



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER
STUDENT AFFAIRS
ADMINISTRATION
ORGANIZATION





NODAC 2017 Recap

By Mitch Berry

This semester I had the opportunity to attend and present at NODAC, which is the Association for Orientation, Transition, and Retention conference. I attended the conference with Tori Svoboda and we presented on her research about first-generation students. Specifically, we looked at first-gen students on the campus of UW-L and what their retention/course completion/graduation rates were compared to the continuing students (everyone who is not a first-gen). The presentation focused on the redesigned UW100 course which was created to assist and enhance the first-year experience of first-gen students at UW-L. The presentation style was a mixture of PowerPoint slides and an activity called Polleverywhere. This activity allowed Tori and myself to ask the audience questions and they could anonymously text in their answers. It was a great presentation and I enjoyed experiencing a new style of presenting. This conference was so much different than the few that I have gone to in the past. It was a national conference, which means that all the regions within the association, were in attendance. This year there was over 900 people at NODAC! It was awesome, I got to meet people in Florida, Oregon, North Carolina, California, and almost everywhere in between.

While conference attending is a blast, it can be overwhelming. Just remember that everyone is there to learn and support each other! Every time you go to a new conference for the first time you have a clean slate. Make the most of it and always represent yourself and your institution with respect, enthusiasm, and willingness to meet new people. It may be scary but an authentic conversation can lead to many more opportunities (i.e. mentors, internships, or involvement with the conference. Master the name tag glance! It sounds weird but literally glance at everyone's name tag the moment you start talking and then focus on four things: FORD - F: family, O: Occupation, R: Recreation, and D: Dreams.

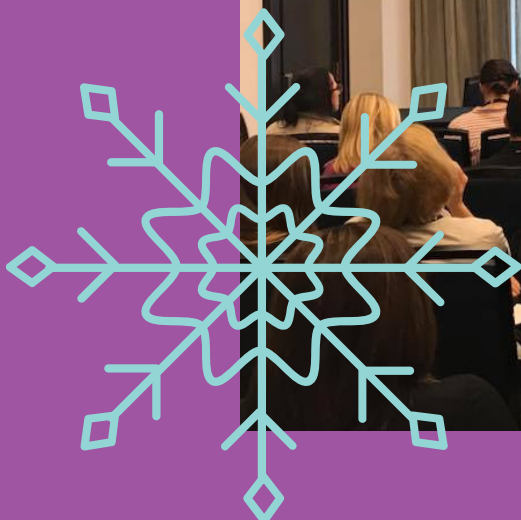
Relate these four topics back to their name tag to create a conversation and trust me the networking skill will become second nature. For example, my name tag would read:

Mitch Berry
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Graduate Student
First Time Attendee



After glancing at this, someone could ask 1) Have you lived in Wisconsin your whole life?, 2) I see that you're a graduate student, what are you enjoying most about your program? 3) What do you like to do for fun in La Crosse?, and 4) What are some of your aspirations after graduating from UW-L?.

I would highly encourage all of you to attend a conference! Whether that be specific to the functional area that you hope to work in or completely out of the left field, either way you will learn so much and discover so many opportunities outside of the classroom. Conference going is intimidating and expensive but focus on what you want to gain from the experience, create a few personal/professional development goals, remember that everyone is probably feeling overwhelmed and/or nervous, and most of all HAVE FUN. NODA Recap



Faculty Research:

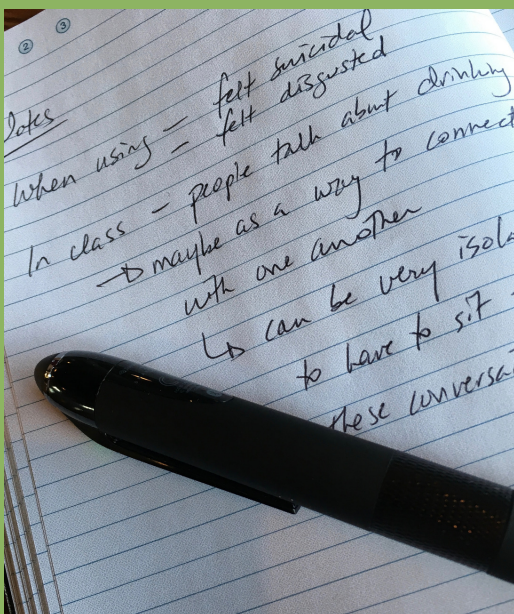
Becki Elkins



I was 19 years old and a sophomore in college the first time someone confronted me about my drinking. As a 20-year old resident assistant, my hall director helped me navigate my first experience with substance abuse counseling. I managed to refrain from drinking for 32 days, until someone handed me a beer at a staff party and I was off again. It was another 10 years of hard drinking before I managed to sober up for good. Since then, I have been immensely curious about the experiences of individuals who simultaneously navigate college and substance abuse recovery.

