

SAHE: DEVELOPMENTS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 ISSUE

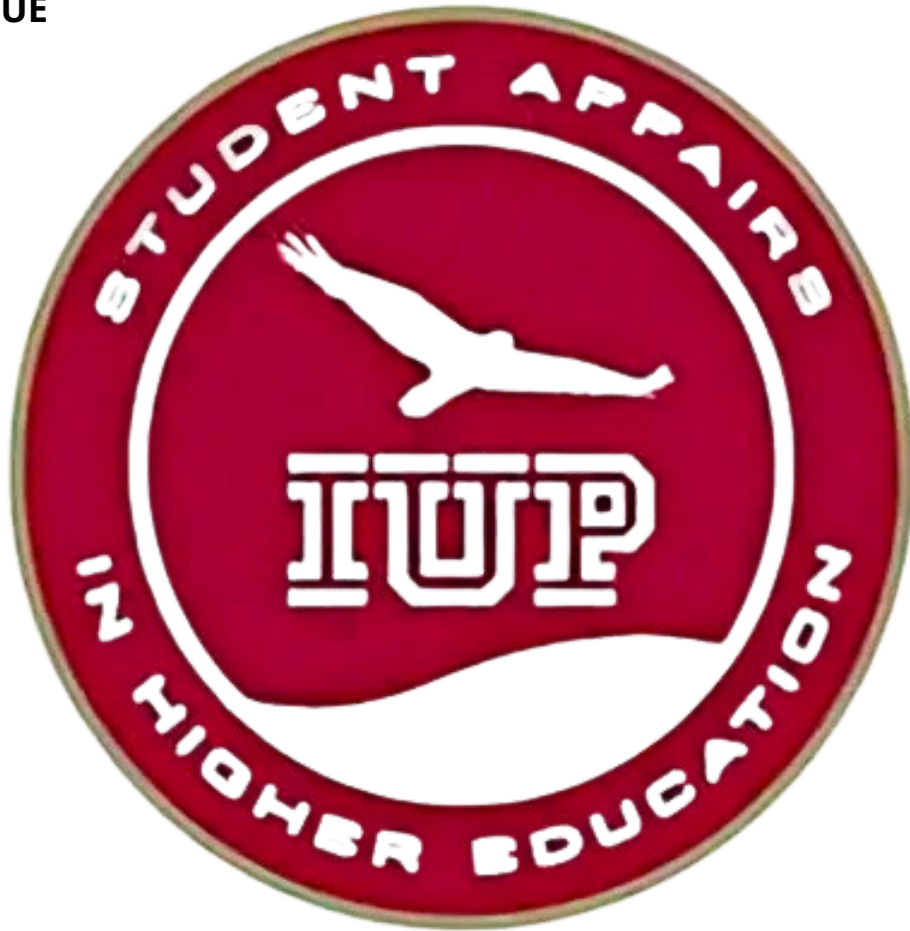


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HAVE IDEAS?

Please let us know your thoughts or ideas for future issues of Developments. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome and truly appreciated!

SAHE FACULTY

Dr. John Lowery, Program Director
email: jlowery@iupui.edu

Dr. Mimi Benjamin, faculty
email: mimi.benjamin@iupui.edu



From back row to front row/left to right: Zipporah Prescott, Tristan Pfeiffer, Abigail Hancox, Abubaka Wahab, Preston Sloop, Josa Beatty, Meghan Lewis, Amaya Boggs, Nye Hardy, Moses Quinion Galabuzi, Hunter Bash, Evelyn "Sika" Ekuban, Madelyn Oliver, Cameron Horton

WELCOMING THE SAHE CLASS OF 2026

The SAHE program welcomed 14 new students from across the globe to the 2026 cohort this fall. Five students joined us from IUP, while other institutions represented include the University of Pittsburgh, Robert Morris University, Coastal Carolina University, and PASSHE institutions Penn West/Clarion and Commonwealth University/Mansfield. Additionally, we welcomed three international students who hail from the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), University of Education, Winneba (Ghana), and Islamic University (Uganda).

