

TennACADA Times

May 2020 — [TennACADA Website](#) — TennACADA@utk.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TennACADA and NACADA Awards	2-3
Kelsi Schaer	4
Chancellor's Awards	5
New Executive Board	6

TennACADA President, Robin Anderson



Greetings! Friends, it's the end of May. We made it. We reached the end of another year, and I am confident it is one that will not be forgotten. We have adapted to inconceivable change and challenges, and we assisted each other to make that happen. Yes, we are very much still in the midst of crisis and a pandemic, but I am grateful to be part of this community and to work with all of you as we find our way through.

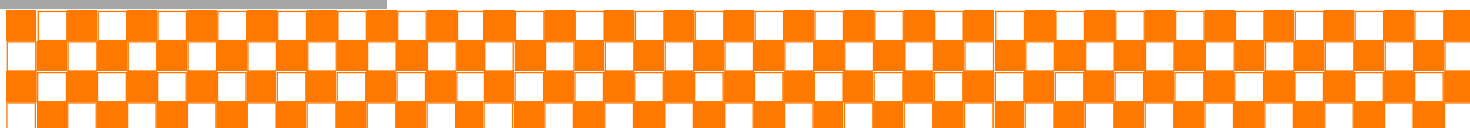
Summer and orientation, for me, are always the beginning of a new cycle and a fresh start as we welcome all of the new scholars excited to start their own unique journey as a Volunteer. This particular beginning brings with it so many new things for all of us, including new offices, colleagues, and procedures (see photo of my newest colleague and me in our home office). It feels a bit unsettling and overwhelming some days, but my hope is that we will continue to collaborate and take care of each other while we do the important work of empowering and supporting our students. Our students need us more than ever, and we will find new ways to make sure they feel connected and that they matter. We also need to find new ways to connect with and learn from each other. I am confident that we will and that we will continue to grow in ways that we cannot even imagine.

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as TennACADA President. Thank you to my perfect and treasured group of fellow officers on this year's TennACADA Executive Board (Kerri, Stephanie, Emilie, and Demetria), for all of your valuable time, creative ideas, and dependable execution of plans. I am excited to welcome the 2020-2021 Executive Board: Kerri, Ali, Lindsay, Melanie, and Karmen. I know you will have fun, and I look forward to participating in all of next year's professional development and social events!

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Karen Sullivan-Vance for her amazing leadership and support of TennACADA the past few years. TennACADA congratulates her on her new position with NACADA The Global Community for Academic Advising as the Associate Director for Strategic Development. It is reassuring to know the role she will be playing with NACADA, but here at UT we will certainly miss her insight, advocacy, and incredible expertise very much.

Wishing you all a healthy and productive summer—as well as periods of rest, connection with nature and loved ones, and time away from the computer! I hope to see you soon.

Robin



Annual TennACADA Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of TennACADA Awards this year! These staff and faculty make a huge impact on our Volunteer community, and we are excited to recognize their contributions.



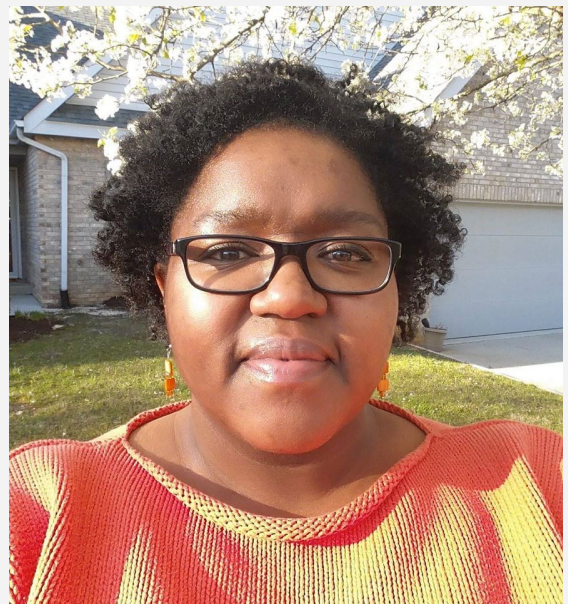
Jeremy Mobley
Outstanding
New Advisor



Ashleigh Powers
Outstanding Advisor-
Primary Role



Stephanie Kit
Lighting the Way
Award



Shanna Pendergrast
Outstanding Advising-
Administrator



TennACADA Awards (continued)



