



## Message from the President

As I look outside my office window the sun is shining, the snow is melting, and there isn't a cloud in sight! Then reality sets in and I remember this is upstate NY and we are due for at least one more snow storm before we officially welcome spring. However, as Hal Borland wrote, "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." Before we know it the sun will shine, the grass will be greener, and flowers will bloom, and we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of NYSTAA!

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2018 NYSTAA Conference being held at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown in Syracuse, NY, May 22-24. The annual NYSTAA Conference is something I look forward to every year as it is a time to reconnect with colleagues and provides an opportunity to meet new people in the transfer world. If you find your institution is unable to provide the resources needed to attend the conference, I encourage you to apply for a NYSTAA professional development grant to help cover costs. More information on the grants, as well as the application form, can be found on the NYSTAA website. I would like to recognize the co-chairs and members of both the NYSTAA Conference and Issues committees who have spent countless hours planning the conference. I know they have gone above and beyond to ensure the 25th annual conference will be a huge success.

The Executive Board has been hard at work looking over the organizations by-laws and committee structures to encourage involvement from new and seasoned members. This year at the conference be sure to vote on the proposed by-law changes as the voice of the membership is what keeps this organization thriving. Speaking of membership, if you haven't renewed or registered as a NYSTAA member this year be sure to do so in order to take advantage of all the benefits of being an active NYSTAA member. The Executive Board also seeks to increase our collaboration with other higher education based organizations and is working on building a relationship with NYSACAC (New York State Association

of College Admissions Counselors) in hopes of spreading transfer knowledge to those who may not work directly with the transfer population. As we look to build relationships and increase the functionality of our own organization, it is important that we remember at the end of the day we are looking to achieve one goal, to best serve our transfer students. I encourage you to spread the word about the NYSTAA Scholarship. If you know a student transferring from a 2-year NYSTAA institution to a 4-year NYSTAA institution encourage them to apply online today on the NYSTAA website. A huge thank you to our Scholarship co-chairs and their committee for creating a new online application, making the process easier to manage and navigate for students.

Finally, I want to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. Over the past year, I worked with some amazing transfer professionals as part of the Executive Board. It has been a great experience full of personal and professional growth, and I cannot thank the members of the Executive Board and committee chairs for all of your support. Thank you to all of the committee chairs who will be stepping down in May, we are grateful for your service to NYSTAA. Thank you to Carol Costel Corbin and Robin Graff for their support over the last year as part of the Presidential trio. Best wishes to Robin as she assumes the role of President after the conference, I am confident NYSTAA is in good hands under your leadership. Happy spring and I look forward to seeing you all at the conference in May.



*Kaylynn Iglesias*

Kaylynn Iglesias

**2017-2018  
NYSTAA President**

## 2018 Conference Updates

May 22 – 24, 2018, Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse, NY

### CONFERENCE COST

- o Conference Registration Fee = \$425
- o Non-members = \$500
- o Pre-Conference speaker & luncheon = \$40

### AWARDS DINNER MENU OPTIONS:

- o Filet mignon with peppercorn sauce
- o Stuffed chicken breast with a morel mushroom sauce
- o Lemon thyme taro risotto with grilled artichokes, wilted arugula, blistered tomatoes with balsamic glaze

### PRE-CONFERENCE GOLF OUTING

- o Tuesday May 22 | 8am – 12pm
- o Drumlins Country Club, 800 Nottingham Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224 (drumlins.com)
- o Cost is \$28.00 per person and includes 9 holes and a cart
- o RSVP is required when completing conference registration form
- o Payment will be collected at the the course the day of the event

### IMPORTANT DATES

- o March 1 is the deadline to be a NYSTAA member to get member conference rate
- o April 23rd hotel cut off for rate
- o May 11th Conference Registration deadline

### HOTEL DETAILS

- o \$135.00 single room rate
- o \$67.50 per person if choosing a double room (attendees must find own room share partner)
- o **HOTEL LINK:** [http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=NYSTAA%20Annual%20Conference%20%5Esyrmc%60stas%7Cstastab%60135.00%60USD%60false%604%605/21/18%605/24/18%6004/23/18&app=resvlink&stop\\_mobi=yes](http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=NYSTAA%20Annual%20Conference%20%5Esyrmc%60stas%7Cstastab%60135.00%60USD%60false%604%605/21/18%605/24/18%6004/23/18&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes)
- o Hotel phone: 1-315-474-2424
- o Early arrival information for the hotel:
- o Check in time 3:00 pm they will hold luggage if arriving early
- o If staying Monday night the cost is the same as the conference rate

### NEW PROFESSIONALS PRE-CONFERENCE

- o Tuesday, May 22 | 10 am – 12 noon
- o Designed for professionals with 1 – 3 years' experience in the transfer field.
- o Learn the terminology, trends and tips of transfer.
- o Participate in round table discussion to get your questions answered.
- o Connect with other new professionals and the leadership of NYSTAA!
- o If traveling from a distance, early arrival to the hotel on Monday night encouraged.

### EMERITUS LUNCH

- o Wednesday May 23rd
- o For our emeritus members we wanted to provide you an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and to celebrate the 25th anniversary!

## 2018 Conference Updates Continued

### WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- Night time bowling
- Additional Late night activities
- Excursions to local businesses, shops, and attractions
- Annual Silent Auction & Swag Raffle
- DJ Kenny the Promo Guy!

### PRE-CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Glen Rivera

*INSIGHT Inventory - Understanding Yourself and Others*

The INSIGHT Inventory will help you better understand yourself and others and use this “insight” to improve communications, trust, and effectiveness with the people in your life. The inventory focuses on your style in different settings giving you a broader view of your strengths and occasional reactions to stress.

You will learn:

*Your personality style’s strengths | How to flex your style to reduce tension in relationships | Strategies for communicating better with others | Additional ways to increase your personal effectiveness*

Glen Rivera is a certified executive and life coach with more than 16 years of experience in platform training, global organizational development, and team facilitation. He specializes in communication improvement and team development.



## Campus Updates

**UAlbany** welcomed a new President in September 2017. Dr. Havidan Rodriguez is the first Hispanic president of a SUNY institution. Before coming to UAlbany, he served as the Founding Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). He also served as President, Ad Interim, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas - Pan American (UTPA). Prior to arriving at UTPA, Dr. Rodríguez served as the Deputy Provost, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and International Programs, and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware. He was also a core faculty member and director of the Disaster Research Center (DRC), the oldest and one of the leading social science disaster research centers in the world. Dr Rodriguez's full biography is available [here](#).

*Special Note:* He is a transfer student himself! He transferred twice before completing his Bachelor's degree

**UAlbany** is currently working to complete the program registration process for Environmental and Sustainable Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering and hope it will be completed before the end of the Spring 2018 semester. Once approval is received from SUNY and NYS Education, we are eager to begin working on transfer articulations into these two new programs.

**Bronx Community College (BCC)** has launched a new AAS and Certificate in Cybersecurity and Networking. Students who successfully complete the program can enter entry-level positions or pursue baccalaureate degrees at a four-year college. The certificate program will help those already in the field to move to the next rung in their career ladder. Students in the program will have the opportunity to earn industry certifications while enrolled in coursework. Additionally, those already in the field who hold industry certifications may be able to earn college credit at BCC. Any questions, please contact Alex Ott, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Bronx Community College at [alexander.ott@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alexander.ott@bcc.cuny.edu).

**SUNY Cobleskill** was proud to host the House of Representatives, Agriculture Committee listening session this past Fall to gather input from farmers, ranchers and stakeholders ahead of the upcoming farm bill.

**SUNY Cobleskill** has received a 1.6 million grant to test our Gasifier with the Department of Defense. The gasifier developed by Professors Paul Amodeo and David Waage can produce 60 kilowatts of power a day from two tons of trash, enough to power about 50 standard American homes! This is a tremendous potential for the gasifier in domestic and community use. We are proud of our professors!

**SUNY Cobleskill** also signed an MBA partnership agreement with SUNY Empire State College to allow our Bachelor of Business Administration students seamless transfer.

### Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll

By Theresa Abbott

Phi Theta Kappa is the world's largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year colleges, these student members have a proven track record of being successful transferring and graduating from four year institutions. In order to ensure their continued success, Phi Theta Kappa has a Transfer Honor Roll Program that recognizes colleges and universities that understand the unique needs of community college transfer students. The Transfer Honor Roll recognizes the dynamic pathways colleges have created to continue fostering student success at the four-year college. All regionally accredited four-year degree granting institutions who admit transfer students a minimum of once annually are eligible to apply and will be evaluated on five areas:

- 1) Institutional Partnerships & Community College Collaboration
- 2) Pre-Transfer Institutional Support: Outreach, Admissions, & Access
- 3) Post-Transfer Student Engagement & Support
- 4) Community College Data Tracking & Institutional Priorities
- 5) Transfer Innovations

Schools are evaluated by a panel of two-year, four-year and higher education experts in transfer. The top scoring applications are recognized as the Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll, for excellence in supporting community college transfer for that year. The application will reopen in October 2018 and winners are notified in January.

2018 NYSTAA members who were named as Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll recipients include: Adelphi University, SUNY Cortland, Utica College, Long Island University, and The College of Saint Rose. Hofstra University on Long Island also made the Honor Roll for 2018.

Information used for the write-up, along with additional information, can be found at <https://www.ptk.org/Default.aspx?TabID=4186>.

# Committee Updates



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

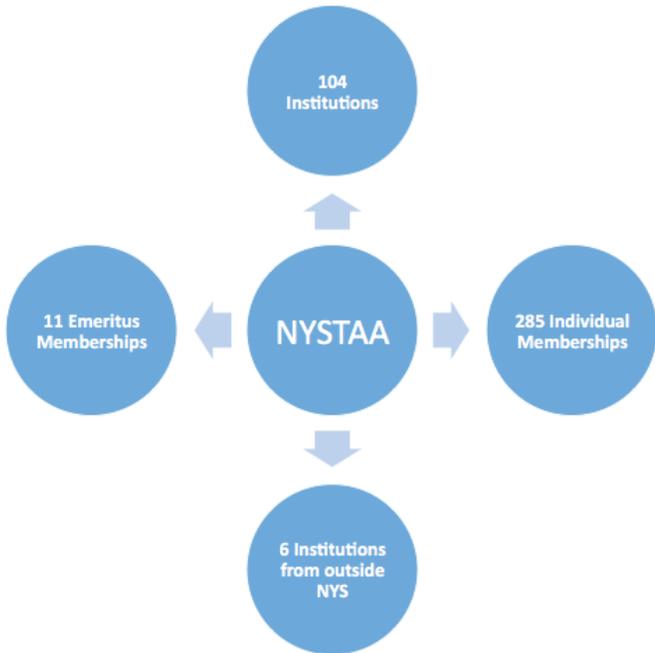
### Your Membership to NYSTAA:

Did you receive a code or a link to complete your registration to NYSTAA?

If you did not, then chances are you are NOT a NYSTAA member!

Talk to your Primary Contact and/or person who paid for the membership to get yourself situated!

### NYSTAA Membership by the Numbers:



## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who have accepted a nomination for an officer or Executive Board position! NYSTAA leadership is critical to the success and continued growth of our organization, so we appreciate your willingness to run. Voting is available to all current, paid NYSTAA members through the Members Area of [nystaa.org](http://nystaa.org). Voting will begin on or before April 21 and will remain open until May 21, the day before the conference. Please vote! Results will be announced on May 23 at the annual business meeting at the conference.

## ISSUES COMMITTEE

The Issues Committee has been hard at work planning for the upcoming conference in May. We are happy to announce that we have selected our main conference speakers as well as our conference session presentations. Our conference speakers include:

**Glen Rivera**, Certified Executive and Life Coach - INSIGHT Inventory

**John Fink**, Research Associate; Community College Research Center - The Transfer Playbook

**Dr. Mark Montgomery**, Associate Dean of Social Sciences and Public Services; Mohawk Valley Community College - Non-Traditional Students

In addition to these great speakers, we've also selected presentations on the following topics:

The Excelsior Scholarship | National Student Clearinghouse | SUNY's Transfer Tools | Non-Traditional Students | Marketing | Transfer Best Practices | Collaborating for Transfer Success | Peer Coaching | Transfer Credit Evaluation

Once again, the Issues Committee will be using Guidebook as an electronic conference guide. Guidebook is compatible with all iOS and Android devices. In addition, we will be utilizing SurveyMonkey again to collect conference and program session evaluations.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!

# Committee Updates

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Hello NYSTAA Colleagues,

It about that time, to start working on fund raising for the annual NYSTAA scholarship! During the NYSTAA conference, (May 22-24) our scholarship committee hosts several fundraising activities. Every dollar that we raise goes directly to the NYSTAA scholarship: offering four (4) \$2,000 scholarships.

We really cannot raise scholarship money without the help of all our NYSTAA members, colleagues, family, and friends. It is extremely important that we work together to build successful fundraising for all of our students who this will benefit. Below is information about the Silent Auction and Swag Raffle Giveaway:

### **Silent Auction:**

Now is a great time to begin working on gathering items for the silent auction. We can't do this alone so reach out to family, friends, colleagues who may have an item(s) to donate.

### **Silent Auction suggestions:**

Regional Baskets: Local items: team memorabilia, sauces/rubs etc. | Campus/Office Baskets | Basket ideas: Lottery tickets, grilling items, wine/beer etc. | Paintings, photography | Jewelry | Getaway packages: Hotel stay, dinner etc. | Gift Certificates (dinner for two, spa/massage services) | Tickets to: sporting events, shows, museums, movie tickets etc. | Autographed items: book, paintings, baseball, sports jerseys etc. | Classes: educational/exercise etc.

### **Suggestion to solicit donations:**

Connect with people you know personally and professionally. We often receive regional baskets or campus/office baskets

Connect with local businesses and organizations (restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, museums, theaters etc....)

### **Swag Raffle Giveaway:**

- During the conference, tickets will be available to purchase for a chance to win college swag
- For this event to be successful we need your help! Please consider donating items from your campus that can be used for the swag giveaway.
- Swag Suggestions: Please consider substantial items such as sweatshirts, blankets, hats, and jackets etc. (Instead of smaller items).
- Swag items can be dropped off at the registration table when you arrive

### **Timeline and Details:**

- If you have a donation or have any questions contact me, Darlene Poirier (dpoirier@albany.edu)
- We would like to have all donations confirmed by May 7th (I will continue to follow up with e-mail reminders).

### **Scholarship Applications & Review**

- Forty-two completed applications already submitted with an equal number of incomplete applications as of now.
- Applications will be reviewed and recipients selected by mid-April.

Best Regards,

NYSTAA Scholarship Committee

## Tau Sigma Honor Society – Why Have a Chapter?

Tau Sigma National Honor Society was formed in 1999 at Auburn University, as we recognized that our transfer students were underserved and not being properly recognized. The chapter was an immediate success, confirming our suspicion that there was an unmet need among our transfer population. We've been telling the Tau Sigma story for the last 18 years and we now have over 175 chapters in 43 states nationwide! Incidentally, New York is the state with the most chapters at 18! We also recently awarded \$100,000 in scholarships to 57 students and held our 8th annual Leadership Conference in Chicago!

The process of starting a Tau Sigma chapter is fairly simple and is listed on our website at <http://www.tausigmanhs.org/index.cfm/institutions/explanation-of-the-process/>. The first step of the process is to submit a Preliminary Charter Information form (found on our website). Once we approve your PCI form, Melanie Saunders, our Director of Chapter Relations, will work with you to obtain the names/addresses of those students who are eligible for membership. We will then send a letter of congratulations to them with a link to a web address that they will use to join and pay their membership dues. After the deadline for joining has passed, we will send you a list of the new members, the induction materials (certificates and pins), a charter, honor cords, t-shirts, a table cover, banner, and a check for the local dues. At that point, you will simply schedule a meeting for the members, elect officers, and the chapter will be off and running!

For a Tau Sigma chapter to be sustainable, a school typically needs to have at least 300-400 incoming transfer students each year. If you have additional questions about Tau Sigma or the membership mailing process, visit our website and/or contact me at [colquill@auburn.edu](mailto:colquill@auburn.edu) or Melanie at [melanie@tausigmanhs.org](mailto:melanie@tausigmanhs.org). We would enjoy helping you better serve your transfer students!

### **- L. Lee Colquitt, Ph.D., Executive Director of Tau Sigma**

SUNY Old Westbury is home to the Zeta Omega chapter of Tau Sigma. In my role as Assistant Director within the Center for Student Leadership & Involvement, I established our chapter in the Fall of 2015 with our first induction taking place in the Spring of 2016. As Dr. Colquitt mentioned, it was an easy process setting up our chapter. Both Dr. Colquitt and Melanie Saunders were a tremendous help providing materials for the induction and guidance on establishing the chapter. Earlier this Spring, SUNY Old Westbury held our fifth induction, bringing the number of inductees to 424 students. The students that are members of Tau Sigma had proven to not yet be engaged on campus and this is one of their first ways of feeling connected with their new campus. Since the inception of our chapter, turnout from Tau Sigma students at events or in student clubs has increased, giving them a better sense of belonging and wellbeing. Personally, the Tau Sigma induction is one of my favorite events on campus to run. The outpouring of support for these students from their family and friends who attend the induction is impressive, and I always end up having great conversations that lead to students finding their niche.

**- Jamie B. Jones, M.S., Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life/Leadership Development and Acting Assistant Director for Diversity Programming at SUNY Old Westbury**



## Phi Theta Kappa Advisor – To be or not to be?

By Robin Graff

In the Spring of 2009 I was asked by the administration at Westchester Community College if I would be willing to become an advisor to the Alpha Iota Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Although they asked if I would be interested, I did not think “No thank you, I am not interested”, was really an option as a response. I did not know much about Phi Theta Kappa at the time, only that they were an honor society for community college students. Nine years later I can honestly tell you that being a Phi Theta Kappa Advisor has been one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of my community college career.

The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to, “recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.” As active members and/or officers in their chapter, students develop research and servant leadership skills that serve them inside and outside of the classroom and well into their careers. In addition, there is more than 37 million dollars in scholarships available only to members.

Let me be clear that being a chapter advisor is NOT a job for one person. Each chapter generally has two to four advisors although one person does serve as the main advisor or Contact Advisor. It can be a bit overwhelming at first as there is quite a learning curve. Chapters can be anywhere from a one star to a five star chapter in accordance with the 5 Star Chapter Development Plan. The Five Star Chapter Plan is a roadmap guiding the chapter through levels that range from local to international involvement.

Although the challenges include learning the ropes and of course, budget constraints, the benefits of being an advisor far outweigh the challenges. If you have ever considered chartering a chapter at your college or taking on an advisor role, here are my top 5 reasons for accepting the challenge:

**The Annual Convention-** Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Convention is known as Catalyst. When I first became an advisor the convention was described to me as a combination of the Oscars and the Olympics and it did not disappoint. The energy and excitement of the 3,000 to 4,000 attendees is contagious and must be experienced to gain a true understanding. It is also an opportunity to travel the Nation. Past conventions have been held in Nashville, Orlando, San Jose, San Antonio and Seattle, just to name a few.

