



# Developments

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

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## SAHE Faculty:

**John Wesley Lowery**, Chair

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

**Mimi Benjamin**

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

**John A. Mueller**

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

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

Editor: Kaitlyn Rajner ('18)  
[SAHE-Developments@iup.edu](mailto:SAHE-Developments@iup.edu)



## Class of 2019

The Class of 2019 was formally welcomed into the SAHE program on August 31, 2017 at the annual Kick-Off program hosted at the College Lodge by the SAHE Department and Associates for Student Development (ASD). The first portion of Kick-Off began with the faculty, Dr. Mimi Benjamin, Dr. John Mueller, and Dr. John Lowery providing ways to cope with the transition into graduate school. Alumnae Jennifer DuBrava Hinton ('00) attended Kick-Off to receive the Ron Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award (see page 8) and shared tips that she has gathered throughout her career and passed along a message to students from her role model, which is to “work hard and be nice.”

ASD prepared a meal to follow the faculty portion and together, the Classes of 2018 and 2019 discussed the upcoming semester, undergraduate studies, and what led them to student affairs and SAHE in particular. Following dinner, the two cohorts participated in a scavenger hunt and, of course, ate dessert.

To close Kick-Off, Tom Baker ('05) awarded Meghan Delsite Coleman ('18) the 2017 “Get Involved!” scholarship. Rachel Frank ('18), ASD President, announced each new SAHE member to receive their SAHE pin, which connects them to a network of more than 900 alumni. While students were anxious to delve into their assistantships and coursework at Kick-Off, they are now settled in and dedicated to finding their niche in student affairs. Students are creating a sense of community that will help them thrive in the next year.

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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 has finally arrived after an unseasonably warm few months.

Here at IUP, the semester is off to a wonderful start and 23 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 heard and will read in this issue of *Developments*, Dr. Holley Belch retired earlier this year (see page 5). I would like to thank her for her many contributions to SAHE over the past two decades. Countless student affairs professionals have been impacted by her teaching and research over the course of her career. 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 or email us with any questions they may have at [sahе-admissions@iup.edu](mailto:sahе-admissions@iup.edu). If you would like to refer a student to the SAHE Program, please complete our [IUP SAHE Prospective Student Referral Form](#). We will contact the student by email to share more information about the SAHE Program. We can also send you a SAHE poster to display in your office; just complete the [IUP SAHE Poster Request Form](#).

If you are able, we encourage you to make a donation to the SAHE Development Fund. 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, alumni receptions at national conferences, the Outstanding Scholar Award, and the Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award). Visit [www.iup.edu/giveagift](http://www.iup.edu/giveagift) and enter #4647 in the "Other" field to contribute to the SAHE Development Fund.

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 Indianapolis, Indiana. Later this semester I will visit the [National Student Affairs Archives](#) at BGSU to conduct research and travel to New Orleans for the [2017 NASPA Student Affairs Law Conference](#)

I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in the spring at ASCA and NASPA. With NASPA in Philadelphia this year, we will have our annual alumni reception at NASPA. We will share the details as soon as we confirm the date, time, and location for the reception.

Warmly,



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



## John Mueller

Greetings from the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, where I am enjoying the changing colors and temperatures of fall as I walk each day to try to achieve 12,000 steps on my Fitbit (somedays I'm even rewarded with a "You crushed it!" notification on my phone app!).

This fall, I got a chance to teach the American College Student course (after being away from it for six years). A few weeks ago, we were talking about community, culture, and rituals and the roles they play in the lives of college students as they connect with their institutions and their education. In that discussion, we applied these concepts to SAHE and a flood of examples poured out, some from the students in their second year and some from my own memories of 18 years here in SAHE. Students talked about SAHE October, Holley's PTP project, 227 Stouffer, the pinning ceremony at the annual Kick-Off, the Instagram photo cutout, the "you know that you don't know" theory, and something they never experienced but heard about—Comps. I was thinking about Linda's Berklewood project, John's bowties, Mimi's Gratitude Go-Arounds, Lunar, D.A.D., R.T., A.P.A., etc.



Now that the summer has yielded to fall and winter, having these artifacts of the SAHE experience mentioned and recalled has left me feeling a bit nostalgic. But more than that, these rituals and artifacts leave me feeling proud to be part of the SAHE experience, but in a way I really can't articulate. In his piece titled "Reexamining Our Rituals" in *About Campus*, Robert Young wrote, "The meaning of ritual is not just rational and linear; it is emotional and round, and thus, like tears or laughter, it is recognized more easily than it can be explained."

As I approached this *Developments* newsletter, I wasn't sure what to write. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> fall semester I've done this, and it just seemed like all I could write about was the same thing I write about every fall: what I did this past summer, trips I've taken, courses I'm teaching, writing projects that take up my weekends, the holiday concert I'm rehearsing for, etc. Then it dawned on me. These are not just mundane things that I report on every fall. They've become the rituals of my life. And I treasure them all.

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## Mimi Benjamin

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and that the fall has been a productive, positive time for you. I'm struck, once again, by how quickly time flies – wasn't it just summer a minute ago? For the first time since I joined the SAHE faculty, I didn't teach in the summer. My plan was to use the time for some significant projects, and although additional projects crept onto my list, I felt good about what I was able to accomplish. High on the list was completing the living-learning communities book, *Living-Learning Communities that Work: A Research-Based Model for Design, Delivery, and Assessment*, with my colleagues Karen Kurotsuchi Inkelas, Jody Jessup-Anger, and Matthew Wawrzynski. You can look for that in Spring 2018. Living-learning communities seemed to be the theme of the summer as I also spent a week at Elon University in North Carolina as a co-leader of a three-year research seminar on living-learning communities. What a great experience I had! I look forward to my subsequent visits to Elon for this project over the next two summers.

