The LifeNet
Newsletter
Spring 2015 Edition
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!

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

I am pleased to announce that 32 masters and doctoral graduates of the Higher Education program are heading out into the world with their shiny new degrees! Fresh from our Hooding Ceremony on May 1st, our newest alumni are ready to take on the world and represent Florida State in our tradition of excellence!

As I reflect on the 2014-15 calendar, it was quite a year for FSU. From orientation for the new students in August to our induction of Hardee Fellows in October to networking at ACPA and NASPA in March, we have been busy learning, teaching, connecting and recognizing! And judging by the success of the February Visiting Days, our next cohort of graduate students will continue with the same quality credentials and accomplishments that we have come to expect.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue of the LifeNet. Our Associate Director and Graduate Assistant for the Hardee Center, Ali Raza has prepared another issue overflowing with news. Ali has done a great job for the Center, stepping into his new role as if he has done it forever! Please join me in wishing him a productive summer in his NODA internship at Bentley University in Massachusetts.

So, if you need anything over the summer, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly. Adam Tingen will also be here all summer in case you want to contact him about a contribution to the Hardee Center!

I look forward to seeing many of you next fall at our Hardee Board meeting and Induction on October 15-16 - save the date. And, I hope that the summer brings time for you to rest and reflect!

Thank you for all that you do for the Hardee Center and our students!

Best Wishes,

Mary B. Coburn
Director of the Hardee Center
Vice President for Student Affairs

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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.
Each February the Dalton Institute welcomes higher education faculty, administrators, and students to Tallahassee to explore the state of scholarship and practice in college student character and values development. Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jon C. Dalton, the Dalton Institute examines character and values development through the lens of a particular topic or theme each year. Held February 5-7, 2015, this year’s conference marked the Dalton Institute’s 25th year by exploring the theme of Widen-ing Inequalities: Educating College Students to be Fair and Equitable in the World They Will Lead.

The 2015 Institute boasted an outstanding lineup of speakers, starting with a pre-conference workshop by Clare Cady with an invited panel discussing food insecurity on campus. Keynotes from Dr. Alexander Astin, Dr. Shaun R. Harper, Dr. Will Barratt, and Dr. Andrew J. Seligsohn, as well as a closing panel discussion led by Miguel Hernandez, provided opportunities both to reflect on the work that has been accomplished over the life of the Dalton Institute and also to frame the challenges facing higher education as we look forward to the next 25 years.

More than 160 faculty, staff, and students engaged at the conference, attending nearly 30 participant-led educational sessions related to this year's theme. In all, conference participants represented 36 higher education institutions across 20 states and 2 countries.

Recognitions

In addition to professional development and networking, the Dalton Institute is also a time to celebrate successes. Dr. Jon C. Dalton was honored by Dr. Mary Coburn, Dalton Institute Co-Director and Vice President for Student Affairs at Florida State University. The Dalton Institute also confers two annual awards for outstanding research and practice in the field of college student character and values development. The 2015 Dissertation of the Year was awarded to Dr. Darris R. Means for his dissertation, entitled “Demonized No More: The Spiritual Journeys and Spaces of Black Gay Male College Students at Predominantly White Institutions.” The 2015 Best Practices Award was accepted by Luisa Gallagher on behalf of the Center for Community Action & Service Learning at Gonzaga University for “Mission: Possible.”

Mark Your Calendars!

The 26th annual Dalton Institute will take place February 4-6, 2016 in Tallahassee, Florida. To learn more about the Dalton Institute, please visit us online at studentvalues.fsu.edu. You can also contact us by email, or on Twitter and Facebook.
On the second night of the 2015 Jon C. Dalton Institute of College Student Values, the Hardee Center continued a tradition of hosting a panel session with nationally renowned higher education professionals Dr. Alexander Astin, Dr. Shaun Harper, Dr. William Barratt, and Clare Cady with members of Florida State University’s Higher Education program. Students and guests sat down to enjoy pizza and refreshments and began listening to the Institute keynote speakers’ development in student affairs and thoughts on the current state of higher education.

Shermin Murji a doctoral student asked the panel: “How do you get through the frustrations of injustices and stay motivated to continue your work in higher education?” Dr. Harper began to answer after a moment of reflection and asserted that he cannot afford to become overwhelmed by injustices. “Historically, slaves, civil right activists, and other influential figures did not lose motivation in times of hardship.” Dr. Harper continued by discussing personal wellness and how clear, personal boundaries, such as not writing on weekends or weeknights, are needed to maintain motivation and resiliency in his work.

Dr. Astin answered the question from a different perspective. He challenged students to realize everyone is capable of creating long term change. For instance, dilemmas that higher education faces today were far more problematic 50 years ago. Reflecting on experiences from his college days, Dr. Astin explained that there have been profound changes regarding women’s roles in higher education. He concluded his response by stating, “looking at the long term benefits of perseverance outweigh short term frustrations.”

Spencer Scruggs, a first year master’s student, followed Shermin’s question by asking about his role as a scholar-practitioner and how to stay motivated when writing and conducting research for higher education. Dr. Barratt began by suggesting writing more broadly in whatever capacity capable. Whether the outlet is Facebook, blogs, or scholarly journals, Dr. Barratt recommended individuals should write where their passion lies and express their message through an avenue they feel comfortable. Dr. Harper followed by relating his own experiences stating that he writes from three places: “frustration, justice, and stimulation.” Dr. Harper continued that he writes about his passions and these passions stem from a deep concern for higher education.

An additional question presented to the panelists by Kellie Gerbers, a doctoral student, inquired about how the panelists contribute to the quality of higher education. Clare Cady began by stating she was unsure if she contributed to the quality of higher education, but she described the pride she felt when preparing students to leave college with the ability to articulate their accomplishments, beliefs, and goals. Dr. Harper and Dr. Astin similarly responded by claiming various teaching opportunities inside and outside the classroom that contribute to the quality of higher education.

The tradition of the Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values Dinner Dialogue with the keynote speakers continues to provide an intellectually stimulating conversation on questions and concerns of graduate students. Overall, the event granted an amazing opportunity for interaction with esteemed professionals in Student Affairs.
Program book in one hand, phone in the other, my own business cards stashed in an increasingly heavy nametag full of pins, stickers and other professionals’ business cards and a smile as big as crescent moon. This pretty much describes me throughout the ACPA 2015 convention in Tampa, which happened to also be my first higher education/student affairs conference experience. Of course, the highlights of conferences in our field are the receptions, where we get to reconnect with cohort members, mentors, professionals that influenced our own growth as professionals, and, especially in the case of Florida State’s reception, meet the legacy that built and continues to build our programs of study. Even before Florida State’s reception, I met multiple individuals who could be considered thought leaders in ACPA and the profession who are members of the LifeNet. Being a part of the LifeNet is an instant conversation starter and one of the great things about hosting a reception where everyone there is a part of the strongest higher education student affairs graduate program alumni network. No matter who you talked to, they knew someone who knew someone that served in a similar assistantship as you, and went through similar classes or experiences as you have or will go through. The most incredible things about the reception were the energy in the room and the concern all of individuals in the room had for each other. Every single LifeNet member I spoke to was genuinely interested in what I was doing and how I was progressing in my professional development and studies.

