“Teamwork has always been evident in our office, but during this pandemic, I have seen the epitome of teamwork in action,” says Donna Watson, Director of Student Associate Director of Undergraduate Student Services. In addition to assisting students, she coordinates advising practices, specifically providing guidance to COE advisors in regard to advising technology usage. Lauren also coordinates the field experience clearance process for students and serves as the Certification Officer for students’ teaching certification/licensure. Natalie Lewin, a senior middle-level education major says that Lauren, “has been everything I’ve needed and more throughout my four years at the university. She has consistently gone above & beyond to make sure I am taken care of and feel supported. From the beginning, she has made me feel comfortable enough to be able to ask for help with any concern, or just to chat. I am forever grateful for her and overjoyed that I had the privilege of having her as my advisor!” Rob Dedmon, COE Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management and Academic Program Development shared that “Susan is a dedicated and highly effective advisor. She goes above and beyond in efforts to personalize advisement, so students feel welcomed and supported.”

Rounding out the “dream team,” is Susan Vinson an Academic Advisor who has been a part of every student’s experience in higher education, but also served as a secondary classroom teacher. Susan was part of the first group of First-Year Advisors hired by the University Advising Center in spring 2015 and has since moved into a role advising new and continuing Education students. Dr. Bridget Miller, Program Coordinator for Early Childhood Education says that Susan, “is an amazing colleague. She has a passion for working with students and develops strong relationships among the students she works with. The students and faculty know that she will fight hard and put in the extra work to do what’s best for students.” Alexis Thornton, a junior Physical Education major, says she was nervous when she switched majors from Exercise Science to Physical Education and worried about the transition. “Mrs. Vinson showed me that it was going to be okay and that I would make it through my four years at the university. She has consistently gone above & beyond to make sure I am taken care of and feel supported. She is one of a kind and I know if I ever need anything I can count on her to help. It is more than obvious she loves her job and she takes that extra step in showing it!”

It is no secret that the advisors in the Gamecock EdQuarters office have a true passion for their jobs. Dr. Chris Britt, Executive Director of Gamecock EdQuarters echoes that statement by sharing that “The undergraduate advising team is comprised of collaborative professionals who work alongside of both students and faculty to ensure that everyone involved has the highest level of exemplary service and support.”