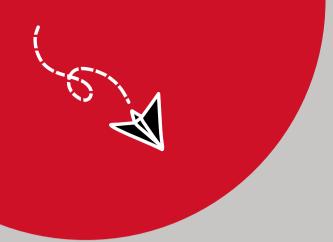




## An Official Newsletter for Illinois State University's CSPA Program





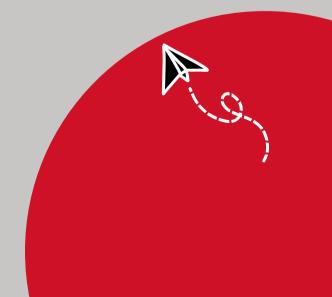


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# MEET THE NEW COHORT



#### <u>Name</u>

**Arielle Bexten Stacu Bile Karl Brooks Molly Cahill Angelique DeBellis** Lex Epps **Destiny Feltner-Williams** Keiara Franklin **Sheyania Hughes** Maina Ibn Mohammed **Xavier Isaias Jalyn Jones Crystal Lannin Nishly Lopez McKenna Myers** Mimi Peña **Kacy Rader Tony Reis** 

#### <u>Alma Mater</u>

**Eastern Michigan University Illinois College Illinois State University** Western Illinois University Marquette University Illinois State University **Illinois State University** Illinois State University **Coe College** Northwestern State University Illinois State University Illinois State University **Dordt University** University of Illinois: Urbana-Champaign **Ball State University Dominican University** Illinois State University Illinois State University

#### **Employment**

**Athletics HCC - International Programs** Visor Center Student Conduct Gamsky Fellowship IWU - Student Involvement HCC - Programming Board Sorority and Fraternity Life **Center for Civic Engagement** HCC - SLICE Sorority and Fraternity Life **Student Conduct** Academic Advisor (full time) **Multicultural Center Center for Civic Engagement Student Activities** Coordinator of Hospitality (full time) **Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement** (full time)

# MEET THE GAMSKY FELLOW

#### Hi CSPA Community!

My name is Angelique DeBellis and I am the 2021-2022 Gamsky Fellow. I am super excited to be attending grad school at Illinois State University! I attended Marquette University for my undergrad where I received my degree in Public Relations. During my time there, I worked with New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) as a SPARK Leader, Orientation Leader, and then as a Student Director. These experiences developed my passion for student affairs, specifically working with incoming first-year students. I did not know that a profession in student affairs was possible until having these opportunities. NSFP ultimately shaped me into who I am today.

Being the Gamsky Fellow has been amazing this last year. I have learned and grown so much since my first day back in August. Assisting with planning GRAD Days, being a part of SAGA and helping potential CSPA students determine their place at ISU has all meant the world to me. One of my favorite aspects of this position is forming relationships with the people in the program and hearing about their personal and professional experiences.

As my time in this position draws to a close, I am thrilled to begin my future assistantship in ISU's Orientation and Transition Services office. Go Redbirds!

Student Affairs Graduate Association 2021-2022 Executive Board

Second Year Board Members: Daniel Driscoll Julie Hemp Haley Rotert

First Year Board Member: Mimi Pena

Treasurer: Angelique DeBellis

Faculty Advisor: Phyllis McCluskey-Titus



Each class is unique and special in their own ways. You as a group came in during a very troubling and fraught time. You were recruited and interviewed for a program that you did not necessarily get your first year, that of a high-touch in-person program. For that I will always be regretful. Over the past five semesters, we've laughed, we've learned, and we have built community. You are the first cohort I've been able to see from application to final classes in person! Saying our farewells in EAF 413 with the majority of you standing around our circle is a memory that will always stay with me. I am so hopeful for the future of higher education administration with educators such as you entering into the guild.

We all belong to the guild of student affairs. A guild can be defined as "an association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal". This speaks to me deeply, as many of us recently read Dean Spade's 2020 book Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the next) which was your last assignment for me, to describe what the concept of mutual aid could look like in higher education and/or student affairs. Your thoughts on this topic brought me excitement, joy, and great pondering about how and what mutual aid could look like in the guild that is student affairs. The common goal I have tried to get us all to work toward is to consider what a more just and equitable world and educational system could look like. While we are by no means there, I do have more hope now, sending you all off to your careers, than I did 10 years ago. A guild is defined by a group of individuals who adhere to a similar code of ethics, norms, and symbols; as well as that of a body of research and knowledge. These elements of our guild, are things that we have discussed and learned over the last two years. Most importantly, you have learned these norms with an eye toward criticality – being able and willing to challenge that what needs to be challenged. It is my earnest belief that you all have considerable power over the future direction of our field that we call student affairs.

