



# HEA SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT


Dear NC State Higher Education Program students, faculty, staff, alumni & friends:

The past two years have flown by, and as my time at NC State comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Higher Education Program and the Higher Education Association (HEA). Alumni are the reason our program continues to grow and receive national attention as a leader in the field. I am sure all of the graduates this semester would agree, the program has prepared us to address the grand challenges of our field through collaboration, research, and reflection. As we prepare to graduate, we look forward to joining you as committed supporters of the program.

HEA's spring semester was packed with events, but I would like to extend my gratitude to the Recruitment Weekend team. With the leadership of Rickita Blackmon and Marissa Disla, the Recruitment Weekend team successfully planned another tremendous 3-day event for candidates. This year's theme was "Run with the Pack" and continued to focus on sharing the core values of the program: advancing theoretical and empirical knowledge, engaging in effective educational practice, and advocating for social justice in higher education and society.

The Executive Board also planned a variety of new events this spring. Erica Moore and the Professional Development Committee hosted the 1st TPE Week. This initiative emphasized the preparation of students for their varying professional aspirations. Events included a Conference Tips workshop, resume review, and etiquette lunch. The Professional Development team also continued to host "unPACKing with a Pro" sessions in collaboration with the college's Graduate Student Advisory Board. Through this program, students had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the field of higher education including Dr. Mike Mullen, Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at NC State.

It has been an honor this year serving as the President of the Higher Education Association. I am grateful for the HEA Executive Board, without them what we accomplished this year would not have been possible. I look forward to hearing about the incoming board's successes next year!

With Wolfpack Pride, 

Park Watson, President HEA, Class of 2016

## DR. MARY ANN DANOWITZ NAMED DEAN



Congratulations to Dr. Mary Ann Danowitz who was recently named dean of the College of Education at NC State! Prior to becoming dean, Dr. Danowitz served as head of the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development (ELPHD) and Professor of Higher Education. In her time since she joined NC State in 2012, she has taken significant steps to strengthen ELPHD and has spearheaded the reorganization of the college's Ph.D. programs.

When asked what it meant to her to be named dean, Dr. Danowitz shared, "I am honored to have been named the sixth dean of the College of Education. The college has a great legacy of exceptional, groundbreaking leadership and outstanding contributions to the state and the nation over our 89-year history. Serving as a leader to our students, faculty and staff means being entrusted with their well-being, earning their trust and providing a clear vision to ensure that we realize our full potential to improve education for all."

Dr. Danowitz's research focuses on gender, diversity and equity in the areas of leadership, governance, management, organizational change and careers, particularly regarding the higher education sector in the U.S. and Europe. She has published more than 110 articles, book chapters and academic papers, as well as five books and monographs.

Dr. Danowitz received her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Penn State, a master's in education with a concentration in student personnel services from the University of Miami, and her doctorate of education in higher education

with a concentration in public administration from Penn State. Prior to joining the NC State faculty, she was an Austrian Science Fund research fellow, and served as the director of the higher education program at the University of Denver. She has taught and conducted research in Australia, England, Germany, Hungary and Malaysia. She was also a Fulbright Scholar in Austria and Indonesia and a fellow with the Salzburg Seminar in Austria and Russia.

The College of Education is comprised of more than 150 full- and part-time faculty, 100 staff members, and 1,000 graduate and 550 undergraduate students. This year, U.S. News & World Report recognized the College of Education with a No. 51 ranking for its graduate programs and a No. 14 ranking for its Higher Education Program. In her role as dean, Dr. Danowitz will play an integral role in the College of Education's effort to shape North Carolina's educational future. "NC State has emerged as a clear leader in educational research, teacher preparation and professional development, which aligns with our mission as a major land-grant university to serve the citizens of North Carolina," Dr. Danowitz said. "I look forward to working with the College of Education, our students and my colleagues across the university to solve the state's most pressing educational issues through innovation."

This article was adapted from a [NC State press release](#) written by Mick Kulikowski and a [NC State spotlight](#) about Dr. Danowitz written by Emily Packard.

