

From the Co-Editors: On the Scholarship of Academic Advising

With a sense of respect and appreciation, we welcome Peter Hagen as Guest Editor for this issue of the *NACADA Journal*. Introduced to us by Marsha Miller, NACADA Research Coordinator, Dr. Hagen joined us for an intense lunch at the 2003 NACADA National Conference in Dallas. At that lunch, bubbling with enthusiasm, Dr. Hagen proposed doing something on theories of academic advising. The venue was not completely clear, as we were newly appointed and were not sure how to implement his ideas; nevertheless we discussed possibilities including an article, a series of articles, perhaps an entire issue on advising theory. As you peruse the contents of this issue you see the scholarly product of a master editor who enlisted and cultivated excellent authors to bring these ideas from concept to print.

A theory is an explanation of how something works. Theories help us explain things and make sense out of our lives. This issue of the *NACADA Journal* advances various theories about how advising could, should, or does work. The several articles give readers an opportunity to learn these authors' ideas about the role of theory in academic advising. Whether you read them from beginning to end or

in a random order, it might be most helpful to begin with the lead article by Peter Hagen, which sets the stage for the articles that follow.

Since the significant *NACADA Journal* issue on developmental advising theory was published in 1994, the field of academic advising has expanded and evolved. Yet the importance of theory remains as stated by former *Journal* Editor Howard K. Schein (1994, p. 4): "A solid theoretical base gives us the ability to grow, to incorporate new phenomena, and to work effectively with the increasingly diverse populations that need our help." To that thought we would add our own firm belief in the fundamental importance of linking theory to advising practice and research. We hope you will find the articles in this issue challenging from a conceptual perspective as well as applicable to your own practice.

Terry Kuhn
Gary Padak

Reference

Schein, H. K. (1994). From the Editor. *NACADA Journal* 14(2), 4.