My summer also included other travel – back to New York where I lived prior to moving to Indiana and back to Iowa where I lived before New York. The Iowa trip was the highlight of our summer as my husband and I visited friends and attended the Iowa State Fair, where you can get just about any food you can imagine deep-fried and on a stick! We returned just in time to kick off a new academic year. The start of the school year is always a favorite time of mine, and welcoming a new group of SAHE students is particularly special. Along with getting better acquainted with our new students, I was fortunate to meet SAHE Alum Jennifer Dubrava Hinton, our Alumni Award Recipient, who joined us for Kick-Off.

The IUP SAHE alums are a wonderful group of people, and I've been pleased to see students I've taught thrive in their professional roles. Even better is when I have a chance to visit with them when they're in town, and I so appreciate hearing from alums and making plans for meals and coffee so we can catch up! As I start my fifth year as a SAHE faculty member, I can honestly say that I'm as excited today as I was back in August 2013 to come to work each day and spend time on the projects and with the people at IUP.





## Melissa A. Rychener

It's my pleasure to be a temporary faculty member in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program this year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself to those who I have yet to meet!

Like most of us in the field, my initial interest in student affairs was sparked by my leadership experiences as an undergraduate. I was a mentor for new first year students, a student senator, an active volunteer with refugees, and an R.A. at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. These experiences empowered me to find my voice, make a contribution to my community, and connect with my peers.

I am excited to announce that a book of case studies I co-authored with colleagues and former students was recently published by Routledge. *Complex Cases in Student Affairs: Preparing Early Career Professionals for Practice* provides students in professional preparation programs like this one the opportunity to grapple with challenging "real world" cases faced by student affairs educators. In this book we challenge students and educators to use theories to understand the issues raised and craft thoughtful responses. My other research interests include: career paths of women and people of color in higher education and the correlation between study abroad participation and the development of intercultural competence.

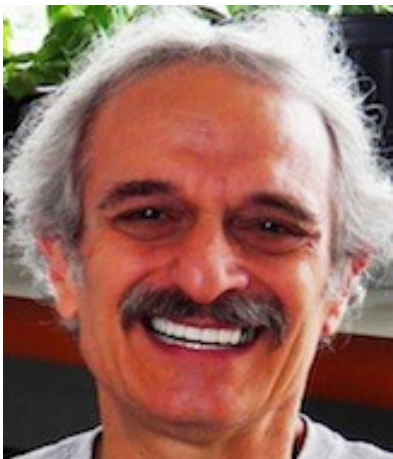
In teaching Student Affairs Functions, I am using two of the cases from this recent book to illuminate some of the issues we are discussing related to ethics, multiculturalism, assessment, and professionalism. I also draw upon my professional experiences in student affairs in residence life and international education at Ohio State, Carnegie Mellon, and Duquesne University. The research and teaching that I have done on intercultural competence helps me to think about how our field can be more inclusive of different perspectives, and this influences my approach to discussing functional areas as well as the broader context of higher education in a global, interconnected world.

## In Remembrance



In February 2017, Dr. James Laughlin passed away. Dr. Laughlin served as the Associate Dean of Students and later the Dean of Students and was responsible for coordinating the Student Personnel Services (now SAHE) program at IUP in its early years: handling admissions, teaching some courses, and coordinating the assistantships and internships that existed back then. Dr. Laughlin devoted himself to guiding others in their pursuit of a higher education career. He also started and chaired the committee to create the IUP Athletics Hall of Fame, into which he was later inducted. Additionally, he was active in the restoration of IUP's Breezedale Alumni Center and served as president of the IUP Alumni Association for 16 years, received the IUP Distinguished Alumni Award, and was a recipient of the Bell Ringer Award for his service to IUP.

Dr. Ron Lunardini remembers Dr. Laughlin as a "gracious and kind man" whose efforts students appreciated during their time in the SPS/SAHE program. Dr. Linda Hall, who was a neighbor of his, remembers Dr. Laughlin as "very kind, helpful, a great dad, and a lover of animals."



Dr. Robert Witchel passed away in May, 2017. From 1981-1987 Dr. Witchel worked in the Division of Student Affairs, where he served for two years as associate professor and director of the Counseling and Student Development Center and for three years as the assistant vice president and director of the Center for Student Development. In 1986 he joined the Counseling department. He was influential in developing the delivery of the Counseling department program at the IUP Monroeville Graduate and Professional Center. Dr. Witchel regularly guest lectured for the IUP SAHE program when it was tied with the Counseling program as a single department. He gave his advice, wisdom, and support to thousands of people in his practice as a psychologist for more than 40 years.

# Moving Forward

*Emma Freese ('18)*, Graduate Assistant for Administration in the SAHE Department

Dr. Holley Belch retired in June 2017 after working in the SAHE Department at IUP for 18 years. Dr. Belch dedicated herself to service, scholarship, and teaching over the course of her 36-year career in higher education.

Dr. Belch received a Master of Arts in Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University in 1982. She later returned to Bowling Green State University for her doctoral work in Educational Administration and Supervision/Higher Education Administration. She graduated in 1991 with her PhD.

