

TennACADA Times

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TennACADA Events

Honors & Scholars Programs Open House February 5, 2020; 3:30–4:30

Join the advising and success community at the Baker Center to learn more about the Chancellor’s Honors Program, 1794 Scholars Program, Honors Leadership Program, and Haslam Scholars Program and to connect with honors faculty and staff.

Thornton Center Information Session and Open House February 19, 2020; 3:30–4:30

The Thornton Center is an academic success center for UTK student athletes. Staff serve students in a variety of ways including tutoring, writing help, math support, and mentoring. Visit this unique space and meet the people who work with student athletes every day.

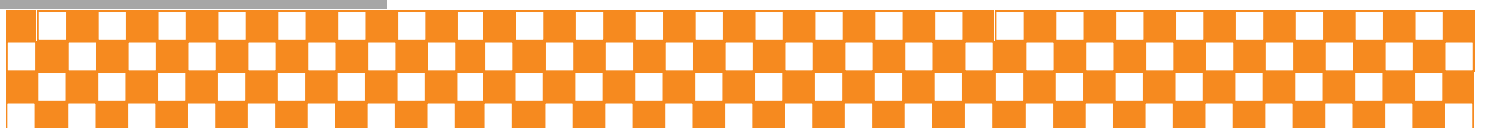
State of the Campus Panel March 4, 2020; 2:30–4:00, SU 169

The campus is constantly developing. Several leaders on campus will be available to answer questions about new initiatives that have an impact on students, faculty, and staff. Bring questions for the following participants:

- Ashton Braddock, UT Promise Coordinator
- Dr. Janelle Coleman, Executive Director for Diversity and Engagement
- Dr. Wendy Davis, Director of the Transfer Center
- Lindsay Hansen, Director of New Student and Family Programs
- José Lee-Perez, Academic Success Advocate
- Shanna Pendergrast, EAB Navigate Implementation Team



Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy



Spotlight: Ronda Wright



Ronda serves as an academic advisor and adjunct assistant professor for the College of Art and Architecture. She has been in this role since summer 2019.

Please tell us a little bit about your professional background.

I am a non-traditional, first-generation alumna of the University of Tennessee School of Art, focusing in sculpture and photography. I was a member of three design build projects with the College of Architecture + Design during my time as an undergraduate student. After graduating, I taught metal fabrication and finishing for CoAD while owning a design/fabrication studio. My love for teaching and working with students led me to graduate school at NYSCC at Alfred University, NY. During my time as an assistant professor, I taught at

the large university level, at a small and intimate liberal arts college, and at a community college.

My passion in working with students as well as my personal creative/design work integrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice into the curriculum and culture. This led me in the direction of student affairs, serving as the Assistant Director of Intercultural Affairs at Western Carolina. When my current position at UT opened I felt it was the right move to incorporate my experience and passion and to assist students in their educational journey, while serving on our college's newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Council.

How do you think your background influences your work with students?

I think my background helps me understand and relate to our non-traditional and marginalized students on a different level. There have been quite a few discussions with students over the years as an assistant professor and advisor about experimentation and process. The thing I try to get students to realize is their educational journey does not have to be stifling and prescriptive.

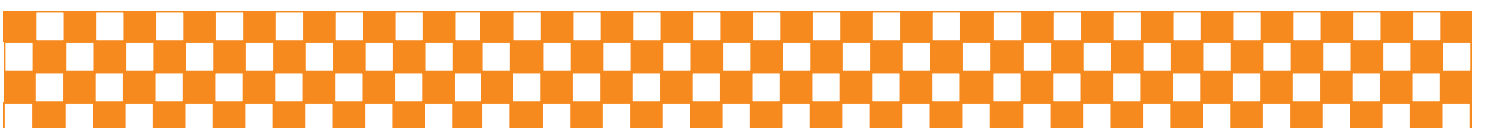
What is most important to you in your work with students?

Their holistic well-being.

What is your favorite quote?

"You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one." James Anthony Froude

Tell us one fun fact we would not know about you. During my time as an undergrad here and after graduation, I owned and operated a design studio that specialized in metal. I was known as *The Woman of Steel*....I think there are still t-shirts floating around.



