
ON A ROLL?

In the last four issues of the *Journal*, NACADA's past and current presidents have exhorted academic advisors to take pride in their accomplishments, to take stock of who they are, and to take charge of their future. For what it's worth, this column has echoed these sentiments. If Volume 8, Number 2, of the *Journal* provides an accurate reflection, academic advisors can feel reasonably optimistic about their ontological status and the direction in which they are moving.

Generally speaking, most advisors do not spend their days researching, thinking abstractly, and writing about advising. This mode of productivity usually results as a creative by-product of their work, squeezed from the time and energy left after helping students, attending committee meetings, seeing to special projects, and managing crises. Nevertheless, with every issue of the *Journal*, the number of manuscripts submitted continually increases. Whether you judge favorably the quality of the articles chosen for publication, of course, lies within your prerogative as reader. The fact still remains that each succeeding *Journal* enjoys a progressively richer pool from which to make selections.

This larger volume of manuscripts speaks directly to the issue raised by Dr. Wall in the *Journal's* "Advising Forum." If advising really wants more and better recognition in higher education, it must act as if it is already an inseparable component of academe. It must adhere to the value system of the academy, which includes broader and more philosophical thinking, research, and publication. If you have ideas, data, or conclusions that deserve to see the light of day, the NACADA *Journal* will gladly read them. (Don't forget to follow the guidelines on the inside back cover.) The editorial board cannot guarantee automatic publication, but it does promise a fair review and the opportunity to help shape the future.

If you need a jump-start for your ideas, check the articles in this and previous *Journals* for a frame of reference. For the broader view of advising, especially take a close look at three articles in the current "Forum." With their comparative description of advising issues, Drs. Polson and Gordon analyze concerns that academic advisors have raised, nationwide, about themselves and their work. A NACADA Task Force report complements the aforementioned study by focusing on advising as a profession. Finally, Dr. Wall, after two interview sessions reflecting on the history and development of academic advising, offers his comprehensive definition of advising and his experienced opinions on where it is and where it should be going. Taken together, these three "Forum" items provide sufficient residual ideas to keep the *Journal* in copy for years to come.

ed ~~editors~~. Naturally, you will also see the many problems con-
, in effect, hold positive challenges to people who make a **liv-**
Can it be said, therefore, that academic advising is on a roll?
o draw such a bold conclusion! However, forward movement
dvisors themselves, to a great degree, can determine the ap-
d speed.

ARTICLES

Within its ARTICLES section, the Journal publishes ~~submissions~~ of two to four thousand words. ~~The~~ editors seek articles of potential interest to academic advising in higher education, especially those of a research nature. Editorial Board ~~reviewers~~ critique manuscripts based on quality of research, ideas, and writing, and ON relevance to this Journal. ~~For~~ guidelines, please refer to the inside back cover.