Counseling Persons Living with HIV/AIDS: Lessons for the Counselor

David Letiecq
CSI Intern

I still feel a little uneasy when I am asked by family, friends, student colleagues, professors and particularly strangers about my counseling "specialty" or "area of interest." My response is usually concise: "Death... and once the initial look of disdain, disgust, discomfort, or disbelief disappears from their faces, I usually add, "but more importantly... life." Usually, a similar, more pronounced reaction occurs moments later when I tell them more specifically that I am a counseling intern at the Whitman Walker Clinic, the country's third largest HIV/AIDS clinic. I may be uneasy because I am not yet confident of my somewhat shocking delivery. Perhaps my own discomfort is rooted in the deeper issues of internalized homophobia or the societal stigma of HIV/AIDS. Most likely, though, it is my own fear of death.

I am a 27-year-old gay male who is, according to my last test, HIV-negative. On the one hand, many assume that my gayness naturally led me to this "specialty" because the majority of infected persons in American society are gay. I am sure this may be true. Others may assume that I am HIV-positive and therefore "truly empathetic." Most assume that I have lost many friends and family to the pandemic or to other life-threatening illness. The fact is that I have had very few personal encounters with death—one grandparent I hardly knew, a few childhood pets, one or two distant family friends, and a few "friends-of-friends" who died of AIDS-related complications.

My Own Fears

My own fears of death exist both in my external and internal worlds. I am very close to my three living grandparents who are all in their mid-to-late eighties. As awful and fatalistic as it may sound, I have a real fear that they will die one right after the other. I fear that my parents may die "prematurely," leaving my brother, my sister and myself to live with constant sadness and to redefine our family, our roles, and our responsibilities. Since my early teen years, I believed that I would contract and fall victim to the "gay disease." While I may be more educated now, this fear is always present in the depths of my being.

Given my fears, I have asked myself repeatedly: What attracted me to counseling persons who are living with a life-threatening illness? I have no clear answers. However, I know some of the reasons why I am committed to continuing my counseling work with the terminally ill.

Concept of Time

From the day a client first learns of his/her HIV-positive diagnosis, the client's concept of time seems to be forever changed. Newly diagnosed HIV-positive clients may require skills and knowledge very different from the client living with full-blown AIDS. For example, I may be forced to use crisis intervention techniques, including assessment of suicidality, with the recently diagnosed client because he/she may be gripped with fear of imminent death. The time orientation of the client continues to change as he/she encounters new stages or individual "markers" of the disease, such as a lower T-cell count or the onset of an opportunistic infection. For clients who cross the threshold from HIV positivity to full-blown AIDS, I have found that creating a supportive and safe environment in which clients may review their lives or may grapple with the resolution of "unfinished business" is essential to their parallel processes of living and dying.

Whatever stage of the disease, the changed concept of time seems to facilitate and expedite the counseling process. Although I still have limited experience, my clients, all of whom are in various stages of the disease, have been generally more open and up front about their issues. The true challenge is to attentively listen to and support clients as they describe their own sadness, anger, and fears associated with the changes and to help them cope with and process their resulting feelings of grief and loss.

Accompanying Clients on Their Journey

When I first started counseling persons living with HIV/AIDS, I falsely assumed that it would be an experience full of sadness, misery, and despair. While at times I do in fact feel this way, more often than not I am amazed at the growth I witness and observe in my clients. One client whom I have seen for several months has full-blown AIDS. Without exception, his black-and-white thinking was the most rigid I have ever observed in any person. He adamantly declared several times that his fight for life would end when his body became...
Empowerment Through Social Activism

Courtland C. Lee
CSI President

I am deeply honored to be serving as CSI President during 1995-96. I greatly appreciate your support. It is particularly exciting to be assuming the presidency of CSI during this year, because it is the start of our second decade as the international counseling academic and professional honor society. As the year unfolds, I see us building on the excellence of our first ten. We will lead the way for the profession in the challenging years ahead.

During our first decade as an honor society, we witnessed profound changes throughout the world, from the collapse of Communism to the end of apartheid in South Africa. However, here at home, we also witnessed phenomena such as continuing intolerance, the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS, and escalating violence in our homes, schools, and communities negatively impacting, in some measure, all of our lives. As we approach the 21st century, it is evident that our country and our profession face some critical social challenges.

Theme for 1995-1996

That is why I have chosen “Empowerment Through Social Activism” as my theme for CSI during 1995-1996. Empowerment refers to the process by which people who have been rendered powerless or become marginalized develop the skills to take control of their lives and their situations. I think that individually, and collectively through our chapters, CSI should be in the forefront of helping people empower themselves through our social activism and responsibility. It is important that as professional counselors and members of CSI we get actively involved in the world around us. Social activism should be reflected in our service, scholarship, and efforts at professionalism.

