



# Developments

A semesterly publication of the  
Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education  
for SPS/SAHE alumni and friends

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## 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

The Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) is pleased to announce Will Foran as the 2022 recipient of the Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award.

Foran is a 2003 graduate of SAHE and is the Chief Strategy Officer at the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). Prior to his 14 years at the NIC, he worked in Greek Life and Leadership Programs at Western Illinois University.

Across numerous letters of support for his nomination, it was clear to the selection committee, that Foran is an extraordinary professional, mentor, advisor and educator and has made a positive contribution to higher education and the student affairs profession through his genuine relationships with students and colleagues. One alumni noted, "He has facilitated hundreds of educational programs across the country, leading thousands of students through the challenges and issues facing fraternity and sorority life, while encouraging them to use the tools and resources to make positive, meaningful change in their communities." Another wrote, "Will is an exceptional student affairs professional whose support and dedication to students positively impacts so many lives. All of the students that have the privilege to know and work with Will are better humans because of it." And a colleague wrote, "Will is a skilled problem solver. I admire his ability to listen before offering opinion and to step into someone else's shoes to understand their perspective. Will is also willing to look challenges or disappointments in the face and propose bold reform where needed. He skillfully combines idealism and pragmatism in a way that makes him one of the industry's leading professionals."



Members of the award selection committee (comprised of SAHE faculty, students, and alumni) found that Will excels in the areas of professional involvement, mentoring students and colleagues, and collaborating with other professionals. The award will be presented to Will at a future SAHE departmental event.

The Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award, begun in 2006, was created to acknowledge an alumna/alumnus of the SAHE department whose experiences and accomplishments as a student affairs professional significantly reflect the standards and values of the SPS program/SAHE Department. In 2008, in recognition of Dr. Lunardini's 37 years of service at IUP (18 as an SAHE faculty member), the award title was changed to honor him.

Congratulations, Will Foran!

### SAHE Faculty:

**John A. Mueller**, Chair

[jmueller@iup.edu](mailto:jmueller@iup.edu)

**Mimi Benjamin**

[mimi.benjamin@iup.edu](mailto:mimi.benjamin@iup.edu)

**John Wesley Lowery**

[jlowery@iup.edu](mailto:jlowery@iup.edu)

*Please let us know what you think about Developments. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome and greatly appreciated*

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# Celebrating the Class of 2022



The Class of 2022 started their journey with SAHE during the COVID-19 pandemic. The picture above outside Stouffer Hall was taken after their first class day together on August 25, 2021, the screenshot from zoom was taken a year before, in August of 2020 during their orientation. Between attending class virtually, hybrid, or in person, attending conferences in every different format, and working around the changing environment of higher education, they have made it to the end. Several attended conferences such as NASPA and ACPA, did practicums across the country, and more, such as the above photo from SAHE Prom. As they wind down their graduate careers and ramp up their professional ones, SAHE wishes them luck!

The Class of 2022 is looking for jobs! View their resumes here: <https://www.iup.edu/sahe/about/about-our-graduates/index.html>



# Chair's Update

## John Mueller

In 1999, I read my first issue of the SAHE *Developments* newsletter. Contained within were two sets of stories. One about the retiring faculty (both Dr. Dave DeCoster and Dr. Ron Thomas) and the other about the two new faculty who were replacing them (Dr. Holley Belch and me). Since that newsletter, I have written 45 faculty updates. This is my 46th and final update as a SAHE faculty member.



I have a penchant for all things nostalgic and have found myself looking over the updates I wrote over the years and lingering long in the memories they evoke. Coming to IUP and SAHE to begin a faculty career was such extraordinary change from the practitioner role that had defined my career for over a decade prior. I am so grateful for my faculty colleagues who have shown grace, patience, good humor, and (yes) challenge and support through the years. From Ron Lunardini, Linda Hall, Holley Belch, John Lowery, and Mimi Benjamin, I have learned so much—characteristics and qualities of a faculty member that I would come to embrace even as I, admittedly, fell short of reaching them: kindness, collegiality, candor, political savvy, and gratitude. All alumni who recognize these names understand how it's been my good fortune to have had these colleagues as part of my career.

