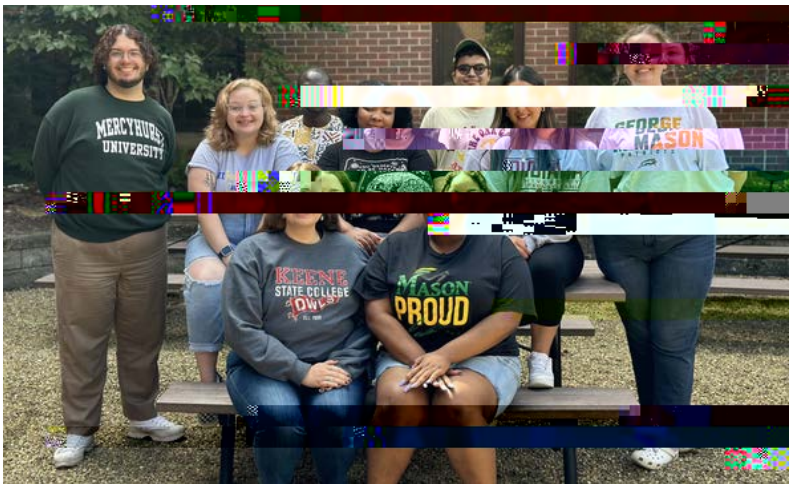
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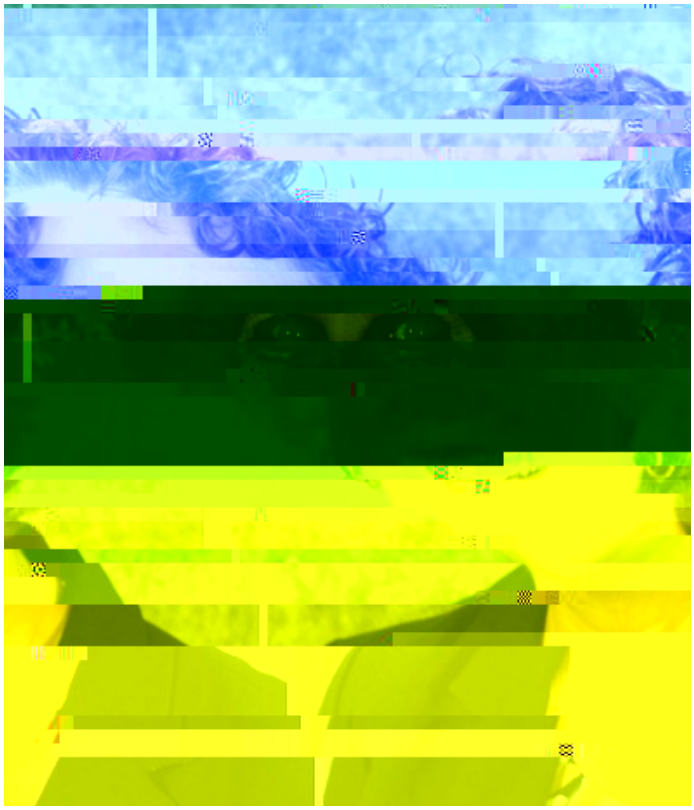


Tom Baker ‘05

Alumni Updates Continued

Started a new role in August 2022: Assistant Executive

Jackie Hackett ‘16

Alumni Updates Continued

Wayne Nichols ‘20	• Started new position as a Leadership Development Coordinator in the Office of Residence Life at University of California, Los Angeles in September 2023
Michael Paestella ‘97	• Received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service • The campus announcement came out in early August and received the medal and framed certificate at our President's Opening Breakfast to start the academic year
Erin Schutt ‘09	• Certified Career Service Provider at Delaware Technical Community College
Kristen Shimko ‘20	• Began new role as a Student Responsibility Coordinator at The University of Kentucky
Ashley Testa ‘12	• Recently left position as the Director of Housing and Residence Life at La Roche University to serve as the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for Carlow University
Kelly (Cordero) Thompson ‘11	• Accepted a role as an Assistant Professor in the Co-op Program at University of Cincinnati this year and will be teaching and advising students in their co-op program (preparing for an finding a co-op)
Celine Walker ‘18	• Moved from Hall Director at Pratt Institute to Director of Residence Life at Rosemont College
Lauren Zahour ‘17	

Associates for Student Development (ASD)

The 2023 Associates for Student Development (ASD) Executive Board has been working to continue vital SAHE traditions that support the continued growth and development of our program. To conclude the Spring 2023 semester, the ASD Executive Board hosted the annual “SAHE Banquet” to celebrate the Class of 2023 and all they have accomplished in their time at IUP. We wish them well in their first year as IUP SAHE alum!

