

The
LifeNet
Newsletter



Spring 2016 Edition

HARDEE CENTER

for Leadership & Ethics
in Higher Education

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Many higher education professionals throughout the country remember Dr. Hardee for her establishment of the FSU Higher Education LifeNet, a support

system that continues throughout graduates' professional years. It is with this guidance that the Hardee Center quarterly newsletter promotes the LifeNet of students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the Florida State

University Higher Education Program, as well as seek support for future endeavors.

LifeNet Editor-in-Chief:

Ali Raza

*Special thanks to all the contributing
writers and photographers!*



Remarks from the Director

Dear Alumni, Friends, Students, and Colleagues of the Hardee Center:

I cannot believe that another school year is coming to an end and we're launching our next graduating class into the world! As I look at the list of graduates, I'm very impressed with their potential and I know you will be proud of how they represent Florida State and the Hardee LifeNet across the country. Many of them have already secured new positions and I'm confident that the others will be finding great placements soon.

As I reflect on this year, it has been rich in many fulfilling experiences. The new students were welcomed at orientation, top-performing students were honored at the Hardee Induction Ceremony, alumni events brought us together, and the Hooding Ceremony celebrated many accomplishments. This wonderful changing of the "seasons" is one of the treasures of working in higher education! New beginnings and semesters closing each bring an energy and sense of appreciation for the privilege of our work.

As we prepare for the 2016-17 school year, I'd like to thank all of you for your involvement in the LifeNet. This network of loyal FSU professionals truly distinguishes our program and is a great selling point as we recruit new students, faculty, and professionals. With two Higher Ed faculty earning tenure this year (Dr. Brad Cox and Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones), we are especially proud of Dr. Bertrand Jones' distinction as a graduate of the program. Congratulations to you both!

On a bittersweet note, Mr. Ali Raza, our Hardee Graduate Assistant and Associate Director, is graduating and moving to Colorado State for his first professional experience. He has produced the beautiful LifeNet newsletters that you have received and made all of our events memorable. We thank you, Ali and wish you much happiness and success in all of your future endeavors. I know that you will remain a loyal member of our community.

I want to give a special thank you to all of you who have contributed to the Hardee funds this year. The Center programs and travel grants would not be possible without your ongoing support. We appreciate your generosity.

I hope you all have a great summer. Best wishes to our recent graduates and I hope that all of our paths cross again soon.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Coburn

Director of the Hardee Center
Vice President for Student Affairs

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Dr. Melvene Hardee's Legacy



"To project the future, ask what students are dreaming."

Dr. Melvene Draheim Hardee (1913-1994)

Dr. Melvene Draheim Hardee was born in Iowa to Hazle Howe Draheim and Arthur Draheim, Sr. The oldest of four children, she had fond memories of growing up in the small town of Clarion. Dr. Hardee earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Northern Iowa, a Master of Arts from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Before joining Florida State University, Dr. Hardee served as a visiting professor at the University of Northern Iowa and at the University of Mississippi. From 1945 to 1948, she was director of the communications laboratory and chair of faculty advising at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

In 1948 she became the first coordinator of university counseling and advisement at Florida State University. She married Tom Hardee and they purchased a 95-acre farm near Valdosta, Georgia. In 1958, Dr. Hardee joined with Dr. W. Hugh Stickler and Dr. Raymond Schultz in the formation of the Department of Higher Education. She

became a full professor in 1959 and held that position until her retirement from full time teaching in 1985. During that time, Dr. Hardee served as major advisor to 123 doctoral candidates as well as committee member to many more, and supervised the work of more than 120 masters degree students. She was known to all as "The Mentor" and created the "Life Net" for her students, a support network that began during graduate studies and extended into professional careers.

In 1977, Dr. Hardee founded the Center for Studies of Women in Educational Management Systems to identify and solve problems of women who aspired to be higher education administrators through professional development, activities, and resource materials. When she retired in 1989, the Center was renamed the Melvene Draheim Hardee Center for Women in Higher Education in recognition of her vision for the Center and her advocacy for women.

Dr. Hardee was prominent in the field of student personnel administration. She served as president of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) from 1962-1964, a charter member, and subsequent president of the Southern Association of College Student Administrators (SACSA) from

1955-1958. In 1986, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) named its dissertation of the year award in her honor and later SACSA named its Dissertations of the Year award in her honor. In 1987, she was named a Senior Scholar by ACPA. In 1988, she received the Robert H. Schaffer Award from NASPA for her personal inspiration to graduate students, service on doctoral committees, and distinguished record of scholarly achievement.

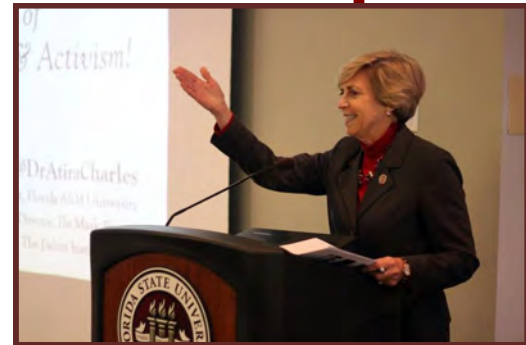
A person of many interests and unflagging energy, Dr. Hardee drove the 89 miles to her farm every weekend using one of her "High Noon Farm" trucks. She oversaw the production of soybeans, corn, cabbages, watermelon, hay, cotton, and trees. Over the years she terraced and fenced the land, developing waterways and fish ponds. In 1979 Dr. Hardee was named Georgia's Alapaha District "Farm Man of the Year" for conservation practice on what became a 877-acre farm. In 1989, she received the Alapaha District Conservationist of the Year Award.

Twice a year, Dr. Hardee returned home to Clarion, Iowa where she founded a museum housing a history of the state and was a part-time curator. She established the Draheim Memorial Library in memory of her parents.

2016 Dalton Institute: A Recap!

By Craig Beebe, 2nd Year Doctoral Student, Dalton Institute on College Student Values

The Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values is an annual tradition for both Florida State University and the national higher education community. The 26th installment of the Institute was hosted in Tallahassee February 4-6, 2016, bringing together 160 student affairs professionals, faculty, and graduate students to engage with colleagues and to explore current research and practices on college student values, character, and moral development.



As people around the world, in the U.S., and on our college and university campuses continue to make their voices heard through protest, social media, and other outlets, the 2016 Institute explored the theme of *Student Activism & Advocacy: Higher Education's Role in Fostering Ethical Leadership and Moral Commitment*.

Thirty-five concurrent sessions presented perspectives on campus practices, research, and historical perspectives. Keynotes were presented by **Dr. George Kuh** (adjunct research professor at University of Illinois and Chancellor's Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Indiana University), **Dr. Penny Rue** (Vice President for Campus Life at Wake Forest University), **Dr. Atira Charles** (Assistant Professor of Management at Florida A&M University and CEO of Think Actuality, LLC), and **Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington** (President and Founder of the Washington Consulting Group and Founder of the Social Justice Training Institute).

The Institute also featured a film screening of the 1995 film *Higher Learning*, with a follow-up roundtable hosted by FSU's Social Justice Training Ally Training Facilitators. The Institute closed with another new tradition, a panel discussion led by the Character Clearinghouse that explored the experiences of undocumented students in contemporary U.S. higher education.

Planning is now underway for the next Dalton Institute, to be hosted February 2-4, 2017 in Tallahassee. Theme ideas have been collected from Dalton attendees and next year's theme will be announced this summer. All are invited to attend and participate in the Dalton Experience, a unique opportunity to experience small-conference networking with large-conference speakers and sessions.

The Character Clearinghouse maintains all Dalton Institute archives and proceedings, which can be accessed at <http://characterclearinghouse.fsu.edu>.



Information about registration, theme, and schedule are forthcoming at <http://studentvalues.fsu.edu>. For more information, you are invited to contact the Dalton Institute team at values@admin.fsu.edu.



Dalton Institute Dinner Dialogue

with Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington and Dr. George Kuh

By: Chase Breeden, 1st Year Master's Student, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

On Friday, February 5th after a long weekend of volunteering and learning at the 2016 Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values, the current Higher Education students at Florida State University were awarded with a private conversation with Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington and Dr. George Kuh. A quick introduction from the Associate Director of The Hardee Center for Leadership & Ethics in Higher Education, Ali Raza, and the panel was susceptible to questions from the eager scholars in the Higher Education program.

With the overarching topic of Dalton being centered on student activism, I was sure our conversation would be fruitful. Questions ranged from "what are the best books to read?" to "what are the next steps for higher education in regards to student activism?" One thing was for sure; the students were honored and eager to have the opportunity to learn from these two scholars.

Reverend Dr. Washington and Dr. Kuh began telling the group about the shift of activism throughout history. Both could agree that higher education is seeing activity much like the 1960's. Dr. Kuh stated "dimension of diversity is much more varied it's complicated, in a good way, the work we do." But yet, even though things may look like the 1960's the meaning of the actions are coming from a different place. Today, allies have a new level of consciousness that they did not possess 50 years ago. Once upon a time, "allies marched for the other. Today, folks can see their identities line up." There is more collaboration and intensity today because of the complexity of the issues. In this day and age, as members of the higher education community we can see much more clearly that equity for targeted groups is beneficial for all groups.

Our speakers would be remiss not to touch on the role of technology in activism. They reported that technology has only accelerated movements. The quietness we have seen for the last 40 years is over.

But why? Why does it seem, to the masses, that some of these things have come out of virtually nowhere? In addition, why have the leaders of higher education institutions and experts in our field not been prepared to address the demands of their students?

Washington answered the question that was still at the forefront of the student's minds. After the 1960's centers had been created, communities began to see some changes, and it seemed cultures were shifting to be more inclusive. Things "didn't seem that bad," as the Reverend said. But as Kuh notes, "structural diversity is not as important as intellectual diversity" - it is evident that there is a difference in appearing to be and truly being inclusive.

When the topic of safe spaces came up, Washington was clear and direct with his answer. About student centers he stated, "If that is the only place I feel safe, I'm paying too much money." To me, those words are all that needed to be said. We, as a field, have to do better for our students. We must continue to work until there is a time where all students feel safe and included on our campuses. We need to think about these issues in a new way; a way that creates a higher education environment designed universally for every student to feel safe and to succeed.

At this point in the conversation it was clear that as future professionals in the field of higher education and current students in the FSU Higher Education program, we had to do something to prepare for the future. Dr. Kuh and Reverend Washington both offered up suggestions for helping students through these struggles. They advised that the best practice for helping students was to show up authentically and to build trust. The way to creating safe and inclusive environments on our campuses was through proper relationships and mutual respect. When the final question came around, a student asked: "what do you think we are walking into next?" Our speakers were unanimous in their advice. They did not know. Washington said, "Be prepared for everything you learned not to work. When the theory and the logic won't work. It isn't [a matter of] if it will happen but when [it will happen] we need to prepare for."

