

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Info about annual ArkAAN Conference
- Information about the NACADA Region 7 Conference
- Directions to the ArkAAN and NACADA websites!
- A list of executive board members and their e-mail addresses

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## 2009 ArkAAN Annual Conference April 17, 2009

Feeling the Squeeze:

*When Life Hands You Lemons,  
Make Lemonade!*

This year's annual conference will be held at the beautiful Arkansas State University at Mountain Home campus in Mountain Home, AR. We are very excited to have Charlie Nutt, Executive Director of NACADA featured as our keynote speaker giving us tips on advising through tough times. We are also pleased to welcome Charlotte Strickland of Strictly Speaking and UCA Education Seminar Coordinator as our plenary speaker to get us re-motivated just in time for summer registration.

Registration will begin at 8am.

Check out [www.enjoymountainhome.com](http://www.enjoymountainhome.com) for information on Mountain Home and [www.nacada.ksu.edu/ARKAAN](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/ARKAAN) for session proposal forms and award nomination forms. Requests for electronic copies of forms may also be sent to Kelsey Smyth, VP of Communications at [ksmyth@uca.edu](mailto:ksmyth@uca.edu)



## Region 7 Conference Update

The Louisiana Academic Advising Association extends a special invitation to our ArkAAN colleagues to join other Region 7 NACADA members in New Orleans for the 2009 Regional Conference. The dates are May 4, 5, and 6, and the hotel conference location is the Marriott New Orleans Convention Center. Our theme for 2009 is "Louisiana Lagniappe: Adding a Little Something Extra to Spice Up

Your Advising Menu."

It's not too late! Presentation proposals are being accepted until March 1, 2009.

The early discount registration rate (\$115 for NACADA members) is available until April 13. Check the NACADA regional website for the full rate structure.

The hotel conference rate is \$129/night single and \$139/night double plus tax. To receive this rate, conference attendees must book before

April 13, 2009 by contacting the hotel reservations department at 1-800-MARRIOTT and identifying themselves as part of the National Academic Advising Association conference. To book your rooms on-line, go to:

<http://marriott.com/msync?group-Code=NACNACA&app=resvlink>

Forever New Orleans! See you there.

Paul Ivey  
Conference Chair

*Advising is Teaching*

## New Membership Information!

We are very excited this year to extend a discounted conference and membership rate to master's level students who are interested in academic advising as a future career. Several schools in Arkansas have higher education master's degree programs, and we want to be sure to include the next generation of advisors when we share knowledge about our profession! If you know a student who might be interested, feel free to give them a conference registration form and direct them to the ArkAAN website (directions below) to learn more and get registered!

## How to find the ArkAAN Website

Our website is housed as part of the overall NACADA website, which is great because we are getting two resources in one! To find our section, just go to [www.nacada.ksu.edu/ARKAAN](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/ARKAAN) or follow these simple steps:

1. Go to [www.nacada.ksu.edu](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu)
2. From the menu on the left side of the page, choose the link titled "Allied Members." It is the seventh one from the top.
3. Scroll down until you reach the list of members in Region 7. We are the first one listed!

On the website you can find membership information, a directory of current members, and a list of the Executive Board. We are going to keep it updated with information of interest to the entire state, so let Kelsey Smyth (VP for Communications) know if you have anything you'd like to see!

## Letter from the Prez!

**From the Prez,  
Courtney Bracy,  
Arkansas State University**

Hello everyone!

We have an amazing annual conference planned for you! We will have it at ASU Mountain Home this year on Friday, April 17. If you have never been to that campus, you are in for a treat! It's beautiful; especially in the spring! What a great excuse to take a long weekend and relax by Lake Norfolk...

...OK – I'm back from my lake daydream now! Dr. Charlie Nutt, Executive Director for

NACADA, will be our keynote speaker. Not only is Charlie well-educated about advising issues across the country, he is also a hoot and a half! His personality is enthusiastic and motivating, and his presentations are humorous and engaging. I've been lucky enough to hear him a few times at NACADA conferences. I know that some may not get that opportunity to travel to national conferences, so I encourage you to take advantage of him being right here in our state on April 17!

