



Thank you for viewing the Fall 2023 HESA Graduate Program Newsletter and for supporting our students in and out of the classroom!

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HIGHLIGHTS



Above: First-Year Cohort at HESA Welcome Social



Left: Students in Dr. Virtue's research course presented their projects during a poster presentation session in December 2023.

Right: HESA Students and Faculty gather around the fire at the annual holiday party - December 2023



Left: HESA Students, Faculty, Friends enjoyed time together during Homecoming 2023. Here is some post-parade fun.

HESA College Tour

This year the HESA program (students and faculty) went on a 2 1/2 day tour in Georgia, visiting 4 institutions of higher education to learn about different institutional types and functional areas. This was followed by attending SACSA. (Thanks to WCU for the intentional learning grant which helped fund this trip.)



Left: Our first stop was a visit at University of Georgia where retired professor, Dr. Merrily Dunn gave us one of her famous campus tours highlighting the history of UGA with an emphasis on matters of social justice. This was followed by time with several staff members of various functional areas of campus activities.

Right: Day two started with a visit to Agnes Scott College where we spent time with the fascinating Dr. Carolyn Cornelison, Assistant Director of Recreation & Intramural Sports and had an in-depth tour of the historic campus.



Left: Next we had lunch in a dining hall at Emory University where we met with the head chef and members of their sustainability team (including a student leader). This was followed by a campus tour.

Right: Saturday morning we made our way to Morehouse College where we met with director of the Bonner Office of Community Service. Then we had an amazing tour from two Bonner Scholars who shared an enormous amount of history and personal insights on the HBCU experience.



Left: Following visits to these amazing institutions, we attended the SACSA regional conference for several days where students presented posters, participated in a case study competition, and faculty presented.

ALUMNI RELATIONS

May 2023 Graduates & Current Employment

Congrats to May 2023 Graduates who have ALL obtained full-time employment in Higher Education or are pursuing additional education.

Lucas Beal | Columbus State University | Student Leadership

Hannah Durand | Western Carolina University | Academic Advising

Casey Fenton | Clemson University | Graduate Student Services

Brian Fox | Duke University | Residential Living

Gwyn Howard | North Carolina State University | Academic Advising

Isaiah Lunsford | Western Carolina University | Admissions

Zach Mellon | Virginia Commonwealth University | Curricular Operations

Antonio Oakley | UNC-Charlotte | Fraternity & Sorority Life

Kayla Patterson | North Carolina State University | Doctoral Student

Emma Stubbe | Gettysburg College | College Life

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Above - Dr. Perry got to meet up with alums Joshua Cauble (% 2016) and Cody Dunlap (% 2018)



Above - (Elliott Welsh % 2020) and Alex Kerns (% 2020) got to reunite recently and were all smiles!



Left - HESA alums who work at WCU took time to visit in Fall 2023. Front Row: Dr. April Perry, Hannah Boone (% 2018), Dr. Yancey Gulley. Back Row: Alex Rector (% 2022), Hannah Durand (% 2023), Isaiah Lunsford (% 2023), Dr. Dustin Evatt.

Below: Drs. Perry & Perry met up with Kelsey Woodford (% 2017) on their family trip to NYC recently.



Above: Members of the graduating class of 2023 got together in Fall 2023. Included in this photo: Gwyn Howard, Hannah Durand, Brian Fox, Zach Mellon, & Emma Stubbe.

HESA Faculty Updates



Dr. Dustin Evatt

- Dustin began serving as the program director for the WCU Social Justice Minor.
- Dustin presented a webinar over the summer for the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) titled “Just the Way It Is”: Examining Manifestations of Whiteness in Campus Activities.
- He presented two sessions at the SACSA Conference in Atlanta in November: 1) Exploring Civic Engagement and Meaning-Making Among LGBTQ+ College Students in the Southern United States, and 2) Making the Invisible Visible: Examining Whiteness in Student Affairs.
- Dustin currently serves as the Programming Chair for the Equity in Education Summit hosted by WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions to be held in downtown Asheville February 26-27, 2024. [Learn more and consider attending!](#)
- He served as a judge for this year's Homecoming Parade, along with 2nd year HESA student, Alexis Harp.

Dr. Yancey Gulley

- Over the 2023-2024 academic year, Yancey is serving as Chair of the Faculty / Chair of Faculty Senate at WCU.
- In December, Yancey and Dr. Corey Johnson co-facilitated a closing keynote workshop for the Australian New Zealand Association of Leisure Sciences in Auckland, NZ.
- Yancey had a recent case study published in an outdoor leisure manuscript. It is entitled, “The ropes course activity might not be the metaphor you think it is.”
- Yancey and his husband, Corey, added a new addition to the family with the introduction of Harvey to the dog pack, joining Sedgwick who is a very happy big brother.

Dr. April Perry

- Over the summer (2023), April led a Strengths Finder Workshop at the University of South Carolina for the Division of Student Affairs leaders.
- Over the summer (2023), April presented her research/book on Graduate Student Support at two conferences – NASPA region III Summer Symposium and the Graduate Career Consortium.
- In the Fall (2023), April and two colleagues led a [SACSA Webinar](#) on Holistic graduate and professional student support.
- In the Fall (2023), all three HESA Faculty (Perry, Evatt, and Gulley) presented at the SACSA conference on Supporting Gen Z Graduate Students.

Alumni & Stakeholder Opportunities for Involvement

Sign up to be a **Mentor** to a HESA Student [HERE](#).

Help us **Recruit!**

EARLY ADMISSIONS DEADLINE: MARCH 1st.

View our social media infographic [HERE](#)

View our Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

Recommend a student for us to reach out to [HERE](#).

Sign up for an Open House event [HERE](#).

Admissions Application available [HERE](#).

Need a Summer **Intern?**

If you have an available placement or would like more information,

contact Yancey at HESA@wcu.edu.

Anytime you have **news**, please share it with us for future newsletters. See news and updates in real time by

following the

HESA Faculty Facebook Page and on Instagram

@wcuhesa

[Donate!](#)

Please consider donating to the
HESA Student Professional
Development and Research
Fund!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring Online Grad School Open House - January 18th. Register [HERE](#)

HESA In-Person Open House - February, 3, 2024. Register [HERE](#)

Early Application Deadline - March 1, 2024 | Apply [HERE](#)

NASPA Conference - March 9-13, 2024 | Let us know if you're going!

ACPA Convention - March 18-21, 2024 | Let us know if you're going!

Oral Comprehensive Exam - May 8, 2024

Hooding and Graduation - May 10, 2024

Please share widely

 Higher Education Student Affairs WCU HESA OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024 10:00AM-12:00 PM OPTIONAL LUNCH TO FOLLOW SPEND THE DAY MEETING FACULTY, CURRENT STUDENTS & GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP SUPERVISORS AND MORE!	RSVP BELOW:  HTTP://TINYURL.COM/WCUHESAOPENHOUSE QUESTIONS? EMAIL HESA@WCU.EDU
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Register [HERE](#)