

Spring 4-1-2011

Spring 2011

Graduate School of Humanities & Social Sciences

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NSUWorks Citation

Graduate School of Humanities & Social Sciences, "Spring 2011" (2011). *CAHSS Graduate SGA Dialogues*. 6.
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SHSS Dialogs

SPRING 2011

From the Dean's Desk

Dean Honggang Yang

Our Ph.D. Program in Family Therapy, Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy (DMFT) Program, Ph.D. Program in Conflict Analysis & Resolution, and Master of Arts in Cross-disciplinary Studies (MACS) Program have been going through the Academic Program Review (APR) since last autumn. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you an overview of the corresponding steps and processes. APR consists of ongoing peer review of all the academic programs at NSU on a five-year cycle. Reviews are intended to provide a fine focus on program areas in which quality will be enhanced and excellence can be achieved. The objectives include, according to APR <http://www.nova.edu/arc/guidelines.html>:

- ★ To assert to all external constituents that NSU seeks the highest standards of academic excellence

- ★ To seek to "fine-tune" academic programs, through collegial, peer and external consulta-

tion to the program, and

To establish and sustain an institutional culture that reflects an endeavor to strive for excellence in each and every one of our academic activities.

The review process consists of the following steps:

- ★ Completion of self study. (as part of the Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes [ASLO] and Academic Scholastic Program Information Review & Evaluation [ASPIRE]).

- ★ Collection of *descriptive information* from other similar programs (e.g., benchmarks, comparable offerings...).

- ★ Completion of an evaluative report developed by the *Internal Review Committee*.

- ★ External consultation provided by a colleague, not affiliated with the University, who is an expert and a leader in the field.

Completion of a summary and recommendations made by NSU's Academic Review Com-

mittee and submitted to the university leadership.

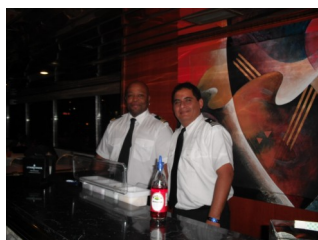
This process will culminate in a meeting between the Chair, Dean, Associate Provost, Provost, President and Chancellor during which time the respective findings and recommendations can be discussed and an action plan resulting from the review, generated. I am so pleased that our students have actively participated in these review activities. Your input and feedback are very important as SHSS is progressing higher in academic advancement.

I am also very delighted that our university recently earned Carnegie's distinctive classification for community engagement. SHSS is proud of serving as an academic unit pilot for Carnegie's information collection at NSU. The scholarship of engagement is promising and far-reaching indeed. If you are interested in learning more <http://www.outreachscholarship.org/> is one of my favorite links. Let's stay in touch. Best wishes.

Dean Honggang Yang

Cruising With Your Student Government Association

On Friday February 18, 2011 as a part of our Annual SGA Social which is hosted during the week of Residential Institute, the SHSS SGA embarked on a Cruise Down the Inter-coastal. The event which was scheduled to begin at 5:45pm got underway with persons coming in droves for registration. Each participant was given an armband that gave them access to the 115 yacht Anticipation V and free refreshments. Participants were asked to pre-register for the cruise for a fee of five dollars. Shuttle service was provided to and from the pier. Though things started out on time, a few snags happened along the way. In the end approximately 115 of the 150 guest who registered for the cruise boarded the yacht and we set sail on the high seas. Special thanks needs to be sent out to Dr. Boyd and Dr. Marquez of the Marriage and Family Therapy Department for their help and continued support on the day of the cruise. Also to Dr. Yang and Janice for assisting us with this cruise and to all the faculty and staff, Dr. Katz and his DCAR Team, Dr McKay and the MACS team who supported this venture. To save the best for last, all the students and staff that came out and stuck with us through the ups and downs, we thank you.





**The Bridge
between
SHSS
Students
Faculty and
Academic
Program.**

CSA Students Begin a New Chapter

**By Travis Checketts,
CSA Representative**

For many of us the journey has nearly come to a close. After five trimesters, fifteen classes, and 585 days second year graduate students are ready to graduate and begin new professional jobs. But jobs don't come easy. For first year students and future students, this article will provide insight into the different conferences and exchanges you can attend to assist your job search. On March 13th 2011, CSA students traveled to one of two professional conferences and one of three job placement exchanges. National Association of School Personnel Administrators (NASPA), American College Personnel Association (ACPA), and the Oshkosh Placement Ex-

change (OPE). This is their story.

