



NASPA NOW Professionals 2019

Impact

Russell Aivazian
Resident Director
University of Kentucky

Timothy Khuu
Academic Advisor
University of Southern
California

Danny Ledezma
Associate Director,
Community Engagement
Harvey Mudd College

Inclusion

Taifha Alexander
Assistant Director of Student Life,
Diversity Initiatives
University of South Carolina-Aiken

Ana Barragan Santoyo
Coordinator, Toro Dreamers
Success Center
California State University-
Dominguez Hills

Mac Benavides
Graduate Assistant, UPC Nebraska
University of Nebraska

Brittany Locklin
Resident Director
Rhode Island School of Design

Junior Pena
Assistant Director
University of Miami

Cory Rusin
Student Success Coordinator
Binghamton University

Tiffany Steele
Graduate Administrative
Associate, Young Scholars
Program
Ohio State University

Yashwant Vyas
Graduate Assistant
Texas A&M University

Samra Ward
Senior Coordinator, Disability
Services
University of Georgia

Innovation

Jeryl Concepcion

Career and Academic Coach
Northeastern University-
Seattle

Dylan Dunn

Collegiate Recovery
Community Coordinator
University of Denver

Charles Frazier

Graduate Assistant, Marilyn
Kent Byrne Student Success
Center
Texas A&M University

Alycia Smith

Hall Director
Iowa State University

Tricia Tauer

Graduate Assistant, Learning
Services
North Dakota State University

Inquiry

Drew T. Ashby-King

Graduate Assistant, Student
Conduct & Community
Standards
University of Tennessee-
Knoxville

Genia Bettencourt

Doctoral Candidate
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Macy Mize

Graduate Residence Director
Mississippi State University

Aaron Parayno

Assistant Director, Asian
American Center
Northeastern University

Liam Rice

Graduate Assistant, Student
Engagement
Pine Manor College

Integrity

Taylor Krivas

Graduate Assistant, Fraternity
& Sorority Life
University of Northern
Colorado

Asha Nettles

Coordinator, ASI Leader &
Program Development
California State University-
Fullerton

Aspen Shackelford

Graduate Assistant
University of South Florida

NASPA NOW PROFESSIONAL 2019: Impact



Russell Aivazian
Resident Director
University of Kentucky

Russell C Aivazian, M.Ed. (He, Him, His), currently serves as a Resident Director at The University of Kentucky. Russell found his passion for working in student affairs and residence life while serving as a RA at Seattle University, where he received his BA in Business Management. After Seattle, Russell moved to Chicago to complete his Master's in Education from Loyola University Chicago (Go Ramblers and Sister Jean!). At Loyola, Russell served as an Assistant Resident Director and attended his first NASPA Conference in New Orleans.

Since his first NASPA conference, Russell has continued to find ways to get involved in NASPA and create an impact. Russell served as the Nominations and Awards Chair for the New Professionals and Graduate Students KC (NPGS) from 2016-2018, where he led the committee to develop and launch the NASPA NOW Professionals recognition and led the process for the selection of the 2018-2020 NPGS KC

Chairs. Additionally, Russell has served as a program reviewer for the Annual Conference, Excellence Awards, and Strategies Conferences. Most recently, Russell presented an SA Speaks session, [“Why Starbucks Taught Me Everything I Know About Student Engagement”](#) at the Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

Starting at the University of Kentucky in 2015, Russell has had the opportunity to open two new residence halls as a part of the University's partnership with EdR/Greystar. As a Resident Director, Russell oversees the operations of a 700-bed residence hall (apartment-style) and supervises a Resident Advisor staff. Russell also enjoys supporting the department's initiatives around training and selection, proposing and implementing many changes that have improved the experience for all staff in the department. Outside of work, Russell enjoys his time with Delilah, his two-year old Great Pyrenees/AmStaff mix and cheering on UK Basketball and Football (Go Cats! #BBN).



Timothy Khuu
Academic Advisor
University of Southern California

Timothy Khuu is a first-generation college graduate, second generation Chinese/Vietnamese-American, son of two refugee immigrant parents, and born and raised in San Diego, CA. It is through these experiences that has helped develop the critical framework that Tim approaches his work today as a student affairs professional.

In his current role as an academic advisor, Tim supports the success of students in the Masters of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MAT-TESOL), Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT), and World Masters of Language Teaching (WMLT) programs at the USC Rossier School of Education. In addition to academic advising and program delivery responsibilities, Tim also supports program development such as participation in faculty governance, development of academic program mission and objectives, and co-curricular opportunities for students. Equity for Educators, a co-curricular opportunity designed by Tim and MAT-TESOL faculty members promotes an opportunity for discussion and learning about equity and teaching for students in the MAT-TESOL program. At USC, Tim has served on the planning committee for the 2018 USC First Generation College Student Summit, and is currently involved on the 2019 strategic plan writing committee for USC

Rossier School of Education.

