

Higher Education: Learning Through Community

Higher Education

Fall 2007

From the Chair

I guess it is only appropriate I write this “fall” newsletter article before the first snow appears. I was granted a little reprieve as we have enjoyed one of the nicest falls in a long time. Some of you may feel “old” to learn that some of my fall was spent on college visits, trying to convince Erin that college tours or information sessions are not a waste of time. Yes, her first early action application was sent off on Halloween night. This newsletter is also the first to welcome our many loyal, involved Student Deans. As you probably know the Student Dean program spanned from its beginning class of women deans in 1931, through its directional change to a co-ed program in the early 1960's, to the 75th anniversary in 2006. Under the extraordinary efforts of Marion Meyer, these graduates have been well-informed about the continued leadership and happenings of student deans through her newsletters. Thank you, Marion! We hope Student Deans who did not get this newsletter in the past will enjoy being updated on the vitality of the Higher Education Program and take pride in the achievements of our current students, graduates, and faculty. I hope you will submit updates about your lives to our office so we can keep the SU Higher Education community informed and share in your accomplishments.

As this packed newsletter reflects, our work continues to permeate the higher education landscape. You can get a glimpse of Vince's and my work on the Lumina project in an upcoming article in *Change* magazine. Dawn Johnson had an uneventful (which is code for “very successful”) dissertation defense, and her first authored article on living learning programs was recently published in one of the most rigorous journals in higher education (*Journal of College Student Development*). We can't keep track of all of Kalena's grant writing and her hard work is paying off. She already has received two grants to examine the Effects of Changes in Federal Student Aid-Packaging on the Educational Choices of Low-Income & Minority Students. Tim's piece in this newsletter clearly captures the cutting-edge, transformative work that he and his colleagues are engaged in across the country. The integrative thread among all our work is to address the inequities in our educational systems, to provide leadership and advocacy for students so that they are both prepared and supported to learn and be successful in college, and to understand how to enact powerful teaching-learning practices.

Please keep us informed about your personal and professional lives, and we hope to see you in either Atlanta or Boston in 2008!

Best wishes,
Cathy



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**“We learn
better
together.”**

Vince Tinto

Hello, Fellow Higher Education Orange!

A note from Jeanne Steffes

It has been a wonderfully active and productive fall semester thus far. On September 20, Dr. Cathy Engstrom and I presented on the topic of “Supervising Graduate Assistants” to members of the Division of Student Affairs. More than 20 people attended the session that looked at ways to enhance communication, discuss expectations and provide constructive and ongoing feedback for a successful graduate assistantship experience for young professionals and their employers.

In my role as ACPA-College Student Educators Past President I am in the process of setting up the 2008-2009 Nominations and Elections Committee. If you are interested in nominating a colleague or a self nomination for one of the several national leadership positions, please feel free to contact me at jsteffes@syr.edu.

The Syracuse University campus has really embraced the sustainability call to action. The University Sustainability Action Coalition (USAC) is currently facilitating the Campus Commuter Challenge. The Challenge is a competition to encourage campus employees to consider coming to campus using an alternative method that will use less energy (carpool, walk, bike or bus) between September 24 and October 24. This competition will end on October 24, which coincides with Campus Sustainability Day. For more information please visit : <http://enspire.syr.edu>.

Continuing on the sustainability theme...I am working as the co-chair of the national ACPA Sustainability Institute at Harvard University June 11-14, 2008. This is an issue that will effect us all as college student educators and as citizens of the world. If you are interested in working on this topic with me, please let me know as there are a couple of projects that we are working on as an association and as a campus.

Good luck with your semester.

Jeanne S. Steffes, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Adjunct Faculty, Higher Education Program

Past President, ACPA-College Student Educators International

Dr. Timothy Eatman Presents a Brown Bag Lecture on November 13

Dr. Eatman, a recent addition to the Higher Education Department, will be presenting on his role as Director of Imagining America, from 11:30am-12:30pm on Tuesday, November 13, in the ERC, room number 065 in the Huntington basement. Bring a bag lunch and learn more about this important program and its impact on higher education, especially in relation to students who are traditionally underrepresented in terms of participation and research opportunity programs. For more information, please speak with Kirk Baker.



SAVE THE DATES:

NASPA Convention:

March 8-12, 2008 Boston, MA

With a Placement Exchange March 6-9

ACPA Convention:

March 29—April 2, 2008 Atlanta, GA

Alumni News

Erin Engelhardt (MS '04) was promoted to Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Support and Eligibility at Seattle University. She continues in the role of Senior Woman Administrator, as well.