While working on her master's degree Dr. Belch worked as an assistant hall director at the University of Toledo. Upon completion of her master's program, she accepted a dual role as the assistant dean of students and a residence director at Siena College. After two years at Siena College, Dr. Belch accepted an assistant dean of students and student activities position at Babson College. Her work continued at Babson College as the assistant to the vice president for student affairs and the director of orientation and later the associate dean of students. Dr. Belch spent four years at Babson College before returning to Bowling Green State University. While completing her doctoral program, Dr. Belch was a graduate fellow in the Higher Education and Student Affairs department at Bowling Green State University. Upon receiving her PhD, she went to Southern Illinois University to work as an assistant professor in the Educational Administration and Higher Education department and be the coordinator of the Master's Degree Program in College Stu-

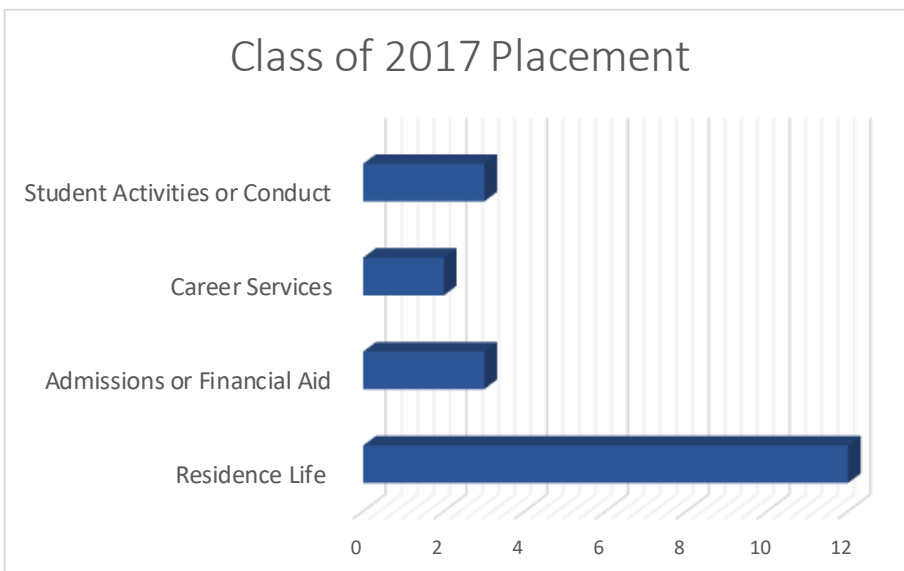
dent Personnel. Three years later she accepted a position at Arizona State University as the coordinator for student affairs research and evaluation, where she stayed for six years. In 1999 Dr. Belch moved to Indiana, PA to start her teaching career at IUP in the SAHE program.

Maeve Kirby ('17) wrote, "I feel extremely fortunate to have studied under Holley as an aspiring student affairs professional; I truly believe that the future generations of IUP SAHE will miss out on a once in a lifetime educational opportunity with her retirement. I always admired Holley for the resoluteness of her decisions; you always knew, and could trust, that she had a breadth of experience that lead her to make the decisions that she did. Holley challenged you to be your best self, both in and out of the classroom. She knew what you were capable of and held you to that standard. I am incredibly appreciative of Holley's devotion to training the newest generation of practitioners and will be forever grateful for the hand she has played in my education, training, and journey as a student affairs professional."

Another student from the class of 2017 wrote, "I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Holley not only on a professional level as one of our faculty members, but more importantly, outside of the classroom. I always looked forward to going to her classes or even just popping in her office to catch up. Whether it was discussing how to become a better writer or bike rides she recently went on, I'm very thankful for the relationship we built and the support she has provided me during my time in SAHE and beyond. Holley will surely be missed."

The SAHE department is grateful to Dr. Belch for her efforts and dedication to training the next generation of student affairs professionals.

## Job Search & Placement



**92%**  
of SAHE graduates  
from 2017 secured a  
job in SA by  
September 2017



@IUPSAHE





# Where Are They Now?

**Kathy Alvarado**—Alvernia University, PA  
Resident Director

**Ashley Baksis**—Kenyon College, OH  
Assistant Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities

**Madison Crist**—Indiana University - Purdue University-  
Indianapolis, IN  
Advisor of Health and Life Science Student Success

**Gail DeShields**—University of New Hampshire, NH  
Resident Hall Coordinator

**Tyler Dillon**—Boston College, MA  
Resident Director

**Elissa Donovan**—St. John Fisher College, NY  
Resident Director

**Kayla Grosjean**—University of Oregon, OR  
Institutional Relations Specialist in the  
Global Education Office

**Bonnie Huckaby**—Indiana State University, IN  
Residence Life Hall Coordinator

**Maeve Kirby**—Western Carolina University, NC  
Residential Case Manager

**Amanda Loeffler**—University of Pittsburgh -  
at Johnstown, PA  
Area Coordinator

**Shayna Lyle**—Radford University, VA  
Admissions Counselor

**Michele Magliulo**—SUNY College of Old Westbury, NY  
Resident Director

**Ashley Reese**—University of Michigan, MI  
Hall Director

**Brianna Rojas**—Philadelphia College -  
of Osteopathic Medicine, PA  
Admissions Recruiter

**Jenny Sak**—Penn State—University Park, PA  
Program Coordinator for Blueprint Peer Mentoring

**Amy Sawdey**—University of Pittsburgh -  
at Greensburg, PA  
Financial Aid Specialist

**Brandon Sousa**—University of Rhode Island, RI  
Career Education Specialist

**Shannen Stiffler**—Lawrence Technology University, MI  
Resident Hall Coordinator

**Jessica Tallant**—Oregon State University, OR  
Parent and Family Program Coordinator

**Kelsey Thompson**—Indiana University of Pennsylvania, PA  
Assistant Director of the Career and Professional -  
Development Center

**Alana Weyant**—Radford University, VA  
Resident Director

**Lauren Zahour**—University of Delaware, DE  
Residence Hall Coordinator

(This list is up to date as of November 2017)

