By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

As I consider the months that have passed since I stepped into the SPA Coordinator role, this quote from Confucius strikes a chord. In my first year with SPA, the occasional misstep has left the bitter taste of learning from my mistakes. At the same time, I have had the luxury of imitating the practices of SPA Coordinators who have gone before me and made it easy to build on the foundations already in place. This newsletter is based on a third method of learning, reflection: a thought, idea, or opinion formed as a result of meditation. In these pages, you will hear from a graduating HESA student, a rising second-year MA student, a recent graduate, and a “new” faculty member. As I look back over the year, partnership is the word to which my mind returns again and again. The SPA program exists only in partnership, and the success of the program is attributable to the contributions of so many.

In partnership with SPA sites and supervisors, OSU is able to offer a degree that combines the academic rigor of theory with the nuanced application of theory in practice. This is an aspect of the program that serves our graduates well, and I appreciate the time and care with which our supervisors approach their roles. From Student Life to the School of Business, Honors and Scholars to UAFYE, the College of Nursing, CCAD, Otterbein College, and Capital University, the contributions of our SPA sites and supervisors are invaluable to the teaching and learning processes of the HESA program.

The interview process, otherwise known as SPA Days, also exists in partnership not only with SPA sites and supervisors, but an army of students and administrators all willing to do their part and more. This year, the Office of the Vice President for Student Life provided for two lovely receptions for our SPA candidates. HESPA, our student organization, took the lead with panel discussions and pizza to help our newly admitted HESA students acclimate to Columbus and OSU. The bus tours – a highlight of this year’s visits – were carried out in partnership with the Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience, while meeting space and lunches were provided in partnership with University Housing. Last, but far from least, were our current students. Their willingness to work with SPA as hosts, interview escorts, panel members, and all-around outstanding people really made SPA Days 2009 a success.

Finally, in partnership with alumni and friends, the SPA program continues to thrive. The show of support by those who took time out of their busy conference schedules to attend the ACPA and NASPA conference receptions was much appreciated. HESA and SPA alumni continue to be our best source of new student referrals, while your financial contributions help to support the students you send our way.

It appears I will continue as SPA Coordinator for the coming year, and I look forward to continued partnership with all who have made this past year such a pleasure. Please feel free to contact us here in the SPA offices with any feedback – good and bad – or suggestions for continued improvement. We always look forward to hearing from you, our partners in success.

Dr. Tammy Maltzan
Visiting Assistant Professor, SPA Coordinator
First Year Reflections
By: Travis Pentz

After two years of working at UC Irvine in housing administration I realized that although I loved the student affairs environment, I could not handle working in a cubicle for the rest of my life. After researching schools, applying to several, and waiting (for what seemed like) forever, I decided to attend The Ohio State University. To be honest, I was a little overwhelmed at the beginning of my time here. After driving from California, I had to adjust to a new area of the country that was quite foreign to me. I started a new job as a hall director at Otterbein College. And I was also learning to be a student all over again. Although many of the members of our cohort have friends and family in the area, I knew no one in the Midwest. Having a cohort of nearly 30 automatic friends was a big help and my cohort has become my support system here. Throughout this first year I have had so many great experiences. In the classroom I have found the coursework challenging, but I have also found supportive faculty that want to help you succeed. Through my assistantship as Hall Director in an arts appreciation residence hall I have been able to connect with a variety of talented and passionate students, and have really been able to connect classroom theory to practice. Completing a practicum in the Office of International Student Programs allowed me to interact with students from around the globe and gave me a better understanding of my own career goals. Being a student at OSU has provided me with so many other exciting experiences like Buckeye football, leading an Alternative Spring Break trip to Rhode Island, and seeing the vibrant arts scene in Columbus through monthly Gallery Hops. I have also had the opportunity for a great amount of self-reflection. I have come to understand not only the growth and development of the students I currently and will be working with, but this program has also given me a better understand of who I am and want to be. I am looking forward to the experiences that will come over the next year including more, interesting classes, spending the summer abroad with my peers learning about the British higher education system, working on my thesis, and getting more involved in the field of student affairs through national and local conferences. As one of the largest universities in the nation, The Ohio State University provides its students with so many great opportunities. The SPA program is no exception and I know the variety of experiences I have had will serve me well and prepare me for working with students outside of my cubicle in the future.
Reflections at the end of a journey
By: Tiffany Favers

Two years went fast! It is hard to imagine that nearly two years ago I sat down for the first time with my entire cohort and faculty to discuss what to expect in graduate school. I also remember sitting and filling in all the bubbles in order to discover our MBTI preferences and then the workshop to discover what it meant. The orientation ended with NCBI training, where our group began to bond through shared experiences. Classes started a few days later and it has been a whirlwind since! We have had countless theories, a quarter full of Kegan, and have been challenged to consider new ideas and concepts, diversity and legal issues and even the role of the administration. We have learned how to apply theory to practice through various case studies, all while anxiously anticipating the important and final case examination. As we continued to talk about our student’s developmental growth, I found myself surprised to realize that this program was a lot about personal developmental growth too. I’m pretty sure I have made a successful transition from Kegan level three to Kegan level four.

In addition to the case study the other pressing issue is the job search. As if the process of perfecting a resume, drafting a sound cover letter, and getting in contact with strong references were not enough, there is the interview process to consider as well. Many of the second years traveled to Seattle or Washington, DC to national conferences and placement exchanges, while others focused their searches locally. This is a time filled with anxiety as I celebrate my friends after successful interviews, campus visits, and job offers and still wait for my own. I am confident we will all end up with jobs. While this can be a very unnerving experience, it is also very exciting. The prospect of working in a different setting and moving to a new town or city is thrilling. Still I am anxiously awaiting the end of this process.