The message was clear and the Reverend said it best: we are heading "into a time where folks are learning a new way of being." What this was, was a call to action to myself, and my cohort members. The future of higher education and the future of student activism was on us. It would be my classmates who would be the next Dean's of Students, VPSA's, and University Presidents managing, directing, and fostering student activism. Thus we have a duty, to our students and to our predecessors, to continue to create inclusive environments, foster authentic, mutually respected relationships with students, and to continue our work as social justice advocates. Currently, it is our job to prepare ourselves through our education and through our practice so that when the time comes for us to take action against social injustice we can and we will.

As I mentioned in class the week after Dalton, it is both frightening and exciting to know that even some of the fathers of our profession know not what is to come next.



Florida State Reception @ NASPA 2016

By: Ali Raza, 2nd Year Master's Student, Hardee Center Associate Director and Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, March 14th, the Division of Student Affairs and the College of Education hosted the 2016 Florida State University *LifeNet* Reception at the NASPA Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. I had the privilege of kicking the reception off by welcoming all our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends and introducing Dr. Mary Coburn, Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of the Hardee Center. She recognized the members of The Hardee Center Board in attendance, acknowledged the 2016 Melvne Draheim Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award recipient, Dr. Ryan A. Miller of The University of Texas at Austin, and spoke of the rich history and tradition of Florida State's Higher Education program. Dr. Coburn would continue by providing updates from the Division of Student Affairs, highlighting numerous awards the Division and individuals have received, and talking about the importance of reaching the \$250,000 goal for the Hardee Center Endowment Fund.

Dr. Robert Schwartz, Chair of the Education Leadership and Policy Studies Department and Professor of Higher Education, provided updates on the College of Education, the department, and our program. Dr. Schwartz recognized the stellar work our faculty have been doing, acknowledged a few teaching awards and research grants that have been received, and highlighted our graduating master's and doctoral students. A special note made was that in the past year, we have had **three** faculty promoted to Associate Professor with tenure: Dr. David Tandberg, Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, and Dr. Brad Cox. There was time allotted for our graduating students to introduce themselves and areas of interest to the *LifeNet*. Our program continues to pride itself on a 100% job placement rate for folks that graduate – all thanks to the preparation and support provided at Florida State University from faculty, staff, supervisors, and mentors.



For two years in a row, I had the great pleasure of creating space for the *LifeNet* to assemble, reconnect, and share our love for an institution and program that has given us so much. Seeing generations of Florida State University Higher Education graduates was empowering. Regardless of where people are now, they always have this connection to Florida State University. I never truly understood the power of the *LifeNet* until I came to NASPA last year. This year, it reaffirmed my love and gratitude to this program. Being the graduate assistant at the Hardee Center over the last two years has definitely shown me the importance of the *LifeNet*. There are few institutions which cater to and remain connected with their higher education alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. I am happy that Florida State is one of these institutions.

I am so grateful to have had the privilege and opportunity to attend the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were many wonderful memories I shared with members of the *LifeNet*, current and former supervisors and mentors, and having the opportunity to connect and reconnect with fellow student affairs graduate students. After

having attended NASPA for the first time last year, I had a better understanding of what to expect and how to navigate the conference the second time around. Outside of the *LifeNet* reception, I was able to attend many great educational sessions that focused on transitioning from a graduate student to a new, full-time professional. Additionally, I was able to catch up with many friends and people who have helped me get to where I am today. At the end of the day, I am grateful for all the opportunities Florida State University has given me and am thankful to have found a professional home with NASPA. I cannot wait to come back to the conference as an alumnus and partake in the *LifeNet* reception. Here's to NASPA 2016, and many more!



Hardee Center Research Roundtable

By: Ali Raza, 2nd Year Master's Student, Hardee Center Associate Director and Editor-in-Chief



The Hardee Center for Leadership and Ethics in Higher Education co-sponsored the *Research Roundtable on Qualitative Inquiry* with Dr. Linda Schrader on Thursday, April 14, 2016. Dr. Schrader, Research Associate Professor in Educational Policy and Evaluation and Director of the Graduate Program Evaluation Certificate, facilitated this session of doctoral students who presented their qualitative research papers developed in her spring semester course - Advanced Qualitative Research Seminar (EDF 6476). This course provided an opportunity for students to develop a conference-ready paper and the roundtable format offered students a platform to present their research studies. Students investigated a variety of topics in the fields of higher education, institutional traditions, museum education, curriculum and instruction, entrepreneurship, and more.

The following students participated in this forum:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Danielle Morgan Acosta | - Advocacy, Community, Empowerment... and a lot of Work: Identity-based Student Organization and their Leaders |
| Paulina Arango | - Civics Education in Florida from Teachers' Perspectives |
| Anna Bondarenko | - Exploring the Motivation of Russian Language Heritage |
| Jeongmin Lee | - Organizing Classroom Literacy Environments in Early Primary Classrooms in Rural Mozambique |
| Shermin Murji | - Exploring Full-time Employees' Perspectives of Higher Education Doctoral Programs |
| Kitchka Petrova | - Pre-service Elementary School Teachers' Perceptions about the use of Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Science |
| Derrick Pollock | - Black Students' Experiences and Motivation to Study Foreign Languages |
| Kimberly Reid | - 5,000 Miles to Self-Discovery: Black Student's Journeys to Africa |
| Wasan Tawfeeq | - Arab Heritage Learners' Motivation in Learning Arabic as a Second Language to Develop Communicative Competence |
| Lynn B. Turner | - Academic Resilience and Black Male High School Students: An Exploration of their Experiences with Academic Rebound and Persistence through High School Completion |
| Andri Wally | - International Coffee Hour: East and Southeast Asian Students' Cross-Cultural Adjustment |
| Hailan Wang | - Developing Identity: The Experience of First-year Chinese Teaching Assistants in a U.S. College |
| Huanxiaoge Wang | - Learning Chinese through Multimedia |
| Huanxiaotu Wang | - How do Chinese American Families Use Pinyin to Learn Chinese? |
| Fei Xing | - Instructional Strategies to Engage Chinese English Learners in Communicative Language Teaching: A Case Study |

Audience members engaged the presenters in a thoughtful exchange of ideas through a lively discussion on qualitative inquiry. Overall, the students' research papers and presentations were well-received and a lot of learning took place. Participants and audience members alike were able to enjoy chocolate chip cookies, as per Hardee Center tradition, as well as light refreshments.

A special thank you to Dr. Linda Schrader and the Advanced Qualitative Research Seminar class for making this event possible.

Hardee Center Grant Recipients:

NASPA —Indianapolis, IN

Conference Reflections

By: Kate Morales, 2nd Year Master's Student



I am immensely appreciative of the grant I received from the Hardee Center to attend the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. After attending the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference and interning at the 2015 NASPA Multicultural Institute, I was looking forward to catching up with colleagues, making new connections, and expanding my knowledge. Because of the Hardee Center, I was able to pay for my hotel, food and some travel for the conference. This took a large burden off of me to ensure I was able to fund my travel for the NASPA annual conference.

I had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues that had graduated the FSU Higher education program by grabbing lunch and dinner in between sessions. I arrived on my March 12, my birthday, and was able to celebrate with present and past FSU masters students. It is amazing how many graduates from the program end up all over the country working at different institutions. Additionally, I was able to catch up with my friends that work at NASPA. The team of NASPA employees and volunteers continually works hard to put on superior program, events, and conferences, and I am grateful to interact with them.

While at the conference I attended the Florida State University Reception where I once again experienced the impact of the Life Net. I was able to interact with professionals from many different institutions, and learn about their connections to FSU. I was truly astonished by the connection that I made in the Florida State

Reception with an Assistant Vice President of an institution I was applying at. She had been a doctoral student of Mel Hardee, and gave me insight on what being a student of hers was like. She shared stories of how invested she truly was in her students, and the feedback she had received on her dissertation. I was extremely grateful for Florida State University and the Hardee Center for giving me a connection to an individual I would otherwise not have met at NASPA.

One of the sessions I was most excited after attending was entitled Supervision: Effective Practices and the Role of Identity. Jessica Gunzburger was able to provide information regarding different supervision styles and integrate the important context of race in developing and maintaining a supervisory relationship. After attending this session I felt I had been able to reflect on how I wanted to shape my supervisory style moving into a full time job.

I want to reiterate how thankful I am for the Hardee Center's support in funding this opportunity to attend the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference. Without financial assistance and continual support from the Hardee Center, I would not have been able to attend the conference. Having experienced the financial impact of this scholarship, I plan to contribute to the success of other graduate students by donating whenever possible. I look forward to the opportunity to attend many NASPA annual conferences in the future and reconnect with individuals at the Florida State University receptions.



NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Junior Peña, 2nd Year Master's Student



I want to begin this reflection by giving my sincerest thanks to the Hardee Center for supporting my travel to the Placement Exchange and NASPA National Conference. To say this conference was unlike any other I have had the distinct pleasure of attending would be an understatement. While at the Placement Exchange I managed to interview with more than a dozen institutions and more importantly build a capacity to answer tough questions. I admittedly did not have too many leads for job opportunities prior to attending TPE, but quickly realized that I was more than prepared to answer any question asked throughout the process. I partially thank the HESA program at Florida State, but also my work within the Center for Leadership & Social Change for providing me with so

many developmental opportunities to capitalize on classroom knowledge. While the questions themselves really allowed me to see what the institution was attempting to identify in an ideal candidate, the thing I valued most was learning about what continually drove professionals at different institutions to conduct their work. I heard stories about a mentor's influence, familial motivation, and even a deep need to change the student experience for the better. While these experiences all varied, you could easily envision the pride people took in the work they were accomplishing everyday on their campuses. Similarly, the community of fellow interviewees embodied this very same mentality in the amount of authentic support that was shared throughout our time interviewing. Ultimately, my experience at TPE was unparalleled and it really dispelled a lot of the common misconception espoused by many I conversed with about the opportunity. Specifically, the interview process was exhausting but not daunting, folks really cared for your success from the employers to the volunteers. Additionally, there were a ton of housing jobs...but also many other types of functional areas ranging from career services to multicultural affairs. It is undoubtedly true that the process was difficult, but TPE was completely worth it.



Along with my time at TPE, the funding provided by the Hardee Center also contributed to my ability to attend the National Conference itself. I saw this opportunity as a way to really prepare myself as I transition to the role of new professional. I intentionally pursued out community within the Latino Knowledge Community by attending the pre-conference session along with subsequent sessions. Additionally, I attended presentations on student groups I wanted to learn more about such as undocumented students and queer students of color. The biggest perspective I received from the conference was through conversations with new professionals. Learning about the different potential difficulties they all encountered, the identity negotiation they dealt with, and the dissonance around providing new perspectives to the work institutions were doing. This experience was a complete breath of fresh air and I am excited to see what the future holds. Similarly, to how Dr. Hardee is known for her "watermelons and infamous marker" I hope to forge a professional identity that resonates with professionals across the nation, and I thank the Hardee Center for providing me with a platform to do just that.

NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Mallory Foutch, 2nd Year Master's Student

The 2016 NASPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN, was one to write home about – or, write to the LifeNet Newsletter about. Though NASPA has served as my professional organization home since I was a member of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP), this year I relied on the organization in a different way as I made the trip to Indy both for the Annual Conference and to participate in The Placement Exchange (TPE) as I search for my first professional job out of graduate school. So much of my time as a second year student in the Higher Education Master's program has been spent preparing for the job search: fine-tuning resumes and cover letters; doing mock interviews with professionals I trust; having candid conversations about my qualifications for various positions; buying the perfect outfit that makes me feel confident.



What I didn't know before my job interviews at TPE is that, beyond feeling that I needed the perfect suit to make me feel confident, I already had all the tools to be confident and my best self in my interviews. It should come as no surprise that I have gained all of these tools from having the incredible privilege of attending FSU's Higher Education program. As I shared stories about my development as a professional, my experiences with my assistantship and internships, and my time learning in the classroom, I felt an overwhelming amount of gratitude and thanks for everything this program has provided me. Though aspects of the TPE experience are certainly overwhelming (I was walking about 17,000 steps per day in the massive convention center and somehow always had 9:00am interviews), I gained much needed clarity, confidence, and connectedness to this work that will continue to inform my job search past TPE. I am immensely thankful that I had the opportunity to participate in TPE, as the connections made, confidence gained, and fun had during those four days in Indy will never be forgotten.

With the close of TPE and the start of NASPA came a much appreciated transition – I was ready to stop talking about self and begin learning from others at the various keynotes, workshops, and sessions NASPA provided. As my third time attending the NASPA Annual Conference, I was energized and excited to be back in the presence of colleagues, mentors, former supervisors, and friends as we celebrated the 98th gathering of professionals at NASPA. After much reflection, reading, and follow-up about the sessions I attended at NASPA 2016, it was undoubtedly my favorite NASPA yet. I attended incredible sessions about the Social Change Model, updates to the Student Development Theory textbook, the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL), incorporating social justice into supervision, and incorporating socio-cultural conversations into working with students. I sat in awe of the power of Keynote addresses delivered by Marc Lamont Hill and Dr. Terrell Strayhorn. I celebrated community and connectedness with my families at both Florida State University and the University of Texas at Austin during receptions. I left the conference feeling fulfilled, energized,

and more confident than ever that I have chosen a profession that will continue to challenge and support me throughout my professional career.

For so long throughout my final year in the Master's program, TPE and NASPA have signified the ending to my time at Florida State University. However, I have since discovered that the conclusion of these experiences is only the beginning: the beginning of my lifelong connection to FSU through the LifeNet, the beginning of my first professional position, the beginning of the true cultivation of my professional identity. It is with the support of all this program has given me that I feel prepared, confident, and excited to immerse myself more fully into the professional landscape of Higher Education and Student Affairs knowing that my growth and learning here have been invaluable to the continued creation of my identity.



AORE—Atlanta, GA

By: Kyle Calbat, 2nd Year Master's Student



This past November, I went to Atlanta, GA for my first conference experience with the Association for Outdoor and Recreation Education (AORE). Founded in 1993, AORE is an organization developed by and for outdoor recreation and education professionals and students. At the conference, I was accompanied by four other current FSU students and the coordinator for Outdoor Pursuits, as we established new connections in the outdoor community and reconnected with FSU alumni and friends from around the country. Since AORE was my first conference, I was slightly nervous going into it... but my nerves didn't last for long. Even before the opening ceremony started I noticed how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Add in the fact that the conference itself was extremely casual (with lots of flannel and beards), and I instantly felt right at home.

The three-day conference started off with a bang as the opening keynote speaker was former NASA Astronaut, Nicole Scott. Sharing her experiences from living and working in space on

both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station, Nicole set the tone for the entire conference and showed that outdoor and recreation education includes professions outside of the higher education realm. Other presenters at AORE included university rock-wall supervisors, National Park Service rangers, retail and merchandise vendors, instructors from specialized associations such as the American Canoeing Association, as well as many others. There were so many unique presentations that I found myself not skipping a single session because of how interesting they all were! A few of the sessions I had the pleasure of attending included topics on spirituality in the outdoors, exploring the barriers women face in outdoor recreation, and implementing adaptive and inclusive paddle sports. Needless to say, I learned more than I imagined I would in three days.

One of my favorite parts of the conference was the “take a student to lunch” event that occurred on the first day. As the first round of sessions ended, professionals gathered and lined up on one side of the room while students lined up on the opposite side. Someone shouted “GO!” and mass chaos ensued as professionals and students rushed to pair up with one another. I met Bendex, Director of Ozark Outdoors at University of the Ozarks, whose personality is equally as cool as his name. We grabbed some Chinese food as we bonded over our interest in hiking and kayaking, and he answered any and every question I had about the outdoor industry. This proved to be a common theme throughout the entirety of the conference: everyone I met was genuinely interested in helping and teaching each other new things.

I also was able to go and visit Georgia State University's challenge course during my time in Atlanta. I have been working as a challenge course facilitator at the Rez at FSU since January 2015, so learning about another institution's course was fantastic! A group of us toured their facilities, walked through their entire course, and were able to compare and share activities that we implement at our home institution challenge courses.

Overall, my first professional conference experience was a blast! AORE allowed me to meet amazing people from around the country and learn more about outdoor and recreation professions, but more importantly it solidified my passion in outdoor education. I am thankful for the experiences that I had at the conference, and I'm even more thankful to now be a part of the AORE family.



NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Morgan Matchett, 2nd Year Master's Student

Attending the 2016 NASPA annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana was filled with personal and professional development opportunities, particularly as a graduating 2nd year Masters student in the higher education program. My main goals in attending the conference was to learn from keynote sessions and educational sessions surrounding social justice and community engagement. Additionally, I hoped to network with colleagues from my undergraduate work at Louisiana State University, as well as new colleagues to aid in my job search and professional development.



The keynote session by Marc Lamont-Hill was my favorite large-scale session of the conference. As an activist and educator, Lamont-Hill spoke about many inequities that exist in higher education, and how these inequities interact with student activism. On the heels of attending the Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values last month on the theme of student activism and advocacy, it was refreshing to hear this topic discussed on a larger scale in the higher education community at NASPA. Other sessions that I attended related to my personal research interests, including civic development as an identity construct, women in STEM, and social justice within programming. The session on civic development was particularly interesting because I was able to see current research being conducted on the importance of service-learning in developing needed skills in students. During my time at Florida State University and with my assistantship at the Center for Leadership & Social Change, I have worked with community engagement programs centered on service, leadership and identity development. Hearing research that solidifies the importance of service-learning in developing students civically emphasizes my motivation in this work. I want to help students personally and professionally develop into more active and engaged citizens through their time at the university. The boost in motivation and confidence was much-needed and would not have happened without the Hardee Center's funding to attend the NASPA conference this year.

Another benefit from the Hardee Center was connecting with LifeNet members at the FSU Reception at the conference. This reception allowed me to reconnect with mentors from FSU as well as meet new individuals that can be a resource in the future. Being a part of the FSU higher education program has taught me the value of relationships and connection with others, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have a national conference like NASPA where I can continue to get to know professionals in the field at other institutions across the globe. The art of networking has always been challenging for me, as it does not seem authentic. The NASPA conference was affirming to me that networking in an authentic manner can exist if you are true with your intentions and your needs. I felt like this experience was the first time that networking was truly beneficial to my success. In the future, I hope to continue learning about how to make connections and build upon relationships with others, as well as maintain relationships with colleagues from the past. I am truly grateful to the LifeNet for supporting students currently enrolled in the program and giving back to Florida State University in this way.



NACA—Louisville, KY

By: Amanda Mintz, 2nd Year Master's Student



Hello LifeNet family! First, I want to thank you for your support of the Hardee Center and the FSU Higher Education program. It is because of your generosity and commitment that graduate students like myself are granted incredible opportunities to engage with professional associations during our time here at FSU. During the 2015-2016 academic year, I have had the greatest experience serving as a graduate intern with the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), both in the South region and as a National Convention intern. NACA exists to provide ideas, resources, and knowledge to students and professionals who are involved with campus life, helping them create engaged campuses that promote student leadership and development.

Due to the travel grant I received from the Hardee Center, I was able to attend the NACA National Convention in Louisville, KY this past February. The national convention was especially unique because I had the opportunity to both serve in a conference planning role and also supervise students from the FSU Student Activities Center who were in attendance. Three graduate assistants from my office (including myself) traveled to Louisville with six Union Productions student programmers. Not only did we have a fantastic time exploring Louisville and enjoying all the conference had to offer, but the students were able to take away tangible ideas for programming and for improving communication and leadership among the board through showcases, educational sessions, and CAMP (Campus Activities Marketplace) sessions.

On the planning team, my graduate internship was primarily working with CAMP, which is essentially an opportunity for campus programmers to be in direct contact with what NACA calls “associate members” including agents, artists, and vendors. CAMP sessions take place in a big exhibit hall and are one of the most fun aspects of the convention. Students have the opportunity to get novelties personalized for them, meet the showcasing musicians, lecturers, and other performers, and even begin to do business with agents who are present. CAMP sessions were a blast and gave me the chance to personally connect with incredible students, professionals, and associate members. I was able to spend time with our colleagues from the University of Florida and the University of South Florida, reconnect with professionals from across the South region whom I had met while serving on the South regional planning committee, and meet wonderful people from across the country. I especially loved getting to know the other graduate interns for the national convention. Throughout the week, the interns showed so much support and love for one another and we had so much fun exploring Louisville together!



Another part of my graduate intern role included presenting an educational session with two other interns. Our session was entitled “Adding VALUE to Leadership: Discovering and Defining Your Personal Values,” which we presented to a packed-out room of over 80 student leaders! We took the students through a values inventory and had them engage in discussion with one another about where their values come from and how their values inform their decisions and actions. We then connected the importance of values to their organizations, talking about the idea of shared organizational values and how they as leaders can foster shared values among their programming boards. The topic of values is extremely close to my heart, so I was thrilled to be able to develop and give this presentation to a group of students who were engaged and eager to learn.

The NACA National Convention is unlike any conference I have ever attended. Jeans and t-shirts are the standard attire and the majority of the day is spent watching incredible performances and discovering new ways to create a more engaged campus community. The laid-back, student-centered culture of NACA is such a great fit for me both personally and professionally, and I am so happy to have found an association that I can continue to engage with as I navigate my professional career. I am grateful for the Hardee Center and the LifeNet for providing me resources to be able to attend the National Convention. Thank you for helping me make NACA my professional home!