Chapter Involvement

At the chapter level, for example, social activism might take the form of initiating service projects in local communities. It is important that we find ways to put our collective counseling expertise to work on the social challenges which confront our clients in their communities. We can participate in community rebuilding efforts that connect people for the purpose of attacking the major issues that negatively impact their families and neighborhoods.

Scholarship Efforts

Likewise, our scholarship efforts should be devoted to investigating solutions to social problems that menace the quality of life of those we work with in the counseling process. It is important that we employ action research methods to address the social, economic, or educational barriers that block maximum human development.

Professional Commitment

Finally, we must work to insure that professionalism in counseling is synonymous with individual and community empowerment. CSI can set an example that counseling can be a united profession dedicated to helping people break down institutional and social barriers to academic, career, or personal development. When necessary, whether we identify as school counselors, mental health counselors, or marriage and family counselors, CSI members must be willing to act on behalf of disenfranchised clients in an advocacy role. This involves actively challenging repressive or intolerant forces that stand in the way of optimal development for our clients.

I ask all of you to join me this year in a renewed spirit of social activism and responsibility in CSI. I look forward to working with you as we embark on the next ten years of excellence!
New Efforts in Leadership Development

Thomas J. Sweeney
CSI Executive Director

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Faculty Advisor Network
The Executive Council has approved two significant additions to the CSI organizational structure. First, there is now a committee to correspond with and assist the chapter Faculty Advisors (formerly titled Assistants to the Executive Director) and officers. This committee, whose function is described in more detail in another article of this issue ("Faculty Advisor Network," p. 7), will create a needed, systematic means to assist those who are the mentors and leadership models within chapters. It also will help us to identify and use the experience and insights of these faculty in our other activities.

Regional Collaboration
Second, we have committed to creating a regional plan for additional support to the U.S. based chapters. (Because of the number and uniqueness of the overseas chapters, we find it beneficial to address their needs individually.) The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) has five regional associations (North Atlantic, Southern, North Central, Rocky Mountain, and Western). Our regions will correspond to the ACES state affiliations and use the annual ACES regional meetings as a place to encourage collegial sharing and collaboration. In addition, one individual within each region will be designated as a "regional contact" to help supplement the headquarters support services to chapters and members. These are two initiatives that we have wanted to get underway for sometime and believe that now is the best opportunity.

Source of New Leaders
Leaders in every organization need assistance. CSI is no exception. In fact, we want to be a continuing source of new leaders for the profession at large. It may surprise members of some national organizations, for example, that prior leadership experience is not required to be nominated and elected to national offices.

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Bridging The Gap: Professional Networking Opportunity for Beginning Professionals Through the Fellows and Internship Program

Mentoring emerging leaders is one of the main goals of Chi Sigma Iota. In order to accomplish this goal, leadership training and professional development opportunities are available through the Fellows and Interns Program. Applications are mailed directly to each local chapter and nominations are sought among the chapter's outstanding members.

Fellows Program
The Fellows Program offers outstanding Chi Sigma Iota chapter members who are early in their professional career an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills and enhance their awareness of the many facets of professional involvement. Through attendance and participation in "Chi Sigma Iota Day" at the annual ACA Convention, Fellows will interact and network with national and local leaders. Up to ten Fellows will receive $200 each from CSI for their involvement in all the Fellows' activities of CSI International and a matching grant of $100 from their nominating CSI chapter.

Intern Program
Two of the ten Fellows will be selected to participate in all the CSI International operations under the mentoring of the CSI officers. While this is a non-paid, part-time, volunteer position, the opportunities for networking and contributing are unique. Interns are reimbursed for expenses resulting from their work on behalf of CSI.

Duties that are associated with the internship include: attendance at the ACA Convention and participation in the CSI Executive Council Meetings, both at convention and during the summer. Travel and accommodation expenses for the summer meeting are reimbursed by CSI. Interns have an opportunity to select activities along the lines of their talents and areas of interest that will contribute to the operations of CSI.

Eligibility
Applicants must be CSI members in good standing, contributing members in their local chapters, and in their early years of their professional career. (i.e., they are currently enrolled in their graduate Counselor Education programs or within three years of receiving their degree).

Support
A grant of $200 will be provided by CSI which will be matched with a grant of $100 from the local nominating chapter. These funds provide assistance in attending the convention and participating in CSI activities.

On November 1, 1995, local chapters will receive application packets. Those interested in being nominated by their local chapter should contact the CSI Faculty Advisor to obtain a packet. The deadline for submitting an application is December 15, 1995.

