

# JCC Connexions

Quarterly Newsletter About the *Journal of College and Character*

Vol. 2, No. 1, February 2016



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## JCC Authors Present Research on “Fostering Student Engagement in Social Change & Social Justice”

Student affairs administrators occupy unique and strategic positions in working with students to cultivate lifelong commitment to civic engagement and social change.

JCC authors who have explored this topic share their experience and research with NASPA members and others in three ways: (a) published articles in the journal; (b) a [blog](#) that invites NASPA members to join in to discuss their experiences and research on the topic; and (c) a special topic session at the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN, entitled, “Fostering Student Engagement in Social Change and Social Justice.”

**Matthew Johnson’s** 2014 [article](#), “Predictors of College Students Engaging in Social Change Behaviors” is based on a study employing the 2009 Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership.

Matt found that a variety of factors contribute to student social change behaviors, including pre-college experiences, participant demographics, and college activities. While all of these made some contribution to students' engagement in social change, the most powerful contributors were student group membership, leadership training, and discussions about and across differences.

**Christopher Bridges and Peter Mather’s** [study](#), published in “Joining the Struggle: White

Males as Social Justice Allies,” employed a qualitative, grounded theory approach, studying the formation of a social justice ally identity, among ten White males at a Jesuit university. The authors noted that ally work is catalyzed both by participants’ interests in promoting fairness and by participant needs for community and belonging. The findings were presented as progressive themes, showing that participants evolved in their understanding of what it meant to combat issues of racism, sexism, heterosexism, etc.

Matt and Chris are this issue’s JCC [Focus Authors](#).

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An assistant professor of educational leadership at Central Michigan University, Matt Johnson centers his research on the intersections of leadership, civic engagement, and social justice within higher education. As he explores the contributions of the college environment to these outcomes, he is interested in the interconnections among these three domains because of the powerful, tacit synergies that occur and the continued lack of overlap in theory and practice relating



**Matt Johnson**

(cont. on page 2)

## JCC Authors Present Research ... (cont. from page 1)

to them.

The Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL), grounded in the social change model of leadership, offers a rich data set to explore these relationships and an invaluable opportunity to shape research on, and practice in, leadership development. He is also in the second year of his longitudinal study of college student civic identity development, which examines how civic identity develops over students' lives, including post-graduation.

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Chris Bridges has just assumed a new position as dean of students at Yale-NUS, a small liberal arts school created by Yale University and the National University of Singapore. Living in a diverse, international country (40% of Singapore residents and Yale-NUS students are also international) offers Chris new opportunities to grow as a scholar-practitioner in the field of study in which he is particularly interested, which is ally experiences in different positions of power. This particular topic builds on his

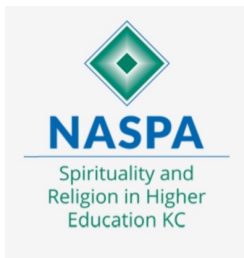
past work that is focused on the roles of allies in social justice work, specifically white males. He is also particularly interested in the intersection of liberal arts education and the core work/mission of student affairs.



Chris Bridges

Having had the opportunity to work in a variety of institutions, including large public institutions, a community college, a small private (Jesuit), and a small state university, Chris has a strong background in student affairs, retention, and social justice work. He has served in a variety of roles including residence coordinator, conduct officer, associate director of peace and justice, dean of students, manager for leadership, and most recently as vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

## SRHEKC Hosts Pre-Conference Workshop on Faith and Social Justice



NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education will be hosting its annual conference in Indianapolis, IN, this March on the one-year anniversary

of the passing of Indiana's controversial Senate Bill 101 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. While the majority of national media emphasize the law's implications for private and commercial businesses, similar issues are pertinent for higher education professionals. Because the NASPA community is committed to social justice, it is important to examine the potential implications of this law and similar legislation for our members as well as the students we serve.

In light of this importance, NASPA's **Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education Knowledge Community (SRHE KC)** will host a pre-conference workshop titled **Faith, Freedom, and Social Justice in Student Affairs Practice** on Sunday, March 13, 2016.

In this pre-conference workshop, attendees will explore the ways in which the pursuit of religious pluralism and interfaith dialogue might come into conflict with notions of religious freedom. Through a combination of personal reflection, community dialogues, and brief presentations led by experts in the field, participants will be provided with the tools to navigate the tensions raised by an intersectional awareness of faith, freedom, and social justice in student affairs practice. Please visit [workshop registration](#) for information and to register.



## JCC Editors Extend Appreciation to Melissa Dahne

**Melissa Dahne**, senior director of publications for NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, continues to play a central role in the production of the *Journal of College and Character*. As the NASPA staff liaison to the journal’s editors and to Routledge, NASPA’s publishing partner, she helps to ensure that all NASPA’s journals’ operations run efficiently.

