The Program
The Official UConn HESA Newsletter

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Fall 2009
Interview Days 2009

This past year, the HESA program received a record number of applications. On February 26th and 27th, candidates came to campus for information and interviews. On Thursday, the applicants enjoyed tours, presentations, a student panel, faculty introductions, discussions, and opportunities to socialize.

Second Years Christie Letarte (left) and Caroline McCall served as part one of the welcome wagon.

On Thursday night, the UConn Student Affairs Association (UCSAA), hosted a dinner attended by applicants, current HESA students, and faculty. Candidates conversed over carrot cake with HESA staff and students in the Shippee Dining Commons and had an opportunity to see some of the accomplishments of the classes of 2009 and 2010. After dinner, participants retired to the Student Union’s new Recreation Center where they relaxed in preparation for the next day’s interviews.

The food was good; the company was fantastic.

On Friday, the prospective students convened in the Student Union to interview with assistantship site supervisors. While waiting, candidates relaxed in the comfy chairs in the nearby Carol Wiggins Room. The natural lighting of the new interview location was as cheerful as those in attendance, and many wonderful matches were made.

Take a look at those smiling faces!
Join us in welcoming the HESA Class of 2011! Check out the bios on our new family members online at http://hesa.uconn.edu/current_alumni.html. You’ll find a link on the right hand side of the page. Enjoy!

Top Row: Ben Cannon, Lisa Coté, Greg Fink, Shirley Armenteros, Neeta Chandrashekhar, Michael Metzger, Scott Connolly, Anne Thompson, Pier Gutierrez, Merz Lim, Akeya Peterson  
Bottom Row: Alyssa Stoner, Dallas Carter, Crystel Maldonado, Jaclyn Calovine, Shanté Brown, Mark Flynn, Elizabeth Rapoport, Corrine Hawes

Then head back to http://hesa.uconn.edu/current_alumni.html to check in on the Class of 2010. Their information is in the same place.

Top Row: Faith Sumpter, Ashley Reichenbach, Jessica Petriello, Christie Letarte, Mary Falzo, Diep Luu, Jacqueline Guzman, Margaret Bertram, Heather Wilhelm  
Bottom Row: Drew Cekada, Tanya Hartwig, Drew Zimmerman, Rachel Jones, Caroline McCall, Eric Crumrine, Jody Poth, Will Reddy, Kevin Sella
An integral part of the HESA experience is the Assessment Course, a two-semester class taught by Professor George Allen during the first year. Students work in groups to complete assessments of current student affairs issues. In the past, several groups have taken their final presentations to professional associations and have been published. In fact, students from both the class of 2009 and 2010 will present their findings at the next annual ACPA conference. Through the course, students learn assessment and research methods and utilize their new knowledge to make contributions to the university and the field. What follows are descriptions of the projects completed by the class of 2010 and those taken on by the class of 2011.

Class of 2010:

**Assessing the UCompass Program**

UCompass is a program that is designed to aid students who were found to be in violation of The Student Code. The program is run by staff of the Community Standards Program. There are two components of UCompass: the involvement component and the suspension component. The goal of the involvement component is to provide one-on-one intervention with at-risk students and work with them to identify positive means of engagement at the University. The goal of the suspension component is to provide support to students who are suspended. Students work individually with a staff member to facilitate both the leaving due to suspension and the reentry of students who have violated The Student Code relating to academic and/or social conduct. This facilitation includes support and counseling. This project examined the effectiveness and long-term impact (future, conduct, GPA, involvement, etc.) of the program on the students. **Sponsor: Cathy Cocks, M.A.**

**Assessing the Explore Program**

Explore is a program housed within Career Services that is designed to provide in-depth career exploration for sophomore and junior students. The program is four-semesters and provides a combination of group workshops and individualized counseling. The Career Services website: [http://www.career.uconn.edu/explore_program.html#1](http://www.career.uconn.edu/explore_program.html#1) describes the essence of this program as:

“Through one-on-one coaching with an assigned career consultant and group workshops with other Explore participants, Explore students learn how to make educated academic and career decisions and develop the skills necessary to obtain an internship prior to or upon graduation from the Explore program (the end of their junior year).” **Sponsor: Nancy Bilmes, M.S.**

**Reasons Students Choose Graduate Programs in Student Affairs Administration**

There is considerable competition among universities to attract the most qualified students to programs similar to the HESA program. This project will survey students at similar programs to determine reasons that the students chose their resident program over competitors. **Sponsors: Sue Saunders, Ph.D.**

