



### ***A Message from the AGAPSS Chairs . . .***

In the wake of the recent election, many of us in higher education are worried. Will Title IX be gutted? Will research funding dry up? Every new administration brings changes in policies and priorities, and as professionals we adjust to new budgetary and regulatory landscapes all the time. But the question that troubles us the most is also the hardest to address - Will my students be safe? In the last few weeks, we have seen an escalation of hate-related incidents on college campuses, and increased anxiety among targeted groups, many of whom are well represented in our graduate and professional student populations. As we move forward together, let us be united in our resolve to protect human dignity, resist hatred, and support those most in need on our campuses.

On a happier note, thank you to our many colleagues who responded with enthusiastic offers to contribute to the AGPASS book project Valerie and Susan are spearheading. Your willingness to share your expertise and experience will help AGAPSS shape the future of student affairs knowledge and practice. For those not ready to tackle a book chapter, please keep submitting proposals for national and regional conferences, and please keep volunteering to review program submissions. These are among the best ways to contribute to the profession and assure that the needs of graduate and professional students are voiced to the broader world of student affairs. And if you have a topic you'd like to present for AGAPSS members, consider volunteering for one of our Lunch & Learn sessions!

Finally, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, be assured of our gratitude for each one of you – for the unique gifts you bring to our knowledge community, and for the generosity with which you share those gifts for the benefit of your students, your campus, and our world.

Grace & Peace,

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### ***AGAPSS Pre-Conference . . .***

**Please be sure to register for the AGAPSS Pre-Conference!**

**PC 28 The Future and Growth of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs**

**Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 9 am- 4 pm**

Administrators in graduate and professional student services work with students who face many obstacles and challenges unique to graduate student life. This full-day pre-conference will focus on future practices and trends in the support and service of graduate and professional students. The pre-conference will look more closely at: creating a Higher Ed



curriculum to support this population, building healthy communities, student voice and activism, support for oppressed identities, and the 5 year outlook for our field. We are also pleased to announce that Lisa Brandes has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker.

Lisa Brandes now serves as Director of the McDougal Center and Assistant Dean of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She received her B.A. in political science from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and earned her M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale, specializing in international relations.

Since 1996, Lisa has worked with graduate student fellows, student leaders, administrators, and staff to develop a wide range of social and cultural events that enhance graduate student life. She provides recruitment assistance to departments and programs, oversees New Student Information and Orientation Week, plans school-wide dean's events, and helps coordinate Commencement activities. Lisa also serves on working groups and projects to enhance student services and coordinates the graduate affiliate program with the residential colleges.

Lisa has served as an officer within regional and national political science associations and women's groups. More recently, she has been active in graduate education issues and graduate student services networks within NASPA & NODA, writing articles, conducting research, and making conference presentations on graduate student life, especially student services, mental health, parenting, and orientation.

*-Dana Bozeman and Ryan Kasmier, Pre-Conference Co-Chairs*

### ***Congrats!***

On November 11, 2016 the Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services Knowledge Community was awarded the NASPA Region VI Knowledge Community Achievement Award for Collaboration and Visibility at the NASPA Western Regional Conference, in Seattle, Washington. The Knowledge Community Achievement Award for Collaboration and Visibility is presented annually to a KC that has demonstrated high visibility and collaborative efforts with one or more KCs in the region by promoting workshops, symposia, publications, programs, and services.

The Region VI AGAPSS KC has grown dramatically over the past few years as it developed programming intended to cultivate a community of support and the sharing of best practices for student affairs professionals working with graduate and professional students. The group's



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growth began under Val Shepard and Shana Slebioda, past Region VI co-representatives, and continues under the current Region VI representative, Tiffany Gabrielson. Please join us in congratulating them and Region VI on this recognition!

***Follow us on Social Media . . .***

Join our new [AGAPSS group on Facebook](#). Share articles, ideas, and questions with other professionals doing this work!

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