

HEP Newsletter Spring 2018

Higher Education Program
George Mason University
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Welcome from the Director

As the director of the Higher Education I wish to welcome you to George Mason University. The word “welcome” is a Middle English word that means to express pleasure at a person’s coming. Indeed, we are pleased that you are a part of our learning community. What binds us together, what we have in common, is our passion for higher education. Our intent is that students will become socialized members of a community of higher education professionals where they will contribute to and lead scholarly conversations by consuming, critiquing, and creating scholarship. We intend that students will understand and employ effective pedagogical approaches, value assessment and understand its role, and be skilled in enacting processes of analysis. In my view, most importantly, students will reflect on themselves as cultural beings, analyze the ways in which culture influences their work in higher education, value diversity, and meet multicultural competencies. My wish for you is that as you engage in this program through considerable effort you reflect on these intentions and see them come to fruition.

Student and Alumni News

Matt Boyce will present “How College Admissions Professionals Define Holistic Application Review” at the 2018 NACAC National Conference.

Chris Fiorello presented “College Men, Student Conduct, and the Performance of Masculinity” at the ASCA Annual Conference.

Sharell Hassell-Goodman and **Beth Dalbec** presented, “Pathways to Flourishing for First-generation College Students” with others at the 2018 AACU Conference.

Carrie Klein will present numerous sessions at the 2018 AERA Annual Meeting including serving on the symposium panel “Faculty Development to Obtain Student Success: Learning Across NSF Grant Projects” with others. She is also this year’s AERA Division J Graduate Member-at-Large. She was awarded the 2018 Provost’s Summer Research Fellowship.

Jennifer Lebrón, **Mary Beth Marklein**, and **Karen Wrightsman** will present "From Faculty Agency to Organizational Learning Through International Collaboration" with others at the 2018 AERA Annual Meeting.

Sang Jin Lee received the David W. Rossell Scholarship.

Brandon Quiles will present two presentations at the 2018 NCORE Conference.

Nicole Sealey (HEP alum) will be a panelist at the upcoming NAFSA Research Symposium - A Critical Discussion of Theories, Methodologies, and Practices in International Education.

Marilyn Sharif presented “Scaffolding the Research Literature Review: An Interdisciplinary Approach” at the 2017 Annual AIS Conference.

Aoi Yamanaka presented “Culturally Relevant Leadership Learning: Students’ Identity, Capacity, and Efficacy Development” with others at the 2018 ACPA Convention. She was also accepted into the Emerging Scholars Research Consortium for the International Leadership Conference.

Faculty News

Jan Arminio was asked to serve as Senior Associate Editor for the *Journal of College Student Development*. Noted in last semester's newsletter was that Dr. Arminio's research team had a manuscript accepted for publication. That article has now been published as the Innovation in Research and Scholarship Feature of the January issue of the *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*. The title of the manuscript is “Educators Acculturating to Serve Student Veterans and Service Members” which Dr. Arminio co-authored with HEP students **Aoi Yamanaka**, **Christina Hubbard**, **Janet Athanasiou**, **Meggan Ford**, and **Ryan Bradshaw**. **Aoi Yamanaka** and Dr. Arminio published “Student Veterans and Service Members: Not a Monolithic Group” in the November/December issue of *Campus Activities Programming*.

Jaime Lester will present in multiple sessions at the upcoming AERA annual meeting including two events entitled “Workshop for Mid-Career Faculty: Exploring Career Transitions and Forging Paths to the Future” and “Faculty Development to Obtain Student Success: Learning Across National Science Foundation Grant Projects.” Dr. Lester along with **Carrie Klein** (HEP student), Huzefa Rangwala, and Aditya Johri authored the monograph *Learning Analytics in Higher Education*.

Kelly Schrum received a 4-VA Grant to fund *ReSounding the Archives*. This interdisciplinary collaboration involves students across three Virginia universities in bringing World War I sheet music to life.

Partners include:

- RRCHNM (Jessica Dauterive, Digital History Fellow) and the College for the Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) at Mason;
- Department of Music and Music Library at the University of Virginia (UVA); and
- Special Collections, History Department, and School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech (VT).

Students will select, research, and record WWI-era sheet music. UVA will host a concert and symposium on April 24, 2018 to showcase student work as well as live musical performances.