The SAHE faculty, in conjunction with the Associates for Student Development (ASD) have offered various events to assist our students in their transition to graduate school. ASD hosted a brown bag lunch/social event during the first week of classes to give the first- and second-year students an opportunity to get better acquainted. The faculty hosted two "Student Success Sessions" in September. The first focused on the transition to graduate school, and Dr. Mimi Benjamin presented on that transition while Dr. Amber Racchini, Vice Provost for Academic Success, welcomed students to University College. For the second session, Dr. John Lowery covered elements of the SAHE Curriculum after Dr. Luke Faust, department chair for the Department for Student Affairs, Student Success and Disability Access welcomed the students to the department and their IUP Navigator Brett Berquist shared how he can be helpful during their time in SAHE.

Students in the new cohort have been actively engaged in classes and assistantships in various functional areas including housing/residence life, admissions, disability access, academic advising, community standards and more. We're happy to have this great group with us in SAHE!

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

DR. JOHN LOWERY



Greetings from Stouffer Hall where things remain very busy in SAHE. I continue to serve as the SAHE Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Chair of our new department. I am also actively involved in APSCUF, the faculty union, as a member of the Meet-and-Discuss Team which meets with Management on a monthly basis. I was elected to be IUP's representative to the PASSHE Faculty Council and in this role also serve as the faculty liaison to IUP's Council of Trustees.

We are settling into our new organizational home within the Department of Student Affairs, Student Success, and Disability Access in the University College. Our offices are still located on the second floor of Stouffer Hall and we do not yet know when we might move across campus. As a result of this reorganization, Mimi and I both picked up an advising load of incoming college freshmen which has changed the trajectory of our Octobers. Beyond having a little bit more trouble scheduling appointments with us in recent weeks, the impact of the reorganization remains minimal for SAHE students. Over the summer, I was asked to join

the task force working to update the ACPA/NASPA Competencies for Student Affairs Educators when one of the NASPA representatives had to step away from the project. This is important work for the future of the field. We appear to be on track to release the updated version in 2025.

As I look forward to the spring, I am excited to attend ASCA in Portland, Oregon and NASPA in New Orleans. I will be presenting a legislative and public policy update at ASCA again this year. In my role as NASPA Historian, I will be presenting with colleagues on the involvement of student affairs professionals at HBCUs in NASPA and their important role in diversifying the organization. I expect that we will be presenting on the updated competencies document as well. We will be hosting a reception at NASPA with the Division of Student Affairs and we will share more information about the reception early next year. I hope to connect with SAHE alumni at both conferences.

Ute continues to enjoy her work with the University of Michigan's Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. Her office is in the midst a reorganization so she will be taking on new responsibilities in a different area in January, but will continue to work remotely.

Margaret, our daughter who many alumni have met over the past 15 years, is now college junior at the University of South Carolina. We were able to visit her recently and she is thriving at USC. She works in undergraduate admissions, is a student leader with Dance Marathon, is a peer leader for University 101, and volunteering at the Children's Hospital. Her goal after completing her undergraduate studies is to go to medical school so she is currently beginning to study seriously for the MCAT which she will take in the spring.

I want to thank the many SAHE alumni who continue to encourage their students to consider the IUP SAHE Program when exploring their graduate school options. Please continue to send us your students.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John Wesley Lowery
Professor and SAHE Graduate Coordinator

