



# CSP alumnnotes

Western Illinois University

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Finding Your Fit
- Greetings from Dr. Tracy Davis
- Welcome Dr. Sarah Schoper
- New Faces at Western
- Alumnus Giving
- WISPA Feature



## Finding Your Fit

This year's homecoming theme included the phrase "Once a Leatherneck, Always a Leatherneck" and I really think this is true for CSP alumni. No matter how many years ago you were in the program, you are always part of our network. We value alumni for many reasons and are glad to connect with you through this newsletter. There are many ways to stay connected and to also give back to the program. Please use this newsletter to connect to your alma mater remember some memories of your time at Western Illinois University.

This year Jim Fry and Jaime Vilsack are the CSP Recruitment graduate assistants. Their office number, should you want to direct a student to them (and I hope you do!) is 309-298-1183 and they are always checking the CSP e-mail account at [CSP@wiu.edu](mailto:CSP@wiu.edu). We have also moved up the CSP application deadline to Jan 15<sup>th</sup> due to the amazing number of quality applicants each year. Thank you for sending your student leaders our way.

Along with personal e-mails and phone calls the program is going online to meet and talk with potential students. On October 11th at 6:30pm and on November 9th at 6:30 pm we

will host a live online chat for any interested CSP candidates. Candidates can create a FREE username and ask any questions they have about the CSP program, the admission process, how to have a successful grad school search, or questions about WIU in general. If you have a student who might benefit from chatting with current staff and students direct them [here](#) to log on for one of our live chats.



Jaime Vilsack & Jim Fry  
CSP Recruitment  
2011-2012

New this year!! We are hosting an undergraduate conference for the first time to support students exploring the field of student affairs. This conference is called Student Affairs 101 and will be held Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm in the University Union. We will have several educational sessions, a resume critique for

participants, Ann Comerford will be our keynote at lunch sharing about her path into the field, and there will also be a graduate school fair with information on many programs in the field. Graduate Schools are already planning to attend and OPE is sending down representatives to help students who might want to attend OPE this spring. Check out our website for more details and registration information [here](#). Please consider sending a student to this drive in conference to explore student affairs as a profession!

We are working very hard already to plan and prepare for CSP Days. Western is one of the best and most talked about CSP programs in the nation! This year we will host CSP Days Feb 15-17th and March 18-20th. Remember your alumni donations help fund this experience. A donation of just \$50 can sponsor a candidate to participate in the CSP Days program. Please consider giving back financially to the program....every little gift helps!

As always, we encourage you to update your contact information electronically [here](#). We like to keep in touch!

*Sara ( Watterson) Lytle ('02) can be reached by phone at 309.298.1183 or email at [SM-Lytle@wiu.edu](mailto:SM-Lytle@wiu.edu)*

# Greetings from Tracy



Dr. Tracy Davis

*“In rapidly evolving periods, individuals are presented with choices that static periods do not offer.”*

In my experience, culture often mirrors the path of human development, reflecting both periods of static stillness and times of rapid change due to either internal or external forces. In static times, according to Ira Progoff’s *Creativity & Spirit in History and Today*,

what a young person will do in terms of work, or even what their religious practice will be, is largely determined by what their parents did and believed. In rapidly evolving periods, individuals are presented with choices that static periods do not offer. These choices involve both freedoms and uncertainties and can be either life enhancing or highly problematic. In changing times, the individual is prodded and has the opportunity to discover one’s own truth.

Our CSP Program is going through one of these rapidly changing times. Dea retired last spring and we have an amazing new faculty member in Dr. Sarah Schoper. Garry retired this summer, but is still teaching in the fall. It has opened the door for Dr. Ron Williams, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to teach History of Higher Education in the spring. We also have a new President, Provost, and College of Education Dean. We are meeting these uncertainties

with mindful attention to the opportunities they provide. The changes, for example, give us the freedom to both rediscover what makes this CSP Program so successful, and consider new ways to create an even higher quality program.

One of the new ways we are thinking about the program is to include “self-authorship” as an intended outcome. Sarah Schoper comes to us with expertise regarding self-authorship and we are discussing ways to incorporate pedagogy, coursework, and other practices that lead students more intentionally toward self-authorship. As an alum of the program, you have a unique perspective that could help shape this new vision. If you have ideas please let us know. You should also know that changes will not replace our theory-to-practice focus.

