From @GWPeterK

A Conversation with Peter and Graduating Senior Julia Susuni

In celebration of the Class of 2014 Peter and outgoing Student Association President Julia Susuni sat down for a conversation about working together over the past academic year.

DSA: What one word best sums up and describes your experience from the past academic year?
Peter (PK): Exhilarating
Julia (JS): Extraordinary

JS: What will you remember about the Class of 2014?
PK: This is a special class for me. I have spent the last four years with the class of 2014, serving as their Dean of Students Affairs. I've watched them every day; from their CI sessions in the summer of 2010 to Commencement on the National Mall this May. They are the first class I have had the incredible honor to support for all four years and I've watched in awe as they have brought their hopes and dreams to fruition as they grew, learned, and developed on and off campus and earned their college degrees in our community.

PK: What will you remember about GW's administrators you worked with during your time as SA President?
JS: I will remember that the GW administrators I worked with this past year were always willing to listen to new ideas, provide constructive criticism, and help implement initiatives alongside the Student Association. I will always be grateful to them for believing in me, Kostas, and our entire team and for giving us the opportunity to make such a positive impact at GW by creating a new health center in the heart of campus. I will also remember how much they helped me grow both personally and professionally.

JS: What are you most grateful for this past year?
PK: I am grateful to come to work every day and witness the efforts of our amazing students. GW students make this a special place to work, whether they are the student employees or student leaders I know best or the individual student I meet along the way; I am continually inspired by each of them as they leave a mark on the university and beyond.

PK: What was the biggest risk you took over your past four years at GW?
JS: The biggest risk I took was this past year when my team and I lobbied to move the Student Health Service and the University Counseling Center to campus. It was a bold initiative and it took a lot of hard work, optimism, and perseverance. We received a lot of constructive feedback throughout the entire process, and used it as a learning opportunity to better understand how the university works and operates. All in all, it was a risk worth taking.

JS: How do you stay connected to former students, and now alumni, post-graduation?
PK: While social media makes that a lot easier today, I'm particularly fond of the line former GW Alumni Association President Laura Taddeucci Downs often says, "While you are a GW student for four years, you are a GW alumni for life.” That sentiment is something many GW staff endeavor to support through our efforts to help keep our alumni engaged in their Alma Mater well into the future.

PK: What is one thing you hope to see change by your five year reunion?
JS: I am excited to see several construction projects on campus come to fruition: the new Health Center, District House, Science and Engineering Hall, etc. I think these projects will make our campus more robust and really contribute to our thriving culture and environment.
Department Spotlight

Academic Integrity
By Timothy Terpstra, Director, Office of Academic Integrity
(timterp@gwu.edu)

The Office of Academic Integrity (OAI) addresses instances of academic dishonesty which take place within the university community, promotes academic integrity through educational initiatives, and administers the university’s academic disciplinary procedures detailed within the “Code of Academic Integrity.” The office works in collaboration with the Academic Integrity Council, a representative body of students and faculty from each academic college, in its facilitation of hearings.

Timothy Terpstra serves as the Director of Academic Integrity. Tim came to GW in the fall of 1997 after serving 20 years as a dean at Marymount University in Arlington. Since joining GW, he has directed the Office of Academic Integrity and has served previously in various other roles, including Director of Summer Sessions and Director of the Office of Nondegree Students.

Academic Integrity at GW
The Code of Academic Integrity was written by students, faculty, and administrators and implemented in the fall of 1996. GW was an early member of the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) and participates in regional and national conferences and meetings related to academic integrity matters.

The Code and the OAI were created and adopted to centralize and standardize the process associated with suspected cases of academic dishonesty across the various schools at the university. In addition, the office helps to ensure that any sanctions are fair and consistent, with a learning component included whenever possible. The OAI is concerned and responsible for the integrity students as well as the integrity of faculty and the university as a whole.

OAI was originally under Academic Affairs but made the transition to DSA in 2013. The department is now partnered with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. This transition helped to create certain consistencies between academic and non-academic code processes.

