

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Professional Advisers Council



Fall 2020 - ImPACt Newsletter

Welcome to the ImPACt newsletter which highlights the most notable happenings in the world of Academic Advising at Oakland University. On behalf of the Professional Advisers Council (PAC), thank you for taking a moment to read about the achievements of professional advisers and the impacts they have made this semester across campus.

2020-2021 Professional Advisers Council Executive Board



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New Advisers and Positions

Promotions

- **Rachel Stagman** was promoted to Senior Academic Adviser in the First Year Advising Center in May 2020. She has been an adviser in the FYAC for almost five years.

New Adviser Hires

First Year Advising Center

- **Zach Barclay** was hired in July 2020 as an Academic Adviser in the First Year Advising Center. He has a M.Ed. in Higher Education Leadership from Oakland University. Prior to joining the FYAC, Zach was a Financial Aid Adviser at OU and had experience in admissions, advising and student services.
- **Jordan Ross** was hired in August 2020 as an Academic Adviser in the First Year Advising Center. He has a M.A. in Higher Education Student Affairs and a graduate certificate in academic advising from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to coming to OU, he was an Admissions Counselor at the University of Michigan.

Bachelor of Integrated Studies

- **Allie Baker** was hired in May 2020 as an Academic Adviser for the Bachelor of Integrative Studies program. She graduated with her Master's degree in Counseling from Oakland University in May 2020 and served as an intern in BIS previously, as well as a graduate assistant in the Education Resource Library in Pawley Hall.

College of Arts and Sciences

- **Terria Crank** was hired in August 2020 as an Academic Adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences. She holds a Master of Education in Higher Education from Grand Valley State University and was previously employed at GVSU as a Student Support Advisor for the Oliver Wilson Scholars Program
- **Andreea Duarte** was officially hired in August 2020 as an Academic Adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences. She holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Oakland University. She also holds a BA in French from OU! Her most recent position was as a French teacher at Grosse Pointe Northern High School

School of Business Administration

- **Sarah Barron** was hired in May 2020 as an Academic Adviser in the School of Business Administration at the Macomb University Center. She is a current student in OU's Master of Arts in Higher Education Leadership (MAHEL). She most recently served as an Academic Adviser at Macomb Community College - but has spent some time at OU as a temporary adviser in BIS and a GA for the Office of Student Success.

School of Education and Human Services

- **Danielle Resh** was hired in August 2020 as the Office Assistant II in SEHS Advising. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) from the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, a Master of Arts from Pennsylvania State University (Fine Arts), and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Oakland University. Her most recent position was Office Manager for the Office of Global Engagement at OU.

OU William Beaumont School of Medicine

- **Saulo Ortiz** was hired in May 2020 as the Senior Medical School Advisor at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. He holds a Masters of Education in Higher Education from Grand Valley State University. He comes to OU from the University of Michigan-Dearborn where he was a Success Coach/Program Coordinator in the Office of Student Life

Advising Technology

- **Garry Cardillo** was hired in April 2020 as the Senior Systems and Data Analyst supporting advising. He holds a BS in Computer Information Systems from UM-Flint and came to OU from UM-Flint where he was an Applications Programmer/Analyst for Undergraduate Admissions.

Advising Leadership



Excellence in Academic Advising

Oakland Advising has relaunched our participation in the Excellence in Academic Advising (EAA) initiative, which was paused briefly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Developed by NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising and the Gardner Institute and funded in part by The Kresge Foundation. EAA is a three-year evidence-based self study of academic advising at OU. Over 125 faculty, staff, administrators and students are participating in nine committees focused on the "conditions of excellence" of advising:

- Adviser Selection and Development
- Collaboration and Communication
- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity
- Improvement and the Scholarship of Advising
- Commitment
- Learning
- Organization
- Student Purpose and Pathways
- Technology Enabled Advising

PAC would like to thank our colleagues across campus who are assisting in these efforts. We look forward to learning and growing together!



Academic Advisers Leading Others

School of Business Administration advisers Meaghan Cole and Adam McChesney have taken on the leadership roles of President, Meaghan with AP Assembly and Adam with MIACADA, for the 2020-21 academic year. Congratulations to these two advisers!! We look forward to seeing what innovative initiatives are implemented under your leadership.

Events

Major/Minor Expo

This year, the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, and School of Health Sciences collaborated and had one multi-school virtual fair in place of their individual, separate events. The purpose of the event is to help undecided or "re"-deciding students select their majors and/or minors. All of the majors and minors from CAS, SBA, and SHS were represented, as well as employers and alumni that assisted with the many different sessions. Students were able to join anytime between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Some students even joined multiple different sessions to learn about multiple majors and minors. Over 125 students RSVPd and over 60 students attended!

New Orientation Format

Due to the shutdown in late-March, the Orientation and New Student Programs and First Year Advising Center team had to quickly flip the New Student Orientation program to a 100% virtual format in just a few short weeks. Here are the highlights of our successful orientation of over 2400 new FTIACs:

- Creation of mandatory online orientation component utilizing e-space
- Creation of pre-advising online check-in process to verify major and incoming credit

- Implementation of text message reminders through collaboration with Undergraduate Admissions
- Added orientation dates through July and August
- Led 345 virtual group advising sessions
- Oversaw 600+ hours of virtual drop in registration support staffed by advisers, office assistants and orientation assistants
- Hosted 97 workshops for students/parents on topics such as student financial services, well-being, university housing, campus resources, academic skills, student involvement, etc.
- Hosted 30 in-person campus kick-off events in August to welcome nearly 800 students to the physical campus
- Organized virtual new student welcome events with President Pescovitz and all academic areas where 1200 new students joined in live

The FYAC/ONSP team would like to thank our campus partners in Student and Academic Affairs for their support, encouragement and assistance in orienting the 2020 class!

