



**March 2014**



Happy 2014 everyone! And for those of you who follow college football, I wish you a Happy NOLE Year! It was a treat for me to see Florida State play so well this season and win their 3<sup>rd</sup> national title!

All is well with our CSPA program, and 2013 was a very busy and productive year. Thanks to all of you who have kept in touch, who have recommended students for admission, who have served on our advisory board and came back to attend events or present to classes, and for those who have given back financially to the program. All your support is welcomed and greatly appreciated!

This issue will highlight some of the new events we have sponsored this year (Hooding Ceremony and Summer Alumni Institute), introduce you to our new 1<sup>st</sup> year cohort, share job preferences of our 2014 graduates, and provide you with professional and personal updates from many of our alums. Thanks to Sean

Creedon, this year's Gamsky Fellow, for his coordination and development of this year's issue of The Administrator!

In terms of spring semester, there was a great ISU reception at NASPA in Baltimore last week, and there will possibly be one at ACPA in Indianapolis (March 31). I will be attending both conferences this year and would love to catch up with any of you who might be in attendance!

The CSPA Summer Alumni Institute will be held Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, 2014 on the ISU campus. More details about our major presenter and program will be available later this spring, but mark your calendars now so you can be sure and be in attendance.

Have a wonderful spring and please let us hear from you!

Written By : Dr. Phyllis McCluskey- Titus

# Meet the New Gamsky Fellow!

My name is Sean Creedon, and I am the new Gamsky Fellow in the College Student Personnel Administration Program at Illinois State University. I have been involved as an educator for many years. Throughout my coursework during my undergraduate track as a Social Science Education major (also at ISU), I studied educational foundations, pedagogy, history, anthropology, sociology, economics, politics, and psychology. Additionally, I have classroom teaching experience both in Illinois as special education assistant and in Spain as a TEFL teacher. My dreams matured as I realized I did not want to continue classroom teaching, but wanted to stay within the field. It was clear to me I could make a better use of my passion and skills by working with students in a more direct manner—outside of the classroom. After the light bulb finally turned on, it

became evident this was the work I wanted to do all along— I just never realized how to go about it.

After a great deal of research into programs and job possibilities after graduation, I knew I wanted to make the move to student affairs. Becoming further committed to social justice and equitable higher education while teaching in Spain, I realized although we should celebrate our differences, diversity is really about commonality. Having been able to compare the education system in the United States and abroad (both in Austria where I studied and Spain where I taught) I was able to see the traits that students had in common—regardless of their backgrounds, cultures, political, or religious affiliations.

This further developed my commitment to social justice within higher education. My move into the



**Sean Creedon (2015) with Dr. Neal R. Gamsky at the Annual “Gamsky Lunch”**

student affairs profession has been a calculated path that I have connected the dots to along the way. Working directly with Dr. Phyllis this year has been a great opportunity for me to make connections in the student affairs world. I look forward to hearing about updates from all of you and hopefully meeting some alumni at professional conferences! I hope the first half of the semester has gone smoothly!

Thank you for your involvement with our CSPA program!

Written By:  
Sean Creedon (2015)

# CSPAG TRIP



Pictured: Elina Savoie (2014)

# ROPP FARM!



Pictured: Ron Burse (2015)

Being social co-chair of the College Student Personnel Administration Group (CSPAG), I wanted to plan a social event that aligned with the fall season and also gave members a fun break from the demanding realities of school. Aric Faulkner and myself planned a trip to Ropp Family Farm and provided a wonderful opportunity for students of CSPAG to gather.

Participants had an opportunity to pet and feed the baby calves, see how cheese was made, partake in an evening hay ride, and end the night with a bonfire, hotdogs, and s'mores.

It was great for the fellow CSPAG members, who do not have farm experience, to participate in the event on a beautiful fall evening.

It was refreshing to see everyone enjoy a relaxing night sitting around the campfire and indulging in s'mores. I believe everyone who attended the event had an amazing experience.

I truly hope visiting Ropp Family Farm will become an annual event for CSPAG!

