Contents

2 Class of 2016
3 CSPA Students Enjoy Assistantships at Lincoln College-Lincoln
4 CSPAG
5 Alumni Updates
6 Campus Visit Project
7 House Directors
8 Meet LJ: Our New VP of Student Affairs
9 Meet the Class of 2018
10 Gamsky News
11 Job Search
16 Pictures
17 Save the Date!

@ISU_CSPA

Illinois_state_cspa
Congratulations, Class of 2016!

100% Job Placement

Jules Hampton  Math Teacher, Teach for America
Jeff Lange  Human Resources-Labor Relations, Illinois State University
Ronnie Robertson  Director of Student Activities & Student Center, Rockford University
Collin Hartman  Alumni Admission Coordinator, College of Idaho
Brittany Jordan  Assistant Director of Resident Education, Dartmouth College
LaVance Walker  Residence Hall Coordinator, East Carolina University
Nora Diaz Atkins  Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Initiatives, University of Louisville
Yesy Garcia  Residence Director, University of Illinois-Chicago
Phyllis Frimpong  Academic Advisor, University of Illinois-Chicago
Gina Turton  Honors Program Academic Advisor, Illinois State University
Leslieann Harris  Coordinator of Academic Success, Georgia Southern University
Rebecca Bartels  Residence Life Coordinator, Davenport University (MI)
Jessica Newman  Coordinator of the Otter Cross-Cultural Center, California State University- Monterey Bay
Edgardo Palomo  Residence Life Coordinator, Sacramento State University
Brittany Czech  Graduate Admissions Counselor, Rosalind Franklin University
Amanda Gilpin Highland  Assistant Director of Education and Training, Alpha Omicron Pi
Aminah Woods  Residential Counselor, Missouri Academy of Science, Math & Computing
Brett Heller  Program Coordinator: Leadership & Student Involvement, Colgate University
Alex Whitmore  Residence Coordinator, Indiana State University
A New Partnership: Students Enjoy Assistantships at Lincoln College - Lincoln

On Lincoln College’s campus there are three traditional style residence halls and two suite style residence halls. I reside in one of the traditional style, all female residence halls as a Residence Hall Director. Within my building I primarily have all first year female students, with a handful of second year students. I have three student resident assistants that I supervise, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know them and mentoring them as the year has progressed. When in the office, student conduct is our primary focus, which includes reviewing incident reports, contacting students who need to schedule a discipline meeting, and then meeting with the students to discuss the incident as well as possible sanctions. Being on duty involves doing rounds and walking the halls in each residence hall and being the contact person for the RAs who are also on duty for their building if they would need to contact anyone for assistance.

Working at Lincoln College has allowed me to be involved in more than I might have been able to at a larger university. I have gained experience in student conduct, event and program planning, residence life, serving on committees, and counseling, to a degree. The students at Lincoln College that I have interacted with are constantly seeking advice on how to navigate their way through college life and life after college, and it has been a pleasure to serve them each in different ways. Commuting back and forth from Lincoln to Illinois State has been a bit of a challenge, but the experience I have gained will definitely be beneficial in the long run.

-Emily Camden, Residence Hall Director

Emily enjoys attending sporting events with her residents.

When I started my graduate school search I knew I wanted something different from my undergraduate experience. I absolutely loved my undergraduate institution but I felt it was important for me to move outside of my comfort zone and see student affairs from a different perspective. This resulted in looking at schools in the Midwest and of course, I found Illinois State University and set my sights on the CSPA program. Illinois State University is a large public university much like my undergraduate institution so I worried I might not be diversifying my experience too much. That’s where my assistantship came in. I currently serve as the graduate assistant for Student Activities at Lincoln College. Lincoln College is located about forty minutes away from Illinois State University and with that, has a unique culture of its own. Lincoln College is also drastically different from my undergraduate experience, with around 600 students receiving a private, liberal arts education it is quite the change from the public, state college with a student body of 61,000 that I am a product of. I often joke that if we placed institutions of higher education on a continuum my experiences would land on complete opposite sides.

