

The MACADA News

The voice of the Missouri Academic Advising Association since 1993



New Decade, New Dreams

By Joan Finder, MACADA President

For most of my life, and I suspect most of your lives as well, the year 2000 loomed as a hallmark for our very identity. What would we be doing on that momentous occasion when the new millennium arrived? Where would we live? What would we do? Visions of flying cars, jetpacks and Holodecks danced in our heads, fueled by the Jetsons, Star Trek and "2001: A Space Odyssey".

Well, here we are a full decade into that new millennium and I am still waiting for the promised self-cleaning house and calorie-free chocolate. On the other hand, when I was in college, I could never have imagined iPhones, Facebook, or Kindles. As I glance through our catalog, I am struck by how majors such as Interactive Digital Media or Webpage Design didn't appear until well after I started my career in advising. The only way to earn credit without setting foot on campus was through "correspondence courses", never mind online universities. And while my father's occupation, typewriter repairman, certainly doesn't show up on many career inventories these days, how could we have directed students to jobs in Computer Security, Biotechnology or Gaming? It makes me wonder what wonders the students we are currently serving will see in their lives. What amazing tools will help them in their research and accomplishments? What technologies that we can't even imagine will be part of their daily lives? And, most importantly, how can we help prepare them for a future world that doesn't even exist yet?

But it is the very unpredictability of the future that makes our work so crucial. We are called upon to guide students to roles that have yet to be named; give them skills for tasks unimagined. How do we do that? Certainly an openness to change, on their part and our own, is an essential first step; as is a healthy respect for the lessons of the past. And that is where the support of an organization such as MACADA is priceless.

This year, in this new decade, MACADA will experience many changes in our own organization. After many years at Tan-Tar-A, we will be moving to a new conference venue, Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa, & Yacht Club

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(formerly the Resort and Yacht Club at Toad Cove), and perhaps see some new approaches to our conference itinerary. We are also exploring more activities at the regional level, to increase your networking opportunities and shed a little stress with the colleagues in your own backyard. We are looking for increased input from you, to tell us what MACADA can do for you, and to share innovations and resources, as we all do more with less. I hope that you will feel free to contact your regional representative, or any board member, with your visions of what MACADA could truly become. And we hope to read posts from all of you on our new Facebook page, too!

At the same time, we still look to the combined experience and wisdom of our membership. In this issue of the newsletter, you will read about some of the award-winning work that many of your fellow advisors have been doing. Our network and our website provide instant answers to shared problems; MACADA keeps us from having to re-invent the wheel. Best of all, we hold on to the friendships and memories of good times shared with those who know us and understand what we do.

My family's motto has long been: "Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first." It is undeniable that change brings challenge, but it also brings opportunities and awesome surprises. As you enter the second decade of the twenty-first century, I hope that you will enjoy your calorie-laden chocolate dessert in your still-waiting-to-be-cleaned house, and imagine where you will be in 2050! Sweet dreams!

Membership Update: Aiming to Connect with New Institutions

By Jenny Steen, VP Membership

MACADA is pleased to announce that our state membership is currently at 125 members, representing 25 different institutions. While the numbers are good, membership is down slightly from this time last year. The state of our economy no doubt has an impact on MACADA membership; however, with our affordable membership fee of \$10, we hope to continue to grow our numbers throughout this year.

Many members were able to join us at the Annual State Conference in September. The conference is always a fun way for members to network and connect. Welcome to the new members and institutions!



MACADA is continuously striving to make connections with other institutions across the state. There are many higher education institutions in Missouri from which we have no members. We hope that you will consider sharing this newsletter with colleagues both at your institution and neighboring schools to help us in our goal!

The MACADA membership brochure is available on the MACADA website at: <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/MACADA/>.

Membership questions or inquiries can be sent to the VP of Membership, Jenny Steen at jenny.steen@mckc.edu or (816) 604-6758.

