Welcome

Hello, HESA alumni and friends!

It’s been a busy fall semester for the Higher Education & Student Affairs program at Iowa. We welcomed the largest master’s class in our history with 17 students. In fact, the HESA Program is the largest graduate program in the College of Education! Our second-year master’s class – the second graduating cohort in the new program – has 14 students on track to graduate this coming spring. The new doctoral cohort has 10 students with six enrolled as full-time students.

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Cassie Barnhardt into our program faculty. Cassie is teaching courses in student affairs and administration, and this past fall offered a Mixed Methods in Research course for advanced doctoral students.

Finally, what is the value of your Iowa graduate degree? Consider honoring your educational ‘pedigree’ with a tax-deductible gift to the HESA Foundation Fund, which supports academic enrichment, student travel, guest speakers, and alumni events. Learn about why alumna Amanda Truppe (MA, ‘10) gives on the HESA website.

Wishing you a successful fall semester!

Debora Liddell
Associate Professor & Program Coordinator
What are they up to? Updates from the HESA Alumni Community

Beth Abbott Storrs (M.A. ‘94) received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Boston College in August. Her dissertation was titled “The Demonstration of Organizational Legitimacy among Professional Schools of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine” and she is currently working on turning it into a monograph.

Eric Craver (M.A. ‘91) is in a new position at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. He is now the Director of External Relations for the Office of Outreach and Adult Access, working primarily with marketing, corporate relations, alumni relations, development and fundraising, and media management.

Tracy Davis (Ph.D. ‘97) is a Professor at Western Illinois University and Director of the Center for the Study of Masculinities and Men’s Development. This past year, he traveled to various institutions throughout the Midwest speaking about social justice and gender identity. He co-edited a book with Jason Laker titled Masculinities in Higher Education: Theoretical and Practical Consideration, which received the 2012 NASPA Men and Masculinities Knowledge Community Newly Published Research award. He also worked with Dr. Shaun Harper to co-edit a special issue on masculinities for the Journal of College and University Student Housing. Additionally, he has a Jossey-Bass book coming out this spring entitled Social Justice in Higher Education: Negotiating Critical Practice, Pedagogy, and Politics, as well as a co-edited ASHE Reader on critical perspectives of gender with Rebecca Ropers-Huliman, Ana Martínez Alemán, Susan Marine, and Kelly Winters.

Melanie Drake (M.A. ‘98) recently settled in Cedar Falls, IA after eight years as a college counselor for high school students in both Tuscon and St. Louis. She now coordinates the alumni volunteer group as the Assistant Director for Alumni Relations at her undergraduate alma mater, Grinnell College. Melanie and her husband are thrilled to be back in Iowa and Melanie has even had the opportunity to re-connect with classmates, Julia Hammes Parcell (‘98) and Amy Khle (‘98).

Rosalyn Eaton-Neeb (Ph.D. ‘97) was promoted to Dean of Students at St. Olaf College, her undergraduate alma mater. As part of her role, she is advising the student government association – a member of which is classmate Tracy Davis’ son!

Brian Emerick (M.A. ‘06) and Laura (Spencer) Emerick (M.A. ‘09) welcomed their first child, Elyse Christine Emerick, on May 9, 2012.

Karina Franco (M.A. ‘03) successfully defended her dissertation and will be awarded an Ed.D. in Higher Education from North Carolina State University. She currently serves as the Director of Undergraduate Advising in the Belk College of Business at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Martha Greer (M.A. ‘97) advises undergraduate students in the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She is enjoying the change from the administrative side of academic student services and loves the direct work with students. Melanie shares that ‘putting theory into practice’ has been a theme in her home this year as well. Her son Mason, who was a toddler during her graduate school years, is now a first year student at the University of Northern Iowa. She is grateful for the on-the-job training for this new role she received during graduate school as the Parent Program Coordinator for Orientation Services!
Elizabeth Jach (M.A. ‘12) currently works as a Research Associate in the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She serves as the Secretary for the Iowa Student Personnel Association (ISPA) and as a copy editor for ACPA’s Developments publication. She and Cassandra Storlie (doctoral candidate in Iowa’s Counselor Education and Supervision program) recently had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Social Action in Counseling and Psychology. Elizabeth has also been working with HESA Ph.D. students Jana Hanson and Teniell Trolian on a paper that was accepted for the 2013 AERA annual meeting. On a personal note, Elizabeth became engaged to Anthony Rinaldi (doctoral candidate in Iowa’s Counseling Psychology program) in June and their wedding is set for summer 2013.