The reception also served as a great reminder of the caliber and quality of Florida State’s Division of Student Affairs and Educational Leadership and Policy Studies department in the College of Education. Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Mary Coburn listed off the multiple awards and recognition that faculty, staff, and university programs were receiving at ACPA and had received from other entities. The descriptive nature of these awards reflected on the attention paid at Florida State to excellence in practice and scholarly work. Additionally, Dr. Coburn announced the extension of the capital funding campaign goal for The Hardee Center from $150,000 to $250,000, a sign of the progress we are making in continuing Dr. Hardee’s legacy with Florida State’s program and supporting the excellence of students in the higher education student affairs graduate studies program. Of course, no reception or gathering of members of the LifeNet is complete without a group picture. Getting to meet fellow members of the LifeNet and being reaffirmed of the strength, quality, and excellence of Florida State’s Division of Student Affairs and Higher Education Student Affairs Graduate Studies program were highlights of ACPA 2015. I look forward to future receptions and further connections made through the LifeNet.
Despite never having attended a NASPA Annual Conference before, one of my responsibilities included planning and executing the Florida State University Reception at NASPA. As the spring semester continued to tick away and the date of this annual gathering crept closer and closer, I became incredibly excited. I heard stories about what to expect and was provided great insight on how to navigate the conference as a first-time attendee. Erin Sylvester, Coordinator of Events and Programs for the Division of Student Affairs, and I had everything prepared and we were ready—especially after hosting the FSU reception at AC-PA just a couple weeks prior. I recall conversations with current and former students mentioning the magnitude of their experience at NASPA and their experience at the FSU Reception in prior years. And yet, all the planning, exchanged stories, and insight did not fully prepare me for the 2015 FSU Reception at NASPA. Being there in person and actually living it is a feeling I cannot quite describe. There were many emotions coupled with a strong connection to everyone in the room. The LifeNet IS real. The LifeNet is all around me. The LifeNet is bigger than any one individual and everyone together.

On Monday, March 23rd, the Division of Student Affairs and the College of Education hosted the 2015 Florida State University Reception at the NASPA Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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 2015 Melvene Draheim Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award recipient, Dr. Lissa Stapleton of the University of Southern Mississippi, 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—including FSU being named one of the top 15 Division of Student Affairs in the country, 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. 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.

Throughout the FSU Reception, more than 20 gift bags were raffled out to The LifeNet and friends, including a Coach Jimbo Fisher autographed football!

I am so grateful to have had the privilege and opportunity to not only attend the NASPA Annual Conference for the first time, but also plan the FSU Reception. For the first time in my life, I was surrounded by generations of FSU faithful. Surveying the room throughout the reception, I became energized by the conversations being held, connections being made, and seeing some of my fellow cohort navigate their first conference experience. I immediately became comfortable and realized I was home. My passion for student affairs reaffirmed, my heart full after reconnecting with mentors and forming new relationships, and my brain filled with invigorating knowledge and new information to take back with me. NASPA 2015, while exhausting, definitely empowered me to finish the spring semester strong and provided me a glimpse of what to expect in the future. Here’s to NASPA 2016, and many more.
Florida State Reception @ NASPA 2015
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 16, 2015. 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:

Victoria Dobiyanski - Understanding the Traditions of Florida State University
Sarah Gladwin - Mind the Gap: Experiences of Museum Educators when Collaborating with Classroom Teachers
Alyssa Hernandez - Homecoming: Exploring a Deeper Meaning for University Alumni
Traci Kervin - Understanding Reflective Practice of Pre-Service Teachers as it Relates to Mathematics Instruction
John Muchira - The Process of Entrepreneurship Development in a Post-Secondary Institution: Contributions of Faculty in Designing an Entrepreneurship Program
Aja Roache - Art Museum Visitor Experiences and the Shaping of HBCU Student Identities
Jenay Sermon - I Didn't See Myself Going to College: A Phenomenological Study of First Generation College Students in a Campus Support Program
James Trotta - Overcoming Intercultural Misunderstandings: Developing English Learners’ Strategic Competence

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.
Since Visiting Days 2015 in mid-February, I have been in touch with a few of the incoming master’s students. I started hearing about their experiences, what they liked, what they were looking forward to, and why they ultimately decided to come to Florida State University to pursue a master’s in Higher Education. Then it hit me: this would be a perfect opportunity to showcase some of the incoming first-year master’s students to the LifeNet. The cohort was asked four questions - of which only one would need to be answered. In total, we had thirteen incoming first-year master’s students respond. You can find their responses below.

**Blake Weiss**

*Why did you choose FSU?*

One of the biggest reasons why I chose FSU was my phenomenal host during Visiting Days, Joe Czaja. I knew from researching and speaking with current professionals that FSU was exactly the type of institution and program that I wanted for graduate school, so a big deciding factor was the impact current cohort members had on me and Joe knocked it out of the park! Even though Visiting Days was a nerve wracking process, I owe Joe, and of course everyone else, a lot of thanks for making me feel at home and ensuring I had a successful trip.

**Matt Corbett**

*What are you looking forward to?*

I’m looking forward to FSU football, Tallahassee parks, and no more Wisconsin winters. Even more so, I’m excited to spend the next two years learning from all of the brilliant people around me, finding my place in the field of student affairs, and planning some unforgettable events with Union Productions. Also Disney World.

**Hope Young**

*Why did you choose FSU?*

I decided to come to Florida State for a few reasons. First is that one of my closest mentors, along with a plethora of other staff members at my undergrad institution attended/worked at Florida State, so the LifeNet is very prevalent on my campus! I’m from South Carolina, so I love that I won’t be too far from home. When I toured during Visiting Days, I absolutely fell in love with the campus, the program, and the people! I knew that if I went to FSU, I would receive a stellar education and make some long-lasting connections and friendships.

**Chase Breeden**

*What do you hope to gain during your first-year at FSU?*

I think I have a lot to gain in my first year at FSU! For the past 4 years I’ve spent time as a student and as an intern so transitioning into that Graduate Student/GA role is going to be big. There will be a lot of “firsts” for me over the next year and I’m excited but also nervous about the challenges that wait ahead. I expect to build upon the skills I learned in undergrad and really dig deep into the theories of our profession while applying them to my position. Not only do I plan to grow as a professional but also as a person. Moving from Illinois to Florida will be an interesting experience… but I sure won’t miss those northern winters!
Lauren Haynes
Why did you choose FSU?
I chose FSU HESA primarily because of its focus on experiential education. It was/is very important to me that I am a part of a program that emphasizes theory to practice. The opportunity for a graduate assistantship, two internships, and an international practicum was something that was not matched by other institutions that I had considered. My decision to attend FSU was an easy one, not only because of the experiential education but because of the faculty, fellow students, and employers that I had the chance to meet at my visiting days. All of these things convinced me that becoming a part of the LifeNet was essential my journey in Student Affairs.