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Today, I've turned that curiosity into an interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) study of the experiences of students attempting recovery while attending college. The study, funded by a UWL Faculty Research grant, entails in-depth interviews with six participants to determine (a) how they make meaning of their recovery, (b) how they understand the relationship between being in recovery and being in college, and (c) how they understand the college environment as either being supporting of, or inhibiting, their recovery. Taylor Zanotti, 2nd year MSED student, is collaborating on the study – helping collect data, transcribe interviews, and code data.



The first results should be available Summer 2018. I'm eager to learn from these brave students and, from their experiences, make recommendations for colleges and universities.



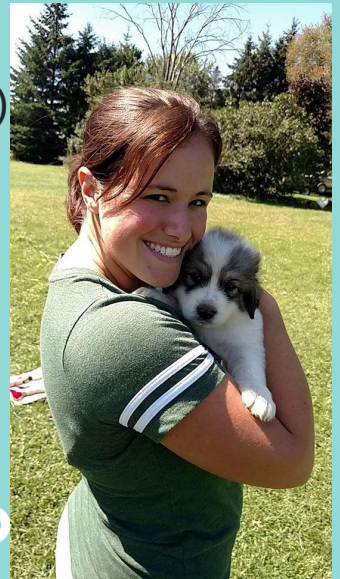
On-Campus Cohort - 1st Years

Name: Shelby Krug

GA: ACCESS Center (UWL's Disability Resource Services)

Favorite Part of GA: I really enjoy raising awareness of the various types of disabilities, especially mental health. Students are often still surprised to learn that they can receive academic and housing accommodations related to their mental health.

Fun Fact: I am obsessed with my puppy, Baloo, who was added to my family right before I started this program!



Name: Kristine Seim

GA: It Make\$ Cents!

About Me: I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a Communication major with an emphasis in Public Relations, Marketing, and Advertising in 2009. Before attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, I was an Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator for the University of Wisconsin.

Fun Fact: I have a twin sister.



Name: Jenna Aman

GA: Campus Activities Board (CAB)

About Me: I'm from Oshkosh, WI and just graduated from University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with my Human Resources degree in May! I became interested in working in Student Affairs after working in the Career Services office at UWO and LOVED IT! Who knew this was even a thing!

Fun Fact: I super love reality tv and pop culture (current obsession: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle engagement EKKK).



Name: Paige Navis

GA: International Education and Engagement

About Me: I am from Waupun, WI. I was led to students affairs after my semester abroad and the awesome advisors I had throughout my undergrad.

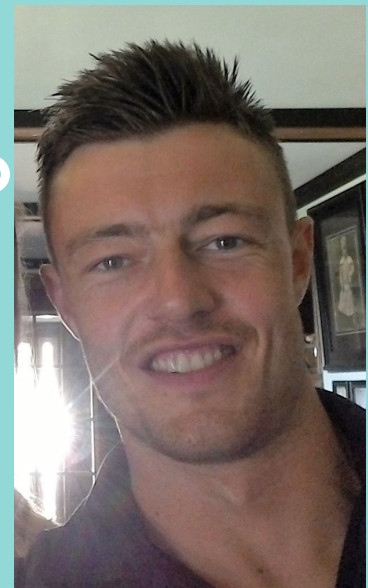
Fun Fact: I grew up on an ostrich farm and in kindergarten I convinced my teacher to have a field trip to my house.

Name: Andrew D. Roberts

GA: Intramural Sports Rec Coordinator at Western Technical College

About Me: I enjoy being active, road trips and music! I love being a part of the SAA community!

Fun Fact: I spent 2015 on the USS Roosevelt on an around-the-world deployment.



Name: Kirstin Nelson

GA: College of Liberal Studies Advising

About Me: I am originally from Lakeville, MN (Just south of the Twin Cities), and got my undergraduate degree in Psychology from University of Minnesota - Duluth. I absolutely love dogs and I cannot wait for the day that I get my own.

Fun Fact: I like chocolate, I like milk, I like milk chocolate, but I think a glass of milk with a chocolate dessert is disgusting.