Throughout the summer, the second-year cohort provided mentorship opportunities to the incoming SAHE Class of 2025 through the “Summer Match” program, allowing our new students the opportunity to connect with upcoming second-year SAHE students prior to the start of the semester. Our Vice President for Membership and Finance also forged connections and built mentorship opportunities through the annual “Cohort Connect” program, and paired our first-year cohort members with excited second-years who want to help them succeed! The ASD Executive Board also worked with the SAHE faculty to provide a modified “SAHE Kick-Off” that was focused on getting to know the faculty more socially. Another opportunity for connection also came from the “Alumni Connect” program offered to the second-year students who are looking for guidance in a variety of areas as they gear up for job searches and the eventual transition out of graduate school. Way to go Class of 2024 and thank you to all of the alumni who volunteered their time and expertise!

Our Vice President of Programming hosted a “Fall Fest” event in October that included pumpkin painting, a spooky movie, and lots of delicious food. We look forward to the upcoming “SAHE Thanksgiving” in early December which will combine all of the upcoming holidays into one big party to close out the year. There we will announce the new 2024 Associates for Student Development Executive Board! Our Vice President for Professional Development has been working with the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) at IUP to facilitate a resume workshop for both cohorts to begin building their professional portfolios. ASD also looks forward to a “Coffee and Career Conversations” event in November to help support recruitment efforts of the SAHE program and spend valuable time with other professionals who are engaging in student affairs work across campus.

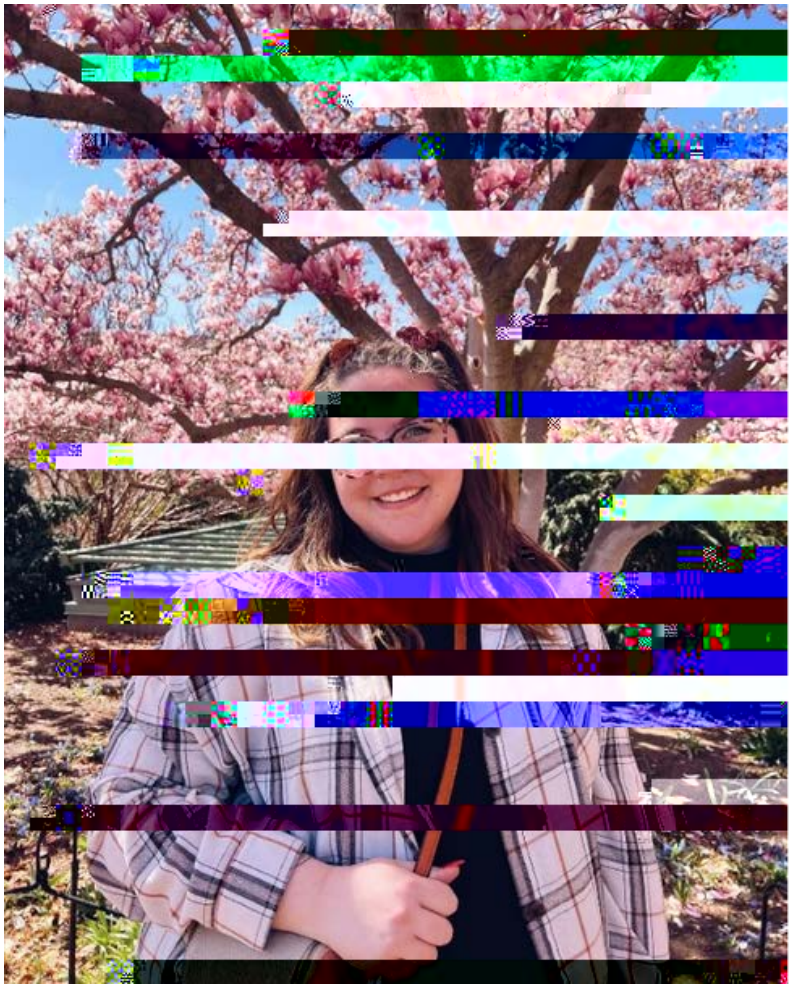
As our time as the ASD Executive Board comes to a close, I, Casey Brown am full of grateful energy for both my executive board, and all of the members of ASD past, present, and future who help to keep the spirit of the SAHE program alive. Collectively, we work to ensure that we all feel supported and ready to pursue meaningful careers in higher education. I personally want to thank my executive board for their dedication, pride, and excellence in making our work full of wonderful memories and joy. We thank you, as alumni, for all of your support, and please be sure to connect with us on Instagram @iupsahe.asd or via email at iupsahe.asd@gmail.com!