Did I mention graduation? It also happens in between everything else that is going on. Some more difficult than others, such as preparing to part ways with some great friends I have made over the past two years. This has been quite the experience. During orientation Dr. Maltzan reminded us to keep our eyes on the prize as we navigate through graduate school. And now that the prize is within reach I can look back fondly and see what an amazing journey this has been.
Reflections
By: Meredith Mickaliger

When I was asked to write a reflection of my graduate experience in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program at The Ohio State University I thought it was a mistake – there was no way that I had been an alum long enough to write a reflection. Then I realized that it has been two years since Dr. Baird placed that hood over my head. It seems like just yesterday I was spending my weekends at Caribou Coffee writing case studies.

My two years at Ohio State seem like a blur, but individual experiences and memories have stuck with me. I knew that I was being prepared for a career in Student Affairs, but only after the experiences in my assistantship and full-time position did I fully understand how much theory I would incorporate in my practice. I truly believe that Ohio State has one of THE premier Higher Education and Student Affairs programs in the field and I consider myself lucky to share this scarlet and grey connection with many other SPA alumni.

I left the cold winters of Ohio for a “75° and beautiful everyday” life in Los Angeles (did I mention the ocean-view from campus?). I have loved the last two years working full time in Student Housing – everything “fits” for me in this position. Everything happens for a reason and Ohio State is a major reason I am where I am today. Often I find myself thinking fondly on Ohio State – the traditions, the football games, my cohort, my colleagues and (of course) my students. I know that many others share these “reflections.” The Ohio State University is an unmatched experience that impacts you more than you will ever know.

As a professional, I have had time to shape my values in the field - often these values are mirrored in Ohio State. I believe that students should be first and that a great community can be built on common experiences. The OSU bond is a common experience we all share. Oddly enough, I have found many other OSU alumni and fans in the LA area – we (a group of HESA ‘07 alumni) even found a bar/grill dedicated to Buckeye football in the fall.

I have enjoyed writing this. Often we don’t stop our busy lives to reflect on the paths that have led us to today. Thanks for reading and GO BUCKS!

Please send any news, updates and other information to the SPA Office at spa@osu.edu or call Lexie at 614-292-4322. We look forward to hearing from you!
“How do you teach diversity in an undergraduate leadership class?” I am often asked this question when I explain that I am developing a new course that links diversity and leadership development. I think it is important to blend leadership theories with class discussions around relevant topics. Typically, this happens by connecting with student’s work or student organization experiences. My class this quarter is focused on linking diversity and global leadership perspectives. During the first part of the class, we focused on understanding how developing awareness and securing knowledge will enhance skill development. Students are learning about the structural process around which to learn about diversity.

Students’ awareness of diversity concepts has been high in the class. Students were able to define and discuss white privilege, typically a concept that causes dissonance among younger undergraduates. These students have high levels of awareness about the sources of prejudice and power, thus allowing them to understand oppression. They have been able to assess responsibility for how stereotypes grow and evolve. In an effort to assess their awareness levels, I presented a global business etiquette quiz that challenged their understanding of body language and customs. Most students scored about 5 or 6 out of 10 questions on this quiz. Many students reported that while they considered themselves to be culturally aware, they needed to consider cultural concepts more fully.

Knowledge development takes place by completing weekly assignments. Students reflect on the assigned readings and then respond to questions that I assign from the textbook, Leadership in a Diverse and Multicultural Environment, by Mary Connerley and Paul Pedersen (2005). We discussed racial identity development models and linked their experiences to stages across these models.

Students practice skill development by discussing case studies in class. It is a fascinating process to watch because it is a quick way to allow students to consider class concepts while practicing leadership skills in completing a project that will be evaluated for a grade.

Connerley and Pedersen (2005) state that, “leaders need to be trained in awareness, knowledge, and skills to develop multicultural competency” (p. 52). By focusing on this three step developmental process, I hope students will understand the continuous learning process that is presented in this class.
Conference Highlights

The SPA Office had the opportunity to attend NASPA and ACPA this year to meet with prospective students, catch up with alumni, and celebrate with friends. Our conference receptions were sponsored by the Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, and foods from Columbus and Ohio. These events are so important to the sense of connection we feel to OSU and the HESA community.

A number of alumni were recognized during our annual awards program. This year’s recipients were:

**Dr. John Noftsinger (M.A. 87)**
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
James Madison University

**Maude A. Stewart Award**

**Kristy Brischke (M.A. 06)**
Director of Student Organizations
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

**Emerging Professional Award**

**P. Tim Valentine (M.A. 08)**
Asst Director of Career Services
Columbus College of Art & Design

**Emerging Professional Award**

**Mitsu Narui (Ph.D. 3)**
Doctoral Student

**Porterfield Dickens Award**

**Kristin Schrader (M.A. 1)**
Masters Student

**Porterfield Dickens Award**

Congratulations to all of our 2009 award winners! It is a pleasure to honor our alumni in this way. We look forward to another group of accomplished nominees next year. It was a pleasure to reconnect, reflect, and rekindle with HESA/SPA students, alumni, and friends and we hope you’ll continue to keep in touch with us here in the SPA offices.

Please click on the following link to fill our alumni survey.
http://www.kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=HCONM_3a51861d

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**Calendar of Events/Reminders**

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<tr>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>SPA Supervisor Meeting 11:00am Ramseyer 136</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Transitions II 11:00am 33 W. 11th Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>SPA Supervisor Meeting 11:00am Ramseyer 136</td>
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[The Ohio State University]
Student Personnel Assistantship Program
Higher Education and Student Affairs