

Fall 2020

NEWSLETTER

CSPA THE KNOW



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Congrats CSPA Class of 2020



Jessie Black

Bertita Barrientos

Rashad Cockrell

Steven Dye

Currie Eaves

John Gilbreath

Elizabeth Hocevar

Matthew Juster

Conner Miller

Jasmine Nettles

Bernard Nichols

Samantha Sartain

Hayley Thomas

RaShon Thomas

Léhi Valladares

Hope Webb

Sydney Welch



Welcome to the CSPA Program

Ashley Berry

Dai Bledsoe

Lexi Clark

Kinsey Davidson

Hannah Doederlein

Kendra Erickson

Sadeja Harper

Crystal Hodge

Qubanae' Hudson

KaRon Marbley

Isaiah May Jr.

Ana Rodriguez

Dan Rosenfeld

Alexandria Smith

Alana St.Cyr

Brittny Tyler

Lillian Williams



Program Updates

Hello UCA CSPA and friends! It is hard to believe we have completed the fall semester and are nearing the New Year. We won't use extensive space revisiting what you all know, that this year has been drastically different than any other (and hopefully from any in the future). Despite the differences and challenges, the CSPA program continued to move forward. Our students continued to lean into course content and dialogue in their pursuit of learning, growth, and skill development while also playing significant roles throughout campus in their assistantships and other field experiences.

The program congratulated 17 graduates this year and welcomed them into our alumni community. We welcomed 17 new students to the program this fall who represented undergraduate institutions from 13 different states. The first-year students are also serving in assistantships across eight different functional areas on campus.

We completed our external program review in February. We received very positive feedback from the reviewers along with valuable external perspectives as we look to the future of the program. Building on the external review, we are in the early stages of the strategic planning process for the program. With the assistance of a group of students in the *Assessment* course, we are currently reviewing our program objectives based on external standards and data from recent graduates. Be on the lookout for communication from the program as we continue the strategic planning process and seek to involve alumni and constituents.

A central part of the strategic planning process will be developing structural and action-based support for diversity, belonging, inclusion, and equity within the program community and larger higher education environment. We will approach this work from the framework presented by Poon (2018), which identified a fundamental difference in centering equity and tangentially valuing diversity. In communicating this

goal, we acknowledge societal and higher education history has been full of words that were hollow of actions.

Therefore, we will provide continual updates through the CSPA Newsletter, and we will seek your involvement, feedback, and recommendations as we move forward. We will center topics of privilege, power, and oppression across the curriculum, and significant updates to the *History of Higher Education* and *Student Development Theory* courses were implemented this semester.

We are also excited to welcome Dr. Allen Thomas as a new adjunct instructor within the program. Dr. Thomas earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at UCA and has direct experience working with college students in both academic and administrative capacities. Dr. Thomas' research interests include gay and lesbian issues, African American/Black issues, and the representation of marginalized identities in media. Dr. Thomas also serves as the advisor for PRISM at UCA and was recently recognized as a Champion of Pride by *The Advocate*.

A final update program update concerns students who pursue a thesis for their end of program experience. After considering the goals of the thesis projects and the concept of a scholar-practitioner in student affairs, we have shifted to a journal manuscript model for thesis. Therefore, instead of the traditional five-chapter thesis, students will conduct a research study and prepare and submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal (along with annotated bibliography and personal reflections on the project). We believe this supports a more direct scholar-practitioner model, and we are pleased to announce that we have five second-year students who will begin data collection when we return in the spring.



Coordinator Corner

Dr. Thomas Bruick

I am honored (and slightly terrified) to be serving as program coordinator for a program that was so instrumental to my own personal and professional

development. It is my goal to use this Coordinator Corner space to discuss trends and pressing topics in higher education. I firmly believe the higher education enterprise was moving towards a pivotal time over the next five to ten years, and the pandemic only heightened the situation as internal calls for growth and improvement are matched by external challenges. As I shared with our May graduates during our virtual graduation celebration, in thirty years when I am teaching *History of Higher Education* (and looking to retirement) we will be discussing the work you all are doing on campuses across the globe right now.

What innovations and sustainable change will grow out of this moment in time? What does the future of the field look like? I look forward to wrestling through those discussions with you all as we also consider what implications that carries for the program. As we seek to respond to the future needs of the field, we will not abandon our foundation as a program that prepares high quality professionals with a generalist's knowledge and skill-set.

That is a quick preview of what to expect within this section of the newsletter in the future. However, I wanted to spend the majority of Coordinator Corner in this issue honoring the work that has brought the program to this point. The CSPA community has always been about the people within it, and many of us could share seemingly endless stories of the influence of Drs. Charlotte Cone and Tom Pilgreen who started the program in 2001. Dr. Susan R. Barclay is another individual whose name will forever be part of this program's success story moving forward.

Dr. Barclay is an Associate Professor within the program who joined UCA in 2012, served as co-coordinator for the program for two years, and assumed full program coordinator responsibility in 2014.

