

Mike Freyaldenhoven graduated from UCA's CSPA program in 2005. This summer Mike began a new position as the Director of Student Involvement at Spring Hill College.



According to Mike, the CSPA program "taught me primarily how to become a professional in our field and how to implement my ideas guided by the context of my environment. In our program, I learned about the administration of higher education, its history, and its ever-changing environment. The foundations were laid for me to explore complex student development, budgeting and finance, issues of social justice, the global environment, and basic assessment. My counseling classes continue to be an immense help in my daily work with colleagues and students alike with emphasis on group counseling as a lens in which to examine work as a team. My exposure to personality inventories and assessments gave me a common language that I use with career professionals as we help students translate their involvements into value-added statements on graduate school and job applications."

When asked about his proudest moment in his career so far, Mike had a hard time narrowing it to one, but working with his students in Dance Marathon to raise nearly a million dollars for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in the last 8 years was certainly high on the list. He is also proud to be part of the Bike for Tikes community at BGSU, having ridden from Cincinnati to Bowling Green, OH (180) miles twice. "That group alone tripled the amount of money from just over \$30,000 to just over \$100,000 in the 7 years since I started working with them."

Mike has been involved in multiple national and regional professional organizations including NASPA, ACPA, NACA, and ACUHO-I as a member, presenter, and volunteer. He regularly serves on a retreat planning team for his parish using skills (values and passion exploration, reflection, and establishing commitment) that he says he learned at UCA in his graduate program and in his role as a professional.

Mike says that he aspires to finish his Ph.D., which he says he has been able to engage in due to "the amazing support of friends, colleagues, and family." He seeks to learn more about how he can create solutions to common and complex issues in higher education and in our community and to create an environment and a team that regularly challenges the status quo. His goal "is to help tell the story of students and their co-curricular experience and to study how that relates to student achievement of stated learning outcomes, a huge gap I perceive in higher education today."

Mike married his wife Amanda in 2009. They have a three-year old son and another son due on November 2nd. They are also proud parents to a "Heinz 57" mutt named Memphis.

If you are an alum of the CSPA Program, drop us a line at psmith@uca.edu to give us an update on where you are now.

Leslie Barger graduated from the UCA CSPA program in 2006 after having completed her undergraduate education at Murray State University in Kentucky. In the summer of 2014 she returned to her undergraduate alma mater and began a new position at Murray State as the Assistant Director of Housing Operations.

Through her career so far, she has had several opportunities to begin projects "from the ground up" and says that her proudest moment so far was her creation of the Scholar in Residence Program that she began at Austin Peay State University while she was serving as the Area Coordinator. "The program was developed to recognize the freshman who live in the residence halls that made the Dean's List their first semester." The program included a reception and ceremony to recognize all of the students. The students received a certificate as well as a specially design lapel pin. The students were allowed to bring one guest and the program was UStreamed as well for anyone that was not able to attend the recognition. The program is now a yearly tradition that has grown to include sophomores. Austin Peay hopes the program continues to grow and that more students are recognized in the following years.

Leslie says that she frequently uses skills learned in her budgeting and finance class, but that it is the skills she learned in Dr. Ernie Ness' counseling skills class that she uses on a daily basis. She is involved in the Association for College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) and is also the secretary/treasurer for the Kentucky Association of Housing Officers. Leslie hopes to begin working on her doctorate and aspires to become a Director of Housing someday.

Leslie says that she truly loves the work she does on a daily basis and that "this profession makes me want to get out of bed and face the world every day. If it wasn't for UCA giving me a chance, I wouldn't be where I am now. I am truly proud of my alma mater and am truly blessed by the opportunity UCA gave me. UCA gave me an all-around skill-set that I may have not gotten with other programs. I am truly proud to be a Bear!"

