The UConn Student Affairs Association is an organization committed to enhancing, connecting, and supporting individuals who are interested in a career in student affairs.

Digging Deeper
Updates from The Program

October-November 2013

The International Experience 2013

The Higher Education and Student Affairs International Experience (HESA IE) program is designed to address the growing internationalization of higher education. The HESA IE provided second year master’s students with the opportunity to spend three weeks during the summer immersed in the administrative culture of a fellow Universitas 21 university where students addressed a problem of practice posed by the partner institution.

In partnership with the University of Glasgow, the HESA IE took students to Scotland for three weeks in May-June 2013. Students worked as a team alongside student services professionals to deepen practitioner understanding of the issue at hand. HESA students investigated the experience of international students at UG to provide insight on how to best serve this unique student population.

Welcome to the new Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Michael Gilbert joins the UConn community from the University of Delaware. Dr. Gilbert was previously the Assistant Vice President for student affairs at The Pennsylvania State University and has also held various administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts, Northeastern University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Gilbert earned his BA degree at the University of Vermont, a MEd degree at Michigan State University, and a doctorate in education at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.
Allison is currently working as a Program Coordinator for the Office of Undergraduate Programs at The George Washington University School of Business. GSWB is located in the hustle and bustle of downtown DC, a few blocks away from the White House. In her job, she gets many opportunities to put the knowledge she gained at UConn to practice. In her primary role, she teaches two first-year development business classes, creates and develops programs for undergraduate business students, develops marketing and social media strategies for large-scale programs, and advises students in the GWSB Undergraduate Business Association.

Allison has worked closely with the GWSB Learning Community and has been creating “Lemonade Day” that teaches youth the foundations of entrepreneurship. When she’s not working, she enjoys exploring DC restaurants, art life, and photographing the city as much as possible.
Transferable Skills in Action:
The HESA Practicum

Jim Pierson, Class of 2014

Jim is currently doing his practicum at the Yale University Office of International Students & Scholars. He chose this office in particular both because he wants to learn more about serving international students, and to gain exposure to a different campus culture than what he is used to. Yale’s OISS allows him to work with the thousands of students and scholars that come to Yale each year. He works primarily behind the scenes, helping to process check-ins and learning about immigration regulations, but he also got the chance to create cultural and social programming for the international community. He would very much recommend getting an experience at an international office, regardless of professional aspirations, as it offers the chance to work with a wide range of populations, both behind the scenes and directly with students.

Kira Pierce, Class of 2014

This semester, Kira is completing her practicum with the Pipeline Connect Program. Pipeline is a new initiative through the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity. A partnership was created between Hartford Communities that Care, a non-profit 501(c)(3), and UConn’s African American Cultural Center and Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center to facilitate mentors and college readiness activities. Her main responsibilities include creating a treasury of information about similar programs and finding scholarly work to define outcomes. She also supports programming, mentor interactions and teaches an SAT preparation component for the high school participants. Working with Pipeline has enabled her to learn more about the individuals that preparation programs serve and best practices in this area.

Kyle Neary, Class of 2014

For his practicum, Kyle has been working at Eastern Connecticut State University in the Student Activities Office. Having spent the spring and summer working with Orientation, he has transitioned into assisting with the LEAP into Leadership program. This program has three tiers that address leadership for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students. While working on LEAP, he has also begun to create a database that will allow more accurate tracking of student involvement and participation in the program. The eventual goal will be to use this database to see the success rates for those who are actively engaged in LEAP. Kyle has also participated in outreach programs for parents. Working with Student Activities at Eastern Connecticut State University has given Kyle a new perspective of a medium-sized public institution.
Meet the New UCSAA Executive Board Position:
Alumni Relations Coordinator

The Alumni Relations Coordinator position was created to further UCSAA’s mission to keep our alumni active and engaged in UConn HESA life. The responsibilities of this position are as follows:

- Will be responsible for planning all alumni engagement events for UCSAA
- Coordinate communication with UCSAA members regarding event details
- Collaborate with the President, HESA Liaison, and HESA Program Coordinator to maintain a database of HESA alumni contact information
- Devise and implement outreach strategies to HESA alumni

If you are an UCSAA or UConn HESA alum and would like more information, please contact Jackie Lee at jacqueline.2.lee@uconn.edu!

For more information about anything found in this newsletter, please direct questions to the Vice President of Internal Affairs, Corey Lueker.
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