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Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies (DAIS):
First Annual Academic Fest 2010

Dr. Debra Nixon
The Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies (DAIS) hosted its inaugural “Academic Fest” (AF) on October 29th at the Mailman Segal Institute. DAIS, a newly formed division of SHSS, consisting of Center for Psychological Studies; Criminal Justice Institute; Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Human Services Unit; and the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies was a tremendous success with visiting university constituents from every NSU center. The concept of the Academic Fest originated from the University’s Communications Task Force, feedback from the Gallup Surveys, and the Chancellor’s Town Hall meetings. Results from each revealed that NSU’s faculty and staff desired to learn more about centers within the university. The Academic Fest consisted of a series of open houses from each center within DAIS which showed cased publications, research efforts, and community outreach from each center.

Attendees were given a “passport” that was stamped upon visiting each open house. Participants’ completed passports qualified to enter a drawing for a color printer, a Sprint Bluetooth, or the grand prize: an American Airlines roundtrip for two. Winners did not have to be present to win and will be notified via email of their good fortune. (cont. on pg. 8)

Student Spotlight: Family Therapy

Tequilla Hill, MFT Representative
Sarah Walker is a second year doctoral student and works full time as a youth and family therapist at Henderson Mental Health Center. When she is not engaged in academic life or working, she is song writing. Sarah has been singing all her life and playing the guitar since she was for years old. Sarah enjoys song writing and over the past seven years has written over three dozen songs. Sarah currently has an LLC called Sarahthewalker. In addition, Miss Walker is currently in the process of developing an Indie record label.

Without question, Sarah enjoys watching “General Hospital.” Her other hobbies include being creative in the kitchen, working out, reading, and connecting with the spiritual community and her family and friends.
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Student Government Association had its Fall Welcome Week August 23rd-26th, 2010 in the break room of the Maltz Psychology building. The week started off with a bang with Chartwells Catering setting up a beautiful arrangement of food choices. As is customary, the SHSS SGA provided refreshments to students who are returning for the semester for the first week of classes. Welcome Week is scheduled at the beginning of the Fall and Winter Semesters. The event is seen as a networking opportunity for faculty, staff and students in a setting where they can communicate outside of the classroom. Many faculty and staff participated this year in order to support the SGA and its students; those who attended were able to talk with faculty and also Dean Yang.

The SHSS SGA provided a wider variety of food throughout welcome week so as not to have any student left out of the festivities. Those who were in attendance really appreciated the refreshments before class. They also appreciated the opportunity to speak with their SGA Reps and other faculty members.

Special thanks goes out to the Marriage and Family Therapy students who arrived in droves to support the event and to all faculty who were present. We would like to also publicly thank Dr. Yang and Dr. McKay for coming out everyday to support the event. Hope to see you all at the Winter Welcome Week.

Pictures from Fall Welcome week 2010
Get to know your fellow SGA Members!

Krystal:
Q: What are 5 things you would need to survive on a desert island?
A: Water, salt, knife, cooking pot, and liquor.
Q: Childhood nickname?
A: Miss Piggy.
Q: Most embarrassing moment?
A: When I fell at the bus stop in the 7th grade.
Q: Best quality?
A: I’m a good listener; people need to listen more in order to be better communicators.”

Lauren:
Q: Which animal would you be?
A: A Tiger (the orange one) because they are beautiful and convey a sense of calmness.
Q: Which magical power would you choose to have?
A: To be able to appear or disappear anywhere, at anytime, and any place. Like the guy off the movie “Jumper.”
Q: What food can’t you live without?
A: Fruit.
Q: First thing that you notice in the male species?
A: Height and Hair.

Sara:
Q: Favorite color?
A: Periwinkle, I have liked it since I was little.
Q: If you won a billion dollars what would you do?
A: Pay off debt, send family on a vacation, and buy a Shelby Mustang.
Q: Three things that you can live without?
A: Ipod, candy, and family.
Get to know your fellow SGA Members!

Travis:
Q: One wish?
A: To have a new car.
Q: What is the color of your toothbrush?
A: White and blue.
Q: Favorite American President
A: Abraham Lincoln.
Q: Most interesting thing in wallet?
A: A torn half dollar. It's actually a token of a friendship; my friend has the other half.

Hannah:
Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
A: About 45 minutes.
Q: Two words that describe you?
A: Friendly and Trustworthy.
Q: What supply in your house is something you simply cannot live without?
A: Coffee.

