



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN**  
**COLORADO**

**Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership**

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**September 2019**

**Dear HESAL community,**

Let's continue from last month's newsletter - Create the graduate experience you want to have and choose to be the type of leader you want to be!

To continue the conversation though, I want to shift to discussing the role of Place in our sense of belonging. When I talk about Place, it could and likely does reference any number of places: HESAL, UNC, Greeley, Weld County, your home, Colorado, your home state and/or country, etc. We all find ourselves in the newer side of the academic year and for many you also are in a new program, town, state, or in a new stage and could use opportunity to reflect on the intentionality of your Place.

I spent Labor Day weekend down in the high deserts outside of Santa Fe, NM at a workshop with my favorite contemporary Irish writer, Dr. Sharon Blackie. She is a trained clinician, former academic, and corporate employee; and, she used disillusionment to shift into her current work to help us modern humxns reconnect to Place, our true selves, and each other. Based on her transformations, I've been encouraged to apply some of this to our work.

### **The role of Place in our sense of belonging somewhere new**

Sharon describes the connection to Place as:

...the process of learning to belong to any new place is in part a process of internal mapping. Not just physical mapping – I know where this track leads; I know what is over that hill – but emotional mapping, as the landscape begins to reveal its mysteries to you, to hint at its stories, and you begin to form a bond with it. Like any new relationship, it is about building attachments to particular locations and features which, over time, become familiar and loved. You can learn to belong anywhere, in this way, if you choose. It's an act of creation, and like all acts of creation, it's also an act of love, and an enormous leap of faith. (Blackie, 2018, p. 55)

### **Reflecting on my own relationship with Place**

In hindsight, I see that I've always connected to Place through nature just not intentionally. I've done it at home, at work, and with others. At home, it's been mostly through gardening, beekeeping, and being outside with my daughter. At work, it has been from walking to or around campus, and sitting outside under the old trees. With others, it's been through what I started to call last year, Walk and Talks, with friends, colleagues, advisees, and coaching clients. All in all, it comes down to getting to know the rhythms of nature and the patterns of the days and seasons.

*After my weekend in NM, I want to bring forward now intentionality for myself AND to facilitate opportunity for relationship of Place as a component of YOUR graduate education.*

### **An exercise and opportunity in mapping YOUR Place**

In the second week of the semester, I took the new PhD students on a walk to a 'secret' part of campus that is one of my favorite quiet areas. Before our walk, I had shared some the history of this land that UNC is on and surrounded by. I believe to know Place is to appreciate her history, including geology. I shared some stories behind UNC, McKee, and HESAL. These stories shape the design of UNC which then affects how people feel and interact on campus.

After our walk, we processed through it with some art. I asked the students to draw a map of their social world - complete with present and possibilities including considerations for how their future research might intertwine within their social landscape. I offer you this exercise, too.

*Instructions:* Map out your social landscape. There is no right or wrong way to this exercise. There is only YOUR way. I have seen road maps, nature maps, words, pictures only, abstracts, anyway, anything. Maybe just have a large enough page (although a student wisely folded theirs to make it feel more doable and then to expand out). Think about including physical locations, your office, McKee, your home, your favorite outdoor spot(s), your place of origin. Consider interweaving in whatever way makes sense to you would be your possibilities – dissertation or research area/topic, your calling or passions, your goals, etc.

- What patterns do you notice?
- Does something stand out to you as important or are you surprised something wasn't as important as you had thought?
- How would you describe your map to a friend, colleague, or loved one?
- What possibilities do you want to add for your journey?

### **Invitation**

With that, I want to offer an invitation for you all to step intentionally into Place.

On **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> noon to 1p**. Meet me in the breezeway of McKee at noon and go from there. Wear walking shoes and bring water. I'll share some history and then head out to walk around.

Go Bears,



Blackie, S. (2018). *The Enchanted Life: Unlocking the Magic of the Everyday*. Denmark: September Publishing.

