A Note from the HPSE Program Coordinator: Dr. Anna Neumann

The Fall 2010 semester is now well underway. I want to start with a few new things around the program. There’s much to be excited about as we turn yet another corner in the history of the Program in Higher and Postsecondary Education:

Dr. Monica Christensen has joined our faculty fulltime and is teaching several classes on student development and the student experience in college. Dr. Christensen, a graduate of several HPSE degree programs, is coordinating MA advisement and many other features of our MA program. She’s an expert on issues of student growth, student cultures, and student affairs work and careers, and I’m most delighted to welcome her! See the advice corner by Dr. Christensen on page 3.

Dr. Corlisse Thomas, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Baruch College, also a graduate of several HPSE degree programs, has joined us as faculty. We are delighted to have her expertise in our midst and know that we have much to gain from her. We welcome her warmly! For more on Dr. Thomas, please see page 2.

We are conducting a search for a new core faculty member in Higher and Postsecondary Education with a specialization in organization, administration, governance, and related topics. I’m very excited about chairing this search and will be sending out information about it at a later time. Please stay tuned for important developments!

Thanks to HPSE doctoral candidate Milagros Castillo, with support from program manager Awilda Cabrera, we will have a sparkling new website soon! Our website address is listed on the back cover. Please be on the lookout for the new site. Also, Milagros and Kenny Nienhusser, another HPSE doctoral candidate, have worked together to edit our new “jazzed up” newsletter: I’m excited about the newsletter’s contemporary flare and enhanced narrative content! Other newsletter participants include Ed.M. students: Diana Bennmergui, Lysette Cruz, Deniece Dortch, Marisol Jimenez, Joo-Hwan Lee, and Chase Palmer.

But there’s more…. Let me turn now to a bit of substance tied, of course, to action – ideas that we’re trying to bring to life in HPSE:

This year, many of us are re-familiarizing ourselves with the now popular notion of access to higher education – but now, with a new twist that forces us to ask still more pointedly, “OK. But access to what exactly?” While we, as the HPSE Program at TC, continue to be committed to giving college students access to all the resources that contemporary higher education has to offer, we devote our attention this year to one thing in particular: giving all college students access to learning. “Access to learning” is a theme that cuts across the breadth of the HPSE curriculum: It matters as much to those of us who specialize in leadership, administration, and policy as it does to those of us who ponder what it means to teach well or to help students develop into vital human beings.

To bring this theme to life, HPSE doctoral student Leslie Williams, with support from Milagros and a strong cadre of MA and EDM students, has assumed leadership for two exciting program initiatives: First: A speaker series which we have proudly entitled, Expanding Access to Learning: Possibilities and Challenges for Higher Education in Urban, 21st Century America. Open to TC and the larger Columbia University community, this series will address important large-scale higher education equity concerns, but from the standpoints students’, faculty members’, and leaders’ everyday lives on campus and beyond. And second: An outreach college readiness seminar for Harlem high school students applying for college. Though still in planning phases, we hope that HPSE students will use this community service effort to put their learning, from HPSE classes, to work in our own neighborhood. Please be on the lookout for news about these promising projects! I look forward to working with all of you toward making this a year of joint community learning.
Alumni Profile: Dr Corlisse Thomas

By: Chase Palmer

“*My time at TC was an experience of a lifetime.*”

Dr. Corlisse Thomas, is a faculty member of the HPSE program at TC and prominent alumna. She is currently teaching ORLH 4042: Student Personnel Administration—Programs and Services.

After graduating from Tufts, she worked in admissions where she believes her passion for student affairs began. Years later she decided to return to school, attending TC where she received her Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Higher Education. Dr. Thomas attributes much of her student and a professional success to her experience at TC. “I had the opportunity to be surrounded by and work with higher education’s leading scholars.” She named professors Dr. Raechelle Pope, Dr. Robert Birnbaum and Dr. Cynthia Johnson as professors who had an impact on her. Overall she states, “My time at TC was an experience of a lifetime.”