Stephanie Hovsepian (MS '04) recently left UMass Amherst and started a new position as a Residential Life Coordinator for University Housing Services at San Jose State University.

Michele Fischetti (MS '03) and Jared Williams were married on July 28, 2007 in Slate Hill, NY. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and reside in Hyde Park, NY. Michele currently works at Marist College as an Assistant Director of Student Activities. Jared is an archeologist for the New York State Museum.

Susan Ames (MS '05) has been named Director of First-Year and Transition Programs at LeMoyne College. Susan was LeMoyne's Coordinator of Academic Initiatives, planning and implementing the activities of first-year learning communities. In addition to continuing her community work, Susan will coordinate the academic components of the first-year experience and will be an active liaison between the Office of Student Development and Academic Affairs to ensure collaboration in services to both first-year students and new transfers.

Amjad Abdo (MS '05) moved from SUNY Purchase where he was a Residence Coordinator and started a new job in July as an Area Director at Rider University in Princeton, NJ.

Vanessa Dillman (MS '05) is working as Director of Higher Education and Diversity for CMOP, a science and technology center funded by the National Science Foundation through Oregon Health and Science University, University of Washington, and Oregon State University. The Center combines ocean sciences, computer sciences and engineering to study river-to-ocean ecosystems, and Vanessa is building curricula, recruiting students, and working to foster opportunities for underrepresented students and faculty. Check out the program at www.stccmop.org.

Emily Jo Campbell (MS '05) received a promotion and is now an Area Coordinator at Eastern Kentucky University. She is thrilled!

Eric Streeter (MS '04) recently accepted a position as an Assistant Director for Residential Education at the University of Buffalo.

Kira Gosh (MS '07) accepted the position of Coordinator of Transfer Student Services for the School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburg.

Valerie Cushman (PhD '00) accepted a new position at Washington and Lee University as the Executive Assistant to the President. She will also be recognized by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) at their national convention in October as the NCAA Division III athletic director of the year.

Current doctoral student **Amit Taneja** was elected Co-Chair of the "Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals". He also has a book chapter coming out this semester titled "From Oppressor to Activist: Reflections on a Feminist Journey" in "Men Speak Out: Views on Gender, Sex and Power", a book of essays.

Denise Deppoliti (PhD '03) had an article related to her dissertation accepted for publication in the Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing in 2008. The title is "An Exploration of How New Registered Nurses Construct Their Professional Identity in Hospital Settings".

Beth Donahue, D.C. (MS'02) is the Director of Accreditation in the Office of Institutional Quality and Assessment at New York Chiropractic College. She also has served as a site-team member for the Commission on Accreditation of the Council of Chiropractic Education, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. In addition she has been trained as a site evaluator for the Empire State Advantage Program and as a peer reviewer for New York State Education Departmental Institutional Accreditation Training. She will be presenting "After the Commission Action and Before the Periodic Review Report" at this year's MSCHE conference.

Kristin LiBritz (MS '05) has accepted the position of Employer Relations Coordinator in the Career Services Office at Ithaca College.

Robin Goettel (MS '07) is the Assistant Director of Imagining America. Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, is a consortium of 78 colleges and universities that supports public scholarship and practices in the arts, humanities, and design.

JoLynn Hamilton (MS '05) married John Kennedy on September 22, 2007 in Watertown, NY. She has been appointed as the Facilities Events Coordinator at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

Rommel Abad (MS '03) is getting married to Edith Katherine Harrigan on November 9, 2007 in Hawaii. They both work in Student Affairs at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

Heather Strine (MS '06) is now the Career and Academic Advisor, Health Liaison for Career and Academic Planning at James Madison University.

Current doctoral student **Terra Peckskamp** and her husband, Jim Ervin, welcomed baby Alex Ervin on August 2, 2007. Alex was 7 lbs, 14 oz and 20.5 inches. Terra, Jim and Alex are all happy and doing great!

Stacey Phelps (MS '04) recently accepted a position as the Assistant Director of Residential Education and Housing at the University of New England in Biddeford, ME.



Eunice Hilton and Marjorie C. Smith Personal Papers: Available for Research!

By Amanda Galvin, '08

The Student Dean Program owes much of its success to the dedicated Deans of Women who lead the program. To honor two of them, M. Eunice Hilton and Marjorie C. Smith, the University Archives proposed hiring a student to process their personal papers and place the collection finding aids on the Archives web site. A generous donation was received from the Student Dean fund, comprising of money donated by former student deans over the years. Since I had processed the large Student Dean Collection in 2006 for the 75th anniversary, I was hired to learn even more about these women this past summer as I processed their papers for the Syracuse University Archives.