Attention All Chapters!
It’s Time for Awards Nominations

Next April in Pittsburgh, it will once again be time for Chi Sigma Iota to recognize its outstanding counselors and programs at its Awards Program. To do this, nominations must begin now. All chapters are encouraged to nominate outstanding persons, chapters, and events so that we as a Society can celebrate and recognize the excellent work of Chi Sigma Iota.

The guidelines and nomination forms for the 1996 Awards Program have been sent to all chapter Faculty Advisors. Awards will be presented in the following areas.

Outstanding Chapter Awards
Outstanding Newsletter, Individual Program, and Outstanding Chapter.

Outstanding Member Awards
Entry-Level Student Award, Doctoral Student Award, Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award.

Research Awards
First, second, and third place.

Professional Practitioner Awards
Outstanding Practitioner Award, Outstanding Practitioner-Supervisor Award.

If you are an at-large member and know of a practitioner worthy of recognition and you do not have easy access to a Faculty Advisor, you may write for more information or for nomination forms.

The postmark deadline for nominations is January 1, 1996. For more information or for nomination forms, please contact Sandra Lopez-Baez, Walsh College, 2020 Easton St. N.W., North Canton, Ohio 44720 or Joseph Ososkie, CSI Research Awards Chair, Dept. of Human Rehabilitation Services, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado 80639.

Many chapters present their own awards to outstanding members. Forms for submitting the names of these recipients of chapter awards will be sent on January 15, 1996, to each Faculty Advisor.

Make use of this opportunity to recognize CSI members who are promoting excellence through their involvement in the profession and CSI.
The Internship Experience: Inviting and Challenging

Jeffrey Mostade
CSI Intern

Although the rolling terrain and verdant forests of the Piedmont in North Carolina were inviting, they were not half as welcoming as the reception we two journeymen counselors received as interns to the Executive Board meeting of Chi Sigma Iota. When I committed to Chi Sigma Iota three years ago, I swore to my belief in excellence in counseling through scholarly pursuits and leadership development, and I vowed continued involvement with the profession. In Greensboro, as interns, David Letiecq and I were challenged to pursue goals for the year which we found personally challenging and which were in keeping with the goals of the Society as established in the charter and by this year's current Executive Board. The internship positions are particularly rewarding for members who require a challenge to bring out their best and for those who have initiative to carry through a commitment with the long distance support of members of the Executive Board and Kelley Rowland from Headquarters.

Goals for the Year

One of the greatest advantages which the internship experiences has offered me has been the ability to work with the other intern, David. We have made a joint commitment to work to enhance further the experiences of the interns and fellows next year. We are working closely with Jane Myers to design a program of events for next year's fellows and interns which will build on the past strengths of internship programs and which will offer more opportunities for future fellows. If any past interns and fellows have any suggestions of ideas, please post David or myself at the e-mail and snail mail addresses following: Jeffery Mostade, 13600 Shaker Blvd. #802, Cleveland, OH 44120 (senex3@901.com) and David Letiecq, 1211 Q St. NW, #1, Washington, DC 20009 (dletiecq@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu).

Benefits as an Intern

Below are some of the benefits I have incurred, or expect to incur, as an intern this year.

- Projects of benefit to the international organization which I can see through to completion
- Opportunities to discuss important counseling and counseling advocacy issues with leading counselor educators from across the country
- Networking and mentoring opportunities
- Opportunity to express my ideas in supportive, collegial atmosphere
- New friendships
- The hospitality of Tom Sweeney and Jane Myers, the hosts of the annual board retreat in Greensboro, North Carolina
- Opportunities to understand the inner organization of an international counseling organization
- Opportunities to meet counseling scholars who have written texts used in classes

Chapter Development Committee Established

Following the recommendation of President Courtland Lee, the CSI Executive Council has established a Chapter Development Committee. The purpose of this committee is to provide assistance to CSI members and leaders in the development and maintenance of active CSI chapters. This year the Chapter Development Committee has identified several means for assisting chapters. These include the development of the Faculty Advisors Network (FAN), a Chapter Leadership Network, and the identification of Regional Contacts to assist the CSI Executive Director in working with CSI chapters in the United States. In addition, a new column will be added to the newsletter titled "Chapters Tips." The first set of tips appears on page 10.

New Efforts in Leadership

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even as president. As a consequence, the very problems experienced by the CSI chapter officers mentioned above also surface in places. It is at those times that prior leadership preparation and experience, wisdom, and a capacity to function as a statesperson become essential. The best qualities of character, not personality, must be encouraged.