In her current position as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Baruch College she’s able to use the skills and knowledge acquired at TC to help her be an effective administrator and educator. She has observed, experienced, and applied theory and practice which she believes are “two ends of the same continuum.” As an individual who possesses both knowledge and experience in higher education, Dr. Thomas advises students interested in student affairs to first, finish their education. Then, stay open to a variety of opportunities across an institution because knowledge and skills from a variety of areas create a good formula for success.

A Balancing Act: My first-semester as a student at TC

By: Joo-Hwan Lee

My typical day as a commuter student goes something like this: Wake up by 6am. Kiss my wife. Feed the cats. Urge the dogs to poop with haste. Drive to the college where I teach philosophy. Begin travel to TC by going to New Haven and taking the MTA to Harlem-125th. Then I get on the M60 bus and get off by 120th St. & Broadway. Go to class. Get mind intellectually blown away. Catch the bus and then the train back to New Haven. Drive home. Check the mail. Kiss my wife. Clean litter box. Walk the dogs. Prepare for the next day. Sleep. Repeat.

The balance between work, school, and your private life may have its own rhythm, but what we probably have in common is the balancing act between an intellectually challenging graduate program, work, and personal life.

While trying to balance it all, we also experience some uncertainty. Where will our studies lead us? Can we keep up this level of activity? For how long? At what cost?

I wonder whether I can do this without compromise so that I am still a good husband, a thought-provoking instructor, and a responsible student.

Well, the list goes on—

Yet, even with the balancing act that we are trying to perform—at least somewhat well—if you are experiencing something similar to me, then this is also the happiest we have been in quite some time. While we still have much to learn, I sincerely believe that what we do here in the HPSE program at TC is an absolutely worthwhile venture.

I believe that the friendships we are making, the readings we are completing and the papers we are submitting humble us, train us, and inspire us to become thriving participants in furthering that worthwhile venture.

As the semester continues to unfold, I grow more certain that we will look back at this moment and know that this indeed was one of the most significant experiences in our careers. This certainty sustains me through the 6-hour round-trip commute, which depletes my wallet but fills my brain with knowledge and heart with hope. I hope it will also sustain you as well as we enter the mid-semester crunch and work our way to the second half of the semester.

One thing I have learned and that I hope may be helpful to you, as well, is that connecting with one another before and after class has made this all even more meaningful.

Now, if I could only teach the cats to clean their own litter box...
**Master of Arts Coordinator Advice Corner**

Hi! By now you are all bona fide Teachers College students! If you are struggling in any area please come see me ASAP – the sooner you make us aware of any struggle the sooner we can help!

Feel free to schedule an appointment to see me during my office hours: Tuesdays 1:20pm to 2:50pm & Wednesdays 3:30pm to 5:00pm

You are undoubtedly occupied with short -term deadlines, for school, internships and work, but I wanted to call your attention to matters on the horizon.

*Registration for Spring 2011 begins on Monday, December 6, 2010. If you are my advisee and plan to complete your degree in the Spring 2011 or Summer A/Summer B 2011 semesters you must have me sign off IN PERSON on your registration plans. If you are my advisee and will be back next year, you may choose to communicate with me face to face or electronically.

By: Dr. Monica Coen Christensen

Finally, many of you will be embarking on a job search in the spring. Leslie Williams has organized several events which will support that effort, and the TC Career Services professionals are always available to help. I, and other faculty members, are happy to discuss your goals and strategies.

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### Professional Development Tips

**By: Milagros Castillo**

**TIP: Join professional associations!**

As a member of a professional association in your field you will be exposed to many resources, including emerging research that can inform your practice. Professional associations offer opportunities to meet other practitioners, graduate students and faculty from across the country. Since each association has a different focus, be sure to learn more about them before joining, as you want to select those that best match your career and intellectual interests.

Individuals working in and studying the field of higher education frequently join one or more of the following associations:

- The Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) *
- American College Personnel Association (ACPA) *
- American Association of Higher Education (AAHE)
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
- National Orientation Directors Association (NODA)

* NASPA and ACPA are worthwhile conferences to attend because in addition to insightful workshops, they also host a national job fair.

