Alumnus Wins Dissertation of the Year Award

Source: Vanderbilt University

University of Virginia graduate and Vanderbilt University education researcher Christopher Loss (PhD 2007) received the American Education Research Association, Post-Secondary Education, Dissertation of the Year Award. In his work entitled “From Democracy to Diversity: The Politics of American Higher Education in the Twentieth Century,” Loss examined the role of higher education in state building and in redefining conceptions of democratic citizenship in the twentieth century.

Loss is an assistant professor of public policy and higher education at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College of Education and Human Development. He specializes in 20th-century American history, with an emphasis on the social, political, and policy history of American higher education. His publications include peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of American History, the Journal of Policy History, and the History of Education Quarterly. In 2006, he won the James Madison Prize, awarded annually by the Society for History in the Federal Government, for his outstanding article on the history of the federal government. Most recently, in 2007, he was a recipient of the Award for Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Virginia.

The AERA award recognizes the dissertation that best “makes innovative use of methods, extending the approaches available to conducting research in the field; integrates research and theory grounded in a variety of intellectual traditions into his or her own research; and generates and/or extends theory in potentially useful ways for researchers and practitioners.”

SAPHE Student Spotlight

Holly Deering, a master’s student in the Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education program and graduate assistant in the Center for Alcohol and Substance Education, presented “Strategies for Student Athlete Substance Abuse Prevention and Health Promotion” at the American College Personnel Association conference.

Deering provided an overview of the student athlete population and a discussion on how alcohol and other drugs influence an athlete’s performance. Her main focus was the APPLE model, which provides a framework for institutions to assess its individual needs and create a measurable, realistic action plan for their athletics department. This model is the foundation for the national APPLE Conferences conducted annually by CASE and funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Deering also discussed the role of student athlete mentor programs and the challenges and opportunities in creating peer-education programs for student athletes.

For more information, contact Holly Deering, hdeering@virginia.edu.
Student News

Grant Azdell (PhD) presented "Lessons from Virginia Tech: Campus Crisis Management" at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference.

Penny Cabaniss (PhD) and Troy Buer (PhD) presented "Re-conceptualizing Postsecondary Accountability: The Case of Virginia Restructuring" at the American Educational Research Association conference. Brian Pusser, associate professor, and Patrick Byrnett (law school) were co-authors on the paper.

Brian Cullaty (PhD) and his wife, Martha, announce the birth of their son John Owen Cullaty on March 6, 2008. John Owen was 6 pounds and 12 ounces, 20 inches long.

Janelle Perron Jennings (PhD) received the 2008 Research Award from the American College Personnel Association's Commission for Student Involvement for work related to her dissertation, "The Relationship Between a Women's Leadership Development Program and Participant Self-Confidence."

Murielle Kervizic (PhD) received the Jay L. Chronister Student Award in Higher Education. The award provides financial support for attendance at national conferences and conventions pertaining to higher education.

Source: Todd Parks
Brian Reed (PhD) was recently elected chair of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Men and Masculinities Knowledge Community. The MMKC was founded upon a pro-feminist, anti-racist, gay-affirmative agenda with the hope of providing resources to increase multi-cultural competence among male students by providing the NASPA membership with tools to invite and engage men into this process. The underlying assumption is that men in general are interested in social justice, capable of enacting it, and that they need language and a connection to the process. Brian will serve a three-year term with the committee and has laid out a vision that includes: greater exploration and research on multiple masculinities; masculinity as performed by trans, queer, and women students; and greater collaboration with other identity-centered knowledge communities.

Marc Shook (PhD) presented “Difficult Staff Management Issues: Conflict Resolution When Hiring, Evaluating, Disciplining and Terminating,” “External Advisory Boards: A Legal Primer for Formation and Oversight Decisions,” and “Experience Versus Expediency: Seeking the Doctorate as a Fulltime Student or Fulltime Professional” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference. He also presented “Advancing Inclusion and Multicultural Education in Selective Leadership Development Organizations” at the American College Personnel Association conference.

Amy Swan (PhD) contributed to a research paper co-authored by Dr. Heather Rowan-Kenyon and Dr. Laura Perna of the University of Pennsylvania. The paper, “The Role of Context in Understanding High School Students’ Occupational Aspirations,” was presented at the American Educational Research Association meeting. Swan also co-presented a paper, “You Want to Do What?! Occupational Aspirations of Entering Students,” with Dr. Rowan-Kenyon and Mark Kenyon at the American College Personnel Association conference.

PhD Student Spotlight

Brian Reed (PhD) and Lauren Jean Germain (PhD) presented “Cracking the Boy Code” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Region III, Sexual Assault Summit hosted by Washington and Lee University. Reed and Germain presented a synthesis of theoretical work explaining how patriarchy, sexism, and masculine gender role socialization create psychological and contextual conditions that support men's violence. The core of their thesis is that in contemporary US culture, hegemonic masculinity (strong, tough, non-emotive, etc.) operates on both conscious and unconscious levels in the glorifying of masculine superiority and feminine inferiority, which creates the conditions for men's gender-driven violence.

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Alumni News

Bob Baxter (EdD 1990) is the director of training and technology for CIBER Incorporated, a program manager for NESC Academy implementation project at CIBER, and a subcontractor for the National Institute of Aerospace. He facilitated the creation of an online digital university for the NASA Engineering and Safety Center called the NESC Academy. In addition to an online knowledge capture library and online courses, the program boasts course deliveries at major colleges and universities around the country. Bob presented a paper at the Society for Applied Learning Technology on the use of blended learning strategies in the creation of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center Academy. He also co-authored a paper on the application of the spiral theory of knowledge creation at a NASA-sponsored international Knowledge Management Conference which he co-presented at the California Institute of Technology.

