

AMBRA YARBROUGH HIOTT

MAXIMIZER | ARRANGER | POSITIVITY | ACHIEVER | CONNECTEDNESS

EDUCATION

- University of Georgia**, Athens, Georgia May 2017
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Student Affairs Leadership
Dissertation: Social Innovation in Higher Education: A Case Study
- University of Georgia**, Athens, Georgia May 2012
Master of Education (M.Ed.) College Student Affairs Administration
- Furman University**, Greenville, South Carolina May 2010
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Communication Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina January 2022 – present
Director, Leadership and Service Center, Department of Student Life

- Expanded leadership portfolio to advise Student Government and the Graduate Student Association, guiding and supporting student leaders in developing initiatives and advocacy efforts aligned with the university's priorities
- Expanded service portfolio to a broader community engagement focus including civic engagement, off-campus living and neighborhood relations, and the donor funded Dobson Volunteer Service Program. Manage relationships with neighborhood associations, City Council, and university government relations
- Lead a dynamic team of 10 full-time professional staff, 22 part-time employees, and 285 student leaders with distributed leadership responsibilities that contribute to the student experience
- Provide strategic vision and implementation of student engagement functional areas including student organizations, leadership development, community engagement, and student governance for the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
- Provide administrative oversight of several programmatic budgets totaling \$790,000 and steward multiple university foundation accounts with donor funds
- Collaborate with partners in the Division of Student Affairs, the University, and local, state, and national agencies to ensure student success, learning, and development
- Secured a \$5,000 grant from the Center for Integrated and Experiential Learning to lead the development of a Student Life student employment onboarding and training program. The program expanded to serve the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
- Led the centralization of basic needs resources through the creation of the Gamecock CommUnity Shop, providing more holistic support for those experiencing basic needs insecurities, increase accessibility, and scale efforts to become more efficient and effective. Engaged donors to raise \$239,000 over 4 years to support the basic needs of Gamecocks
- Incorporated nationally recognized programs to office portfolio including LeaderShape's Institute and Courageous Dialogue, CliftonStrengths, and Walt Disney World Leadership Experience.
- Established USC as an early voting location in partnership with the Richland County Election Commission

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina June 2018 – December 2021
Director, Leadership and Service Center, Department of Student Life

- Portfolio elevated to the Student Life Leadership Team
- Reimagined the office with national best practices and strategic priorities through refined vision, mission, values, budget model, organizational structure, and staff position descriptions
- Provided vision, guidance, and oversight for an innovative center for student involvement featuring student organizations, leadership development, service and civic engagement, and recognition
- Made data-informed decisions through assessment efforts including a CAS internal review. Communicated results through annual reports, policy and operational changes, budget development, and strategic planning for the Department of Student Life

University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
Leadership and Service Center Director, Russell House University Union

May 2017 – May 2018

- Operational management, development, and implementation of educationally purposeful programs including over 500 student organizations, leadership education cohorts, mentorship programs, hot topic event series, retreats and conferences, extended orientation programs, alternative breaks, food pantry, community partner service initiatives, civic engagement and education, and recognition and awards with a \$929,282 budget
- Operationalized the newly renovated Leadership and Service Center through leading a team of 6 full-time professional staff, 16 part-time employees, and 150 student leaders with distributed leadership responsibilities that contribute to the student experience
- Oversaw spirit and traditions programs for students including Homecoming and Tiger Burn
- Expanded student training and usage of Anthology Engage (Garnet Gate) through strategic partnerships and initiatives
- Led the team to prioritize a collaborative and productive office culture with a shared vision, mission, and values

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

September 2016 – May 2017

Associate Director for Transitions and Leadership Programs, Student Involvement, Leadership and Transitions

- Coordinated the orientation program for Campus Life in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education, including selection, training, and advisement of 160 Orientation Leaders, 8 Captains, and a NODA intern. Supervised the Program Coordinator and Residence Life Fellow for International Students
- Supported, designed, and implemented transition and leadership programs for a variety of student populations, including first-year students, transfer students, and international students
- Supported the development and implementation of pre-orientation programs sponsored by various departments across campus
- Contributed to the development of a campus-wide leadership education curriculum for the office of student involvement, leadership, and transitions

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

September 2016 – May 2017

Campus Life Center Doctoral Intern

- Shadowed and participated in design development meetings for a large-scale student union capital project (\$8 million, 105,000 square feet) under the supervision of Dr. Ben Perlman
- Reviewed documents to understand the previous stages of the project in context of the current status
- Developed communications, policies, and procedures for campus stakeholders related to construction and its stresses on campus ecology

