

## **Craig Carson - Director of Grounds**

9 August 2024

Craig went out of his way to help with an emergency project on the Wallace sand volleyball courts, just prior to start-up for the fall semester. The sand had become excessively compacted creating a less than desirable playing surface. Craig adjust the sprinklers near the courts so the sand would get water over night, then brought a tractor and implement over to breakup the sand into a much softer and playable surface. Craig did this at a moments notice and without complaint which is par for the course with him. I appreciate Craig's can-do attitude and help greatly. He's an excellent example of a staff member who has the best interests of the entire university in mind rather than being narrow minded. Well done Craig!

## **Mandy Charbonneau - Recruitment and Operations Lead**

16 August 2024

Mandy embodies the very reason why Kudos exist. She not only brings invaluable knowledge to the university but also shares it with grace, kindness, and empathy. If you've had the opportunity of working with Mandy, consider yourself lucky, however, chances are, she's already made an impact across every department on campus. It's incredible how much she accomplishes behind the scenes while always being available for a question. Thank you, Mandy, for being who you are! The university is truly fortunate to have you!!

## **Khris Kohlmeier - Academic Advisor**

19 August 2024

As a program coordinator, I often partner with advisors to help their students get overrides into their Math-Stat classes or sign up for our placement test. This semester, Khris got thrown into the deep end when he was tasked with helping College of Engineering students, after their long-term advisors left. He has done a tremendous job learning the ropes quickly. He communicates well with departments, responds promptly, and I've seen him putting in countless hours on evenings and weekends to make sure students' needs are met. I know it has helped our new and returning students have a smooth transition to U of I this Fall.

## **Shawna Bertlin - Director, University Advising**

20 August 2024

Shawna is awesome! It such a pleasure to work for her because she is always looking out for our students, and our team. No matter the challenge, she is a calm, collected, and positive presence, even when things are going sideways. Furthermore, she is always such a knowledgeable, and caring support for all of us. She helps our whole team grow both professionally and personally. The university is so lucky to have such an amazing leader, employee, and person working for it!

## **Kaylena Townsend - Academic Advisor**

20 August 2024

Kaylena is such a wonderful colleague! She exemplifies professionalism, intelligence, and leadership in everything she does. She has helped me become a better advisor, and person because of the example she sets. No matter the situation, she approaches it with a calm, and introspective approach, which in the hectic world of advising is not always easy to do. In addition, she is also such a great resource for learning more about advising practices (and life in general). It is so great to work with Kaylena!

## **Jamie Jessup - Academic Advisor**

20 August 2024

Jamie rules! Her ability to both connect with her students, while also being able to help guide them is second to none. She works so hard to demonstrate to her students how much she cares, by always being welcoming, and engaging with them. As a colleague, she is such a wonderful support for all of the difficulties we face as advisors. Her ability to stay cheerful, through most situations is always such a bright spot in some difficult times. It is such a pleasure to work with her!

## **Kelly Christensen - Academic Coaching Coordinator**

21 August 2024

Kelly is a phenomenal colleague and support for students. She is encouraging, solution-driven, compassionate, and kind. Kelly is skilled at observing needs, or potential barriers and generating creative solutions. She supports her peers and students with warm enthusiasm and tailored support.

## **Ceci Raichl - Academic Advisor**

21 August 2024

Ceci is a dynamic and creative problem solver. She has supported the advising team through a number of system changes by providing workable solutions with positivity and creativity. She has facilitated training and created templates to equip her fellow advisors to support students well.

## **Kris Raasch - Director of Catering**

22 August 2024

Kris Raasch and his team worked many continuous long days doing multiple catering events per day in the heat. The crew was great to work with and did an amazing job. They always conveyed a

how can I help attituded? Their do diligents did not disappoint and we are all so very greatly appreciative of the work they do. The tables were set to perfection, beverages were always cold and the food was hot. Thank you from the around the university community. Kudos to you all it is well deserved.

**Amber Gray - Assistant Director, Employer Relations**

22 August 2024

Kudos to Amber Gray for leading the planning and execution of the On-Campus/Part-Time Job Fair this week. It was the largest turnout of students we have ever seen for the On-Campus Job Fair. Career Services would also like to thank Daniel Carlos in Financial Aid, and the Dean of Students Office, for their support of this annual event.