New Year's Resolutions

The new year is always a chance to think about the future. For many, that means setting new year’s resolutions. At GW, those would be akin to our goals for Student Affairs in 2014.

In my view, our resolution is to always look ahead, and be proactive to serve students and support them as they achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals and aspirations. As a result, our goals as a Student Affairs team are pretty straightforward this year. Naturally, they include continuing to support the implementation of the GW Strategic Plan, particularly our efforts around enhancing the student academic experience. We also are striving to—as always—improve our service delivery; expand stakeholder engagement; and improve our assessment, fiscal responsibility, and fundraising.

The toughest part of making resolutions is actually keeping them, especially when it gets busy in a community as energetic and dynamic as GW. Time management and the draw of other seemingly more pressing activities are always what seem to keep me—and, I’d wager, most of us—from maintaining our resolutions. It is no easy task to keep up with something new or and changing behaviors is extremely challenging, but there are a wealth of studies that show that doing something repetitively forms a habit, which is basically what setting and keeping resolutions is about.

At GW, we operate by developing annual goals, built around our performance management efforts. This leads to a quarterly check-in system for our goals, allowing us to regularly talk about our priorities at least four times a year. It also encourages us to engage others in discussion about how to think about our goals as we bring them to fruition. That spirit of continuous improvement, a hallmark of the last GW Strategic Plan, is also the cornerstone of our DSA assessment process and is exactly why we will be launching our program review process in 2014.

Student satisfaction, their “happiness”, has been on my mind a lot this academic year. Our recent surveys have focused on learning outcomes and the impact of our work, but at the most basic level, what we’re assessing is how happy our students are with the experiences we provide at our higher education institution.

As a result, I have asked our staff to concentrate at least one of their five annual goals on service delivery and challenge everyone to find ways to ensure we are providing top-tier brick and mortar, in-person and virtual services. This means making sure things are accessible around the clock and after hours, where appropriate, and using proactive strategies to engage students on social media and other channels.

Ultimately we hope efforts around the student academic experience, assessment, stakeholder engagement, and effective and diverse service delivery methods will help us stay on track with our goals through the rest of the academic year. In the spirit of open communication and exchange, I welcome the chance for any member of our community to call, chat, email, or tweet me a suggestion for a goal or area of focus we should endeavor to address during the remainder of this academic year or for the 2014-2015 year ahead.

(Continued on p. 2)
From @GWPeterK (Cont.)

Peter’s Personal New Year’s Resolutions

- Work to live, not live to work -- or in the words of the New York Lottery, “You Can’t Win if You Don’t Play.”
- Spend quality time with family and friends, especially my new Portie puppy, Belles and her playful older brother, Tux.
- Continue to focus on diet, exercise, and my own personal health and wellness. You only have one life to live, so be well.
- Tweet less and talk more. The art of communication can come in many forms, but most especially personal, human contact.

Department Spotlight

The Planning and Outreach team manages cross-divisional enhancement initiatives in the Division of Student Affairs, including assessment and continuous improvement, communications and outreach, and development and alumni relations for the division and the Presidential Administrative Fellowship program. The team consists of Robert Snyder (Executive Director), Toby Davidow (Coordinator), Anna Mahalak (Coordinator), and Adam Bethke (Presidential Administrative Fellow). Robert describes the team’s role as “a connecting point for ensuring DSA programs and services are aligned with best practices and that internal and external stakeholders are aware of and have opportunities to engage with these programs and services.”

Assessment and Continuous Improvement

- Assessment and continuous improvement is a renewed priority for DSA, as described in DSA FY 14 Goal #5: “Create an effective and sustainable approach to assessment and continuous improvement.” There are a number of opportunities for assessment in DSA, including:
- Understanding the needs of our stakeholders, especially students and parents
- Validating our #onlyatgw strengths
- Aligning with national best practices, professional standards, and academic program evaluation methods
- Guiding continuous improvement and strategic decision-making
- Amplifying the case for philanthropic and university financial support
- Advocating for enhanced services and programs

The DSA Assessment Committee, co-chaired by Robert and Toby, is comprised of Adam and eight other DSA staff members. The DSA Assessment Committee is charged with developing, promoting, and advising on assessment resources and activities in order to build a culture of assessment and continuous improvement in DSA. Specifically, the committee is developing and implementing a comprehensive assessment program for DSA, including a standardized program review model, a dashboard reporting system, and a staff training program. The committee made major progress on planning for these initiatives during the fall semester, and also coordinated a DSA Staff Forum on assessment.

In addition to guiding and supporting the Assessment Committee’s efforts, the Planning and Outreach team manages DSA-wide surveys such as CI, Colonials Weekend, and Move-in, and tools such as SurveyMonkey and Education Advisory Board. The team also advises DSA units on departmental assessment activities on: best practices, standards, and benchmarking at GW and beyond; access to existing institutional data and surveys; and alignment with other DSA and university-wide initiatives. And, finally, the team coordinates DSA involvement with university-wide assessment activities, including Middle States accreditation and the Post-Baccalaureate, Graduation, and Service Excellence surveys.

(Continued on p. 3)
Department Spotlight (Cont.)

Communications and Outreach and Development and Alumni Relations

The Planning and Outreach team seeks to increase the scope and level of DSA engagement with internal and external stakeholders through communications and development activities.

