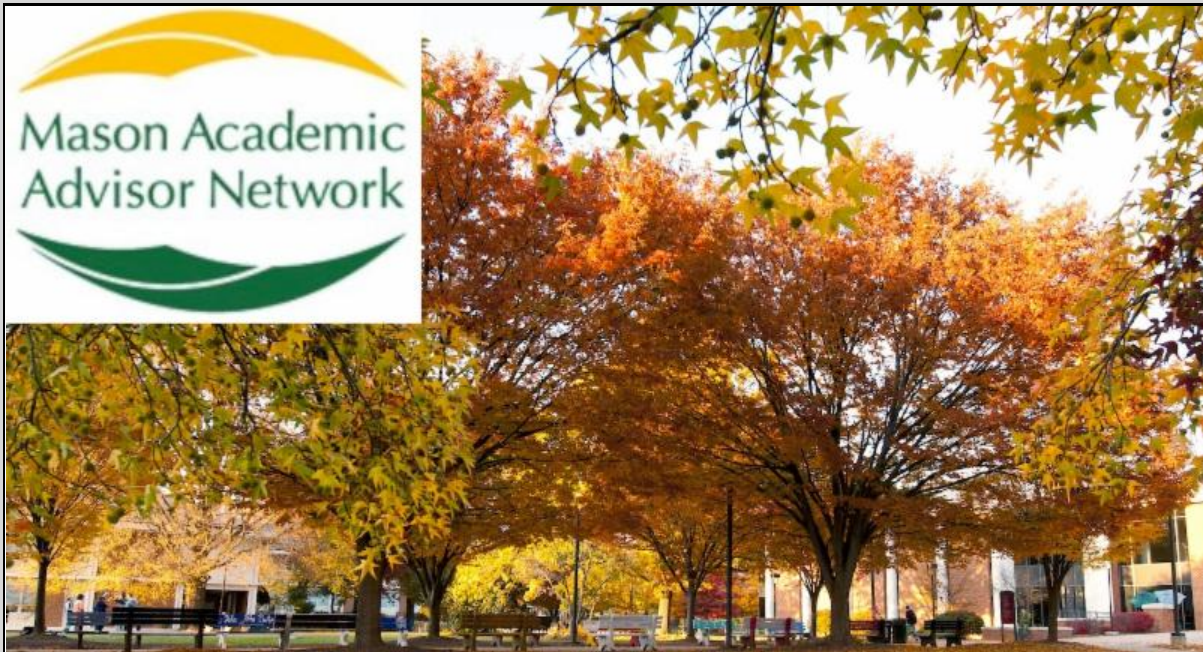


From: Jason King
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 1:02 PM
To: MAAN-L@metis3.gmu.edu
Subject: Mason Academic Advisor Network Newsletter: Issue 15 (October 23, 2015)



October 23, 2015

Dear MAAN,

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well amidst the craziness of advising for Spring 2016. Our Registration Awareness Week (RAW) was a huge success this year, and many of us are seeing an increase in earlier advising appointments. It's great that we're able to reach out to each of the students with a proactive approach to understanding their academic needs.

Ann and I would like to take a moment to introduce you to a new program within MAAN, the [Advisor Mentorship Program \(AMP\)](#). Stephanie Barnett (CLS) and Jon May (CAART) have designed this program to be a one year mentor-mentee relationship that blends professional development opportunities and well-being initiatives both on and off campus. The intent is for the program to provide opportunities to connect new and continuing advisors at Mason on a deeper level with his or her colleagues across the advising community, identify professional development goals, and support individual professional and personal well-being. This first cohort has 18 total advisors, and has been well-received among the participants. The next round of applications will be gathered in June to pair individuals up for the 2016-2017 academic year. Both Ann and I have the privilege of serving as mentors, and we hope many of you will consider applying for either role.

On behalf of the steering committee, I invite you to share your ideas with us to increase both the visibility and involvement of MAAN on campus, as well as in the

community. I hope you have a wonderful Fall semester, and look forward to seeing you at our events!

Lynn Wildman
Co-chair, Mason Academic Advisor Network

National NACADA Conference Recap by Jon May



Recently six Mason MAAN members and I had the opportunity to attend the NACADA 39th Annual Conference. The theme: What Happens in Advising Stays with Students. If you know anything about marketing, that title was tied to the location of this year's conference, fun and exciting (sometimes scary) Las Vegas, Nevada, October 4-7.

Each of us had many wonderful experiences and would be more than happy to discuss some of the sessions we attended and what we took away from the conference. As for myself, not only did I go to the conference to learn more about some of the best practices currently taking place in advising across the country, I was also there to receive specialized training as I continue to develop the 2016 Region 2 NACADA Conference, as one of three co-chairs for that conference.

Related to best practices in advising, Mason was selected to present on two initiatives. Melitta Igwe and Aysha Puhl of CAART presented Elevating Advising: Utilizing Peer Academic Advisors for Student Success. Meggan Ford and Kristen Wever from School of Business presented Making Strengths Stick: A Strengths Based Advising Model. Their presentation explains the Business School's partnership with Gallup and how they have incorporated Strengths based advising.

