

From College Student Personnel to the Student Affairs Concentration: An Ongoing (Condensed) History

The Early Years – 1959 to 1986

With the offering of EDUC 228, the subject of college student personnel was introduced in 1958 to the Occupations, Guidance, and Placement curriculum in the College of Education at the University of Maryland. One year later in 1959, George Marx joined the program as a full-time faculty member with the responsibility to develop a curriculum specifically for College Student Personnel (CSP). Faculty such as Thomas Allen, Darrell Rishel, Mark Hardwick, Margaret Bott, Chuck Lewis, and Art Levine taught in the program as it grew over the next decade.

In the 70s and 80s, L. Lee Knelfelkamp was joined by Cynthia Johnson as core faculty. Lee brought a focus on student development theory. Her work with Dr. William Perry on cognitive development was a hallmark of the Maryland program. Numerous student affairs staff from across campus served as affiliate faculty (e.g., Barbara Jacoby, Dru Bagwell, Linda Clement, Bud Thomas) and by assignments from budgeted Counseling and Personnel Services Department (CAPS) faculty including Jan Birk, Vivian Boyd, Tom Magoon, Mary Ann Hoffman, Margaretha Lucas and others. With the departure of Cynthia Johnson, a vacant faculty line opened.

Rebirth and Growth – 1986 to 1992

In 1986 Marylu McEwen was hired to join Lee Knelfelkamp, however, Lee left to become dean of the School of Education at American University so Marylu became the lone full-time faculty member for the CSP program in 1986-1987. She was joined by affiliate faculty members Bud Thomas, Thomas Magoon, and Linda Clement to form a steering committee to provide leadership in the program. In 1987, Susan R. Komives was hired as the second full-time faculty member for the program.

What followed was a refocusing and building period in the program. The CSP program reassessed its curriculum, expanded committees to design and implement significant aspects of program leadership, and created needed policies and procedures. The program adopted and implemented a Multicultural Mission Statement and a values statement. In 1993, the program's emphasis on multiculturalism was recognized with the *Minority Achievement Award to Academic Unit* award from the Maryland President's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues.

Maintaining – 1992 to 1997

Marylu and Susan both received tenure in the early 1990s. In the Fall of 1994, Tamela Heath joined the faculty as a third full-time faculty member resulting in the shifting of assignments amongst the core faculty. The expansion of faculty made more electives possible and all faculty started research teams. Marylu and Susan both served as the acting CAPS Department Chair in the 1996 calendar year. New cohorts up to this era typically enrolled 16-20 masters students and 5-7 new doctoral students.

Re-centering and Renewing – 1997 to 2010

The role of program director transitioned from Marylu (1986 through 1997) to Susan in 1997. A new master's curriculum was approved in Spring 1997. With the departure of Tamela, Jeff Millem joined the faculty in the Fall 1997. The CSP program celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Washington DC ACPA convention in the Spring of 2000. In 2000, Jeff moved to the Higher Education program faculty and CSP hired Karen Kurotsuchi Inkelas. The first joint Preview program between the CSP and Higher Education programs was held in Spring 2002. Following Marylu's retirement, Stephen John Quaye and Susan Jones joined the faculty. New enrollments in this era were reduced and the CSP Program typically enrolled 10-13 new masters students and 3-4 new doctoral students. In 2009 the program celebrated its 50th anniversary with a chartered excursion cruise on the Potomac at the ACPA convention.

Opportunities for Change -- 2010 to present

The program experienced a number of transitions beginning in 2010, with the departures of Susan Jones and Karen Inkelas. Significant changes also occurred in the broader College of Education, with the reorganization of the College resulting in the creation of three departments which encompassed the previous seven departments. The reorganization was finalized in Summer 2011. The College Student Personnel program was renamed as the Student Affairs Concentration (SAC) in the new Higher Education, Student Affairs, and International Education Policy (HESI) program unit. HESI is one of three programs in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education (CHSE). After years of cross-departmental collaboration, for the first time, the Higher Education and Student Affairs Concentrations were now housed in the same program and department. Julie J. Park joined the faculty in Summer 2011, but was followed a year later by the departure of Stephen Quaye. May 2012 brought the official program approval of HESI by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, as well as the retirement of Susan Komives. In Fall 2012, the Student Affairs Concentration welcomed our first cohorts under the new name, as well as two new faculty, Kimberly Griffin and Michelle Espino. Kimberly Griffin currently serves as concentration director. As we look to the future, we are excited to build on our many traditions and legacies, as well as forge new ground for the future. Our faculty share a passion for advancing equity and justice through our research, teaching, and service. We look forward to shaping the future leaders of the field and growing together as a learning community.

Drafted collaboratively by Susan Komives, Ann Becks, and Julie J. Park