

Higher Education Student Affairs Newsletter

Program News

We are proud to announce that every May 2017 HESA graduate is gainfully employed ...continuing our 100% job placement rate!
 (May 2017 graduates pictured right).



Congratulations to our three December 2017 graduates: Jenny Stewart, Andrew Johnson, and Jessica Resler (pictured left at their hooding ceremony).

The first-year cohort participated in a Mini-Conference (event flyer below) highlighting the research they did in Dr. Hinnant-Crawford's class this semester.

Whee Research: Informing Practice with Research

December 7, 2017 | Blue Ridge Conference Center | Western Carolina University

We have to become action-research minded. We must take a look at where we are, and where we want to be.
 Septima Clark

 You May Say I'm A Dreamer, But I'm Not the Only One Diana Aguillon, B.S.	 Will Studying Abroad Pay The Bills? Study Abroad Alumni Job Recruitment Meghan Blizzard, B.A., B.S.
 Serving Independent Students: Individualizing Campus Resources Sophia Calhoun, B.S.	 Greek Life and Retention at Western Carolina University William Crandell, B.S.
 Career Services: Outreach Effectiveness to Undergraduate Students Alexander Ellwood, B.S.	 Let's Get Physical: The Effects of Physical Environment of the College Experience Morgan Gill, B.A.
 Expected to be Strong: Mental Health Resources and African American Women at WCU Roslyn Gowens, B.S.	 SAT & ACT: Are They Actually Useful in Predicting College Success? Brennan Haskins, B.S.W.
 Gateways to Adaptability: The Creation and Ease of Culture Shock in Study Abroad Students Erica Longmore, B.S.	 Programming for Success: Student Views Wm. Dean Martin, B.S.
 Global Grade: The Impact of Study Abroad on Higher Education Graduate Students Savannah Matherly, B.S.	 How Do You Really Feel? A Campus Climate Assessment Tyler S Melvin, M.Ed.
 Greek Life: Perception and Reality Thomas Peck, B.S., B.S.	 Stressed? Work it Out(Side) Indoor and Outdoor Recreation and Psychological Benefits Ariel Phillips, B.A.
 Mental Health and the Students of the Future Anthony Pohorilak, B.A.	

Note: The research presented here is exploratory in nature. Many studies use samples of convenience, consequently limiting the generalizability of findings beyond the participants. Presenters can speak to you in detail about the limitations of their chosen research designs. This research was not covered under IRB, since it was conducted solely for course credit.

EDRS 602, also known as Methods of Research, is an introductory research course for master's students in a variety of disciplines. The goal of the course is to take students from consumers to critical consumers to producers of research. In EDRS 602, we talk about the importance of disciplined inquiry in professional decision making. Students select a personal area of inquiry and read literature and explore this topic throughout the semester. What you see today is the culmination of their semester long commitment to the topics they selected.



Fall 2017 Student Enrollment: 15 in Year 1 Cohort; 14 in Year 2 Cohort; 7 Part-Time Students
 (New Fall 2017 HESA Students pictured above)

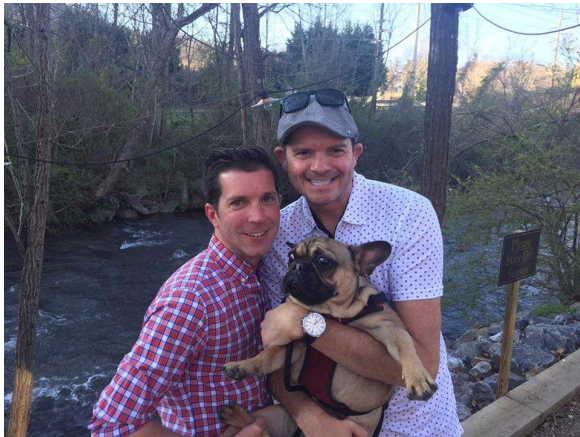
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Faculty Updates

Update on Dr. April Perry:

The Perrys welcomed their second child, Penny Lane, into the world on June 5, 2017, and Dr. April Perry has spent the fall semester on maternity leave. Although she is extremely grateful for the special time she has had with the baby, she is excited to be back on campus and in the classroom starting in January. Despite her time off, she has been productive with scholarship. Since the last HESA Newsletter in the Spring, Dr. April Perry has had four journal articles and one book chapter published. Additionally, she has presented at the IARSLCE Conference in Ireland in September, and facilitated three presentations at SASCA in Chattanooga in October. Dr. April Perry is also in her fourth year as a tenure-track faculty member in the HESA program, and recently submitted her “year 4 dossier” and is another step closer to tenure. For more information about April and links to her recent work, visit her website at aprilperry.weebly.com.



