

Advising Notes: by Advisors, for Advisors

Fall 2015

Transitioning to Academica

By Cody Bailey, CLAS

Academica is now the official online portal for Wayne State students, faculty, and academic staff. This new portal provides all the same services and features as Pipeline, but in an updated and modern medium. The quickest way to navigate Academica is to enter a.wayne.edu into your URL bar. As for myself, I have Academica set up as my home page, so every time I open up Chrome I'm ready to go. Once in Academica, you have access to nearly every WSU system you can imagine: Wayne Connect, Advisors Menu, Pay Stub, Leave Balances, Employee Training, and much, much more.

Despite a lukewarm initial response by students and staff, in recent days since Academica officially replaced Pipeline, it seems many offices have already jumped right in to take advantage of its many functions. I now regularly see messages from important campus offices like Financial Aid and the Student Services Center via the Streams function on the main page. The Streams function brings a whole new level of interaction among campus offices, individual employees, and students which, if used effectively, seemingly justifies the change from Pipeline itself.

Advisors can now subscribe to as well as create new communication Streams for students in their various majors and departments. This quick and efficient method for communicating allows for real time announcements and updates with different audiences; a pretty neat tool for connecting with this high-tech generation of students. This tool also provides communication among our advising community as well; in fact, if you have not done so, I recommend you follow the Advisor Training Academy Stream so you can receive updates as they are posted.

Beyond the Streams functionality, Academica also brings a couple of other new tools to the table. Academica features a search bar at the top of the screen which allows users to quickly and easily navigate to most any WSU office or resource a student or staff member might need to see. Furthermore, as you continue to use Academica, it will begin to track your frequently visited pages and add them to your "My Frequent Links" option, creating even faster navigation for regular and returning users.

I regularly tell students, especially those who are new to campus, that if they can only remember one website, make it Academica. Certainly, as with any new system, there will be some growing pains with Academica, but if you are open to trying new things, I'm certain you will come to find it an excellent addition to the WSU infrastructure, and can serve as an integral part of your advising tools.

Any users experiencing issues with Academica are encouraged to contact the C&IT Help Desk at (313) 577-HELP or helpdesk@wayne.edu.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Advisor Spotlight.....	2
Top 10 List.....	2
AAC Updates	2
Student Service Insider.....	3
Trainee Tips	3, 4
ATA Updates	4

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Kate Bernas, ab9599@wayne.edu
- Cody Bailey, fs3981@wayne.edu
- Tracy Castle, fk4510@wayne.edu
- Stephanie Chastain, bc0105@wayne.edu
- Kim Morgan, eb4704@wayne.edu
- Rachel Pawlowski, fg6313@wayne.edu
- Royanne Smith, ad2073@wayne.edu
- Kenya Swanson, ae4082@wayne.edu
- Mary Zinser, dz2123@wayne.edu

Advisor Spotlight Cody Bailey



By Kenya Swanson, UAC — Cody's pathway in education began in 2011 when he received his B.A. in Psychology from Michigan State University. After his undergrad, he worked for the National College Advising Corps (NCAC) where he was placed in a small, rural high school in Western Michigan. During his placement, he helped a population of mostly first-generation, low socioeconomic status students make their transition from high school to college. In 2012, Cody returned to school to receive his M.A. in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University. Then, in May 2014, he joined the WSU advising staff in the Department of Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Recently engaged, Cody spends his time after work wedding planning with his fiancé - they tie the knot next May! When the two are not busy wedding planning, they enjoy playing games, spending time with family, and watching movies. Cody also enjoys cooking, reading, camping, and being outdoors. Currently, Cody is reading the Game of Thrones series. He enjoys reading Fantasy books and loves mostly anything written by J.R.R. Tolkien; his favorite book is The Hobbit.

TOP TEN....

Most Declared Majors at WSU

By Rachel Pawlowski, Honors College

1. BS in Biological Sciences, 893 Students
2. BS in Psychology, 649 Students
3. BS in Bus. Admin. – Management, 425 Students
4. BS in Computer Science, 379 Students
5. Bachelor of Fine Art – Art, 378 Students
6. BS in Criminal Justice, 360 Students
7. BA in Psychology, 360 Students
8. BS in Bus. Admin. – Accounting, 355 Students
9. BS in Bus. Admin. – Marketing, 327 Students
10. BS in Bus. Admin. – Global Supply Chain Management, 283 Students

These numbers are based on a STARS report of currently declared students who are registered for Fall 2015.

Academic Advising Council Update

By Royanne Smith, Past President

During our first official year as WSU-AAC, the council accomplished four goals: editing its by-laws, forming committees to address advising-related needs and concerns, coordinating an annual advising event, and preparing eligibility materials for NACADA affiliate membership. Beginning in fall 2014, an ad hoc committee reviewed the organization's by-laws and drafted language for two proposed emendations. At the same time, the Membership and Elections Committee developed a comprehensive list of WSU advisors and facilitated two electronic elections--with mixed results. The first vote elected Laura Hetzler as the 2015-2016 President-elect. Congratulations, Laura! A subsequent vote did not garner enough votes to make the proposed by-laws changes. As the WSU-AAC's influence grows, though, membership participation will no doubt increase as well.