It has been an interesting experience to see where the commonalities lie in my vastly different experiences and if there’s one thing I will take away from my unique perspective it is this- whether your students range in the hundreds or the thousands, whether you are working with freshmen or seniors, whether your students are here for the next two years or four, whether your professional office comprises of eight staff members or one- student affairs professionals do not do an 8-5 job, their profession is a lifestyle, their students a part of their life, and their desire to positively impact the lives of their students their main priority. It is easy to see all the differences that separate life at different institutions, but in the end we all have the same unifying goal, we’re here to make a difference. I am indebted to my different experiences for teaching me this simple truth.

-Brettney Birdwell, Student Activities Graduate Assistant

Brettney started the year with the activities fair.
CSPAG sponsored several social and professional development activities for CSPA students during the fall semester. Students and their families and friends enjoyed the corn maze and pumpkin patch at Rader Family Farms, CSPAG-Giving, and ice-skating with festive holiday sweaters. The second year cohort gave a presentation to first year students about the practicum search, and a resume workshop will be happening soon! Fall semester fundraisers included a penny wars competition and Papa John’s and Yankee Candle fundraisers.

Co-Presidents: Joanna Rose-Gross & Foster McDaniel

Social Co-Chairs: Naomi Ishihara & Allison Murray

Professional Development Co-Chairs: Salem Awwad & Garret McAlister

Treasurer: Marjorie Miller
Alumni Updates

- **Beni Towers Kawakita** ’01 is now working with TEKsystems in communications and technology at State Farm in Bloomington.
- **Jeremy Schenk** ’01 started working at Northwestern University in May 2016 as the Executive Director of the Norris University Center.
- **Marc Skjervem** ’02 married Jeff Bachman.
- **Erica (Rolland) Pollack** ’02 is the College Access Center Coordinator for Milwaukee Public Schools.
- **Kristy DeWall** ’03 was married on October 10, 2016 to her wife, Kelly.
- **Stacey Meyer** ’05 will be honored with the Herb Sanders Award for Outstanding Academic Advisement.
- **Katie Sup Rezac** ’05 and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter Rachel Lee on October 12, 2015. Their son Cole is a proud big brother.
- **Jenn Jones** ’05 accepted a new position at Columbia College as the Associate Registrar.
- **Julie Pakenham** ’06 has a new position as the Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Indianapolis.
- **Ashley Venneman** ’07 was a winner of the 2016 Outstanding Service Award in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Maryland. She also began a new role at UMD as the Manager of Student Organization Development.
- **Joe Kelley** ’08 accepted the position of Assistant Director for Residence Education at the University of Alabama.
- **Heather Campbell** ’08 is now working with the Austin Community College District.
- **Sarah (Melton) Jiter** ’08 is the Assistant Director of the Center for Recruitment and Orientation at the Community College of Aurora.
- **Becka Neray-DeLaPorte** ’08 is now the College of Business Administration Honors Academy Coordinator at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.
- **Dijon DeLaPorte** ’08 is in a new role as the Assistant Director of Events and Reservations for the Skutt/Harper Centers at Creighton University.
- **Lizette (Robolledo) Dorantes** ’09 is in a new role as the Director of New Student Programs at Virginia Tech.
- **Bryan Bristol** ’12 is the Assessment Director at the University of South Carolina
- **Janelle Love** ’13 is now the Assistant Director of Multicultural Programs at Valparaiso University.
- **Training Manager for the Air Force.**
- **Danny Matthews** ’13 is now the Assistant Director of the LGBT Resource Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- **Anthony Williams** ’14 is now working at the University of Michigan as the Assistant Director for Housing, Student Conduct, and Conflict Resolution.
- **Mandy Dartt** ’15 was named the Caribel Washington Young Professional by the YWCA of McLean County.
- **Daniel Suda** ’15 accepted a new position as the Office of Alumni Relations Director of Affinity Programs for the University of North Texas.

*The 2016 Administrator stated that CSPA alum Adam Riegle passed away after a battle with cancer. Adam passed due to a heart condition, and this edit is reflected in an updated version of the 2016 Administrator on the CSPA webpage.*

We want to hear from our alums!