Within NASPA, Tim volunteers in several leadership roles. In the Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community (APIKC), Tim serves as a co-coordinator for the research and scholarship programming efforts of the KC. Tim also serves as a member of the NASPA Engagement committee for the 2019 NASPA annual conference, supporting first time attendees to NASPA annual in preparing for a great conference. Previously, Tim served as part of the program planning committee for the 2018 NASPA Closing the Achievement Gap conference.

In the future, Tim plans to further his impact in both NASPA and the field of student affairs. Tim seeks to impact the field by contributing through research and leadership. Tim's research interests include first-generation students, international students and global education, and equity in college access and persistence, with a focus on Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) college student experiences. As a leader, Tim will continue to serve with integrity and excellence, growing into a senior student affairs role.

Tim is a proud Anteater and Trojan, earning his B.A. in Film and Media Studies from University of California, Irvine (zot zot!) and M.Ed. in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs from the University of Southern California (fight on!). He is currently in his first-year as a doctoral student in USC's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program.



Danny Ledezma
Associate Director,
Community Engagement
Harvey Mudd College

Danny Ledezma serves as the Associate Director of Community Engagement at Harvey Mudd College. His primary responsibilities include organizing, developing and supporting community engagement programming on- and off-campus. Danny also manages and supervises the Homework Hotline program by working collaboratively with school districts, educators and other members of the campus and external community. He previously served as the Orientation Coordinator and Assistant Residence Director at Pitzer College. Danny has earned a MS in college counseling and student development from Azusa Pacific University and a BA in psychology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. During his undergraduate career, he was involved with many student organizations and the cultural centers. Danny serves in the Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community and the Small Colleges & Universities Board.

NASPA NOW PROFESSIONAL 2019: Inclusion



Taifha Alexander

Assistant Director of Student
Life, Diversity Initiatives
University of South Carolina-
Aiken

Taifha Natalee Alexander, JD, is from a low-income, racially diverse household in Jamaica, New York. While her family is predominantly Jamaican, Taifha's heritage also includes German, Irish, Cuban, and Indigenous American lineage. Taifha's diverse background and the injustices she witnessed between people in her neighborhood and the police contributed to her decision to enroll in the legal studies program at St. John's University in New York. While at St. John's University, Taifha combined her passion for diversity and the law by teaching 900 students, faculty, and staff about the importance of inclusion and equity. Taifha followed her passion to law school. At Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, Taifha utilized her legal skills to advocate for marginalized students. Her most recent research paper, "We Can't Breathe: How Top Law Schools Can Resuscitate an Inclusive Climate for Minority & Low-Income Students," provides tangible recommendations to assist top law schools in creating an inclusive climate for

their most vulnerable student populations. After graduating cum laude with a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center, Taifha accepted a position with University of South Carolina Aiken as assistant director of student life - diversity initiatives. As assistant director, Taifha was able to bring her research to life and made tremendous change at University of South Carolina Aiken. Most notably, under her leadership, Taifha increased the number of all gender restrooms from 2 to 26, authored the campus-wide diversity statement and expanded heritage month celebrations on campus from 20% to 86%. Currently, Taifha is the Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator at UCLA's Graduate Division where she coordinates multiple programs for underserved and underrepresented graduate and undergraduate students.



Mac Benavides

Graduate Assistant,
UPC Nebraska
University of Nebraska

Mac Benavides is a second-year graduate student in the Students Affairs Administration program at the University of Nebraska (UNL). He has a B.S. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in Spanish from Kansas State University (K-State).

As an undergraduate student at K-State, Mac quickly discovered his passion for enhancing the collegiate experience. During his first year, he founded the K-State council of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to foster greater community of Latinx students. He served as a student intern for multicultural programs where he helped to bridge recruitment efforts between the Office of Diversity and New Student Services. The interpersonal experiences that Mac had with student affairs educators during his time at K-State introduced him to the field and

were a major factor in his decision to enter the profession. Upon graduation, he began working as a K-State admissions representative, advising prospective students from across the state of Kansas and several states throughout the US. He later became the first recruitment coordinator for the K-State College of Education, where he developed the recruitment program, supervised diversity and inclusion initiatives, and advised recruitment and retention student organizations.

In 2017, Mac was accepted into the M.A. in Student Affairs Administration graduate program at UNL. He works as the Graduate Assistant for UPC Nebraska, which provides diverse, educational, and entertaining events to enhance the Nebraska community. During his time in Lincoln, Mac has demonstrated his commitment to collaboration as a means to enrich student experiences. He immediately immersed himself in the UNL community, and has helped develop diversity and inclusion programs and partnerships across campus and other institutions. With colleagues at UNL and K-State, Mac spearheaded the innovative creation of an intercultural leadership program, which he co-teaches through his internship with the Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services (OASIS). The program explores the intersection of strengths-based leadership and intercultural development in order to develop interculturally competent leaders of change.

