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## The Academic Advisor Newsletter

### Helpful Advising Session Tips

Registration/advisement period is here! Appointment slots will be filled and students may line the halls waiting to meet with you for their fall 2017 course advisement. While you may be inundated with course scheduling during advisement sessions, remember to take the time to connect with your students and to find out about their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Advising is NOT simply giving a course schedule!

Below are some tips to use during your advising sessions:

- **Ask your students open-ended questions** during the advising session. This is a useful strategy to gather information to effectively advise students and to make appropriate referrals.
- **Silence is OK** when meeting with students. This gives the student a chance to think about what was asked or to formulate their own questions/ thoughts.
- **Allow and support** students to **generate their own solutions** to problems or issues.
- Just as a student's nonverbal cues are important, so too are yours. Remember the acronym **SOLER**: S– **sit squarely** facing the student; O - **open posture**; L - **lean slightly** towards the student; E - **eye contact**; R - **relax**.
- **Be present!** Your student should have you **full attention** during advising sessions. If you are taking notes, inform the student at the beginning of the session that you will be periodically taking notes during your conversation.

**Remember!**

According to **Senate Bill 740 mandate**, students must **complete credit-bearing math and English courses in their first 24 credit hours**.

### April 2017

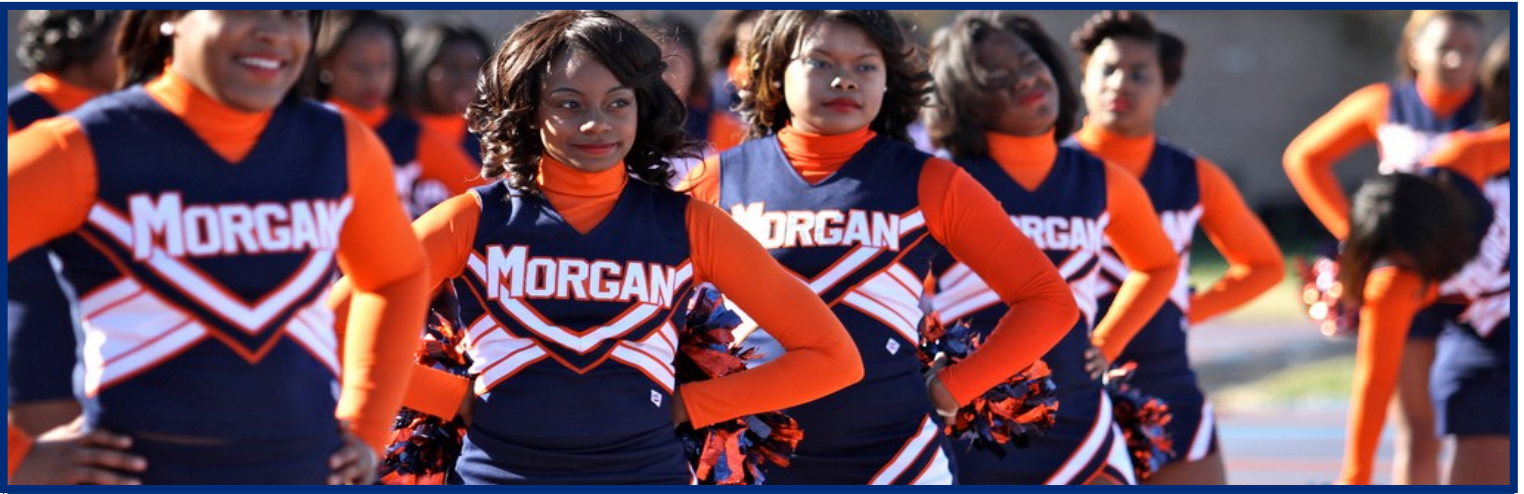
#### In this Issue:

- ⇒ **Helpful Advising Session Tips**
- ⇒ *Student Services Spotlight:*  
**The Clara I. Adams Honors College**
- ⇒ **Important Dates**
- ⇒ **Spring 2017 FY Academic Advisor Nominations**
- ⇒ **Get to Know the Team**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ***Student Services Spotlight: The Clara I. Adams Honors College***

### **Vision Statement**

The Clara I. Adams Honors College (CIAHC) at Morgan State University is the intellectual incubator for academically-advanced students who choose to matriculate at one of the nation's premier Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). By exposing its students to enhanced curricula, unique learning opportunities and environments, and a culture of inquisitiveness, the CIAHC will produce a diverse population of critical thinkers who are not only civically engaged, but also prepared to be highly-competitive, thoughtful, and resourceful leaders in a global, interdependent society.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Clara I. Adams Honors College is to recruit, retain, and graduate students who have demonstrated scholarly accomplishment, high motivation, and a desire to achieve at the highest levels. By developing and facilitating activities that create and maintain a superlative learning environment, the CIAHC seeks to fulfill the University's commitment to "Growing the Future, Leading the World."

