Welcome to the (last) Newsletter!

Yes, welcome to what will be the last AlumNews over which I have creative control. This is the fifth newsletter the HESA program has published with my name on it—considering we have recently increased to two per year—and it’s one of my favorite parts of the job. I get to hear all the exciting news from Alums and share all the exciting happenings from within the program in a format that allows for creative and dynamic expression. Far from being the most experienced graphic designer, I hope I’ve been able to share about the program in ways that excite and entice you to keep reading and stay connected to the program.

First off, I want to welcome our enlarged base of alumni from the Higher Education side of the program. This is the first of what will be twice-yearly updates about your thriving program at The University of Iowa. We hope that you'll stay involved and connected as it continues to grow.

Second, moving upstairs to the fourth floor meant having to say goodbye to the beautiful olive drab colored walls and lack of a window, and hello to yet another lack of a window, but also to a microwave from 1967. As you can see from this picture, my old office was a hotbed of intellectual activity. You can see two of our illustrious graduates engaged in a heated dialogue about the mysteries of bygone eras. In the spirit of mystery, Jeremy and I are hosting a contest: the first person to correctly identify these two graduates wins a special highlight in this fall's AlumNews, as well as whatever Iowa swag we can rustle up from the bottoms of our desk drawers.

Finally, for my part, I’d like to take a little look back and pay homage to the individuals who came before me. The following is a list of (soon-to-be) alums who started, and kept alive this newsletter over the years. While I’m sure they are not, I hope the records we have are complete. A big thank you to:

- Tracy Davis (PhD ’97)
- Carol Garbarino (PhD ’98)
- Kristi Brierly Coleman (MA ’99)
- Joan Krush (MA ’99)
- Susan Summers (MA ’02)
- Melanie Guentzel (PhD ’09)
- Gina Tagliapietra Nicoli (SAAR PhD Candidate)
- Ashley Asel (SAAR PhD Candidate)

Of course, the end of this page is just the beginning of the newsletter. Looking forward, the program is finishing up its first full year as “Higher Education & Student Affairs”. The faculty have admitted large, talented and diverse cohorts of MA and PhD students, and we have substantial campus support to join their academic and experiential curricula. Jeremy Reed, my successor, will continue to publish this exciting and informative bastion of program news. And Christopher Morphew, our faithful DEO, has planned the first annual Big Ten Institute, with colleagues from other Big Ten institutions, to be hosted here in Iowa City in May (more information on page 10). There are many exciting things happening at Iowa, and we’re glad you continue to be a part of them. Enjoy!
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

Julie Pollock is originally from Cedar Rapids, IA and completed her bachelor’s degree with honors in English at The University of Iowa, along with teaching licensure and certification in English/Language Arts. Julie has enjoyed working as an International Student and Scholar Advisor with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) for the past 4 years. In addition to advising students, Julie coordinates New International Student Orientation and Life in Iowa, an ongoing orientation series for international students. She has worked as a practicum student for the Sexual Misconduct Response Unit at The University of Iowa and continues to partner with this office as a liaison for the Office of International Students and Scholars. Julie enjoys spending time with her fiancé and when she is not working or studying, she enjoys spending time with her 12 year old dog, Libbie, and working on remodeling projects at her home in Iowa City.

Suzanne Fox is originally from Des Moines, Iowa. She received her bachelor's degree in music and psychology from The University of Iowa. After working in Des Moines for a year and a half, she returned to the UI for graduate school. Suzanne currently works as a graduate assistant in the Division of Student Services, supporting student learning assessment efforts. She is also completing an internship in Greek Life at Cornell College, where she has enjoyed learning about student affairs practice at a small, private, liberal arts college. Suzanne taught The College Transition, a course for first-year students at The University of Iowa, and completed a practicum in the Office of International Students and Scholars. Suzanne is seeking employment in the San Francisco area in academic advising and international student services. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, attending art shows and musical performances, and spending time with friends and family. She looks forward to getting married this summer as well!

