OSU will recognize advisers' excellence

By Stacy Wood
Lantern staff writer

If characteristics like encouraging, motivational and supportive describe an academic adviser, they may be eligible for the Ohio State Outstanding Adviser Award.

The award, established this year by the Academic Advising Association of OSU, is a way to recognize advisers who have done an excellent job, and excel in the roles they play with students and within the university community, said Cheryl Yeack, president of the association.

"Advisers in general feel undervalued," Yeack said. "Recognition is lacking. The award is a way to recognize people who have done a great job."

Any adviser who does not have contact with individual students in the classroom may be nominated by current or former students, faculty, administrators, co-workers, student organizations or through self-nomination.

The organization hopes to call attention toward skills that advisers possess so the university may use them to their advantage, said Jo Wagner, a member of the organization and adviser for the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

"There needs to be greater awareness and appreciation of all the work advisers do with students," Wagner said.

Advisers who help students develop and achieve academic, career and personal goals, illustrate strong interpersonal skills, and provide developmental advising, as opposed to prescriptive advising, describes the kind of advisers the organization is looking to honor, Wagner said. Developmental advising assists students with exploring career options and clarifying goals, while prescriptive advising refers to helping out on an as needed basis only.

Awarding academic advisers is a good idea, said Jeff Leininger, a sophomore majoring in actuarial science.

"My adviser helped me with course selection and internship leads," Leininger said.

Some students support the award even though they do not use their academic adviser.

"I use my adviser mainly for scheduling and on an as-needed basis," said Andrew Woffson, a junior majoring in journalism. "I mostly use my own resources."

Advisers are used a lot during the first and second year of school, and when students get closer to graduation, but not a lot in between, Woffson said.

Two advisers will be honored this year. Each winner will receive $200 from the Office of Academic Affairs, which is co-sponsoring the award, at the organization's May meeting.

"We are extremely pleased to recognize the excellent work and significant contributions of the award recipients," said Richard Sisson, senior vice president and provost.

Nominations should include a letter and supporting information not to exceed six pages, letters of support from individuals who have witnessed the adviser's performance including at least one letter from a current or former adviser and a current resume.

All nominations should be sent, no later than April 15, to Wagner at 100 Agricultural Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Road.
OHIO STATE HONORS TWO ACADEMIC ADVISORS

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio State University has recognized two academic advisors who help their students take advantage of opportunities at the university.

Richard Sisson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, presented the awards May 23 to Mark Giese of COLUMBUS (43226) and Peg Steele of COLUMBUS (43212). They each received a plaque and a $200 honorarium.

Giese is an academic advisor for University College and adjunct instructor for the School of Natural Resources. Steele is an academic counselor and staff assistant in the Max M. Fisher College of Business.

The Academic Advising Association of Ohio State and the University's Office of Academic Affairs established the award program this year.

In presenting the awards, Sisson shared some comments from the recipients' advisees and colleagues.

An administrator said of Peg Steele: "Peg is both recognized and valued by students and administrators alike for the high quality of her student advisement. She is creative in problem solving, particularly in serving as a student advocate..."
While gentle, she can also be firm and is mindful of the standards of both the College and the University and the need to treat students fairly and equitably."

A staff colleague said, "There are three words which come to my mind to describe Peg -- professional, able, and diplomatic. You cannot talk with Peg very long without hearing her speak of goals and professionalism."

A student praised Mark Giese: "Mr. Giese has been my academic advisor for the last six quarters. In that time, Mr. Giese has been very helpful in not only planning my academic career here at OSU, but also opening my eyes to what I can expect after I graduate. Whenever I had a problem or needed advice on my classes, Mr. Giese has made himself available."

An administrator noted, "Mark's advisees respect and admire him, as do his colleagues. He works hard to ensure that the information that he provides to students is accurate and current... His colleagues appreciate his work ethic, his easy-going nature, and his good humor."

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OSU advisers earn first-time academic award

By Stacy Wood
Lantern staff writer

Although some students are complaining about the quality of academic advising, some don’t think it’s all that bad.

Yesterday two advisers were presented with the Ohio State Academic Adviser Award at a luncheon meeting of the OSU Academic Advising Association. Peg Steele and Mark Giese were presented the awards for going out of their way to help students.

For Steele, academic adviser for the Max M. Fisher College of Business, winning the award is truly an honor and very important.

“This is truly exciting,” she said. “I am glad to know we’re being recognized.”

Steele, an adviser for 10 years with OSU, said advisers are not given enough credit.

“I am glad to see attitudes towards advisers are changing so people see the value in all we do,” Steele said.

The role of the adviser is not just to help students with scheduling and planning courses, but to work with them on career plans and development, Steele said.

“She is an open and caring person,” Caldwell, a senior majoring in business, said. “She is dead honest and tells students exactly what will benefit them.”

While some students are unhappy with advising, others like Caldwell say they have been lucky but think the problem is mainly with the student’s age.

“Younger students and advisers often clash on what’s good for the student,” he said. “Older ones realize more and more that advisers know what they are talking about.”

Students need to realize some of the weight rests on their shoulders, said Steele, in response to the complaints about advisers.

Giese, the other award winner and academic adviser for University College, was unable to be at the award ceremony, but advises like Marc Flinn think he is another example of a good OSU adviser.

“He’s very accessible,” said Flinn, a sophomore in UVC who wants to major in natural resources. “He tries to do the most to help you.”

This is the first year for the awards, which were designed to recognize the good job advisers are doing at OSU, said Jo Wagner, adviser for the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Other nominees included-- Karlene Foster, international studies; Barbara Gladman, business; and Pamela Hussen, English.