

"Advising: Our Passion. Your Success: Our Reward."



# CASAC MONTHLY

College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center Newsletter

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## From the Director's Desk

Welcome back to another great semester in the College of Arts & Sciences! I hope your semester is off to an excellent start and you're settling into your courses well. As we move into September, know that the CAS Advising Center is here to support you with any questions you have about the semester, campus resources to succeed in courses, or if you have questions but don't know who to ask. It has been so nice to see you all over the last few weeks, breathing life back into the campus. It just isn't the same in the summer without you all here. If there is anything that we can do to assist you over the course of the semester, please don't hesitate to reach out or stop by our office in the Vines Building, Room 119. We're here to help! Take care and have a great rest of your semester!

~Justin

## Happy Labor Day

Campus Closed  
Monday, September 1st



## Staff Spotlight: Sarah Peterson, Academic Advisor

We are excited to welcome Sarah Peterson to the CASAC staff of professional advisors. Sarah joined the CASAC team at the end of June 2025. Sarah previously worked in the ROAR First-Year Advising Center as an Academic Advisor. In her role in the ROAR and now in CASAC, Sarah enjoys helping student's navigate their journey through college no matter what that path may look like for each student.

Sarah is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. After completing her tour of duty, she returned to college to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science with a minor in Business Administration from Troy University. Sarah has lived all over, inside, and outside the continental United States with her family and active duty military spouse, but has found her true home and career in higher education and advising at University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She looks forward to finding new ways to become involved and a part of the wonderful community here at UAFS!

When asked what advice she would share with students, Sarah defaulted to one of her favorite quotes: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat"

Theodore Roosevelt.



# Faculty Advisor Spotlight: Dr. Matt McCoy

Professor – History, Social Sciences, and Philosophy

## Your Philosophy on Faculty Advising for Student Success

**A successful advising relationship is based on communication. The advisor needs to spend time talking to the student about that student's goals and interests. Understanding what students want from their college experience and after graduation is critical, so that advisors can guide students into experiences and connections that will further those goals. Every student is different, and an advisor should do everything possible to provide that individualized approach.**

## Your Passion for Advising Students

**I enjoy the time I get to spend with students. Whether it is a formal advising session or just casual conversation, I try to be a mentor, not just the person who signs off on their schedule. Any time I can help a student with a problem or open new opportunities for them, I feel like I have made a real contribution.**

## Your Advice for Students

**Students should consider their advisor to be an important resource. Ask questions about the profession and opportunities after graduation. Advisors love to help their students network, and they love to talk about their disciplines. And do not be afraid to be honest. Students need to let advisors know what they really want from their college experience and after graduation. That honesty leads to good communication**

## Interests & Hobbies

**When I am not teaching or writing, I enjoy playing music, golf, and woodworking.**



## UPCOMING DATES

Spring/Summer Schedule Available Online.....	October 1
Spring Advising Begins.....	October 1
Mid-term Grades Due and Available on Workday.....	October 15
Last Day to Drop Undergraduate Course w/ 'W'.....	November 7
Payment Plans for Spring 2026 Open.....	November 11
Registration for Spring/Summer 2026 Begins.....	November 10
Thanksgiving Break, No Classes.....	November 24-28

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!



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