



# The State of Advising

## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this newsletter, I am amazed and reminded how committed we are to our students; each other; and to the University. This has been a very busy and progressive spring semester for academic advising at UTSA. We have a UTSA Academic Advising Strategic Plan 2016-2020 that aligns with SACS Assessment requirements and the University Strategic Plan; we have developed a standard Annual Academic Advising Caseload Review policy and process; and also have trained and worked in the new SSC Foundation for these last few months. We look forward to the upcoming training into our next phase SSC Campus.

Our four key points of the UTSA Academic Advising Strategic plan include: 1.) Standardization and Consistency in Advising; 2.) Student Connection to Advising; 3.) Increased usage of technology in Advising and 4.) Professional Development. These key points will continue to be the yearly points of assessment and review. This Plan will continue to guide us as we work towards our mission and goals.

In collaboration with the advising center directors a plan was developed to ensure continuing and incoming 2016-17 students know the importance of having and maintaining an active locked DegreeWorks plan. I appreciate everyone working diligently to develop DegreeWorks locked semester-by-semester plans for their continuing students. There were over 300 locked semester-by-semester plans within the first week of the review policy being implemented. Your steadfast and hard work have identified students that were off track for graduation and you reached out to them to get them back on track. This speaks volumes to your commitment to your students.

Everyone received training in SSC Foundation in February and the majority have been using it daily to prepare for appointments and create lists to enable more proactive advising and management of caseloads. As a result, there have been several exciting results which include more students applying for graduation; increased summer 2016 enrollment; and outreaching to students. I have no doubt that the relationship and proactive advising that you have been doing is helping contribute to student success.

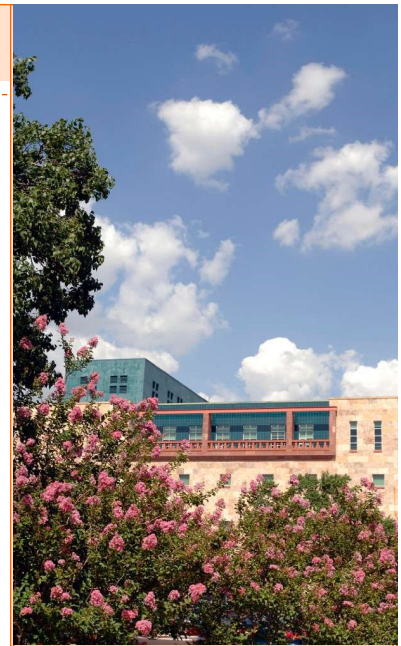
Although our spring semester has been filled with lots of busy work activities, it has also been sprinkled with celebration and recognition. There were many advising center open-houses; advisors presenting at professional conferences; advisors being elected to leadership positions; advisors being recognized by students for their commitment to student success; and several advisors celebrating their 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year milestones.

As we prepare and look forward to this upcoming summer semester know that your hard work has had a significant impact on the enrollment for the summer. Your participation with the Summer School kick-off parties; Spring 2016 UTSA Day event; and the "Early Bird" registration initiative as well as your encouraging current students to consider summer classes at UTSA and advising them to take online UTSA courses as they go home for the summer has been instrumental in the university summer school initiative. The results of your commitment along with the other university initiatives have resulted in a 11.62% change in semester credit hour (SCH) comparison of Summer 2016 vs. Summer 2015 enrollment. The university's goal for summer enrollment is 10,000 students and 70,000 SCH. As of April 25, 2016 we were at 10,860 students and 66,833 SCH. You all did an amazing job!

As you gear up for the fall 2016 new freshman and transfer students, I encourage you to make every interaction count as you help the students map out their path to success. Continue to grow and develop your technology skills as we diligently move forward into testing and implementation phase of SSC campus. This will ensure the transition over to SSC Campus is smooth.

I end this message by encouraging you to reflect back on all that you have accomplished and the difference you have made, as well as reflecting on the successes you have seen with your students. You should especially be encouraged by those walking the stage later this week. Take time to consider and reflect on your accomplishments, milestones and your student successes. I strongly encourage you to consider taking some time off to relax with family and friends, even if only for a day. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing team!

—Barbara Smith, Executive Director of Advising



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## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 30**– Memorial Day  
Holiday
- July 4**– Independence Day  
Holiday
- Sept 5**– Labor Day Holiday

## UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA– RESILIENCE TRAINING

**Dainon Deviney (USSTS), Brandy Barksdale (STPL), Miranda Swain and Jackie Loden (AHUM)** attended an eight day training in January at the UT Rio Grande Valley campus led by Karen Reivich, Director of Training Programs at the University of Pennsylvania’s Positive Psychology Center. This training is a UT-System initiative.

