In my experience, July has been a relatively more calm month that has afforded me the opportunity for more long-range planning, a bit of vacation, and reflection for the upcoming year ahead. 2020 is not going to be my normal experience, and I am guessing that this is likely a similar reflection for you too. Without a doubt, quite a bit of planning is still occurring as each institution finalizes how it will operate this fall. Advisors should be invested in understanding their institution’s processes and procedures for operating this fall. Whether you will be seeing student remotely, in person, or a combination of those options, we should always keep in mind the vital role advising plays in transfer student success. We know that advisors are critical to recruiting, retaining and graduating students, and I encourage us all to always keep that in mind as we think about how our role interplays with students’ academic experiences, particularly in this coming year.

You see this particular part of the message every month, but I think it is important to continue to share the work we’re doing. If you know someone who would benefit from joining our community, please forward this message to them. For those of you who are new to the group this month, welcome! We have a lot of ways to engage members and we rely on you to help make this group as robust as possible. Whether it is engaging with our listserv (directions on how to join can be found by clicking here), our Facebook and Twitter accounts, or attending an event, this group is what you make of it.

This message will include:
1) Congratulations to Tom Grites
2) Listserv Threads this Month
3) Transfer Talks
4) Transfer Bring Your Own Topic (BYOT) Social
5) Annual Conference 2020
6) Resource/ Article Spotlight
Congratulations to Tom Grites

As many of us prepare for the academic year ahead, some also will have the opportunity to retire. I want to take a brief moment to congratulate a former NACADA President and strong transfer advocate, Tom Grites. Tom has been a staple of NACADA since the earliest years of our association, and I personally have greatly appreciated all of his wisdom and willingness to share his knowledge and expertise pertaining to transfer students. Tom also served as a co-editor for the last monograph on Transfer Student Advising, entitled *Advising Student Transfers: Strategies for Today’s Reality and Tomorrow’s Challenges*. Tom has also been heavily involved in the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) as well. I want to share a small excerpt from a letter he wrote to his campus leadership in announcing his retirement that I think truly highlights his commitment to our organization and the Advising Community for Transfer Students in particular.

“I cannot thank Stockton enough to allow and support me to be able to flourish. When I first came to Stockton State College in August of 1977, I was able to attend the First National Conference on Academic Advising where I presented 2 programs and became one of the founding members of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). I was a Charter Member of the Association with the individual Membership #2, which is now among more than 16,000 members who have committed their professional work to academic advising. I subsequently served as the Conference Program Chair for the next 3 National Conferences and served as the President for two terms. I am the only person who has attended every one of the 43 National Conferences. I have been engaged in a variety of NACADA projects including being a member of the first Editorial Board of the NACADA Journal Editorial Board, and I currently serve as the Senior Editor of that publication.”

He went on to say that “Teaching new transfer students in a course that enabled them to become better acclimated to Stockton and advising the student-athletes are the roles I will miss more than anything.”

Lastly, a colleague of Tom’s noted a profound statement pertaining to his impact on transfer students.

“Not everyone understands the historical impact that you have had on transfer students like me and our team in Enrollment does. We are forever grateful for the collaborative partnerships that you have established across the state that have enabled Stockton to be recommended to potential transfer students by our peer 2-year institutions. We are transfer-friendly because of everything that you have done! I have learned so much from you and I cannot thank you enough for all that you have accomplished during your career at Stockton to position us to be one of the most transfer-friendly institutions in the state. You have laid the groundwork for the positive relationships with our two-year peer institutions and you initiated so many of our program to program articulation agreements. Thank you for all that you have done, and I wish you the best in the next chapter of your journey!”

Bob Heinrich, Chief Enrollment Management Officer, Stockton

So today I tip my hat to Tom and congratulate him on his retirement. That said, he has assured me he will continue to be involved in NACADA and NISTS, and we are grateful for that! Congratulations Tom!

Listserv Threads This Month

We realize that many may not read through listservs topics right away, so hopefully having a condensed subject view and summary might give you a reason to go back and dig through your inboxes.

- **Welcome Week Programming for Transfer Students** - This thread began with a request for resources that could assist with programming events for transfer students during a welcome week. There were not many responses, so if you have an opportunity, please go back and considering adding what your campus is doing.

- **AP Scores and Registration** - This e-mail thread ended in early June and was initially started to identify how institutions handle student prerequisites and registration with the AP scores, knowing that given the current circumstances scored would be reported late.

If you have not had a chance to read through the threads or you have information to contribute, please find those in your inboxes and respond.
Transfer Talk: Making Campus Connections

This session will spotlight two sessions that were accepted for regional conference presentations; both of these presentations are focused on helping transfer students establish advising connections as they transition to four-year institutions. In one, two transfer counselors from the University of Hawai‘i will share some insight about advising students on the run (without a permanent office space), and the other will discuss the DirectLink dual advising program at Kansas State University.

Sponsored by
ADVISING COMMUNITY ON TRANSFER STUDENTS
July 21, 2020
10am HST | 1pm PDT | 2pm MDT | 3pm CDT | 4pm EDT

Similar to the May Transfer Talks, this will include a condensed version of the material and there will be plenty of opportunity for dialogue and discussion about dual advising models. Come prepared to share your experiences and learn from others in this interactive session! The link is https://ksu.zoom.us/j/99197310804?pwd=V2FzK2tTcjJR4M0FRRU5KRzZkaW81QT09.

Recordings of all Transfer Talks can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WWuQg0j4JchpxdUkJk2VnVcRWESXaeO8oXHYpjxZI/edit#gid=0
Transfer Bring Your Own Topic (BYOT) Social
We recognize there are a number of topics and ideas that you may want to visit openly about, but do not often get the opportunity to do so, and certainly not with colleagues around the world. The first BYOT social had 17 attendees! We are planning to look at continuing to host this format and will likely look at hosting them on the months opposite when Transfer Talks occur. Be on the look out for an event in August.

Annual Conference 2020
At this point, the annual conference is still planning to go on in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Registration is now open. Hotels options for the conference are now accepting reservations. See the link for details on costs, hotel and travel information. https://nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Annual-Conference/Registration-Information.aspx. Details on refund policies as well as the latest updates regarding the conference can be found at the conference website: https://nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Annual-Conference.aspx.

Resource/ Article Spotlight
The RP group, supported by College Futures Foundation, released a report entitled “Students Speak Their Truth about Transfer: What They Need to Get Through the Gate” in May. While focused on California community colleges, the results may provide a wealth of things to consider regardless of geographic location. The report includes a framework for building students’ transfer capacity, quotes and student perspectives and areas for opportunity and action steps.

If you believe you have a resource that is worth highlighting here, forward it to me at tlazarowicz2@unl.edu with a quick statement as to why you find that resource or article valuable.

As always, thank you so much for being a member of our advising community. If there is anything our advising community can do to help you with your role, please do not hesitate to reach out!