



Hi, I am Keri Bishop and have been an Academic Advisor in the Psychology Department for 3.5 years now! I am originally from Phoenix and came to the UA to get my Bachelor's (and soon Masters!) degree and never left. I also work with our psychology honors students, teach and coordinate our PSY 197A/197B courses and Psychology Peer Mentors, and create our monthly newsletter. I enjoy working with our students and think we have the best job as advisors! UPAC is a great resource for our advising community at the UA. I think it is important to make sure we are aware of the changes on campus when new programs are being introduced or when policies are being changed. Keeping this forum to share this information is a key goal of mine and making sure we give enough time to spend on areas that greatly effect advising and our students. I am a big supporter of collaboration and want to find ways to have UPAC encourage and foster relationships on campus to allow for strong collaboration to continue and grow. In addition to UPAC being a place of information sharing and network building, I think it should be a place where we can come together to creatively identify areas that can be improved or changed for the better on our campus and ultimately for our students and their experience here at the UA.



Hello advisors! My name is Jackie Rindone, and I am an academic advisor under the Colleges of Letters, Arts, and Science, advising undecided students, General Studies, and Global Studies. Prior to starting at UA, I also advised undecided students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for two years. Last summer, I decided to leave the cold tundra up north to return to Arizona for the Wildcats, sunshine, and tennis. In my transition to UA, UPAC has been essential in not only learning the ropes here, but also making connections with other advisors and professionals around campus.

With the upcoming elections, I am excited for the opportunity to help lead UPAC and work with other advisors to bring useful information to UPAC meetings and events. Times are changing at UA, and I think advisors face exciting, yet challenging tasks of navigating institutional initiatives, such as UA Online and 100% Engagement. UPAC has the ability to help facilitate consistent and coherent information of policies and services, but equally in importance, I also see UPAC assisting in an increase of collaboration across advising units and student services across campus. I envision UPAC continuing in providing meetings that incorporate these goals, but I also see the council evolving in how advisors can work in partnership under the Never Settle strategic plan. With having various campuses through UA South, UA North Valley, and UA Online, I believe it is imperative that advisors work together to provide effective advising through practices that best serve our students. Again, I want to share my enthusiasm in being considered for one of co-chairs of UPAC, and thank you for your time and support!



Hello UPAC, my name is Kristen Geary and I am an academic advisor in Career and Academic Services within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In my position I primarily advise for no major selected agriculture and life science students, incoming students, probationary students, and other special student populations. I also teach two success courses, one for incoming freshmen and one for first-time probationary students, in addition to being the co-advisor for the CALS Peer Mentors and Sigma Alpha professional agriculture sorority. I have been advising in CALS for two and a half years, but I have been an advisor for five years (previously with the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Troy University). Before becoming an advisor I was a student in CALS and earned degrees in Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education.

Throughout my time as an advisor at UA I have really valued my experiences with UPAC. Professional development and networking opportunities are so important in our field, and UPAC is essential in making sure that we all have a venue through which to share information. In addition to the great things that UPAC is already doing, I would like to see greater collaboration between advising and other student services offices throughout campus so that we can all serve students more efficiently and effectively. I would also like to increase participation in UPAC, especially by more experienced advisors and faculty advisors, by providing more developmental opportunities. The more opportunities UPAC offers for advisors to get together and share their best practices and learn new skills, the more UA students will benefit. I would truly appreciate the chance to take on this leadership role and serve all of UPAC as a co-chair. Thank you for your consideration and Go Cats!



J. Christina Garcia. I graduated from UA with my B.S. in Animal Science in 2008 and continued on and completed a M.S. in Animal Science – Ruminant Nutrition in 2010. In 2013, I was hired as an academic advisor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. I advise primarily Veterinary Science students, but also help with Microbiology and Animal Sciences students. This September will be my 3rd year as an academic advisor.



Three main goals I would like to help UPAC work toward are:

Goal # 1- To provide increased support for new advisors. UPAC provides a wonderful New Advisor Orientation that covers all the basics of advising. Being new to advising you haven't experienced the various situations you can be confronted with while advising, which makes it hard to take advantage of the training being provided. I would try providing more interactive workshops/group discussions for new advisors during the first 6 months they're advising.

Goal #2- To foster stronger professional relationships amongst the individuals in the UA advising community. Most advisors know advisors in their unit and maybe in their college, but probably not past that. Additionally, every department and major has its own unique way that it is advised and I believe that we can all learn a lot from each other. Starting a mentoring program between more seasoned advisors and newer advisors, can not only develop these relationships but also spread best practices throughout the advising community.

Goal #3- To further professional development for academic advisors. As advisors we have A LOT of duties/responsibilities, which leaves little time for professional development. Professional development is essential for us as individuals to grow and become better advisors for our students and units. I would attempt to reach this goal by providing opportunities for professional development during our "off-times" making it more feasible to attend these events.