



Higher Education Student Affairs



Congratulations to our Spring 2023 Graduates!

(left to right) Emma Stubbe, Hannah Durand, Lucas Beal, Gwyn Howard, Kayla Patterson, Isaiah Lunsford, Brian Fox, Zach Mellon, Antonio Oakley, Casey Fenton

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



The graduating students did an amazing job completing their oral comprehensive exams!

Right: 2nd-Year, Gwyn Howard presented during a research presentation at the ACPA: College Student Educators International convention.



Left: HESA Students and Faculty attending the Hats Off to Women event. (left to right: Emma Stubbe, Gwyn Howard, Dr. April Perry, Karin Kimenker, D'Ayana Munley)



Right: Kayla Patterson won the Future Scholars Award from the Academy of Leisure Sciences.

(pictured with nominators: Dr. Corey Johnson and Dr. Yancey Gulley .



Below: Kayla Patterson recieved the 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student in HESA Award



Above: Hannah Durand recieved the 2023 Promising Practitioner in HESA Award



Left: Students and faculty attend the 3 Minute Research Competition at WCU (hint - more on that later) (first row left to right: Dr. April Perry, Alexis Harp, Mar Pepin, Virginia Felton) (second row left to right: Brian Fox, Emma Stubbe, Dr. Emily Virtue, Dr. Dustin Evatt, Megan Marshall, Lucas Beal)

Right: Several students and a faculty member were initiated as honorary members of Order of Omega. (from left: Cheniqua Arthur, Virginia Felton, Alexis Harp, D'Ayana Munley, and Dr. Dustin Evatt)



Above: Spring 2023 HESA Graduates with the HESA Faculty

Incoming Cohort

12 new students will join us in Fall 2023

Here are some facts about the incoming cohort.

- 11 will join us as full-time students and 1 will enter as a part-time student
- 4 incoming students are coming from outside of the United States
- 3 of the remaining incoming students are from outside of North Carolina
- 42% identify as Black / African American
- 8% identify as multiracial
- 50% identify as white
- Prior institutions attended by the incoming cohort include: Adekunle Ajasin University, Barton County Community College, East Tennessee State University, Elon University, Erskine College, University of Cape Coast, University of North Carolina - Asheville, University of South Carolina - Upstate, Western Carolina University

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Above: Students and Alumni attend the 2023 SEAHO conference. Some alumni are really involved with the organization. Jessica Minch (% 2022), Mike Jefferson (% 2020) , and Janae' McKinney (% 2015) are on the Education and Outreach Committee working with grad students and new professionals to get them involved.



Left: More SEAHO fun with current students and alumni. Shout out to the alumni pictured: Jessica Minch and Zach Cameron (% 2022)

Below: Sophie Calhoun (% 2019) has been accepted into the Coastal Carolina University Ph.D. program in Education Science with a Specialization in Higher Education



Above: Dr. Lincoln Walburn (% 2006) Recieved the 2023 HESA Outstanding Alumni Award



Above:
Riley Jelenick (% 2021) was named the Associate Director for the LGBTQ Resource Center at Georgetown University.



Above:
Roslyn Gowens (% 2019) was named Director of the Mount Vernon Campus at George Washington University.

Right:
Alex Kerns (% 2020) took a new position as an Area Coordinator at University of New England.



Left:
Dr. Yancey Gulley, Gwyn Howard (% 2023), Tyler Melvin (% 2019), and Sophie Calhoun (% 2019) caught up at the 2023 ACPA Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA.

HESA Faculty Updates

Dr. Dustin Evatt

Selected Highlights:

- Selected for NASPA's Emerging Faculty Leader Academy (1 of 7 selected nationally)
- Recent publication in the Journal of Campus Activities Practice and Scholarship titled, "[White Campus Activities Professionals Navigating DEI Efforts: A Critical Whiteness Perspective.](#)"
- Presented two sessions at the NASPA National Conference in Boston: 1) Breaking through the Racial Smog in Higher Education: A Critical Whiteness Perspective and 2) Disrupting White Scripts in Higher Education.
- Won 1st place in the WCU 3-Minute Faculty Research Competition
- Recently received a NASPA Region III Research Grant to begin a new research project focused on Civic Engagement and Meaning-Making Among LGBTQ+ College Students in the Southern United States



Dr. Yancey Gulley



Selected Highlights:

- Presented "Learning through tragedy" at The Academy of Leisure Sciences 2023 Research and Teaching Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Presented "Stakeholder perceptions of how to support today's college students" at the ACPA 2023 Convention, New Orleans, LA.
- Presented "Who are today's college students: Multiple stakeholder perspectives" at the NASPA 2023 Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- Served as a faculty member for the multi-day Workshop on the First-Year Student Success in the Community College in Los Angeles, CA.
- Will be serving WCU as Faculty Chair / Chair of Faculty Senate for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Dr. April Perry

Selected Highlights:

- Recent Publication with Carrie Hachadurian and Sophie Calhoun (both Class 2019) – [Preparing for the post-university transition: Supporting homeless, emancipated, orphaned, and other Independent Students](#)
- Recent Publication on [Innovative Teaching to Prepare Students for Life after College](#)
- Book Chapter in the new edition of the [International Handbook for Work-Integrated Learning](#)
- Guest on Cassie Spencer's (Class 2016) [Happenstance Podcast](#)
- Guest on SACSA's [SA Today Podcast](#)



[Donate!](#)

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

This fund allows us to financially support students in the program in a variety of ways. With support of donors we can provide students with funding to attend conferences, participate in webinars, conduct research projects, and more. While student registration rates for conferences are typically lower than the costs for professionals, they are still costly. Also, students attending conferences still have the high costs of travel, lodging, and food in particularly expensive conference locations. Any support you can provide by donating to this fund, is greatly appreciated!

Use the hyperlink "Donate!" above or use the url here.
<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/21212/donations/new>

Alumni & Stakeholder Opportunities for Involvement

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

Help us **Recruit!** PRIORITY 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
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