The first placement option worth noting is the Oshkosh Placement Exchange in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

This placement is attended by almost 600 future professionals seeking employment in student affairs.

According to OPE's website, residence hall positions are the majority of the positions listed; however, there are limited postings in Student Activities, Programming, Leadership Development, and Greek Affairs. Get ready for the cold weather too, because OPE is held each year in late February and early March.

In mid-March eight CSA students attended NASPA's The Placement Exchange (TPE) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

TPE is a collection of sev-

eral professional associations that have combined their career fairs into one conference. TPE boasts over 500 professional positions available to over 1,000 candidates, which conduct over 11,000 interviews in four days. By the numbers this sounds like a daunting event to be part of, but NASPA cared for the nerves of the candidates through the TPE Cares initiative. "TPE is a great opportunity to network and really get a grasp on the profession and trends in student affairs" said second year CSA student and NSU Graduate Assistant Debaro Huyler.



**The VOICE
for SHSS
Academic
Program
Students.**

CSA Students Begin a New Chapter Cont.

Throughout the weekend there were several ways to relieve some stress and nervousness from a relaxation room, to short walking tours of Philly, laughter yoga, and practice interview coaches and résumé critiques.

The benefit of NASPA's The Placement Exchange is collaboration of other professional associations to have so many job opportunities available.

The downside is the exchange is so large it can be overwhelming for some people.

Two weeks after TPE was ACPA's interview weekend in Baltimore, Maryland. This interview weekend is more intimate in nature, but still offers many of the same positions as NASPA. ACPA attendee and NSU Graduate As-

sistant Danny Zayas commented that ACPA is simply "Amazing!" Zayas is also a second year graduate student in the CSA program. ACPA as well as NASPA's placement conferences are followed by their annual conferences. Each conference provides a wide selection of educational sessions meant to engage professionals in conversation.

All three placement conferences offer opportunities to get involved without being a job seeker.

Volunteers fulfill the necessary tasks at the conferences such as mail distribution, interview scheduling, and general running tasks. Zayas volunteered at ACPA's placement conference and Gina Mercanti, second year CSA student

and Graduate Assistant, volunteered at TPE.

Everyone that attended a conference or exchange reported that they had a great time, met new people, learned great things and were re-inspired to do great things in student affairs. I encourage everyone to check out their options and consider attending a national conference next year.



**The VOICE
for SHSS
Academic
Program
Students.**

Question and Answer with a MAC's Student

By Claudia Harris, MAC's Representative

Asha is an International Student here at Nova Southeastern University. Asha also works for the school in the alumni department, is a mother of one, and a new student to the Macs program. This is Asha's first semester in the Program and she is ready for the adventure that the school has to offer

How did you hear about this program?

My husband was a student here at Nova before I even applied. I originally applied to the school of Family Therapy. When that did not work out, I was offered to look at the MACS program through Nova's website. I also looked for the information about the school through the website

What made you choose M.A.C.S over all the other programs here in the graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences?

I was well informed of the school because of my husband.

What do you look forward to as MACS student mostly?

I like the flexibility the MACS program offers and its many options. It allows me to focus on my work, while giving me the flexibility to get where I want to be in my education.

When you finish your MACS degree what do you plan on doing with it?

My plans are to get a job and to possibly do my Ph.D. in Family Therapy, but as I continue my education I may change my mind as I progress through the program. I may go in the direction of the MACS program or I may stay with my original plan of Family Therapy.

What do you love most about degree map?

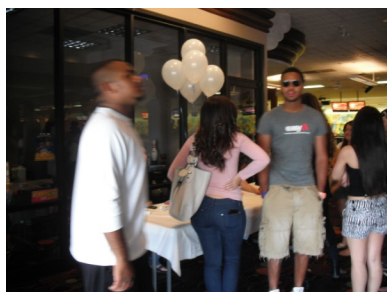
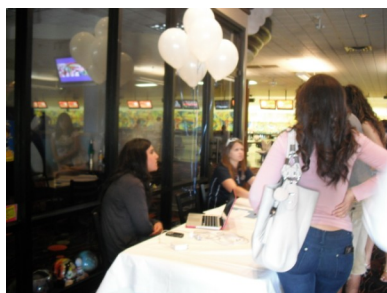
The variety I think is what I love most about the degree map in the MACS program. I am torn between marriage family therapy and what is possible on the road ahead of me.