Name: Paige Kieler

GA: Research and Administration

About Me: I am originally from Dickeyville, Wisconsin, and I have lived in La Crosse for for the past six years. My interest in the program was sparked by a semester abroad, volunteer work as a study abroad peer mentor, and a love for travel.

Fun fact: I used to write for The Racquet, UWL's newspaper!

Name: Mitch Berry

GA: Research and Administration - SAA

About Me: I am originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho and I attended Idaho State University for my undergraduate degree. I became interested in the field of student affairs through my involvement in Idaho State's New Student Orientation program.

Fun Fact: I am addicted to coffee and cuddles with my furbabies (dogs).



Name: K Weinberg

Pronouns: They/them

GA: Fraternity & Sorority Life

About Me: At any point in the day I am doing one of three things: making a dad joke, telling someone what their zodiac sign means, or ranting about how white people consume and adopt Black culture but don't respect Black people.

Fun Fact: I met Aziz Ansari in a bar one time. He asked to sit at my table and I said yes and then the table next to me opened up so he didn't sit with me. So anyways, I guess you could say we're like family?



Name: Courtney Olson

GA: College of Science and Health Advising

About Me: I am originally from Rochester, MN and did my undergrad at UW-River Falls. I became interested in the SAA program from my time at UWRF where I worked at the Foundation where many of my colleagues were in the UWL program.

Fun Fact: I recently adopted a cat named Pico.



Our California Connection

Hello! My name is Alexia and I am a first year in the online cohort. I majored in Linguistics with a Specialization in Language and Society at University of California, San Diego, where I got involved in their Summer Bridge program and a student organization, Kaibigang Pilipin@. These spaces are where I learned about my identities and the identities of others and fell in love with student support and empowerment.

I currently work at Alliant International University in San Diego, CA as a Project Assistant for the California School of Professional Psychology and Institutional Research department. My duties range from preparing curriculum committee meetings to benchmarking accreditation processes at multiple institutions. I think it's neat how this job, though outside of Student Affairs, teaches me various processes on how university decisions are made.



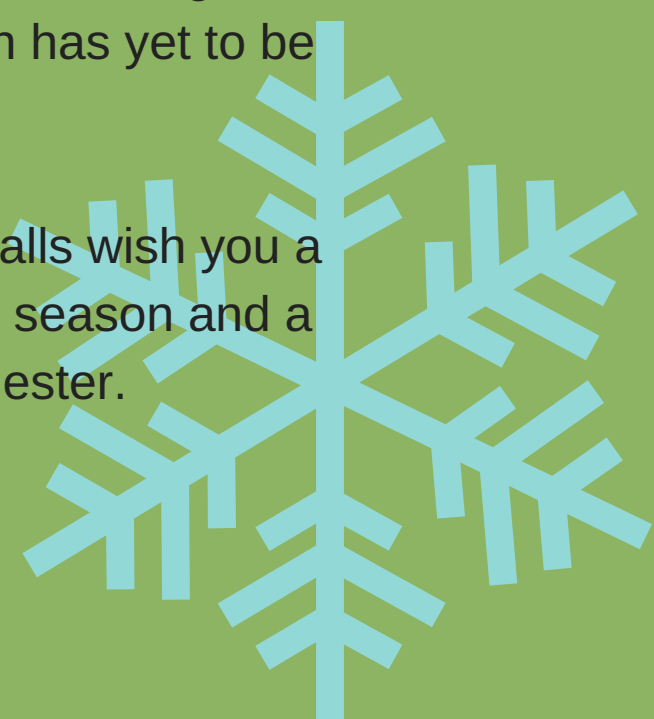
I have a passion for social justice and equity and hope to someday work in a multicultural center, guiding underrepresented students to realize their aspirations. When I am not working or studying, I like to lift weights, catch up on TV shows, discover new music, try new foods/restaurants, or travel. I recently just came back from a trip to the Philippines and South Korea (as pictured).



Cohort Bonding at UW River Falls - Secret Snowflake

As the semester comes to an end, we here at UW- River Falls wanted to celebrate and get into the season of giving. We have decided to get together and participate in a Secret Snowflake gift exchange! We all threw our names into a random generator to get our snowflake. The monetary limit is \$10 and we will be exchanging gifts during our end of the year potluck, which has yet to be determined.

All of us here at UW - River Falls wish you a warm and comfortable winter season and a great end to the semester.





Happy
Holidays