



# HEA SPRING NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends:

For some of you, two years is but a moment in NC State's institutional history. For many of us, however, two years in Raleigh launches the next chapters in our careers as student affairs professionals. On behalf of all my colleagues graduating in the upcoming months, I would like to thank all those who have supported HEA in our efforts to provide high quality, inclusive, and informative programming to our higher education community. I am proud to say that NC State hasn't just made us better; we have returned the favor and are leaving the program, college, and institution better than when we entered.

As always, the spring semester flew by, and we accomplished more than we could have hoped! In February, we welcomed over 65 prospective students to Talley Student Union for Recruitment Weekend. This year's theme was "Take Flight at NC State," and thanks to the leadership of the Recruitment Weekend executive board, all those who attended left with an understanding of the impact our program has had, is having, and will have on the field.

Our executive board also planned a number of events to engage our students. Some of our professional development topics included a financial growth and literacy session with Alex Sutherland, a Raleigh wealth advisor and friend to the program, a resume review dinner to further share our career goals with our peers, and a stress relieving workshop for our lifelong health with professionals from the NC State Counseling Center. The Scholar-Practitioner Symposium continues to grow, giving local students, faculty, and staff members the opportunity to share their research and ideas in Pecha Kucha format. The event was highly successful, incorporating presentations on a variety of topics including multicultural norms, higher education governance, technology in higher education, and so much more.

This semester, we also continue to celebrate the achievements of students, faculty, and alumni. In particular, I would like to publicly recognize Dr. AJ Jaeger as the recipient of two honors: the Robert Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member, and the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. We're blessed to have such an inspiring leader in our midst and we cherish her role as the HEA Advisor.

This semester's newsletter is packed with more exceptional work of our community, so I hope you enjoy perusing its contents. My term as HEA President has certainly been a highlight of my time at NC State, and I have a dedicated and enthusiastic executive board to thank for that. I wish even greater success for the incoming executive board and look forward to celebrating with my peers, family, and friends on May 9th at graduation.

To close, here's a quote from Rudyard Kipling that now fondly resides on our HEA t-shirts as a way of remembering our connection to NC State: "For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

-Nathan Thomas, Class of 2015

## DOCTORAL SPOTLIGHT: DIFEI LI

Difei Li is a second-year doctoral student in the midst of finishing her doctoral coursework and moving into the proposal phase. She is the Assistant Director of Research at NILIE, The National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness, led by Dr. Audrey Jaeger. Difei is also working on research with Dr. Paul Umbach on college access, specifically remediation and its impact on short and long-term educational outcomes. College access is her primary research interest, particularly remediation and financial aid.



Difei is a firm believer in the importance of a college education, not only in terms of its capacity to prepare students for future careers, but also in terms of its impact on the overall growth and identity formation of young adults. When asked

about her decision to pursue a doctoral degree, she responded, "I had previous work experiences with Chinese college students back in China. I also worked closely with American college students and international students in U.S. institutions through my graduate assistantship work. Putting all this together, I felt the calling to make a life-long career in the higher education setting, and I want to make some difference to students' college experience either through research or other types of work."

NC State is a great choice for both undergraduate and graduate study, especially for international students such as Difei. Reflecting on her perceptions of NC State, she says, "It has a grounded culture, yet lots of potential to prepare students for a great career and personal development. The location of NC State is a huge plus, diverse and vibrant." Currently, Difei is most excited to be serving as a Teaching Assistant for two research method/design courses in the upcoming fall semester. Next year, she plans to focus on moving forward with her dissertation work. In the interim, she hopes to be more involved with program faculty's research projects. After graduation, Difei would like to seek a position with a substantial research capacity that enables her to study various topics in higher education.

