



March 13, 2015

Hey everybody, it's spring! It's hard not to choose spring as a theme for this newsletter. After the snow days, super cold temps, and spring break week, it seems now is the time for a new start. Forget kicking off your new year's resolutions on January 1st - do 'em now! It's the perfect time because March 19 through April 30 is "Spring into Well-Being" at Mason. Find ways to get involved at <http://wbu.gmu.edu/spring-into-well-being>

Here's what's on my spring list: 1) I'm going to try yoga for the first time, 2) walk on a Wednesday, and 3) run (well, leisurely jog) the 19th Annual Victim's Rights 5K. If you're like me, you tend to focus a lot on the well being of your advisees and friends. Don't forget to focus on yourself. We all need to thrive together. Happy spring!

Ann Ludwick
Co-Chair, Mason Academic Advisor Network

Upcoming Events

March 16-20 - Registration Awareness Week

March 23/10:00am-2:00pm/Dewberry Lobby - [Academic Advising Expo](#)

March 23/9:30am-4:00pm/SUB I 3A - [Safe Zone Training](#)*

March 26/3:00pm-5:00pm/Robinson A410 - [Advising 104](#)*

March 27/10:00am-12:00pm/Robinson A410 - [Advising 103](#)*

*Please register in advance

Mason/VCCS Academic Advising Symposium Recap

by Brydin Banning

On Friday, February 20, MAAN hosted 69 NOVA advisors, counselors, faculty, and administrators at



the first Mason/VCCS Academic Advising Symposium. Conceptualized as an effort to make for a more seamless transition between community college and Mason for students, NOVA staff were introduced to the diversity of advising practices and policies at Mason and had the opportunity to learn additional information from our colleges and schools, as well as from support services around campus. Despite the bitterly cold day, the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, and we want to thank everyone who participated in the planning and execution of the event.

As a result of this effort, I now have an email distribution list that can be used to disseminate information to those who attended. If you have new programs, updates to existing programs, or other relevant information that you would like shared with our NOVA colleagues, please send the message to me at bbanning@gmu.edu, and I will forward it along.

New Programs for 2015-2016

There are a number of new majors and minors being introduced in the 2015-16 catalog. Check them out below!

NEW MAJORS

BFA in Musical Theater
BA in Music Technology
BS Atmospheric Science

NEW MINORS

Industrial-Organizational Psychology
Sound
Event Technical Production
Political Communication
Health Communication
Entrepreneurship*
International Business*
Arts and Social Change
Photography
Music and Well-Being

*open only to School of Business students

Other Professional Development Opportunities

UndocuAlly Training

Sunday, April 12, 2015; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Modeled after the UndocuAlly trainings at UC Berkeley, Mason DREAMers introduced its first UndocuAlly training in the Spring semester of 2014. This training is designed to educate faculty, students, and staff at Mason on the history, legislation, and the current realities of the undocumented community. Our goal is to cultivate a more supportive environment for undocumented students through education. Upon completing the training, "UndocuAllies" serve as knowledgeable campus resources for undocumented students seeking support. The trainings are typically six hours long, composed of several interactive and informative activities. Participants will leave training with an understanding of:

- The current immigration movement and legislation that affects undocumented students
- The connotations and misconceptions that are attached to undocumented students
- The personal experiences of some undocumented students in the Mason community
- Statistics on the undocumented student body population at Mason

- The resources available on campus and in the community for undocumented students
- Your roles and responsibilities as allies

After completing the training, participants can sign the UndocuAlly Agreement outlining their roles and responsibilities as allies and be added to the Ally Directory, as future resources for undocumented students seeking support.

Please register at <http://www.masondreamers.org/become-an-ally.html>

Advisor Spotlight

We are excited to introduce Theresa Bevilacqua, the Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transition's new Academic Advising Effectiveness Specialist. Learn more about one of the newest members of the MAAN community below!



What is your background/education?

My undergraduate degree is a Bachelor's of Science in Education (BSE) Physical Education from SUNY Cortland. I based my undergrad major on my love of teaching swim lessons to children, and maybe more importantly, my desire to have a profession that allowed me to wear sweats or at the very least, comfortable clothes on a daily basis!!! As much as I loved all of that, I realized that teaching high school P.E. was very different than teaching young children. It wasn't a total loss, however. It did open my eyes to opportunities to work with students outside the classroom, or gymnasium in my case. I really loved talking with my students and sharing my experiences. In turn, they sought out my advice. It was a no brainer for me. I went back to school with the intent of doing a master's in School Psychology. However, I fell in love with my educational psychology class my first semester and changed my program to Educational Psychology and Methodology. I finished my M.S. in Ed. Psych from SUNY Albany and started a PhD in Cognitive and Developmental Psychology, but moved Arizona shortly thereafter. I've considered picking my PhD back up, but right now I spend most of my spare time with my busy children.

How did you get involved in advising?

I got my first job in higher education with Mercy College in NY as a retention specialist at the Bronx and Washington Heights campus'. With Mercy I was funded by a federal grant, Title V, which provided tailored developmental education services to Hispanic Serving Institutions. It was a federal retention initiative that focused on developmental reading, writing and math skill development by pairing these content specific courses with student support services. As the retention specialist I spent a considerable amount of time in classrooms, 1:1 meetings with students, teaching a transitions to college course, and working with faculty to help ensure the retention and graduation of these students. This position fueled my interest in retention and started me on the path of building programs and services to facilitate student success.

What are your advising interests?

My advising interests these days center around policy and services that facilitate the success of students. I am very interested in Institutional policy, procedure and services and how they impact students and their ability to persist and reach their goals. Academic advising is at the very core of this from my perspective and I look forward to building strong relationships with advising departments and staff, both professional and

faculty alike, to retain and graduate our students.

What are your career goals/aspirations?

Ultimately I would like to be a Director or Dean of an academic services office making sure that policy and services are rooted in sound theory and practice and thus, afford students the opportunities, resources and information they need to make informed decisions and be successful.

What is something surprising about you?

I don't know that I would call anything about me surprising and I am an open book so there isn't much about me that won't be found out anyway. Hum...In a previous life and while teaching high school, I was a certified aerobics, and cycling instructor and certified personal trainer. I almost began my masters in Exercise Science and Sport Studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts, but declined at the last minute to go to SUNY Albany instead. It was definitely the best decision, professionally. I am very active in local youth sports and both my husband and I coach our children's teams, SYA baseball and Rugby. Sometimes I tinker with the idea of medical school or going back to school to be a physician's assistant and focusing on orthopaedics, but that hasn't happened...yet :-)

Current Issues in Advising



Socioeconomic Gaps in Virginia Higher Ed

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Spotlight on Retention

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SAT Thresholds and Student Success

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