

# HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



### Our Mission

To graduate doctoral and master's degree students who come from diverse backgrounds and who are characterized by their competence and confidence to be effective leaders in the higher education workplace.



Higher Education Program  
100 Graduate Education Building  
Fayetteville, AR 72701



### GUEST SPEAKERS

Thank you Dr. JD DiLoreto-Hill and Student Body President, Cael Losenegger, for speaking to Dr. Miller's HIED Governance and Policy class.



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. José G. Ricardo-Orsorio**

MA (2001) in Spanish  
and EdD (2006) in  
Higher Education



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Christina M. Smith**

EdD (2021) in Higher  
Education



FALL 2023

# HIGHLIGHTS



The students and faculty in the higher education program are always learning, growing, and representing the University of Arkansas at it's finest!

Do you have a student you would like to recommend to the program? Email us at:  
Masters Program: [ljshelto@uark.edu](mailto:ljshelto@uark.edu)  
Doctoral Program: [hevel@uark.edu](mailto:hevel@uark.edu)

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## CHRISTINA M. SMITH

**HIGHER EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATION - DOCTORAL  
PROGRAM; FALL 2021  
GRADUATION**



Dr. Christina M. Smith joined The University of Texas at Austin in June 2021, and she serves as senior director of development, principal gifts, for Dell Medical School and UT Health Austin.

Previously, Smith served for six years as a major gifts officer within the University of Arkansas System, first in the College of Social Sciences and Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and most recently at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas' only academic medical center. While at the University of Arkansas System, Smith secured major gifts to advance new health care initiatives, research and education, with a particular focus on rural access to health care and the creation of a family medicine residency program and pathway for underserved communities.

She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tulsa and her master's in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. She completed her doctorate in higher education the University of Arkansas.

A 2021 graduate of the HIED doctoral program, Christina's favorite memory from her graduate school experience at Arkansas is having Dr. Michael Miller serve as her dissertation chair and advisor. Dr. Miller's kind and consistent motivation was exactly the fuel that Christina needed to successfully write, defend, and confidently pass her exams and complete all the many requirements for her graduation from the program. It's expert ability to both push and empower Christina to do her very best and overcome many adversities is a treasured memory and what makes him one of the best professors she has ever been fortunate enough to learn from.

Interestingly, Dr. Miller was able to connect Christina with Chloe Jones, a May 2022 HIED M.Ed. graduate from Arkansas, as Chloe moved from Fayetteville, AR back to her hometown of Austin, TX after her master's graduation. Thanks to this connection, Christina and Chloe now work together on the same development team at the University of Texas' Dell Medical School: two Razorbacks in a sea of burnt orange!

# ALUMNI NEWS

## **Rickey Booker, MEd , EdD**

Talent Management with Arvest Bank Corporate

## **Tabby Bondurant, MEd**

Residence Coordinator in the Department of Housing at University of Arkansas

## **Jason Bosch, MEd**

Inaugural Staff Senate President at Wichita State University

## **Arlene Breaux, EdD**

Promoted to Clinical Full Professor of Higher Education at University of Alabama

## **Cheryl Cooper, MEd**

Academic Counselor, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at University of Arkansas

## **Mary Margaret Hui Cunningham, EdD**

Assistant Professor of Research Methods at Arkansas State University

## **Sarah Denison, PhD**

Director of Career Initiatives, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at University of Arkansas

## **Jen Edwards, PhD**

Director of University Perspectives and Experiential Learning at University of Arkansas

## **Megan Hull, MEd**

Director of Curricular Planning & Student Engagement at University of Arkansas

## **Elke Howe, EdD**

Dean of College of Business, Communications and Technology at Missouri Southern State University

## **Rick Jakeman, EdD**

Associate Secretary for Workforce Development in Delaware Department of Education

## **JL Jennings PhD**

Awarded the 2022-23 Superior Staff Service Award by the College of Education and Health Professions

## **Deb Korth, EdD**

Assistant Dean for Student Success in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at University of Arkansas

## **Adam Morris, EdD**

Senior High Education Strategies for SHI International

## **Mariam Moustafa, PhD**

Coordinator of the English Language Program at the University of Rhode Island

## **Jena Carrow-Reed, EdD**

Associate Director of University of Recreation for Facility Operations

## **Carole Shook, EdD**

Awarded the Faculty Excellence in Service Award by the Walton College of Business

## **Christina Smith , EdD**

Senior Director of Development, Principal Gifts at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas

## **Elizabeth Smith, M.Ed, PhD**

Dean of the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University

## **Cadi Stair, MEd**

Assistant Director of the Honors Program in Walton College of Business at University of Arkansas

## **Anna Welsh, MEd**

Residence Coordinator in the Department of Housing at Kansas State University

## **Elizabeth Underwood, M.Ed, PhD**

Executive Director of the New River Conservancy in North Carolina



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## DR. JOSÉ G. RICARDO-OSORIO

**MA (2001) IN SPANISH AND EDD  
(2006) IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. José Ricardo serves as the acting dean in the College of Education and Human Services at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania where he is also an Associate Professor of Foreign Language Education, and Spanish. Prior to serving as acting dean, Dr. José Ricardo was the interim Associate Dean for the college. For nine years, he held the chair position in the Department of Global Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts and Sciences at the same institution.