Mary van Andel is originally from Long Island, New York, but spent her high school and college years in Georgia. She received her bachelor’s degree in English from Berry College in Rome, GA. Prior to starting her master's degree at The University of Iowa, she spent 10+ years working in the fields of outdoor recreation, marketing, and international education in Colorado, North Carolina, and Connecticut, as well as four years in the Netherlands. Mary was a graduate assistant for two years at the UI International Programs Outreach department, where she coordinated the International Classroom Journey program. She also held a practicum at the Undergraduate Program Office at the Tippie College of Business and did an internship in the UI Office for Study Abroad. Mary’s future plans are to pursue a career in international programming. In her free time she enjoys being with her husband, their 2.5-year old little boy, and spending time outdoors hiking or biking.
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

Brittan Etzenhouser is originally from Overland Park, Kansas and received her Bachelor of Science in Communication with majors in Communication Studies and Sociology from the University of Miami in Florida. Her interest in student affairs was sparked by involvement in her sorority and the Panhellenic Council. Following graduation, Brittan traveled as a Field Consultant for her sorority and visited 30 collegiate chapters in the United States and Canada. After a year of consulting, Brittan decided to continue her education at Iowa. Her assistantship has been in Orientation Services, where she has held the role of both Parent Program Coordinator and Student Program Coordinator. Brittan has been involved in the National Orientation Directors Association as a committee member and two time presenter for the Region V conference. She has also worked as a practicum student in Fraternity and Sorority Life at Coe College and the Admission Visitors Center at The University of Iowa. She is looking for jobs in orientation, student activities, Greek life, or whatever she can find in Des Moines, where she is moving following graduation.

Kelly Giese was born and bred in Titletown USA, a.k.a Green Bay, Wisconsin. While completing her undergraduate work in history and women’s studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kelly was able to work as a peer advisor for the College of Letters and Science and attended the 2009 ACPA Next Generation Conference. These experiences helped Kelly decide to continue her Big Ten tour and bring her love of all things Wisconsin to the Hawkeye State. While at Iowa, Kelly has worked as the Coordinator of the Women in Science and Engineering Living-Learning Community. She has been fortunate to have a wide range of practica experiences, including at Coe College in the Office of Residence Life, St. Norbert College in the office of Leadership Development, Service, and Engagement and with the Student Disability Services office at Iowa. Kelly is currently looking for a full-time Residence Life position. While she will miss her Iowa family, she looks forward to keeping in touch and continuing to spoil them with care packages full of homemade baked goods!

Luisa Orticelli was born in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and immigrated to the United States in 1995 settling in Pella, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Spanish and international business. During her undergraduate career, she traveled extensively through Europe and South America and became passionate about culture and language. She became interested in higher education after interning in Washington D.C. with the Institute of International Education (IIE). During her time at IIE she became invested in serving the needs of international students. At Iowa, Luisa is the manager of the Latino Native American Cultural Center and takes pride in her role as a social justice advocate and educator on campus. Luisa has also has had experience teaching College Transition, advising international students in the International Programs office at Kirkwood Community College, held a practicum at the Iowa Admissions Visitors Center, and was the head resident director for the summer Upward Bound program at Iowa. Luisa is looking forward to working with a diverse population of students and hopefully relocating to a warmer location with an ocean nearby so she can learn how to surf.
Congratulations to the program’s soon-to-be MA graduates!

**Erika Christiansen** grew up in St. Charles IL and is a proud Hawkeye of 6 years! After her experiences with Orientation Services, Trio Tutoring, and participation in a plethora of student organizations she graduated from the University of Iowa in 2009 with her BFA in Dance and decided to pursue a degree in Student Development. As a Graduate Assistant with the Pomerantz Career Center she works as a Career Advisor and with the Career Leadership Academy, and has pursued practicums with Health Iowa and Residence Life at Coe College. Since deciding on a Res Life path, she is advising Associated Daum during her last semester on campus. And since she has so much free time she loves to travel, volunteer, and stays actively involved in dance by performing in a not for profit dance company in the Iowa City community.