Written By: Brittney Henson (2015)



# CSPA 2013 Graduates- Positions Accepted!

**Archie Messersmith**  
Director of Volunteer Services  
Sigma Phi Epsilon

**Kaitlin Kirk**  
Coordinator of Greek Life  
U. of Alabama-Birmingham

**Scott Guerrero**  
Asst. Director, Financial Aid  
University of Kansas

**Tracy Osborne**  
Program Coordinator, Orientation  
Indiana State University

**Helen Woldemichael**  
Hall Director  
Indiana University

**Jessica Pratapas**  
Academic Advisor  
Illinois State University

**Julie Krebel**  
Assistant Director, Admissions  
Fontbonne University (MO)

**Jeff Nilsen**  
Program Coordinator  
Wichita State University

**Liz Ramirez**  
TRiO Support Specialist  
St. Xavier University (IL)

**Whitney Pier**  
Study Abroad Advisor  
North Central College (IL)

**Kate Hilden**  
Admissions Coordinator  
University of New Mexico

**Catherine Poffenbarger**  
Coordinator of Civic  
Engagement  
Illinois State University

**Laura Peterson**  
Program Coordinator, Student  
Activities  
University of Notre Dame

**Janelle Love**  
Residence Director  
Northwestern University

**Austin Arias**  
Asst. Dean, Activities and  
Organizations  
U of Tennessee—Chattanooga

**Dan Sylvester**  
Assistant Director for Student  
Success  
Millikin University

**Adam Dralle**  
Coordinator of Fraternity and  
Sorority Life  
Northern Kentucky U.

**Katrina Jackson**  
Grant/Project Specialist for TRiO  
Ivy Tech Community College

**Danny Mathews**  
LGBTQ Coordinator  
Virginia Tech

**Zakia Eastling-Stewart**  
Residential Life Coordinator  
U of Missouri - Kansas City

**CONGRATS 2013  
GRADS!**



# NEW CSPA HOODING CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony from my undergraduate institution was a rite of passage, a way to signify I was done with my studies. But, I ended up back in school anyway. So when it came around to my second semester of my second year in the CSPA program, sitting through another arduous college graduation ceremony was not on the top my list of things I wanted to do in May. More importantly, I wanted to celebrate with the people that worked just as hard, my cohort, and with those who helped me get to my goal, the faculty and staff of the CSPA program.

When Phyllis pitched this idea of a 'hooding ceremony' for our program to be held the night before the "official pomp and circumstance," I was all aboard, as was our entire cohort. So we did what we Student Affairs folk knew

best, formed a committee. Austin Arias, Whitney Pier, Dr. Phyllis, and myself all contributed to the planning and development of the first ever CSPA Hooding Ceremony. There were remarks from our CSPAG Co-presidents Jeff Nilsen and Helen Woldemichael, Dr. Larry Dietz, and even a brief lecture from Dr. Jim Palmer about the historical roots of graduation ceremonies and regalia. The actual ceremony was conducted by Dr. Wendy Troxel who announced our names as we were hooded individually by a CSPA faculty or staff member of our choice. We concluded the ceremony by presenting Dr. Marcia and Dr. Phyllis with small tokens of appreciation or their commitment to the program and our success as students.



Adam Dralle (2013), Dan Sylvester (2013), and Archie Messersmith (2013)

I believe I speak on behalf of the entire 2013 cohort in thanking the Vice President of Student Affairs Office for their sponsorship of our ceremony, a ceremony at which we could properly recognize the hard work of our cohort and give thanks to our families, mentors, supervisors, and most importantly the faculty for helping us achieve our goals. It was a great way to cap off two great years in the CSPA program at Illinois State University!