The OAI performs several functions that include: 1) applying and interpreting the Code in cases of alleged student academic dishonesty; 2) recruiting, training, and assisting students and faculty who comprise the Academic Integrity Council, a group of students and faculty representing each school of the university who volunteer their time to sit on hearing panels of contested cases; and 3) process and maintain the records of students who have violated the Code.

Areas of Collaboration
The OAI collaborates with a variety of other departments within DSA and university-wide. Strong communication with the University Counseling Center to refer students experiencing anxiety or another mental health issue is an important function following many academic integrity cases. Sometimes, a CARE report can be filed related to an academic integrity violation. The OAI also connects students to resources at the University Writing Center, Disability Support Services, and the International Services Office, among others. Tim represents the OAI at a variety of events throughout the year to promote academic integrity at GW. He speaks to new students at Colonial Inauguration, educates the Colonial Cabinet on academic integrity, and joins other smaller gatherings such as graduate student fairs throughout the year.

Academic Integrity Council
The OAI records about 100 separate violations per academic year, and investigates additional cases that may not result in a violation. Sanctions are tiered and range from failure of an assignment to expulsion from the university. Most cases are settled between students and faculty, while others may be contested and are adjudicated by Academic Integrity Council hearing panels composed of both students and faculty.

Fifty students and faculty sit on the Academic Integrity Council. Academic Integrity Council Hearing Panels are comprised of five individuals selected from the Academic Integrity Council. A complete panel consists of three students and two faculty members. The Academic Integrity Council serves to represent both sides of the academic integrity process (students and faculty).

To nominate a student to serve on the Academic Integrity Council, please contact Tim Terpstra.
Staff Spotlight

This month we spotlight and celebrate the DSA full-time staff members who earned degrees at Commencement. Check out the attached GW Hatchet ad where we recognize all DSA student staff and note those who graduated this year.

Tracy Arvari, Case Manager, CARE Network
(tarwari@gwu.edu)

Years at GW: 3
Degrees: (past and current): B.A. - Latin American Studies and Spanish (College of William and Mary); M.A. - Latin American Studies (Georgetown University); Ph.D. - Spanish (University of Arizona); Ed.D. - Higher Education Administration (George Washington University)
From which program did you graduate this month? Higher Education Administration (Department of Educational Leadership in GSEHD)
What is the title of your dissertation project and a brief summary of the topic? Dissertation title - "International Branch Campuses: A Multi-Paradigmatic Analysis of University Discourse". This qualitative study sought to determine the relationship between mission statements, strategic plans, and the international expansion programs of U.S.-based higher education institutions. Utilizing multi-paradigmatic inquiry, I applied multiple theoretical and methodological lenses to the textual artifacts and found that the official discourse around internationalization is entirely positive with no acknowledgement of the difficulties or risks that future expansion may cause.
What inspired you to pursue this degree and/or project? I chose to pursue this degree because while I enjoyed teaching and research, I also wanted to know more and learn about how universities worked "behind the scenes" so that one day I am a more effective senior administrator or provost. The frontier of internationalization is one that will be increasingly important for universities, and my dissertation helped to establish my position as a researcher in this area.
How are you celebrating your graduation? I enjoyed having my family and fiancé' in town for all the ceremonies and then we're going to the Caribbean for a celebratory vacation.

Toby Celene Davidow, Coordinator, DSA Planning and Outreach
(davidow@gwu.edu)

