

# DEVELOPMENTS

Fall 2014  
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A semi-annual publication of  
the Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education  
for SPS/SAHE alumni and friends



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

**O**n August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 the SAHE Department welcomed 29 first year students into the program at the Annual Kick-Off. The new student orientation portion included a faculty panel where students learned ways to transition into graduate school from Dr. John Mueller and how to find their niche in Student Affairs from Dr. Mimi Benjamin .

Later in the evening, second year students greeted the first year students at the Co-op College Lodge for the second portion of the night! ASD students treated the Class of 2016 to a pot-luck style dinner where the faculty and the two classes had a chance to socialize. After dinner there was a four-square tournament where everyone cut loose and had a ball! The night concluded with the first year class receiving IUP SAHE

pins, an official sign that they are students of the program.

Now acclimated to graduate school, the new class is hard at work in their graduate assistantship positions which include Career & Professional Development, Financial Aid, Student Life, Office of Housing & Residential Living, Greek Life, and the SAHE Department. The Class of 2016 is excited and ready to take on graduate school while finding their role in Student Affairs. We wish the best of luck to the Class of 2016!

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Above: The teams are organized by faculty advisor! In the end, Mimi Benjamin's team claimed victory!



Left: Jackie Hackett '16 adds her finger print to a map showing the class of 2016's diversity in location!

### SAHE Faculty:

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**Social Media**

Find us on **Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/IUPSAHE](http://www.facebook.com/IUPSAHE)

**@IUPSAHE**  
**twitter**

# Chair's Corner

Greetings from Stouffer Hall!

I hope that your fall semester is off to a wonderful start and that you are finding both challenge and support in the work that you are doing. As I write this message to you, fall is in full swing in western Pennsylvania and the colors are extraordinary.

Here at IUP, the semester is off to a wonderful start and 27 new students joined us this fall. Our overall enrollment remains strong. I fully recognize that we have you to thank for that success. Again this year, the majority of incoming SAHE students described how SAHE program alumni were an important factor in their decision to apply to the program. We graduated a large group of students last spring and as you will see from the list of their new positions on page 3 of this issue of Developments, they have been incredibly successful.

This continues to be a transitional time in SAHE. Over the summer, the faculty announced that we would be phasing out the Comprehensive Examination in favor of a new Portfolio requirement. The students of the Class of 2015 will be given the option of completing either the Comprehensive Examination or the Portfolio. With the Class of 2016, they can choose between competing the Portfolio or a Thesis. Our portfolio requirement is framed around the ACPA-NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Professionals. This will also impact the organization of our courses as we work to more clearly link our courses to the Competency Areas.

We have already begun actively recruiting the next cohort of SAHE students and hope that you will continue to refer your best and brightest students to us. Students who are interested in the program should be encouraged to visit the SAHE website for more information. They can also email us with any questions they may have at [sahe-admissions@iup.edu](mailto:sahe-admissions@iup.edu). At your request, we can send you posters to display in your office and materials share with prospective students.

On a more personal note, I am having a great semester. I have taken on a new role within APSCUF (IUP's Faculty Union) as the Chair of the Meet and Discuss Team which meets each month with the senior administration to discuss important issues. I have spent a great deal of time in October traveling to speak at conferences across the country including Orlando, Denver, and Louisville. You can read more about my presentations by visiting <http://www.johnwesleylowery.com>

I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in the spring at ACPA and NASPA. We will again host an IUP SAHE reception at ACPA in Tampa and hopefully a less formal gathering at NASPA in New Orleans.



Warmly,

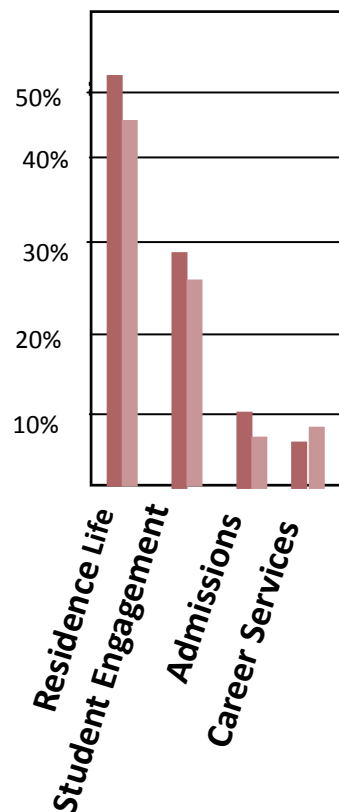


John Wesley Lowery, Ph.D.  
Professor and SAHE Department Chair



## A Comparison of Employment by Functional Area

SAHE Class of 2013   
SAHE Class of 2014 



85%  
of SAHE graduates  
from 2014  
secured a job by  
October 2014

Get involved with what's going on in classes on Twitter:

#SAHELAW

#HistSAHE

# *Congratulations Class of 2014!*

# **Where are they now?**



**Devin Basile** - Coordinator of Chapter Services  
Pi Lambda Phi International Headquarters (CT)

**Danielle Brush** - Assistant Director of Residence Life  
Southwestern College (KS)

**Nathalie Burford** - Area Coordinator  
Warren Wilson College (NC)

**Dayna Coleman** - Admissions Assistant in Graduate & Adult  
Enrollment, Point Park University (PA)

**Sarah Conte** - Assistant Coordinator of Academic & Career  
Success Center, Penn State New Kensington (PA)

**Shona Cooper** - Department of Housing & Residence Life  
Western Connecticut State University

**Kelsey Craig** - Residence Hall Director  
Rider University (NJ)

**Kenny Crisman** - Residence Life Educator  
Rutgers University (NJ)

**Marissa De Lucia** - Coordinator for Student Programming  
Bridgewater College (VA)

**Lauren Donahue** - Hall Rector  
Notre Dame (IN)

**Lexie Elliott** - Greek House Director  
University of South Carolina

**Ana Devlin Gauthier** - Coordinator of Women's Leadership  
Programs- Alfred University (NY)

**Kelly Harvey** - Assistant Director of Student Engagement  
McDaniel College (MD)

**Thomas Julian** - Area Coordinator of Themed and Living  
Learning Communities- Oberlin College (OH)

**Elizabeth Kew** - Resident Director- Merrimack College (MA)

**Jenna Konyak** - Area Coordinator- Seton Hill University (PA)

**Susan Laverty** - Resident Director- Temple University (PA)

**Henry Lewis** - Pre-Health Academic Advisor  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Michelle McDermott** - Resident Director  
Drexel University (PA)

**Sean McGowan** - Resident Director  
George Mason University (VA)

**Scott Miller**- Residential Coordinator- Ohio University

**Brianna Newstrom** - Student Life Coordinator-  
Northern Virginia Community College

**Shannon O'Reilly** - Resident Director  
University of Pittsburgh (PA)

**Jesse Phillips** - International Specialist  
Robert Morris University (PA)

**Jamie Piperato** - Assistant Director of Multicultural Student  
Services- Coastal Carolina University (SC)

**Cara Powers** - Student Development Specialist  
American University Kabul, Afghanistan

**Laura Jo Rieske** - Residence Life Coordinator  
Towson University (MD)

**Zachary Saeva** - Assistant Director of Career Development  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Emily Schneider** - Director of Student Activities  
University of Mount Olive (NC)

**Katie Shoemaker** - Culinary Admissions Counselor  
IUP, Punxsutawney

**Meghan Walde** - Coordinator for Campus Life for Residence  
Life & Housing Operations- New College of Florida

**Denise Wittenrich** - Resident Director  
SUNY Sullivan (NY)



# Dr. Holley Belch

Typically, as I write my fall newsletter contribution I am usually reflecting about the colors and traditions of fall. As I sit here in early November, I see winter emerging rapidly. The days are shorter, the mornings are cold, and apparently, it will be cold now all day --- seems as though autumn arrived and left in a hurry!

Well...we cannot stop the changing seasons so we just need to go with it. Let's hope winter will provide a balanced mix of snow and sun here in the northeast. For those of you living in more mild climates, think of those who endure the winter chill now and again. As you know, a new cohort of students arrived in August eager to begin their journey. As they adjust to a new way of life here, the second year cohort is beginning to transition to a new phase in their lives as well. It's exciting whether you are teaching first year students or second year students. Spring was punctuated by the traditional artifacts in our field – conferences, recruitment/interviewing of prospective students, and the graduation of yet another cohort. Although I did not attend ACPA or NASPA last spring, I understand collegiality was abundant, new friendships and mentorships were forged, and sessions were valuable. I look forward to attending ACPA in March.

Summer included teaching the American College Student in June. A rigorous schedule for five weeks for all involved but a rewarding one from my perspective. Students engaged in insightful discussions and produced quality work as they shape their professional values and persona's. Major repairs at home was the theme this year, so traveling during the summer was limited. Some biking and relaxation pontooning on the Allegheny River filled personal time. The highlight of the summer was a wonderful family wedding in Vermont. Professionally, time has been spent writing and developing additional scholarly projects involving further study about students with psychiatric disabilities. For example, I am excited that Mimi Benjamin and I are working on a project that examines learning communities and students with psychiatric disabilities.

Hope all is well with you. If you have a day(s) when you are weary and it seems as though appreciation from others is a bit hard to come by....Snoopy would say to "Be yourself. No one can say you're doing it wrong."



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## Faculty Updates

### Dr. Mimi Benjamin

Although the warmer weather has lasted longer than anticipated, fall has finally arrived in Indiana, PA. It's a beautiful time of year, and one to which I always look forward. Fall marks the transition between the carefree days of summer (if anyone had those – not me!) and the beginning of the new academic year. "Transition" is probably a theme for me right now as look back on a busy summer, during which I taught Practicum and Interpersonal Sensitivity, took two short trips (one to Iowa and one to Virginia and Ohio), finished the learning communities book that I've been working on as editor, and bought a house. The house-buying was no small task! And that marked the beginning of my next transition – from summer to fall, from apartment to new home. My fiancé and I closed on our house in mid-September and have packed, painted, prepped and moved. We're very happy to be settled in and feeling a bit more permanent here in Indiana.