Note from Dr. Yancey Gulley:

In some ways it is hard to believe that I am completing my second Fall term as part of the HESA. Some days it feels like I just arrived and others like I have been a part of the family for years. WCU is a special place and our students are fantastic. They continue to learn and do the hard work that creates personal growth and professional development. Our profession is in passionate hands that are capable of challenging and supporting the next generation of college students. The past year has been full of professional joys, capped with the submission of my 4th year tenure dossier, a milestone I am happy to share with Dr. Perry. The summer was a great opportunity for me to spend time in my Canadian home with my husband Corey, and dog, Sedgwick. It was also productive in terms of scholarship, as I wrote two book chapters, a book proposal, and worked on several journal manuscripts. Many of these items will hit in the year to come.



April and Yancey at the 2017 Homecoming Parade

HESA takes on the NCCPA/NCHO Joint Conference

HESA students attended the NCCPA/NCHO Joint Conference in Asheville, North Carolina in November. The conference theme was “changing seasons, changing lives” and focused on racial and social justice. NCCPA has developed a strategic imperative for decolonization and racial justice fellowship as a way to operationalize and actualize the intent of the international imperative and involve faculty, staff, and students in the comprehensive progression towards social justice. WCU/HESA had more representation than any other institution/program.



Students Present at Conference:

Savannah Matherly and Morgan Gill (pictured left), first-year HESA students, presented on the importance of study abroad opportunities for higher education and student affairs professionals at various levels.

Conference Case Study Competition:

- Carson Williams, Kevin Trudell, Hannah Scott, and Cody Dunlap (pictured below left), second-year HESA students, competed and won **FIRST PLACE** in the case study competition at the conference.
- Maeve Kirby (WCU employee), Tyler Melvin, and Savannah Matherly, first-year HESA students (pictured below center) won **SECOND PLACE** in the case study competition at the conference.
- Anthony Pohorilak, William Crandall, Morgan Gill, and Diana Aguillon (pictured below right), first-year HESA students, also competed in the case study competition and represented the HESA Program well!



Current Student Highlights



Quote from Raquel (pictured front left):

“I was exposed to a different social and professional culture. It was rewarding working with a department on project that had limited time but would have numerous positive outcomes.”

Two Students Abroad for Fall Break:

Hunter Pritchard and Raquel Cifuentes traveled to Dublin, Ireland with a study abroad group through UNC Wilmington over Fall Break. They worked at Maynooth University in the International Office. Some of the tasks they completed while abroad included: Reviewing the ISB to compare Maynooth University to other European institution, preparing suggestions for improvement on the lower ranked categories, constructing marketing materials, assisting with the Study Abroad Fair, examining pastoral care services, creating materials for videos that were recorded during the Study Abroad Fair, and they both gain an understanding of European study abroad services.

Quote from Hunter (pictured middle):

“I learned so much about the Irish educational system, and how it compares to the States and other European countries.”

3 Minute Thesis Competition:

Justin Nakle, (picture second on right), second-year HESA student, and Dean Martin (pictured center), first-year HESA student, participated in the 3 Minute Thesis Competition hosted by WCU Graduate School in November. Both students represented the HESA Program very well!



Other Student Accomplishments:

- ◆ Michaela Bishop, 2nd-year student, and her staff won 2nd Place in the Corzine Cup Annual Competition, which is a “field day” program facilitated during summer RA training to foster teamwork and trust among RA staff in their respective residence halls.
- ◆ Raquel Cifuentes, 2nd-year student, co-founded and launched a HESA 101 Application that highlights quality practices, professional competencies, and much more for mobile devices. The applications has nearly 5,000 subscribers! Check it out: <https://guidebook.com/app/WCU/>
- ◆ As referenced on page 1, the first-year cohort participated in a Mini-Conference (poster presentations) in December highlighting the research they did this semester in Dr. Hinnant-Crawford’s class (see more pictures on the HESA Faculty facebook page).

Alumni News



The first ever CSP/HESA Reunion was a HUGE success! Thanks to the many students, alums, and friends-of-the-program who came out to mingle and show your Catamount Pride! Special thanks to Whit France-Kelly and Abi Aparajithan who planned this reunion! We hope this becomes an annual tradition!

**Successful 2017
CSP/HESA Reunion!**



Alumni Updates:

- HESA Alums- Ronni Williams, Kelsey Woodford, and Cassie Spencer (listed as pictured left to right) attended SACSA along with Dr. April Perry in October in Chattanooga. Kelsey, Cassie, and April presented their current research together.
- Adam Hughes, 2014 CSP graduate of our program, recently accepted a position in student conduct at Arizona State University. He is a Coordinator, Senior in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at ASU.
- Last January, Alicia Cameron was promoted to Associate Director of the Advising Center at WCU. She is also the newest member of the HESA Advisory Board, representing alumni and her campus unit.



Program Announcements for Alumni:

- We are currently in the midst of recruitment season (March 1st admissions deadline), so if you have a student that you'd like us to reach out to, please click [HERE](#).
- Are you interested in hosting a HESA Student Intern this summer? If so, please email April at alperry@wcu.edu.