Resilience is the ability to grow and thrive in when faced with challenges. Resilient individuals are able to leverage their internal strengths to bounce back from adversity. The goal is for this training to equip the advising community with the tools to effectively use resilience principles and techniques when working with students, so that they may further support and contribute to their academic success.

Note: In order to accommodate the DWX Planner Project, training for all professional advising staff has been moved from May to September.

—Jackie Loden, Advising Director (AHUM)



*“Resilience isn't a single skill. It's a variety of skills and coping mechanisms. To bounce back from bumps in the road as well as failures, you should focus on emphasizing the positive.”* —Jean Chatzky

## MAJOR PROJECTS MEAN A BUSY SUMMER

### DWX PLANNER PROJECT

The Provost’s Office would like 100% of enrolled students to have a locked and active semester-by-semester plan—to graduation for sophomores through seniors and three semesters out for continuing freshmen (two semesters out for new/incoming freshmen).

There are currently 13,960 students who will need a plan by the August 15 deadline. This number is significantly reduced from the original 23,000 active students before removing those not enrolled in spring and those who applied for graduation. Advisors will create plans in the following order: JR, SO, FR, SR.

The hope is that this project will result in more students knowing what courses to register for in upcoming semesters and help the Registrar and departments in planning what courses to offer each semester.

### EARLY BIRD PROGRAM

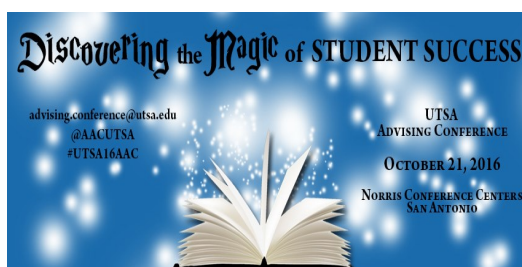
As part of the push to increase student enrollment in the summer, UTSA has introduced the “Early Bird” Program, targeting incoming freshmen admitted for the fall 2016. The program invites them to enroll in 1-2 courses in an 8-week session, starting June 13.

### UTSA ADVISING CONFERENCE

A dedicated group of advisors, led by Brandy Barksdale (STPL), John Bonner (STPL), and Laura Garcia (IDED), and supported by Dainon Deviney (USSTS), continue to plan for the 9th Annual UTSA Advising Conference to be held October 21, 2016.

The theme this year is “Discovering the Magic of Student Success” and encourages academic advisors to discover ways to ensure the success of our students’ academic journey and beyond.

As the evolution of the scholar continues to affect and mold the way we advise, advisors will need to find alternative ways to connect and collaborate in order to strengthen their identity within the academic mission. This conference will encourage advisors to reestablish and reinvent their role as higher education professionals. —Brandy Barksdale (STPL)



### ON THE HORIZON: SUMMER 2016

**June 7 through July 27**

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: FR  
OR Pre-advising & Advising  
Appointments

**June 15**– Summer Grad App  
Deadline; summer audits con-  
tinue

**June 16, 30, July 14**– TR  
Orientation

**July 8**– S Classes Begin

**July 15**– Fall Grad App Dead-  
line; fall audits continue

**Aug 15**– deadline to complete  
DWX Planner Project

**Aug 19**– International OR  
Appointments

**Aug 20**– Saturday Advising 9  
AM to 1 PM



*New Advisor Training Graduation, March 2016 (left to right): Kalia Glover (Honors), Linda Leech (SSS), Adriana Sanchez (SSS), Xavier Loredo (EGR), Kateri (Teri) Morales (BUS), and Dainon Deviney (USSTS Training Coordinator)*



## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

The UTSA Advising Community welcomes its newest team members. These are the advisors hired since November 2015 (by center):

### **Business Studies (BUS)**

– Teri Morales

### **Engineering (EGR)–**

Xavier Loredo

### **Health Professions Office (HPO)–**

Lupe Wilbon (Admin)

### **Honors (HON)–**

Kalia Glover

### **Interdisciplinary Education (IDED)–**

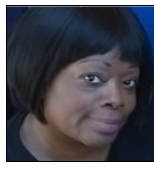
Allison Gutierrez (Admin II)

### **Math & Physical Sciences (MPS)–**

Sarah Elizalde (Admin II)

Arts & Humanities (AHUM), Downtown (DT), Life & Health Sciences (LHS), Social Sciences (SOSC), and Student Placement (STPL) did not fill any vacancies this semester.