So many things shape a faculty member's career: teaching, scholarship, professional service, tenure and promotion, campus politics, ... but it really comes down to students. Over 23 years and more than 626 students, I recognize that I could not get to know everyone well. Some I got to work with on campus service, or done research, writing, and presenting, or worked with and supervised. Whether or not we were able to develop close and/or long-standing ties, everyone I had in the classroom helped me to be just a little better. I like to think the "campsite" rule applied both ways--to leave others better than we found them. I can't say with any certainty how well I did, but I do know that I'm a better person than I was back in 1999 in no small degree to the students (and colleagues) I worked with on the 2nd floor of Stouffer and across IUP's campus and beyond.

I am genuinely grateful for the many students, colleagues, and opportunities that have enriched my personal and professional life over these past 23 years. I feel so fortunate to have been part of the SAHE story at IUP and to have accomplished many career goals through my teaching, scholarship, and service. I will leave IUP and the 2nd floor of Stouffer fulfilled and with many fond memories.

Come June 30, my IUP email will be scrubbed from the email system (that's actually not a bad thing!). I hope we can stay connected on Facebook and over email ([jmueller724@gmail.com](mailto:jmueller724@gmail.com)). And I hope to see many of you as we celebrate SAHE's 50th anniversary the first weekend of November later this year!

John

## Thank You For Your Continued Support of SAHE!

The **Nancy Newkerk Scholarship** – Awarded to a second-year master's student whose contributions during the first year of their program demonstrated the greatest promise for the profession of student affairs. **(Acct #0374)**

The **Hadley Outstanding Student** – established to recognize outstanding 2nd year students on the basis of academic performance and professional involvement in the SAHE program. **(Acct #0140)**

The **SAHE Development Fund** – Supports the needs of the SAHE program that are not covered by funds from the University (e.g., student support for professional development activities, research support to students, Outstanding Scholar Award, Outstanding SAHE Alumni award). **(Acct # 4647)**

1. Visit [www.iup.edu/giveagift](http://www.iup.edu/giveagift) and enter the amount you wish to give.
2. click the box labeled "Click here to view other university-wide funds or to support more than one area," Click "Other" in the "Other critical needs at IUP" and click continue.
3. Enter your amount (if this is the only gift you are giving, it will be the same as when you originally entered it and will be 100% of your gift) finally, enter the account number where it asks to specify the designation, then complete the remainder of the form.

The Foundation for IUP is a 501(c)(3) organization; gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible as per IRS regulations. The official registration and financial information of the Foundation for Indiana University of Pennsylvania may be obtained for the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. For calls which originate outside of Pennsylvania, the telephone number is 717-783-1720. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## John Wesley Lowery

# Faculty Updates

Spring has arrived on campus and I am finally able to open my office window for some fresh air. We have recently seen a significant reduction in COVID-19 cases on campus and in the community which allowed for the indoor mask requirement to be lifted which was a particularly welcome change when teaching.

As I have described in recent updates, our daughter, Margaret, is a high school senior. We have been actively engaged in college search process over the past year. She has decided to attend the University of South Carolina in the fall where both Ute and I earned our master's degrees and I taught for six years. It is a different experience viewing these processes as a parent. We were recently on campus for an Admitted Students Day and will return for Orientation in June and Parent's Weekend in September.



A highlight of the spring semester has been the return of in person student affairs conferences it was wonderful to see alumni and colleagues again after three long years. The last conference that I attended in person was the 2019 NASPA Conference in Los Angeles.

In February, I travelled to Arlington, Virginia for the Association for Student Conduct Administration's annual award ceremony. I was honored to receive the association's Donald D. Gehring Award which recognizes exceptional contributions to the development of their campus community, the field, and professional organizations. I deeply moved to receive this award named in honor my professor, friend, and mentor for three decades. Don passed away in February 2020.

With the relaxing of COVID restrictions, I was also able to return to the National Student Affairs Archives at Bowling Green State University. I spent a day in half looking through materials in the NASPA collection as well as delivering a box of papers from Don Gehring for inclusion in the archives for various professional associations in which he held leadership positions.

I also had the opportunity to attend the 2022 NASPA Conference in Baltimore. I continue to serve as NASPA's Historian and presented on research about NASPA's evolving engagement with public policy issues as well as a presentation on free speech and due process. It was great to see SAHE alumni at our reception. I was honored at NASPA to receive the association's George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award. I was humbled and honored to receive this award which is one of NASPA's oldest and most significant and recognizes lifetime achievement.

