Developments

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A Semesterly publication of the Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education for SPS/SAHE alumni and friends

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Please let us know what you think about Developments. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome and greatly appreciated.

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Welcome Class of 2025!

The SAHE department welcomed a new cohort of students this fall whose undergraduate careers occurred both near and far. Three of our new students are IUP alums, with two more graduating from George Mason University, and one each from Mercyhurst University, the University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown, Keene State College, and the University of Education – Ghana.

Students have participated in a variety of events and activities to get to know each other, the SAHE program, and their colleagues and faculty. Dr. Mimi Benjamin presented on the four-stage framework of adjustment to graduate academic life – the often referenced "you know that you know, you know that you don't know,. . . " that has been a staple of our introductory information for students. Dr. John Lowery provided information about the SAHE Curriculum, and ASD hosted a lunchtime get-acquainted activity using a question/answer game where students also learned a bit more about each other and the faculty (who knew John's happy place is Las Vegas, or Mimi's favorite way to spend a Saturday is reading a book on her porch??). ASD has continued to provide opportunities for SAHE students, which are highlighted in an article in this newsletter.

The class of 2025 has been keeping themselves busy with their classes as well as assistantships, which include sites such as the IUP University College, UPJ Student Conduct, IUP Fraternity and Sorority Life, and IUP's Office of Housing, Residential Living, and Dining, among others. We're happy to have such a great group of new students!

Dr. John Lowery

Chair's Corner

Greetings from Stouffer Hall! Things are very busy on campus. There is a great deal of change underway at IUP some of which will directly impact SAHE.

IUP is in the early stages of establishing a College of Osteopathic Medicine and recently announced the appointment of the founding dean. This is a multi-year process and the new college will not open for another 4-5 years.

Provost Lara Luetkehans is also leading a comprehensive reorganization of the entire academic affairs division at IUP. The current plan calls for the total number of departments to be reduced by about 40% along with various other changes which will effect roughly 80% of the academic departments at IUP. SAHE will be merging with Department of Undergraduate Studies and Student Success (UGSS) which was the Developmental Studies department when many of you were students at IUP. We will be moving organizationally from the College of Education and Communications to the University College. We realized that SAHE could not remain a free-standing department in this process and advocated for this option among several others. We believe that there is significant synergy between SAHE and UGSS, bringing together undergraduate faculty focused on student success and graduate faculty who prepare professionals to support college student success, development, and learning. There are many more details, questions, and steps in this process and we will share more information with you in the spring issue of Developments.

As I look forward to the spring, I am excited to attend ASCA in Portland, Oregon and NASPA in Seattle. I will be presenting at legislative and public policy updates at ASCA again this year. As I continue in my role as NASPA Historian, I will be presenting with several colleagues on the history of the involvement of community college student affairs professionals in the organization from the 1960s until today. Prior to 1966, NASPA limited institutional membership to four-year institutions while today community colleges are a vital part of NASPA's membership and an area of significant focus. I hope to connect with SAHE alumni at both conferences.

Margaret, our daughter who many alumni have met over the past 15 years, is now a college sophomore. at the University of South Carolina studying Public Health. We were able to visit her recently over the Thanksgiving Break and she continues to thrive at USC. She works in undergraduate admissions, is volunteering with Dance Marathon, and has been selected to serve as a peer leader for University 101 next fall.

Ute, who worked for the IUP Research Institute for more than a decade, began a new job in August working with the University of Michigan's Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. Her position is 100% remote and she is enjoying new role.

I want to thank the many SAHE alumni who continue to encourage their students to consider the IUP SAHE Program when exploring their graduate school options. Please continue to send us your students.

Dr. Mimi Benjamin

A friend sent me a postcard not long ago with an Oscar Wilde quote that says, “And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” I think that sums things up – I blinked and it was fall! Summer had its ups and downs; hopefully your summer had mostly ups. Although I’ve been dealing with aging parents and their health issues since mid-summer, in finding a silver lining I can report that I’ve listened to a lot of audiobooks during my drives back and forth from my hometown of St. Marys, PA (about 2 hours from Indiana).