Communications activities include developing and managing messaging platforms for DSA and coordinating opportunities for GW colleagues and other stakeholders to learn about and inform DSA priorities and initiatives. The DSA Newsletter, coordinated by Anna, is a key opportunity to inform DSA staff about the work of the division. Meanwhile collaboration meetings, including those with Alumni Relations, External Relations, and Diversity and Inclusion, and the ongoing Faculty and Staff Advisory Council, provide a structure for sharing information and identifying partnership opportunities with colleagues outside the division. Finally, Anna and Robert, along with Andy Sonn, serve as the resource staff members for the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Affairs, which meets three times per year.

The DSA Communications Committee, launched this semester, is co-chaired by Robert and Mark Levine, and Anna serves as a member. The committee brings together DSA staff with responsibility for and/or interest in communications to develop DSA channels and standards, enhance the DSA newsletter, facilitate training for DSA staff, and expand DSA visibility among internal and external media outlets. An early initiative of the committee is the development of a DSA story list to guide coverage of DSA programs and services in GW Today and outreach about DSA efforts to external media.

Development and alumni relations activities promote DSA to alumni, parents, and friends. A cornerstone of these activities is to have DSA staff represented at alumni relations and related programming, such as on-campus and regional events and the summer send-off receptions. A new DSA donor recognition process is about to be implemented to recognize and steward those who provide philanthropic support for DSA-connected programs and services.

Going forward, DSA will be identifying priorities for philanthropic support and opportunities to connect with specific initiatives such as the Faculty/Staff Campaign and the Senior Class Gift Campaign, all in support of the forthcoming GW comprehensive campaign. Many of these efforts will be guided by the soon-to-be-launched DSA Fundraising and Grantwriting Committee, which Robert and Andy Sonn will co-chair and on which Anna will serve as a member.

DSA staff members are encouraged to join the Communications and Fundraising and Grant writing committees; contact Anna for details!

Presidential Administrative Fellowship

The Presidential Administrative Fellowship (PAF) program, now in its 24th year, offers high-achieving GW seniors the opportunity to give back to GW by earning a master’s degree and enhancing their own professional development through administrative placements with departments throughout the university. Robert and Toby advise the PAF program along with other members of the PAF Advising Team (Peter Konwerski, Sara Melita, and Kathy Newcomer). Robert and Toby, along with others on the Advising Team, meet weekly with the PAFs to facilitate their personal and professional growth and build on the academic and professional experiences the PAFs gain in their degree programs and administrative placements. Adam contributes to the success of the PAF program as both a PAF and through his placement with the Planning and Outreach team.

About Planning and Outreach Team Members

The diverse backgrounds of the Planning and Outreach team include a variety of experiences at educational and non-profit organizations.

Robert earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration (Marketing) and Sociology from GW and Master’s degrees in Education (Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education) and Business Administration from the University of Delaware, where he worked for nine years in Admissions and University Relations before returning to GW. A GW staff member since 2004, he previously held positions in the Office of the President, Mount Vernon Campus Life, and the Office of the Dean of Freshmen. Robert is a candidate for an Ed.D. degree in Higher Education Administration at GW.

Toby has worked at GW for over 13 years, holding a variety of positions in GSEHD, the former SASS division, and now in DSA, and previously worked at Duke University and Golden Key International Honour Society. Toby earned a Bachelor’s degree in English from Rutgers University – Douglass College and a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration from GW. She is now in the final stages of completing a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration at GW. Her dissertation focuses on the best practices of two parent service offices.

Anna joined GW and DSA this past fall and brings a range of experiences in education and professional associations, most recently at Association Management Group, Inc. Anna earned a Bachelor’s degree in Government from the College of William and Mary and is interested in pursuing a Master’s degree at GW.

Adam also joined DSA this past fall after earning a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice from GW, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Adam is a first-year PAF and is completing a Master’s degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Program Analysis and Evaluation at GW.

Feel free to contact any of the Planning and Outreach team members with questions.

Robert Snyder, Executive Director rsnyder@gwu.edu 4-6710
Toby Davidow, Coordinator davidow@gwu.edu 4-5015
Anna Mahalak, Coordinator amalahak@gwu.edu 4-4318
Adam Bethke, Presidential Administrative Fellow bedike@gwmail.gwu.edu 4-0370
DSA Staff Updates

New Hires

Katalin (Kathy) Gaitán (kgaitan@gwu.edu)
Finance Director
Division of Student Affairs
BA, Accounting, George Washington University
MS, Accounting and Financial Management, University of Maryland-University College
MA, Paralegal Studies, George Washington University

Where were you born (city/state/country)?
GW Hospital here in Washington, DC.

What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?
When I was 13 my dad and I went on a three week safari in Kenya and Tanzania during migration. It is still the most amazing experience I’ve ever had.

What was one of your most memorable meals (where was it, what did you eat, why was it memorable)?
Last month my family and I took a trip to Asia and one night we were the only customers in a tiny, family-owned tempura restaurant in Tokyo. We sat directly in front of the chef and watched him cook our tempura (ranging from asparagus to fish bones) and place it on our plates straight from the fryer. The meal was delicious and it was such a unique cultural experience.

If you could have had the starring role in any film, what movie would you pick and why?
Jennifer Grey in Dirty Dancing. I would have been able to relive summer camp while being taught how to dance by Patrick Swayze.

If you could meet anyone from history, who would you meet and why?
This is a tough one. I would like to meet a few people from Hungarian history, but if I think outside of the borders of my home country, then probably Leonardo da Vinci. I would love to see him work, his inventions, and see the world through his eyes.

If you could live in any city or country, where would you choose?
I have a love for ancient history, and that brings the love for Italy, Greece, and Egypt. I would be happy anywhere along the Mediterranean.