**Carrie Graves** grew up in Tipton, Iowa a small town east of Iowa City. She completed a bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Iowa in 2008 and took a break from college to work for Systems Unlimited Inc. as a counselor for individuals with disabilities. Carrie is the graduate assistant for the Men in Engineering Living-Learning Community where she plans programs for a group of 200 first and second year students. She has held practicum positions with the Office for Study Abroad and as an instructor for a first-year College Transition course. Carrie is currently working at Kirkwood Community College in Student Services and serves on the admissions committee for Realizing Educational and Career Hopes (REACH). She is super excited to finish up her graduate study here at Iowa and is seeking positions in academic advising/counseling and student support programs. She hopes to move out west or south, as long as it is warmer than Iowa! Carrie enjoys cooking, camping, music, and spending time with her friends, family and partner, John.

**Matt Augeri** is originally from Middletown, Connecticut and completed his undergraduate work in English and Business at the University of Connecticut in 2009. His assistantship has been with the Career Leadership Academy (CLA) in the Pomerantz Career Center as the coordinator for the first CLA Living-Learning Community. Matt has worked as a practicum student at Coe College in the Office of Service Learning and Leadership and is currently finishing up another practicum experience in the new University College here at the UI. Over the summer Matt also completed a NODA internship at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. Although he has enjoyed his time at Iowa, Matt is currently looking to move back to the east coast and find a job in the area of student leadership, first-year programs, or residence life.

**Misty Brents** was born and raised in Placerville, California. After spending time in both South Dakota and Colorado, she completed her undergraduate degree from The University of Iowa in History and Ancient Civilizations. She held assistantships for the Office of Residence Life and Health Iowa. Misty also worked as a practicum student for Trio Student Support Services and co-taught a course with Dr. Sherry Watt. She enjoys hiking, backpacking, and most importantly spending time with her five-year-old son Christian. Misty will be working as an Academic Advisor for Kirkwood Community College after she graduates.
What about our PhD students?

With the final Student Affairs Administration & Research (SAAR) students having passed their comprehensive exams, there are a considerable number of PhD candidates hanging around the program trying to graduate. Here is a small collection of the exciting research they’re conducting.

Kathy Goodman’s dissertation examines the influence of the campus climate for diversity on learning within four racial groups of college students. She used multiple regression to analyze how structural diversity, the psychological climate for diversity, and behavior influence one facet of learning—the need for cognition—for African-American, Asian-American, Latino/a, and White college students in the first year of college. The data for her study came from the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education. Her dissertation defense will be held on April 21, 2011. Ernie Pascarella is her dissertation chair. Deb Liddell, Will Liu, Johnnie Simms, and Christopher Morphew are also on her committee. Kathy is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University of Ohio.

Andy Borst’s dissertation looks at the impact of living-learning communities on first-year students’ development of critical thinking skills. The longitudinal nature of the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education study allows for controls of a student's choice to participate in a living-learning community or live in a traditional residence hall. Andy's dissertation is the first study to compare the impact of living-learning communities across multiple institutional types including research universities, regional universities, and liberal arts colleges. Andy will defend his dissertation on April 4, 2011. His dissertation is chaired by Ernie Pascarella and also includes David Grady, Deb Liddell, Mike Paulsen, and Don Yarbrough as committee members. Andy is currently the Director of Academic & Student Services at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Campus.

Kristi Mindrup’s dissertation is a case study about undergraduate students who attend a commuter, branch campus in the U.S. Midwest. Her research seeks to understand how the typical student at a branch campus experiences academics, social activities, and college-related choices. The study seeks to empower voices of students not typically represented in higher education research and seeks to provide recommendations for future research about college students who tend to balance multiple life priorities including studies, employment, and families. Kristi is currently the Assistant Vice President, Quad Cities Campus & Planning for Western Illinois University.

Georgianna Martin’s dissertation is on the college experiences of low income, first-generation students. Specifically, she is exploring how students understand their social class and how their socioeconomic status influences the choices they make and the experiences they have while in college. Georgianna is currently a graduate assistant in the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education at The University of Iowa.

Mike Venzon & Mike Schluckebier are in the proposal writing stage of their dissertations. Mike Venzon is planning on studying student employment, specifically the effect of employment on the undergraduate experience. Mike is currently the Caseload Coordinator for Student Disability Services at The University of Iowa. Mike Schluckebier wants to explore the experiences of students close to graduation who possess a highly developed sense of purpose. Specifically, he wants to explore the ways in which self-efficacy theory can be used as a lens to describe how students begin to define and clarify their sense of purpose. Mike is currently the Higher Education & Student Affairs Program Assistant at The University of Iowa.
What are your faculty up to?