Now in year two as a faculty member at IUP, I know my way around, have met a number of SAHE alums (and now can say that I've taught some!), and started new projects with colleagues here and elsewhere. Dr. Holley Belch and I have teamed up to work on a project that marries one of her areas of expertise (students with psychological/psychiatric disabilities) and one of mine (learning communities). I'm also engaged in a project with two other new faculty at other institutions to examine the transition experiences of faculty members who were previously Student Affairs professionals. Other projects are in the works, so I expect to be kept busy for the foreseeable future.

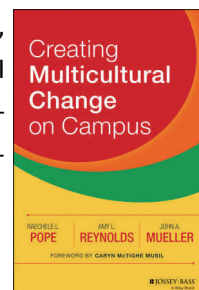
I hope that your summer and fall have been as fulfilling as mine. And, as always, I hope to see many of you at this spring's professional conferences.



# Dr. John Mueller

Greetings from Indiana, PA where the landscape of the IUP campus is changing so fast, it hardly looks like the campus I remember when I arrived here 15 years ago! That's right, I'm now (along with Holley) in my 16<sup>th</sup> year! For many years, I was able to distinguish SAHE graduates pretty easily by class year; now I'm lucky if I can distinguish them by decades (pre-2010 and post-2010). I'm still enjoying every year and nothing gets boring here at IUP or in my life. During the summer, I traveled to Europe as part of a study tour along with Dani Brush '14, Jackie Fisher '15, and Meghan Olbrys '15. It was an amazing tour through France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, rounded out by a river tour of Germany. We visited multiple institutions and learned a lot from our many European higher education leaders. In July, the second book I've co-authored with Amy Reynolds and SAHE alum Raechele Pope ('81), *Creating Multicultural Change on Campus*, was published

by Jossey Bass. Caryn McTighe Musil, who wrote the book's foreword, described it as an effort to "change not only individuals but also institutions, right down to the mortar between the bricks. In September, I flew out to the University of Iowa to work with a research team developing an instrument to measure defense mechanisms we employ in response to our privileged identities. It's an exciting project and brings together many research interests including diversity issues, psychoanalytic theory, and quantitative research methodology. Outside of SAHE, I continue to sing with the Renaissance City Choirs as we prepare for our annual holiday concert on December 13, "Winter Serenade". If you're in Pittsburgh that weekend and looking for a little holiday joy in the city, drop in!



## Emeritus Faculty Update

### Dr. Ronald Lunardini

We're officially Virginians now, having lived in Fredericksburg for more than a year. But, I recently met someone who relocated to Fredericksburg from Indiana, PA and we now include among our friends here a couple that grew up in Clymer, PA, making IUP and PA often talked about topics.

Our granddaughter, who is one hour away in Arlington turns two next month, and we celebrated our grandson's 1st birthday in Burlington, VT. Our son/daughter-in-law accepted faculty and clinical appointments at the University of VT Med School, so travels to visit family have now enlarged. I got to enjoy a Father's Day brunch at the Harvard Faculty Club, since my son's hospital affiliation in Boston was part of the Harvard medical group. Cambridge and Harvard are certainly beautiful places.

We're still enjoying our place in Kitty Hawk, NC where I remain an officer of our homeowner's association, and we've also traveled elsewhere over the last year, including an Alaskan cruise/tour and a month in Hilton Head, SC. By this time next year we will have enjoyed a river cruise in Europe. Regular activities still include golf, pickleball and all the usual home maintenance stuff, so we stay pretty active.

Occasional emails from SAHE grads always put a smile on my face. It's also still fun to receive the SAHE-IUP messages and to reminisce about the names associated with them. Lunar@iup.edu still works, so don't hesitate to get in touch. Best wishes for another great school year!



Ronald had a surprise reunion with SAHE alumni Matt Konetschni '98 in Fredericksburg, VA



# #SAHEAlumday

It is important to recognize the people who have influenced you and motivated you to pursue your passion!

That is why we are dedicating every Monday to honoring SAHE alumni who have motivated others!

Use the social media #SAHEAlumday to give a shout out to a person who has inspired you!



## Alumni Updates

### Accomplishments/Accolades

**James Baldwin '93** received the Harold Peebles Fellowship from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and presented at the 49th international conference of the Society for College and University and Planning in Pittsburgh. His presentation was titled: Mapping Student Data for Strategic Planning .

**Cynthia Nelson '97** retired from Director of Development Research and Prospect Management at IUP as of May 2014.

**Kevin Bailey '90** was announced as a member of the NASPA Foundation's Class of 2015 Pillars of the Profession.

**Councilman Tom Baker '05** was named a "40 Under 40" honoree on October 24 by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and *In Community Magazine* named him as the 2014 Volunteer of the Year for Ross Township. Millersville University honored Tom with the Young Alumni Achievement Award at the Millersville Honors and Awards Convocation earlier this year.

**Amanda Ries '06** was recognized at the 2014 Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA) for the Joseph Merkle Outstanding Contribution to PCPA Award.

**Zach Clark '09** in June, celebrated five years with the IUP Student Cooperative Association as the Director of Student Activities and Assessment.