**Evaluating Quality-of-Life Issues for Young UConn Professionals**

Institutions of higher education flourish when there is a steady outflow of retirement-eligible staff and inflow of recently credentialed professionals. It is costly to search for and train skilled professionals only to lose them after a few years. One broad but very important set of factors in maintaining new staff centers on enhancing their quality of life. This project surveyed young UConn professionals about their perceptions of the quality of their personal and professional lives, with the goal of helping to improve that quality. **Sponsor: Denielle Burl, J.D.**
Class of 2011:

Continuing Assessment of the UCompass Program

UCompass is a program that is designed to aid students who were found to be in violation of The Student Code. The program is run by staff of the Community Standards Program. Last year, one of the teams evaluated students’ retrospective reports of their experiences while in the UCompass program. This year, one team will replicate and extend previous outcomes by collecting data in “real-time” as students actually go through the program. **Sponsor: Cathy Cocks, M.A.**

Assessing Aspects of Staff Supervision

Impoverished supervision (or lack of supervision) represents one of the major reasons for exit from the field by beginning student affairs professionals. Supervision is a multifaceted process that encompasses moral, ethical, developmental, and interpersonal aspects. The project will examine these features, possibly from a variety of perspectives (e.g., supervisors, supervisees) and collect data that can be used to provide recommendations to the Division of Student Affairs about implementing a viable and effective form of supervision. **Sponsor: Sue Saunders, Ph.D.**

Balancing Academic and Social Involvements Among University Undergraduates

Undergraduate students often have difficulty balancing academic demands and requirements associated with involvement in broadly-defined college social activities (e.g., clubs, activities, student governance positions). There is a need to identify the major stresses associated with maintaining this balance. The Division of Student Affairs is interested in identifying such stresses, learning how current students and/or recent graduates have managed these stressors, and providing recommendations for current students about how to successfully manage them. **Sponsor: Christine Wilson, Ph.D.**

Communication Among the Division of Student Affairs, Students, and Their Parents

There is considerable controversy about the types of communication (and the extent of such communication) that best facilitates the healthy development of students. Across the nation, communication between university personnel and parents tends to be haphazard, piecemeal, and torn between the competing philosophies underlying consumer versus developmental perspectives. The Division of Student Affairs is developing comprehensive guidelines for providing consistent and coordinated interactions and partnerships with parents.

University-parent communication represents a broad area containing multiple issues that need to be addressed. On the broadest level, these issues involve (a) descriptive information about parent, student and staff perceptions and attitudes regarding the frequency, adequacy, types and purposes of current communication and interaction between divisional units and parents; (b) relationships between satisfaction reported by parents and the extent to which parents endorse a developmental rather than consumer view of division services; (c) connections between frequency and type of parental involvement and student self-efficacy. **Sponsors: Jim Hintz, M.Ed., and Lindsay Sell, M.S.**
Hello from UCSAA!

Hello from the University of Connecticut Student Affairs Association (UCSAA)! A lot has happened with UCSAA over the past year, so here are some highlights:

- Utilizing general assembly meetings to promote personal and professional development (i.e., a great presentation from UConn’s former Dean of Students Lee Williams on learning communities and Rachel Larson’s discussion of PhD degrees)
- Helping out with the largest HESA Interview Days yet
- Walking as Team UCSAA all evening and morning during April’s Relay for Life on campus
- Celebrating the HESA Class of 2009 at the Hooding Ceremony and Graduation Reception
- Continuing the new tradition, the Supervisor Breakfast, implemented in Fall 2008 by Kevin Lobdell (HESA ’09) to introduce new HESAs and their assistantship supervisors
- Facilitating the Professional Development College Trip to Bridgewater State University and John Pepin (HESA ’09) and Adam Frank’s (HESA ’09) alma mater, Stonehill College

Thanks to Drew Zimmerman (Professional Development Chair), Margaret Bertram (Community Outreach), Jess Petriello, (Graduate Student Senator), and Mary Falzo (Social Coordinator) for serving on the UCSAA Executive Board this past year.

UCSAA is looking forward to continually providing development opportunities for students interested in higher education. We’d love to hear from alumni that would be interested in sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience with our organization. There are plenty of great events happening this upcoming year, so stay tuned!

