

The Program

NEWSLETTER FOR THE MASTERS PROGRAM IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Cohort Profiles for the Class of 2007



Julie Betz

Belvidere, New Jersey

Undergraduate: Montclair State University
Montclair, New Jersey

Major: Political Science

Assistantship Location: Residential Life

In her own words:

I am originally from a tiny town named Belvidere, in the cow country of northwestern New Jersey (adapting to UConn's location shouldn't be too rough). On May 20th, I received my B.A. in Political Science from Montclair State University. I was originally going to school to be a high school social studies teacher, however, I changed my mind after an eye opening summer which included a trip to China with my University President and six other delegates, plus sitting on a search committee for a new Dean of Students. I have worked in the Dean of Students office since 2001; I subsequently became involved in many campus activities and I have had the honor to have amazing mentors. I have a passion for working with people, and helping people come to realize and pursue their full potential, hence one reason why I want to enter the field of Student Affairs. I am excited about meeting all of you in the coming months and I look forward to what will come of this experience and my future within Student Affairs.



Joshua Brandfon

Weston, Florida

Undergraduate: Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts

Major: Politics/Economics

Assistantship Location: Department of Campus Activities

In his own words:

My name is Josh Brandfon and I'm from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I completed my undergraduate education at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where I double-majored in Politics and Economics and minored in Business/Accounting. At Brandeis, I was heavily involved in student government, student activities, and leadership development. All of these experiences are

what sparked my interest in Student Affairs. My interests currently lie in campus programming and leadership development, as I am passionate about empowering students to make a difference on campus and in their communities. I am excited about being a Husky, and can not wait to join my cohort in Storrs in the fall!



Kelly Duncan

Wilbraham, Massachusetts

Undergraduate: Western New England College
Springfield, Massachusetts

Major: Psychology

Assistantship Location: Office of Orientation Services

In her own words:

My name is Kelly Duncan. I recently graduated from Western New England College in 2004 with a degree in Psychology. For the past year, I have been working as an 11th and 12th grade English teacher at Valley West School in Chicopee, MA. I am very much looking forward to attending UConn in the fall to begin working on my masters! My GA position is in the Office of Orientation Services, which is very exciting for me, and I cannot wait to 're-meet' and begin working with everyone in the fall!



Jennifer Johnson

East Rockaway, New York

Undergraduate: Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut

Major: Broadcast Journalism

Assistantship Location: Residential Life

In her own words:

Hey, my name is Jennifer Johnson, but please call me Jenn. I graduated in May with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a Theatre minor from Quinnipiac University. I am originally from Long Island, aka "Lawn Guyland" as you will all hear when I "tawk." I will be spending a good part of my summer at Quinnipiac coordinating the freshmen orientation program and working with 130 Orientation Leaders which I did last summer and loved every minute of it. I have been apart of Orientation for four years and Residential Life as an RA for two years. I have done a lot of theatre and I have been an active member of my student radio station WQAQ for four years. My assistantship is in Residential Life as a Graduate Hall Director in Hilltop Apartments. I will be at UConn on July 31st to move into my apartment and begin training. I am very excited to be a Husky and part of the HESA Cohort. See you in August!



Amelia Lerner

Wilmette, Illinois

Undergraduate: Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Major: Comparative Literature

Assistantship Location: Office of Health Education

In her own words:

I'm ready to venture out east, having grown up just outside of Chicago and attended Indiana University, majoring in Comparative Literature. I've been consistently involved in campus activities for all four of my collegiate years, most notably a first-years program focusing on approachable mentors, both academic and other, that remains the most rewarding experience of my life to date. It was only recently that a friendly career counselor, listening to me bemoan my lack of a pathway, pointed out that all of my most significant experiences in college fell under the lovely title of "student affairs." I've been on board ever since. Nothing appeals to me more than continuing to do my best to positively educate and assist students, and I am eagerly awaiting the fall.



Saben Littlefield

West Farmington, Maine

Undergraduate: University of Maine at Farmington
West Farmington, Maine

Major: Geography

Assistantship Location: Residential Life

In his own words:

Hello, my name is Saben A. Littlefield. I am originally from southern Maine, but have called Farmington, Maine my home for the past four years. I will have earned my Bachelor's degree in Geography as of May 14, 2005 from the University of Maine at Farmington. I have served as a Resident Assistant for over two years and a Peer Advisor for first-year elementary education majors for two years. It was within these experiences that I found my desire to pursue a career into Higher Education and Student Affairs. Once I have earned my masters degree, I hope to move into the field of Academic Advising and/or Career Services.



Jessica Marshall

Minot, North Dakota

Undergraduate: University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Major: English

Assistantship Location: Campus Activities

In her own words:

Hey All! My name is Jessica Marshall and I am originally from Minot, North Dakota. I recently finished up my last semester at the University of North Dakota where I majored in English with a minor in Classical Studies. I first became interested in student affairs after becoming the president of my sorority. While serving in that position, I also worked as the UND project coordinator for Greek life which increased my love for the student affairs field. I love that the student affairs profession offers a chance to impact the lives of students on a daily basis through constant interaction. Something else I love is that there is also plenty of room for growth for both the professional and the students because they are able to establish relationships. I look forward to serving the UConn Greek community as the Greek Life Graduate Assistant.



