

ENGAGE - CONNECT - ADVANCE - LEAD



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## Institute of Higher Education

IHE GRADUATE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



Meigs Hall interior stairwell

Dear IHE graduates and friends,  
Several of you have shared exciting news lately. I can feel momentum building as we head into summer.

With my office strategically located across from 101 and at the very foot of the stairs, I enjoy hearing students hustling up and down, again. Love to hear all that positive energy and enthusiasm!

We have resumed our Zoomtables after a break during the academic year. I invite you to volunteer to lead one on a pressing topic. These sessions are ways to bridge distances and programs for those of us engaged in similar work and research interests.

As many of you know, we opened a search for a new assistant professor to join our faculty. It's exciting to share our mission and talk about how we want to continue developing leaders, asking tough questions, and expanding our outreach.

Hope you all feel inspired to do some metaphorical stair running or banister sliding this summer.

Suzanne R. Graham  
Administrative Manager

**ENGAGE**

**Save the Dates**



**Spring/Summer Zoomtables**

Join colleagues for conversations around hot topics in higher education.

Jim Hearn- strategic change in private colleges ([view recording](#))

Tim Cain- challenges in the professoriate

Erik Ness- state authorization practices

Angie Royer (MEd)- post-COVID work arrangements

**Homecoming Ice Cream Gathering**

October 15 @ 3:30-5:00  
Meigs Hall

Ice cream scoops from local creamery topped off with conversations among our GCAC advisers, faculty, students, and other friends.

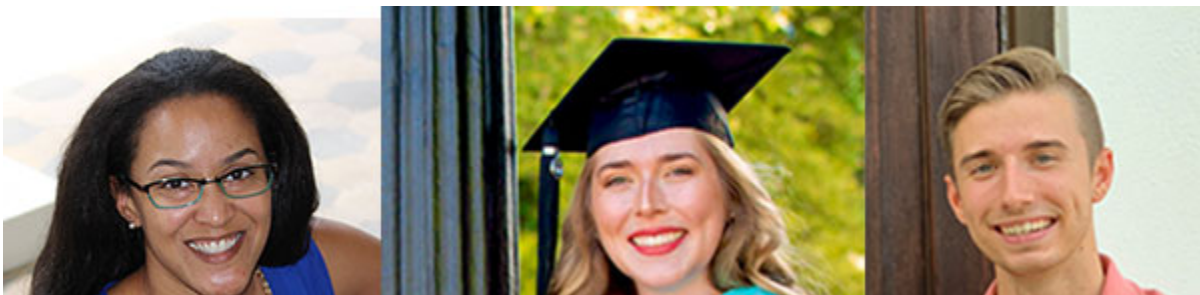


**McBee Lecture**  
November 15 @ 11AM  
UGA Chapel

This year's event features Joan Gabel, president University of Minnesota.

**CONNECT**

**Meet Our Newest Graduates**





(l-r) Danielle Kerr, Andrea Kiely, and Kanler Cumbass

Three members of the IHE community graduated during the spring. Take a moment to read about the professional aspirations of our newest alumni below.

**Danielle Kerr** (PhD) - most recently serving as managing publishing editor for the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* in the University of Georgia's Office of Service-Learning.

**Kanler Cumbass** (MEd) - post-graduate intern for the [Education Strategy Group](#). His research interests include Title IV/financial aid policy, and the impact student finances have on degree attainment. While at the Institute, Kanler was fortunate to work alongside Dr. Karen Webber and Dr. Amy Stich on their WREA National Science Foundation project.

**Andrea Kiely** (MEd) - research interests include equity in education, accessibility, and the effects of diversity on campus culture and classroom success.

[Learn about our current students and their interests ....](#)

ADVANCE

## IHE Graduates on the Move

**Lynn Durham** - appointed president & CEO of [Georgia Center for Oncology Research & Education](#).



**Denisa Gandara** - named a [2021 William T. Grant Scholar](#). She will use the funding and support to investigate the impact of free-college programs on racially or ethnically minoritized students.



**Samaad Wes Keys** - moved to the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) as a program officer.



**Jon Turk** - joins [Saint Louis University's College of Education](#) as assistant professor in the higher education, effective August 2021.



**Melissa Whatley** - started as assistant professor of international and global education, supporting the graduate programs at the [School for International Training](#).



Tori Tanner (r) with her mentee

As a community of experienced scholars and administrative professionals, IHE graduates have much to offer UGA students. Our Zoomtables and speaker series provide opportunities for interaction, but nothing can replace one-on-one connections. If you haven't already, **please consider registering as a mentor.**

[Read more about the UGA Mentor Program ....](#)

LEAD

**Former GCAC Adviser Stays Invested**





Brionna Johnson (center back) participates in a discussion in Dr. Spencer's class in April 2021

After completing her first year as a Master's student at the Institute, **Brionna Johnson** is continuing her graduate assistant duties with the Georgia College Advising Corps as training coordinator.

She will draw on her GCAC experience and IHE courses, particularly from Dr. Spencer's *College Choice, Access and Success*, to prepare for the advisers' daily training sessions this July.

"We are a stronger organization because of the IHE community and the people in it," said Johnson, "There is so much important research happening here, and it's important that we bring it to practice."

**We continue to seek recent college graduates to serve as advisers. Please share program information widely and help us find more great people.**

**[Check out GCAC adviser job description ....](#)**



Give to IHE

The UGA Alumni Association will send a car decal to alumni donors who make new gifts during the month of June.

**Did we miss some news? Want to update your IHE profile?**  
**Don't have a profile and would like one?**  
**Please drop us a line!**



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