Deb Liddell continues to serve as Program Coordinator for the HESA program. She recently was awarded a grant from the Iowa Measurement Research Foundation to fund a study of socialization of new professionals. As immediate past-chair of the ACPA Commission for Professional Preparation, she oversaw elections for the directorate. She is presenting on a few topics at ACPA this year. With Maureen Wilson and Amy Hirschy, she is presenting on the socialization of new professionals. With Carney Strange and Maureen Wilson she is presenting on ‘What Great Teachers Do’ – a discussion of provocative strategies to enhance learning. With Diane Cooper, Deb is editing a New Directions for Student Services sourcebook on moral growth in college.

Recent publications include:


Sherry Watt is in her eleventh year as a faculty member of the Higher Education and Student Affairs program. She continues to do research that explores reactions individuals have to difficult dialogues on race, sexual orientation, and disability. Sherry is designing a study which extends her line of research to retreat experiences that focus on participant reactions to engaging in explorations of power, privilege, and oppression with specific emphasis on racism. This year, Sherry was also appointed to the Center for Courage and Renewal’s Diversity Task Force. This task force is charged with devising plan of action for the Center for Courage and Renewal “to widen the welcome and deepen the practice to more fully integrate the application of this core value of diversity so it’s embedded and transparent” in the organization. The Center for Courage and Renewal is an organization founded and supported by the work of Parker J. Palmer.

Recent publications include:

What are your faculty up to?

Ernie Pascarella (Professor and Mary Louise Petersen Chair in Higher Education) has focused most of his scholarly attention on the activities of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education, which is conducting the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education (WNSLAE). A number of research papers from the WNSLAE have appeared, or will appear, in such journals as: Journal of College Student Development, Research in Higher Education, Change, Journal of Higher Education, and Review of Higher Education. In May 2008 he received an honorary doctorate from Blackburn College in recognition of his “important contributions to the understanding of postsecondary education’s impact on students.” He was also identified as the second most cited scholar in the “core journals” in higher education for the 2001-2006 period. The 1991 edition of “How College Affects Students” was identified as the single most cited book over the same period [see Budd, J., & Magnuson, L.. (2010). Higher education literature revisited: Citation patterns examined. Research in Higher Education, 51, 294-304], and both the 1991 and 2005 editions of his book (with Pat Terenzini of Penn State) How College Affects Students have sold over 32,000 copies combined and have been cited more than 4,700 times according to Google Scholar. They have also recently been licensed for translation into Chinese.

Michael Paulsen is in his seventh year as Professor, Higher Education & Student Affairs, in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, at The University of Iowa. Mike was recently appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief of the annual volumes of the scholarly book series Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research. He was also reappointed to the Editorial Boards for the scholarly journals Research in Higher Education and College Teaching. Mike is continuing his research on epistemological beliefs, as well as on the motivational, cognitive, behavioral and social-contextual components of the student-mediation model of college-student learning. In addition, Mike is currently writing a new textbook on the economics and finance of higher education to be published by Springer. Mike also serves as the coordinator of the new concentration in Teaching, Learning & Curriculum in Higher Education as part of Iowa’s graduate programs in Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Christine (Chris) Ogren is completing her twelfth year on the faculty in the Educational Policy and Leadership Studies. A historian of education, she is active in both the Higher Education and Student Affairs and Schools, Culture and Society programs. After helping with the merger to create to former program, she took a lead role in forming the latter out of the old Social Foundations of Education program. Chris is currently on the board of directors of the History of Education Society and on the editorial board of History of Education Quarterly. She is completing research on the simplified spelling movement of the late-19th and early 20th centuries and beginning new research on the history of teachers in the U.S.
What are your faculty up to?

