Greetings CofC Parents and Families,

Welcome back from spring break! It is hard to believe we are on the second half of the second semester. Things in the AAPC have moved along swiftly. Since late registration and drop/add in early January until early March, we have held 808 advising appointments and we are beginning to get even busier as students continue to fine tune their academic plans, consider or declare a major, and think about summer or fall courses.

As we mentioned last summer when you were here for orientation, keeping the lines of communication open is the best way to be “in the know” about your student’s plans and academic performance. On Monday, March 16 mid-term grades will be posted in your student’s MyCharleston. And the last day to withdraw with a “W” from a course is Wednesday, March 25. It is important for students to make informed decisions about next steps in their academic journey, especially if their grades are not where they want them to be. This is where your student’s Academic Advisor can assist.

The Academic Advising and Planning Center will be hosting Walk-In advising hours for students who want to consult with an advisor about whether withdrawing from a course is in his or her best interest. On Monday, March 16 mid-term grades will be posted in your student’s MyCharleston. And the last day to withdraw with a “W” from a course is Wednesday, March 25. It is important for students to make informed decisions about next steps in their academic journey, especially if their grades are not where they want them to be. This is where your student’s Academic Advisor can assist.

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In the meantime, we are in the season of mandatory advising. At this busy time, it is critical for students to not only make their appointment in a timely manner but also keep the appointment they have scheduled. Many of our advisors’ calendars are already booked two to three weeks in advance. Also note, students once again have Advising Homework for their mandatory advising, which was distributed in their FYE Seminar as well as via email. The more prepared your student is for their advising appointment, the better prepared your student will be to engage in the conversation, ask meaningful questions, and take the reins of their academic journey.

Sincerely, Karen Hauschild
When I first started college I thought what most freshmen thought, that I was on my own and it was up to me to decide my future. Everyone had always told me that academic advisors do not care about you or what choices you make. I quickly learned that I do get to pick my own classes, but also learned that advisors do care and how helpful they are.

When choosing classes for the spring semester, I did not know what to choose to benefit my major. My meeting with my advisor was so helpful because she was able to suggest classes, clubs, and volunteer opportunities that would improve my major and resume. She not only helps with classes, but also asks about my time at Charleston and my plans for the future. I have never had a bad experience in the Academic Advising and Planning Center.

When preparing for my advising meeting I always do the homework, which asks about your interests and courses that you are curious about for the next semester. This is key to the meeting because then the advisor knows how to help you, due to your interests. I personally also have classes required for my major mapped out, so I can ask any questions and be organized at the same time. I always make sure I am prepared and organized before my appointments. For parents my best advice would to encourage your kids to seek help from the Academic Advising and Planning Center.

Wendy Stephens, Assistant Director  
Shannon Farrelly, Academic Advisor
Art Matters!

Art/Science Symposium

On March 13 from 3:00-5:00PM the AAPC will host its second annual Art/Science Symposium. The event showcases the collaborations of six pairs of undergraduate students with professors from the School of Sciences and Mathematics. Each student and professor will give a five minute TED-style talk. The faculty will introduce their research and the student artists will describe how this research inspired their creation of a visual work. A CofC Liberal Arts and Sciences Grant generously provided funds to cover the costs of the student artists’ supplies, and the students will be awarded their stipend at the event. The symposium will conclude with light refreshments. Please join us!

See THE COLLEGE Today’s article on last year’s collaborations:
http://today.cofc.edu/2013/11/14/combining-art-and-science-makes-sense/

Read an article on the value of art to academic advising written by two of our advisors:

Check out photos of all of the artwork included in our annual ART MATTERS! exhibition on our facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/CofCAdvising/photos_stream

“Untitled” by Heather Thornton

Student Point of View

As a current freshman and rising sophomore at the College of Charleston, the Academic Advising program has been absolutely fantastic. They have always been there to answer my questions and guide me in the right direction that I find fitting. I naturally am a motivated student, but sometimes I don’t know exactly what I need to do or what classes I need to take in order to be successful and accomplish my goals. This is where the Academic Advising program comes in; they not only motivate you to do well in the classroom, but they also establish a set of educated goals that correlate with you personally. They suggest courses that help you finish major requirements, general education courses, and sometimes classes that are interesting to you. Yet, they can’t do all the work themselves to help you be a better and more prepared student. Certain things must be done prior to your meetings in order for you to succeed as much as possible. I, personally, review my general education course requirements in Degree Works. This area of My Charleston allows for me to establish the classes that I’ve already taken, and the classes that I need to enroll in. Going into the meeting with classes already in mind helps you plan for a better semester and mentally gets you focused on what you need to do to succeed as a student. Overall, my experience with the Academic Advising program at the College of Charleston has been great and as long as you are willing to work with them and along side them, they will always be open to assisting you.

-Sam Holaday