Years at GW: 14
Degrees: (past and current) B.A. - English (Rutgers University), M.A.Ed. - Higher Education Administration (GW), and Ed.D. - Higher Education Administration (GW)
From which program did you graduate this month? Higher Education Administration
What is the title of your dissertation project and a brief summary of the topic? My dissertation title is "Quality-Based Collegiate Parent Service Offices: A Multiple Case Study." This study looked at the best practices of two university parent service offices and their use of selected CAS Standards. Because college/university parent service offices are a relatively new phenomenon, there is a very limited amount of information available to administrators for effectively running the day-to-day office operations. So it is my hope that the study helps at least one university parent service office administrator somewhere!
What inspired you to pursue this degree and/or project? Pursuing the degree was a "no brain-er." Growing up, I remember having dreams of being a fashion designer, chiropractor, and lawyer. And I held summer jobs in a pharmacy, law office, mutual fund office, and a mortgage company. Yet between my mom being a nursery school teacher and my dad being a high school math teacher/assistant principal/principal, I think I was somehow destined to pursue education as a career. My dad used to bring me into his school’s office starting when I was five years old and I just loved going with him. When I secured an internship working in my undergraduate college’s dean’s office, I was bitten by the higher education administration bug. And the rest is history! I haven’t ever been out of the higher education world since.
How are you celebrating your graduation? There are so many ways that I am celebrating the graduation -- getting my condo professionally cleaned once the dissertation remnants are purged, reading FUN books, going to the spa, taking weekend trips, and catching up with family and friends.

DSA Staff Updates

Staff Transitions
Welcome back, Gabriel Slifka (Director, Student Rights and Responsibilities) after his military leave. Kudos to Katie Porras for stepping in as the Interim Director during the spring semester.
The Division of Student Affairs thanks its student staff members for all their contributions to our success during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Congratulations & Best Wishes
To the following student staff members graduating in May 2014.

Alexander Adams
Bilikisu Adeyemi
Nana Adu-Krow
Ebony Allen
Aditi Anand
Brady Baldwin
Leticia Banful
Kelsey Bard
Corey Barton
Kaitlynn Bartz
Mackenzie Becker
Jennifer Brookes
Evita Broughton
Anthony Bucci
Stacie Buell
Lauren Campbell
Ryan Carey-Mahoney
Paula Caruselle
Zixiang Chen
Kingsley Chikata
Julia Collins
Bonnie Cowan
Theresa Cummings
Timothy Day
Kristin Donehower
Kiran Edelstein
Andrea Edman
Valentina Emeric
Jared Fischer
Timothy Flucker
Jennifer Fox
Gabrielle Gaines
Leah Galasso
Jacob Garber
John Gillis
Stanley Gonzalez-Martinez
Shelby Goodfriend
Natalie Green
Kolton Gustafson
Tianying Hao
Jillian Harclerode
Alyssa Hart
Yunru He
Hillary Hecht
Leah Herscovici
Ricardo Hill
Samantha Hogenson
Nan Hu
Jessica Iori
Rauvin Johl
Amber Johnson
Kelsey Johnston
Priyanka Karande
Christopher Kibler
Arim Kim
Susan Langford
Chelsea Lenhart
Kimberly Levitt
Maira Malik
Yehuda Maman
Miranda Marchese
Courtney McClain
Marisa Mikrut
Tyler Miranda
Marius Mocanu
Kathleen Monsky
Tasheba Morgan
David Naam
Shizuka Nishimura
Shannon O'Brien
Alexandra O'Halloran
Paul Organ
Joshua Pavanone
Rebecca Peress
Zachary Pierce
Bridget Quinn
Pooja Kumarswam Raju
Sanjana Raju
Lauren Reay
Michelle Rehberger
Zahra Rehman
Siddhi Salvi
Matthew Scott
Roma Shah
Sonam Shah
Sindhuja Shankarram
Laura Shuey-Kostelac
Peter Starkey
Anthony Sulva
Soo Jung Sung
Morgan Sutton
Megan Thomas
Cory Trio
Courtney Wade
Lauren Wallace
Yating Wang
Hannah Wendling
Grace Woodruff-Diaz
Shufan Zhang

http://students.gwu.edu
### Celebrating Our Graduates with Grad Week 2014

By Chrissy Batterson, Coordinator, Administration & Hallmark Programs (cbatterson@email.gwu.edu)

It is hard to believe the 2013-2014 academic year has come and gone so quickly! At Administration & Hallmark Programs, we were excited to celebrate our graduating students throughout with a full week of events in collaboration with our partners from the Center for Student Engagement, the Multicultural Student Services Center, the Senior Class Gift Campaign, Alumni Relations, the International Services Office, and University Events. Such events included trips to the National Symphony Orchestra, Six Flags Amusement Park, Atlantic City, the Smithsonian Zoo and the Barrel Oak Winery; Senior Class Gift Campaign celebrations and toasts; a Back to Mount Vernon reception; the DSA Student Leaders’ Reception; a multitude of graduation receptions; and of course, University Commencement.