We have shared many memories together! From podcast classes, to a campus-wide scavenger hunt, to being unsure how tall one another were in year one to being unsure what our faces look like in year two, to lunches and networking at NASPA, and more. You are all very special to me, individuals that hold a place of honor in my heart. Know that I am always and forever in your corner, and while this is goodbye as master's students, it is hello to the next stage of our relationships. I am thankful for all you have taught me over these two past years, and if you ever learned anything from me, I hope that you pass that forward to the next generation of student affairs killjoys. Take care of yourselves, take care of one another, be well, be safe, and I love you.

> Best, Gavin

# Dr. Phyllis Retires



"I joined the Illinois State University faculty in 1999, will be retiring in August 2022. I started as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the CSPA master's program after an 18 year career in student affairs at Western Illinois University, Syracuse University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Florida State University. My master's degree was earned at Western Illinois in College Student Personnel and my doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Florida State. I "found" student affairs while serving as a Resident Assistant (RA) at Western and was "invited in" to the field by Julie Kheener, the assistant hall director who was studying CSP at Western and who asked if I had ever considered a career in housing/residence life. That began a 41 year journey that has been more positive than I ever imagined!"

"As the only full-time faculty in the CSPA program until Gavin's arrival in 2017, I was responsible for the development of the program curriculum and all the core courses (with support from many EAF faculty like Dr. Ed Hines, Dr. Jim Palmer, Dr. Trisha Klass, Dr. Wendy Troxel, Dr. Lydia Kyei-Blankson, and Dr. Mohamed Nur-Awaleh) and CSPA as a stand-alone degree (rather than a concentration in EAF); expanding on the GRAD Days program (created by Dr. Jeff Waple); developing a recruitment plan and coordinating admissions (led by Dr. Marcia Hickrod); building relationships with student affairs staff on campus and at local campuses in the region to expand assistantship and practicum opportunities (with much assistance from Dr. Vic Boschini, Dr. Helen Mamarchev, Dr. Larry Dietz, Dr. Brent Paterson, Dr. Jan Paterson, and Dr. Levester Johnson); oversaw the creation of the Gamsky Fellowship (thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Neal and Mrs. Irene Gamsky); introduced the idea of a hooding ceremony, alumni newsletter, and summer alumni institute (with assistance from all the Gamsky Fellows since 2006); initiated the student organization CSPAG (now called SAGA...with lots of great student leadership through the years); coordinated social events (mostly held at Dr. Marcia's home!) to mark the beginning and the end of the academic year as well as commencement and even class snack breaks; sought donations, and scholarships in support of the program (led by Dr. Gail Lamb, Liz Adams, and Wilma Bates); and led efforts in program assessment (with Dr. Marcia and Dr. Jan Paterson)."

"It has been such a joy to see the success that our students have achieved over the past 25+ years that CSPA has been in existence and how far the program has developed with the support of our amazing alums!! Onward CSPA to better and more important future accomplishments with Dr. Gavin Weiser and Dr. Marci Rockey leading the way!!

I will miss seeing all of you on a regular basis at meetings and conferences, but please stay in touch via Facebook or <a href="mailto:pamcclu2@ilstu.edu">pamcclu2@ilstu.edu</a> email which will continue to be active ""

# Welcome Dr. Marci Rockey!



"Hello to my fellow Redbirds! I am so excited to be returning to Illinois State University to support students in the CSPA program. As some of you know, I completed my undergraduate degree as a Mass Communication major at Illinois State before coming into the program myself. My experiences as a summer Preview Guide introduced me to

the field of Student Affairs, but it took me a few years to find my way to CSPA. As a graduate student, I had assistantships in what was then the Office of Student Life and completed practicum experiences at Illinois Wesleyan University and with Dr. Phyllis to coordinate our delegation to the Oshkosh Placement Exchange."