What is your favorite dessert?
My most favorite dessert is a Hungarian cake I have not had for about 15 years now. It is basically a triple layered chocolate cake with caramel crust on top.

Can you tell us about any hidden talents or hobbies?
No hidden talents, but recently I started cake decorating and started my own cake business.

Nancy Cass, LCSW (ncass@gwu.edu)
Staff Clinician, Eating Disorder Services Coordinator
University Counseling Center
BA, Psychology, Kenyon College
MS, Social Work, Columbia University

Where were you born?
Budapest, Hungary

What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?
Italy and Greece when I was little are on the top of the list, but if I have to pick from recent vacations, then it would be me trip to London and Dublin in 2012, and my visit to Hungary last summer.

If you could meet anyone from history, who would you meet and why?
This is a tough one. I would like to meet a few people from Hungarian history, but if I think outside of the borders of my home country, then probably Leonardo da Vinci. I would love to see him work, his inventions, and see the world through his eyes.

If you could live in any city or country, where would you choose?
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What is your favorite dessert?
My most favorite dessert is a Hungarian cake I have not had for about 15 years now. It is basically a triple layered chocolate cake with caramel crust on top.

Can you tell us about any hidden talents or hobbies?
No hidden talents, but recently I started cake decorating and started my own cake business.
Where were you born?
Minneapolis, MN.

What is your favorite movie, book, or TV show?

What is the best vacation or trip you have taken?
I studied abroad in Chile for five months learning the language and culture.

If you could live in any city or county, where would you choose?
Spain.

What is one of your favorite songs (and by what artist)?
“Rolling in the Deep” by Adele.

What is your favorite dessert?
Cheesecake!

Anne Graham (awei@gwu.edu)
Coordinator, Student Involvement
Center for Student Engagement - Student Involvement and Greek Life Team
BS, Business Administration, Villanova University
MA, Higher Education Administration, George Washington University

Best vacation or trip you have taken?
France -- started in Paris and made our way south to Nice.

What was one of your most memorable meals (where was it, what did you eat, why was it memorable)?
Cheesesteaks at Pat's, Geno's, and Jim's all through college (and whenever I go back to Philly).

If you had to choose another profession, what would it be and why?
Fountain designer.

If you could have the starring role in any film already made, what movie would you pick and why?
Veronica Mars. It's not actually out yet, but Veronica is all around awesome.

If you could meet anyone from history, who would you meet and why?
I would love to meet Walt Disney -- he accomplished so much as an entrepreneur and philanthropist and still remains relevant and impactful today.

Can you tell us about any hidden talents or hobbies?
Some hobbies are baking, brunch, and reading (preferably outdoors). I love anything on the water so I'm trying to learn to sail. Also trying to learn more about gardening so I can take better care of my lemon tree (which is sadly only producing one lemon a year right now...).
Anne Scammon  
(ascammon@gwu.edu)  
Managing Director of Curricular and Strategic Initiatives  
Center for Career Services

Our Staff Spotlight for this month is Anne Scammon, who has moved into a new role as the Managing Director of Curricular and Strategic Initiatives in the Center for Career Services, effective January 2, 2014. This newly created position, made possible through the Career Services Enhancement Initiative, directly supports the GW Strategic Plan pillars of globalization, citizenship and leadership, and innovation through cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Anne will have two critical areas of responsibility in her new position:

- Develop and expand opportunities to integrate active learning and career development and management into the undergraduate curriculum. In doing so, Anne will build on her years of experience developing and managing experiential education programs and designing and teaching career courses, career modules, and countless career education programs. In partnership with our faculty, academic advisors, and academic leadership colleagues, Anne will continue to develop and enhance opportunities to embed our innovative career culture throughout GW’s academic offerings.

- Focus on career services for emerging populations, with an initial emphasis on international students. As a foundation for this effort, Anne will harness her rich background overseeing the career services portion of Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and cooperative education, along with many years of assisting international students with their career and professional development. As our enrollment of international students expands under the direction of the strategic plan, we are committed to being in the forefront of career services for international students and other emerging populations, and we are fortunate to be able to benefit from Anne’s leadership and expertise in this area.

What’s happening at the Center for Career Services this month?  
Click here to find out.
Around DSA

DSA Staff Forum in November: Enhancing the Culture of Assessment in Student Affairs
By Toby Davidow, Planning and Outreach (davidow@gwu.edu)

The November 15th DSA Forum, “Enhancing the Culture of Assessment in Student Affairs,” began with presentations from Peter Konwerksi, Robert Snyder, and Cheryl Beil from Academic Planning and Assessment. Each presenter presented context for building an assessment culture within higher education and specifically at GW. The DSA Assessment Committee presented the work they have completed to date regarding interviewing all DSA departments in the spring and summer, planning for staff assessment training, and developing an overview of program review and dashboard fundamentals.

Following the presentations, attendees were invited to participate in a “Fair style” session on assessment topics including learning outcomes, program review, population sampling, the official GW Data/GW fact book, dashboards, and a cultural assessment case study from Gelman Library. This session allowed individuals to learn about a number of topics related to assessment. At the conclusion of the session, the Assessment Committee moderated an informative Q&A session with presenters.

A post-forum survey was distributed to all staff. All respondents (n=18) indicated that they were either “very comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” with assessment projects after having attended the Forum. The respondents favorably rated the overall quality of the Forum. For the future, a majority of the respondents indicated that they would like to see a DSA assessment website and assessment workshops on population sampling, learning outcomes, dashboards, program review, and an assessment overview.