Teacher Tuesdays!

Each Tuesday at 4:30pm SEHS Advising, Career Services, and Education Faculty will host "Teacher Tuesday" web events via Google Meets. Each week we'll explore a new topic to help students on their journey to become a teacher. This will be a weekly opportunity to connect with faculty, staff and other students outside of the classroom and learn more about the field of education!

Law School Admission Info Session

Bachelor of Integrated Studies advising hosted a Law School Admissions Info Session with representatives from Wayne and Detroit Mercy Law Schools on November 12. They had BIS students currently enrolled in those programs attend to share their experiences of the 3+3 program. One student, Emily Elmer, received a full scholarship and was recently [highlighted in the Legal News!](#)

Virtual Study Skills Seminar

Bachelor of Integrated Studies advising conducted a virtual study skills seminar in early Fall 2020. The focus of this academic success seminar was to assist students with remote learning skills and connecting to academic resources.

SBA at NACADA!

School of Business Administration advisers Jackie Keith, Tiffany LeDonne-Smith, Denica Holzworth, and Adam McChesney presented a session at the NACADA National Conference in October 2020. Their presentation was titled "Empowering Students to Be the Captains of Their Lives Through Advisor Led Workshops". It focused on the development of two group workshops the advisers present to SBA students through our ACHIEVE Program. Learning Outcomes have been developed for both sessions and they are designed to give students information about the advising office, the SBA, values and interests and how they impact career choice, and goal setting for the student's future development. It's not always possible to cover everything in a half-an-hour advising session so these two workshops have been developed to help students navigate the university and their short and long-term personal, major, and career, development.

BIS at AIS!

Bachelor of Integrated Studies advisers Sarah Jahimiak and Lindsay Zeig recently presented a recorded lecture at the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies international conference. The title of the lecture is "Academic Advising in an Interdisciplinary Program Amid a Pandemic".

Outstanding Advisers!

Sarah Konrad

- Oakland University Outstanding Adviser of the Year Recipient 2019-2020
- NACADA Outstanding Adviser Award - Primary Advising Role - Certificate of Merit Recipient

Tiffany LeDonne-Smith

- Oakland University New Adviser of the Year Recipient
- NACADA Outstanding New Adviser Award - Primary Advising Role - Certificate of Merit Recipient

Sara Webb

- Oakland University Outstanding AP of the Year: 2020

PAC Adviser of the Month

- Denica Holzworth - September Recipient
- Annie Hegedus - October Recipient

Updates and Initiatives

Professional Advisers Council Website!

We are happy to announce that PAC now has a home on the OU website!

Please visit the [new website](#) to learn more about our wonderful organization!

FYAC One-Question Emoji Surveys

In order to keep a pulse on how our new students are doing during this unconventional semester, the FYAC has sent two quick, one-question surveys - emoji-style - to students. The September survey asked students' perceptions of the first few weeks of the semester and the October survey focused on student connectedness. Over 1000 responses were collected between the two surveys. Student leaders, advisers and office staff were able to respond to student concerns within a day or two of submission. These surveys have allowed us to better understand how we can support students better in the coming months. Additional surveys are being considered for winter 2021.

Pre-Professional Advising Website Updates

The Pre-Professional Advising Office has made [their website](#) more user friendly for students and staff. The redesign makes accessing resources much more easy for students and staff. Some highlights are: Getting Stated, Steps 1-5, Events, and Workshops! Pre-Professional Advising invites interested staff for signing up for their newsletter to stay up-to-date with their office!

SBA Women's Mentorship Program

The School of Business Administration's Women's Mentor Program is in its third year under the leadership of Tiffany LeDonne-Smith. This year the program has grown to 20 students and 20 professional mentors. This program kicked off in September where students were matched with their mentor. Pairs are encouraged to meet minimally once a month through April. It is the hope that in April everyone can gather in person for a networking luncheon to celebrate a successful year. Given the challenges of 2020, pairs are not required to meet in person but may do so virtually. We have many returning mentors to the program and both students and professional

mentors have indicated the program allows for students to ask questions about the world of business in a 1:1 setting. The guidance and mentorship has helped students grow both personally and professionally.

Chat with SECS!

The School of Engineering and Computer Science Advising office launched a new “quick question chat” for its students. This is a new method of contact between students and advisers. With the quick question chat, students are able to send a google chat message to the advising office and receive an immediate response from an academic adviser. As students and advisers are both learning and working remotely heavily since March 2020, this new initiative has provided students with quick answers to questions as they need them.

Stop-out to graduating!

The Bachelor of Integrated Studies advising office has been working hard on a stop out initiative. This fall they made contact with 175 students who have stopped out from the university. BIS has received a good response from students and have been able to get many students readmitted and re-enrolled. They have even been able to get students graduated without stepping back into the classroom!

Mask Up with BIS

BIS is currently running an initiative on their Facebook page supporting the university's #MaskUpOU campaign. Students that like or share our photo will receive a BIS mask!

Oakland University Professional Advisers Council

Oakland University
201 Meadow Brook Rd, Rochester, MI 48309-4451

(248) 370-2100

oakland.edu/advising
oakland.edu/professional-advisers-council



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