We are very lucky as a program to have some of our Alumni working at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Some of us may have them as their supervisors, office colleagues, and mentors. Alumni can provide advice, lessons, and stories that are similar and relate. Let's hear from some of our own Alumni!

John Palmer

What are some of your previous experiences that lead to the position you hold today?

I was Resident Assistant Western Illinois University, an Assistant Hall Director UW - La Crosse, a Hall Director UW - La Crosse, Hall Coordinator UW – Madison, Hall Director UW – Whitewater, Assistant Dean of Students UW – Oshkosh. I currently serve as the Assistant Dean of Students UW - La Crosse.

Please share some lessons learned while working in Student Affairs.

Without letting people try new things, true success can't be experienced. There is no one right way to do things, many ways of doing things can have great outcomes.

Do you have any words of advice for the Job Search?

Remember you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. Be yourself and be confident that you will find the right institutional fit.

What is your favorite memory that you had during your time as a graduate student?

I really enjoyed our class discussions. I remember many class discussions in Larry Ringgenberg's classes that shaped my view on student development.

Doug Kuenn

What are some of your previous experiences that lead to the position you hold today?

I have been a hall coordinator (2/3 time as a hall director and 1/3 time as a student union operations supervisor), assistant director of residence life (student and pro-staff selection, development, conduct, community development, etc) and assistant director of residence life for facilities (custodial operations, maintenance, long-range planning).

Please share some lessons learned while working in Student Affairs.

I have had the unique opportunities to work with students, classified staff (union and non-represented), academic staff, faculty, uw system staff, contractors, architects, and engineers. What we all do individually or collectively should be respected, validated, appreciated. We should understand mistakes will be made, successes will happen more than failures, don't micromanage, and we all are an important piece of working in student affairs. Understand individual's stories (who they are). Show excitement and positive energy towards others and it comes back to you magnified. Realize that change will always happen; patience is a part of the wisdom of change. Don't take yourself to seriously. Realize that the higher you climb, the more often you will make exceptions to rules (that you probably had a part in establishing).

Do you have any words of advice for the Job Search?

Truly be yourself. It takes little energy. If you are nervous about who you are for an interview; assess what is driving that nervousness and commit to some changes personally and or professionally.

What is your favorite memory that you had during your time as a graduate student?

Connecting with peers to process work, academic issues, and job search strategies. Another favorite memory - realizing how I was growing as a person.
As Told By: Stephanie Falch

LeaderShape Edition

“Lead with Integrity and a healthy disregard for the impossible”

My experience at the UW-L LeaderShape Institute was nothing short of amazing! Having the opportunity to explore my leadership skills along with undergraduate students was an incredible journey. However wonderful this experience was, I did not go into it thinking this way. When I first heard about it back in August at graduate training with University Centers (I work with the Campus Activities Board), after some students from the Leadership & Involvement Center attended, it all sounded too good to be true. I became apathetic toward the institute throughout the planning process. Regardless of that, I decided to sign up as an alternate for the institute to experience it myself and luckily enough, a spot opened up for me!

For those of you who do not know what LeaderShape is, it a nationally known Institute for college students to realize their potential as a leader and to teach them the importance of using integrity in leadership. To sum up my experience of LeaderShape into one word, I would say inspiring. I was inspired by the maturity of the students who attended the institute. As we discussed issues around social justice, social class, and other issues, I was surprised by how delicately all of the students handled these topics. When we were asked to create a vision for our future, basically a strategic plan for our lives, we had to base their vision on something they were passionate about and then set immediate and long-term goals to implement that vision. The most inspiring day for me was Day 3, where all of us wrote a future newspaper headline based on our vision. In reading each of them, I began to imagine what our world would look like if they all came into fruition. What an amazing world that would be?! While many of them struggled, they all worked through the challenge and did so with confidence.

