Meet our new Graduate Assistant: Penny Parson

Bernetta “Penny” Parson is a second-year doctoral student in the Higher Department, with research interests in community colleges, the transfer process and higher educational partnerships. She was previously the Director of Transfer Services at LaGuardia Community College. She was Interim Director of the Exploring Transfer program at Vassar College and coordinated the program at LaGuardia and has co-presented on guiding community college students to selective colleges at TYCA-Northeast. She previously worked at Mount Holyoke College as Director of Internships and served as the multicultural career counselor. She holds a Master’s in Urban Affairs from Hunter College (CUNY), and a Bachelor’s in English Literature from Mount Holyoke College, where she was a Ford-Mellon Research Scholar.

UPCOMING DEADLINES and EVENTS

Monday, 8/31 | Classes Start
Monday, 8/31 | HED Orientation Huntington Hall Rm. 056, 3:30-5 p.m.
Wednesday, 9/2 | First Year/Second Year Event at the Inn Complete: 7 p.m.
Thursday, 9/10 | HED BBQ at Cathy’s House 6:30 p.m.
Get to know your classmates!

Noelle Krisch: I’m originally from the Syracuse area, and I am a 2009 graduate from The College of Wooster in Ohio. I’ve had a pretty diverse career since my graduation, and my experience working with refugees motivated me to go back to school. I have a passion for helping students, and I’m interested in the relationship a university has with its surrounding community to cultivate diversity and engagement. In my spare time, I like to traverse the Finger Lakes region and Adirondack Mountains.

Elizabeth Perez: I graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2013 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Management. I am currently working in the Athletics Department here at Syracuse and I am looking forward to diving deeper into the world of HigherEd!

Kelly Madison: I received my Bachelor’s Degree this past May from Syracuse University in Liberal Studies and currently work full time here at the University. I am looking to get a Master’s Degree in Higher Education to move on to a position in academic advising. I have lived in Syracuse my whole life and have two children who have attended SU. Needless to say we bleed orange and are huge fans! I am looking forward to getting started on this new path and to meeting new people!

Jill Hyman: I’m a study abroad advisor at SU, and will be a part-time student in the HED program. I am originally from Philadelphia, and majored in sociology, philosophy, and Chinese at American University (c/o 2013) in Washington, DC. Since graduating, I’ve worked in international highered with SU Abroad, Arcadia University, and a Chinese non-profit in DC. I love sports, animals, Netflix, BBQ, the beach, traveling, and craft beers. Nice to meet you all!

"Hello all! My name is Kurt Tiedemann and I recently graduated from Western New England University with my BA in Psychology and a minor in Education. I realized I wanted to work in Higher Education when I became involved with WNE’s Residence Hall Association (RHA) and when I became an R.A. This summer I am working as a First Year Program Assistant at WNE, helping to supervise the Orientation Group Leaders and also to register and advise incoming students for their fall semester classes. See you all soon!"

My name is Hillary George and I am a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a degree in Psychology and Legal Studies. I was recently hired as an ARD here at SU and will be working in Sadler Hall. I’m particularly interested in mental health and wellness within higher education. I can't wait to get started in the fall!

Jason Nova: was born and raised in the Bronx County of New York City. He attended Utica College and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government and Politics in 2014. As an undergraduate at Utica College, Jason served as the President of the Inter Greek Council, Executive Board Member of Student Senate, as well as many other organizations. Jason became a member of his Distinguished Brotherhood in the spring of 2011 and was the catalyst to his organization gaining their respective Chapter Charter in 2013. Through these interactions, he found his passion in Student Affairs/Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. As a full time staff in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Jason is excited to continue his education and being a part of this program.

Bianca Regalado: I just graduated this past May from California State University, Northridge with my BA in Liberal Studies. I am really excited to be moving across the country to continue on with my education. I can't wait to meet you all.
Check list

- Visit Bird Library in person or on-line at: http://library.syr.edu/
- Update your local address and phone number via MySlice and with Patti Gavigan.
- Get your student ID.
- Make sure your SU e-mail account works.
- You should already be signed up for classes! If you have not done so, do immediately before your "seat" is gone.
- If necessary, buy a parking permit.
- Buy your books on-line. HED 700 also can secure their books at the University bookstore. Sites like Amazon.com can save you money.
- If you have a Graduate Assistantship position on campus, you are eligible to receive a 10% discount card for use at the University Bookstore. Visit customer service on the 2nd floor for more details—bring your appointment letter and SU ID.

