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President's Corner

Greetings TennACADA!

I hope that the fall term is going well for you. It's hard to think that it is already November!

The Executive Board would like to thank Dr. Darling, Jeff Elliott, Carolyn Becker, Sidi Kazungu, and Jake Roberts for presenting at the TennACADA Brown Bag Lunch and sharing lessons learned from the NACADA National Conference. For those of you who were unable to attend, we will be posting information shared to the TennACADA website.

At the beginning of the year, the TennACADA membership was surveyed for possible program ideas, and many were interested in a program around career-

related issues. The Executive Board is excited for the November TennACADA program, Career Development and Management in (and around) Advising, on November 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center Multi-Purpose Room. We hope that many of you will join us.

Good luck with the end of the term. See you on November 13!

Mark

Mark E. Willoughby
President, TennACADA
2013-2014



NACADA National Conference in Salt Lake City, UT - October 2013



New Advisor Spotlight with Kirsten Pitcock

Kirsten Pitcock is one of the newest advisors in the College of Arts & Sciences. Please take a few moments to learn more about Kirsten.

How did you get involved with academic advising, and how long have you been working at UT?

I started academic advising as a part of my graduate assistantship at the University of West Georgia. I worked primarily with three mentorship programs. One focused on at-risk students, one focused on second-year students, and the other with our state HOPE Scholarship recipients. However, I was fortunate enough to also have the opportunity to work during our heavy advising season at UWG and advise pre-majors from across departments. I started working at UT in May of this year, but I am definitely a VFL. I did my undergraduate degree here at UT and am a huge Big Orange fan.

What do you like most about working with students in the College of Arts & Sciences?

I love working in Arts & Sciences because there is so much variety with the students that we work with. No two advising sessions are the same. I love that I get to see students who may be within the same major, but have completely different career aspirations or different inspirations for getting to where they are here at UT. From readmit students to first-semester freshmen, it is hard to get bored with a job that keeps you on your toes and learning about new majors and fields every single day.

What qualities and characteristics do you think are important for an academic advisor to be successful?

I think to be a successful advisor, you really need to be a good listener, empathetic, and patient. It is easy to get frustrated with a student that doesn't seem to have a direction, but it is important to remember that a lot of students are still finding the path that is right for them. When I find myself frustrated with a student who isn't taking their academics into their own hands, I remind myself that I was that freshman once. I came to UT undecided and it took me time and several misfit majors to find my path. You also really need to have strong listening skills in order to really hear what students are telling you. They may think that don't have a major in mind, but after hearing their interests and goals, you may know a major that is the perfect fit that they didn't yet know existed.

Outside of work, what hobbies or interests do you have?

Outside of work, I spend a lot of time with my dog, Bruce (just ask my coworkers), and running. I'm currently training for the Disney Princess Half-Marathon. I'm also a huge sports fan and spend a lot of time cheering on the Vols, Braves, Falcons, and Blackhawks.



TennACADA Upcoming Event - Mark your Calendar!

Professional Development Panel on November 13th

We spend so much time collaborating with students to help them realize their academic and career goals. Based on survey feedback from earlier this semester, career path development/management is, not surprisingly, a major area of interest within the TennACADA community, too. Accordingly, we will be hosting a professional development panel event on Wednesday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center designed to give our membership the opportunity to hear from and ask career-related questions of UT administrators in a wide variety of professional roles, but who have a shared background and interest in academic advising. Dr. Amy Cathey, Executive Director of UT's Full-Time MBA Program, will moderate the event. We hope you'll join us!

New Advisor Spotlight with Jake Roberts

Jake Roberts is new to the UT advising community. He currently is in his third month as an academic advisor within the College of Business Administration. Here is some background information on Jake.

How did you get involved with academic advising?

I got my first opportunity to advise students during my graduate work at Ohio University in the Spring of 2012. I had a practicum opportunity advising multicultural students on their scholarship requirements through the Office of Multicultural Student Access and Retention. After gaining experience advising students, I knew that was what I wanted to do within higher education. Although my graduate assistantship was with housing, I knew that working in an advising office was the best fit with my personality and work style.

What do you like most about working with students in the College of Business Administration?

I love being able to have such an influence on the lives of the students I meet. As an advisor I have the opportunity to meet many different people a day, all with their own story. Students are able to look to me for advice, and I am able to confidently recommend various courses of action. Working with students in a one-on-one setting allows me to get to know what motivates them and what they are passionate about. Being an advocate for students in achieving their goals allows me to keep my life in perspective about what is important.

What qualities and characteristics do you think are important for an academic advisor to be successful?

Being able to really listen to what a student has to say is crucial for an advisor to be successful. Also, having humility goes a long way in becoming a better advisor and

co-worker. I am learning and growing every day in this position. I am thankful to be able to have this impact on students' lives. Being able to be a forward thinker has helped me shape the future of my students.

Outside of work, what hobbies or interests do you have?

One of my biggest hobbies is dominating my fantasy football league. Besides that I like to play disc golf and follow pretty much all Cleveland sports (I'm from Ohio!). I'm also a big fan of The Simpsons and I like to laugh (mostly at myself).



Hope you are having a great fall semester!

~ Mark, Andrew, Luke, and Liam