As part of putting together this summarization of the NACADA Conference, I asked other Mason attendees to share what they found to be the session of most interest to them.

Melitta's favorite presentation was titled "Advising African American Males". The presentation was about being aware of dispositions when working with African American males so that we can create a safe and welcoming environment that can lead to retention at our institutions.

The most meaningful session attended by Aysha Puhl was "Giving Your Transfer Students a First Year Experience". This of course relates heavily to everything Aysha does with our First Year Experience initiatives at Mason.

Meggan's favorite session was "Reinventing the Sophomore Experience". It placed a focus on how to engage students beyond the first year experience.

The session that provided the greatest takeaway for Kristen was titled "Connect, Retain, Graduate: Transfer Student Academic Programming". That session focused on programming ideas for transfer students to help increase academic success.

Another one of our conference attendees was Heather Anderson, Honors College. One of the presentations that stood out to her was, "Apparently Failure WAS an Option: Managing Responsibility for Poor Performance in Talking to Students", Jim Jacobson, University of Minnesota. The basic overview: Jacobson claims that making clear what aspects of failure are the student's responsibility makes the conversation about what can be done about that failure, either to mitigate it or making sure it doesn't happen again, significantly more focused and productive.

Terri Bevilacqua, Academic Advising Effectiveness Specialist, attended NACADA focusing on assessment and how she can bring it to Mason in a structured and organized fashion. The session she found most interesting and applicable to Mason was "Using NACADA Pillar Documents as a Foundation for Student Learning Outcomes and Program Assessment for Academic Advising." This session was ideal for Mason in that it began with the construction of Student Learning Outcomes, SLO's. Mason is at the very beginning of creating a campus wide Academic Advising Assessment and the construction of our SLO's is the first step. Terri believes this presentation will be helpful in guiding our next steps in advising reform on the Mason campus.

As for myself, I enjoyed attending a panel discussion on Global Issues Related to Advising. The panel was comprised of advisors from universities in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States. I found many of the topics helpful in relation to my work in advising at Mason Korea. Should I find additional time in my schedule, this may lead to further work with NACADA related to one of their committees which focuses on global initiatives in advising.

I would hope that at some point everyone will be able to attend and possibly even present at a national conference of their affiliated professional organization. I am a firm believer there is at least one piece of information that can be gathered by everyone to bring back home and integrate into their every day practices. I also find that by attending a national conference it reminds me that Mason is also creating some pretty cutting edge advising initiatives. The presentations I mentioned earlier by my colleagues are two great examples of many things we are doing that a number of other institutions are hoping they may one day be able to incorporate into their best practices.

For those of you looking to get more involved in NACADA, there are going to be a lot of great opportunities in the coming year. March 16-18 will be the Region 2 NACADA Conference to be held at the Marriott Inn and Conference Center at University of Maryland University College. Whether you will be presenting or not, it is a great opportunity to network with over 400 professionals from the field of academic advising from New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC, and Virginia. And because of its great location in metro DC, we also anticipate many people joining our conference from outside of Region 2. Additionally, next fall, at the state level, NACADA Virginia will be looking forward to hosting another Drive-In Conference. The location should be announced by the end of this year. Finally, one year from now, there will be an opportunity to attend the 40th NACADA Annual Conference in beautiful Atlanta, GA. I have already been given an example of one very unique experience that will be given to all whom plan to attend that conference, which promises to leave a long lasting impression.

Wishing you much success,
Jon May
Assistant Director, CAART

NACADA Virginia State Drive-in Conference Recap by Smriti Kansal

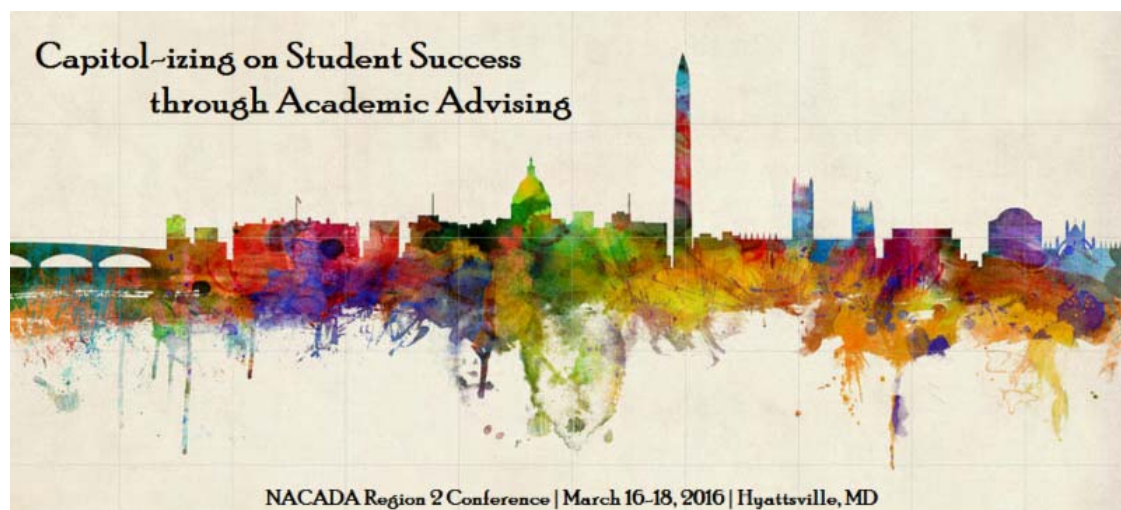
[This year's NACADA Virginia State Drive-In Conference was hosted by Old Dominion University on Sept 25th.](#) The theme was "Exploring Transitions: Advising for the Future." With such a large number of Mason students attending community college before transferring to us, focusing on the needs of this population is essential. However when thinking of "transitions" in a higher education setting there are more groups represented than just "transfer students." Each student on our campus is transitioning, whether its from high school to college, community college to university, full-time military to full-time student, or business major to education major. As students change, we as advisors need to adapt to best assist each student through his or her transition and this conference provided us with lot of useful information. Mason had a significant presence here with several advisors attending and three advisors giving presentations:

Building Advising Bridges to Support Student Transitions - Krystal Dains
Assisting the "Undeclared Students" on the Pathway to Success - Smriti Kansal
Covering It All in One Advising Session - Catherine Wright

It was a great experience attending and presenting at this conference and I would urge other Mason advisors to submit proposals for NACADA conferences too.

Smriti Kansal
Academic Advisor
Electrical & Computer Engineering

NACADA Region 2 Conference Update



**Join us March 16-18, 2016 for the Region 2 Conference in Hyattsville, MD!
Save the Region 2 Conference Date!**

[Call for Proposals are being accepted until November 30, 2015](#)

- [Schedule](#)
- [Registration Information](#)
- [Hotel Information](#)
- [Travel Information](#)

[Check out the Blog for lots of information about Region 2 !!](#)

Upcoming Events

[Learn Over Lunch \(LOL\) Series. 12:00-1:00pm](#)

- Tuesday, October 27: So You Want to Present at a Conference (Sub 1, 3A)
- Tuesday, November 10: Military Services (Sub 1, 3A)
- Tuesday, November 20 (LOL Extra): Getting Involved with NACADA, Presentation by Region 2 Chair, Dr. Melinda Anderson (Merten Hall, Room 3300)
- Tuesday, December 8: Financial Aid (Sub 1, 3A)

[Mason Advisor Certificate \(MAC\) Program - Fall 2015 Dates](#)

Advising 102, Academics and Policy

Thursday, Nov 19th, 3:00-5:00PM, Merten Hall 3300

Advising 103, Advising Tools and Resources

Friday Dec 4th, 10:00AM-12:00PM in Merten Hall 1203

Advising 104, Building Rapport with Students

Thursday, December 3rd, 2:00-4:00PM in Merten Hall 2001

Advising 105, Working with Special Populations

Friday, Nov 6th, 10:00AM-12:00PM in Merten Hall 1203

Advising 106, Advising Transfer Students

(Not required if you have already completed Advising 102 before Fall 2014)

Thursday, Nov 5th, 3:00-5:00PM in Merten Hall 2001

Friday, Nov 20th, 10:00AM-12:00PM in Merten Hall 2001



MAC Elective: FERPA 101 Training for Faculty/Staff- [Multiple Dates and Times](#)

Completed the program?

If you have completed your modules and electives, please send your passbook to Erin McSherry (emcsherr@gmu.edu; MSN 6B4).

Advisor Spotlight

This issue's Advisor Spotlight is about Jason King, Academic Advisor in the Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions.

What is your background/education?

I've got deep roots at Mason: my grandparents took classes here in the 1960's; my parents graduated from Mason in the 70's; I attend summer camp here in the 80's and 90's; and, I met my wife while working on campus during graduate school. Among us we have 3 undergraduate degrees (History, Accounting, and Communications) and 5 graduate degrees (Accounting, Math, Environmental Science, Education, and Conflict Resolution) from Mason. Now, our oldest daughter is in pre-school on campus and our youngest will start attending next spring! In 2002, I completed my bachelor's degree in History at the University of Virginia and in 2009 I completed my master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution.



How did you get involved in advising?

My first experience working in higher education was as the Student Services Manager for the Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) Program, Mason's degree completion program for adult learners. BIS students must work very closely with their academic advisors and the impact that advisors had on student success made a lasting impression on me and my approach to academic advising.

What are your advising interests?

I am very interested in supporting part-time adult learners from Northern Virginia and out-of-state students who are relocating to Washington, DC because they are interested in working in the federal government.

What are your career goals/aspirations?

I just recently joined the Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions and am enjoying learning more about advising policies and practices across campus.

What is something surprising about you?

I had to memorize "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost for an 8th grade English assignment and the poem has been stuck in my head ever since!

Current Issues in Advising



Recent Survey Shows Nearly a Quarter of First-Year Students Meet With an Academic Advisor Just Once

[Read more](#)



Whistle-blower alleges academic misconduct in UCLA men's basketball program

[Read more](#)



Leveraging institutional knowledge for student success: promoting academic advisors

[Read more](#)