Mac has a strong passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion on college campuses, and demonstrates this commitment in all aspects of his work. He believes that efforts made to foster inclusive community should not be restricted to the walls of a multicultural center, but rather should be the responsibility of all units across campus. Upon graduation, Mac looks forward to continuing to explore this passion and philosophy as a student affairs educator.



Brittany Locklin
Resident Director
Rhode Island School of Design

Britt Locklin is a native New Englander, having grown up in a one-stoplight-town in central Massachusetts and now calling Providence, Rhode Island home. She is a second-year graduate student in the College Student Personnel master's program at the University of Rhode Island, a Resident Director of First Year Area Housing at Rhode Island School of Design, and a Graduate Intern with the Brown University Student Activities Office.

Britt is an advocate for active allyship. She believes that one cannot be labeled an ally without constant action in support of historically minoritized identity groups. She connects with others through storytelling. She has been a dancer and poet since she was young, and has recently taken up comedy. Britt incorporates her storytelling into inclusion work by creating safe and supportive environments for others to share their own authentic stories.

Since beginning her graduate program in September 2017, Britt has done multiple presentations to educate students across Rhode Island on creating these types of environments. She has presented on supporting invisible disabilities, imposter syndrome, white privilege, fatphobia/sizism, and building inclusive communities. She has also worked to better herself as an advocate by becoming a QPR Gatekeeper Instructor and certified in Mental Health First Aid. When she's not studying, working, or presenting, she is likely at the Providence Improv Guild, saving Hyrule, creating new drawings for her graphic design side-hustle, or spoiling her English bulldog, Coco. Follow her and connect with all her social media pages by visiting www.BrittVLocklin.com



Junior Pena
Assistant Director
Salem State University

Junior currently serves as the Assistant Director for the Leadership Engagement Advocacy Diversity (LEAD) Office at Salem State University in Massachusetts. As Assistant Director, some of his main roles are developing comprehensive training's around bystander intervention, LGBTQ+ support, identity-based dialogues, and student organization leadership development. A self-proclaimed higher ed geek, he earned his B.A. in Psychology and Communication from the University of Massachusetts-Boston, along with a Master of Science degree in Higher Education Student Affairs at Florida State University. Currently, his research interests focus on student's navigating multiple cultures on college campuses, and men of color success. Junior has a deep admiration for supporting students with marginalized identities, co-creating intentional learning spaces, and re-imagining professionalism through authenticity. Junior is committed to learning and growing

professionally and welcomes any opportunity to engage with higher education further.



Cory Rusin

Student Success Coordinator
Binghamton University

Cory Rusin is a Student Success Coordinator for the Broome County HEARS (Higher Education, Access, Retention, and Success) Program at Binghamton University. She is responsible for assisting prior students in re-enrolling to complete their bachelor's degree, facilitating reverse transfers for Binghamton students who transferred from a community college without receiving their associate's degree, and co-creating opportunities in Broome County for community members to access higher education.

Cory is also the co-chair of the Binghamton University Family Friendly Campus Taskforce, a committee developed to determine what services are available for parenting students and provide recommendations to university leadership for what student parents need to succeed at Binghamton.

Outside of the Binghamton campus, Cory serves on the leadership team of the NASPA Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community as their Social Media Coordinator. She has previously acted as the Lead Institution Consultant for the NASPA Lead Initiative on Civic

Learning and Democratic Engagement. She has also served on the Workforce Development and Education work team for the Binghamton-Broome Anti-Poverty Initiative (BBAPI) and co-facilitates an Adult Empowerment Series in the community through this initiative to encourage a sense of belonging for city residents.

Cory holds a Masters in General Psychology from Adelphi University and a Bachelors in Psychology from SUNY College at Oneonta. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Community Research and Action, focusing her research on the barriers to re-enrollment in higher education. In her free time, Cory enjoys rock climbing, yoga, hiking, and kayaking in the New York wilderness.



Tiffany Steele

Graduate Administrative
Associate,
Young Scholars Program
Ohio State University

Tiffany Steele is a third-year doctoral student studying Higher Education & Student Affairs at The Ohio State University. Born and raised in Detroit, MI, Tiffany attended the University of Michigan as a first-generation college student where she received her bachelor's degree in Psychology. After discovering her passion for connecting college students to resources and supporting their development, Tiffany attended Grand Valley State University (GVSU) where she received her master's degree in College Student Affairs Leadership. At GVSU, Tiffany completed her master's thesis on "Retaining Staff Members of Color at a Midwestern Predominantly White Institution" in which she passed with distinction and received the honors of College of Education Dean's Award for Outstanding Thesis, Graduate Dean's Citation for Academic Excellence, and Graduate Dean's Citation for Outstanding Thesis.