Professional activities this summer included finishing the next living-learning communities book that I’ve been writing with Karen Inkelas (University of Virginia) and Jody Jessup-Anger (Marquette University). Watch for *Living-Learning Communities in Practice: A Guide for Creating, Maintaining, and Sustaining Effective Programs in Higher Education* in the coming months! I spent my annual week at “research camp” at Elon University, participating in my final summer research seminar. I’m pleased with the work we accomplished and anticipate seeing some of that work published soon. Our seminar started off with a conference, and I presented on three different projects, all of which have been interesting and provided opportunities to work with wonderful colleagues.

John and I also have been working hard on recruiting the next class of SAHE students. Capitalizing on Careers in Student Affairs Month in October as well as other opportunities, we have visited with multiple student organizations and classes, co-sponsored a “Coffee & Career Conversation” event with the Career and Professional Development Center, and made plans to visit nearby campuses to share information about our program. Thanks to SAHE alums, students, and friends who have helped us with these initiatives. Please do help us in our efforts by spreading the word to your students about our profession and the IUP SAHE program.

On the personal front, other than the family health issues (which are pretty under control at this point), I spent my usual time reading on my porch, planted my garden and reaped the benefits in the form of lots of tomatoes, and watched as my husband Mike created an external woodworking shop. We’re looking forward to family visits over the holidays and some time to relax at home (with more books!). I hope that you’ve had and continue to have a productive academic year and that you find fun ways to take care of yourselves as well.

Dr. T.J. Jourian

Hello from Lenapehoking, the unceded lands of the Lenni-Lenape people, specifically an area known today as Philadelphia. As this is my first semester joining you all at IUP – virtually I might add – I seem to have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to what I could share with you all. I'm grateful to Dr. Lowery for seeing it fit for me to join the SAHE community at what feels like a critical time in higher education.

We are three and a half years into a global pandemic that exposed just how ingrained all manners of injustice are in the fabric of society, a society upheld by higher education. I say exposed, but in reality, not all of us were unaware. Over the course of these three and a half years, many in student affairs and higher education have confronted battles of consciousness, forcing them to decide whether it is time to leave a field many hold – or held – dear. It is a surreal experience to witness from the outside – with one or two toes still in – what my friends, former colleagues, students, and many others have had to hold, change, resist, accept, and let go of. And we are still there, grappling with what student affairs looks like and does in the near and far futures.

It seems cliché to espouse the graduate student version of "the children are the future," but that is the truth. You all, and the thousands of your peers across over hundreds of masters, doctoral, and certificate programs, are the future of this field. That is IF you choose to take up that mantle. Three and a half years into a global pandemic many have been eager to get back to normal. But what is normal? Or at least what was normal before that first quarter of 2020? And do we actually want or need to go back to that?

Those are the questions that I hope at least some of you are asking yourselves and each other. Normalness or normativity is something that I've tried to critically examine for as long as I can remember, as a young person, as a student, as an activist, as a scholar, as an educator, as a writer. It is something that is at the core of my work with my co-researchers, a group of scholars and scholar-practitioners who have been or currently are LGBTQ+ center diversity workers. Thinking of them, I am reminded of the following quote by journalist and author, Shankar Vedantam:

"Those who travel with the current will always feel they are good swimmers. Those who swim against the current may never realize they are better swimmers than they imagine."

At a time when anything diversity or justice related is under scrutiny and under attack, we have chosen to come together to resist the normativities of the past, present, as well as the normativities being manufactured today. Through research and praxis, we are choosing to come together to support each other and our peers swimming against the torrential currents, to strengthen and retool our individual swimming skills, and to build ships so no one has to swim alone and where some can rest when they need to.

As you all move through your coursework, your assistantships and practica, and your many other roles as students, practitioners, and people, I hope you'll join me and take a moment to look around to see if the direction you are swimming in is the one you want to pursue, before the waves have swept you to a shore you did not want to land on. Dare to imagine the kind of worlds you want to be a part of manifesting and grab an oar to get us there.

