

Special points of interest:

- Service-Learning Conference
- New Issue of the *eJournal of Public Affairs*

**Inside this issue:**

<u>Academic Advisement Center</u>	2
<u>Academic Assistance</u>	4
<u>Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics</u>	6
<u>Citizenship & Service-Learning</u>	8
<u>eJournal of Public Affairs</u>	10
<u>Academic Standards & Opportunities</u>	12

Student Development & Public Affairs Newsletter

Spring Unit Meeting

Our unit has seen many changes recently with new faces and changing duties. During our recent unit meeting, we spent time getting to know each other and how our departments work together to achieve our mission. Dr. Keri Franklin, our new director of Assessment, facilitated our meeting to a great success.

We shared our final thoughts about how we feel about our roles and the mission in some of the following ways:

- We should never be too busy to have conversations with students
- We should intentionally incorporate our mission and use that focus because we all make an impact
- We shouldn't let the details of our daily duties bog us down because we have a great support network within our unit, and
- The depth and breadth of our unit is far reaching and the university would not be the same without our services.

Our focus has always been on the students with our mission serving as the foundation from which we build.



Students describe the Academic Advisement Center services as:

"Amazing!!! So helpful, answers all my questions, and very understanding. I'm looking forward to go here! So friendly! Thank you! :) "

"My advisor answered questions I did not know I would need to ask. She was more helpful than I knew was possible. Gold Star Rating."

Academic Advisement Center

The Academic Advisement Center is responsible for advising Missouri State University undergraduates who are in the process of selecting majors. Academic advising encourages students to choose academically rigorous courses and programs of study as they pursue their intellectual curiosities and provides students with the individual attention needed to nurture personal growth and to participate in co-curricular activities. The Academic Advisement Center provides services, programs and publications to assist academic departments in providing quality advising to all Missouri State University students. Advising has a strong impact on student learning and retention by providing each student with a caring role model.

Services Offered to the Campus Community:

- Provide one-on-one academic advisement for all new, continuing and transfer students with exploratory/undeclared majors
- Make available programs to benefit students as they explore majors such as the Majors Fair
- Coordinate the Jump START (Summer Transition and Academic Readiness Training) Summer Bridge program
- Supply outreach activities such as presentations for SOAR, GEP 101/UHC 110 classes and workshops for conditionally admitted students
- Implement the Master Advisor Program

Feel free to contact us at:

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Advisor Awards

Missouri State and the Academic Advisement Center have produced many award winning advisors over the years and this year was no different. Three Missouri State University advisors have been selected to receive awards from the National Academic Advising Association at the annual conference this October. The three advisors are

- **Christina Bowles, Outstanding New Advisor**

She is an advisor at the Academic Advisement Center for pre-college students and students who have not yet declared a major study area. Even though Christina has approximately 200 or more advisees, she takes the time to develop a relationship with each one, regardless of the extra time involved on her part. Christina was described by one student this way, "Christina has a special quality about her that makes me unafraid of sharing my true feelings. I think Christina's unbiased and caring personality equip her with this ability to have students trust her almost instantly."



- **Judy Pickering, Outstanding Advisor Award in the Primary Advising Category**

Judy is an advisor in the College of Education as well as a recruitment coordinator. Judy's colleagues and students repeatedly use words such as dynamic, positive, inspirational, mentoring, and enthusiastic to describe her. Judy also advises new students during the Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration (SOAR) programs each year. Joe Morris, Director of SOAR, describes her work in this way, "The sense of joy she finds in helping students reach their goals almost radiates from her — others (including myself) cannot help but to be influenced by her infectious positivity."



- **Tracie Burt, Outstanding Advising Administrator**

Tracie is an instructor in the Psychology Department and is the coordinator for the Psychology department. As coordinator, Tracie works with faculty members and graduate assistants to provide advising services to over 700 major and 200 minor students. One of Tracie's advisees described their relationship in this way, "She has become my role model. Just when I thought I couldn't do any better, she helped me see the potential I had. I will be forever grateful to Ms. Burt for everything she has done."



With these three awards, *Missouri State University has now received 30 national advising awards since 1997.*

Academic Assistance

The Academic Assistance office is responsible for helping students to create an individualized major assuming it is a major that we have coursework to support but we don't currently offer that major. Another function of this office is coordinating the Partners in Education (PIE) program, which helps freshmen with the transition from high school to college. It also is responsible for Academic Renewal, Early Walk requests for commencement and scholastic actions for students who have not yet declared a major.

