cruz is now a Hall Director and Student Conduct Administrator at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and won Graduate Assistant of the Year from the SIUE Division of Student Affairs as well as a similar award from the Great Lakes region of ACUHO-I
- Cassandra Holland now has a position in the Student Service Center at Maryville University
- Christine St. Louis presented her final project as a national poster presentation on the experiences of residence life new professionals at ACUHO-I
- David Groves has a new position at the Woodlawn campus of the University of Chicago Charter School System as an African American History teacher
- Yvonne Akinyi is now an Academic Advisor at SIUE
- Rachel Dunning is now a Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life at SIU Carbondale and won conference scholarships from the Indiana Student Affairs Association and Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors, and was awarded the Order of Omega Graduate Fellowship award.
- Charles Martin III has a new position at Saint Louis University in their Cross Cultural Center as a Community Engagement Coordinator
- Demetrius Coleman is now a Hall Director at the University of Michigan
- James Horne is now works in St. Louis for Kipp Charter Schools
- Megan Gilbert is now an Academic Advisor at SWIC
- Brianna McCarthy is now an Athletic Academic Advisor with SIUE Athletics and was recently selected for a competitive NCAA Women's Leadership program
- Tiffany Shemwell, Charles Martin, and Iván Solis Cruz all participated in the ACPA Case Study Competition in Houston, TX
- Featured Speakers: Yvonne Akinyi spoke as the featured Graduate Speaker at the Black Graduation Reception; Megan Gilbert was the Commencement Speaker for Fall 2017; David Groves was the Commencement Speaker For Spring 2018
- Eboni Chism is now an Academic Advisor at SWIC
- Darius Smith will serve as an officer with the SIUE Campus Police Department beginning spring 2019

Cohort IV (Spring/Fall 2019)

- Estelle Gyimah presented in Denver at National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) with colleagues from SIUE Campus Recreation. Her presentation was entitled *The Psychology of the Fitness Floor Layout. A view of our observations and changes to maximize use*. She has attended four professional conferences.
- Casey Yocum participated in the ACPA Case Study Competition in Houston, TX
- Abigail Gnewikow presented at a national conference on financial literacy at the *NASPA 2018 Symposium on Collegiate Financial Well-Being*
- Katie Hoag attended N4A - The National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals and National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACDA).
- Joseph Carrillo served as volunteer for the NIRSA Region IV.
- Natalie Pokrup is now an advisor in the Office of Financial Aid at Lewis & Clark Community College
- Alexis Lambert presented at the Student Affairs 101 Conference at Eastern Illinois University
- Cory Harlan is presented on virtual resident assistant training at an ACPA residential curriculum conference
- Jade Green and Brianna Walton (along with Kristina Wade from Cohort V) placed 3rd in the Case Study Competition

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

SPRING 2017

Cassandra Bradley	SIUE Graduate and International Admissions
Jade Green	SIUE GRASP Program
Estelle Gyimah	SIUE Counseling Services
Micah Jones	SIUE Student Conduct
Laura Mangi	SIUE School of Pharmacy
Rei Oliveros	SIUE SafeZone
Darius Smith	SIUE Sustained Dialogue
Gret Tindall	SIUE School of Education, Health, Human Behavior Advising
Abigail Gnewikow	SIUE Kimmel Center
Mary Mang	SIUE GRASP Program
TJ Riggs	SIUE Sustained Dialogue Program
Casey Yocum	SIUE GRASP Program
Alice Trinidad-Fuentes	SIUE ESLI Program
Yvonne Akinyi	SIUE GRASP Program
Lexi Baysinger	Greenville University Andrew's Chair for Christian Unity
Kabree Braggs	Harris-Stowe State University Women's Mentoring Program
Nathan Brown	SIUE Career Development
Kattie Burroughs	SIUE Educational Leadership Teaching Assistant
Joe Carillo	SIUE Campus Recreation
Christine Crowder	St. Louis Community College Student Affairs
Chelsea Giles	Greenville University Athletic Student Success
Taylor Johnson	SIUE Undergraduate Admissions
Terrell Jones	University of Missouri St. Louis Office of Student Involvement
Alexis Lambert	SIUE GRASP Program
Percy Polk	SIUE School of Business Advising
Shamice Terrell	SIUE University Housing
Brianna Walton	SIUE Undergraduate Admissions

