



Higher Education

Learning Through Community

Syracuse University

Spring/Summer 2009

From the Chair:

Social & Academic Integration Applies to Graduate Students, Too!

In your years at SU, you read endless “Tinto” citations in your books and research articles (yes, our very own Vincent Tinto) referencing how critical it is for college students to integrate both socially and academically during the college experience. Immersing or engaging actively in and outside of classrooms with one’s peers, faculty, advisors, and/or student affairs professionals has been a key factor influencing student success, persistence, and graduation. It should not be a surprise therefore that similar factors would influence the success of graduate students. However, many of our policies (or lack thereof) and actions, often aimed at accommodating graduate students’ complex, demanding lives and competing priorities, have in fact hindered student progress. At the time our department had appeared understanding when it approved students enrolling in a few classes, taking a year long leave, or taking years to start working on (and keep working on) the dissertation. We now realize that often our efforts have only contributed to students feeling disconnected to our program; they are frequently disengaged in the academic experience, and often, unsuccessful in completing their degrees. We all lose and feel badly when these outcomes occur. Consequently, we introduced some expectations that we hope will help promote continued immersion in the graduate school experience.

For example, master’s students minimally must complete 9 credits hours per year, typically resulting in a course each semester and one in the summer. They also must participate in a 9-week orientation seminar (Graduate Interest Group Seminar) that serves to help students get to know and work with each other, to learn the habits and norms that characterize serious scholarly work, and to become familiar with critical department and campus resources available to help students meet ongoing program and class requirements (e.g. securing a practicum). All doctoral students are now required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours per year and engage in an intensive all-faculty review every 18 months. The purpose of this review is to examine if sufficient progress has been made and to develop goals and action plans for the months ahead. If students fail to progress, we are prepared to ask them to leave the program so we can redirect our energies as a faculty to those students who are committed to immerse themselves into scholarly work.

We recognize that some of these expectations may result in some important negotiations with family members and work supervisors. We truly believe however that the quality of students’ graduate experience (and future professional endeavors) will be enriched by our intentional efforts to integrate our students both socially and academically into our graduate learning community. We look forward to being more consistent with practicing what we preach!

Best wishes for a great summer and new beginnings in Fall 2009!

Cathy McHugh Engstrom
Associate Professor & Chair, Higher Education

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Watch for the new School of Education website, coming in mid-October.

<http://soeweb.syr.edu/>

More About the Student Deans

Recently, information for and about Student Deans was added to the HED Newsletter as a regular feature. This pioneering program was originally designed to prepare professional Dean of Women at a time that position was in high demand in higher education. Many graduates entered HED Administration in other areas as well, helping to shape programs and institutions for years to come.

It is due to the Student Deans Program that the Higher Education Department has such a strong foundation and is one of the longest-standing such programs in the country today. Here is another installment written by one of the illustrious Student Deans, Marion Meyers.

During her tenure as Dean of Women (1926 – 1931), Iva Lowther Peters recognized the need for counselors to undergraduate students in campus housing. Before the program could be initiated, Dean Peters gave up the Deanship to move on with her research. When Eugenie Andruss Leonard became the Dean of Women in 1931, she pursued the idea of Dean Peters, and developed the Program in Student Personnel.

In 1931 the University Board of Trustees established the first twelve graduate assistantships for women master's degree candidates in student personnel. Initially a one-year program, it was determined within two years that it should become a two-year program.

The numbers per class averaged between twenty and twenty-five with about half being immediate graduates of their undergraduate degree programs, and half with a variety of years of experience in the work force. Students were selected from all across the United States and from a few foreign countries.

Among the members of the first class was an energetic young woman from Nebraska. M. Eunice Hilton was already an exception for she came with a Master's Degree. She became the first woman at Syracuse to hold a Ph.D. from the Syracuse University Teachers' College.

She was named the Assistant Dean of Women in 1935, then served as Dean of Women from 1936 - 1949. When Dean Leonard left the University in 1935, Dean Hilton became the Director of the Student Dean Program, a position she held until 1959 when she left the University to marry her long-time friend, Jack Freeland.

Among Student Deans, the Syracuse Program in Student Personnel became practically synonymous with Dean M. Eunice Hilton.