*"I am honored to have been named the sixth dean of the College of Education. The college has a great legacy of exceptional, groundbreaking leadership and outstanding contributions to the state and the nation over our 89-year history."*

*~Dr. Mary Ann Danowitz*

## ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARDS

The faculty of the Higher Education Program are proud to announce this year's recipients of the Luckadoo Outstanding Dissertation Award, Distinguished Alumni Award, and Kathryn M. Moore Academic Leadership Award.



Dr. Ashley Clayton (Ph.D., Educational Research & Policy Analysis '16) was named as the recipient of the 2015-2016 Luckadoo Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation, *Assisting Students in the College Choice Process: Three Essays on the Role and Effectiveness of College Advising Professionals in Public High Schools* written under the direction of Dr. Paul Umbach. Dr. Clayton's first essay employed qualitative methods to explore the role and advising strategies of college advising professionals through the use of an exemplary multiple case study design. The second essay examined the effect of having a college advisor in a high school on academic preparation and SAT test-taking using a difference-in-differences research design. The third essay examined the effect of having a college counselor in a public high school on three primary college access outcomes: college applications, FAFSA completion, and postsecondary enrollment using inverse probability weighting (a type of propensity score method) combined with multilevel modeling. Dr. Joy Gayles served on Dr. Clayton's dissertation committee and says, "Ashley Clayton is a gem! She entered the program with no prior quantitative experience and learned by immersing herself into the learning environment at NC State. Ashley is very passionate about college access and the quality of her dissertation is a testament to her commitment to improving access to college for underserved students. It has been such a pleasure getting to know her inside and outside of the classroom. Her future is bright and I look forward to seeing all the places she will go!"

Dr. Kevin Eagan, NC State Alumnus (M.Ed., Higher Education Administration '06), was recently awarded the 2015-2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, which marks the first time a

graduate of the master's program has been recognized with this award. Dr. Audrey Jaeger says, "Kevin was a leader in his master's cohort and that hasn't changed. As a relatively new faculty he was directing one of the largest higher education survey units in the country. His leadership, strong scholarship, and commitment to underserved populations are just the beginning of why he is such a highly respected colleague. We are proud of his accomplishments and glad he will always be part of the Pack!"



Dr. Eagan currently serves as Assistant Professor in Residence at UCLA and Director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), the longest-running and largest empirical study of higher education in the country. Dr. Eagan also serves as the Managing Director of the Higher Education Research Institute at

UCLA (HERI), where the CIRP surveys are administered. Dr. Eagan earned his master's degree from NC State in 2006 and then went on to earn another master's degree and his doctorate in Higher Education and Organizational Change from UCLA. One of his colleagues at UCLA, Dr. Linda Sax says, "We at UCLA are thrilled to hear of Kevin's selection for this award. He is a highly valued and respected colleague, not just for his significant contributions to the research community and stewardship of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program, but for his tremendous collegiality and tireless commitment to his students."



Dr. Sue Wasiolek, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students at Duke University, was recognized with the 2015-2016 Kathryn M. Moore Academic Leadership Award. "Dean Sue" as she is affectionately known,

regularly teaches the Law and Higher Education course at NC State. The students within the Higher Education Program have been able to benefit from Dean Sue's extensive knowledge of the law, as well as her tremendous professional experience through her work as an upper-level administrator. Park Watson, President of HEA and master's student in the Law and Higher Education course says, "Dean Sue is by far the most dedicated person I have ever met. She is an inspiring role model for current and future higher education professionals, and I am appreciative for being able to have taken her course."

*"Dean Sue is by far the most dedicated person I have ever met. She is an inspiring role model for current and future higher education professionals, and I am appreciative for being able to have taken her course."*

*~Park Watson  
2nd Year Master's  
Student*



## DOCTORAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MATT STARCKE

BY SHANE TAYLOR, 2ND YEAR MASTER'S STUDENT



Matt Starcke is a third year doctoral student in the Higher Education Program. He aims to finish his dissertation next year while also working on additional research projects with program faculty and fellow students. In his dissertation, Matt is exploring religious conversion in college.

