

# Panther P.A.W.S.

## Inside this issue:

Graduation	1
ISPA Job Summit	1
NASPA 2008: Boston	2
New UNISPA Coordinators	2
Alumni Profile: Brian Steinberg	3
PSE Facebook Group	3
A Note from Dr. Waggoner	4
2008 Cohort	4



Special Thanks to Jenny Connolly, Tisha Schofield, Paul Waterman, Brian Steinberg and Dr. Waggoner for contributing material to this newsletter!

## Graduation is Approaching Fast!

As the temperature continues to warm and the snow has finally melted many of the Student Affairs students are preparing for the end of their graduate schooling and heading out into the professional world. For those of us who began the program back in the fall of 2006 the time has seemed to speed by faster than a blink of the eye and March 10th, 2008 seems to be approaching faster and faster each and every day. Everyone took different paths to get where we are now but those paths will all come together on the stage of the UNI Dome on graduation day.

While most students are still busy in these last few weeks completing assignments for class and finishing up work on portfolios we are also trying to fit in applying and interviewing for our future jobs. It has turned out to be a very hectic time but very exciting and interesting all

the same. A number of students have already found jobs during this last semester and we would like to congratulate them on that accomplishment.

The graduating class this spring will be one of the larger groups of recent years as many members of the cohort were full-time students. It is fitting that such a large group of students who started the program at the same time will finishing together as well. Over the last two years all of the students have grown together and progressed towards the professional life which lies ahead. Many friendships have been made and it will be hard to say goodbye to everyone as everyone heads their separate ways.

Those students who will be graduating during the upcoming Spring and Summer Commencement ceremonies include the following:

### Spring:

Phil Baskerville  
Jenny Connolly  
Grant Cornick  
Michael Gleason  
Mike Peterson  
Leah Rozeboom  
Andy Rubly  
Megan Stull  
Kara Trebil  
Paul Waterman  
Jessica Wenthold

### Summer:

Jamie Alhmaidi  
Lisa Curry  
Josh D'Amico  
Nick Sullivan

Congratulations to all of the graduates! Good luck to those who have secured jobs and to those who are still on the hunt.

**-"There is a good reason they call these ceremonies commencement exercises. Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."**

**Orrin Hatch**

## PSE Students Attend ISPA Job Summit

On February 1st, several students from the Student Affairs program attended the ISPA Job Summit hosted by Drake University and presented by Ericca Pollack. The event provided students with the opportunity to learn about the job search process as well as

receive advice from current professionals.

Events of the day included a question and answer session regarding "what to expect", a panel of student affairs professionals, mock interviews and information about interview skills, cover letter and

resume tips, searching for jobs, appropriate dress and much, much more. A total of twenty students from Iowa, Iowa State and UNI attended the event and all reported that it was a very valuable experience.

Information submitted by: Jenny Connolly



**“I think my favorite was Harvard, since our History class discusses it so much, it was amazing to see!”**

**Jenny Connolly  
NASPA: Boston 2008**

**“Being around other professionals rejuvenated me and provided me with some great ideas for the future.”**

**Paul Waterman  
NASPA: Boston 2008**

**“I hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience a national conference at one point or another, as the networking opportunities are great and there are a variety of sessions to attend!”**

**Tisha Schofield  
NASPA: Boston 2008**

## Three Attend NASPA Conference in Boston

The 2008 National Association of Student Affairs Administrators conference was held March 8th through the 12th in Boston, Massachusetts. This year's theme was “Chart a Course for Student Success” and was one of the largest NASPA conferences to date due to the inclusion of the job placement sessions. Three students from the UNI Student Affairs program made the journey to the East coast to attend the NASPA conference, they were, Paul Waterman, Jenny Connolly and Tisha Schofield.

The NASPA conference this year provided the students with a wide variety of interesting topics to learn about. Some of the sessions that Jenny, Tisha and Paul attended focused on, spirituality and college students, hazing, disaster response, service learning, working with athletes, the sophomore slump, and parent and family programming. One session that left a great impression with the students was presented by Virginia Tech administrators and discussed the tragic events which occurred on their campus last year. The session was the first time that a panel from the university

had presented publicly on the events of that day and was a very touching session.