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## Mimi Benjamin

Spring has sprung here in Elon, North Carolina, where I'm spending this semester on sabbatical. I moved into my on-campus apartment on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and have been busy ever since. I've told many people that this experience is a good reminder of how many meetings student affairs professionals spend time attending, as that has been my experience at Elon University. My colleagues here have been incredibly welcoming, inviting me to everything, including lots of meetings. I'm serving on a few committees in the Division of Student Life, such as the Professional Development Committee, the Early Career Professionals Institute Planning Committee, and a search committee for the Assistant Dean of Campus Life/Director of Residence Life. Other time is spent writing case studies, working on research projects, and attending events. Elon has a top-notch theatre program, and their production of "Into the Woods" was like a Broadway show. I assisted with sorority preference inputting during sorority recruitment, experienced their Campus Recreation and Wellness services by working with a student personal trainer, enjoyed a Faculty/Staff tailgate prior to a basketball game, and interviewed Orientation Leader candidates. I was even invited to go to a Duke men's basketball game because a friend had tickets thanks to one of her former Elon students who works for the team. My goal has been to experience as much as I can while I'm here, and so far I feel like I'm doing a good job!

I attended ACPA in St. Louis and also will attend NASPA, with presentations as well as celebrations at both. We had a great dinner with current students and alumni, and I enjoyed celebrating with Angela Delfine Mechler (SAHE '19) at ACPA as she received the Annuet Coeptis Emerging Scholars Award. I, too, received the Annuet Coeptis Award this year, for Senior Professionals. At NASPA, John Wesley Lowery will be honored with the 2022 George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award, and I am happy to be part of that celebration as well.



While I value this sabbatical opportunity greatly, I must note that this is only possible with the great support of my IUP SAHE colleagues, so special thanks to John, John, and Amber. I am fortunate to work with such dedicated and supportive colleagues.

## Amber Racchini



I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the spring semester and celebrating the end of another academic year! I know that I am looking forward to the warmth of summer and the excitement of welcoming our incoming students to campus for our first in-person orientation program since 2019.

I can't believe I am finishing my 17<sup>th</sup> year at IUP. This fall I transitioned into a new role as the Dean's Associate for Student Success in the University College. Although I have taken on an administrative role, I am fortunate to get to continue doing things I love such as advising students, directing our ACT 101 grant, and teaching in SAHE!

This semester I am teaching Management of Organizational Behavior in Higher Education since Dr. Mimi Benjamin is on sabbatical. I have enjoyed the challenge that comes with teaching a course for the first time. It has been great getting to know the second-year students and helping them navigate the last few months of their time in SAHE. I can't wait to celebrate with them at commencement in May!

On a personal note, Jim and I are celebrating our 10-year wedding anniversary in May! My son, Lucas, is nailing the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! As a result, I have learned many new techniques for solving math problems. I am still a group fitness instructor and enjoy running. This summer my plan is to complete the Cook Forest ½ Marathon, the Pittsburgh ½ Marathon, the Old Turnpike ½ Marathon (4 miles in the abandoned turnpike tunnels), and the 50K Ghost Town Trail Challenge! Wish me luck! I hope you have a wonderful summer!



## Department Updates

It was great to see alumni and friends of SAHE at both ACPA and NASPA this year where there were numerous conversations about the future of the student affairs profession. Many of those conversations focused on the “great resignation” and the declining enrollments in student affairs graduate programs around the country. Closer to home in Pennsylvania, the state system of higher education, IUP, and the SAHE program are also adjusting to the new realities we're witnessing in higher education. While the SAHE program will continue, questions about what that future will look like remain unanswered at the time of this newsletter's publication.

What we do know is that we will continue to admit and enroll quality students, John Lowery will return to the chairperson and graduate coordinator role for the upcoming year, and SAHE students will continue developing their competencies in the classroom and bringing their talents to the student affairs offices and programs here at IUP and our partner institutions through their assistantships and practicums. The most likely scenario is that the SAHE Department—now with two full-time faculty—will become a program in another existing (or newly formed) department in the College of Education and Communications. SAHE will continue drawing upon other IUP faculty (as Amber Racchini has done) and/or temporary faculty to teach courses. Student affairs graduate preparation has a long-standing and respected reputation here at IUP. We're looking forward to another 50 years of preparing tomorrow's leaders, educators, and practitioners!