**Networking and Fellowship -** You are not alone! When you become an advisor, you gain a network of fellow advisors in your region that are eager to help. In addition to being the contact advisor for my chapter, I also serve on the Advisory Board for the New York Region. The support I receive from my Regional Coordinator and fellow advisory board members is immeasurable. I have also gained friendships that will last a lifetime.

**Recognition-** Advisors may be nominated for Hallmark Awards which are announced each year at Catalyst. There are awards for new advisors as well as awards for continued excellence. Regional Coordinators can nominate advisors to be recognized at the region’s awards ceremony for their contributions to regional and international programming.

**Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities-** There are many opportunities for advisors to grow and learn outside of their chapter. For example, Faculty Scholars serve as seminar leaders during the week long Honors Institute in June. The Marshall and Mosal Awards come with \$5,000 stipends for the completion of a project leading to personal professional or leadership growth beyond the completion of professional degrees.

**The students-** Last, but most certainly not least, is the chance to watch students grow and learn through the leadership opportunities afforded to them through their involvement with Phi Theta Kappa. The confidence and skills they gain will serve them throughout their lives. It is truly a joy to bear witness to the transformation that so often occurs within this short period of time. These are the intangible benefits that you cannot quantify, but will change you forever.

If you are interested in starting a chapter at your college, or would like more information on Phi Theta Kappa and the benefits of being a member or advisor, please visit [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org). You can also contact me directly at [robin.graff@sunywcc.edu](mailto:robin.graff@sunywcc.edu).



***AIO Chapter in April 2017 after receiving an award at Catalyst for their Honors in Action Project.***

# Inaugural National Transfer Student Week Successful

By Rachel Littenberg

NYSTAA and NETA teamed up with the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) in the creation of the first National Transfer Student Week! The inaugural National Transfer Student Week (NTSW) was held in Fall 2017 from October 9 – 13. The purpose of the week was to educate our campuses about transfer, to recognize successful students, to create welcoming campuses (at receiving colleges), to promote transfer (at sending institutions), and to inspire the work of transfer to be campus-wide.

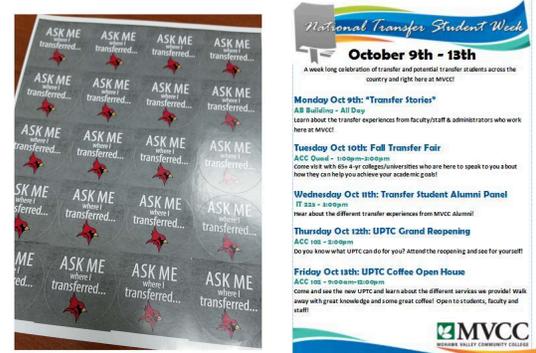
NYSTAA schools – with very little lead time! - showed their support of the week with different events and promotions. Mohawk Valley Community College had an event on each day of NTSW 2017 ending with an open house at their new University Partners & Transfer Center. SUNY Oswego also organized an event for each day including two transfer student nights out one for some fun bowling and another to the movies.

We are proud of our NYSTAA schools leading the way with this initiative. Thanks for all your work. With colorful swag like pins, stickers and t-shirts, we got out to show our <3 for our transfer students! Not every school could participate in 2017, but we are all hoping that this Fall 2018 NTSW will be even bigger!

Mark your calendars! National Transfer Student Week in 2018 is scheduled for October 15 – 19. Start thinking now about how you can celebrate the week on your campus.

If you aren't sure what to do, check out the NYSTAA website for event ideas and then go download the marketing kit from NISTS.

We hope to see awesome Snaps and Insta shots from all our member campuses! Be sure to tag it #TransferStudentWeek #NYSTAA #NTSW



Casey Kohler has returned to the office after being on maternity leave for the Fall 2017 semester. Her daughter Tara was born on Sunday, August 20th at 4:55 AM. She arrived weighing 8 lbs. .02 oz. and 19.5 inches. She is now a vivacious (and talkative like her mommy) 6 month old!

