

# News UCAN Use

Spring 2016  
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## ABOUT NEWS UCAN USE

This newsletter is brought to you by UCAN with contributions from the Advisor Recognition Committee. Our mission is to provide the advising community with important updates, useful information and fun trivia. We will bring to you news about UCAN, UNT, as well as trends and significant happenings in Higher Education. This newsletter is another venue for UCAN to unite advisors across campus and bring important and fun information to every advisor. The goal is to produce a newsletter once a semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer) with the possibility of increasing editions as the need arises.

## ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT



### Adrian Stephens

#### College of Engineering (MEET and MEEN Majors)

**Years in Advising:** 1 Year in Advising and 5 years as an Athletics Tutor

**What do you enjoy about your job?** “I enjoy helping people find direction in their life. Students come to college thinking they know so much but it is fun to help open their eyes and find their direction. It is awesome to see when they find their direction and work towards their passions.”

**What are your Top 3 Life Highlights?** 1. Winning State in Powerlifting in High School. 2. Getting a Track Scholarship for UNT. 3. Volunteering.

**What is your favorite Sport?** Football. “My Dad even tried to get me to play peewee football.” Favorite team-Dallas Cowboys.

**What Question do you hate to answer?** “Adrian, How many people say “Yo Adrian” to you?”



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- UCAN Conference
- Staff Appreciation Month



## STRESS RELIEF TIP



### Exercise (Even For a Minute)

Exercise doesn't necessarily mean power lifting at the gym or training for a marathon. A short walk around the office or simply standing up to stretch during a break at work can offer immediate relief in a stressful situation. Getting your blood moving releases endorphins and can improve your mood almost instantaneously.

— <http://www.healthline.com/health/slideshow/10-ways-to-relieve-stress#1>

## WELCOME NEW ADVISORS!

The following Advisors have joined the UNT Advising Community since the beginning of Fall 2015. We welcome you all to join UCAN and further connect with the other Advisors on campus! If an office has had any other new advisors, please contact the UCAN Secretary to have them added in the future!



Kimberly Parker	CAS
Katherine Reinhardt	CAS
Heather Burrow	CENG
Chelsea Godin	COB
Paul Galloway	COE
Rick Weitzman	JOUR
Azzama Alia	PACS
Rodney Streng	PACS
Stephanie Myers	PACS
Anthony Vazquez	PACS

## SAVE THE DATE

### UCAN Presents the 2016 UNT Advising Conference

Destination Graduation: Roadmaps to Student Success

May 25, 2016—8am to 4pm

Collin College-Preston Ridge Campus

The UNT Advising Conference has traditionally brought together advisors and counselors from both 4-year and 2-year institutions in the North Texas region to share and discuss advising issues and strategies. This year, we are excited to announce that, for the first time, we are inviting K-12 counselors from Regions 10 and 11 to join us! In 2016, our goal is to expand the focus of our conference beyond the walls of higher education to encompass the broader educational experience in the state of Texas. The definition of "student success" varies from one level of education to the next, and there are many factors that influence this, including both state and institutional policies and initiatives. As advisors and counselors, we must be aware of these differences and how they affect our work with students. We hope that you will join us on May 25<sup>th</sup> for this exciting professional development opportunity!



Register Online: [ucan.unt.edu/conferences-and-retreats](http://ucan.unt.edu/conferences-and-retreats)

## SENIOR ADVISING GROUP

The Senior Advising Group has been very busy! We are working on multiple initiatives on behalf of our advising community. This semester we have been looking at ways to improve processes in order to streamline and simplify our advising practices. We meet regularly with representatives from both Student Affairs and Enrollment Management to improve communication regarding updates and promote collaboration on various initiatives. Below are subcommittees and projects that have stemmed from the Senior Advising Group:

- **Advisor Recognition Committee** – Subcommittee focusing on recognizing and appreciating the work of advisors.
- **Advisor Training Committee** – Subcommittee working to develop a centralized, comprehensive, online training highlighting informational, conceptual, and relational advising topics. The training will contain module-based content to allow flexibility. Also coordinated and ran a test class on Advising Theory with NACADA for a group of 29 advisors across campus.
- **Advisortraining.unt.edu** – This website is a resource being developed to support advising. It will house, in one location, advising tools/software, referral information for campus resources, campus-wide advising goals and expectations, and opportunities for advisor training/professional development.
- **UNT Run-Around Working Group** – Subcommittee reviewing policies and practices that may contribute to students experiencing the UNT run around. The goal of the committee is to collaborate across campus to eliminate some of the barriers our students face that may be impacting retention and student success.
- **Centralized Communications Plan** – Subcommittee focusing on creating a strategic campus-wide communication plan promoting advising for all students. Provides advising offices with email and social media templates for various communications throughout the year, FTIC lists/registration reports for retention purposes, and marketing materials for the "Get Advised" campaign.

We'd love to have your feedback on these on-going projects, in particular, the advising website. If you are interested in reviewing and providing feedback for the website, please contact your training committee representative or Lisa Maxwell.