Dr. T. J. Jourian was an adjunct faculty member for the fall 2023 semester.

Class of 2023: Where are they now?

Abreeya Darda: Community Coordinator at The George Washington University
Scott Florence: Student Teacher at Beaver County Technical Center
Matthew Grayo: Adjunct Professor in the Department of English at Holy Family University
Justin Lew: Traveling to see friends and expanding his language learning by visiting Costa Rica and volunteering in Poland
Cecelia Martz: Director of Residence Life and Housing at Carlow University
Kayla Mikesell: Admissions Counselor at Penn State Altoona
Bennett Nesley: Assistant Director, Industry Advising at the University Career Center at Villanova University
Christina Nieves: Residence Hall Director at Cornell University
Pia St. Pierre: Academic Adviser in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State
Matt Van Etten: Assistant Director of Student Engagement, managing Fraternity and Sorority Life and Campus Activities at PennWest Edinboro
Marc Vukotich: Academic Advisor in the College of Engineering and Information Technology at University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Alumni Updates

Name and SAHE Class Year	Update
Mark Anthony ‘83	• Retired from University of South Carolina Career Center in March 2023; continuing in a part-time remote position consulting on projects for the office
Tom Baker ‘05	• Was named a 2023 Pittsburgh Business Times C-Suite Award winner, which honors the C-suite executives who have demonstrated vital leadership and business savvy to guide their companies and organizations to success each year
Abby Bair (Gontis) ‘22	• Started as the Program Coordinator, Advising and Growth in the Student Organization Resource Center at the University of Pittsburgh! • Got married on September 30th, 2023!
Madi Crist ‘17	• Started a new job as Manager of Accreditation with United Way of Central Indiana
Kaitlyn (Rajner) Argus ‘18	• Married Cody Argus on October 20, 2023
Michael Dodge ‘06	• Promoted to permanent role of Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer in July 2023 at American International College
Eliza Eames ‘22	• Began new position at Alvernia University as Director of New Student Programs
Andee Fisher ‘12	• Started a new role as the Associate Director of Student Engagement at Georgetown University

Alumni Updates Continued

Jackie Hackett ‘16	• Started a new role in August 2022: Assistant Executive Director at Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity • Married in October 2023 to Tanner Gellinger
Angelina Jenkins ‘19	• First-year Ph.D student in the Higher Education, Student Affairs and International Education Policy program at the University of Maryland • Recieved the Hrabowski Innovation Fund SEED Grant at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County • Became a team member of 2023-2025 NASPA Asian Pacific Islanders Knowledge Community (APIKC) Leadership & Asian Pacific Islanders Promoting Educational eXcellence (APPEX) Coordinator • Joined the NASPA 2024 Conference Leadership Committee, Engagement & Volunteers Subcommittee Member
Koreen Kerfoot ‘02	• Became the Director of the Center for Student Engagement and Leadership at New Mexico Tech
Maeve Kirby ‘17	• 5 years of service at Western Carolina University, Associate Director of Residence Life for Academic Partnerships since 2021
Sage Messenger ‘21	• Promoted to Assistant Director of Residential Life at Valparaiso University
Ethan Munns ‘21	• Transitioned to a position as an undergraduate admissions counselor at McDaniel College after two years in residence life
Anthony Nguyen ‘19	• Became a Student Engagement Programmer, Inclusion & Belonging at Conestoga College in June 2023 • Became an Instructor in the 2SLGBTQ+ Studies: Topics in Gender and Sexuality program at Humber College in Sept 2023 • Became a Professor for HSF 1210: Understanding Diversity the Human Services Foundation program at Conestoga College in Sept 2023