"Much to my surprise, my career began in the community college sector when I was hired as the Director of Student Life at Lincoln Land Community College-and I absolutely loved it. After eight years there, I moved into the role of the Director of Student Engagement at Richland Community College. At that point, I was anxious to get back into the classroom and was accepted into the doctoral program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Research Assistantship at the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL). As I went through my coursework, supporting rural students in higher education became the centerpiece of my dissertation research. OCCRL has remained my professional home for the last seven years providing me with tremendous opportunities to support both state and national projects to advance equity in community colleges, particularly for racially minoritized students."



"On a personal level, I have always lived and worked in central Illinois. As a rural student myself, I navigated the transition from a high school of 120 students to Illinois State University. I met my husband at ISU (also a former Preview Guide) and we have three children, Jillian (14), Eli (12), and Thomas (9). We also have a lovable Labrador Retriever named Scout, a guinea pig, and a frog. I enjoy taking walks with Scout, reading books, and listening to podcasts about books."

"I am excited to return to the place where my own higher education journey started and the program that has offered me so much support and mentorship throughout my career. I am most looking forward to meeting current CSPA students and being a part of the program's coordination team!"

### SECOND YEAR REFLECTION: HALEY ROTERT

"As I wrap up my time here at ISU and in the CSPA program, I have reflected upon the many unique and challenging experiences that I have endured in the past two years. The relationship with my cohort was a slow and rocky start, as our entire first year was held online while we all stayed indoors and tried to keep our communities healthy. Then this past year, our relationships flourished as we finally were able to spend quality time with each other, in person, IRL. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my cohort and my students through my



various experiences within University Housing, Office of International Student Services and Programs, TRiO at Lakeland Community College, FSL at Millikin University, and as House Director for Tri Sigma at ISU. All of these experiences along with the discussions held in and out of the classroom, have more than prepared me for my future in Student Affairs. Another valuable supplement to my preparedness would be conference experiences. I attended NASPA IV-E in Minneapolis, ACPA in St Louis, and NASPA in Baltimore this year creating vital connections and lifelong memories. I would say the highlight of my spring semester hands down was traveling to Baltimore with 20 of my CSPA peers. We engaged in impactful dialogue, attended as many sessions as we could, and soaked up every moment we had. We even spent a day in our nations capital, during peak cherry blossom season! I will miss moments like these, and my cohort dearly. They have made my graduate experience memorable and one I will forever cherish. Thank you to my CSPA colleagues, but especially the graduates of 2022! I seriously couldn't have finished without your unwavering support and kindness."

### SECOND YEAR REFLECTION: JULIE HEMP

"The first year was tough. My GA and classes were both completely online so by second semester I was feeling pretty isolated. I definitely valued getting the chance to socialize with others in the program during this time. My summer practicum at Brown University was completely in-person and I got to work with 50 other graduate students while I was there. It was so refreshing and exactly what I needed!

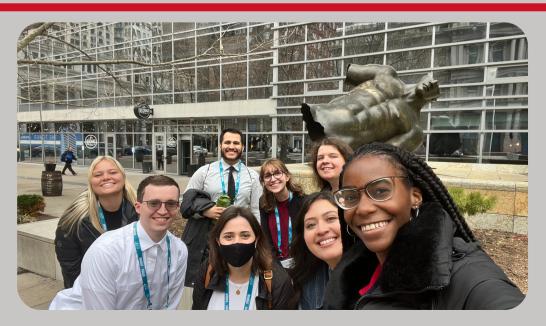
I was more than ready for the in-person experience back at ISU and it has felt great.

It's still an adjustment because online classes have seemed to make me less motivated, so it's hard to get that back. However, I've noticed that because of everything that's happened, we've become more flexible. I know this has been a pivotal era in education that will likely change the way we do things from this point forward.

There were a few in person experiences that were very valuable to me during my time in this program as well. I was able to attend NASPA's Regional Conference in Minneapolis and then their national conference in Baltimore. These were incredible networking opportunities for me, but I also will forever cherish the memories I made with my peers along the way. We often say the field of Student Affairs is small and I'm glad that's the case because it means that no matter where we end up, our paths are likely to cross again in the future."