The 2023 Nancy J. Newkerk Scholarship was recently presented to Lindsay Aurand. Lindsay, a second-year student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program who earned a bachelor of science degree in biology education from IUP, serves as a graduate director in the IUP Housing Office. She also serves as the advisor to the Residence Hall Council and Rho Alpha Sigma, the National Honorary Society for Resident Assistants, and has supported students through her work as a mock interviewer with IUP's Career and Professional Development Center.

One of Lindsay's nominators stated, "Nancy Newkerk and Lindsay share a passion for women's issues and an undergraduate degree in teaching. Perhaps it is this connection that reminds me of the way Nancy never missed a chance to educate others in a caring and humble manner. Lindsay shares that same quality. She puts her undergraduate teaching knowledge to good use as she serves as a strong advocate for equality and issues of diversity and never misses a teachable moment."

Since 1999, the Nancy Newkerk Scholarship has been awarded to deserving second-year SAHE graduate students who demonstrate outstanding contributions to college students, student affairs activities, the SAHE department, and the broader higher education community.

Get Involved Award 2022



Michael Hanni Scholarship 2023

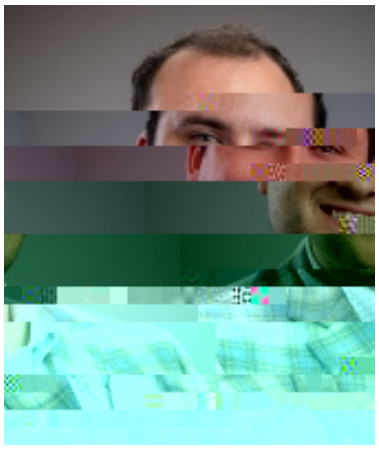
On Tuesday, October 17, the Michael Hanni Memorial Scholarship was presented to Madi Kiser, a second-year SAHE student, by members of Michael's family. Michael Hanni was a 2019 graduate of the Student Affairs in Higher Education program who passed away from COVID-19 in 2021 while working at Youngstown State University.

His family and friends established the scholarship in his memory to help college students in need at IUP who exemplify the same qualities as Michael. This is a particularly fitting memorial to him given the importance of both education and IUP to Michael.

Madi earned her undergraduate degree at Humboldt State University in California and has an assistantship at the University of Pittsburgh–Johnstown.

An Enduring Alumni CONNECTion

Paige Matzerath



Bennett Nesley

In the Fall of 2022, second-year SAHE student and ASD member Bennett Nesley signed up to participate in the Alumni CONNECT program, a program initiated in 2018 that pairs second-year SAHE students who are members of ASD with alums who graduated within the previous five years. Because of shared professional interests in career services, Bennett was paired with Paige Matzerath (SAHE '20). Today, Bennett and Paige work together at Villanova, and they've shared their CONNECTion story.