Alumni Updates Continued

Wayne Nichols ‘20	• Started new position as a Leadership Development Coordinator in the Office of Residence Life at University of California, Los Angeles in September 2023
Michael Paestella ‘97	• Received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service • The campus announcement came out in early August and received the medal and framed certificate at our President's Opening Breakfast to start the academic year
Erin Schutt ‘09	• Certified Career Service Provider at Delaware Technical Community College
Kristen Shimko ‘20	• Began new role as a Student Responsibility Coordinator at The University of Kentucky
Ashley Testa ‘12	• Recently left position as the Director of Housing and Residence Life at La Roche University to serve as the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for Carlow University
Kelly (Cordero) Thompson ‘11	• Accepted a role as an Assistant Professor in the Co-op Program at University of Cincinnati this year and will be teaching and advising students in their co-op program (preparing for an finding a co-op)
Celine Walker ‘18	• Moved from Hall Director at Pratt Institute to Director of Residence Life at Rosemont College
Lauren Zahour ‘17	• Transitioned to a new role as the Assistant Director of Operations in the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Health & Wellness at West Chester University
Matthew Zielinski ‘06	• Promoted to Assistant Dean of Students for Student Development and Belonging at Seton Hill University

Associates for Student Development (ASD)

The 2023 Associates for Student Development (ASD) Executive Board has been working to continue vital SAHE traditions that support the continued growth and development of our program. To conclude the Spring 2023 semester, the ASD Executive Board hosted the annual “SAHE Banquet” to celebrate the Class of 2023 and all they have accomplished in their time at IUP. We wish them well in their first year as IUP SAHE alum!

Throughout the summer, the second-year cohort provided mentorship opportunities to the incoming SAHE Class of 2025 through the “Summer Match” program, allowing our new students the opportunity to connect with upcoming second-year SAHE students prior to the start of the semester. Our Vice President for Membership and Finance also forged connections and built mentorship opportunities through the annual “Cohort Connect” program, and paired our first-year cohort members with excited second-years who want to help them succeed! The ASD Executive Board also worked with the SAHE faculty to provide a modified “SAHE Kick-Off” that was focused on getting to know the faculty more socially. Another opportunity for connection also came from the “Alumni Connect” program offered to the second-year students who are looking for guidance in a variety of areas as they gear up for job searches and the eventual transition out of graduate school. Way to go Class of 2024 and thank you to all of the alumni who volunteered their time and expertise!

Our Vice President of Programming hosted a “Fall Fest” event in October that included pumpkin painting, a spooky movie, and lots of delicious food. We look forward to the upcoming “SAHE Thanksgiving” in early December which will combine all of the upcoming holidays into one big party to close out the year. There we will announce the new 2024 Associates for Student Development Executive Board! Our Vice President for Professional Development has been working with the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) at IUP to facilitate a resume workshop for both cohorts to begin building their professional portfolios. ASD also looks forward to a “Coffee and Career Conversations” event in November to help support recruitment efforts of the SAHE program and spend valuable time with other professionals who are engaging in student affairs work across campus.

As our time as the ASD Executive Board comes to a close, I, Casey Brown am full of grateful energy for both my executive board, and all of the members of ASD past, present, and future who help to keep the spirit of the SAHE program alive. Collectively, we work to ensure that we all feel supported and ready to pursue meaningful careers in higher education. I personally want to thank my executive board for their dedication, pride, and excellence in making our work full of wonderful memories and joy. We thank you, as alumni, for all of your support, and please be sure to connect with us on Instagram @iupsahe.asd or via email at iupsahe.asd@gmail.com!

Newkerk Scholarship 2023

The 2023 Nancy J. Newkerk Scholarship was recently presented to Lindsay Aurand. Lindsay, a second-year student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program who earned a bachelor of science degree in biology education from IUP, serves as a graduate director in the IUP Housing Office. She also serves as the advisor to the Residence Hall Council and Rho Alpha Sigma, the National Honorary Society for Resident Assistants, and has supported students through her work as a mock interviewer with IUP's Career and Professional Development Center.

One of Lindsay's nominators stated, "Nancy Newkerk and Lindsay share a passion for women's issues and an undergraduate degree in teaching. Perhaps it is this connection that reminds me of the way Nancy never missed a chance to educate others in a caring and humble manner. Lindsay shares that same quality. She puts her undergraduate teaching knowledge to good use as she serves as a strong advocate for equality and issues of diversity and never misses a teachable moment."