Christopher Morphew, the newest member of the HESA faculty, has been busy with an active research agenda over the past year or so. During that time, he has made several international presentations (University of Bath in the United Kingdom, University of Oslo in Norway, Seoul National University in South Korea). He is also collaborating (with researchers from Rutgers and Claremont Graduate University) on a funded research project that involves the identification and analysis of undergraduate student pathways and associated costs. In November, he stepped down from the executive board for the Association for the Study of Higher Education. He has made several presentations at national conferences, including ASHE and AERA as well. During the last year, his edited book (with Peter Eckel) *Diverse Perspectives on the Privatization of the Public Research University* was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Dr. Morphew also published two book chapters (one with Ph.D. student Christopher Swanson) and an article (An analysis of baccalaureate college missions statements) in *Research in Higher Education*.

Elizabeth Whitt, Professor in the College of Education, has been on the UI faculty since 1997. In August 2010, after 4 years in the Provost’s Office, she returned to “real life” as a full-time faculty member. Her current service to ACPA and the student affairs profession includes membership on the editorial board for the Journal of College Student Development and the 2011 ACPA Convention Program Committee (Chair, Pre-Convention Programs). As of July 1, 2010, Liz began a 3-year term as editor of the New Directions for Student Services sourcebook series; she had been associate editor since 1996. Her recent scholarly activities include a book (forthcoming from Jossey-Bass) on academic and student affairs partnership programs and an update of *Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter* (Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, Whitt, & Associates, 2010/2005). In addition, she serves as co-director of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education (CRUE) at Iowa.

There are a number of ways you can stay connected to the program online:
1) Join our Facebook page ([University of Iowa Higher Education & Student Affairs Graduate Program](http://www.facebook.com/UniversityofIowaHESA))
2) Visit our homepage ([http://www.education.uiowa.edu/hesa](http://www.education.uiowa.edu/hesa))
3) Send us your updated email address ([epls-hesa@uiowa.edu](mailto:epls-hesa@uiowa.edu))

The merging of the program also enlarges our alumnae/i base. If you know of someone who should be receiving this newsletter but doesn’t, get in touch with us. We want to make sure everyone shares in the exciting and dynamic things our alumni and current students are doing!
GSDA is now GOHESA!

In an effort to compliment the recent merger with the Higher Education program, GSDA has followed suit by changing its name! We will now formally be known as the Graduate Organization of Higher Education and Student Affairs (GOHESA). As the final SDP cohort moves closer to graduation we are excited to see what the future brings for our organization in serving the needs of our community. Check out some of the activities our committees have been up to this year ...

Professional Development

Mentoring and job shadowing program – We spent the bulk of last semester developing a mentoring and job shadowing program for GOHESA members. Surveying alumni and friends of the Higher Education and Student Affairs program, we compiled a list of professionals who were interested in serving as mentors and/or job shadowing hosts. Nearly 50 professionals expressed an interest in serving in one or both of these capacities!

Lunch discussions – In January, the committee hosted a lunch discussion on achieving (or trying our best to achieve!) work-life-school balance, which was facilitated by Dr. Kathleen Staley from University Counseling Service. We will host a second lunch discussion on student affairs practice at different institutional types in April.

Outreach

Last semester, Outreach Committee Members met with 6 prospective students to talk about their experiences with HESA, assistantships, and living in Iowa City. Special thanks to Jeremy Reed for coordinating these meetings!

The Committee has been working with Mike Schluckebier and HESA to revamp the program’s website. Check out the changes that have already been made, and keep checking back throughout the semester as things get added.

OrgSync is now the new home for GOHESA news, events, and meeting minutes. We will no longer be using the old GSDA website. You can access GOHESA’s OrgSync through this link: http://tinyurl.com/GOHESA

You can also follow OSL’s link to OrgSync on their homepage. If you’ve never used OrgSync before, you will need to activate your account (don’t worry it’s easy!).

Social and Community Service

The Social and Community Service committee started the fall semester by hosting the Fall Picnic at Deb Liddell’s house. More than 60 SDP, SAAR, and HESA faculty, adjuncts, and students enjoyed food and good company.

- In November, the committee hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Latino Native American Cultural Center.
- Several coats, sweaters, scarves, and gloves, 4 large bags of shampoo, razors, deodorant, and soap, and $126 in donations were collected in a very successful food and clothing drive for the newly opened Shelter House in Iowa City.
- A Spaghetti Dinner at the Schluckebier residence kicked off the spring semester.
- The committee has promoted “First Fridays”- a social meeting on the first Friday of every month at Joe’s Place in downtown Iowa City.
- The Social and Community Service committee is looking forward to planning more social and service-oriented activities in the future!

