

Rodney Franks graduated from UCA's CSPA program in 2007 after attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR, for his undergraduate education. For the last four and a half years, Rodney has served as the Area Director for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.



According to Rodney, the CSPA program taught him a lot of valuable skills that he still uses daily on his job. Specifically, he stated that he is "constantly looking at what I learned from my law class. This has become an even bigger part of my job, and I feel like the class prepared me well." Additionally, he says the skills he learned in his counseling classes are called upon frequently when assisting students in crises.

When asked about his proudest moment in his career so far, Rodney said that one moment in particular stood out as being both the proudest and saddest moment for him. While working in housing, Rodney formed a close relationship with a non-traditional student who lived in his hall. Rodney later learned from the student's family that this student went on to gain his masters in CSPA because of the work that Rodney did with him, but he unfortunately passed away very shortly after earning that degree. Rodney was invited to sit with his family at the funeral service. According to Rodney, "this interaction showed me just how much of an impact we can have on others and they can have on us."

Rodney has been involved in multiple national and regional professional organizations including the Virginia Association of College and University Officers (VACUHO) as President-elect, the Virginia Student Services Conference (VSSC) as the Chair of the Marketing Committee, the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers (SEAHO) on the AV Committee, and American College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) on the Marketing Committee.

Rodney has formerly said that he would like to become a Director of Residence Life, but is now thinking that he would rather pursue an opportunity that would allow further growth and learning. He would like to work in a positive, supportive environment where he feels he can make a difference. Rodney stated that "title and position seem to matter less to me as I move further into my career. I guess it goes back to simply making a difference wherever you can for those that you interact with on a daily basis. Of course, I want to move up at some point, but it is not something that I am in a hurry to do."

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.

Karen B. Hunter also graduated from the UCA CSPA program in 2007. She formerly completed her undergraduate education at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. For the last year, Karen has served as the Assistant Vice President for Student Services at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX.

Karen says that she experiences pride in her work on a daily basis as she watches her students "develop into productive members of society", but that she takes an extreme pride in the ability to "pass the mantle" to other aspiring student affairs professionals.

Karen says that her education in the CSPA program at UCA has given her the assistance to become an outstanding student affairs professional, and that she often applies the skills she acquired in Counseling Theories, Legal Aspects of Higher Education, Leadership, and many other courses in the curriculum.



Karen is a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a variety of institutionally appointed committees.

Karen aspires to become a college president one day, and on her way there, she intends to focus on her continued professional growth and development, while meeting the needs of her students. Karen is an avid sports fan. She loves being the life of the party and making people smile, and every day she is "thankful for an amazing career in higher education and student affairs."