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Developments

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



Class of 2018

The SAHE department and second year students welcomed the Class of 2018 into the program on September 1, 2016 during the annual Kick-Off program at the IUP College Lodge. Kick-Off included presentations by the faculty and social events planned by Associates for Student Development (ASD). Dr. John Lowery welcomed students to the SAHE program, saying, "This experience and culture is what you [students] make of it." Dr. John Mueller incorporated theory into his presentation by describing the four stages that graduate students tend to go through before they feel comfortable in the student affairs field. Using a Jeopardy-style demonstration, Dr. Holley Belch informed students on the importance of communication, social media, and how to move past making a mistake in an assistantship or course. Dr. Mimi Benjamin spoke to students about dealing with expected and unexpected transitions.

Following the faculty presentations, second year students joined the first-years for dinner, conversation, and a game that allowed the group to compete with each other (all for fun, of course). Later in the evening, IUP alumnus, Tom Baker ('05), shared his gratitude to the SAHE program and announced Amy Sawdey as the winner of the 2016 "Get Involved!" scholarship. New students received their IUP SAHE pins, a symbol that they are now connected to a community of over 700 alumni.

Now adjusted to graduate school, the class of 2018 is hard at work in the classroom and at their graduate assistantship positions that include Student Life, Office of Housing, Residential Living & Dining, Greek Life, Academic Advising, Alumni Relations, and the SAHE department. The Class of 2018 is excited and ready to take on graduate school while finding their role in student affairs.

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

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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, it seems that fall weather has finally arrived after an unseasonably warm few months.

Here at IUP, the semester is off to a wonderful start and 26 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 solid group of students last spring and as you will see from the list of their new positions on page 6 of this issue of *Developments*, they have been incredibly successful.

As you may have read or seen on the news, this has been a difficult semester for faculty at IUP and across the State System of Higher Education. After working for more than a year under an expired contract and no prospect of resolution, APSCUF was compelled to strike. Thankfully the strike was short, lasting only 3 days. The short strike meant that the disruption for our students was minimal.

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. At your request, we can send you posters to display in your office and materials to share with prospective students.

On a more personal note, I am having a great semester. I am enjoying my continued involvement in APSCUF as the Chair of the Meet and Discuss Team which meets monthly with the senior administration to discuss important issues. I have also been traveling as my schedule allows. This past summer I had the opportunity to participate in the Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration in both Berkeley, California and Indianapolis, Indiana.

I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in the spring at ASCA and NASPA. With ACPA nearby in Columbus, Ohio, we will have our annual alumni reception at ACPA this year.

Warmly,



John Wesley Lowery, Ph.D.

Professor and SAHE Department Chair



John Mueller

This fall, more than ever, I've come to appreciate the idiom "Western PA experiences the four seasons, sometimes all in one day!" The weather here doesn't know how to make up its mind! I leave for work in the morning with a winter coat on and put on shorts and a t-shirt when I get home. But the days are getting shorter and leaves now dance and scrape along the streets and sidewalks; fall is definitely settling in. This fall finds me busy with the demands of a new school year. After a relaxing and reinvigorating summer, I have been ready for the new year to begin (year 18 here at IUP—when did that happen?).



Summer started with another whirlwind trip abroad. This summer I participated in Miami University's study tour of higher education in central Europe (Germany, Czech Republic, and Poland). Institutional site visits included Humboldt University (Berlin), Dresden University of Technology, Charles University (Prague), and Jagiellonian University (Krakow). We also met with Germany's Studentenwerk, a national office that provides a range of student services in cooperation with German universities. The tour also included a number of cultural and historical sites, including the Berlin Wall, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter, and the profoundly impactful Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. I came back to the U.S. with a newfound interest in World War II and the Holocaust. Netflix has definitely helped me quench my thirst to learn more.

Back on campus, I'm busy with classes, campus service, and writing. My colleagues Raechele Pope, Amy Reynolds and I are working on a second edition of our book, "Multicultural Competence in Student Affairs," connecting the concepts and principles of multicultural competence more closely with the ACPA/NASPA Competencies (2015). We hope to see the book in publication sometime in late 2017 or early 2018. My work with the University of Iowa on developing a measure of privileged identity exploration is entering the final phases and we are completing a journal manuscript and preparing a presentation for ACPA in Columbus. My service activities include joining IUP's Safe Zone team as a trainer (an extremely rewarding activity) and coordinating our program's five-year review. Outside of the classroom, I continue to be challenged musically as I rehearse with the Renaissance City Choir for our December 10 holiday concert, featuring Bach's "Magnificat" (if you've ever sung Bach, you know how challenging this is!). As I write this on Halloween, I'm reminded what a treat it is to see alumni at events like the Practicum Fair, Visitation, and on Facebook. Hope to see some of you at ACPA in the spring!



Holley Belch

Hi Everyone! It's early November as I compose this update and the weather vacillates in the range of 55-75 degrees. Fine with me to stave off winter for as long as possible.

As many of you experience, college campuses skip to the beat of a different drummer than other types of professional work. The consistency and closure is when the semesters begin and end. I'm not one for predictability but those are just fine with me. Both cohorts seem to be finding their way amidst the demands of graduate school and their assistantships. The only difference is one is planning their next step in life and work while the other is beginning their journey. In addition, both groups embrace "countdowns" – one in days to graduation and the other in days until the end of fall semester. The counting down works for me too.

