

The Vermont Connection

Volume 39 *Dear Student Affairs: Reflections on the Past and Hopes for the Future*


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Acknowledgments

Kim Monteaux De Freitas

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dear TVC Friends and Colleagues,

For the past six years I have been privileged to be a Staff Advisor for *The Vermont Connection*. Each year I have had the opportunity to express my gratitude to the many contributors for their time and unwavering support as authors, Phone-a-Thon participants, donors and editors. I am honored to have worked alongside amazing Executive Boards witnessing their friendships and relationships over the years and have continued to be impressed with their dedication to one another as learners and to you, as the TVC family.

It has not been a secret that I am not a HESA alumna. However, my pride for this program and *The Vermont Connection* I hope has been evident. Over the years hosting HESA practica, internships and graduate assistantships has overwhelmingly brought meaning to my time in Vermont and my life. Additionally, being chosen for the role as TVC Advisor will continue to be something I hold close to my heart.

This year's theme, "*Dear Student Affairs: Reflections on the Past & Hopes for the Future*," is a reflection of where the Executive Board is at and in return where they hope all of us will go. How are we, continuing to think about the past and share collectively our hopes? Are we continuing to take risks and lead with courage knowing that even as time has passed we are still connected?

The theme serves as a personal reminder during my transition to hold on to these memories as well as look forward to what comes next. For my "Dear Student Affairs..." I ask that we all remember when we were once new and in the thick of transition. Perhaps a graduate student and/or a new professional and I hope

After 11.5 years Kim Monteaux De Freitas transitioned roles in November and is now the Director of Sorority & Fraternity Life at The Ohio State University. Kim is a doctoral candidate in the UVM Educational Leadership and Policy program and lives in Columbus, Ohio with partner Xavier (HESA '11) and daughter, Eloise. This is Kim's sixth year advising TVC.

that we can find memories that bring comfort and a sense of belonging. Those memories and feelings are what continue to get each of us to recommend the UVM HESA program to others. We continue to share our time at Vermont with others through story, writing and of course our actions. My hope is, those feelings never disappear and that just like the writing in this year's journal we all continue to write from a place of truth inspiring others along the way.

I would like to share a special thank you to Dr. Patrick Brown, Director of Student Life and the Davis Center. Pat started at the University of Vermont in 1979, the same year the inaugural journal went to print. It is from Pat that tens and tens of graduate students have sat in his office as he recalled the Waterman Takeover, educated and shared artifacts from the Kake Walk, discussed rallies and sleepouts and numerous other stories of advocacy and higher education. Over the years Pat has taught HESA courses and continues to be a guest in Dr. Hunter's class "Controversies of the Academy," where his response to "What keeps you up at night?" is unique and in true Pat style, a story all on its own.

With conference season upon us take a moment to reflect and be filled with gratitude. To that mentor that encouraged you to think about higher education or was there to just listen and to your graduate school colleague that challenged you inside or outside the classroom. To those who have made The Vermont Connection, just that, a connection and your home away from home. For me, it has been all of you from faculty that have come and gone, my Student Life colleagues, the graduate students that are now Directors and soon to be second years. To Pat Brown, my once upon supervisor who will forever be a mentor and friend. Cheers to you Pat, as you retire this summer and thank you for all you have given to UVM your legacy will be felt for decades to come.

To the TVC community, thank you for your continued dedication. What a testament of commitment and leadership as we all celebrate the production of the 39th journal. Much gratitude to the faculty for their contributions and for bringing passion and energy to the classroom experience. To the assistantship providers, leadership consortium classroom volunteers and guests, your time is valued and does not go unnoticed.

With appreciation,

Kim