One thing that is not changing is the appreciation I have for the contributions you have all made to the CSP Program. Many of you continue to recommend outstanding undergraduate students for admission to the program. While admission is highly competitive, students who come with an alumni referral tend to do very well. In addition, I want to thank those

of you who have made financial contributions. Your generous donations allow us to offer an array of scholarships, provide transportation for students to conferences, support conference gatherings, and contribute towards WIU CSP Summer Institute.

The CSP Recruitment Team, lead by Sara Lytle, includes our outstanding new graduate assistants, Jaime Vilsack ([jilvilsack@wiu.edu](mailto:jilvilsack@wiu.edu)) and Jim Fry ([jm-fry@wiu.edu](mailto:jm-fry@wiu.edu)). Let them know if you would like them to contact a student, schedule a campus visit, or provide you promotional materials.

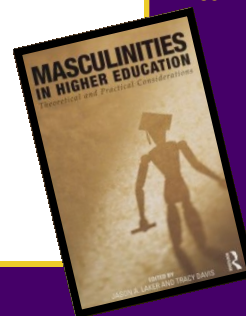
I hope to see many of you at ACPA, OPE, or the WIU CSP Summer Institute.

## Tracy’s Recent Achievement!

Publication of *Masculinities in Higher Education: Theoretical and Practical Considerations*

This edited collection analyzes the nuances of lived identities, intersections between identities, ways in which individuals participate in co-constructing identities, and in turn how these identities influence culture.

Congratulations Tracy!



# Welcome Sarah

Dear WIU CSP Alumni,

It is with hope that I write you this first letter as a faculty member in the CSP program. To be candid, I have spent quite a bit of time mulling over the direction that this letter should go and am now writing it with only a slightly clearer vision—I will explain. I've given thought to writing a bit more formal a letter where I list to you my academic credentials. I have also considered sharing with you some information you might not know about me when just looking at my educational background. Then I started thinking why am I writing about me at all? Perhaps what you would really like to know about are the insights that surfaced from my research. In the end, what I concluded is that I could combine all three...or at least attempt to, so here it goes...

This past August 18<sup>th</sup> I officially graduated from the University of Maryland, receiving my PhD in College Student

Personnel Administration. My dissertation was, *"A Narrative Analysis of the Process of Self-Authorship for Graduate Students in a Student Affairs Preparation Program."*

Included in my study was a research question regarding the environmental conditions that promote the process of self-authorship. For those who might be wondering what self-authorship is, a super quick version is: exactly what we are accused of not producing in higher education. A more detailed explanation is that, "Individuals who are self-authored can critically analyze information, disagree respectfully, no longer fear other's reactions, and make responsible choices" (Baxter Magolda, 2009). My interest in conducting my study stemmed from research showing that individuals graduating from college are not self-authored, so I wondered if perhaps their lack of self-authorship had to do with those who work at institutions not being self-

authored. While I could go on and on about my findings, what I want to highlight is one of the environmental conditions that surfaced that was found to promote the process of self-authorship. The specific condition is self-reflection.

Using self-reflection, I can look back on my life's journey and share with you a story of a young woman from Iowa who chose to go to undergraduate school far from home (TCU—go horned frogs!), went on to Miami University in Ohio for her masters degree in College Student Personnel (where she met her first WIU alumni!), and worked in the field for 10 years in the areas of new student programs, leadership programs, commuter affairs, fraternity and sorority life, and student activities (at Longwood University, University of Maryland, and the University of Dayton). I can also speak about self-reflection in such a way that you walk away knowing that I am asking students to use "I" statements in the classroom, as well as participate in assignments encouraging them to make meaning of the information we are reading and discussing



Dr. Sarah Schoper

*"What I want to offer to you about self-reflection is the idea that it isn't just for the classroom".*

## Favorite CSP Memories

One of my fondest memories is participating as a group dynamics facilitator. Because students expected that I identify potential group issues, observing and commenting on the interpersonal communication occurring within a small group of students really pushed me beyond comfort level and allowed students to navigate through their own feelings of vulnerability. This semester-long exercise helped me fine tune my conflict resolution skills that I carry with me in every "real" conversation I have with people.