DSA Staff Forum in December: DSA Visits Ashburn Campus
By Anna Mahalak, Planning and Outreach (amahalak@gwu.edu)

The DSA December Forum was an interactive field trip to the GW Virginia Science and Technology Campus (VSTC) in Ashburn, VA. The day began with a brief overview of the history of campus and facts about the programs and offices housed there. This was followed by an in-depth look at the GW School of Nursing’s state-of-the-art Nursing Simulation and Skills Laboratory. Following lunch, DSA team members split off into teams to participate in the “Ashmazing Race: Ashburn Quest,” learning more about the campus and GW as a whole with each completed task.

A post-forum survey was distributed to all staff. All respondents (n=18) indicated that they were either “very comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” with assessment projects after having attended the Forum. The respondents favorably rated the overall quality of the Forum. For the future, a majority of the respondents indicated that they would like to see a DSA assessment website and assessment workshops on population sampling, learning outcomes, dashboards, program review, and an assessment overview.

While several assessment workshops will be offered during the spring semester, the assessment committee is excited to announce the launch of the DSA Assessment website. This website is intended to support staff members working on activities related to assessment, and will include assessment videos, presentations and handouts from the DSA Forum, links to assessment webinars, announcements about assessment workshops, and other helpful resources. The site has been designed to provide easy access to assessment resources, and we hope you find it helpful, and the Committee welcomes feedback.
Around DSA (cont.)

Programming and Calendaring Committee Update
By Bridgette Behling, Administration and Hallmark Programs, (bbehling@gwu.edu)

The Programming and Calendaring Committee is charged with coordinating programming efforts across DSA to ensure the formation of collaborative event planning partnerships that enhance the student academic experiences and meet the diverse needs of the GW community. The following DSA staff serve on this committee: Bridgette Behling (chair), Aaron DeNui, Jennifer Donoghue, Kevin Gates, Jay Jones, Emily Kane, Danielle Lico, Jovanni Mahonez, Imran Riaz, and Anne Scammon. Throughout the past year, the committee has met a number of times to identify ways to better share resources and information related to event planning within the Division. Through those meetings, it was determined that the best way to achieve these goals was to establish multiple subgroups to work on different endeavors that achieve the larger goals of increased collaboration and communication. These smaller work groups have been charged with implementing the committee’s ideas to enhance and increase DSA’s available programming resources. The work groups contributing to these efforts include:

- A group of event planners and programmers within DSA who meet twice a year to discuss upcoming programming plans and collaboration opportunities for the following semester
- Administration and Hallmark Programs staff who deliver trainings about event planning, the group of DSA staff who have been appointed as administrators on the university calendar, and the larger Programming Committee that also meets periodically throughout the year.

As a result of the many meetings that occurred in the 2012-2013 school year, it was determined that an Event Planning 101 training could be helpful to staff within DSA who plan events. In September 2013, Administration and Hallmark Programs staff offered an Event Planning 101 session for 15 DSA staff members. They conducted the same session for 25 Faculty Guides and Faculty in Residence in October 2013. Additionally, to ensure the most efficient use of the university calendar, the committee worked with External Relations staff to appoint at least one staff member from each DSA department to serve as a university calendar administrator. Two trainings have been offered to this group, one in February 2012, and one in November 2013.

The Programming and Calendaring Committee has also pulled together staff responsible for programming within DSA to encourage as much collaboration as possible. This group has met twice – once in August for fall semester programming and once in December, planning for the spring semester. Many collaborations have already resulted from these meetings, including new programming discussions between the Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Education (CADE), Center for Student Engagement (CSE), and Administration and Hallmark Programs (AHP) to address dates when GW students have traditionally shown high drinking behavior, in order to provide alternative activities on those dates. There has been increased communication between the Center for Career Services and International Services Office (ISO) regarding resume writing workshops for international students, and Welcome Week 2014. Additionally, collaborations were discussed between Student Health Service and University Counseling Center (UCC) for Sleep Awareness Month and Stress Awareness Month, and UCC and CADE for National Alcohol Screening Day.

Moving forward, the committee has compiled a list of event planning resources available to share within the Division that will be posted on the Administration and Hallmark Programs website. Be sure to look for that as you begin to plan your next event to help save your department’s resources! The committee is also finalizing an Event Planning Manual to be posted on the Administration and Hallmark Programs website. At the beginning of 2014, the Programming and Calendaring Committee members will be conducting a needs assessment of event planning resources within DSA. They will also continue to discuss ways to streamline resources and requests for popup programming.

As a reminder, we still need departments to enter their spring semester events into the university calendar. If your department calendar administrator still has not done this, please be sure they do so as soon as possible.

Mount Vernon House Staff at Georgetown Waterfront Ice Rink
By Jennifer Alexander, Center for Student Engagement (jmalexa@gwu.edu)

The Center for Student Engagement at the Mount Vernon Campus welcomed our new Assistant Director of the First Year Experience, Renee Kashawlic, this past fall. To celebrate her arrival and the end of the semester, the Mount Vernon House Staff took to the ice at Georgetown’s Waterfront rink. With a little help from our skating buddies, we had a successful night of team-bonding!

Above:
(First Row) Assistant Director Renee Kashawlic
(Second Row) Clark House Staff Sam Hoitelt, Somers House Staff Pam Acero, Merriweather House Staff Emily Mascarenas, Cole House Staff Audrey Anna Elliott, Assistant Program Coordinator Michelle DuBow, and Somers House Staff Katie Takeuchi
Midnight Breakfast: The Land Before Finals
By Sonam Shah, Administration and Hallmark Programs
(ahpgrad@email.gwu.edu)

Who doesn’t love breakfast? Especially when it is served at midnight?