DR. MIMI — BENJAMIN —



As we enter “sweatshirt season” with cooler temps and shorter days, I hope that your fall term is going well and that you’re enjoying this time of year. Here at IUP, it’s a busy time, busier because of the changes that have occurred in our department and our roles as faculty now in University College. While October has always been a full month with activities like Homecoming along with lots of academic and service commitments, this October has a new feel as I now advise approximately 45 exploratory undergraduate students. To those of you who are full-time academic advisors, I tip my hat! It’s one thing to know about academic advising, and it’s another thing to try to do it well while also teaching and advising graduate students, conducting research, and fulfilling service responsibilities on campus and with professional organizations. I’m learning a lot and have some good ideas about how I’ll

approach things differently this time next year! Fall semester has brought with it lots of professional organization work. September took me to Kansas City for the NASPA 2026. Conference Leadership Committee planning meeting. My role with the committee is as co-chair for faculty programs and scholarly papers, and the team is an amazing group of professionals. I feel really fortunate to be involved with the conference planning. In October, I served as a plenary speaker with my colleagues and co-authors Karen Kurotsuchi Inkelas (UVA) and Jody Jessup-Anger (Marquette), sharing the revised Living-Learning Community Best Practices Model from our book *Living-Learning Communities in Practice: A Guide for Creating, Maintaining, and Sustaining Effective Programs in Higher Education*, published in May 2024.

My campus initiatives include a project which involved bringing Dr. Jessie Moore from Elon University to IUP for a series of meetings and a presentation on key practices in engaged learning. Along with some colleagues, I’m coordinating a series of follow-up workshops for faculty and staff on Jessie’s presentation, and I’m working with colleagues including SAHE alum Tammy Manko on workshops for student employee supervisors to incorporate engaged learning practices. We’ve created Hawk TAWK (Talking About Work and Knowledge), based on a program from the University of Iowa called Iowa GROW (Guided Reflection On Work), and hope to roll out more workshops to support those on campus who serve in the important role of supervisors for student staff. As many of you are in that role on your campuses, please feel free to send recommendations my way!

By the time this reaches you, we’ll be close to the end of the term and thinking about holidays and some down-time. I hope that you have had a great fall and that you enjoy time to relax with loved ones as we near the end of 2024. And I hope our paths will cross in 2025!



Executive board members from left to right; Kaitlyn Kerr, Cooper Hicks, Mattie Updyke

ASSOCIATES FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SEMESTER UPDATE

ASD Vice President of Administration Mattie Updyke has greatly enjoyed their final semester as a member of the executive board. Over the summer, VP Mattie hosted a virtual Q&A with the incoming first years and coordinated the Summer Match program, making 11 matches between first- and second-year cohort members. VP Mattie has planned and executed fundraisers with the Meadows Custard and Primanti Bros to build the budget for the incoming board. They have promoted the organization by updating the bulletin boards in Stouffer 227 and in the hallways with the "Grow with ASD" theme, highlighting how ASD provides opportunities for personal and professional development. VP Mattie has also supported VP Kaitlyn's programming such as through the SAHE Kickoff event, where the executive board shared information about the program and how to become an ASD member. VP Mattie has continued to share information and updates about ASD on Instagram. ASD has had nine new members join the organization this fall, something the entire executive board is excited to see! We greatly look forward to the election of the new executive board and their transition into leadership over the coming winter.

ASD Vice President of Programming Kaitlyn has been excited to contribute to the SAHE community during her time on the executive board. This semester, she organized the SAHE Kickoff, welcoming new and returning members while highlighting the opportunities ASD offers. Kaitlyn has also focused on building community through social events like trivia nights, cohort mixers, and group outings helping members connect on a deeper level. Looking ahead, Kaitlyn is excited to host Pumpkin Palooza, a fun fall event for pumpkin decorating and socializing, with their fellow ASD board members, as well as professional development events in November and December that will support members in growing their skills and networks. She is proud of the relationships that have formed within the SAHE community and looks forward to the transition to the new executive board, confident they will continue building on the strong foundation of Associates for Student Development.



ASD Members at a Primanti Bros Fundraiser dinner for ASD.