# Alumni Updates

## Professional

The SAHE department congratulates the following alumni on their continued advancement in their careers

**Mark Anthony** ('83) - Associate Director for Career Development & Experiential Education in the Career Center at the University of South Carolina (SC)

**James Barricelli** ('04) - Executive Director of Market Readiness & Employment in the School of Business at Wake Forest University (NC)

**Devin Basile** ('14) - Coordinator in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Baldwin Wallace University (OH)

**Joe Benyish** ('12) - Coordinator of Student Life for the Center for Student Involvement at Salisbury University (MD)

**Carmine Biancamano** ('16) - Student Activities Coordinator and Residence Life Coordinator for Housing and Residence Life & Student Involvement at Methodist University (NC)

**Donald Brennan** ('11) - Assistant Director of Residence Life at Penn State-Brandywine (PA)

**Natty Burford** ('14) - Assistant Director of Student Activities for the Office of Student Development at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MA)

**Marney Buss** ('04) - Director of Residence Life at Nichols College (MA)

**Alyssa Caffarelli** ('15) - Resident Director at Pace University (NY)

**Julie Cogley** ('16) - Assistant Director of Enrollment Management and Student Services for Pharmacy Programs for the Office of Student and Alumni Experience at Manchester University (IN)

**Sam Comfort** ('13) - Transfer Coordinator for Admissions at the State University of New York at Cobleskill (NY)

**Kelsey Craig** ('14) - Career Coach in the Career Center at Temple University (PA)

**Ashley Daniels** ('15) - National Service Coordinator in the Office of Civic Engagement at Frostburg State University (MD)

**Kristen Degraff** ('16) - STEMatics Academic Counselor in the Center for Student Success at Bergen Community College (NJ)

**Lisa Dippold Hartman** ('06) - Associate Director of Housing Operation for Housing Services at Carnegie Mellon University (PA)

**Lauren Donahue** ('14) - Rector for the Department of Residential Life and Assistant Professional Specialist for First Year of Studies at the University of Notre Dame (IN)

**Emilie Dye** ('12) - Associate Director in Fraternity & Sorority Life at Duke University (NC)

**Alexandra Elliott** ('14) - Coordinator for Greek Life, Diversity Engagement, and Community Engagement for the Office of Student Affairs at Alderson Broaddus University (WV)

**Caitlin Engel** ('07) - Senior Graduate Enrollment Manager in the Office of Admissions at Robert Morris University (PA)

**Harold Fields** ('08) - Director of the Center for Residence Life, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) (NY)

**Jennifer Fraley** ('04) - Associate Dean of Conduct and Integrity at Longwood University (VA)

**Laurie Grove** ('99) - Student Services Program Coordinator for the College of Business at Winthrop University (SC)

**Lisa Johnson** ('05) - Manager of Volunteer Resources for the Western New York Territory at Make-A-Wish Foundation (NY)

**Meghan Junor** ('14) - Admissions Operations Coordinator for Northern Vermont University (VT)

**Meredith Kaye-Tierney** ('97) - Guidance Counselor at Seldon Middle School (NY)

**Jasmine Lee** ('15) - Admissions Counselor at Thomas Jefferson University (PA)

**Rebecca Lewis** ('05) - Director of a daycare (CT)

**Laura McCarthy** ('06) - Director of the Academic Success Center at Northwestern Connecticut Community College (CT)

**Sean McGowan** ('14) - Assistant Director for Employer Relations in the Career and Professional Development Center at Carnegie Mellon University (PA)

**Anna Moronski** ('15) - Assistant Director/Resident Director for the Department of Residential Living and Student Conduct at Drexel University (PA)

**Amber Mullen** ('01) - Associate Director of Residence Life at Radford University (VA)

**Sophie Penney** ('80) - Senior Program Director and Lecturer for the Certificate in Funding Leadership at Penn State (PA)

**Craig Pickett Jr.** ('10) - National Executive Director of the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society (TN)

**Adam Prescott** ('11) - City of Bloomington Police Department (IL)

Professional updates continue on page 8...

# Alumni Updates

## Professional Continued

**Zachary Saeva** ('14) - Career Coach in the Center for Life's Work at Nazareth College (NY)

**Windi Sasaki** ('04) - Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Program Manager for Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American (APIMEDA) at University of California—San Diego (CA)

**Erin Schutt** ('09) - Program Developer for Workforce Development and Community Education at Delaware Technical Community College (DE)

**Trista Shideler** ('13) - Assistant Director of the Office of Alcohol Policy and Education and Coordinator of Community Engagement at Stanford University (CA)

**Amelia Shill Jackson** ('12) - Student Life Coordinator at Piedmont Technical College (SC)

**Kelli Smith** ('12) - Veterans Counselor at Leeward Community College (HI)

**Corinne Snell** ('85) - Assistant Dean for Student Professional Development in the Fox School of Business at Temple University (PA)

**Robyn Stuart** ('09) - Special Events Coordinator for Alumni Relations at Virginia Tech (VA)

**Ariel Tarosky** ('10) - Director of Education and Communication for Triangle Fraternity (PA)

**Ashley Testa** ('12) - Director of Housing and Residence Life at La Roche College (PA)

**Bethany Tognocchi** ('13) - Director of Marketing for ACPA

**Lauren Tudor** ('14)—Assistant Director of Career Development Programs and Alumni Partnerships at Chatham University, PA

**Sam Waltemeyer** ('11) - Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs at Rutgers University (NJ)

**Jean Wenner** ('11) - Immigration Specialist in the Office of International Services at the University of Pittsburgh (PA)