Consuelo:
Q: What is your favorite flower?
A: A Passion Flower because they attract butterflies.
Q: What compliments do your peers usually give you?
A: That I'm a good listener.
Q: What piece of advice have you received that has been most rewarding?
A: That my natural abilities are great at bringing students together. With that advice I see the importance of being inclusive with my diverse colleagues. The best thing in life is the incredible diversity that is among us.”
Get to know your fellow SGA Members!

Heather:
Q: Favorite holiday and why?
A: Halloween because I like to dress up and visit haunted houses. My family throws a huge Halloween party, and we love to celebrate together as a family.

Q: You fondest childhood memory
A: My fondest childhood memory is of my parents throwing “football watching” parties each week. A ton of military men would come over to watch the game, and I was often the only child there. Each week, these men would get on the floor and play Barbies with me during half time. I always had the best time!

Q: Favorite Cartoon Character
A: My favorite cartoon character is Batman because he didn’t have any superpowers, but he saw the superpower of being a human. He decided he wanted to make a difference in the world and he did!

Claudia:
Q: Who is your favorite Pop Star?
A: Elvis Presley.

Q: Favorite car?
A: Jeep, because its nature friendly.

Q: Pet Peeves?
A: People that comment on private conversations; people that hold a parking space and swear in public.

Tequilla:
Q: Favorite words?
A: Fantastical, Mantastical, Yes Tequilla, and Fabulous.

Q: Favorite outdoor activities?
A: Running, kayaking, jet skiing. Depending on the state, white water rafting, camping, and mountain biking. Contrary to popular belief I’m both a wilderness girl and outdoor diva. I have yet to break a nail.

Q: Favorite snack?
A: Yummy Gummy bears! If you have not had the pleasure of experiencing one, contact me. I usually have a bag handy.
Consuelo Kelley, DCAR Student Representative

As part of its mission to promote student success, SGA recently hosted a skit on graduate student writing at the Fall 2010 Residential Institute, starring two members of the SHSS faculty, Dr. Judith McKay, Chair of the Department of Multi-Disciplinary Studies, and Dr. Jason Campbell of DCAR.

The skit was well-received and provoked a lot of laughs from both faculty and students. More importantly, it dealt with a subject that is critical for all SHSS graduate students: effective and articulate writing, which is a goal we all seek to achieve. Accordingly, the skit dealt with plagiarism, proper citation, literature and research, NovaCAT, drafting and editing, different citation styles, even critical lenses. Drs. Campbell and McKay ended up bespectacled, literally wearing giant critical lenses as they exited the stage.

Do you have a writing issue or concern? SHSS students are advised to contact Richard Toumey for online or residential writing lab assistance, by emailing him at richryal@nova.edu. In the meantime, please save the date on your calendars for the SGA Social Dinner at Winter 2011 Residential Institute--- a future skit for your amusement and education is already in the works!

Heather Wellman, Online Representative

Consuelo Kelley is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School who is very pleased to be your elected DCAR Representative to SGA for the academic year 2010-2011. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, where she practiced environmental law. Consuelo was born and raised in Puerto Rico, is the proud mother of two sons, and is in her third year in the doctoral program in conflict analysis and resolution, where she also serves as a graduate assistant. She is deeply committed to improving the DCAR experience for students and faculty, and asks that program suggestions and/or concerns be conveyed to her at kconsuel@nova.edu
Editor’s Note:

It’s round one for me in sunny south Florida! I moved here from Minnesota over four months ago, leaving behind my family, friends, and freakishly cold winters. I can hardly believe how fast time has flown! Throughout my undergraduate education, I consistently heard from several individuals that those were to be the fastest years of my life. Now in graduate school, I believe I can contest that point — I have never experienced such busy, crazy and enjoyable days. I find myself exited by all of life’s possibilities; some days I find myself overwhelmed by them; other days I simply want a nap, but without question the unwavering coherent thought that runs through my head is how incredibly fortunate I am to be amongst students, faculty, and staff who I not only respect, but also deeply admire. I may only be finishing my first semester as a graduate student, but suffice it to say, it has been one wild ride thus far.

Question and Answer with a MACS Student

Claudia Harris, MACS Representative

Deborah Pabon Crespo is an International Student Advisor here at Nova Southeastern University. She is a mother of three and a new student to the Macs program.

