

Cristine Vlcek is a first-year master's student in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management (FKRM) at the University of Manitoba.

***Vision for NASSS:*** As a graduate student, the annual meetings are an invaluable opportunity to connect with other students in the infancy of their careers and to network with scholars across the intricate interdisciplinary fields that create the NASSS community. These opportunities to cross-pollinate ideas are excellent for academic growth and research. I have yet to attend a conference and as I put forth my name during these unprecedented times of COVID-19, I would like to be part of not only the traditional aspects of being a Grad Student Rep, but also as part of the team that will mostly likely go on to develop new strategic planning for alternative ways for future conferences, presentations and access planning made available for attendees. Funding has always been a key issue for students to attend conferences, but health concerns have now brought to our attention the importance of keeping communities connected, socially mobile and inclusive when physical connectivity is not an option. Developing opportunities for Graduate Students to participate in alternate ways and alternative activities from a distance would be an intriguing role to fulfill, while carrying on with traditional practices.

***Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience:*** As a first-year master's student I have leapt at most, if not every opportunity presented to me that is both intellectually interesting and academically developing. As a result, I currently sit on several committees as the FKRM Graduate Student Representative: *The Academic Advisory Committee, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Risk Management Committee, Graduate Student Council, and the Education/Nursing Research Ethics Board* as a reviewer. As a Research Assistant I have helped organized a Community Forum, where I also participated as a note taker. Additionally, as a Teaching Assistant in FKRM, I have lead seminars that tackle the importance of race, gender, body impairment and inclusivity. Outside of the academic world I have held leadership positions with my favorite being a Northern Water Smart Instructor. This position required me to travel and live in various remote communities across Manitoba, where I organized, taught and certified participants in courses such as First Aid, Boat Operation and swimming. Currently I am a Staff Justice of The Peace in the Province of Manitoba, and a Children's Ward volunteer at Health Sciences Center. The above mentioned demonstrate my ability to organize events and manage time, however and most importantly it demonstrates the ability to communicate with members of various communities in a respectful manner, which I personally find to be a key leadership and lifestyle quality that is important to a scholars current and future pathways.

***Summary of Publications/Presentations:*** None! Due to COVID-19, all opportunities to attend conferences or participate in presentations have been suspended. Currently I am working on developing the proposal for my master's thesis.

GSR

Shannon Jolly is a first-year doctoral student in the Sport Management Program at the University of Georgia.

**Vision for NASSS:** NASSS has a rich history of providing a platform for sport scholars, practitioners and supporters to engage with the sociological study of sports. NASSS is a chance for new researchers like myself, to learn and grow from others in the industry. As a Grad Student Representative (GSR) I plan to incorporate skills and knowledge I've attained through my professional and leadership experience to serve as a liaison between the graduate students and the Board. In addition, I plan to utilize my marketing and events experience to assist in event and conference planning.

**Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience:** Through my journey to a PhD program I've had the privilege of gaining valuable leadership experience as a professional that I believe will be beneficial to NASSS as a Graduate Rep. I have five years of leadership experience in various capacities within sport and entertainment marketing. In my experience within sport marketing I managed a team of up to eight people and was responsible for developing and managing and tracking team deliverables for client activations. In 2018, I transitioned into academia where currently serve as a program manager at Morehouse College. At Morehouse I oversee an NSF grant, in which I manage a \$3MM+ program budget, and a team of 14 employees. I also currently serve as the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Campus Coordinator where I oversee the program budget, plan, coordinate and execute events and conferences, and provide support for 150+ students at UGA. In addition, I was recently elected to serve on the UGA Athletic Association's Diversity & Inclusion Council.

**Summary of Publications/Presentations:** As a first year-PhD student, I am currently working diligently to produce noteworthy publications in my focus of diversity and inclusion in sport. Currently, I have two publications with my work in increasing youth minority participation in STEM that were published in the National Science Foundation's - National Science Board (2018): iSTEM – Morehouse's Innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Project and iTEST – Increasing Minority Participation in STEM. I have done guest lectures in Morehouse College's Department of Kinesiology on Culturally Responsive Programming in Sports and Intro to Sport Marketing. In addition, I presented Lifting the veil: An anti-deficit approach to Black student- athlete academic success at the 2020 Black Student Athlete Summit.