**Louise Ann Whyte-Aravich** ('16) - Residence Life and Student Activities Coordinator for the Student Affairs Department at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PA)

**Michele Zager** ('06) - Staff Psychologist for the Center for Counseling and Student Development at Roger Williams University (RI)

**Do you have any updates you want to share with the SAHE community? To update your place of employment, email, and accolades, please fill out this [form](#).**



Ron Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award  
2017 Recipient: **Jennifer DuBrava Hinton**  
Assistant Director of the Center for Media, Arts,  
Games, Interaction, and Creativity  
Rochester Institute of Technology

## 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 5, 2018 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](mailto:jmueller@iup.edu). Please visit our website for more information:

<http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=87997>



# Alumni Updates

## Accomplishments/Accolades

**Justin Brown** ('13) recently published a book titled *Ugh!?! Not Another Diversity Book!* on multiculturalism and diversity. He was also published in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

**Alyssa Caffarelli** ('15) presented on "Working with Faculty" at NEACUHO in October.

**Councilman Tom Baker** ('05) received the 2017 North Hills Community Outreach Compassion in Action Award.

**Sam Comfort** ('13) was named Parliamentarian of SUNYCAP (State U. of NY College Admissions Professionals).

**Ashley Daniels** ('15) presented at NASPA's Civic Learning Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Conference on the living-learning-serving community/AmeriCorps program.

**Kristen DeGraff** ('16) received the Rising Star Award for exemplary performance in providing programming and services for Stevens students.

**Tom DiRoma** ('15) wrote 'Two Ships' for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors Online Blog called *Essentials*.

**Lauren Donahue** ('14) received the Presidential Team Irish Award -- GreenDot Committee.

**Alexandra Elliott** ('14) was noted as the Alderson Broaddus University Student Organizations Advisor of the Year for 2017.

**Britany Gallagher** ('15) received the 2017 Outstanding Advisor Award (Keene State College Annual Student Leadership Awards).

**Laurie Grove** ('99) completed an M. Ed. in Counselor Education, Winthrop University, May 2015.

**Meredith Kaye-Tierney** ('97) obtained an EdD in 2009 and has been the president of the Arethusa United Alumnae Association since 1997.

**Jasmine Lee** ('15) was awarded the "Big Bang" award through the Office of Admissions at Thomas Jefferson University for demonstrated commitment to student success and quality service as a new member of the team.

**Sean McGowan** ('14) presented in March 2017 at VACE on the topic, "Leveraging Career Services-Faculty/Staff Partnerships and Programs to enhance Students' Career Success."

**Anna Moronski** ('15) co-presented a session titled "Institutional Success & Community Gentrification" at the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity (NCORE) in May 2017.

**Sophie Penney** ('80) presented "Crafting Your Legacy, AFP Winchester VA Chapter in September 2017. The book review was accepted for the Philanthropy and Education.

**Windi Sasaki** ('04) received an ACPA Advocate Award at ACPA 2017. These are given by the ACPA Coalitions for demonstrating a significant commitment to social justice.

**Ashley Testa** ('12) is President Elect of Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA).

**Brad Webb** ('07) was the lead author on a \$2 million EDA grant that will be used to double lab space for the welding programs at Penn College.

## Personal

**Ashley Daniels** ('15) completed a triathlon in May and rescued a dog in July.

**Meredith Kaye-Tierney** ('97) is now married and has one six-year-old son. She is also a Cub Scout Den Leader.

**Brittany Langlet** ('11) married her husband, Tim on October 7 at the Historic Gettysburg Hotel in Gettysburg, PA.

**Rebecca Lewis** ('05) got married in October 2011 and had a son, Ethan William Lewis on August, 2012.

**Sean McGowan** ('14) and Briana McGowan ('14)(formerly Newstrom), were married in June 2016. They recently bought a house in West Mifflin, PA.

**Amelia Shill Jackson** ('13) married Greg Jackson in August of 2016.

**Sophie Penney** ('80) is the Chair of Leadership Centre County and serves on the Stewardship Committee for UBBC.

**Robyn Stuart** ('09) had a baby, Johnathan David Stewart, on June 15, 2017.

**Brad Webb** ('07) welcomed a daughter, Eloise Rosalind Webb on July 25, 2017, joining her big brother, Charlie.

**Louise Ann Whyte-Aravich** ('16) married Evan Aravich on Friday, December 23, 2017 in Brockway, PA.

# 2018 Nancy Newkerk Scholarship

In October 2017, the SAHE department announced the recipient of the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship for 2017: Victoria Dean.

Dean is an alumna of Stockton University, N.J. She has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and two minors in childhood studies and genocide studies. Dean was a mentor in The Activity Leaders of New Students (T.A.L.O.N.S.) and was involved in Stockton Outdoor Adventure Retreat (S.O.A.R), as well as Welcome Week Leaders. She completed a practica as NODA intern over the summer of 2017 at Muhlenberg College (PA). Her current practicum is with the Residence Life Office at Seton Hill University. Her assistantship position is the graduate coordinator of student activities at Saint Vincent College.

Dean's assistantship supervisor, Deanna Wicks, wrote in a letter of recommendation, "'Due to Victoria's supportive hand and generous heart, students and student leaders on our campus have found a safe and caring home in which they are accepted and have the opportunity to grow. She provides such a warm and welcoming environment for student growth."

Jan Schumacher, Dean's NODA internship supervisor wrote, "Victoria demonstrated an ability to thrive in a new environment, even one that was constantly changing. She quickly connected with the staff and students in the office and worked seamlessly with us."

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.