*"I felt the calling to make a life-long career in the higher education setting, and I want to make some difference to students' college experience either through research or other types of work."*

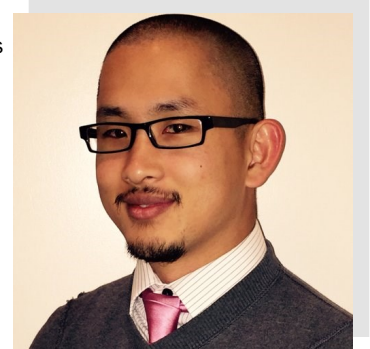
## MASTER'S SPOTLIGHT: JEREMY ELMORE

Jeremy Elmore is a 2015 graduate of the Higher Education Administration master's program. He recently began a position at Duke University as an Assistant Manager for Conference and Event Services. He has been working in this role for almost two months and absolutely loves it! In his spare time, Jeremy also coaches his daughter's 4-year-old and up soccer team, which has been both challenging and exciting, along with volunteering at his church.

Upon entering the program, Jeremy's goals were to gain a wealth of knowledge about higher education and varied experiences that would help shape his philosophy as a student affairs professional. Prior to the program, he served as a Residence Life Coordinator in Tennessee, but desired to return to school to expand his understanding of the field and what it had to offer. Throughout his time at NC State, Jeremy has encountered exceptional cohort mates and great faculty members who have pushed him to examine his worldview and challenged him to reject the status quo. "I truly feel like I have received what I was looking for and much more. It is my hope to one day get the pleasure of serving in a leadership role, advocating for both students and staff in the realm of higher education. I am excited for the opportunity to work alongside my classmates, who I am certain will be able to make huge impacts in our profession!"

While in the program, Jeremy served as HEA's Vice President for Recruitment. A positive experience during his own recruitment weekend inspired him to pursue the role. This past year's Recruitment Weekend saw over 65 candidates travel to Raleigh to learn about what NC State has to offer, an increase of more than 15 candidates from the previous year. In order to accommodate this increase, Jeremy and HEA Vice President for Finance, Laura Jennings, had

to acquire additional funds for the weekend. Through hours of application writing and planning, HEA was able to secure an additional \$1,200 from Student Government



and \$500 from UGSA. Jeremy's HEA and Recruitment Weekend experiences have challenged him to become more flexible in his leadership style. "I am more aware of the way others work best and understand how my leadership style can influence and supplement the strengths and weaknesses of those I am working with. Another lesson that I learned is the need to make sure that every single person's voice is heard. Not only have I learned about how I interact and lead others, but I have also been given the awesome chance to connect with tons of future and current higher education professionals, all of which would not have been possible if I had not been the VP for Recruitment."

Now in his first post-graduate professional position, Jeremy is getting geared up to serve approximately 80 camps and conferences coming to Duke's campus this summer. He looks forward to becoming more involved in professional organizations and to continually giving back to the program as a local alumnus!

# ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Higher Education Faculty and Graduate Student Association of NC State are proud to announce this year's recipients of the Luckadoo Outstanding Dissertation Award and Kathryn M. Moore Academic Leadership Awards.



Dr. Tara Hudson (Ph.D., Educational Research & Policy Analysis '15) was named as the recipient of the 2014-2015 Luckadoo Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation, *Interpersonalizing Cultural Difference: A Grounded Theory of the Process of Interracial Friendship Development and Sustainment among College Students*. Dr.

Hudson's doctoral research used grounded theory to develop a theory of the process by which college students develop and sustain interracial friendships and how the institutional environment shapes this process. Dr. Alyssa Rockenbach, Associate Professor and Dr. Hudson's dissertation chair, says, "What I admire about Tara is her ability to approach educationally significant topics from a new perspective; she asks important questions that have not before been empirically examined and pursues answers in innovative and interdisciplinary ways. Tara's study of interracial friendship development makes a substantial contribution to educational research and moves scholarship forward in new and exciting directions. What makes her work all the more meaningful is her study's relevance given pressing educational and social challenges both nationally and globally."

Joanne G. Woodard, Vice Provost of the Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity (OIED) at NC State, received the 2014-2015 Kathryn M. Moore Academic Leadership Award. Through her role as Vice Provost, Dr. Woodard oversees the planning, implementation and evaluation of diversity initiatives, affirmative action, and federal and state equal opportunity compliance, as well the multicultural centers that serve the University community. Dr. Joy Gaston Gayles, Associate Professor, says, "Dr. Woodard has been a champion for social justice and equity issues in higher education and society. These values are important to us as a program. During her tenure at NC State, Dr. Woodard has worked tirelessly to make our university a better place to learn for everyone. As Vice Provost,

she established the Equal Opportunity Institute, the National Coalition Building Institute Team, and the Building Bridges workshop series to advance equity and social justice on campus. In addition to recognizing Joanne for her outstanding service to NC State, we congratulate and wish her the best as she transitions to her new position as Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of North Texas."



