Academic Advisors Are Here to Help

“We’re here to help with anything. The door’s always open.” That’s how academic advisor Taylor Belge sums up the role she and Paul Applebee play on campus. While they are especially busy when it’s time to register new or continuing students, they are monitoring student progress, answering questions, and tracking attendance throughout the semester. Currently, Paul advises students in the medical programs, while Taylor is assigned to students majoring in non-medical fields.

When asked about the aspects of his job people may not know about, Paul says that “Taylor and I act as the campus’ registrars when it comes to assessing transcripts and determining whether transfer credits may be accepted. We also track and calculate students’ SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) to help keep students in good academic standing.” He adds that “we also work with Financial Aid to educate students on how their attendance or failing a class can affect their funding.”

In other words, academic advisors are there at the very beginning of a student’s college experience, and have a unique perspective on the challenges that stand between initial enrollment and the goal of graduation.

Paul, who started working here in April 2012, was drawn to the position because he “had a great college experience” and “knew I wanted to work in higher ed.” According to Paul, one of the characteristics of a student destined to succeed is the willingness to grow. “They need to get acclimated to new surroundings, gaining confidence to explore new opportunities.”

He says that the most fulfilling part of his job is “just being able to work with students and help them reach their goals,” an experience that culminates when he watches them cross the stage at graduation. “I see, first hand, all the hard work they’ve put in and all the sacrifices they’ve made along the way.”

Paul’s years of experience have also allowed him to witness changes and improvements at the college. As an example, he points to the current roster of courses for first-semester students. “We redesigned the first-term curriculum to get them more acclimated to the field they chose to pursue.”

Taylor, who joined the Student Services team in July 2017, has always gravitated to jobs that involve helping others. Like Paul, she enjoys watching students gain knowledge and confidence as they
progress through their programs. “Some of them are just so dedicated to doing what they have to do. I admire that.”

If students find themselves struggling, Paul and Taylor agree that seeing their academic advisor should be one of the first steps they take. Solutions might include talking with the instructor or requesting a tutor through the Learning Center, but as Taylor says, “there’s no way we can fix it if we don’t know what’s going on.”

Paul and Taylor are also in agreement about the hazards of taking a semester or two off. Those risks range from a loss of motivation to new financial aid or degree requirements. “It makes it that much harder to come back,” Taylor says. “Once you start, you might as well just finish.”

Paul explains that “our curriculum changes because we want to stay current with workplace demands.” When students who began under a previous curriculum decide to return and complete their degrees, they often find themselves with extra classes to take.

After having spoken to many students who have faced this issue, Paul knows that they ultimately regret their decision to temporarily leave school: “They always say to me, ‘I wish I hadn’t taken the time off.’ It’s very easy to lose momentum.”

Employee Spotlight: Marisa Egan

“The main thing that drew me to this position was working in an educational environment,” says Marisa Egan. “I always knew I wanted to work in a college setting.”

In her role as Admissions Office Coordinator, a typical day in the life for Marisa consists of preparing student files for upcoming semesters and obtaining documents necessary for a student to enroll at Bryant & Stratton. “I am also responsible for front desk operations such as making new student badges and being the first friendly face someone sees as they enter the school,” she adds.

Marisa started working at Bryant & Stratton in July 2017. Before that she worked as a travel agent and a customer service representative for AAA. She graduated from OCC with her associate degree in Liberal Arts.

“My favorite part of my job is working with the students,” Marisa explains. “Everyone has their own story and reason for their quest to achieving their degree and it is such an amazing experience to be able to be a part of it!”

Another favorite aspect of Marisa’s job is working closely with the other members of her department: “Everyone’s journey starts in admissions. The ladies in my department work very hard to ensure that all incoming students have everything they need before they start school. Even after the student starts school they will always work with admissions if they need a new badge, words of encouragement, or even just stopping to say hello. It is inspiring to work with such amazing people in all the departments and watch how much they care for every student.”
What does Career Services provide to students?

Career Services assists students with the following...
· seeking employment opportunities while enrolled at Bryant & Stratton College.
· exploring ideas for internship that will be completed in their final semester (90 hours for all majors with the exception of Medical Assistant students who complete 160 hours).
· assistance with resume, cover letter, interviewing tips, salary negotiation, thank you letter, portfolio, etc.
· advice on business attire and professional etiquette as well as other soft skills/technical skills that employers desire.
· career advice either through your current employer or those for whom you may be interviewing.
· any point after graduation—we offer lifetime advisement!

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Welcome to the Learning Center

The Learning Center is your place to go if you need a peer tutor, have questions about the online bookstore, or need to make up a test that you missed. Students who require testing accommodations (such as having their tests read or needing a separate location) should also come to the Learning Center.

Last but not least, the Learning Center is also a great place to get your work done. Our computers are always available for student use.

