Winter break is here!
This semester has been full of events, students, learning, and lots of hard work. Over the course of the last two months, the students of the UW—La Crosse SAA program have participated in professional conferences, completed research, visited other campuses, protested injustices, mobilized their peers, and made history. We’re so proud of everything we’ve done & want to wish everyone a restful and well earned Winter Break. Enjoy this. You’ve earned it.

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

- Harriet Tubman
As told by Anna Turriff…

How was the Madison Trip? What was the purpose?

I had a great time on the SAA Madison trip! The purpose of the trip for me was to learn more historically about higher education in Wisconsin at our flagship institution. Never having spent a lot of time in Madison, our brief historical tour was quite informative!

What did you learn?

It really highlighted how much of an impact political attitudes in the country and state have on higher education, historically and currently. I also enjoyed the exposure to an institution much different in size to UW-La Crosse. Personally, it made me appreciate UW-L’s campus and community more.

What was the biggest takeaway?

The meeting with Dr. Lori Berquam was the most influential on my professional practice. The quote she shared – “what you are to be, you are becoming” – made me think about the importance of continual professional development. Improving our professional skills and experience is no one’s responsibility but our own!!
As told by Shaundel Spivey...

What sparked you to organize this protest?

I was with the Black Student Unity Exec team waiting like everyone else to hear the verdict. When we saw the mother break down while hearing the words I saw the look of disbelief on the students’ faces and felt the same rage, anger, frustration, and hopelessness. We all went home. What truly sparked the protest is on feeling the need to be in solidarity with the Black communities around the nation that were collectively speaking out and organizing to address the issues in their community. In addition, we just got tired of holding it in.

Who all was involved in the protest?

Kalon Bell and I organized the event. Nick Thuout and Libby Thorson organized the creating of signs and the helped get the word out.

Continued on next page...
As told by Shaundel Spivey...

Why does this issue matter to you?

It matters to be because it goes beyond Ferguson. People have really gotten comfortable with law enforcement being both the judge, jury, and the executioner without any consequences. It also matters because we cannot continue to allow this system to place higher value on some lives and less value on others.

Why should it matter to all of us?

I can’t tell you why it should matter to you I can only tell you that it is your issue and you have to search for yourself why this issue matters to you.
**Why Am I Mad?**

La Crosse has its problems, I get we’re not perfection
But we also aren’t Ferguson so where is the connection
As I precede through this dissection of my internal reflection
I’m really sick and tired of this systematic rejection… Why am I mad?
Because I live in a society where White is always good and Black and Brown are always bad

“But Charles… I’m not racist and talks like this make me glad”
And I respond but it’s hard to understand a racial oppression that you never had… Why am I mad?
Because as I look at Black history, there certainly is no mystery
That the slavery and hypocrisy is a perpetuation of my misery… Why am I mad?
Because I live in a society where racism is invisible, in high school’s it’s not teachable
When you define it as the KKK and not a system of oppression than equality is not reachable
And as I sat and watched no indictment my response was “unbelievable”…

A young black man’s life was taken not lost that’s a fact…
And all I heard from the police statement was Darren Wilson we’ve got your back
Why did you wait until the night… just to wipe it under the rug?
Why was the picture painted in the media not of Mike in a cap and gown but of a “thug”? Why am I mad?
Because honestly… that could have been me.

There’s a subconscious fear of the Black man… Why can’t you see? Me
And in terms of the protest we need to keep the focus
These aren’t people who are crazy these are people who are hopeless
And as for racism…how do you fight a mindset that is justified with privilege
Institutionalized in this country that paints a White America image
And that’s not just Ferguson, that’s right here in La Crosse
This is an issue for everybody, we can’t afford another loss

This really pains me, I swear it hurts my heart
But I learned in America if you’re black it’s okay to be mad but you also have to be smart
We need to step away from social norms that teach oppression and dominance
We exist in two realities exist in that Double Consciousness
Learn to respect the difference learn that cultural competence
Let’s have the hard conversations, make each other some promises
Know it won’t be easy, but that’s what we need to do
So as I close the question isn’t why am I mad… the question is why aren’t you?
Describe your experience being part of the UWRF Co-hort? What has been your favorite part?