Kaileen Paige
Why did you choose FSU?
My name is Kaileen Paige and I am graduating from The University of Texas at the end of May. I chose FSU because I have always felt immensely supported by the program. From the time I sent in my application through the end of visiting days, everyone showed that they genuinely cared about me and wanted to see me succeed. I can already tell that surrounding myself with these individuals will motivate me to be the best I can. There is no better place I could have chosen for my grad school journey!

Andy Hoffman
Why did you choose FSU? How can the Class of 2016 and others support you?
Florida State University is the home to an alive and engaging campus spirit. I can’t think of anywhere I’d rather be – the LifeNet is bar none in terms of alumni relations, the faculty has exceptional track records, and the roles in my assistantship are exactly what I had in mind to develop my abilities and shape students’ experiences. The HESA students, faculty, and staff at FSU were the most prepared and authentic individuals I came to know, making the choice easy for me. Class and 2016 and others within the program should be as open to sharing as possible. I come from a small town outside of Waco, Texas. I would love to hear about your experiences and your perspectives as it will only help me relate more to the students.

Alyssa Shears
Why did you choose FSU?
My choice to attend Florida State was always very simple for me though many tried to sway my views. I completed my undergraduate at FSU so I was told by many people that it was important to venture out and gain new experiences at a different institution. However, at this moment in my life, I feel as though no other institution is able to provide me with the academic vigor and familial support as Florida State has. I am forever indebted to all that FSU has provided me with and remain optimistic of the new opportunities heading my way.
Jessica Coons  
*What are you looking forward to?*

There are a lot of reasons I am looking forward to starting in the HESA program at FSU! I am excited to explore a new city and try all the restaurant recommendations I've been given. I can't wait to get to know the university and feel the school spirit. I am ready to get to know the other staff members in University Housing through my assistantship. Above all I am looking forward to getting to know students and learn how to best serve them!

Shantel Honeyghan  
*Why did you choose FSU?*

When I first set foot on campus, it felt like home to me. That's exactly what I was looking for; a place filled with genuine people, invaluable educational and professional opportunities and a sense of warmth. For me it was an easy decision and after applying to 12 schools it was a relief to accept my offer for admission to FSU simply because “it felt right”. I look forward to all that is to come!

D'Evelyn Wymore  
*What are you looking forward to?*

I am most excited to see the correlations of what I do in my GA position to what I learn in the classroom as well as to connect these new experiences to my knowledge from my Undergraduate studies in English Education K-12. Hopefully, this congruous accumulation within the field of education will make me well-rounded and best able to assist students in a variety of career opportunities.

Jordan Nation  
*What are you looking forward to?*

I am most looking forward to learning from all of the amazing professionals on campus. While I was in Tallahassee for Visiting Days, the faculty and staff impressed me far beyond I ever could have imagined and I knew this is where I wanted to be. I am also looking forward to sharing this experience with my cohort. Even though we are not at FSU yet, I can already tell that everyone in our cohort has a unique and amazing personality and I am so excited that we all get to share this experience with each other!

Josh Guffey  
*Why did you choose FSU?*

I chose FSU because I know I can grow as a person as well as a great professional within Student Affairs. When I was at visiting days and I saw the passion that the faculty, staff, current and future students have for student affairs and FSU, I knew I was sold. FSU will challenge like I’ve never been challenged, but who doesn’t like a challenge? I know FSU will give me so much more than an education, it will give me some of the best experiences and skills that will make me into a great student affairs professional.
In late February of this year, I had the opportunity to attend the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers (SEAHO) Annual Conference in Mobile, Alabama. I attended the annual conference last year, in which SEAHO was celebrating its 50th anniversary and recognized its legacy of leaders and excellence. This year, my focus changed as a second-year graduate student; in addition to enjoying the conference and connecting/re-connecting with individuals, I was slated to participate in their job placement program and give my first presentation at a regional conference.

Participating in SEAHO Placement was not a major aspect of my conference experience, considering that I requested just one interview, but it was still my first step in finding a job for next year. Fortunately, I had been able to practice interviewing as a result of mock interview programs provided by Florida State’s Housing staff and our Higher Education program. I felt more prepared, in that I was comfortable in answering questions genuinely and honestly while also being prepared for what they wanted to know about me as a candidate. Additionally, SEAHO Placement indirectly offered candidates and me the change to connect with one another and share our thoughts and feelings about the overall job search process. It was great to have this experience before doing it on a larger scale at The Placement Exchange (TPE).

One of the most exciting elements of the conference was having a program proposal be accepted and being given the opportunity to present in front of other SEAHO attendees. The presentation, titled “Real Talk: The Five Unspoken Truths about Life as a Housing Professional,” was centered on authenticity in the workplace as a Housing staff member and having conversations with colleagues about “truths” that are not discussed often in Housing departments in a constructive manner. We were hesitant about the attendance of our program since we were slated to present in the last session block, but we had over 20 individuals come to the program. There were very good conversations had amongst attendees, and my presentation partner (Cassandra Winland, Higher Education Class of 2015) and I were able to represent FSU well by presenting and engaging others in important dialogue.

While all the opportunities to engage with others at SEAHO were important, one stood out over the others. This was the fifth consecutive year where alumni of Florida State Housing met up and participated in “SEAHO Family Dinner”. The purpose of this event is to reconnect with current and former student staff and professional staff members of Florida State, share fun stories about times at FSU, and network with people at many different schools. This year, nearly 30 people came to the event (pictured below), and only 1/3 of them are currently working at FSU Housing, which shows the dedication that the others have to FSU.

SEAHO 2015 was a very rewarding experience, and I appreciate the Hardee Center for helping fund some of the costs to attend the conference!
As I reflect back on my experience of attending my first ACPA conference, I think about two things: a) relationships and b) community. From the beginning of the conference I reconnected with individuals that I had not seen in a while and also formed bonds with new individuals from various regions of the country. One of the most impactful experiences at ACPA was being able to connect with the Latino Network, which serves as the space and organization within ACPA that caters to Latin@ student affairs professionals through various professional development opportunities and networking socials. The Latino Network not only serves as a place of authenticity and validation, but also as a strong knit community that emulates a place of social support within ACPA for Latin@s.

National conferences serve as a time to reconnect with colleagues that allow me to feel rejuvenated and energized to keep doing the work I do within student affairs. Reflecting on my experiences as a graduate student and a student affairs professional with people that are close to me allows me the opportunity to truly think about how I have grown through this journey. My Latino identity is an integral part of my journey in this student affairs field, and having colleagues that push me to be better is what keeps me motivated to be the best that I can be academically, professionally, and personally.

Additionally, my time in the sessions gave me the opportunity to learn about what others are doing in the field with respect to the Latino community. There were great sessions that focused on Latin@ driven research interest from a broad range of perspectives such as parental influence, the role of advocates, and also serving undocumented students or students from mixed-status families. The Latin@ population is growing, and as student affairs professionals, we can no longer just talk about it, but we also have to act on it and engage in action oriented practices that account for the experiences of the Latino community in higher education narratives.