Written By: Adam Dralle  
(2013)

# MEET THE FIRST YEARS!

## CLASS OF 2015

**Cassie Burningham**  
 Illinois State University, May 2013  
 Career Center

**Ronald Burse**  
 Northern Kentucky University, May 2013  
 Fraternity/Sorority Life

**Jesus Chavez**  
 Arizona State University, May 2013  
 Student Conduct

**Emily Condit**  
 Northern Kentucky University, May 2013  
 Orientation and Transition Services

**Sean Creedon**  
 Illinois State University, December 2010  
 Gamsky Fellow

**Skylar Guimond**  
 Illinois State University, May 2009  
 Student Engagement (Heartland)

**Brittney Henson**  
 University of Illinois, May 2013  
 Diversity Advocacy

**Joshua Isringhausen**  
 Illinois State University, May 2013  
 Student Life (Lincoln College)

**Anna Knepler**  
 Augustana College, May 2011  
 Student Involvement

**Carmen Kremitzki**  
 Illinois College, May 2013  
 Retention

**Erin Kuntz**  
 Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville,  
 May 2011  
 Honors Program/ House Director

**Amy Miller**  
 Illinois State University, May 2011  
 Programming

**Amanda Papinchock**  
 Illinois State University, May 2013  
 Health Promotion and Wellness

**Larry Perse**  
 University of Illinois-Springfield,  
 December 2011  
 Resident Director (Illinois Wesleyan)

**Daena Ramos**  
 Loyola University-Chicago, May 2010  
 Diversity Advocacy

**Tiara Randle**  
 Eastern Illinois University, August 2010  
 Visor Center

**Natasha Shah**  
 University of Illinois-Chicago, May 2007  
 Retention

**Daniel Suda**  
 Texas A & M, May 2013  
 Leadership and Service

**Joshua Sulloway**  
 South Dakota State  
 University, August 2013  
 Visor Center

**Aminah Woods**  
 Maryville University, May 2013  
 Retention

**Brenton Kane**  
 Illinois State University, December 2007  
 Advisement Center

**Mandy Dart**  
 Illinois State University, May 2003  
 Women/Gender Studies

**Garrett Gassman**  
 Northwest Missouri State University, May  
 2012  
 Resident Director



**Pictured:**  
**Ron Burse**  
 (2015) and  
**Emily Condit**  
 (2015)

**Anne McDowell**  
 Illinois State University, May 1998  
 Teacher Ed Center

**Laura Rogers**  
 Knox College, April 2009  
 Financial Aid Office

**Sarah Roth**  
 Illinois State University, May 2008  
 Honors Program

**All of the First  
 Years!**



## Student Affairs 101- October 25th, 2013

The Student Affairs 101 Conference is sponsored by Western Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, and Illinois State University.

The conference is a conversation between undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and student affairs professionals about the values and practice of student development work. The conference offers opportunities for participants to attend workshop sessions, network with graduate school representatives, participate in a lunchtime roundtable discussion with current graduate students, and learn about research being conducted within the field of student affairs. All of these opportunities are rooted in learning outcomes constructed specifically for the conference with input from students, faculty, student affairs professionals, and the ACPA/NASPA professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners (2010).

This year Dr. Phyllis McCluskey-Titus and ten students made the trip to Macomb to recruit for our CSPA program, attend workshop sessions, present workshop sessions, and take notes of how the program ran. We all

wore red, and since there were so many of us- we made quite the entrance. Throughout the conference our students kept overhearing participants at the conference speaking of the “red gang” from ISU. Our own Cassie Burningham (2015) teamed up with a colleague from Marquette to present a session on “How to apply for graduate school programs in student affairs”. Anthony Williams (2014) and Sean Creedon (2015) co-presented a session on drug trends on college campuses. This conference was a wonderful opportunity for the first year students, especially, to see what goes on at a professional conference. It was also a great recruitment tool for our program, and since there were so many of us in attendance, we were able to give each undergraduate student one-on-one time to help answer their questions about choosing graduate programs and what our program has to offer. If this conference was any indication, we should be prepared for a large number of applicants for Fall 2014!

Written By: Sean Creedon (2015)



# STUDENT AFFAIRS 101

Western Illinois University



Co-Presenters Anthony Williams (2014) and Sean Creedon (2015)



Elina Savoie (2014) and colleague Tenesia Adams from WIU

We will be hosting the Student Affairs 101 conference right here at Illinois State University on Friday, October 24th, 2014! Plan to attend and bring your undergraduates!

