



EDITORIAL: JCAPS IN RETROSPECTIVE AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Brittany Devies, Incoming Editor in Chief
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Seven years is simultaneously a long time (almost two presidential cycles!) and an eyeblink (where did the time go?). It was that long ago that the Journal of Campus Activities Practice and Scholarship was born, ushered into the world with the support of the NACA Board of Directors and a newly-formed journal advisory board tasked with determining the journal's structure and initial personnel. If you were building a journal literally from scratch – or a magazine, or a long-time podcast, etc. – how would you begin?

At JCAPS, we started with a simple question: how would a scholarly journal focused on the work of campus activities benefit the world? NACA already hosted a world-class magazine dedicated to campus activities. Dozens of scholarly journals already focused on higher education, student affairs, and university student development. What value would a journal like JCAPS provide?

We understood that the great folks most engaged in the work and study of campus activities were largely practitioners. Long, complicated, theory-heavy articles without strong practical applications or implications were not likely to be helpful. We understood that the world of campus activities is filled with resources for the work involved and for helping students succeed. We therefore wanted to provide a space for rigorous scholarship that examined those resources and their benefits. We knew that a vast population of higher education graduate students were engaged in the study of campus activities as part of their training, and therefore we wanted to provide explicit opportunity for student-authored work held to a different standard than work from authors with more experience.

Armed with these aims, we sought to build a journal dedicated to rigor and theoretical quality but always founded in the ultimate goal of practical application. Since its first issue was published in Spring 2019, JCAPS has included over 100 double-blinded peer-reviewed articles and over a dozen editorial or invited pieces. JCAPS issues have addressed topics as diverse as Greek-letter organizations and gaming; escape rooms and e-sports; and book clubs and burnout. JCAPS articles have focused on student involvement, student identity, student learning, student government, and student employment. JCAPS authors are full-time faculty, campus activities professionals, graduate students, higher education consultants, and often some combination of these.

Seven years from its birth, we feel strongly that those who have contributed as editors, as authors, as reviewers, and as sponsors should be proud of all that we have accomplished together. The field of campus activities is stronger because of our collective work.

As JCAPS makes its first transition of editor-in-chief, where does it look to go from here?

First and foremost, the Journal of Campus Activities Practice and Scholarship is committed to adhering to and upholding its original aim: to create space for rigorous scholarship focused on campus activities while centering the implications for its practice. This journal was crafted for practitioners, scholars, educators, and students alike and it will continue to serve so. In the last few years, JCAPS has seen an increase in faculty and empirical study

submissions. These submissions are invaluable for bettering our collective understanding of campus activities. However, empirical research is only one of four types of submissions JCAPS welcomes.

Moving ahead, we are committed to using our efforts to increase submissions in our other three categories of submissions, including media/source reviews, scholarship-to-practice briefs, and emerging scholar submissions. These submission types help increase the richness of JCAPS and ensure the centering of praxis for our collective learning. As outgoing and incoming editor, it is our collective hope that you will consider sharing your work across all four section categories. Additionally, we ask that you encourage your colleagues, mentees, students, and peers to share their brilliance through these mediums. We need their voices!

As we look to the future, it is our hope we do so together. We are immensely thankful to our JCAPS editorial board and our JCAPS advisory board for their continued commitment to JCAPS. We also could not do any of this without the continued support of the NACA office. We do not do this work in silos, and we are all better when we do this together. We hope you will continue on the JCAPS journey with us – we cannot wait to see where the future takes us.