An update on what's been happening professionally includes attending NASPA last spring and co-presenting with Mimi Benjamin on our joint research on learning communities and students with psychological disabilities. Moving forward on another phase of that project, I am working with Mimi on a publication of the research results, and evaluating the NASPA Hardee Dissertation of the Year applicants. Typical teaching responsibilities such as meeting with students about assignments/class projects, working with some second year students on the job search process, updating class readings, content, and delivery methods are all part of what faculty accomplish regularly.

On a personal note, several summer excursions were great including one to Des Moines, IA to visit friends. A surprising adventure for that trip was visiting the Iowa State Fair – who knew you could use that much butter to make a life size rendition of a cow! I'm excited and looking forward to my oldest niece getting married in November. Coincidentally, the wedding will be in the Plymouth, MA area at Thanksgiving time – go Pilgrims! Enjoy friends, family, and the season.



Mimi Benjamin



There's a line in *The Great Gatsby* that seems appropriate at this time of year: "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." Fall is my favorite season, and I love the transition from summer to fall and starting over with yet another season. While the starting over part at IUP happened moreso in August with the new semester, we're now into the "crisp in the fall" part, and it has certainly been a beautiful one so far here in Indiana, PA. For me, starting over in the fall has included teaching my typical fall courses (Management of Organizational Behavior and Practicum), while also planning for something new in the spring, a new elective course entitled Student Success in Higher Education. This fall, I've also continued work on some projects, including a living-learning communities book project with some colleagues from other institutions, as well as a study with Dr. Holley Belch that also is focused on learning communities. This learning communities focus occupied a bit of my summer as well, with trips to Elon University in North Carolina for some research planning as well as a trip to the Evergreen State College to serve as a resource faculty member for the National Summer Institute on Learning Communities (where I had the pleasure of meeting 2010 SAHE alum, Jill Balliet!).

Another project on my list, if you want to call it that, is advising the Associates for Student Development. This is my third year as the advisor, and I've watched the different groups expand their efforts, particularly in the area of professional development. I'm pleased with their outreach efforts to our alumni and appreciate those of you who have provided programs to our current students, either in person or via Skype.

On a personal note, it has been great to keep in touch with those of you who I have had the pleasure of teaching and those who I've gotten to know through other opportunities. SAHE has a wide and wonderful network of alumni, and I continue to be so pleased to be part of it. I wish you all a wonderful fall and winter and hope that I will have the chance to connect with those of you attending the ACPA and NASPA conferences this spring.



At the annual banquet, the class of 2016 gifted the SAHE faculty members with bobble-heads that now stand in each of their respective offices. The classes of 2017 and 2018 are currently thinking of ways to "top" this gift in a creative and memorable way.



Bryan Koval

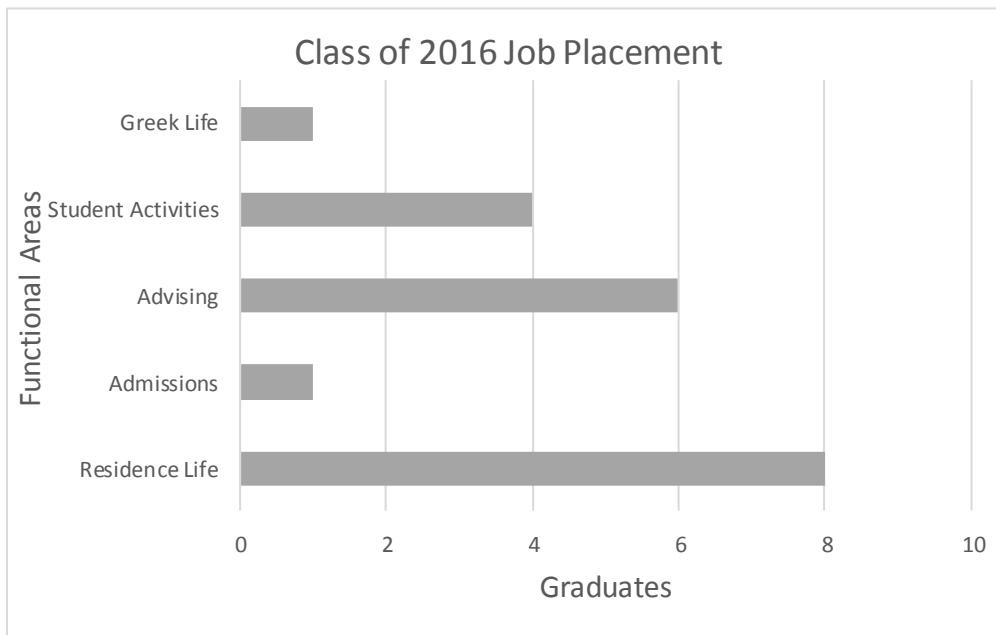
Bryan is teaching one section of Student Affairs Functions in Higher Education course for the fall 2016 semester. He received his B.S. in Secondary Education and M.Ed. in Higher Education from Penn State University, as well as his Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from The George Washington University.

