



3RD ANNUAL ACADEMIC ADVISING BEST PRACTICES EVENT

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 14

Presentation Schedule

- 9:00 - 9:30** **Registration** - LaCraw Auditorium, College of Management, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 9:30 - 10:00** **Welcome** - Nancy Gimbel, GTAAN Executive Board
Opening Remarks - Dr. Peter J. Ludovice, Associate Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and "Comedian-in-Residence"
- 10:00 - 10:30** **Topic 1: Using Facebook as an Academic Advising Tool**
Presenter: Ashley Lewis, University of West Georgia
The more information an advisor has about a student, especially an at-risk student, the better that advisor is equipped to recommend appropriate classes and resources for that student. Facebook can allow advisors to see students in their natural environment, not as they are in our offices. Although some underclassmen may not know their professors' names, they know about Facebook. In fact, each day, between 10 and 20 thousand new members sign up. It is time that advisors know about it too. In the fall of 2005, Academic Advisors at the EXCEL Center at the University of West Georgia began to use Facebook in conjunction with Banner as a tool for pre-advisement assessment of at-risk students. This session will examine the use of Facebook as an advising tool and the ethical and legal issues surrounding the use of Facebook.
- 10:35 - 11:05** **Topic 2: Get Up, Get Outreaching: Refocusing Information-Heavey Advisement Meeting**
Presenters: Sarah Smitherman & Joseph Sero, Savannah College of Art and Design
The traditional method of operation at Savannah College of Art and Design in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Advising is a thirty-minute, one-on-one meeting. We divide our students into two categories: undeclared students and declared students. Undeclared students are required to meet with their academic advisers each quarter until they declare their major. The first advisement meeting covered a wide range of topics such as choosing a major, course selection, programs of study, SCAD resources and other topics. We found that the first meeting was so information heavy that thirty minutes was not enough time to cover all of the necessary information, while also addressing

individual student issues. The result was information overload for the students and repetition fatigue for the advisers. Our solution was outreach activities that help supplement the required one-on-one meetings. These include: 1) Summer Swarm presentations, 2) Majors Fair, 3) First Year Experience presentations, 3) Major Open House meeting, 4) Ask an Adviser, 5) Major Declaration Day. Our presentation will inform advisers how to maintain individualized meetings, while providing innovative alternatives for presenting pertinent general information. We will address our original problem, discuss how each of the outreach activities have helped with correcting the problem, and what each activity took to accomplish as far as time, money, and man power.

11:05 – 11:20

Break

11:20 – 11:50

Topic 3: Defining What Works

Presenter: Dana Hartley, Georgia Institute of Technology

In any large group of advisors it is hard to ensure consistency and excellence, but the task is often less clear for a decentralized advising system. Using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and working with the Student Government, we defined the Essential Components of a good advising program based on the data and our interviews with each department. We were then able to communicate with all the departments what the specific actions they could do to improve their advising programs. There is a great deal of support from the upper administration, and most of the departments have had very positive responses. We will share the report from the SGA study, as well as go over the process. The NSSE will be done again at Tech in Spring 2007.

11:50 – 12:50

Lunch - Provided in the area outside LaCraw Auditorium, College of Management

12:50 – 1:20

Topic 4: Showing What Works: Two Advisors Role-Play Common Scenarios & Suggested Response

Presenters: Jennifer Leavey & Jan Westbrook, Georgia Institute of Technology

Based on many years of advising undergraduates, we will role play several academic advising scenarios, incorporating non-verbal and verbal communication strategies, advising best practices and student feedback. The goal of this presentation is to be both humorous and educational and to help advisors enhance their one-on-one advising skills.

1:25 - 1:55

Topic 5: Bridging the Gap from General Studies to Upper Division Colleges

Presenter: Cliff Poole, Georgia State University

The transition from general advisement at the freshmen and sophomore level to the directed counsel they receive at the upper division level can be a frustrating and challenging point in a substantial number of college students' lives. From the differences in office procedure to the simple exchange of verbiage and ideas between a student and their advisor, many interpersonal facets may shift greatly from the core level to the upper college entrance. To help combat some of the difficulties associated with yet another fresh start at our university, I (with assistance from beginning ideas espoused by our staff) have created a concept of a "bridge" event that would cater to those who are lost, scared, upset, unimpressed, or just plain disturbed by the transition that has to occur for them to move onward and upward with their college careers. My presentation will explain the logistics and ideas for outcomes which would be involved in

creating and running such an event at any college or university with a general studies to upper division college transition shift as we have at Georgia State.

1:55 – 2:10

Break

2:10 – 2:40

Topic 6: Promote Advising through a Campus Newsletter

Presenter: Brian E. Buckwald, Georgia State University

Promote academic advising, career development, and fellowship among advisers through a campus wide undergraduate advising newsletter. Attend this informative presentation to learn the benefits of creating a newsletter and some tricks for making the work fun and easy.

2:45 – 3:15

Topic 7: Advising the Parents: Students with Hidden Disabilities and their Families

Presenter: Pam Feldt, Coastal Georgia Community College

In response to the significantly low retention and graduation rates of students with disabilities, Coastal Georgia Community College has created a program of outreach to area high schools. Two-year colleges and technical schools enroll a disproportionate number of these students and advising can be more effective if initial contacts deliberately include parents. To facilitate this connection, and in conjunction with county disability transition coordinators, the college presents an informational program for students with disabilities and their parents at each area high school. Information regarding requirements for college admission, the process of receiving disability accommodations, available programs of study, and the enrollment and advisement process are given. Parents and students are also encouraged to make appointments for individualized assistance. Parents have expressed appreciation for this program and many have come to the college, allowing the opportunity to engage with both them and their children, our incoming freshmen. More students with disabilities are being appropriately evaluated and are therefore eligible for accommodations in college. Based on the initial response, it is anticipated that these efforts will have a significant impact on the retention and graduation rates of this at-risk group.

3:15 - 3:25

Break

3:25-3:50

Topic 8: Proactive PATHWAYS to Academic Success

Presenters: Jason Breyan, Timothy L. Fields, Shari B. Obrentz & Carlton McClendon, Emory University

This presentation will highlight a proactive model used by the Office for Undergraduate Education in Emory College to provide academic advising and support services to maximize student success. We will show how this model encourages students to take charge of their academic progress and helps them efficiently address academic concerns. In particular, we will discuss the role of academic advisors, learning specialists, and academic workshops and the integration of these services and resources with tools and technologies such as the Online Degree Audit, College Conversation Card and Tutor Trac.

3:55 - 4:15

Closing and Evaluation

General Information:

Parking Vouchers available at registration table

Special Thanks to:

Georgia Tech Vice Provost's Office

Georgia Tech Academic Advisors Network Executive Board: Valerie Durant-Modeste, Kathy Earwood, Nancy Gimbel, Jennifer Leavey, Elizabeth Miller, Patti Parker, Jan Westbrook and Dana Hartley, Facilitator

GTAAN Best Practices Event Coordinators: Nancy Gimbel and Elizabeth Miller

Student Services Assistants: Chris Sung and Jenifer Vandagriff

Thank you for your support and participation!

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See you next year!