Greetings parents and families! It is hard to believe your student’s spring semester is rapidly coming to a close. Time does fly!

Our fall semester was an extremely busy one for our office. From late August to late December 2016 we held 3783 advising appointments, 734 appointments were Drop-In. Hurricane Matthew’s coming on shore certainly presented its challenges, losing 212 scheduled student appointments. Many of those students immediately rescheduled; but for those that did not, we offered them a special opportunity for a group advising experience. While not ideal, we were pleased we were able to accommodate these students.

This spring we added Quick Question Drop-In to our services. From 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Monday – Friday we have an advisor on-call to have brief advising appointments for students with quick questions about a course, policies and procedures, or general concerns.

Mid-term grades will be available to students in MyCharleston on Thursday, March 16 at noon and the last day to withdraw from a course is Thursday, March 23. The Academic Advising and Planning Center will be hosting open Drop-In hours from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 23 to discuss course withdrawal questions with students.

I am pleased to announce that several of our advisors have received regional and national recognition through our professional organization, NACADA, for their work as academic advisors in the last year. In Spring 2016, Dr. Silvia Youssef Hanna was awarded Outstanding Academic Advisor for South Carolina and Abe Saunders was awarded Outstanding New Academic Advisor for South Carolina. They were recognized at the region NACADA conference in Chattanooga, TN. Diane Bowers was one of 19 advisors nationwide to be awarded Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role and was recognized at the national NACADA conference in Atlanta, GA in October 2016. This spring, Laura Suggs will be recognized at the region NACADA conference in Raleigh, NC for Outstanding New Advisor for South Carolina.

We are in the midst of some pretty big changes to our website so that information is easier to find based on the information you are seeking. We have added more information to our About the Center page including our advising model and our student learning outcomes. We have also recently added Prospective Students, Newly Admitted Students and Continuing Students pages. Check us out, advising.cofc.edu.

I close with a reminder that students should be making their mandatory advising appointment, if they haven’t done so already. Several reminder emails have gone out to students. If your student has not declared an academic major, then their advising appointment is with our office. If your student has declared an academic major, then in many cases their advising appointment is with their new academic department (see Advising Model); however, some departments do not require advising. If this is the case, then your student’s advising appointment is with us. We have sent all students assigned to our office indicating with whom they should make their appointment. Have them check their email if they’re unsure.

Until next time, Karen Hauschild
A Successful Majors Fair!
Over 300 students attended the 2016 Majors Fair.

The Academic Advising and Planning Center, in collaboration with the Office for the Academic Experience, the Career Center, and Student Government Association hosted the 4th annual Majors Fair on September 28th in Cougar Mall from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Over 300 students attended this year’s Majors Fair and had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with faculty, staff, and student representatives from academic programs all over campus. Meeting in a central location allowed students to visit several academic programs and ask questions related to requirements, curriculum, and career opportunities.

All undergraduate students at the College of Charleston must declare a major no later than the second semester of their sophomore year and this decision is instrumental to their college success. Students who attended the Majors Fair were predominantly undecided and exploring programs of study before declaring their major. Students considering a change in their declared major or adding a minor also attended to solicit information from program representatives. Students received important information for their academic planning as they prepared to register for Spring 2017 courses.

Students voted on their favorite table display via electronic survey. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was the overwhelming favorite for the second year in a row (see picture). Their table include live chemistry experiments. They received an award and their name on a plaque that hangs in the Academic Advising and Planning Center.

This event would not have been possible without the volunteer faculty, staff, and student representatives present to provide information to our student body. Over 40 programs participated in the 2016 Majors Fair including representatives from the six academic schools and four student support offices. We thank them for their support in assisting our students in this decision-making process and we look forward to Majors Fair 2017!

Important Dates:

- **March 3**: Express II classes begin
- **March 5-11**: Spring Break
- **March 14**: Last day of Drop/Add for Express II classes
- **March 15**: Choosing a Major Workshop, 4:00-5:00pm, Career Center
- **March 16**: Midterm grades available via MyCharleston
- **March 20**: Maymester and Summer Sessions registration begins for CofC students
- **March 22-23**: Drop-in hours at AAPC between 9am and 4pm
- **March 23**: Last day to withdraw from full semester courses with a “W”
- **April 4**: Choosing a Major Workshop, 4:00-5:00pm, Career Center
- **April 12**: Last day to withdraw from an Express II class with a “W”
- **April 26**: Last day of classes
- **April 27**: Reading day
- **April 28**: Final Exams begin
- **May 5**: Last day of Final Exams
- **May 9**: Final grades available on MyCharleston after 5pm
- **May 12, 13**: Graduation Ceremonies
Coaching Your Student
Helping Prepare your Students for Academic Success

Classes are well under way and soon your student will be visiting our office to discuss his or her academic plan as well as course options for the fall. Here are a few key questions you can prompt your student with as she prepares for an advising appointment:

- **Do you know who your academic advisor is?** (this is in the MyCharleston Academic Services tab);
- **Have you already scheduled your advising appointment yet?** Students need to plan to make this appointment several weeks in advance of when they think they need to have it. Many students schedule the appointment and then fail to keep it. This creates undue hardship on your student and the advisor. As the semester progresses, advisor schedules are booked with appointments and it becomes virtually impossible to reschedule quickly.
- **Have you reviewed your degree audit in Degree Works?** This is an excellent online tool, again located in the Academic Services tab in MyCharleston, allowing students to look at their academic progress to date and create “What If” audits to explore options for a major or minor.
- **Have you identified and selected a major/minor or both? If yes, have you declared your major yet? Have you identified “go to” faculty and staff in your intended department? Have you accessed Catalog or the Major Roadmaps online? If not, have you spoken with your academic advisor.**
- **Have you prepared for your advising appointment in advance?** Students often come to advising appointment waiting for the advisor to tell them what to do. However, it is important your student comes prepared with classes in mind for the next semester, questions they have about policies, procedures or processes, their academic and personal goals, and requests for resources. The more engaged and prepared your student is for their appointment, the more they will learn and be better equipped to take action as a result of their advising discussion.