The most significant influences that led me to the field of higher education were my experiences as an undergraduate student at Penn State. I was a resident assistant, involved in our residence hall association, and active in the Penn State Dance Marathon. Each of these experiences connected me with staff members who were passionate about helping and advising students, and I began to see that a career in student affairs might be a good fit for me. After teaching seventh grade science in Maryland for two years following graduation, I had the opportunity to return to Penn State as a residence life coordinator, and in this capacity I learned a great deal about what it takes to be a strong student affairs professional.

Beyond coursework in higher education, my current role as an assistant director of residential education and housefellow at Carnegie Mellon University has given me a great deal of insight in teaching Functions. My role is in many ways a generalist position in the field, and that lends itself to understanding the Functions course and how course content can be applied practically in many different settings. I am also fortunate to collaborate closely with colleagues across the university who work in different functional areas, and as a result I have learned a great deal about how our work is similar and different. Some of my proudest moments in the profession are connected to helping a student who is going through a significant personal challenge. The reality of our work with residence hall students is that we are often positioned to mentor students during their lowest lows, and I can think of several students who I have helped to recover from really unfortunate and challenging circumstances. Those are the moments that I reflect on with great pride.

My research interests are related to how college students use and understand social media. Although I am not currently engaged in research, I am in the process of making some decisions about how I want to proceed with publishing parts of my doctoral dissertation. I've also been given some opportunities to take my dissertation research and apply it to the daily work we do in the Office of Residential Education at Carnegie Mellon.

IUP SAHE Stats



95%
of SAHE graduates from 2016 secured a job in SA by September 2016



@IUPSAHE





Celebrating
the Class of
2016



Where are they now?

David Best—University of Binghamton (NY)
Academic Counselor

Carmine Biancamano—University of Colorado-
Boulder (CO)
Residence Hall Director

Julie Cogley—Radford College (VA)
Admissions Counselor

Joseph Corcoran—Fordham University (NY)
Residence Director

Keith Davidson—Frostburg State University (MD)
Academic Counselor

Kristen DeGraff—Stevens Institute of Technology (NJ)
Career Advisor of Experiential Education

Dominick DiLoreto—University of Pittsburgh
at Johnstown (PA)
Area coordinator for the Office of Student Life and Housing

Jessica Fitzpatrick—Millsaps College (MS)
Coordinator of Campus Life

Melissa Gaskill—The Washington Center (Washington D.C.)
Lead instructor for the Office of Advising

Andrew Greenwald—Carnegie Melon University (PA)
Coordinator of Student Activities

Jaclyn Hackett—Phi Mu Delta National Fraternity (NJ)
Director of Chapter Services and Growth

Amanda Heflin—Reading Area Community College (PA)
Office of Adaptive Technology & Education
Support Specialist

Kate Hopta—The Arc of Jefferson and Clearfield
Counties (PA)
Executive Director

Anthony Majer—Bentley University (MA)
Residence Director

Steven Marks—Penn State - Berks (PA)
Residence Life Coordinator

Matthew Mullen—Clarion University of Pennsylvania (PA)
Student Success Coach

Alex Peterson—Western Michigan University (MI)
Residence Hall Director

Steph Przepiora—State University of New York
at Oswego (NY)
Residence Hall Director

Kelli Thomas—University of North Carolina
at Greensboro (NC)
Coordinator for Residence Life

Briana Tucker—Michigan Technology University (MI)
Student Engagement Coordinator

Louise Whyte—Penn State - Dubois (PA)
Student Activities Assistant

(This list is up to date as of November 28, 2016)

Working Away From Home

Walt Disney said,

*"Around here, we don't look backwards for very long...
We keep moving forward, opening up new doors
and doing new things because we're curious...
And curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."*

Adjusting to a new place, job, and lifestyle can be difficult. Below, three recent graduates working away from their hometown, families, and friends, speak to the challenges of adjusting.

*Kelli Thomas ('16)
Coordinator for Residence Life at the
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (NC)*

Life as a new professional can be tough at times, but it can be even harder when you decide to accept a position that is over four hundred miles away from family and friends. You have to take time to become acclimated to the different culture, balance a full-time career, and build new relationships with individuals in order to feel connected to the area. As a new professional, I found these to be challenging because I moved from a small, rural town in Pennsylvania to the third-largest city in North Carolina.

When working in a new area, you have to be aware of what your personal needs are in order to feel connected. For example, I enjoy spending time volunteering in the local community so I asked my supervisor of ways that I could become involved. This helped me develop relationships with others outside of work and is one thing that I do to destress. As a new professional, it is important to use the resources available to you such as coworkers or supervisors. You should take time to ask questions and not be afraid to explore the area on your own. It will take time to develop a sense of belonging in an unfamiliar place so be patient and do not rush the process. You must also be confident in your decision to move away from home to pursue your dreams.