If you have a new job, earned a degree, or have a life event you would like to share, please email gamskyfellow@ilstu.edu!
Campus Visit Project
A New Assignment in Dr. Phyllis’ Organization & Administration Course

Visiting Northeastern Illinois University’s campus was like diving into a sea of culture, encouragement, passion, and activism. Known as “the school of the future”, Northeastern clearly showed to my group that students from diverse backgrounds and identities can gather together with the common goal of learning and growing together. Our trip to Northeastern also helped us realize that although Hispanic-serving institutions have a large amount of Hispanic students, the application of their mission is unto all students. We were each left with the impression that once you come to Northeastern, it becomes home and more importantly, you become family.

-Jazzy Thomas

The highlight of our visit to Heartland was meeting with Lindsay Eickhorst, Director of Enrollment Services. She has so much enthusiasm when talking about student growth at Heartland. Lindsay loves working with students and helping them reach their purpose through education at Heartland. We came to realize that community colleges have so much to offer: students gain a wealth of knowledge and the community benefits from their success.

-Meghan Jack
House Directors:
Living and Learning with Students

The house director opening at Sigma Sigma Sigma immediately caught my attention because I knew I would gain new skills that would prove useful for my job search after graduation. I knew I would gain additional experience working with diverse groups of students and that I would learn more about the inner workings of student groups and their interaction with university administration. At the Tri Sigma house, there are 40 women under one roof—talk about diversity and adversity. Living in the house is a serious time commitment. It is imperative to establish a rapport with the women, one that is built on trust and openness with mutual respect. I wear many hats in the house: some days I am the mediator when the girls are having roommate issues, and I am the career advisor when they come to me for resume and cover letter assistance. I try to be the maintenance coordinator, but that does not always work out, and I am the mom when I tell the girls to call me if they ever need a ride late at night or when I am checking their chores. I’m also the student when they teach me about the latest fads and reality TV shows.

This position serves as an extension of my experience as a member of one of the first black sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Working as a house director allows me to utilize the skills I have acquired working with student organizations and administrators at both Illinois State University and my undergraduate institution, the University of Illinois. I believe that my involvement as both an undergraduate and alumni member of a sorority as well as my experience working with student services as a graduate student have enabled me to make immediate contributions to the Sigma Sigma Sigma house. By graduation, I will be fully equipped with new knowledge and tools, thus allowing me to begin my career with a renewed sense of purpose and competency.

-Nicole Jones, Second Year

In conjunction with my assistantship as an Academic Advisor at Heartland Community College, I have the honor and pleasure of serving as a fraternity house director for Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Beta Delta Chapter, at Illinois State University. As house director, I am a vital part of the Fraternity’s effort to promote student’s overall educational growth and ensure that fraternity house living is a valuable experience, while enhancing the principles and ideals of the fraternity. In my role as house director for AGR, I am encouraged to provide counseling to all active members and be the liaison between the chapter and its associates, i.e., Home Office, adviser, university and community officials. I also assist with enforcement of fraternity alcohol, substance, and anti-hazing policies. It is also my goal to mentor and encourage members to be their best as members of the Greek community at Illinois State. These past four months in my role as house director have been wonderful simply by meeting all the active and new members of the organization and making AGR my home away from home!

-Hector Cuevas, First Year

Four CSPA students are currently serving as house directors for Greek chapter houses on Illinois State’s campus. Their experiences are providing them with daily student interaction and opportunities to apply what they learn in class.
Dr. Levster Johnson joined the Illinois State University community this year as the Vice President for the Division of Student Affairs. I had the pleasure of sitting down with LJ and discussing his past student affairs experiences and his dreams for the future as he begins his journey as a Redbird. Prior to joining the Illinois State University community, LJ worked in residence life at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and then spent 24 years as the vice president of student affairs at Butler University. LJ admires the care and attention that ISU gives to students as well as the community climate that allows ISU to operate as a smaller school. His favorite places on campus are the quad, the Bone Student Center, and the rec center because they are great places to find and engage with students. LJ contributes to the student affairs community beyond the ISU campus by serving on the NASPA IV East Board and the Tri Delta National Housing Corporation board. He does not have a lot of free time, but when he is not on campus, you might find LJ at the gym or Reality Bites in downtown Bloomington munching on bacon-wrapped dates. During his time at Illinois State University, LJ hopes to elevate the level of student life and continue to “produce students who make and impact and who change the world.” We are so glad you are here and you are already making an impact, LJ! Be sure to follow LJ and his Redbird adventures on Twitter: @LevesterJohnson