2009 Conference Survived with Success

By Paula Aguilar, VP Programming & Professional Development

I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who attended and to those who volunteered at our most recent 2009 conference, making it a positive and impactful event. The conference took place at Tan-Tar-A Resort and was themed Survivor: Success, Retention, and Advising.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Tim Crowley from Northwest Missouri State University. His address, Look for the Possibilities: Creating More Happiness and Joy in Your Life, was very enthusiastically received and allowed for interaction among conference attendees. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on the positive within our own lives, and Dr. Tim tied it all together with a message about how we can take that into our professions.

Many break-out sessions this year were tied to the theme with many different takes on how advisors or institutions might improve success and retention. Topics included tech-

nology, retention specialists, and assessment of student satisfaction, among others. Congratulations to Dr. Tim, for being selected by conference attendees as the 2009 Best of Conference for his session, Applying Positive Psychology to Academic Advising: The Advantage of Strengths-Based Advising.

The annual business meeting took place over dinner on Thursday September 10th and included awards presentations to the 2009 outstanding advisor, Dr. Wayne Brekus, of University of Missouri-Columbia and a special recognition for long term board member, Harry Cook, for all of the years and hard work he has given MACADA. President Joan



Southwest Missouri area meets during the regional break out session with representative Kelly Wilson.

Finder announced that the 2010 Conference will be at a new location, Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa and Yacht Club (formerly the Resort and Yacht Club at Toad Cove in Lake Ozark, MO September 9th and 10th. Watch for additional information in future newsletters and on the MACADA website.

MACADA

Show-Me Stars: Outstanding efforts by advisors in the Show-Me State

2009 MACADA Outstanding Advisor Award - Faculty Role

By Rachael Orr, VP Communication

The Outstanding Academic Advisor Award was presented to Dr. Wayne Brekhuis, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Missouri, at the MACADA conference during the annual business meeting.

"I feel really honored to receive a statewide excellence in advising award. I think often in the public perception of university life, people forget how important the a role academic advising plays," said Brekhuis.

Brekhuis began advising students during summer orientation in 2004, and became the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Depart-

ment of Sociology in 2006, which added advising responsibilities. He advised all of the approximately 220 Sociology majors, while balancing his full-time teaching and research load.

"I am utterly blessed to have had Dr. Brekhuis so wonderfully fill me in on opportunities I would have known nothing about without him—opportunities of which when I look back upon my college career, define what college was to me," said one of his students who recommended him for the award.



President Joan Finder presents Dr. Wayne Brekhuis with the 2009 Advising Award.

Academic Advisors Across the State Recognized for Success

Webster University Advisor Selected for International Educator Academy

Bethany Keller (Webster University, International Advisor) has been selected to participate in the 2010 NAFSA Academy. NAFSA, the Association for International Educators, each year selects a small class from an extensive pool of applicants.

This year's class meets three times: an orientation in Atlanta in March, the national meeting in Kansas City in early June, and a regional meeting in October or November.

MACADA Member Selected to Present at Region VII Conference

Senior advisor Tyann Cherry and Assistant Director Michelle Loyet were selected to present a paper at the NACADA Region VII Meeting to be held in Kansas City in March. The presentation titled, "Embracing the Challenge or Accepting Your Fate? Streamlining an Advising Center on a Limited Budget", will be held on Friday, March 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

The presenters will focus on overcoming shrinking budgets, hiring freezes while enrollments keep increasing. The session is designed to provide real, workable, systems-driven solutions for advising centers, through creativity, and a commitment our office to make the system work in the best way possible within the given parameters.

Jefferson College Advisor Recognized by National Guard

Betty Dye was presented with an American Patriot plaque by two members of the National Guard at a recent student affairs division meeting. Betty is an Academic Advisor and VA Certifying Official at Jefferson College and has served the student veterans there for seven years. Students Stephanie Heater and Steven Anderson contacted the College about presenting the plaque as a token of their appreciation for her service to them. The presentation was a surprise to Betty. A National Guard challenge coin was also given to Betty along with the plaque.