Ultimately, this conference gave me the opportunity to reconnect, establish, and build long-lasting relationships through community. Whether it was through the Latino Network, having 1:1 conversations with others, or engaging in educational sessions, I have had the opportunity to build una familia, within ACPA.
Stacking My [Building] Blocks:
Putting Theory to Practice at #ACPA15

ACP—Tampa, FL

By: Shawna Patterson, Doctoral candidate

I have been heavily involved in ACPA for almost a decade. With each convention, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and have taken advantage of several opportunities to network with colleagues and mentors. But this conference was different. For the first time, I was able to capture an authentic glimpse on the inner-workings of the association. As a member of the Tampa Convention Planning Committee, I was able to observe how decisions were made, who was tapped to make said decisions, and how resources were pooled together in order to tackle some pretty major obstacles. I simultaneously balanced my responsibilities on the committee with my new role as the Chair for the Standing Committee of Multicultural Affairs. It was overwhelming. And rewarding.

While I have been an active member of ACPA for a number of years, I felt as if I was seeing the organization for the first time. I quietly observed as plans were put into motion and pieces were gently placed together in order to provide our members with a quality experience. And while I arrived on site with a toolbox full of shiny skills, I put them aside to play with my networking building blocks. I was navigating political realms that were completely new to me and while I have acquired a bit of savvy along the way, these new forums required a different level of finesse and tact. It was in Tampa that I fully acknowledged and appreciated some of the most important lessons that our loving professors in HESA have taught us. Our professional image and demeanor matters. The ways that our colleagues and prospective connections perceive us matters. And while networking is a major component of the convention experience, it is also important to forge relationships that are authentic and organic. These were the connections that I leaned on while making sense of my experience. I could ask honest questions in a safe space so that I could avoid making very public mistakes. More importantly, I realized those initial ties that I made so many years back had grown into a full-fledged safety net. I was able to access these new spaces because of the guidance that I received from my mentors, colleagues, and the faculty of Higher Education program at Florida State.

In closing, I must express my gratitude to the Hardee Center for its generous donation, which ensured my ability to participate in this year’s conference. I recognize that it is with the assistance and support of the Hardee Center that I am able to work towards making substantial contributions to the field of higher education. Many thanks, and I hope to see you in Montreal!
With the support of the Hardee Center, I had the opportunity to attend the ACPA Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida from March 5th through March 8th. This was my first time attending an ACPA convention and I was excited to learn more about the intricacies of our field as well as the international organization. When I arrived in Tampa after a short drive from Tallahassee, I was greeted by beautiful weather and some familiar faces of individuals affiliated with Florida State. Last year, I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the NASPA annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. I arrived at ACPA with the understanding I would see differences between the two organizations. However, similar to my experience at NASPA my previous year, I felt incredibly proud to be from Florida State as many of the interactions I had were with someone who shared a connection with a colleague at Florida State or they had attended our program and were a member of our LifeNet. It was apparent that regardless of the national organization or conference, Florida State is a respected and well-established institution.

This year was one of celebration during the Convention as many anniversaries and landmarks were being recognized such as; the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), the 50th anniversary of the Selma March and 30th anniversary of the Standing Committee of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness. Furthermore, the Convention’s theme of “Consider. Collaborate. Create. Commit” was seamlessly tied into all elements of the convention from beginning to end. Throughout the conference I found myself in spaces that discussed the changing landscape of higher education and how practitioners from across institutions have come together to develop student success. Furthermore, as an individual who will be in a professional role come May, I was intentional about attending sessions that enhanced my professional competencies that will allow me to take action in my new position.

In closing, I recognize that the Hardee Center has played a major role in my ability to create a relationship with this association. I want to thank the Hardee Center for providing financial support which enabled me to have this phenomenal experience.

Thanks to the support of the Hardee Center, I attended the NASPA annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was lucky enough to attend the 2014 NASPA conference in Baltimore during my first year of graduate school, and I was able to see the importance of learning and networking at national conferences. I was excited to be able to head to New Orleans this year to continue to expand my knowledge about the organization and our field. I’m continually impressed by seeing how many members of the LifeNet are involved at the NASPA conference, from leading presentations to being recognized for outstanding work in Student Affairs.

The keynote speech by Dr. Jen Arnold encouraging us to “Think Big” was the perfect message to hear during this transitional period of my life. Dr. Arnold spoke on not accepting defeat and how to keep persisting to get to where you want to be. Hearing her talk about the impact student affairs professionals had on her life was a great reminder of how we can impact the students with work with and it renewed my commitment to give my all every day.

The Life Net also shined during my experience at The Placement Exchange. From the encouraging notes in my mailbox to alumni of the program finding me to wish me well made an otherwise stressful experience extremely pleasant. I look forward to future years where I can be a source of help and encouragement for other FSU HESA grads going through the job search experience!
I was honored to receive one of the Hardee Center grants this year to support my trip to New Orleans for the NASPA conference. The grant allowed me to focus on my involvement with the 20th anniversary of the International Symposium, leadership meetings, and leading a panel on the 50th anniversary of NASPA Regions rather than dwelling on how much money the trip, overall, was costing. NASPA is a time to catch up with colleagues, mentors, and to reengage with your personal interests and why you got into the field from the start. As the centennial anniversary for NASPA is just around the corner, this year NASPA celebrated multiple anniversaries and I was highly involved in two of those events: the International Symposium and the anniversary of NASPA Regions.

The International Symposium started in 1996 and celebrated their 20th anniversary this year bringing together over 20 countries to discuss international and global student affairs and services issues. This was my 8th symposium but as a pre-conference, it costs extra. The Hardee Center grant allowed me to attend this event and interact with my global colleagues for a day and a half prior to the start of the conference learning about soft skills, international higher education systems, and the importance of cultural competence for graduating learners around the world. In addition to attending the annual symposium, I had the unique opportunity to serve on and represent Florida State on the International Task Force this year. NASPA’s commitment to serving student affairs and services professionals globally has come to fruition in their new strategic plan and the addition of two new areas in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENASA). This new direction that NASPA has taken helps me better identify as a student affairs professional globally and demonstrates my commitment to both my professional organization as well as the profession in which I serve.

In 1965, NASPA voted to expand into regions to provide more opportunity for involvement and intimate discussions that were no longer a luxury as the membership grew. I was invited to facilitate a panel of seven past regional vice presidents (now known as regional directors) due to my recent work in the archives of Bowling Green State University on the history of Region III. This panel discussed the importance of regions and how they developed over the years. Past regional leaders included Jim Rhatigan, Shelia Murphy, Tom Miller, Almeda Jacks, Doris Ching, Mike Segawa, and Barb Jones and these individuals were chosen as each one represented a different region and all five decades were represented (see picture). They shared wonderful stories, tips of getting involved, and the differences between regions.