**Chad C. Jurica, Ed.D. '09** completed his Doctorate degree from Argosy University in June, 2014. The degree is in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education Administration (Ed.D) and is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

**Jason Lee '10** , along with John Mueller, had an article published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of College Student Development* titled, "Student Loan Debt Literacy: A Comparison of First-Generation and Continuing-Generation College Students". The study was based on Jason's masters thesis which earned him an Outstanding Graduate Research Award from IUP in 2011.

**Andee Fisher '12** received the Delaware Valley College Advisor of the Year award in April 2013 and also received the Paul R. Schatschneider Service Award, which is awarded to one staff member of the college who "shows outstanding and unending dedication to the student body".

**RC Stabile '12** was chosen to attend the Regional Entry Level Institute (RELI) out of a large applicant pool. After attending, Stabile was asked to present on his experience at RELI at the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers Conference this year in Mobile, Alabama.

**Michael Mastalski '13** presented at 2 conferences: The Student Affairs Assessment Research Conference (SAARC), June 6, 2014 on "Assessment Essentials: Engaging a New Audience", and The NASPA Region IV-E Regional Conference, November 3, 2014 on "Demonstrating Accountability: Graduate Students & New Professionals Engaging in Assessment".

**Allison Shumar '13** was recognized at the 2014 Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA) for the Outstanding New Professional Award.

**Zachary Saeva '14** and **Lauren Watson '15** both presented at the PennACE (The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers) Conference in May 2014. They discussed considerations for having a peer advisor in a career development office, focusing on the CDA (Career Development Advocate) program used at the IUP Career and Professional Development Center.

# Professional

**Dr. Amy Cotner (formally Cotner-Klingler) '97** has a new position as Associate Dean of Student and Residence Life Lock Haven University, PA.

**Dr. Scott Mattingly '03** was promoted to Assistant Dean of Academic Life at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA.

**Ginny Naglic '05** was promoted to Director of the Career Pathways program at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS.

**Kelli McKinney '06** was promoted to Director of Housing Administrative Services and Assignments at Rowan University.

**Amanda Ries '06** accepted the position of Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for Residence Life and Leadership at Westminster College PA in 2013.

**Joyce Lewandowski '07** accepted the position of Associate Dean of Students and Director of Transition and Diversity at the Masters School in New York.

**Kate Cook '08** now works as an International Student Scholar Advisor at University of Pennsylvania.

**Jennifer Pruzinsky '08** accepted a position as an Event Manager for the National College Fairs Program at NACAC - National Association for College Admission Counseling.

**Katie Buehner '09** is serving at Frostburg State University as an Area Coordinator in Residence Life.

**Jilliane Bolt-Michewicz '09** now works as the Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Director of the Academic Resource Center at Lycoming College, PA .

**Nicki Croly '09** recently accepted a new position as the Associate Director of Student Organizations & Leadership at California State University Sacramento.

**Robyn (Schultz) Stuart '09** is starting a new position as Special Events Coordinator for the Development Office at Virginia Tech.

**Cynthia Rose '10** accepted the position of Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Northwestern University, IL.

**Erin Mullen '11** is now working as a Program Coordinator for Experiential Education at the University of South Carolina.



Congratulations to all our alumni on your personal and profound accomplishments! IUP SAHE is proud to have you as an inspiration to students and the department!



**Kelly Ogiba '11** accepted the position of Associate Director, MBA Admissions at Anderson School of Management, UCLA.

**Joe Benyish '12** transitioned into the role of Assistant Director of Student Activities at Alvernia University in September.

**Caitlin Jones '12** now works as the Coordinator for LGBT Programs and Services in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of South Florida.

**Emilie Campbell '12** accepted the position of Senior Coordinator of Fraternity/Sorority Affairs at the University of Memphis.

**Dan Percopo '12** is now a Residence Director at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts.

**Tiffany Dyer '13** now works as Resident Dean and Women's Center Coordinator at Landmark College (VT).

# Personal

**Sara Barnett Lawer '08** and husband Andy Lawer welcomed their first child, a daughter, Hadley Mae Lawer on May 23, 2014.

**Crystal Carlson '11** got married October 17th to Nathan Szewczyk. She now goes by Crystal Szewczyk.

**Ashley Testa '12** became engaged to Luke Self in December 2013 and plans to get marry on September 12, 2015.

**Kelly (Cordero) Thompson '11** got married on September 20, 2014 to her college sweetheart of 7 years, Tyler Thompson.

**Courtney (Little) Baum '00** and her husband, Bob, recently adopted a little boy who just turned seven this week. Korbyn Joseph Baum is a healthy first grader who joins Bob, Courtney, and their dog, Chase.

**Mary Meyer (Miller) '08** and Rob welcomed their second child, Catherine Mary, on September 19, 2014.

**Zach Clark '09** in July, after three wonderful years together, asked Lauralee, for her hand in marriage, and she said yes! They are hoping for an October 2015 wedding.

**Dr. Scott Mattingly '03** and **Catherine Mattingly '03** welcomed their third child, Leo Christopher Mattingly, on June 13th.