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

May 2015 – May 2017

Student Intervention Services, Office of Student Success

- Served 15,000 students through an on-call rotation system with 10 trained Campus Life staff members
- Available by phone or email to coordinate the University's response for students experiencing acute distress and facilitate their access to resources and support
- Assisted students with crises including deep depression, thoughts of suicide, short-term financial emergencies, academic challenges, transportation needs, and personal or family illnesses

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

May 2015 – August 2016

Assistant Director for New Student and Transition Programs, Center for Community Engagement and Leadership

- Managed the Orientation program for 1,350 incoming first-year students, 250 transfer students, and their families in collaboration with the Emory College of Arts and Sciences with a \$200,000 budget
- Coordinated a collaborative community and advocacy initiative for all first-year students that addressed topics of integrity, dialogue across difference, and interpersonal violence prevention
- Designed and implemented the Weeks of Welcome program for six weeks following fall Orientation
- Assisted Family Programs including Family Orientation, Family Weekend, and regular family communications
- Advised student leaders involved in the Residence Hall Association who advocated and programmed for undergraduate and graduate residents through a \$23,600 operating budget

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Special Projects Coordinator, Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life

January 2015 – April 2015

- Supported Emory Panhellenic Council through recruitment preparation, execution, and potential new member support
- Reactivated the Epsilon Eta chapter of Order of Omega and coordinated logistics for recruitment and initiation of new members

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Complex Director, Office of Residence Life

June 2012 – April 2015

- Managed the daily operation of a traditional-style undergraduate residence hall complex for 340 students
- Designed, piloted, and implemented a new living learning community focused on Social Entrepreneurship as part of the First Year at Emory (FYE) program
- Hired, trained, advised and supervised 50 student leaders that developed and implemented residence hall programming totaling \$13,000 and supported students through conflict resolution, crisis management, emergency procedures, personal wellness, and community living
- Shared an on-call rotation to manage campus crisis and adjudicated conduct cases for violations to the Student Code of Conduct
- Served as the Pre-College Program Co-Director in 2013. Coordinated and planned signature events for the Pre-College program, a six-week residential, co-curricular program for 300 high school students that included housing assignments, opening and closing operations, and budget with revenue and expenses exceeding \$200,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| • University 401, Graduation with Leadership Distinction, University of South Carolina | 2019 – present |
| • Advanced Peer Counseling Instructor, Emory University | 2016 – 2017 |
| • Pre-Major Advising Connections 101 Instructor, Emory University | 2016 |
| • Resident Advisor Class Committee, Emory University | 2014 |
| • Peer Counseling Instructor, Emory University | 2012 – 2015 |

RECOGNITION

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| • Katharine Heath Manning Perry Award, Junior League of Columbia | 2024 |
| • White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities | 2024 |
| • Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, Honorary Member, USC Chi Circle | 2023 |
| • Commitment to Innovation Award, University of South Carolina | 2023 |
| • Commitment to Innovation Award, University of South Carolina | 2019 |
| • Doing the Most Good Award, Salvation Army | 2019 |
| • New Staff Member of the Year, University of South Carolina | 2018 |
| • Diane L. Cooper Outstanding Ed.D. Student, University of Georgia | 2017 |
| • Ashoka Cordes Innovation Award | 2017 |
| • Campus Life Awards of Service New Professional Honor, Emory University | 2014 |
| • Campus Life Excellence in Service Award, Emory University | 2013 |
| • Ted Miller Award: Most Outstanding Graduate Student, University of Georgia | 2012 |
| • Cheerleading Captain, Furman University | 2009-2010 |
| • Senior Order: Female Leadership Honor Society, Furman University | 2009 |
| • Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, Furman University | 2009 |

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- Dialogue Across Difference Committee, University of South Carolina 2024 – present
- The IDEA Living Learning Community, University of South Carolina 2024
- Carolina Experience Committee, University of South Carolina 2023 – 2024
- Gamecock CommUnity Shop Committee Chair, University of South Carolina 2022 – 2024
- Student Government SEC Exchange Host, University of South Carolina 2022
- Safely Engaging in Expression Delegate, University of South Carolina 2021 – present
- University Strategic Plan Committee, University of South Carolina 2021
- Hazing Prevention and Education Committee, University of South Carolina 2020 – present
- Creativibe Co-Chair, University of South Carolina 2019
- School Transition and Integration Committee, Emory University 2016 – 2017
- Open Expression Observer Committee, Emory University 2015 – 2017
- Safe Space Facilitator, Emory University 2015 – 2017
- Campus Life Hot Topics Planning Team, Emory University 2014 – 2017
- Committee on Student Entrepreneurship, Emory University 2013 – 2016
- Social Entrepreneurship Living-Learning Community Task Force, Chair, Emory University 2013 – 2014
- Four Year Residential Education Experience Committee, Emory University 2013 – 2014
- Harris Hall Owner/Architect/Contractor Committee, Emory University 2013

