

# HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

HESA Newsletter - Human Services - Western Carolina University

Fall 2016

## A Note From Dr. April Perry:

Holiday Greetings from the HESA Program at WCU!

We've had a fantastic semester with many exciting changes...

- We have a new faculty member, Dr. Yancey Gulley.
- We are at capacity regarding student enrollment with a Fall 2016 cohort of 15 full-time students and 4 part-time students.
- We have a beautiful new office suite located in McKee.
- The HESA students ventured on the first study abroad in our program's history in October.

I am also proud to say that every May 2016 HESA graduate was gainfully employed at an institution within three months of completing the program!

This is an exciting time for the HESA program, and we wouldn't be here without each of you. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Happy Holidays to you and yours!



**Western  
Carolina**  
UNIVERSITY

## A Note From Our Newest Faculty: Dr. Yancey Gulley

It has been a pleasure to join the catamount family here at Western Carolina University. Specifically, it has been a wonderful kind of homecoming to join the Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA) family given that I am a North Carolina native and a product of undergraduate and a master's program in this state. After 15 years in administration and two years as faculty elsewhere, it is a pleasure to be serving WCU, the region, and the field as a faculty member in a department and program focused on community, individual student development, social justice, and professional preparation. I believe that teaching allows me to share my knowledge and experience with students while providing an arena for my own self-development and personal fulfillment. If both, students and facilitators are invested, then we can build a relationship that fosters critical thinking and allows us to take risks in a comfortable environment. The HESA program values this orientation to education and it is a pleasure to join in challenging our community while being challenged by it. As my great-grandfather, Needham Yancey Gulley (founder of the Law School at Wake Forest University), used to tell his own college students, "making a life is more important than making a good living." Here at Western, I feel like I am making a great life and look forward to helping our students do the same for many years to come with compassion, justice, support, creative thinking, and humor.



# HESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Student Conference Presentations

Many of the HESA students have presented at conferences this semester:

Kelsey Woodford: National Learning Communities, Atlanta

Kevin Trudell: RA Drive-in, Cullowhee

Lawrence Waller: NCHO, Winston-Salem

Megan Covington: SACSA, Jacksonville, FL

Meredith Oakley: RA drive-in, Cullowhee

Michaela Bishop: NCHO, Winston-Salem;  
RA Drive-in, Cullowhee

Terry Chavis: SACSA, Jacksonville, FL

## Recruitment Update:

We are currently in the midst of recruitment season (March 1<sup>st</sup> admissions deadline), so if you have a student that you'd like us to reach out to, please click [HERE](#).

Also, our [WEBSITE](#) has had a face-lift, and we created a new [RECRUITMENT VIDEO!](#) Please view and share!

Congratulations to our December Graduates:  
Megan Covington and Da'Vaun Davis!

## Three Minute Thesis Competition

Our graduate students took first, second, and people's choice award at the Graduate School's 4th Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition!

Kelsey Woodford: 1st place

Terry Chavis: 2nd place

Kourtney Kirby: People's Choice Award



*Congratulations  
Megan Covington!*

NCCPA Graduate Student  
of the Year



*Congratulations  
Terry Chavis!*

2nd place at the  
SACSA Case Study Competition



*Congratulations  
Brittany Cotton!*

NCHO Graduate Student  
of the Year







# HESA 693: Global Perspectives in Higher Education

## Spotlight

### Fall Break 2016



#### Two Fold Purpose:

1. Foster learning about higher education administration, practices, and student development within the context of another country – in this case, Kenya.
2. Facilitate an experiential learning opportunity for graduate students (future higher education practitioners) in planning, leading, and implementing a study abroad experience for undergraduate students.



#### Who and What:

Student Name	Projected Graduation	Self-selected Trip Project
Jessica Barnes	Non-degree seeking student	Higher education administration and systems in US vs. Kenya
Michaela Bishop	May 2018	Graduate-UG student mentoring program
Brittany Cotton	May 2017	Exploring Kenyan women perspectives of Black American women
Megan Covington	December 2016	Exploring Black American women perspectives in Kenyan culture
Brandon Hepler	May 2017	Pre & Post student global competency surveys
Devan Lalas	May 2017	Leading group reflection sessions
Hunter Pritchard	May 2018	Trip Logistics Assistant
Jordan Slomiany	May 2018	Exploring Kenyan and American perspectives on freedom
Kelsey Woodford	May 2017	Exploring student development through UG student interviews

#### About the Trip:

Pre-departure focus: gaining a foundational understanding of Kenyan culture, history, religion, education, etc. Additionally, graduate students learned about the skills and logistics involved in planning, budgeting, and leading a study abroad experience.

During the trip: students immersed themselves in the country's culture, while experiencing the tertiary education through lectures, campus visits, meetings with administrators, and interactions with locals. The graduate students also applied their knowledge of student development by mentoring the undergraduate students on the trip, facilitating on-trip reflection sessions, and fostering holistic student development in a study abroad context.

Upon return: students demonstrated their learning through reflection, a presentation of their self-selected research project, and the composition of a digital story.



The travel component of this course partnered with Dr. Binkley's undergraduate study abroad class, which consisted of five Elementary Education majors, who were studying the Kenyan K-12 education system.