*Jessica Fitzpatrick ('16)
Coordinator of Campus Life at Millsaps College (MS)*

The decision to move over a thousand miles away from my family and friends was not an easy one. However, it has been a great decision so far. Born and raised in New Jersey, I had experience living away from home while studying for my master's degree at IUP - but a 17 hour car ride is a lot different than a 6 hour one. The transition from the North to the South was not as difficult as one might expect. The biggest difficulty for me was realizing how hard it is to find friends outside of work. For the past 18 years, I have always had school as my default for making friends. Now, as a young professional I am seeking out friends in my work environment- but this has been hard at a small institution. Besides a few colleagues from other departments on campus, I have found that running groups are a great way to make friends (and stay in

shape after all the amazing southern fried food!). The local running company in Jackson holds runs weekly and has a fun "beer run" once a month! These running clubs have been a great way to meet others. Along with running groups, I have used a popular dating app, "Bumble" to actually meet a new "best friend forever" (BFF) online. Bumble BFF is a dating app turned friendship finding! It uses the same "swipe left or right" concept but it's for finding friends, not dates. I was really lucky to find someone who is in a similar situation as me - moved away from all friends and family, and is looking to go out and do adventurous things! So far my friend and I have gone to outdoor concerts, watched pig races at the Mississippi state fair, and toured a distillery. My outgoing personality really has assisted me in meeting new people, but so has my curiosity to experience life. It's only been three months (in November) that I moved to Jackson, M.S., but I already can call it home.



*Carmine Biancamano ('16)
Residence Hall Director at the
University of Colorado-Boulder (CO)*

While searching for my first full-time professional job, I had several different factors to consider. Ultimately, I decided to move across the country to Colorado. When I first moved here, I had to find my grounding and learn more about the area. I spent time understanding a new campus culture and learning how the department operates.

Once I found my bearings, I was able to focus on my social network. I found it challenging because there were no established networks, such as a cohort. Even now, trying to balance a new career and creating a personal life is challenging. Everyday is different, and I am currently trying to figure out the best way to navigate it. I find my life outside of work through the video game community. I have joined forums and servers, so I can connect with people who have the same interest as me. I have started this recently, so I am looking forward to seeing how this develops. Finally, I think it is important to have a department who invests in your life outside of work. My supervisor asks about it and invests in it, which helped tremendously with my transition.

Alumni Updates

Professional

Sarah Bauer ('03) is now the Title IX Investigator at California State University, Fullerton (CA).

Katie Bean ('08) is teaching two graduate level Addictions Counseling courses at Rosemont College in addition to being the Assistant Director of Wellness, Alcohol, and Drug Education at Saint Joseph's.

David Best ('02) is now a Hearing Examiner for the government in Washington D.C.

Sarah Conte ('14) is the Academic Program Manager in The Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University .

Amy Cotner ('97) is now the Education Program Associate for the Office of Misconduct, Prevention, & Response Education at Penn State University.

Joseph Corcoran ('16) is the Resident Director for First-Year Students for the Office of Residence Life at Fordham University at Lincoln Center.

Brenda Cruz ('15) is the Assistant Director for Residence Life for the Office of Residence Life at Widener University.

Brittany Duncan ('11) is the Assistant Director of Career Development at York College of Pennsylvania.

Jon Geyer ('08) was promoted to Director of Residential Life at Capital University.

Brittany Halinka ('13) is a Residence Director for the Office of Residence Life at Marymount Manhattan College.

Jeff Hill ('04) became the Assistant Director of Penn State's World Campus Academic Advising & Student Disability Services Office.

Michele Jenkins ('02) is the Associate Director of the Office of Student Success and Retention at Radford University.

Tracy Karstetter Kiras ('93) accepted the Assistant Director for Communications and Marketing position with the Department of Resident Life at the University of Maryland.

Tim Lempfert ('99) is the Director of Housing and Residence Life at Tulane University.

Joyce Lewandowski ('07) is now the Director of Leadership Initiatives for the Engagement Initiatives office at CUNY New York.

Kyle MacDonald ('11) was promoted into the position of Director of Graduate Admissions, Specialized Master's and Ph.D. at Boston University Questrom School of Business.

Kate Madeano ('08) is an Immigration Specialist for the Office of International Services at the University of Pittsburgh.

Michelle Marchand ('08) was promoted to Senior Director of Chapter Development for Delta Upsilon International Fraternity.

John Mayo ('08) was promoted to Director of Residence Life at Newbury College in Brookline, MA .

Erin Mullen ('11) is the Interim Assistant Director of Experiential Education at the University of South Carolina.

Shannon O'Reilly ('14) is an Immigration Specialist for the Office of International Services at the University of Pittsburgh.

Daniel Percopo ('12) is the Associate Director of Residential Life for Housing and Operations at the University of New Haven.

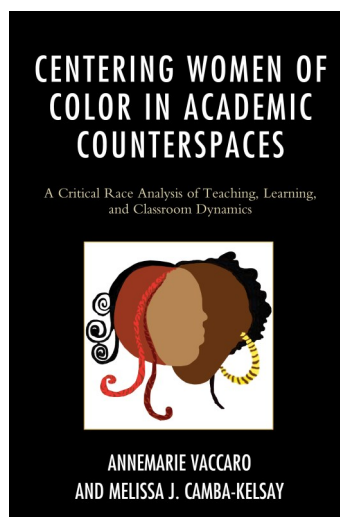
Michele Peterson ('09) is now the Director of Chapter Services at Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity.