Q: How did you hear about this program?
A: Um, it was through Nova’s website. I looked for the information about the school through the website

Q: What made you choose M.A.C.S over all the other programs here in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences?
A: Macs offers so much more flexibility. There are so many possibilities of studying different fields to suite my own needs.

Q: What do you look forward to as MACS student?
A: The ability to be able to take advantage of the variety of course curriculum that the program offers for the Macs students. This will allow me to better advise my international students.

Q: When you finish your MACS degree what do you plan on doing with it?
A: My plans are to stay where I am working, while I have the knowledge and capacity to be able to handle different scenarios that presents itself in my job environment. I like what I do for the students.

Q: What do you love most about degree map?
A: The variety I think is what I love most about the degree map in the MACS program. I am torn between marriage family therapy, conflict and education. Currently I work in the school of international affairs.

Q: What would you like to let other MACS Students to know about our program?
A: There are different opportunities that the program offers. There are also great academics here, which helps students develop into the person they need and want to be.

Hannah Barr
Master of Science
in College Student Affairs
Class of 2012
Graduate Assistant for
Student Development
Office of Special Events and Projects
Another significant highlight of the Academic Fest was the presentation of short overview of programs by Division Provost, Margaret Malmberg and the Deans of DAIS: Tammy Kushner, Honggang Yang, and Roni Lieberman. In addition, an area was dedicated for student clubs and organizations each of which prepared a poster highlighting significant annual activities.

Members of the entire university community visited the Academic Fest held at the MSI, with shuttle buses transporting attendees from several satellite campus venues including the North Miami Beach Campus, Oceanographic Center and East Campus. Lunch was provided. Finally, live music was performed by a group of distinguished and very talented faculty members. Featured on bass (5-strings) was none other than the Narrative King himself, the jamming, Dr. James Hibel. Yes, it was he; and we have the video to prove it. Nope, you won't see them on Facebook. But, I hear that Sting is looking to replace their lead base guitarist. We might just lose our star to the music world. And the crowd goes wild! “Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.”

Got questions? We have answers! Please e-mail your student government association with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have at shsssa@nova.edu. Make sure to check your e-mails for the next SHSS Student Government Association meeting and notices about future events. We look forward to working with you!
Time Well Spent

Travis Checketts, CSA Representative

In today’s society, taking time to smell the roses seems a foreign concept as we fervently work towards our professional and personal goals. We forget that sometimes stepping away from the fast-paced schedules provides the most clarity. As students, it’s important for us to discern what our next step will be; for many that question is answered best by taking time away to pursue new opportunities – you never know where they may lead.

Two students – Jim Wood and Katherine Monsour – are proving that time off between undergraduate school and graduate school is not a problem. Jim Wood left Northern Illinois University in 1976 and spent the next 30 years working fulltime. In 2007, Wood enrolled in NSU’s undergraduate business school to finish his degree. His motivation for finishing school was rooted in his desire to be a good example for his children, saying: “how could I expect them to take school seriously if it wasn’t a priority for me?”

Now as a graduate student in the College Student Affairs program, Wood also works as a Career Advisor for the Career Development Office, has a practicum at St. Thomas University in Miami and is an officer in the College Student Affairs Association. When asked how he manages family, work and school, Wood indicated that life is about balance. Sometimes doing homework early in the mornings to spend time with the family in the evening is necessary for success. Wood has had many experiences in life, all of which he firmly believes were learning experiences, which leaves him with no regret.

Katherine Monsour is a 2006 graduate from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls (UWRF). She majored in marketing communications. When Monsour entered college she aspired to be an entrepreneur; however, through her involvement at UWRF she decided to enter the world of higher education. As an undergraduate student Monsour participated in residence hall council, Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and student activities at UWRF. Following graduation she worked at Capella University as a Learner Support Associate.

This experience brought her to NSU as a graduate assistant for Special Events for the Dean of Student Affairs. Monsour can be seen planning the Baccalaureate Reception, STUEYS, Community Fest and most recently hosting Gabrielle Union for the Life 101 speaking series.

Both Wood and Monsour have been great additions to the NSU Shark community. They took time to re-evaluate their life plans, which opened up multiple doors. Now, they are active in and out of the classroom. With graduate degrees in high demand they will be suited for the workforce because of their dedication to experiences outside of the classroom and their commitment to their goals.