Kevin Kit
Outstanding Advising-
Faculty Advising



Joanna Rathbone
Innovative Advising
Award



Christie Kennedy
Advocate in Advising:
Friend to the Community

Global NACADA Award Recipient and Regional Liaison

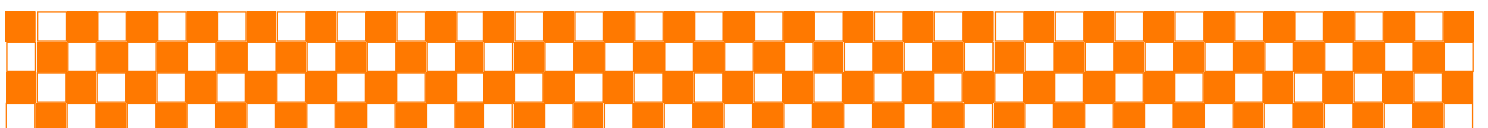
Merrill Walker received an Outstanding Advising Award-Primary Advising Role-Certificate of Merit this year from NACADA. Madeline Anderson was recently elected as Region 3 Tennessee Liaison, serving from 2020-2022.



Merrill Walker



Madeline Anderson



Spotlight: Kelsi Schaer

Kelsi serves as an Academic Counselor at the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center. She began this position in August 2019 and works with Football and Men's and Women's Track and Field.

Please tell us a little bit about your professional background.

Short and sweet! I started my professional career at UT as an Assistant Academic Counselor from 2016 - 2018, simultaneously earning my Master's degree in Sports Management during that time. In summer 2018, I moved up to the University of Pittsburgh to serve in a hybrid role between Student Affairs and Pitt Athletics as the Career Consultant for Student-Athletes. In August 2019, I had the opportunity to come back to UT and work as an Academic Counselor. As my parents love to say, "I boomeranged back to Tennessee."

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

Building champions for life. At some point, the student-athlete experience will end so it is of paramount importance that we are cultivating the next generation to be independent learners and thinkers who can set goals for themselves and navigate strategies and resources to meet those goals. And if they fall short, they will have cultivated the skills and abilities to be resilient and determined to learn from failure and forge ahead.

What are three career lessons you've learned thus far?

- Lift as you rise—it took a village to get you where you are!
- A closed mouth doesn't get fed—you must self-advocate for the experience you're seeking.
- Know your goal; Know your role—sometimes you'll have to dig into the weeds for the good of the team.

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

I'm a native of Portland, Oregon, and ran Track and Field at Oregon State University. (Go Beavs!)

What are some of your hobbies?

Hiking, wakeboarding, fly fishing, piano playing, singing, dancing, cooking, finding new breweries

Describe what you were like at age 10.

High energy! And setting record numbers of Girl Scout cookies sold.



Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Advising

Each year the Chancellor honors a select group of faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University for their leadership and excellence in a variety of areas. The Excellence in Advising awards are bestowed by the Office of the Chancellor and the Teaching Council of the Faculty Senate to honor outstanding work in advising. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



Ali Brewer
College of Arts and Sciences



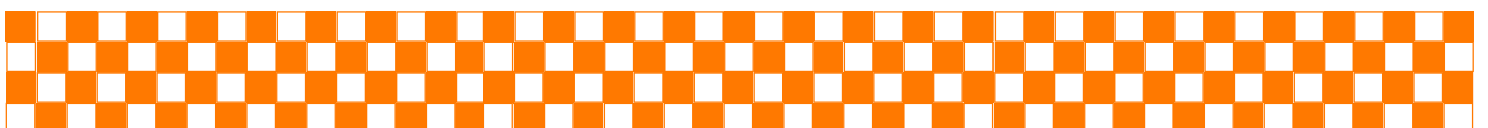
Tammy Renalds
College of Education, Health, and
Human Sciences



Sally Hunter
College of Education, Health, and
Human Sciences



David Anderson
College of Veterinary Medicine



TennACADA Executive Board 2020-2021

Welcome to the incoming TennACADA Executive Board.

- **President**—Kerri Cline, Tickle College of Engineering
- **Vice President**—Ali Aust, Student Success Center
- **Secretary**—Melanie Barts, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences
- **Communications Coordinator**—Lindsay Herrell, Haslam College of Business
- **Professional Development Committee Liaison**—Karmen Stephenson, College of Arts and Sciences

Class of 2020

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Graduation is a culmination of years of hard work and dedication. We celebrate our students' successes virtually now, and we look forward to the day when we can gather as a Volunteer community to continue that celebration!



*“On a Hallowed hill in Tennessee, Like Beacon shining bright, The stately walls of old UT,
Rise glorious to the sight”*