Perhaps the most exciting for the Division of Student Affairs was the Student Leaders’ Reception on May 15, when we celebrated our student leaders in the City View Room. Students and their guests were welcomed with a delicious buffet from Corcoran Caterers, a company run by GW alum, Lesley Grimes, followed by a cording ceremony. During the ceremony student leaders heard a reflective and touching speech from Tim Miller, who imparted five tips for the future:

1. Say thank you.
2. The key to success is failure.
3. There is no plan.
4. Don’t take yourself too seriously.
5. Take care of yourself first.

After receiving cords from Tim and Peter Konwerski, students took pictures overlooking the National Mall and the Washington Monument and headed out to the University Yard for the Senior Toast with President Knapp.

Grad Week 2014 was truly a time to celebrate the incredible accomplishments across the university and we thank our colleagues for all the hard work and dedication to ensuring a wonderful send-off for our graduates!
CADE and GWise Host 6th Annual Mix-Off Competition
By Emily Kane, Program Coordinator, Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education (emkane@gwu.edu)

On May 2 the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education (CADE) and GW’s Impact on Substance Education (GWise) hosted the 6th Annual Mix-Off Competition in Kogan Plaza. The Mix-Off is CADE and GWise’s signature event that brings together all types of student organizations in the ultimate mocktail-making showdown! Each participating organization created their own signature non-alcoholic drink and related educational information about healthy decision making regarding alcohol and other drugs. The winners of the competition received CADE co-sponsorship for events without alcohol during the upcoming academic year, and guests of the event enjoyed free mocktails, barbeque, and door prizes, and also voted for their favorite mocktail to determine the winner of the People’s Choice Award!

This year CADE and GWise hosted an “under the sea” themed mocktail competition with a pirate twist! Participating teams tailored their mocktails, education information, and assigned table space to the pirate or under the sea theme. We welcomed a variety of student organizations to the competition such as GW Men’s Rowing, Campaign GW, and Sigma Delta Tau as well as 250 guests from campus. Five judges determined the winners of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for best mocktail in the competition. Judges included notable GW staff such as Tim Miller, GWPD Captain Michael Glaubach, Mike Kohn, and Tracy Arwari. Our fifth judge was a member of the winning 2013 Mix-Off team, Sarah Fierman, a member of Kappa Delta. Judges enjoyed tasty mocktails while evaluating team’s educational information and signature drink based on taste, aesthetics, and creativity. The winning teams of the competition included Beta Theta Pi (3rd place), Alpha Delta Pi (2nd place), and Animal Advocates (1st place). The People’s Choice Award, determined by the popular vote of Mix-Off guests, was claimed by the Racially and Ethnically Mixed Student Association (REMix).

The overall goal of the Mix-Off is to promote safe decision making regarding alcohol and other drugs at the end of the semester. CADE and GWise aim to provide a fun event for the campus community to remind students that good decision making is important throughout the year and can be communicated in fun and creative ways. Next year, CADE and GWise plan to host the event again in April at Kogan Plaza and we look forward to welcoming more student organizations to share in the fun of the event with the opportunity to promote healthy decision making at GW!

Senior Class Gift BBQ Recap
By Anna Mahalak, Coordinator, Planning and Outreach (amahalak@gwu.edu)

The Class of 2014 Senior Class BBQ was an important moment for staff in the Division of Student Affairs to recognize the contributions of senior class donors, and especially those who donated to student life. CI towels were given to seniors who gave at a leadership-level to a DSA-related area. Thanks to all who participated as an opportunity to engage with seniors as they reflect on their time at GW.

This event was the result of an enhanced partnership between the Senior Class Gift Campaign and the Division of Student Affairs, and our partnership will only continue to grow and get stronger from here.
Around DSA (cont.)