From left to right; Kaitlyn Kerr, AJ Jardine, Nye Hardy, Hunter Bash, Madelyn Oliver, Abubakar Wahab, Cameron Horton, Evelyn "Sika" Ekuban, Tristian Pfeiffer, Abby Hancox, Aicha Bellaoucha

Cooper Hicks states, "Throughout my term as President of Associates for Student Development (ASD), it has been great to work alongside Vice Presidents Kaitlyn and Mattie. This year, we hit the ground running with initiatives like the Summer Match program, led by VP Mattie, and a vibrant beginning-of-year kickoff event hosted by VP Kaitlyn. Both efforts have been instrumental in fostering engagement and excitement within the SAHE cohorts. As we approach the final stretch of our term, we are thrilled to announce upcoming events such as Pumpkin Palooza and the SAHE Thanksgiving celebration touched on by our VPs. These final weeks offer a few more opportunities for us to connect and celebrate our community".

On behalf of the entire executive board, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support. Whether through attending fundraisers, participating in programs, or simply showing up for their peers, SAHE students helped make this journey unforgettable. It has been a privilege to collaborate with Kaitlyn and Mattie, and together we've worked hard to nurture a sense of belonging within the SAHE cohorts. As we prepare to pass the torch to the next executive board, we are committed to finishing our term strong and ensuring a seamless transition. Thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to making these final weeks memorable.

SAHE ALUMNI UPDATES



MICHAEL DODGE, '06

*Executive V.P. for Academic Affairs and Student Life, Professor of Education
American International College*

Update: Michael was promoted to full Professor and serves as doctoral faculty in the higher education program.



MADISON KISER, '24

*Residence Hall Director
San Diego State University*

Update: Madison moved to San Diego to work as an RHC at SDSU. Lots of time at the beach, enjoying the sun and the palm trees down in Sunny San Diego!

Advise for Students: In between the studying and the hard work you put in, finding time to build relationships within your cohort can really create a sense of support that will follow you even post grad! Mimi and John are such amazing resources and really care about your goals so talk to them when you're feeling stuck or just in general :)



CASEY WEAVER, '07

*Special Assistant to the Provost
Georgia Southern University*

Update: I have just accepted a new position as the Special Assistant to the Provost. It has been a fun first month learning about the Academic Affairs side of the house.

Advise for Students: Keep on swimming. Even when the water gets choppy if you keep swimming, you will always find a way.



KIMBERLY FABBER, '18

*Associate Director of Student Leadership and Involvement
West Chester University*

Update: Kimberly Farrer '18 got engaged to Demetri Grivas in Nashville, TN!

Advise for Students: Take advantage of any and all opportunities and challenge yourself with different practicum and internship opportunities! It is all about the transferable skills.



ANGELA BAZIN, '99

*Director of Wellness Education Outreach and Veteran Care
Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU)*

Update: After 25 years in Housing at ECSU and working her way up from Hall Director to Director, Angela has moved into a new role at ECSU where she is excited to work with students through wellness and providing services to ECSU's veteran students.

Advise for Students: Take that internship seriously. I wish I would have selected other areas than I did to increase the experience IUP afforded me. I chose areas that would be easy for me to be successful in and areas I was comfortable with. If I could go back and change one thing, it would be to pick areas that were not known to me that would have expanded my knowledge.



KATIE MOTYCKI, '04

*Director of Student Orientation and Transportation Program
Penn State University*

Update: I'm currently serving as the treasurer for the Association of Orientation, Transition, and Retention (NODA), taking a "bonus year" with the association to help fill a vacancy after completing a three-year term as a general board member.

Advise for Students: Take advantage of the opportunities that come your way - and remember there are SAHE alum all over the place. Don't be afraid to use the connection!



KEVIN BAILEY, '90

*Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University of North Carolina (UNC) Charlotte*

Update: Received the 2024 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Keeper of the Flame Award for IUP. This award is annually bestowed on employees, students, alums, and community members dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion as members of the PASSHE community. Keepers of the Flame embody a commitment to fostering university environments that support the success of all its members.

Advise for Students: Say yes to as many experiences as you can comfortably handle without sacrificing your academics.



