

# TennACADA Times

The Official Academic Advising Newsletter of  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

TENNACADA WEBSITE  
TENNACADA@UTK.EDU  
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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well folks, we did it. We survived another summer of orientation! The 2015-2016 TennACADA executive team is very excited to get this school year started with some great programming, including a wrap up of NACADA's national conference, veterans' issues, and working with distressed students.

I also want to introduce a few new members of our executive team. We are pleased to add Courtney Shaffer, Advising Coordinator in the College of Nursing, as our new Vice President and Ashleigh Powers, Coordinator of Academic Advising for the Department of Psychology, as our new Communications Chair! I look forward to working with all of you in the coming school year and wish you luck as we begin to approach our heavy advising season.

I'll leave you with a Harry Potter quote from the wise Albus Dumbledore: "It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be."

Have a wonderful semester,  
Kirsten Pitcock  
2015 TennACADA President



## Upcoming Fall 2015 TennACADA Events

**NACADA National  
Conference Review  
October 14th, 3:30-  
5pm, Hodges Library  
6th Floor Conference  
Room**

Members who attended the National NACADA conference will provide updates and lessons-learned from favorite sessions attended.

**Effective Advising  
Strategies: Veteran  
Students  
November 11th, 3-5pm,  
HBB440**

Topics will include ROTC information, best practices, resources, and a veteran student panel.

**Assisting Students  
with Mental Health  
Challenges  
December 3rd, 3-5pm,  
HBB440**

Speakers will be present from the UT Counseling Center, the University of Tennessee Psychological Clinic, and the Center for Health Education and Wellness.

## 2nd Annual Collaborators for Change Summit



**Date of Summit:**

Friday, September 25th

**Time:** 8:00am-2:00pm

**Location:** McClung Museum for Natural History and Culture

**Theme:** “Ideas Into Practice”

**Included:** breakfast and luncheon

**More Information:** [Office for Diversity and Inclusion](#)

## Events to Keep on Your Calendar!

As you look forward to the coming academic year, keep the following events in mind as excellent professional development opportunities!

- 2016 NACADA **Region 3 Conference**, April 20th-22nd, Chattanooga, TN.
- 2015 NACADA **Annual Conference**, October 4th-7th, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2015 **Fall Advising Planning Meeting**, September 18th, 8am-Noon, I-House.
- 2016 **National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students**, February 3rd-5th, Atlanta, GA.
- **VOLFighter Panel**, composed of student veterans, September 21st, 4pm, G2 Stokely Management Center.

## Annual OUTstanding 2015 Seminar

**Date of Seminar:**

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Location:**

Knoxville Convention Center

**Theme:**

LGBTQ+: Self-Revelations

**More Information and**

**Registration:** [here](#)



## NACADA Nominations: Region 3 Conference Awards



Know someone deserving of recognition? Consider nominating a fellow advisor, or even yourself, for a regional NACADA award. The deadline for Region 3 NACADA Conference award nominations is **November 1st, 2015.**

Award categories include:  
 —Excellence in Advising Primary Role  
 —Excellence in Advising Faculty Advisor  
 —Excellence in Advising New Advisor  
 —Excellence in Advising Advising Administrator

Based on the Spring 2015 TennACADA Award Ceremony, the TennACADA Executive Board will be nominating the following members:  
 -Sara Harp, New Advisor  
 -Margy Wirtz-Henry, Primary Role

2014-2015 President Shanna Pendergrast and award winner Margy Wirtz-Henry at the 2015 TennACADA Award Ceremony

### Get to Know Your Colleague! Spotlight on Jared Johnson



Jared Johnson, Arts and Sciences

Academic Advisor

#### How did you get into the academic advising profession?

I started out working part-time as a GTA in the Arts and Sciences Advising office. I realized after the first six months that I really enjoyed advising and fostering intellectual growth in the students, and it really grew from there. I knew, once I graduated with my MA degree, that I wanted to make advising my profession.

#### Tell us about your proudest moment that has occurred while working with a student.

I had a student who was initially interested in Biology, but when asked about her interest; she told me that she really couldn't think of many majors. During our first advising appointment, we started talking about myths

regarding majors and careers. We talked about finding a major that fits her interests, strengths, and ambitions. After that first appointment, the student ruminated and eventually discovered that she needed to pursue her passion, which just happened to be archaeology. I enjoy asking those initial questions and producing that spark, which gets my students thinking critically about themselves and their interests.

#### What is your favorite thing about working at UT-Knoxville?

I think we have many creative individuals working across campus in various offices. I know that my students are in a good place because of all the resources on campus, such as Career Development and the Student Success Center to name a few. Everyone is so committed to providing a

fantastic experience for the undergraduate population, which promotes their social and intellectual growth. It is also great to see the university invest so much in the undergraduate population with new dorms and a student union.

#### What is your favorite quote?

"A critique is not a matter of saying that things are not right as they are. It is a matter of pointing out on what kinds of assumptions, what kinds of familiar, unchallenged, unconsidered modes of thought the practices that we accept rest." Michel Foucault (1981)

#### Tell us one fun fact we wouldn't know about you.

I read classical Greek and Latin.

## Get to Know Your Colleague! Spotlight on Tammy Renalds



Tammy Renalds,  
College of Education  
Health and Human  
Sciences Academic  
Advisor

### How did you get into the academic advising profession?

I actually became involved in academic advising as an undergraduate student here at UT. My major had a Peer Advising program in which students were required to meet with a Peer Advisor prior to their appointment with their Faculty Advisor. As Peer Advisors, we helped students sort through preliminary information to allow more time during their faculty appointment for other discussions. That experience was the beginning of my love for advising. Additionally, I had an internship as an undergraduate in the A & S Advising Center which I also thoroughly enjoyed and which then led to obtaining a GA position there.

### Tell us about your proudest moment that has occurred while working with a student.

It makes me happy any time I work with students and they leave my office better informed and relieved about the concerns they had when they arrived for the appointment. I also really enjoy connecting students with opportunities. Last semester, I assisted a student with her Study Abroad process. She was somewhat apprehensive, but she had a wonderful experience. She emailed me pictures from her trip, and it made my day to receive them!

### What is your favorite thing about working at UT-Knoxville?

I earned both my Bachelor's and my

Master's degrees from UTK so having the opportunity to work here feels like coming home. I am very happy to be here. I love the group of people in EHHS Advising with whom I have the good fortune to work with. They are fantastic!

### What is your favorite quote?

I don't know about an absolute favorite, but I really like this one from Eleanor Roosevelt: "All of life is a constant education."

### Tell us one fun fact we wouldn't know.

This is probably already common knowledge, but my husband, Doug, works here at UT in the Student Success Center. We have been married 23 years, and we have two fantastic daughters (and hopefully future Vols), Bailey, 16, and Kirby, 12.

# Have a wonderful semester!

-Kirsten, Courtney, Ashleigh & Sara