Services Offered to the Campus Community:

- Act as liaison between parents of freshmen students and university personnel (faculty, advisors, etc.) to assist parents who are enrolled in the PIE program requesting academic information about their student
- Assist and advise students who want to create an individualized major
- Assist returning students with academic renewal
- Alternate student ombudsman
- Coordinate scholastic action appeal hearings for exploratory/undeclared students

For more information about our programs, please visit:

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Individualized Majors

Individualized Majors can be described as majors that MSU does not offer, but does have the coursework that would support such a major. Students work closely with three advisors in different departments to map out an individualized degree program. Individualized Majors are intended for students with a clear sense of direction, motivation, and strong concept of an educational program that will best serve the individual's needs.

Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.00 and complete the following General Education Basic Required Courses prior to being accepted to an Individualized Major:

- GEP 101/UHC 110
- CIS101/CSC 101 or CSC 111
- COM 115
- ENG 110
- MTH 130 or higher, and
- KIN 100.

Students interested in an Individualized Major should

- Discuss your ideas with your present advisor or other faculty members within your area of interest
- Outline your ideas and preliminary plans for your individualized major
- Set up a meeting with Lori Roessler to discuss your plan
- Submit documents to the Academic Assistance Office for approval

For additional information click [here](#).



Previous
Individualized
Majors include:

- Applied Linguistics & Asian Studies
- Human Physiology & Biomechanics
- Game Studies
- Writing, Photography, & Publication Design

Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics

The Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics provides comprehensive academic support services for Missouri State University's NCAA Division-I varsity student-athletes. These services include academic advising for undecided majors, course progress and attendance monitoring, a facility for studying, monitoring of NCAA academic regulations, tutorial services, class registration, and referral to all other appropriate campus services. It is The Achievement Center's philosophy that all services are available to any student-athlete regardless of team, scholarship status, amount of playing time, or eligibility remaining.

Services Offered to the Campus Community:

- Act as liaison between Academics (faculty and staff) and Athletics (coaches and student-athletes).
- Act as a resource for faculty and staff for clarification and verification of information related to student-athletes
- Provide registration services geared specifically toward the needs of the student-athletes
- Monitor NCAA academic regulations to prevent violations

For more information please feel free to contact us at:

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ACIA Staff



Testimonials

Adrian Williams is a student athlete who has taken advantage of the services and facilities of the Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics. Williams is a senior majoring in Recreation, Sport, and Park Administration and shared his thoughts about the Center. "A thing I know about the Achievement Center is that it is definitely a place for student development and better learning. As a student athlete, all our resources are there for us such as getting athletes tutors or even seeking advice from our academic counselors. Everything we need is located here at the Achievement Center its just when and how we use it."

"As a student athlete, all our resources are there for us." – Adrian Williams (Student Athlete)

Karly Buer is another student athlete who has used the Achievement Center. She said, "The staff members at the Achievement Center are very helpful. Whether it be keeping a student on task for class assignments or helping to figure out semester schedules, the advisers do everything they can to help their student athletes succeed."

A'dja Jones is a graduate assistant in the Achievement Center. She has a different experience with the Center in that she has never been a student athlete. However, she feels that her experiences there have helped her as a Student Affairs graduate student. One of her favorite aspects of being a graduate assistant for the Center is the interactions she has with the student athletes. "The relationships I have built, whether it was a student I mentored or one I discussed the weather with, mean more to me than almost any other aspect of my job as a GA." Her attitude is just another example of how important students are to all those working at the Achievement Center.



Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL)

The Office of Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL) was established by MSU's Faculty Senate in 1996 to serve the University and the community. CASL works with three constituents: faculty, students, and community partners. The CASL staff supports faculty with service-learning course consultation, fellowship programs, and research stipends. CASL advises students with service-learning placements and partnerships and collaborates with the community's identified needs by providing networking opportunities, student placements, and developing long-term reciprocal relationships. CASL operates under the Public Affairs umbrella as we seek to engage students with active service-learning opportunities that underscore course objectives, tied together with reflection exercises.

Services Offered to the Campus Community:

- Faculty development for service-learning syllabi consultation, fellowship programs, and research resources
- Student service-learning advisement
- Community partnerships to meet societal needs
- Citizenship presentations

For additional information please contact:

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Kathy Nordyke



Innovate...Impact: Changing Learning, Changing Communities, Changing Lives

The 2013 Faculty and Staff Service-Learning Conference was held March 27th to an enthusiastic audience. This year's theme brought sessions and presentations that focused on innovative strategies for implementing service-learning into curriculum and showcased opportunities that can truly impact communities and the lives of others. The conference was hosted by the CASL office and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) and sponsored by Adult Student Services, Office of Student Affairs, Study Away, Missouri State Outreach, Research & Economic Development, Student Development & Public Affairs, Division of Diversity & Inclusion, Public Affairs Support, and the *eJournal of Public Affairs*.

