

THE STUDENT AFFAIRS FOCUS

DR. MARCIA BAXTER MAGOLDA

VISITS MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

It is a rare occasion when we as student affairs professionals receive the opportunity to meet, and talk with a well-known student development theorist. The Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) program was provided this rare opportunity as Dr. Marcia Baxter Magolda, theorist for Development of Self-Authorship, was invited to speak to the SAHE program, along with other student affairs professionals from our division and past cohorts.

Dr. Baxter Magolda began her work in 1986. Dr. Baxter Magolda is a distinguished professor of Educational Leadership at Miami University of Ohio, where she teaches student development theory and inquiry courses in the College Student Personnel master's program. Her scholarship addresses the evolution of learning and development in college and young adult life, the role of gender in development, and pedagogy to promote self-authorship.

Dr. O. Gilbert Brown, Associate Professor for the SAHE program, worked to bring Dr. Baxter Magolda to campus for students, faculty, and staff to have the opportunity to learn about a theory that the program is mainly structured from. Dr. Brown had three major goals for inviting Dr. Baxter Magolda to Missouri State. The goals were to contribute to Missouri State's Student Affairs Division strategic goal of building best practices to make a difference within the lives of the students we interact with; foster graduate students' use of the Self-Authorship theory and how to develop a deeper understanding for our career and life outcomes; lastly, to offer professors within the SAHE program an opportunity for faculty development. With the presence of Dr. Baxter Magolda, it was anticipated that graduate students would learn how to shape their interactions with undergraduate students, and learn how to connect this experience to their everyday lives of work, practicums, assistantships, and networking.

Having Dr. Baxter Magolda come to Missouri State University was an honor and a privilege for many students. Hopefully, her presence will contribute to the continued growth of the SAHE program on a national level.



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VP PERSPECTIVE

The fall semester is now in full swing! Students are settling into more of a routine and the weather is giving hints of fall. What a great time to be on a college campus! This newsletter will give you some campus updates but I want to draw your attention to the article that reports on the number of student employees within the Division of Student Affairs. We should take pride in providing not only the financial assistance to our students, but having the opportunity to learn with them as we all strive to provide the Missouri State Experience. I think it is safe to say that we all could not do our jobs without our exceptional student employees and graduate assistants. Take time to express to them your appreciation for their energy and being a constant reminder of why we do what we do! And, I want to thank all of you for being such great role models to our student workers. You all are the motivators and examples that they look to as they imagine their futures!

DR. EARLE DOMAN

VP OF STUDENT

How Many Student Workers Does it Take to be Successful?

781 students. 781 is the total number of undergraduate students working within the Division of Student Affairs right now in the Fall 2012 semester. Providing students the opportunity to work around their academic schedules is a reason working on campus is highly sought after. Many students find working in one of our 14 areas to be beneficial, exciting, and a “breath of fresh air”. Having the opportunity to work within an office, residence hall, or giving a tour to potential students offers an insight to the student affairs profession, but the jobs mentioned above helps students develop exceptional job experience, and learn about student and university development. A number of students who work within offices that are affiliated with student affairs look forward to their jobs, due to the environment they work in, and the people they work with. To say the least, student affairs people are fun, outgoing, and passionate about what they do, and it shows. 781 students are exposed to the exciting, overwhelming (at times), crazy, but most rewarding jobs, we as student affairs professionals could have ever asked for.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR STUDENT LEADERS: STUDENT LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Throughout the academic year, student leaders ranging from our largest organizations to many of our diverse organizations gather once a month to discuss issues facing our student, and update each other on events within one's own organization. The Executive Council for Student Leaders (ECSL, pronounced "excel") was established by Jeremy Schenk, Director of Student Engagement and Associate Director of the Plaster Student Union, along with Mike Jungers, Dean of Students back in 2009. The intention of this group came about by student's leaders looking to be connected with other student groups that could help develop relationships, form collective responses to large issues/events, have the ability to understand university issues, promote understanding, and facilitate co-programming, among many other ideas.

ECSL is a collaboration of 12 student groups who represent our large number of students or distinct populations throughout the Missouri State campus. This council is a wonderful asset to our campus student leaders as there are always struggles, complications, exciting news, and more that the leaders can share in this council meeting. This council provides amazing opportunities for organizations to collaborate on events to help the campus community, and also the Springfield community. Another thing that student leaders can reap from this council opportunity is the ability to express questions, comments, and concerns about what is going on daily with the campus community. It is emphasized in the council that the students are the reason we have a university, and that the students are the priority. This opportunity to speak with staff and student leaders on a monthly basis provides different perspectives to come together to build a better student community for our organizations.

The formation of the ECSL group was one of great passion and belief from Jeremy Schenk and Mike Jungers. Their passion for the students provides an area of comfort and support for organizations that are looking to improve the campus community. If you are interested in talking with the ECSL group, please contact Jeremy Schenk or Mike Jungers for more information.



2012 BEARS FOOTBALL HOME OPENER

After a great deal of planning by Tara Benson and Angie Strider, the 2012 Bears Home Football weekend arrived with high hopes, and great anticipation. Even though the weather was not as pretty as many had hoped, many students still attended the events with Bear Pride.

Everything from an Athletics Tour Caravan on Thursday, to a pep rally Friday night, tailgating and the football game Saturday, to a Sunday Brunch to close out the fun-filled weekend was planned to incorporate events with the athletes and students. Benson, and Strider worked to develop new traditions for the university that included students, athletes, the Pride Band, and many others. The highlight of the whole weekend was the actual game. Even though the Bears fought their hardest, they lost 28-23, the game still ended with a beautiful display of fireworks set off in front of McDonald Arena, and then a free concert by "A Rocket to the Moon".

Students, faculty, and staff look forward to next weekend, as the Bears take on Southern Illinois in the MVC Conference Opener! Come out and support the Bears- Kick off @ 1:00pm.

2012 FALL CAREER FAIR: HOSTED BY THE CAREER CENTER

The fall semester is in full swing, and for upperclassmen, it is time to start thinking about possible job opportunities after graduation. Take advantage of this great opportunity hosted by the Missouri State University Career Center. Tuesday, September 25, 2012, from 10:00am-2:00pm, JQH arena will be packed with employers looking to hiring up and coming graduates. There will be over 80 employers in the arena, and I encourage anyone interested to attend. The Fall Career Fair focuses on the areas of Health, Human Services, Law Enforcement, and Non-Profit, but other employers will be there outside of these specific areas. Take some time, and check out this great event!

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FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN:

STUDENT AFFAIRS FROM THE EYES OF A GRADUATE ASSISTANT

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world. - Tom Brokaw

For a graduate student, we are just beginning to fully function in all areas of work, class, and homework. After being a part of many discussions within the classroom, with peers outside the classroom, and within the work place, I am beginning to learn more and more each day about the foundation and passion of student affairs. I think Tom Brokaw said it best in the quote above. As student affairs professionals we strive to help people. We want to be able to fix problems, and watch our students succeed. It is interesting to look back at the beginning of this past summer thinking I was starting a new journey, a journey that would help me make the world a better place.

I can only continue to strive for that goal as I work for that “certification”, that piece of paper that says I am know educated, and ready to take on anything. Granted, there are going to be great things that come from that “certification” that leads to the “good life”, but this quote constantly reminds me that there is more out there than just the “good life”. I have the opportunity to work with students each day, and hopefully influence the outlook they have for themselves, and the world they live in, even if it is just a small influence. If I can just keep an eye on that, then I think I have the best “ticket” that can take me anywhere.