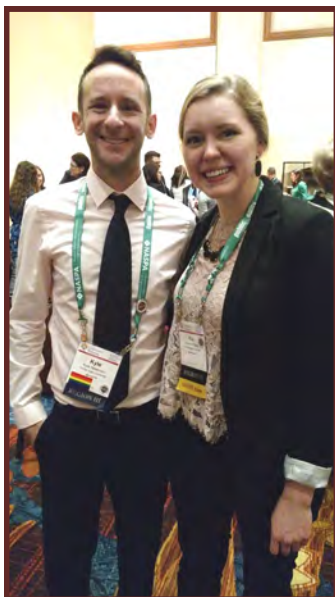
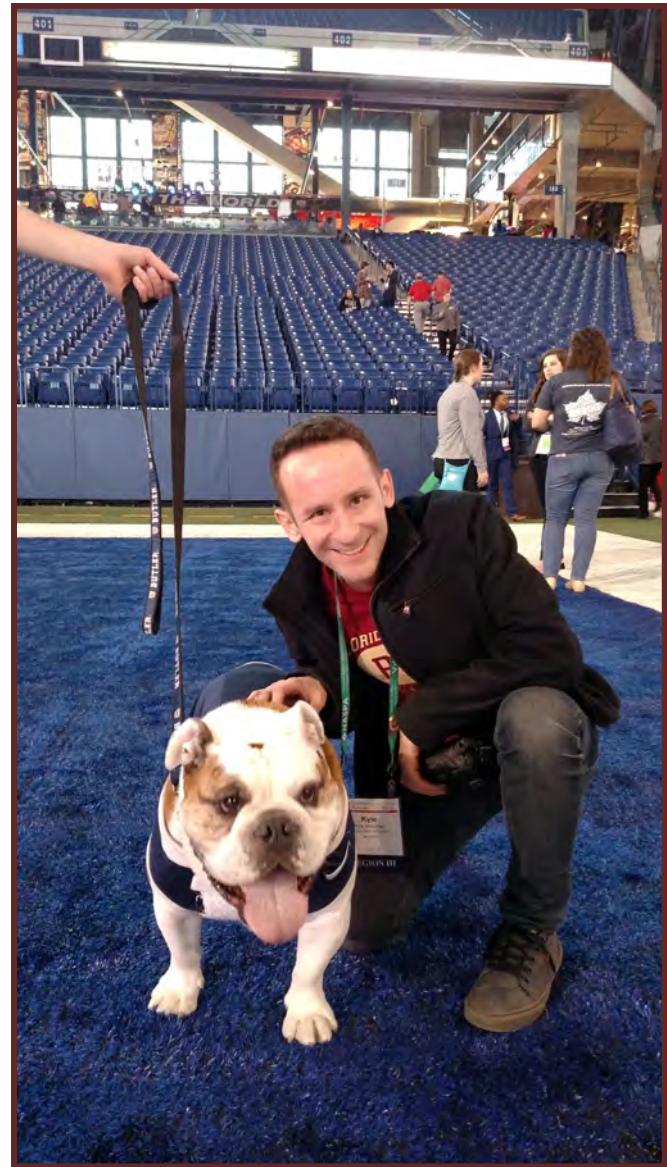
NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Kyle Newman, 2nd Year Master's Student

This March I had the opportunity to attend my first national conference, NASPA 2016, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was truly a unique experience that I would like to repeat in the coming years. Besides the great learning and fun, the City of Indianapolis was a great host and provided amazing hospitality. Its many local coffee shops and architecture were a huge favorite of mine. I even got to walk a bit of a ways out of the area with my NASPA Mentor to talk about NASPA and the student affairs field.

The Opening Session (or Kickoff as I have been calling it) couldn't have been in a better location. It took place in Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, where it began with conversations that were timely and introduced the theme: "Common Purpose: Shaping A Vision For Higher Education." Dr. Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, a commentator and professor of political science at the University of Texas, spoke about the intersection between politics, student affairs, higher education, and the media.

I did get to learn a lot from attending different sessions that piqued my interests. The first full day session, I attended "Global Opportunities: Pathways to Internationalizing Your Student Affairs Career in the U.S. and Abroad," which immediately opened up my eyes about how it could be possible to live and work outside of the United States in higher education. This session was good at foreshadowing how much fun and educational the NASPA experience would be. Other sessions that I attended dealt with campus recreation, alumni affairs, social media, and first-generation students. The knowledge I gained from these program sessions will be integral in helping me grow as a future professional and an individual.



Perhaps my favorite part was getting to meet wonderful colleagues from around the country. The FSU reception was great because I got to meet members of various ages and affiliations to the LifeNet. It allowed me to see that what I am trying to achieve can actually come true. It just takes some hard work. My "receptioning" experience continued with attending the NASPA Florida and Region III receptions. I was able to meet colleagues from Florida and the region that I hope to continue friendships and/or professional relationships. I even got a chance to talk with the NASPA 2016 Chair!

Finally, the closing session was amazing, moving, and funny. Dr. Terrell Strayhorn gave one of the best talks by integrating his personal experiences with ways that student affairs professionals can better serve students. I am very thankful I received support from the Hardee Center to attend the conference. It was a great introduction to a national conference and provided me with an opportunity to interact with people from different parts of the country. It was a rewarding and enjoyable experience, where I was able to become more socialized in student affairs and hopefully meet some life-long friends!

NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Amanda Peters, 2nd Year Master's Student



They say wanderlust is an irresistible desire to travel to understand one's very existence. My life thus far has been an adventure in wanderlust from not knowing what I wanted to do when I graduated from the University of South Florida in 2011 to deciding to go back for my master's degree at Florida State University in 2014. The experiences I had during my two years at FSU in the higher education program have begun to shape me and help me understand my purpose in life. My goal in graduate school was to find my place in higher education and ultimately pursue my passion to help students succeed and follow their dreams. Through this program and the help of support grants such as the Hardee Center Academic Conference Support Grant I have been able to feed my desire to travel so I can better understand why we do the work we do in student affairs.

This year, I was fortunate enough to attend the NASPA annual conference in Indianapolis, IN for the first time. From navigating hectic airports to staying at a large downtown hotel, I was challenged to manage my time and money for such a short conference stay so I could make the most of this opportunity. I arrived on Sunday at about 11 p.m. after the conference had officially kicked off and felt ready to tackle the conference at the 7 a.m. Region III graduate student and SSAO breakfast on Monday. It was such a joy meeting so many wonderful professionals at the breakfast who had a plethora of knowledge, experience and advice for navigating the profession as well as my first NASPA conference. It helped energize me for the day, gave me a chance to meet others in my region, and provided me insight about NASPA.

As a graduating higher education student, I decided to attend as many sessions as possible to really explore the functional areas of career services and academic advising that I am so passionate about. Although many professionals advised against this, I knew I only had two days to take in everything and felt excited to learn about these special topics. Looking back, I'm so glad that I did this because I ended up meeting a lot of wonderful professionals and learning about things that inspire me to do my best work each day. It was an even greater joy, as a career services professional, to see how networking takes shape at large conferences.

My internship supervisor Carolyn Barringer happened to be in a session I was in after the Monday morning breakfast and happened to be sitting next to Tim Harding from the University of Tampa. By noticing her in that session, and approaching a familiar face, I was able to build a connection with someone else in my region who was one of the nicest people I had ever met. He even knew our director and wanted to assist in my job search in the Tampa Bay area! Had I decided to take a break after such an early breakfast, I may have never made that connection.

Throughout the day, I learned about advising, transferrable skills, supervision styles, and more. More importantly, I began to realize that I could one day present at a national conference too. Having only ever presented with a group of my peers at NASPA-FL last October, I doubted my worthiness to share knowledge with professionals in the field. However, after speaking to some presenters, I began to feel more at ease, confident, and inspired to make this a professional and personal goal.

By late afternoon I was physically exhausted, yet over the moon about the possibilities that this conference had presented to me. I decided to venture back to my hotel to reflect on all I had learned. When six o'clock rolled around, I was eager and ready to network with others in my field starting with the FSU reception then the NASPA-FL and Region III receptions. The Hardee Center put on a fantastic FSU reception and I was so appreciative that all the second years in attendance were given the opportunity to let others know about our interests and career goals.

At the FSU reception, I was able to connect with old colleagues, network with professionals, and learn about exciting leads in Florida from our wonderful Life Net. Afterwards, Carolyn happily went with me to the other receptions and introduced me to more amazing professionals including Jody Conway of USF and Lorie Kittendorf of UT. We talked about our love of USF, Disney, mutual friends, and I even got an amazing caricature that I can one day hang in my office as a reminder of this amazing experience. As a first time attendee, I was surprised and thrilled to feel so comfortable amongst these veteran conference goers. I attribute this to how well supported I felt by the Hardee Center and our program, professionals, and FSU alumni. Without their support and advice, I may never have been able to feel so confident.



ACPA—Montreal, Canada

By: Spencer Scruggs, 2nd Year Master's Student

At a time of year where we may need it the most, many of us rely on conference season between March and April to rejuvenate our energy, drive, and purpose in the field of Student Affairs. The larger conferences we can attend have this interesting way of reminding us why we decided to enter the field of Student Affairs in the first place. These moments of reassurance are most salient for me when I attend the annual ACPA Convention. Having gone on the international practicum trip last May, I had no excuse not to attend the convention this year in Montréal with my passport in hand and an eagerness to learn from our international colleagues. The convention provided so many immersive and impactful learning opportunities this year, from discussing our responsibility of inclusion of all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds and that identify as transgender, to our imperative of addressing the funding crisis of higher education. Each year that I have gone to the convention, I am more amazed at how ACPA can provide a whole experience for attendees, providing orientation, programs for intentional connection with colleagues, opportunities for critical thought and dialogue, and moments of reflection on important issues our field faces and on those that could not be in attendance simply because of how they identify. The convention not only provides a space to connect with Student Affairs professionals, but also Faculty, Business Affairs Professionals, Higher Education Administrators, and Higher Education Consultants that help us accomplish our tasks with ease and efficiency. Every attendee, program, and interaction holds a similar axiom: student learning and success is imperative for our own success.

I arrived at the convention early, as I usually do so I can do a little sightseeing and orienting before all of the hullabaloo begins. For the past year, I have served on the directorate of the Coalition for Graduate Students and New Professionals, helping connect our members to opportunities within and outside of the organization. As a directorate, we met a couple times before the convention began to discuss the upcoming year, initiatives we wanted to focus on, and what our role would be within the association for the next year. Though much of what we accomplished was business, the moments that the directorate were together reminded me of how much I appreciate how people-centric Student Affairs is. It is refreshing to be in a space where graduate students and new professionals like yourself understand your passions, struggles, purpose, and vision. They may be colleagues, but I am thankful to call them friends as well. Without the support Florida State University, the Hardee Center, and the LifeNet has given to me, I don't know if I would have opportunities like this and be able to cement myself in Student Affairs.