LaNighta (Sales) Reid ('11) is the Director of TRiO Student Support Services Program at Miami University Regionals.

Lauren Tudor ('14) joined the Office of Career Development at Chatham University as the External Relations Coordinator.

Hannah Weiss ('12) was promoted to Director of Residence Life and Education Programs at The School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center.

Dana Winters ('08) is a Research Associate at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media and the Coordinator of the Fred Rogers Scholars Program at Saint Vincent College.



Annemarie Vaccaro ('96)

and Melissa J. Camba-Kelsay recently published:

Centering Women of Color in Academic Counterspaces: A Critical Race Analysis of Teaching, Learning, and Classroom Dynamics.

(Lexington Books. September 2016).

For more information about the book, the authors, book talks for your staff, and a 30% discount code, visit:

<http://centeringwoc.weebly.com/>

Accomplishments/Accolades

James Baldwin ('93) earned his Ph.D. in educational studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December 2015.

Kevin Bailey ('90) has been selected as the Chair of the NASPA 2018 Conference in Philadelphia.

Justin Brown's ('13) presentation, *Diversity! I'm bout that life! "When Multicultural Competence Meets a Real Reality"* was selected as "2016 Best of NACADA Mid-Atlantic Region II" and he was selected to represent Region II at the national conference in Atlanta, GA.

Jennifer Cole ('05) completed her post-graduate certificate in Universal Design: Technology Integration from Landmark College with a special Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Kristin Eicholtz ('05) contributed at EACE 2016. Her presentation was titled: "Small Steps, Lead to Big Impact: How to conduct a Successful Internal and External Review of Your Career Center."

Andee Fisher ('12) received the Delaware Valley University Staff Award, which is awarded to one staff member per year for "outstanding and dedicated service to the student body." Andee was also selected to be the showcase selection coordinator for the NACA 2017 national conference.

Kyle MacDonald ('11) was the recipient of the Boston University Questrom School of Business 2016 Dean's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Student Experience.

John Mayo ('08) was admitted to the Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership program at Colorado State University.

Michele Marchand ('08) received the Essentials publication award from the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA) at the most recent annual meeting.

Kristine (Meier) Murray was selected to join the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service Higher Education Advisory Group in the UK.

Tracy Karstetter Kiras ('93) received the Division of Student Affairs Outstanding Service Award.

Kelly Thompson ('11) won an institutional award for innovation in career services utilizing social media, specifically using Snapchat for career exploration.

Brad Webb ('07) defended his dissertation in June 2016 and will graduate from PSU with a Ph.D. in Higher Education in December, 2016.

Dana Winters ('08) successfully defended her dissertation and graduated with a Ph.D. in Administrative and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in April.

Personal

Jennifer Cole ('05) married longtime friend, Corey, in November 2016.

Kate Hopta ('16) and her husband Brett Swanson will welcome their first child in February 2017.

Kristine (Meier) Murray ('05) Received British citizenship in October 2016 after living and working there for about 10 years.

LaNighta (Sales) Reid ('11) married Rico Reid in August 2016.

Kelly Thompson ('11) is expecting her first child with her husband in January 2017.

Call for Nominations

The SAHE department is now accepting nominations for the **Ron Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award**. This award is presented to an alumni of the SAHE department who has been a student affairs professional for at least five years and whose practice reflects the standards and values of the SAHE department. Details on the nomination criteria and process are available on the SAHE website below.

Nominations are due by February 6, 2017 and the announcement of the recipient will be made prior to the NASPA and ACPA conventions. Please consider nominating one of your SAHE colleagues and/or mentors who is deserving of this recognition. If you're considering nominating someone and/or have any questions, feel free to contact John Mueller at jmueller@iup.edu. Please visit our website for more information: <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=87997>



Last year's recipient:
Courtney Baum
Director of College Career Center
Saint Vincent College

O'Connell Presents on "Making Your Mark"

IUP SAHE alumnae, Courtney O'Connell ('08) first worked at Rutgers University as the senior student programs coordinator, then became the associate director of leadership and training. After Rutgers, she worked for Equalman as the director of marketing business development. Currently, Courtney is an associate director for learning and development at ACPO Worldwide and a keynote speaker, delivering presentations on innovation, education, leadership, and design.

On September 12, Courtney returned to IUP to present a Six O'clock Series presentation on "Making Your Mark" on IUP and the world. The presentation focused on finding what matters most, overcoming perceived barriers that can lead to success, and finding a way to make a meaningful impact on the world. Following the presentation, Courtney and her husband, Kevin O'Connell, met with current SAHE students to discuss entering the higher education field and shared tips and tricks of the trade. Amy Sawdey ('17), said,

"Meeting Courtney and Kevin was a valuable experience. Not only were we able to talk about the SAHE program, interviewing tips and techniques, but also the issues facing higher education professionals. I have to say, the biggest take away from that evening was the importance of learning about the campus culture. Kevin gave insight into questions you should ask during an interview and ways to discover what the institution values. Following that dinner I felt I had tools to use in preparing for the job search process, as well as skills I should be developing now that will be helpful in the field."