Martha Eunice Hilton (1899-1975) was the first woman to earn her PhD in Syracuse University's Teacher's College in 1934. She served as Dean of Women from 1936-1949, Dean of Home Economics from 1949-1958, and directed the Student Dean Program for the duration of her years at Syracuse. Her papers include her office files as Dean of Women and her personal papers, which range from the years 1930-1970. The 24 boxes of papers were easily organized and placed in acid-free folders and boxes for preservation.

Marjorie C. Smith (1903-1972) came to Syracuse University in 1935 as Director of Residence for Women. She was quickly promoted to Assistant Dean of Women in 1936, where she worked under Dean Hilton. In 1945 she became an assistant professor of education, and in 1949 became Dean of Women. She remained Dean until her retirement in 1969. Her papers include her office files as Dean of Women and her personal papers and family papers. Family materials dates to the late 1800s, while the bulk of the collection dates from 1935-1972. The collection consists of 6 boxes. The Archives also has her collection of Dean of Women Papers.

Smith's papers were not as easy a task as Hilton's. There were 15 boxes of loose material which ranged from blank greeting cards to Dean of Women office files. After carefully sifting through this material, 6 boxes remained and were also placed into acid-free folders and boxes for preservation.

The Hilton and Smith papers are now listed in our database, and can be accessed on the web at: <http://archives.syr.edu/archives/collections/>. The "Faculty Papers" link on this page will bring up an alphabetical list of faculty collections on our website.

Several Dean of Women Collections were processed over the summer as well and will be available on the web within the next few months.

Unbalanced

By Jade Anderson, MS '08

It is 9:30pm and you are still at work. You are attempting to get just one more thing done. Dinner, if you want to call it that, was a wonderful hodgepodge of snack foods. Then you have to go home and read a good seventy pages for class tomorrow. And do not forget that paper due in a few days!

Balance. Does it exist? For many of us in the field of higher education, balance is elusive. We likely spend more hours than we should at work and school takes up a large remainder of our time. In the end, we might have only a few hours left in our day to ourselves, and I, personally, value sleep too much to devote these hours to anything else.

Talking about balance, or the lack of, is a hot topic amongst us in the higher education field. However, what bothers me truthfully about these conversations is that the lack of balance is essentially endorsed. It feels like the person who works and studies the most is the most committed to the field and thus he or she deserves some sort of medal or prize. But will working so much really get us ahead? Is it really good for us? I do not buy it nor do I believe it is healthy. Stating this might get me in trouble but I think there is more to life than work and school. If anything, I believe having a life outside of work and school makes a person not only healthier, but more productive. You are more effective at setting priorities and consequently accomplish more. Furthermore, it is important to distinguish between possessing a strong work ethic and simply being a workaholic and putting in a lot of hours.

I must note I am definitely not an authority on balance. I struggle at times with my full plate like everyone else. Nevertheless, I make a point to take time for myself and the things I enjoy most, such as spending time with friends and not talking in excess about work and school. Additionally, I believe that now is the time to start developing good work/life habits. Not later. So take a deep breath, put that work down and move away from your desk. It will be there tomorrow. It will always be there tomorrow.



Introducing *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*: Calling All Educators

By Dr. Timothy Eatman

The expression, "Imagining America," brings to mind a sense of progressive thinking about the health of this nation and the potential for amelioration among the myriad dimensions of American life. As key cultural agents, educators especially have a duty to work toward a vision of hope and progress for the pressing issues of the day, in their work with students and families; this despite the seemingly almost ever deepening sense of apathy that pervades our society. This fall, Syracuse University became home to a consortium of more than 70 colleges and universities named *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life* (IA) which seeks to meaningfully contribute to the advancement of transformational engagement within and between academe and the community. IA's work is consistent with the *Scholarship in Action* vision and agenda proffered by Chancellor Nancy Cantor, who says, "IA fits perfectly with the University's scholarship in action vision. As many scholars and artists at colleges and universities are increasingly engaging in public scholarship and collaborating in new ways with their communities, the support that IA provides helps to expand and grow these efforts in creative scholarship and ensure that this type of work is properly valued within higher education."

I am delighted to serve the university both as a faculty member in the School of Education and in an administrative capacity as Research Director for *Imagining America*. This article is a welcome opportunity to share the IA concept and highlight some of its work which will hopefully stimulate a discussion about how we as educators can align and amplify our current efforts to develop civically engaged scholarship and action in partnership with this new unit on campus.