Faculty Farewell



Dr. Jan Arminio is retiring this semester after 39 years of service in higher education. For the last six years, she has served as the Director of the Higher Education Program here at Mason. Prior to her time at Mason, Dr. Arminio served as chair in the Department of Counseling and College Student Personnel at Shippensburg University. In 2011 she received the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, and in 2017 she was recognized with the Esther Lloyd-Jones Professional Service Award. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Dr. Arminio for her invaluable contributions to our program and to the university.

Why did you decide to pursue a career in Higher Education? Is there anything that has surprised you along your journey?

I was a very involved undergraduate. I noticed that there was a woman advisor who often attended meetings and events I attended. I finally asked her what her job was that she could spend so much time with students. She explained her role in student affairs and I was captivated. She became integral to my ability to work in higher education because my parents had not attended college and did not understand why I wanted to attend graduate school. Hence, she arranged for me to meet the Chair of the Higher Education/Student Affairs program at Bowling Green State university and even drove me there for my interview. We still send greeting cards to each other.

What's one of your favorite memories at Mason?

Playing jeopardy in class is always fun. Students seem to like integrating important concepts with

gaming. But, probably the most poignant was after the defense of a recent doctoral student whose parents were so very proud of her. After the polished and sophisticated defense she and her parents cried and there was a group hug. That was heartwarming.

Do you have some advice for beginning Higher Education professionals?

Don't be afraid to take risks and seek mentors. Ending White supremacy in higher education will necessitate risk taking. Don't be afraid to address White supremacy wherever you find it. Most people who work in higher education are open to learning and anyone can be an agent of that learning.

Now that you are entering into retirement, what's next for you?

I will be the Senior Associate Editor of the *Journal of College Student Development*, which will be several hours of work a week. Also, I will travel more and see my granddaughter more.

Beyond the Classroom Walls



HEP students hosted a baby shower for Sharrell Hassel-Goodman.

HEP Students Pictured: Cameron Shaw, Jeremy Rogers, Beth Dalbec, Meghan Arias, Sharrell Hassel-Goodman, Adrienne Thompson ; Not Pictured: Carrie Klein, Jennifer LeBron, Tasha Kelly

CURRENT STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:

ADVICE FOR YOUR CAPSTONE



Andrew E. Bunting, a MAIS student in the Higher Education program, works in George Mason University's Office of Admissions, where he serves as the Director of Admissions Operations. His research interests include student choice in the admissions process, and how institutional marketing efforts affect those choices.

The HEP thesis or project is the capstone of your Master's Degree within the MAIS degree. For those of you just beginning your program, those that are in the thick of it, and those that are nearing the end, I have a few pieces of advice that I hope will help you on your own project/thesis journey.

- Your project or thesis will, most likely, start as an idea about something that intrigues or fascinates you in relation to Higher Education. From there, though, your journey will become your own. Don't be discouraged or alarmed if your own journey doesn't seem to look like everyone else's.
- Make sure you choose a topic that really speaks to you. With the amount of time you are going to spend on your project or thesis, it will make it that much easier if the topic is one you like.
- Don't be afraid to take risks and push the envelope on what is possible. That said, always try to remain realistic with the goals you set for yourself. Keep in mind the scope of your project or thesis, as well as any timelines that you want to keep yourself on. Conducting those 50 interviews WILL take much longer than you think.
- If you are doing a thesis, the IRB approval process isn't something to take lightly. It is the golden key that unlocks your ability to move forward with your research. Make sure that you compile all of the necessary forms and documentation.

- Carve out time, each week, to dedicate to research, writing, and planning. Turn off the cell phone and find a place where you can concentrate.

In the end, and even if you take every bit of advice from the most knowledgeable of your friends, colleagues, and faculty advisors, you will be asked to make important, and seemingly Earth-shattering choices at every step of this process. Being asked to submit revisions or corrections, needing to go back to rework entire sections, and the occasional urge to scrap it all and start fresh are very real experiences you will have for yourself on your personal project/thesis journey.

Important Dates

- March 26—Registration for Summer begins
- April 3—Registration for Fall begins
- May 4—Spring dissertation/thesis deadline
- May 5—Last day of Spring classes
- May 21—First day of Summer Session 1, A & D classes
- June 4—First day of Summer Session B classes
- June 25—First day of Summer Session C classes
- July 1—Fall 2018 graduation intent available
- July 1—Fall internship/practicum proposals due
- Aug 3—Summer dissertation/thesis deadline