

# SHSS Dialogs

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



FALL 2011

## From the Dean's Desk

Submitted by, Dean Honggang Yang

### Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Earlier this year, we lost two of our SHSS family members, Florence Ross and Noreen Hartmann as well as other friends and relatives. In 2001, Florence received her Ph.D. in conflict resolution at the wonderful age of 81. She had an enduring impact on the community and around the globe that continued throughout her life. Noreen Hartmann, Family Therapy Program Coordinator, delivered quality personalized services in our everyday academic life. She joined us on the east campus in 2004. The outpouring of sympathy and support depicted the philosophy of SHSS. Let's continue making a concerted effort to further the engagements about which both were so passionate. Please feel free to share your thoughts or reflections about Florence, Noreen, or any other friends from our School.

SHSS is entering into the academic review implementation phase, to refine and renew our cutting-edge curricula. We are in the process of working out the transitional details in the campus-wide academic calendar, keeping up the communications with you, and incorporating your valuable input.

The SHSS efforts are a tribute to our University community, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners. May your holidays be filled with prosperity and reflections on our shared values.

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

## **A Message from your SHSS SGA President**

### **Submitted by Rob Keever, SHSS SGA President**

On behalf of the 2011-2012 School of Humanities and Social Sciences Student Government Association, we would like to thank you for a wonderful start to the year. We have had tremendous support from the entire SHSS faculty, staff and students with all of our initiatives. We would like to continue to reach out to all of the SHSS community through our upcoming events and initiatives. We have been creating connections with other Nova Southeastern University programs through Pan Student Government Association in order to collaborate on projects to meet our school's needs.

A large part of our duty as your SGA is to make sure your needs are being heard and met as a member of SHSS at NSU. We encourage any faculty, staff, and students to voice these needs, whether they are financial, personal, administrative, or academic. We want to support any cause that fits into the SHSS values to create a better experience for our community. Please feel free to contact any representative of SGA to voice these needs and we will do our best to respond.

For the remainder of the school year we hope to plan more social events to engage the SHSS community beyond the classroom experience. These events include another SHSS Social and an end of the year formal. Along with these events we plan to create an opportunity for students to showcase their academic endeavors through an upcoming educational event. Please continue to keep a look out for these events and we hope to hear from you all soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Keever".

Rob Keever  
SHSS SGA President



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for SHSS  
Academic  
Program  
Students.**

## **A Conference from a Student's Perspective**

**Submitted by Katharine Melyssa Murphy, SHSS SGA Vice Present**

For those of you that have never been to an AAMFT Conference, I would definitely recommend looking into next year's National Conference which will be taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 13-16, 2012.

The opportunity for me arose this year when I was discussing the option with a friend of mine. We bought our volunteer tickets early in advance as well as the hotel. That would force us to stay committed. There is an option to work the event a few hours a day in return for a discounted ticket price.

One of the many positives about volunteering is that you must meet other people. You work alongside these same people for the extent of the event. The plane and hotel you purchase on your own. Roommates definitely help with the cost of the stay. As second year Master's students, we didn't have the slightest idea what to expect! I figured we would go out dancing and learn a couple new topics in Family Therapy. Little did I know how deeply affected my life could be by the people I would meet.

Before the conference, my opinion was swaying on applying to UGA in Athens, Georgia. During a program exhibit, I had the incredible chance of meeting the director of UGA's MFT program. All COAMFTE accredited programs are represented there with a surplus of information. I met and spoke with several UGA students and even joined on a research project to get experience with a UGA doctoral candidate. I am now co-authoring that project! I met so many new people and made great friends. I also became closer with our current faculty members and students. I have a collection of business cards, belonging to incredible people, in my wallet.

This trip was such an amazing chance for me. I really hope that the Nova students go next year and realize how helpful it could be for any career or education path you will be taking in your future. You will also get the opportunity to see just how different Nova is compared with other schools. We truly are lucky to belong to such an incredibly profound and open-minded program.



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## It's STUEY Time

**Submitted by, Dr. Debra Nixon**

Once again the Division of Student Affairs prepares to sponsor and host the annual Student Life Achievement Awards: The STUEYS. The Oscar-like award represents for NSU one of the highest achievements in several areas of academic life. For Vice President Williams, the originator of the tradition, it's about building community.

NSU is one of the most diverse collegiate communities in South Florida, and all of the activities surrounding the STUEY's remind us that we are not only one people--one human community--we at NSU are SHARKS!

For newcomers in SHSS we want to welcome you to join us in our tradition of recognizing those among us who have over the past year excelled in scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, commitment, integrity, and inclusion.

This brief message is to put us on alert for the 2012 STUEY nominations: see the nomination link below.

It's not too soon to begin noticing standouts in our immediate (SHSS) community (see categories below). The only category that is limited to administration is "The Student of the Year." But honestly, in our inclusive environment, you may offer suggestions: Dean Yang's office is open to your suggestions.



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# SHSS STUEY Process

## STUEY's Process:

1. You will get an email inviting you to nominate someone in the following categories:

Staff Person of the Year

Administrator of the Year

Co-Curricular Advisor of the Year

Professor of the Year

Alumnus of the Year

SEC Student of the Year

Executive of the Year

Corporate Partner of the Year

Student Government of the Year

Graduate Organization of the Year

Staff Person of the Year

Athletic Team of the Year

2. You will use the appropriate form (see below) to make your nomination

3. Submit by the deadline (TBA in the email)

4. Our School will vote on who we want to represent us in the "final" selection; yes, this will be our very own STUEY election process.