Dr. Larry Moneta, Vice President of Student Affairs at Duke University, was recognized with the 2014-2015 Kathryn M. Moore Academic Leadership Award. Dr. Moneta taught this semester's Organizational Theory course in the HEA program. Through his teaching, graduate



students gained unique insights into connecting theory to practice by learning through his extensive experience as a practitioner. Nathan Thomas, President of HEA and master's student in the Organizational Theory course, says, "Dr. Moneta's connections to some of the nation's most influential leaders in higher education gave our class rare access to the minds of change agents in our field. His dedication to our learning was as clearly evident as his passion for his role as Vice President for Student Affairs." Doctoral student Nicole Guistwite agreed, "I found the opportunity to spend a semester of study with Dr. Moneta invaluable. His shared knowledge and experience combined with his facilitation of class discussion enriched my understanding of organizational theory beyond my expectations. I am grateful for this experience and I know that I will always have Dr. Moneta only a phone call or email away." *-Written by Alicia Keating Polson*

**Need to update your contact information? Fill out your updates here: [go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA](http://go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA)**

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORT FUND

The new College of Education's Higher Education Program Support Fund provides financial support to the Higher Education Association (HEA). The fund supports and encourages HEA's purpose of providing professional, educational, and leadership development opportunities for master's and doctoral students enrolled in the Higher Education Administration program. Among its many purposes, the fund will help HEA continue to host annual events such as Recruitment Weekend,

arrange guest speakers and other professional development opportunities, and provide professional development awards to its members. We encourage you to support HEA through a donation to the Higher Education Program Support Fund.

**To give to the Higher Education Program Support Fund, go to [give.ncsu.edu](http://give.ncsu.edu). Select "I would like to give to a fund not listed here" and enter "Higher Education Support Fund 079098/663922" into the fund name text box.**

## GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS DAY

This March, NC State University hosted students from 16 colleges and universities across North Carolina for its inaugural Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Day. The [Gates Millennium Scholars Program](#), founded in 1999, provides academically qualified students from underrepresented backgrounds with financial support for postsecondary education, leadership and professional development opportunities, and graduate school funding. Scholarships are awarded to seniors in high school and extend throughout recipients' college careers if used at U.S. accredited colleges or universities. More than 17,000 scholars have been funded to date, and the program boasts an 83% five-year undergraduate graduation rate.

NC State's GMS Day was designed to increase awareness of, and preparation for, graduate school programs. Since only 28% of scholars pursue advanced degrees, and even fewer take advantage of GMS funding for graduate education, there is much room for growth and NC State is well positioned to provide resources and support to facilitate graduate student success in GMS-supported fields such as computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, and science.

Callie Womble, a first-year doctoral student in the Higher Education Administration program, is a Gates Millennium Scholar who served on the graduate student panel at NC State's GMS Day. Reflecting on her own educational journey as a scholar, Callie encouraged fellow students to reach out. "As a first generation college student, applying to graduate school was completely new territory for me. Thankfully, my mentors were able to coach me through the process. There are people who want to help you and want you to be successful. Drop by their office, shoot them an email or meet them for lunch,

and ask them questions. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to attend the graduate school of our choice without the stress of student loans. Don't let fear hold you back—embrace this opportunity and take advantage of it!"

Callie was not the only representative from the College of Education (CED) to play an instrumental role in the success of GMS Day. Dr. Demetrius Richmond, Director of Graduate Student Mentoring and Success for CED and Teaching Assistant Professor in our department, hosted a roundtable for Gates scholars to discuss graduate opportunities in the College. Joining him was HEA's very own Dr. Tiffany Davis, Teaching Assistant Professor and Master's Program Coordinator. Excitingly, an incoming doctoral student in Educational Research and Policy Analysis was also in attendance, serving as a unique link between the GMS Program and NC State. Marcus Ware is currently the Campus Engagement Manager for GMS and will join the Higher Education Program this fall.