Established in 1999 at the University of Michigan under the leadership of founding Director, Professor Julie Ellison, IA was established to support public scholarship and practices in the arts, humanities, and design. Examples of public scholarship include intellectual and creative endeavors jointly planned and carried out by higher education and community partners such as museums, neighborhood organizations, public schools, historical sites, and local artists and leaders. We believe that the civic role of higher education extends to local engagement through the cultural disciplines, and we strive to make colleges and universities places in which the knowledge and art created in public collaboration is valued and rewarded.

IA accomplishments include:

1. A thriving community of public scholars in the humanities, arts, and design brought together at our annual national conferences and nurtured through communications including our newsletters;
2. Research on the new public scholarship, such as our Kellogg Foundation-funded report on excellence in community-campus partnerships, and various position papers;
3. The Tenure Team Initiative on Public Scholarship, now creating a national report for leaders in higher education to help them value public scholarship in ways appropriate for their institutions;
4. The PAGE Program (Publically Active Graduate Education), enabling graduate students to join in a lively national community of emerging public scholars; and
5. Critical Exchange Grants and preconference workshops, extending IA's work to home campuses.

Now in its new home at Syracuse University and under the capable leadership of Director and University Professor Jan Cohen Cruz (formerly of New York University Tisch School of the Arts), IA is moving forward with a bold agenda to build upon its momentum and successes. IA works with its home campus and community as a local laboratory. We are now embarking on a set of collaborations with SU that thus far includes:

1. Participation in a faculty-initiated Interdisciplinary Research Group on Community and the Arts;
2. Collaboration on a Deliberative Democracy course for juniors and seniors: beginning with the intellectual development of a common framework around a pressing issue and moving into a dialogue component to address the issue publically;
3. Co-planning a role for the arts and culture sector, particularly as relates to Syracuse's Connective Corridor, as pieces of the large puzzle that constitute a vitalized city.

Imagining America's mission is to strengthen the public role and democratic purposes of the humanities, arts, and design through providing support for publicly-engaged academic work in the cultural disciplines and the structural changes in higher education that such work requires. Its major task is to constitute public scholarship as an important and legitimate enterprise.

As a new faculty member in the School of Education, I sense a ubiquitous energy to engage especially in the Syracuse city schools. I was encouraged to see members of the SOE community in attendance at the IA national conference in September and hope that we can become an active part of the IA community, providing leadership throughout the consortium for how schools of education can develop and value public scholarship. For more information about IA and its programs feel free to contact me directly at tkeatman@syr.edu or just stop me in the hallway. I think you will also find the IA website <http://imaginingamerica.org/> a good resource for information.

Housing as an Auxiliary and the Importance of Cross-Divisional Collaboration

By Ryan J. Barker, MS '04

Auxiliary, what's an auxiliary, and why is the housing office part of it? This is a question that I had asked myself several years ago as my training at that point was entirely student affairs based. However, after completing my first successful year as a housing professional and member of the Auxiliary Services Team at Syracuse University (SU), I get it!

SU is not unlike many larger colleges and universities whose housing offices are separate and distinct from their residence life colleagues. In fact, the two offices fall into different divisions within the University. Housing at SU is a major player within the Department of Auxiliary Services as part of the Division of Business, Finance and Administrative Services, while the Office of Residence Life is a principle unit within the Division of Student Affairs.

The definition of auxiliary literally means giving assistance or support, in essence, helping. The auxiliary units at any college or university are revenue generators, which drives their role as helpers. These helping units such as housing, food service, maintenance, housekeeping, bookstores, and others lay the strong foundation for operations and day-to-day life at any institution of higher learning.

Housing at SU focuses on the operations, student placements, physical components, and space allocations of housing 8000 students in 21 different residence halls and 1000 different apartments. The housing staff works daily to ensure that every student who would like to live on campus can do so and that he/she has a safe, clean and appropriate environment in which to live. The housing operation also maintains important data related to space allocations which in turn drive general University numbers related to capacity, enrollment, and general operations.

It would be easy to think that a housing operation would simply fill the beds and then turn the students and buildings over to the live-in residence life staff. However, here at SU, that's far from reality. Each day, myself and various other members of the housing team at SU meet with students individually for a myriad of reasons ranging from "I hate my roommate" to "My building is too far from my sorority house". As a professional housing staff we listen to students and their parents. We work closely with the student and their families to make "life better".

As an auxiliary, we work very closely with our colleagues within the Office of Residence Life. These are the professional staff members who are living in our buildings, alongside our students, and serve as a resource for us. The notion of collaboration is strong between the housing office and the residence life staff living in the halls and communication is a crucial part of our success. We share the same collaborative success with our colleagues in the Parents Office whom we also work with daily.