A special thank you to our Officers, Committee Chairs and General Members for their work this year!
What are you doing this summer?

Join us for the 1st annual Big Ten Higher Education Institute, May 23-27. The Institute features two 3-credit courses, each of which will be taught by two senior faculty members from four of the Big 10's nationally-ranked graduate programs in higher education and student affairs. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to engage in intensive work with respected faculty members, network with Big 10 graduate students, and enjoy early summer in a world-class college town.

Beyond coursework and class meetings, the Institute will feature two organized dinners, and after-class meetings that allow participants to engage informally with their instructors and fellow students. The two classes will also get together to debate and share policy-relevant ideas at the intersection of critical theories and state higher education policy.

For more information and to register, visit the Institute’s website (http://tinyurl.com/Big10Institute).

What is Al Hood up to?

Al and Jean celebrated a couple of significant events this year. First, their twelfth grandchild was born in April, making six girls and now six boys. Second, the happy couple celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. For those of you keeping track, the gift for that year is emeralds. The Hood’s rolled both events into a summer party at Cape Hattaras where they rented a house big enough for the entire family.

As is the case every year, Al and Jean traveled the world, visiting to the SONY Ericsson Open in Miami to see Roger Federer play and the country of Portugal for a conference at the University of Porto.

New Tradition: What is Beecher up to?

Steph Beecher (MA ‘10), pictured here in her days at Coe College, is currently a Health Educator with Health Iowa at the University. The transition from Graduate Assistant at Health Iowa to young professional has been seamless. Steph's main task is to develop the sexual health component of Health Iowa's education/outreach. During her graduate study, Steph and her cohort worked on a capstone project with The Iowa Challenge (a mission statement for undergraduates). Steph is proud to continue implementing The Iowa Challenge and help students Stretch, Serve, Engage, Excel, and Choose every day.
2010 Albert Hood Distinguished GPSA Alumni Award

Pat Enos (Ph.D. ‘81)

Dr. Enos (pictured on the left with former CRSD secretary Reta Litton) serves as Assistant Vice President and Unit Administrator of Michigan State University’s Educational and Support Services. She also serves as an adjunct professor in the Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education department where she has taught both the Student Leadership Training and Student Affairs Practicum courses for the Student Affairs Administration Masters program. Outside MSU, Dr. Enos serves East Lansing on the board of the Community Relations Coalition, a not-for-profit organization working on enhancing relationships and building bridges between neighbors.

Support for Students

Another big thank you to all the alumni and friends who were able to attend last summer’s 50th anniversary reunion and conference. Funds from the reunion and your designated gifts provide continuing support for student travel, recruitment, campus speakers, and the alumni gatherings.

This year, the faculty drafted a proposal and were granted additional funding opportunities for students ranging between $350 & $1,000 in support for the following criteria:

- **Travel Scholarships**
  In support of first-year PhD students and MA students who don’t otherwise have traveling support to attend national conferences.

- **Dissertation Year Scholarships**
  In support of students in the data collection/data analysis phase of their dissertations.

- **PhD Emerging Scholar Awards**
  In support of students preparing to conduct autonomous research, including travel to a special training or consultation, travel to an off-campus site for consultation or study, and/or registration for a workshop or dedicated pre-conference session.

- **MA Promising Professional Award**
  A nominated award honoring sustained, outstanding academic performance, exceptional achievement in campus settings, service to the HESA community, and service “above and beyond” to the University community and/or Iowa City community.

The program could not exist without the support of its alumni. Please consider making a financial gift online to the College of Education Higher Education and Student Affairs Program Fund (http://tinyurl.com/HESAFund).
Welcome Back, Baccei ...

Have you ever asked someone how they got into the field of student affairs? It is one of my favorite questions to ask colleagues. To date, I have never heard the same story twice. The stories are as unique as the individuals who share their experiences. Similarly the stories of how and why people decided to embark on their PhD is also varied and unique, as well as the responses they receive upon telling others of their decision. For those of you who have not met me, I am a list person. Ultimately the decision to get my PhD here, after also receiving my MA from Iowa, became apparent after making a list of benefits.