NASPA—Indianapolis, IN

By: Christian Williams, 2nd Year Master's Student



Two years ago, I went to my first NASPA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. I was still on my gap year and making my way through the graduate school search at the time, having visited Florida State's campus only a month earlier. While I had some friends and mentors at that conference, I felt like a very small fish in a very big pond. Little did I know that, in 2016, I would be representing Florida State's powerhouse graduate program as a young NASPA leader and emerging professional at the Annual Conference in Indianapolis.

NASPA is an event I look forward to every year because it is my chance to reunite with mentors, trusted friends and colleagues while making new connections. My Florida International University family is a joy to see every year, and it's great to see people I worked alongside as a student leader as fellow graduate students and young professionals. As an alumnus of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program, it also allows me to reunite with fellow NUFP alumni from across the country - especially my beloved cohort from the 2014 Dungy Leadership Institute. Yaaaaaas. (It's an inside thing.) FIU and NUFP are both filled with people that knew and loved me before I even moved into the field, and they are a huge part of my love for NASPA.

Attending the conference over the past couple of years has also allowed me to 'plug in' to the organization, giving me unique opportunities to get involved and do big things for my professional home. In Indianapolis, I began my two-year term as the Partnerships Chair for the New Professionals and Graduate Students Knowledge Community. My first order of business upon my selection last Fall was to build a partnership with my friends in the Technology Knowledge Community, another KC whose Leadership Team I was in the process of departing from. The result: the first-ever #SAGrad Social, a networking event for graduate students attending NASPA from across the country. Assisted by my good friend Ricky Meinke (FSU B.A. '14), a fellow 2nd-year masters student from Louisiana State University and the moderator of the TKC's weekly #SAGrad Twitter chat, we successfully hosted about 120 guests and formed a space where young professionals could interact with each other while sharing a drink and/or bite to eat. As I move through my two-year term with NPGSKC, I'm looking forward to all the great professionals - both young and established - that I'll be able to build relationships with.

The sessions and meetings I attended were also thought-provoking and memorable. One highlight was the MultiRacial KC Open Meeting, which provided a space for me to share with fellow multiracial professionals. It is a space I truly needed. Much more than just a KC business meeting, it gave me a chance to share pieces of myself in a setting that made me feel comfortable and supported. At one point, I was given the platform to discuss my place at the intersection of having a multiracial identity and being of Latino/a ethnicity. We ended up concluding what became a passionate conversation by deciding to form a preconference proposal around the subject. And this, my friends, is one of the many ways that knowledge for the greater good is generated at conferences.

And of course, no NASPA conference is complete without the FSU LifeNet reception. Standing in that crowded room full of friends and colleagues from across the nation brought me right back to that same event in 2013, when I couldn't even join the picture because I hadn't made a decision as to where I was going for graduate school. In fact, the FSU reception is the event that influenced the acceptance of my invitation to attend Florida State. This year was my second taking a rightful place in the FSU 'family photo': a place I have earned and will cherish throughout my entire career as a higher education professional. Special thanks are in order to the Hardee Center for not only helping me get to Indianapolis through financial support, but also for contributing to the development of this strong network that shows its beautiful face at every NASPA conference.

ACPA—Montreal, Canada

By: Samantha Nix, Doctoral Candidate

In March 2016, I was able to attend the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) meeting in Montreal, Canada with the assistance of the Hardee Center travel award. Like many attendees, ACPA 2016 represented a lot of firsts for me: my first international travel for a professional conference, my first presentation on research related to my dissertation, my first time attending a drag show, and my first experience sharing space with members of my cohort. These firsts, along with the excellent program designed by ACPA leadership, made the experience truly meaningful for me.



Travelling to a different country, even one on the same continent, can be financially restrictive. Therefore, I feel so honored and lucky that the Hardee Center provides travel assistance. Without this assistance, I would not have been able to attend ACPA 2016. Having a conference in a different country—especially in a region where English may or may not be spoken—created a unique atmosphere of collaboration between conference attendees. I found that I was more excited about running into fellow attendees in Montreal than I had been about any other conference in the U.S. Although it is a large city, Montreal was somehow small enough to allow for chance encounters with friends from my master's cohort, or even shared conversation in coffee lines with new colleagues many blocks away from the convention center. In addition, the unique environment of Quebec challenged all of the ACPA attendees to be more inclusive of both the experiences of indigenous people native to the region as well as the French language.

While at the conference, I had an opportunity to present preliminary findings on the first of my dissertation papers. This was my first experience independently writing and submitting the conference paper. While it sounds like trivial work, it felt like a milestone for me to communicate with the discussant and prepare the first draft of the presentation on my own. I worked in collaboration with my advisor, Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner, on the final touches. During the presentation, I was able to field some of my conclusions to a knowledgeable audience, and received feedback that will help me sharpen future analyses. The experience of presenting my research alone helped build my confidence in my dissertation work.

In addition to presenting, I attended several research paper and poster presentations. The presentations were very high quality and focused more on college student development than other conferences I had attended. I especially appreciated the opportunity to attend sessions related to peripheral areas of research interest, including low-income students, living-learning communities, self-perceptions, and students who experienced Hurricane Katrina. ACPA also included a very informative talk about the new volume of *How College Affects Students*. The presentations that I attended solidified my interest in continuing my membership in ACPA and interest in reading and perhaps contributing to their many publications.



Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention some of the social aspects of my conference experience. As mentioned before, this was my first experience sharing space with members of my cohort, and my first time attending a drag show. The Coalition for LGBT Awareness sponsors a drag show each year at ACPA to raise money for scholarships. I was invited to the drag show by a friend in my cohort, and I enjoyed the experience. The event truly expressed the openness and inclusivity of ACPA membership. In addition, I had an excellent time rooming with friends in my cohort. Sharing a room can be difficult, but I actually think we enjoyed ourselves. I would not have seen as much of the city and perhaps of the conference without the (slight) peer pressure from my cohort roommates. Rooming with other conference attendees also allowed me the opportunity to reflect on my learning in informal ways. Therefore, I feel that I gained more from this experience than I expected.

AERA—Washington D.C.

By: Sophia Rahming, Doctoral Student



I recently had the opportunity to participate in the 2016 American Educational Research Association conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. This was the Centennial Year for the annual meeting held April 8 -12, 2016 under the timely and thought-provoking program theme: Public Scholarship to Educate Diverse Democracies. The stated overarching goal of this year's AERA meeting was to "illuminate and enhance the role of educational researchers as public scholars who contribute to public understanding, political debate and professional practice in increasingly diverse democracies in the United States and around

the globe" (AERA Annual Meeting Program, 2016). The program organizers drew inspiration from noted educational researcher John Dewey's book *Democracy and Education*, which is also celebrating its Centennial to intellectually ground the week's discourse and presentations. By design, the focus was the consideration of the challenges and opportunities arising from scholarly engagement with structural and systemic inequities in academia and the wider social landscape, particularly during the current controversial election cycle.

Consistent with the objectives of the Center for Postsecondary Success (CPS) at Florida State University and Associate Director, Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones' commitment specifically, to support the development of the next generation of academic scholars, members of the Qualitative team and I presented several papers in various formats, including posters, roundtables, and paper presentations at AERA. We thought it imperative to share the findings coming out of our expansive research regarding the state of developmental education in Florida post SB1720 and its impact on marginalized populations with the community of scholars. As a former district presenter in my own country, I have given many presentations but this was my first North American conference, and I was extremely nervous.

To get my feet wet, I took part in a roundtable discussion where Dr. Rebecca Brower and Dr. Chenoa Woods were the lead presenters for the CPS paper: *Scaffolding Mathematics Remediation for Low-Income Students: A Mixed Methods Examination of Developmental Education in Florida*. Several research teams also presented their papers, and I was brave enough to ask one team in particular about selection bias and self-reporting. These were limitations of the study that I thought needed to be addressed (Thanks, Dr. Park – I learned that in *Quasi-Experimental Methods* – I felt myself give him a mental high five).

Shortly after that, Amanda Nix (GA at CPS) and I presented on *Shifting Priorities: The Impact of Senate Bill 1720 on the Accessibility of Higher Education*. Our postdoctoral fellow in CPS, Dr. Brower, always a source of encouragement and positive outlooks, gave us a pep talk right before the paper panel began and I needed it. The paper presentation went well, and I breathed a sigh of relief. I know some people are afraid of admitting what they don't know or what frightens them. I am not one of those people. I have found that the only way to learn more is to acknowledge what I don't know and invite others to share what they know with me. I spent a lot of time saying, "Tell me more about that! That sounds fascinating!" at AERA. I came back to FSU with more questions and fresh ideas knowing that next year's AERA is right around the corner to provide me with new answers...and new questions.



A First-Year Reflection

By: Andy Hoffman, 1st Year Master's Student, Center for Leadership & Social Change

Coming into Visiting Days, I appeared energized, cool, and consistent – ready for interviews and meeting new professionals. I was also getting to know people who I was told were going to be my colleagues for the rest of my professional journey in Student Affairs. On the outside, I seemed put together, but on the inside I was overcome by the completely new experience I'd be accepting by joining the HESA program. Although I felt competent from student leader experiences at The University of Texas at Austin (Hook 'em Horns!), an impression was forming in my head that Florida State University was going to require me to be at the "next level." Trying to find myself among the high-achieving and goal-oriented candidates felt a bit like playing a game of Where's Waldo, where I was Waldo hidden behind a sea of people. Were my accomplishments at UT enough to be a competent Student Affairs graduate? Would my identities as a cis-gender, heterosexual, White male leave me feeling out of place in an office focused on diversity and inclusion? What is this Theory to Practice everyone is talking about? Why do I need the LifeNet? Answers to these questions and more in the form of things I wish I could tell myself a year ago.



"Your accomplishments are enough. Let people help you get to where you need to go."

Looking back, creating pressure to be perfect just wasn't fair to myself. Throughout both semesters, I was provided with a limitless number of opportunities to grow into the person and professional I wanted to be within my Graduate Assistantship. My supervisor and colleagues were always there to support me. Trainings and workshops were offered weekly to help me better understand students and issues on campus. Students would teach me new things about myself every day. At the same time, I was able to help others in the form of volunteering for other campus offices. Being able to help my colleagues allowed me to understand variances among functional areas, while helping me get closer to other staff and learn valuable lessons about working with people.



"Treat personal challenges as learning opportunities."

Having a laissez-faire attitude towards my own identity development during my undergraduate experience had me struggling to create an effective work style for me to help students. I couldn't stop thinking how my privileged identities would show up in conversations with students. I wondered for months if anybody else felt the same way. It wasn't until second semester (don't wait that long) when I had a long conversation with a director in my office that made me realize there *are* people that share my concerns. I just had to overcome the challenge in seeking that help. I know now that pursuing another's advice can be much less of a challenge and more of a learning opportunity.



