



***Higher Education and Student Affairs
SPA Program
Spring 2018 Update***

HESA/SPA Host Prospective Students at SPA Days 2018

HESA/SPA held SPA Days for prospective students on February 8-9 and February 22-23, 2018. This year's pool of applicants was very competitive and impressive. At SPA Days, admitted students were able to learn more about the program, meet faculty and current students, and interview for available assistantship opportunities. We can't wait to welcome our new class of MA and PhD students in August!



To see pictures from this year's SPA Days, check out the Facebook group albums [HERE](#) & [HERE](#).

Congratulations to the Following Award Winners!

ACPA Awards

- Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Crandall - Faculty Research Grant Award, Commission for Professional Preparation
- Dr. Zak Foste - Marylu McEwen Dissertation of the Year Award (for more information on Zak's research, click [HERE](#))
- The Ohio State University - Named a Promising Place to Work in Student Affairs
- Dr. Christopher Travers - Outstanding Graduate/New Professional Award, Coalition for Men & Masculinities

NASPA Awards

- Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Crandall - Student-Athlete Knowledge Community Outstanding Research Award
- Antonio Duran - Region IV East Graduate Student Rising Star and Jim Rhatigan Fellowship Scholarship
- Erica Phillips - Financial Wellness among Students with Dependent Children - Adult Learners and Students with Children Research Grant
- Kari Taylor - Contextualizing How Undergraduate Students Develop Toward Critical Consciousness - Region IV East Research and Assessment Grant
- The Ohio State University, Scarlet and Gray Financial - Student Health, Wellness, Counseling, and related Excellence Award

HESA/SPA Awards

- Caleb Craft, Emerging Professional Award
- Monroe France, Maude A. Stewart Award

Please Join Us in Celebrating the Following Successful Dissertation Defenses

Congratulations to the following students who have recently successfully defended their dissertations!

Suzanne Shoger successfully defended her dissertation: *Engaging the Gatekeepers: Empowering Male Collegians to Promote Gender Equity in Engineering* in April 2018. Committee: Professors Tatiana Suspitsyna (chair), Matt Mayhew, and Colette Dollarhide.

Vu Tran successfully defended his dissertation: *Examining Adulthood in Higher Education: A Three-Study Dissertation* in December 2017. Committee: Dr. Marc Guerrero (Chair) and Drs. Susan Jones, Jen Wong, and Rafiq Islam (Graduate School representative).

Christopher Travers successfully defended his dissertation: *The Mind of Black College Men: Exploring the Relationship between Manhood, Mindset, and Academic Achievement among Black Male Undergraduate Students* in April 2018. Committee: Professors Susan R. Jones (Chair), Natasha Bowen, Marc Johnston Guerrero and Kiran D-Souza.

Alumnus Spotlight

Katherine Branch (MA '87)



Katie was recognized as a Diamond Honoree by the ACPA Foundation at the ACPA-College Student Educators 2018 Convention in Houston, TX. She is pictured with fellow alum Dan Morrison (MA '84).

Find out more [HERE](#).

Alumni & Other Current Student News

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

Brian Paul Allen (current MA student) was recently appointed a student trustee at Denison University. [Click here](#) for more info.

Katherine Branch (MA '87) was awarded the Diamond Honoree Award prior to the ACPA convention in March 2018.

Megan Couling (MA '12) represented OSU on the Price is Right in November 2017. Find out more [here](#).

Dr. Patty Cunningham (MA '05, PhD '11) was featured on the OSU EHE website for Black History Month. The story can be found [here](#).

Mia Ferraina (current MA student) won Best Overall in the graduate student case study competition at NODA in November 2017.

Sean Forman (MA '01) and his wife welcomed their third son, Micah Levi, on September 5, 2017.

Dr. Zak Foste (PhD '17) was recently awarded the 2018 Marylu K. McEwen Dissertation of the Year Award from the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). More information about the award and his study can be found [here](#). He has also recently accepted a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration at the University of Kansas.

Joy Gaston Gayles (PhD '02) was promoted to full professor at NC State.

David L. Haywood (MA '04, PhD '09) recently participated in the inaugural cohort of the Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Aspiring Leaders program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Minority Serving Institutions. She, along with twenty other leaders in higher education, spent three days learning about multiple paths to the university presidency and networking with former and current college and university presidents and mentors. In addition, her responsibilities, at Alabama State University (Montgomery, AL), recently increased in size. The area of Enrollment Management (Admissions/Recruitment, Academic Advising, Financial Aid, Records and Registration and Retention) was added to her managerial portfolio.

Abby Kruszynski (MA '11) was promoted to Co-Director of Residence Life at Case Western Reserve University in October 2017. She has worked in Residence Life at CWRU since 2015.

Luke LaCroix (MA '02) completed a Doctor of Education degree at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) on March 6, 2018 (dissertation title: *Restorative Justice in Higher Education: A Case Study of Program Implementation and Sustainability*). He also was promoted to Director of Residential Administration at UCSD in October 2018.

Dr. Kate Lehman, née Guiler, (MA '09) recently completed her PhD in Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA and has assumed the role of Associate Director and postdoctoral scholar for BRAID Research. BRAID Research (PI Dr. Linda Sax) is a mixed-methods, longitudinal study of efforts to increase the representation of women and underrepresented minority students majoring in computer science.

Travis Pentz (MA '10) recently started a new position at UC San Francisco as Study Abroad Manager & International Liaison, which is the first study abroad position at UCSF.

Lisa Harchalk Runyan (MA '99) was promoted to University Registrar at the University of Central Missouri.

Vian Saggio (MA '12) recently accepted a position working at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Kristin Schader (MA '10) was recently promoted to Associate Director of InternPLUS and Military Career Programs at University of Maryland University College (UMUC). She also presented at the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) national conference in Las Vegas, NV in June 2017 with the topic "Career Services for Military Students and Families." She will reprise this presentation at a NACE-sponsored webinar in May 2018.

Ben Williams (MA '00, PhD '06) was promoted from Director of Special Projects to Vice President of Programs at the [National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity \(NAPE\)](#).

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

Fill us in at go.osu.edu/HESA-alumninews.

You can support HESA by making a donation:

[The SPA Professional Development Fund](#)

[The Porterfield-Dickens Scholarship Fund](#)



Every dollar helps! Thank you!



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