CSI has been deliberately apolitical in its mission and goals. As a consequence, it serves as an excellent source of preparation and experience for anyone interested in leadership opportunities. We currently have 144 chapters in this country and abroad. Our active membership exceeds 6,000 (over 12,000 members initiated) and is increasing. Our membership size would place CSI among the largest divisions of the American Counseling Association (ACA) whose aggregate membership is the largest in the world. In addition, within the CSI membership are literally hundreds of proven leaders including presidents, executive directors, treasurers, secretaries, board members, parliamentarians, and every type of committee chair imaginable of local, state, regional, national, and international organizations. With such resource and even greater potential in emerging leadership, CSI can provide a unique service to the profession.

CSI Vision and Mission

It is a part of our vision and mission in our strategic plan to promote and recognize leadership. Many members reading this article are or will be the leaders of the profession in the coming decade. If CSI experience helps in any way with your success, all of our efforts will be affirmed as well. We want to succeed in helping others to acknowledge the vital role that counselors perform within our society. For this to happen will require many people, serving in many positions and in many parts of society in this country and abroad. Hopefully, the synergism within CSI will help our mutual goals to be realized more quickly.
Pervasive Violence: An Interview with Clement Vontress

Paula Helen Stanley
Associate Editor

One of the foci of Chi Sigma Iota this year is for counselors to be more active in confronting the social problems that exist in their culture. Although we are an international organization, this article considers the nature of violence in America from the viewpoint of Clement Vontress, a leader in cross-cultural and existential counseling. Dr. Vontress is Professor of Counseling at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Violent Beginnings

I conducted a telephone interview with Dr. Vontress during which time he shared his perspective on violence in America. I began the interview with the question, “How have we become such a violent society?” Vontress quickly commented that we have always been a violent society. Native Americans, immigrants, and Africans, who were abducted and brought to America, were subjected to many acts of violence. So violence is not a new phenomenon.

Honoring Violence

Vontress discussed his walk through Washington where the monuments to honor the Vietnam and Korean War dead are located. He was struck with another perspective on these memorials; he stated, “To make us feel good about inflicting violence on other people, we have erected monuments to acts of violence.” At the same time we are committing acts of violence, he notes that “we need to see ourselves as good people, especially on Sunday morning when we go to church, perhaps better than other people in the world.” He believes that other people in the world do not see us the same way we see ourselves.

Authority Structures

I asked Vontress for his perception of the origins of violence. He cited four authority structures that have an influence on the development and proliferation of violence: family, church, school, and government. He believes the roots of violence begin in the family. Children in many families do not feel secure, cared for, or loved. He explains, “When you don’t feel secure in your family, it plants the first seeds of violence. The child becomes very angry.” Then, according to Vontress, the child enters school insecure and angry. Authority figures in schools may lead to an increase in the anger of the child—depending on how they interact with the child. Another angry child can be produced from this process. Vontress believes there is an authority breakdown in both the family and the school.

According to Vontress, the authority in the church has also broken down. He explains, “There used to be a fear of God. Fear has disappeared, and we try to make the church a pleasant gathering place. If you don’t fear God, why would you fear anyone else?” Additionally, he finds that the church, instead of representing moral authority, has in many cases been one of the most divisive forces in society.

The government as an authority structure has also broken down, according to Vontress. Government is supposed to protect our interests, but instead, Vontress insists, “Violence is manifested in language, and there is no respect for differences. The government officials assassinate each other with their words and disrespect. National politicians model disrespect. Television models hostility. Violence is modeled throughout our society.”

Differences as Part of Violence

Violence is perpetrated against many populations; for example, people who look different, older persons, and in homes where spouses assault each other. Vontress perceives our attitude about war, older persons, and people we view as different from the majority all to be acts of violence. He explains, that military outbreaks in recent American history were ones “against people who were different, and we lost the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the Bay of Pigs en-counter. In recent history, we have continued to move against people who are racially and politically different.”

Vontress comments that even in our own country, individuals of different ethnic groups and races are quick to see things differently. He gave the example of the O.J. Simpson trial where “the criminal justice system is seen by one segment of society as not acting on their behalf but acting on the behalf of the majority group. The government is seen as being more against them.”

Indifference as Violence

Violence refers to much more than what we usually consider. A very real type of violence is that of indifference to others. When people feel insignificant and perceive others as indifferent to their needs, Vontress insists: They feel like no one cares about them. Some young people are indifferent to life. I think society has to face the problem as it really is rather than assigning blame usually to people who have been locked out of society. It is human nature. If there is no way out of a situation, they will strike out at external sources, or they will strike out at themselves, as many people do by using drugs or other kinds of behavior that lead to death. Why is AIDS so epidemic in some communities? The reason why is that people do not really care if they live or die. They commit violence towards themselves.