**Jill Johnson-Hilty '10** got engaged to Jay Balliet in September and is planning a July wedding in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**Kate Adams '11** and **Brady Colyer '11** were married on Saturday, June 7, 2014.

# 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 packets to by E-mailing [sahе-admissions@iup.edu](mailto:sahе-admissions@iup.edu).

# Stay in Touch with SAHE!

The IUP SAHE Alumni community is ever growing and we want to make sure you stay in touch with all who wear the honorable SAHE pin!

Update your contact information and current employment by filling out this survey: Click [Here](#)

# Support SAHE

Consider giving back to the program, which has given so much to you. Alumni donations are an important key to the department's continued success. Funding supports SAHE programs 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).

**There are two ways to contribute:**

## **Mailing a check:**

Please mail the form on the last page of Developments along with your check made payable to **Foundation for IUP** to:

**Foundation for IUP  
103 Sutton Hall  
1011 South Drive  
Indiana, PA 15705-1046**

## **Pay by credit card online:**

Please visit [www.iup.edu/giveagift](http://www.iup.edu/giveagift) and enter the Account Number in the "Other" field to designate your gift to either the department or a specific scholarship.

Please make sure to indicate what you want your gift to fund by putting the corresponding account numbers with your gift:

Acct #0374 The **Nancy Newkerk Scholarship**  
Acct #0140 The **Hadley Outstanding Student**  
Acct #4647 **SAHE Development Fund**



**See last page for more information!**





# ASD Update!

## Associates for Student Development

ASD began the fall semester on a playful note during this year's SAHE Kick Off. The theme for this year's Kick Off was inspired by the Hunger Games series. Each table, which sat a different faculty member and their advisees, was decorated with centerpieces reflective of the different districts. The Kick Off committee worked diligently to ensure the event was organized and ASD appreciates all of their assistance in making it a huge success.



This semester has been full of professional development opportunities through ASD's brown bag sessions. First year SAHE students were instructed by Dr. Mueller on APA writing skills and mechanics. This APA brown bag provided useful tips and tools to better familiarize the first year cohort with the writing format utilized in SAHE. The second brown bag session of the semester was conducted by Courtney O'Connell '08. Her session entitled, "*Leading from any Position*" allowed for dialogue among related emerging professionals on how to drive change in a new position and environment. ASD continued this discussion on new professionals with a brown bag session conducted by SAHE alum, Valerie Sutton '96. Her discussion focused on salary negotiation and tips to assist new professionals as they compare and evaluate job offers.



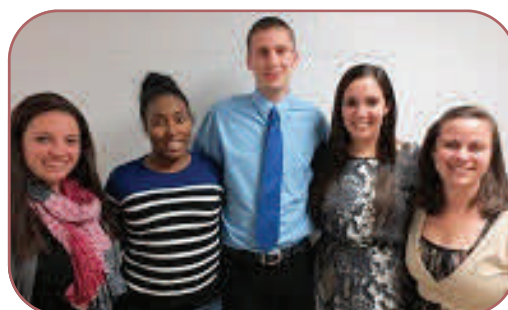
Aside from the professional development opportunities provided this semester, ASD made sure to provide



room for some fun. The town of Smicksburg held its annual Applefest celebration in September and ASD made sure to indulge in the savory sweets. From warm apple pies to jam preserved from fresh apples, ASD and a few SAHE students could not get enough. ASD also held a four day fundraiser at Ruby Tuesdays in local Indiana. The fundraiser, which was another huge success for the 2014 executive board, helped to secure funds for the remaining portion of the year and the incoming 2015 executive board.

As the semester draws closer to the end of 2014, ASD is preparing for another challenge: Penny Wars. This friendly competition among the students of SAHE provides an opportunity to raise money for a local charity. With SAHE Thanksgiving and the annual Holiday Party right around the corner it is safe to say the season of giving is well on its way.

ASD would like to acknowledge everyone who assisted the organization throughout the year with various events and programs. We know that the success of ASD is a result of supportive students, faculty, and staff. We would like to acknowledge the hard work of the outgoing ASD executive board: Emily Savoie (President), Patrick Thomas (VP of Administration), Alyssa Caffarelli (VP of Professional Development), Jasmine Lee (VP of Public Relations) and Jacklyn Fisher (VP of Programming). We would also like to thank Dr. John Mueller for his continued support and reassurance serving as the previous faculty advisor. We appreciate all that you have done to assist ASD and the SAHE community. Lastly, we would like to extend a special welcome to ASD's new faculty advisor, Dr. Mimi Benjamin. As the new executive board is introduced to their roles in ASD we have no doubt that you will help guide them toward success.



Submitted by  
Jasmine Lee '15

# Student Accomplishments

**Alyssa Caffarelli '14** was recognized as Outstanding Graduate Student during the 2014 Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA) Conference.

**Brandon Carta '14** was accepted as an ACPA ambassador.

**Preston Queenan '16, Paige Timm '16 & Carmine Biancamano '16** presented at the 2014 University of Pittsburgh -Greensburg Regional Leadership Conference. The theme of the conference was "Student Leadership to the Job Market".