What would like to let other MACS Students to know about our program?

There are different opportunities offered by the MACS program. There are also great academics here that are offered to the students that will help them develop into the person that they could be.

Bowling to Prevent Suicide

On Sunday November 14, 2010 the SHSS SGA hosted its first Bowling event in conjunction with the ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Incorporated as a way of showing support to the American Foundation on Suicide Prevention. The ladies of LTA have hosted the Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk every year and all proceeds go toward educating people about suicide prevention. As a precursor to the walk, the SHSS SGA received funds from the PAN Student Government Association to host the event. Sparez Bowling Center on University was the site for the fun and festivities. The event was opened to all NSU Students and Staff and required them to make a donation of any amount which would then entitle them to two hours of bowling and free refreshments. The SGA was able to raise close to three hundred dollars in donation money that was handed over to the foundation.



Editor's Note:

I would like to recognize the hard work of the 2010-2011 SHSS SGA Board. Thank you for everything you have done to make sure the students' voices are heard!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Lauren Marx- | Spring 2011 President |
| • Sara Schilling- | Treasurer |
| • Travis Checketts- | CSA Representative |
| • Claudia Harris - | Mac's Representative |
| • Tequilla Hill- | MFT Representative |
| • Consuelo Kelley- | DCAR Representative |
| • Heather Wellman- | Online Representative |
| • Krystal-Gayle O'Neill- | Fall 2010 President |

We also extend a huge congratulations to our incoming board!

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Rob Keever- | President |
| • Katharine Murphy- | Vice President |
| • DeVaughn King- | Treasurer |
| • Melissa Miller Munoz- | Online Representative |
| • Christian F. Schoepp- | DCAR Representative |
| • Matthew Biehl- | DFT Representative |
| • Heilit Biehl- | CSA Representative |
| • Farouk Raheemson- | International Representative |
| • Lacey Herbst- | Mac's Representative |



Thank
YOU!

Hannah Barr

Master of Science in College

Student Affairs

Class of 2012

Graduate Assistant for

Student Development

Office of Special Events and Projects

An SHSS Graduate Student's Reflection

By Lauren Marx, President of SHSS SGA

As I approach my final semester as an SHSS student, I am amazed by how much my experience has helped me grow academically, professionally and personally. As someone studying conflict analysis and resolution, I was challenged to reexamine my worldviews, beliefs and values. For example, when I started the program I blindly accepted terrorists as "evil" and the "enemy;" however, after completing a course devoted to terrorism, I came to appreciate the struggle and desperation that leads people to resort to terrorism. I remember throughout that semester I would try to discuss my new insights with people who are self-proclaimed "open-minded" and they would immediately reject the idea that terrorists are essentially "doing the best they can." It was then that I realized just how unique and precious is my education as a student of conflict analysis and resolution.

Throughout the past two years, I have presented at two academic conferences and will be presenting at a conference in Germany this summer. I will be presenting on a paper I wrote for my gender and conflict course: homophobia as a form of social control in the maintenance of mutually exclusive gender ideals. The idea for this paper came from my experience growing up in a home with a mother who was the main source of income and a homosexual brother. I am lucky to have parents who are still happily committed to each other after 33 years and welcome my brother and his partner with open arms. In fact, my family is pretty close despite our blatant defiance of societal standards. It is only through my education that I was able to utilize my experience and create a theory that could possibly continue to foster both women's and homosexual rights.

Lastly, my experience as an SHSS graduate student has provided me with the foundation to be the best person I can be. I know this may sound hokey, but I discovered a field that I am skilled in and find profoundly satisfying. Plus I was able to develop relationships with people who have similar interests and goals. I hope that everyone is able to look back on their experience as an SHSS student and feel the same gratitude.

On Being an International....