Professor of Higher Education and Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor, Dr. Audrey Jaeger, was involved in GMS Day as part of a faculty panel and shared insights about navigating the graduate application process. When asked about the significance of being part of such an event on NC State's campus, Jaeger noted, "This program is exceptional; the collaboration between NC State and Gates will have lasting impacts. Less than 30% of Gates scholars go on to graduate school. Given that these scholars represent diverse backgrounds and interests, we have an excellent opportunity to diversify our graduate programs not only at NC State but across the country. Access issues don't stop at the undergraduate level; we need to be intentional about our efforts to open up pathways to graduate school." *-Written by Shauna Morin*

*"As a first generation college student, applying to graduate school was completely new territory for me. Thankfully, my mentors were able to coach me through the process. There are people who want to help you and want you to be successful."*

## SPRING AWARDS AND HONORS SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the Higher Education Program students, alumni, and faculty who were recognized at this year's ACPA and NASPA annual conferences!

### **Kasey Ashton, Ed.D. '14**

WISE Assistant Director, NC State University  
ACPA Marylu McEwen Dissertation of the Year

### **Derek Bundy, M.Ed. '13**

Student Activities Advisor, University of Chicago  
ACPA Commission for Student Involvement –  
Outstanding Service to the Commission

### **Sarah Cantrell Perkins, M.Ed. '11**

Civic Engagement Coordinator, Georgia Tech  
ACPA Annuity Coepris Award – Emerging Professional

### **Nicole Caridad Ralston, M.Ed. '12**

Coordinator of University Success, The University of New Orleans  
NASPA Region III William Leftwich Award for Outstanding New Professional

### **Tara Hudson, Ph.D. '15**

Research Assistant, NC State Higher Education Program  
ACPA Commission for Professional Preparation – Nevitt Sanford Award

### **Jeremy Tuchmayer, Ph.D. candidate**

Associate Director of Assessment, East Carolina University

2nd Place in Educational Division of the 10th Annual NC State Graduate Student Research Symposium

### **Audrey Jaeger, Ph.D.**

Professor, NC State Higher Education Program  
NASPA Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member

### **Alyssa Rockenbach, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, NC State Higher Education Program  
ACPA Commission for Spirituality, Faith, Religion and Meaning – Outstanding Research Award

We are also proud to announce that our Higher Education Program received a NASPA Excellence Award at the 2015 Annual Conference for "NC State's PREP Program: Recruiting Higher Education's Next Generation of Diverse Scholar Leaders." The PREP Program was selected as the **Bronze Award Winner** in the Off-Campus, Commuter, Non-traditional, Graduate, Professional, and Related category.

**Want to share your recent achievements with us? Please complete our annual alumni survey!**

## EBONY HARLEM AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Ebony Harlem Awards of Excellence Celebration is presented annually by the African American Cultural Center in collaboration with the Department of Multicultural Student Affairs. The theme for this year was "The 24th Annual Ebony Harlem Awards of Excellence: The Year of the Adinkrahene." This prestigious program is designed to highlight the achievements of NC State students who exhibit outstanding leadership and commitment and who volunteer their talents to the African American Cultural Center, as well as the NC State community as a whole.

Current master's students Marshall Anthony, Jr., Jamael Harrison, Donté McGuire, and Tosha Williams were honored for their dedication to conducting research at the



master's level on underrepresented student populations studying abroad, and African American male social identity intersectionality at predominately White institutions. They were also recognized for their willingness to reach out to undergraduates in order to increase students of color's confidence in attending graduate school. All four students are in the Higher Education Administration master's program at NC State and plan to continue their research efforts at the doctoral level in order to give voice to the silenced.

Jamael Harrison stated, "Receiving this award made me realize that I have made a difference on this campus. All I want to do is to open the door for others like me." He lives by this quote from Ruby Dee, "We never are but always becoming; therefore, the sky is not the limit, your mind is." All four students credit their faculty, administrators, and staff in the College of Education and are very grateful for this recognition.