Joelle Khairallah  
2010 Graduate  
Hall Coordinator  
University of Iowa

together. However, I think what I want to offer to you about self-reflection is the idea that it isn't just for the classroom. In fact, the graduate students that I studied, who are now new professionals in our field, indicated that they were looking for places where they could continue to use the self-reflection process they had acquired from their preparation program as new professionals. I can't help but think back to my time as a practitioner in the field and the opportunities for self-reflection that I may or may not have provided in the work environment. Certainly a part of this looking back includes the realization that if self-reflection is connected to making meaning (another way of saying that self-reflection is connected to learning) then why wouldn't I have wanted to include it? After all, the more I learned and those around me learned (if they became self-authored), the more successful we would be at do our jobs (or so it can be assumed). Let me share a few questions for illustration.

How many times did I as a practitioner follow-up to a crisis situation with a staff meeting so that I, and others, could reflect on and process through the experience we just had so that we could learn from it together? Or did we, instead, just move on to the next crisis? How many times did I as a practitioner ask those I supervised to share with me not just what they were working on, but what they thought about what they were working on? Or did we, instead, just cover what had been done and what needed to be done related to the tasks of the office? How many times did I as a practitioner ask the staff to consider the experience of our office from the perspective of those who weren't participating in the experiences being offered? Or, did we become comfortable serving only those who did participate in the experiences? How many times did I as a practitioner present the policies and structures of the office to others as though they weren't open to being changed? Or, did we use reflection together to assess the structures in order to

determine if they met our needs?

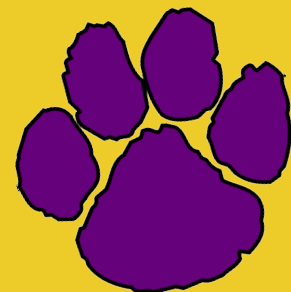
My hope is that these questions demonstrate that self-reflection isn't just something for the classroom. That it can be incorporated into the practitioner environment in such a way that it informs the practitioner environment, as well as promotes the process of self-authorship for those participating in it. My hope is also that you use self-reflection to evaluate how much you are welcoming self-reflection into the practitioner environment at whatever institution you find yourself. Finally, my hope is that through this letter you have learned about my educational background, a bit about me outside of my educational background, and the findings that surfaced from my research.

I look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,  
Sarah

## Upcoming Events

- **Student Affairs 101**  
October 28, 2011 @ Western Illinois University
- **NASPA National Conference**  
March 10-14, 2012 @ Phoenix, AZ
- **ACPA National Conference**  
March 24-28, 2012 @ Louisville, KY
- **Summer Institute**  
June 21-22, 2012 @ Western Illinois University





# New Faces at Western

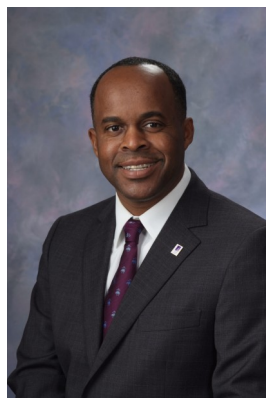
A lot has been happening of campus and Western has had many leadership changes over the past year.

- Dr. Jack Thomas moved from Provost and Academic Vice President to President of WIU.
- Julie DeWees was named Interim Vice President for Administrative Services.
- Matt Bierman was named Interim Director of Budgeting for Western.
- Dr. Gary Biller was hired as the Vice President for Student Services.

Within Student Services we have also had several staffing changes:

- Ann Comerford was named University Union Director
- Michelle Janisz is back to WIU as Director of the Office of Student Activities
- Michelle Harvey is the Assistant Director for Leadership and Service Programs in the OSA
- Jacque McKenna (CSP '07) is the Assistant Director in Student Development and Orientation
- Michelle Howe (CSP '10) is the Interim Assistant Director in Career Services
- Jessica Mueller (CSP '10) is the Assistant Director of Student Judicial Programs
- Andy Borst is now the Director of Undergraduate Admissions
- AJ Lutz (CSP '06) is now the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications for UHDS
- John Salzar is a Complex Director for Lincoln/Washington/Grote Halls
- Joe Nixon is the Complex Director for Higgins Hall
- Rebecca Burgenmeyer is the Complex Director for Bayliss and Henninger Halls

The CSP program is excited about the promotions within Student Services and the the new staff that has come to campus. The CSP Program and the Division of Student Services works hard to have a positive and collaborative relationship. We have valued this relationship in the past and are confident this partnership will continue.



**Dr. Jack Thomas**  
President



**Dr. Gary Biller**  
VP for Student  
Services

## Favorite CSP Memories

My fondest overall memory was not a specific event but the overall experience of attending WIU and the CSP program. Being born and raised in Southern California, Macomb was many corn fields away from where I grew up and seemed like a different world. The CSP program and my cohort made WIU feel like a home away from home. I do not think I would have survived without them.