SUMMER 2018

Jade Green	Fontbonne University Academic Advising
Rei Oliveros	Washington University Residential Life
Darius Smith	SIUE Campus Safety
Gret Tindall	Greenville University Pathways Program
Abigail Gnewikow	Washington University Department of Campus Life
TJ Riggs	SIUE Athletics Women's Basketball Team
Casey Yocum	Randolph Macon College Office of Campus Activities
Lexi Baysinger	South City Church Campus Ministry
Kabree Braggs	New School Office of Student Leadership and Involvement
Kattie Burroughs	SIUE Department of Educational Leadership
Joe Carillo	SIUE Campus Recreation
Chelsea Giles	Cedar Crest College Office of First and Second Year Experience
Taylor Johnson	Washington University Student Conduct and Community Standards
Alexis Lambert	Florida International University Campus Life (Graham Center)
Percy Polk	Blackburn College Orientation
Mason Prata	University of Massachusetts Lowell Housing
Shamice Terrell	SIUE Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Brianna Walton	St. Louis College of Pharmacy Diversity & Inclusion
Taylor Held	SIUE Athletics-Operations
Kendall Duffy	Athletics- Operations
Kaley Buck	SIUE Student Success Center-Academic Advising
Natalie Pokrup	SIUE SHEHBB Advising & Veteran Services
Kaylynn Woolfolk	SIUE Experience
Katie Hoag	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Ahmed Bshara	Saint Louis University Office of International Services Pathways Program

GRADUATING STUDENTS & FINAL PROJECTS

FALL 2017

- Megan Gilbert – *Stress Management & Coping Strategies in Undergraduate Students at a Midwestern State University*
- Justin Rubin – *Student Usage and Perceptions of a Recreation Center at a Midwestern State University*

SPRING 2018

- Yvonne Akinyi – *Transfer Student An Exploration of the Experiences of Undergraduate Students*
- Cassandra Bradley – *A Qualitative Study of the African-American Transfer Student Experience from a HBCU to a PWCU*
- Moniesha Curry – *First-Generation Undergraduate Student Experience*
- Jennifer Davis – *Examining the Perspectives and Experiences of College Student-Parents*
- Rachel Dunning – *Student Perceptions of Hazing in Greek-letter Organizations*
- David Groves – *A Seat at the Table: Black Male Student Leaders Experiences at Predominantly White Institutions*
- Jordyn Hale – *Black and Brown: The Shades of College Access among Black Undergraduate Students*
- Cassandra Holland – *The Experiences of Undergraduate Transfer Students*
- James Horne – *Experiences and Perspectives of Nontraditional Residential Student Parents*
- Alicia Johnson – *Disability Support Service Office Director's Perceptions of The Role That Co-curricular Programming Plays in Supporting Students with Disabilities*
- Tracey Kane – *A Qualitative Study of Living With Emotional Support Animals on Campus*
- Brianna McCarthy – *A Qualitative Study of the Experiences Navigating Mental Health and Support Services for Division I Student-Athletes at a Midwestern University*
- Julianne Miller – *A Qualitative Study of Social Media and Enrollment Management Programs at Midwest Institutions*
- Caleb Pecue – *Experiences of ITAs at Institutions of Higher Education*
- Latrina Rogers – *Student Engagement at a Midwestern Professional STEM Postsecondary Institution*
- Anna Schuh – *Hispanic College Student Experiences at a Midwestern, Predominately White Institution*
- Tiffany Shemwell – *An Examination of Academic Recovery Programs*
- Stephanie Simpson – *A Qualitative Study of Inclusive Hiring Practices for African American Women in Administrative Roles at Four-Year Public Institutions*
- Darius Smith – *Post Career Transition of Student Athletes*
- Iván Solis Cruz – *Undocumented Students' Experiences in Higher Education*
- Christine St. Louis – *Perspectives on Job Satisfaction and Strategies for Improving Retention from Live-in and Live-on Full-time Residence Life Staff Members*

