Faculty Updates:

Dr. April Perry recently received the “Outstanding Professional in Graduate and Professional Student Services” award presented by the Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services, a knowledge community within the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). Perry received the award March 14 in San Antonio. For more information click HERE. Dr. Perry was also accepted into a prestigious and competitive leadership academy for early-career faculty. This academy is facilitated through NASPA, and one faculty member from each NASPA region was selected for a year-long program that fosters leadership, professional development, and mentorship for faculty members higher education programs. Dr. April Perry was selected as the Region III recipient. Perry has also been busy this year publishing and presenting. To follow her research productivity, visit her faculty page on the HESA website.

Note: Dr. Perry will be on maternity leave in the Fall 2017 term. Please direct program communication to hesa@wcu.edu or nygulley@wcu.edu during this time.

Dr. Yancey Gulley has been busy working on several projects related to his research, scholarship, and service to the field. He has published several articles this year and presented at several regional, national, and international conferences on topics ranging from assessment to collaborative practice to inclusivity and equity. Of particular note are three of his contributions this year: a commentary article, a webinar, and a new book. In August of 2016, Dr. Gulley published a commentary piece for Inside Higher Ed. The article titled, The Myth of the Nontraditional Student, challenged higher education stakeholders to re-think the use of the term “nontraditional” and pointed out the damage that such a label can cause to students. As the idea gained momentum, Dr. Gulley was also asked to serve on a Webinar for ACPA with a distinguished panel of experts to talk about Two Year College Student Affairs Practitioners and Their Impact on Completion Agenda. This is also being turned into a white paper for the Commission for Two-Year Colleges within ACPA. This year, Dr. Gulley also published his first book. Using the CAS Professional Standards: Diverse Examples of Practice has been an idea of his for several years and was just published as the first ever joint publication between ACPA, NASPA, and CAS. To learn more or to purchase a copy of the book, click HERE.

2017 Admissions Update:

- By our March 1st priority deadline, we received approximately 34 applications.
- From these, we filled all 15 of our full-time spots and offered place to 1 part-time student.
- We have made a commitment to match all full-time students admitted to the program with paid Graduate Assistantships, and with the generous support of the Graduate School and the Division of Student Affairs, we have funded all 15 full-time students in the 2017 incoming cohort and all 14 continuing students (2nd year cohort).
- Demographic Information for our 2017 applicants:
  - Gender: 35% male; 65% female (self-identified)
  - Ethnicity: 6% Black/African-American, 3% Hispanic, 90% White
  - Geography: 42% out-of-state, 58% in-state (North Carolina)

Remember, you can recommend a prospective student for the program! Click HERE!
HESA STUDENT UPDATES

Student Accomplishments!

This year, we have truly cultivated a culture of excellence. Below is a concise list of all of our students’ hard work and accomplishments. For a full description and pictures, please click HERE.

- 2 Publications
- 13 Presentations at regional/national conferences (multiple more on-campus presentations)
- The first HESA Study Abroad experience happened in October with 9 grad students and Dr. Perry traveling Kenya
- The Kenya Study Abroad group presented at the WCU Board of Trustees Meeting in December 2016 AND the Campus Theme culminating event in March 2017
- 4 students competed in WCU’s 3 Minute Thesis. Three of them placed (1st, 2nd, and People’s Choice)
- 1 student (Terry Chavis) won 2nd place in the Regional Case Study Competition at SACSA in Florida
- 7 students were accepted for oral presentations at the WCU Graduate Research Symposium
- 3 students were accepted for poster presentation at the WCU Graduate Research Symposium
- 1 HESA Student (Terry Chavis) won the poster presentation/competition at the Research Symposium
- Megan Covington received “Graduate Student of the Year” from NCCPA
- Megan Covington received “Outstanding Graduate Student” Award from NASAP
- Brittany Cotton received “Graduate Student of the Year” Award from NCHO
- Kelsey Woodford was named CEAP’s Outstanding Graduate Student from the HESA Program
- Kelsey Woodford received the 2016-2017 Center for Service Learning Meritorious Service Award
- Terry Chavis 2017 was named the Department of Residential Living Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year

Check out the HESA Faculty Facebook page for a description of these student accomplishments with pictures.
Alumni Accomplishments:

Joseph Anderson CSP 2006: Joe was promoted in January from Academic Advisor to Manager of Graduate Academics at NYU.

Lincoln Walburn CSP 2009: Lincoln accepted the Associate Director position in the Armstrong Student Center in November 2015 at Miami University. He also successfully defended his dissertation in December for his Ed.D. His dissertation title is *The act of becoming a college student: A case study of student veterans’ experiences pre-during-post military service.* Lincoln will be graduating from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with his Ed.D this May!

Whit France-Kelly CSP 2011: This past fall, he enrolled in the University of Iowa Higher Education & Student Affairs Ph.D. Program while still serving as the Assistant Director of Alumni Programs at the University of Iowa.

Sarah Alspaw CSP 2013: Sarah was recently promoted from Assistant Director to Associate Director of Career Services at Capitol Technology University.

Megan Covington HESA 2016: Megan will be attending the PhD program in Higher Education Student Affairs at Indiana University- Bloomington for fall 2017.

We love hearing updates and good news from alumni! If you have something to share, please email us at hesa@wcu.edu