# NASPA IV EAST



Pictured: Dr. Phyllis McCluskey-Titus, Ramo Stott (2014), Catherine Poffenbarger (2014), and Kaitlin Ballard (2014)



NASPA NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE WAS  
HELD IN  
BALTIMORE, MD  
WITH GREAT ISU  
ALUMNI TURNOUT!

## Presenting, Interning, and Participating!

Partaking in the development of the 2013 NASPA Region IV-East Annual Conference was a very rewarding experience for me. I was an intern for the conference planning committee and had the honor of developing conference logistics and volunteer support.

Through reconnecting with familiar faces and meeting new ones, I felt a great amount of joy knowing that I am a part of such an impacting and innovative community. An additional bonus of my experience was delivering the introduction for our opening key note speaker, Dr. Ronni Sanlo. That one component of the experience stands out to me because Ronni inspires me to make a difference in the world, similar to how she has in her career.

I have been involved with NASPA since I was an undergraduate student and member of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellowship Program (NUFP). The connections I have created and sustained due to my involvement with NASPA have reinforced my passion for helping others, and reassure me that I belong in the student affairs profession. This conference will remain an unforgettable experience for me because, when reflecting, I feel determined to remain involved with NASPA. Our community of courageous voices is changing the world as time goes on and it is a great pleasure knowing that I am a part of that transition.

Written By: Aric Faulkner (2015)

Dr. Phyllis McCluskey-Titus and CSPA 2nd-year students Kaitlin Ballard, Catherine Poffenbarger, and Ramo Stott have been working for the past year on research and evaluation of the CSPA program. The research is funded by a \$1,000 grant from the NASPA Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Knowledge Community. Using the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners, the team is assessing the competency levels of CSPA students at different points in their studies to determine the effectiveness of various components of the graduate program. Current 1st and 2nd-year students and recent 2013 graduates were surveyed to determine their abilities in the ten basic competency areas and where they learned and improved skills in these areas. Such areas included CSPA coursework, graduate assistantships, and family/personal life. The group presented their process and findings at the 2013 NASPA IV-East Regional Conference and the ISU Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology Learning Symposium.

This research has been a valuable experience for Ballard, Poffenbarger, and Stott, giving them opportunities to write a grant proposal, create and implement a survey, analyze data, and present their findings to peers. The group hopes that the insight gained from the data will be used to improve the CSPA program and fill gaps in student learning. Further research will continue to be conducted and analyzed with the hope of performing similar assessments of student affairs graduate programs at Eastern Illinois University and Western Illinois University.

Written By: Ramo Stott (2014) and Catherine Poffenbarger (2014)



Whole group at  
NASPA!

**CSPA JOB HUNT TIME! 2ND YEARS  
ARE LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT!**

**Anthony T. Williams Jr.**  
[mrantwill@hotmail.com](mailto:mrantwill@hotmail.com)  
618-698-8002

**Job/Office Preference:** Conduct/Judicial  
Affairs, Academic Support, or Housing &  
Residence Life

**Institutional Type Preference:** Midsize  
Public

**Geographical Preference:** Southeast  
Region: GA or NC

**Kelli Pawelko**  
[kellipawelko@gmail.com](mailto:kellipawelko@gmail.com)  
708-341-8943

**Job/Office Preference:** Athletics/ Advising  
**Institutional Type Preference:** N/A  
**Geographical Preference:** Northern to  
Central IL

**Ben Wright**  
[bewright@gmail.com](mailto:bewright@gmail.com)  
317-691-9761

**Job/Office Preference:** Leadership &  
Service, Fraternity & Sorority Life, Civic  
Engagement/Service Learning,  
Programming, Dean of Students, Advising  
Positions

**Institutional Type Preference:** Preference  
to Private university, but open to all  
**Geographical Preference:** Midwest, but  
open to all

**Ian S. Thurow**  
[isthurow@gmail.com](mailto:isthurow@gmail.com)  
217-778-0127

**Job/Office Preference:** Academic  
Advisement, Career Advisement  
**Institutional Type Preference:** Large  
Public, Small/Large Community College  
**Geographical Preference:** Illinois, then  
Midwest, then Florida