Her current research interest focuses on retention of minoritized students and staff members at predominantly White institutions with an emphasis on the lived experiences of Black women. Her dissertation research, specifically, focuses on conceptualizing college choice amongst Black women who have experienced disciplinary action during their K-12 educational experiences. She

currently is as a Graduate Administrative Associate for the Young Scholars Program (YSP) where she works as a Success Coach for 50 first-year students from the nine largest urban cities of Ohio who identify as first-generation and low-income. She also co-teaches with the Senior Vice President of Student Life in the course entitled "Theories of Professional Counseling" for master's students in OSU's Higher Education program.

In her spare time, Tiffany is the vice president of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus at OSU and an engaged member in Life Development Ministry at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church. Her future goals are to become a professor of Higher Education with an emphasis in developing interculturally competent student affairs professionals and to develop a research center solely focused on the lived experiences of Black women and girls in relation to access and equity within higher education.



Yashwant Vyas
Graduate Assistant
Texas A&M University

Yashwant Prakash Vyas is a graduate student at Texas A&M University. He is pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in higher education policy and administration, along with graduate certificates in public management and nonprofit management. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering with minors in Mathematics and Leadership Studies from Texas A&M University. Initially, Yashwant chose an engineering path of study with the intent to help individuals attain better life outcomes by connecting them to technology. But during his baccalaureate studies and through his advocacy work with US Funds for UNICEF, he realized that his true passion comes from addressing fellow global citizens' educational and life needs. He adjusted his academic and professional path to better suit this mission. Yashwant formerly served as the graduate assistant advisor to MSC CAMAC--a Latinx

programming board at Texas A&M that unites students from diverse backgrounds--where he oversaw two retention programs (Mi Casa Es Su Casa and Amig@s Peer Mentor Program) and helped create access to opportunities for underrepresented students. He was director of Student Research Week at Texas A&M--the largest studentrun, single-university research symposium in the nation. He has worked for a private grant-making foundation as graduate intern and engaged in efforts to ensure that all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, and complete postsecondary education. Currently, Yashwant is primary adviser to the Texas A&M chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society and the employer relations graduate assistant in the Bush School's Office of Career Services. In terms of professional service and leadership, Yashwant's roles have included director of the Academy for Future Faculty, chartering president of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars--Alpha Eta chapter, and founder of a service learning program--Brazos Valley Worldfest Ambassadors, at Texas A&M. He has presented at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), and has facilitated his leadership and diversity training workshops at several national and international leadership events. Yashwant's academic honors include memberships in numerous honor societies such as Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society. Highlights in his list of national and international recognitions include selection as a Hesselbein Global Academy for Leadership and Civic Engagement Fellow, a US Funds for UNICEF Member of the Year, and a Golden Key International Honour Society Outstanding Academic Leader and Advisor of the Year. Other university recognition includes New Advisor of the Year, Diversity Service and Margaret Rudder Community Service awards from Texas A&M University.



Samra Ward
Senior Coordinator,
Disability Services
University of Georgia

Samra Ward began her full-time career advocating for students with disabilities in June 2016, but her desire to make disability a part of diversity began as a child in small-town Mississippi. Through her experiences working at an autism camp and as a tutor for children with dyslexia and cerebral palsy, Samra noticed a disparity in how her peers with disabilities were treated and yearned to eliminate these inequalities in her professional career.

Considering these goals, Samra obtained an undergraduate degree in psychology and French from the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at The University of Mississippi, as well as a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education. As an undergraduate at Ole Miss, Samra conducted research on social media as a cognitive learning tool and helped launch the university's wheelchair basketball program. While in graduate school, Samra served as the lead graduate assistant for disability services, and in this role, created disability programming initiatives in her own office, as well as the student housing and law school student affairs offices. She also received the Franklin Moak award, recognizing her as the highest-performing student in her master's program.

At present, Samra works at the University of Georgia as a senior coordinator of disabilities, where she works primarily with students with chronic illnesses to ensure their academic and social success. In addition to working with her individual caseload, Samra oversees her university's 1500+ disability notetakers, trains student leaders on how to make their events accessible to students with disabilities, serves as an accessibility liaison for PanHellenic sorority recruitment and UGA commencement, and has assisted in writing and creating her university's policy for emotional support animals. Throughout her professional career, Samra has presented on disability-as-diversity at the regional, national, and international levels.

