

The Vermont Connection

Letter from the Editor

Greetings HESA Alums, Friends, and Family,

The first signs of the new season were just upon us as the University of Vermont opened its doors to students once again this August. Hints of red, orange, and yellow had begun to appear in the otherwise deep green of the mountains. Leaves around campus have started to dust the ground, preparing the transition into fall. Transition is inherent at the start of a new academic year as we prepare for our own studies and the work we will do as professionals on campus this year. In Vermont, this is reflected in the changing of the seasons. A new school year brings new colleagues, new ideas, new students, and new opportunities for change. Along with transition comes an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and where we hope to go. The interconnectedness of understanding the past, owning the present, and preparing for the future are ingrained in the success of our institution and our students.

Reflection and meaning making will play a key role in our nation this year as we prepare for the upcoming presidential election. Election years call us all to reflect on the issues, values, beliefs, morals, and goals that we hold closest to our hearts. So too is it in student affairs, as we look to the opportunities and experiences that have given us meaning and keep us motivated to do the work that we do. Whether or not we work directly with students, we are always working for them. In so doing, we help to ensure that they too will grow as individuals to realize the power of reflection and meaning making in their own lives.

The Editorial Board for the 30th edition of The Vermont Connection is proud to present this year's theme for the Moral Conversation section of the journal: "*There and Then, Here and Now: Reflection and Meaning Making in Student Affairs.*" With the anniversary edition, the incorporation of the element of reflection has emerged as an important practice as the HESA program continues to grow, expand, and diversify. At the same time, the Editorial Board wanted to provide a venue to discuss what we feel is an up and coming trend within the higher education realm, meaning making. We hope that you will spend some time thinking about the experiences in your lives and in your careers that have brought you meaning. We ask that you think about what being in the field of student affairs means to you, reflect on what it has meant to you, and how you help students and colleagues create meaning in their lives.

Without the dedication and desire of the 2007-2008 Editorial Board, this year's board would not be as firmly rooted or prepared to take on the excitement and challenges that this year will bring. Through perhaps one of the most challenging financial circumstances in recent years, the board, in conjunction with many members of the HESA community, came together with style and grace to produce a high quality journal with an emphasis on sustainability and going green. We thank them wholeheartedly for their efforts and support as they have set new standards for TVC that we hope to both exemplify and build upon.

In the coming weeks and months, we look forward to connecting with you in many ways, whether that be through our upcoming Phone-A-Thon, various local and regional conferences, at the UVM Premiere in February, at the ACPA and NASPA national conferences in the spring, or through some of the innovative channels we are hoping to implement this year. Your input, feedback, and ideas allow all of us to strengthen the unique bond that is TVC. We thank you in advance for all of your assistance in helping The Vermont Connection continue to thrive.

With deep gratitude,
Colleen Toomey
Editor, *The Vermont Connection*



The 2008-2009 Editorial Board

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Colleen Toomey '09

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Hung Mai '09

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Jessica Lein '09
Jason Johnson '10

**Social & Professional
Development Chairs**
Lori Alvarado '10
Wendy Schneider '10

Advisors
Patty Eldred '80
Corin Blanchard '04

A Welcome from the Classes of 2009 & 2010



From left to right: Travis Annan (Colorado Sate University '07), Meagan Burton-Krieger (Albion College '07), Grant Hoover (University of Southern California '07) , Colleen Toomey (University of California Santa Cruz '06), Jessica Lein (Bucknell University '05), Jesse Wingate (St. Lawrence University '07), Nicky Beaudoin (Keene State College '07), Domonic Rollins (Ohio State University '06) , Iesha Valencia (California State University Chico '06), Joshua Gonzalez (University of Connecticut '07), Julie Kirschner (The College of New Jersey '05), Hung Mai (Carleton University '07). , Laurel Dreher (Ithaca College '07) , Clinton Jasperson (University of Wyoming '07) Not pictured: Marnie Owen (University of Vemont '02), Frank Michael Muñoz (University of Virginia '07)



From left to right, back to front: Nathan Panelo (Western Washington University '07), Kailee Brickner-McDonald (College of William & Mary '06), Wendy Schneider (College of St. Scholastica '07), Adam Ortiz (Wheaton College '05), Stacey Banfield-Hardaway (St. Lawrence University '08), Kirsten Fricke (Maryland Institute College of Art '03), Laura McGivern (University of Vermont '05), Lori Alvarado (University of California San Diego '08), Gretchenrae Callanta (Seattle University '08), Erin Craw (College of Wooster '04), Valerie Garcia (University of New Mexico '07), Jackie Hyman (University of Maryland College Park '08), Monique Wright (Wheaton College '07), Matthew Van Jura (Ohio State University '08). Note not pictured: Payne Hiraldo (Hampshire College '06) & Jason Johnson (University of Vermont '02)