-Marjorie Miller, First Year
First Year Cohort

Allison Murray, Ball State University
GA: Fraternity & Sorority Life

Aston Karner, Illinois State University
GA: International House

John Willis III, Berea College
GA: Residence Life at Illinois Wesleyan

Mackenzie Kinman, Northern Kentucky University
GA: Student Activities & Involvement
Jazzy Thomas, University of Illinois  
GA: University College

Hector Cuevas, Florida International University  
GA: Academic Advising at Heartland Community College

Brettney Birdwell, Texas A&M  
GA: Student Activities Lincoln College

Michelle Grzybowski, DePaul University  
GA: Visor Center

Emily Camden, Eureka College  
GA: Residence Life at Lincoln College

Garrett McAlister, University of Illinois Springfield  
GA: Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution

Kevin Thomas, Western Illinois University  
GA: Residence Life Lincoln College
Emma Belz, Illinois State University
GA: Student Activites and Involvement

Cory Washington, Illinois College
Part-Time, University of Illinois Extension

Kristen Landaal, Cardinal Stritch University
GA: Admissions

Danielle Vogel, Illinois State University
GA: Heartland Student Engagement

Meghan Jack, Wichita State University
GA: Athletic Study Center

Shanna McDaniels, Illinois State University
Part-Time, Health Promotion & Wellness Office
Greetings, CSPA alums! I am honored to be the 2016-2018 Gamsky Fellow, and I am so excited to be part of the Redbird and CSPA families. I am a Peoria, Illinois native and I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in December 2013 with a major in business administration and minor in religion. At IWU, I was very active in my sorority and the Greek community. I also participated in a variety of orientation, leadership, and religious programs that introduced me to the student affairs field.

My journey into the CSPA program was different in that I did not enroll until two and a half years after finishing my undergraduate degree. Prior to enrolling in the CSPA program at Illinois State, I worked in the Denver area in not-for-profit marketing. Realizing that my passions did not lie in that field, I took a position with a sorority property management company at Illinois Wesleyan. This experience allowed me to interact with college students on a daily basis and confirmed my desire to work in student affairs. After meeting with the highly esteemed faculty and students at ISU, I knew that the CSPA program was where I needed to be to make my student affairs career goals a reality. Upon graduation from Illinois State, I hope to work in disability/accessibility services, career services, or alumni relations.

I am currently in the midst of planning GRAD Days, and I am so excited to welcome potential Redbirds to campus! I have also enjoyed working on CSPA’s Instagram account (illinois_state_cspa) and applying my passion for marketing and photography. I am looking forward to NASPA in San Antonio this spring, and like the rest of my cohort, I am anxiously awaiting my placement for summer practicum. I hope to see many of you at the Alumni Institute this spring!

-Marjorie Miller, Gamsky Fellow
The Search Begins

Nicole Jones
Email: ncharisma.jones@gmail.com
Phone: 773-587-9433
Type of Office: Career Services
Location: Georgia, Houston, Missouri, Illinois, California
Type of Campus: Urban
Other preferences: Open to community colleges

Elizabeth Keating
Email: eakeating72@gmail.com
Phone: (203) 788 – 5079
Type of Office: Residence Life, Training and Development, Leadership Offices, Advising, & Student Conduct
Location: Open
Type of Campus: 4 – year private or public

Josh Marron
Email: jmarron417@gmail.com
Phone: 309-634-5653
Type of Office: Civic Engagement, Leadership, Admissions, Housing, First Year Experience/Coaching, Orientation
Location: Abroad, West Coast, Pacific Northwest, Colorado, Chicago, New York
Type of Campus: Large Public, Small Private, Liberal Arts
Shelbi Rushing
Email: srushing@iwu.edu
Phone: 248-918-9854
Type of Office: Housing and Residential Life
Location: Michigan
Type of Campus: 4-year public or private institution
Other preferences: Open to working for a religiously affiliated institution

Foster McDaniel
Email: foster.mcdaniel.1@gmail.com
Phone: (615) 519-2979
Type of Office: Student Engagement (involvement and activities, orientation, leadership, diversity and multicultural work, fraternity and sorority life, and/or wellness)
Location: Pacific NW, New England, Maryland, DC, Chicago, Florida
Type of Campus: Comprehensive University or Liberal Arts
Other preferences: Ideally close to (30 min.) or in a city. If the job has some Residence Life I would be okay with that. Must allow pets if live-in.