# ACPA REFLECTION SECOND YEAR: DANIEL DRISCOLL

"ACPA '22 was the first conference I have ever attended, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to travel to St. Louis and meet so many talented professionals. My favorite session was "Navigating Your First Job Search", by Connor J Terry. Terry's presentation focused on the reality of job searching within higher education and what we should expect. Although the response rate and the outlook for the number of interviews seemed bleak, it helped everyone realize that their struggles with finding a job are not unique. Terry ended the session with this piece of advice, "do not take a job because it seems like you will never get a job...you will get a job and it is up to you to decide what the right position is". It was very comforting to hear that I will get a job and I will have the power to decide my own fate, when at times, it feels like I have no control. And I am happy to say that I received an academic advising position at Illinois State University shortly after ACPA concluded."



# ACPA REFLECTION EIRST YEAR: JALYN JONES



"For my Spring Break I had the opportunity to attend the ACPA conference. This was my first professional development conference, and it was a wonderful experience. The conference took place in St. Louis, and we were there for about three days. What I appreciated about this conference was the dedication that was made to educate on the lives of the indigenous in the area and pay respect to these indigenous communities, that went beyond a land acknowledgement. There were wonderful speakers throughout the event that spoke freely about their identity and how that informs the work they do in student affairs. Before going I thought ACPA, would just be a group of professionals coming together to rave about the field of student affairs, but it was much more honest. Practitioners spoke about the challenges they face and gave insight into why so many are leaving the field. While these are not things I wanted to hear as someone coming to the field, I appreciated that for those who love this work they are not afraid to critique it and admit higher education has a long way to go before it is a field that retains its professionals. When it comes to sessions, I really tried to branch out and learn about topics that I had very little knowledge about. My favorite sessions were on the topics of supporting students who engage in sex work, fatphobia in student affairs, and how graphic novels can be used as a tool to teach leadership. These sessions gave me perspective on the challenges that groups of students, who I have not thought of, must face. These sessions also led to me doing self-reflection and identifying ways I can not only be a better mentor to students, but colleague. All in all, I am so grateful I had the chance to attend and hope I can do so next year."

# NASPA Reflection

#### SECOND YEAR: OLIVIA ROSS

"During my time at NASPA, I attended a session, "25+ Years and Still Going Strong: Building a Sustainable Career in Student Affairs," which I enjoyed and found impactful. The presenters for this session, all Student Affairs professionals who have worked in the field for 25 years or more, discussed the Great Resignation in Student Affairs; Student Affairs professionals have been leaving the field in waves over the last few years. The panel of presenters encouraged audience



members to consider why so many people are leaving the field, and we came up with a list of possible reasons: burnout, low compensation, and a lack of work-life balance. The ideas I took away from this session were how to adapt to changes in the field and to reach out to trusted colleagues for guidance and support when you are struggling. This session was incredibly impactful because it helped me realize that I might experience some really difficult years during my Student Affairs career that make me consider leaving the field. However, if I remain open-minded and adaptable, reach out to colleagues and friends for support, and remember who I do the work for (my students), I will hopefully be able to get through those difficult times."



"In addition to the "25+ Years and Still Going Strong" session, my favorite parts of the conference were forming stronger connections with my peers, trying new things, and traveling to new places. More specifically, I had never been to Baltimore prior to this trip. It was an exciting experience navigating a brand new place, trying new foods (and some old foods, I'm looking at you, Cheesecake Factory), and spending a good amount of time on planes, trains, and in Ubers with my friends. I also had a fun time exploring Washington, D.C. with my fellow CSPA grad students. Overall, I had a wonderful experience at NASPA!"

# NASPA Reflection

#### FIRST YEAR: MIMI PEÑA

"I am grateful to be in a program that supports and encourages my professional development and learning that takes place outside of the classroom. I had an amazing experience getting to attend the 2022 NASPA Annual Conference during my first year. Being on SAGA, and planning the conference logistics for everyone in our program all year, it felt oh so much more special



finally getting to Baltimore and seeing all that extra work be worth it. It was a great week of learning but also getting to grow closer with my classmates. I also got a new headshot! Professionalism all around."





"I enjoyed all of the sessions I attended. My favorite was attending a panel of Chingonas, which loosely translates to bad ass women. They spoke to their experiences being a professional in higher education defying societal expectations and cultural norms, and their choice to live authentically. It resonated with a lot of what was shared during the session and was happy to be in community with other women of similar identities."