Since 1999, the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship has been awarded to deserving second-year SAHE graduate students who demonstrate outstanding contributions to college students, student affairs activities, the SAHE department, and the broader higher education community.

Nancy Newkerk served as dean of women at IUP (then Indiana State Teachers College) from 1957 to 1967 and as associate dean of Admissions at IUP from 1978 until her retirement in 1994. She was awarded the IUP President's Medal of Distinction in 2009. She passed away in 2017.

Newkerk scholarship recipients are selected based on the qualities that reflect Nancy Newkerk's own professional career in student affairs: a collaborative colleague, a student-centered practitioner, and a role model for citizenship and civic responsibility.

Lindsay was presented with her award and scholarship at the College of Education and Communications' annual Scholarship Reception on November 2, 2023.

Get Involved Award 2022

Casey Brown, SAHE Class of 2024, is the recipient of the 2023 Get Involved! SAHE Student Leadership Award. This award, created by Tom Baker (SAHE ’05), Erin Baker, and Lila June Baker, is presented annually to one first year Student Affairs in Higher Education student at Indiana University of PA. Recipients have demonstrated a sincere interest in bettering the SAHE community, are making a difference within the campus that they work on, have made a positive difference through other involvement, and display an enthusiasm and passion for assisting others from a diverse assortment of backgrounds.

In selecting Casey, Tom Baker shared, "Casey is passionate about saying ‘yes’ when opportunities come her way to help others. Through her work with Student Involvement and Leadership Development she makes a big impact on campus at IUP. She put herself a bit out of her comfort zone to also join the Residence Life community. By saying ‘yes’ to new experiences Casey Brown is making the most of her SAHE experience at IUP!"

We congratulate Casey Brown on this honor and thank her for her contributions at IUP!

Michael Hanni Scholarship 2023

Michael Hanni's mother, Becky Hanni (left), Madi Kiser (center), and Michael's sister, Sophia Hanni (right)

On Tuesday, October 17, the Michael Hanni Memorial Scholarship was presented to Madi Kiser, a second-year SAHE student, by members of Michael's family. Michael Hanni was a 2019 graduate of the Student Affairs in Higher Education program who passed away from COVID-19 in 2021 while working at Youngstown State University.

His family and friends established the scholarship in his memory to help college students in need at IUP who exemplify the same qualities as Michael. This is a particularly fitting memorial to him given the importance of both education and IUP to Michael.

Madi earned her undergraduate degree at Humboldt State University in California and has an assistantship at the University of Pittsburgh–Johnstown.

Ronald Lunardini Award 2023

At the conclusion of resident assistant training for the undergraduate student staff at IUP, the Student Affairs in Higher Education faculty formally presented the 2023 Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award to Julene (Jules) Pinto-Dyczewski. Her selection was previously announced in April.
Pinto-Dyczewski is a 1989 graduate of the SAHE (then Student Personnel Services) program and currently serves as the associate director of Residence Life and the Training and Leadership Development specialist at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has worked at IUP for 33 years in residence life since graduating.

Through the generous support of Ron and Peggy Lunardini, the recipient also receives a $500 gift which allows the recipient to experience the pleasure of financially supporting an educational program of their choosing. Pinto-Dyczewski announced that she was donating the gift to the IUP Housing Student Leadership fund. The money will be divided between the Residence Hall Association/National Residence Hall Honorary and Rho Alpha Sigma, RA fraternity. Both organizations support leadership development and recognition of current student leaders with an eye toward developing student affairs professionals of tomorrow.

We encourage you to consider nominating an outstanding alum for the 2024 Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award. See John Lowery's email to the SAHE listserv for details.

An Enduring Alumni CONNECTion

Paige Matzerath

Bennett Nesley

In the Fall of 2022, second-year SAHE student and ASD member Bennett Nesley signed up to participate in the Alumni CONNECT program, a program initiated in 2018 that pairs second-year SAHE students who are members of ASD with alums who graduated within the previous five years. Because of shared professional interests in career services, Bennett was paired with Paige Matzerath (SAHE '20). Today, Bennett and Paige work together at Villanova, and they've shared their CONNECTion story.