# IUP SAHE at NASPA and ACPA

IUP SAHE was well represented at both of the national annual conventions this year. Alumni and faculty presented on various topics, and current students spent time meeting alumni, networking, and attending sessions on critical topics.

Earlier this month, SAHE students, faculty, and alumni attended the 2022 ACPA Convention in St. Louis. This multi-day conference is an important opportunity to hear the cutting edge of student affairs practices and research, network with other professionals, and engage in the broader professional community.

Two SAHE faculty attended and gave presentations. Dr. John Mueller gave a presentation titled, “Measuring Privileged Identity in Education Environments” with several colleagues from across the country. Dr. Mimi Benjamin gave two presentations related to her work on living learning communities: “Learning Communities as the Place To Be for Success” and “Deepening Faculty and Student Interaction in Living-Learning Communities.”

As well, Dr. Mimi Benjamin and SAHE alumna Angela Delfine-Mechler ('19) both received the Annuet Coeptis Award, which recognized them for their excellent contributions to the field.

Students, alumni, and faculty met for dinner on Monday, March 7 at one of St. Louis’s great eateries.

SAHE students, faculty, and alumni attended the 2022 NASPA Conference in Baltimore. This multi-day conference was an opportunity to explore current issues, research topics, and practice assessments with student affairs professionals around the country.

Two SAHE faculty and IUP’s Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Thomas Segar attended and gave presentations. Dr. John Wesley Lowery had two presentations: “Free Speech, Protests, and Due Process: Contested Constitutional Issues on Campuses” and “NASPA, Student Affairs, and the Government: Exploring NASPA’s History with Public Policy.” Dr. Mimi Benjamin presented “Fostering the Promise of Learning Communities in a Reimagined Undergraduate Experience.”

Dr. John Wesley Lowery received the George D. Kuh Award for his excellence in research and scholarship.

Students, alumni, and faculty also joined together in a reception sponsored by IUP Alumni and Friends on Monday, March 21.



Second-year students, alumni, and SAHE faculty got together for dinner in St. Louis.



Dr. John Wesley Lowery receives George D. Kuh Award for his excellence in research and scholarship.



Dr. Mimi Benjamin and Angela Delfine-Mechler (SAHE '19) both received the Annuet Coeptis Award at ACPA this year for their excellent contributions to the field of student affairs.

# Memorable Moments: Vignettes from SPS/SAHE

Earlier this semester, IUP SAHE asked alumni to submit short stories from their time with SPS/SAHE. We received a booming response and wanted to share some of them!

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When I ran for Associates for Student Development it was a crowded race with 5 candidates. I remember doing my first ever informational interview with the current President Sara Adams and have advocated for doing informational interviews for the 18 years since. On the day of the election I called my fiancé (now wife of 17 years) with the surprise news that I won and when I got back to Greenfield in Pittsburgh there was a huge CONGRATS ASD PREZ sign in our house. The transition from college to my professional life was tough for me at first and serving as ASD President was the perfect experience at the perfect time. I LOVED the position and will never forget that sign that Erin made! -Tom Baker, 2005



At the end of the fall semester during my second year in the program, my father passed away. The support I received from the faculty and my peers in the SAHE program was instrumental in helping me through this time. Faculty were understanding and accommodating and my classmates were supportive and attended the funeral. I will always remember the kindness I received. -Christina Moreschi, 2015



Right before Spring Break, Ryan Cunningham and I were meeting with Dr. Belch about our PTP presentation being super secretive that we were going on a cruise vs. working on it the whole time. At the end of our meeting she said, "Enjoy your trip!" That woman knew all... -Morgan Rizzardi, 2009.



Life is full of unforgettable memories, my two years in SAHE will never be forgotten. The program taught me to set goals, stay determined and take chances. Between understanding the importance of Student Developmental Theories to Interventions, the courses, practicums, assistantships and personal triumphs during those two years has abetted me to develop a keen awareness of and commitment to diversity, goal planning, student engagement and successful learning outcomes. It was once said - it takes a village! -Dr. Chad Jurica, 2009





# Alumni Updates

Congratulations to all our alumni on your accomplishments! IUP SAHE is proud to have you as an inspiration to students and a positive reflection of the department!



## Professional

**Molly Verostick** (2021) has started at her new position as a Customer Success Manager at JazzHR.

**Andre Richet** (2019) has moved from his position as a Coordinator of Student Engagement to an Assistant Director of Student Activities.