Another fond memory of the CSP program is this is where I met my wife. After working in Georgia and California we moved back to WIU and Macomb to raise a family. We have a 2 1/2 year old son Hayden and a 5-month old daughter Harper. This would have never had happened if I did not attend the CSP program.

Nick Katz  
2006 Graduate

Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life  
Western Illinois University

# Alumnus Scholarship

Many alumni take joy in the opportunity to help an institution and a program that they were a part of during their time as an undergraduate or graduate student. The CSP program at Western Illinois University is no different. We have many gracious alumni who are more than willing to help Western and the CSP program.

One of those gracious CSP alums has given back in the form of The CSP Multicultural Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 2010 and is awarded to CSP students who have lived or displayed significant commitment to positively impacting non-traditional, underserved, and minority communities within higher education with respect to Social Justice, Multicultural, Diversity or Faith. Each semester a student who is awarded the scholarship will receive \$500.

An Alumnus of the CSP program, who wishes to remain anonymous, is responsible for this gracious scholarship. The main motivation behind this scholarship was the Alumnus' interest in social justice and also his observations on the intentional, but lacking diversity at Western Illinois University.

The Alumnus also commented that Western is a predominantly white institution and that the number of minorities who apply is lower than what it should be. Therefore this scholarship is about giving those students who have lived or have displayed lives that focus on a choice to serve those who are underserved, an incentive to choose Western Illinois University and the College Student Personnel Program.



Rosana Godinez  
CSP Multicultural Scholarship  
Recipient

"The purpose of this scholarship is to reward those individuals who have a passion for social justice and don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk," said the Alumnus. "No one gets to a place in their lives by themselves, people are mentored. I've made it through and I want to help others make it through."

Rosana Godinez was the most recent recipient of the CSP Multicultural Scholarship.



Class  
of  
2013  
&  
Colonel  
Rocky III  
First Night



# Campus Updates



The year is in full swing on the Western Illinois campus. With a new year, come new changes to campus that students are experiencing for the first time.



## University Union

The University Union has just finished some changes for the new academic year. Started last year, the union received a newly renovated entrance on the east side of the building. This new entrance is a wonderful update to the building and includes an elevator that can conveniently take students directly to the upper floors of the union and the Heritage Room. Also this year, the University Union has welcomed the addition of Einstein Bros. Bagels. This great addition allows students to enjoy a wide range of foods and beverages from coffee, tea, soups, wraps, sandwiches to yogurt, salads, and of course bagels.

## Center for Masculinities and Men's Development

The ideas for a Center for Masculinities and Men's Development have finally come to fruition on WIU's campus. Dr. Tracy Davis has been tirelessly working to promote and get this center up and running. This past spring, the Center for Masculinities and Men's Development opened for students. Davis mentioned in an interview with WIU's University Relations office that he wanted to open the center to truly look into the development of men. "I wanted to develop a space where educators and researchers interested in men's development could focus their efforts in promoting quality scholarship and a place where educators and student affairs professionals could go for consultation, service, and the most promising practices in promoting men's development. I fundamentally believe that ignoring the influence that sex role socialization has on men's development undermines educational effectiveness with male students and serves to reify systematic patriarchy." More recently, the center received a Verizon Grant to do Bystander Intervention Training and implement a Social Media Campaign aimed at sexual assault prevention for men. For more information, check out the center's website at [www.wiu.edu/csmmd](http://www.wiu.edu/csmmd).

## New Turf on Hanson Field

This past summer, Western's Hanson Field got a new look, with new turf. This new turf definitely is great to look at!

## LGBTQA Resource Center

This resource center serves as an enhancement to Western Illinois University's for core values. The LGBTQA Resource Center fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment for all people of all sexualities and gender identities.





# WISPA Feature



Roxie Tucker  
WISPA President

# WISPA

Western Illinois Student Personnel Association (WISPA) has kicked off yet another exciting year! WISPA welcomed in the new CSP cohort and welcomed back the second years by re-implementing a WISPA newsletter (designed by Vice President Chris Firlik), which

included upcoming meeting dates, professional development opportunities, socials, spotlights on summer internships, and a look "Inside the Faculty Studio". CSP students gathered together for their annual Welcome Back Picnic at Sara Lytle's (CSP Program Manager) house in August and support philanthropic events on campus such as Mud Volley Ball, Big Pink, and Haunted 19.