**Ashley Domonkos**  
[andomonkos@gmail.com](mailto:andomonkos@gmail.com)  
615-714-2746

**Job/Office Preference:** Residence Life  
**Institutional Type Preference:** Public/  
Private/ Small-Mid Size  
**Geographical Preference:** No  
geographical preference

**Ramo Franklin Stott**  
[ramo.stott.88@gmail.com](mailto:ramo.stott.88@gmail.com)  
217-257-6089

**Job/Office Preference:** Housing,  
Leadership and Service, Open to others  
**Institutional Type Preference:** No  
preference  
**Geographical Preference:** The South  
(Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Southern  
Arkansas)

**Elina Savoie**  
[elina.savoie@gmail.com](mailto:elina.savoie@gmail.com)  
630-336-7887

**Job/Office Preference:** Residence Life  
Positions

**Institutional Type Preference:** Mid-size  
and large institutions, public or private  
**Geographical Preference:** Midwest

**David Russell**  
[dtrussell88@gmail.com](mailto:dtrussell88@gmail.com)  
765-605-0328

**Job/Office Preference:** Housing/  
Residence Life, Academic Advising,  
Student Programs, Multicultural Affairs  
**Institutional Type Preference:** No  
preference

**Geographical Preference:** Mid to large  
sized city

**Aaron Von Qualen**  
[aevonqu@gmail.com](mailto:aevonqu@gmail.com)  
217-722-0423

**Job/Office Preference:** Leadership/  
service, conduct, recruitment/retention,  
orientation, financial aid, admissions.  
**Institutional Type Preference:** Public/  
Private, big/small

**Geographical Preference:** Midwest

**Kaitlin Ballard**  
[KBallard317@gmail.com](mailto:KBallard317@gmail.com)  
309-883-0655

**Job/Office Preference:** Academic  
Advising, Career Services, Residence Life  
**Institutional Type Preference:** N/A  
**Geographical Preference:** N/A

**Kate Wehby**  
[wehbyk@gmail.com](mailto:wehbyk@gmail.com)  
616-901-7732

**Job/Office Preference:** Fraternity &  
Sorority Life, Leadership, Civic  
Engagement

**Institutional Type Preference:** No  
preference – but most experience with  
larger public universities.

**Geographical Preference:** No preference  
– but prefer campus near (within 2-3 hours)  
a larger city

**Brittany Gilmore**  
[brittanycay5687@gmail.com](mailto:brittanycay5687@gmail.com)  
847-732-0933

**Job/Office Preference:** Health Promotion  
and Wellness, recreation, advising,  
admissions

**Institutional Type Preference:** N/A  
**Geographical Preference:** top choices are  
Central Illinois or Arizona, but flexible and  
willing to move anywhere for the right  
position

**Erika Wilkerson**  
309-573-9424  
[emwilke@ilstu.edu](mailto:emwilke@ilstu.edu)

**Job/Office Preference:** Student Activities,  
Leadership & Service, Career  
Services, Orientation, Academic  
Advising & Alumni Relations

**Institutional Type Preference:** N/A  
**Geographical Preference:** Central Illinois  
(Peoria/ Bloomington-Normal)

**Michael McComas**  
[mccomasm@yahoo.com](mailto:mccomasm@yahoo.com)  
309-826-2412

**Job/Office Preference:** Student Activities,  
Fraternity and Sorority Life, Housing  
**Institutional Type Preference:** Private or  
Public < 20,000 students  
**Geographical Preference:** Pacific Coast,  
Southwest, Southeast, Non-  
continental, International

**David Marquis**  
[Marquis.david2012@gmail.com](mailto:Marquis.david2012@gmail.com)  
847-401-6522

**Job/Office Preference:** Student Center  
(Union) Management, Student  
Organizations, Academic Advising,  
and Student Conduct

