2015-2016 APA Leadership

President

Andy Howard
RecSports, Assistant Director for Marketing and Communications A third generation UF alumnus and native Floridian, Andy has worked for the university since 2009, originally in the Dean’s office at the College of the Arts. He currently leads marketing, design, production and communication initiatives for UF RecSports (Student Affairs). Andy holds M.A. degrees in Dance (Florida State University) and International Business (University of Florida) and previous employment with Orlando Opera Company, Orlando Repertory Theatre and Walt Disney World. His personal endeavors include outdoor photography and teaching dance (clogging, tap and social dance) and yoga.

President Elect

Jean Starobin (Jeannie)
Heavener School of Business, Director of Enrollment Management and Online Programs.
Jean has worked at the University of Florida since 2001; working at the College of Education and Reitz Union before joining the Warrington College of Business. She is a two-time gator grad with a M.S. degree in Decision Information Science and an Ed.D in Higher Education Administration. She is married with three grown children. In her off time, she enjoys cooking, knitting, travelling and all things dog related.

Immediate Past President

Whitney Smith
Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Assistant Director of Communications Whitney Smith, a Gainesville native, is the assistant director of communications at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She develops a weekly newsletter for the law school community, manages the college’s social media accounts and produces digital and print publications. She holds a bachelor of science in journalism from UF and is a candidate for a master of arts in mass communication at UF, specializing in health and science communication. She enjoys traveling, group fitness classes and photography.

Vice President for Programming

Michelle Ocepek
Director of Student Programs, Levin College of Law
Born and raised in Ohio, Michelle moved to Florida and began working at UF in 2007. She manages the student orientation and study abroad programs, trains and advises law student organization leaders and works with students on programming efforts at the College of Law. Michelle earned a M.A. degree in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University and a B.S. in Social Work from Ashland University. She is married with two boys and enjoys staying active with their school and sports endeavors.
Secretary/Treasurer

Sara Katherine Tanner

Student Affairs, Director of Marketing and Communications

A fourth generation Orlandonian, Sara has worked for the university in Student Affairs since 2009. She is a storyteller, producer, visual artist and communicator, leading communication initiatives for the Division of Student Affairs. She holds M.A. degree in Digital Arts and Science (University of Florida Digital Worlds Institute) and B.A. degrees in Journalism and Political Science (University of Florida). Off campus, Sara is a producer for Straw Hat Visuals, a photographer, avid traveler, and pop culture enthusiast.

Signature Series Chair

Krista E. Fields

Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Director of Faculty and Academic Support

Krista is a UF alum who relocated to D.C. after graduation, then returned to Gainesville in 2013 to work at UF Law. In her current role, she is responsible for ensuring and maintaining a high level of support for the faculty and programs, and creating consistent policies and procedures. Krista previously worked as legal support manager at Rosetta Stone Inc. She received a B.S. in journalism from the University of Florida and a J.D. from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, and is currently pursuing a certificate in educational technology. Krista has served on the board of directors of the D.C. Gator Club, as public relations chair of the Junior League of Northern Virginia, as coach for Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia, and as a varsity tennis coach. She enjoys crossfit, running, visiting beaches, talking about paleo, and cheering on the Gator tennis teams.

Membership / Professional Development (Co-Chairs)

Karley Counts

J. Wayne Reitz Union, Training and Development Coordinator

A native of Clearwater, Florida, Karley has worked for the university since 2012; originally with the Department of Recreational Sports. Karley is currently responsible for creating, developing, and evaluating professional development programs that assist full-time, part-time, and student staff within the J. Wayne Reitz Union. She holds a B.H.S. in Rehabilitation Sciences from UF and a M.Ed. in Recreation and Leisure Studies from The University of Georgia. In her spare time, she enjoys attending athletic events of all kinds, traveling, and volunteering within the community.

Matthew P. Cowley

Career Resource Center, Assistant Director for Professional Development & Experience

Matthew is an Alabama native who has worked with the University of Florida’s Career Resource Center since 2013. Matthew is responsible for facilitating the career readiness of UF students by creating, implementing and evaluating professional development programs and overseeing the CRC’s two mentoring programs. Matthew earned his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, and his Master of Education in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction with a focus on Social Foundations of Education. Outside of work, Matthew enjoys painting, writing, contemporary art, and being involved with his church.
Publicity Chair

**Megan Kimmel**
Genetics Institute & Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, Communications Director
Megan manages the marketing and communications for both the UF Genetics Institute and ICBR, which includes developing initiatives to promote scientific services, research programs, a doctoral program and a faculty membership organization. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration and is oh-so-close to completing an M.A. in Mass Communications, science and health communication. Megan frequently organizes service activities for her department, including food drives and volunteer opportunities. Outside of UF, she is a board member of Girls on the Run of Alachua County and a member of the Junior League of Gainesville.

Webmaster/ Online Communications

**Marjorie Pither**
Distance and Continuing Education
She has worked for Distance and Continuing Education since 2001 and is currently earning a Programming Analysis degree from Santa Fe College and will go on to earn a bachelor's degree. Presently, she maintains websites for Distance and Continuing Education and reviews Flexible Learning courses in Canvas for quality assurance. She supports and volunteers for non-profit organizations such as the Florida Nature Coast Conservancy, equine hippotherapy, Surfers for Autism, UF CARD and loves being by the coast.