As a vital member of the auxiliary team, the housing operation at SU has a tremendous amount of resources available to us within auxiliaries related to the needs of students living in our residence halls. We are fortunate to be able to contact a colleague within our division and quickly get a matter resolved. We are an operation that prides ourselves on being a collaborative helper to aid in the success of all SU constituents.

Save the date!
Higher Education
End of the Semester
Celebration

Monday, December 3, 2007

12:30pm, Tom Green Rm

Join us for lunch!

RSVP to Terry, by 11/26

tlkupp@syr.edu

Congratulations, Dr. Dawn Johnson!

The big news in the department this Fall was the announcement that Dawn Johnson successfully defended her dissertation on October 16 at the University of Maryland.

Dawn's dissertation title was "The Relationship between Perceptions of the Campus Racial Climate and Sense of Belonging among Women of Color in Undergraduate STEM Majors". Her defense was before Dissertation Chair Karen K. Inkelas and Commit-

tee Members MaryLu McEwen, Susan Jones, Ruth Fassinger and Lynn Bolles.

We look forward to having you full time in the Higher Education department this spring, Dawn!

CONGRATULATIONS from us all!



The Great Summer Unknown

By Adrienne Musu Jackson-Buckner

One of the best pieces of advice I can offer new students is to do one of your practica away from Syracuse University. While coordinating the logistics of the experience requires a little more paperwork, a lot more effort, and you might end up far from home, there is nothing more rewarding than going it alone and taking a risk.

My first year here was marked with a rough transition. I came directly out of undergrad (Go Oneonta State!) and jumped head first into an academic program that reminded me of the endless amounts of reading from my English major courses only months before. I was overwhelmed by my slow adaptation to office culture, but by the end of my first year, I felt like I was confident and capable: ready to apply all of those student development theories, learning community models, and research methods in real life.

I got that chance by taking a NODA internship in New Jersey. NODA is the National Orientation Directors Association. Every summer, Montclair State University's New Student Experience Office takes on three students to aid in its summer orientation programs. I had visited the campus on numerous occasions in college because we played them in field hockey, but I knew nothing about their student affairs division. More than four hours from Syracuse and six long hours from my home in Buffalo, I took a leap of faith to test my skills in the semi-unknown of Northern New Jersey.

Here's what I learned:

1. **Ask questions:** Most of these internships, such as NODA, ACUI, ACUHO-I and others want graduates to come for the summer because they enjoy your newness. The questions you ask help you gain a better understanding of the functional area in which you intern and help your supervisors see a new perspective to their routine tasks. You're also more up to date on the literature and they might enjoy asking you about that infamous Barefoot article you read in Lab or how Vince Tinto is doing these days.
2. **Network!** : I was glad to have one of my colleagues from my cohort here at Syracuse University to share my experience with, but one of the best things I did for myself was to go meet other people. I was excited to meet our other intern, a current Master's student from Bowling Green State University, and compare our programs. In addition, each week I tried to learn about one more office in the division. I emailed the people in positions that I thought I might be interested in and had lunch with them. Instead of conducting my cultural audit on New Jersey on just the New Student Experience Office where I was interning, I made it an institution-wide project. I left New Jersey with more contacts there than I ever had here at Syracuse!
3. **Make mistakes:** Part of learning is failing every now and then. Sometimes, no matter how much you prepare for a presentation, something goes wrong. I'm a very confident presenter. There were definitely times this summer that the group of residential students I facilitated the transitions to college discussion with were just plain uninterested. Take those disappointments as a learning experience. Challenge yourself to be better at the things you already do well.
4. **Make suggestions:** Use caution with this one as putting in your two cents often can get you labeled as a know-it-all. Remember, you're there to learn from your new environment and see how other people do things, not just compare it to your undergraduate experience or your office at SU. But the professionals you work with may ask your opinion on certain matters, and you should be comfortable sharing it with them. At the end of the summer, my supervisors got a copy of my final report from practicum. One of my recommendations was that they have a field guide for the interns that tells them about the local area with maps and directions to get to good places to eat and relax. They liked my idea so much that they're going to put the places I suggested into print for next year's interns to use.

This summer was definitely a learning experience. While every internship will have its moments of excitement and its late nights of busy work, it was absolutely a worthwhile experience to get out of town to find something new. I came back this semester with a better sense of self and a strong commitment to getting involved on campus and making the most of my graduate school experience. The opportunities are yours for the taking, you just have to decide how much you get out of them.

If you're interested in hearing the unabridged version, please feel free to drop me an email (amjack01@syr.edu). I'm always up for a chat.

"We learn better together."

Photos from the 2007 Ropes Course!

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