For José Ricardo, one of his favorite memories from the HIED program was the opportunity to diversify his program of study with courses from Curriculum & Instruction and the interactions that he had with a diverse group of graduate students when taking these courses.

José was a member of the International Culture Team (ICT) and he enjoyed sharing his culture through interactive presentations as well as dancing and singing at local schools, and on campus. The ICT named its Best Presenter Award after José Ricardo to recognize his contribution to the ICT.

# FELLOWS SELECTED

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) offers a program to develop current and future leaders in higher education. This competitive-entry program brings together several future leaders from each SEC institution to participate in campus visits as well as learning about the past, present, and future of higher education. This year's selection from the University of Arkansas had a strong Higher Education program representation, as Associate Professor Michael Hevel and doctoral student Adriana Gonzalez were selected from UA.



Dr. Hevel is currently serving as the Associate Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions and Adriana Gonzalez holds an MLS and is currently the Associate Dean of Libraries while she finishes her PhD in Higher Education. The SEC cohort recently began their year of study and classes with a site visit to Texas A&M University.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Higher Education alumna Caley Satterfield created the Dr. Billy Satterfield Memorial Scholarship in memory of her late husband and fellow alum, Billy Satterfield. The endowment was created to support graduate students in the Higher Education program, and the initial award was presented to doctoral student Aubree Huggart.

Billy was a two degree graduate of UA, earning both his masters and doctoral degrees in Higher Education. His 2007 dissertation explored the research priorities in financial aid. He worked in the Office of Financial Aid at UA while in school before moving to the University of Houston-Clear Lake where he served as the Executive Director of Financial Aid and Registrar. He then became a Senior Consultant for Deloitte Consulting, specializing in software implementation and policy development. He was killed by a drunk driver in 2019.

Billy and Caley were avid scuba divers and Billy also held his pilot's license.





# Meet the HIED Faculty



**Becca Bassett**

Assistant Professor of  
Higher Education, HIED

Ph.D., Higher Education, Harvard  
University

B.A., Anthropology, Brown University

**Michael Hevel**

Associate Dean for Research, Strategy, and  
Outreach Associate  
Professor of Higher Education

Ph.D., Educational Policy and  
Leadership Studies, University of Iowa

M.A., College Student Personnel,  
Bowling Green State University

B.A., Political Science, University of  
Kansas



**Kate Mamiseishvili**

Professor of Higher Education,  
Dean, College of Education and  
Health Professions

Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Policy  
Analysis, University of Missouri

M.A., Educational Leadership and Policy  
Analysis, University of Missouri

B.A., English Language and Literature,  
Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia

**Suzanne McCray**

Associate Professor of Higher  
Education, Vice Provost for  
Enrollment, Dean of Admissions

Ph.D., English, University of  
Tennessee

M.A., French, University of  
Arkansas

M.A., English, University of  
Arkansas

B.A., English, University of  
Arkansas



**Michael T. Miller**

Professor of Higher Education

Ed.D., Community and Human  
Resources, University of Nebraska

M.S., Higher Education, Southern Illinois  
University

B.A., Political Science, Southern Illinois  
University

**John W. Murry, Jr.**

Associate Professor of  
Higher Education

Ed.D., Higher Education  
Administration, University of Arkansas

J.D., University of Arkansas,  
School of Law

M.B.A., Marketing and Management,  
University of Arkansas

B.S. B.A., Finance and Banking,  
University of Arkansas



**Leslie Jo Shelton**

Assistant Professor of  
Higher Education, HIED - M.Ed. Program Coordinator

Ph.D., Higher Education, Michigan State University

M.Ed., College Student Personnel, Ohio University

B.A., Sociology and Criminology, Ohio University

# GIVING BACK

The Higher Education Program at the University of Arkansas is proud to celebrate 62 years of educating and developing HIED professionals. It is with great pleasure that we once again dedicate this edition of the HIED Alumni Newsletter to our HIED alumni across the nation. Professionals in this field are critical to the daily operations of an institution, and the faculty, staff, and current students in the HIED program thank you for your dedication and serving at numerous institutions across the country. As a graduate of the Higher Education Program, we are proud of your accomplishments and the work that you do every day.

As the program continues to grow and our network of alumni expands, we always appreciate the willingness of alumni to support and serve our current HIED students. Make sure your **information is updated** so that we can contact you throughout the year for the following opportunities:

- Resume reviews
- Mock interviews
- Mentorship
- Guest speaking
- Alumni spotlights

To support the HIED program financially, please make donation checks payable to the University of Arkansas Foundation (memo line: COEHP Higher Education Program)

**Mail to:**

College of Education and Health Professions  
C/O Tory Gaddy, Director of Development  
Graduate Education Building, Room 311  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

**Give online at <https://onlinegiving.uark.edu/>**

We thank you for your continued support of the program!

## STAY CONNECTED

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