Without having opportunities like the Hardee Center grant, students such as myself, wouldn’t be able to attend conferences and develop their knowledge, skills, and values in the field as well as establishing their professional network. The support of the Hardee Center, HESA, and the Higher Education program has provided me endless opportunities in my four years at Florida State to become the best professional that I can be and embedded in me a sense of duty to return the favor to future professionals. For that, I thank not just the Hardee Center, but every individual that I have encountered at Florida State including faculty, students, staff, and alumni.
My first AERA conference was really a professionally rewarding experience. I am so thankful for the financial support from the Hardee Center for funding this opportunity to attend the 2015 AERA conference, which is a professional association of educators and practitioners who aim to advance research skills and improve current education.

I was not only involved in the Emerging Scholars Workshop, but also participated in several sessions that centered on research topics that have my interest. After the sessions, I also took opportunities to connect with scholars to learn about and discuss each other’s studies. In addition, I also had a chance to present with Dr. Rebecca Brower at a roundtable session. These discussions were highly focused on specific topics that resulted in very constructive feedback. We were so excited, because the feedback enabled us to move to our next step.

In my opinion, attending a conference was also a platform for me to introduce myself to those talented scholars whose research has interested me, and with whom I could share some experiences. I believed meeting scholars from similar fields would help my career through social networking. I’m a shy and introverted person, but I think attending a conference is also an essential acculturation process into the academic discipline. I was encouraged from ELPS faculty on how to overcome my nervousness so that I could create a network in my research area. On the first day, it was a bit overwhelming. However, by forcing myself more and more to speak with people or ask questions of the presenter, I came to enjoy talking with them about how they conducted their research or what their doctoral study journey was like. It was absolutely worthwhile to learn from others’ experiences.

One of the best parts of AERA were the workshops that aimed to teach skills to graduate students that would help when as they complete their degree, such as finding a job, publishing research, and writing techniques. These workshops were very informative and useful! My overall experience at the AERA conference has had an important impact on my academic training. I am appreciative of the Hardee Center for the conference support and, ultimately, my contribution to the field of higher education.
I remember arriving to Florida State University for the 2014 Visiting Days in February of last year not sure how to feel or what to expect. This was my first official visit for the graduate school search process and I was anxious but excited. I immediately felt a connection to the institution – welcomed with open arms by the current master’s and doctoral students as well as faculty and staff members. The incredible hosting, fostering of relationships during visiting days, and assistantship interviews made me fall in love with Florida State’s Higher Education program. Even before I set foot on campus, I heard about the Life Net and was mentored by a couple FSU alumni. Long story short, I knew FSU is where I wanted to be after Visiting Days 2014.

Fast forward more than a year and here I have just completed my first semester of graduate school. As I reflect on my year, I cannot help but think about how much I have learned, grown, and developed in this short span of time. I came into my first year fairly sure of myself and what I wanted to do. I did not anticipate the coursework, assistantship, and balancing the complexities of life to be as challenging as my undergraduate institution. Based on my experience, I quickly found out that undergrad and graduate school were different and I would have to adjust my way of thinking and strategy for being successful.

As a first generation college student, I feel extremely grateful to be at Florida State University pursuing my master’s in Higher Education. I would not have successfully completed my first year without the support I received from many people. I am thankful for my roommates Kyle, Dish, and Jones, who made my transition to FSU so much easier. The cohort model also played a big role as I found a lot of support within my cohort and in the second year and doctoral student cohorts as well. To be able to come here and experience graduate school with the folks in my cohort has been a real blessing. I am thankful for the friendships we have made, the memories we created, and the mutual learning that has come from inside and outside the classroom. Here’s to another great year! The faculty and staff at FSU are also second-to-none. Their passion for students’ success, creating opportunities for teachable moments, and challenging us to do better work and be better individuals is inspiring. I feel much more prepared going into my summer internship because of the knowledge I gained and experiences I had.

To the incoming cohort, I am beyond excited for you to begin your journey at Florida State University. Know that you can always reach out to me for support and friendship. The same way the previous cohort(s) mentored and supported us, I offer you to reach out to us as well. There are a few pieces of information I want to share with you:

- Enjoy your summer. There is no right way to spend your summer before you begin graduate school. Find out what is right for you and be okay with how you utilize your time. Read a book for pleasure, spend time with your family and friends, travel, do an internship, or do nothing. Whatever you do, make sure you take this time to enjoy yourself.
- Stay in touch with your friends, mentors, and loved ones back home. The transition to graduate school will be different for everyone. It will be important that you maintain your old relationships as you begin your new journey.
- Utilize the cohort model. These are the people that you will spend the most time with over the next two years. They will be your support system, your motivators, and people you will get to know very closely over the next two years and beyond.
- Balance your energy, not your time. We all have the same time each day and how you spend your energy throughout the semesters will determine whether you burn out or have enough fuel to keep going.

That being said, here’s to a great summer and an even better second year at Florida State University! Go ‘Noles!
"Time flies" has never been so true for any experience of my life. It feels like just yesterday I was preparing for my move to Florida and in just a couple days I will be preparing to do the opposite. In my past few months here at Florida State University I have had time to reflect on my experience in the classroom, in my graduate assistantship, and in my first time life.

First, I would be remised if I did not thank Lauren Luffy and the entire staff in the Student Activities Center for allowing me to work in the most amazing assistantship for the past two years. It’s been so rewarding to work with so many phenomenal student leaders, campus partners and to build a family within the SAC. Through this experience and many internship experiences, I have had the opportunity to build strong relationships both personal and professional with professionals across campus. Thank you all for being a part of my experience and shaping me into the person I am today. If there is one thing I will miss at FSU it is being a member of the Division of Student Affairs.

The one thing I will miss most about my graduate experience is my incredible cohort. It is crazy to think about the people we were when we started this program and the invaluable relationships we have formed since then. Thank you all for all the love and memories we have made along the way. I’m so proud to call you my colleagues and very excited to see where everyone ends up next year for their first professional job. To be honest, I don’t think the student affairs world is ready for the amazing group of professionals that is about to enter the “full-time life.” I couldn’t write this without thanking my roommates and two best friends, Arianna and Sarah. Thank you for being everything and anything I could have ever needed these past two years. I’m a better person today because of the two of you.

Finally I was asked to leave some words of wisdom for current students and future students. I’ve narrowed it down to the two things:

1. **Be Yourself** – The best part about this program is that it produces “individual professionals.” We all graduate with strong skill sets and unique experiences that make us ready for our own student affairs paths. Don’t feel like there is only “one way” to complete the Masters program. Seek out the experiences that interest you and support the professional YOU want to be when you walk across that stage. I promise you, it will mean that much more when it’s all over.

2. **The LifeNet is real (but really.)** I’m sure many of you hear it all the time. As a graduating second year, I cannot tell you how much you really see the LifeNet come alive and surround you with the most amazing support. We have some incredible individuals in this field who have come from our program and I promise to continue to uphold the responsibility and commitment by serving as a positive representation of this program. I hope you find comfort in knowing that you, too, have the entire LifeNet in your corner. However, know that with great opportunity comes great responsibility to continue to uphold the legacy of the LifeNet.