## Nancy Newkerk Scholarship 2014

Awarded since 1999, the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship is awarded to a second-year SAHE graduate student who demonstrates outstanding contributions to college students, student affairs activities, the SAHE Department, and the broader higher education community. November 5, 2014 John Mueller presented the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship for 2014 to two recipients: Britany Gallagher '15 and Anna Moronski '15.

Britany Gallagher is a graduate of Penn State University and a current SAHE graduate student. She has a graduate assistantship with Campus Initiatives in the IUP Center for Student Life. In presenting the scholarship to Gallagher, John Mueller shared a quote from a letter of support for Gallagher which stated, "Britany is both an educator and motivator. It is clear that she advocates the needs of students and, in turn, they confide in and seek out her advice. She successfully blends her past experiences and current knowledge of the field to create genuine relationships with students."

Anna Moronski is a graduate of West Chester University and a current SAHE graduate student. She holds a graduate assistantship in the Office of Housing, Residential Living, and Dining at the IUP Punxsutawney campus. Mueller quoted one of Moronski's references: "Anna has a student-centered approach to problem solving and is often one of the first people to remind us of our mission when making decisions. She takes 'the road less traveled,' even if it is rockier, if it means that students will benefit from that path."

Awarded since 1999, the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship is awarded to a second-year SAHE graduate student who demonstrates outstanding contributions to college students, student affairs activities, the SAHE Department, and the broader higher education community.

Nancy Newkerk served as Dean of Women at IUP (then Indiana State Teachers College) from 1957 to 1967 and as Associate Dean of Admissions at IUP from 1978 until her retirement in 1994. She was awarded the IUP President's Medal of Distinction in 2009.

**Alyssa Caffarelli '14** received the "Get Involved! Student Leadership" award which is awarded to one first-year student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) program at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). This award has been given annually by SAHE alum, Tom Baker class of 2005 and Erin Baker for the past five years. The recipient of this award is someone who has demonstrated a sincere interest in bettering the SAHE community and making a difference on their campus and in their work environments. In addition, this award is given to someone who displays an enthusiasm and passion for working with individuals from a diverse variety of backgrounds and has made a positive difference through outside of work involvements as well.



# Alumni Job Spotlight

**Cara V. Powers '14**

Student Development Specialist  
American University of Afghanistan



Since graduating from the SAHE program last spring, I have relocated to Kabul for a new position as a Student Development Specialist at the American University of Afghanistan. Located

in southern Kabul, this institution provides 1,300 male and female students with a liberal arts education at both bachelor and master levels. For this area, it is particularly unique in allowing students to choose their own course of study. Through my professional capacity, I work all levels of undergraduate students.

My official title is Student Development Specialist and I serve in the functional area of Residence Life. I manage seven guesthouse-style residence halls, ten Resident Assistants, and four Resident Hall Coordinators in addition to teaching one first-year seminar course. As a very young institution, some of the challenges arise from having to develop aspects of the department from the ground up. Residence Life is quite different here and requires both ingenuity and flexibility. Security threats can close down campus. Managing the residence halls from a distance, when vital functions like the dining hall and Internet may be inaccessible, are some of the unique challenges of working in a warzone. Another challenge lies with the buildings themselves. The seven residence halls are rented guesthouses and pose numerous facilities challenges. Electrical and plumbing issues are common but difficult to address. Construction supplies are limited and most issues require pieces to be fabricated on site by our facilities department. Working to find temporary solutions can be a full time job in itself, and I credit the talented



staff of the university for creating an environment where these solutions are embraced. Staff and faculty alike employ a hands-on approach to tackling issues that stretches beyond the realm of their position.

Like many small institutions, it is common for staff and faculty to volunteer in many different capacities on campus. It is not solely out of need, but also out of a desire to work together for the benefit of our student body. Our students have all lived through incredible circumstances, whether in Afghanistan or as refugees in foreign countries. As a whole, they are passionate about their country and their education. They dream about becoming lawyers, ambassadors, politicians, business owners, and presidents. Behind almost every dream is a strong desire to create a brighter future for their country. It is humbling to see people who have been through so much, retain the strength to dream. That quality is particularly astounding given the challenge life outside of the university gates. Everyday, we are bombarded with news of violence and destruction that constantly threatens to invade our gates. Many of our students from provinces risk being killed while going home just for attending an American University. Our students put these risks and fears aside to approach each day with a vigor and energy that is inspiring.

Working in Afghanistan has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I am thankful for the many lessons that I learned throughout my time in SAHE that have helped to guide me through my transition to a new work force. I am also particularly grateful for my SAHE colleagues that supported me in my decision to pursue work in Kabul.

All photos are courtesy of AUAF public Relations, with the exception of the photo to the left which is credited to Mohammad Edris Lutfi



{ If you would like to be featured in the Alumni Job spotlight for the next issue please e-mail [j.m.fitzpatrick@iup.edu](mailto:j.m.fitzpatrick@iup.edu) }

# Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA)

## What does membership include?

- An annual conference, which is generally held in Harrisburg, PA every October.
- Statewide ListServ that provides opportunities for networking, professional development, and job postings.
- Seminars, workshops, and commissions.
- Professional development through serving in a leadership position within the organization.
- Professional connections to ACPA and the national conference.