Melissa’s association with the *JCC* goes back to 2007, when she worked in partnership with *JCC* editors Jon Dalton and Pam Crosby to manage the journal’s transfer from Florida State University to NASPA, where it is a featured member benefit. Publishing with NASPA afforded the journal several opportunities, including establishing a robust online presence, access to a state-of-the-art online manuscript submission and peer review system, and expanded global promotion aimed at engaging a wider audience. In the more than eight years since the *JCC* found its home at NASPA, the journal has been able to expand its contributions to scholarship across the education community under Melissa’s guidance.



From left: Caitlyn Bednarek, Jessica Hopp, Tad Spencer, Melissa Dahne, & Ann Quinn-Zobeck

In addition to her support of the *JCC*, she provides strategic and tactical management for NASPA’s publishing program for all of NASPA’s scholarly journals, books, the association’s flagship magazine, and reports and papers. For example, Melissa oversees the association’s active and wide-ranging [books program](#) with a catalog of more than 70 titles and growing, as well as the quarterly publication of [Leadership Exchange](#) magazine. She directs all aspects of publishing, including concept development, editing, design, production, sales, marketing, and distribution. She also supervises the production and distribution of NASPA’s Research and Policy Institute [5 Things](#) issue brief series and reports.

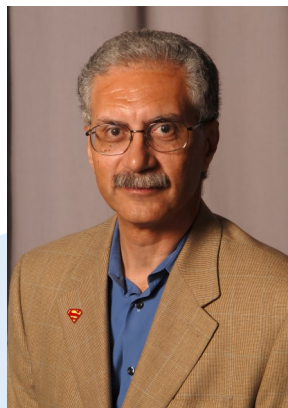
Prior to joining the NASPA staff in 2005, she completed a master’s degree in communications from Syracuse University, where she worked as a teaching assistant for a graphic arts course. She also holds a master’s degree in publishing from The George Washington University, as well as a bachelor’s degree in English and multimedia communications from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her professional leadership includes serving on the Maryland Media Board of Directors, participating as a judge for both the SNAP EXCEL Awards for Excellence in Association Publishing and the U.S. Higher Education Professors of the Year Awards, and facilitating the Best of Newspaper Design Creative Competition sponsored by the Society for News Design.

NASPA’s publications are designed to assist student affairs professionals in their daily work to support student learning and success. This is an important mission in the vast domain of higher education and one in which the *JCC* editorial team is proud to be a part. The editors of NASPA’s *Journal of College and Character* are fortunate to have Melissa’s extensive expertise in publishing and her conscientious direction as they plan and publish each issue of the journal.



## JCC Editors Welcome Michael Cuyjet as Contributing Editor of Opinions & Perspectives

After serving 21 years in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville, Professor Emeritus **Michael Cuyjet**, continues to be an active leader in the field of student affairs and college student services. For example, one of his current projects involves collaboration with colleagues at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. This new involvement is a result of his receiving a Fulbright grant to serve as a specialist consultant on the development of a number of initiatives focused on service-learning and community engagement.



Another current project in which Michael is involved these days is editing the second edition of the book, *Multiculturalism on Campus*, first published in 2011 with Mary Howard-Hamilton and Diane Cooper. Due out in summer 2016, the second edition will contain many updated references and several new perspectives on this important topic. His other publication accomplishments include serving as editor and one of the authors of *African American Men in College*, and a co-author of *How Minority Students Experience College*.

While at the University of Louisville (UofL), Michael taught in the College Student Personnel program, mentored master's and doctoral students, and served as interim chair of his department, associate dean of the graduate school, and acting associate provost for student life and development. Prior to his work at UofL, he was a student affairs practitioner at Northern Illinois University and the University of Maryland – College Park.

Michael has received many awards and recognitions including being named a Pillar of the Profession by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in 2011. In his new role as contributing editor of JCC's ongoing column, Opinions and Perspectives, Michael will oversee the review process of submissions to this section. JCC editors and the whole editorial team look forward to working with Michael and welcome him to the journal staff.

### *Journal of College & Character* *Special Topics Session*

"Educating Student for Social Change. An Overview of Research in JCC on  
Social Justice Education"

Peter Mather (Sr. Assoc. Ed.)

Associate Professor, Ohio University

Matthew Johnson (Assoc. Ed.)

Assistant Professor, Central Michigan University

Monday, March 14

1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Meeting Room 235 – Convention Center

2016 NASPA Annual Conference

Indianapolis, IN



## Lorena Meza Focuses on Deep Commitment to Student Success as VPSPA

**Lorena Meza** came to the US at the age of eight from Mexico. Drawing on her experience as a non-native English speaker and first generation college student, she has focused on the importance of effective personal and academic support structures to assist students for success.