Counselors’ Responses

What can we, as counselors, do about this problem? Vontress noted that counselors can not do it all, though we have often been asked to do so. He did make a few suggestions, however. First, we need to focus much more on violence as a national problem, and he insists it needs to be addressed immediately. If not, he warns that it could destroy our society. Second, he adds, “We need to help people feel good about themselves.”

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Counseling Persons
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riddled with a particularly difficult infection or AIDS-related complication. He was certain that he would not be able to muster up the energy to fight these tough battles. While working with him, two lesions of Kaposi’s Sarcoma, one of my client’s biggest fears, appeared on his face - one on his chin and one on the tip of his nose. Despite the difficult work he faced due to his changed appearance and resulting lowered self-esteem, the “fighter” in my client rose to the occasion. Over several sessions, he became increasingly flexible and adaptable, realized that he is stronger than he had previously thought, and restored his hope in life. As his counselor, I supported him throughout this ordeal and helped him to see his potential and to rely on his inherent strengths. My support and respect for him, I believe, are apparent; the warm tears of joy and appreciation that I shed after those challenging sessions are not. I feel tremendously honored to be able to accompany this and every one of my clients on their journey of growth and life.

Pervasive Violence
(Continued from page 6)

selves—that they are as important as any other person in society—deserving of love and respect.” Third, counselors and others need to work more with families rather than just working with individuals. The school, church, and government, as well as families, need to be involved in working to reduce violence.

My Personal Awareness

As I listened to Vontress’s ideas, it seemed to me that most individuals express a concern with violence as portrayed by gangs and street crime. The shootouts in the streets and random shootings that occur in urban and suburban areas come to mind. I recalled the death of a cousin of mine who was a deputy sheriff in a rural town. He was shot by young teenagers from New York as part of their initiation into a gang. No one expected such a thing to happen.

It seems we all get concerned when we believe we or our loved ones might be affected by violence, but we have a blind eye when it comes to seeing the depth of the violence that pervades our society. Violence appears as discrimination and prejudice, as well as a smoking gun. Those of different ethnic groups and races, women, older persons, those with mental disorders, those of differing socioeconomic statuses, and many others are subjected to violence each day. That kind of violence seems to be quietly overlooked or denied as a reality. From my interview with Clement Vontress, I realized that violence is not just a smoking gun.

Issues with Life and Death

Through my work with persons living with HIV/AIDS, I have come to a personal understanding that the lessons in life are borne out of experiences with loss and death. I have become increasingly aware of my own issues surrounding life and death and have gained a clearer, more accurate, perspective on the importance or irrelevance of various issues, circumstances, and priorities in my life. I have been taught by the finest teachers, my clients, how to take moments out of my busy day to simply be with myself, to take care of myself, and to appreciate the beauty of the world in which we all live. They have shown me how to be more whole as a person.

While I have been more in tune with my psychological and social worlds, I have only begun to explore fully my own spirituality and physical being. I am becoming increasingly aware of the interrelatedness of my own physical, spiritual, psychological, and social realms and how equal respect for and attention to each fosters optimal health and well-being.

Rewards

The rewards of working with persons who are living with life threatening illness are plentiful. I believe that my knowledge and skills are continually being used and improved and that my beliefs are constantly being questioned and re-evaluated. While I have not yet lost my first client to AIDS, my fears have been diminished. I will be sad, maybe even depressed for some time with the death of each client. However, in light of the personally felt loss, I will try to remember each of them and the gifts they have given to me. I will try to live each day as if it were my last, to freely smile, laugh, and cry, to remain flexible and adaptable, and to embrace change as the gateway to growth. The potential for personal growth is limitless. I hope that I have helped my clients. In my heart, mind, and soul, I know they have touched my life profoundly and have helped me to become a better counselor and person.

Faculty Advisor Network

Chapter Development Committee Chair Jane Myers affectionately refers to this network as “The CSI Fan Club.” All faculty advisors of CSI chapters are members of this network, which has been established to promote excellence in leadership development within CSI chapters. The network will enhance leadership development through the sharing of expertise and resources among Faculty Advisors. The FAN will provide a forum for networking and information sharing among chapter Faculty Advisors, both through regular meetings during CSI day at the annual convention and through regional meetings held in conjunction with ACES regional conferences. Look for information about the convention meeting of the FAN in the next issue of this newsletter. For more information about the FAN, please contact Jane Myers in care of the CSI Headquarters.
Mary Thomas Burke
Professor and Chairperson
Department of Human Services
University of North Carolina
Charlotte, North Carolina