5. Once we've made our choices via the school wide vote, I (Dr. Nixon, SHSS's STUEY Representative) will meet the university's committee and market rigorously :) on our final nominee's behalf. I am the SHSS "Jerry McGuire" (sorry old school movie reference, check it out).

NOTE: In this meeting, school representatives are allowed to offer our personal voice on nominations. So, the better your original submission the better my argument is in the meeting. In short--get to the point and give specific examples of why your nominee should win.

6. Finally, we show up on STUEY night in April and walk away with at least one STUEY in any one of the categories. Although we are usually deserving of many more :)--it wouldn't be fair to the others for us to clean up (win all the awards). Being the social conscious, relational, and social justice-minded individuals we are, we can accept with gratitude and graciousness our sole STUEY. See you at the STUEY's!

## CSA Student Presents at Regional Conference

Submitted by Kelley McCarthy, CSA Master's Student



On October 7, 2011 a group of CSA students attended the NASPA Florida drive-in where I had the opportunity to present at my first conference with my friend, Amma Marfo, Assistant Director of Student Activities at Florida State University.

Our session was called *Tweetworking: 52 minds in 52 weeks*. In January I started the 52 in 52 Project as a desire to engage the world of student affairs in more than 140 characters. I undertook the task of interviewing fifty-two student affairs professionals from across the country, aided by the Student Affairs Collaborative's Twitter community, #sachat. The presentation shared the results of this ambitious project, compared my results to the expectations of graduate students currently in preparatory programs, and explored how new professionals in the field are using the advice of the seasoned and diverse professionals who contributed to the project.

I had a wonderful experience at the conference and it was exciting to finally meet those who I have been tweeting with for the last year.

## Marriage and Family Therapy Program Updates

Submitted by Matthew Biehl, Marriage and Family Therapy Representative

Last summer six students from Nova's Marriage and Family Therapy program took place in the 2011 Intercultural Exchange to China. The students, made up of both Masters and Doctoral students, were accompanied by Dr. John Miller and Martha Marquez. The exchange took place with Beijing Normal University. Beijing Normal University is one of the leading graduate programs in China in the areas of Psychology and Family Therapy. During the week-long exchange, students engaged in cross-cultural sharing of clinical techniques and research by presenting areas of interest to one another. Students were also able to tour and embrace China's rich culture. It is through Dr. Miller's extensive research that these exchanges are made possible. Students who attended this exchange felt it was an amazing life changing experience. For more information on future exchanges to China contact Dr. Miller at [jm2790@nova.edu](mailto:jm2790@nova.edu).

Additionally, Doctoral candidate Laura Mantell presented the MFT Masters Workshop Series this semester. Mantell designed workshops to help Master's students navigate through the program. The workshops are part of her "Applied Clinical Project" and topics covered included: introduction to the MFT program, review of the internal practicum at the Brief Therapy Institute, information on external practicums and the comprehensive exam. There will be one more workshop held this semester on preparing for licensure and Mantell plans on presenting this workshop during the winter term. For more information on these workshops contact Laura at [mantell@nova.edu](mailto:mantell@nova.edu).

Check out the MFT club's Facebook page for upcoming events and information by searching "Nova Southeastern University - Marriage and Family Therapy Club."

# Semester Highlights

Submitted by Heilit Biehl, College Student Affairs Representative



This last semester has held many highlights for the many students in the College of Student Affairs program. In September, the College of Student Affairs Association (CSAA) hosted guest speaker, Cherise James, alum of the NSU and the CSA program. Ms. James spoke about the history of the program and gave useful advice on the upcoming job search for our soon-to-be graduates.

October was when over a dozen CSA students attended the state conference for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in Tampa, FL. At the conference, two groups of CSA students participated in the annual case study competition. One of the groups, consisting of Allison Walker, Bill Lacava, and Russell Slendebroek, took third place in the state competition – this was the first time students from Nova Southeastern University had ever placed! Kelley McCarthy was selected as a presenter for her “Tweetworking: Lessons learned from 52 minds in 52 weeks” presentation on social networking in the field of student affairs. The College of Student Affairs was represented by Katie Monsour in recruiting potential students at the Undergraduate Symposium. In addition, NSU received the “FL-NASPA Drive In 2011 Travel Award” and our very own DMS and DCAR Practicum Coordinator, Jake Shilts, CSA alum, was recognized for his involvement as the state NASPA Knowledge Community Chair and serving on the conference planning committee. Our SHSS SGA was happy to help support these students in attending this conference through the issuance of eight conference scholarships.

At this time, CSA students are scheduled for a few socials before the semester ends, in addition to preparing for a mock job placement exchange that will be held at Florida International University. At this event, students will have the opportunity to network with fellow student affairs staff and students at FIU while participating in mock interview simulations. This event is hosted by CSAA and FIU’s student affairs division.

# Spring 2012 Diversity Dialogues



The Diversity Dialogues, a monthly, Tuesday afternoon brown bag forum began February 16, 2006. Initiated by Dr. Debra Nixon, the dialogue was created to bring the university community together to discuss issues of diversity and inclusion. The guiding premise of the dialogue, then, is to provide a healthy platform to talk honestly and openly about issues of diversity in a safe, accepting environment.

## 2012 Diversity Dialogues Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Facilitator
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00-1:00 p.m.	President's Dining Room Horvitz Administration Building	Dr. Debra Nixon
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	12:00-1:00 p.m.	President's Dining Room Horvitz Administrative Building	Dr. Jason Campbell
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:00-1:00 p.m.	President's Dining Room Horvitz Administrative Building	Dr. Martha Marquez
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00-1:00 p.m.	President's Dining Room Horvitz Administrative Building	Dr. Delores Smiley