Dr. Barclay remained in that role until January of 2020. Dr. Barclay provided critical leadership and stability during seasons of faculty turnover that led to multiple semesters of expanded course loads on top of program coordination and recruitment. During that time, Dr. Barclay consistently fostered an environment of care, community, and learning for the students. She also:

- Achieved tenure and promotion
- Oversaw the program's ten-year external review
- Led in the process of mapping the program curriculum to the foundational ACPA/NASPA Competencies
- Led a review of course titles and course descriptions
- Incorporated her career counseling expertise within the curriculum
- Developed the thesis course
- Served as chair for a multitude of theses (including 5 in one year!)



Dr. Susan R. Barclay

Most importantly, she mentored students throughout their experience in the program and beyond. An activity best described by former students themselves.

It all started with a scared, timid SPE candidate meeting you for the first time in a hotel lobby. Since then, we've had an amazing relationship. I will ALWAYS cherish our "Thursday's with Dr. B" nights!! We had so many great laughs and talks and you shared so much wisdom! Hopefully post-COVID we can resume our days! I know it's been a rollercoaster ride and many days you wanted to leave it all behind but I'm so thankful for the impact you had on my graduate experience. You are appreciated and I hope you will always remember that!!! **Sherita Kern**

Going into graduate school, I was really nervous about making the switch to student affairs and if a program would even accept me. At SPE, Dr. B made me feel so accepted and welcomed after our first conversation about the difference between soft sciences and hard sciences, while also bonding over our times at Ole Miss ☺ During my time in grad school, Dr. B gave me confidence to keep going, and I owe so much to her in my current role as I use the helping skills we learned in our classes. **Christian Robinson**

If I may be permitted the use of a metaphor, I'd say Dr. Sus' patience is a well in a faraway desert. My cohort ventured into this desert, and we lost ourselves in it. Frustrated, tired, and forlorn, we stumbled upon this well and eagerly drank from it. Indeed, I'm sure sometimes Dr. Sus felt as though we were actively trying to dry out the well. But try as we might, we did not. I am very thankful for all the love and kindness Dr. Sus offered. On some days we did not deserve it, and she kept on giving. The CSPA program is lucky to have her. **Léhi Valladares**

Dr. B really helped set my peers and me up for success when we left the CSPA program at UCA. Dr. B had a huge part in helping each of us build our professional foundation. Lastly, I will always remember Dr. B for the care, consideration, and candor in the way that she carries herself in the classroom and uniquely with each student she serves. **Kayla McIntosh**

Dr. Barclay was consistently working on ensuring we were getting the best education possible while many outside factors seemed to want to get in the way. Even when searching for a new full-time professor, taking on additional curriculums, overseeing more thesis students, finding adjunct professors, recruiting for next year students, traveling for recruitment, and Dr. Barclay still made sure that each student felt as if we were her top priority. It is clear she loves seeing students succeed past the requirements of her position, and I could feel that from the moment I met Dr. Barclay. The night before my first class in grad school, someone very close to me passed away in a horrible way. I was so sad and overwhelmed because I didn't want to start off on the wrong foot. I chose to still go to class and before the class began, I asked Dr. Barclay to step to the side and tell her what was going on and where I was at. She was extremely understanding and warm with the interaction, and it was then that I knew I was in good hands for the next two years. **Allie Nixon**

Dr. B was one of the most encouraging and lively professors I have ever had. She was always so authentic with all of us and she genuinely made me feel like I had everything already in me to succeed. I truly believe that she was one of the best parts about the CSPA program, and I feel extremely lucky to have had her as a professor. Her ability to moderate and mediate hard discussions is something I still carry with me and use in my job and my life. Her passion and love for higher education was so obvious. She made me excited to start my career. Soooooooooooooooooo basically, she was the best. **Jordan Habenschuss Skipper**

While Dr. Barclay has stepped out of the program coordinator role to take a well-deserved break and move forward with some interesting research, she continues to be a powerful fixture in the lives of our students and to build on the legacy described above. Thank you Dr. Barclay for all you have done and will do for the UCA CSPA community!

Recognition & Awards



Trevis Belle
Class of 2021

-Arkansas Student Affairs Association
(2020 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year)
- NASPA Region IV-W
(2020 Rising Star Graduate Student Award)

" These awards are just a testament towards the amount of work I put into my job and the impact I am creating, in addition to leaving my mark on the student affairs profession, especially as a young black man, hailing from the smallest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the most beautiful twin island federations in the Caribbean - St. Kitts & Nevis. "

TPE Ambassadors



Dai Bledsoe
Class of 2022

" It is an honor to serve as a resource for my friends and peers at UCA and neighboring institutions. Being a TPE Ambassador allows me to provide them quality information preparing them to be top candidates in the job search process. I look forward to seeing them develop and transition into the professional realm."



Hannah Doederlein
Class of 2022

"I am thrilled to have been selected as a TPE Ambassador and I am excited to be able to connect with other ambassadors at UCA and throughout the states. I look forward to creating programs to aid my peers in skill development and their job searches while learning more about the field of student affairs!"



Alana St.Cyr
Class of 2022

" I'm excited to be a TPE Ambassador because I want to create programs to help with the job search process and network with other current and future student affairs professionals!"



Sadeja Harper
Class of 2022

" I am most excited about being a bridge for my cohort members, creating new networks, meeting other professionals who share a passion for the higher education field, and my professional growth from this experience."

Where Are They Now?



Sydney Welch
Class of 2020

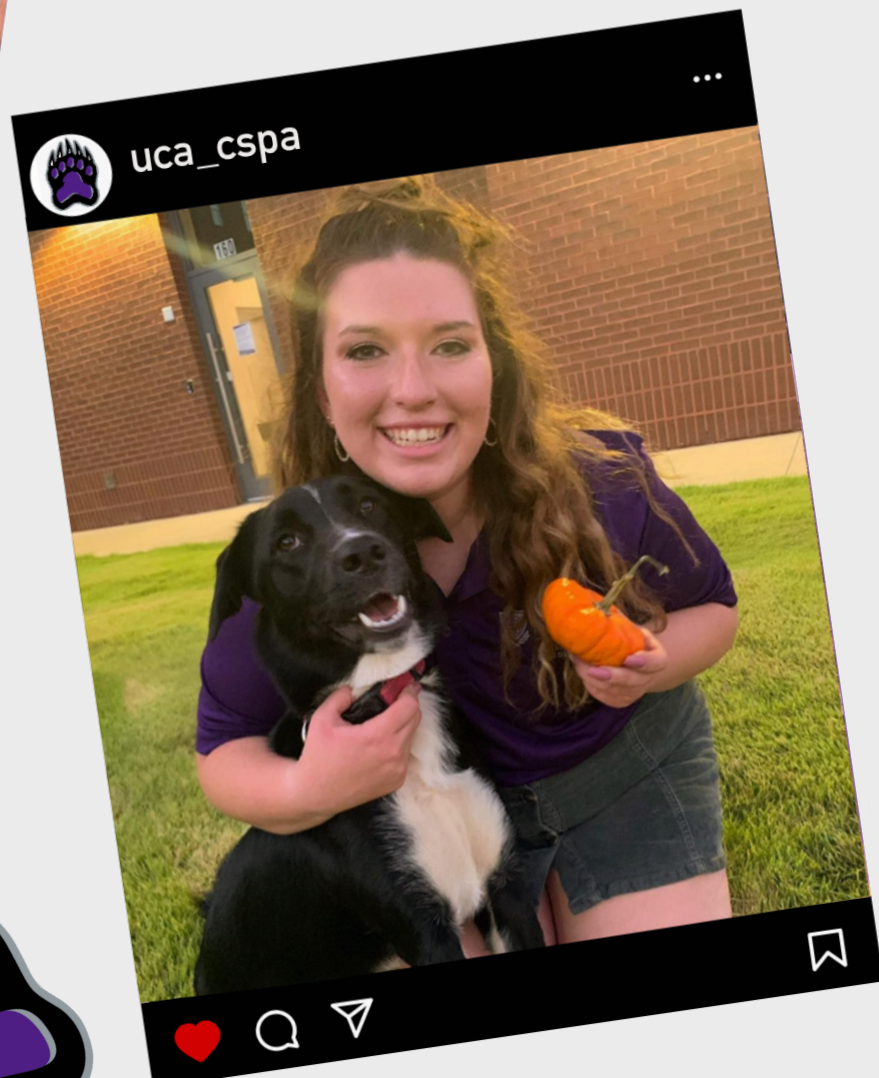
Sydney is a 2020 graduate of UCA's CSPA (College Student Personnel Administration) program. After completing her Master's, she received a Regional Admissions Counselor position with Admissions and Enrollment at UCA. Sydney recruits students from Dallas, Fort Worth, and Oklahoma City. She said, *"My favorite part is being able to not only share how amazing UCA is, but connect with them about going out of state. I'm originally from Kentucky and I went out of state for both of my degrees. I loved the idea of exploring a new place for a few years and calling it a home."*

Aarsenio is a 2013 graduate of UCA's CSPA (College Student Personnel Administration) program. For the past two years, Aarsenio has served as the Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Student Engagement at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. His office oversees clubs and organizations, leadership education, and programming for a campus population of about 7,000 students. Aarsenio's personal interests have evolved into delivering trainings and workshops centered on emotional intelligence, leadership education, diversity and inclusion, and personal development and team dynamics. He added, *"I miss my #Team2013 cohort and am extremely proud of the growth of the program over the years."*



Aarsenio Perry
Class of 2013

CSPA Bears In The Wild





GO BEARS
GO BEARS
GO BEARS

