



NASPA | KNOWLEDGE
COMMUNITY

ADULT LEARNERS AND
STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

**Adult Learner And
Students with Children
KC Newsletter**

Crossroads

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Quarterly Update from the Adult Learner and Students with Children Knowledge Community

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**Katy Kemp is
the Director,
Student
Services-
Center for
Academic
Performance at
the University
of North Texas
Health Science
Center**



Letter from our Chairperson

Greetings ALSC KC Members,

As the spring semester ramps up and your conference planning swings into high gear, remember to add the ALSC KC open meeting and reception to your conference checklist. We will meet on Monday, March 23rd from 3 – 4 pm in the Durham room of the Hilton. We hope everyone can join us for light refreshments, conversation about the year ahead, and an opportunity to meet in person.

This spring is a busy season for our KC. We are planning an online module for distribution via NASPA's learning management system for late February. The details will be announced soon via email and website. The KC is proud to select and sponsor three sessions at the national conference along with several sessions being presented by our KC members. Look for our program guide at the conference.

Don't forget to cast your vote in the NASPA elections and we look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans!

Sincerely,
Katy Kemp



Photos from a Family Fun Day at University of North Texas. The purpose of this event is to highlight non-traditional students, expose them to available on-campus resources, and connect them with other non-traditional students on campus. The event is full of games and prizes to create a relaxing atmosphere for students and their children to connect and build relationships. This event is open to faculty and staff members who would like to bring their children as well.

Stay up to date...

In between Newsletter's be sure to stay up to date with the NASPA Adult Learner and Students with Children KC on Social Media!

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/naspaalsckc>

<https://twitter.com/NASPAALSCCKC>



Program Profile: Snacks with Santa

This past December, Student Affairs at The University of North Texas Health Science Center hosted a “Snacks with Santa” event to encourage students and their families to come to campus to spend time together. The event included personal visits with Santa, ornament decorating, and a reading of *The Polar Express*. At the end of the night, each child took home their own sleigh bell! Students and their families enjoyed cookies, milk and hot chocolate while writing letters to Santa and coloring holiday pictures. This event was the perfect end to a busy semester!

Jillian Boggs, Student Services Associate, University of North Texas Health Science Center



More information about this program can be found by contacting Martha Harper
harperm@apsu.edu



Program Profile: Foundation Courses with Adult Students

The foundational course for first time freshmen at Austin Peay State University is called AP-SU 1000 and, like most universities, the expected outcomes are students who understand the purpose and value of a liberal arts education while developing information literacy and college level academic habits. At Austin Peay there are two sections provided for students who are nontraditional freshmen. One is taught by the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Academic Support, who is a passionate advocate for nontraditional success, and the other is taught by the Coordinator for the Adult & Nontraditional Student Center.

The classes are advertised as relevant for nontraditional students, but adult students are not required to choose the course, and traditional students are not blocked. Typically, schedule time trumps the selection process. This past fall, the section taught by the coordinator had a unique makeup that led to some interesting class discussions about awareness and the college experience. The class of 12 students was exactly one half adult learners and half traditional freshmen. It was half white and half non-white. It was half male and half female. With such diversity, teaching the course inclusively was both challenging and fun for the instructor and her peer mentor. The class exercise in which students explored income levels to support their cultural and personal expectations led to engaging, but respectful, conversations between the nontraditional realists and the millennial dreamers.



Nontraditional APSU 1000 class on the front row waiting for Freshman Read speaker and entertained by Peer Mentor's (far left) 2 yr. old daughter.