## STAFF APPRECIATION

### Gracias! Merci! Danke schön! Grazie! Thank you!

Staff Appreciation month is upon us! UNT's campus is in full swing to honor all the hard working staff member of UNT. The Advisor Recognition Committee would like to extend a special thank you to all of the advisors here at UNT! Below is a schedule of events for special events across campus. Don't forget to check in with your individual college to see what special events they have planned as well!

March 21 <sup>st</sup>	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	March 30 <sup>th</sup>
Event: Human Resources Open House	Event: Union Tour and Reception	Event: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Location: Sycamore 119	Location: Union	Location: Coliseum
Time: 10:00-11:30 am	Time: 3:00-5:00 pm	Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Don't forget there are Dining Hall Discounts in all cafeterias and Student Health & Wellness Center Discounts throughout March as well! The Recreation center even has Free Group Exercise Classes and Free Fitness Fridays! Additionally, there are many Learning Sessions and Trainings throughout March. Register for any of the classes and opportunities in the [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu) portal under the Human Resource tab.



## NACADA NEWS

Region 7 Conference was held last week in Manhattan, KS. We had 3 UNT staff members recognized for their excellence and contributions to advising

Nola Moudry, Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Advising-Primary Role

Philip Aguinaga, Award Winner for Excellence in Advising-New Advisor

Dr. Shaake, Award Winner for Excellence in Advising-Advising Administrator

All nominees will be submitted for consideration for NACADA's national awards.



# Changing Majors Between Colleges/Schools

	* GPA Required	Faculty or Advising Office	Individual Appts or workshop	Major Changed in EIS	Office protocol for students not meeting entry requirements: Provide Advising? Give code?	Anything else helpful to know
<b>CAS</b>	Varies per major	If IGST/SOSC send to advising office - any other major send to department to declare	IGST – must complete workshop; all other majors - Individual Appts	After meeting with faculty advisor	Yes, and give code	
<b>COB</b>	No min GPA	Advising Office	Major-Changer Workshop	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	At workshop, COB will strongly suggest against changing to Business if they do not have a high enough GPA or struggled with MATH
<b>COE</b>	No min GPA	Advising Office	Individual Appts	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	
<b>CENG</b>	2.0 UNT GPA; "C" or better in MATH 1650 or placement into MATH 1710	Advising Office	Major-Changer Workshop (includes 1:1 w/advisor)	Met admissions criteria and attended major-changer workshop	Students may attend major-changer workshop if they are in progress of completing MATH 1650. Once grades post and verified they earned a "C" or better, their major will be changed into the desired CENG program. <u>Students receive codes at workshop.</u>	
<b>COI</b>	2.0 UNT GPA (exceptions for BAAS)	Advising Office	Individual Appts	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	BAAS ATPI students may qualify for technical/work credits based on an evaluation of their resume.
<b>CMHT</b>	No min GPA	Advising Office	Individual Appts	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	2.5 UNT GPA will be required to declare major in CMHT
<b>COM</b>	No min GPA	Music Admissions Ofc	Online application, AUDITION	Acceptance letter	Yes, and give code - Will also strongly advise to meet with current major advisor	
<b>PACS</b>	2.0 UNT GPA	Advising Office	Individual Appts	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	
<b>CVAD</b>	2.5 UNT GPA	Advising Office	Individual Appts	If GPA requirement met, same day as appt.	Yes, and give code	
<b>SOJ</b>	No min GPA	Advising Office	Individual Appts	Same day as appt	Yes, and give code	"C" or better required in ENGL 1310 & 1320, must pass the grammar spelling and punctuation (GSP) test before taking any advanced course work

\* If a student is actively sitting out a suspension then they will not be able to change their major between any of the colleges/schools.

Once the student is eligible to return, and needing advisement for the upcoming semester; they may meet with their new college/school if they meet the GPA requirements listed above.

If the student is returning from an indefinite suspension, they will need the appropriate signature from the college/school of their major at the time of their suspension.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 11-Honors Reg
- March 11-UCAN Come and Go Lunch
- March 14-Spring Break Day Off
- March 21-Seniors Reg
- March 24-UCAN Meeting
- March 28-Juniors and Second Bachelors Reg
- March 31-UCAN Conference Proposal Deadline
- April 4-Sophomores Reg
- April 11-Freshmen Reg
- April 15-University Day
- April 18-First day to request an Incomplete
- April 20-UCAN Meeting
- April 22- Last Day to Withdraw
- TBD-Advisors Recognition Event
- May 6-Early Eagle
- May 9-12-Finals Week
- May 13-14-Graduation and Commencement
- May 25-UCAN Conference
- May 30-Memorial Day

## DID YOU KNOW?



“SPIRIKI, A BRONZE EAGLE STATUE, WAS UNVEILED IN 2011 AT UNT'S APOGEE STADIUM. AS MEAN GREEN PLAYERS TAKE THE FIELD, THEY TOUCH THE STATUE TO PLEDGE THEIR BEST EFFORTS IN THE GAME. THE STATUE BY RENOWNED WILDLIFE SCULPTOR KENT ULLBERG WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE GEEZLES, A CAMPUS FRATERNITY FROM THE 1920S TO THE 1970S THAT INCLUDES MANY FORMER ATHLETES AND COACHES. THE NAME "SPIRIKI" COMES FROM AN OLD FRATERNITY GREETING BELIEVED TO BE THE COMBINATION OF THE WORDS "SPIRIT" AND "KEE," THE CRY OF AN ATTACKING EAGLE.”