MACADA

Show-Me Stars: *Outstanding efforts by advisors in the Show-Me State*

MACADA Founding Member Recognized

By Joan Finder, MACADA President

Since its inception in 1992, MACADA has honored academic advising specialists for accomplishment in the profession through the establishment of the Outstanding Academic Advising Award, as well as the Pacesetter Award for administrative support of campus advising services. In 2009, after 17 years of existence, the board of MACADA decided that our organization had matured to the point where we needed to honor yet another type of service, service to the organization itself. And so, at the 2009 Annual Conference Business Meeting, a new award was presented: In Recognition of Outstanding Service to MACADA, to Harry Blaine Cook of Missouri State University.

The award was presented to Harry by President-Elect Joan Finder as a surprise. Perhaps the bigger surprise, however, was the arrival of Harry's longtime friend and MACADA colleague, Bob Chamberlin of Webster University, to introduce him. Bob regaled the membership with his anecdotes regarding Harry's exploits, as well as his achievements, throughout the early years of MACADA, including a vivid description of Harry's performance in the first and only MACADA Musical as "The Biker Advisee". Bob's comments led to tears and laughter, but the presentation of the actual award to Harry led to a standing ovation.

Harry Cook is a founding member of MACADA, having served on the board in a variety of roles from 1992 -1999 and again from 2006 to the present, including three separate terms as President, and currently serving as NACADA Region VII Liaison. As Vice-President of Communication, Harry was responsible for starting the first MACADA newsletter. He has served as a conference key note speaker, addressing Listening Skills, and presented



Former colleague, Bob Chamberlin, left, from Webster University described Harry Cook's dedication to advising, energy and humor, before he was presented the Outstanding Service to MACADA Award.

numerous conference breakout sessions. In 2008 he served as Co-chair for MACADA's hosting of the NACADA Region VII conference in Branson, Missouri. Recently Harry, together with MACADA Founder Grace Butler, was instrumental in the establishment of an archive of MACADA records in the Archives at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (WHMC) at the University of Missouri. Most importantly, Harry has shared his wit and wisdom with MACADA members over the years with a true devotion and passion for advising. Maybe the award should have been named The MACADA's Best Friend Award. Bravo, Harry!



Save the Date for the 2010 MACADA Annual Conference!
September 9 & 10, 2010 at
Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa & Yacht Club in Lake Ozark, MO
 (formerly the Resort and Yacht Club at Toad Cove)

ESL to EAP: An International Academic Journey

By Nancy Wilson, Saint Louis University

At Saint Louis University, a major change has occurred with international students. The change that has been implemented is the English as a Second Language Program (ESL), which is now referred to as English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

There has been a movement at Saint Louis University with international students coming to Saint Louis University to study at an American University. The students who have come have been both international and exchange. If one were to ask any of these students why they want to study in the United States as opposed to their native country, the answers may vary but there is one common theme – to achieve an excellent education and have a great opportunity to diversify in life. When entering the US, many international students want to take the “American” courses immediately, but many lack the educational skills to advance to such courses. Many international students must study in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program to learn the necessary skill set needed to study in an academic program. Hence, many international students do not like to be placed as ESL students. This makes them feel that they will fall behind in their academics.

Saint Louis University decided in 2009 that the ESL program needed a change and gave this program a new name – English for Academic Purposes (EAP). The EAP program still has a sustained-content based instruction and students learn language skills and emphasis is still placed on conversation and speaking. There is also content-based instruction for the international students. There is not only teaching about language skills, but there is also emphasis placed on both content and theory.

Instruction in the content classes in the EAP program focuses primarily on reading requirements. Teachers try to scaffold in instruction. With help provided, students learn something about the whole intercultural communi-



cation. There are different techniques used with scaffolding. One technique used that is essential is film analysis. This studies popular cultures. Another helpful book used is *Figuring Foreigners Out*. This is used in many “international” classes.

One of the major changes in the EAP program is placing the international students in real academic content courses from the beginning and transitioning them slowly into academic courses that American students are taking.