From left: Brandon Sousa ('17), Courtney O'Connell ('08), Jessica Talent ('17), Brianna Rojas ('17), Emma Freese ('18), Kaitlyn Rajner ('18), Amy Sawdey ('17), Mary Askins ('18)

Brianna Rojas ('17) also sheds light on the experience with Courtney and Kevin O'Connell:

"After SAHE alumna Courtney O'Connell ('08) presented at the Six O'Clock Series, she and her spouse, Kevin, spent some time with current students. This reminded me of how powerful our alumni network is. When the evening was over, Courtney and Kevin encouraged us to connect with them on various social media networks which so far, has allowed us to follow their careers in Washington, D.C. Building relationships with alumni is important as a graduate student and as a professional, because they can always be helpful when it comes time to seek employment or other opportunities. Kevin also was gracious enough to gift us a copy of his book, "The Niche Movement," which I cannot wait to dig into over winter break!"

Follow Courtney ([@CotrOConnell](#)) and Kevin ([@koco83](#)) on Twitter and don't forget to check out [@nichemovement](#)!



Don't forget to "Make Your Mark!"

Engaging Students

Victoria Dean ('18) - graduate assistant for the Office of Student Activities at Saint Vincent College - attended the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Conference in Buffalo, N.Y. and speaks highly of the overall experience:

I have been to conferences in the past, but nothing could have prepared me for National Association of Campus Activities (NACA). If I were asked to describe my first NACA in one word, it would be *exhilarating*.

The three main pieces of NACA are educational sessions, showcases, which allows the performers to each perform for ten minutes in their respective sessions, and Campus Activities Marketplace (CAMP), which is a time to walk through the booths to see what there is to offer if an institution is interested in booking.

The highlights of my NACA experience are ones I will never forget. The first would be seeing the Saint Vincent College Activities Programming Board present during two educational sessions. I had the opportunity to see my students' hard work come full circle and the amazement on their faces as people told them their sessions were the best. I also thoroughly enjoyed networking with the different agencies and talent that NACA had to offer. Every poet, musician, magician, group and performer blew me away. Whether it was about their personal lives, their "why," or the world around them, they

each had such unique stories to tell. Getting a chance to speak to them after the showcases was such an amazing opportunity to network. I had the chance to meet so many amazing performers, like Joel Meyers, Shangela, Sierra DeMulder, and Kris Allen. Overall, NACA was an amazing time. I would highly recommend attending at either the regional or national level. Even if you do not work in student activities, NACA will blow your mind and in the best possible way!



Victoria Dean ('18) (right) takes a selfie with Saint Vincent College undergraduate students who presented at NACA, 2016

2016 Nancy Newkerk Scholarship

On November 9, 2016 the SAHE department announced the recipient of the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship for 2016: Jessica S. Tallant.

Tallant is a graduate of Salisbury University in Salisbury, M.D. where she received a bachelor's degree in social work. She holds a graduate assistantship as the note-taking coordinator in the Office of Disability Support Services at IUP and previously served as the parent and family orientation coordinator in the Center for Advising and Testing Services. Tallant is also the vice president for professional development in the department's student organization, Associates for Student Development, and an assistant coach for the IUP women's varsity volleyball team.

When presenting the award, Dr. John Lowery shared quotes in support of Tallant's nomination: "Jessica is still learning and does not have the benefit of Nancy's years of wisdom but she already tries to see the world from many perspectives. Like Nancy, Jessica is excellent about offering to help organize and plan office functions and training. Jessica's skills, inquiry, work ethic, and excellent interaction skills should take her far- making her an excellent future representative of the Newkerk award!"

Since 1999, the Nancy Newkerk scholarship has been 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.



Jessica Tallant with SAHE Faculty

Student Accomplishments

Jhane Cummmings ('18) and **Gail DeShields** ('17) presented "Finding Comfort in the Uncomfortable: Leading by Example" at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (UPG) Leadership conference. The presentation described leadership as more than a position someone holds; as the *difference* that a person makes with that position. The presentation focused on the steps necessary to create that difference and reinforced the idea that leadership is achievable by everyone. Using the work of John Maxwell, Kouzes & Posner, this presentation focused on how values, character and competency are used to incite action within a person, to find comfort in the uncomfortable.

Victoria Dean ('18) presented at the UPG Leadership conference on student organization's "Social Media Presence," teaching students the right way to utilize their organizations' social media, using promotion, positivity, passion, and professionalism. She shared a few tips and tricks to creating a positive social media identity.

Kayla Grosjean ('17) presented "Today's DREAMers: Higher Education and the Undocumented Student" at the 2016 State System Diversity Summit. The presentation provided background and legislative information on questions and admittance of undocumented students. The session asked whether higher education professionals are to ignore undocumented students who desire to pursue higher education and become active members in the community or encourage them through government acts such as DACA and DREAM.

Michele Magliulo ('17) is a student advocate for ACPA, serving as a coordinator for the ambassador program and as part of the Coalition of Graduate Students and New Professionals as the coordinator of recruitment and retention. She is also a Next Gen Mentor for students who are interested in student affairs. Michele is also a part of PCPA, serving as the graduate student liaison of the executive board, helping with the conference that will be held in May with PASSHE where she will facilitate a graduate case study competition during the conference.