Dean for a Day 2014

Following the success of the pilot program in Fall 2013, the Division of Student Affairs’ Dean for a Day program continued to offer opportunities for GW students to experience various leadership roles in student life during the Spring 2014 semester. Students learned from, shadowed, and worked side-by-side with the division leadership team to see how they support the GW student experience.

Matt Jiang ’15 shadowed Rachel Brown.
Andrew Mahoney ’16 shadowed Danielle Lico.
Higher Education Administration graduate students Katie Monsky and Paula Caruselle shadowed Mark Levine.
Ari Massefski ’15 shadowed Tim Miller.
Carlo Wood ’17 shadowed Robert Snyder.
Pranav Nanda ’17 shadowed Andrew Sonn.

Positive Vibes

Don’t forget to recognize your colleagues by submitting a positive vibe! “Positive Vibes” are a quick, convenient, and effective way to appreciate a staff member near you! These messages are posted publicly on the homepage of the Colonial Community website, and Positive Vibes recipients receive special cards in campus mail and a Positive Vibes lapel pin. Visit the Positive Vibes page to check out some of the DSA staff members who have recently been recognized, including the following ones. Great job!

Seth Weinshel,
Thanks for fearlessly leading GW Housing! You are a very supportive Director during good times and bad. - Karen and the rest of your housing staff

Jeff Dagley,
Congratulations Center for Career Services for rolling your new GW Drupal website at careerservices.gwu.edu. Nice job! Your commitment to excellence and teamwork made this website a reality and we’re excited to share it with the GW community. - Online Strategy

Alicia O’Brien,
Thank you for your extra efforts and all that you did to make the DSA Breakfast so special! It was yummy, fun, relaxing and a gift to us all. We appreciate you! - DSA Colleagues

Yasmin Brittain,
Thank you for making the DSA Breakfast such a success! It was yummy, fun, relaxing, and a gift to us all. Thank you for going above and beyond - we appreciate you!!! - DSA Colleagues
**Professional Development @ GW**

**Communication Training**
The DSA Communications Committee is pleased to offer professional development opportunities for you to improve the ways in which you communicate. These sessions would be offered as a chance for you to participate beyond the DSA Forums. They would provide in-depth context on best practices and how to implement these tools into your work routine. Current topics being considered include Media Training, Intercultural Communications, and Social Media. The committee also welcomes additional suggestions:

Fill out this short [form](#) to express your interest in these topics or suggest another topic!

Watch future issues of the newsletter for details of the trainings.

**LEAD Power Hour**
Tuesday, June 17, 11:00am-12:00pm
MPA B02

Register now to attend LEAD’s Power Hour with Jim Robinson. Mr. Robinson is the Executive Director of GW’s Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, and he will offer insight into leadership with members of the LEAD community. Power Hours feature in-depth discussion with a GW leader, allowing you to gain perspective and insight you can apply on your leadership journey.

**Save the Date! Upcoming DSA Forums**
Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00am – Join the Colonial Inauguration and First-Year Experience teams for the Incoming Student Transition Meeting. They will share important updates about the upcoming Colonial Inaugurations and information about the First Year Experience at GW.

Wednesday, July 23 – Save the date for the DSA All Staff Retreat!

Watch your email for more information about these great events!

**Webinar Watch**
If you are interested in advertising upcoming webinars to the DSA in the monthly Webinar Watch section of the newsletter, email Anne Moore or Kristen Franklin.

**Proud to Be GW Festival**
Wednesday, June 11, 2:00-4:00pm
University Yard

The Proud to be GW Festival is a day for fun, food, healthy activities and GW Spirit. You can also register to volunteer at the festival. Register to volunteer at the Proud to Be GW Festival – Foggy Bottom on [VolunteerSpot](#) today!

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**Professional Development Tip of the Month:**

Set aside ample time to complete your self-assessment for your annual review. Reference “Using the PM form tool” (PDF) to help write and evaluate your self-assessment before emailing it to your supervisor.
In Case You Missed It: DSA in *GW Today*

Between January 2014-May 2014 DSA had 38 stories featured in *GW Today*. Thank you for submitting your stories to [Robert Snyder](mailto:) and [Anna Mahalak](mailto:).