If you have any questions, or you are interested in joining, please contact Britany Gallagher, Graduate Student Liaison (PA West) at [b.m.gallagher5048@gmail.com](mailto:b.m.gallagher5048@gmail.com).

The Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA) has been serving Pennsylvania student affairs graduate students and professionals since the 1970s. Its multipart mission includes providing networking, professional development, and support opportunities to members. PCPA also works to uphold the values and mission of its parent organization, the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

## Students Present at PCPA 2014 “The Journey is the Experience”



Presenting at professional conferences is a great opportunity for professional development, especially while still a graduate student. Not only do you get to publicly speak about topics in which you have a particular interest, you also get to network with other professionals who might share that interest. Recently, Brenda Cruz '15, Britany Gallagher '15, and I presented a session at this year's annual Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA) conference.

Our PCPA session, entitled “The Journey is the Experience,” advocated for more intentional assessment practices within the context of education abroad programs. While research shows that international experiences can significantly and positively impact the development of college students, and while students perceive studying abroad to be of value, some students elect not to participate in these programs because they do not believe study abroad is particularly useful for their career plans. We argued that it is important for education abroad offices to design learning outcomes that reflect the institutional mission, and help students connect those learning outcomes to their individual professional development so that they no longer perceive an international experience as one that is abstractly “life-changing.”

Using assessment examples from institutions nationwide, we showed that assessment of education abroad can be inconsistent, with some institutions devoting more time to evaluating student satisfaction rather than learning. We proposed that offices can utilize student development theory and CAS Standards to create an assessment tool that reflects their learning outcomes and suggested that this assessment occur at pre-departure events and again upon their return at re-entry programs to measure student growth. Results from these regular studies can be used to give curi-

ous students a better idea of the practical results of studying abroad, especially if offices can demonstrate that learning outcomes are achieved by students who go.

Additionally, we facilitated a larger discussion about assessment with our session attendees. I really enjoyed our conversation about how assessment takes place (or does not take place) within our different offices and institutions, and individuals offered many great ideas and suggestions for how professionals can conduct more effective assessment. While only one person in our session shared that she works within an education abroad setting, I hope that the larger point of our presentation—that regular, localized assessment is key in determining what, how, and whether student learning is taking place—inspired everyone in attendance to think about the ways in which assessment can be incorporated into their everyday student affairs practice.

Submitted by  
Jacklyn Fisher '15



Pictured from the left are Britany Gallagher '15, Jacklyn Fisher '15, and Brenda Cruz '15

# Opinion Piece

## **Balancing Student Advocacy & Activism with Administrative Expectations**

Joyce Lewandowski '07

For seven years at Barnard College, I had the privilege of being the club adviser for Take Back the Night and V-Day, which are two international organizations that focus on increasing awareness around sexual assault, rape culture, and social inequality. Those student groups hosted various programs throughout the year that encouraged discourse around topics that are never easy to tackle. I supported the students in planning the logistics while helping them stay true to their missions and encouraging them to do appropriate research so their credibility was never compromised. This becomes especially important when Columbia University is one of several higher education institutions that have federal complaints filed against them due to claims of mishandling sexual assaults on campus. I often had to ask myself “What is my role? How do I balance being an advocate for students in their roles as activists while remaining objective to the issues at hand? How do I offer a safe space in my office while making it clear that I can never promise full confidentiality? How do I validate student experiences while representing an administrative voice?” So. Many. Questions.

I know that I’m not alone in asking those same questions. It’s especially tough when you’re a mandated reporter who works with many students who self-identify as sexual assault survivors. It’s one thing for a student to self-identify as a survivor but it becomes a complicated situation once a student chooses to share his/her/their story and discloses

that the incident took place on campus. This is where mandated reporting enters the picture. I truly believe there are good intentions in mandated reporting, but as many students and educators have pointed out, sometimes this causes more harm than good. Students may choose to not disclose or seek assistance out of fear of possibly going through a hearing process. Not every survivor wants a hearing and it’s important for community members to understand what their rights are when it comes to these issues. Knowing their

**How do I offer a safe space  
in my office while making it  
clear that I can never  
promise full  
confidentiality?**

rights means reading and understanding all of the policies and procedures that are in place on the seemingly never-ending hyperlinks upon hyperlinks of information. It’s a daunting task that can feel overwhelming and sometimes (unfortunately) triggering which can lead to the decision of “Never mind. This is too complicated. I’ll just keep this to myself.” Obviously, this is not ideal. When a student says “never

mind,” I think we’ve failed this person and we need to find effective ways of dealing with this reality for so many students.

While I’m no longer at Barnard, I know there are hundreds of other administrators who are currently in that position and I often wonder if they have the same questions. How are they handling those discussions? Do they agree with the policies? How has the law impacted the field? It’s not an easy task when student affairs practitioners are constantly balancing student voices, administrative expectations, and state and federal laws. That balancing act often made me feel unhelpful, which was certainly not ideal when working with such sensitive issues. So where does the field go from here?

Photo courtesy of the *Columbia Spectator*



If you would like to contribute an opinion piece to the spring issue please e-mail [j.m.fitzpatrick@iup.edu](mailto:j.m.fitzpatrick@iup.edu)!