CHI SIGMA ALPHA Honor Society (CSA)

All of our jobs, graduate assistantships, and practicums are buzzing as students arrive back on campus. As we dive into the semester Chi Sigma Alpha Honor Society is excited to plan some great socials that create a sense of belonging for new graduate students but also a continuous support system for those in their last year of study. We will have socials, workshops, meet-ups, group outings, and various other events planned. As we continue our mentorship program we look forward to creating long lasting mentor relationships and friendships between Cohort IV and V. Each first year CSPA graduate student will be matched with second year students with mutual career goals and joint interests. This mentor program will allow students to have support throughout their academic experience. As an organization that is founded on research and service we look forward to expanding our reach in helping CSPA students experience networking and research opportunities through conference funding. We strive to create great opportunities for students to challenge themselves, make meaningful connections, and grow during this program.

If you would like to know more about Chi Sigma Alpha, please visit our SIUE website: <http://www.siue.edu/education/edld/cspa/chisigmaalphacspa.shtml>. We look forward to inducting the next group of highly committed para-professionals in the spring semester!

- Chi Sigma Alpha Honor Society Executive Board



Chi Sigma Alpha Induction

Chi Sigma Alpha is pleased to welcome the new initiates:

Lexi Baysinger	Jade Green
Nathan Brown	Estelle Gyimah
Ahmed Bshara	Taylor Held
Shavonda Calhoun	Taylor Johnson
Joseph Carillo	Alexis Lambert
Eboni Chism	Ivan Solis Cruz
Christine Crowder	Shamice Terrell
Kendall Duffy	Gret Tindall
Toni Geisen	Brianna Walton
Chelsea Gilles	Casey Yocum
Abigail Gnewikow	

CSPA FACULTY UPDATES AND BIOS

Core Faculty:

Dr. Pietro Sasso is Assistant Professor and Program Director. He holds an M.S. in Student Affairs and Counseling from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Old Dominion University. He brings over 10 years of progressive administrative responsibility working in several functional areas including student activities, residence life, and student success. He is the author and editor of *Today's College Students, Higher Education & Society*, *Colleges at the Crossroads: Taking Sides on Contested Issues*, *The Dynamic Student Development Meta-Theory: A New Model for Student Success*, and *Fraternalities & Sororities in the Contemporary Era*. His research interests include identity construction of traditional undergraduates (college student development), alcohol misuse in higher education (student health outcomes), the impact of the college fraternity experience, and masculinity in higher education.

Dr. J.T. Snipes is Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in the Department of Educational Leadership. He primarily teaches in the CSPA program. Prior to his faculty appointment he worked for over 12 years in higher education administration. Most recently he worked for Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) the largest interfaith organization in America. Currently, his research interest focuses on religion and spirituality in higher education, African American collegiate students, and critical race theory in education. He recently completed his award-winning dissertation entitled *Ain't I Black too: Counterstories of Black Atheist in College*. It explores the narratives of secular African American students in college. He is currently editing a volume on critical religion and spirituality in higher education.

Dr. Laurel Puchner holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and is a Professor of Educational Psychology and Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. She teaches qualitative research methods and educational psychology in a variety of graduate programs, including K-12 administrator preparation and college student personnel administration. She has published in the areas of women's literacy in developing countries, professional development of teachers, action research, and teacher education for social justice. She has been active in SIUE's Safe Zone for the past 12 years, serving primarily in the areas of training and curriculum development.