-Ashley Reichenbach, UCSAA President
ashley.reichenbach@uconn.edu
http://www.hesa.uconn.edu/ucsaa.html

Let’s give a big hand to our outgoing Board members. Thanks so much friends!

Drew Zimmerman, Professional Development Chair, Fall 2008- Spring 2009

Thanks to Drew, students from the classes of 2009 and 2010 enjoyed a trip to Stonehill College and Bridgewater State University and multiple ‘Dine and Learn’ opportunities throughout the year.
Margo Bertram, Community Outreach Coordinator, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

With Margo’s direction, a group of HESAs cleared brush at a park in Mansfield, and Team UCSAA raised money for the fight against cancer at the Relay for Life on campus in April.

Mary Falzo, Social Coordinator, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Through Mary’s coordination efforts, HESA students enjoyed the best of autumn with pumpkin picking and carving, a corn maze, and a HESA Thanksgiving.

Jessica Petriello, Graduate Student Senator, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Jess deserves much credit for keeping us connected to the greater graduate student community.
The UCSAA officers for the Fall 2009 semester are:

- President - Ashley Reichenbach
- Vice President for Finance - Diep Luu
- Vice President for Communications - Drew Cekada
- Professional Development Coordinator - Elizabeth Rapoport
- Community Outreach Coordinator - Akeya Peterson
- Social Events Coordinator - Jaclyn Calovine
- GSS Representative - Lisa Coté
- HESA Liaison - Caroline McCall

Please join us in welcoming the new members of the UCSAA Executive Board. They’re clearly excited to be involved. Check it out!

Liz Rapoport, Professional Development Coordinator
Hey everyone! My name is Liz Rapoport and I am very excited to be this year’s Professional Development Chair for UCSAA. I am an event planner at heart and really want to put on a diverse array of events this year to broaden our scope of knowledge about Student Affairs. Our first Lunch and Learn was with Lisa McAdam Donegan from the Study Abroad Office and we had our first Dinner and Learn coming on November 5th with Beth DeRicco from Wellness and Prevention Services. UCSAA just coordinated an apparel order for both cohorts, professional staff members, and alumni and we are excited to be showing that off. Finally, we have just completed an end of the semester professional development trip to Brown University and the Community College of Rhode Island. This trip was a great opportunity for our members to make connections and to learn about how the various functional areas operate at other institutions.

Akeya Peterson, Community Outreach Coordinator
My name is Akeya Peterson and I will be serving as your 2009-2010 Community Involvement Coordinator for UCSAA. My responsibilities include planning community service events for the association. My goal is to continue service events that have a huge impact on the community and implement events that will become a tradition. In the past, UCSSA members participated in Relay for Life, in which they raised funds for cancer research. It was a great bonding experience to support a great cause. Please join this year’s Team UCSAA, or make a donation at www.relayforlife.org/uconn. We will also be collecting Box Tops 4 Education for North Windham Elementary School and volunteering at The Card Home in Willimantic, a nonprofit home for elderly individuals who can no longer live alone. If you would like to contribute to any of our initiatives, please contact me at Akeya.Peterson@uconn.edu.

Jaclyn Calovine, Social Events Coordinator
Hi Friends! My name is Jaclyn Calovine, and I am the 2009-2010 Social Events Coordinator for UCSAA. I am responsible for planning fun social activities for the HESA cohorts throughout the year. These events serve as a time for the 1st and 2nd year students to get together and enjoy some mutual stress-free time! In September, we hosted the Supervisor Breakfast. This was an opportunity for the UCSAA’s to meet each other’s supervisors and get a better look at our roles in our assistantships. We also just held our first official Mentor/Mentee Game Night in the Student Union. Each 1st year HESA is assigned a 2nd year Mentor. These Mentors help the 1st years get acclimated to graduate school, HESA life, and UConn. Game Night was a great time for all of the Mentees to connect with their Mentor and spend some quality time together in the midst of a busy time during the semester. Recently, we held UCSAA Halloween and UCSAA Thanksgiving events, as well as a Holiday Secret Sanity (our politically correct holiday Festivities) in December.

Lisa Cote, Graduate Student Senator
My name is Lisa Coté and I am the Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) representative in the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). As the HESA representative, I attend biweekly meetings of the GSS, bringing concerns of HESA students to the senate and bringing information from the senate to the HESAs. Serving this role will be a valuable experience for me, as it is making me more aware of issues faced by graduate students throughout the university. It is also a great opportunity to learn about the administrative structure of the university early on in my HESA career.