Submit for the next issue, due out before the NASPA conference in May.
Send articles, program profiles, book reviews, research, student profiles, and more!
Submissions can be sent to James Stewart jstewa34@depaul.edu

Connected, Collaborative, & Constantly Changing: Helping Older Students Navigate the New Workforce

It had been a few years, but the building was exactly the same as I remembered. Back on my alma mater's campus in downtown Chicago I made a pit stop to the bookstore and coffee shop for an afternoon caffeine jolt. As I waited in line for my peppermint mocha I overheard a woman with a laptop in front of her and a phone to her ear. "Hi honey, I have to get to class soon. Just wanted you to know I saw the job you sent me; I think I'll go for it. I'm so nervous, things changed from 20 years ago when I used to work. I don't know where to start."

She was a woman of about forty-five, grey hair framed her face and her forehead was creased in a concerned yet determined expression. Without wanting to be a creep, I looked over to see if she was still on the phone after I paid for my order. When she ended the call and with my coffee in hand, I walked up to her table. "Hi, I don't mean to eavesdrop, but I noticed you were talking about possibly applying to a job?" Her face lined with puzzled interest she nodded and replied, "Yes, I am. Why?"

I then informed her that just ten stories above us was the Career Center, and encouraged her to drop by for resume critique. As she packed up her things for class, she thanked me and smiled. We exchanged holiday season pleasantries and parted ways.

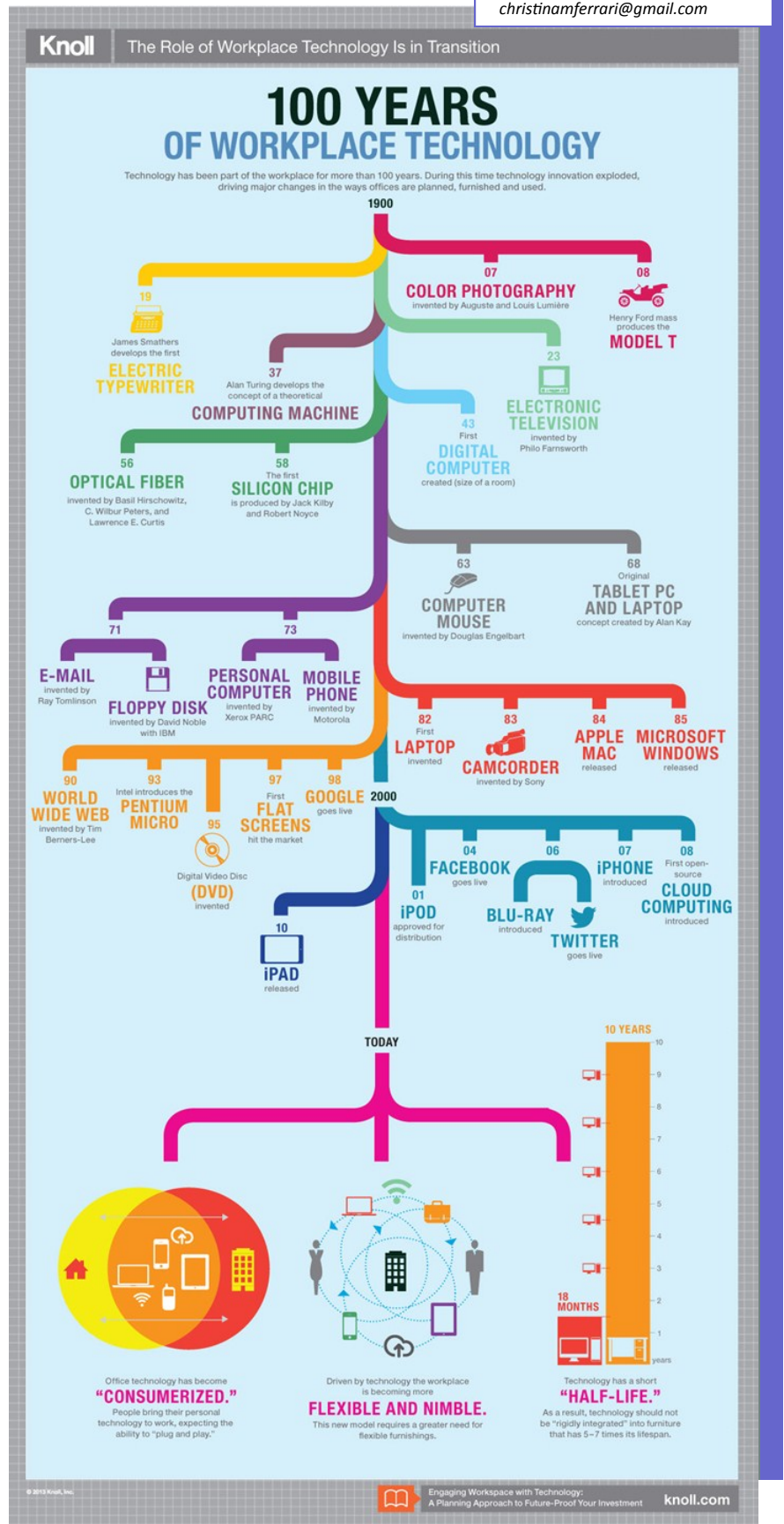
My senior year at DePaul University, I worked in what I believe to be one of the best [Career Centers](#) in higher education. I may be biased but this experience remains one of my favorite jobs because of the variety of students and alumni I got to work with. I was a Peer Career Advisor and a person's first point of contact with all things job search related, choosing a major, and career exploration. I never knew who would walk in—the nervous first year student with a list of high school clubs for a resume or individuals decades older than I was. Admittedly, the latter group was always my favorite. Initially, I questioned what authority or expertise I had to offer into their situation. Occasionally, they too questioned my ability to help them. After all, they had all this experience and I had never worked fulltime before. Their resumes would be two sometimes three pages long dating back to before I was born with lengthy paragraph descriptions. In my position as a career advisor, research was a huge part of my role and if nothing else, I knew that in today's workplace recruiters and hiring managers spent an average of 10 sec-