# 2021-2022 ADVISORY BOARD

#### **Practitioners**

John Biernbaum Associate Vice President, Student Services Western Illinois University

Scott Peska, PhD Assistant Vice President of Student Services Waubonsee Community College

Raphaella Prange Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students Millikin University

<u>CSPA Program Alumni</u>

**Terrance Bond, 2010** Assistant to the President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Heartland Community College

**Ja'Niah Downing, 2010** Senior Assistant Director of Admissions Purdue University

Marci Rockey, PhD, 2005 Project Coordinator Office of Community College Research and Leadership University of Illinois Jeremy Schenk, PhD, 2002 Executive Director, Norris Student Center Northwestern University

Erin Thomas, PhD, 2002 Director of Assessment and Engagement Initiatives Illinois State University

Rachel Krein, 2016 Director of On-Campus Graduate Admissions and International Student and Scholar Services Bradley University

<u>Ex-Officio</u> Lydia Kyei-Blankson Faculty

Phyllis McCluskey-Titus Program Coordinator, Faculty

Mohamed Nur-Awaleh Faculty

Len Sutton EAF Department Chair

<mark>Gavin Weiser</mark> Program Coordinator, Faculty

Olivia Ross Gamsky Fellow 2020-2022

Angelique DeBellis Gamsky Fellow 2021-2023

# SUMMER 2022 PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

Arielle Bexten: Louisiana State University, Athletics

Stacy Bile: Barnard University

Karl Brooks: U Kansas, Conference Services

Molly Cahill: Indiana State, Operations/Leadership

Angelique DeBellis: University of Texas at San Antonio, Orientation

Lex Epps: Alma College, Orientation

Destiny Feltner-Williams: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Career Services

Keiara Franklin: Texas A&M, Housing

Shey Hughes: Heartland Community College, Student life

Maina Ibn Mohammed: University California-Santa Cruz, Housing

Xavier Isaias: Dominican University, Orientation

Jalyn Jones: University of Louisville, Housing

Nishly Lopez: Rutgers University, Housing Operations

McKenna Myers: Texas A&M, Orientation

Mimi Peña: Northeastern University, Orientation

Kacy Rader: Illinois State University, Commencement

Tony Reis: Illinois State University, Center for Civic Engagement

# 2021-2022 JOB PLACEMENTS

#### CSPA May/August/December 2022 Positions Accepted!

Julia Durnell Residence Hall Coordinator, Illinois State University

Julie Hemp Asst. Dir, Student Life, Illinois Wesleyan University

Daniel Driscoll Academic Advisor, Illinois State University

Haley Rotert Assistant Director of Property Management, Alpha Omicron Pi

Sarah Tipton Coordinator of Student Engagement, Heartland Community College

Kyle Abel Coordinator of Facilities, Campus Rec, Illinois State University

#### Part-time Students in New Jobs

Tony Reis Asst Dir, Student Affairs Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, Illinois State University

Crystal Lannin Academic Advisor (University College)

#### **Job Updates**

Amanda J. Papinchock (2015) Business Research Analyst, Illinois Farm Bureau

Maria Villalobos (2020) Director for the Institute of Civic Engagement and Democracy, Miami-Dade College

Anthony Williams (2014) Assistant Vice President, Michigan State University

Corey Washington (2017) Assistant Director Academic Program Support, St. Louis University Law School

Asiah Claiborne (2019) Assistant Director Student Life Programs University of Texas-- Dallas

Alex Snowden (2009) Director for Career Development, CHRISTUS Health

Lisette Dorantes-Rebolledo (2009) Director of Orientation and Transition Experiences, U of Minnesota

Marjorie Miller (2018) Chapter Services Manager at Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority

Dr. Erika Hunt (2000) Regional Office of Education #17

Rob Miller (2011) Assistant Manager of Global Client Pursuits, Baker McKenzie Law Firm

Joanna Rose-Gross (2017) Prompt.io (a political technology company)

#### **Job Updates**

Sarah Jiter (2008) Recruitment and Retention Coordinator College of Arts & Media, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Tiffany Fulford (2017) Coordinator Cultural Engagement Programs and Services, Marquette University

Libby Daggers (2012) Director of New Student and Family Programs, Texas A&M University

Foster McDaniel (2017) Coordinator for Student Organization Development, U of Maryland

Ben Wright (2014) Senior Talent Development Specialist, Country Financial

Violet Benn (2019) Area Coordinator, Pacific University (OR)