Elections were recently held at the end of the semester to refill the positions held by Ashley Reichenbach (UCSAA President), Diep Luu (VP for Finance), and Drew Cekada (VP for Communications). (The HESA Liaison position is ex officio.) These individuals have been instrumental in making this past year the success that it has been. The Spring Semester officers will be announced in the Spring edition of The Program.
**HESA News and Updates:**
What follows is just a taste of what HESA students, alumni, and staff are up to. For more the full stories and additional information, please check out the website at [http://www.hesa.uconn.edu/current_alumni.html](http://www.hesa.uconn.edu/current_alumni.html). If you are a HESA student, alum, or staff member, and you’ve got great news or updates, please let us know! Send your updates to Student Affairs Alumni Relations Coordinator Stefanie Landsman (HESA ‘08) at Stefanie.Landsman@uconn.edu.

**A HESA Alum Widening the Support Systems for First Year Students**
HESA Alum Kelly Duncan, Assistant Director of Student Programs, was interviewed about her impressive work with first year and transfer students at Millersville University. She focuses on acclimating students to the campus and developing a strong sense of community for all.

**Another HESA Recognized with Distinction**
HESA alum Lindsay Fort was awarded the Boston Area College Housing Association’s (BACHA) Outstanding New Professional Award in May of 2009. This is the first issuance of this award, and it is for contributions to one’s institution and to the Boston area colleges. The award was presented at the New England Student Affairs Placement Conference at Mount Ida College.

**ACPA Recognizes HESA Students' Excellence**
On Saturday, March 28, 2009, the ACPA held its annual Leadership Reception and Awards Ceremony, at which several HESA’s received awards from the Commission for Professional Preparation. Current student Margaret Bertram received the Roberta Christie Essay Award for her essay, *Student Mental Health: Reframing the "Problem."*

2009 graduates S. Kate Daniel, Kevin Lobdell, Chelsea Rayome, and Rita Bottoni received Gerald Saddlemire Master’s Research Awards for their work on the project entitled *Varying the Frequency of Intentional Communication Between Student Affairs Personnel, First-Year Students, and Their Parents.*

**Our Alumni Excel**
Class of 2008 graduate Steven Wood, now employed as a Community Director at UNC-Chapel Hill, has written an article for the North Carolina Housing Officers’ *Signpost Newsletter* about the impact of the physical living space on residential community development.

**A HESA Does it Again**
Jody Poth, a member of the HESA Class of 2010, has just been awarded the NACA Northeast Region’s 2009 M. Kevin Fahey Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, which was presented to her at the Regional Conference in Hartford this November. Jody is the Graduate Assistant in the Programs Office of the Department of Student Activities and has contributed greatly to the operations of the office and the wellbeing of many students.

Last year’s award was granted to Adam Frank, a member of the HESA Class of 2009, who currently serves as the Coordinator of Student Activities at Westchester Community College.

**Becoming Socialized in Student Affairs Administration: A Guide for New Professionals and Their Supervisors**
HESA Coordinator Sue Saunders has published a book with co-authors Dr. Ashley Hull (University of Arkansas) and Joan B. Hirt (Virginia Tech) called *Becoming Socialized in Student Affairs Administration: A Guide for New Professionals and Their Supervisors,* published by Stylus Publishing, LLC. The book addresses the formal and informal aspects of effective socialization of new professionals. It covers such strategies as staff orientation, supervision, as well as institutional and professional challenges for new professionals.
Student Affairs’ Division Initiative (DI) Assessment Committee’s Assessment Sharing Day:
Metrics, Learning Outcomes, and External Review

On September 25th, the Division of Student Affairs’ Division Initiative (DI) Assessment Committee sponsored the first ever Assessment Sharing Day. The day began with introductory comments from John Saddlemire, Vice President of Student Affairs and Sue Saunders, Chair of the DI Assessment Committee. Eric Soulsby, Assistant Vice Provost, introduced the topic of Assessment by discussing some research and methods utilized by Academic Affairs. Attendees went to two of three concurrent sessions on Metrics, Learning Outcomes, and External Review. Presenters included Donna Korbel and Manju Banerjee (Center for Student with Disabilities) on Metrics, Nancy Bilmes, Beth Settje, and Larry Druckenbrod (Career Services) on Learning Outcomes, and C. Dennis Pierce (Dining Services) on External Review. Jennifer Lease-Butts, Associate Director of the Honors Program & Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, effectively wrapped-up the morning’s discussions with breakout groups and summarized the comments through three themes – Time, Culture, and Change. During lunch conversations, members of the division continued to discuss the great projects currently underway within the various departments while commenting on the exciting new opportunities Assessment could bring for the Division.