**Ashley Judd: Greek Community Has ‘Strong Role to Play’**

**‘Stress Buster’ Events Held on Mount Vernon Campus**

**Message from the Student Association Leaders**

**Students Get Creative at Annual Chalk-In**

**Puppypalooza 2014**

**Petting Zoo Helps Students Fur-get Their Finals Stress**
25th Cohort of Presidential Administrative Fellows Selected

Trustee Donates $5 Million to Enhance Career Services

Another Historic Year for Student Giving

University Counseling Center Announces Summer Hours

University Website Will Report Student Organizations’ Conduct Violations
What Do the People Want? Americans might take a more nuanced view of higher education than the agendas advanced by the politicians they elect.

Why Social Integration Matters Over the past couple of decades, researchers have uncovered all sorts of ways in which certain types of students experience college differently.

The Streamlined Life Every year researchers at U.C.L.A. do a survey of incoming college freshmen.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A Caring Professor May Be Key in How a Graduate Thrives If you believe the new "Gallup-Purdue Index Report," a study of 30,000 graduates of American colleges on issues of employment, job engagement, and well-being, it all comes down to old-fashioned values and human connectedness.

How Failure in the Classroom Is More Instructive Than Success There’s no shortage of inspirational quotes on failure, but have you ever noticed that they never come from an anonymous source?

The Importance of Not Knowing It’s graduation season, a time when we celebrate the academic accomplishments of students.

A Walk in the Park “Walking allows us to be in our bodies and in the world without being made busy by them. It leaves us free to think without being wholly lost in our thoughts.”

Why Professors Should Give a Damn Complaining about students minimizes the work that we, as college professors, do.

To Fight the Stigma Around Mental Illness, a Student Shares Her Story Trisha Luengen thought she had her depression and suicidal thoughts under control—until she got to college.

The Biggest Fears for the Newest Job Seekers Rachel A. Brown, provost for university career services, is quoted.

How to give a presentation in the age of smartphones What do you do when an audience member’s phone rings? Can your smartphone help you give a better presentation? Here are the answers.

New issue of Journal of College and Character available: The Journal of College and Character, a NASPA publication, examines how colleges and universities influence the moral and civic learning and behavior of students. In the latest issue, authors Christopher Collins and Min Liu investigate whether living in Greek housing significantly influences a college student’s health-related behaviors. Read this and other articles in the quarterly professional journal on the NASPA website.
Newsletter Updates

Thank you to all who took our DSA Newsletter survey last month. We had over 45 responses, representing nearly one third of the full-time staff in DSA! Below are some of the results and corresponding changes to expect over the coming months:

- 95% of respondents said they read the newsletter every month or when they have time. If you can only read the newsletter when you have time, catch up on the months you missed on the DSA website where we add the archived editions!
- Most respondents said that staff and department profiles, professional development resources/news, and current news/topics in higher education were their favorite features!
- Based on your voting, the new DSA newsletter will be called “The DSA Buff’n’Blue Report.”
- Look for the new “DSA Buff’n’Blue Report” with a new format incorporating your feedback coming late summer 2014!

Thank you to all our contributors from the past academic year. A special thanks to our “Gold” contributors for their multiple submissions:

- Administration and Hallmark Programs
- DSA Professional Development Committee
- Seth Weinshel
- GW TRAiLS
- DSA Assessment Committee
- Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Education

Requests for Contributions

When submitting general articles, please follow the new and improved DSA newsletter guidelines developed by the DSA Communications Committee:

- Be less than 350 words.
- Use short paragraphs.
- Highlight specific programming/activities of various DSA departments that occurred the past month since last newsletter.
- Highlight the newest or most recent initiatives.
- Incorporate best journalism practices such as:
  - Quotes from individuals
  - Inclusion of a relevant picture
  - Adherence to the GW Style Guide

Interested in contributing to the DSA Newsletter? Have feedback to offer? Email Anna Mahalak (amahalak@gwu.edu) with story ideas, events, etc. The next deadline for submissions is Wednesday, June 18.