Jodi Linley (M.A. ‘02) is starting a new assistantship at Michigan State University where she is a doctoral student in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education. She will be working with Professor Jim Fairweather on a national curriculum reform project with the Association of American Universities (AAU). It is a multi-year initiative to improve undergraduate teaching and learning in STEM fields.

Carl Mehta (M.A. ‘12) is finishing his first semester as the Assistant Director of Student Life at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, where he works with student conduct, as well as teaches a first-year leadership course.

Scott Mertes (M.A. ‘97) recently had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Community College Research and Practice. The article is titled “Predictors of First-Year Retention in a Community College” and it is set to come out January 2013.

Stacy Narcotta-Welp (M.A. ‘09) was promoted to Director of the Career Leadership Academy program at the University of Iowa. As a graduate student at Iowa, she helped build this program with only 50 participants at the time. The program now boasts over 600 graduates with 400 students enrolling in classes each semester.

Brian Prescott (M.A. ‘98) was appointed to the board of directors of the National Association for College Admission Counseling and will serve a two-year term.

Joan Rinner (M.A. ‘84) is a licensed therapist in marriage and family therapy. She retired from the University of Iowa in 2010 after working for 18 years with the Employee Assistance Program. She is currently working as part-time therapist with the Counseling Center of Iowa City and is starting a new practice in downtown Iowa City called “Relational Mindfulness, Intensive Couples Counseling.”

Gabriela Rivera (M.A. ‘99) is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter Camila Gabriela on June 8, 2011. Hear more about Gabriela on pgs. 4-5 of the newsletter.

Wendy (Bequeaith) Shoemaker (M.A. ‘00) represented the University of Kansas during a Fulbright Seminar in Germany and France for U.S. Administrators. Wendy was selected as one of five career services professionals to attend the annual seminar. She sought to better understand international career services and examine the role of higher education on an international scale to prepare students for careers after college.

Sara Stahlman (M.A. ‘07) recently accepted a telework position with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill providing Marketing and Communication coordination for UNC Campus Health Services. She is also chairing the Healthy Campus Coalition Communication subcommittee through the American College Health Association.
Interview with Gabriela Rivera, Recipient of the 2012 Board of Regent Staff Excellence Award

Claudia “Gabriela” Rivera was born in Toluca, Mexico and moved to Davenport, IA in 1988. She received her Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology from Scott Community College, her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Central College, and her Master of Arts in Student Development in Postsecondary Education from The University of Iowa. Gabriela currently serves as a Program Specialist for the Center for Diversity & Enrichment at the University of Iowa. In this role, she oversees the Iowa Edge Program for underrepresented and first generation college students.

Since 2007, Gabriela has co-facilitated the West Liberty Enrichment Program with Professor Carolyn Colvin in the College of Education. Gabriela was recognized by the Board of Regents with a 2012 Staff Excellence Award for her contributions to programs that benefit the university and have a significant positive impact on the state of Iowa.

Kira Pasquesi, second-year doctoral student in the HESA program, recently sat down with Gabriela to learn more about her work with the West Liberty Enrichment Program and the Center for Diversity & Enrichment.

What is the West Liberty Enrichment Program and how did you get involved?

I have previous experience in West Liberty, IA as an admission counselor for the University of Iowa. When I transitioned into my role with the Center for Diversity & Enrichment, I wanted to return to the community and be more intentional about our efforts. In recruitment, you talk about the admissions process, but I wanted to work with students starting in elementary school to help foster a college-bound culture in the community. Professor Carolyn Colvin invited me to be a part of a project funded by the Chief Diversity Office in 2007 focused on developing the K-12 pipeline to college. Dr. Colvin had been coordinating an adult literacy program in West Liberty, so she had excellent relationships with the school district and families. At the time, I was also coordinating a pen pal program with 4th graders in West Liberty. In fact, I was a pen pal for a student in West Liberty when I was a graduate student at Iowa. In the pen pal program, University of Iowa students write to elementary school kids and share what it’s like to be in college. I also held monthly sessions in West Liberty about admission and financial aid.

Professor Colvin and I decided to combine our efforts into what is now known as the West Liberty Enrichment Program for University of Iowa students from West Liberty. The program is also connected to the Advantage Iowa Scholarship coordinated out of the Center for Diversity & Enrichment. We mentor the students once they enter the university through graduation. We also work with parents in West Liberty and offer a campus visit each spring. For a lot of these parents, it’s the first time they’re learning about what it’s like to be a college student since many of them do not attend orientation and did not attend college themselves.