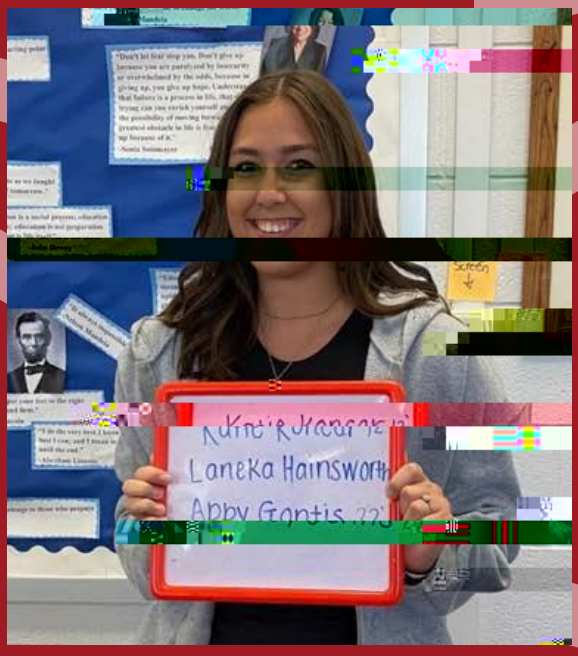
P When I was a mentee in the Alumni Connect Program, my mentor, Brandon Sousa, was incredibly insightful in guiding me in the job search process. That's why when it was my time to serve as a mentor, it was a no brainer; I was thrilled to share my knowledge and help support a current IUP SAHE student transition into a fulltime higher education position.

B The sign-ups for the Alumni Connect Program were open shortly after the SPS/SAHE 50th Anniversary Reunion. During this time, I witnessed so many success stories from alumni from our program and the event conjured a sense of SAHE pride. With graduation on the horizon, connecting with Alumni was a natural next step and the Alumni Connect Program seemed to be the perfect avenue. However, I would have certainly decided to participate in the program regardless of the excitement that came with the festivities. I had been a graduate assistant at the Career and Professional Development Center with aspirations of continuing work in career services. I would be quite hypocritical to express the importance of networking and connecting with alumni in career coaching appointments while ignoring an opportunity to do so to benefit my own professional development.

B I can state with complete confidence that participating in this program had a significant impact on my life. My wonderful alumni mentor—Paige Matzerath—pointed me toward my current position, and we are now colleagues! Paige was a successful mentor, not just because she directly pointed me to a job and helped me prepare for my interview, but because she helped me become open to opportunities. Now, I am becoming acclimated with the Philadelphia area, and I can learn to root for the 76ers. Although, I do not think I can bring myself to root for the Eagles over the Steelers.

P Not only did I gain an incredible mentee, but I gained a wonderful colleague as well.