A special thanks to Sue Saunders, Rachel Larson, Dan Doerr, and Barry Schreier for their work as part of the Assessment Sharing Day sub-committee!

-Ashley Reichenbach, DI Assessment Committee Member

Student Affairs Divisional Reorganization

"The Division of Student Affairs approaches the Fall semester reorganized, revitalized and ready to serve."

That was the message sent by Vice President for Student Affairs and HESA Program Director John Saddlemire in an email to the public this past August.

According to Dr. Saddlemire, the process was guided by the “desire to be efficient by reducing the number of functional areas; to create more effective teams in our effort to serve faculty, staff, and students; and to enhance our ability to support the University as it strives to fulfill the Academic Plan and our common institutional aspirations.” Please review our updated organizational chart at http://www.sa.uconn.edu/docs/org_chart_vp.pdf. If you have any questions about the changes, do not hesitate to contact any member of the Student Affairs Division.
Congratulations 2009 HESA Graduates!

Top Row: Chelsea Rayome, Kevin Lobdell, Kendra Darigan, Rita Bottoni, Pat Duffy, Adam Frank, Jeff Carter, Kate Daniel
Bottom Row: John Pepin, Kenny Importante, Liz Green, Ravi Prasad, Erin McClellan, Marisa Sullivan, Christine Noonan, Stephanie Muehlethaler
Missing from Photo: Laine Kingo

Rita Bottoni
Hometown: Arlington, MA
Assistantship: Department of Wellness & Prevention Services
Current Employment: Resident Director, Framingham State College

Jeff Carter
Hometown: Meriden, CT
Assistantship: Center for Students with Disabilities
Current Employment: Resident Director, Georgia Southern University

S. Kate Daniel
Hometown: Sioux Center, IA
Assistantship: Community Standards
Current Employment: Executive Assistant, Nantahala Outdoor Center

Kendra Darigan
Hometown: West Chester, PA
Assistantship: Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Pat Duffy
Hometown: Hillsborough, NJ
Assistantship: Department of Career Services
Current Employment: Residence Director, Union College

Adam Frank
Hometown: Patterson, NY
Assistantship: Student Activities Programs Office
Current Employment: Coordinator of Student Activities, Westchester Community College
Elizabeth Green
Hometown: Lowell, MA
Assistantship: Student Activities Programs Office
Current Employment: Community Development Coordinator, Brandeis University

Kenny Importante
Hometown: Oxnard, CA
Assistantship: Asian American Cultural Center
Current Employment: Assistant Resident Director, UCLA

Laine Kingo
Hometown: Columbia, CT
Current Employment: Program Administrator, Business MBA Program, University of Connecticut

Kevin Lobdell
Hometown: Burke, NY
Assistantship: Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
Current Employment: Residential Coordinator, St. Lawrence University

Erin McClellan
Hometown: Abington, MA
Assistantship: Orientation Services

Stephanie Muehlethaler
Hometown: Bern, Switzerland
Assistantship: Senior Year Experience
Current Employment: Learning Community Coordinator, Franklin College

Christine Noonan
Hometown: Long Island, NY
Assistantship: Academic Center for Exploratory Students
Current Employment: Resident Hall Director, Stony Brook University

John Pepin
Hometown: Rochester, MA
Assistantship: Residential Life - Graduate Hall Director
Current Employment: Resident Director, Nichols College

Ravi Prasad
Hometown: North Haven, CT
Assistantship: Off-Campus Student Services

Chelsea Rayome
Hometown: Livermore, CA
Assistantship: First Year Programs
Current Employment: Interim Administrative Assistant for the Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Ohio University

Marisa Sullivan
Hometown: Long Island, NY
Assistantship: Student Activities - Leadership Development
Current Employment: Academic Counselor and Coordinator of the College Transition Program, University of New Hampshire Manchester

If you are a graduate of the HESA Program and have news to share with us, please visit http://hesa.uconn.edu/alumni_database.html where you’ll find a useful tool for submitting your information to the program. You can also find the latest news about other alumni, including new positions, achievements, and developments both personal and professional.