Victoria Dean with SAHE Faculty



In June, we were saddened to learn that Nancy Newkerk passed away at the age of 88. Newkerk started her career as a music teacher after earning a bachelor's degree in music education from Oberlin College and a master's degree in student affairs administration from Syracuse University. From 1957 to 1967 she served as the dean of women at Indiana State Teachers College (IUP). After leaving IUP to work in admissions at Hartwick College in 1965, she returned in 1978 to become the associate dean of admissions until she retired in 1994. Newkerk was honored as a "Notable Woman" by the Indiana branch of the American Association of University Women in 2008. In 2009 she was awarded the President's Medal of Distinction for Professional Achievement, which is the highest non-degree award presented by IUP.

The SAHE department is forever grateful for the contributions Nancy Newkerk made to the university and our program. We will continue to recognize emerging practitioners for their accomplishments through the scholarship program that bears her name.

# Student Accomplishments & Presentations



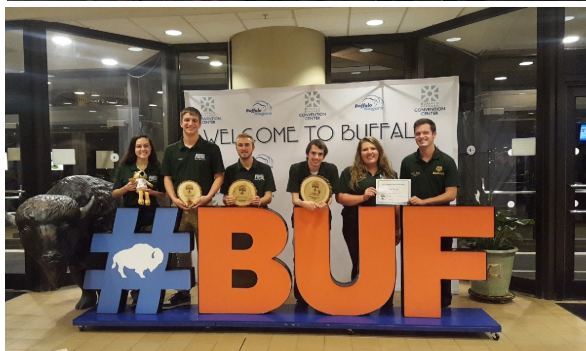
The NACA Mid-Atlantic (MAT) Regional Conference was held in Buffalo, NY from October 12-15. This was my second year attending with the Saint Vincent College (SVC) Activities Programming Board (APB), and both years they have blown everyone away. This year, we took one APB chairperson, four APB team leaders, and one orientation director. With such a small delegation, my team goes above and beyond to make sure all of NACA knows who Saint Vincent College is.

The highlight of this year's NACA MAT was the closing awards dinner. Saint Vincent College is a small institution. Our delegation was comprised of six students, my supervisor, and me, while most institutions were double our size. This did not deter my students from taking home four awards. We won for Outstanding Staff Design for our Fall 2017 semester poster, Outstanding Social Media Post for our usage of Snapchat filters for our SVC's The Voice, and the first ever Outstanding Program Series for our SVC's The Voice. Each of these awards had to be entered prior to the conference, and delegations voted on who was the best.

The award that means the most to us is the 2017 Spirit Award, which is something that only three delegations walk away with. In order to be recognized with this award, the conference committee and other delegations vote on delegations' spirit throughout the entire conference. The winners are chosen based on overall spirit and nominations from associate members and other delegations.

We were very successful in the awards we took home, but even more so in the dedication and passion that our students show on a daily basis. We are truly lucky to work with a group of students who care so much about the greater good of Saint Vincent College, and I could not imagine students who deserved these awards more.

-Victoria Dean ('18)



Saint Vincent College Activities Programming Board featured in the above photos



**Meghan Delsite Coleman ('18)** was awarded the 2017 *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.

**Jhane Cummings ('18)** is presented at the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg (UPG) Leadership Conference on Defining Your Leadership Style. The presentation focused on two leadership theories: Authentic Leadership and Servant Leadership and how students can use concepts from each to define their role within their team or organization.

**Jhane Cummings ('18), Geo Ramsey Miller ('18), and Ben Shultz ('18)** had the opportunity to facilitate a workshop on race, power and privilege for the Amizade Organization (an organization based in Pittsburgh that wanted to bridge the gap between the rural and urban perspective). They began by having difficult conversations—approaching a discussion from a curious mindset or trying to find commonality in the discussion. They talked about who holds the power in our society and intersections of gender/privilege/race/religion. They also discussed the oppressive structures, systems, and cultures that oppress certain groups of people and how family members reinforce those oppressive structures.

**Kimberly Farrer ('18)** presented multiple workshops on ally training through the Office of LGBTQIA+ Support at IUP for her practicum. Many SAHE students attended the training to increase their knowledge on how to be an ally.

**Rachel Frank ('18) and Nina LaCombe ('19)** presented on the concept of "true colors" at the UPG Leadership Conference. In this presentation, they taught emerging student leaders how to define their unique leadership style. Students had the opportunity to take the true color quiz, assessing what color they most identify with. With this information and guided discussion, students learned how to identify their own personality characteristics as they pertain to leadership, while also brainstorming how to utilize this knowledge in their interactions with peers, both similar and different from themselves.

**Alexandria Wagner ('18) and Brandon Ford ('19)** presented "Team Building with Strangers" at the UPG Leadership Conference. The presentation detailed how to teach effective communication to members of an organization.

# A SAHE Staff

By Angela Delfine ('19)

As a new SAHE student, I knew that having an assistantship in residence life at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) would be a positive experience. What I did not know was that I would be working in an office full of SAHE alumni. Chris Lemasters ('08) serves the Director of Residence Life at UPJ and Amanda Loeffler ('17) is the full-time area coordinator. Chris and Amanda bring a lot of incredible experience to the table, and I could not ask for a better system of support as a current student in this program.

Recently, I took time to ask Chris and Amanda about their SAHE experiences and to share some advice for those of us who are currently in the program.

*Q: What are the greatest benefits you see about having an all-SAHE staff in residence life?*

**Chris:** "SAHE recruits students with a solid undergraduate curricular and co-curricular background. The graduate staff in my office is able to run with projects immediately and put their spin on things. After completing two years in the program, I know my professional staff member has the dedication to push through difficult timelines and her work will be impeccable. I'm really excited to create a new vision for residence life at UPJ and know I have the right staff to help in this process."