Academic and Professional Experience
Mary Thomas Burke is a Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Human Services at UNC Charlotte, N.C. She serves as coordinator of the Counselor Education Program and is Faculty Advisor for Mu Tau Beta chapter. The chapter received Chapter of the Year Award in 1995. Mary Thomas serves as Vice Chairperson of the CACREP Board of Directors. She is the ACA and CACREP Liaison to the National Board for Certified Counselors. She has served as President of NCASERVIC and NCACA. She also served as President of ASERVIC and currently serves on the Executive Board. She is the recipient of twenty plus prestigious awards including Devoted Service to Mu Tau Beta Chapter Meritorious Service Award from ASERVIC, Humanitarian Award from National Conference of Christians and Jews, Community Service Award presented by the UNCC Alumni Association, Leadership Awards from North Carolina Counseling Association, Leadership Awards from North Carolina Counseling Association and ASERVIC. She was Woman of the Year in Charlotte in 1979.

Goal Statement
Chi Sigma Iota is a society of distinction and promise. Its richest years are ahead. While the organization has enjoyed exceptional success in its brief history, it is still in its infancy. The potential of Chi Sigma Iota is limitless. Thousands and thousands of counseling professionals and future professionals will vie to be a part of this scholarly society. I know the impact it has on the students on our campus. I envision the future as one of great promise.

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Susan Fournet Tynes
Visiting Assistant Professor
Director, Gerontology Program
University of New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

Academic and Professional Experience
Susan Tynes received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the University of New Orleans where she received the UNO Alumni Association Doctoral Student Award and the College of Education Distinguished Dissertation Award. During this time she was also a recipient of both the CSI International Leadership in Counselor Education Fellowship and the Outstanding Member Award (doctoral level). Recently she completed her tenure on the CSI Executive Council as International Secretary where she also served on the National Awards Committee. She was previously Chapter President and later served as Faculty Advisor and Co-Editor of the CSI Scholarly Series (Vol. 1, No. 2). Currently she is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of the Graduate Gerontology Certificate Program at UNO and serves as Co-Coordinator of the Louisiana State Chapters of CSI. She is also involved in a National Institute of Mental Health research study and maintains a small private practice.

Goal Statement
As a student member my involvement with CSI served as a bridge to professionalism, provided mentoring and networking opportunities, and strengthened my professional identity. Remarkably these benefits and opportunities have continued to grow as I have become a professional member. CSI affords both students and professional members unique opportunities to benefit from interactions with a wonderfully diverse group of counselors across the country and around the world. These opportunities, however, are somewhat contingent on the accessibility and availability of communication strategies.

My main goals for CSI center around increasing cohesiveness by encouraging dialogue and networking among ALL members. For instance, I would wholeheartedly support those states trying to organize

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Academic and Professional Experience

David Lovett received his M.S. in college counseling from Shippensburg University in 1983 and did doctoral work at the University of Virginia. From 1984 to 1990, he held positions as the Assistant, Associate, and Dean of Admissions at Shippensburg University. In 1994, he helped reactive the Upsilon chapter of CSI at Shippensburg University and currently serves as faculty advisor. He has presented at the Pennsylvania Psychological Association conference and is a member of the Association of University College Counseling Center Directors. He has conducted research on "Ethnic Identity and Black Students' Attitude toward Counseling Services at Historically Black Colleges."

Goal Statement

It is a distinct honor to be nominated for the office of CSI secretary. My goal as secretary of Chi Sigma Iota would be to serve the Society and the members of the Executive Council by maintaining accurate records of our growth and evolution as we endeavor to promote cultural diversity, foster collaboration, and move toward the expansion of Chi Sigma Iota membership internationally. I foresee the secretary's role as one of an actively engaged participant in the forging of these new and dramatically significant action-oriented realities, serving to advance the society toward its future goals.

Valerie L. Schwiebert
Assistant Professor
Department of Human Services
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina

Academic and Professional Experience

Valerie L. Schwiebert, Ph.D., NCC, NCGC, CRC, is an Assistant Professor of Counseling in the Department of Human Services at Western Carolina University. She received her master's degree in counseling and her doctorate in counselor education with a graduate certificate in gerontology from the University of Florida. She has worked as a rehabilitation counselor, researcher for the Area Agency on Aging, as an administrator of a substance abuse evaluation program for the State of Florida, and in private practice. She is the recipient of the AADA and Chi Sigma Iota Research Awards. She has served as faculty advisor for the CSI chapter at Northern Illinois University.