Christina Qawasmy ('18) presented "What's Love Got To Do With It?" at the UPG Leadership conference, focusing on students love languages and assessing how they prefer to receive appreciation while applying it to being a leader and working in a team. She also presented "Do You 'C' My Leadership Outfit? The Five Characteristics of an Emerging Leader," attributing different leadership qualities to different pieces of clothing to demonstrate that it takes several qualities to build a leader.

Brianna Rojas ('17) presented "So You Want to Go to Graduate School? Preparing and Navigating the Grad School Experience" at the UPG Leadership conference, covering tips and techniques for finding programs, preparing for the process, and ultimately making your decision.

Jenny Sak ('17) presented "Student-Centered Mentoring for Success: Creating Higher Standards" at the State System Diversity Summit. She discussed IUP's student-led mentoring project, "Creating Higher Standards," which works towards building a supportive network for students who may be first-generation college attendees, or whose diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences provide a potential disconnect with college attendance in rural western Pennsylvania.

Brandon Sousa ('17) co-presented "Social Media Savvy" with alumnus Zachary Saeva at the College 2 Career Conference hosted by California University of PA, discussing how social media profiles may be interpreted by others and how to utilize social media to develop a person brand. He also presented "Developing a Positive Perspective" at the UPG Leadership conference to show strategies for developing alternative perspectives towards situations and methods for maintaining positivity in one's life.

Ben Shultz ('18) attended the Pennsylvania Geographical Society Conference in Altoona and presented a chapter from his travel memoir, "From the Bluegrass to the Balkans: Living, Loving, and Leaving Macedonia." Using the experience of professional academics in Macedonia as a case study, the paper illustrates the difficulties that continue to inhibit scholars from low-income countries as they attempt to increase their academic profiles. Among the enduring challenges are the high costs of subscriptions to academic journals, the lack of quality and affordable English language proofreading services, and the persistence of cultural practices that do not fit neatly into Western ideals of academic integrity.

Lauren Zahour ('17) and **Christina Qawasmy** ('18) presented at Carlow University in August on the qualities that make a good leader and how those leadership skills can translate into the residence assistant position.



Amy Sawdey ('17)- was awarded the 2016 *Get Involved! SAHE Student Leadership Award*.

This award was created by Tom Baker ('05), who encourages students to make a sincere difference in the campus they work on, and to better serve the SAHE community.

Associates for Student Development



SAHE's graduate student organization, Associates for Student Development (ASD), welcomed the incoming class at the annual Kick-Off event with a hearty pasta dinner. The event allowed first year students to meet all of the faculty, as well as a chance for both cohorts to mingle and relax together after the first week of classes.

Throughout the semester, the vice president of professional development, Jessica Tallant ('17), organized several professional development opportunities for students that included skype guest appearances by a variety of alumni. **Britany Gallagher** ('15), joined us to speak on her 2015 NASPA presentation, "Graduating Out and Digging In: Preparing for Life After Graduate School" (with other SAHE 2015 alums, Thomas DiRoma, Emily Savoie, and Brenda Cruz). **Patrick Thomas** ('15) discussed financial strategies and planning for retirement as we enter the field as new professionals. We also had the amazing opportunity to connect with **Cara Powers** ('14) and **Gabrielle Calabro** ('13) to discuss working abroad in the field!



Brianna Rojas ('17), vice president of programming, also organized several social events that were well attended, such as a night at an Altoona Curve Game and Fright Night at Kenywood Amusement Park.

The new ASD E-Board members were announced in November and the current E-Board is eager to transfer their leadership roles over to the Class of 2018 and see the new leadership they will bring to the organization!

Wrapping up the semester, ASD will be holding its annual SAHE Thanksgiving dinner where students will be encouraged to donate items to Operation Shoebox, an organization providing hands-on support for our troops deployed overseas and returning home.

ASD would like to thank all the alumni who took time out of their schedules to assist students with professional development. We also want to thank Dr. Mimi Benjamin for her tremendous amount of support and guidance as the faculty advisor.

-From Gail DeShields, president of Associates for Student Development



ASD Executive Board

Position	Current	New
President	Gail DeShields	Rachel Frank
Vice President Administration & Finance	Kathy Alvarado	Christina Qawasmy
Vice President Professional Development	Jessica Tallant	Emily Porter
Vice President Programming	Brianna Rojas	Victoria Dean
Vice President Public Relations	Amy Sawdey	Paige Davies

Blast From the Past

Working Across the Pond

Written by Kristine (Meier) Murray ('05)

Kristine is now the marketing, digital media, and admissions manager at Blackpool and The Flyde College in Northwest England. The following article (originally published in Developments in 2007) relates not only to working abroad, but to Student Affairs as a whole.

In thinking back to my two years in SAHE, I recall that Indiana and Stouffer Hall sometimes seemed to be all there was to the world. I now realise that the SAHE programme was worldlier than I ever thought.

In April 2007, I moved to England with my husband and soon began searching for openings in the student affairs realm. So many differences between the U.S. and UK education systems became glaringly obvious. For example, I immediately learned that a registrar's office is called the registry and a career services office is called careers service. I also learned that the concept of residence life that is highly valued in the United States is no pun intended-foreign in the UK. Even enrolment is spelled with a single 'l' instead of two. Taking in all of these differences at once, I questioned my ability to ever fully understand an entire new education system and educational culture.