"Theory to practice is real."

The curriculum and faculty both challenged my current ways of thinking. Through our first semester's classes, we were exposed to nontraditional student populations, the exciting and oftentimes controversial history of higher education, and the multitude of campus offices at Florida State. In our second semester, we began working on assessment projects, learned student development theory, and explored issues of diversity in higher education. At the end of this experience, I feel totally competent in exploring and *using* any of the subject areas in my professional work.

"The people in the LifeNet are important."

During my time here I've been able to connect to all different members of the LifeNet. I've spent time in and out of work with my fantastic peers in the cohort. I've had conversations with other practitioners at conferences. I've even interviewed with other professionals for internships. All of these people have been guiding lights in my personal and professional development. In addition, seeing the members of the second year and their accomplishments has motivated me into my next year. Their mentorships over the past year has been responsible for keeping me balanced thus far. I am so grateful to have had them as examples for my journey. As I go into my internship for the summer, I cannot thank the people around me enough for the lessons I've learned after one year of being in this program at FSU. I know everything I have learned here will serve me well and I will continue to build my relationships over the next year of learning. Go Noles!



This is only the Beginning

By: Ali Raza, 2nd Year Master's Student, Hardee Center Associate Director



As I am typing this final reflection, I cannot believe two years have come and flown by this fast! I remember the first time I set foot on Florida State University during Visiting Days in February 2014. I remember feeling this sensation and immediately fell in love with the program, the faculty, the people, and was awestruck at the LifeNet. In my two years at the Hardee Center, I have learned so much about me, have connected with so many alumni, and together we have supported and enhanced the graduate experience of more than 100 Higher Education master and doctoral students. It has been a great privilege and honor to work alongside so many remarkable FSU Higher Education alumni, and especially the Hardee Center Board of Directors. Your support has meant the world to me and it is why the LifeNet continues to grow stronger every single day.

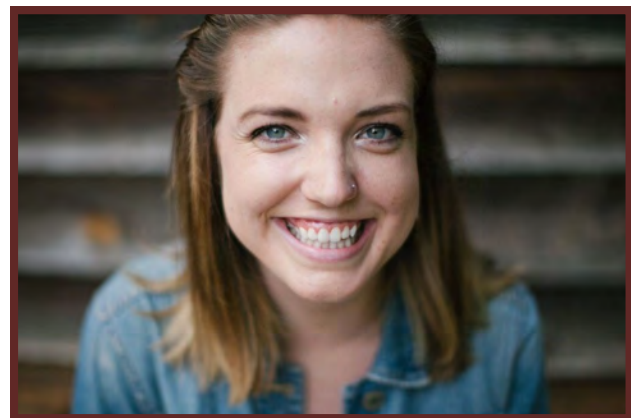
I must thank Dr. Mary Coburn and my predecessor, Eddie Higginbotham, for taking a chance on me and giving me this opportunity to serve as your Associate Director for the Hardee Center for Leadership & Ethics in Higher Education. Dr. Coburn has been instrumental in my personal and professional growth and development these last two years, providing me with many opportunities and serving as a great mentor and role model. Without their support, I would not be here today and I cannot imagine my graduate school experience without being immersed in the history of our Higher Education program, the creation of the LifeNet, the legacy of Dr. Melvane Draheim Hardee, and having the opportunity to connect and engage with you, members of the LifeNet.

I must also thank my fellow peers and graduate students I have engaged with in these last two years. Thank you for challenging and supporting me as we have navigated the Higher Education program at Florida State. I am better because I know each of you and am immensely grateful to call you all my friends. I cannot wait to hear and see the impact each of you make as we leave this program and begin the next step in our journey. To rising second years and incoming first-years, I challenge you to make the most out of your graduate experience at Florida State University. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated Division of Student Affairs, a full slate of dedicated tenured faculty, and an incredibly support system in the LifeNet. To the Higher Education program faculty, thank you for challenging us, for educating us, for supporting us these last two years. Our graduate students are incredibly lucky to have you teach us in and outside the classroom. To the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, thank you for taking me in these last two years. I am thankful for our friendships and opportunities you have provided.

Finally, I am more than excited to join the ranks of many of you as an alumnus of the Florida State University Higher Education program. I vow to uphold the Garnet and Gold, to serve as a good representation of Florida State, to remain active, and to carry the ideals of Dr. Hardee with me as I begin my journey as a new professional as a Program Coordinator in Campus Activities at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do. I am forever grateful. Go Noles!

Welcome your new Associate Director!

The new Hardee Center for Leadership & Ethics in Higher Education Associate Director is Gabrielle Garrard from Davidson College. While at Davidson, Gabrielle studied Political Science with a focus on American Politics and Law. She is also very interested in Art History and took many courses in this subject. A native Floridian, Gabrielle was born in Ponte Vedra Beach, just outside of Jacksonville. Her parents - Helen and Louis - are very excited that Gabrielle will be coming back to her home state. She also has a younger brother who plays basketball at Lynchburg College in Virginia. While at Davidson, Gabrielle was involved in numerous organizations with her deepest involvement being with their Union Board where she has served as a committee chair for two years and currently serves as the Vice President. Additionally, Gabrielle served as a Resident Assistant for an all-women first-year residence hall, is involved in a local Greek organization with Turner Eating House, has served on the Executive Board for College Democrats, and interns with the Student Activities Office. Gabrielle is excited to begin her journey at Florida State University and build intentional relationships with the LifeNet. We are excited for Gabrielle to bring her talents to FSU and the Hardee Center for Leadership and Ethics in Higher Education. I have no doubts she will excel in this role. Welcome, Gabrielle Garrard!



Gabrielle Garrard

Faculty Updates & News

Dr. Robert “Bob” Schwartz, *Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Department Chair*
Dr. David Tandberg, *Higher Education Program Coordinator*

Higher Education Faculty Members:

Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones
Dr. Mary Coburn
Dr. Bradley Cox

Dr. Kathy Guthrie
Dr. Shouping Hu
Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner

Dr. Bob Schwartz
Dr. David Tandberg
Dr. T.K. Wetherell

Higher Education Adjunct Faculty Members:

Dr. Brandon Bowden **Dr. Perry Crowell**
Dr. Randall Hanna **Dr. Laura Osteen** **Dr. Mark Palazesi**



Faculty Updates & News

Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, Associate Professor

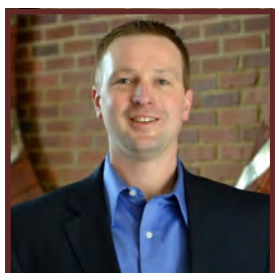
- Dr. Bertrand Jones was promoted to associate professor of higher education with tenure. Her research examines the sociocultural influences on socialization during graduate education and the professional experiences of underrepresented populations, particularly Black women, in academia. Her previous work as an administrator and program evaluator also influence her other research interests in culturally responsive assessment and evaluation. She is also a founder and past president of Sisters of the Academy Institute, an international organization that promotes collaborative scholarship and networking among Black women in the academy. Congratulations!



Dr. Brad Cox, Associate Professor

- Dr. Cox was promoted to associate professor of higher education with tenure. Broadly invested in research that aims to understand student success and improve student outcomes, Cox undertakes projects that illuminate or extend “actionable intersections” that affect college students’ development, persistence, and graduation. Of primary interest are projects exploring how institutional policies shape student experiences and outcomes during the first year of college. Related topics of interest include: 1) the interplay between students’ college experiences and their home lives; 2) interactions between faculty members and students outside of the classroom; and 3) equity of outcomes for traditionally underserved students. Congratulations!

- Dr. Cox is a recipient of the 2015-2016 Hardee Center Supervisor / Mentor Award



Dr. Lara Perez Felkner, Assistant Professor

- Dr. Perez-Felkner is a recipient of the 2015-2016 Hardee Center Supervisor / Mentor Award - congratulations!



To see the many accomplishments of all of our faculty, please see below!

The faculty in the Higher Education program and Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida State produce cutting edge research in the field of higher education.

To See additional Florida State University Higher Education highlights including our recent accomplishments, honors, awards, nominations, publications, grants, and contracts funded since 2013, please [click here](#).

We invite you to share these program updates and all of the exciting things happening within the higher education program at Florida State University with colleagues, fellow alumni and prospective students.

Alumni Updates & News



This past November, **Dr. James L. Morrison (Ph.D. 1969)** received the FSU Emeritus Alumni Society Commitment to Excellence Award. In President Thrasher's introduction, he commented that Jim had the perfect trifecta: Three degrees from FSU. Jim's response to that comment along with his appreciation for the support and rich educational experience afforded him while a student at Florida State is available following this [link](#). This past December, Dr. Morrison keynoted two conferences in Dubai. One was titled, "Anticipatory Management: Tools and Techniques for Effective Decision Making in a Turbulent World" and another was titled, "Anticipating the Future of Science and Technology." To see more, follow this [link](#).

Briceli Llavona (M.S. 2011) became the Assistant Director for Residence Life at Augusta University in January 2011. Congratulations!

Margo McClinton (Ph.D. 2005) was recently named 2016 Minority Business Leader by the Dallas Business Journal. She is currently the state of Texas Director at IGNITE, a nonprofit that seeks to build political power in young women. Dr. McClinton and her husband also brought a 5 pound 5 ounce baby boy on March 18, 2016. Congratulations on all your successes, Dr. McClinton!



Dr. Andy J. Mauk (Ph.D. 2011) was recently elected to serve as the Co-Chair Elect of the NASPA Assessment, Research, & Evaluation Knowledge Community. This is a three-year commitment, with one year in the "elect" role, followed by two years as a Co-Chair. Dr. Mauk will be serving alongside Dr. Stacy Ackerlind of the University of Utah. The AER Knowledge Community is the 4th largest of the NASPA Knowledge Communities with more than 2,100 members. Congratulations!



Dr. Sonja Ardoin (M.S. 2006) was recently appointed to NASPA's Region I Board as the Socioeconomic & Class Issues in Higher Education KC representative, the College Student Affairs Journal Editorial Board, and the Journal of Student Affairs Research & Practice Editorial Board. Sonja also facilitated two sessions at the 2016 NASPA conference; she was the coordinating presenter for a half-day, preconference session entitled, "Being Both: Integrating Working Class Roots with a Middle Class Higher Ed Identity" and a co-presenter for a concurrent session entitled, "Pathways to Success: Finding Your Place in Higher Education." Outside of work, Sonja is surviving her first winter outside the South, learning about hockey, and enjoying exploring New England with her partner Zeb!

Alumni Updates & News

Dr. James W. Carr (Ph.D. 1975) was recently named to the Arkansas Board of Higher Education by Governor Asa Hutchinson.



Ben Cecil (M.S. 2015) began his term as the Secretary / Historian of the NASPA International Education Knowledge Community in March 2016.

