

From the Editor

As the new *Journal* editor, on behalf of the NACADA organization, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Joel Freund and Dr. Howard Schein for their contributions to NACADA. Both of these individuals have a long-standing history with the *NACADA Journal*, and along with the other past editors, are responsible for making the *Journal* an outstanding publication that represents the profession of academic advising on a national level.

The first *NACADA Journal* was published in January 1981. In her editorial comments of that inaugural issue, Toni Trombley (1981), President Emerita, pointed to a pressing need for institutional policy statements that delineate the advising activities priorities as they relate to teaching, research, and service. In a preceding declaration, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education (1970) included in its findings: "Enhanced emphasis should be placed on advising as an increasingly important aspect of higher education."

Today, advising can be viewed as an *emerging* profession with many of the earmarks of a profession in place: a professional identity has been established; national standards have been set; a broad range of autonomy for individual practitioners exists; national organizations have been formed; and a code of ethics has been developed (Gordon, 1992). While academic advising may be viewed as an emerging profession, how far has it really pro-

gressed? If we analyze the data generated by the five national surveys on academic advising conducted by ACT, we would conclude that we still have a long way to go, especially concerning the establishment of a professional identity for academic advising.

As professionals, we must be assertive and provide indisputable, convincing arguments that advising makes a difference. Advisors are responsible for providing compelling, persuasive, and indisputable arguments that advising not only improves the quality of a student's experience but also improves and impacts the reputation, fiscal well-being, effectiveness, and prestige of the institution.

The journal of the National Academic Advising Association is a vehicle that advisors can use to affirm the importance of their roles on campus. This is a call from your new *Journal* editor to accept the challenge and assume the responsibility for providing quality submissions that will assist in elevating academic advising as a profession.

Thomas J. Kerr

References

- Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. (1971). *Reform on Campus*. New York: Author.
- Gordon, V. N. (1992). *Handbook of Academic Advising*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
- Trombley, T. (1981). Our inaugural issue. *NACADA Journal*, 1(1), ii.