CASEY BROWN, '24

*Area Coordinator
Worcester State University*

Update: Began working as a Residence Director at Worcester State University and was recently promoted to Area Coordinator!

Advise for Students: Allow yourself to explore your job search process with an open mind that plays to your strengths and experience!



JENNA FREEMONT, '22

*Associate Director, Center for Career & Professional Development
Lehigh University*

Update: Jenna Freemont, formally Jenna Abraham, got married to her college sweetheart, Joseph, over Labor Day weekend

Advise for Students: Remember why you started this program! Someone or some program most likely inspired you to pursue this career. Remember the impact that they had on you and how you can now do that for a student or program.



SAMMA FULLER, '24

*Residential Life Coordinator
Tufts University*

Update: Since graduating from IUP, I've been living in the Greater Boston area and working with the Residential Life and Learning team at Tufts University. I feel confident that I'm right where I am supposed to be, both professionally and personally. Outside of work, I've grown to be a public transit enthusiast, my walks have never been so exciting! I've also started building community around me by joining a she/they dodgeball team and trying new things such as pop-up dance classes.

Advise for Students: As you grow during your time in and beyond SAHE, hold your authenticity close to you. It takes time to find a balance in being authentic and upholding the standards of your role, but trust and be patient with yourself. It will come with time and intentionality.



ANTHONU NGUYEN, '19

*Student Life & Housing Advisor
George Brown College*

Update: Completed a 6-month volunteer term as Treasurer for Ontario on the 'Combatting Anti-Gender Ideology in Post Secondary Project' with Egale Canada in April 2024. Became a Brand Ambassador with Gift of Girls Incorporated in April 2024. Represented Global Pet Foods Toronto at the Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls in April 2024. Volunteered at Woolwich Pride in Elmira, Ontario in June 2024. Volunteered with Taste of Vietnam in Toronto in July 2024. Became a Student Life & Housing Advisor at George Brown College in Toronto in August 2024. Celebrated 1 year of membership with the Rainbow Community Council in Waterloo Region in September 2024.

Advise for Students: "It's all part of a bigger picture!"

Carnegie Mellon University

CONRAD KALCICH, '12

*Associate Director, Affinity and Identity Network, Alumni & Constituent Engagement
Carnegie Mellon University*

Update: I joined the advancement team at CMU in January. In May I married my wife and launched our blended family and in September we added a puppy named Arthur to our family! So we have a puppy, kindergartener, and 3rd grader running around now; it's joyful chaos we are settling in to.

Advise for Students: Never box yourself in. You never know what opportunities might present themselves to you if you're open to them.

TYLER MONTGOMERY, '20

*Assistant Director of Academic Operations
Drexel University, College of Computing & Informatics*

Update: Since graduating from SAHE, I have been working at Drexel University in Philadelphia. I have elevated positions and currently serve as an Assistant Director of Academic Operations. I genuinely enjoy the intersection of my functional area being able to directly serve students, while also collaborating with faculty and department heads on various aspects of the curriculum. Additionally, I serve on multiple university and college committees, such as leading the DEI Council for the College of Computing & Informatics. Connecting with students through the DEI Council and programming to bring awareness to a vast array of important topics has been a highlight of my professional journey. Personally, I am thriving in the bustling city of Philly! The food and arts scene here is incredible. I spend my time exploring new neighborhoods, trying new restaurants, enjoying the skyline view from roof tops, and supporting my friends' comedy/art/musical endeavors. When I am home in my apartment, you can find me cuddling with my black cat, Salem. He was a stray alley cat from the city who has turned into a pampered love bug. Recently, my friend and fellow SAHE alum, Renee Raymond, moved to Philly as well. More happy memories are continually made in this city every day.

Advise for Students: My largest piece of advice is to build relationships. Your network is the most essential tool in your professional arsenal. Connect with faculty, staff, and peers, as these relationships will lead to future opportunities. Additionally, always stay student-centered. Prioritize students' needs and advocate for their voices within the larger community at your institution. Finally, always seek feedback on how you can better yourself both personally and professionally. It is important to recognize your strengths and weaknesses by taking time to reflect and listen to not only others, but yourself as well.