Outside of work, Samra is committed to disability inclusion in her local community. Samra serves as a mentor for the Fontaine Center; as the ritual advisor for Phi Mu fraternity; as the communications director for the Young Professionals Network of Athens, GA; and as a recruiter and accessible social media adviser for the Mississippi Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) leadership organization. She has also been selected to present on event accessibility at NASPA 2019, and is being sponsored by the Disability Knowledge Community. Additionally, she maintains an online Student Affairs Accessible Social Media toolkit, which provides best accessible social media and graphic design practices to student affairs professionals all over the country.

NASPA NOW PROFESSIONAL 2019: Innovation



Jeryl Concepcion

Career and Academic Coach
Northeastern University-Seattle

Jeryl Concepcion serves as an Academic and Career Advisor for graduate students at Northeastern University's (NU) regional campuses in Seattle, WA and San Jose, CA. Aside from providing academic and career services for students within NU's College of Professional Studies (CPS), he also assists with international student engagement, program and enrollment management, career development programs, and student experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, he serves as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the College, providing students with enhanced extra professional development opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Prior to this, Jeryl served as an Academic Advisor for The College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, coordinating many of the College's first-year programs and retention/persistence initiatives. Other institutions Jeryl has served include the University of California Office of the President, UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, and Sacramento State.

Originally from San Jose, CA, Jeryl is a proud Filipino-American first-generation college student, holding a Bachelor's (B.S.) Degree in Business Administration – Marketing from Sacramento State and a Master's (M.A.) Degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of San Francisco. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Administration at Northeastern University. His research focuses on the religious and spiritual experiences of LGBTQ undergraduates within the United States.

In addition to his work, Jeryl has been actively involved as a presenter, volunteer, and leader within NASPA since 2014. Recently, he served on the Marketing, Social Media, and Communication planning subcommittee for the 2018 NASPA Western Regional Conference in Sacramento, CA. He now serves on the Engagement subcommittee for the 2020 NASPA Annual Conference in Austin, TX. Lastly, he serves on the Region V Leadership Team for NASPA's New Professionals and Graduate Students (NPGS) Knowledge Committee.

In his spare time, Jeryl enjoys trying new restaurants and cafes, practicing yoga, traveling the world with his partner, taking his dog to the park, and watching San Jose Sharks ice hockey!



Dylan Dunn

Collegiate Recovery Community
Coordinator
University of Denver

While growing up in the rural town of Tiffin, Ohio, Dylan developed a passion for creative and critical engagement with the world around him. Maneuvering the impact of alcohol, drugs, and the opioid epidemic on his friends and family, Dylan found agency and hope through relationships with the educators in his life. As a first-generation student with the help of student affairs professionals, he enrolled at The Ohio State University and earned Bachelor's of Arts in Philosophy and Criminology/Criminal Justice Studies.

It was at Ohio State that Dylan was inspired and emboldened by the "Pay it Forward" philosophy to seek a career in student affairs. Dylan then attended Colorado State University's Student Affairs in Higher Education program as a graduate student. During his graduate assistantship as an Assistant Residence Director, he honed his skills and passion for Alcohol and Other Drugs work while developing students' sense of self regarding the role of substances in their life. Additionally, Dylan was afforded the opportunity to contribute his story and experiences to the book titled "Stratling Class in the Academy".

Dylan now serves as the Collegiate Recovery Community Coordinator at University of Denver. In his first year, his work has centered around the initiation of the Collegiate

Recovery Community, a resource office for those pursuing, impacted by, or interested in recovery from substance use and behavioral disorders. Dylan strives to implement innovative approaches to collegiate recovery that center accessibility, equity, and empowerment. Dylan can often be found lost in philosophical conversation with students and peers regarding how to break down stigma, shame, and how to make recovery spaces more inclusive. He has worked with faculty, students, and staff to shift institutional culture to better honor and support those in recovery. Dylan has also spearheaded an initiative to distribute naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication, to the University of Denver community.



Charles Frazier

Graduate Assistant,
Marilyn Kent Byrne Student
Success Center
Texas A&M University

Charles J. Frazier is a second-year Master's student studying educational administration with a concentration in student affairs administration in higher education at Texas A&M University – College Station. He currently works in the Marilyn Kent Byrne Student Success Center at Texas A&M University where he advises two student organizations: Freshmen Leaders in Education and Human Development and the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) Undergraduate Student Council. Charles also provides academic coaching services to students in the CEHD in efforts to help students improve their academic performance and determine a balance between their academic and co-curricular involvement. As a student organization advisor, Charles has worked to incorporate academic achievement into the mindset of his students by offering study hours so that the students can build community with one another, as well as study in conditions that maximize learning. In addition, Charles meets one-on-one with his students to build a rapport, as well as support them academically and professionally by providing opportunities for the students to showcase their leadership and impact their communities. Charles provides trainings for the student leaders that are focused on determining their leadership styles, developing an understanding of diversity and social justice, and what it means to be an inclusive leader. In May 2019, Charles will graduate with his Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M with hopes to impact the profession working in Multicultural Affairs, Student Activities, or Residence Life.