Such a deep commitment is manifested in her professional career, which spans the range of student academic success services and has led her to serving as vice president for student affairs California State University, San Marcos, which is designated as both an Hispanic and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander serving institution.

Extending the focus on student success to the subject of her research, Lorena has explored the role of family for first generation minority students. Her ongoing areas of inquiry are (a) exploring how family plays a role as students reexamine their identity through the college experience, (b) determining ways to strengthen the university-family partnership for first generation college students, and (c) identifying the means to enhance the agency and validity of Latino college students' parents on college cam-

pus to strengthen support structures vital to the success of first generation minority students.

In addition to her ongoing research into the role of the family in supporting student success

and ways in which it can be enhanced, Lorena also has a commitment to adding to the body of knowledge on the role of women, particularly women of color, in higher education leadership roles and the importance of the mentoring relationship in the development of future leaders.

We welcome Lorena, who brings her vast experience and knowledge to our journal as a *JCC* editorial review board member. *JCC* editors appreciate her work and support of the journal and her contribution to its improvement and expansion.



### “Publishing in NASPA's Scholarly Journals”

#### A NASPA Annual Conference Session

**Coordinating Presenter: Stephanie Gordon, Vice President for Professional Development**

**Monday, March 14, 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM**

**Meeting Room 203 - Convention Center**

#### **Other Presenters:**

**Matthew Wawrzynski, Executive Editor, *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice***

**Amy Aldous Bergerson, Editor-in-Chief, *NASPA Journal About Women in Higher Education***

**Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, Editor-in-Chief, *NASPA Journal About Women in Higher Education***

**Peter Mather, Senior Associate Editor, *Journal of College and Character***

Innovative ideas must be published on a regular basis to provide the foundation necessary for successful student affairs practice. Join the editors of NASPA's three journals--*Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, *Journal of College and Character*, and *NASPA Journal About Women in Higher Education*--to learn how you can contribute to student affairs scholarship.

## Cody Nielsen to Focus on Building Coalitions for Changing Campus Initiatives on Religious Diversity



**Cody Nielsen** is NASPA's new expert in residence for religious, secular, and spiritual Initiatives. Currently the director of the Wesley Foundation (a United Methodist campus ministry) at the University of Minnesota, Cody is acting to bring together religious and higher education professional voices to discuss religious diversity on campus. His work is based on the belief that building coalitions between religious professionals and higher education administration can effect profound changes in campus climate.

As expert in residence in this important

area, his role involves overseeing the development of a variety of resources, including on demand webinars, a monthly blog, and a national institute to be held summer 2017.

Cody's study of religious diversity initiatives in higher education began in 2012 with a national research grant whose purpose was to explore multifaith work in public universities. The research took him to over 25 campuses across the United States and Canada, later expanding to include private universities. His findings uncovered four distinct "pillars of engagement" necessary for universities to consider when promoting religious diversity through policy: relationship and oversight; advocacy and accommodation; space; and programming and training.

Although today thousands of students are abandoning traditional religious institutions, many still claim a "spiritual" identity. Universities can implement important practices to promote these identities and encourage critical thinking skills and dialogue among all members of the campus community. Cody's focus on policy and practice examines ways to alter

how diverse religious worldviews are viewed on campus. Included in this focus is finding approaches that provide safe spaces of participation on campus for secular students and religious and non-religious atheists, humanists, and free thinkers.

Cody's academic background includes a master's in divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and a master's in mental health counseling from the University of Northern Iowa. He is president of the National Campus Ministry Association and serves on the advisory committee for Ask Big Questions, an initiative of Hillel International.

The *Journal of College and Character* and *JCC Connexions* are additional resources for discussion and research exploring the challenges and opportunities relating to religious diversity policy and practice. *JCC* editors look forward to highlighting conversations surrounding this topic and hearing more about Cody's work and travels as he spearheads these timely initiatives for dialogue, research, and practice.



### Dalton Institute Publication Provides Resources

The [\*Character Clearinghouse\*](#), an online center of information about research, curricula, and practices relating to the moral development of college students, publishes links to twelve resources, "[The Dalton Dozen](#)," providing supplemental readings for participants to the annual Dalton Institute on College Student Values. This year, the resources include a compilation of resources relating to the theme of this year's Institute,

"Student Activism and Advocacy: Higher Education's Role in Fostering Ethical Leadership and Moral Commitment."