## WHO'S HONORING US NOW?



### **Yolanda Williams (IDED)**

(left) was awarded the 2016 Outstanding Academic Advisor Award.

**Jay Wilson (IDED)** (below) received the University Life Award for Outstanding Academic Advisor, due to his genuine concern for students.

Jay has been with IDED Advising for a little over a year and primarily advises Multidisciplinary Studies majors.



### **Jennifer Uranga (LHS)**

(below) was offered and accepted the position of 2017 TEXAAN Conference co-chair. This is a two-year commitment; she will chair the conference in 2018. She was also selected to serve as the South Region representative at the Region meeting.

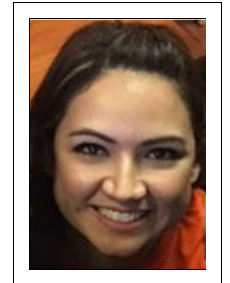
In her 8 years at UTSA, Jennifer has advised in CFAC for 3 years, DT for 5 years, and LHS for 2 months, where she will soon begin serving as the KIN liaison. For more info, see <http://texaan.org>.



### **Raquel Linares Orozco (IDED)**

(below) received the Advisor of the Year Award from the B.E.S.O. student organization.

Raquel, who is the liaison for Bilingual and English as a Second Language faculty, has played a significant role in her students' academic success for 12 years, including 10 with IDED.



The Bilingual Education Student Organization provides information, assistance and fellowship for students who are interested in bicultural and bilingual studies. B.E.S.O membership reflects the multiculturalism of South Texas, including both traditional and non-traditional students who will become bilingual educators serving in our community.

### **Barbara Smith, Executive Director of Advising**

(below), was recognized with a NACADA award for serving as last year's Chair of Region 7.



# EAB SSC FOUNDATION IS HERE!

All Advising Centers have completed training in the SSC Foundation. In addition to utilizing online resources through the EAB.com website, advising staffs have resources available to them located on the I: drive in the Academic Advising folder, as well as the option to submit questions and suggestions to Sylvia Mansour at [Sylvia.mansour@utsa.edu](mailto:Sylvia.mansour@utsa.edu) and to Monica R. Glover at [Monica.glover@utsa.edu](mailto:Monica.glover@utsa.edu).

SSC Brown Bag discussion meetings have been started by Yolanda Williams from STPL. The meetings will be held through mid-May to allow all advisors the opportunity to discuss topics of interest and best practices related to the usage of SSC. These meetings will be held every Wednesday, 12pm-1pm. Reminder e-mails with location will be sent out through the Advising mailing list.

The SSC Workflow Specialists will begin training and testing the new SSC Campus version in May with All Advising following in June, July and August.

—Sylvia Mansour and Monica Glover, Directors of Advising (IDED, DT)



## HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Shunverie Barrientez (HON)** was elected to a 2-year term as the Vice President for Membership and will serve on the TEXAAN executive leadership board. Shun was also nominated for the University Life Award for Outstanding Organization Advisor.

**Betsy Haddad (LHS)** completed her two-year term as Vice President of Publications and membership on the TEXAAN executive leadership board.

**Tom Gyori (MPS), Catarina Rodriguez (USSTS), Kenneth Schwoerke (LHS) and Sarai Zamora (SOSC)** completed the Supervisory Series.

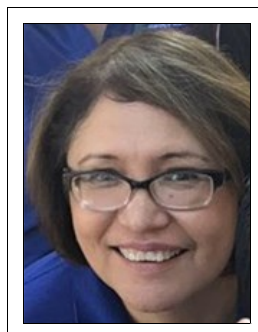
In March 2016, UTSA Advising was represented in two presentations at the NACADA Region 7 Conference: **Shannon Rios and Barbara Smith (USSTS)** presented “Creating a Smooth Transition between Texas Community Colleges and UTSA.” **Jackie Loden, Miranda Swain, Michele Tencza, Matt Keneson and Julie Fisher (AHUM)** presented “A Blueprint for Success: Pilot program for academic advising and retention for first year students.” The AHUM team will also present at the NACADA National Conference in October.