## 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: DR. JOSEPH WESCOTT

Dr. Joseph Wescott, College of Education Alumnus (Ed.D., Higher Education '05), was recently named as the recipient of the 2014-2015 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Higher Education Faculty and Graduate Student Association of NC State.

Currently serving as the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Approving Agency, Dr. Wescott is responsible for ensuring quality educational programming is provided for veterans in over 280 institutions of higher education throughout the state. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Dr. Wescott worked in several roles, including director of Planning, Policy, and Evaluation at Brunswick Community College, federal relations analyst/government relations representative at Duke University, and adjunct instructor at various institutions. Dr. Wescott is a veteran, having served on active duty as a combat officer in the US Army. He attended Wake Forest University on a four-year Army ROTC scholarship, graduating with honors. He holds advanced degrees from Wake Forest University and NC State, including the doctorate in Higher Education Administration. Wescott also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Adult and Higher Education at NC State.

Dr. Wescott believes higher education to be a sure path to a better person and brighter future. He was raised on a small tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina and a four-year ROTC scholarship set him on a path to a career he could only have dreamed of prior to that opportunity. Dr. Wescott attributes much of his career and success to fantastic mentors, including Dr. Dallas Herring, Father of the North Carolina Community College System; Dr. Ed Boone, a former Department Chair and distinguished NC State Professor; Dr. Bill Friday, former UNC System President; former Governor Bob Scott; and the Honorable Martin Lancaster, all of whom were strong believers in the value of education and excellent examples of how education impacts us for good.

Dr. Wescott chose to pursue his Ph.D. at NC State because he believed it to be one of the best schools in the nation for those interested in higher education administration and community college leadership. He feels the world-class faculty, as well as NC State's commitment to excellence and innovation in research, ensure that students receive an education that not only grounds them in the latest research and theory, but also prepares them to contribute immediately when they begin their post-graduate careers.



Years ago, as a freshman at Wake Forest University, Dr. Wescott's Reserve Officers Training Corps commander, an Army Colonel, told him that the church, the military, and the university were the three major institutions that throughout history had been most successful in changing people's lives. Now, as the Executive Director of the NC State Approving Agency, Dr. Wescott is grateful for the opportunity to serve those who have so nobly served us by insuring that only quality educational programs, leading to good jobs and better lives, are approved for veterans using the GI Bill. He appreciates the chance to work with America's finest every day.

Dr. Wescott had some words of advice for current HEA graduate students: "First, you are fortunate to be enrolled in one of our nation's finest universities. In fact, I like to refer to NC State, given its historic legacy as a land grant institution, as the 'People's University'. Take advantage of the opportunity to engage your professors and fellow students in seeking answers to the great questions of our time (the role of technology, the future of the humanities, the proper role of higher education in a democracy). Second, seek out mentors you respect and admire and do not hesitate to ask for their advice and counsel as you prepare for the next step in your academic program or career. You will find that most of us welcome the opportunity to give back and help those who share both our experiences at State and our dream of working in and bettering the world of Higher Education." *-Written by Alicia Keating Polson*

We want to hear from our alumni. Update your contact information to stay connected with the HEA program. Fill out our survey with updates:

[go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA](http://go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA)

## MASTER'S ALUMNA REFLECTION: MICHELLE GUOBADIA

Michelle Guobadia attributes many of her accomplishments today to time well spent and the people she met while attending NC State in the Higher Education Administration master's program. While at NC State, she worked in the Department of Greek Life as a graduate assistant, served as an intern with the Women's Center, and worked as a NODA intern during the summer between her first and second year of graduate school. Michelle began her first post-graduate position as the assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life at George Mason University. She spent three years in Fairfax, Virginia and then transitioned back to North Carolina and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNCC) as the director of Fraternity and Sorority Life (where I was lucky enough to meet her).

In her position at UNCC, Michelle serves the community by advising 2,100 hundred students in 38 chapters governed by five Greek councils. Michelle oversees the vision, mission, and budget of the department. In addition to being the director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at UNCC, she is a traveling speaker for CAMPUSPEAK, an agency dedicated to providing workshops and interactive speakers for collegiate communities. Michelle's key topics include hazing prevention and exceptional leadership in a Greek-lettered organization. Even with her busy schedule, Michelle still has time to serve as the state coordinator for undergraduate affairs for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., third vice president of her alumni chapter in Charlotte, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors.

