



***Higher Education and Student Affairs  
SPA Program  
November 2017 Update***

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**Course Assignment Gives MA Students  
the Opportunity to Present at ASHE**



Last spring, Dr. Tatiana Suspitsyna encouraged the students in her master's-level Core Academic Issues in Higher Education Administration course to leverage their final course assignment toward conference presentations. Excitingly, several of the students did just that. Special congratulations to Kaylee Hartman, Kate Hildebrandt, and Lauren Klingshirn, MA students who will be presenting their papers from that course at this year's ASHE conference in Houston, Texas.

Below, second-year MA student Lauren Klingshirn describes her experience and paper:

*"In [Core] with Dr. Suspitsyna, our class learned a lot about different institutional types, and how these structures affect higher education and student affairs. Early on in the semester,*

*we studied community colleges, and how their unique missions promote access to higher education, especially for students from underrepresented backgrounds. Within these discussions, I took an interest in articulation agreements, or procedures and processes between institutions that define credit transfer, and how the strength of partnership between community colleges and universities affects student success in transferring. My final paper focused on this topic, and also incorporated the role of faculty in both articulation and student adjustment to the four-year university, focusing on utilizing faculty members to increase graduation rates.*

*Dr. Suspitsyna presented the opportunity to our class to submit our final papers to the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) conference, after receiving feedback. The scholarly paper format for ASHE already fit the structure of my Core paper, so I decided to create a proposal. My proposal was accepted this summer, and I am now working to develop a presentation from the scholarly paper. I am very excited to present on November 11th, and I am looking forward to network and use this conference as an opportunity to enhance my professional development."*

***For more information on these presentations and the rest of the 2017 ASHE sessions featuring HESA faculty and current students, click [HERE](#).***

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## **HESA MA Student, Javi Rodriguez, Wins Awards**



The past few weeks have been filled with exciting news for second-year MA student, Javi Rodriguez, who was recently named the winner of two awards from professional

associations. Earlier last month, OCPA named him the Robert F. Rodgers Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year. He was also named a 2017 NICF Foundation Balfour Fellow.

Below, Javi describes the awards and what they mean to him.

*"Second-year has definitely been an interesting journey thus far, to say the very least. Graduation is around the corner, and preparations for the wonderful job search process are underway. Being awarded the Robert F. Rodgers Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award at the annual OCPA Careers in Student Affairs Conference was extremely fulfilling and humbling. The award recognizes not only the work I've done within my assistantship, but also my work throughout The Ohio State, and my work within OCPA. I was also recognized as a 2017 NICF Foundation Balfour Fellow, which recognizes contributions, efforts, and work of Greek Affiliates post their graduation to the Greek community. The Greek experience for me was instrumental in my development as an individual, and I that is why I continue to volunteer and support Greek life everywhere, and this award allows me to continue the work that needs to be done. Thank you for the opportunity to be recognized within our community, and I can only hope I continue to make the Ohio State HESA community proud."*

Congratulations, Javi!

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## **Alumni & Other Current Student News**

***Check here to see what our alumni and students have been up to!***

Jasmine Mickey (MA '14) and Zayd Abukar (MA '14) got married on September 24, 2017, in Columbus, OH.

David Anderson (MA '73) has published two books on wellness issues and higher education during the past two years. They are: [\*Wellness Issues for Higher Education: A Guide for Student Affairs and Higher Education Professionals\*](#) (2015) and [\*Further Wellness Issues for Higher Education: How to Promote Student Health During and After College\*](#) (2016).

Nichole Fisher, née Mancone, (MA '01) became the Registrar at the University of Texas at Arlington in October of 2017, and married Phillip Fisher on October 28, 2017.

Gina Hnytka (MA '08) was promoted to Director of Sustainability Learning and Education at Ohio State, working with the Environment, Economy, Development, Sustainability

(EEDS) Program and Sustainable and Resilient Economy (SRE) Discovery Theme Initiative.

Aaron Moore (MA '14) and Gina Hnytka (MA '08) successfully presented “Creating a Learning Community Model: From Design to Implementation” highlighting their leadership of the [SUSTAINS Learning Community](#) at the ACUHO-I Academic Initiatives Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Maggie Smith, née Heffernan, (MA '10) started her new position at Case Western Reserve University as the Associate Director of Career & Employer Development for the Weatherhead School of Management (as of October 2, 2017).

Tara Spalla King (MA '11; PhD '12) started in the newly-developed position of Director of Assessment and Evaluation with The Ohio State University's College of Nursing on August 1, 2017.

Tiffany Steele (PhD Student) was awarded \$1,000 for the Critical Difference for Women Grant to be used towards professional development opportunities.

Chris Travers (PhD Candidate) was awarded an ACPA Foundation grant for his research project, *The Mind of a Black College Man: Exploring the Relationship between Manhood, Mindset, and Academic Achievement*, in the amount of \$1,000.

Vu Tran (PhD Candidate) has accepted a job at Michigan State University as the Assistant Director of Residence Education and will start November 21, 2017.

## **This Month's Alumnus Spotlight:**

### **Michael Steven Williams (PhD '14)**

Dr. Williams has joined the faculty at the University of Missouri as an Assistant Professor in Higher Education.

See his bio and CV [HERE](#).



**Have updates or exciting news? We want to hear from you!**

**Fill us in at [go.osu.edu/HESA-alumninews](http://go.osu.edu/HESA-alumninews).**

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**You can support HESA by making a donation:**

[The SPA Professional Development Fund](#)

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**Every dollar helps! Thank you!**



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