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

- Association of College Personnel Administrators (ACPA)
 - Commission for New Professionals and Graduate Students, Faculty in Residence Chair* 2013 – 2014
 - Commission for Student Involvement, Fraternity and Sorority Life* 2011 – 2012
- Columbia Chamber of Commerce
 - Leadership Columbia* 2019 – 2020
- Georgia Housing Officers
 - Georgia Resident Assistant Saturday Seminar Program Chair* 2012 - 2013
- Junior League of Columbia
 - Community Impact Liaison* 2024 – present
 - Community Research and Project Development Chair* 2022 – 2024
 - Community Impact Research Chair* 2020 – 2022
- National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
- Southeastern Association for College Students (SACSA)
 - SACSA Social Innovation Task Force Chair* 2016 – 2017
- Southeastern Association of Housing Officers
 - Regional Entry Level Institute Co-Host* 2013 - 2016
- University of South Carolina
 - Children's Center Board of Directors* 2022 – present
 - Emerging Leaders Program* 2018 – 2019
 - LEAD: Supervisory Essentials Graduate* 2017 – 2018

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Gardner, J. (Host). (2025, February 24). *Amber Fallucca, Ambra Hiott, & Silvia Patricia Rios Husain - The Carolina Experience* (episode 148) [Audio podcast]. In *Office Hours with John Gardner*. Retrieved from <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1808070/episodes/16436953>.

Rios Husain, S. P., Fallucca, A., Hiott, A. Y. (2024, October). *Carolina Experience: Initiating a Campuswide Focus and Transition Past the Collegiate First Year*, Gardner Institute Symposium on Transforming the Postsecondary Experience, Pittsburg, PA.

Hiott, A. Y. (2024, April). *Assessment as a Flashlight: Illuminating Purpose, Design, and Results*, NASPA Assessment Short Course, NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Virtual.

Hiott, A. Y., Yarbrough, E. B. (2024, March). *Dr. Daughter and Dr. Dad: Navigate the Chaos and Make it Happen in Work and Life*, NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Seattle, WA.

Hiott, A. Y., Newton, R., Akonde, M., & Colascione, M. (2022, July). *How to Lead on Behalf of the Student Body through Student Data*, SEC Exchange, Columbia, SC.

Hiott, A. Y., Zerr, C., & Adams, A. (2020, September). *Doing Democracy Differently*, Division of Student Affairs Learning, Engaging, Transforming and Socializing (L.E.T.S.) Series, Columbia, SC.

Hiott, A. Y. & Zerr, C. (2019, April). *6 Strategic Social Innovation Questions*, Sullivan Summit, Raleigh, NC.

Hiott, A. Y. & Zerr, C. (2019, April). *The 'Value' of Multiple Perspectives*, Sullivan Summit, Raleigh, NC.

Harrison, T. & Hiott, A. Y. (2018, December). *Building a Culture of Leadership: A Campus Retrospective*, Leadership Educators Institute, Orlando, FL.

Hiott, A. Y. (2018, May). *Social Innovation in Higher Education: A Toolkit for Success*, SACSA, webinar.

Harrison, T., Bodrick, J., Camp, L.D., Fallucca, A., Hiott, A. Y., Patterson, R. (2018). Closing the feedback loop: Visible learning with intentional reflection. Synergy Newsletter, NASPA's Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Knowledge Community, 2-6. Retrieved from http://apps.naspa.org/files/Synergy_Spring_2018.pdf

Hiott, A., Gring-Pemble, L. (2017, November). *Social Innovation in Higher Education: Let's Get Started*, Southern Association for College Student Affairs, Chattanooga, TN.

Yarbrough, A. A., Wright, C., Greenspan, O., & Sutter, W. (2017, March). *A changemaker campus: Exploring the ecosystem*. Ashoka U, Miami, FL.

Yarbrough, A. A. (2016, November). *Social innovation in orientation: A collaborative case study*. National Orientation Directors Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Yarbrough, A. A., Shutt, M., Roche, R., Sweeney, D., & Rizzo, D. (2016, March). *Using collaborative leadership to create a first-year orientation program*. NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN.

Livingston, C., Yarbrough, A. A., Hopkins, N., Grant, A. E., Brugman, A., Doctor, A. E., & Taylor, D. M. (2014, November). *Moving in, moving through, and moving out of new professionalism*. Southern Association for College Student Affairs, Louisville, KY.

Yarbrough, A. A. & Yarbrough, E. B. (2012, March). *Generational transition: Stay true to yourself and innovate future generations*. American College Personnel Association, Louisville, KY.