Classmates, cont.

Kayla Wicks: Born and raised in the great city of Syracuse, New York. I recently received my B.S. from Syracuse University in nutrition. I enjoy cooking, the outdoors, and anything with four legs and fur. I've got 22 years of experience being a Syracuse local so never hesitate to ask me questions about the area! Especially if it involves food.

My name is Barbara-Ann Goodwin, and I currently work in the Student Affairs/Admissions Office at SUNY Upstate Medical University. I do a lot of different things in Student Affairs right now, so I am excited to be attending SU part time for my masters! I am originally from San Diego (I moved here for love!!) and I received my B.A. in Composition and Literacy from Empire State College last year. I look forward to the upcoming semesters and meeting some new friends in the program. Cheers!

Sarah Carroll: I am so excited to start my new journey at Syracuse this fall! I can't wait to meet everyone and to build new connections. I am from Central Square, NY (35 minutes north of Syracuse). I look forward to the next two years very much! Have a fun summer everyone, see you soon!
Greetings all! My name is **Joshua Davis**. I am from Brunswick, Georgia located near the Georgia - Florida line. I graduated from Clayton State University (right outside of Atlanta) with a bachelor's degree in Business Management in the spring of 2014. I chose Syracuse because I am looking forward to a truly new start, being far away from home, and expanding my horizons. I am very excited to be able to work with the Office of Multicultural Affairs over the next two years and take advantage of the ample opportunities the Higher Education program at Syracuse has to offer. I am also looking forward to the academically challenging work as I hope to be a scholar in this field. I am very passionate about equity and diversity in higher education and first generation college students, relative to my professional interests. I also love to sing, dance, bowl, eat, shop, and go to the movies.

**Victor Murphy:** I graduated this past June with my degree is Africana Studies from Union College. In my free time I enjoy traveling, spending time with my family and enjoying any venue that has good music. I used to be really into sports but I realized that I wasn't really that good of a player. Although I'm not a good sports player, my sport of choice is basketball.

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**Words of Wisdom from another Alum**

Welcome to Syracuse University’s Higher Education Department (HED)! As a graduate of the program, I can attest you are about to embark on a challenging yet fulfilling experience. I am so proud to be a graduate of this program because it truly prepared me to be an innovative, strategic, and culturally competent young professional; the faculty inspire and challenge you during graduate school so you can challenge yourself and your colleagues after graduation. I wish you the very best of luck as you prepare to come to Syracuse. I have three tips to share that will help you get the most out of your time as an HED graduate student:

First, develop quality relationships with your cohort and faculty members. They end up being your best resources and support systems once you are in the field. You will find yourself reaching out to get advice on research proposals, when you’re developing new initiatives, or for career advice - the HED family is always there to support and guide you. Take the time to invest in the group! I suggest taking a break from your group projects and take a trip to the Westcott area. There is good coffee, consignment shops, music, food, and drinks!

Second, make the summer between your first and second year count! Take advantage of an ACUHO-I or NODA internship. If these experiences are not an option, identify a functional area you do not have experience in and inquire if there are any opportunities at SU over the summer to gain that knowledge. Summer practicum experiences help fill in those “gaps” in your resume which make you more marketable to employers.

Lastly, take the time during your graduate career to develop your professional leadership skills. I know you are all leaders, but professional leadership requires strategic thinking, networking, and navigating politics. If you have the opportunity to chair a committee, lead a research team, or join a committee that is comprised of senior administrators – take it! As a young professional you will be responsible, and held accountable for, leading committees, meeting deadlines, and following a budget. Develop these skills now!

Best,
Amanda Johnson (G’11)
Commonly Asked Questions

Below we have answered some commonly asked questions for incoming students. Some may have been ones you have asked; some may be ones that others have asked in years past. We are hoping to give you useful suggestions to alleviate some of the anxieties you may be experiencing. Have a question that's not on here that you really want an answer to? Feel free to ask your mentor.