Specifically, he is interested in examining the experiences, environments, and characteristics which may be associated with the choice to convert. Matt has worked on numerous research projects during his time at NC State, including a study about racism in college student discipline with Dr. Steve Porter and a study about college football playoffs and athletes' grades with Dr. Becky Crandall, '16. Matt serves as a Researcher for the Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS) co-led by Dr. Alyssa Rockenbach.

IDEALS seeks to better understand students' experiences related to worldview development in college and includes more than 120 institutions nationally. Matt's primary responsibility through IDEALS is to work with all survey data collected, which involves cleaning the individual school data sets, managing the national data set, and generating reports that can be sent to all participating schools. During his time at NC State, Matt has truly enjoyed both the faculty and students in the program as well as the many opportunities to learn from both. He has enjoyed the freedom and encouragement to explore areas of research interest while in the Higher Education Program. He believes his current research could impact the field by providing new insights to particular student populations, and perhaps doing so in quantitatively sophisticated ways as well.

The notion of developing a research question and pursuing an answer to that question is a fascinating process, and one that really energizes Matt to continue the work he is doing. After graduation, his goal is to become a faculty member in a higher education program. Matt credits his many experiences at NC State as helping him to truly feel prepared to take on a faculty position in the coming years.

*During his time at NC State, Matt has truly enjoyed both the faculty and students in the program as well as the many opportunities to learn from both.*

## FUTURE DOCTORAL SPOTLIGHT: ASHLEY MCMILLAN

BY SHANE TAYLOR, 2ND YEAR MASTER'S STUDENT

We are so excited to be welcoming Ashley McMillan to the Wolfpack family as a new doctoral student in the Higher Education Program. Ashley currently works as the Assistant Director of Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work.



Ashley was drawn to NC State's Higher Education Program because of its strong emphasis on social justice. As someone passionate about educational equity, Ashley thought it was important that she join a program that recognizes the basic concepts of human rights and equality as it relates to education. In addition, meeting the faculty and students at Recruitment Weekend solidified that the Higher Education Program was the best fit for her. She found the faculty were genuinely excited about the program and truly felt that the program would cultivate her learning interests and help her grow as a scholar.

One aspect of reentering the classroom that excites Ashley is the challenge of immersing herself in research and dialogue about some of the most pressing issues facing higher education, while also learning from her new cohort and the dynamic faculty at NC State.

Ashley will be serving as a graduate assistant with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Ashley's research interests center on the experiences of American Indian students in higher education. She explains, "Often colleges and universities do a good job of recruiting students from American Indian communities into their programs, but once the students are enrolled, they are left without much support and have difficulty during their time as a student." Ashley wants to examine the factors that affect the retention of American Indian students and how those factors differ among Tribal Colleges and Predominately White Institutions.

*One aspect of reentering the classroom that excites Ashley is the challenge of immersing herself in research and dialogue about some of the most pressing issues facing higher education.*

## MASTER'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BRANDON CARTER

BY SHANE TAYLOR, 2ND YEAR STUDENT MASTER'S STUDENT

*Brandon's fondest memories derive from anytime spent around his fellow cohort members, whether in an academic, professional, or informal setting. He felt that classroom discussions with classmates challenged him to think critically.*

Brandon Carter is a 2016 master's graduate of the Higher Education Program. In August, Brandon will begin as the Associate Director of College Counseling at Cary Academy, a nationally-recognized independent school with exceptional students and forward-thinking staff. Brandon chose to work with Cary Academy due to his interests in counseling students in the "tweener" stage -- the transition area between high school and college. He has worked on both sides of this transition, both in admissions and college advising, but Brandon views his time advising in the high school as his favorite and is looking forward to that experience once again. In his new role at the Cary Academy, Brandon seeks to continue empowering students to take ownership of their cognitive, social, and professional development, a philosophy learned while in the College Advising Corps. As advisers, Brandon feels, "we cannot want something for a student more than they do, but we can guide them in a way that encourages growth and helps them realize their potential."



areas in higher education." Brandon feels his classes in the Higher Education Program shaped his career aspirations by providing the tools and confidence to pursue any functional area in higher education, as well as showed him that anyone can make a difference in the lives of students in any capacity.