**Note:** The HPSE Programming Committee will be presenting a workshop in February 2011 to help you make the most of your attendance at NASPA and ACPA.

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**Congratulations to Professor Anna Neumann**

Dr. Anna Neumann, Coordinator of the HPSE Program, was recognized by the American Education Research Association (AERA) for her exemplary contribution to the field of higher education through her scholarship and service. Professor Neumann was presented with this award during the 2010 AERA Annual Meeting. Professor Neumann has also been elected as President of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). She will serve as President-Elect for the 2010-11 school year and as President during the 2011-2012 school year. The HPSE Program congratulates the following students on their scholarships...

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**Congratulations to Scholarship, Fellowship, or Grant Recipients**

- Spring 2010 Sturtevant Fellowship: **Rebecca Natow**
- Spring 2010 Dr. Anna Neumann Supporting Student Research Award: **Liza Bolitzer**
- Fall 2010– Spring 2011 Dean’s Grant for Student Research: **Rebecca Natow**
- Fall 2010– Spring 2011 Sturtevant Fellowship: **Milagros Castillo, Frances Magee, and Kimberly Pereira**
- Fall 2010– Spring 2011 Sindlinger Scholarship: **Tai Yee Hoo**
- Fall 2010– Spring 2011 Office of Policy and Research General Research Fellowship for Incoming Students: **Tai Yee Hoo**
If you are like me and on a limited budget, but still want to take advantage of the awesome things that are happening at Columbia and New York City, this is the section for you. Everything listed is TOTALLY FREE and in my humble opinion super cool.

At Columbia (main campus):

**Wind Down Wednesdays Presented by Stressbusters**
Free mini back-rubs and neck massages to the Columbia community in an effort to reduce stress on campus and promote anxiety-reduction techniques.
Who Goes: Everyone
When: 4-5pm every Wednesday
Where: Wein Lounge 1st Floor
For more information: [http://health.columbia.edu/services/alice/stressbusters#Wind_Down_Wednesdays](http://health.columbia.edu/services/alice/stressbusters#Wind_Down_Wednesdays)

**In the City**

**Dance Manhattan**
Once a month, social dance school Dance Manhattan opens its doors for a Guest Night, at which there’s a class (8pm), a party (9:30pm) and a performance (10:30pm).
Who Goes: Salsa enthusiasts and voyeurs like me
When is it: Once a month on Wednesdays.
For more information: Dance Manhattan, 39 W 19th, fifth floor (212-807-0802, dance-manhattan.com)

**Transportation**

**Right Rides**
On Friday and Saturday nights from 11:59pm to 3am, the women-run nonprofit Right Rides dispatches volunteers in Zipcars to provide free, safe trips home for women and the LGBTQ population. Check rightrides.org for area-of-service maps, and call for a pickup: 888-215-7233.

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**HPSE FALL 2010 EVENTS**

**September**

**Tips for Succeeding as a New Student at TC**
September 14th 6:00 – 7:00 pm

**Fall Kick-off Happy Hour Social**
September 23rd 8:00 – 10:00 pm

**November**

**Mid-Semester Happy Hour Social**
November 11th 8:00 – 10:00 pm

**HPSE Fall Admissions Open House**
November 12th 5:00 – 8:00 pm

**2010 Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Conference**
Higher Education Scholarship and Public Policy: What is the Optimal Alignment?
November 17 - November 20
Indianapolis, Indiana

**December**

**Alumni Career Panel**
December 2nd 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Co-sponsored with Career Services

**HPSE Lecture:**

**The History of Minority Access to American Higher Education: Race, Ethnicity, and Beyond**
December 1st 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Russell Hall 306, Gottesman Libraries

**Job Search/Resume Workshop**
December 3rd 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Co-sponsored by the Office of Career Services

**Sneak Preview of Spring Semester:**

**February**

**HPSE Lecture:**

**Booktalk: Whistling Vivaldi and Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect US**
Dr. Claude Steele
Provost, Columbia University

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This edition of the HPSE newsletter was brought to you by the HPSE Newsletter Committee:

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