Karen Dowd (PhD 1993) is senior director of MBA Career Development for the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame. She also serves on the board of directors of the MBA Career Services Council, the international professional association for MBA career services and recruiting professionals. The third edition of Interpersonal Skills in Organizations, the textbook she co-authored, has just been published by McGraw-Hill.


Dan Friedman (PhD 2004) was hired as director of University 101 Programs at the University of South Carolina. He will be responsible for the first-year, sophomore, and senior seminars.

Dennis Gregory (EdD 1987) published a book review of The Law and Higher Education: Cases and Materials on Colleges in Court in the NASPA Journal and “Control Cyber-Cheating and Plagiarism” in the NASPA Leadership Exchange. He presented a paper entitled “Understanding FERPA: Student Educational Records Privacy in an Increasingly Public World” at the Association on Higher Education and Disability conference. Dennis co-presented three presentations at the Association of Student Judicial Affairs conference. These were entitled “Writing for Publication: Creating Professional Materials for the Present and Future,” “Judicial Officer as Advocate: Court Approved Fundamental Unfairness,” and “Understanding Parental Notifications Past, Firm Policies for our Present and Thoughts for our Future Empowerment of Practice.”

Brownie Hamilton (PhD 1993), president of The Hamilton Group LLC, launched GrantsTracker, a new grants management software tool. His company, based in Williamsburg, specializes in proposal writing, grants research, and prospect research.

Tom Jennings (PhD 1993) was promoted to assistant vice president for school programs and institutional priorities at the University of Virginia. He also presented “Ethics and Professional Practice: Taking the Right Steps to Avoid Missteps” and “Gift Officer Performance and Recording Our Work in the Era of Metrics-Mania” at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III conference.

Charlynn Miller (PhD 2005) was elected to the position of deputy chair of the Academic Board at the University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. She published “Metropolitan universities: Serving the needs of adult students?” in the Journal of Continuing Higher Education.

Leslie Sadler (PhD 1999) was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of College and Character and the editorial board of the NASPA Journal. She wrote “Freedom and Responsibility: Teaching Critical
Thinking Skills to Facebook Users,” published in NetResults: NASPA’s Electronic Magazine for Student Affairs Professionals. She also presented "Does Engagement with Students in Residential Communities Benefit Faculty Teaching.” Leslie is conducting a qualitative study about faculty in residence programs. If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact her by e-mail, mls73@cornell.edu.

Kerstin Soderlund (PhD 1998) was promoted to dean of students at Longwood University. In addition to her new responsibilities, Kerstin continues to coordinate co-curricular leadership development programs at Longwood and is still the co-director and the primary instructor for the interdisciplinary leadership studies minor. Kerstin also served as a co-chair for the National Leadership Symposium sponsored by the National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs and the National Association for Campus Activities, which is held each summer at the University of Richmond’s Jepson School of Leadership.

Mitchell Strauss (EdD 1992), professor of Textiles and Apparel at the University of Northern Iowa, coauthored Changing Fashion: A Critical Introduction to Trend Analysis and Meaning with his wife, Professor Annette Lynch.

Faculty News

Margaret (Peg) Miller, professor, keynoted the American Association of State Colleges and Universities academic officers’ meeting with a speech on the Voluntary System of Accountability; ran an Association of Governing Boards workshop for trustees on assessment of student learning; and addressed the executive committee of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences on accountability, student access to and success in higher education, and changes in faculty work life.

Brian Pusser, associate professor, was a panelist on the session entitled “University Autonomy and Academic Freedom in Space and Time,” the opening plenary session of the Association for the Study of Higher Education conference. He served as discussant for the American Educational Research Association conference session entitled, “Senior Leadership in Higher Education.” Also, a chapter entitled "La Maxima Casa de Estudios: Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico as a State Building University," by Imanol Ordorika and Brian Pusser is included in newly released Korean and Chinese language editions of the book World Class Worldwide: Transforming Research Universities in Asia and Latin America, edited by Philip G. Altbach and Jorge Balan.

Heather Rowan-Kenyon, assistant professor, coauthored “The Contributions of Living-Learning Programs on Developing Civic Engagement in Undergraduate Students” in the NASPA Journal and “Increasing Access to College: Understanding the Role of College Counselors” in The Review of Higher Education. She co-presented “The Role of Schools in Developing Occupational Aspirations on the Road to College” and “The Role of School Programs and Structures in Shaping Perceived Academic Preparation for College” at the American Educational Research Association conference. Heather also co-presented “You Want to Do What?! Occupational Aspirations of Entering Students” at the American College Personnel Association conference. She was also selected as one of six emerging scholars by ACPA.

Heather Wathington, assistant professor, presented “A Place of Their Own: Black Spaces on Predominantly White Campuses” at the American Educational Research Association conference. She co-wrote a white paper entitled “The Learning Communities Demonstration: Rationale, Sites, and Research Design” with co-authors Christine Sansone of UVA and Mary Visher, Oscar Cerna, Kate Gualtieri, Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, Emily Schneider, and Michelle Ware all of MDRC. This paper is the first in a series of planned publications of a five-year longitudinal study that began in 2006.
The Quarterly

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Dr. Margaret Miller, Advisor

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