As a highly popular event and long-standing tradition at GW, Midnight Breakfast was hosted by Administration and Hallmark Programs and was co-sponsored by Campus Dining and Program Board this year. This event brings together all members of the GW community for a night of fun and breakfast to allow students to relax before finals. Many faculty and administrators volunteered to serve breakfast on December 9th, including associate deans and associate provosts, as well as Provost Lerman. We were even joined by some faculty and administrators who’ve been serving breakfast at this event for more than 10 years! Each staff member proudly wore a pin, which represented the number of years they have volunteered at Midnight Breakfast.

This year’s theme, “The Land Before Finals”, incorporated the prehistoric era and dinosaurs through the activities, prizes, and creative names for the food. GWise, WRGW, and the Colonial Ambassadors assisted in the planning of the event and hosted activities throughout the Marvin Center. As students entered the building, they had the opportunity to take some memorable pictures with dinosaurs and theme-based props. Students participated in a dino-toss with the Colonial Ambassadors, relaxed in WRGW’s acoustic zone, competed in GWise’s dino egg run, watched a screening of “The Land Before Time,” and decorated holiday cards for children who spent their holidays in the hospital. Gelman Library, Senior Class Gift, Residence Hall Association, the Center for Career Services, GW Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA), and Student Association also sponsored information tables with activities and giveaways.

Students also had the opportunity to enter a prize drawing and participate in contests, one of which was judged by Provost Lerman. Prize packs for the raffles were graciously donated by the GW bookstore and included various items. Tickets for shows at the 9:30 Club were donated by WRGW and awarded to the winners of the mystery cereal, T-Rex Race, and cereal eating contests. Some beverages for the event were donated by Coca-Cola.

In addition, there were a number of student performances, which were very well received. This year’s performances included: a taste of Bollywood by GW Chamak, a comedic performance by 14th Grade Players, the voice of soloist Lillian DaWit, and concluding the performances, the university’s popular dance group, Capital Funk.

Surveys were distributed to students who attended the event. The data from these surveys show that 72% of students who attended felt that they had interacted with faculty/administrators and/or built connections within the GW community as a result of attending this event. “Midnight Breakfast: The Land Before Finals” helped students connect to the community and relax so they could focus on finals. We look forward to seeing you volunteer to serve breakfast to students at next year’s event! Our next event is Excellence in Student Life Awards, which will be held on April 16th. To stay informed about Administration and Hallmark Programs, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @GWHallmark, e-mail us at hallmark@gwu.edu, or stop by the John Quincy Adams House!
As Washington, DC was experiencing record breaking winter temperatures outside, Spring had arrived inside the Marvin Center on Friday, January 10th as Colonial Inauguration welcomed over 80 new freshman, transfer, domestic and international students and their families to GW. The beginning of a new semester typically means new academic schedules and social activities on the calendar for our students and an opportunity to reflect on their previous semesters. Colonial Inauguration focuses attention on the evolving needs of the student populations we serve, and Spring CI was no exception.

Spring CI is intentionally designed to address the needs of domestic and international transfer and first year students. This year Spring CI saw several new changes to keep up with the needs of our students. Following the model set forth with Fall CI, Spring CI was a collaboration with both the International Services Office (ISO) and the Center for Student Engagement (CSE). These collaborations allowed for intentional programming for our incoming students based on their specific needs.

Spring CI moved from a two to a one day program to increase retention. This change was made based on feedback received from the participants in the 2013 program as well as Colonial Cabinet, and resulted in increased attendance and a more cohesive flow of this year’s program.

Students were welcomed this year by CIHQ, Colonial Cabinet, and remarks from Peter Konwerski. This is the first time that Spring CI has incorporated a formal welcome. As a tradition of the Summer CI sessions, this afforded our incoming students and their parents a more appropriate context of what the Colonial Inauguration program is all about — truly welcoming them to the GW family. Peter engaged our new Colonials and their families in a discussion of what they could expect from their orientation day ahead and all that their #onlyatgw experiences could be. He invited everyone in the room to directly connect with him and follow him on Twitter, a moment that shows the emphasis administrators put on connecting with their students from their very first days at GW.

Highlights of the day’s schedule included a session on Immigration Responsibilities with the ISO, “Parents are a Priority & Letting Go,” presented by the Office of Parent Services, and the transfer student panel, led by CSE. The Buff and Blue BBQ warmed up the Continental Ballroom with good food and good conversation about the morning’s sessions with parents, students, administrators, and the Colonial Cabinet. Though it is important to adapt to the changing needs of our students, it is equally important to include the traditions of a CI program that connects the incoming students not only to their current peers but also Colonials past, present, and future.

The temperatures are beginning to rise again as our new students settle into their residence halls, review their academic schedules, and start to explore all that the university has to offer both on and off campus. They have been officially welcomed as Colonials and we look forward to seeing how they #raisehigh over the course of next semester.

### Save the Date! Upcoming DSA Forums

By the Professional Development + Team Building Committee

**Friday, January 31**
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Marvin Center Continental Ballroom

**Effective Behavioral Interviewing** (presented by Mike Kohn)

Everyone engages in an interview practice either as a hiring manager, colleague or campus partner at some point in their career. Come out for this session to get tips and tools that will allow you to hone in on a candidate’s skills to evaluate their cultural fit.

**Breakfast will be served before the Forum starting at 8:30 am.**

**Thursday, February 27**
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Marvin Center 309

**Advanced True Colors** (presented by members of the Organizational Development and Effectiveness team)

Join us for a workshop about True Colors. After a brief review to get everyone familiar with their colors, we’ll investigate ways of working closely with every color, and enhancing the strength of all of your colors - even your weakest.

