Recruitment Success!

**This spring saw the implementation of HESA’s new application process.** As part of the HESA Program revision, the application process was expanded to include the HESA Interview Days, during which candidates were invited to campus to interview for available graduate assistantships.

To everyone’s delight the recruitment season and application process were very successful. The new program design and curriculum were marketed beginning with the Region 1 NASPA Conference in November 2003, and the unveiling of the new HESA website during the Fall 2003 Semester.

*continued on page 2*

Semester in Review

It was another successful and productive semester for UConn’s Higher Education and Student Affairs faculty, students and staff!

Presentations, awards and more ... see page 7.

UCSAA Update

On behalf of the UConn Student Affairs Association, I would like to congratulate all of our newly accepted HESA students. I know that our admissions process was a rigorous one, which produced an extremely competitive pool of candidates. Those of you who are joining us this fall are sure to excel in your studies at UConn.

As you are preparing to come to UConn and start your assistantships in August, I ask that you seriously consider becoming involved on campus beyond your academic and assistantship roles. Getting involved in UCSAA is a great way to enhance your academic and practical experiences while you are here.

UCSAA was founded last September as a way to complement the changing and expanding HESA program. During the past year, the organization wrote and ratified its constitution and started planning events. Most recently, the organization coordinated and co-sponsored the HESA Year End Luncheon, which provided an opportunity for the program’s faculty and students to relax and reflect on a successful year.

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Meet the New Cohort

The 2004 HESA Cohort is comprised of 17 unique and enthusiastic students. Coming from states ranging from Maine to Alabama, and bringing with them diverse skills and experiences to contribute to UConn and HESA, here are the students that make up the 2004 HESA Cohort.

Jeffrey Alton

My name is Jeffrey Alton, I am from Glastonbury, Connecticut. I completed my B.A. in English at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, with a minor in Asian American Studies in 2004. I am in Student Affairs because that is the field where I feel I can work to my full potential, being that I can reach out and work with college students and help them have the best college experience. My career goals are to either work in the realm of diversity or in the admissions process, and to eventually get a Ph.D.

Bryanna Anderson

I am what we like to call a Mainah, born and raised in Gorham, Maine. I will be graduating from Hartwick College (Oneonta, NY) in the end of May with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. During the fall I did a lot of work with our current Vice President of Student Affairs. I became very interested in learning the ins and outs of Higher Education. This spring I have been an intern with the Office of Student Life, completing jobs such as co-coordinating Wellness Week and co-chairing the search for a new Director of Student Activities. All these experiences have helped me to realize that I want to pursue a career in Higher Education—mainly to become a Dean of Students.

Candidates spent the second day interviewing for available graduate assistantships. Fifteen interview tables were set up in the North Reading Room of Wilbur Cross. The tables were staffed by current Division members, including representatives from the Department of Residential Life, the Dean of Students Office, the Department of Campus Activities, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Department of Career Services. Candidates had the opportunity to meet with multiple representatives to learn about the assistantship opportunities, introduce themselves, and discuss what skills and contributions they could bring to the assistantships.

Candidates and Departments submitted their preferences and offers were extended to candidates based on preference matches. When the process was complete HESA was able to offer assistantships to 15 candidates. The HESA admissions committee was thrilled by the process, which resulted in an incoming cohort representing a diverse range of skills, characteristics, backgrounds and geographical regions.

Recruitment

continued from page 1

When the application process drew to a close HESA had received over 50 applications from students around the country. The applicants were an extremely talented and diverse pool and the HESA Admissions Committee was thrilled to be able to extend candidate status to 26 applicants, who arrived at UConn in late February to participate in HESA’s first centralized graduate assistant placement process.

The first night candidates arrived, they met with faculty and current HESA students during the opening reception, which took place in the South Residence complex. After the candidates, faculty, and current students introduced themselves to one and other, candidates were greeted by Dr. John Saddlemire, learned more about the Program and the curriculum, and had the chance to ask questions. After the reception candidates met with current students at Main Street Pub for a chance to talk one-on-one and learn more about UConn and the Program.