Alycia Smith
Hall Director
Iowa State University

Alycia strives toward empowering her residents, building up change-agent leaders, and creating an atmosphere that can be a home for all. Alycia does this through dynamic programming, creation of new traditions, and relationship building. During her time as a Hall Director, Alycia has had an influence on programs that have doubled in participation from previous years such as a week-long event called Helser Challenge that occurs during the first week of classes, and Helser Tie Dye, a new tradition that allows students to tie dye a Helser shirt the first Friday before classes. Alycia has helped implement alcohol education and healthy relationship events and is looking forward to a womxn's empowerment event called "We Will" in the spring. She is constantly striving towards creative ideas and has helped re-brand the community and created lasting memories for

students. Alycia's professional areas of interest lie in recruitment, marketing, and programming. In her free time Alycia enjoys baking, playing with her cat, Sansa, taking naps, and going on adventures with her partner, Casey. Alycia looks forward to continuing her work at Iowa State University and creating positive change!



Tricia Tauer
Graduate Assistant,
Learning Services
North Dakota State University

Tricia Tauer grew up in the close-knit community of Becker, Minnesota. Tricia then went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota where she majored in Organizational Communication and minored in Business, Psychology, and Women's and Gender Studies. Tricia enjoyed being involved in the vibrant campus community at Concordia and spent her time as an Orientation Leader, a First Year Transition Leader, an Intern in the Office of Intercultural Affairs, and a Student Ambassador in the Office of Admission. Tricia also sang in choir and was a cheerleader for Cobber athletic teams. Tricia discovered a theme in her studies and extracurriculars - a passion for helping others to achieve their goals both inside and outside of the classroom. A big fan of school spirit, Tricia also enjoys helping other students feel a sense of belonging at school. Upon graduation, Tricia moved just over the Red River and joined the North Dakota State University community. Tricia is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Educational Leadership and will graduate on August 1, 2019. Tricia is now in her second year of serving as the Student Success Programs Graduate Assistant. In this role, Tricia assists with the design, implementation, and

assessment of the Rising Scholars program - which is an innovative program that supports conditionally-accepted students through their first year at NDSU. Tricia also assists with the Peer Mentor program and meets weekly with students on academic probation. Tricia creates weekly lessons to help students strengthen academic skills, motivation, and confidence in themselves. One of the highlights of her experience was co-teaching a 1 credit Study Skills course for students in the college access and preparation program, Upward Bound. Tricia's Practicum experience was in Welcome Week and Family Programs at NDSU. Tricia enjoyed collaborating with different stakeholders across campus to plan events for first year students and their families. On campus, Tricia also serves as a Body Project Peer Leader where she facilitates conversations related to positive body image among college women to reduce their pursuit of unhealthy thinness. Tricia is also actively involved in The National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Development Institute. This year, Tricia received the NASPA Rising Star Award for Region IV West for showing great potential for a successful career in Student Affairs. In the future, Tricia wants to implement effective interventions for at-risk students and increase students' sense of belonging to promote retention.

NASPA NOW PROFESSIONAL 2019: Inquiry



Drew T. Ashby-King

Graduate Assistant,
Student Conduct & Community
Standards
University of Tennessee-
Knoxville

Drew T. Ashby-King is a master's candidate in the College Student Personnel program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). Throughout his time at UTK, Drew has served as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards, a Research Intern for the Postsecondary Education Research Center, and a Teaching Intern for the undergraduate Leadership Studies program. Drew earned his Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Bowling Green State University in May 2017 where he was involved in residence life, new student orientation, student conduct, and spirit programs. As an aspiring scholar, Drew's research interests include college outcomes, moral development, and the influence of student-institution relationships on students' development of personal and social responsibility.



Genia Bettencourt
Doctoral Candidate
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Genia M. Bettencourt is a Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education in the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her dissertation uses narrative inquiry to understand the experiences of working-class students at public research institutions using a three-article approach that explores questions of meaning-making of social class identity, class-based allyship, and sense of belonging at public research universities. The dissertation fits into Genia's larger research agenda exploring issues of college access, equity, and activism for marginalized student populations within higher education, particularly related to social class, disability, race, and gender. Genia's research has been published in such venues as the *Journal of Diversity and Higher Education*, *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, *Journal for the Study of Postsecondary and Tertiary Education*, and *The Educational Form*.