Why did you decide to participate in the Alumni Connect Program?

Paige: When I was a mentee in the Alumni Connect Program, my mentor, Brandon Sousa, was incredibly insightful in guiding me in the job search process. That's why when it was my time to serve as a mentor, it was a no brainer; I was thrilled to share my knowledge and help support a current IUP SAHE student transition into a fulltime higher education position.

Bennett: The sign-ups for the Alumni Connect Program were open shortly after the SPS/SAHE 50th Anniversary Reunion. During this time, I witnessed so many success stories from alumni from our program and the event conjured a sense of SAHE pride. With graduation on the horizon, connecting with Alumni was a natural next step and the Alumni Connect Program seemed to be the perfect avenue. However, I would have certainly decided to participate in the program regardless of the excitement that came with the festivities. I had been a graduate assistant at the Career and Professional Development Center with aspirations of continuing work in career services. I would be quite hypocritical to express the importance of networking and connecting with alumni in career coaching appointments while ignoring an opportunity to do so to benefit my own professional development.

What did you gain from your participation in the program?

Bennett: I can state with complete confidence that participating in this program had a significant impact on my life. My wonderful alumni mentor—Paige Matzerath—pointed me toward my current position, and we are now colleagues! Paige was a successful mentor, not just because she directly pointed me to a job and helped me prepare for my interview, but because she helped me become open to opportunities. Now, I am becoming acclimated with the Philadelphia area, and I can learn to root for the 76ers. Although, I do not think I can bring myself to root for the Eagles over the Steelers.

Paige: Not only did I gain an incredible mentee, but I gained a wonderful colleague as well.

Do you have any special SAHE memories that resulted from the Alumni Connect Program?

Paige: Not only were [Bennett and I] able to bond over our similar interests, but I was also able to share my experiences with Bennett to help prepare him for the upcoming job search. Luckily, at my current institution, Villanova University, a position opened that fit Bennett's interests perfectly. After guiding him through the application process, Bennett accepted an offer at Villanova where we now are able to collaborate within our work.

Bennett: Although Paige and I both work in professional development roles at Villanova, we are not in the same office. As a result, we do not see each other on a daily basis. So, the any time we get to collaborate is a mini SAHE reunion.

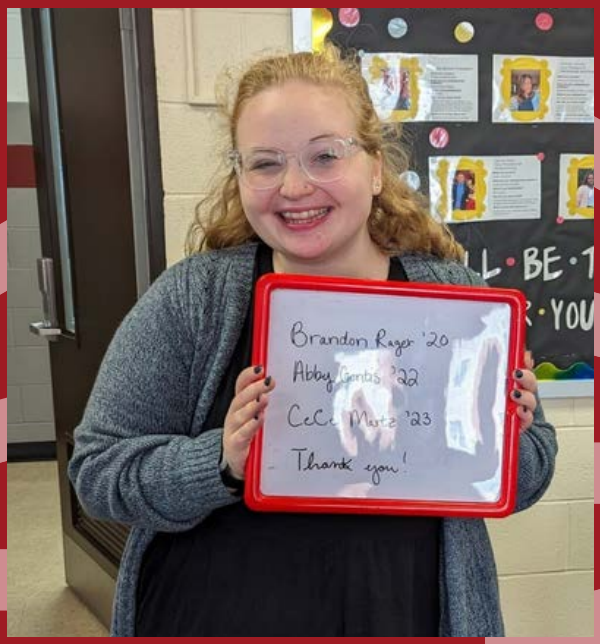
My favorite SAHE memory that resulted from the Alumni Connect Program came during my second day at Villanova. My supervisor planned a surprise extended lunch between me and Paige. Being able to have a SAHE connection at my new university helped make the place feel a little more like home. I am looking forward to more SAHE at Nova memories to come; particularly, Paige and I are scheduled to assist in a week-long immersion trip for a cohort of students interested in film and television production in Los Angeles this spring break.