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Chad Austein
My name is Chad Austein and I am originally from New Jersey, by way of New York. I attended the University of Hartford and majored in Politics and Government. After graduating, I accepted a job in admissions, during which I lived out of a suitcase for 4 months...not really what I was looking for in a career! I am currently working at Goodwin College in admissions and looking forward to August when I will be able to work at my third college since graduation just a year ago. As an undergrad, the majority of my time was spent in extracurricular activities, and it took me until senior year to realize that this field was what I truly wanted to be part of and make a career out of. When I learned about the UConn Higher Ed. Program, I jumped on it and here I am now! Looking forward to becoming a Husky!

Jose Barzola
My name is José L. Barzola. I currently reside in South Windsor, CT. I have been in Connecticut for the majority of my life now. I did my Undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut. I became interested in the field of Higher Education and Student Affairs about two years ago when I began to get involved on campus extracurricular and academically. I realized that I enjoyed working with students, as well as with faculty and staff in Higher Education. I became really aware of the issues that affected students in college, especially those of under-represented groups. I hope to become an administrator in the future and continue to work with under-represented groups.

Courtney Bazan
I’m from Canastota, NY, a small farm town in Upstate NY. I graduated in May 2003 from Le Moyne College with a major in Psychology. Le Moyne was where my interest in Higher Ed. came to life, having been heavily involved in residence life, student activities and the theater. I’m currently a Resident Director at Marymount College of Fordham University. Marymount showed me that I truly love working in Higher Ed. and it became clear to me that in order to follow my dreams, I need to change my direction. UConn, here I come!

Melissa Berkey
Currently I’m living in Danielson, Connecticut, about 35 minutes east of UConn. I graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts in 2002 with a B.A. in Social Services. Since graduating I have been working at Healthy Families in Southbridge, Massachusetts. At Healthy Families I am an advocate, home visitor, parenting educator, friend, counselor and shoulder to cry on for pregnant and parenting teens that are learning to parent their children and become self-sufficient. In the future I see myself doing either academic advising or career counseling.

Sarah Clegg
Hi, I’m Sarah Clegg. Originally from Southern California, I currently live in Atlanta, GA where I have been an admissions representative at Shorter College for the last two years. I graduated from Shorter in 1996 with a degree in music performance. I’ve also done postgraduate study in music at California State University, Fullerton. Once I decided to leave the world of music behind, I was lucky enough to become employed as an admissions rep. That position opened my eyes to the possibility of student affairs as a career option...and the rest is history! I couldn’t be happier to be joining the HESA 2004 cohort at University of Connecticut. Long term career goals are to be happily employed in Student Affairs, preferably at a small, liberal arts college or university.
Emily Comstock
I am a true native Kansan, born and raised in Topeka, Kansas. I attended Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, which is a small private liberal arts college with an enrollment of 850 students. As an undergraduate I had a positive experience working with and learning from faculty members and administrators. I graduated with a degree in Business and after working in the business environment realized that I missed the energy and personal interaction that college campuses provide. In the last year I began working on my master’s degree at the University of Kansas and have had the opportunity to work in academic counseling. I am looking forward to the new educational experiences and opportunities the HESA program will provide and am thrilled to be part of the UConn community.

David Daniels, Jr.
Hi, I am David Daniels, Jr., from Birmingham, Alabama. I graduated from the University of Montevallo in December 2003, with a BS in Elementary Education. I originally wanted to pursue a career in Educational Administration on K-12 level. However, my high level of involvement in S.G.A., fraternity, and many other areas within the Division of Student Affairs inspired me to pursue a career in Higher Education, specifically Student Affairs. My goal is to gain the experience and credentials needed to become a Dean of Students and/or VP of Student Affairs at either a large state university or a small private liberal arts college. I anticipate experiencing a massive culture shock when I arrive in Connecticut (not just because of my Alabama heritage, but also, because I return from an 8-week trip to Thailand just days before I travel to campus). I can’t wait to be a UConn Husky!!!

Victoria Farris
Hey everyone, I’m Victoria Farris. I am originally from Long Island, NY and currently live in Tarrytown, NY where I am a Resident Director at Marymount College of Fordham University. Before coming to Marymount, I received my B.A. in Psychology from Marist College where I also participated in the Marist Abroad Program and spent a semester in Florence, Italy. I am extremely excited to be a part of the UConn community and I can’t wait to get to know all of you! Have a great summer!!