Pro's of being a SDP MA alumnus:
- Solid educational foundation
- Familiarity with faculty members
- Awareness of campus resources
- Strong support network from SDP graduates
- Able to help mentor current MA students
- Know my way around Lindquist

My decision to enter the newly established HESA program was met by many different responses from my colleagues and former cohort members. “Whaat? Get out of here!”, “No way”, “That’s amazing!”, “How do you know you are ready to be a grad student again?”, and “You’re crazy, but I love your face.” In each instance as I walked people through my list, the common response was simply, “Well this is something you cannot pass up.”

My first year back in Lindquist has been interesting and one of great transition. As an alumnus and someone who has worked on campus for the last few years, I have had a quicker learning curve for some of the logistical aspects of the program. The new HESA program has offered me the opportunity to take classes from different faculty members in various different subjects. The core classes of the program have already allowed me to broaden my view, understanding, and knowledge of higher education. Beyond classes, my classmates have been one of the best aspects of the program. I have been amazed by how much experience, but also how I have started a new program in the Iowa tradition of a rich supportive cohort is still strong.

Personally the greatest challenge program has been the struggle to balance my role as a spouse and parent. I value these two roles in my family. Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also understand how much they have enriched my academic supportive they have been. While I value these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, Being aware of these two roles my family, I have experienced in the PhD program means there are times, also
I call myself an Iowa Citian because I have been a part of the Iowa City community for the past eight years. My hometown is Waterloo, Iowa just up the road an hour and fifteen minutes. I graduated from the University of Iowa in 2008 with a B.A. in History, English, Journalism and Mass Communications. I changed my major seven times including Pre-med, Biology, Art, and Secondary Education. I had finally settled on Journalism the second semester of my third year when I had a couple experiences that turned me off to the journalism profession and showed me the importance of higher education and student affairs. After graduation, I decided to work for a couple years to make certain this was the field for me (I have a strong track record for changing direction) and landed a great job with the University of Iowa Alumni Association as the Assistant Director of Alumni Programs. Through this position, I advise a student group, the Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (S.T.A.T.) Ambassadors of 80 who create and execute events for the larger group of 3,000 general S.T.A.T. members. I also develop young alumni programming. I currently am working full time while also attending classes full time. I am also working on my practicum with University College with a focus on the first year experience and living learning communities. It is a true testament of time management, sleep reduction, and an awesome partner, my husband Steve, that keeps me going.

A mentor of mine once told me that she never applied for jobs in states that started and ended with vowels. When I started my grad search, I focused my eyes on the Midwest, home to numerous states that contradict my former supervisor’s advice. Little did I know that commonality would resurface during spring break in my native Pennsylvania. There I fielded questions about how I am liking Ohio, what Indiana is like, and how I ended up in Idaho; all questions I too ponder. I am not sure whether I need to find more friends who actually know where I live or are cognizant of North American geography. Believe it or not, it was the serendipitous pairing with fellow East Coaster M2 Matt Augeri during last year’s Campus Visit Days that solidified my choice to attend my now beloved I-O-W-A.

Meeting Matt last spring was not the only connection that strengthened my ties to Iowa. During my short time here, I have discovered other links that have brought me closer to the state, university, HESA program, and colleagues. The transition to black and gold was an easy one, facilitated by my die-hard affection for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Additionally, Coach Kirk Ferentz is a fellow Pittsburgher, and the new men’s basketball coach, Fran McCaffery, started his career at Lehigh University, my alma mater. My boss and instructor for Intro to Student Affairs, Von Stange, also worked at Lehigh in the late ‘80s. It also helps that the international headquarters of my fraternity, Delta Chi, is three blocks from my apartment in Burge Hall. Forget Kevin Bacon, higher education creates a system of one to two degrees of separation.