Sarah Miller

Concord, New Hampshire

Undergraduate: Plymouth State College
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Major: Interdisciplinary Studies (English, Political
Science, Anthropology/Sociology)

Assistantship Location: Career Services

In her own words:

Hey Everyone! I currently live in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire working in higher education through a non-profit organization. I was originally born and raised in Colchester, Connecticut but left to attend Plymouth State College in Plymouth, NH. As an undergraduate, I quickly became entwined in the fast-paced, energetic world of higher education, and loved it. I spent much of my time working in student activities through the Community Service Office and being transformed and inspired daily by faculty, staff and college students. I graduated in 2002 with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing on English, Political Science and Anthropology/ Sociology. Because of my undergraduate and post-collegiate experiences, I am dedicated to help students make the best of their college career. I am thrilled to be starting at UConn in the fall and would love to someday become director of a community service center on a college campus.



Jennifer Minot

Charlestown, Rhode Island

Undergraduate: University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island

Major: Human Development and Family Studies

Assistantship Location: First Year Programs

In her own words:

Howdy! My name is Jen Minot. I am originally from southern California and have been living in Rhode Island for the past six years. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2003 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. While attending URI, I was involved with many different student organizations including New Student Programs, Residence Life, Admissions, Athletics, and Greek Life. After I graduated, I was a nanny and a preschool teacher. While these

jobs taught me a great deal about myself and provided work experience, I really missed working with college students. I finally realized that a career in Higher Education is really what I would like to do. In the future, I hope to be working with new students in every way possible! When I found out about UConn's HESA Program, I knew it would be a great match, and I am eager to become a Husky!



Jennifer Moore

Milton, Massachusetts

Undergraduate: Merrimack College

North Andover, Massachusetts

Major: Psychology

Assistantship Location: Dean of Students Office

In her own words:

My name is Jennie Moore and I am from Milton, MA. I graduated last May from Merrimack College, a small liberal arts college where I majored in Psychology and minored in Woman's Studies. As an undergraduate volunteering for several different campus organizations, I mainly became interested in Student Affairs as a career through my involvement with the Program Board, for which I was the secretary/coffeehouse chair for three years. I currently work as an assistant event coordinator for an educational touring theatre company in Boston, although I am very much looking forward to moving to Connecticut to start the HESA program!



Stefanie Rabin

Cheshire, Connecticut

Undergraduate: University of Connecticut

Storrs, Connecticut

Major: Communication Sciences and Sociology

Assistantship Location: Dean of Students Office

In her own words:

Hi my name is Stefanie Rabin and I am from Cheshire, CT. I studied at UConn for my undergraduate degrees in Communications and Sociology and graduated this past spring. During my time at UConn, I became involved in many peer education groups as well as serving on a Peer Judicial Board and mentored and tutored my fellow students. All of my experiences in my extracurricular activities showed me how much I love working in the many areas of University setting and just how much I want to work in the field of Higher Education in the future. I look forward to being apart of the HESA program and can't wait for it to begin!



Kimberly Roberts

Jamaica, New York

Undergraduate: New York University

New York, New York

Major: Culture and Communication Studies

Assistantship Location: Honors Program

In her own words:

Hi everyone! My name is Kimberly Roberts and I am from Queens, NY. I attended NYU for my undergraduate degree and graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in Culture and Communication Studies. I currently work for a health care PR firm, but after being in the work force for two years, I realize that my skills and interests will be better utilized in the field of Higher Education. My experiences as President of OBW, (Organization of Black Women), orientation leader, peer ambassador, and diversity educator prompted me to explore Student Affairs as a career. My goal is to develop student leadership skills and eventually work abroad developing under-served school systems.



Michael Sarra

Hebron, Connecticut

Undergraduate: University of Connecticut

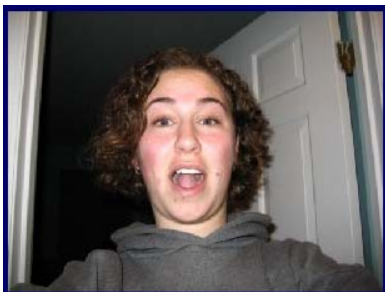
Storrs, Connecticut

Major: Journalism

Assistantship Location: Dean of Students Office

In his own words:

A New Englander at heart, I was born and raised in Connecticut, and completed my undergraduate degree here at UConn in May 2005. Originally planning a career in Journalism, my goals changed when I found higher education to be a field that is not only interesting, but fun and filled with opportunity. In the past few years, I have worked in various capacities within the Division of Enrollment Management, an experience that has been both rewarding and educational. It has been exciting to see UConn emerge as a prominent national university, and while I still remember my first class here, I am looking forward to a new UConn experience as a HESA student!



Julie Silverstein

Delmar, New York

Undergraduate: SUNY Oswego

Oswego, New York

Major: Psychology

Assistantship Location: Campus Activities

In her own words:

My name is Julie Silverstein and I just recently graduated from SUNY Oswego. My major was Psychology, and my minor was Sociology. I am originally from Delmar, NY, which is a small suburb of Albany. I am pursuing a masters in higher education and student affairs because of the many people who have influenced me at Oswego. It has been a great four years and I have learned so much more outside of the classroom than in. My aspirations for the future are to help other students explore the many options of college life in order to reach their full potential. I also have a special interest in working on leadership development with students. On a personal note - I love to have fun and can't wait to make new memories with the '07 HESA cohort!! Yay Huskies!!



Megan Wildenstein

Unadilla, New York

Undergraduate: SUNY Oneonta

Oneonta, New York

Major: English and Communication Studies

Assistantship Location: Campus Activities

In her own words:

Hi Everyone! My name is Megan Wildenstein and I am from Unadilla, NY. In May, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Communication Studies from the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Oneonta. I had no idea what I wanted to do when I "grew up," and it was not until my junior year that I realized I could get paid for what I have been doing as an undergraduate all along; campus activities, advising, and residence life. I hope to give undergraduate students a wonderful college experience like I have been given by my mentors. I look forward to meeting you all in the fall!

