

# TennACADA Times

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

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## President's Corner

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As the fall semester approaches us, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for the work you do. Your commitment to The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and to our students never ceases to amaze me. I feel inspired and motivated by you!

When I look across campus and see my colleagues interact with students and their families, I am reminded of how great our advising and student success community are at The University of Tennessee. The interactions I observe reveal how important advisors and student success coaches are to our students and to their success. As our current field continues to grow and job titles continue to change, advising and academic coaching will be one of the most important services a student will receive on our campus.

The TennACADA Executive Committee and I are excited about the upcoming school year. Since the formation of TennACADA, a primary goal was to provide its members with opportunities for professional development and peer support, ultimately building a network of resources to enhance student success. With the events we have planned for the year, we hope to create an environment where we can share, exchange, and learn advising strategies and techniques from each. More importantly, we hope to build an even stronger advising and student success community.

I look forward to seeing you at the TennACADA events this year. Without you, there would be no TennACADA or advising and student success community. I look forward to serving you for the 2017-2018 academic year!

Best,  
Ryessia Jones Russell, *TennACADA President*



TennACADA Executive Board: Ryessia Jones, Ali Brewer, Merrill Walker, Morgan Ridgell

# Upcoming Fall 2017 Events

## **Welcome (Back) Reception for Advisors and Student Success Coaches**

**Wednesday, August 30, 2017**

**4:00 pm-5:00 pm, HBB 501**

The TennACADA Executive Board will provide a preview of the fall semester programming. The reception will provide a welcoming environment where advisors and student success coaches can see familiar faces and meet new advisors from other advising units. Light refreshments will be provided.

## **Navigating the Career Path: How to Prepare a Successful Portfolio**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2017**

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm, HBB West Wing (440)**

The advising community will learn about the changes made to the new career path and how it affects career advancement. We will hear from panelists who were promoted through the career path, and they will discuss how to create a successful portfolio. The advising community will also see examples of high quality portfolios to assist candidates in putting together their own portfolios for consideration.

## **TennACADA Happy Hour**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

**5:00 pm-6:30 pm, Fieldhouse Social at University Commons**

Join us for Happy Hour at the end of the workday! This is an opportunity to mix and mingle with the advising community in a less formal environment.

## **Scholarly Advisor and Success Coach:**

### **Tips About Preparing for Conferences and Submitting Scholarly Work**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm, HBB West Wing (440)**

The objective of this event is to help advisors and coaches become more scholarly. Members of the advising community will be provided with tips on how to prepare for and attend a conference, and we will also discuss the different ways we can contribute to the advising literature. In addition, this event will provide individuals with a space to practice delivering their NACADA presentations. Presenters will be able to receive constructive feedback about their presentations, and non-presenters will be able to learn from their peers about how to submit a successful NACADA proposal.

## **TennACADA Happy Hour**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

**5:00 pm-6:30 pm, Ruth's Chris Steak House**

Join us for Happy Hour at the end of the workday! This is an opportunity to mix and mingle with the advising community in a less formal environment.

## **Advising Transfer Students: Strategies for Today's Realities and Tomorrow's Challenges**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm, HBB West Wing (440)**

Advisors and coaches will discuss how we can create an easier transition process for transfer students. Specifically, the panelists will discuss how to maintain transfer students' realities about attending a traditional four-year institution. By attending this event, attendees will learn more about the community college transfer process. Furthermore, this event will help college partners develop relationships with advisors at local community colleges.

# NACADA Annual Conference

We hope to see many fellow TennACADA members at the 2017 NACADA Annual Conference, Meet Me in St. Louis: The Gateway to Student Success!

**This year's conference is held October 11-14 in St. Louis, Missouri at America's Center.**

Attending the annual conference is a great opportunity to further your own professional development, network with advisors from across the country, and experience new approaches to advising. TennACADA also has several members who will be presenting in St. Louis, so please support our UTK colleagues if you are in attendance.

If you are interested in presenting at a conference, it is not too early to start planning a proposal for our Region 3 Conference, which will be held in Charleston, South Carolina in May! Proposals for concurrent sessions are due December 4.

We hope to see you in St. Louis! You can visit the [NACADA website](#) for more information on the annual conference.

Merrill Walker, Secretary  
Morgan Ridgell, Communications Chair



**NACADA**  
THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY  
FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING

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## TennACADA Awards Recap

We had some very deserving award winners last spring that we would like to recognize once again for their outstanding work at UTK!

