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Comments from the Editors

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Editorial

Comments from Editors

Looking Back

Sandra M. Estanek, Ph.D.
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With this issue of the *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs* we transition the journal to its new home at the University of Rochester and to a new editorial team led by Dr. Logan Hazen. We are not publishing an issue *per se*, but a transition like this gives us the chance to look back on what we have accomplished, to thank those who made it happen, and to look forward to the future.

The College Student Personnel Association of New York State published a journal in conjunction with Buffalo State College for 10 years from 1984 to 1994. In 2007, the leadership of CSPA-NYS began to discuss the possibility of restarting the journal in an online format. In 2009, Canisius College agreed to host the new online journal as an open access publication. The founding editorial team of Editor Sandra Estanek, Managing Editor Danielle LaMarre, and Copy Editor Logan Hazen was appointed. Danielle had the major task of learning the software to manage an online journal. Sandy set to work to establish the founding editorial board, which

would be comprised of senior student affairs professionals and faculty members representing institutions from across the state. The founding editorial board was composed of Julia Davis, Bassam Deeb, Cathy Engstrom, Richard Herdlein, Barbara Jones, Jelane Kennedy, Jason Lane, Patrick Love, and Steve Tyrell. Brian Haggerty served as the liaison between the editorial board and the CSPA-NYS leadership. The founding board was charged with establishing all of the editorial policies for the new journal before the first manuscripts could be solicited.

It took two years to work out all of the details and in November of 2011, we published the first issue of the “new” journal. The name was changed slightly to the *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs* to better facilitate electronic database searches. However, to indicate the continuity with the original *CSPA-NYS Journal*, the “first” issue was styled volume 11, number 1. Continuity was also served in that the journal retained its theory-to-practice focus. The hard copy issues of the original journal were all scanned and archived in the new online format, also reinforcing the journal’s essential continuity.

Over time, others joined the editorial board: Peter Baigent, Michael Christakis, Kevin Hearn, Sara Klein, Kim Kline, Peg McCarthy, Pat Mizak, Wendy Neifeld Wheeler, and Kim Yousey-Elsener. All of these professionals have given of their time and expertise reading and evaluating manuscripts.

It has been my pleasure to work with all of these generous and committed professionals. It has also been a pleasure to have been part of the re-establishment of the *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs*. The journal’s future is bright. Its roots are now strong, and it is in a position to grow under the leadership of the new editorial team. SE

Looking Forward

Logan Hazen, Ed.D.
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I approach the opportunities and challenges as editor of the *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs* with great excitement and a twinge of sadness. I should explain the sadness first.

Teaming with wonderful colleagues and friends Sandy Estanek and Danielle LaMarre to revive and lay the foundations for the new *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs* has been a rewarding “common shared experience.” My colleagues did an amazing job of it all and leave the journal in a great position. The three of us are now faced with finding a new common shared experience – though with a little less challenge I suspect.

My excitement comes from the opportunities to build on the solid foundations that have been built for the journal. Though still small, the journal is a selective peer reviewed journal with an excellent editorial board of faculty and practicing professionals that sets high standards for what is published. Yet we are driven to publish meaningful work versus having a manuscript acceptance/rejection rate to somehow rival the top-tier journals.

Sandy used the term theory-to-practice to describe the mission of the journal; I would add practice-to-practice to that mission. We do truly amazing things and have a huge impact on our students and institutions as student affairs professionals and I love to brag about student affairs. I also tell my students and colleagues that one of our biggest failures is that we do not share what we have learned effectively. Student affairs does not have a strong enough **written voice** yet. How many times have we struggled with something, only to discover by accident (often later) that others had faced and solved the problems much more elegantly than we did? Moving forward it is my hope that the journal can be a tool to help chip away at this problem.

One comment we hear is “I do have something important to say, but I just don’t think I know how to write it so that it would fit a journal.” Perhaps we can play a role in encouraging the practice of collaborations – professional-to-professional, faculty-to-professional, and faculty-to-student – to write down and publish the important body of knowledge that is not well shared by student affairs. Each party brings a set of strengths to the table that can make the task successful. The journal is partnering with the annual CSPA-NYS Writer’s Workshop as one example of a venue where these collaborations might be built.

One particularly exciting goal I have set is to make the journal process a teaching tool for student affairs and higher education graduate students, laying the foundation for them to become part of the **written voice** of student affairs as scholar-practitioners (professionals who contribute to scholarship). We hope to involve students in the full editorial process, including a graduate student “shadow” editorial board, a core of fledgling “technical editors” (you have to navigate APA style to publish – or find one of these folks that can!), and any other parts of the publishing enterprise to demystify the process and give them confidence to write for publication as practitioners.

The journal has benefited greatly from the support of the CSPA-NYS organization and the leadership as the journal was revived and stabilized. Continuing the synergy between the organization and the journal is an important goal moving forward, including taking advantage of opportunities like the annual CSPA-NYS Writer’s Workshop and a presence at the annual conference and other venues to encourage raising the written voice of student affairs via the journal.

The *CSPA-NYS Journal of Student Affairs* will continue to actively solicit and publish research and practice articles, invite featured pieces on topics critical to student affairs, and be

open to things we have not published previously. Examples might include well written book or article reviews in areas of importance to student affairs practitioners, tested examples of best practice, point-counterpoint submissions, etc. We encourage all interested in student affairs and higher education to read the journal, give us your ideas – and most importantly your submissions for consideration for publication in the journal as we move forward. LH