What makes West Liberty, IA an ideal location for this program?

The proximity of the community and the diverse population make it ideal for the West Liberty Enrichment Program. We serve underrepresented groups and first-generation college students in the Center for Diversity & Enrichment, so the community really makes sense for my office.
We now have University of Iowa students in the West Liberty Enrichment Program that remember their pen pal days. They remember having an Iowa student tell them they have what it takes to go to college and be a Hawkeye. We already work with students from 9th through 12th grade in the Upward Bound program and the pen pal program for 4th graders. The continuous support and contact from the multitude of connected efforts really works. It's not just a one-time experience and then you never hear back from us again. We have a team of people that care about the families in this community.

What sustains your commitment to the West Liberty Enrichment Program?

The majority of residents in West Liberty are now Latino/Latina (for more information see the NPR story). Many of the students coming to the University of Iowa from West Liberty are immigrants that became US citizens or are children of immigrants. I have a similar path to many of these students because I came to the United State when I was 17 years old. Many of the students came here when they were a lot younger or some of them were born here, but their primarily language is Spanish. They live in two worlds. The town of West Liberty reflects their culture in its restaurants, markets, and festivals, and through the dual-language program in the school district. The community really cares about the people and their values. Many of the people that moved to West Liberty from other countries moved here for a better life, but they don’t understand our educational system. The families trust us and feel like they can go to us with questions about their children’s education.

For me it’s ultimately a social justice issue. There are more Latinos at the University of Iowa than ever before, but there’s still a lot of work to do. It’s important for students to not only come here, but also succeed. They are going to have challenges to overcome, like academic preparation, language barriers, and acculturation to a new environment. I’ve been in this country for a while and I’ve learned how to negotiate it without giving up who I am. I want to be a mentor for these students.

Who has been a mentor in your own life that has influenced the way you approach mentoring?

I had more than just one mentor that influenced how I approach mentoring today. I had female mentors at Scott Community College, Central College, and the University of Iowa that helped me with transition issues from high school to college and from Mexico to the United States. During my graduate years, I was mentored by my graduate assistantship supervisor in International Student and Scholar Services. We had a personal connection besides just our shared professional interests. All the mentors in my life have been strong beautiful women that care about my values, culture, and path.

What are you most proud of in your work at the University of Iowa?

I’m proud of my work in West Liberty because we have developed a pipeline of students from the community to college. There’s a lot of communication and information sharing between the University of Iowa, local school district, and families in the community. I’m also proud of my work in the Center for Diversity & Enrichment. The workforce is changing and our students are taking jobs in exciting places and coming back to contribute to their own communities. I enjoy talking to the students on a daily basis and seeing how they develop through graduation. I pride myself on networking with people across campus in order to bridge various departments and offices with the shared goal of student success. These partners in other offices get to know us, and in turn, become a more natural resource for our students. All in all, I'm lucky because I work in an office where I feel valued and the students see that it’s a good environment to work in.
From Graduate School to Full-Time Work...and Back Again

Alumni Tyler De Shon and Gwen Archibald share their reflections on transitions in and out of graduate school. Tyler graduated from the HESA Master’s program in May and began his first full-time position in student affairs this summer. After working for eight years in student affairs, Gwen returned to the University of Iowa to begin the HESA Ph.D. program this fall.

Reflection on Life as a New Professional by Tyler De Shon

Transitions are exciting, challenging, and sometimes sudden. My transition into the role of Residential College Director at Washington University (WU) in St. Louis has included these elements and more as I learn to navigate a new job, institution, and city. Luckily, Iowa prepared me to take on the challenges and step into this new position with confidence. In reflecting on my transition from life as a graduate student to life as a new professional, I was reminded of something we read as first semester graduate students in the program. In her chapter titled “Don’t Drink the Water?: A Guide to Encountering a New Institutional Culture”, Elizabeth Whitt offers advice for the transitioning professional in a new institutional culture. I will frame several of my own transition experiences with her recommendations.

One permeating lesson I learned at Iowa was to recognize that what worked at one institution might not always work at another. I had to “check” my own cultural baggage at the door in order to work within the structure of WU and learn the “Wash U Way.” I often find myself thinking, “Wow, this would not fly at a public school.” Although this has been a true culture shock at times, it has also been my favorite aspect of the transition to life as a new professional. I can honestly say I found a “fit” at WU and I see my own values reflected in the culture of the institution.

