Celebrating 25 Years of CI

Being able to welcome new students and families to GW has always been one of the most rewarding parts of my work. Every year, because Admissions does an amazing job recruiting such talented and diverse students, the CI team and the larger university have the opportunity to help introduce new students, their parents, and siblings to GW’s academic community and our vast array of campus resources that contribute to their academic success, help them get engaged in the campus community and begin to establish friendships with other members of their class, and help introduce them to this great world capital of Washington, DC.

CI works hard to instill some very important takeaways for our students including: becoming an adult; learning how to make good academic, personal, and professional decisions; communicating with diverse groups; and practicing time management.

When I came to GW in the summer of 1987, there was no CI. We had just a one day program called “SARP” that focused mainly on course selection and class registration. By my senior year (1990-1991), GW had created a thematic orientation that served as a full, family experience that we know today as Colonial Inauguration.

I first supported CI as an unpaid intern, helping select the second Colonial Cabinet, implementing an ongoing leadership training program, and managing many of the program elements and logistics for CI that second year (1991). After I graduated in May 1991, I was offered a chance to stay on in the Campus Activities office as a graduate assistant, and I started graduate school contributing to the planning of CI and supporting the Cabinet.

Back then, GW was just beginning to focus on creating a “sense of place” and community for undergraduates. President Emeritus Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, worked to strengthen the university, building a stronger community and enhancing the student experience in the classroom, on campus, and in the city.

As GW works to build student traditions CI has served as one of two traditional bookends to the GW experience, for the past 25 years. Commencement on the National Mall is the other culminating celebration of the GW student experience.

As a result, when you think of some of the cornerstone elements of CI, almost every GW undergraduate student can say they were part of a common #onlyatGW experience like having a Cabinet member serve as their student orientation guide, participating in some of the fun CI social events like the Buff and Blue BBQ, learning the fight song at the Capture the Spirit event, witnessing a performance by the Capitol Steps, taking a Midnight Monument Tour, staying a few nights in Thurston Hall during orientation, and getting a bright buff GW towel.

You can read more about CI in the GW Today story “Looking Back: Celebrating 25 Years of Colonial Inauguration.”

Happy 25th anniversary to Colonial Inauguration!
Department Spotlight

GW Summer and Conference Housing

By Kristen Franklin, Associate Director, GW Housing
(kfrank@gwu.edu)

For 40 years, it has been GW Summer and Conference Housing’s goal to provide safe, comfortable, and conveniently located housing to GW students and visiting interns. Summer and Conference Housing strives to represent and support the George Washington University by showcasing our student staff’s professionalism in customer service, GW’s residence halls, and our overall university community. Summer and Conference Housing Office hosts 15,000-20,000 guests annually.

Summer and Conference Housing is provided on both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses. The Foggy Bottom campus mainly serves long stay guests and GW students who live on campus over the summer. Long stay guests are anyone who is staying for six or more weeks of the summer. Many of our long stay guests are interns from other colleges and universities across the country. The Mount Vernon Campus provides an all-inclusive conference site for short-stay groups. Short-stay groups typically stay on campus from a few days to a few weeks. On the Mount Vernon Campus, conference groups are able to host sessions in classrooms and have meals provided by Sodexo.

The Summer and Conference Housing program at GW is driven by student leadership. The office employs nine Lead Summer Assistants. These undergraduate students begin working in January and develop relationships with external and internal clients who want to stay at GW for the summer. They are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Summer Conference and Housing office and ensuring that guests have a positive experience. They also select and supervise the Summer Assistant staff, made up of 52 undergraduate students.

There are two roles of Summer Assistants. One group focuses on customer service and they are the front line of service for our guests. The other group is the Room Inspectors. The Room Inspector role is new this summer, and these students inspect each residence hall room prior to a guest’s arrival to ensure that it is in move-in ready condition. Student staff members are also on call every night to respond to any guest needs that may arise while the office is closed. Summer and Conference Housing is truly a 24/7 operation. While all of GW Housing supports the student summer staff team, there are three members devoted to building and maintaining the summer program: Harry Knabe, Senior Associate Director, manages the Summer and Conference Housing operations; Michael Ameszuta, Assistant Director, supervises student staff and manages the finances for the office; and Keegan Shirel, Coordinator, is responsible for all sales and marketing of the Summer Housing program.

One of the goals of the office is to offer one-touch service to our clients and guests. This means that if a guest has a problem, they only need to come to the Summer and Conference Housing office to have it resolved, no matter what that problem may be (examples include a housekeeping issue, problems getting mail, or ideas for what to do in DC). In order to provide this level of service, it requires teamwork between Summer and Conference Housing and its partner offices, including Facilities Services, Housekeeping, and Colonial Inauguration.