Prior to beginning her doctoral program, Genia worked as an administrator within student affairs in roles across residential life, pre-college programs, and student leadership. Genia holds a Graduate Certificate in Teaching for Diversity from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a Master of Science degree in College Student Services Administration from Oregon State University, and Bachelors of Arts degrees in English, History, and Political Science. She currently serves as research assistant and coordinator for the Center for Student Success Research at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. In addition to NASPA, Genia is involved in numerous other professional organizations and currently sits on the Board of Directors as a Graduate Representative for the Association for the Study of Higher Education.



Macy Mize

Graduate Residence Director
Mississippi State University

Macy Mize is an aspiring student affairs professional that actively participates in the knowledge-based community of the profession by engaging in assessment and research to understand the impact of organizational culture, institutional diversity, and student engagement efforts. She began her student affairs journey at East Carolina University where she served in many leadership roles, one being a Resident Advisor. After being accepted into nursing school, Macy realized that her interests were more congruent with the work she was doing as a student leader, rather than the medical field. Therefore, she changed her trajectory to pursue a career in student affairs and higher education. Currently, Macy is a second-year graduate student at Mississippi State University studying Educational Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs and Higher Education. She serves as a Residence Director for the Department in Housing and Residence Life and as the Diversity Initiatives and Programming Intern at the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. Serving as Residence Director, Macy has had the opportunity to be a part of numerous departmental

committees. These opportunities have allowed her to be a co-instructor for the Paraprofessionals in Student Affairs course and utilize assessment to create proposals for departmental policy and program changes.

Her position as a Residence Director has also led her to develop a passion for supervising and advising undergraduate students. As a supervisor, she purposefully seeks opportunities to contribute to her students' cognitive development. By using integrative learning, Macy invests her energy in teaching students the importance of critical thought and connecting one's experiences to support new knowledge. Additionally, Macy takes the time to understand the learning styles of her students and uses an individualistic approach to empower her Resident Advisors to exercise civic mindfulness within and beyond their role as student leaders. Although student focused, as an administrator Macy is deeply passionate about researching how to navigate the culture of organizations to positively impact student success and development through institutional change. Macy has integrated her passion in this area into presenting at state and regional level conferences. Her presentations focus on how student affairs practitioners can engage in institutional culture to benefit their professional development and student populations, such as those on the autism spectrum.

As she enters the job search, Macy is wanting to continue her trajectory in housing and is excited to see how her experiences and passions will benefit the success of students at her next institution.



Aaron Parayno

Assistant Director, Asian
American Center
Northeastern University

Aaron James Parayno is an Assistant Director at the Asian American Center at Northeastern University. He is also a first year doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Boston studying higher education. Originally from Queens, New York, Aaron takes pride in his upbringing as a second generation Pilipinx American which is central to his identity as a scholar-practitioner. Aaron has a bachelor's degree in history from Boston College as well as a master's degree in higher education administration from Boston College. It was during his time as an undergraduate student at Boston College that he became heavily involved in the Asian American community on campus and that sparked his passion to serve communities of color.

Aaron has been active with NASPA through his involvement in the Asian, Pacific Islander Knowledge Community (API KC) with region I and the national leadership team. He was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student award from the API KC in 2014. He currently serves as the awards and recognition co-chair for the API KC.

Aaron's research interest involve further understanding the experiences of Asian American students, staff and faculty with a particular focus on Pilpinx identity. Aaron hopes to

use his scholarship to raise up narratives that have been silenced and uncover other ways of knowing. Aaron hopes to use his scholar-practitioner identity to challenge higher education to create spaces where folks can see themselves and feel a sense of belonging utilizing an equity and justice focused approach. When Aaron is not at work or studying he enjoys cooking and baking for friends and family.



Liam Rice

Graduate Assistant,
Student Engagement
Pine Manor College

Liam Rice is a second-year graduate student in the M.S. in College Student Development and Counseling program at Northeastern University, directed by Dr. Vanessa Johnson. He is the Student Engagement Graduate Assistant at Pine Manor College and a College Media Practicum Student at Bentley University. Liam graduated from Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island in 2017 with a B.A. in Literary and Cultural Studies and a B.S. in Applied Economics. Additionally, he received two minors in Finance and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies. He is excited to transition into a full-time professional in Summer 2019.

Liam's passions center around student engagement, leadership development, culture building, and online communities. As the lead director for student activities and organizations at Pine Manor College, he interacts daily with the diverse experiences of his students as they learn to create their own visions at the institution. He finds special impact in working with his first-generational college students, who represent 85% of the student body. Liam's experiences at Bentley University in Student Programs & Engagement provided the foundation for his passion for

accessible and applied assessment.