Allison Foster
My name is Allison Foster and I am a senior Marketing major and Spanish minor at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. I am originally from Clearwater, Florida. At Stetson I have been highly involved in Student Activities from my role as a Hall Director to working in the Community Service Office, to running a fund-raising program that is campus-wide. I have decided to get my masters and go into this field due to my passion for students: I want all college students to have a beneficial and successful college career, and for them to learn—outside of the textbook. I am not sure of my specific career goals, as I do not map out everything to an exact degree, but tend to go by the seat of my pants for big plans. However, I do know that I want to work internationally in some context. Regarding my decision to choose UConn; I have always wanted to live in the Northeast so I am excited to be moving there in August.

Gudrun Haider
Hi! My name is Gudrun Haider and I am an international student from Austria, currently finishing up my undergraduate studies at SUNY New Paltz. When I came to New Paltz four years ago to study journalism, I didn’t even know what the abbreviation ‘RA’ stood for. Today, I couldn’t imagine life without my involvement in Student Affairs. I currently hold the positions of Senior Resident Assistant, secretary of the Phi Psi Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary as well as Assistant Conference Advisor of the NEACURH 2004 Conference staff. I also volunteer
at a Crisis Intervention Hotline and Walk-in Center. I want to work in the field of Student Affairs to assist college students with their personal and professional growth. I believe that there is nothing as rewarding as watching one of your students grow and succeed and maybe take on leadership positions him- or herself.

**Kellie Kirby**

My name is Kellie Kirby and I am currently a fourth grade teacher in Brandon, Florida. I moved from Orlando to Tampa to attend the University of South Florida where I graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education in fall 2002. I have since settled in the Tampa Bay area and am finishing my first full year of teaching. Throughout my college career I worked in the Provost’s Office as a student assistant to the Vice Provost as well as a summer as an Orientation Leader. I became interested in higher education administration through my experiences in these two offices. I am looking forward to UConn and the challenges it will present, however I will miss the Florida weather.

**Tim Stumph**

I grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana in 1994 with a degree in Spanish. After spending a few years working in Boston at Harvard and MIT, I moved to the Czech Republic where I earned my Teaching English as a Foreign Language certificate, taught for a year, and travelled a lot. Currently, I am the Assistant Director of Admissions at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Yale. I have broad interests in Higher Education having worked in a variety of positions at different universities, however I find myself fascinated by international educational exchange. In the long term, I hope to work with US students going abroad and international students coming to study in the States.

**Amanda Testo**

I’m originally from North Haven, CT, but my home for the past four years has been Storrs, CT. I am graduating this May (2004) from the University of CT, the best university in the country by my opinion, with a BA in Psychology. Throughout my experience at UConn, I’ve volunteered in many peer education programs. These peer education experiences really sparked my interest in working in a higher education institution. I am excited to learn about and to work with the many facets of higher education while I’m here. In the future I would love to work with college freshman and seniors to help them make smooth transitions into and out of college . . . I’m sure we all know how stressful those transitions can be!

**Amber Ulmer**

Hello down there in Storrs! I’m Amber Ulmer and currently at the University of Maine at Farmington studying Elementary Education with a concentration in Science. I’m originally from the Mid-Coast area of Maine from a little town called Union. At UMF I have been an RA for three years in a variety of settings. I’ve also been President of the Residence Hall Governing Body for 3 semesters now. I also am a strong supporter of the American Association of University Women- I’ve been on their National Student Advisory Board for two years. I’m very active at my campus and beyond even though I’m student teaching right now. I love to do anything random, to joke around, and to just enjoy life’s little roller coaster. I’ve been interested in Student Affairs for a few years now and have done everything I can at UMF to get some practical experience in the many different areas of Student Affairs. I hope after graduate school to become an RD somewhere and eventually work in student activities.
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 the graduating class of 2004 presented a plaque to HESA staff and faculty in recognition of their continuing efforts throughout the year. These efforts were especially significant over the past year as all involved put forth extra effort to guide the HESA Program through its period of revision, contribute to the development of the new curriculum and increase the cooperation and commitment between the Division of Student Affairs and the Master’s Program in Higher Education and Student Affairs.