A close relationship has been created between CI Headquarters and Summer and Conference housing to ensure that the approximately 500 students who are housed for the duration of CI have a seamless first experience with GW Housing. The relationship with Facilities Services is also extremely important. In the past, Facilities closed at 5:00PM and that left Summer and Conference Housing struggling to provide continuous customer service. In a recent change, Facilities Services has extended their customer service hours to a 24 hours a day service along with extending Summer and Conference Housing access to the system that tracks work repair tickets.

The Summer and Conference Housing office works to foster positive relationships with campus partners and is always looking to create new relationships and opportunities to work with other offices throughout campus.

Best Practices

- Encouraging staff to be independent and self-sufficient at work
- Providing leadership opportunities for students
- Maintaining detailed shift reports to track interactions with guests

GOOD JOB!

- Successfully housed over 1,800 incoming students during summer CI.
- The softball team, GW House Party, is 2-1 in the GW Summer Softball Recreational League
Staff Spotlight

We are pleased to welcome the following new DSA staff members for this month’s Staff Spotlight!

**Shyrah Thomas** ([thomassj@email.gwu.edu](mailto:thomassj@email.gwu.edu))
Coordinator
Administration and Hallmark Programs
BA, History, Virginia Tech
M.S. Ed, Educational Leadership, Old Dominion University

**What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?**
Las Vegas this past December as a “pick me up” between my last two semesters of graduate school. I went to the Grand Canyon, the Hoover Dam, and to L.A. and saw family members that I had not seen in 11 years.

**What was one of your most memorable meals?**
Thanksgiving 2013 at my parents’ home; the menu included turkey, dressing, macaroni and cheese, fresh green beans, honey glazed spiral ham, yeast rolls, and other items. It was memorable because it was served at noon.

**Can you tell us about any special talents or hobbies?**
I can craft almost anything I see on Pinterest.

---

**Susan Langford** ([srlangford@gwu.edu](mailto:srlangford@gwu.edu))
Senior Industry Consultant: International Relations, International Development, and Public Policy
Center for Career Services
North Carolina State University, BA, English and Religious Studies
Duke University, MA, Islamic Studies
George Washington University, MA, Education and Human Development, Counseling

**What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?**
I spent a summer in Morocco, studying Arabic and traveling around to different cities…it was amazing.

**What was one of your most memorable meals?**
My husband and I found this tiny little Italian café in Paris, where we ate the most incredible saffron gnocchi and house-made rose ice cream. The food was delicious and the atmosphere was magical.

**If you had to choose another profession what would it be and why?**
A novelist…I love to write and to create stories. My imagination is always working!

---

**Stephanie Sarvana** ([ssarvana@gwu.edu](mailto:ssarvana@gwu.edu))
Assistant Director, Leadership and Special Populations
Center for Student Engagement
BA, English, Arizona State University
MA, English Literature, Arizona State University

**What is your favorite book?**
The Farming of Bones by Edwidge Danticat.

**What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?**
Road trip through Utah, Colorado, South Dakota, and Minnesota visiting national parks and monuments.

**What was one of your most memorable meals?**
Rose’s Luxury on 8th Street, SE. Each dish was amazing and the service and ambience are the perfect balance of elegant and quirky. Plus, they kept bringing us free things!

---

**Dave Marquis** ([dmarquis@gwu.edu](mailto:dmarquis@gwu.edu))
Program Coordinator, Student Involvement
Center for Student Engagement
BS, Political Science and History, Illinois State University
MA, College Student Personnel Administration, Illinois State University

**What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?**
I went dog sledding outside of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

**If you had to choose another profession what would it be and why?**
Museum exhibit design. I love museums and creative design efforts being used to educate guests.

**If you could meet anyone from history who would it be and why?**
Abraham Lincoln. Beyond being my home state’s hero, he served as president during one of the most turbulent times in our nation’s history while suffering great personal loss. However, he was known to maintain a charm about him. I have always believed there is much to learn from honest Abe.
Around DSA

DSA Hosts Student Affairs Professionals from South Africa

On Thursday, June 26 the Division of Student Affairs hosted a visit by a delegation of student affairs professionals from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria, South Africa. Their visit was coordinated by the Center for Student Engagement and the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). The visit included participating in CI Day 3 activities such as the Student Organization and University Services Fair and the Closing Session, having lunch with the DSA Leadership Team, and touring the Foggy Bottom Campus and residence halls. While in the United States the delegation is also visiting Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Georgetown University, and attending the ACUHO-I conference.