Aside from the scheduled sessions attended, there was also a great opportunity to socialize and network with other professionals from around the country. One

thing that Paul enjoyed was “the energy that was present at the conference. Being around other professionals rejuvenated me and provided me with some great ideas for the future. The random meetings with old friends and past co-workers, the excitement of finding someone who is passionate about the same thing, and even walking through the Exhibit Hall were all charged with energy.”

This trip wasn't just all professional development for these three, in addition to attending the conference they were also able to take in some of the historic sites that Beantown has to offer. Some of the



**NASPA, Boston, 2008. From right: Paul Waterman, Jenny Connolly, Tisha Schofield, Bob Frederick, Guy Sims, Jon Buse**

sites visited were the Freedom Trail, Bunker Hill, and seeing the cannon shot off the USS Constitution. Jenny was struck by their visit to Harvard, she said “ I think my favorite was Harvard, since our History class discusses it so much, it was amazing to see!”

The combination of the conference and sightseeing was a memorable experience for Tisha. She did find the conference very beneficial stating, “I hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience a national conference at one point or another, as the networking opportunities are great and there are a variety of sessions to attend!”

## New UNISPA Co-Coordinator Selected!

As the 2008 year comes to an end the time has come for the current UNISPA coordinators, Leah Rozeboom, Megan Stull and Mike Peterson, to transfer over their positions to a new group. The students chosen to lead the group next year in professional development activities and social events are: Tisha Schofield, Alicia Mireles, Brock Holman and Kate Von Tersch.

This year was a successful one for the UNISPA group as they kept both cohorts informed and entertained. Monthly meetings were held as well as professional development sessions such as a panel covering portfolio advice. Numerous social activities were also held including a Halloween party at Dr. Waggoner's house, a holiday party at Pepper's, a game night in Paul Waterman's

apartment and an end of the year party at Lisa Curry's house.

Thanks goes out to all who helped make this year a success. Congratulations to the new coordinators! Good luck with all that you do in the next year! Keep UNISPA going strong and an important resource for all.



## Alumni Profile: Brian Steinberg

Brian Steinberg, a 1999 graduate from the UNI Student Affairs program is originally from Brooklyn, NY but has educational and professional experiences from coast to coast. After earning an undergraduate Earth Science degree from Central Michigan University in 1995 Brian found himself in Cedar Falls teaching Geography at UNI. In 1997 Brian joined the Student Affairs Master's program and served as the Assistant Hall Coordinator in Bender Hall for two years.

After graduating in 1999 Brian moved on to become the Assistant Director of Residence Life for Programs/Resident Hall Director at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. In the following years Brian would find himself in a number of positions across the country including; Residence Hall Director at Stony Brook University in New York State, working in private housing for Capstone Properties Inc. as the Assistant Manager of Residence Life at the University of Connecticut and Assistant General Manager at the University of Maryland. Following these experiences Brian moved on to SUNY University at Buffalo where he served as Complex Director and then went on to Waldorf College in Iowa to serve as the Director of Multicultural and International Education as well as an instructor of geography.

This all leads up to Brian's current position as the General Manager of The Grove @ Ellensburg near Central Washington University. With this position comes the responsibilities of leasing, marketing, budgeting and programming for the complex. Brian oversees the 504

bed complex and supervises the professional residence/sales director, maintenance, office manager, and office staff.

In addition to his interest in the area of Residence Life Brian also serves as the President and CEO of The Ally Group, a professional diversity training and consulting corporation. The Ally Group has a mission "to boldly go where no diversity training and consulting firm has gone before! We will do this by identifying, recognizing, supporting, and most of all celebrating, all forms of diversity inside and outside the realm of higher education." An extensive website for The Ally Group exists at [www.theallygroup.org](http://www.theallygroup.org) and contains information referencing ally theories, diversity exercises, sample presentations and presentation topics.

A major interest of Brian's is the concept of Safe Zones and he has developed a website [www.safezoneforall.com](http://www.safezoneforall.com) which provides information on this topic. He is currently working on his PhD from Capella University in Minneapolis. His dissertation is entitled: Assessing, analyzing, and evaluating the overall effectiveness of Ally Safe Zones at small colleges. Brian plans to finish with his degree in the spring of 2009.