To read another perspective on Place, check out <https://www.tamarayakaboski.com/coachingblog/why-i-wrote-a-love-letter-to-the-place-where-i-work>



## UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Walk around Place with Dr. Yakaboski

In keeping with the theme of this month's newsletter, Dr. Yakaboski will offer a guided walk about West campus and talk about some of the history and stories of UNC.

Time and Location: **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> noon to 1p meet in the McKee breezeway**

### 2. Congratulations to UNC's 2019 NASPA IV-W AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Faculty Member Award | Tamara Yakaboski | Program Coordinator & Professor |

Graduate Student Rising Star Award| Patrick Bussiere | University of Northern Colorado

See announcement: <https://www.naspa.org/constituent-groups/posts/congratulations-to-our-2019-naspa-iv-w-award-recipients>

### 3. Spring 2020 schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs	Weekends
HESA 669* 530-830	HESA 680 530-830	HESA 661/670/675 01/15,02/05,03/04,04/08 430-530	HESA 695*** 130- 430	HESA 660*** 4 weekends
		HESA 650 530-830	HESA 611 530-830	Fridays 530- 830 and Saturdays 9-4
		HESA 781 530-830 (PHD cohort only)		Jan 24 & 25; Feb 14 & 15; April 3 & 4; April 24 & 25

\*HESA 669 continues as the approved substitute for 655 which will not be scheduled this year.

\*\*HESA 797 and 799 credits will continue to be available for PHD students.

\*\*\*HESA Electives available pending enrollment numbers – sign up!

660 Womxn and gender non-binary in HESA & 695 Current Issues

### 4. Updates from YOUR HESAL Student Organization => HESA

- Chipotle Fundraiser from 4PM to 8PM on September 24<sup>th</sup> (attached the flyer that is needed)
  - Help support the Higher Education Student Association provide more professional development opportunities by joining us at Chipotle on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4PM to 8PM! Make sure to show them the flyer on our homepage to ensure your transaction gets donated back to us!
- Rockies Night – September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:10PM

- HESA is planning to attend the Colorado Rockies baseball game on September 27th against the Milwaukee Brewers. THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS! Below is a link for purchasing tickets, they are around \$30 and we were shooting for Upper 312 section. Communicate so we can all sit together!

Then we have our Facebook Page for updates and events

- <https://www.facebook.com/UNCHESA/>
- Then our Facebook Group also has various events and updates from the group
- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/537667023355686/?source\\_id=345515235538206](https://www.facebook.com/groups/537667023355686/?source_id=345515235538206)

## 5. SAVE THE DATES reminders

- **FALL MA COMPS:**
  - Orientation for MA comps: **Sept 12** 5-530p, McKee 426
  - Exam **MOVED** due to dates conflict with weekend leadership course – NOW = **Monday Oct 7** - in person in McKee 426 or start of take home due by noon MST on Monday Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Research Evening** will be on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.
- **HESAL End of the Semester Celebration** – December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9p
- **SPRING MA COMPS:**
  - Orientation for MA comps: **Jan 30** 5-530p, McKee 426
  - Exam: **Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>** in person location TBD or start of take home due by noon MST of Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Adhere to any [Graduate School deadlines for filing](#) graduation, etc

## 6. HESAL Listserv **\*\*Make sure you are subscribed to the listserv\*\***

We send out a compiled email at the end of each week with jobs, GA's, internships, and other opportunities that might be of interest to HESAL people.

## 7. HESAL Social Media

**HESAL has a new Instagram account – check us out @uncohesal**

Be sure to like our HESAL Facebook page to stay up to date on events and good news:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCBearsHESAL/>

Like and follow the HESAL Student Organization (HSO):

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCHSO/>

HESAL Twitter account: @UNCoHESAL



Happy almost Fall! Please reach out if you need anything!

On behalf of HESAL,

Tamara Yakaboski, Ph.D.

[pronouns: she/her/hers]

Professor & Coordinator, Higher Education & Student Affairs Leadership

Department Chair of Leadership, Policy and Development

Schedule an appointment: <https://tamarayakaboskiphd.as.me/>