**Snacks will be provided.**

**Thursday, March 27**
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Marvin Center 5th Floor - Colonial Crossroads

**International Heritage Potluck**

Take a lunch break to enjoy a meal with your colleagues around the Division. Bring in a dish from your cultural background (or someone else’s!) and mingle with your coworkers over lunch. More details to come!

**Friday, April 25**
9:00 am – 10:30 am
SMPA 310

**Talk It Out: Public Presence Training** (presenters TBA)

Ever wonder how to improve your external presence skills? Come to this forum to get resources and tips to help for presentations, public speaking, media engagement and social media usage that you can use in your current and future roles.

**Thursday, May 29**
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Marvin Center Continental Ballroom

**Managing Your Personal Performance** (presented by Mike Kohn)

The performance review cycles concludes on June 30. This session will help prepare you for evaluating your own performance and the performance of any employees you may supervise. Join us as we talk about tips and tools for the performance management time and revisit the GW Values that are critical to our success.

**Breakfast will be served before the Forum starting at 8:30 am.**
Professional Development @ GW
By Professional Development + Team Building Committee

On Friday, February 7th, the world-class TEDxFoggyBottom conference will be held on the Foggy Bottom Campus. This conference will unite over 20 different speakers from all over the country around the theme “Illuminate.” TEDxFoggyBottom aims to bring together innovators, dreamers, and doers to collaborate and share ideas. Participants will watch the talks in Lisner Auditorium and have an opportunity to network with everyone, including the speakers, in interactive exhibits and break-out rooms. More information can be found at http://www.tedxfoggybottom.net. If you are interested in attending the TEDxFoggyBottom event, remember to speak with your supervisor.

The GW Department of Exercise Science is now offering free Pilates classes and free yoga classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 12-12:50pm in Marvin Center 501. Please bring your own yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. More information about the yoga program can be found here.

Looking for even more ways to grow? Join LEAD, the Leadership Education and Development Program. LEAD offers collaborative, reflective, and challenging professional development opportunities throughout the year.

Professional Development Tip of the Month:
Create a long term professional development plan (PDP). The PDP can be a tool for creating a personalized plan that best reflects your career aspirations, whether you want to plan for professional development, next steps in your career, or retirement in the next few years. Resources for creating a PDP can be found on the ODE website or here.

Conference Announcements
Registration is now open for the following national conferences:
NASPA (March 15-19, 2014; Baltimore, MD): The Early Bird Deadline has now passed, but registration is still open.
ACPA (March 30—April 2, 2014; Indianapolis, IN): Early Bird Deadline—February 18, 2014

If you are interested in attending a professional conference, remember to speak with your supervisor and, as appropriate, submit your department’s request form.

Introducing the Parents' Association Advisory Council (PAAC) Blog
By Office of Parent Services (parents@gwu.edu)

The Parents’ Association Advisory Council (PAAC), consisting of 30 members, is the governing body of the GW Parents’ Association. It serves as an advisory arm of the university, working hand-in-hand with the staff of the Office of Parent Services for the benefit of both our students and the University. The purpose of the PAAC blog is to communicate their experiences, parent-to-parent, in a more informal forum. The first entry features PAAC members, Mary Beth Cunningham, Parents’ Outreach Committee chair (mother of Erin, class of 2012, and Leah, class of 2016), and Judith Lipner, Communications Committee chair (mother of Zoe, class of 2015), sharing their thoughts on the winter break experience!

Recipe of the Month: Buffalo Cauliflower
by Seth Weinshel, GW Housing (sdweingw@email.gwu.edu)

Ingredients
1 head of cauliflower
1 cup hot sauce
1 tsp cayenne pepper
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp salt
1 tsp white pepper
Ranch dressing or blue cheese dressing for dipping

Preheat oven to 400 F
Cut up one head of cauliflower into florets.
Mix hot sauce, three peppers and salt
Dip florets in hot sauce and place on baking sheet
Bake for 30-35 minutes
Serve with dipping sauce as a healthy alternative to chicken wings

Administration and Hallmark Programs Service Outing
By Sonam Shah, Administration and Hallmark Programs (ahpgrad@email.gwu.edu)

On Wednesday December 11th the Administration and Hallmark Programs (AHP) staff visited the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) as a staff teambuilding activity and to volunteer our time and energy to a noble cause. The mission of the CAFB is to feed those who suffer from hunger in the Washington metro area by acquiring food and distributing it through its network of partner agencies; and educating, empowering and enlightening the community about the issues of hunger and nutrition. The CAFB distributes 37.5 million meals annually which serve nearly 500,000 people in the region struggling with hunger.

AHP staff spent roughly two hours volunteering our time by sorting donated bags of food. At the completion of our volunteer shift, we filled 24 food bins, which equates to 1,200 bags of groceries. As a CAFB member stated, “it takes a village to achieve a mission”. If everyone can pitch in towards an effort, we can collectively make big changes!

Visit http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/ if you would like to support the Capital Area Food Bank mission by volunteering as your next teambuilding activity.
Faculty Guide Program Spotlight
Nemata Blyden (nemata@gwu.edu)
Associate Professor of History and International Affairs and Director, Africana Studies Program
Department of History

DSA: What classes do you teach (and in what departments)?

DSA: When did you start with the Faculty Guide program and why did you sign up to be a Faculty Guide?
NB: Last year was my first year. I was asked by Helen Cannaday Saulny initially, and then followed up with the person who was running the program. I was told there was need for an Elliott School faculty member, so I agreed to look into it.