Having the freedom to work on his PhD as well as diversity issues and training is something that Brian is enjoying right now. The Safe Zone For All program is also receiving a lot of time as well as the development of an online diversity and multicultural module.

When asked for advice for current students Brian responded with, "Take advantage of how strong the PSE program at UNI is and how well it prepares you for the Student Affairs and Higher Education profession in all areas, personally, emotionally, psychologically, socially, physically, spirituality, and of course overall professionally. UNI has so many hardworking dedicated faculty, staff, and students for you to use as a resource so please take advantage of them."

On a more personal note Brian has the following to report. This August I will be married 10 years and my daughter will be 5 in August. I am currently looking at possibly relocating back to the upper Midwest (Iowa, Wisconsin or Minnesota), closer to my Wife's family and friends. My hobbies include running and competing in 5K, 10K races (training for a marathon), strength training, eating and cooking well (I have lost over 150 pounds and have kept all of it off for the past five years), designing and maintaining websites, blogging, debating controversial, challenging, and educational issues, drinking too much coffee, observing and studying the weather (meteorology), geography and geology (it's really awesome and exciting to be living in Central Washington state right near volcanoes and where there can be earthquakes, blizzards, dust devils, heat waves, cold spells, very strong winds, avalanches, etc.) I have a deep passion and obsession of eating apples and drinking coffee and hope to someday try at least every species of apple and type of coffee in the world.

***"Our mission is to boldly go where no diversity training and consulting firm has gone before!"***

## New UNI Student Affairs Facebook Group

A new Facebook group has been started for the UNI Post-secondary Education: Student Affairs program. Previously there was a UNISPA group only open to students currently at UNI. Recent suggestions from program alumni have urged for the creation of a new group which would be open to all current and past members. This group would

allow everyone to see what current projects and activities are taking place at UNI within the program, as well as serve as a resource for alumni to share contact information and stay in touch.

If you are a current student please join an stay informed of happenings in the program. If you are a graduate please

let us know where you are now and reconnect with some old friends!

To join the group, enter Facebook and search for the group, **UNI Student Affairs Students and Graduates**. Please invite any program alum you may know who is on Facebook!





## A Note From Dr. Waggoner

### A Publication for UNI Postsecondary Education Alumni, Working Professionals and Students

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As we wind down this academic year, we are completing portfolio interviews with graduating students, recruiting the new cohort (another strong group coming in), and helping the first years transition to their summer experiences and their second year. We're looking forward to this fall particularly. Please mark you calendars for Homecoming weekend, October 10-11. We are planning a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for our master's program in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs. (We have at least one known 1968 grad in the area who plans to be there). We've been called different things over the years--College/University Student Services and a branch of the counseling program--but all in all, we seem to be in our 40<sup>th</sup> year. And, amazingly to me, I've been here for 20 of those years! Anyway, stay tuned for updates. It would be great to see as many of you as could make it. Best wishes for a great spring and summer. Keep in touch.

Mike Waggoner



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## 2008 Cohort Ready to Join PSE Program!

As the year winds to an end, one cohort looks forward to graduation, another prepares to move into their second year, while yet another is set to join the program in the fall semester. Everyone in the program would like to extend a warm welcome to those students beginning their student affairs education in the near future, good luck in the next two years!

The incoming cohort is made up of sixteen students with a wide variety of interests who come to us from a variety of undergraduate institutions. Four will be attending part-time while

twelve will be full-time students. The students and their undergraduate institutions are listed below.

Jake Abbott—Augustana  
Heather Birk—UNI  
Melynda Chrisman—Mt. Mercy  
Elizabeth Goeskesen—Luther  
Melissa Johnson—Wartburg  
Lisa Jicinsky—UW—La Crosse  
Michelle Koehn—UNI  
Amy Miller—Mankato State  
Shalia Moore—UNI  
Valerie Morrison - Iowa State  
Ken Nesbett—Univ. of Toledo  
Keisha Schmidt—UNI  
Alyssa Slaby—UW—La Crosse  
Maryne Taute—UW—La Crosse  
Kate Von Tersch—UNI  
TJ Warren—UNI

**"You're searching Joe, for things that don't exist; I mean beginnings. Ends and beginnings—there are no such things. There are only middles."**

**-Robert Frost**