Tiffany Fulford
Email: Tiffanyefulford@gmail.com
Phone: 708-476-9497
Type of Office: Residence Life, Diversity, Leadership Development
Location: Large and/or Urban City (At most one hour away)
Type of Campus: Private or Public, Mid-Large size
Other preferences: At least 15% of student of color population

Michelle Malik
Email: mmalik023@gmail.com
Phone: 224-234-7519
Type of Office: Academic Advisement, Career Services
Location: Primarily Illinois and Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri
Type of Campus: Primarily community colleges and public institutions, private liberal arts college
Other preferences: Academic/success coaching jobs

Samia Cooperider
Email: samia.cooperider@gmail.com
Phone: 815-474-1085
Types of Offices: Diversity/Multicultural Centers; Enrollment Management (Admissions); Leadership/Civic Engagement; Student Union/Facilities; Academic Advising
Location(s): St. Louis, MO; Colorado; East Coast-Maine, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland; Philadelphia, Delaware
Type of Campus: Mid Size, Public or Private, Student Population around 20,000
Other preferences: Urban setting

Betsy Henkel
Email: ehenkel12@gmail.com
Phone: 815-973-1668
Type of Office: Financial Aid and Scholarships
Location: Northern Illinois
Type of Campus: No preference
Other preferences: Looking for coordinator, assistant director, or associate director level positions
Courtney Gallup
Email: cgallup15@gmail.com
Phone: (779) 435-3403
Type of Office: Financial Aid, Academic Advising
Location: Illinois, central or northern
Type of Campus: Any
Other preferences: Interested in working with Honors or Business

Mary Cate Hansen
Email: marycatherine225@gmail.com
Phone: 309.825.3080
Type of Office: Admissions, Enrollment Management, Orientation, First-Year Experience, Career Services, Honors Program
Location: Colorado, Tennessee, Arizona
Type of Campus: No preference

Colton Johnson
Email: coltonjohnson38@gmail.com
Phone: 859-327-8962
Type of Office: Leadership, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Life/Activities, Housing, Advising, Advancement
Location: Southeast
Type of Campus: Any

Samantha Spellman
Email: sj.spellman.92@gmail.com
Phone: 262-527-1636
Type of Office: New Student Programs, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Academic Advising, Campus Recreation, Career Services
Location: Southern Wisconsin (ideal), Midwest, Boston, DC, Seattle, Tennessee, open to elsewhere
Type of Campus: 4-year institutions, non-profit public or private, suburban or urban, liberal arts in practice
Other preferences: Near a major airport if not WI/Midwest

Naomi Ishihara
Name: Naomi Ishihara
Email: nishiha04@gmail.com
Number: 224-578-1225
Type of Office: Student Activities, Events, Health Promotion
Location: Open to most states except Illinois, warm climate preferred
Type of Campus: Prefer 4-year institutions but not completely closed to 2-year
Other: Do not prefer to live on

Joanna Rose-Gross
Email: Joanna.rosegross@gmail.com
Phone: (309) 660-3739
Type of Office: Residence Life/Housing, Conduct, Academic Advising
Location: Midwest, Northeast, Southeast
Type of Campus: No preference
Redbirds at the 2017 Association of Student Conduct Administrators Annual Conference

Salem (left) and Samia (right center) presented at Student Affairs 101 with colleagues from Eastern Illinois University

Dean of Students staff at Redbird Rumble

EAF Homecoming 2016

First year students at Student Affairs 101

Lincoln College faculty and staff with Dr. Phyllis and CSPA GAs
Mark Your Calendar!
More information to come via email and the CSPA Facebook group.

May 22 & 23, 2017
CSPA Alumni Institute
Illinois State University

October 16-22, 2017
Illinois State University Homecoming