Keynote presentations featured Stephen Foster Black, Director of The Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at University of Alabama; Vincent Ilustre, Executive Director of the Center of Public Service at Tulane University; and Byron White, Vice President of University Engagement & Chief Diversity Officer at Cleveland State University. Topics included *Developing the Moral Obligations of Citizenship*, *The Tulane Story: Changing the University Landscape through Engagement*, and *Taking the Deeper Dive: Establishing Real Engagement with Real Residents*. These are just a few of the presenters and topics covered during this daylong event. The conference received great feedback from the participants and plans are already underway for next year's conference.

"I believe that Byron White's message is extremely powerful and one that we must consider as we engage within the community."

"Stephen Black is an excellent Speaker! He hit so many tough points with grace and precision. I agree that compassion is #1."



Stephen Black



Byron White

eJournal of Public Affairs

The *eJournal of Public Affairs* is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, open-access journal published by Missouri State University and affiliated with the American Democracy Project. Its mission is to provide college and university faculty, students, staff, and community partners with a substantive forum for publishing their scholarship related to civic engagement. The *eJournal's* website is intended to be an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, resources, and activities related to civic-engagement scholarship, practice, and pedagogies.

By providing an academic, nationally refereed venue for such work, the eJournal aims to advance the status of public scholarship. The journal is focused on scholarship related to engagement in the public arena and, in particular, to the following themes:

- Considerations of citizenship and what it means to be a citizen, including global citizenship and eCitizenship
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, problem solving, and leadership related to citizenship and civic engagement
- Assessment of civic-engagement projects
- The relationship between social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and civic engagement

The journal publishes scholarly articles, with or without embedded multimedia in the articles, including research studies, best practices, reviews of the literature, and book reviews. The journal will also consider publishing scholarly and creative endeavors in alternate forms of media (e.g., videos).

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Special Issue on eCitizenship

The guest editor for this issue is our own Dr. Michael Stout, associate professor of Sociology. Dr. Stout did a great job in recruiting outstanding article submissions from across the country. A portion of Dr. Stout's introduction to this issue is included below.

This special issue is organized around the American Democracy Project (ADP) eCitizenship initiative and it highlights projects that relate to ways social media technologies are being used to teach students civic skills on college campuses in the United States.

Facebook®, wikis, blogs, and a host of other technology-based tools are transforming the ways that citizens interact with others and with government. Indeed, technology is transforming our democracy. It has been argued in the media that by providing public venues for dialogue and community organizing, this new form of "eCitizenship" serves as a powerful tool for civic engagement and political participation. In this issue we asked the question, "How do we begin to understand this transformation and to find ways for colleges and universities to use these tools to prepare informed, engaged citizens?" We received manuscripts that we hope will provide educators with useful information on innovative ways for incorporating eCitizenship in their classes. Each article summarizes an eCitizenship initiative on a college campus, but the information provided will also be useful for teaching middle school students, high school students, and community members to effectively use social media technology for the development of civic skills.

The ADP eCitizenship initiative is a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (ASSCU), ADP, and the Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University. The thirty-five institutions of higher education that are participating in this initiative are working together to study how emerging technologies, particularly social networks, support and facilitate civic and political engagement. The main goal of the initiative is to provide insights into and strategies for engaging undergraduates in the use of social networks and technology tools for civic purposes. Those strategies can then be broadly employed to prepare undergraduates for lives of engagement and participation.

Visit the *eJournal* [website](#) to read our new issue!



Academic Standards & Opportunities

The Academic Standards & Opportunities office oversees several areas. Contact Peggy Jones, Executive Assistant IV, at 200 Carrington Hall, (417) 836-5526, PeggyJones@missouristate.edu for the following areas:

- Scholastic Standards and Revision of Records
 - ◊ Reduced course load due to disability
 - ◊ Grade change from I or F to W due to extenuating circumstances
 - Non attendance
 - Illness
 - Failure to drop
 - Other documented circumstance
- Degree appeals (exceptions for University Policies regarding degree audit)
 - ◊ 40 hours upper division
 - ◊ General education waivers
 - ◊ Residency waivers
 - ◊ Posthumous Degrees
 - ◊ Course substitutions
 - ◊ Exceptions to repeat policy prior to Fall 2010
 - ◊ Major or Minor requirement waivers (with support of DH or Dean)
 - ◊ KIN waiver if not approved by DEPT
 - ◊ Graduation with honors

Contact Jessica Silvey, Executive Assistant III, 115 University Hall, (417) 836-8346, jessicasilvey@missouristate.edu for the following areas:

- Academic Integrity
- General Education course substitutions
- General Education Transfer Re-evaluations or Preapprovals



Missouri State University Student Development and Public Affairs

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We're on the Web

www.missouristate.edu/sdpa/

Having fun at the Spring Unit Meeting