DSA: What types of programs have you overseen as a Faculty Guide? What has been your favorite program you’ve held or attended through the Faculty Guide program?
NB: I hold a combination of “fun” activities such as attending a baseball game or plays, but also have programs focused on international affairs such as lectures and seminars. I would have to say my favorite programs involve one on one interaction with students during my regular coffee hours, or attending a lecture with one or two students. We get a chance to engage more fully with smaller numbers.

DSA: What types of personal and professional strengths do you bring to your role as a Faculty Guide?
NB: I am a mother of three children and have experience with teenagers and college age young people. I bring the empathy of a parent, as well as an expectation that students bring their best to what they do. Professionally, I bring many years of experience teaching and interacting with students at all levels.

DSA: What is the biggest challenge for students trying to engage with faculty, and vice versa? Where do the barriers lie and how does the Faculty Guide program seek to overcome those obstacles?
NB: Time constraint is perhaps the biggest challenge for students. We compete for student time because students are so busy with classes, social clubs, internships, etc. Getting students used to the idea of faculty as “regular” people can also be a challenge. There is a certain amount of intimidation that students feel in having to interact with a faculty member. I try to relate to students individually, and bring the personal aspect of who I am in my dealings with students. I tell students my role is not solely to give them academic advice, and let them know they can come to me with other issues as well.

DSA: What is your new year’s Faculty Guide resolution?
NB: I no longer make resolutions, but plan to continue engaging with students as I have done throughout my time with the program. I think I have been successful on many levels. Last semester I had 6 students who were on my floor in Thurston last year take my History course. Now sophomores, a few of my residents continue to e-mail me and stop by my office. I see that as a sign of my having reached some of them. I hope to have the same level of success with my group this year.

DSA: How do you define success as a Faculty Guide?
NB: Hard to say given that we deal with so many students and are likely to impact only a small number. I measure success based on the feedback I get from students (the cards, e-mails, follow-up visits), and from the continuing relationships I have with students.

DSA: Anything else you’d like to share?
NB: I enjoy being a faculty guide very much. It can be time consuming, and sometimes frustrating not knowing what impact we have on students, but when I have a coffee hour or organize a breakfast and students come just to “shoot the breeze,” I know they are making a choice about spending their time with me.

Faculty Guide Program: Student Perspective
“I interacted with Professor Blyden during one of the many pizza nights at Thurston Hall and also had lunch with her and a few other students at a local bakery in Foggy (Bottom). Both times, I felt completely at ease speaking with her. I didn’t feel the sort of intimidation or anxiety that often arises during conversations with professors. Professor Blyden is very personable and part of the reason why I think she has such a flair for people is because she makes it her priority to lower the barriers between student and professor. […] I feel Professor Blyden truly cares about our experience during this significant period of our lives and wants to offer as much advice and opportunities as possible to maximize our time here at GW. […] For a freshman who’s still trying to exploit the wealth of opportunities in DC, I’ve found that Professor Blyden has played an integral role in this transition.”

- Lucas Kuo ’17, Elliot School of International Affairs
Around DSA (cont.)

Student Health Service Door Decorating Contest
By Anthony R. Bradley, Sr., Student Health Service (abradley@gwu.edu)

[Editor's Note: DSA had many offices that participated in the door decorating contest this year. Thanks to all for their participation and a special congratulations to CADE for placing in the top three in the university-wide competition!]

This year a colleague and I came up with the idea of having a Holiday Door Decorating Contest within Student Health Service. The Holiday contest was designed to bring holiday cheer and a festive mood to the office with a healthy dose of creative competition!
I provided all of the materials for decorating and from there the games began. The doors were judged based on the following categories: Creativity, Theme, Originality, and Overall presentation. We even had a guest judge from a neighboring doctor’s office, (not quite a celebrity judge but close enough for us!)

The prizes were: 1st Place Winner, $25 Visa Debit Card; 2nd Place Winner, $15 Gift Card; 3rd Place Winner, $10 Starbucks Gift Card.

Each participant earned a $5 Starbucks Gift Card for their great holiday spirit. Below are some of the contestant's doors.

GW TRAILS
By Myles Surrrett, Center for Student Engagement (msurrrett@gwu.edu)

GW TRAILS is proud to announce a new programming initiative, Adventure Breaks, open to students and staff! Over Spring Break 2014, GW TRAILS Guides and a Center for Student Engagement Learning Partner will be leading students and staff on a week-long trek through two of America’s most pristine wilderness areas.

Grand Canyon
3.9.14-3.15.14
$800 (airfare included)
GW TRAILS is overjoyed to offer the once-in-a-lifetime experience of hiking through the Grand Canyon! The group will fly to Phoenix before driving to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Appalachian Trail
3.7.14-3.14.14
$150
Join GW TRAILS as we spend Spring Break backpacking through the beautiful Shenandoah Mountain range on the famous Appalachian Trail. We will be covering 50 miles of this breathtaking but rough
GW’s Teaching and Learning Collaborative

GW’s Teaching & Learning Collaborative welcomes you back to spring semester with news and two activity-based teaching workshops led by expert facilitators. In January, we look at ways to foster critical thinking; in February, we explore pedagogy and technology skills for hybrid teaching approaches. Registration and details are at tlc.provost.gwu.edu. We hope you will join us!