**Amanda:** "It has been so rewarding having an all-SAHE staff! As alumni of the program, Chris and I are able to serve as mentors to our graduate assistants and we understand the time commitment and effort it takes to be successful in the program. We all share our experiences and can relate to one another about class assignments, practicum experiences, assistantships, and so much more! I look forward to continuously celebrating our successes with one another and helping our grads develop into awesome student affairs professionals."

*Q: What advice do you have for current SAHE students?*

**Chris:** "Learn how to sell the experiences and knowledge you are gaining throughout the program. Attempt to cultivate the best possible practicum opportunities that broaden your resume and show a depth/breadth of knowledge."

*Q: What words of wisdom do you have for SAHE students?*

**Chris:** "Enjoy every single moment and the connections you get to have with college students. There will be tons of moments during your career where students have you ready to pull out your hair, but when one of your students starts to put it all together and accomplish great things....it's a tough feeling to beat."

**Amanda:** "Do not compare your journey to anyone else's and stay true to what you value personally and professionally. Your values are going to be your driving force in your job search and in all areas of life. Also, do not forget to take the time to give thanks to everyone who has supported you and cheered you on throughout this experience. Although it may not seem like it now, graduate school goes by fast and it is important to cherish those sweet moments."

I have learned a lot about professionalism and work ethic under the leadership of Chris and Amanda. My SAHE grad experience at UPJ has been an incredible journey so far with the guidance of these incredible alumni.



*Amanda Loeffler ('17, left) and Angela Delfine ('19, right), with the UPJ Mountain Cat.*

# Student Affairs and Parenting

By Chris Lemasters ('08)

Student Affairs in Higher Education is the family business. Unlike most individuals who came upon this career through involvement during college, my time on campuses started days after I was born. My father and mother have both served in higher education for the past forty years. Nights, weekends, and summers during my youth were largely spent at Mansfield University helping set up for events or cheering on one of the sports teams. I eventually felt the pull into the field and am completing my tenth year in residence life.

My first few years flew by with the long hours on campus, dinners with my community staff, and weekends spent living it up with the other professional staff members (when we weren't on-call). The work-life balance was simplistic as six months into my career, my wife began working for the residence life department. Our tough work moments overlapped and could always be solved through a great barbecue dinner in Athens. This solid foundation helped when at the completion of our second year, we moved to a new position and welcomed our son to the family. The first few months were an eye opening experience, as our fun nights out with friends were quickly replaced by late night bottle feedings and diaper changes.

Despite these changes, we were able to keep our professional and personal life in balance. We did this by understanding the challenging times of year and planning months ahead. Training and orientation can be overwhelming, but also provided the perfect opportunity for my wife and kids to visit the grandparents in Pennsylvania. Now that my children are a bit older, the opening of buildings is one of their most fun times of the year. They love when their "friends" come back and they help put up bulletin boards, walk around with staff completing final building checks, and hang up flyers around the building. All year long, my children and wife attend

programs, coordinate dinners with my staff, and oftentimes become a secondary family for the students.

Being a student affairs professional is a time consuming and wonderful job. The absolute same thing can be said about being a parent. The moment you have things "figured out" is the same day something transpires you have never handled before. One of the most important things in my professional career has been the willingness of the students to welcome my entire family into the campus community. This sense of belonging has been an incredible gift to my children and one I know they will always cherish.



Chris Lemasters and family featured above.

# Technology, Communication, & College Students

By Valerie Dixon ('05)

Students change as times change. It is inevitable. Change, in and of itself, is not necessarily good or bad. As technology advances, students will adapt and reflect to their culture. Progress in all things tech have provided today's student with greater access, more opportunity, and a plethora of options. However, does this type of engagement with electronics result in a social skills trade off?

The world appears to have shifted to face time with a screen. Student affairs professionals are seeing a lack of simple social skills from today's students: including eye contact and casual, face-to-face conversation. As the dependency on all things tech has become commonplace, many of the students I work with actually avoid direct eye contact and find it stressful and difficult to address authority figures or peers.

Whether they are simply waiting for a class to begin or have gathered for a campus activity, there is often silence. If not silence, only key strokes can be heard and only partial faces seen often hidden by a screen.

When a need arises that they cannot figure out how to handle, most often, they send an email for help. Phone calls and face to face conversations are not the preferred mode of outreach.

In my role, I have the unique opportunity to welcome students in the door, work with them while they are developing their skill set, and then celebrate with them when they graduate. My position allows me ample opportunity to attempt to address the reclusiveness in the hallways, and try to encourage students to reach (engage) beyond their phone or lap top. Simply offering an encouraging word when passing students, and attempting reciprocal eye contact seems to help in their overall personal growth and development and their ability to reach beyond their phones.

Are my measures making a difference? In an environment where students choose to sit in the same room, each on his or her device, I choose to break the silence and come crashing in to encourage conversation. If nothing else, it is an opportunity to bring the situation to light. Often, the act of addressing it creates conversation. Conversation can create knowledge. Knowledge is power. It cannot be taken away from you. Once you are aware, both students and professionals have a responsibility to be the change that makes the difference.

Not only do employers want employees to have proper communication skills, they need them to. Communication skills are fundamental and help to shape the type of professional that the student will become. Students use communication skills to work on other soft skills, such as team building, non-verbal skills, as well as listening.

Communication skills appear to be overlooked today, yet those who possess the skills truly have an advantage. The likely next step is to help the students learn these skills. Students must adapt to their environment, and technology is not soon to disappear from our world. As professionals we should address, and work with students to value the importance of social skills in addition to their technology skills. Perhaps moving forward a balance of tech-savvy students who are willing and able to also hold a face to face conversation can be reached.