onds on a resume and cared less about breadth—they wanted things simple, streamlined, short and sweet.

Article by Christina Ferrari

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My approach when an adult learner walked into my office was about understanding their story and focusing on where they wanted to go. Working with adult learners, career changers, veterans, and nontraditional college students was rewarding because not only did I have the unique experience to learn about their incredible past, but as a Millennial, I realized there is a wealth of knowledge and experience that I can provide for today's workplace. For example, social media is a foreign or unfamiliar thing for most adult learners who did not grow up with it. But [today's workplace requires digital familiarity and for candidates to get noticed](#). Indeed, my appointments with older college students would usually involve conversations about technology. Research shows that [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [online job search engines](#), and Skype interviews are now becoming necessary components for the modern day job search. It's no question our world is more connected than ever, and being current in the workforce means staying ahead of trends and technology or risk getting left behind.

While the world has changed over the last several decades, [the workplace has changed significantly](#). In regards to technology alone, the workplace has become more collaborative, innovative, global, consumer-focused, and evolves nearly every day (see the infographic for more).

As higher education professionals who work with adult learners, it is our duty to help them alongside their younger counterparts to be prepared for life post graduation. That means learning skills and possessing the knowledge and strategies to be successful. Our graduating classes span generations, and so does today's office culture. What are we doing to prepare all students for this reality of the modern day workforce? Imagine this: Molly the Millennial can teach Bob the Baby-boomer to code, and he can teach her about the importance of navigating office politics. Some things change, but others remain the same. What might it look like if we in student affairs developed more opportunities for this knowledge sharing and exchange to occur on campus just like it does in the ever-changing, fast and furious "real-world?"



Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society is a non-profit organization devoted to the advancement of scholarship and to the recognition of non-traditional students continuing their higher education. Student members must have completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) graded semester hour credits and obtain a minimum 3.2 GPA. Eligible students will receive a letter of invitation to join the honor society with membership information. The University of North Texas chapter holds an induction ceremony each fall and spring semester to honor new members. More information about the organization can be found at www.alphasigmалаmbda.org.