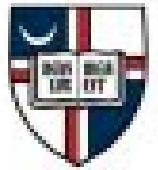
LAUREN TUDOR, '14

*Assistant Director & Career Consultant for Health Science, Nursing, and Pharmacy
Duquesne University*

Update: Next summer Lauren Tudor ('14) will be chairing the 2025 Annual Conference for the Alumni Career Services Network in Pittsburgh, PA. Lauren is excited to have the opportunity to welcome the organization to her hometown and hopes that her fellow regional SAHE alumni will consider lending their talents or time to participate in the great discussions, sessions, and fun!

Advise for Students: Current students: Develop your leadership skills by saying "yes" to new challenges and/or taking part in professional development opportunities. The field is looking for fantastic future leaders like you!
Future students: Consider a career in higher education! Talk to staff and faculty at your institution. Ask questions to learn more about the field and what opportunities may interest you. Every path to higher education isn't the same - so find out what makes sense for you!

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



ANNA BORGES, 20

*Assistant Director of Student Organization Leadership
The Catholic University*

Update: After graduation, I started working as the Director of Student Activities at Walsh University in North Canton, OH. I was there for 4 years until this past July. In July, I moved to Maryland and started working at The Catholic University of America, my alma mater.

Advise for Students: Working in higher ed can be challenging at times, but is some of the most rewarding work out there. Even if you aren't told, the work you do makes a huge impact on the lives of the students you interact with. Know that what you do matters!

GIVING TO SAHE

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

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

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

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



HICKS AWARDED “GET INVOLVED” AWARD

Cooper Hicks, a graduate student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) program, was selected as the recipient of the “Get Involved!” SAHE Student Leadership Award. The award is presented at the end of the student’s first year in the graduate program, and honors someone who is making a difference on the campus where they work and through involvement outside of work. Tom (SAHE ’05), Erin, and Lila Baker offer this annual award. Baker stated, “Cooper is an impressive young leader and we appreciate his efforts as President of Associates for Students Development. He also has been incredibly active in leadership opportunities working with students truly of all ages from kindergarten to college students. There is a core consistency of kindness in all of Cooper’s actions and efforts inside and outside of the classroom.”

Hicks earned a B.A. degree in Music (Clarinet concentration) from Mercyhurst University. He is the graduate director for Wallwork Hall and the graduate assistant for Student Training and Leadership in the Office of Housing at IUP. Hicks has held practicum experiences with IUP’s Dean of Students Office and the Division of Student Affairs/Student Inclusion and has served as the president of Associates for Student Development, the SAHE student organization, from 2024-2025.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SELECTED FOR PASSHE CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education launched a national search after Chancellor Dan Greenstein announced his plans to step down in July 2024. The new System chancellor is expected to take office next summer.

Abigail Hancox, a first-year student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education Program, has been named to serve on the PASSHE Chancellor Search Committee. Abigail has served on the Board of Governors since 2022 and will continue to serve on the Board as a graduate student. She is also a student in the Public Affairs master’s program at IUP.



NEWKERK SCHOLARSHIP 2024

The Nancy J. Newkerk Scholarship, awarded each year to a second-year student, was presented to Mattie Updyke at the SAHE Thanksgiving event on November 16, 2024. For 25 years, the Nancy J. Newkerk Scholarship has been presented to deserving second-year SAHE graduate students who demonstrate outstanding contributions to college students, student affairs activities, the SAHE department, and the broader higher education community. Mattie represents these qualities well.



Mattie is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where they earned their Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Writing and Communication.

They serve as a Graduate Residence Hall Director for the Suites on Maple East at IUP. In the summer, Mattie had a practicum during which they reviewed student affairs policies in the Dean of Students Office, and in the fall they have worked in the Office of Student Affairs in both the Military and Veterans Resource Center and with student affairs assessment. Mattie also contributed to the Career and Professional Development Center as a mock interviewer and served as the Associates for Student Development's Vice President for Administration.