I’m honestly so thankful to be part of a place that has challenged me, helped me grow, and most importantly – supported me throughout my entire journey. From the faculty, to my supervisors, campus partners, and my peers – “thank you” will never be enough to express my gratitude for making this adventure one I will remember and cherish forever.

Go Noles!

By: Mallory Garcia, 2nd Year Master’s Student, Student Activities
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. Angela Coleman
- Dr. Perry Crowell
- Dr. Laura Osteen
- Dr. Mark Palazesi
Dr. Kathy Guthrie, Associate Professor, is the Associate Editor of the book, *New Directions for Student Leadership* with Dr. Susan Komives. This book, which became available in February 2015, explores conceptual and pedagogical leadership topics of interest to high school and college leadership educators. She was also elected as Chair-elect for the Leadership Scholarship Member Interest Group for the International Leadership Association and is serving on the ACPA 2016 Convention Team, which will be held in Montreal, Canada in March 2016 as the Next-Gen Co-Chair.

A NASPA Webinar Dr. Guthrie is co-presenting with Josie Alquist at California Lutheran titled "Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age," will be released soon.

Dr. Lara Perez Felkner, Assistant Professor, has had quite the academic year! Below are some of her recent accolades and accomplishments:

**Awards 2014 - 2015**

**Apr 2015**
Robert M. Gagne Research Award, Finalist
Florida State University, College of Education
Excellence in educational research

**Nov 2014**
Transformation Through Teaching Award
Florida State University, Spiritual Life Project
Transformation Through Teaching is a program established through the Spiritual Life Project to honor faculty that have had an intellectual, inspirational, and integrative impact on the lives of students.

**Publications, 2014-2015:**

**Presentations at the following conferences:**
Association for the Study of Higher Education, Washington, DC, November 2014
Sociology of Education Association, Asilomar, CA, February 2014
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC, March 2015
American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, April 2015
Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, Assistant Professor

Exploring the Mentoring Experiences of Black Evaluation Professionals
Paper presented by TBJ at the American Educational Research Association Conference. Chicago, IL

Socialization for Success: Black Women Faculty in Academe Pre- and Post-Tenure Symposium, Chair
Presented Paper as part of the symposium - Emerging Scholar Socialization: Mentoring and Professional Development Implications of Early Career Professional Development for Recent Black Doctoral Graduates
Presented with Dr. La’Tara Osborne-Lampkin (FSU) and Dannielle Joy Davis (St. Louis University) at the American Educational Research Association Conference. Chicago, IL

Social Networking as Countercommunities for Black and Latina Women in Higher Education Roundtable - Estee Hernandez & TBJ at the American Educational Research Association Conference. Chicago, IL


Dr. David Tandberg, was recently promoted to Associate Professor and received tenure - congratulations! He has also published the following:


Alumni Updates & News

At the 2015 NASPA Conference in New Orleans, Bill Haggard (Ed.D., 1993) began his term as Co-Chair of the Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Knowledge Community.


Dr. Joseph A. Oravecz (Ph.D. 2002) was appointed Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at Montana State University this past August (2014). He also adopted son - Drake - this past September!

Kathryn A. Dicato (M.S. 2010) started a new job in the beginning of January at UNC Chapel Hill working in student conduct for the Department of Housing & Residential Education.

Beth Nahlik (M.S. 2008) recently accepted the position as Director of the Center for Academic Excellence at Illinois College.

Ladanya Ramirez-Surmeier (M.S. 2006) was recognized with the NASPA Latino/a Knowledge Community Outstanding Mid-Level Professional Award


Dr. David Persky (Ph.D. 1979) is in his 16th year at Saint Leo University and I am in the faculty as Professor of Criminal Justice. It was a great move to leave the practice of law to come to Saint Leo. I have had several different "hats" during my time at Saint Leo: Associate Dean and Dean of Continuing Education, Assistant to the President, Acting General Counsel and Professor of Criminal Justice. I still find the most rewarding experiences come from my interactions with the students; true to my Student Affairs roots.

Dr. Sonja Ardoin (M.S. 2006) recently accepted a Clinical Assistant Professor role with the Higher Education program in the School of Education at Boston University. Dr. Ardoin is excited to begin the faculty route in July 2015 (and connect with the Boston Seminole Club)!
Dr. Chris P. Plyler (Ph.D. 1978) is announcing that after a 37 year career with the University of South Carolina, he is transitioning to a life outside of higher education. He is eternally grateful to USC for the opportunities to grow and learn on four of its campuses and to Dr. Melvene Hardee and the FSU Higher Ed. Leadership Program for preparing him for the journey. Thank you for your service, Dr. Plyler! For a more in-depth story, please click here.

Dr. Amelia Parnell (Ph.D. 2010) has recently been named the new Vice President for Research and Policy at NASPA - Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education in Washington, D.C. To see the full story, please visit the NASPA website here. Thank you for your service as an adjunct faculty member and best wishes in your new role!

Dr. Ashley Tull (Ed.D. 2004) recently published The Handbook for Student Affairs in the Community College (Stylus Publishing) with Linda Kuk (Colorado State) and Paulette Dalpes (CUNY). Other FSU alums also contributed that included: Tom Hollins, Ivan Harrell, Karinda Barrett, and Kim Hardy. Dr. Tull was also recognized with the University of Arkansas Division of Student Affairs Staff Alumni Achievement Award at the 2015 Annual NASPA Conference.

Virginia Byrne (M.S. 2012) will join the University of Maryland, College Park College of Education’s program in Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership as a full-time PhD student in the Fall of 2015.

After 11 years serving as Chief Student Affairs officer at the American University of Kuwait, Dr. Carol A. Ross (Ed.D. 93), has moved on to another exciting project where she began working fulltime as the Founding President of Kuwait Community College in April. It will be Kuwait’s first American model community college. She is currently in the early stages of development and plans are to open in the Fall 2017. KCC's affiliate, as required by the state of Kuwait-Ministry of Higher Education, is Broward College, where I served as Dean of Student Affairs before moving to Kuwait in 2004 to help establish the AUK. To help make the transition from Chief Student Affairs Officer to College President, Dr. Ross will be attending Harvard’s New Presidents’ Seminar this summer. Congratulations, and best of luck on your new journey!

Erik L. Collins, Ph.D., J.D. (M.A. 1966), formerly a faculty member and associate director for graduate studies in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina, has retired from full-time status and been named professor emeritus. He continues to teach and conduct research on a part time basis, hit tennis balls and mix martinis (not necessarily in that order).
Dr. Craig Stanley (Ph.D. 2014) was promoted to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Social Work at Florida State University effective Spring 2015.