1. I heard there is a lot of reading in graduate school. How can I get through it all?

In our department, you may be assigned between 100-200 pages per week per class. That number may vary, but overall you can use your cohort for help. Last year, some students read and discussed the readings together before class. If you prefer to work alone, it will be imperative to break up the readings throughout the week. If you leave all readings to the last minute, it may be difficult to digest and be prepared for class, not to mention that sometimes the life of a graduate student gets hectic and the time you thought you had reserved gets eaten up by an unforeseen issue. A skill you will develop if you haven't already is learning to look for the critical information. Everything is important, but you will make it easier on yourself if, when pressed for time, you can pinpoint the most important pieces of information from the readings.

2. What is writing like at a graduate level?

Writing in graduate school is intensive and challenging. Professors will not be looking for you to read and write summaries of what you read. They will ask you to use skills analysis, synthesis, and application in writing assignments. Typically, you will be asked to identify common themes across readings, apply what you've read to work and life experiences, and make cogent arguments based on research evidence. Strong organizational and grammatical skills and use of active voice also are essential. The days of the draft paper and a quick edit of your work are over. Students are encouraged to edit their papers at least 5-8 times in order to meet the rigorous standards of graduate work. Our students also make frequent use of the in-person or online services from the Writing Center to review and get assistance on draft papers. So plan ahead!!!

3. How important is APA?

When writing and citing information, HED professors will require APA formatting. APA is a series of rules established by the American Psychological Association for writing style and citation. Many of you may already be familiar with APA. For those of you who are not, there is a manual that we will encourage you to purchase or refer to online. APA is the way in which we reference and give credit to authors when we cite them so you are meeting critical academic integrity expectations. We highly recommend that you take a glance at the APA manual, or a website (Purdue's OWL is a good one) to become familiar before your paper is due. Trust us on this one. To process both composing and formatting at the same time is a drag.

4. I don't know anyone here. How do I become familiar with my cohort and other graduate students?

There are over 4,000 graduate students on this campus. One of the best ways to get to know other graduate students is to do activities with the Graduate Student Organization, or the GSO. Type GSO in the search bar on Syracuse's website and you can see what they offer. Your bursar's account will be charged $40 per semester for their activities, so make sure you get your money's worth. In terms of own cohort, propose ways to fun outside of class together. There are many of you coming to an entirely new town and part of the country and would love some buddies to explore this great area. What we don't encourage is socializing with undergraduate students. Although you are still a student, you are foremost a professional in student affairs and roles and responsibilities get complicated when informal relationships cross lines with undergraduates.

5. Why do all of my friends with jobs think that I have it easy when this doesn't feel easy?

Being a graduate student is hard. It requires a focus and a dedication. You may find as the semester goes on that friends aren't in grad school envy your position and assume that graduate school is just like undergraduate life. It isn't. Make sure you spend some time with people who understand (like your cohort) when you are battling the "If my life is so easy, why do I feel so overwhelmed" blues.
6. Don’t tell me it is going to be so overwhelming. I already have enough anxiety about the workload!

Graduate school is supposed to stretch you. Your relationship to your academics and your expectations for yourself will most likely be higher than ever. Sometimes professors will seem like that are challenging you in ways that make you unsure of what you believe. Sometimes your cohort will do the same. Often, in class, your peers will cause you to reflect on your position in ways that are unfamiliar to you. Other times, you may find classmates’ lack of understanding or awareness of your location and that hurts. We can probably guarantee that all of these situations will occur. However, we can also promise you that you will grow in ways that make the pain worthwhile. It's part of the gig. Embrace the challenge.

Books for Fall
Syllabi will be available when classes start.

The following are the books that will be required for the first year classes. There will be additional readings, as well, but most can be downloaded from Blackboard or a reader. We recommend that you secure books through Amazon.com or post requests on social media for used copies. (Note, not all books are the same as last year’s.)

HED 605: American Colleges and Education - Lauren Germain

HED 611: Lab in Learning Communities - Cathy Engstrom

HED 616: EDU/HED 616 Understanding Educational Research - Qiu Wang

HED 621: Principles & Practices of Student Affairs Administration - Anne Lombard


Optional: