



Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

Newsletter August 2021

WHO WE ARE

The community comprises professionals who advise post-baccalaureate students. We welcome all who work with traditional graduate students, professional degree seekers, adults returning for advanced degrees or certificates, and alternatively delivered and structured graduate and professional programs. Small in size but great in commitment, our community provides a mutually supportive context for discussion of issues particular to serving these student populations. Ongoing projects include encouraging discussion of pertinent topics on our listserv, providing resources to help advisors help students, and increasing our presence at national and regional meetings.

Welcome to the August issue of the GPS Newsletter!

Fall is a time of transitions, and this fall is no exception. We have all been through an incredible amount of change and growth over the past year. So much change can feel overwhelming, but it also invites an opportunity to reflect on what we've learned and integrate it into our day-to-day advising practice.

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight article comes from an article written by Erin Justyna and Rebecca Daly Cofer for NACADA's *Academic Advising Today*. The article, titled "Ten 'Must Have' Tips for New (and Not So New) Academic Advisors," provides essential reminders for all advisors as we embark on a new academic year. Justyna and Cofer provide tips and reminders about the advising profession including setting professional goals, keeping a growth mindset and taking care of yourself. Get refreshed and ready for the new year and check out the article [here](#).

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

My name is Cindy Wolfer. For the past nine years, I have served as a professional Academic Advisor in the Computer Science MS degree program in the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Our program consists of the largest graduate student population on campus, the majority of whom are international and full-time.

My graduate advising cohort consists primarily of international students who share many similarities developmentally to undergraduate first-year students. It is often their first time in our educational system and our culture. Students tend to be anxious upon arrival and concerned about how they will find their way so acknowledging and advising around 'imposter syndrome' is common. They are often expected by academic and student affairs to jump right into an educational and social culture that is vastly different than they have experienced (they are graduate students so surely they know how to 'be a student', right?). My advising approach acknowledges and shows concern for a student's personhood while asking them to academically 'hit the ground running'. I understand to grow, students need

to bring their most prepared and focused self to their studies. The ebb and flow of guiding students developmentally through our academic culture, no matter their background, is the most rewarding component of my role.



Cindy Wolfer, MS Ed.
Rochester Institute
of Technology

Out of interest and necessity, and with gratitude to the *Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students*, I have done informal research and literature reviews regarding the challenges faced by graduate students; more specifically, challenges and opportunities for advisement of international students in the graduate setting. Along the way, I have shared what I have learned with my university advising colleagues. I continue to push myself to share with a greater advising audience and to keep adding to my own educational growth. I am excited to begin serving as a mentor in this advising community's inaugural *Graduate & Professional Advisor Mentoring* program as I am sure I will learn even more than I am able to share.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students offers the **GPS (Graduate and Professional Students) Talks Series!** This online meeting series is offered three times per year: March, June, and September.

September 2021 GPS Talk: Planning is underway for the September 2021 GPS Talk. Further details, including date/time and topic, will be shared in the near future.

CALL FOR GPS STEERING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students steering committee is seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2021-2023 term! If you are interested in getting involved with our vibrant community and keeping the momentum of the last two years moving forward, please contact Dawn Loyola at dawn.loyola@ucr.edu.

NACADA WRITING GROUP SIGNUP

The new season of NACADA Writing Groups (2021-22) is now open for new and continuing members! Dr. Rhonda Dean-Kyncl from the University of Oklahoma, NACADA's Coordinator of Writer Support, oversees the development and structures of the virtual writing groups, recruitment of peer mentors (those willing to serve as consultants for aspiring scholarly writers), and writing-related events across our Global Community. See the [webpage](#) (be sure to be logged in as a NACADA member), and look for specifics on the group types. Send questions to Rhonda Dean-Kyncl (rkyncl@ou.edu).

CALL FOR REGION AWARDS

The 2022 Call for Region Awards portal is open. Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. central Monday, November 1. Apply for this great opportunity to receive support and possible funding to future NACADA events. For information and how to apply, click [here](#).

WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

NACADA Journal

Have you published that great research project that you are working on in academic advising? The *NACADA Journal* is currently seeking submissions for upcoming issues! For more information and submission guidelines/instructions, visit the [NACADA Journal website](#).

NACADA Review

Call for Contributors to Special Edition: The co-editors and editorial board of the *NACADA Review* are pleased to announce the prospect of a special issue of the *NACADA Review* to highlight scholarship on advising racially and ethnically diverse college students. We invite submissions that explore the interplay between theoretical frameworks and effective practices for advising, teaching, and supporting the learning/success of non-white students. Deadline for



Contact Us

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Current Community Chair:

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Get Connected

Follow us on Facebook:

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listserv@listserv.ksu.edu

Bookmark our webpage:

<https://nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities/Advising-Graduate-Professional-Students.aspx>

submissions to this special issue is **October 15, 2021**.

Questions should be directed to Julie Givans Voller (julie.voller@phoenixcollege.edu), Co-editor; Peter L. Hagen (peter.hagen@stockton.edu), Co-editor; Quentin Alexander (qalexand@gmu.edu), Guest Editor; or Ashley Thomas (ashleythomas@ksu.edu), Managing Editor.

Call for Submissions: Interested in writing about how theory engages with advising practice? The *NACADA Review* is currently seeking submissions! Visit the *NACADA Review* [website](#) for more information and submission guidelines/instructions.

Academic Advising Today

Had a hectic summer? Need a bit of down time to refresh and re-energize? Take a few minutes for yourself now and catch up with the Voices of the Global Community in NACADA's quarterly ePublication, [Academic Advising Today](#).

Almost finished with that article you've been working on? September 1 is the deadline to submit for consideration for the December 2021 edition. Visit the Publication Guidelines [webpage](#) to learn more about the submission process.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6-9, 2021: NACADA's 2021 Annual Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio October 6-9, 2021. The theme of the conference is "Together, All Things Are Possible." [Learn more](#) about the NACADA Annual Conference.