During her 12 years of involvement in student affairs, Michelle has been awarded countless honors for her contributions to the field. In 2010, she was honored as Facilitator of the Year by CAMPUSPEAK, and in 2012 was the recipient of the Rookie Speaker of the Year award. While serving as the director of Fraternity and Sorority life at UNCC, she received the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Award by the Mu Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the 2011 Association of Leadership and Values Steven B. Dealph Outstanding Professional of the Year Award, and the 2012

Outstanding Friend to the Fraternity Award by the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

When speaking about how the NC State experience has influenced her career as a professional, Michelle reflects on her time working with Shelly Brown Dobek, the director of

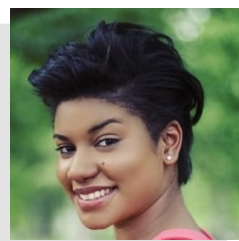


Greek Life at NC State, and her graduate coursework. The combination of holding a graduate assistantship and engaging in foundational coursework truly embodies our program's commitment to integrating theory and practice, and during her time at NC State Michelle would constantly think of new ways she could apply theory to her work. Michelle's two years in the program, along with her Greek Life assistantship, affirmed her passion for fraternity and sorority life. Her work has never felt like a typical job, particularly when she is able to change students' lives on a daily basis.

Now, as a seasoned professional, Michelle suggests that new professionals "make the investment into learning about the students you work with and allow yourself to meet students where they are at. You might think you know what is best for them, but it may take a bit longer to find it for themselves, and that is okay!" Michelle also reflected on how the field needs people to center their passion in student affairs long term for the benefit of students. She shared, "Student development theory will last forever, such that all of your coursework will play an instrumental role in post-graduate positions." I am so lucky to call Michelle a mentor, colleague, and an amazing friend! **-Written by Shane Taylor**

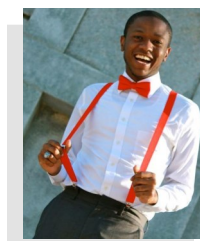
*"Student development theory will last forever, such that all of your coursework will play an instrumental role in post-graduate positions."*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



**Rickita Blackmon**

Kita used her funds to attend the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.



**Marshall Anthony, Jr.**

Marshall used his funds to become a NASPA member and purchase professional reading, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle West Alexander



**Mary Rosage**

Mary applied her funds to membership in two professional organizations: NASPA and NCCPA.

## ACPA 2015 CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT

When facilitating a team building activity for my AmeriCorps\*VISTA team, a former supervisor introduced me to the “Dimensions of Success,” which include results, process, and relationships. Instead of focusing solely on results to define success, this concept considers process and relationships as equally important dimensions – and definitions – of success. I was frequently reminded of this concept during the past year as I served in my first volunteer role with a professional association. My role was the Convention Service Project Coordinator, which is part of ACPA’s Commission for Student Involvement. I’m happy to share that the program and my experience was a great success!

Sponsored by the Commission for Student Involvement, the 2015 ACPA Convention Service Project encompassed the following three components:

1. Direct Service Project (3/5/15; 8 a.m. -12:30 p.m.)
2. Professional Clothing Dress Drive to benefit Dress for Success, Tampa (on-going during Convention)
3. Support for the Standing Committee on LGBTQA’s 5K Race to benefit the Paul Hart Fund (3/6/15)

My main responsibility was the direct service project that took place on Thursday, March 5. Our project engaged 14 participants in two teams of seven volunteers; the teams served with Feeding America Tampa Bay (FATB) and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. Feeding America Tampa Bay services a 10 county area in West Central Florida; volunteers sorted food donations and packed bags of groceries for FATB



clients. Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful is the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful; volunteers participated in a local community clean-up, which was walking distance from the Convention Center. Our two teams packaged 7,109 pounds of food, collected over 200 pounds of trash, and contributed 42 hours of service.