As a result of the consolidation between Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University, Dr. Michael Sanseviro (M.S. 1991), was promoted to Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the newly formed 32,000 student, multi-campus, Kennesaw State University. Michael was also elected as the Region 3 representative to the Council of Advisors for the Golden Key International Honour Society for 2015-2018, serving Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. Congratulations to you, Dr. Sanseviro!

Andrew Nash (M.S. 2014) reports that the Student Activities Center at FSU was selected as the recipient of ACUI’s Shirley Bird Perry Staff Driven Program of the Year at the 2015 ACUI Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. The Staff-Driven Program of the Year Award was established to recognize the impact of programming on student learning and to celebrate the achievements of staff charged with programming on their campus. The Student Activities Center was recognized for the "My FSU Experience" campaign that helps students become involved on campus.

The award was accepted by Joe Lowder, Director of Student Activities, and Andrew Nash (M.S. ’14). Other members of the LifeNet in attendance included Lauren Meyer (M.S. ’13), Cassidy Sansone (M.S. ’12), and Emily Fox (M.S. ’14).
Arianna Maggard, second-year master’s student, will be joining the Collegiate Experience staff at Alpha Chi Omega Sorority as the Associate Director—Chapter Consultant Training & Volunteer support to start her post-master’s adventure! Congratulations, Arianna!

Nicole Ramos, second-year master’s student, recently accepted a position with the College of Social Work at Florida State University as an Event Coordinator. She also became engaged to Tyler Jones this semester. Together, they are to be married in the spring of 2016. Congratulations on the next steps of your life!

Sydney Torres, second-year master’s student, served on the Latin@ Knowledge Community Committee and was in charge of their social at the NASPA Conference in New Orleans.

Spencer Scruggs, first-year master’s student, and Gabe Marenco, Student Activity’s Program Coordinator, served as the ACPA Ambassadors for Florida State University. Way to represent our institution, gentlemen!

Emily Oswalt and Kate Morales, first-year master’s students, attended the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference (SEPC) and placed first and second in the Order of Omega Case Study competition. Way to represent, the first-year cohort!

Megan Downey, Ali Raza, and Spencer Scruggs, first-year master’s students, participated in the 2015 ACPA Case Study Competition.

Mallory Foutch, Junior Pena, Ali Raza, Lane Washington, and Christian Williams, first-years in the master’s program, all served as NASPA NUFP Buddies to soon-to-be graduate students at the NASPA Conference in New Orleans.

A huge congratulations to Sarah Heintzman, Matt Tripsas, and the entire Dance Marathon team on raising $1.1 million dollars for the Children’s Miracle Network at Shand’s Hospital and the FSU College of Medicine Pediatric Outreach Program. This was a 30% increase over last year’s total and a testament to the year-long fundraising and commitment by the organization and exemplary leadership by Sarah and Matt.

Kat Callahan, doctoral student, was awarded and recognized as the 2015 NASPA James Rhatigan Fellow. She also served as the moderator for the NASPA Regions 50th Anniversary Panel consisting of Dr. Almeda Jacks, Dr. Doris Ching, Dr. Jim Rhatigan, Dr. Tom Miller, Dr. Sheila Murphy, Dr. Mike Segawa, and Dr. Barb Jones.
Estee Hernandez, doctoral student, presented “Parent Influence on Latino Student Enrollment in Texas HBCUs” with Dr. Taryn Allen at the ACPA convention in Tampa, Florida. She was also recently published here.

Danielle Morgan Acosta, doctoral student, received the Standing Committee Advocate Award and the Annuit Coeptis Emerging Professional Award at the ACPA convention in Tampa, Florida. This is a huge recognition and we are proud of the hard work and dedication Danielle exemplifies at Florida State and beyond. Congratulations on your achievements!

Vicki Dobiyanski, doctoral student, presented “Pursuing a Doctorate? Considering an Upper Level Administrative Role? Enticed by the Faculty Lifestyle? Say it Together Women: We Can Do It!” with Drs. Sonja Ardoin, Kathy Guthrie, and Allison Crume at the NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Junior Pena and Lane Washington, first-year master’s students, presented “Student Affairs Internships: The Importance of Integrating Internships into the Undergraduate Experience” with Dr. D’Andra Mull at the NASPA Annual Conference.

Ali Raza and Christian Williams, first-year master’s students, presented “‘YAAS’ We Can: Examining the Dungy Leadership Institute 2014 Experience” at the NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans with Antonio Duran, Tandia Elijio, Angie Kim, Russell Nelson, and Wendolens Ruano.

Matt Dishman, first-year master’s student, will be interning with CRU at Colorado State University this summer.

Taylor Locks, first-year master’s student, will spend this summer interning with The College at Brockport, State University of New York in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.

Samantha Yorke, first-year master’s student will be the very first intern for the Weppner Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement at Florida Atlantic University this summer.

Jen Stone, first-year master’s student, will be a NODA Intern at SUNY Cortland this summer.
Ali Raza, first-year master’s student, will be doing a NODA internship this summer at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Matthew Jones, first-year master’s student, will be doing his summer NODA internship with Becker College in Leicester/Worcester, Massachusetts.

Emily Oswalt, first-year master’s student, will continue her internship with Panhellenic Formal Recruitment at Florida State University through the summer.

Morgan Matchett, first-year master’s student, will be spending her summer in Austin, Texas as an intern for the Longhorn Center for Civic Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. She will be assessing service programs and do event preparation for the 2015-2016 year.

Danielle Lewis, first-year master’s student, will spend her summer interning with Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Amanda Mintz, first-year master’s student, will be taking her talents to the University of South Carolina where she will serve as their NODA intern this summer.

Kyle Calbat, first-year master’s student, will be working as a counselor for Camp Flastacowo at the Florida State University REZ. He will spend the summer leading explorer camp, which is a series of adventure trips that include canoeing and hiking, for teenagers.

Megan Downey, first-year master’s student, will be spending her summer in Tallahassee interning with Advising First and University Housing at Florida State University and Fostering Achievement Fellowships at Tallahassee Community College.

Mallory Foutch, first-year master’s student, will be interning with the Dalton Institute this summer.

Christian Williams, first-year master’s student, will be doing a NODA internship at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Emily Eisenstadt, second-year master’s student, accepted a position as Program Adviser for Student Life at Davidson College in North Carolina.
Brian McDermott, second-year master’s student, recently accepted a position as Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Boise State University.

Congratulations to Dr. Mackenzie Fritz, as she successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation titled, "Knowing Their Values: A Phenomenological Study Examining Undergraduate Leadership Students’ Values Clarification." Her committee included Drs. Kathy Guthrie, Bob Schwartz, Tamara Bertrand Jones, and John Reynolds (Sociology).

Kaitlyn O'Keefe, second-year master’s student, will be joining the Residence Life team as a Resident Director at the University of Kentucky. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Stonecipher, as he successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation titled, "Leadership Development of College Students and the Influence of Spiritual Growth." His committee included Drs. Kathy Guthrie, Bob Schwartz, David Tandberg, and Diana Rice (STE).

