

# ACADEMIC ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

## ALI MATHWIG



The USC Institutional Academic Advising ‘Unsung Hero’ Award recognizes a person who works “behind the scenes” to promote and support the efforts of academic advising through personnel and/or program management. The 2022 Unsung Hero award winner and this semester’s advisor spotlight features Ali Mathwig, Director of Advising in the South Carolina Honors College. Ali grew up in Columbia and had close ties to USC as the daughter of a professor. She left home to attend college earning a B.A. in Art History and Archaeology from Washington University in St. Louis and a M.A. in the History of Art and Architecture from Brown University. In 2017, Ali started working at USC in the Honors College as an Academic Advisor and is now the Director of Advising where she supervises five full-time Honors College Academic Advisors. In the nomination submitted for the ‘Unsung Hero’ award, her team of



**ALI MATHWIG**  
Director of Advising,  
South Carolina Honors  
College

advisors had this to say about her, “She models patience and flexibility when facing unexpected obstacles and expresses gratitude for help received. She is often described as accountable, reliable, and trustworthy by her colleagues, and Honors advisors agree she is the glue of the Honors College and a vital reason we are ranked #1 in the nation.”

In addition to supervising advisors, Ali actively

participates in and contributes to the USC advising community through continuing professional development in both attending and leading sessions. She also currently serves as a co-chair of the University Advisors Network Technology Subcommittee. Ali maintains an advising caseload of approximately 75 honors students per semester.

**Honors advisee Ruth Moniz (Psychology major) had this to say about Ali,**



“I transferred into the Honors College at the beginning of my sophomore year. I was very nervous about meeting all of the requirements and making sure that I understood things like the Beyond the Classroom (BTC) or Honors thesis requirements. Ali took the time to thoroughly explain things to me, often multiple times, to ensure that I had all the information I needed.”



Anyone who has interacted with Ali or worked closely with her will surely mimic the positive sentiments shared by her colleagues and students.

“She truly goes above and beyond to make sure I am reaching my full potential in my classes”, says Moya Shaw, a Public Health major in the Honors College. “She deserves all the recognition and celebration! Ali has been one of the kindest faces at USC and made my transition into the Honors College so smooth and enjoyable. She is so knowledgeable about everything Honors and perfectly recommends classes that will be beneficial to writing my thesis or what I want to do post-undergraduate.”

Ali is intentional, collaborative, and innovative in all she does professionally, and her scope of university knowledge well surpass her years of employment at USC. She acts and interacts with the knowledge and expertise of someone who has worked at the university for decades. “One moment in particular that I will always remember was from this past fall”, shared Moya, “I hadn’t had an appointment with her since Spring when I mentioned I would be studying all summer for the Dental Admission Test and take it in August. When I met with her in the fall, the very first thing she asked was about my test and how it went. It may seem small, but it meant so much to me that she remembered and took the time to ask me about it.”

Ali’s colleagues shared that, “Students praise Ali for the genuine care she shows each and every one of them, both as a holistic advisor and seasoned UNIV 101 instructor. She consistently offers guidance and teambuilding opportunities to support staff professionally and personally. Her interactions with all students, staff, and faculty are respectful and inclusive. Ali empowers Honors students and advisors by valuing and utilizing their feedback to improve advising processes. Ali Mathwig is not only everything the students, staff and faculty of the University want but also everything they need to strive towards continues excellence for years to come.” Thank you Ali for being such an integral member of the advising community here at USC .



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