Each semester the College of Charleston holds multiple Choosing a Major workshops run jointly by the Academic Advising and Planning center and the Career Center. The reason a major is so important is because it is an academic requirement for graduation, not because it will determine what career or occupation you can enter. Majors are best chosen on the basis of interest in the subject and aptitude or ability to be successful academically as well.

During these hour-long workshops, we uncover myths & discuss facts about being “undeclared”, discuss the difference in choosing a MAJOR vs. choosing a CAREER, suggest steps for making your decision, and provide tools and resources to assist you in the major and career planning process. The Career Center and The Academic Advising & Planning Center staff will help you identify your interests to majors and careers. This is done through a workbook assessment that will provide the student with personalized career and educational planning information needed to make a well-informed decision. After working through the workbook you are given a list of majors that may coincided with your results.

**Workshops this spring:**

March 15 (Wed)
April 4 (Tues)

All workshops are at 4:00pm in the Career Center
Art Matters!

Student Art Exhibit

The Academic Advising and Planning Center organized an exhibition of student art entitled ART MATTERS! It opened December 1st and will remain on display for one year. All CofC students were invited to contribute regardless of their academic major or minors and whether or not they had any previous fine art experience. For many student contributors, this is the first time they have exhibited a piece of art work. Our exhibition opening includes music, food, and a lively and receptive crowd.

For our office, displaying student art reflects our values of supporting student interests and development. Based on our conversations with students, we know that many students express themselves through art even if they are not pursuing it professionally. We wanted to be able to celebrate that creativity and hard work, knowing that much of this art might not have the opportunity to be shown in other campus fine art exhibitions.

It is always our goal to learn about our students’ passions—both the ones that are related to their major and career goals and the ones that they pursue on the side. This way, we get to know each advisee better as an individual and can best point them in the right direction for campus resources that will best help them continue to grow and refine themselves as whole, well-rounded adults.

Staff Highlights

Our Newest Staff Members

I am the youngest of three and grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Roanoke, VA. After high school I ventured north to Penn State University to study Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management. My initial career post-graduation took me to first work at a Marriott resort in Point Clear, AL followed by an Omni hotel in New York City.

With a few years of work experience, I made the decision to shift gears and return to school at New York University to pursue a master’s program in International Education. During this time I worked as a Graduate Assistant for NYU’s Office of Global Programs, which transitioned into a full-time Study Away Advisor position post-graduation. Although this was very rewarding, after five and a half years in NYC, it felt like time to transition to a place I can truly see myself calling home, which brings me (and my husband) to Charleston. I am thrilled to join the AAPC team at College of Charleston where I am able to continue in Higher Education and bring my initial passion for hospitality into my everyday work with students.

Outside of work, I enjoy being active, going to the beach, reading, and attempting to manage the chaos of my animals (a 6 year old cat and new puppy!). Charleston has quickly become our forever home.

Stephanie Leahy
Julie is originally from a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. During her husband Mike’s 24 year career in the USAF she lived in many places including Germany, Idaho, Nebraska, Panama, Mississippi, and Alaska (and accumulated just as many college transcripts!) Upon arriving in the Lowcountry in 1998 Julie taught for one year at Ft Dorchester HS before practicing real estate in the Summerville area for fifteen years. In 2015 she resumed a career in higher education at the College of Charleston. Married 39 years, the Mulligans have two grown daughters. Katie, 29, lives in Chicago, IL and Erin, 26 lives in Washington, DC.

Julie attends St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Summerville where she is blessed by inspiring worship, fellowship, and solid biblical teaching. Julie finds great joy in serving at St. Paul’s as a prayer minister, lector, and member of the Daughters of the King. She also serves as a hospital Stephen Minister at Summerville Medical Center.

I am a CofC alum and have been working for the College since I graduated in 2014. I’m also a few months away from (finally!) completing my Master’s in Higher Education through Drexel University. Originally, I’m from New York/Virginia, but Charleston has been my home for almost 7 years. In my free time, I love to SCUBA dive, cook, practice yoga and play with my dog, Apollo. My fiancé and I are also huge beer lovers, so most weekends you can find us at one of Charleston’s many breweries!

I am very excited to be a part of the advising team! Before working at CofC, I taught high school math, worked for non-profits such as Communities in Schools, and I even spent a year working as a Segway tour guide on the National Mall in Washington, DC! I also worked for a year as the Engagement and Operations Manager in the Jewish Studies Department at CofC. Outside of my work in the AAPC, I am a tutor and life coach. I’m a big Brene Brown fan and I’m always looking for good books about resilience and personal growth. I love the beach, riding my bike, and taking walks with my dog, Aidan.