I spent the next few months applying for jobs whilst simultaneously reading anything I could find on the education system of the UK, looking at university websites, and speaking to those working in the field. In July, I came across an advertisement for an international executive position with an organisation called UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), which is the central admissions service for processing full-time undergraduate applications to higher education courses in the UK. Shortly after my interview, I was soon offered and accepted the position, beginning on 1 August.

Now into my third month at UCAS and working in the UK education sector, I find that there is still quite a lot to learn about working in another culture. I believe that this is a learning process that will probably never end. One thing that I have discovered for certain is that with the skills I have learned whilst in the SAHE program both in and out of the classroom; I have already been prepared immensely for these new experiences. The most important lesson of all; always being prepared and open for change! That is the most worldly and invaluable lesson that I have taken from my time in Stouffer Hall and the SAHE program.

Some tips on working in another culture:

1. Be confident in what you already know

My experiences gained both in and out of the classroom in the SAHE program prepared me extensively for this position.

I had an understanding of students and student culture, professional conduct, and the ability to conduct and understand research, which was all directly translatable to my current position. For example, having to write an entire unit plan with goals and objectives was one of my first tasks, gaining insight into working with different cultures, and the insistence on proper grammar and punctuation brought up my level of writing to a standard that I could be confident in. Multiple classes prepared me to conduct and understand research. Finally, my assistantships and practicums also gave me invaluable real-life work experience that I have been able to continuously build upon.

2. Always be ready to learn

Although there have been days where I felt incompetent because there was so much I didn't know, I had to remind myself that this would have been the case with any new position-in or out of the US. Being open to learning and taking an active role in your learning is crucial. Spend time reading any publications you can get from the education sector in that country, sit in on any slightly relevant meetings whenever possible, and take time to meet with colleagues and learn about what they do.

3. Don't be afraid to ask questions

I have found that people are almost always eager to talk about what it is that they do and what they know. I have never received a negative response when asking a question, no matter how simple it may seem. If you are unsure about a spelling of a word or cultural procedure, ask! Just as you will find yourself asking questions, you might also find that people will ask you the same questions about the US and your past experiences!

4. Contact those already working in the field

If you are anticipating working in another country, try to contact those already working in the field. You can contact alumni from SAHE, your undergraduate programme, or members of your local professional organisation. Try seeking out people at national conferences and generally make your intentions known to people around you. I was lucky enough to have Dr. Linda Hall put me in touch with one of her contacts working in the UK before my May 2005 graduation and I regularly emailed this contact for tips on living and working abroad (and still do!). It's also beneficial to email key contacts at local universities and being willing to volunteer. Through this method, I was unofficially offered a chance at a job before it was posted and made some acquaintances with fellow Americans working in the field!

5. Learn the language

NASPA, ACPA, APA, The Chronicle; just as there are hundreds of acronyms that are used in student affairs in the US, there are just as many in the UK. Create a running list of any acronyms that you come across and take a few minutes to look them up on a website or ask a colleague for more information. It is essential to become familiar with the language to be able to work and communicate effectively. Make sure to also pay close attention to spelling and business wording. I am sure that by now you have picked up several differences in spelling and wording in this article and they are just some of the new writing habits that I have had to learn.

Students Travel Down Under

By: Amanda Loeffler ('17)

In May 2016, Michele Magliulo ('17) and I participated in a study tour to New Zealand through the College Student Personnel program at Bowling Green State University (BGSU). We traveled there with twelve other graduate students, four doctoral students, a higher education professor at California State University Long Beach, and our program coordinator, Dr. Christina Lunceford. These individuals represented institutions from across the United States.

We began the study tour in Auckland, New Zealand where we visited the University of Auckland (the largest institution in the country). Our bus traveled to other destinations such as Tauranga, Rotorua, and Wellington. Throughout these locations, we visited institutions including the University of Waikato, Wairiki Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, and Victoria University.

We traveled by ferry to the South Island and continued our journey to the University of Otago in Dunedin. Other cities we visited were Kaikora, Queenstown, and Christchurch. At each institutional visit, we met several student affairs professionals and learned about various student services that they offer to a diverse student population. Also, we learned about the Maori culture and participated in cultural traditions. Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand and they have had a significant influence on the country's higher education system.

In addition to the institutional visits, we had free time to explore various sites and attractions, as well as participate in adventurous activities, such as zip-lining and bungee jumping. I am proud to say Michele and I both bungee jumped off of a bridge and lived to tell the tale. I also had the opportunity to swim with dolphins in the middle of the ocean. Altogether, new, and cherished memories were created and many new friendships were formed.

Personally, this experience was one of my first times on a plane and my first time studying abroad. I am thankful for the partnerships IUP SAHE has with other programs which allowed me to participate in this unforgettable learning experience. As a result of this study tour, I gained a global perspective of higher education, learned about a new culture, and pushed myself outside of my comfort zone.



Michele Magliulo (left) and Amanda Loeffler (right) on the coast of New Zealand



Amanda Loeffler bungee jumping

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: sahe-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). See the last page for more details!

Thanks for your Contribution



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)**

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