# Homecoming 2014

This October, IUP celebrated the 81<sup>st</sup> Homecoming Parade with dozens of participants from the campus and community. Over 90 parade units took part in the annual event that was themed “Board Games”, as selected by IUP social Greek organizations. There was a wide variety of parade units, including local businesses and public safety organizations, campus organizations, and local nonprofits.

As is the tradition, the Homecoming Parade Committee sought volunteer time from campus faculty, staff, and SAHE students. SAHE students helped the committee organize all of the parade units and assisted in keeping units in the proper order for the event. With thousands in attendance at this year’s Homecoming Parade, all of the volunteers helped make the event a huge success once again!

Submitted by Britany Gallagher ‘15



Great connections and networking opportunities were made on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual SAHE Practicum and Recruitment Fair. First year students had the chance to network with different supervisors from institutions located around western Pennsylvania to learn about potential practicum sites for fulfillment of their practicum experience in their second year. Over 25 representatives from 11 institutions came out to the Practicum Fair! Among the supervisors were plenty of Alumni. Nicole Bukosky ‘12, from University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown was there representing the Academic Success Center! Nicole mentioned that as an alumni it’s great to



come back to IUP and see the new faces of SAHE along with having a mini reunion with other alumni. She also mentioned that It’s great being able to give back to the program which has done so much for her.

## Practicum & Recruitment Fair



SAHE alumni gathered for a group picture at the fair!

Concurrent with the Practicum Fair was the Recruitment Fair for prospective students. 13 people attended to learn more about the SAHE program. Current students Brenda Cruz ‘15, Louise White ‘16, Melissa Gaskill ‘16, David Best ‘16 and Steven Marks ‘16 sat on a panel to describe some of their experiences and answered any questions from prospective students. We want to thank Julianne Cogley ‘16 and Patrick Thomas ‘15 Graduate Assistants for the SAHE Department for all their hard work in planning this great event!

Jessica Fitzpatrick ‘16

# 2014 Summer Study Tour



Louvre Museum in Paris, France

In the summer of 2014, three IUP students, Danie Brush '14, Jackie Fisher '15 and Meghan Olbrys '15 and SAHE faculty, Dr. John Mueller participated in Miami University's (Ohio) International Student Affairs Study Tour to Europe. The trip was co-sponsored by Miami University and Bowling Green State University's Higher Education Programs.

The first stop was Paris, France. We spent four days exploring the city and visiting the American University of Paris and CROUS de Paris. Later, we traveled to Brussels, Belgium, where we visited the European Commission, followed by a four day visit in Amsterdam, Netherlands. While in Amsterdam, we had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the University of Amsterdam. We then spent a few days in Antwerp, Belgium, where we met with a number of students and staff from the Antwerpen Studententstat, the University of Antwerp, and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. We rounded out our institutional site visits at MUDEC (Miami University John E. Dolibois Center) in Luxembourg. Before we departed from the group in Germany, we spent four days in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg at an international student affairs conference. At the end of our tour, the group settled in Germany before parting ways and heading back to the United States.



From Left to Right: Jackie Fisher '15, John Mueller, Meghan Olbrys '15 and Danie Brush '14

During our time in Europe, we visited many European and American Abroad Universities and Colleges. These visits gave us the opportunities to not only learn about other cultures and different forms of education, but also allowed us to develop a better understanding of our own Higher Education System in the United States. We also had the opportunity to take walking tours, visit museums, eat at local restaurants, see the iconic sites and get to know our new colleagues and friends. The tour's main event was in Luxembourg, where we attended and participated in the Third Transatlantic Dialogue. Student affairs professionals and graduate students from the U.S. met and presented with graduate students from various European countries. The IUP participants also presented at this conference:

Danie Brush presented in a graduate student panel about Spirituality in Higher Education. Jackie Fisher and Meghan Olbrys presented on "Fostering Development in the Classroom: The Liberal Arts Education Debate." And Dr. Mueller presented his research and scholarship in a session titled "Multiculturalism in U.S. Higher Education."

We had a great time on this study tour. Meeting new people, visiting unique places and presenting on student affairs in another country was a great learning experience for all of us. I am sure that we will cherish those memories as we continue to build are careers in student affairs.

Submitted by Danie Brush '14

Photos courtesy of Jackie Fisher '15



Opening session of the conference in Luxembourg



# Contributions

Two ways to contribute:

## Mailing a check:

Please mail this form along with your check made payable to **Foundation for IUP** to:

**Foundation for IUP**  
103 Sutton Hall  
1011 South Drive  
Indiana, PA 15705-1046

## Pay by credit card online:

Please visit [www.iup.edu/giveagift](http://www.iup.edu/giveagift) and enter the Account Number in the "Other" field to designate your gift to either the department or a specific scholarship.

Please make sure to indicate what you want your gift to fund by putting the corresponding account numbers with your gift:

**Account #0374 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.

**Account #0140 The Hadley Outstanding Student** – established to recognize outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> year students on the basis of academic performance and professional involvement in the SAHE program.

**Account # 4647 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).

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