Goal Statement

As a candidate for secretary-elect of Chi Sigma Iota, it would be my goal to record the proceedings of the Executive Council meetings in an accurate and timely manner in order to facilitate the decision making process. In addition, membership on the Executive Council would allow me to participate in the decision making process of Chi Sigma Iota at the international level. I have served Chi Sigma Iota at the university level as the faculty advisor at Northern Illinois University, and now feel that I am ready to serve our organization at the international level.
Chapter Tips

This issue of the CSI Newsletter initiates a new column: CHAPTER TIPS. The purpose of this column is to share information and ideas among chapters for building stronger, more active forums for promoting excellence among CSI members. If you have tips to share, please send them to Jane Myers, Chair, CSI Chapter Development Committee, CSI Headquarters, 250 Ferguson Building, UNCG, Greensboro, NC 27412.

Extend Invitations to Initiation

Jane Myers

Induction into CSI is truly an honor. It reflects the attainment of academic and clinical excellence in the field of counseling. No one achieves excellence alone. We all have a support network who helps us along, and what better thing to do than share our successes with those we love? By inviting family and friends to the initiation, you provide the opportunity for meaningful public recognition of excellence and meaningful people to share the event with the new initiates.

So, for a really successful initiation, start planning early in the academic term. The selection of a date and time and the identification of potential new members is critical. A major reason for planning early is to get the initiation date on the calendar for some very important people - the family, members, and friends of new initiates.

Providing recognition of family and friends during the initiation ceremony helps underscore their importance as part of the celebration. An added benefit is the opportunity to share a good speaker with family members. Advocacy for professional counseling can be an important byproduct.

Recognize Excellence through Nominations

David Leticich

During the awards ceremony at the CSI 10th year anniversary celebration in Denver, several chapters and individual members were honored for excellence in chapter programming, activities, and service. CSI recognized various chapters for their outstanding newsletters, individual programs, and overall excellence. Outstanding entry level and doctoral students, faculty advisors, and practitioners from chapters around the country were also awarded high honors. Finally, a special presentation was made to honor the ten fellows and two interns of Chi Sigma Iota.

As fall semester unfolds, all CSI chapters are invited to reflect upon the hard work of their past and present member-leaders and to appreciate their mighty achievements. The call for awards nominations is not only a wonderful opportunity to recognize the contributions of the unique innovators, initiators, and motivators of your chapter but also an opportunity to take pride in the chapter as a whole. For chapters that are flailing or simply existing with little direction, the CSI awards could be that goal that is needed to revitalize and replenish the energy of the chapter and its members. Whatever the reason may be, do not let this chance to highlight the accomplishments of the chapter and its members pass by!

Nomination applications are sent to all chapter faculty advisors during the fall semester. The postmark deadline for completed applications is December 4, 1995. For more information contact: Sandra Lopez-Baez, CSI Awards Committee Chair, Walsh University, (216) 438-6755.

State CSI Day

Judith Miranti

Chi Sigma Iota members who have attended CSI Day at the ACA convention have benefited from the exchange and networking opportunities and have reported enhanced programming and increased interest in their local chapters. This model has been adapted at the state level which has seemed to further the mission of CSI: leadership development, commitment to assisting emerging leaders, recognizing excellence in practice and research, and interacting and exchanging information on ways to enhance and improve chapter activities.

Here are just a few tips that can help in organizing your state CSI Day:

1. Organize a committee of members from local chapters whose duties would include:
   A. Arrange time and meeting space with the state coordinator. Include time slots for leadership development workshop, focus groups, awards program, and social.
   B. Select members who will conduct the leadership development session.
   C. Select chapter members or faculty advisors who will facilitate the focus groups (newsletter, fund raising, activating or re-activating chapters, awards, programming, state coordinating).
   D. Select local scholars who will discuss research projects, writing for publication, etc.
   E. Coordinate the awards program. Encourage local chapters to recognize their outstanding achievements.
   F. Organize the social.

2. Staff a booth
   1. CSI chapters might possibly volunteer to staff the convention information booth.
   2. Booths might be reserved to showcase different chapters and to provide information about CSI membership.

International headquarters will assist chapters planning state CSI Days by providing materials and by answering questions. Questions may also be addressed to Judith Miranti at (504) 398-2214.
Chapter Involvement with Social Issues

Dianne Albright
CSI Associate Editor

CSI President Courtland Lee has named as his theme for this year “Empowerment Through Social Activism.” Members from CSI chapters all over the world are active in this regard as they offer many opportunities for the continual learning and growth of individuals from various communities and disciplines. I have obtained information regarding noteworthy programs led by CSI chapters which directly or indirectly continue to touch the lives of many people. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of these chapter activities with you.