In addition to providing a meaningful opportunity for ACPA members to serve the local community, one of my goals was to offer a corresponding program session to spotlight the challenges and opportunities related to critical reflection and one-day service projects. This follow up session took place on the last day of the convention; half of the session participants had volunteered with the project, so the session was able to serve its dual purpose of continued critical reflection of the Convention Service Project (CSP) and sharing the CSP with those who did not attend.

To anyone considering participation in a professional association, I encourage you to research potential opportunities and then to pick one that you feel will allow you to learn and contribute. If there’s one that is especially exciting, but also makes you a bit nervous, then there’s likely something there to explore. The opportunity to take a position in ACPA and make it my own was incredibly rewarding. As I reflect on the program, I am reminded that my greatest reward was captured by the lessons learned throughout the planning process, the new relationships formed throughout the year, and the results of engaging ACPA members in a meaningful service project. –Written by Sarah Cantrell Perkins

As I reflect on the program, I am reminded that my greatest reward was the lessons learned throughout the planning process, the new relationships formed throughout the year, and the results of engaging ACPA members in a meaningful service project.

*“As I reflect on the program, I am reminded that my greatest reward was the lessons learned throughout the planning process, the new relationships formed throughout the year, and the results of engaging ACPA members in a meaningful service project.”*

## SCHOWCASING OUR STUDENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ **Dr. Tara Hudson** and **Jeremy Tuchmayer**, doctoral candidate, recently published “Enduring Commitments to Community Service among Diverse College Students: Testing a Multidimensional Conceptual Model” with **Dr. Alyssa Rockenbach**.
- ◆ Doctoral student **Alessandra Dinin** presented with **Dr. Audrey Jaeger** at the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, “Postdoc Experiences in STEM: Exploring Agency and Identity.”
- ◆ Master’s student **Ellen Milroy** presented at the North Carolina Association of International Educators. Her program was centered on a workshop designed to help students who have studied abroad reflect on their experience and communicate it to potential employers.
- ◆ Doctoral candidate **Mary Medina** presented “Exploring How to Create a Perpetual Peer Mentoring Program” at the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference.
- ◆ Doctoral student **Callie Womble** presented “Where Are The Brothas: Why Low Black Male College Enrollment Is A Problem, and What We Can Do to Change the Status Quo” at the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference.
- ◆ Doctoral candidate **Ashley Clayton** presented “Postsecondary Opportunities for the Underprepared: Effects of Remediation on Educational and Labor Market Outcomes” at the 40th Annual Conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy with **Dr. Paul Umbach**.
- ◆ **Dr. Tiffany Davis** was a panelist and presenter at the NASPA Undergraduate Conference in New Orleans, hosted at University of New Orleans. **Tonia Salas** and **Nicole Ralston**, alumni of the master’s program, served as panelists and presenters as well.

## KEEPING TRACK OF THE PACK

Jenny Sloop Johnson (2007 master's alumna) received the Capers and Marion McDonald Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Advising from the School of Engineering at Duke University. This nomination-based award, available to faculty and staff, honors all members of the engineering community, who, over the years, through excellence in mentoring and advising, have nurtured and guided students and colleagues, thereby helping build a better future. Jenny is the associate director of Career Services for the Engineering master's programs in the School of Engineering at Duke University.



We want to hear from our alumni! Please update us with your good news, job changes, or important events through this form: [go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA](http://go.ncsu.edu/AlumniSurveyHEA)

Carrie Hanayik Hawes (2006 master's alumna) and her husband, Barry, welcomed future Wolfpack member Maxwell Alexander on January 3, 2015. They are already teaching him the fight song and "Wolfpack" fingers.



On March 20, Aaron Hood (2011 master's alumnus) married Laura McGrath in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area and celebrated with Ashley Staples (2011 master's alumna) who introduced the couple and officiated the ceremony. Jill Zalewski (2012 master's alumna) and Sarah Cantrell Perkins (2011 master's alumna) attended the services.



Tristan & Rachel White (2009 master's alumni) welcomed Nora Aileen to the world on January 30th. She weighed 7.5 pounds and measured 21 inches long. Nora was born in Doha, Qatar and looks forward to visiting North Carolina for the first time this summer.



We remember fondly the life of John "Trae" Brookins who passed away on January 4, 2015. Trae was a Ph.D. student in higher education.