The gift was presented at the annual HESA Year End Luncheon. Current first and second year students, faculty, and staff gathered at the Blue Oak Café in the Nathan Hale Inn to celebrate a successful year of friendship, and academic and professional growth. The lunch, jointly sponsored by UCSAA and the HESA Program, was a great success. On behalf of all faculty and staff, Co-Directors Sam Miller and John Saddlemire received the gift expressing their thanks and continued enthusiasm and optimism for the Master's Program.

The plaque was inscribed with a message of appreciation, and the names of HESA faculty and staff involved in the efforts of the past year.

HESA at ACPA

This spring, several HESA graduate students attended the American College Personnel Association national convention in Philadelphia. The conference ran from April 1–5, and provided a chance for our students to meet other students and professionals, attend presentations, and even interview for jobs. Several of the HESA students who went to Philadelphia were eager to share their perspectives on the event.

Mike Ferrara, a first year HESA student, attended ACPA for the first time this year. He had many reasons for attending. “I wanted to experience attending a national conference,” he said. “I will be the one going to interviews next year, so I certainly wanted to get familiar with how things run. In addition, the opportunities for networking and professional development interested me greatly.”

Mike also shared his thoughts on the presentations that he attended. “I think the presentations are what you make of them. If you choose to go to ones that truly interest you, and contain information that you can utilize when you get back to campus, then they are a great resource.” Ferrara added, “I would say, I took something out of all the presentations I went to.”

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Violet and D’Andre on the birth of their daughter, Andrea Theriz Sims.

Andrea was born on March 26, 2004 at 1:43 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 11.6 oz.

Not to be outdone by her Mother’s ambition and hardwork, Andrea rolled over from her tummy to back before she was even a month old!
Semester in Review

In addition to their daily professional and academic responsibilities, HESA faculty and students were able to work on their own professional development, contribute to the body of Student Affairs knowledge and receive recognition for their efforts. Below are some of these activities undertaken by students and faculty over the past semester.

Presentations

- The Effect of Explanatory Style on Academic Achievement and Adjustment.
  National NASPA Conference, March 2004
  Presenters: Dr. Joanne Lewis, Dr. John Saddlemire, John Szarlan

- Higher Education in the Movies: Perspectives on College Films.
  National NASPA Conference, March 2004
  Presenter: Dr. Sam Miller

- Defining Friends: Questioning and Exploring Female Honors Students’ Psychosocial Development.
  National ACPA Conference, April 2004
  Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Lease

- Inviting Pictures, Exploring Voices, Choosing Students: Research on Student Subcultures
  National ACPA Conference, April 2004
  Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Lease, T.W. Cauthen, University of Georgia

- Practice Influencing Preparation: What Does it Take to Prepare Professionals.
  National ACPA Conference, April 2004
  Presenters: Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins, Daniel J. Doerr, Michael Violette, Jr.

- The Quest for More Hours: Strategies for Getting the Job Done.

Recognitions and Awards

- Heather Barbour
  David A. Ross New Professional Award, NACA Northeast Regional Conference

- Dr. Jennifer Lease
  SACSA Dissertation of the Year award, Fall 2003

Professional Service

- Dr. John Saddlemire
  Chair, Program Review Committee, 2004 NASPA National Conference.
  Invited Speaker: Today’s Students and the state of Student Affairs. Geneva College, June 2004

- Dr. Sandy Bell
  Professional Development and Distance Learning Advisory Committees of the Northeast Growing New Farmers Service Providers Consortium.

Publications

- Dr. Sandy Bell

- Dr. Cynthia Jones
  Accepted for summer 2004 publication in the Journal of Career Planning and Employment, an article titled: Building a Model for a Fee-Based Career Services Office.
Over the coming academic year UCSAA is hoping to expand its programming efforts and to increase the out of classroom opportunities for HESA students. The organization hopes to host workshops that will help students design effective practica, enhance APA format writing skills, and prepare students for the job search and placement process. UCSAA also hopes to plan more social outings that will allow students to interact in informal settings.