Several Administrative Associates graduated from the HR Administrative Toolbox Series on April 27: **Catarina Rodriguez and Suzanne Stokes (USSTS), Zinthia Garza (SOSC), Lupe Wilbon (HPO), and Kathleen (Kat) Kinnett (AHUM).**

**Stacy Chou (LHS) and Nen Huynh (EGR)** will present “Person-Centered Approach and its Potential Implication on Advising STEM Students” at this year’s NACADA conference poster session in Atlanta, Georgia, in early October.

The following advising staff were recognized at the **University Excellence Award Ceremony** for their years of service:

Tamala Boyd, JoAnna Caballero, Brian Contreras, Heather Finkel, Kalia Glover, Diane Gutierrez, Carmen Juarez, Matt Keneson, Teri Morales, Hortense Porter-Stokes, and Miranda Swain (5 years); Dainon Deviney, James Gerhardt, Charlie Mallard, and Suzanne Stokes (10 years); Georgette Sano (15 years); LeaAnn Thomas (20 years); and Lona George (25 years, pictured right).



### ON THE HORIZON: FALL 2016

**Aug 22**– Rowdy Day

**Aug 23**– First Day of Class

**Sept 8**– Census

**Oct 14**– Alamo Area Summit at Trinity University

**Oct 21**– UTSA Advising Conference

**November**– Fall Registration Begins

**Nov 15**– Spring Graduation Application Deadline

**Nov 24–25**– Thanksgiving Holiday

**Dec 8-9**– Study Days

**Dec 10**– Finals Begin

**Dec 20**– Grades Due at 2 PM

**Dec 23, 27-30**– Skeleton Crew Days

**Dec 26**– Christmas Holiday

### SPRING 2017

**Jan 9**– First Day of Class

**Jan 16**– MLK Holiday

**Jan 25**– Census

**February**– Summer Registration Begins

**Mar 13-17**– Spring Break

**April**– Fall Registration Begins

**May 1-2**– Study Days



## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

**Academic Advising Council (AAC)**– AAC@utsa.edu, www.utsa.edu/aac, <https://mkeneson.wufoo.com/forms/m1wyx5bg1vmo1qc/> (anonymous)

**Math Tutoring Lab**– FLN 1.01.05, 210-458-5831

**Student Health Services**– RWC 1.500, 210-458-4142

**Testing Services**– MS 1.02.02, 210-458-4125

**TRC Tutoring Services**– JPL 2.01.12, 210-458-5175

**UHPO**– MS 3.03.14, 210-458-5185



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS OFFICE

The University Health Professions Office has been busy these past few months. UHPO merged with the Institute for Law and Public Affairs to create the Office of Pre-professional Programs and Advising and is now located in MS 3.03.14. UHPO advises

students seeking special program information and course requirements for various health professions. We invite you to come by to see our new space anytime!

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual Health Professions Day in the University Center Galleria. With over 100 school representatives and 500 students, the day was a huge success! We created sessions for our students to learn about becoming competitive for their respective health professions, while meeting representatives and understanding the application processes. Special thanks to the University Career Center staff, UTSA advising staff, and our student volunteers for making the day successful.

This summer, UHPO will be having special sessions during Orientation for freshmen interested in Health Professions careers. These sessions will take place before Orientation begins. Students are invited to meet with us in the Denman Room at either 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. on the first day of Orientation before they check in. UHPO will be reaching out to students to invite them to these sessions prior to orientation.

–Roxanna Nelson (UHPO)

*“My advisor... has taken it upon himself to familiarize himself with my profile [and] all I hope to do with my degree.... He is quick to respond to my concerns with solutions and has been extraordinarily helpful!”*

–Jessica Horace, nominating Jaylon Wilson for Outstanding Academic Advisor

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## STUDENT AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

Academic advisors from various centers attended the UTSA Student Affairs Conference on March 4, 2016. The conference presentations focused on developing student workers, sharing best practices, and increasing health and wellness for academic professionals. Courtney Clark, the dynamic and engaging keynote speaker, started the day by discussing techniques for overcoming challenges, which she refers to as “detours.”

Session topics included theory-based practices in higher education, active listening & communication, wellness, and many others. The sessions encouraged higher education professionals to start from within in order to put our best selves forward. Advisors in attendance agreed that many of the learning outcomes discussed are shared by the academic advising community.

The Student Affairs Conference reiterated the concept of teamwork, reinforced the importance of collaboration, and highlighted effective communication between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs as an important factor in supporting student success.

–Brandy Barksdale (STPL), John Bonner (STPL), and Mickie Tencza (AHUM)



# AMAZING ADVISOR RACE 3/3/16

## The Winning Team



Highest Tower