—UNT.EDU/TRADITIONS

## HOT TOPICS IN HIGHER ED

Prior learning assessment (PLA) and Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) are this newsletter’s hot topic in higher education. Most higher education institutions, including UNT, already use specific external prior learning assessments such as CLEP. In the past, I have heard these called “credit for life or work experience.”. Schools across our state, and nationally, have developed, are in the process of developing, or having initial conversations about both PLA’s and CPL as ways to help students to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Credit for prior learning (hereafter referred to as CPL) is more about overall policies and procedures for assessing student knowledge or skills learned in nonacademic settings (like work) . Prior learning assessments (hereafter referenced as PLA) are the ways of evaluating or grading prior learning. PLA’s represent the different types of courses, exams or assignments students complete to earn. These include but are not limited to portfolio courses, credit by examination (CLEP and AP exams), military transcripts, and foreign language examinations.

I recently attended a one-day conference for helping academic advisors understand PLA and CPL better. Attendees were encouraged to identify both external and internal PLA’s that their home institution already utilizes or accepts. The table below is my attempt to do that however it only includes PLA’s that are accepted campus wide. It includes the name of the assessment, a web link to it or how UNT accepts it, and a summary description.

Assessment	Web Link	Description
College Level Examination Program (CLEP), AP, International Baccalaureate Program	<a href="http://www.unt.edu/credit">http://www.unt.edu/credit</a>	There are exams for a variety of subjects that primarily count towards core curriculum requirements.
Joint Service Transcript (ACE)	<a href="http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Transcripts-for-Military-Personnel.aspx">http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Transcripts-for-Military-Personnel.aspx</a>	The American Council on Education has a long history of assessing military training for college credit. UNT Admissions may accept lower- and upper-division military credit, as recommended by the American Council, as traditional or vocational credit.
College Credit for Workforce Training	<a href="http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/">http://www2.acenet.edu/credit/</a>	This is like the military transcript but includes professional/corporate training from a number of different organizations, companies, and government agencies.
DSST (Dantes Service Test)	<a href="http://getcollegecredit.com/exam_fact_sheets">http://getcollegecredit.com/exam_fact_sheets</a>	This used to be a credit by exam program exclusive to active duty military and veterans. It is now available to any student. I like DSST’s because some of the exams count as upper division credits
UNT Foreign Language Placement Tests	<a href="http://worldlanguages.unt.edu/resources/testing/placement">http://worldlanguages.unt.edu/resources/testing/placement</a>	Students can earn 3-12 hours of freshman/ sophomore level credit for demonstrated proficiency in specific foreign languages.

Please keep in mind that your college, school or department may have specific policies on using or NOT using these assessments or credits. One reason may be based on accreditation standards. Limits also exist for credit by examination (CLEP especially) and are detailed on the listed UNT webpage. It is good for advisors to know about these credit options, it is equally important to know IF and HOW these credits will be applied in their programs and what alternative programs may use them. If you are unfamiliar with one or more of the PLA’s listed it’s a good idea to discuss it with a supervisor or an experienced advisors in your office.

—Trey Anderson (PACS)

## UCAN Officers

President-Philip Aguinaga  
Secretary-Ashley Hubbard  
Treasurer-Katie Kroh  
Parliamentarian-Katie Quinn  
Historian-Kimberly Srader



## Advisor Recognition Committee

Trey Anderson  
Rachel Hall  
Ashley Hubbard  
Ana Martinez  
Lisa Maxwell  
Katie Quinn  
Kristin Ringe  
Kimberly Srader

## TAKE A BREAK, YOU DESERVE IT!

D C K P J N U T M C  
E A I A R O Z C B O  
N S Z C U R S A A M  
T L C S U T T D X N  
O C O F C H U V S A  
N O E M E T D I C C  
X I C C N E E S O A  
M C V M G X N I B D  
V G A H V A T N L A  
L N D T P S S G G O

North Texas  
Denton  
PACS  
CAS

Advising  
UCAN  
CVAD  
COM

NACADA  
CENG  
COB  
COE

CMHT  
Students  
COI

## UCAN Mission:

University Counselor Advisor Network was created as a forum for sharing ideas and exchanging information related to advising services at the University of North Texas. A primary goal is to provide its members with opportunities for professional development, recognition, and peer support, ultimately building a network of resources to enhance student success in college. Equally important is the representation and promotion of the interests of academic advising within the larger university community.

For questions or to submit articles to UCAN for the newsletter, please contact the Historian via email: [Kimberly.Srader@unt.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Srader@unt.edu).