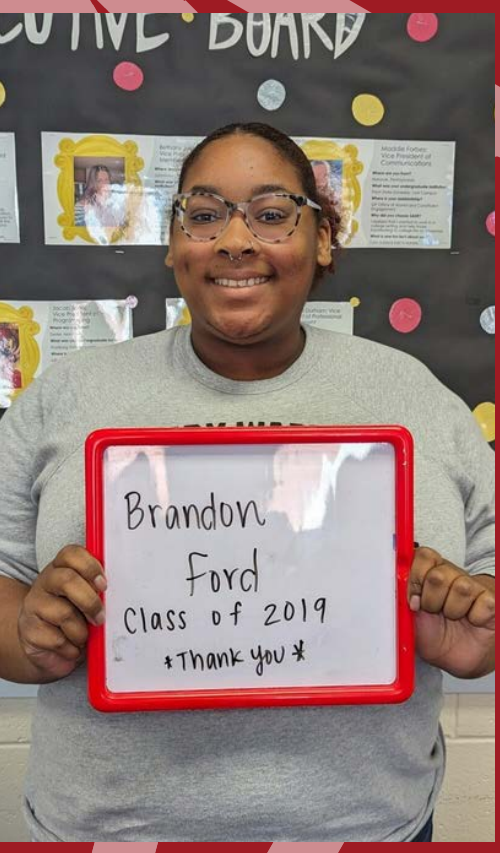
What recommendations do you have for SAHE students?

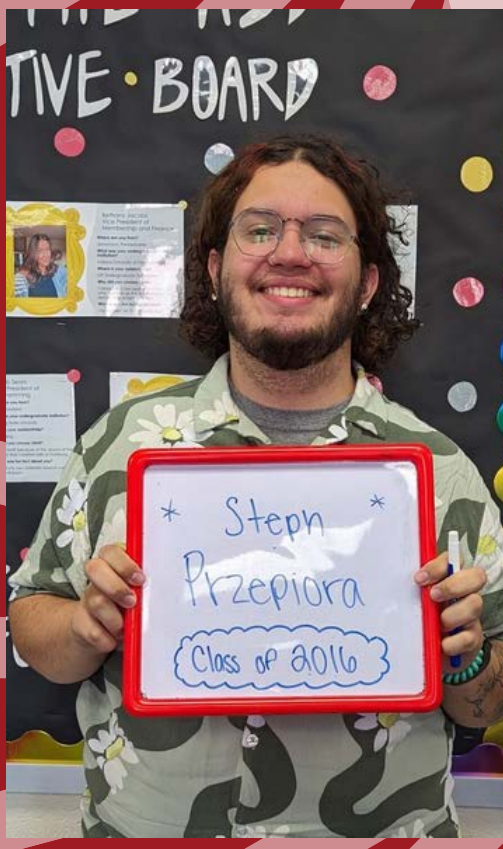
Bennett: I would recommend that students recognize that the alumni with positions they aspire to hold were at one point starting their careers, too. Reaching out for a connection is not burdening them; it is giving them the opportunity to provide the same help that someone else gave them earlier in their careers—sort of like a student affairs and higher education circle of life. I also would like to recommend that you utilize the resources that are available to you on campus. Graduate students can also make career coaching appointments (I cannot help but shamelessly plug the CPDC).

Paige: Connections go a long way, especially with IUP SAHE graduates. Take advantage of connecting with others to share your story and learn about them. Oftentimes, those connections are incredibly helpful in the future!

SAHE Alumi Inspire the Current Cohorts







A Note from the Editors

Madi Kiser

Maddie Forbes

Hello SAHE students, alumni, faculty, and friends! As the fall 2023 semester comes to a close, we would like to thank you for staying up to date and making contributions to this edition of the *Developments* newsletter. We have spent the semester curating an archive that best highlights the unique experiences of current and former SAHE students.

We would like to give special thanks to Dr. Mimi Benjamin, whose guidance has been incredibly helpful in crafting this newsletter.