**Jeff Hill** (2004) became the Lead Advisor in the College of Health of Human Development in the Center for Student Advising and Engagement at Penn State University.

**RC Stabile** (2012) has been promoted to Associate Director of Well-being at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

**Sophie Penney Leach** (1980) now leads the Penn State Foundation Relations Team. She will be speaking about her work rebooting this team at the CASE Corporate and Foundation Relations Conference in NYC in May 2022/

**Tyler Montgomery** (2020) is now Program Manager of Academic Operations in the College of Computing and Informatics at Drexel University.

**Tom Baker** (2005) was recently elected to serve on the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber Board of Directors, the Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs Board of Directors, and selected to be President of the Pittsburgh Job Corps Community Relations Council Board.

**Kerrie Wolf-Piechota** (2004) started a new position as Director of Resource Development at Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County, Inc.

**Jennifer Pruzinsky** (2008) accepted a position with West Virginia University as the Coordinator of Enrollment Management for WVU Online.

**Angela Delfine-Mechler** (2019) accepted a new position as Associate Director of Residence Life at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Alexandra Waltmeyer** (2011) joined Delta Epsilon International Sorority's executive team as the Executive Administrator in January 2022.

**Sam Waltemeyer** (2011) is now the Associate Director of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Shelly Keniston** (2001) founded a new office titled Off Campus and Commuter Student Services at Bridgewater University in Southeast Massachusetts.

**Celine Walker** (2018) started a new job as Hall Director at Pratt Institute.

**Joyce Lewandowski** (2007) was promoted to Coalition Director of VisionForward at Drexel University.

**Adam Santavy** (2018) changed positions to Accessibility Coordinator for Student Accessibility Services at Kent State University.

**Michelle Marchand** (2008) began a new position as Director of Alumni Relations at Loyola University of Chicago.

**Lauren Watson** (2015) started a new position at Duquesne University as Assistant Director of Employer Relations and Experiential Learning.

**Kevin Bailey** (1990) published "The Role of Professional Development" in *Connecting Professional Areas to Professional Development*.

**Morgan Rizzardi** (2009) was promoted to Director of Admissions at Butler County Community College in January of 2022.

**Steven Marks** (2016) is now an Area Coordinator at Rowan University.

**Amy Cotner** (1993) started a new position as Associate Vice President for Student Life, Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator at Keuka College.

**Christina Qawasmy** (2018) updated positions to Experiential Learning Program Coordinator at the University of Virginia in their Career Center.

**Katie Motycki** (2004) was appointed Director for Student Orientation and Transition Programs at Penn State.

**Darlene Lupe-Gotham** (2006) received a promotion to Director for Transfer Student Engagement at the University at Albany.

**Caitlin Engel** (2007) has a new position as the Director of First Year Admissions at Robert Morris University.



# Alumni Updates Continued

## Accomplishments/Accolades

**Sophie Penney Leach** (1980) was awarded the Penn State Vice President/Vice Provost Award Readiness Institute Inaugural Team

**Angela Delfine-Mechler** (2019) was awarded the 2022 ACPA Annuity Coeptis—Emerging Professional Award

**Shelly Keniston** (2001) received a 20 year service award from her current institution of Bridgewater State University.

**Lauren Zahour** (2017) received the Commission for Housing and Residential Life 2021 Outstanding Experienced Professional Award.

## Personal

**Molly Verostick** (2021) moved to Pittsburgh with her partner and got a puppy.

**Andre Richet** (2019) got a new dog; a Bernedoodle named Twylah.

**Katie Buehner** (2009) and her husband Andrew are expecting their second child in May.

**Rebeca Lewis (Myers)** (2005) moved to Berryville, Virginia

**Sophie Penney Leach** (1980) is shifting to use her married name Leach. As well, her husband Art welcomed a new granddaughter, Madeline Rose, the day after Mother's day.

**Tyler Montgomery** (2020) now lives and works in Philadelphia.

**Angela Delfine-Mechler** (2019) moved back to Pittsburgh, PA for her new position at Chatham University.

**Alexandra and Sam Waltemeyer** (2011) welcomed a daughter, Frances May, in August of 2021.

**Lauren Tudor** (2014) and her husband welcomed their second child, Logan, in November of 2021.

**Joyce Lewandowski** (2007) and her wife got married in October of 2021.

**Lauren Watson** (2015) moved back to Pittsburgh, PA.

**Amy Cotner** (1993) relocated to Keuka Park, NY.

**Sarah Avery** (2020) purchased her first home in the Brookline area of Pittsburgh and became engaged to Andrew Semian.

**Kristin Eicholtz** (2005) got engaged in December of 2021 and is planning a wedding for Spring 2023.

**Darlene Lupe-Gotham** (2006), in addition to marrying Mathew Gotham in December of 2020, also welcomed 2 new step children into her life. A wedding is planned for June of 2022.