To hear an interview with Institute keynote speaker George Kuh by CC editors, click [here](#) and to hear an interview with Penny Rue, click [here](#). For more information about the Institute, please go to [studentvalues.fsu.edu](http://studentvalues.fsu.edu)



For more information about these publications, email Pam Crosby, co-editor, at [jcc@naspa.org](mailto:jcc@naspa.org)

*Journal of College and Character* and *JCC Connexions* are published by

NASPA – Student Affairs  
Administrators in  
Higher Education



## Mather Receives Recognition of Excellence for Journal Leadership



JCC co-editors Jon Dalton and Pam Crosby presented Pete Mather, senior associate editor, with a Recognition of Excellence Award at the annual Dalton Institute for College Student Values at Florida State University in Tallahassee in February.

Pete's leadership involvement with the JCC as senior editor includes organizing and chairing a special topics session at the annual NASPA conference that combines blog dialogue on *JCC Connexions* with published authors of the journal. Pete also facilitates two other journal sessions at the NASPA conference relating to the JCC.

A widely published scholar in the field of moral development of college students whose research and practice are in the areas of social justice and service-learning, he has helped us to improve the quality of submissions and published arti-

cles in these areas.

For many years Pete traveled to Central America to lead his graduate students in higher education at Ohio University in working with our international neighbors in these countries. He continues to serve in this region each summer, and his high school daughters accompanied him on his trip last year as fellow workers.

He is associate professor of counseling and higher education at Ohio University. He holds the B.A. in philosophy from the University of Indianapolis, the M.A. in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University, and Ph.D. in student affairs administration from The University of Georgia. His major research interests include service learning student and faculty outcomes, the application of positive psychology in higher education, and general student affairs practice. He recently published with Laura Harrison *Alternative Solutions to Higher Education's Problems: An Appreciative Approach to Reform* (2015, Routledge.)

JCC editors welcomed this opportunity to honor Pete, a cherished colleague and friend, whose leadership has helped make it possible for the journal to grow and improve!

### *Journal of College & Character* Volume 17, Issue 1, February 2016

- **Colleges and Universities as Exemplars in the Development of Citizens** by Andrew J. Seligsohn
- **Responsive and Responsible: Faculty Encouragement of Civic Engagement** by Eddie R. Cole, Elijah C. Howe & Thomas F. Nelson Laird
- **"Keep Pressing On": Spiritual Epistemology and Its Role in the Collegiate Lives of Black Gay and Bisexual Men** by Darris R. Means & Audrey J. Jaeger
- **Perceptions of Campus Climates for Civic Learning as Predictors of College Students' Mental Health** by Joshua J. Mitchell, Robert D. Reason, Kevin M. Hemer & Ashley Finley
- **Standing Firm on Slippery Slopes: Understanding Ethical Boundaries in Student Affairs Work** by Debora Liddell, Anne M. Hornak, & Michael G. Ignelzi
- **Leadership, Service, and Exploration: An Evaluation in the Local, National, and International Context** by Vincent G. Thurman
- **Claiming Voice on the Future of Higher Education** by Larry D. Roper
- ***Inside the College Gates: How Class and Culture Matter in Higher Education***, Reviewed by Kent Andersen



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[J. Dalton](#): “DO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PERPETUATE INCOME INEQUALITY BY FAVORING THE WEALTHIEST STUDENTS?”

[K. Guthrie](#): “UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SEAMLESS LEARNING”

[F. Lane & J. Schutts](#): “PREDICTING THE PRESENCE OF PURPOSE THROUGH THE SELF-EFFICACY BELIEFS OF ONE’S TALENTS”

[P. Mather with replies from C.Broadhurst, G.Martin, & L.Harrison](#): “STUDENT ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY”

[P. Mather, C. Bridges, & M. Johnson](#): “JOHNSON, BRIDGES, & MATHER TALK ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH ON SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE”

[D. Morgan with co-authors, H.Zimmerman, T.Terrell, and B.Marcotte](#): “SHOULD FRATERNITIES BE BANNED FROM COLLEGE CAMPUSES?” CRITICAL CONVERSATION TOPIC #1”

[G. Paine](#): “CARING ABOUT STUDENTS – THE WORK OF STUDENT AFFAIRS”

[S. Watt with replies from L.Roper and C.King](#): ““RACIAL CONFLICTS AS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES” CRITICAL CONVERSATION #2”

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**Nicholas A. Bowman**, Associate Editor, Bowling Green State University  
**Pu-Shih Daniel Chen**, Associate Editor, University of North Texas  
**Mathew Johnson**, Associate Editor, Central Michigan University  
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**David M. Eberhardt**, What They're Reading, Birmingham-Southern College  
**Cassie Meyer**, Interfaith Cooperation, The Interfaith Youth Core  
**Eboo Patel**, Interfaith Cooperation, The Interfaith Youth Core  
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**Larry D. Roper**, Ethical Issues on Campus, Oregon State University  
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**Dennis C. Roberts**, International Perspectives, Independent Consultant  
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