One of Brandon's proudest moments in the program was when he presented at the 3rd Annual Scholar-Practitioner Symposium this spring. The inspiration for his presentation came from the time he spent

in Dr. Paul Umbach's Finance in Higher Education course. In that course, he worked on a literature review with his fellow classmate Luke Mitchell about the costs and benefits of maintaining a Division I-A college football program. For their symposium presentation, Brandon and Luke condensed the 40-page literature review in order to abide by the Pecha Kecha presentation style (20 seconds per slide, 20 slides). Together, they practiced their presentation for two hours and executed successfully at the event. Brandon had previous experience with the Pecha Kecha presentation style in Dr. Tiffany Davis' Administration and Finance of Student Affairs course, which assisted him in feeling even more confident presenting this style in front of current Student Affairs professionals at NC State.

Brandon expressed that he will truly miss his time at NC State, especially his cohort. He prides himself in surrounding himself with good people doing good things and can't begin to express what a positive and life-changing impact they've had on his time in graduate school. From the words of Brandon Carter "Go forth and prosper, HEA Class of 2016!"

When reflecting back on his time at NC State, Brandon's fondest memories derive from anytime spent around his fellow cohort members, whether in an academic, professional, or informal setting. He felt that classroom discussions with classmates challenged him to think critically. His cohort truly signified true professionalism and he feels that his fellow cohort members served as excellent role models on each of the campuses where they worked. In addition, when his cohort needed to wind down and enjoy themselves, the cohort never failed to entertain. Brandon said, "They are truly the best, and all of them will certainly do great things within their respective

## 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 Program. Among its many opportunities and initiatives, the fund will help HEA continue to host annual events such as the new and returning student BBQ, Recruitment

Weekend, Scholar-Practitioner Symposium, guest speakers, professional development opportunities, and professional development awards for its members. We encourage you to support HEA through a donation to the Higher Education Program Support Fund. To give, go to [give.ncsu.edu](http://give.ncsu.edu). Select "I would like to give to a different area" and enter "Higher Education Support Fund (079098) into the fund name text box. Enter the amount, click "Give Now" and then click "Next". Follow the remaining instruction through completion.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: NICOLE CARIDAD RALSTON

BY SHANE TAYLOR, 2ND YEAR MASTER'S STUDENT



Nicole Caridad Ralston is a 2012 graduate of the Higher Education Master's Program who is having quite an impact on the field of higher education and student affairs. Nicole was recently awarded

the William Leftwich Award for Outstanding New Professional in NASPA Region III, which is a prestigious award recognizing the valuable contributions Nicole is making as a new professional to the field.

Nicole received the Leftwich Award during her time working at The University of New Orleans (UNO) in First Year Experience (FYE), which was her first position out of graduate school. Nicole worked at UNO for almost three years and learned so much in those first three years. She had the wonderful and unique opportunity to build the FYE unit with other new professionals at UNO. Her advice to new professionals is to take risks, partake in opportunities that come your way, and seek opportunities to earn the experiences you want to gain (even if they are not directly written into your job description). She also advises that you must take care of yourself and serve as your own best advocate, even though this can be difficult for some new professionals. Nicole feels she personally struggled with this as a multiracial Latina woman, but Nicole explains, "if you don't advocate for yourself, no one will know that you need something!" Her supervisor, Christy Heaton, was the one who nominated her for the Leftwich Award and Nicole is so thankful that NASPA honored her with this award. Nicole has since moved on from UNO and currently serves as the Program Manager for the Student Leadership & Community Service Program in Tulane University's Center for Public Service.