Students change as times change. This is inevitable. However, I believe that the balance we need to reach begins with our voices, students and professionals, lifted in conversation. Technology will continue to advance, but our world depends on a future generation who cannot only interact through technology but also through the power of the spoken word.





# Associates for Student Development

Throughout the semester, ASD has coordinated a variety of opportunities for members to learn about the organization, network, and develop professionally. ASD hosted an informational session, our General Body Meeting/Alma Mater days, and two service projects: JDRF One Walk at Pitt-Greensburg and a canned goods drive.

ASD provided a variety of “Lunch and Learns” (formally known as Brown Bags). Topics covered at Lunch and Learns included: A discussion on recent racial conflicts that have arisen on IUP’s campus, APA standards, the NODA intern process, and an informational session on the various professional student affairs organizations. SAHE students and alumni also gathered to support the IUP Hawks in their defeat of CalU at the homecoming football game. ASD also coordinated our annual Altoona Curve Game and SAHE lunch date outings.

ASD also collaborated with Faculty Advisor Mimi Benjamin and recent SAHE Alumni Brandon Sousa (’17), to create the “Alumni Connect Program,” featured on page 16. Utilizing previous feedback from SAHE alumni, the group created a program that allows second year SAHE students to network with recent SAHE graduates. Much like the Cohort Connect Program, this will provide second-year SAHE students with guidance as they enter the field and navigate the job search process! If all goes well, this will be an annual opportunity!



## ASD Executive Board

Position	Current	New
President	Rachel Frank	Danielle Parker
Vice President Administration & Finance	Christina Qawasmy	Robert Leibel
Vice President Professional Development	Jeremy Risinger & John Spiglemyer	Angela Delfine
Vice President Programming	Victoria Dean	Brandyn Holtzinger
Vice President Public Relations	Paige Davies	Nina LaCombe

ASD would like to formally thank the current SAHE students, alumni, and faculty who took the time to participate in our pilot Alumni Connect Program, Lunch and Learns, and ASD events. Your enthusiasm has been much-needed encouragement! We would also like to thank our faculty advisor, Dr. Mimi Benjamin, for her amazing dedication to the organization and willingness to support us in everything that we do; you are very appreciated!

*-Rachel Frank (’18), President of  
Associates for Student Development*



# Get Connected

By Brandon Sousa ('17)

The Alumni Connect Mentoring Program (ACMP) was created as a result of a few heart to heart conversations among members of the Class of 2017. Many of us had concerns about making the transition into the real world, yet we weren't vocalizing them with each other. With this realization, I reached out to members of the Associates for Student Development (ASD) executive board and Mimi Benjamin to gain further perspective about what could be done to help the cohort of second-year students. Together, we brainstormed what is now the Alumni Connect Mentoring Program.

The purpose of the ACMP is to match second-year IUP SAHE students with a recent IUP SAHE alumna to provide mentorship for the second year of SAHE, the job search process, and the transition into the "real world". Pairs are based upon their mutual interests within the field and on mentors who are willing to provide perspective to a mentee for a given functional area, geographic area, and professional development interests.

The recruitment process took place during the month of September and pairs were informed of their matches in mid-October. Thirty-three alums responded to the initial call for mentors, and 12 current second-years within the program requested mentors. Second-year students must be ASD members to be eligible for the program. Since the mentoring has only just begun, I, along with everyone else on the ACMP committee, am looking forward to seeing how it unfolds. Thank you to all of you who are currently serving as a mentor to a current SAHE student. This would not have been possible without you!



From left: ACMP pairing Shannon O'Reilly ('14) with Jackie Duffy ('18)



# From PA to Italy

By Victoria Dean ('18), Elizabeth Estell ('18), and Rachel Frank ('18)



*In late May of 2017, (from left) Elizabeth Estell ('18), Rachel Frank ('18), and Victoria Dean ('18) participated in a study tour to Florence, Italy through Kent State University's Higher Education and Administration (HIED) Program.*

The purpose of the study tour was to learn how to plan and implement a study abroad experience for undergraduate students. We traveled with three other graduate students from different institutions. Our instructors were Dr. Mark Kretovics, the interim HIED department chair, and Ediz Kaykayoglu, the Director of the Education Abroad Office at Kent State University.

We began our journey in Rome, Italy. Through many guided tours, we spent two full days exploring the Roman Colosseum and Forum, Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, and many historical museums.

In Florence, we learned about Kent State University's Florence campus, met the various staff members, including Director Fabrizio Ricciardelli, an Italian native and historical scholar. Much of our tour was spent learning about the city's history and famous sites from Fabrizio himself. He took us on an excursion to Siena and gave us tours throughout Florence, all of which traditional undergraduate students studying abroad would experience.

Fabrizio and Dr. Kretovics challenged us to expand our comfort zones, encouraging us to try new things and experience the fascinating culture around us.

During one weekend, we planned and facilitated our own weekend excursion. We traveled to Verona and Venice. In both locations, we had the opportunity to utilize a "hop on, hop off" bus tour. In Verona, we wrote letters to Juliet Capulet, took pictures with the Juliet statue, and explored the famous Amphitheatre. In Venice, we took a Gondola ride exploring the channels and rich history of the city. After our excursion, we presented our individual field trips to the faculty as if we were planning to take our own students there.

Overall, the study tour was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we are so happy we took advantage of it!



# Share Information About SAHE

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

Request information material to be sent to you, or provide us with the names and addresses of students you would like us to send a SAHE information packet to by E-mailing: [sahе-admissions@iup.edu](mailto:sahе-admissions@iup.edu).

## 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 [form](#).

## 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 **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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