General Assembly meetings meet over lunch on Thursdays covering such topics as supervision style,

mid-semester burn out, and applying technology. Our Professional Development Chair, Bill Tehan is planning a wine tasting opportunity for WISPA members as well as collaborating with second year CSP students to present Practicum and Internship panel discussing for the first year cohort (if you have any information about possible internship experiences for CSP students for the summer of 2010, please email Bill Tehan at WR-Tehan@wiu.edu). Brent Ploughe, Social Events Chair, has been hard at work organizing

philanthropic event teams and an end of semester holiday event. These philanthropic teams have gained excellent attendance, usually requiring WISPA to register multiple teams for on campus events! Vice President Chris Firlik, and Historian Brenley Devlin have worked to incorporate new recognition strategies within the General Assembly meetings and Treasurer Kelly Carew has finalized this year's budget based on dues collection. Secretary Bri Newhouse has worked with University Technology to make a shared WISPA email and calendar system to more





effectively email minutes and set up calendar reminders for meetings.

The General Assembly has maintained a strong presence at meetings, helping to create professional development, social, and recognition committees. They also elected Jaime Vilsack as the First Year Liaison. She will serve on the Executive Board, helping to bring in the voice of the first year cohort and help create opportunities for cohort bonding.

WISPA celebrated WIU Homecoming by working with the Lytle family to offer tailgating for all CSP students – past, present, and future. October will feature the First Year Appreciation Party to recognize the first year cohort and their successes in the first semester of the program!



## Favorite CSP Memories

My favorite memories of our CSP years, to name a few, were MMOGSISP - the drive there (I can't remember where, but I know it was a long drive!), Thursday nights out at The Cafe, The Stampede or Jay and Terri's apartment, learning to use "AND" instead of "BUT", stories of Tim and Dea's Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame trip, Group Dynamics, Capstone Class presentations (any class presentation, really), and of course the dreaded literature review! So many fun and funny times! We learned a great deal from each other!!

Jessica Bunch Butcher  
1996 Graduate  
Assistant to the Vice President for  
Student Services



My favorite memory, although there are many, has to be Corbinstock during its inaugural year (2009). To see the energy and spirit of all the students getting involved, not to mention, the overwhelming pride that I felt for my residence hall students in Corbin Hall just really made me realize how much I love working with students! It's amazing how much they can surprise and delight you by rising to the challenge, and that was definitely emphasized in their participation and involvement by making our first Corbin capstone program an overwhelming success, raising over \$3,200 for Shaymus Guinn, the soccer coach's son who was suffering from a rare form of bone cancer, and bringing over 500 people out to the event. The amount of hard work and dedication that these students gave was phenomenal, and helped me to realize that it's not about the end goal; it's about the process that took you to it.

Alandis Johnson  
2010 Graduate  
Hall Coordinator  
University of Iowa

Fondest memory at WIU in the CSP program: There are lots to choose from, but one of them was Homecoming 2005. I was working in Bayliss & Henninger at the time and the staff and residents did such a fantastic job participating in all of the events. And, we had an awesome float!

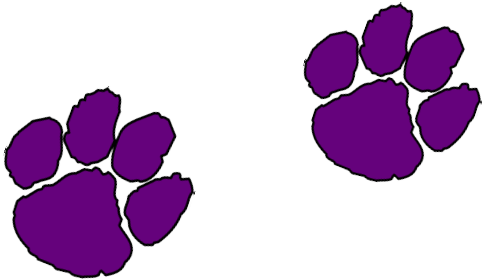
Autumn Scott  
2006 Graduate  
Director of Student Success  
Monmouth College

My fondest memories of the CSP program would be two-fold...I really enjoyed traveling with many of my cohort members for the NASPA/ACPA joint conference in 2007. We had an amazing time staying in Orlando... Definitely a trip of a lifetime! In addition, one of my favorite classes is Group Dynamics. As a current supervisor of graduate students in the program, I love hearing about their experiences of class discussions and their group projects. It reminds me every day of my group dynamics project where several of my cohort members and I dressed up in our PJ's for our final class presentation and told our very own Dr. Seuss story.

Megan Thurston  
2008 Graduate  
Complex Director  
Western Illinois University



# Favorite CSP Memories







**NEW  
APPLICATION  
DEADLINE:  
JANUARY 15,  
2012**