During her time at NC State, Nicole served as president of the Higher Education Association (HEA) and really enjoyed creating experiences and supporting her fellow graduate students. She also had the opportunity to attend and present at several conferences via her assistantship with New Student Orientation. During her time as a master's student, Nicole enjoyed the various opportunities to gain experience on campus and at nearby institutions such as working with CSLEPS at NC State, living with a Greek organization, interning at Wake

Technical Community College, and also volunteering at Duke University through their Greek Life retreats.

Based on these tremendous experiences and the Higher Education Program's emphasis in theory to practice, she feels that NC State has positively affected her career aspirations. Nicole says the professional development plan she developed in the Master's Capstone course continues to guide her professional decisions to this day, in many ways. She has become involved in NASPA and serves on a few Knowledge Community leadership teams. She has moved up and onto another position, entered a doctoral program part-time, and remained connected to her NC State cohort-mates.

We asked Nicole to provide some advice to master's students graduating this spring, and she shared, "Realize that you will be entering a field that is highly political. Campuses have a lot of structure, and with this structure comes bureaucracy, red-tape, networks, etc. These obstacles can be daunting in your first year, but try to think of it like a honing a new skill. Learning how to navigate people and processes can be exhausting, but it is also a great skill to have and everyone else is having to do it, so know that you are not alone. Also, find your people. Find the people who 'get you', the people who love you unconditionally, those who support and defend you, and who challenge you to stay in it even when you're exhausted. These can be people inside or outside the field of higher education and student affairs - and yes, family and partners count and are important to keep close to you!"

When working with students now, Nicole looks to provide spaces for them to be themselves. She believes that college is such a formative time because students are exploring and learning about who they are and how they are going to be in the "real" world. In particular, this space is important for her students who hold marginalized and targeted identities. As a multiracial Latina woman she is aware that not all spaces allow for her to be her authentic self, so she continues to strive to create spaces for students to be their whole, full selves.

The students and faculty of the Higher Education Program are so proud of your work Nicole and we look forward to hearing more about your accomplishments in the future!

*"Realize that you will be entering a field that is highly political. Campuses have a lot of structure, and with this structure comes bureaucracy, red-tape, networks, etc. These obstacles can be daunting in your first year, but try to think of it like a honing a new skill."*

*~Nicole Caridad Ralston '12*



## Master's Graduates Continue Their Studies in Doctoral Programs

BY SHANE TAYLOR, 2ND YEAR MASTER'S STUDENT

Four graduates of the Higher Education Master's Program at NC State are continuing their work as scholar leaders by matriculating directly into higher education doctoral programs this coming fall.



Dawn Culpepper is headed to the University of Maryland - College Park for her Ph.D. in the fall. She chose Maryland because of the opportunities to work with faculty members who have strong interests in enhancing diversity and equity outcomes across constituent groups in higher education, as well as the array of professional opportunities in policy in Washington, DC. Dawn's research interests lie in diversity and equity as related to policy and practice, with particular focus on enhancing gender equity. She is particularly interested in utilizing feminist inquiry within higher education as a means for better understanding institutional policies and culture. Thinking back on her experience at NC State, Dawn reflected, "I've been fortunate to gain varied research experiences at NC State, through both the NC State Women's Center and with faculty in the Higher Education Program. The opportunities to be involved in designing studies, conducting interviews, and analyzing data have all prepared me to contribute to higher education as a researcher in the future."

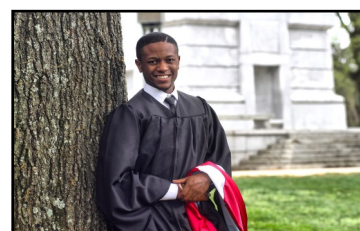


Latosha Williams will be attending Indiana University this fall to obtain her Ph.D. in Higher Education. While researching various doctoral programs, Latosha felt that Indiana University was a perfect match for her due to the superb faculty and culture of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies department, as well as the program's prestige around the nation. Some of Latosha's research interests include, institution types and institutional effectiveness/assessment; higher education policy in regard to HBCUs, MSIs, and college access; underrepresented populations and their academic and social integration into the college environment; student engagement and involvement in high-impact practices (i.e., study abroad); experiences of black women undergraduates/grad students; and graduate student socialization. When Latosha begins at Indiana University the fall, her assistantship will be at the Center for Postsecondary Research (CPR) as a Project Associate for the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Thanks to NC State, Latosha has been able to learn more about herself, the level of work required in graduate programs, and the importance of safe/bias-free learning environments,

program culture/climate preferences and fit, shared values in diversity and mentoring, and realistic expectations of support at Research I institutions.