By Krystal-Gayle O'Neill, President of SHSS SGA Fall 2010

Often times when people ask me what it is I plan to do after I finish my degree here at NSU, I say get my OPT and hopefully secure a job that is H1B friendly, if not go home. If you ask other international students that question, they might echo my sentiments or say that they are going home to use the skills learned in the USA to aid their country. It often amazes me when individuals ask me, "why can't you just stay here when you are finish?" To that I answer, "it's just not that simple." As an international student there are many things that need to happen

even before we arrive in the US. We have to apply for a school, be accepted, apply for a student visa, get an I-20, prove financial independence, and secure a place to live, along with a host of other tasks.

Many International students have different experiences – some good, some great and some in between. Being an international student comes a lot of stressors like paying for tuition, finding room and board and just maintaining yourself while away from your family. Some students who are the select few and very lucky get scholarships. One such scholarship is the Fulbright Scholarship. It covers a good deal of the finances of the student with the promise that the student returns home after graduation. Others fund their tuition by securing loans with a credit worthy US Resident/Citizen co signer, given the fact that internationals are not eligible for financial aid. Some pay out of pocket or get scholarships from their home country.

To alleviate some of the stressors we also get on campus jobs. As an international, the student can only work on their school's campus while they are in school, not off campus. Off campus employment comes after graduation or for practicum and internship purposes and is usually in the form of Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Curricular Practical Training (CPT), both of which need to be paid for and applied for through the Department of Homeland Security.

Despite the many responsibilities of being an international student, we make use of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study in the United States. Clubs and organizations serve to help with the feeling of being homesick or alone. I myself found comfort in the Nova International Student Association (NISA) and the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) when I felt homesick. These two groups adopted me and made me feel apart of their own NSU family. They also made me feel like doing more and getting more involved in my campus activities. With trips to theme parks and international student only dinners and events, I had a home away from home. So if you have ever wondered about what goes into being an international student, take the time to talk to one; you will be surprised at the stories that you will hear about why they chose to come to the United States to study.

HOW BEING SGA DCAR REP THIS YEAR GREATLY ENHANCED MY GRAD SCHOOL LEARNING EXPERIENCE:



By Consuelo Kelley, DCAR Representative

Thank you all so much for the opportunity to serve in 2010-2011 as SHSS SGA DCAR Student Representative. I hoped to use the office to see if I could in any way improve, for all of us, future NSU professional degree alumni who want to be proud of our school, the graduate program offerings and the student learning experience here at NSU.

Much of DCAR coursework emphasizes the value of reflection for theorists and practitioners of conflict resolution; examining past experience helps to refine and make accessible frameworks and tools that facilitate positive change.

I am glad to report that serving this year as SGA DCAR Rep presented me with many examples of how student participation in the quality of their own graduate school experience can enhance the substantive learning experience.

As DCAR Rep I learned about the grad school experience of fellow students in different department programs within SHSS, which in turn gave me a bigger and better picture of the educational offering within NSU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences. My grad school worldview was further expanded when, with my SHSS SGA cohorts, I interacted for specific projects with other NSU Student Government Association members and constituents. I happily learned that the compassion and dedication so evident within my own department and school are evident in students throughout NSU's many schools and offerings.

In light of this personal grad student experience with student government, when I reflect on this past academic year's challenges and accomplishments I like to frame my constructed vision around collective rather than individual gains. Through this frame I see that many may have benefitted in some small way from the activities I created and experienced this year as DCAR Rep. That is at least my fervent hope!

Memorable events for me thus far include:

- **With the experienced assistance of NSU Student Affairs Dean Williams, working with fellow SGA officers to create a mission statement for the SHSS Student Government Association;**
- **With SGA officer and advisor input, using my legal training to revise outdated SGA By-laws;**
- **Designing and disseminating SGA mission and activities flyers;**
- **Writing, directing, and producing a skit on grad school writing resources and tips, performed with considerable and endearing humor by Professors Judith McKay and Jason Campbell at the SHSS Fall 2010 RI Social Dinner;**
- **Working on post-RI student vision planning;**
- **Providing institutional and financial support in 2010-2011 to the SHSS Common Ground Film Festival.**

Perhaps most significant personally, serving as DCAR Representative to the SHSS Student Government Association in 2010-2011 continually reminded me of the complex fabric all of us are weaving together to bring about much-needed and positive social change. Thank you ---- Consuelo Kelley