

The Newest Addition to IUCSPA: Welcome, Dr. Kuh

BY ANTHONY ZIZAS

Dr. George D. Kuh is the most recent addition to the faculty in the department of College Student Personnel at IU. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Kuh arrived in Bloomington this past summer. This fall he is presenting a course to CSPA students concerning "The College Student and the Environment" and a seminar dealing with evaluation procedures in CSPA. Students are pleased with his active, enthusiastic participation in the Indiana Student Personnel Association. After being graduated from Luther College (Iowa) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Dr. Kuh went on to complete a masters program at St. Cloud State College (Minnesota) in School Counseling, and a doctoral program at the University of Iowa in Counselor Education. As an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, he taught courses pertaining to student development and student personnel work. While his dissertation dealt with the personality changes among liberal arts graduates, additional research and publications have indicated insight into student services in higher education. Current research interests include student development theory and evaluation of student affairs programming.

Dr. Kuh is a member of Phi Delta Kappa and the American Personnel and Guidance Association as well as other professional organizations. His publications have appeared in several student personnel journals.



While at Luther College, Dr. Kuh obtained his first experience in student personnel work. Upon graduation, he accepted a position as an admissions counselor there. Although there was no formal on-the-job training, the position provided experience with the network of communications within and among administrative offices. Uncertainty about the direction in which he wanted to continue, coupled with an inherent desire for further preparation in higher education, led him to graduate studies. Both the masters program in School Counseling and doctoral program in Counselor Education that he completed required academic coursework in CSPA. He comes to IU with additional teaching experience from a community college and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

"I am demanding of myself, colleagues, and students," Kuh said in an interview in September. "I see I.U. as having a strong, experientially-based program, whereas the University of Iowa tended to emphasize research competencies." Dr. Kuh is interested in combining the benefits of both approaches in an effort to integrate research and evaluation in the preparation of CSPA professionals in training. He strongly believes that continued emphasis on analytical thinking can add an additional dimension to an already outstanding program.

"I believe an understanding of college students and the environment in which they live are of importance to future student personnel workers. They should be familiar with the beliefs and values of the population with which they will work," Dr. Kuh has emphasized. "It enables one to understand why students make the decisions they do." Dr. Kuh also finds a historical perspective of the trends in student behavior to be valuable.

Dr. Kuh defines student personnel workers as a group of people who presume to understand and contribute to meeting the objectives of higher education by serving to implement and carry out the goals of the institution.



Student personnel workers are "those who purport to 'know' how to facilitate student development." As a result, he emphasizes the need for a broader knowledge base in developmental psychology.

"There is an inevitable change coming in the role of the student personnel administrator. No longer can we view ourselves as administrators in the traditional sense, but rather as managers of human resources with a futuristic orientation. Administrators deal with the here and now, with that which already exists. The managers of human resources are policy-oriented individuals who make decisions today with tomorrow in mind."

Dr. Kuh finds life in Bloomington similar to that in the university town of Iowa City. An additional benefit is that the country surrounding Bloomington is more "esthetically pleasing." His wife, Kristi, daughter, Kari Ann, and son, Kristian, add to the charm and beauty of their home in Sherwood Oaks. Dr. and Mrs. Kuh enjoy such things as tennis, bicycling, and friendly games of bridge. Moving into their first home proved to be exciting. Trimming the lawn, painting here and there, and shuffling storm windows has truly caught Dr. Kuh by surprise.