Winter 2018 hours:

Monday: 8:30 a.m to 6 p.m.
Tuesday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m to 6 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
One of the fun activities at the recent New Student Orientation was the chance to pose for a “Bobcatsgram.” Pictured clockwise from left are Nikita Parkhurst, Jen Catalone, and admissions representatives Melissa Seltzer and Hannah Macko.

You Are Invited to Join the Business Club

The Business Club has a mission to provide a forum for all academic degrees, not just business. We try to teach and showcase skills that are necessary not only in a business field but skills that will benefit all students in general. You can expect to learn more about recruiting, mentoring, business trends, fundraising, networking, philanthropy, employment documents, and everything that it takes to run a small business. We are always looking for new members and all majors are invited. Our meetings are on Mondays at noon in room 108. Our first meeting will be 1/22/18; we hope to see you there. Palma Savinelli is the club advisor. Please email her with any questions at pdsavinelli@bryantstratton.edu. We hope to see some new faces this semester.
Bryant & Stratton College has a rich, long history of delivering a career-focused, quality education. Consistent with its mission, campuses within the College strive to emulate a business environment. As we all know, for many sound reasons, businesses only close under the most extreme weather conditions. For the most part, employers located in and around a snow-belt area expect their employees to have an effective plan for inclement weather that results in safe arrival to work. However, we also realize many of our students live directly in the snow-belt and/or rely on public transportation. Some circumstances are beyond control and make even the best plans impossible. If you are facing such a circumstance, we recommend that you make the best decision for your own safety and well-being.

Fortunately, with advanced technology, there are new opportunities to keep our classrooms active during times of emergency. After receiving input from students, faculty, and staff, the following is our updated Campus Closing Policy:

**CAMPUS CLOSING POLICY**

Our campus will rarely close. On the occasions when it is impossible to open, announcements will be made on radio, TV and the internet (Y94 FM, 93Q FM, B104, 107.9, 570 AM, and Channel 3, 5, 9 and News 10 Now). The decision to cancel classes will be made by the Campus Director after evaluating weather forecasts and consulting authorities. Every attempt will be made to make a closing decision by 7:00 a.m. for day classes and by 4:00 p.m. for evening classes.

If any student makes the decision to not attend class due to weather, **students should check the MyBSC portal and BlackBoard first for any instructions on classwork.** If you don’t have access to technology, please contact your instructor for missed work when you return to campus.

On the days when the College is open, as stated above, students will need to make their own assessment of their ability to come to school. BlackBoard assignments will be posted.

On a day that classes are cancelled and staff report, labs will be open for your use.

On a day that classes are cancelled and the College is closed, faculty will expect students to complete an assignment that was placed on BlackBoard for such occasions.

Any questions regarding this policy should be addressed with your instructors. It is our belief that this policy will provide instructors with the flexibility necessary to maintain an orderly progression of coursework. Further, it will allow for the necessary accommodations students may require.

Please keep in mind that we are all here to support your educational goals and career aspirations. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and we wish you a safe and happy winter season!

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**Upcoming Events**

**February 13**
Awards Ceremony

**February 19**
Presidents Day: Campus Closed

**February 26**
Online Session I Ends

**March 7**
Online Session II Begins

**March 22**
ABG Induction Ceremony
What You Need To Know About ABG

What is ABG?

Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) is an International Business Honor Society for students who attend two-year colleges. It is also a service organization, with chapters required to do at least two community outreach activities every semester. (These could be donations of time, money or products.) The group holds numerous fundraisers throughout the semester to prepare for these outreach opportunities. Membership is open to eligible students from all associate degree programs at the Syracuse North campus.

Am I eligible?

Participation in ABG meetings and events/fundraisers is open to anyone. However, in order to be eligible for ABG membership, a student must have completed 15 or more college credit hours. In addition, he or she must be of good moral character, possess recognized qualities of citizenship, and maintain a 3.0 GPA in his or her program major courses, as well as a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

How do I become a member?

Students seeking ABG membership must pay a one-time fee of $64 (cash, check or money order payable to Alpha Beta Gamma - Mu Alpha Chapter); this includes lifetime ABG membership ($39) and the satin stole ($25), which is presented at the induction ceremony and worn at graduation. Regardless of when the fee is paid, students do not obtain ABG membership until they participate in the induction ceremony.

When are induction ceremonies held?

Ceremonies are held twice a year, once in the winter semester (January-April) and again in the fall semester (September-December). Ceremonies are typically held during Week 11 of the semester and take place in the event rooms (112/113/115).

What if I can’t meet these requirements?

Per national ABG standards, if inducted members fail to uphold the academic standards, they enter a one-semester probationary period. If, at the end of that semester, they are still not meeting these standards, their names are removed from the national ABG database and their membership is revoked.

Think ABG might be for you?

You’re always welcome to sit in on an ABG meeting. The group meets Wednesdays at noon (day students and 5 PM (evening students) in room 103. Meetings are usually about a half-hour in length. You can also email Deb Lum, ABG’s Syracuse North Advisor, at dlum@bryantstratton.edu for more information.