Workshops
January 24, 1:00 - 4:30pm. Fostering Critical Thinking: Research-based Strategies for Connecting Outcomes, Teaching, and Assessment to Improve Learning. Led by Dr. Tom Angelo, Queens University of Charlotte

Why do so many students resist higher-order critical thinking, or find it so difficult when they try? Cognitive development theories and research shed light on students’ resistance and on teaching strategies for overcoming the challenges. This interactive workshop includes mini-lectures, videotaped examples, and small group discussions. It will provide: (1) a focused overview of relevant theories; (2) hands-on practice with practical teaching, assessment, and feedback strategies; and (3) resources and references for follow up. Participants can expect to leave the workshop with at least 2 to 3 strategies to adapt and apply.

February 28 - Hybrid and Blended Learning. Led by Dr. Jennifer Spohrer, Bryn Mawr College

1:00 - 2:00pm: Presentation
From 2011 to 2013, Bryn Mawr College coordinated a 26-institution study of blended learning in a liberal arts setting funded by a Next Generation Learning Challenges Wave I grant. Jennifer Spohrer, the project coordinator and Bryn Mawr’s Coordinator for Academic Technology Initiatives, reports on their findings, and how they relate to recent research on human cognition.

2:00 - 4:30pm: Hands-on Workshop (space is limited)
Participants will explore and discuss how they might redesign their blended courses or re-envision a completely classroom-based course as a blended course in order to capitalize on the presented research. They will experiment with PowerPoint based technologies, simple video creation, and basic video editing to support technology integration into a class in ways that maximize student engagement and learning and that mitigate any shortcomings of the materials.

In other news
You are invited to a "master class" session on mapping student progress with critical thinking from 9:30-11:30am on Friday, January 24. In addition to his afternoon workshop, described above, Dr. Tom Angelo will work with professors Lisa Benton-Short (Geography; Sustainability minor) and Irene Foster (Economics) on their efforts to track students’ mastery of complex, integrative concepts using concept mapping. If you would like to attend as an audience member, please email tlc@gwu.edu. (Location is TBD in the vicinity of 2035 F Street)

GW Online Course Development Guide. TLC’s Online Learning Initiative (OLI) announces the release of a step-by-step resource to assist with online course development. Faculty will be able to locate this in Blackboard under Community, as GW Online Course Development Guide (OLI).

District of Columbia College Personnel Association

The District of Columbia College Personnel Association (DCCPA) will host their Annual Conference on Friday, February 28 at The Washington Center! Registration information will be forthcoming, however, consider submitting an education session program proposal. Submissions are due February 1.

Are you already presenting at NASPA’s Annual Conference March 15 – 19 and/or ACPA March 30 – April 2 (or any upcoming spring and/or summer conference)? Test run your program(s) at DCCPA beforehand, and DCCPA will be sure to provide prompt feedback to enhance these presentations.

New this year! Pecha Kucha

Interested in sharing your passion with colleagues? Pecha Kucha 20×20 is a simple, but innovative, presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically, and you talk along to the images. It is, indeed, the art of concise presentations. This event is sure to challenge conventional presentation styles, while inspiring colleagues in 6 minutes and 40 seconds. Submit a proposal today to share your area of interest or passion, within or outside of higher education! Proposals are due February 1, 2014.

What Should I Present?

The key to a great presentation is to present something you love. It could be your latest innovative project or creative work, your passion or cause, or photos of your latest adventure. These could be related to your work in higher education or not! Good Pecha Kucha presentations are the ones that uncover the unexpected — unexpected talent, unexpected ideas. Funny, personal, serious, raw, unconventional — the diversity of perspectives is what will make these a success. So think outside the box, and reinvent the way you present.

For more information on Pecha Kucha, check out: www.pechakucha.org/faq

Consider joining MCPA in their MCPA Job Search Jump Start event on Friday, February 21, 2014, at ACPA International Headquarters in Washington DC – just one week before DCCPA meets on February 28. For more information on the Job Search Jump Start, click here.

NASPA and CSU Offers Free Online Student Affairs Course

In coordination with Colorado State University, NASPA is excited to co-host the first ever Massive Online Open Course on student affairs, Exploring the Student Affairs in Higher Education Profession. With eight different modules, from Globalization and International Impacts to the Theoretical Foundations, registrants will be able to make their own format for the experience.

Registration is free and is open until February 4. Please note, however, courses begin January 21. For questions, please contact CSU MOOC team or Nathan Victoria.
Committee Serves University’s International Student Community

A Semester Full of Discovery and Celebration

Alumnus Donates Piece of History to Mitchell Hall

Student ‘Not Defined by Circumstance’
Looking for ways to enhance the impact of your behavioral intervention team? Wondering how to integrate career exploration into the college experience? Education Advisory Board (EAB) has your solution.

EAB's new insight centers consolidate our most relevant and progressive research and resources on today's key topics to save time and keep you ahead of the curve. Get connected to the resources that will help you:

- Better manage mental health services on campus
- Target support services and programming for special populations
- Integrate career exploration at every level of the college experience
- Support academically and financially challenged students and improve time-to-completion

Any member of the GW community can sign-up for an account on the EAB website, which provides access to EAB's Insight Centers, vast library of best practice studies and custom research reports, webinars and other training resources, all of which are included in DSA’s membership. To create your account, visit Register for Education Advisory Board and complete and submit the form.

For more information about accessing EAB’s programs and services, e-mail Robert Snyder.

Requests for Contributions/Feedback

Interested in contributing to the DSA Newsletter? Have feedback to offer? E-mail Anna Mahalak (amahalak@gwu.edu) with story ideas, events, etc.

The next deadline for submissions is Wednesday, February 12th.