Being a part of the UW-River Falls SSA cohort has been unbelievable! There is not a day that goes by without me running into one of my cohort mates or interact with their department, even though all of our classes are virtual for the most part. UW-River Falls is such a close knit campus and being a part of a close knit cohort makes it that much more enjoyable. My favorite part of being in the UWRF SSA cohort has been the support we lend each other during our busy times of the year. Seeing members of the cohort in attendance at each other’s events is a neat experience and makes you feel really supported.

Why SAA?

I chose SAA because UW-La Crosse has a strong reputation in student affairs. I was also active in residence life, orientation, and student health at UW-Stout, my Alma Mater. After graduation, I worked in hospitality for a while but realized it was not for me and the experiences I enjoyed college and in life was when I was working with students. Education has been in my blood since I can remember. Growing up in a house of educators, I knew I would come back to the education field, eventually.

Talk about your participation within conferences and what you learned

From stepping foot into the NCAA Division III Advancement Forum all the way to Access to Experts, the well-executed event allowed me to fully experience what this convention had to offer. From Joyce Roche’s inspiring speech on how to not lose sight of opportunities to Tori Murden McClure’s talk on perseverance and how to find inner strength, I cannot tell you how fortunate I was to have the opportunity to be in the presence of greatness and all that is good in women’s athletic administration.

UW-RF Spotlight

Our SAA program has a broad reach with students on campus in La Crosse, online, and in River Falls. Today we feature one of our River Falls students, Rachel Steward.

Rachel recently attended the NACWAA (National Association of College Women’s Athletic Administrators) annual conference in Louisville, KY.

We caught up with Rachel to get word on her experience and some pro tips for students.
The Importance of Networking

Rachel’s feature concludes with some knowledge on how and why young SA professionals should be networking.

As Patti Phillips, Executive Director NACWAA, discussed in her opening address about “lighting the way,” I networked with women whom I thought could light the way for a new professional like myself. Their knowledge, confidence, and overall well-being allowed me to develop conversations and personal relationships which will propel me during the allusive job hunt.

_Tips I would stress on networking would include:_

_-Find a mentor._ An individual who can take you under their wing to provide guidance in your career but also act as an outlet outside of your current role. NACWAA offers a mentorship program for all of its members. I hope my mentor, Amy Calabrese, Assistant Athletic Director from the University of Louisville, can bestow a few of her insights and tips to allow me to become an outstanding member in the profession.

_-Always follow up after conferences or networking events._ Make sure to maintain relationships you think are vital to career success. Send a quick e-mail or connect on LinkedIn. Find an outlet which works best for you.

_-Put yourself out there._ If you do not meet people and allow them insight in your career aspirations, how will they know what you are interested in or where yourself in student affairs? You have to be assertive and but also a bit vulnerable in order to make connections.

If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.

_-African Proverb_
Shout Outs!

Shari for her fantastic planning and coordination of SAA Org social events

Sam, Bailey, Nick, Megan and Marissa for the extensive amount of time they put into being AHD’s - keep up the great work as the semester winds down!

All the first year grads for making through their first semester on campus! You’re 25 % of the way done!

Drs. Jörg Vianden (Chair) & Tori Svoboda, Will Van Roosenbeek, and all the students who participated for their work as the SAA Faculty search committee

Andrew Ives for being a great friend, colleague, and role model on our campus

Make sure to follow us on twitter @UWLSAAORG

Want to help out?

- Want to help out the future SA Professionals?
- Got a fundraising or professional development idea?
- Want to write, give a shout out, or contribute to the newsletter?
- Contact Klintron Blair (blair.klin@uwlaex.edu) to find out how you can help