DSA Fundraising and Grant Writing Committee Update

The re-constituted DSA Fundraising and Grant Writing Committee held its first meeting in February 2014 and has since held nine meetings through mid-June. The committee is charged with providing coordination across and within all Student Affairs units and with Development and Alumni Relations to ensure DSA enhances our financial resources and contributes substantively to annual and comprehensive campaign fundraising efforts. The committee works together to tackle a variety of committee-wide and working group projects. The committee has organized into the following three project working groups:

**Staff and Student Giving**
- Developing stewardship activities to recognize donors to student affairs areas.
- Creating a student organization fundraising toolkit.
- Supporting the efforts of the We Are GW Faculty/Staff and Senior Class Gift campaigns.

**Staff Training**
- Developing, collecting, and inventorying DSA case statements and fundraising priorities.
- Providing training opportunities for DSA staff in fundraising and grant writing topics.
- Conducting research on giving web page best practices, creating an outline for the DSA giving page, and drafting content for the web page.

**External Advisory Council**
- Engaging representatives of key stakeholder groups (alumni, parents, other partners) to inform and shape divisional priorities.
- Enlisting advisory council members in providing leadership philanthropic support of divisional programs and services and identifying prospects with similar capacity.

Interested in joining the committee or learning more about what we do? With supervisor approval, membership is open to all DSA staff who have an interest in supporting divisional objectives in fundraising and grant writing. Please email Robert Snyder, Andy Sonn, or Anna Mahalak or your department’s representative (see below).

**DSA Fundraising Committee Members**
Andrew Goretsky, Center for Student Engagement
Rodney Johnson, Office of Parent Services
Molly Kastendieck, Office of Alumni Relations (Development and Alumni Relations)
Anna Mahalak, Division of Student Affairs
Chantele Martin, Annual Giving (Development and Alumni Relations)
Lindsay McConnell, Student Rights and Responsibilities
Michelle Rehberger, Center for Career Services
Robert Snyder (co-chair), Division of Student Affairs
Andrew Sonn (co-chair), Division of Student Affairs
Seth Weinshel, GW Housing
Silvio Weisner, University Counseling Center

DSA Assessment Committee Update

DSA Assessment Committee members Adam Bethke, Courtney Luque, Colby Moss, and Robert Snyder presented “Zero to Sixty: Jumpstarting a Divisional Assessment Roadmap” at the 2014 NASPA Assessment and Persistence Conference in San Antonio, TX. View their presentation and related materials on the Assessment Committee webpage.

Interested in joining the committee or learning more about what we do? With supervisor approval, membership is open to all DSA staff who have an interest in supporting divisional objectives in assessment and continuous improvement. Please email Adam Bethke, Toby Davidow, or Robert Snyder or your department’s representative.

**DSA Assessment Committee Members**
Chrissy Batterson, Administration and Hallmark Programs
Bridgeitt Beuling, Administration and Hallmark Programs
Adam Bethke, Division of Student Affairs
Graham Bottrel, Center for Career Services
Amber Cargill, University Counseling Center
Toby Davidow, Division of Student Affairs
Nikki Hedren, Student Rights and Responsibilities
Courtney Luque, International Services Office
Colby Moss, Center for Student Engagement
Anne Scammon, Center for Career Services
Robert Snyder (chair), Division of Student Affairs
GW Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund (KACIF)

The GW Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund (KACIF) application period for Fall 2014 commenced on Friday, June 27! Below are some general details for you about this great university initiative.

The Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund was established to encourage all GW students in good standing to pursue high-quality, necessarily unpaid internships that foster their career exploration and enhance their academic program, while reducing the financial challenges associated with unpaid internships. Necessarily unpaid internships are typically those with non-profit, governmental, educational, and non-governmental organizations that genuinely lack the financial resources to pay salaries or wages to their interns. Please share the below information with your students, noting it is also detailed on the KACIF FAQ page:

- The application period for Fall 2014 closes at 8am EST, Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Students will submit their application in GWork to Job #800205. Unfortunately, no late or incomplete applications will be accepted after the application period ends.
- The Fund is open to all current matriculating GW students in good standing from all schools - both undergraduate and graduate students. However, new incoming students for Fall 2014 will not be eligible for this application period.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Career Services Council, and grants will be presented in mid-August.
- Grant awards will range from $1,000 to $3,000.
- For information on KACIF eligibility requirements and the application process interested students can be referred to the KACIF FAQ page at http://go.gwu.edu/internfund.

Positive Vibes

“Positive Vibes” are a quick, convenient, and effective way to appreciate a staff member near you! These messages are posted publicly on the Colonial Community website, and Positive Vibes recipients receive special cards in campus mail and a Positive Vibes lapel pin. Visit the Positive Vibes page to check out some of the DSA staff members who have recently been recognized, including the following ones. Great job!