### **Special Honors Opportunities**

Honors College students are afforded special opportunities for academic, cultural and professional development:

- Internships
- Study abroad
- Community service projects
- Special cultural experiences
- Early registration for courses
- Special preparation for graduate and professional school admissions tests
- Affiliation with professional learned societies
- Membership in international and national honor societies
- Membership in regional and national honors organizations
- Opportunities to make presentations at professional meetings

**Staff:** *Dr. Darryl L. Peterkin (Director) - email: [Darryl.Peterkin@morgan.edu](mailto:Darryl.Peterkin@morgan.edu)*

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*(Source: Dr. Darryl Peterkin, Director)*

## Important Dates

April 2017

April 3rd

Fall 2017  
Priority  
Registration  
Begins

April 11th

Academic Advisor  
& Liaison  
Information  
Session

April 5th

Spring Job Fair

April 6th

Honors  
Convocation

April 7th

Explore  
Morgan Day

April 15th

Admitted  
Students Day

## Nominations for Spring 2017

### Outstanding FY Academic Advisor Award



**Eligibility:** Any staff member, from the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) and the Office of Student Success and Retention (OSSR) departments, whose responsibility includes the academic advisement of freshmen students at Morgan State University. An individual cannot receive this award for two consecutive semesters.

#### Selection Criteria:

- Is student-oriented. Has an interest in and concern for advisees as individuals
- Uses an proactive advising approach versus simple course registration
- Provides accurate advisement to advisees (i.e. course selection, academic regulations, and institutional policies etc.)
- Refers advisees to the appropriate campus resources
- Maintains consistent contact with advisees
- Is available to advisees, staff, and faculty
- Collaborates with faculty and other staff to provide holistic support to advisees
- Maintains accurate recordkeeping of all advisement sessions in Starfish
- Engages in professional development offered by the institution and/or external entities

**Nomination Procedure:** Students, faculty, or staff are invited to nominate candidates for the Spring 2017 Outstanding FY Academic Advisor Award. Self-nominations are also accepted. All nominators must submit an online nomination form.



*Nomination forms will be available at*

[www.morgan.edu/fyaaward](http://www.morgan.edu/fyaaward)

*from April 10th - May 12th*

## Get to Know the Team

Currently 18 staff members (CASA Advisors and Retention Advisors/Coordinators) provide academic advising services to the first year student population at MSU. April's staff highlights are:



### **Myra Curtis**

*Retention Specialist, School of Engineering*

Myra W. Curtis, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, graduated from Western High School in 1966. Ms. Curtis earned her B.S. degree in Mathematics from the then, Morgan State College in 1970.

Ms. Curtis spent a twenty year career in designing, programming, and testing software systems on various platforms for the Department of Defense (DoD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Transportation (DoT) while working for several STEM companies.

After she left the STEM workforce, Ms. Curtis came to Morgan State University in 1990 to work in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. School of Engineering on various outreach and retention projects. In 2003, Ms. Curtis obtained the position of Retention Specialist for the School of Engineering. In 2005, Ms. Curtis decided to join the students, who she had mentored, and as a part-time student, she earned her Master of Engineering degree in Industrial Engineering from Morgan State University in 2010.

Ms. Curtis' goal as the Retention Specialist in the School of Engineering is to prepare and support students for the STEM workforce from their time of matriculation to graduation.

Ms. Curtis is a lifetime member of the MSU Alumni Association, a member of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., a community service Greek organization. She enjoys cooking, baking, sewing, reading, and dancing.



### **André Patterson**

*Retention Advisor, Earl Graves School of Business*

André Patterson is an alumnus of Morgan State University where he earned both his Bachelor and Master's degree in Sociology. He has spent almost a decade working diligently on the behalf of the students in the College of Liberal Arts, in navigating the rigors of academic life in pursuit of their educational goals. He believes that in order for students to succeed, there must exist a well define partnership between the advisor and student. The advisor serving as an advocate on behalf of the student and the student being an active participant in their own educational goals. Mr. Patterson believes that this relationship must be established from the very first interaction between the two.

Mr. Patterson is a native Baltimore, Maryland. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music and watching movies, particularly documentary films which focuses on social issues. When his not watching movies, he enjoys taking photos and videography both from below and above. He is currently working on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification as a drone pilot. One of Mr. Patterson's favorite quotes is by Mark Twain "Never let schooling interfere with your education."

## GOT IDEAS!

Are there topics you would like to see in the newsletter? Send your ideas to [FY\\_Advising@morgan.edu](mailto:FY_Advising@morgan.edu)