Attendance at the Advising Summit, on the other hand, was excellent. Attendees will agree that Summit Planning Committee orchestrated a wildly successful event. Over the summer, the Communications Committee and the Training Committee joined forces with the Advisor Training Academy to design an advisor questionnaire, seeking to know more about the skills and expertise within the advising community, and to launch this joint newsletter. A second ad hoc committee was formed in August. Its ongoing charge is to review the current general education program and deliver recommendations to the University General Education Reform Committee.

Finally, as of September 1st the WSU-AAC became a NACADA Affiliate Member.

The Student Service Insider

Three Ways to Increase Academic Confidence for the Fall 2015 Semester

- by Stephanie Chastain, Dept. of Computer Science

Students transitioning from high school or a community college could develop some apprehension or anxiety about their academic ability to succeed at the university level. Academic Advisors can reduce these fears by encouraging students to sign up for **Course Study Groups** at the beginning of the semester. Participants can expect to work collaboratively with their peers by developing effective learning strategies, discussing course material from lecture, and preparing for exams. Course Study Groups are one of the several free services offered by the **Peer Assisted Learning Program** in the **Academic Success Center**. The ASC is located in 1600 Undergraduate Library. More detailed information can be found at success.wayne.edu.

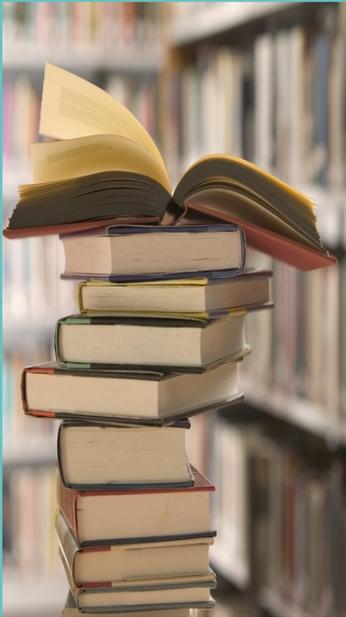


Trainee Tip

Have you ever wanted to improve your Excel skills, learn about the Cloud or read a book about distressing at work? Well, the perfect resource for you is WSU's Accelerate Employee Development Tools. You can get everything from books to videos to courses on a multitude of topics. You can even use this too to learn the various programs in the Microsoft Office 365 suite. Go to academica.wayne.edu and click on the training, seminars and workshops menu button. Then look for the Accelerate Icon and start browsing!

- by Kim Morgan, CLAS

Advisor Training Academy Update



By Kate Bernas, Director

The ATA is excited to join with the WSU Academic Advising Council to launch this joint newsletter. We hope it serves the WSU advising community well as a means of building community and enhancing communication across campus. We also hope that you had a chance to complete the **Expertise Finder** survey which can be found at: <http://goo.gl/forms/qAVPMLJ4WL>. This AAC/ATA joint survey will not only highlight the skills and talents of your fellow advisors, but it will further connect you with others with like interests or from whom you can get assist in your work or training. The results will be made available for use in September.

This fall brings the return of our monthly ATA **“Lunch and Learn”** beginning with the **September 18** session featuring a presentation by Christine Huang from the Academic Success Center. Christine will present on the ASC services with a special focus on tutoring, SI, and the new Peer-Assisted Learning that the ASC began offering last year. We will meet from Noon to 1:30pm in the SI room: **3317 Undergraduate Library**. Bring your lunch and join us!

WELCOME TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

By Kate Bernas, Director

“Advisor Notes” is, indeed, a newsletter “for advisors, by advisors.” As such we want to hear from you!

We plan to spotlight a different advisor in each issue and would also love to start a “Good News” feature by which to highlight the accomplishments, milestones, and other life events of our WSU advisors. So, feel free to send any updates or announcements to Kate Bernas at ab9599@wayne.edu. Submissions will be collected throughout the term to use in the upcoming issue.

We are also planning a “Did you know” column for advisors to submit useful tidbits of information (old reminders or new changes) or “job-hacks” that would benefit the advising community campus-wide. Again, submissions can be made to ab9599@wayne.edu and will be held for the next edition.

Trainee Tip

New WSU advisors should definitely get to know the Advisor Manual. You can learn skills and techniques for advising, find out what a medical withdrawal is, learn the difference between a dual degree and a dual major and much, much more! Located on the advising.wayne.edu site, this resource will open up a world of knowledge that will be invaluable to you as you learn the ropes here at Wayne State.

-by Kim Morgan, CLAS