**Institutional Type Preference:** Small to  
medium sized institutions  
**Geographical Preference:** N/A

**Daena Ramos**  
[dramos117@gmail.com](mailto:dramos117@gmail.com)  
312-391-6128

**Job/Office Preference:** Leadership,  
Fraternity & Sorority Life,  
Multicultural Student Affairs, First  
Year Experience  
**Institutional Type Preference:** 4 year  
institutions  
**Geographical Preference:** Florida, Texas,  
Illinois, New York – with preference  
of campus near (within 1-2 hours) of  
a larger city

**Sally Nadeau**  
309-287-0131  
[sally.a.nadeau@gmail.com](mailto:sally.a.nadeau@gmail.com)

**Job/Office Preference:** Housing, Advising,  
Student Activities  
**Institutional Type Preference:** N/A  
**Geographical Preference:** Midwest  
(Illinois)

## **Professional Updates of CSPA Alumni!**

**Ryan Scherr (2011)**  
Academic Advisor  
Stony Brook University

**Tina VanSteenbergen (2011)**  
Organizational Growth Expert  
Phired Up Productions, LLC

**Julie Veile (2012)**  
English Instructor  
Illinois State University

**Danny Gruss (2012)**  
Academic Advisor  
Indiana University- Kokomo

**J'Aniah Downing (2010)**  
Senior Assistant Director of Diversity  
and  
Inclusion Initiatives  
Purdue University

**Matt Goodwin (2003)**  
Dean of Students/ Director of Student  
Experience  
Cardinal Stritch University

**Sarah Moore (2011)**  
Complex Director  
Western Illinois University

**Jeff Beavers (2005)**  
GA Educational Administrative Office  
Illinois State University

**Emily James (2009)**  
Director of Major Gifts  
St. Mary's College

**Ben Braksick (2005)**  
Director of Student Activities and  
Orientation  
Marian University

**Stephanie Zimmerman (2001)**  
Administrative Information Systems  
Specialist  
Richland Community College

**Jennifer Frobish (2004)**  
Program Manager-Volunteer  
Department  
Alpha Phi

**Jennifer Kirby (2001)**  
Academic Advisor  
Heartland Community College

**Emily Miller Kimmey (2001)**  
Director of Development  
Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

**Julie Marlatt (2006)**  
Director of Admissions  
College of DuPage

**Jason Ramirez (2003)**  
Associate Vice President of Student  
Life  
Carthage College

**Kalia Patricio (2009)**  
Coordinator of Recognition, Student  
Employment, and Training  
University of Maryland

**Alex Snowden (2009)**  
Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life  
IUPUI

**Kelsey Harmon- Finn (2004)**  
Executive Director of Student Affairs  
UC-Berkeley

**Abbey Walters (2007)**  
Senior Admission Counselor  
Midwestern University

**Marci Rockey (2005)**  
Director of Student Engagement  
Richland Community College

**Joe Kelley (2008)**  
Complex Director  
University of Kansas

**Dominiece Holyfield (2011)**  
Career Services  
Missouri State

**Doug Meyer (2007)**  
Assistant Director of Resident Life  
Illinois Wesleyan University

**Daniel Sebescen (2011)**  
Office Coordinator  
UC-Berkeley

**Akilah Morris- Smith (2006)**  
PhD Dissertation on  
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome  
Southern Illinois University-  
Carbondale

**Ryan Gray (2001)**  
2013 recipient of the Herb Sanders  
Award at Illinois State University  
for Outstanding Academic Advisement

# YOU CAN FIND ISU REDBIRDS EVERYWHERE!



**Aaron Von Qualen (2014)  
in Switzerland!**



**Anthony Williams (2014) at  
TCU !**

Anthony Williams spent his summer practicum at Texas Christian University. In the bottom picture, he stands next to Dr. Boschini, current president at TCU and former ISU president!