HESA '08 Comprehensive Exam Titles

Sarah Maria Childs

Other: The Invisible People Giving Voice and Meaning to Multiracial Individuals in Student Affairs and Higher Education

Rachel deSimone

Women's Leadership and the World Café Model: A Reflective Qualitative Research Project and Comprehensive Exam

Elizabeth M. Guevara

Identity Theft: How Higher Education both Stripped and Restored My Languages and Ethnicities

Sarah E. Hoffert

Acknowledge and Developing Identity: Four Twins' Journey Attending College Separately From Their Twin Siblings

David Laxamana

From Dismissed to Distinguished in the Academy: One Non-Traditional Student's Candid Account of Making Sense of His Multiple Identities

Benjamin C. Meoz

From ADDolescence to ADDulthood: Surviving Higher Education and the Real World with AD/HD

Patricia Châu Nguyễn

"Letters to an Un-published Scholar": A Soulful Journey of a Student Affairs Practitioner to Self-Empowerment through Student Empowerment

A.J.B. Place

Helping Student Affairs Professionals Understand a Gender Queer Identity: Being Purple-Living between the Pink and Blue

Hannah M. Roberts

A Return to Resilience: Stress-Reduction Implications for Student Affairs Graduate Programs

Sarah Reid

Strengthening the Senior Year: Senior Capstone Priorities and the Transition from College to Life-After-College

Laura Brina Semenow

The Debate over Affirmative Action in Brazilian Universities

Ian T. Stroud

Indian Higher Education: The Indigenous Presence in Colleges And Universities

Andrew Wells

Queer Role Models: How Mentoring relationships with Student Affairs Practitioners Counter Students' Internalization of Homophobia

Thomas Whitcher

The Influence of Film Media as it Relates to the College Male Greek Experience

HESA Academic News:

Kenneth P. Saurmann Award Winner

On behalf of the HESA faculty & staff, classes of 2009 & 2010, and the HESA community, we would like to congratulate David Laxamana for earning The Kenneth P. Saurmann Award for the 2007-2008 academic year.



Faculty Appointment

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Dr. Dorian L. McCoy, who has served for two years as a Henderson Post Doctoral Fellow for the HESA program, has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor with the College of Education and Social Services here at the University of Vermont!



The Vermont Connection News

The 2008-2009 E-Board



The **2008-2009 TVC Editorial Board** would like to introduce our Social & Professional Development Chairs: Lori Alvarado & Wendy Schneider. These positions were created by the 2007-2008 E-Board to plan social events that foster connections between the two cohorts. Additionally, they implement professional development activities and maintains a historic record for the journal. Some programming initiatives include: a ropes course, and workshops on marketing & advertising and conference etiquette. In addition to being on this year's E-Board, Lori is the Graduate Assistant in Student Life as the First Year Experience Coordinator and Wendy is the Graduate Assistant in Residential Life as the Coordinator for Community and Leadership Development.



The Vermont Connection 30th Edition

There and Then, Here and Now: Reflection and Meaning Making in Student Affairs

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We invite you to submit an article for publication in the 30th Volume of The Vermont Connection. **Abstracts are due by September 26th.** Traditional models of scholarship, as well as alternate forms of expression are welcome. Please include with your abstract an outline of your proposed paper. Abstracts should be 200 words or less. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Content Editors: Jason Johnson (Jason.Johnson@uvm.edu) and/or Jessica Lein (Jessica.Lein@uvm.edu).

Criteria for the selection of articles for the journal are as follows:

- 1) Proposal of a provocative, creative, or innovative topic
- 2) Inclusion of a well-organized and cohesive outline
- 3) Presentation of a well-written abstract with appropriate grammar, correct punctuation, and a clear thesis.

Please submit your abstracts and outlines to the Content Editors.

The timeline for article submissions is as follows:

Abstracts due September 26th
 First Drafts due October 24th
 First Draft edits back to Authors November 3rd
 Second Drafts due November 10th
 Second Draft edits back to Authors November 21st
 Third Drafts due December 3rd
 Third Draft edits back to Authors December 22nd
 Final Article Submissions due January 12th
 Production Week/end January 21-24th
 Premiere of 30th Edition February 27th

We look forward to your submissions.

Phone-A-Thon Announced for September 24th - 28th, 2008

The 2008-2009 Editorial Board has big plans for the 30th volume of *The Vermont Connection*, the premier scholarly publication produced entirely by UVM HESA students. It is a unique aspect of our program, but is only one part of the larger Vermont Connection. This connection is strengthened by the support of everybody involved, not just the current Editorial Board or the current cohorts. We hope to carry forth the theme of this year's journal in all of our activities by engaging you: the alumni/ae, family, and friends from our past, present, and hopefully, our future.

Without the generous contributions from all members of the Vermont Connection in time, energy, and finances, we could not sustain our exchange of knowledge and ideas through the journal and through networking events such as the receptions at the national NASPA and ACPA conferences. For those of you unfamiliar with Phone-A-Thon, it is our annual fundraising campaign. You can look forward to reconnecting with a current student during the evenings of September 24th-28th.