Spotlight: Jeremy Mobley

Jeremy serves as an academic advisor in Tickle College of Engineering. He has been in this role since September 2019.

How did you get into the academic advising profession?

For many years, my long-term career goal has been to serve in a leadership role that can positively impact an entire population of university students. For me, academic advising was the next step in my professional advancement towards that goal.

What is your favorite quote?

One quote that has always stuck out to me comes from season 4, episode 20 of Parks and Rec. During a debate, Leslie Knope says, “If I seem too passionate, it’s because I care. If I come on strong, it’s because I feel strongly, and if I push too hard, it’s because things aren’t moving fast enough.” I don’t know why, but that really resonated with me.

What are some of your hobbies?

At my core, I’m a huge fan of all things geeky. I love video games, tabletop board games, comic books, and my partner and I have quite the collection of Marvel Legends action figures.

Tell us one fun fact we would not know about you?

While I wouldn’t consider myself skilled at it, I love to cosplay, especially as Spider-Man and other Spider-Verse characters.

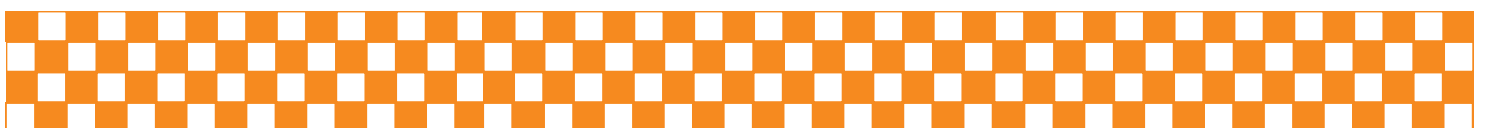
What are the most challenging and rewarding parts of your job?

Most challenging: As a new advisor, remembering students’ names.

Most rewarding: Having students tell me “this was really helpful” as they leave my office.

What is most important to you in your work with students?

In this position, I have found that students respond best to our interactions when they can sense I have a genuine interest in their curricular and co-curricular experiences. I also think authenticity is a part of that. I want students to see I have a vested interest in their academic success, and I think when they do, I become someone who can foster their professional growth as opposed to someone who is just checking off a box so they can register for their next semester of classes.



Spring Events

Event Name	Date	Time	Location	Type of Event
Advising and Success Spring Retreat #1	1/24/2020	8:30—1:00	SU 272A	Retreat
Green Zone Training	1/29/2020	9:00—11:30	SU 272C	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Honors & Scholars Programs Open House	2/5/2020	3:30—4:30	Howard Baker Center	TennACADA
NACADA webinar: A Deeper Look at Incorporating Coaching Conversations into Academic Advising Practice	2/11/2020	2:00—3:30	SU 362B	Webinar
CSRDE webinar: Peer Coaching: A Model for Supporting the Persistence of First-Generation College Students	2/19/2020	2:00—3:00	OIRA conference room, 5th floor Dunford Hall	Webinar
Thornton Center Information Session followed by an Open House	2/19/2020	3:30—4:30	Thornton Center	TennACADA
State of the Campus Panel	3/4/2020	2:30—4:00	SU 169	TennACADA
Diversity Workshop with Jermain Pipkins	3/6/2020	9:00—11:00 1:00—3:00	Conference Center 413AB	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
NACADA Webinar: Successful Advising Strategies for Supporting Student Academic Recovery	3/19/2020	2:00—3:30	SU 362B	Webinar
NACADA Webinar: Academic Advising for Social Justice: Theory, Reflection, and Practice	4/15/2020	2:00—3:30	SU 362B	Webinar
CRSDE webinar: Fleets, Captains, and Crews: Creating Programs to Help New Students Navigate the Stormy Seas of the First Year	4/22/2020	2:00—3:00	OIRA conference room, 5th floor Dunford Hall	Webinar
Advising and Success Spring Retreat #2	5/5/2020	12:00—4:00	SU 272A	Retreat