According to the UCSAA Constitution, officers are elected in December and serve for the period of one calendar year. Due to the transitory nature of the last academic year, elections were not held as scheduled, and the officers from the fall semester continued in their posts. This means that all four UCSAA leadership positions (President, VP for Administration, VP for Finance, & VP for Communications) will be open this fall.

Elections will need to be held in August to elect these officers for the fall term. I hope that both current and entering HESA students will give some thought to serving in these leadership roles.

Another important leadership opportunity is available through the Graduate Student Senate. The Educational Leadership Department has two available seats on the GSS. The Graduate Student Senate is a fee funded group that sponsors events for graduate students and advocates for graduate student issues on campus. If students representing HESA and UCSAA are active in the GSS, then there is the possibility of the GSS co-sponsoring events with UCSAA. This increases UCSAA’s ability to program worthwhile events for our students.

No matter how you choose to be involved, I hope that you will find that the University of Connecticut is an excellent place to live, work, and study. I’m sure that after two years on this campus, you will find that it’s a great place to call home. Enjoy your summer months!

Mike Violette
President, UConn Student Affairs Association
Graduation!

The atrium of the new addition to the C. B. Gentry Building was the site of the Graduate Commencement Reception on Saturday, May 8, 2004. The reception was held to honor graduating masters and doctoral students enrolled in education programs of the Neag School of Education.

From 11:30 to 1:30, Graduating HESA students gathered with their families to celebrate their achievements, and enjoy refreshments provided by the Neag School of Education. Dr. Saddlemire and Dr. Miller were in attendance, taking the opportunity to congratulate the HESA students on a job well done, meet commencement guests, and help students with their gowns and hoods.

After donning their graduation regalia, students proceeded from the reception to the commencement ceremony in Gampel Pavilion. Graduates and their guests where seated in Gampel to hear the commencement speaker, Gene E. Likens, and walk to receive their diplomas. Shifting from their HESA Co-Director roles, to their roles as Vice President and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Saddlemire and Dr. Miller took part in the commencement activities as well. Dr. Saddlemire served as a member of the platform, representing the senior administration, while Dr. Miller served as a Marshal, helping to direct graduates through the ceremony.

New Professionals!

The 2004 HESA graduating class has hit the professional job market. They started their searches with a number of professional and personal goals in mind, and have employed a number of strategies. Several of the graduating students have been looking for positions in Residential Life, primarily as Residence Directors. Others have been looking at a variety of functional areas from Career Services to Recreational Services. Some graduates have undertaken national searches, while other have limited theirs geographically. Graduates began their searches in the early spring, with some attending the placement services at national conferences such as the ACPA conference in Philadelphia in April.

Those HESA graduates who have been actively looking, have had a good deal of success, interviewing for multiple positions. Two HESA graduates already had positions while they worked on their masters.

Here is the latest news regarding placement for the recent HESA graduates:

Laura Cyr: Continuing in her position as an Admissions Counselor at Westfield State College.

Daniel Doerr: UConn, Housing Assignments Specialist

Yaritza Gonzalez: Continuing in her position of Children Service Worker for the Department of Children and Families, while she begins to look for a position in Higher Education.

Meghan Hamilton: UConn School of Business, Tri-Campus BSBT Program Advisor

Bhavin Parekh: UConn, Assistant Director of Recreational Services: Intermurals and Special Events

Mike Violette: University of Pittsburgh, Resident Director
HESA Brown Bags

The HESA Brown Bag series will continue in the Fall 2004 semester, providing HESA faculty and students, and Division of Student Affairs staff a chance to come together to discuss topics relevant to higher education and the student affairs profession. The HESA Brown Bag series is a monthly event, taking place during the week at the lunch hour. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch to eat while enjoying the presentations and discussion.

HESA Brown Bags for the upcoming semester will include:

In September:

Navigating Through the National Association Matrix: A Plan for Involvement.

Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins

National organizations provide a rich source for involvement and professional development. Students will be introduced to the primary national and regional organizations. Special attention will be given to understanding the structure of the organizations and the opportunities they present for involvement, networking and job placement.