Student Dean News

Student Dean **Emma Pagcaliwagan** was recently featured in a Syracuse Post-Standard article about her husband Jose "Joe" Pagcaliwagan, who passed away on July 23. Joe Pagcaliwagan cooperated with the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines during World War II, and the recent stimulus bill provides for compensation for these vets. See the full article at:

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/filipino_vet_who_lived_in_syra.html

Plans for Nominating Hilton to Hall of Fame

The School of Education is planning to nominate M. Eunice Hilton to the National Women's Hall of Fame, located in Seneca Falls, NY. If anyone is interested in discussing or contributing to this nomination, please contact Victoria Kohl at vfkohl@syr.edu

Do you have Student Dean updates? Send them to Victoria Kohl at vfkohl@syr.edu

HED Students Earn Awards

As usual, several HED students have been recognized for their outstanding academics and/or accomplishments. Three received particular honors this year:

Danielle St. Martin won the Hilton Award this year. The Hilton Award was established with a generous gift from the alumni of the Student Dean program, one of the first programs in student personnel services in the country. The award recognizes the leadership of Dean Hilton, former director of the Student Dean program, third dean of the College of Home Economics, and first woman to receive a doctorate from the School of Education. The award is given to a woman in the Higher Education master's program each year.

Dakota Burnett was selected to receive one of the three School of Education Master's Prizes. This prize is awarded to master's students who exemplify excellence within the School of Education.

Amit Taneja was awarded a 2009 SOE Research and Creative Grant Project Award. This award is for carrying out independent research or creative projects during the summer, available to Syracuse University graduate students.

School of Education Graduation, May 2009



Left: Higher Education Department Master's Student Dakota Burnett, during the School of Education Commencement Ceremony, with Dean Douglas Biklen. Ms. Burnett was awarded a School of Education Master's Prize in 2009.

Right: Higher Education Department Assistant Professor Dawn Johnson and Assistant Professor Tim Eatman salute the graduates during the SOE graduation ceremony.



Is It Time to Take Your Professional Leap?

By Carrie Grogan Abbott, MS'03

Eighteen months ago if you had asked me to describe what my life would be like now, I'd never have been able to predict all that has happened to me. Since September 2007, I have welcomed my daughter Payton, moved to a new job at Syracuse University, learned to manage a new staff, dealt with more student crisis than in my career total, and said farewell to my twenties. Frankly, I'm tired just writing that down.

While I was home on maternity leave, between changing and feeding my little one, I had a lot of time to think about my career and where I was headed. I knew my place was in student services, but knew it was time that I took on a new role. Since I came to Syracuse University in 2000, I had worked in various positions in Student Affairs including student union and activities, fraternity and sorority affairs, and new student orientation. I loved working with students and being a small part of their undergraduate experience, but I also knew it was time to take on more responsibility. I also wanted to be in a position to help students problem solve and navigate University systems.

During this time I heard about an opening at SU Abroad leading their admissions team, a position which combined administrative work and student services. The thought of working with students on a new level excited me. Weary-eyed and covered in spit-up, I drafted a cover letter that my husband would later define as "not my best work." By some stroke of luck, SU Abroad disagreed and brought me in for an interview. They asked me difficult questions about my experience working with students and managing critical incidents. In that moment I was glad for the hours I had spend on-call in fraternity and sorority affairs and for the Higher Education department's critical incident management course, both of which had prepared me to answer those difficult questions. When they asked my experience with study abroad I smiled and said, "That's where you got me. I went to Canada once." I'm not sure why they decided to take a chance on me, but they did and for that I will forever be grateful.

I began my position at SU Abroad one week after returning from maternity leave. I was still adjusting to being a new mother and now I had to adjust to a new job. I had worked in Student Affairs for such a long time, with people who knew me and knew my capabilities for years. Now, I was in a new environment and had to prove I could hold my own.

One of my biggest challenges was learning to lead my staff of seven. They were all amazing and talented people who knew their jobs like the back of their hand. I

had a lot to learn and had to do so immediately to be the resource my team needed me to be. I became a sponge in every meeting, trying to soak up as much as I could from everyone in the office. It took time, but I am proud I have been able to build trust with my colleagues and prove to them I am an asset to this team.

Another challenge was managing the range of student crisis. In my short tenure here I have managed cases from trivial to terrible; irate parents to the death of two students. Every morning I hold my breath as I scroll through my blackberry, wondering what might have happened overseas while I slept. I find situations from comical, to frustrating, to down right heartbreaking. Occasionally, I find nothing and begin my day free of worry. I quickly realized how vital the relationships I had built in Student Affairs would be to my success at SU Abroad. I call on my colleagues daily to assist in navigating the myriad of student issues that come across my desk.

I write this brief reflective as a way to reach out to any of my fellow alumni who may be going through one or more of these life transitions to say "you aren't the only one." Today, I feel much more confident in my roles as mother and team leader. SU Abroad has allowed me to stretch my professional wings while providing a fantastically supportive environment in which to work. At home, my Payton is happy and healthy and just the light of my life. And yes, my thirties have welcomed a few things like, gasp, grey hair, but I'm ok with it. With all of these challenges, I've found patience is the key to getting through. I've had to be patient with myself while I learned the ins and outs of the study abroad field and being a working mom. I encourage those contemplating a professional leap to go ahead and jump! The transition may take time, but it will be well worth it in the end.



Carrie Grogan Abbott is a 2003 graduate of the Higher Education master's program and the Assistant Director of Admissions and Student Services for Syracuse University (SU) Abroad.

Left: The Abbott family celebrating St. Patrick's Day 2009.

Alumni News

Amjad Abdo ('05) moved from SUNY Purchase to Rider University, where he is an Area Director in the Residence Life Office. He presented twice at the ACPA Conference, "Where have my international students gone?" and "Undocumented Students in Higher Education: What Happens Now?"

Nicole Zervas Adsitt presented at the 2009 NACADA Region I conference on March 11 in Saratoga Springs, NY. I am also serving as the regional liaison (for Region I) for the national first generation interest group for NACADA. My last conference presentation was at the NACADA national conference in Chicago in October 2008 and it was a panel presentation. It was titled: "Fear of Heights: A Panel Discussion on First Generation College Students—From Theory to Practice".

Ryan Barker ('04) was recently elected to serve as Secretary of Secretary of the Le Moyne College Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently serves as the Assistant Director for University Housing at Syracuse.

Margaret (Peggy) Bonesteel ('94) retired from the Associate Director position at SU's Project Advance, and now lives in Austria, where her daughter and husband teach at the American International School in Vienna. She enjoys spending time with her grandson, and traveling in Europe.

Emily Jo Campbell ('05) has just been promoted to Associate Director of Residence Life at Eastern Kentucky University.

Matthew Carr ('07) recently accepted the position of Assistant Director of Institutional Research at Hamilton College.

Melissa Chapman ('08) shares: I moved to San Francisco in June and began working in July for the University of Melbourne as Country Officer for North America. I work as part of a team of two responsible for recruiting students to study at the university in Melbourne, Australia, as well as marketing the university throughout the U.S. & Canada, and maintaining alumni relations. The biggest perk of the

job is I already had an opportunity to visit Melbourne for two weeks in July!

Bryan Custer ('08) is a Resident Director at UMass Amherst, and has been appointed the National Director of Future Leaders of Student Affairs.

R. Deborah Davis has been elected to the Board of Directors of the national Association of Multicultural Educators, as Director of Region Two, incorporating NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Stacia Daum ('09) accepted a full-time position as Academic Support Coordinator and Assistant Director of CSTEP at SUNY-Upstate College of Medicine.

Laura DiCarlo ('08) will now be the program coordinator at the Office of First Year and Transfer Programs at Syracuse University. She also got married in May in Geneva, NY, to David Crandall.

David Dresser ('71) retired from thirty-five years in higher education administration, filling roles as both a Dean and a VP, to serve as a town and county supervisor. He exclaims, "Syracuse [University] served me well!"

Steve Gaulty ('73) will retire from DePauw University on December 31, 2008. Steve held a number of positions in the development office during his 20 years at DePauw including executive director of development. He always found his MS from SU with a focus on the impact of HED on students and vice versa to be most helpful in educating donors with regard to the impact of their gifts on the education of students.

Debra (Varsik) Korfel ('03) married Douglas Korfel in Oct., 2008, and started a new job as a special education teacher for The Wheeler Clinic, which is a behavioral and mental health service organization in CT. She received her masters in special education from Westfield State College in 2008.

Amanda King recently left residence life and accepted the position of Director of Human Resources at Morrisville State College.

Alumni News

April Knox ('08) accepted the position of Educational Coordinator with Vanderbilt University's Peabody College in January 2008, working in both undergraduate programming and graduate recruitment and admissions. She found the HED preparation in advising, programming, leadership, and student development to be helpful to her career. And, she and husband Shaun welcomed a son recently.

Katrina Ladd ('05) was recently named Project Director for the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University. As such, she is responsible for managing a million-dollar workforce development grant from the Skillworks Foundation, supporting the Boston area's Emergency Medical Careers Partnership. In addition, Katrina became a licensed EMT in the Fall of 2008.

Camila Lertora-Nardozi has moved from Judicial Affairs to SU Study Abroad, where she is the Counselor for the Madrid, Spain and Santiago, Chile Study Abroad Programs.

Gabriela Lozanova ('07) just started working as an International Admission Counselor for Onondaga Community College and loves it!

Laura Madelone ('99) left her position as Director of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs at SU to accept a position as Director of Alumni Affairs at SUNY Oneonta.

Tonia Martin ('98) was promoted to Assistant Director of Financial Aid at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She and her husband Kevin have three children – Riley, Justin, and just-born Tyler.

Michael McLane ('77) is currently serving as the Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy for the Association of College and Research Libraries, a Division of the American Library Association. McLane previously held positions as Director of Libraries at The Catholic University of America (Washington, DC), Salisbury University (Maryland), SUNY Oswego and Herkimer County Community

College. In his current position, McLane is involved in recruiting academic and research librarians to serve as legislative advocates, particularly at the federal level. Complete information on the ACRL Legislative Advocates program can be found at: <http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/acrladvocates.cfm>

Tim Nelson has become the Director of Principal Gifts at Utica College.

Terra Peckskamp was appointed Director, Office of Residence Life, Syracuse University in January 2009. She is very excited about the new role, and enjoying this new challenge.

Laura Pipe ('07) is now the Assistant Director in the Center for Learning And Student Success (formerly the Office for Student Retention) at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. Our office handles the University's major collaborative learning efforts (learning communities, supplemental instruction, first year assessment, student success). FAU is a unique university - with 27,000 students on seven campus spread cross 125 miles of Atlantic coastline.

Angela Shetler ('03) is living in Washington, D.C., and works for the U.S. Department of State.

Ruth Shields ('08) gave birth to her first child, a daughter, in March!

Keith Shults ('08) was elected to the Alumni Association Board at Le Moyne College. In this capacity, Shults will seek to strengthen the bonds of loyalty and friendship among graduates and the College, and to cultivate alumni interest in and understanding of the College's objectives, programs, and activities.

Jason Tifone recently accepted an Assistant Director of Residential Living position at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Alumni News

Tina Tormey ('05) is participating in Philadelphia's Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile walk and fundraiser to benefit the Komen Foundation and The National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. Tina is committed to raise at least \$2,300 to participate in the walk. All of the proceeds go directly towards ended breast cancer via research, education, treatment and other forms of support for breast cancer initiatives. If you would like to learn more about why she's doing this or sponsor Tina, please go to: <http://www.the3day.org/goto/tinat>.

John Turbeville was recently promoted to Director of the Office of Career and Counseling Services at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, a change overshadowed by his recent marriage to Adrienne.

Tammy Westlake ('02) and her husband Evan welcomed their second child, Benjamin Robert, on July 3, 2008. He is adored by his older brother Connor (and, of course, by his parents).

Tom Wolfe ('02) is the new Senior Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs at Syracuse University. In July, he was also elected to the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

Gerald Yearwood ('96) is currently the Assistant Director in the Office of Career Services at Miami University in Oxford, OH, and was just recently named Director in the Office of Diversity Affairs.

McKeown Publishes Book on Studying Abroad

Joshua McKeown, a graduate of the HED Doctoral Program, has published his research in a book garnering a fair share of attention. *The First Time Effect: The Impact of Study Abroad on College Student Intellectual Development* provides research data and conclusions on the benefits of international study programs at a time when such programs are rapidly increasing in popularity. Dr. McKeown was awarded "Best of Region" for a presentation on his findings at the NAFSA regional conference in November of 2008, and presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in January, as well as Beijing at the APAIE. He will be presenting at the IUT Conference in Vancouver this summer.

HED Department Welcomes New Students

This fall we will be welcoming a class of 23 full- and part-time students. States they hail from include:

California	New Jersey
Louisiana	Pennsylvania
Colorado	New York
Nevada	

If you are in the area, please join us for the annual

Welcome BBQ
Wednesday, September 2
6pm
at Cathy Engstrom's home

RSVP to Barb Witek at bewitek@syr.edu

The HED Department would like to thank **Tom Wolfe**, Senior Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, and **Doug Biklen**, Dean of the School of Education, for making the following sites available for Graduate Assistantships this coming year:

- Fraternity and Sorority Affairs
- LGBT Resource Center
- Office of First-Year and Transfer Programs
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Office of Residence Life
- Office of Student Life
- Student Centers and Programming Services