Welcome Class of 2017!

This upcoming year will see a brand new cohort of 20 enter into the UConn HESA program. From California to Mississippi to Jamaica, this new group represents a diverse array of backgrounds both in and out of the country. We look forward to their contributions to the UConn community and to the fields of higher education and student affairs overall. Welcome to the HESA family and get excited for an eventful experience!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming Class of 2017 bios!

Congratulations Class of 2015!

As another year comes to an end at UConn, it means the end for this group of 20 graduating from the HESA program. The Class of 2015 have “mastered” the skills and knowledge to enter into the field of higher education and student affairs feeling both competent and prepared. From their first days as a group for HESA Orientation to Hooding this May, they have spent the last two years together learning and growing both inside the classroom and outside in the UConn community. Best of luck to all of you, please keep in touch, and see you all again soon!

Welcome Class of 2017!
Another trip to Immokalee, Florida saw first-year HESAs Tina Harney ('16) and Michelle Scali ('16) leading UConn students on a trip focused around migrant workers. During one project where students were creating a mural in a cafeteria, Michelle recalled a point when “about 15 of the children came in and we let them put their own spin on it and I spent 30 minutes painting their hands so they could make handprints. The students that we worked with are amazing I am grateful for this experience.”

Both trips allowed the HESA students involved to have unique experiences while learning more about UConn students and themselves.

### Highlighting the HESAs: Spring Conferences and Awards
(congratulations to EVERYONE who won awards as there are others who have not been listed here)

- **Virginia Cabrera ('16) and Louis Cameron ('16)** presented at the New England Latino Student Leadership Conference at Dartmouth College!
- **Jackie Lee ('15), Eileen Rodriguez ('15), and Tina Harney ('16)** won a case study competition this semester at the 2015 Maryland Student Affairs Conference!
- **Shanna Graham ('15)** was recognized at the Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) Phenomenal Women of Power Leadership Breakfast!
- **Congratulations to Ty McNamee ('15)** for being awarded the 2015 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award at the UConn Student Life Awards!
Alumni Spotlight: Morgan Cottrell

HESA graduation year: 2012

What is your professional title?
Associate Director of the Center for Student Academic Success at Roger Williams University

What are your responsibilities in your position?
My role has recently expanded to include some new projects along with the continuation of some long standing responsibilities. I oversee a variety of programs within the Center for Student Academic Success that relate to retention, early alert, students academically at risk, and the running of a large scale peer mentorship and advisement program that is integrated into the freshman year experience seminar. Additionally, I manage the departmental budget, oversee the university hiatus and reinstatement process, and serve as the coordinator of marketing and communication for the entire department.

How has UConn HESA shaped your career/perspective?
I know for a fact I would not be where I am today without HESA. I got to work with and learn from professionals who are truly energized by their work and are so very talented. Making it through the HESA program was not easy, but it gave me the confidence to know that I graduated prepared to be a valuable asset to any institution, and it gave me the strength to always challenge myself to take on opportunities that came my way.

What words of advice do you have for current HESAs?
If someone you respect and who knows you well tells you that you are ready to take on a new, challenging experience, take it no matter how scared you are. Another piece of advice is that you usually have to be really bad at something before you can be good at it and hopefully you are in a place where people give you a chance to be bad at something. Finally, know that you will always have more work than there is time in the day to finish it. Make sure to value and invest in what matters to you outside of work as much, if not more, than your job.

Want to connect with Morgan? Contact her at mcottrell@rwu.edu.

Post-Practicum Perspectives

Pat Gotham, Class of 2015
Practicum Location: UConn Foundation

I did both of my practica experiences with the UConn Foundation. My spring practicum was with the Annual Giving Office working with the Student Philanthropy Association as well as performing a benchmarking assessment on stewardship practices of other schools at the annual giving level. My fall practicum was with the University Programs Office at the Foundation where I worked on donor strategy for higher-level donors as well as performed benchmarking assessments on stewardship of major gift donors as well as talent management practices of foundations linked to institutions of higher education.

My practica really helped me understand the importance of donor support for a university’s budget. State support continues to decline. Tuition increases present more of a barrier to entry for students. The third leg of the funding equation comes from donations from alumni and friends of the university. This piece continues to increase in importance, and student affairs professionals will need to understand and participate in fundraising as they advance in their careers.

Interested in Presenting to Current HESAs Next Year?

On behalf of the UCSAA membership, we would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the HESA alumni who have lent their time to UCSAA throughout the year. Christine Wenzel (’05) and Bryanna Anderson (’06) lead one of our Lunch and Learn talks about students with disabilities and how to best work with them. Mike Lynch (’13), Alyssa Stoner (’11), and Umesh Vig (’04) spoke at this spring’s HESA Alumni Panel, sharing their insights about life after HESA and searching for jobs. It was a pleasure to hear from all of you and we appreciate your time and knowledge!

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 Michael Thompkins at michael.thompkins@uconn.edu for more info.
HESAs Help Out

Even the cold and snowy weather couldn’t stop the HESAs from volunteering at the MLK Day of Service.

Grad Prom 2k15

HESAs joined other UConn graduate students to solve crimes and dance the night away at the 2015 “Clue” themed Grad Prom.

HESAs get excited to welcome the 2015-2016 HESA candidates to interview days with big smiles and warm hearts.

Hooding times means celebration and bright futures for our second-year HESAs.

UCSAA Events

From paint night to bowling to dinners, UCSAA events have given members fun and laughs throughout the semester.

Hooding Selfie

The HESA second years take the traditional “Hooding Selfie” picture before graduating!