In October:

Putting Principles of Adult Learning into Practice in Student Affairs

Dr. Sandy Bell

Changes in student demographics make an understanding of the unique developmental and learning needs of adult learners particularly important to today’s student affairs professionals. Participants will be introduced to some of the most significant traits of adult learners in an effort to help student affairs professionals understand how these unique needs relate to service delivery and programming.

Additional brown bags will be scheduled throughout the course of the semester. Details will become available during the Fall semester.
One of Dr. Saddlemire’s first initiatives was a reorganization of the Division of Student Affairs. The reorganization is designed to create a strong, central leadership team, to further strengthen the Division’s ability to provide responsive services to a broad array of constituents with diverse issues and needs. The team consists of current Division professionals who will hit the ground running to provide central support to maximize the Division’s resource utilization, efficiency, and ability to provide services that benefit students.

Dr. Sam Miller has been named Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. His primary areas of responsibility are supervision of the Department of Residential Life, the Center for Students with Disabilities, and serving as the point person for labor relations.

The hard work of volunteers helps to keep the ACPA conference running. Mike Ferrara was one of those volunteers. What does Ferrara say about volunteering? “DO IT!” He adds, “Volunteering was a terrific experience to network, and to find out how the conference works. I volunteered in both registration, and placement. As a result, I came away with a much better understanding of how things operate at ACPA. I also met some really fun people along the way. The cool thing is, volunteering is very flexible - so it’s really easy to work into your schedule. Plus, they’ll give you some pins and other free stuff for volunteering too.”

Mike was not the only HESA student taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the ACPA conference. Janelle Christopher, a graduating HESA student, participated in the Placement portion of the conference. What were her first impressions? “I think at first it was overwhelming. But as soon as I saw some familiar faces and learned how to check my mail and use the resource areas, it was easier to acclimate,” she said. Janelle kept herself busy at Placement by interviewing with a number of prospective employers. “I ended up doing 10 interviews. I would recommend not doing more than 10. It’s easy to take on too many and get really burned out.” She also shared some of her advice for those participating in placement for next year. “Limit the amount of interviews you do because opportunities will arise while you are there to take on more if you want.” She adds, “Mingle and enjoy yourself; it was more laid back than I expected and I had fun meeting new people.”

At this year’s conference, our students were not only in attendance, but some had the opportunity to present, as well. Dan Doerr, who worked with Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins, Associate Dean of Students at UConn, and fellow HESA student Mike Violette, on the presentation “Practice Influencing Preparation: What Does it Take to Prepare Professionals” shared his perspective on the experience. “I thought presenting at the conference was a great opportunity. Obviously it is good for the resume, but it was also great to be able to present the results of a project that may help to guide master’s preparation programs. Being able to present while still in graduate school has definitely sparked my interest in continued research and assessment and the possibility of doing additional presentations.”

Many other HESA students were able to attend the ACPA convention as well, providing them with a number of exciting opportunities to further their professional involvement in Student Affairs.
Alumni Connections

As part of the reorganization of the HESA program, an initiative is underway to strengthen connections between the program and HESA alumni. While UConn’s HESA program has over 20 years of history, alumni relations have not always been given the attention they deserve.

Alumni are an important resource for current students. The program’s focus on strengthening connections with alumni, will make these resources more readily available. In addition, HESA wants to make sure that alumni are aware of the latest news, helping to sustain their continued support for the program and current HESA students.

With these goals in mind, an alumni database has been created. The database will serve to store current contact information for alumni. One purpose of this information will be to allow HESA to keep in close contact with alumni. However, just as important, the database will allow HESA to deliver a directory of alumni that will allow current HESA students and HESA alumni to contact one another.

To accomplish this, an alumni section is being added to the HESA website (www.hesa.uconn.edu). Initially the alumni pages will serve two primary functions. Alumni will be able to update their contact information via an on-line form. This will allow HESA alumni to provide up-to-date contact information through an easy, user-friendly format. In addition, the contact information provided will be used to develop and post a directory of HESA alumni with their current contact information. The on-line directory will provide an easily accessible centralized source to facilitate contact between current students and alumni.

In the future, the alumni pages also will be used to share exciting news in the lives of HESA alumni. Alumni are thus encouraged to stay in close touch with HESA and update the program with any important events in their lives.