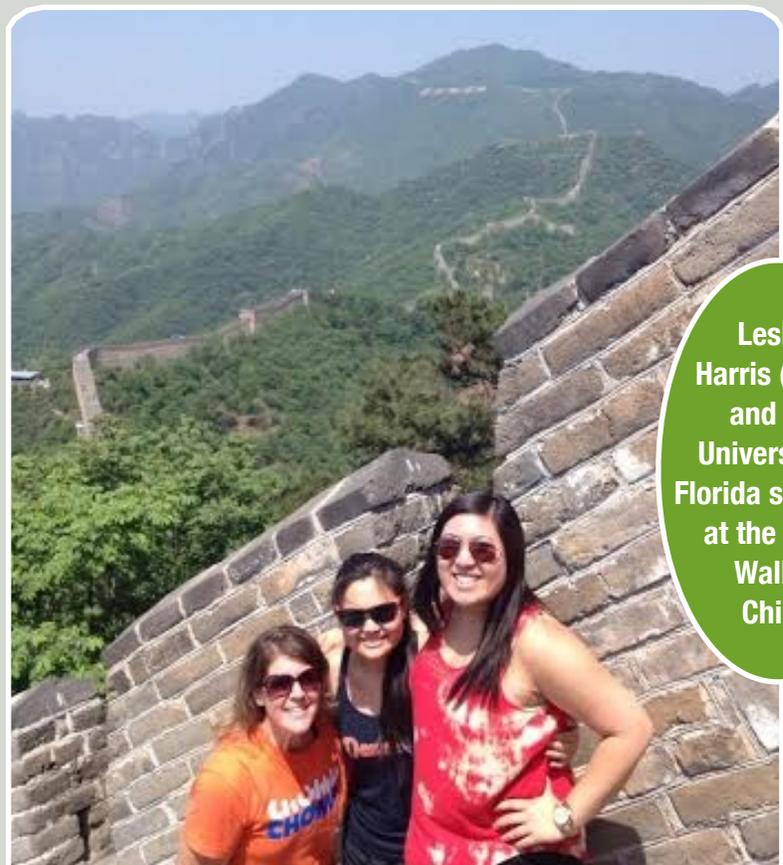
## Making the most of summer practicum- Going Abroad!

This past summer I had the privilege of traveling to Lugano, Switzerland to fulfill my summer practicum at Franklin College. While in Switzerland I was able to work in their Dean of Students office. I was able to take on many different responsibilities and completed projects including a fire safety plan, development of student government training, helping with their summer orientation, revamping their leadership programming, calculating conduct statistics, and began planning for an international student affairs drive-in conference on their campus. Traveling to Switzerland proved to be a very insightful and

rewarding experience not only because of the many projects I was able to complete, I also was able to talk with students from many different countries and backgrounds.

These conversations were very insightful as I learned more about international student affairs and what these students expect out of a collegiate environment. This trip definitely gave me more of a global perspective and I am definitely hoping to find myself in international higher education again in the future. I would recommend an international experience to anyone who is thinking about it.

**Written By: Aaron Von Qualen  
(2014)**



**Lesley  
Harris (2006)  
and her  
University of  
Florida students  
at the Great  
Wall of  
China**

# ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK



Ramo Stott (2014)  
and students



Elina Savoie (2014)



Alternative Spring Break  
Undergrads hard at work!

## CSPA'ers To The Rescue!

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a week-long service opportunity in which participants travel across the country to help meet needs in various communities. Past participants have helped Hurricane Katrina victims, tutored teenage refugees, served individuals with HIV/AIDS, and much more.

Since its inception over a decade ago, nearly 1000 students have participated in ASB. Participants examine the root causes of the social issues they address through pre-trip education and reflection during the trip. Students meet with their team approximately five times prior to departure in March and two times after the trip.

Participants learn lessons in compassion and service that cannot

be taught in the classroom alone, as well as the value of serving suffering families and individuals in need.

Every year there are a number of CSPA students who serve as Trip Advisors on these trips. Last year Ramo Stott, Aaron Von Qualen, Kate Wehby, Elina Savoie, and David Marquis served in these positions. This March, Cassie Burningham, Amanda Papinchock, Aminah Woods, Kate Wehby, Sean Creedon, Kaitlin Ballard, and Aaron Von Qualen headed out to different parts of the country to provide support and facilitate this work. What a great opportunity!