One night, the students I shared a room with discussed how challenged they had been at LeaderShape, more than they had even been in college. I realized after this discussion that I need to challenge the students I advised more than I have been because I know they can rise to that challenge. I realized for myself at LeaderShape that student affairs was the right field for me, throughout this past semester, I have struggled with knowing if it was my passion. I even debated dropping out of the program! Needless to say, I was able to gain clarity about my future and those thoughts have definitely changed.

I think the main takeaway from LeaderShape is that all of our students have potential and need to be challenged more than they are now. They all have the potential to do extraordinary things and they deserve to have good mentors and educators that will push them harder than we have been. If we fail to challenge them, the future I saw on day 3 may never happen and our efforts will be useless.
Shout Outs

Bailey and Sam for being fantastic road tripping buddies!

Whitney for being a great teacher and partner on the research project!

Tom for helping co-facilitate a class at Western Tech on Feminism and Women’s Issues.

Amazing friends who provide support, guidance, care, and laughs.

Spring Time!

Second Years for keeping their head up during the job search.

New Program Members!

News from Our Graduate Student Senators

Lots of updates to share as our terms are coming to end :)  
- Paula talked about encouraging students to buy renters insurance
- Veggies with (state) Leggies on 4/10 from 4-5 pm in Cartwright
- Administration looking into updating the campus calendar application- how do we all use the calendar & what changes would you like to see be made?
- Referendum & elections take place on 4/15
- Student Association president & vice president debate is on Tuesday, April 8th in Centennial at 5:30 PM
- NSSE survey goes out on April 8th, please encourage first year & senior students to complete!
- Wittich Renovation resolution passed, renovations funds will come from tuition reserves
- Representative Billings visited to give updates on state bills discussed in the fall:
- Social media policy to restrict employers from asking for log-in information was passed
- Responsible action policy failed (does not impact UW-L policy)
- Brown Jug Bill passed & signed into law: any underage person caught in taverns or purchasing alcohol with fake ID (or no ID) can be taken to civil court by company for up to $1,000 fine.
- Higher education, lower debt failed

Again, any questions please talk to Libby or I
Bitesize History for April

From Noelle Ponasik, Curator of History

Internet Evolution
On April 22, 1993, scientists at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications revealed the Mosaic 1.0 web browser for general public use. The internet evolution shaped higher education in various ways, including the ability to take classes online, participate in MOOCs, and instant access to copious amounts of information. As technology continues to change higher education, let’s take a look at the internet evolution for April’s bite size history.

Sputnik – On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the world’s first manmade satellite, into orbit. In fear of losing the Cold War, the United States federal government formed new agencies focused on the advancement of science and technology, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Defense’s Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA).

Birth of ARPAnet – In 1962, concerned with a Soviet attack on the U.S. telephone system, scientists proposed a “galactic network” of computers in which people could communicate with one another. In 1965, “packet switching” developed as a way of sending information from one computer to another.

Login – In 1969, ARPAnet delivered its first message from one computer in a research lab at UCLA to a second computer at Stanford. Both computers were the size of a small house.

The network grows – During the 1970s, the ARPAnet network began to grow. As packet-switched computer networks multiplied, the worldwide “Internet” developed.

The World Wide Web – Throughout the 1980s, researchers and scientists used the internet to send files from one computer to another. In 1991, a computer programmer in Switzerland introduced the World Wide Web: an Internet that was not simply a way of sending files from one place to another but was itself a “web” of information that anyone on the Internet could retrieve. Sound familiar?

Event Insight!

SAA Organization Fundraiser!
The SAA Org is selling Serogy’s Candy Bars! Please contact Megan Lindbeck if you are interested in purchasing a delicious treat for $1.50.
We are also selling them April 14th from 5-8pm and April 16th 11am-2pm in Carwright!

LinkedIn Workshop
Brenda Leahy will be doing a interactive presentation on improving your profile, using the alumni feature and job search options. Please bring a laptop/IPad so you can follow along and make changes as you think of them. April 9th at 8pm in Centennial 1142.