Student Affairs in Higher Education

Thank you for your interest in the SAHE Graduate Program at Colorado State University (CSU). We would like to keep you up-to-date on the SAHE program by sending you our monthly eNewsletters. Be on the lookout for future issues, which will include more on cohorts, selection, placement, practica and more!

STUDENT PROFILE: Brooks Hetle, Class of 2012

Greetings from CSU! I’m a second year SAHE student and an assistant residence director for Summit Hall. I’m originally from North Dakota, where I graduated from the University of Mary in 2008 with a degree in business administration and business communication. After graduation, I worked for two years at U-Mary as an admissions counselor and campus visit coordinator. I love the opportunities to get involved here at CSU through the SAHE program. I have worked with many different people throughout campus as an assistant residence director. This past summer, I worked with the Preview program, CSU’s first-year orientation program. It was a great experience getting to know students as they were entering CSU. This year, I’m looking forward to gaining more experience in college teaching and assessment.

FACULTY PROFILE: Craig Chesson

I relocated to Fort Collins in 1992 from New York City and fell in love with the Rocky Mountain region. I have worked in Colorado State University's Division of Student Affairs with Upward Bound, Office of Admissions, Residence Life, and Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. I earned my PhD in Educational Leadership from the School of Education at CSU and very excited to engage students in the classroom. I graduated from the Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) program and have great memories of intellectual classroom conversations. I received my Bachelor's of Science degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Hotel management and worked for Hyatt & Stouffers. I currently am the Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services and co-teach the Capstone class with Lisa Miller. I have three beautiful children and an incredible wife.
SAHE Practicum Experiences!

Over the course of the two year program, SAHE students are required to complete two practicum experiences, which are 60-hour experiences selected to broaden practical knowledge and expose students to other areas of interest beyond their assistantships. Students choose to do a practicum at various points in the year, whether during a semester or over the course of the summer. Though some students choose to complete a practicum here at CSU, others travel across the country - and even abroad - to gain experiences that will help them in their practice.

Stefanie Lucas, Class of 2012—Semester at Sea, Central America

My Semester at Sea practicum was an incredible once in a lifetime opportunity! I sailed on the inaugural Maymester voyage traveling to Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and the Bahamas. My practicum was with the Living Learning team (much like an on campus Residence Life staff), and I worked with some of the best student affairs professionals in the field. I planned ship wide events, built community in my sea (aka res. hall!) led in-country field programs, and facilitated small group discussions. I enjoyed assisting students process this unique experience, and utilized many skills I acquired throughout my first year in SAHE. Semester at Sea truly challenged me professionally and personally, and I am even more inspired and motivated to work with diverse student populations!

Marney Randle, Class of 2012—University of the Pacific, California

My field experience in the Multicultural Affairs Office at University of the Pacific was an amazing opportunity! I truly learned so much about the institution, and really felt welcomed and supported by the staff members. While there, I contributed to New Student Orientation presentations regarding diversity, inclusion, & social justice topics for two audiences of 250-350 fresh person students; participated in Pacific’s signature intercultural competence and social justice programs; co-developed workshops for the Woman’s Resource Center peer education project; and built inter-departmental relationships with key partners who support the advancements of race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality awareness at Pacific. The established learning outcomes helped provide a framework for my field experience, which I really appreciate. I would definitely recommend this field experience, it was fabulous three weeks! I created partnerships with inspirational staff that will hopefully continue over time.

Kristal Sawatzke, Class of 2012—University of the West Indies, Trinidad

Before traveling to Trinidad and Tobago, when hearing the word “lime,” my mind immediately visualized a fruit, not a group of people spending time together. To “lime” is a common occurrence in Trinidad and Tobago in which groups of family, friends, or strangers visit with one another in a social setting. This concept, among countless others, provided invaluable insight into the unique experience of a Caribbean University student and the importance culture plays in to the types of student support services available. Completing a practicum in at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad informed my perspective of Caribbean student services in an incredibly meaningful and impactful manner. Through conducting informational interviews across campus with professional staff, I gained an understanding of the types of programs offered to students and was able to share recommendations based on my knowledge of the field. While there, I visited with students and staff in the offices of Study Abroad, Accomodations (similar to Residence Life), Admissions, Campus Recreation, Orientation, Career Center, Alumni Relations, among others. Not only did I complete the experience with a fellow student affairs graduate student, Ardith Feroglia, from Oregon State University, I was able to organize a homestay experience through a CSU doctoral student from Trinidad. Additionally, the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) hosted their annual conference at the University of the West Indies, so we had the opportunity to meet with professionals from all over the Caribbean. Needless to say, by the end of the experience, we enjoyed “liming” with our new associates!

Brandi Scott, Class of 2012—Metropolitan State College, Denver

I completed a practicum at Metropolitan State College in Denver over the summer. I worked for 60 hours over a three week period in the Judicial Affairs and Conduct Services Office. I helped the office research programs at peer institutions and whether they should include a felony question on their application. Additionally I met with administrators across their division of student affairs student affairs. It was an incredible experience working on an urban campus. I enjoyed learning about the student population and meeting with administrators across campus. I also had the opportunity to attend a regional ASCSU conference and met conduct officials across Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and Oklahoma.