Dr. Tianlong Yu earned an Ed. D. from the State University of New York at Binghamton and is a Professor of Social Foundations of Education at the Department of Educational Leadership. As a scholar, he is primarily concerned with issues of identity, voice, power, access, and their relationships to schooling. He has a keen interest in moral education, especially political issues surrounding moral education policies and practices. He has published two books on moral education thus far. His other research focus is on multicultural education, with special attention to race matters. He is particularly interested in the construction of post-racialism in American society and schools, and the racial identity development and educational experience of Asian American youth. His articles on these topics have appeared in many edited books and peer reviewed journals. He teaches in a variety of graduate programs at SIUE, including Learning, Culture, and Society, Educational Leadership, and College Student Personnel Administration.

Affiliate Faculty:

Dr. Emelyn Dela Peña is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Dela Peña has over 20 years in higher education. She graduated from the University of California – San Diego with a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies, earned her master's degree in education from San Diego State University and her doctor of education through a joint program of UC San Diego, San Diego State and California State University – San Marcos. She previously has held faculty appointments at Salem State University and Merrimack College in their student affairs/higher education programs and served as Assistant Dean of Student Life for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Harvard University.

Dr. Sarah Laux earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Saint Louis University. She has close to 10 years of experience in student affairs and higher education in areas of student life, community engagement & philanthropy, and

admissions. Dr. Laux is currently the Associate Director of the Kimmel Student Involvement Center at SIUE and is entering her 8th academic year at SIUE. She has been an active member of ACPA – College Student Educators International since 2010 and has served on several convention planning teams in various roles.

Dr. Franklyn Taylor holds an EdD from educational leadership is from Northern Arizona University. He is Vice President of Student Affairs at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park. Previously, he was Assistant Campus dean for student affairs and enrollment management at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County and worked in mid-level positions in residence life at Northern Arizona University and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Dr. Kevin Thomas serves as Director of Retention and Student Success at SIUE and holds a Doctorate of Education from Western Kentucky University. He assists in the coordination of some of the academic advising placements for the program and teaches special topics the new course Advising & Student Success. Dr. Thomas was chair of the 2017 National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) annual conference in St. Louis.

Dr. Jeffrey Waple earned a doctorate in educational administration in 2000 from Illinois State University, a master's in guidance and counseling in 1995 from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's in biology from Heidelberg University in 1991. Dr. Waple has over 20 years of professional service in student affairs and currently is the Vice-Chancellor at SIUE where he provides leadership to the entire Division of Student Affairs.

Dr. Kyle R. Williams serves as the Assistant Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards at Washington University in St. Louis. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Voice from Otterbein College, Masters of Science in Education from Old Dominion University and a Doctorate in Education from Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is also active within his professional associations: The American College Personnel Association (ACPA) where he serves on the 2019 Boston Convention Planning Team and past chair for the Pan-African Network; the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) where he serves as a member of the Multicultural Awareness Committee and presenter for the Graduate Student Symposium; and the Association of Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA) where he is active in the Diversity Committee and past recipient for the Diversity Scholarship.

Dr. Shelley Price-Williams received her doctorate in higher education administration from Saint Louis University (2015). She holds almost two decades of experience in student and academic affairs spanning program development and management as well as academic advising, career counseling, and assessment. Dr. Price-Williams is currently the Coordinator of Student Services and Transitions in the School of Business at SIUE. Her research interests center on non-cognitive factors of college student development and persistence, as well as inclusion of non-dominant groups in the college environment.

Dr. Geet Vanaik is Dean of International Affairs at Greenville University. In 2015, Dr. Vanaik was appointed to chair of the International Education Council (IEC) for Missouri and Illinois. Dr. Vanaik received her Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Maryville University in St. Louis and her Masters in Biotechnology Management from SIUE.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Send any professional updates such as promotion, job change, or relocation or any personal updates such as marriage, moving, or even children. Please send updates to CSPAProgram@siue.edu



CSPA Website:

<http://www.siue.edu/education/edld/cspa/index.shtml>



@SIUECSPA

<https://twitter.com/SiueCspa>

CSPA Students & Faculty in Action!



All Inducted Members and the Executive Board with Dr. Sasso



Cohort IV members with Dr. Sasso



Casey Yocum & Dr. Waple