The world continued to get smaller as I got to know the members of the HESA community. I was greeted with a hug from Deb Liddell during my visit in April, and I cannot express how much that meant to me. That warm, welcoming atmosphere has been a constant experience throughout my first year. Deb and the other faculty have provided adequate challenge and ample support to facilitate our growth as new professionals. There is something unique about having follow up discussion with Sherry Watt or casually exchanging e-mails with Liz Whitt. Hell, I was more excited after meeting Ernie Pascarella than I was when I ran into Kirk Ferentz at Panchero’s.

continued on page 14 ...
**M1 Musings (continued) ...**

In addition to connecting with the faculty, my cohort has created a distinct bond that makes me feel like I’m home. Despite their collective insistence that I do not qualify as an “East Coaster” since Pennsylvania is coastless, our friendships have removed barriers and strengthened our learning community in and out of the classroom. My classmates have been there for me during the toughest times of my graduate experience, but have also been right by my side to celebrate highlights of our Iowan adventures. Our time together can best be expressed by lyrics from the catchiest YouTube hit Baby Monkey (Going Backwards on a Pig): “The world has gone insane, and you don’t know what is right. You got to keep on keepin’ on. Get on that pig and hold on tight!” I am indeed in the right place.

Tyler De Shon comes to the University of Iowa from the great (little) state of New Jersey. Having grown up in the suburbs of Chicago, IL and attending the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Tyler was heavily involved as an undergraduate in Student Affairs. It was at Illinois where he started to develop a passion for working with college students and began to consider studying Higher Education. Before that, however, he wanted to work with Teach For America, which is what brought him to New Jersey. In Newark, he taught 8th Grade Science and Social Studies at a K–8 elementary school in the South Ward. As one the hardest experiences of his life, Tyler learned perseverance, flexibility, and gained a strong awareness of the inequality still present in our society today. It is within higher education that Tyler sees himself making the biggest impact, leading him to the University of Iowa where he holds an assistantship with Orientation Services and focuses a lot of his other time on issues of social justice and awareness.

**What are our students up to?**

**Kelly Giese** (MA ‘11) & **Matt Augeri** (MA ‘11) won the master’s level case study competition at the ISPA/ICCASA join conference in Ames in October, 2010 providing them $100 to use toward a conference or other professional development opportunity. The scenario was called “Penguin or Prejudice” and dealt with LGBTQ culture, allegations of blackface, and freedom of expression in the context of student activities at a small, private liberal arts college. The winners did a “choose-your-own-adventure” presentation that allowed them to present several different ways to approach the issue, a technique the judges seemed to enjoy. Kelly & Matt’s win increases Iowa’s streak to four in a row! Go Hawks!

**Scott Wojciechowski** (MA ‘12) won the The Frank J. Traver President’s Scholarship, given annually to a deserving graduate student who displays outstanding potential and commitment to a career in college student housing. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize and assist new professionals currently employed and pursuing a career in the housing field. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited graduate program in College Student Personnel, Counseling, or a related field at the time of the award. (The award is presented at the annual conference.) Applicants must also be employed by a UMR–ACUHO member school in a residence life or dining service program.
What else are our students up to?

**Luisa Orticelli** (MA ‘11) won the Paul Opstad Award. The award is given to a graduate student from the College of Education whose career or scholarly interests focus on the concerns and needs of international students. The award comes with a $1,000 scholarship.

**Elizabeth Martinez** (MA ‘12) was recently elected to serve a 3-year term on ACPA’s Commission for Social Justice Educators Directorate Board.

**Ashley Asel** (SAAR PhD Candidate) & **Mike Schluckebier** (SAAR PhD Candidate) received the Terry Ganshaw Memorial Award for outstanding PhD students in the SAAR Program. The award recognizes academic performance, service to the student community, and a commitment to the student affairs profession. The award is named for a beloved PhD student in the SDP program who was classmates with Mike Dannells (PhD ‘78), Carney Strange (PhD ‘78), and Will Barratt (PhD ‘83). The award was started by his classmates following his death in 1976 to honor his excellence and his service to the community.

**Georgianna Martin** (SAAR PhD Candidate) won the Albert Hood Promising Scholar Award, based on academic performance, quality of her research proposal, the likely impact of the research on the field, and the student's service to the program and the University. She was also selected as the 2011 Senior Fellow for the Obermann Graduate Institute, an interdisciplinary institute on civic engagement, social responsibility, and public scholarship at Iowa.

Recent publications and presentations by from Iowa students and alumni:

