Meet Chris Houghtaling

Boca Raton native Chris Houghtaling recently joined the Division of Research Office of Technology Development as a commercialization specialist.

He earned his master of business administration in international business from the University of South Carolina and the business and economics University Vienna, Austria (joint degree).

Tell us a little about yourself, your hobbies, passions or goals:

I am a Boca Raton transplant of four years, passed through eight states and Vienna, Austria on my journey to FAU. I have shared most of this journey with my wife Elisabeth and our three teenage girls who are the center of my world today. This leaves just enough time to enjoy traveling, geo-politics tied to history and cross-cultural relationships, and finding a few quiet minutes. I am passionate about coaching and mentoring people, I enjoy the challenge of building and turning around teams, and helping people achieve success they did not think was possible. These passions are reflected in the three areas of my experiences:

- in the corporate world as a sales leader
- as an adjunct professor for six universities
- in the global entrepreneur and innovation ecosystem.

In similar roles as I now have at Florida Atlantic, I have had the pleasure of working in an adjunct professor capacity with the newly created Innovation Incubation Center (I2C) at the Technical University of Vienna, Austria, where I helped guide faculty, staff and students toward successful commercialization and with INiTS, a globally recognized incubator supporting high-performing startups in research, technology and innovation from four universities.

For 15 plus years, I have helped more than 50 accelerators and incubators, The World Bank with their Pioneers of the Balkans project, a venture capital friend expand his European Super Angels Club across Europe, founded two companies, consulted several corporations on innovation, and am currently an advisor in residence for my undergraduate alma mater, the University of Kentucky's UK Innovate team along with facilitating the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurial Boot Camps for Kevin Cox, Ph.D., director, Adams Center for Entrepreneurship, College of Business, Florida Atlantic.

What made you choose Florida Atlantic?

It is an exciting time at FAU in innovation and research. Earning R1 status, the changing understanding among universities of the potential to commercialize their innovation and changing economics impacting universities means that I can make a real difference. I choose FAU to contribute to and help the faculty, staff and students who desire to have their innovations and research make a great impact in society, from the hope of being the next unicorn to contributing to the general good through social innovation. I am here to coach and help guide the journey.