Shanna McDaniels (2018) Success Coach, Strada Education Network

Georgina Lozano (2020) Academic Advisor, Dominican University

Brett Heller (2016) Assistant Director Scheduling and Events, U of Akron

Gracie Nilsson (2020) Coordinator of First Year Experience, University of New England

Amanda Cox (2019) Program Specialist, Kaplan North America

#### **Job Updates**

Aleta Riley-Tellis (2019) Governor's Office of Management and Budget, State of Illinois

Ashley Edwards (2010) Interim Assistant Director of Academic Advising, Texas Christian University

Whitney Ewing (2013) Education Abroad Coordinator, Colorado State University

Megan Rolfs (2017) Executive Director of Marketing, Heartland Community College

Jennifer Kirby (2001) Director of Heartland Community College - Lincoln Campus

Mary Cate Hansen Associate Director of Development, Parent Engagement, Vanderbilt University

Corey Burgess (2011) Associate Director University College, Illinois State University

#### **Personal Updates**

Sean Creedon (2015) married Kimberly Gaiennie in January 2022

Kate Wehby (2014) married Jessicah Rauch in April 2022

Mary Cate Hansen married Brian Conn in October 2021

#### Accomplishments

Maureen Roach (2004) retires after 39 years at Illinois State University Career Services.

Award winning author Rachel Spangler (2003) published 3 new books recently: Plain English (2022), Modern English (2021), and Thrust (2021)

Barb Dallinger (2001), Associate Director of Events and Catering in Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality, retired from Illinois State University on January 31, 2022 after 30 years of amazing service! She will definitely be missed here on campus!

Derek O'Connell (2022) elected President of the A&P Council.

Terrance Bond (2010) has been accepted into the Harvard Institute for Educational Management...an 8 day executive education seminar for senior higher education leaders.

#### **Further Education**

Kevin Thomas (2018), is in his second year at Rosenberg College of Law, University of Kentucky.

Adam Guenther (2019), earned a degree in Sports Management from Winona State University in 2021.

Dr. Omolola Anaman (2011) earned her PhD from the University of Iowa, 2021.

Dr. Diana Sims-Harris (2006) earned her PhD from Indiana State University. She is the Senior Student Affairs Officer and Advising Administrator at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis, School of Science.

#### Awards

Alexa Bilich (2019) was awarded UNT's Division of Student Affairs 'New Staff Member of the Year' award.

Kacy Rader (2023) won a CIVSA (Collegiate Information and Visitor Services Association) Foot Award. These are given out at the end of the conference to people who have made a visible impression on the executive board and an impact on the conference participants.

Anthony Williams (2014) was the recipient of Grand Valley State University's 2021 Administrative Professional "Innovation Award".

Lex Epps (2023) won Graduate Student of the Month in April from NASPA African American Knowledge Community.

Mimi Peña (2023) won the STAR Award for Outstanding Graduate Assistant for the Division of Student Affairs.

Impact Award Winners in University College at ISU:

#### Academic Advisors

George Banks (2022), Academic Advisor, University College Amanda Papinchock (2015), Academic Advisor, University College Lana Summers Cunningham (2019), Academic Advisor, University College

Jazmyn Thomas (2018), Academic Advisor, University College Daphyne Walker (2001), Academic Advisor, Kinesiology and Recreation

<u>Staff</u>

Misia Grzybowski (2018), Senior Specialist, Peer Ed Advocacy, Health Promotion and Wellness





# Reminders

#### **CSPA Book Club**

We will once again be having the CSPA Summer Book Club! We will be reading "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi.

The book club will be held four different times throughout the summer via Zoom (all times are in central timezone):

6/7 at 12pm 6/21 at 12pm 7/12 at 12pm 8/2 at 12pm

#### Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpYxueYeOqSg DH8PyhWV94a9QIWc0VafwhvGHDEQgN2Npk5g/viewform? usp=sf\_link

> Follow us @ISUCSPA

#### Alumni Institute

The Alumni Institute will take place on May 23 in DeGarmo Hall room 551.

This half-day professional development opportunity will bring together alumni from different years to refocus our work to not only take better care of ourselves, but also how we can care for our communities!

You can register at this link: <u>tinyurl.com/alumniinstitute</u>

#### **Keep in Touch**

Keep us updated with jobs, awards, academic achievements, & and other updates here:

https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.c om/jfe/form/SV\_800gm2EYpOaR 9Vb