Not sure what you were going to do over winter break without course readings? The faculty have offered some wonderful reading suggestions!

**Professional Development**

- College (Un) Bound by Selingo (2013)
- Black Men in College: Implications for HBCUs and Beyond by Palmer & Wood (2012)
- Diversity & Inclusion on Campus: Supporting Racially and Ethnically Underrepresented Students by Winkle-Wagner & Locks (2013) - Winkle-Wagner teaches at UW-Madison and wrote my favorite book about cultural capital (Dr. Svoboda)
- Reaching & Teaching Students in Poverty: Strategies for Erasing the Opportunity Gap by Gorski (2013) - He is one of the keynotes at the White Privilege Conference
- Paying for the Party: How College Maintains Inequality by Armstrong & Hamilton (2013)
- The Art of Effective Facilitation: Reflections from Social Justice Educators, edited by Landreman (2013) - We worked together when I was at St. Thomas and she is at Macalester - I’m about halfway through and really like it (Dr. Svoboda)
- Helping College Students Find Purpose by Nash and Murray (2010).
- Generation on a Tightrope: A Portrait of Today’s College Student by Levine and Dean (2012)
- Identity Development of College Students: Advancing Frameworks for Multiple Dimensions of Identity by Jones and Abes (2013)

**Fun Reads**

- Destiny of a Republic by Candice Millard
- Fall of Giants by Ken Follett
- Lost in Shangri-La by Mitchell Zuckoff
- River of Doubt by Candice Millard
- Across the Pond by Terry Eagleton
- Takedown Twenty by Janet Evanovich
- Dust by Patricia Cornwell
- Hyperbole and a Half by Allie Brosh
- My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayer
In my first week of working for the Academic Advising Center, I received my first email from a parent. Fear and anxiety fell over me because in only a few short days of working, I was already facing my first helicopter parent! How to respond? Why do I need to respond? And why can’t this parent start letting their own student make decisions?

Helicopter parent is a hot “buzzword” for student affairs professionals. We love to throw it around, act like we understand it, and try to fight against it. For the entirety of my first year in the SAA program, I had fairly set opinions as to what identifies a helicopter parent, and frankly, I had a negative and fearful outlook on my interaction with parents.

My views, however, changed when I had the chance to work for the SOAR program (Student Orientation, Advisement, and Registration) at Georgia Southern University. Under the GSU Office of Admissions, the department of Orientation and Parent Programs works to positively transition both students and parents into the college environment.

Although some people view orientation as the start to moving away students from their parents, my experience at Georgia Southern embraced parents during the college process. The university offered two different mediums for parents to become involved directly with the university with the Parent Eagle Nation and the Parent and Family Association. Parent Eagle Nation was a new online portal that not only gave parents a personalized experience in university resources, it also allowed parents to build and increase relationships with other Georgia Southern parents. Parents and Family Association, on the other hand, allowed family members to become involved in a volunteer capacity with the university.

As the summer progressed and I had the chance to interact with parents, I began to embrace parents as persons involved in the student transition to college, not just pushy “helicopter parents.” Although I still believe promoting student development and autonomy, my conversations with parents over the summer encouraged me that many parents and family want the same. M. B. Baxter Magolda (2001), a student development theorist, also encourages universities to engage with parents to help increase a student’s self-authorship.

The experience at Georgia Southern taught me to not shrink from parent involvement, but to embrace the power that parents have in their students’ lives. Although it is important to understand the complex family dynamics and differing backgrounds students come from, student affairs professionals do need recognize the positive influence parents and families can have in students’ lives. So next time you receive that pushy email or call from a parent, take a deep breath and recognize the beneficial impact parents can have in a student’s education.

If you would like to educate yourself more on parents or to see what other institutions offer for resources for college parents, please feel free to utilize the following materials:

Georgia Southern University:  
http://parents.georgiasouthern.edu

University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
http://parent.wisc.edu/

University of Minnesota:  
http://www1.umn.edu/parent/

Shout Outs

1st Year's for getting through their first semester of grad school and to Second Year's for their third!

Bailey, Sam and Noelle for being great group partners!!

Tom, TC, and Alyssa for working so hard and doing a great job on the Diversity presentation!

Noelle Ponasik for proofreading my Interview paper, and for being a supportive cohort member!

Shaundel Spivey for rocking his assistantship, and for putting up with Libby's office antics.

Whitney Hedge for being a great roommate, and someone who is dedicated to women's rights.

Bailey Steckbauer for her awesome cooking skills.

Sam Pierce for being an amazing officemate and friend!

Nick Thuot for his commitment, dedication, and passion to social justice!

Alyssa for her commitment to Veteran Students' needs.

For awesome Newsletters!

Katie for sharing her love of scary movies!!

News from Our Graduate Student Senators

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns that you want us to look into. We are here to represent YOU the graduate students.

Whitney Hedge-
Hedge.whit@uwlax.edu

Libby Thorson-
Thorson.eliz@uwlax.edu

- Lots of budget voting going on, specifically SUFAC has received all Seg Fee allocations & voted on this Wednesday "THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Student Senate supports the total allocable budget amount of $942,959 for fiscal year 2014 at a segregated fee rate of $95.97 per student"

- Green Fund applications will be voted on at the last meeting of the year.

- Next Wednesday is the last senate meeting of the semester. 1/29 will be a senate training & the first meeting of next semester will be on 2/5.
Event Insight!

Please read the following descriptions about upcoming events from both the SAA ORG and community events!

CAREERS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS, MINNESOTA COLLEGE PERSONELL ASSOCIATION

MCPA is pleased to host the Careers in Student Affairs-Graduate Students event. This event is open to graduate students with an interest in Student Affairs/Higher Education and the cost is $25.00 including meals. Registration will be available in early December on the MCPA website: http://www.mcpa4you.org/

- When: Friday, February 14, 2014
- Location: SCSU Graduate Center, Maple Grove, Minnesota
- Contact: Dr. Victoria Svoboda (vsvoboda@uwlax.edu)

2013 Virtual Case Study Competition (VCS)

StudentAffairs.com is proud to announce the launch of our 13th Annual Virtual Case Study Competition for Masters level students in student personnel administration, counseling or higher education administration graduate programs. Each team member must be currently enrolled in a Masters level program in Student Affairs Administration, Counseling, or Higher Education for the Spring 2014 term for a minimum of six credits. This year's registration deadline is Thursday, January 23, 2014. For more information about eligibility, submission guidelines, and judging criteria, go to: http://studentaffairs.com/vcs/index.html

Rotary Lights Walk and Hang Out!

Come join SAA members for lovely stroll through the Rotary Lights in Downtown La Crosse. We will be meeting at the entrance of Rotary Lights at 6 p.m. After join us for a warm beverage and appetizers at a location to be determined. Dress Warm!!

- When: Friday, December 13, 2013
- Location: Rotary Lights, Downtown La Crosse, WI
- Contact: Alyssa Gostonczik

Do you use twitter? Use #SAAOrg to engage in discussion and stay up to date on events.