Dr. Tamaría Williams (Ed.D. 2012) accepted the Director of Developmental Studies position at Florida A&M University. She began working with the university in February.

Mandy Hambleton (M.S. 2008) was recently promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Advocacy, Intervention, and Accountability at Wichita State University in January 2016. In this capacity, she will continue to oversee the student conduct process and will add responsibility for the development of student care services, administrative, and training responsibilities for the University Behavioral Intervention Team to her portfolio. She will also continue to serve as Deputy Title IX Coordinator for students.

Sherry Ebrahimi (M.S. 2000) was promoted to oversee the Housing assignments and service center desks for housing operations in addition to serving as the Director of Conference Services. She notes that she has much to learn from her housing colleagues! Additionally, Sherry was also elected by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Conference Directors International (ACCED-I) to serve as the treasurer for 2016-2017. Congratulations!

Tyler Steffy (M.S. 2011) has recently left La Salle University to begin a new position as the Assistant Director of Campus Engagement for Student Activities at Philadelphia University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Other exciting news includes that Tyler and his wife welcomed their first child into this world on February 10. The baby boy is named Truett Kent Steffy. Congratulations!



Alumni Updates & News

After more than 10 years at Valdosta State, **Dr. Tom Hardy (M.S. 1996)** has accepted a position as Assistant Dean of University Life and Chief Housing Officer at George Mason University. He began his new role in Fairfax, Virginia on April 11th.

Dr. Ernest Joe Buchanan (Ph.D. 1973) would like to share some life highlights with the *LifeNet*. He received Atlantic Coast Conference academic honors and three varsity lacrosse letters at Duke University, served as a Resident Assistant while in law school, was a Florida Legislative Fellow while at Florida State University where he also served as a student judicial officer, assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the Student Union, has devoted more than 34 years of service to Tidewater Community College, has been a member of the Virginia Beach City Council, recognized as First Citizen of Virginia Beach in 1987, has scores of presentations and publications on legal issues, served as a former NASPA President, former national conference chair and Chair of Governmental Relations, is a recipient of the NASPA National Leadership / Service Award, and received the Lifetime Leadership and Service Award from NASPA. Finally, Dr. Buchanan has been married nearly 50 years, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and co-taught legal with Dr. Melvene Hardee. Thank you Dr. Buchanan for your lifetime of commitment to serving others!



Mary Medina (M.S. 2006) defended her dissertation entitled, "Determining the Impact of a Summer Bridge Program on Academic Success for First-Year College Students" on January 28th. She will be graduating with her Ph.D. in Educational Research and Policy Analysis with a concentration in Higher Education Administration from North Carolina State University in May. She and Chelsea Doub also presented a session at the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference entitled "Navigating the Impostor Syndrome: New Professional to PhD." Finally Dr. Medina was recognized at the AFA Annual Meeting in December as a recipient of the Order of Omega Doctoral Fellowship. She was initiated as an honorary member of Order of Omega in October 2015. Congratulations on all your successes!

Student Updates & News

Congratulations to **Dr. Scott Evans Balog**, as he successfully defended his Ed.D. dissertation titled, "An Analysis of Performance-Based Funding Policies and Recommendations for the Florida College System." His major professor was Dr. Thomas Kent "TK" Wetherell.

Congratulations to **Dr. James Monroe Hunt**, as he successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation titled, "Merit Aid, College Affordability, and Prestige: Institutional Response to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program." His major professor was Dr. David Tandberg.

Congratulations to **Dr. Yi-Chin Sarah Wu**, as she successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation titled, "Exploring the Relationships Among Self-Regulation, Acculturation, and Academic and Social Integration for Asian International Doctoral Students." Her major professor was Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones.

Congratulations to **Taylor Victoria Locks**, as she successfully defended her M.S. thesis titled, "Performance Funding and Higher Education Administrators: The Interaction of Administrators and Policy on Metric Achievement." Her thesis advisor was Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner.



Samantha Nix, doctoral candidate, has received numerous accolades over the past year. Sam received the **P.E.O. Scholar Award** from the International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood. The award is a one-time, competitive, merit-based award for women of the United States and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral level degree at an accredited college or university. Additionally, Sam recently received a **National Academy of Education / Spencer Dissertation Fellowship** for 2016-2017. The Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. This is a highly competitive program where Sam was one of only 35 winners out of 400 applicants to receive the award.

Kaitlyn Shepard, second-year master's student, and **Jordan Nation**, first-year master's student, received an education session award at the 2016 NODA Region VI Conference. **Kaitlyn** was also recognized as the Region VI Outstanding Graduate Student award. Congratulations!

Spencer Scruggs, second-year master's student, accepted a s Assistant Director for the Student Disability Resource Center at Florida State University. Congratulations, Spencer!

Taylor Locks, second-year master's student, recently accepted a position as a Hall Director in Residence Life at Christopher Newport University in Virginia! She was also the recipient of the NASPA Region III Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award. Congratulations, Taylor!

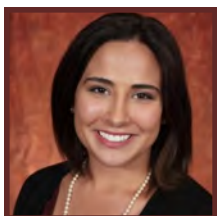


Student Updates & News

Ali Raza, second-year master's student, has recently accepted a position as a Program Coordinator in Campus Activities at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He will officially begin his job on May 31, 2016. Ali was also recognized as the Student Government Association Advisor of the Year, Congratulations!



Spencer Scruggs and Ali Raza, second-year master's students, and **Gabe Marengo**, Student Activity's Program Coordinator, served as the ACPA Ambassadors for Florida State University. Way to represent our institution, gentlemen!



Danielle Morgan Acosta, doctoral student, officially took the helm as the Chair of the 2017 ACPA National Convention.

A huge congratulations to first-year Dance Marathon graduate assistant **Grace Martin**, second-year intern **Samantha Yorke**, and the entire Dance Marathon team on raising more than \$1.4 million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network at Shand's Hospital and the FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program. This was a more than \$30,000 increase over last year's total and a testament to the year-long fundraising and commitment by the organization and exemplary leadership by Grace and Samantha.

Estee Hernández, doctoral student, was selected as a 2016 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Graduate Student Fellow. AAHHE is a 501c(3) national and educational non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of higher education, focused on the needs of Hispanics in light of a rapidly changing U.S. demography. The Graduate Fellows Program serves as a pipeline for Latina/os in the professoriate and/or administration. It is an interdisciplinary program, and 12 fellows are selected from all over the country. She was also selected as a new LeaderShape Institute Co-Lead Facilitator. The mission of LeaderShape is to transform the world by increasing the number of people who lead with integrity and have a healthy disregard for the impossible.



Additionally, **Estee** had a paper presentation at AERA, within a topical paper session. It was entitled, "Chicana feminist approaches to theorizing about Chicana/Latina educational inequalities in higher education." Finally, **Estee** has two manuscripts in press:

Allen, T. O., Hernández, E., Palmer, R. T., & Maramba, D. C. (in press). "Education is first": Latino parents' educational consejos and perceptions of HBCUs. *NASPA Journal*.

Orozco, R. C. & Hernández, E. (in press). Term papers y taquerías: Chicanx nepantleras in graduate study. *El Mundo Zurdo* 5.

Jen Stone, second-year master's student, accepted a position as a Residence Hall Director at Curry College in Boston, Massachusetts. Congratulations!



Student Updates & News

Samantha Yorke, second-year master's student, recently accepted and began a position as an Assistant Director for Career Services at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Congratulations!

Danielle Lewis, second-year master's student, will be remaining at Florida State University as an Academic Specialist in the Mathematics department. Congratulations!

Megan Downey, second-year master's student, recently accepted a position as an Assistant Director in Career Services at the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. Congratulations!



Kyle Calbat, second-year master's student, accepted a position as an intern with Outward Bound in St. Paul, Minnesota. Congratulations, Kyle!



Mallory Foutch, second-year master's student, will be taking her talents to Virginia Tech where she will be serving as a Program Coordinator in the Women's Center. Congratulations, Mallory!

Amanda Mintz, second-year master's student, recently accepted a job with Campus Labs in Dallas, Texas. Congratulations, Amanda!

Joe Czaja, second-year master's student, will be moving to Lincoln, Nebraska where he recently accepted a position in Residence Life at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Congratulations, Joe!

Lane Washington, second-year master's student, will be continuing his education and pursuing a doctorate degree at The Ohio State University. Congratulations, Lane!



Blake Weiss, first-year master's student, will be spending his summer in Tallahassee interning with New Student and Family Programs at Florida State University.



Josh Guffey, first-year master's student, will be interning with Advising First for exploratory majors at Florida State University for the first part of summer. Afterward, he will be interning at Emerson College in Boston to serve as a Residential Supervisor.

Matt Corbett, first-year master's student, will be doing research with Dr. David Tandberg this summer at Florida State University.

Student Updates & News



Dillon Warner, first-year master's student, will be serving as a NODA intern for Florida Gulf Coast University.

Kaileen Paige, first-year master's student, will be serving as a NODA intern at the University of Houston - Clear Lake this summer.

Alyssa Shears, first-year master's student, will be spending her summer in New York City where she will be an ACUHO-I intern at Pace University.

Erin Satterwhite, first-year master's student, will be the NODA intern at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Amanda Roy, first-year master's student, will be a Research Assistant for the summer at Florida State University.

Hope Young, first-year master's student, will be serving as the Summer Bridge intern with the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement at Florida State University.



Lauren Haynes, first-year master's student, will be the Assessment Intern for University Housing at the University of South Carolina.

Kate Hayworth, first-year master's student, will be interning at Old Dominion University this summer as an Advisor in the College of Health Sciences.

Shelby Young, first-year master's student, will be spending her summer in Tallahassee where she will intern with Advising First and Summer Programming for the Student Activities Center.

Grace Martin, first-year master's student, will be migrating north for the summer where she will serve as the University of Michigan Challenge Program Facilitator and Intern.



D'Evelyn Wymore, first-year master's student, will remain in Tallahassee interning with Sustainable Campus and Garnet and Gold Scholar Society. She will also be working part-time as an academic advisor for Exploratory Orientation.



Molly Buckley, first-year master's student, will be a NODA intern for the summer at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Student Updates & News

Chase Breeden, first-year master's student, will be doing an ACUHO-I internship with The University of Texas at Austin this summer.



Linsey Proulx, first-year master's student, will spend the summer at Montclair State University as their NODA intern.

Pei Hu, first-year master's student, will spend the summer in Tallahassee doing research on international students with Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones.

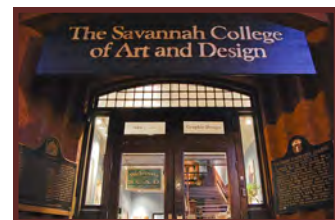
Kristen Lemaster, first-year master's student, will be spending her summer as the NODA intern for the University of Buffalo.