**Outstanding New Advisor 2017- Tammy Renalds**, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

**Excellence in Advising 2017- Lisa Byrd**, Tickle College of Engineering

**Empowering Leadership in Administration 2017- Tammi Small**, Haslam College of Business

**Exceptional Faculty Mentor and Advisor 2017- Dr. Sally Hunter**, Child and Family Studies

**Advocate in Advising: Friend to the Community 2017- Peggy Love**, Assistant Registrar

Again, congratulations to all of our 2017 award winners!

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## Advisor Spotlight:

# ROBIN ANDERSON

*Robin Anderson is an academic advisor in the Haslam College of Business. She came to UTK after working at Pellissippi and has been in her current role since January 2017.*

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

I worked as a school counselor in Franklin, TN at the middle and high school level for seven years. When I was ready for a change, I did some career counseling and discovered that I would probably enjoy working one-on-one with students at a university. After a week of shadowing academic advisors here at UT, I realized that this profession would be a great fit. My first job as an academic advisor was at Pellissippi State Community College, where I worked for about a year before I came to UT.

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

I have started to see some students here whom I advised when I was working at Pellissippi – it's exciting to see that they made it to this next step!

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

Here are three: 1) the beautiful campus - I even love my walk from the parking lot to Haslam (on the pedestrian walkway)! 2) top-notch co-workers, and 3) the administrative support for advisors and our professional development.

### **What are some of your hobbies?**

Reading, dancing, singing

### **What is your favorite quote?**

When we own the story, we can write a brave new ending. -Brene' Brown



## Advisor Spotlight:

# KATIE PERRY

*Katie Perry is an academic advisor in the Tickle College of Engineering. She completed her graduate coursework at UTK and has been in her current role since May 2017.*

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

I completed my Master's degree in College Student Personnel at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in May. I knew I wanted to stay in Knoxville and noticed a lot of academic advising positions open. As a former Hall Director, I always valued the one on one conversations I had with students. I thought academic advising would be a great transition for me. The position encompasses so many new aspects of a university that I had yet to explore while allowing for meaningful connections with students.

### **What are some of your hobbies?**

I have many hobbies! I enjoy playing the guitar, listening to podcasts (New suggestions are always welcome!), and trying new food! My fiancé and I really enjoy doing escape rooms as well.

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

My proudest moments derive from new understandings or renewed motivation. If I can get a student to view a campus resource as a helpful instead of scary, that is a win in my book. Overall, I think my proudest moments happen when mutual learning and respect can be fostered. And, of course, watching our students cross that stage!

### **What is your favorite quote?**

My favorite quote is from Maya Angelou. "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." It is currently hanging in my office! It is my goal to make every person who comes into my office (and into my life) feel heard and valued.

### **What is your favorite thing about working at UTK?**

The people have always been my favorite part about UT. In the two short years I have lived in Knoxville, I have had the opportunity to forge relationships all over campus. The students, the faculty, and the staff are what makes coming to work fun!



## Advisor Spotlight:

# Chris Shuping

*Chris Shuping is an academic advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. He completed his graduate coursework at UTK and has been in his current role since May 2017.*

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

I started working in Arts and Sciences Advising Services in May 2015 as a GTA while I completed UTK's College Student Personnel program. Prior to that I worked as an academic mentor in the University of South Carolina's athletics department for a year. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had over the years that allowed me to be where I am today. I had a faculty advisor during my time as an undergraduate student at the University of South Carolina, but one of my mentors told me that some schools have professional advisors and the rest is history.

### **What is your favorite quote?**

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible!"  
- Audrey Hepburn

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

I am going to broaden this to think of proudest moments with students. I have really enjoyed helping exploratory students find majors that fit their interests (especially when they thought it was not possible to find a major that checked off all of the boxes for them). I also really enjoy encouraging students to try out foreign languages that initially make them nervous like Arabic and Russian.

### **What is your favorite thing about working at UTK?**

My favorite thing about working at UT is the people. My colleagues in Arts and Sciences Advising Services love food as much as I do, and I really enjoy that we have office potlucks as often as we do. My favorite workday each year is definitely Soup Day at the end of the Fall semester. If your office isn't sharing soup together in December, you should try it!

### **Tell us one fun fact we would not know about you.**

I taught English in Russia for a year after college. It was an amazing experience. Living through a Russian winter was a huge adjustment for me (since I had lived in South Carolina my whole life), but I survived to talk about it now! That experience has helped me to be a supporter of study abroad for my students, and I am always happy to talk with students about what to expect while studying and living in a different country.