There are three main components to SLU’s EAP program: study skills classes, taking cultural key words (learn about Western Civilization), and a service learning component (completing 30 hours of service). SLU’s mission is to take EAP skills to a real content class.

One group of students who is in need of assistance is Generation 1.5. Generation 1.5 is increasing in the US. These students share characteristics of both first and second generation immigrants. These students may lack certain English skills, although they have spent a majority of time in the US. Many of these students came to the states in elementary or high school, but grew up in a household speaking a language other than English. Many are torn between taking EAP/ESL classes or going straight into an academic program. In conversation, it is hard to determine that Generation 1.5 students are not native English speakers, but lack the necessary educational skills to advance to more rigorous academic programs.

All in all, it is essential that an international student wanting to get a solid education in the US has many obstacles to overcome – cultural and language barriers. Whether or not the international students come through a University with an ESL or EAP program, they will receive the best education that can be offered to them. All students (both domestic and international) need assistance, so whatever programs are offered to them should be beneficial.

More MACADA information available online!

Visit us at: <http://nacada.ksu.edu/MACADA/>

NACADA Events & Updates

Award Deadline:

The deadline for the receipt of nomination materials for most award categories is **March 1, 2010**. Retiree recognition forms are due by June 1, 2010. All awards will be presented at the 2010 NACADA Annual Conference being held on October 3—October 6, 2010 in Walt Disney World, Florida. Go to the NACADA website for more information! <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/>

Region VII Conference March 11-13:

The NACADA Region VII conference will be held March 11-13, 2010, in Overland Park, KS. The deadline for the reduced conference rate is February 16. Information available at the NACADA Region VII webpage, at: http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Regional_Divisions/region7/

NACADA Leadership Elections

Be sure to vote in the 2010 elections between February 5 -26. Voting information, including the slate of candidates is available at: <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu>

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Question for a MACADA Executive Board member?

Don't hesitate to contact us!

President: **Joan Finder**, Phone: (314) 968-6987, finderjb@webster.edu

Past President & Historian: **Chris Jordan**, (816) 235-2574, JordanC@umkc.edu

President-Elect: **Tammy Welchert**, (816) 235-1385, welchertt@umkc.edu

Secretary: **Carl Williams**, (314) 935-6742, cwillia@wustl.edu

Treasurer: **Annie Girdner**, (660) 543-8943, girdner@ucmo.edu

NACADA Liaison: **Harry Cook**, (417) 836-5258, harrycook@missouristate.edu

VP, Membership: **Jenny Steen**, (816) 604-6758, Jenny.Steen@mckc.edu

VP, Programs & Professional Development: **Paula Aguilar**, (314) 246-7669, aguilar@webster.edu

VP, Communications: **Rachael Orr**, (573) 884-9700, OrrRe@missouri.edu

VP, Multiculturalism & Diversity: **Faustina Abrahams**, (417) 625-9521, Abrahams-f@mssu.edu

Central Missouri Representative: **Brooke McBride**, (573) 884-9700, McBrideBD@missouri.edu

Kansas City Area Representative: **Jeff Vincent**, (816) 235-2621, vincentj@umkc.edu

North Missouri Representative: **Julie Perkins**, (660) 263-4110 ext. 291, juliep@macc.edu

St. Louis Area Representative: **Nancy Wilson**, (314) 977-2367, nwilson@slu.edu

Southeast Missouri Representative: **Debra Shores**, (636) 797-3000 x286, dshores@jeffco.edu

Southwest Missouri Representative: **Tracey Glaessgen**, (417) 836-5258, traceyglæssgen@missouristate.edu

The **MACADA News** is published two times a year by the Missouri Academic Advising Association. Members and others interested in academic advising are encouraged to submit for publication, articles of interest to academic advisors. Articles are to be submitted to:

Rachael Orr, MACADA News Editor

M110 Student Success Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211

OrrRe@missouri.edu

We're on the Web!
Visit us at: <http://nacada.ksu.edu/MACADA/>