Welcome to our 2015-2016  
Executive Board!

Park Watson  
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Lizzy Heurich  
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Jamael Harrison  
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Natalie Rollan  
Newsletter Editor  
nmrollan@ncsu.edu



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION DEGREES

Marcus Collins, Higher Education  
Administration  
Dissertation: *Navigating the Academy:  
Lumbee Indian Students and Higher  
Education. (Under the direction of  
Audrey Jaeger.)*

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Racheal Marie Brooks, Educational  
Research and Policy Analysis  
Dissertation: *Tres Dimensiones de  
Aprendizaje: Language Learning  
Beliefs of Successful Spanish-  
language Learners at an HBCU. (Under  
the direction of Joy Gayles.)*

Tara Dawn Hudson, Educational  
Research and Policy Analysis  
Dissertation: *Personalizing  
Interculturalism: A Grounded Theory of  
the Process of Interracial Friendship  
Development and Sustainment among  
College Students. (Under the direction  
of Alyssa Rockenbach.)*

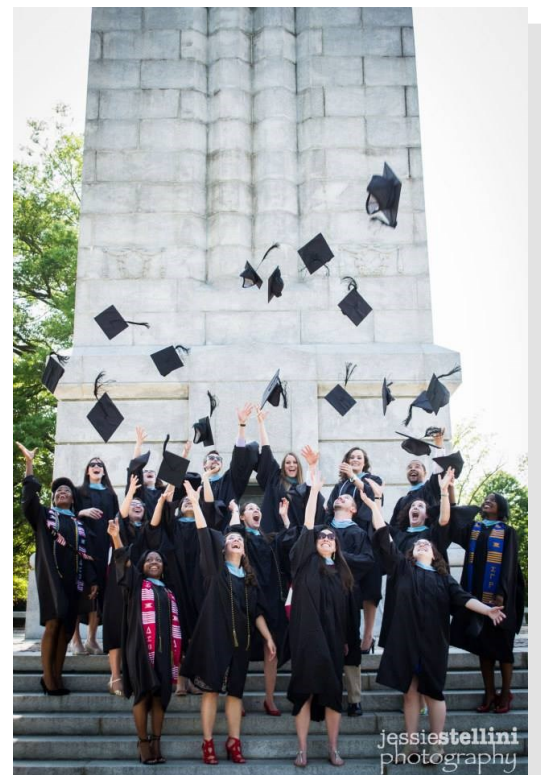
Deirdre Maureen O'Malley, Educational  
Research and Policy Analysis  
Dissertation: *Internationalization of  
Higher Education: A Case Study of  
Trinity College Dublin. (Under the  
direction of Alyssa Rockenbach.)*

Christine Ann Pesetski, Educational  
Research and Policy Analysis  
Dissertation: *An Exploratory Case  
Study of Undergraduate Students in  
Recovery: An Application of Recovery  
Capital during Reentry. (Under the  
direction of Alyssa Rockenbach.)*

Photo credits to Jessie Stellini and Jessie Stellini  
Photography, Sarah Cantrell Perkins, Michelle Guobadia,  
and Tiffany Davis. Have HEA photos to share? Email  
them to VP for Communications, Jamael Harrison, at  
jaharri7@ncsu.edu.

### HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION— MASTER'S DEGREES

Matthew E. Bailey  
Sara Starkey Calvert  
Caroline Ann Caudle  
Nicole Marie Ditillo  
Jeremy David Elmore  
Tyris L. Gillis  
Laura Fitzgerald Jennings  
Clifford R. Jones, Jr.  
Katie Michelle Lewis  
Rachael Elizabeth Lubbers  
Teon Donté McGuire  
Sarah Jean Pickel  
Katherine Ratterree  
Detric E. Robinson  
Natalie Michelle Rollan  
Maria Rosage  
William Anderson Russell  
Erica Sauls  
Lauren Padgett Sutherland  
Bradley Gray Taylor  
Nathan Alden Thomas  
Lydia O. Tolar  
Catherine A. Trimble  
Allison Christina van den Berg  
Katelyn Diana Weilbrenner



jessiestellini  
photography