Jamaal Harrison will be attending Florida State University. He will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education with a focus in Public Policy. He will also be working as a Qualitative Research Assistant in the Center for Postsecondary Success. Jamaal's interest in the doctoral program at Florida State derives from his desire to learn how public policy can impact an institution's culture and how to design policy to assure individuals have equal opportunities on all campuses. His research interests include African American male social identity development, bridging secondary and higher education, and experiences of transgender students. During his time at NC State, Jamaal feels that the University shaped his future interests in the Ph.D. program by helping him gain a firm grasp on student affairs work including intersectionality and cultural competence.



Marshall Anthony, Jr. will also be pursuing his Ph.D. in Higher Education at Florida State University. Marshall feels that Florida State is a perfect fit for him due to the program having a strong national ranking, extensive history, and impact in the field of higher education, as well as faculty with a wealth of knowledge who are engaged in transformative research. In addition, Marshall noted that living in the Sunshine State for a few years also helped sway his opinion when choosing the program. Marshall has several research interests, including the intersection of race and leadership, Black male student success, student activism, and organizational governance. When he begins at Florida State in the fall, Marshall will be serving as a Teaching and Research Assistant with the new Leadership Learning Research Center affiliated with the Center for Leadership and Social Change. Reflecting on his six years NC State, through both and undergraduate and graduate degrees, Marshall believes the University has provided him with tools to be confident in his scholarship, to be resilient in overcoming any and all obstacles, to have a strong work ethic, and to be a culturally engaged servant leader.

*Four graduates of the Higher Education Master's Program at NC State are continuing their work as scholar leaders by matriculating directly into higher education doctoral programs this coming fall.*

## SPRING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Congratulations to the Higher Education Program students and faculty who presented this spring at a wide variety of regional and national conferences across the country! This list is based on presentations submitted for inclusion by presenters, so is therefore not a comprehensive list.

### American College Personnel Association (ACPA)

Becky Crandall: The Spiritual Lives Of Student-Athletes: New Considerations for Fostering Student-Athlete Well-Being

Becky Crandall, Shauna Morin, Matt Starcke, & J.T. Snipes: The Interfaith Perspectives of First-Year Students: A Real-Time Snapshot

Becky Crandall, Cindy Ann Kilgo, & Nick Bowman: New Considerations for Fostering Student-Athlete Academic & Psychological Well-Being

### American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Alessandra Dinin, Audrey Jaeger & Dawn Culpepper: The Best of Both Worlds: A Women's College and Research Institutions' Engineering Dual-Degree Program

Ariel Cochrane-Brown: The Effect of High School Math Teacher Characteristics and Expectations on the Selection of a STEM Major in College

Becky Crandall: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Experiences of NCAA Student-Athletes in Athlete-Specific Christian Campus Ministries

Janice Sitzes: Enabling Persistence of Veteran Students at North Carolina Community Colleges through Institutional Support Programs and Policies

Joy Gayles, Becky Crandall, & Shauna Morin: Fostering Student-Athletes' Sense of Belonging: An Examination of Background Characteristics, Student Involvement, and Campus Climate

### Annual Council for the Study of Community Colleges Conference

Janice Sitzes: The Impact of Institutional Support Programs and Policies on Veteran Students' Persistence at North Carolina Community Colleges

### Annual Conference on The First Year Experience

Callie C. Womble & LeNelle Patrick: Academic Coaching: Using Strengths and Purpose to Magnify Student Success

### Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)

Mary Medina & Chelsea Doub: Navigating the Impostor Syndrome: New Professional to Ph.D.

### Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Rebekah Dunstan & Jillian Buckholz (CSU- East Bay), Nina Morris (UVA): Partnering for an Equitable, Sustainable School: 3 approaches for building partnerships that connect sustainability and diversity

Rebekah Dunstan, Cara K. Uy (Santa Clara), Hannah Slodounik (WFU), & Sam Crowl (Ohio University): Activating Change Agents Across Campus

Rebekah Dunstan, Ben Champion (University of Arizona), & Liz Swiman (FSU): The Crossroads of Sustainability

### National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE)

Callie C. Womble: Counterstories of Race, Intersectionality, and Resilience in STEM Education

Callie C. Womble, Marshall Anthony, Latosha Williams, Jamaal Harrison, & Ariel Cochrane-Brown: Black isn't "one size fits all": Theoretical and Practical Perspectives on Supporting Black Graduate Students Transitioning into the Doctorate

Ariel Cochrane-Brown & Erica Wallace: Counter Narratives & Self-Definition: The Holistic Development of Black Women in Higher Education

Jamaal A. Harrison: Helping Transgender Students Persist in Hostile Learning Environments

### National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)

Dominique Foster: Branding YOU for Graduate School

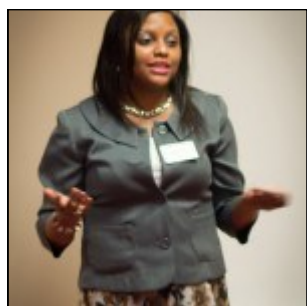
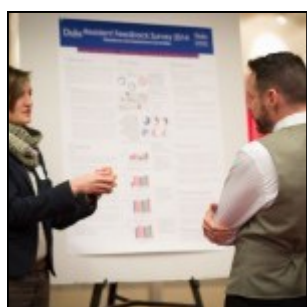
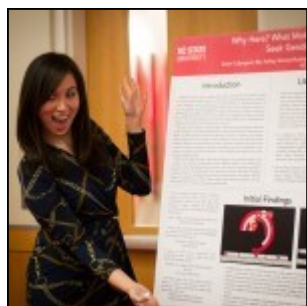
### Southeastern Association of Housing Officers (SEAHO)

Qwen Ballard, Curtis Jackson & Tyris Gillis: "Making an Impact on the Experiences of African American Males students in the Residence Hall."

Yulisa Lin, Veronica Cooley-Perry, Lisa Miles, Chester Miller, & Andy Petters: Leading the Pack: Creating an Online RA Selection Process

### University Professional and Continuing Education Association Conference (UPCEA)

Janice Sitzes: Research Roundtable: Enabling Persistence of Veteran Students through Institutional Support Programs and Policies





## ANNUAL SCHOLAR-PRACTITIONER SYMPOSIUM



For the third year, graduate students came together in the College of Education to plan and host the Annual Scholar-Practitioner Symposium. The Scholar-Practitioner Symposium is a professional development initiative providing faculty, graduate students, and full-time professionals with an opportunity to present their education-related research to their peers. Presentation format options

include traditional research posters and Pecha Kucha-style presentations, which require presenters to capture and communicate their scholarly research in a 20 seconds-per-slide, 20-slide presentation. Over the past three years, the symposium has grown significantly and that is a

testament to the value our graduate students and professional staff in the triangle region place on blending research and practice in our work.

The symposium has doubled in size since its inception in 2014. This year there were 25 presenters and over 120 attendees from more than ten area universities. The symposium serves as a great opportunity for graduate students and area professionals to present on research they have conducted, or even present on research that is in the proposal stage. The symposium can be a great mechanism for participants to gain feedback on their research projects.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote presentation by Dr. Stephen C. Scott who is the

North Carolina's 58 community colleges and has repeatedly been ranked as one of the fastest growing community colleges in the country. During his symposium keynote, Dr. Scott discussed his experience as president, including problem-solving, continuous improvement, and the power of research, evaluation, and assessment informing practice.