Connect with the SAHE community, by sending  
in your update for the Fall 2022 edition of *Developments*

[Alumni Update Google Form](#)

If you would like to attach a picture with your personal update

please e-mail

[SAHE-Developments@IUP.edu](mailto:SAHE-Developments@IUP.edu)

# 50th Anniversary

SPS | 1971-2021 | SAHE

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*We're gonna  
need a  
bigger cake!*



Registration  
opens in May.

**Join us! November 4-6, 2022**

**FRIDAY-**

Welcome back to town! Bars and restaurants on Philly St.

**SATURDAY-**

Tours, professional roundtables, social activities, and celebration dinner.

**SUNDAY-**

Glad to reconnect! Send off breakfast.



# SAHE Leads: Founding PASSHE Conference of Student Affairs Preparation Programs

Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) student Evelyn Mendlowitz ('22), in her spring practicum, organized and led the first ever Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Conference of Student Affairs Preparation Programs.

This conference was a one-day event where current graduate students from all PASSHE school student affairs preparatory programs networked with peers, faculty, and future colleagues, presented on topics they have studied or felt passionate about, and learned more about the student affairs field from other graduate students. Students, faculty, alumni, and prospective students were welcome to participate.

Also featured were "Last Lectures" by Dr. Michael Ignelzi from Slippery Rock University and SAHE's own Dr. John Mueller, who are both retiring this year. The event was held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and took place on Saturday, April 2nd. Students and faculty from across the state





## Craig Pickett ('10) Receives COEC IMPACT Award

This semester, the College of Education and Communications (COEC) Impact Award for the Student Affairs in Higher Education Department was awarded to Craig Pickett ('10). Craig works at The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture as their Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Prior to his current position, Craig was the National Executive Director of The Gamma Beta Phi Society, Coordinator of Student Life and Diversity Programs at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and a Career Counselor at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



SAHE students, Julie Weiner ('22) and Bree Darda ('23), join Craig as he receives his award

Craig earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Davidson University (NC) and went on to join SAHE 2008. During his time with SAHE, he was awarded the Outstanding Scholar for the Class of 2010 and was selected by his cohort and faculty as the department's commencement speaker. Craig is completing his PhD in Higher Education Administration at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Outside of his office and his many professional association activities, Craig is actively engaged in community as mentor and as a board member of several community groups including United Way, the Urban League, the Emerald Youth Foundation, and his church. Craig has done numerous professional presentations and publications, including a co-authored chapter with Dr. John Mueller on the politics of intersecting identities in Watt's (2015) *Designing Transformative Multicultural Initiatives*.

Legna Soto-Gonzalez, a student of Craig's, describes him as "Jack of all trades when it comes to educational excellence. He addresses everyone as friend and is very welcoming and opened to learning and sharing helpful resources for students, faculty, administrative staff, and other circle groups he actively advocates for here at UTK and other institutions." Dean and Professor, Dr. Caula Beyl writes, "Awesomeness in an energetic and dynamic package is one way to think of Craig Pickett. He is charismatic and compelling in his role to promote the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion and truly models what it means to be capable, competent, and creative!"

The COEC Impact Award joins Craig's many other honors and recognitions from Davidson College, The University of Tennessee, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and IUP (including SAHE's "Outstanding Scholar" award). Craig's personal and professional career reflect and embody one of his favorite quotes by Marian Wright Edelman: "Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time."

Craig was on campus on April 13, 2022 to receive his award and to engage with SAHE students.