Nominators highlighted Mattie's growth along with their strengths in communication, collaboration, problem-solving, advocacy, and as a scholar/practitioner. As one nominator stated, "They successfully blend past experiences and current knowledge of the field to create genuine relationships with students and staff." This attention to relationships was noted by another nominator, who shared, ". . . [T]hey not only managed the responsibilities of the role [of graduate hall director] but also did extremely well in supervising undergraduate students with an admirable balance of care, compassion, and professionalism."

From 1957-1967, Nancy J. Newkerk served as dean of women at IUP (then Indiana State Teachers College), and then as associate dean of Admissions at IUP (1978-1994). She retired in 1994 and was awarded the IUP President's Medal of Distinction in 2009. She passed away in 2017.

Newkerk scholarship recipients demonstrate collaboration, student-centeredness, citizenship and civic responsibility, all qualities that reflect Nancy Newkerk's own student affairs career. We are pleased to celebrate Mattie Updyke as the 2024 Nancy J. Newkerk Scholarship recipient.

PRACTICUM PARALLELS

Second-year students Aicha and Maddie worked in orientation programs at similar institution types for their first practicum in summer 2024. Below, they compare and reflect on their experiences.

Q: Where was your practicum site and what was your title?

AICHA BELLAOUCHA

This summer I was a Graduate Intern through NODA at Temple University in their New Student Orientation and Family Programs office.

MADDIE ROBINSON

This summer I was an Orientation Team Coordinator at Penn State in the New Student Orientation program.

Q: What were your primary responsibilities, and what did you spend most of your time doing?

AICHA BELLAOUCHA

I assisted in the coordination, management, and facilitation of both virtual and in-person components of First-Year Orientation, Transfer Orientation, and Parent & Family Orientation programs. My specific responsibilities include overseeing early arrival sessions, managing program logistics, presenting to students and families, and serving as a contact during orientation events. I also supported the planning and facilitation of Owl Team Leader training, where I delivered presentations on specific areas of interest. Additionally, I assisted the Program Coordinator in supervising Student Coordinators and Owl Team Leaders by reviewing weekly reports, facilitating check-ins, coordinating team recognition efforts, and conducting evaluations. I helped implement and analyze program assessments and student evaluations, and I performed essential office duties, including record keeping, preparing email communications, developing materials for orientation sessions, and creating transition documents for future graduate interns.

MADDIE ROBINSON

My primary responsibilities were to train, support, and supervise a team of 23 Orientation Leaders (OLs). Throughout over 30 two-day summer sessions I also helped coordinate program participants' engagement with activities and University Park campus. Before summer orientation sessions began, the NSO team provided two weeks of training to OLs, which I helped facilitate. During program sessions I assisted with logistics of first-year student classroom lessons with their orientation leaders and parent and family information sessions. Because the program ran all day from about 2pm until 11pm on a first program day and from 9am to 4pm on a second program day, I spent a lot of time actively problem solving and practicing my Interventions skills with my OLs and incoming students. I got to work closely with students who knew the Penn State campus and community well, so together we put a lot of effort into making new Penn Staters and their supporters feel confident and comfortable in their transition into college life.

Q: Did you meet any SAHE alumni on your journey?

AICHA BELLAOUCHA



Yes, Danielle Parker (SAHE Class of 2019)

MADDIE ROBINSON



Yes! SAHE Alumna Katie Motycki '04 is the director of Student Orientation and Transition Programs at Penn State, so I got to learn a lot from her.

Q: What is something valuable you learned this summer (to your work in student affairs) that might be unique to your experience?

AICHA BELLAOUCHA

One valuable lesson I learned is the importance of effective supervision. While overseeing the New Student Orientation Student Coordinators and Owl Team Leaders, I realized how crucial it is to maintain honest and open communication with those I supervise. Additionally, I learned the significance of impact of both challenges and opportunities for growth, helping the students I supervise develop their skills and reach their potential. Lastly, I believe that I learned how to better manage my time and communicate clearly with others.