This year, the symposium was graciously sponsored by so many, including NC State's Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development in the College of Education; NC State's Division of Academic and Student Affairs; Duke University Student Affairs; The

William & Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation; Higher Education Association (HEA); Adult, Workforce, and Continuing Professional Education Graduate Student Association (AWCPE GSA), the National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness (NILIE) and Dr. Dave Frye.

Lastly, special recognition should be given to the students who collaborated for eight months to plan and implement the symposium. The event's success is a mark of the dedication and energy of this team. Thanks to Lauren Pellegrino, Heidi McCann, Drew Tonissen, Chelsea Doub, Nicole Ditillo, Regina Gavin Williams, Chelsea Hayes, John Miller IV, and Alicia Keating Polson for their work!

*The symposium has doubled in size since its inception in 2014. This year there were 25 presenters and over 120 attendees from more than ten area universities.*

## HEA 2015-2016 Executive Board

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## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE

Andrea Darlene Felder  
Dissertation: *Factors that Contribute to Transfer and Degree Attainment of Low-income Community College Beginners.* (Under the direction of Alyssa Rockenbach.)

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Ashley Brooke Clayton  
Dissertation: *Assisting Students in the College Choice Process: Three Essays on the Role and Effectiveness of College Advising Professionals in Public High Schools.* (Under the direction of Paul Umbach.)

Rebecca Elaine Crandall  
Dissertation: *Cool, Calm, and Competitive: An Exploration of Student-Athlete Equanimity and its Role in Academic and Psychological Well-Being.* (Under the direction of Alyssa Rockenbach and Joy Gayles.)

Ashley Erin Grantham  
Dissertation: *Exploring Campus Response to State Mandated Change: A Case Study of the Implementation of Legislation Allowing Guns on Campus.* (Under the direction of Audrey Jaeger.)

Mary Christine Medina  
Dissertation: *Determining the Impact of a Summer Bridge Program on Academic Success for First-Year College Students.* (Under the direction of Stephen Porter.)

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Kathryn Brooke Ashley Shurer  
Dissertation: *Expectations and Experiences of U.S. Semester Study Abroad Students in British Universities: A Longitudinal Phenomenology.* (Under the direction of Audrey Jaeger.)

Kyle William Verbosh  
Dissertation: *Examining the Disciplinary Level Relationship between the Research Context of Academic Work and the Utilization of Student-Centered Pedagogy at Research Universities.* (Under the direction of Paul Umbach.)

### MASTER'S DEGREES

Marshall Cedric Anthony Jr.  
Rickita Faye Blackmon  
Madison Gene Breen  
Brandon Jamal Carter  
Dawn Kiyoe Culpepper  
Jamaal Andrew Harrison  
Mark Andrew Hatcher  
Elizabeth Irene Heurich  
Hannah Elizabeth Jaegers  
Ellen Joyce Milroy  
David Luke Mitchell  
Benoit Dominique Sabourin  
Shane Ulysses Taylor  
Victoria M. Thompson  
Robert Park Watson  
Latosha Marie Williams

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

BY JAMAAL A. HARRISON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The purpose of this newsletter is to help keep the connection strong between past and present members of the Wolfpack who are in the field of higher education. I want to give special thanks to all who wrote for this Spring 2016 edition of the HEA newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed being the 2015-16 Editor-in-Chief for the HEA newsletter. It was truly a pleasure and I would not trade it for anything! Congratulations to the newly

elected Editor-in-Chief for the 2016-17 school year Kyle Levine. I know you will do great things and will continue to uphold the prestige and notability of this newsletter.

Furthermore, this edition could not have been possible without the help and guidance of Dr. Audrey Jaeger (advisor) and the contributors. Thank you all. I want to give a special shout out to Alicia Keating Polson (Doctoral Liaison) and Shane Taylor, my main partners in putting this newsletter together. I could not have done it without you! If you are interested in contributing to the Fall 2016 edition of the newsletter please email: [studentorghea@ncsu.edu](mailto:studentorghea@ncsu.edu).

Go Wolfpack!



Jamaal A. Harrison, Class of 2016