Written By: Sean Creedon (2015)



## Summer Alumni Institute 2013

Last summer marked the first annual CSPA Summer Alumni Institute at Illinois State University. As last year's Gamsky Fellow, I was looking for another project to work on during spring semester. After much thought about what I wanted to spend my time working on, I decided to start a new CSPA tradition—an annual Summer Alumni Institute!

The Summer Alumni Institute was held on campus the weekend of June 7-8, 2013.

After checking in on Friday afternoon, alumni were invited to take a tour of campus to see some of the changes and new additions since they graduated. Later that afternoon, the weekend's events were kicked off with a welcoming speech by Dr.

Larry Dietz and the weekend's keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Timm. Student affairs staff from ISU, Heartland, and Lincoln were invited to attend as well. A social hour immediately followed the keynote speech.

Saturday's events were held at the Alumni Center. The day included a series of workshops for alumni and current CSPA students to attend. Workshop topics included: a legal update and discussion presented by Dr. Lugg and theory updates presented by Dr. Phyllis. Other workshops were led by alumni and included: how to obtain a director position, an informational panel about doctoral programs, a session about current doctoral research, a roundtable discussion of hot topics in student affairs, and a session about what else one can do with a CSPA degree.

The first Summer Alumni Institute was quite a success! Dr. Phyllis and I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped coordinate the weekend's events. Keep an eye out for information about this year's alumni institute! If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please contact Sean Creedon, the current Gamsky Fellow.

Written By: Brittany Gilmore (2014)

Rachel Ehmke (2009), Josh Clouse (2010), Marci Rockey (2005), Matthew Murray (2009) Adrienne Coleman (2001), Chandra Shipley (2003), and Janet Tulley (2008)



Lindsay Vahl (2010),  
Matthew Murray (2009), Janet Tulley (2008), and Rachel Ehmke (2009)



Josh Clouse (2010) and Tabitha Cruz (2010) with other Professional Staff

**Don't forget! This year's Summer Alumni Institute will take place on Friday and Saturday June 6th and 7th! Mark your calendars!**

Graduate Recruitment and Assistantship Days (GRAD Days) allow prospective graduate students the opportunity to interview for assistantships here at Illinois State University to help offset the cost of graduate school.

GRAD Days also allows potential students to learn about the CSPA program at Illinois State University, receive academic advising from graduate faculty, interact with current graduate students, and gather information about the Illinois State University campus.

A great number of students, faculty, and staff work together to make sure this experience runs smoothly for prospective students. This year's GRAD Days was a tremendous success, and we are expecting a great incoming class of students for Fall 2014!

Please be sure to keep our program going strong! Encourage your students to consider a career in student affairs!

Written By: Sean Creedon (2015)

Send us your students!



# GRAD DAYS 2014



Ashley Domonkos (2014),  
David Marquis (2014),  
and Kaitlin Ballard (2014)



Elina Savoie (2014) with Reggie Redbird!

THURSDAY AND  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY  
20 & 21  
2014

# CSPA GIVES BACK

The Holiday Helper program at Illinois State University provides gifts and parties for over 250 children annually in the local community in early December.

Volunteers can choose one or multiple children from one of our five partner local agencies and purchase gifts based on that child's top three wants and needs.

With the generosity of the ISU community, ISU was able to provide gifts and holiday parties to 259 local children.

The CSPA 1st year cohort raised enough money to

support a young child, 8 year old Alycia, over the holiday break. She was interested in arts and crafts, dolls, and board games. She was also in need of hair accessories, socks, and long sleeve t-shirts. With the amount of money raised, we were able to purchase all of the need items (hair accessories, socks, and long sleeve t shirts) as well as a create your own outfit Barbie doll set and an arts and crafts kit! It was a great way for the CSPA

cohorts to give back to the community and help out a child in need!

Written By: Joshua Sulloway (2015)



**Holiday Helper**

## THE ADMINISTRATOR

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @GamskyFellow!

Have a story to share? Send us your updates at

[Gamskyfellow@ilstu.edu](mailto:Gamskyfellow@ilstu.edu)

