

Bet! And I'll Raise You a Thin Mint: How Personal Passions Can Ante Up Your Advising

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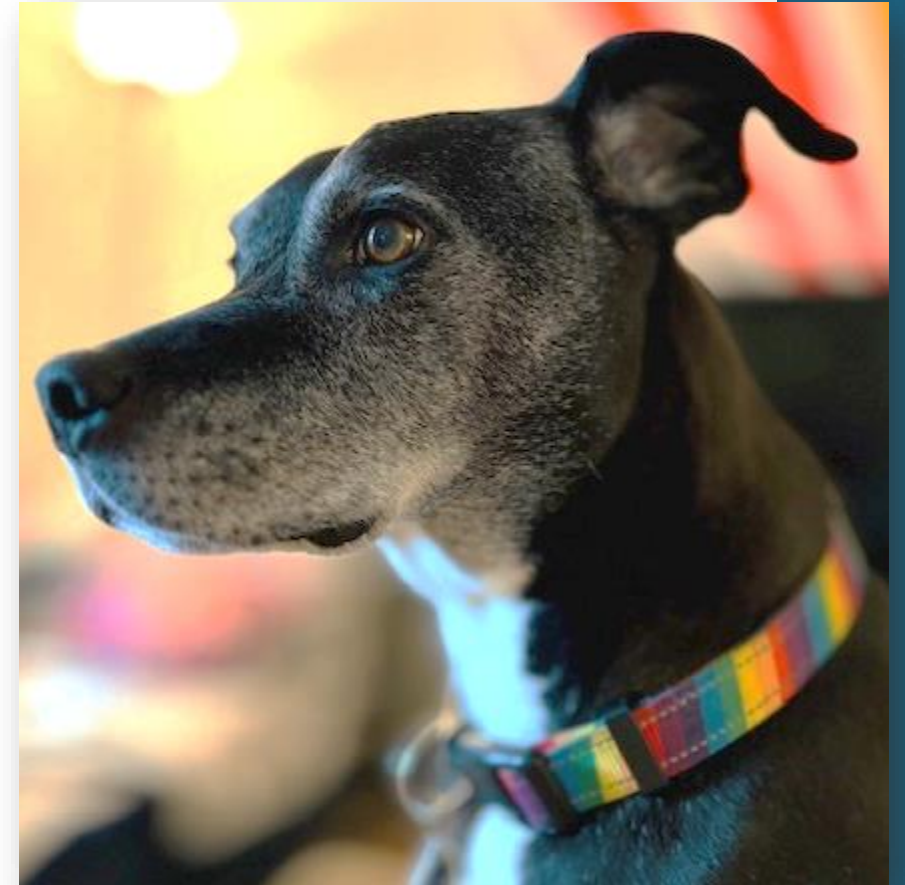
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Who I Am

- Senior Academic Advisor at UNM for Associate (in our branch BSME pathway), Undergrad, and Grad students
 - UNM is a Title I, Research I, Hispanic-Serving Institution with a high population of First Gen Students (UG and GR)
 - Work with Mechanical Engineering students– ABET Accredited
- 25+ years of advising experience
- First Gen college student
- 7 Degrees of my own now: 3 Associates, 1 BFA, 1 BA, 1 MA and 1 MFA (currently working on another BA)
- Girl Scout Leader, artist, writer, gamer, dog and cat mama, unofficial aunty



How I Got Here



- AI Workshop
- One little “chat” and here we are
- 19 years of New Student Orientation
- 8 years of Girl Scouting
- Too many PowerPoints (and Prezis)
- Why do I feel like I keep trying to reinvent the wheel?

A Little Context

ME Program:

- 793 registered undergrads
- 137 registered grads
- 500+ active unregistered
- UG program is a PreMajor to Major model
- Diverse student population including First Gen, military, non-traditional, low socio-economic backgrounds, broad range of ethnicities, already in workforce
- Holds requiring advisement every semester.



A Little Context

New Student Orientation:

- 11 sessions
- 227 students (just for ME)
- Average SAT: 1110, Math: 550, English: 560
- Math placement: 152 at Trig/PreCalc or below (53 of those at Foundational Math = below Intermediate Algebra)
- 67% of our First Year students are on a 5-year pathway



How GS Leadership and Advising Intersect

Transferable Skills: Girl Scout Leader → Academic Advisor

- **Mentorship & Guidance** – Foster growth, confidence, and self-direction through individualized support.
- **Goal Setting & Achievement** – Help others identify goals, plan actionable steps, and reflect on outcomes.
- **Relationship Building** – Build trust and rapport to create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments.
- **Skill Development** – Coach communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills.
- **Adaptability & Flexibility** – Balance structured programs with personalized approaches to meet diverse needs.
- **Advocacy & Empowerment** – Champion the needs and voices of individuals within larger systems.
- **Organization & Planning** – Coordinate schedules, activities, and resources for complex groups.
- **Conflict Resolution** – Mediate disagreements and foster collaboration among peers or group members.
- **Communication** – Model clear, empathetic, and effective communication across age and experience levels.
- **Leadership through Service** – Inspire others to engage in community impact and continuous learning.

Let the Games Begin

- It began as a game I do with my Girl Scouts
- 19 Girls, 6 weeks, 2 x a 27 foot U-Haul, and over 20,000 boxes of cookies



Let the Games Begin - NSO

- 10 boxes of different colors with a letter inside
- Each box has a question correlating to being a ME PreMajor
- Each box contains a letter they earn by answering the question
- Once all questions are answered figure out the phrase



How Did This Change Things?

- Registration on second day went smoother
- Less students with unreported scores/AP/IB/Dual Credit
- Students took a more active role locating information
- More camaraderie
- Getting ready for spring registration impacts:
 - Students have made better course choices
 - Students understanding resources
 - Students understanding their responsibilities
 - Students utilizing their resources (every time they mention their Math Track I want to cry for joy)

Upcoming: Badges to Bachelors

- Students will be given tasks to accomplish to:
 - Enhance engagement
 - Develop essential skills
 - Promote academic confidence
- Examples of categories included:
 - Audit Reader – learning to use LoboTrax
 - Graduation Planner – developing a “4-year” plan
 - Campus Connector – joining student organizations and attending events
- Accomplishing a category earns the student a pin (badge) and we will highlight their accomplishments at the next fall welcome event (kind of like we do at a Girl Scout award/bridging ceremony)



What Is Your Hidden Resource?

- What do you do when you aren't advising?
 - Hobbies? Coaching?
 - How do these things relate to what you do? Do they?
 - OF COURSE THEY DO!
-
- I'm a gamer. We have a Brain Break Table now. I use video game concepts in our ME Department Orientation.
 - I'm an artist. We have community building projects like decorating pumpkins and making Valentines.

Shall We Play a Game?

- You were all given a Card Worksheet
- Fill in an activity (ex. Girl Scout Leader)
- What are the relatable skills?
 - Leadership
 - Mentorship...
- How many years have you been doing this?
- The amount of years equates to the value of your card.



Shall We Play a Game?

- Around the room are scenarios.
- Find a scenario where your skills could apply.
 - No more than 5 at a location.
- Talk amongst your group about your ideas for bringing these skills to the table in this scenario – be prepared to share.
- Now... Place your bet (each location has chips for you).
- Flip over the card... if you want to “hit” you can... don’t go over!
- Whoever won gets to tell us your skills and how you are going to use them!



Thank You for Joining Me!

Questions?

Please feel free to reach out to me for any information on my presentation.

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I greatly appreciate you attending today.



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