Also, in the line-up: Charlotte Strickland from UCA. Some of the members of our exec board raved about her motivational

speeches, so we just had to schedule her for our plenary session!

Our conference will be even better if we get some great break-out sessions from our membership! Please consider presenting at our conference. You should have received an email from me last week with the proposal application. Please submit your proposal by March 27<sup>th</sup> if you want to present at a break-out session!

Hope to see you all in Mountain Home on April 17!

Courtney Bracy,  
ArkAAN President

## Arkansas National Award Winners

The State of Arkansas was well-represented at the 2008 NACADA National Conference in Chicago, Ill., where two of our own advisors were honored with national awards!

Dave Dawson, director of the Fulbright College Advising Center at the University of Arkansas, was selected as the Outstanding Advising Award Winner in the Academic Advising Administrator category from the National Academic Advising Association as part of the 2008 Annual Awards Program for Academic Advising.

The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding advising admini-

stration. Dawson was one of two advising administrators honored with this award in this category in nation-wide competition this past year. Dawson was also selected as the 2008 recipient of the Gail Rola Memorial Award. This award was established in 2004 by advising colleagues to honor and celebrate the life of Gail Rola, a former advising administrator, who led with passion and creativity. Recognizing both outstanding leadership and the ability to administer that leadership with heart and with care, this award is given to an eligible Outstanding Advising Award Winner in the Advising Administrator category.

Dr. Hanna Norton, associate professor of journalism at Arkansas Tech University, has been selected to receive the Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit in the academic advising faculty category.

"I think academic advising is so vital in a student's education that I'm excited and appreciative that organizations such as NACADA recognize its significance," said Norton. "I'm thrilled to be considered with other faculty members and advisors who appreciate the experience as much as I do."

In addition to her work teaching and advising students in the Arkansas Tech Speech, Theatre and Journalism Department, Norton is one of six faculty members chosen to assist in the advising each year of Tech's freshman class. She previously received a statewide academic advising award from the Arkansas Academic Advising Network (ArkAAN) in February.

A member of the Tech faculty since 2001, Norton earned her bachelor's degree, master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

\*\*Excerpts taken from press releases announcing both award winners

# EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

**Courtney Bracy, President**

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## Campus Updates from Across Arkansas

**We are starting this section to keep everyone posted on great news from across the state! If you have something to include, please e-mail Kelsey Smyth at [ksmyth@uca.edu](mailto:ksmyth@uca.edu) and it will be in the next newsletter!**

### Arkansas Tech

In May 2008, construction began on a new four-story building located at the main entrance of the Tech campus. When completed in December 2009, this building will house Tech's Academic Advising Center, School of Business, and more than twenty new classrooms. For the Advising Center staff, this is truly a rags to riches story. When the current AAC opened in 1997, the only available space on campus was a large lobby in a building originally used as a women's dormitory. Advisors had to overcome a number of obstacles, but with the addition of comfy green leather couches from the local discount store, a lot of friendly smiles, and an always full candy dish, the AAC became a favorite spot on campus for students to visit and relax. But, more than that, freshmen and undecided students were always assured that an advisor, or just someone to talk to, would always be waiting for them in a convenient location.

The new AAC will be a state-of-the-art facility with office space for twelve advisors; a bright, sunny décor; a student-friendly waiting area large enough to accommodate as many as fifty students; and a computer lab that will be used for learning styles testing and familiarizing new students with Tech's online registration system. Director of the AAC, Linda Clarke says, "I see the construction of this new Advising Center as a vote of confidence and support for our advising staff and the important services we provide our students."

### ASU Mountain Home

The Faculty Professional Development Center is open for business! It is open from 8-5, Monday through Friday. The center is equipped with 8 new computers, two new printers, and a conference area.

The new Academic Resource Center houses a number of technology-based functions supporting both classroom and online instruction. Over the next few years, the ARC will be doing pilot studies in the Student Success Center with students in online learning, career counseling, developmental education and retention. Faculty will be working in the Faculty Professional Development Center to upgrade their advising skills and learn more about online instruction and technology.