Welcome Class of 2016!

May marks a time of celebration for UConn’s HESA program as well as a bittersweet farewell to the latest class of competent HESA grads. Armed with practical experience, theory and two years worth of memories, these grads emerge from the program ready to positively impact the higher education field. Best of luck to each and every one of you! Whether your journey takes you across the country or leads you here to UConn, make sure to keep in touch, and we hope to see you again soon.

Congratulations Class of 2014!

The UCSAA Executive Board would like to extend a sincere welcome to the incoming Class of 2016.

From Washington to Rhode Island and Canada to Colombia, we are proud to welcome such an accomplished group from across the nation and globe. We look forward to their contributions to the UConn community as well as the overall higher education community. UCSAA will be sponsoring several events and trips over the summer to welcome the newest members of our HESA family.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming Class of 2016 bios!
Alternative Learning: HESAs Take a Break

This semester, several HESAs devoted their Spring Breaks to serve alongside UConn students in different communities across the country. Braving vans and 28+ hour bus rides, our graduate students traveled to Oklahoma, New Orleans, West Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois and Alabama. “There’s no better time to truly understand and connect with our students than when you are packed in a van for 10 hours. They get to see you as a real person,” Alex Carrier, ’15. Some HESAs were able to travel on specialized trips, such as the Honors Alternative Spring Break trip and the Greek Alternative Spring Break. Others were able to connect with students they had not worked with before. “It was refreshing to connect with students who I don’t interact with through my regular routine,” Aimee Bishop, ’15.

No matter whether they were sorting Mardi Gras beads, painting, doing manual labor or learning about the local community, these trips were a reenergizing experiential learning opportunity for all involved.

Spring Conferences and Awards

*Make sure to check out Digging Deeper: Special Conference Edition for information about UConn’s recent Celebrate HESA Conference.

Danielle Sosias (’14) presented “The Impact of Multicultural Fraternal Organizations on the Identity Development of Students” at the Cultural Greek Leadership Conference at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Monique Golden (’15) and UConn Interfraternity Council President, Ryan Bordelon, were awarded first place in the Order of Omega Case Study Competition at the 2014 NGLA Conference in Pittsburgh this past March.

Congrats to Shana Clarke (’14) for being awarded the Division of Student Affairs Graduate Student of the Year!
Alumni Spotlight: Victoria Farris

What is your HESA graduation year? 2006

What is your professional title? Assistant Director of Student Life for Education Programs at the School of American Ballet

What are your responsibilities in your position? I currently work at a ballet boarding school for high school aged students. My responsibilities include: facilitating our students’ academics at two local high schools, overseeing grant-funded cultural programming and large-scale programs for the School and overseeing our college advising and academic intervention programs. I am also currently creating a new student experience program for the fall to complement the parent resource program that I oversee.

I live in the residence hall and work closely with our Director of Residence Life to manage day-to-day residence hall tasks like working with parents and student discipline. I also get to supervise two of our four graduate assistants who are currently in the NYU HESA program. It’s a dynamic job that has given me a lot of growth over my 6 years here.

Looking back, what is your favorite HESA memory? The times that our cohort hung out together, put our differences of opinion aside and laughed a lot. I also really loved the day of our Groups retreat where we couldn’t come to a consensus on our group expectations to save our lives!

What words of advice do you have for current HESAs? Be in the drivers seat of your experience; take initiative, try new things, work hard, but be sure to have fun! Unlike many other times in your professional life, your graduate experience is entirely for you. Make the most of the opportunities you have and always keep an open mind!

Interested in pursuing a non-traditional higher education career? Connect with Victoria at vfarris@sab.org

Alumni Recognition

Richard D. Blackburn
New Professional Award

Kim Pho, ('12)

One of UConn HESA’s own, Kim Pho, was honored with the 2013 Richard Blackburn New Professional Award.

Richard D. Blackburn’s influence on and encouragement of new professionals is reflected in this award honoring an individual who demonstrates the potential for excellence in the field of college union and student activities. Pho currently works at Notre Dame University.

AFA Outstanding Change Initiative Award

Greg Fink, ('11)

In addition to being presented the Outstanding Change Initiative Award, Greg co-facilitated a session on the 2-year transition for the fraternity and sorority community toward a university-centered learning paradigm. Greg currently works at Texas A&M University.

“...The little things are the big things. It has been humbling to realize just how much the program prepared me for the field. The little details of HESA where most people roll their eyes...those will be the assignments and experiences that prompt your success. Now, the little things are allowing me to do bigger things and I have HESA to thank for that.”

Nick Fahnders, ('13)

Interested in Presenting to Current HESAs Next Year?

UCSAA is looking for individuals interested in presenting about a variety of professional development topics next year!

Not located in New England? That’s okay! Contact Caroline Green at caroline.green@uconn.edu for more information.
A semester in review

For more information about anything found in this newsletter, please direct questions to the Vice President of Internal Affairs, Caroline Green.
Email: caroline.green@uconn.edu
Telephone: 860-486-8402

HESAs helped prep students for finals during Midnight Breakfast

A Visit from Hillary

HESA First Years caught a pic before listening to Hillary Clinton at UConn's Jorgensen.

Bleeding Blue

HESAs enjoyed the Husky excitement with the 2014 dual basketball championships!

Grad Prom 2k14

HESAs joined other UConn graduate students to dance the night away and enjoy frinner at the 2014 Mardi Gras Grad Prom.

A Visit from Hillary

Second Years say goodbye to Storrs.

Hooding Selfie

Having officially graduated from the program, Second Years decided to take an epic selfie.

First Years celebrated the end of a long Assessment journey with the wonderful Christine Wilson.

Second Years celebrate a successful semester with Barry Schreier.

Truth Hunter and Jillian Ives present their First-Generation Student Success Assessment Poster at the 2014 Celebrate HESA.