P Not only were [Bennett and I] able to bond over our similar interests, but I was also able to share my experiences with Bennett to help prepare him for the upcoming job search. Luckily, at my current institution, Villanova University, a position opened that fit Bennett's interests perfectly. After guiding him through the application process, Bennett accepted an offer at Villanova where we now are able to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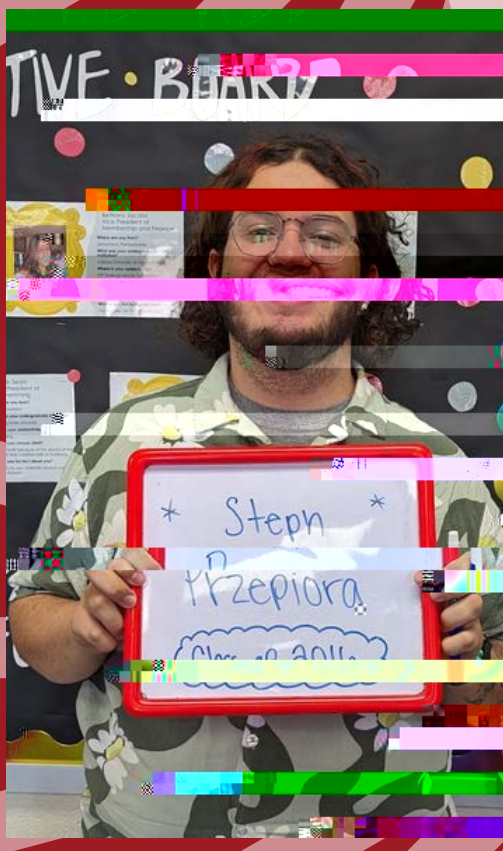
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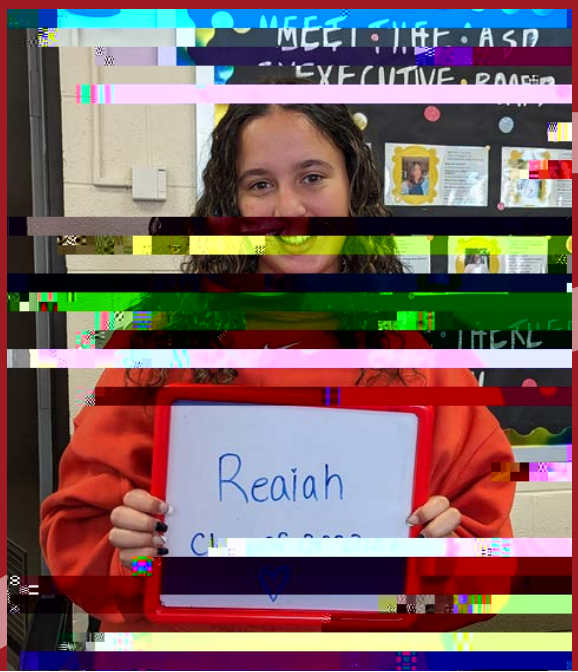
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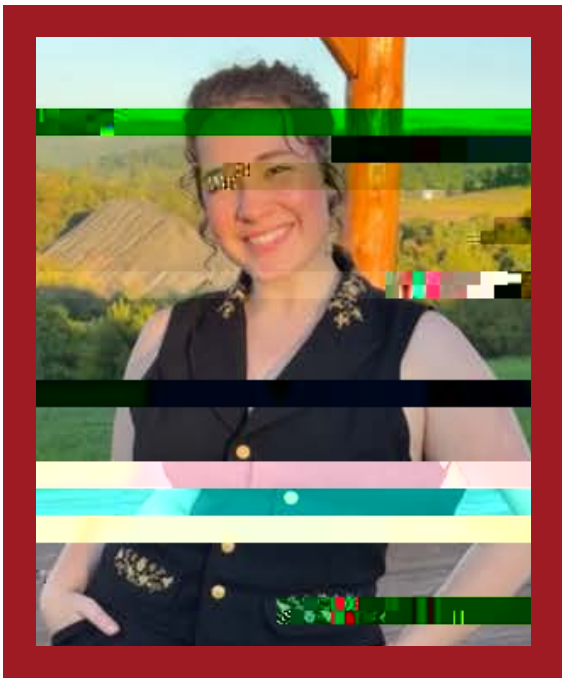
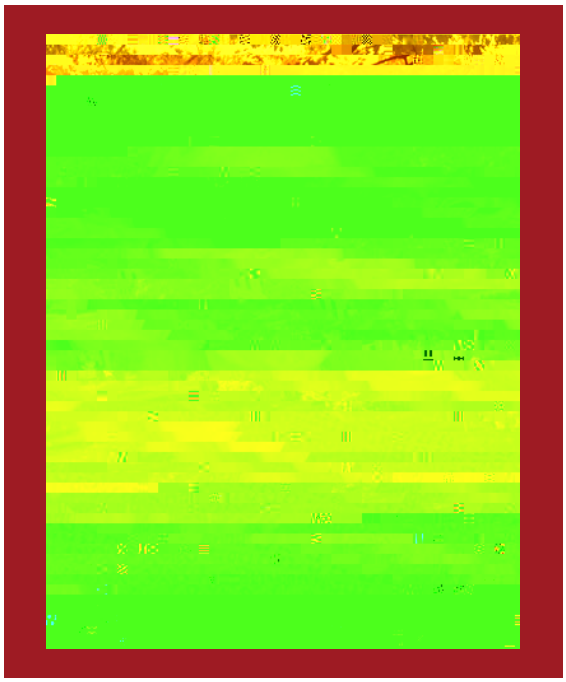
A Note from the Editors





Hello SAHE students, alumni, faculty, and friends! As the fall 2023 semester comes to a close, we would like to thank you for staying up to date and making contributions to this edition of the *De el me* newsletter. We have spent the semester curating an archive that best highlights the unique experiences of current and former SAHE students.

We would like to give special thanks to Dr. Mimi Benjamin, whose guidance has been incredibly helpful in crafting this newsletter.