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Work-Life Balance Satisfaction: An Analysis of Gender Differences and Contributing Factors

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Editorial

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Comments from the Editor

Welcome to the fall 2014 edition of the journal. We are pleased to offer three very interesting pieces in this edition. As an editor I often look at what “themes” are emerging in the materials that are submitted for consideration, and also for those that are ultimately selected for publication. Our first two pieces fit in the “Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus” theme, one looking at differences between men and women student affairs professionals and the second piece looking at the differences between student affairs and academic administrators. We invite you to read those pieces to see if there are differences and what they might be. The third piece offers a focus on a specific group of students and their wellness, tied to the pressures of finances while in college.

I share more about each piece below, but as this edition is published near the end of the hectic fall semester (in fact during the Thanksgiving holiday break), it is important to offer thanks to the many volunteers who make publishing this edition and this journal possible. Thank you to the many journal board members with incredibly busy lives who offer their time and expertise to review the submissions. Thank you to Managing Editor Molly Sarubbi, editor-in-training Angela Clark-Taylor, and our doctoral students who jump in to learn by doing. Thank you to the wonderfully supportive leadership of CSPA who make this possible. And thanks to the authors for your submissions, listening so carefully to our revise and resubmit suggestions, and to those whose work we were unable to publish. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Finding the magic balance between our demanding careers in student affairs is elusive – something we talk about often as professionals and often as families. Sensing a gap in the literature, **Amy Wilson, Maria Vilardo, Renee Fellingner, and Trish Dillenbek** present a descriptive study on this topic by asking if there are gender differences in the perceived satisfaction with work-life balance by student affairs professionals. They also explored personal

and professional factors that positively correlated with levels of satisfaction, again with the lens of gender similarities and differences. Their results provide some interesting food for thought.

Karen Boyd, Kirk Robinson, and Tony Cawthon take on another important issue for student affairs, this time the issue of student affairs and academic affairs collaborations – with a twist. The three authors have produced an analysis of the literature on typology differences between student affairs and academic administrators. The existing literature centers on the use of the MBTI and Kolb’s learning styles, which the authors bring together here. Their work suggests that there is a core higher education culture shared by student affairs and academic administrators, but there are also important differences that have implications for our practice.

The last piece in this edition focuses on what some might say is a forgotten student population, second year students, and a current hot button issue, the financial pressures students perceive while in college. Ultimately **Susan Koukounas, Steven Jubert, Cheryl Howell, Elsa-Sofia Morote, and Albert Inserra** tie the impact of these factors on the wellness of the students. They asked if second year students can be correctly classified into four belief categories related to household finance based on their scores on five constructs of wellness. The results show where there were relationships, what the impact might be on practice, and where further research is warranted.

We are excited to get this latest edition as the *New York Journal of Student Affairs* out to you and look forward to the submissions in the pipeline for our next edition and the new material arriving. As always, we encourage you to consider doing research on student affairs topics important to you, and of course submitting them to NYJSA!

Logan Hazen, EdD

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