Research and assessment are a rejuvenating aspect of the profession for Liam; throughout his graduate program, he has created multiple opportunities for the practice. Working with Dr. Vanessa Johnson, graduate students Grace Berry and Sara Rodrigues, and undergraduate students Dylan Balcom, Zoe Harris, Connor Holmes, and Amira Nwokeji-Iwuala at Northeastern University, Liam is currently studying the impacts of short-term study abroad experiences for undergraduate students in Ghana. At Pine Manor College, he has led the drive for intentional assessment into student affairs programming, beginning with student activities in 2018 and introducing residence life and student success programming in 2019. In his personal research, Liam has studied the complex developmental interactions of undergraduate students on social media and their connections with contemporary higher education theories and practices. In continuing this research, he intends to examine how "social firewalls" affect students with different identities and their engagement with campus culture.

Liam has truly found a home in the NASPA family, specifically with his colleagues in Region I. Through regional conferences, Knowledge Communities, and the New Professional Mentoring Institute, he has continued his growth into the student affairs profession. NASPA's commitment to research has also afforded him the opportunity to share out new information, presenting "Social Media, Networked Publics, and Student Development" at the 2018 Region I Annual Conference.

NASPA NOW PROFESSIONAL 2019: Integrity



Taylor Krivas
Graduate Assistant,
Fraternity & Sorority Life
University of Northern
Colorado

Taylor Krivas is finding where his passion meets purpose in the Higher Education & Student Affairs Leadership Master's Program at the University of Northern Colorado. He is currently the graduate assistant for the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, as well as the New Student Orientation intern. He finds his strengths lie in cultivating positive environments with an individualized advising style so that all of his student leaders have the opportunity to succeed. Prior to this, he was an Educational Leadership Consultant for Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity where he travelled across 40+ states and collaborated with his team on creating 4 new franchises of his organization. In the future, he intends to be either a Director of New Student Orientation that has developed a first generation college student program or a Director of the Counseling Center having developed a toxic masculinity workshop.



Asha Nettles

Coordinator, ASI Leader &
Program Development
California State University-
Fullerton

Asha Nettles serves as the Coordinator of Leader & Program Development at Associated Students (CSUF), Inc. She is responsible for advising, coordinating and supporting the advocacy-based commissions of the organization which include: Lobby Corps, Environmental Sustainability, Presidential Appointees and University Affairs Commissions programs and their respective student leaders. She also support and advises the financial leadership of various student-led groups that receive funding from ASI. She is a double-alum of California State University, Long Beach having earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and her Master's of Science Degree in Counseling, option in Student Development in Higher Education. Throughout her experience, she continues to train and develop student leaders in governance, advocacy and policy decisions. Asha remains passionate about motivating, empowering and engaging students in becoming the best versions of themselves while developing a care for the world around them.

In NASPA, Asha has served as the Chair of the New Professionals and Graduate Students Knowledge

Community (NPGS) Conference Consortium in 2015 and as the Region VI Representative for the Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education Knowledge Community from 2016-2018 and currently serves as volunteer on the NASPA Engagement Committee.



Aspen Shackleford
Graduate Assistant
University of South Florida

Born and raised in Maryland, Aspen Shackleford completed her undergraduate degree at University of Maryland, College Park where she studied Biological Sciences with a concentration in Neurobiology and Physiology. Originally planning to be a doctor, Aspen soon realized her true passion for a career in student affairs through her student employment in the Department of Resident Life and her leadership involvement in both the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). During her gap year, Aspen remained at the University of Maryland as an interim Resident Director. This experience confirmed that she made the right choice in her decision to pursue a career in student affairs.

Aspen is currently a second year graduate student in the College Student Affairs program at University of South Florida. She serves as the graduate assistant for the Dean of Student Office at University of South Florida St. Petersburg. In this role she serves as an initial review officer, addressing student behavior concerns and providing support to students who may have violated the USF System Student Code of Conduct. She also supervises the Dean of Students Ambassadors, a newly created student programming team

that plans educational programs surrounding Title IX, sexual assault awareness and prevention, and bystander intervention, as well as creates outreach initiatives to ensure that students are knowledgeable of the services and resources provided by the Dean of Students Office.

Through her journey as a graduate student, Aspen has also has the opportunity to intern in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Through this work, Aspen is able to provide programming and leadership support to the campus's multicultural student organizations, as well as collaborate with office staff to cultivate innovative opportunities to promote and advocate for social justice, diversity, and inclusion in the campus community. Aspen's journey has also allowed her to serve as the advisor for the Black Student Association at University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and to continue to express her passions by serving as a co-presenter at the 2018 NASPA Florida Drive-In Conference for a presentation entitled "Fitting In' to Student Affairs: Overcoming Barriers of Sizeist Professional Standards". After graduation, Aspen is planning continue her journey in the field and hopes to continue her passion for equity and social change, making sure that students are able to share their experiences and feel affirmed in their journeys throughout higher education.