We sincerely hope that you will consider making a donation to TVC and look forward to reconnecting with you in the coming weeks and months, even after Phone-A-Thon is over. We'd like to thank you in advance for your continued support, wish you all the best, and trust that you are as excited about this coming year as we are!



From left to right: Jessica Lein, Rachel deSimone, Patricia Nguyen, Colleen Toomey, David Laxamana, Jason Johnson, Hung Mai, AJ Place, Sarah Childs, Joshua Gonzalez, Travis Annan, Nicholas Negrete.

TVC Website and HESA Online Directory

Please check out the TVC website and while you're there, update your profile and browse the HESA Online Directory.

TVC Homepage:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~vtconn/>

HESA Directory

http://www.uvm.edu/~vtconn/?Page=directory_intro.html

Username: **hesa**

Password: **vtconn**

In honor of the 2007-2008 editorial board, we would like to announce that from this point on, all newsletters will be sent via email to support their environmental and sustainability efforts they have set forth by reducing paper waste. Please make sure you update your email contact information to receive future newsletters.

HESA Alumni/ae Corner

Checking in with the Class of 2008

*Benjamin C. Meoz
Residence Director
University of Vermont*

My name is Benjamin C. Meoz and I am from the 2008 HESA Cohort. At present I find myself as the Residence Director of the Harris/Millis Complex at the University of Vermont. While this is a great professional opportunity, what makes it even more wonderful is the chance to watch and play a part in the unfolding experience of a new HESA graduate student. It is somewhat surreal to be looking back on my HESA experience when the very beginning seems so tangibly recent. However while it may only have been two years since I began my time at UVM the amount I've grown and changed since entering the program is disproportionately large.

HESA for many of us is our first real period of introspection and self-challenging. It is two years of taking a hard look at our awareness, our identities, our professional philosophies, and our practices. While there are many periods of self-discovery, and for some crisis of identity or profession, to me few can rival the process we undergo during this two year chapter in our education.

Even now as I am busy acclimating to a new position and new department it is hard not to look at my own HESA Graduate Assistant and think of the journey she is just now beginning. While we may share some of the classes, texts, jokes, and stresses of this HESA experience we have all invariably made it something unique to each of us.

I could write an article about what HESA meant to me, and I'm sure some of you would find pieces of it that resonated with your own experiences, but the most important aspect to me is those individual journeys we create during the two years we share as a cohort.

So let us remember that despite our unique journeys we will always come together, whether at conferences or events, as a community of Alumni, Grads, and friends of HESA where a knowing look (and sometimes a HESA pin) is all we need to know: We're HESA.

*Andrew Wells
Conduct Coordinator
University of California, Davis*

Hi,
I'm Andrew Wells, a 2008 alum of the HESA program. Since graduation, I've been pretty busy! I moved from Vermont back (home) to California for a job in Student Housing at UC Davis. Here in Housing, I'm a Conduct Coordinator; so about half of what I do is student conduct, and the other half is a hectic mix of conflict mediation, student supervision, committee work, teaching a class or two, etc. It's a ton of fun, and my colleagues here are great. We recently re-opened the halls, and I'm having a great time connecting with some new students.

As I "get into the groove" here, I've had a lot of opportunities to think back to my HESA experience. More often than not, these opportunities come when I'm confronting a new "crisis" or dealing with a new situation, and I think to myself "What would Kathy Manning Do?" Okay, so maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but I do think back to a lot of the lessons and growth that HESA afforded me. I'm happy to have had the opportunity to take two years to study at UVM and develop some great skills, hone my talents, identify my passions, and cultivate new relationships.

As the school year winds up and I am consumed by my new life, I know that I won't forget HESA, UVM, or my friends and family in the Green Mountains.

From left to right, back to front: Alvin Sturdivant, Professor Dorian McCoy, Hannah Roberts, Thomas Whitcher, Andrew Wells, Ian Stroud, David Laxamana, Elizabeth Guevara, Stephanie "MO" Moreira, Sarah Reid, Rachel deSimone, Professor Kathleen Manning, Sarah Hoffert, Patricia Nguyen, Laura Semenow, Sarah Childs, Benjamin Meoz, AJ Place.



HESA Traditions

This will be a new section that this year's Editorial Board will be adding to the remaining newsletters that will be sent out for this academic year. The purpose of this section is to foster a connection that we'll have with The Vermont Connection and to build a familial connection to all of the cohorts that came before us and the ones that will come after us.

What we would like us to see in this section are memories of the great moments that we all have from being in one of the best Higher Education programs in the United States. So please send along any quotes, funny stories, or small paragraphs describing what this journal, and most importantly, what this program meant to you personally as well as professionally.. Names will not be disclosed unless you wish them to be, but your cohort year will be included.