# Associates for Student Development Update



\*listed in order from left to right

**Vice President of Programming:** Matt Grayo

**President:** Marc Vukotich

**Vice President of Professional Development:** CeCe Martz

**Vice President of Communications:** Abreeya Darda

**Vice President of Finance and Membership:** Justin Lew

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Thomas Segar (not pictured)

The 2022 Associates for Student Development (ASD) Executive Board has been working together to continue the traditions of the SAHE program while introducing new events to help connect the current SAHE Class of 2022, 2023, and our future class of 2024. Our semester started with us planning our “100 Day Celebration,” a program we were extremely happy to host in person! We celebrated the second-year cohort having 100 days left until their graduation and the first-year cohort for having 100 days until completing their first year of graduate school. It was great to have the cohorts talk about what they were looking forward to during the spring semester over a lunch of Venice Pizza. Each second-year student also received a framed map of IUP’s campus and a note from a first-year student.

Visitation was once again virtual this year, and our ASD board continued to participate in a number of ways to connect to prospective students and introduce them to the SAHE program, the IUP community, and our SAHE culture. Our Vice President of Programming and I each did an icebreaker activity during the information sessions on Wednesday and Thursday night. Our Vice President of Professional Development, along with members of last year’s ASD Executive Board and other current ASD members, also joined us during a current student Q&A panel on each night to help engage students with our own experiences in the SAHE program. This connection continued during our Sunday night event, where prospective students were able to talk with more of our current students while also participating in Zoom breakout rooms based off which assistantships they were interested in. On interview day, ASD held a break room on Zoom where prospective students were able to unwind, play some virtual games, and continue to connect with current SAHE students.

As our Executive Board continues to grow in our roles, we are also excited for the events we have coming up throughout the month of April. Our Vice President of Programming is currently planning an in-person game night and a night at Levity Brewing Company in Indiana to participate in their weekly trivia contest. Our Vice President of Professional Development is focusing on virtual and in-person events as well throughout April. These include a LinkedIn night where members can learn how to use the website as both a current graduate student and as a new professional, a Professional PowerPoint night where students will be able to learn some ideas and suggestions for making a PowerPoint for a job interview, and an open job forum to help second year students find jobs in the current student affairs job market. These events will conclude with a professional self-care night during finals week. We also have planned a fundraiser at The Meadows custard store in Indiana. We are working The Haven Project on IUP’s campus to take part in the “Take Back the Night” event for our service project for this semester. As we move into summer, we look forward to continuing the Summer Match Program to help connect incoming first-year students with the second-year cohort and host other social events to help foster the continued community in the SAHE program. In the fall, we look forward to planning Kickoff and continuing our Cohort Connect and Alumni Connect programs.

ASD is also looking forward to seeing past general body members, Executive Board members, and other members of the SAHE community at the SAHE 50th Anniversary Celebration in November! With banquet right around the corner as well, we are excited to celebrate our current second-year cohort graduating and celebrate the current first-year cohort finishing their first year of graduate school. As we head into the summer and fall, we look forward to introducing the new cohort to the SAHE traditions and welcome them into this fantastic community!

If you want to stay connected with ASD, follow us on social media: @iupsahe.asd on Instagram and IUP Associates for Student Development-ASD on Facebook! We would like to extend a huge thank you to the SAHE students, faculty, alumni, and our advisor, Dr. Segar, through the spring semester and look forward to the traditions, events, and connections in the future!

Article by President Marc Vukotich

# Follow SAHE on Social Media



IUP SAHE Connections

-Alumni, jobs, and more

IUP Student Affairs in  
Higher Education (SAHE)

-Official IUP Account, for  
prospective students



@iupsahe

-Alumni takeovers

-Department News

-Student Activities



@IUPSAHE

-Faculty and IUP News

-Student Activities

-Alumni scholarship

# Share Information About SAHE

**Do you know someone who would be interested in IUP SAHE?!**

Request information material to be sent to you, or provide us with the names and addresses of students you would like us to send a SAHE information packet to by E-mailing

[sahе-admissions@iup.edu](mailto:sahе-admissions@iup.edu)



## Editor's Note

Now that my last *Developments* is in the book, it truly feels appropriate to thank Dr. John Mueller for his help in this issue's creation. As well, I wish Dr. Mueller a restful and exciting retirement, enjoy it! would also like to thank ASD President Marc Vukotich for his wonderful ASD Update article. Finally, I would like to thank all alumni contributors who submitted alumni updates and memorable moments; you all make this possible!

*Developments* has given me a chance to reflect on my two years with SAHE both as a student and as a graduate assistant. My time here has definitely been invaluable regarding my growth into an emergent professional. I hope to carry these experiences with me into my future work. I hope to see you at our 50th Anniversary. This is GA Jesse, signing off.