Tim Miller,
Thank you Center for Student Engagement for continuing to improve the move-in and move-out process by using the RCR’s and going above and beyond to help Facilities Services!! It is well noticed and greatly appreciated! — Facilities Services

Timothy Terpstra,
Tim Terpstra aka “Dominoes” because you ALWAYS deliver in 30 minutes or less. :-) We just wanted to show our appreciation and Thank You for making our jobs easier. Keep up the excellent work! — Aria Bryant & Office of the Registrar Staff

Professional & Personal Development @ GW

Upcoming DSA Forums - Save the date for the DSA Retreat on Wednesday, July 23 from 9am-4pm at the phi360 Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW. It is expected that all full-time and part-time regular staff will attend.

If you have any questions, contact the DSA Professional Development and Team Building Committee:
Tracy Arwari, CARE Network
Rachel Brown (chair), Center for Career Services
Toby Davidow, Division of Student Affairs
Susan D’Amico, International Services Office
Kristen Franklin, GW Housing
Alexis Janda, Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education
Professional & Personal Development @ GW

Webinar Watch - If you are interested in advertising future webinars to the DSA in the monthly Webinar Watch section of the newsletter, email Kristen Franklin.

Safety Trainings from GW's Office of Health & Safety – Register today for these educational and engaging safety trainings by emailing safety@gwu.edu. There will be a Floor Warden Training on Thursday, July 17.

GW's Parenting Group - The GW Parenting Group, hosted through Meet-Up, is a place for GW faculty, staff and students who are also parents to gather, both virtually and in-person, to share tips, ideas, challenges and experiences gained on the journey of parenthood. For more information visit their website.

Volunteer in the GroW Garden - Do you want to get your hands dirty? If you’re interested in growing food and helping your community, then volunteering in the GroW Garden, located at 23rd and H Streets, should be right up your alley! Every Wednesday morning from 10am-12pm, the GroW Garden has volunteering sessions open to the GW community. We’ll be weeding, watering, planting and harvesting veggies, and doing a variety of other gardening tasks. So come on over and put your hands in some soil! No need to register just show up! If you’re interested in volunteering in the GroW Garden at another time or have questions please go to the Office of Sustainability's Volunteer in the Grow Garden Website or e-mail gwgardenmanager@gmail.com.

2015 NASPA Annual Conference Call for Programs

The 2015 NASPA Annual Conference call for programs is now open! Following on the heels of the most successful Annual Conference ever in Baltimore, we prepare to head to New Orleans in March 2015. With your help we’ll be able to offer another amazing slate of sessions tackling the hot-topics in student affairs and higher education.

Submit your 2015 program proposal or register here.

Professional Development Tip of the Month:
Improve your business writing skills.

Test your grammar skills by taking this pretest. Identify areas for you to review and learn more about using tools and resources from the materials on this page. When you feel ready, take this mastery test to see if you improved. Review the rest of the Grammar
In Case You Missed It: DSA in *GW Today*

**University Welcomes New Students**

**Comedian Seth Meyers to Headline Colonials Weekend**

**Looking Back: Celebrating 25 Years of Colonial Inauguration**
News and Tips from Higher Education and Beyond

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Educators Share Strategies for Helping International Students Succeed: With just-released research suggesting that there are gaps in colleges’ understanding about international-student retention, conference-goers here at the annual meeting of Nafsa: Association of International Educators are asking: So, what can we do to ensure students don’t leave without earning their degree?

The ‘Legalization’ of Student Affairs: The evolution of student-affairs divisions across the country as de facto legal arms of colleges and universities is happening at an alarming pace. Student-affairs professionals are battling to balance our commitment to student development with our responsibility to comply with increasing federal and state oversight.

Make Tomorrow Better, Today: There are plenty of good suggestions out there about how to create new habits, how to make the most of your mornings, and how to balance your energy for optimal performance.

Students Are Horrible in Every Way: Different perspectives on the meanings of student feedback.

Alumni form network to combat sexual assault, pressure colleges for change: University and college alumni are brainstorming ways to improve how their alma maters handle cases of sexual assault on campus.

Study: Going Greek may lead to the ‘good life’: Going Greek may be the new key to success after graduation, according to Gallup’s recent study of 30,000 graduates.

Newsletter Updates

Newsletter Submissions: DSA Buff’N’Blue Report Coming Soon!

Interested in contributing to the DSA Buff’n’Blue Report? Have feedback to offer? Email Anna Mahalak with story ideas, events, etc.

The next deadline for submissions is Wednesday, July 23.

Our new layout is coming soon!

Look out for the DSA Buff’n’Blue Report in your inbox the last Thursday of every month!