MADDIE ROBINSON

Something valuable that I learned in my time at PSU was the importance of being able to trust your team. The NSO and SOTP team from my summer practicum were invaluable to each other when things became stressful. I learned that being able to let go of some things and rely on others to help accomplish a collective goal is so important to the trust in a team. I also learned that being able to work in a team that demonstrates the ability to trust each other can be a form of leadership when supervising a team like Orientation Leaders.

Q: What was your favorite part of your summer practicum experience?

AICHA BELLAOUCHA

My favorite part about my practicum besides working with orientation staff and students, was the connections I made outside the office I worked at. I created relationships with other professionals on campus, such as academic advisors, dining and housing staff, local food truck vendors and others around the Temple campus. As well as exploring the beautiful city of Philadelphia and learning about the rich traditions and history of the area.

MADDIE ROBINSON

My favorite part about my summer practicum was being immersed in the lively and vibrant University Park campus. Even in the summertime there are still students, faculty, and staff that keep PSU functioning at a high caliber, and I enjoyed getting to work and spend time in an environment that is not similar to where I live and work during the academic year.

SAHE SIDE QUESTS!

A “Side Quest” comes from video game terminology meaning a “quest” that the player completes outside of their main objective. Some second-year students and faculty share their “SAHE Side Quests” below.



My fun SAHE Side Quest has been teaching K-pop dances and leading IUP’s first K-pop cover group, MULTI, which I founded in 2022. Teaching choreography not only lets me share my passion for dance but also creates a sense of community among students who love K-pop. It’s been rewarding to watch the group grow and help students express themselves through movement while engaging with Korean culture.

AJ Jardine - SAHE ‘25

In the world of SAHE, there’s never a dull moment! As a Grant Coordinator with Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD), I’m focused on helping students make healthy, informed choices. My role involves managing grant programs aimed at student wellness and coordinating wellness coaching sessions that encourage healthy habits and lifestyle changes. Every day, I get to support students in finding their own balance—and it’s always inspiring to see them thrive!

Kaitlyn Kerr - SAHE ‘25

My side quest would be that I work for the IUP football team. I do game day recruitment visits, set up/clean up the field, give water and half time snacks, assist the coaches and support the players academically and emotionally.

Aicha Bellaoucha - SAHE ‘25

In addition to taking a baking class in May, my other non-work focus in the spring/summer/fall is my garden. In particular, I grow A LOT of garlic!

Mimi Benjamin - Faculty

One of my favorite activities outside of work is going to see live music. Earlier in the semester, I saw the Old 97s in Pittsburgh and The dB’s in Washington, DC. In November I am traveling to North Carolina to see the Drive-By Truckers play two shows—Margaret will join for the second show when we have VIP tickets. One of the things that I enjoy most about the Drive-By Truckers shows is the chance to get a photo pass and indulge my teenage dreams of being a concert photographer.

John Lowery - Faculty & Coordinator

A few weeks ago I got to go to the EDC Orlando music festival with one of my best friends. We flew down at 3 a.m. on a Friday and left Sunday. It was a great opportunity to look at one of my locations I would like to work and I got to connect with a friend I haven’t seen in a few months. We had such a great time and we already bought our tickets for next year!

Cooper Hicks - SAHE ‘25



NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

MADELEINE R. ROBINSON

It has been a delight to be able to work on this issue of *Developments* with Jorge. I would like to thank Mimi for her guidance and support in making this issue the best that it can possibly be. I am looking forward to capturing the vivid tapestry of SAHE experiences in the next issue.

JORGE TAPIA BECERRIL

I have enjoyed my time working with Maddie on this newsletter. Thank you to Mimi for putting trust in both of us to take the reins on this year's issues. We hope that you enjoy reading about our big SAHE family!