I really resonate with Liz’s advice for new professionals to seek out a guide in the transition process. I found the most unlikely guide in my now partner, Katharine, who works in WU’s First Year Center. Katharine supports my transition unconditionally and shares her extensive knowledge of WU. Her advice has been nearly as invaluable as her love and care.

Finally, like Liz recommended, I have taken advantage of campus storytellers. These individuals provide direction and share the historical context of the institution. On a daily basis, I have the opportunity to interact with professionals who have worked at WU for nearly forty years. I am fortunate these individuals are willing to share their knowledge with me and influence my success as a new professional.

I consider myself lucky in my transition thus far. I have a great supervisor, a supportive team, and incredible students who challenge me on a daily basis. With this, I’ll leave you with one piece of advice for your own transition that was shared with me when I started at WU – when you walk across campus, if you don’t greet at least 10 people by name, you haven’t connected yourself enough. I’ve hit 10 and continue to work my way up!

Reference

Reflections on Life as a New Ph.D. Student by Gwen Archibald

A few years ago, I remember reading *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. It’s a hilarious account of Bill’s attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail with his childhood friend. Despite his persistent refrain of “why, why did I do this?”, it actually leaves the reader with the desire to take on just about any challenge. One of the funnier moments is when he’s trying to learn about everything he needs to pack in order to prepare for his long journey and is overwhelmed after getting an extensive list from an expert in a hiking store. As I’m reflecting on my transition into a doctoral program, I know just how he was feeling at that moment. I remember when I proudly told all my friends and colleagues at my previous institution that I was going back to school. I was desperate to sound ready, hoping that if I put on a brave, confident face that I could keep the questions out of my head – “are you really ready for this?”, and “what if you don’t make it?”, and “you know it’s going to be really hard, right?” I’m imagining how Bill felt in that store, nodding along, as if he knew what the man was talking about.

It’s been almost four months now, and I still don’t know if I’m appropriately packed for this journey. But I’m beginning to realize, just like Bill did, that I’m learning the most while on the trail. So what did I have in my pack already that has been helpful to manage the transition to the doctorate? As it turns out, I might be more prepared than I thought.

*Experience* – Everywhere I look I feel a sense of familiarity. Professors, courses, even the institutional structure all feel like home to me. That said, there’s also a disconcerting feeling of being the new person, which is both thrilling and unnerving. I’ve learned to rely on my past experiences in the field to navigate this familiar yet new environment. I also find myself amazed by the amount of past experiences that I can draw from in classes and my assistantships. I feel a strong sense of gratitude for all the amazing colleagues I worked with over the years who were influential in my learning and development as a professional.

*Nourishment* – I was excited to come back to school, but I never expected to feel so intellectually energized. The academic rigor at Iowa is giving me so much to feel curious about, and to want more each day. This journey is not a straight incline up a hill, but a serious of small hills that help you feel a sense of accomplishment when you make it to the top.

*Community* – Instead of a single friend out there with me, I actually have an unbelievable amount of supportive people on the trail with me. There is a pretty steady stream of encouragement, whether from professors, colleagues, friends, or especially my family. They are what really keep me taking step after step each day. Lastly, Bill points out many times that he doesn’t have to be on the trail – he’s choosing to do it. It’s a healthy perspective for me as well. Every academic challenge, work issue, or just tough day balancing it all – I remember that this is what I want, what I’ve chosen – each hill is mine to climb. And I’m packed and ready.

Would you like to get more involved with the Higher Education and Student Affairs program? We are seeking volunteers to help mentor second-year M.A. students and represent the program at regional graduate fairs. Take our quick alumni survey to indicate your interests.
2012 Albert B. Hood Outstanding Alumnus Award

The 2012 Albert B. Hood Outstanding Alumnus Award was given to Larry Braskamp at the Iowa Alumni & Friends reception during the ACPA annual convention. Larry completed his Ph.D. in the College of Education in 1967. He is Professor Emeritus of Education at Loyola University-Chicago, and Senior Fellow at the American Association of Colleges & Universities. Before Loyola, Larry served in a number of administrative positions – including Dean of the College of Education – at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He has authored seven books and over one hundred research articles and papers. Please help us in congratulating Larry on his award!

ACPA Annual Convention
March 4-7, 2013

We hope to see you in Vegas for the Iowa Alumni & Friends reception! The reception will be held in one of the conference hotels. Please check your convention program book for details.