Ben Cecil, second-year master’s student, recently accepted a position to serve as the Senior Coordinator of International Student Life at his alma mater, the University of Georgia! Congratulations, Ben!

Congratulations to Dr. Ellyn Aidman Scanlan, who successfully defended her Ed. D. dissertation, "Web-based Service Learning: Understanding the Experiences of Students Enrolled in a Senior-Level Online Service Learning Course". Many thanks to her committee members, Drs. Brad Cox, Tamara Bertrand-Jones, and Ralph Brower (Public Administration).

Sarah Heintzman, second-year master’s student, recently accepted a position at Southern Methodist University.

Kat Callahan, doctoral student, was invited to the University of Southern Mississippi to provide insight on her dissertation, “The Internationalization of Student Affairs in the U.S. from 1951 to 1996” as part of an emergent lecture series.

Aaron Reistad, second-year master’s student, accepted a position at Virginia Tech as a Student Conduct Coordinator. Congratulations on the job, Aaron!
Graduation. One of the largest and most significant traditions in academia. The work higher education professionals conduct throughout the year is in anticipation of this momentous occasion. This reality was not lost upon the commencement of the HESA Hooding Ceremony. Families, friends, cohort mates, faculty, and supervisors gathered to celebrate the hard work of the 2015 cohort of Florida State’s Master and Doctoral students in higher education. And this cohort certainly had much to celebrate: years of experience and work ranging from 2 to 5 years, many hardships and moments of transition they persevered through, and legacies they have contributed to Florida State University.

As a rising second year master’s student, it was a moment to reflect on not only what I have learned and gained from the relationships I made with these graduating 2015 cohort members, but also where I will be in just a year. Dr. Laura Osteen summed up these thoughts perfectly in her address to the graduating cohort. Describing how life is like eating, Dr. Osteen likened our most impactful experiences in life to momentous eating occasions in our life, like the summer backyard barbecue. Essentially, who we impact with what we are doing matters more than solely what we are doing. We attend the summer backyard barbecues not only for the food, but also for the company. As I sat listening to Dr. Osteen’s address, I began thinking about how my interactions with some of the second years, faculty, and professional staff at Florida State University have prepared me just as much, if not more, than the work I do in the classroom and in my assistantship. So while I transition into my second year of graduate studies, the onus is upon me and my cohort mates to strengthen current relationships to faculty and professional staff, and to build relationships with the incoming first-year graduate students.

People are so important in the profession of student affairs and higher education. This reality was a common thread throughout many of the commencement addresses and in the actual hooding portion of the graduation ceremony. The class speaker, Aaron Reistad, shared how his fellow cohort mates and professionals made a significant difference in his success as a graduate student. Motivated by his determination to complete the program and overcome the challenges he was facing, Aaron shared a beautiful story that left the audience inspired and moved. He reminded us that we do not get to be here without the community of support we receive. Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Mary Coburn, shared her thoughts about how she is moved every day by the work we do in higher education and student affairs. Dr. Kathy Guthrie and Dr. Robert Schwartz emanated this reality every single time they hooded a graduating Master or Doctoral student. The Higher Education Hooding Ceremony was just another reminder of why I decided to attend Florida State University for graduate school, and more so why I decided to enter a field that is so people-centric.
In total, 32 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 2014-2015 Hardee Center Awards - nominated and selected by students, faulty, 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, Shawna Patterson and Mallory Garcia were recognized as the doctoral and master’s recipients of the Sherrill W. Ragans Leadership and Service Award, respectively. Arianna Maggard was recognized as this year’s Peer Leadership Award winner. The three recipients of this year’s Supervisor/Mentor Award were: Chris Morris, Director of Campus Recreation; Ariana Vargas of the Center for Leadership & Social Change; and Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, Assistant 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. As folks made their way outside, the 75 degree sunny weather, light breeze, and spacious Courtyard area could not have been any better for this joyous occasion. The reception provided an avenue for plenty of food, drink, and sweet treats for all to enjoy. 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 2015!

Doctor of Education

Grady Enlow, Ed.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Kathy Guthrie, Associate Professor
“Student Leadership Development: Influence of Mentor Relationships”

Louis Vincent Macias, Ed.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Kathy Guthrie, Associate Professor
“Examining the Self-Efficacy of High-Achieving First-Generation College Students: A Case Study”

Ellyn Scanlan, Ed.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Robert Schwartz, Professor of Higher Education
“Web-based Service Learning: Understanding the Experiences of Students Enrolled in a Senior-level Online Service Learning Course”

Doctor of Philosophy

Diana G. Barbu, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Dr. David Tandberg, Associate Professor
“The Relationship between Unemployment and College Success Outcomes”

Kathleen Michelle Callahan, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Robert Schwartz, Professor of Higher Education
“The Internationalization of Student Affairs in the US from 1951 to 1996”

Mackenzie Streit Fritz, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Kathy Guthrie, Associate Professor
“Knowing Their Values: A Phenomenological Study Examining Undergraduate Leadership Students’ Values Clarification”

Paul R. Stonecipher, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Dr. Kathy Guthrie, Associate Professor
“Leadership Development of College Students and the Influence of Spiritual Growth”

Master of Science (Thesis)

Crista Mary Coven, M.S.
Major Professor: Dr. Robert Schwartz, Professor of Higher Education
“History and Development of Co-Curricular Transcripts”
Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

Master of Science - Higher Education

Benjamin Graves Cecil
William Peter Coleman
Emily Ann Eisenstadt
Mallory Ann Garcia
Lisa Marie Gilbert
Elaine Hannah Giles
Eric Daniel Goins
Katie Turman Grissom
Sarah Leigh Heintzman
Justina Princetta Rae Jones
Freddy Josue Juarez
Andrew Skillis La Haie
Hebert Frank Lopez
Arianna Kristen Maggard
Brian Michael McDermott
Leslie Rütter Mille
Kaitlyn Elizabeth O’Keefe
Nicole Ramos
Aaron Zachary Reistad
Sydney Abril Torres
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Spirituality on Campus

“A Pathway to Joy in Our Work: Spirituality in Academy”

Opinions and Perspectives

“#hermandad: Twitter as a Counter-Space for Latina Doctoral Students”

What They’re Reading

“Servant Leadership for Higher Education”
Get Connected, Stay Connected

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 #LifeNet, engage in class Twitter discussions, and find out the latest H.E.S.A. updates! Keep up with our upcoming 2015 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

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

October 15th - 17th, 2015

Tentative activities include:

- The Hardee Center Annual Board Meeting
- The 2015-2016 Hardee Fellows Induction Ceremony
- Hardee Center Professional Development Activities & FSU vs. Louisville Football Game

Dalton Institute on College Student Values

February 4 - 5, 2016,
Conference Location: Florida State University
For more information, be sure to visit studentvalues.fsu.edu for more updates!

Common Purpose

Shaping a vision for higher education
2016 NASPA Annual Conference
NASPA 2016 Annual Conference

March 12 – March 16, 2016
Conference Location: Indianapolis, IN
For more information, click here!
Reception details: TBA