Terri Thomas, first-year master's student, will be serving as an ACUHO-I intern for the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she will work with University Apartments, doing a marketing project to create a virtual tour of Eagle's Wing Child Care program and accreditation process.

Jessica Coons, first-year master's student, will continue her role as an Assistant Coordinator for Housing at Florida State University this summer. She will also begin her internship with Homecoming.

Andy Hoffman, first-year master's student, will be serving as an ACUHO-I intern at the Savannah College of Art and Design this summer.



Caroline Cox, first-year master's student, will continue her role as a full-time Academic Advisor with the College of Communication and Information. She will also serve as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kathy Guthrie's online Leadership Theory and Practice course.

Lauren Apgar, first-year master's student, will be serving as an a NODA intern this summer at the New York Institute of Technology in New York City.

Jesse Wieland, first-year master's student, will be serving as a summer intern with the Service Leadership Seminar program at the Center for Leadership in Social Change at Florida State University.

The FSU HESA Class of 2017 will be visiting several institutions in Jacksonville, Florida for the iconic summer practicum. Many master and doctoral students will also be traveling to London, England for international practicum.

Higher Education Hooding Ceremony & Graduation Reception

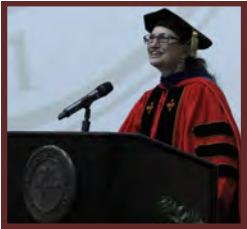
By: Jordan Nation, 1st Year Master's Student,
New Student & Family Programs

Celebrating the Class of 2016



April 29th, 2016 – A day I selfishly did not want to come. While I am so proud of the graduating 2016 HESA cohort, knowing that so many people had a profound impact on my experience. The feelings of sadness washed away the second that Pomp and Circumstance came over the speakers. I watched the second year cohort walk in and my feelings were immediately replaced with pride and happiness. I watched the cohort walk in and I was overwhelmed and thankful that I had the privilege of calling these folks classmates, colleagues, but more importantly friends.

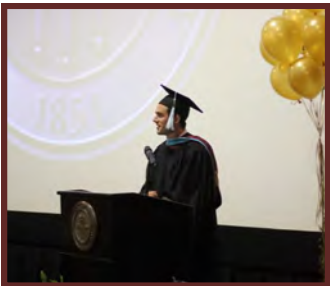
As the ceremony continued, I really began to take in how lucky I am to be able to experience this program. Dr. David Tandberg mentioned that our program has a talent for creating professionals that understand the difficulties of the work that faces us but also noting that we not let that difficulty turn us into skeptical cynics, but rather informed optimists. This spoke to me because as I reflect on my time with the graduating cohort, I think of all the challenging situations I faced this year and how easy it would have been for me to fall into that skeptical cynicism. However, the graduating cohort was always there to catch me from that fall. They lifted my spirits and reminded me why I do the work that I do.



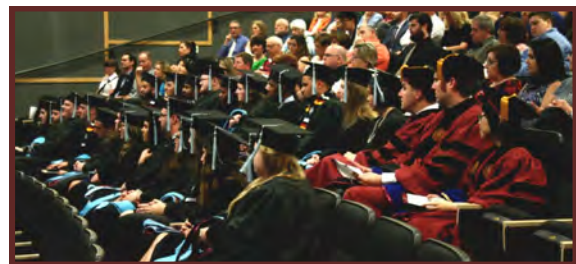
Dr. Laura Osteen blew me away with her amazing commencement address. She likened our experience to a backyard barbecue – a good meal is a good meal, but the most memorable meals are made by the company during the meal. I have shared SO many amazing meals with our 2016 cohort – both literally and figuratively. The company, support, and friendship they offer is like no other. Dr. Osteen's words inspired me to take an introspective look at myself. Am I good company? Am I good company to everyone? What can I do to be better?



As I pondered these questions, the class speaker Mr. Matthew Dishman inspired some of the answers to these questions. He reminded us of the incredible privilege we have by obtaining graduate degrees. Whether or not you are employed at graduation or still searching and whether you are an entry-level professional or a Vice President for Student Affairs, by obtaining a college degree from Florida State we have entered an elite group that few members of this world belong. With that privilege comes a tremendous amount of responsibility. Dishman's speech inspired a goal for my second year: to make sure my actions come from a place of love, compassion, and forgiveness.



The 2016 HESA Hooding Ceremony beautifully captured the spirit of the FSU Higher Education program. I could not be more proud of my cohort, our faculty, and our graduating cohort. To every graduate – I wish nothing but good luck and fortune on your future endeavors. May the light that you inspired in me guide you for the rest of your journey.



Higher Education Hooding Ceremony & Graduation Reception

In total, 30 master's and doctoral students were recognized and hooded as graduates of Florida State University for their respective degrees. The ceremony also recognized several recipients of the 2015-2016 Hardee Center Awards - nominated and selected by students, faculty, and staff. There were six awards given this year: one doctoral and master recipient of the Sherrill W. Ragans Leadership and Service Award, one recipient of the Peer Leadership Award, and three Supervisor/Mentor Award recipients. This year, **Sophia Rahming** and **Lane Washington** were recognized as the doctoral and master's recipients of the Sherrill W. Ragans Leadership and Service Award, respectively. **Mallory Foutch** was recognized as this year's Peer Leadership Award winner. The three recipients of this year's Supervisor/Mentor Award were: **Erica Wiborg**, Program Coordinator in the Center for Leadership and Social Change; **Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner**, Assistant Professor of Higher Education; and **Dr. Brad Cox**, Associate Professor of Higher Education. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!



Immediately following the Higher Education Hooding Ceremony in the Askew Student Life Center Cinema, a graduation reception was held outside in the Askew Courtyard for all graduating master's and doctoral students, family members and invited guests, faculty, staff, and current students in the program. The reception provided an avenue for plenty of food, drink, and sweet treats for all to enjoy - all in good company as Dr. Osteen earlier referred to. As folks celebrated the accomplishments and successes of our graduating students and their loved ones, sharing this time together, I could not help but smile at the milestone my peers and their families and friends were reaching. Truly, a beautiful day of celebration for what is surely to become a full life-long commitment to their future endeavors.

Congratulations to the graduating Master and Doctoral students and may you carry the legacy of Dr. Hardee and the LifeNet with you as you succeed, knowing the people in your life believe in you and want to see you succeed.



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Doctor of Education

Dr. Scott Evans Balog, Ed.D.

Major Professor: Dr. Thomas Kent Wetherell, Professor of Higher Education

Dissertation: "An Analysis of Performance-Based Funding Policies and Recommendations for the Florida College System"

Doctor of Philosophy

Dr. James Monroe Hunt, Ph.D.

Major Professor: Dr. David Tandberg, Associate Professor of Higher Education

Dissertation: "Merit Aid, College Affordability, and Prestige: Institutional Responses to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program"

Dr. Yi-Chin Sarah Wu, Ph.D.

Major Professor: Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, Assistant Professor of Higher Education

Dissertation: "Exploring the Relationships among Self-Regulation, Acculturation, and Academic and Social Integration for Asian International Doctoral Students"

Master of Science (Thesis)

Taylor Victoria Locks, M.S.

Major Professor: Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner, Assistant Professor of Higher Education

Thesis: "Performance Funding and Higher Education Administrators: The Interaction of Administrators and Policy on Metric Achievement"



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Master of Science - Higher Education

Suzanne Marie Berkey	Danielle Renee Lewis	Spencer Ellis Scruggs
Kyle Andrew Calbat	Morgan Leigh Matchett	Robin Breana Searcy
Joseph Montgomery Czaja	Amanda Michelle Mintz	Kaitlyn Nicole Shepard
Joshua Gregory Davis	Katherine Elise Morales	Jennifer Ruth Stone
Matthew Charles Dishman	Kyle Alexander Newman	Suzanne Vickers
Megan Downey	Emily Gale Dswalt	Lane Washington
Mallory Mae Foutch	Junior Pena	Christian Alexander Williams
Katherine Elizabeth Hibbard	Amanda Maria Peters	Samantha Anne Yorke
Matthew Spencer Jones	Ali Raza	Taylor Victoria Locks



Thank you to our Spring 2016 Donors!

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Ms. Samantha Yorke

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Journal of College & Character

Volume 17, Issue 1 ([March 2016](#))

Co-Editors: Jon C. Dalton - Florida State University & Pamela C. Crosby - NASPA

Invited Featured Article

“Colleges and Universities as Exemplars in the Development of Citizens”

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Responsive and Responsible: Faculty Encouragement of Civic Engagement”

“‘Keep Pressing On’: Spiritual Epistemology and Its Role in the Collegiate Lives of Black Gay and Bisexual Men”

“Perceptions of Campus Climates for Civic Learning as Predicators of College Students’ Mental Health

Opinions and Perspectives

“Standing Firm on Slippery Slopes: Understanding Ethical Boundaries in Student Affairs Work”

International Perspectives

“Leadership, Service, and Exploration: An Evaluation in the Local, National, and International Context”

Ethical Issues on Campus

“Claiming Voice on the Future of Higher Education”

What They’re Reading

Inside the College Gates: How Class and Culture Matter in Higher Education



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Like us on **Facebook** to stay updated with the Higher Education Student Association (**H.E.S.A.**), learn more about important news/issues in student affairs, view photos from H.E.S.A.-sponsored events, find out about involvement opportunities, conferences details/deadlines, scholarships and so much more! [View our Fan Page here!](#)



Follow us on **Twitter** [@FSU_HESA](#) and [@FSUHardeeCenter](#) to see what's trending in the **#FSUHigherEd** program and with our **#FSULifeNet**, engage in class Twitter discussions, and find out the latest H.E.S.A. updates! Keep up with our Visiting Days program by following [@FSUVisitingDays](#)!



Connect with us on **LinkedIn** to build and foster professional relationships with your fellow LifeNet alumni, as well as friends and students of the Florida State University Higher Education program! Not on LinkedIn? [Create your profile today!](#)



Check out our videos on **YouTube** by clicking below!

["This Is FSU HESA..." Video](#)

[Hardee Centennial Celebration Tribute](#)

HESA

Higher Education Student Association
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Learn more about the **Higher Education Student Association** by viewing our [new website](#)! Watch H.E.S.A. videos, read blog posts from our current graduate students, find out about our upcoming events, and keep up with H.E.S.A. meetings!

Save the Date!

Hardee Center Weekend

September 29th - October 1st, 2016

Tentative activities include:

**The Hardee Center Annual Board Meeting
The 2016-2017 Hardee Fellows Induction Ceremony
Hardee Center Professional Development Activities &
Florida State University vs. North Carolina Football Game**



Dalton Institute on College Student Values

February 2 - 4, 2017

Conference Location: Florida State University

For more information, be sure to visit
studentvalues.fsu.edu for more updates!



NASPA 2017 Annual Conference

March 12 – March 16, 2017

Conference Location: Indianapolis, IN

For more information, [click here!](#)

Reception details: TBA