Psi Chapter

Psi Chapter at the University of Missouri at St. Louis continues to offer many workshops for the community and for students. Some of the titles of the presentations for this year include: "Coping with Chronic Pain," "Men in Therapy: Wounded Men, Lost Lovers, and Neglected Selves," "The Movie and Discussion of 'Closet Land'," "Self Esteem: Myths and Reality," "Issues and Techniques: Counseling Older Adults," "Children's Emotional Responses to Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage," and "Working as a Counselor" and "The Realities of Working in Managed Care, Agencies, Hospitals, and Private Practice."

Rho Theta Chapter

In Washington, D.C., the Rho Theta chapter at George Washington University has been very active in addressing social issues. Chapter members and friends collected pledges and walked in a 10k AIDS-Walk to gain support and additional funding to help victims of AIDS. This chapter also held workshops for widely diverse audiences on the following topics: "Domestic Violence," "AIDS in the Family," "Counseling Children," "Psychologically-based Gender Differences," and "Stress and the Immune System." Peer presentations were given on "Counseling Persons with Learning Disabilities," "Urban African-American Women," "Counseling Adolescents with Autism," and "Career Counseling for the Poor."

Alpha Mu Chapter

The Alpha Mu chapter at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio, held an all-day workshop revolving around the timely issue of violence in our society entitled "Faces of Violence." Specific topics included "Isms and Prejudice: Their Impact on Violence," "Therapy with Victims of Partner Violence," "Diversity and Race," "Therapeutic Issues: Children Exposed to Violence."

Kappa Chapter

The Kappa chapter at Lynchburg College in Virginia has planned workshops on solution-focused therapy, play therapy and clinical depression. Dr. Courtland Lee will be the special keynote speaker at their fall initiation and will encourage and invite members to get even more involved in social activism.

Nu Chapter

The Nu chapter of SUNY College of Brockport, New York, has activated a Crisis Support Team which is available to schools when a crisis arises. Members also are active in volunteering to help with various mental health programs. One of the special speakers at a Nu sponsored program was Dr. Michael Henrichs, the founder and president of Kids Adjusting Through Support (KATS). He explained his program in detail and encouraged members to volunteer as leaders of the KATS groups. Other workshops included topics such as "Working with Gay and Lesbian Youth: Assumptions and Strategies," "Crisis Support Team Training and Refresher," and "Counselor Renewal."

Upsilon Nu Chi Chapter

The Upsilon Nu Chi chapter of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina, is starting an outreach program this year which will provide community service through their chapter. One or more mental health agencies will be selected, and members will donate their time and expertise to help those in need. The central mission of CSI continues to be their guide, and promoting professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling will be stressed.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to express appreciation to the following CSI faculty advisors who contributed to this article: Z. Maxine Christian, Jorge Garcia, Joseph Kandor (and chapter president, Judy Kwarta), Sandra Lopez-Baez, Jane Myers, and Pete Warren. Many more CSI Chapters have labored long and have served the various causes and people represented in their respective communities; yet, due to limited space, they have not been recognized here. Your efforts have not been in vain; you are appreciated, and you are making a difference! Keep up the good work, and let us all continue to move forward in our striving to help our students, our members, our profession, and our world.

Chi Sigma Iota

Headquarters
(910) 334-4035

10 Years

EXCELLENCE IN COUNSELING THROUGH DIVERSITY AND UNITY
Faculty-Student Collaborations for Manuscript Publications

Sharon Blackwell Jones
Rho Alpha Mu

Publishing research articles in the field of counseling is seen as an important step in the professional development of graduate students aspiring to break into the "academy." By working collaboratively with faculty, graduate students are afforded the opportunity to contribute to the growing body of scholarly knowledge emerging in our profession. In this article, I hope to identify reasons for collaborative work in the field, provide tips for working collaboratively with faculty on publishing, and discuss some practical considerations that I have experienced as a first-time student author working with faculty members.

Why Research Publications Are Necessary

For graduate students interested in working in an academic environment, working collaboratively with faculty members provides students the training needed to gain experience in publishing. Scholarly publication expands student professional development and provides students with exposure to the various journals in the field as well as an arena in which to practice their writing skills. Often, graduate students have many ideas for articles, but they wonder about how to actually follow through. With faculty support for these student ideas, seeing an article come to fruition can become a reality.

For master's-level students interested in applying for doctoral programs, scholarly publications where the student is an author (first, second or third), highlight the individual's research and writing skills. Publications can also serve to highlight a student's level of commitment, involvement, and hopefully excitement about research and writing. Collaborative publications give faculty members an idea of the student's thinking and writing style so that faculty members can better address this in letters of recommendation. Additionally, publications serve to illustrate student commitment to the field.

In most academic arenas, publications are expected and used as one of the primary criteria for decisions regarding tenure, promotions, and salary (Fine & Kurdek, 1993). The number of articles, types of publications, and placement as author all weigh heavily in these merit processes. For graduate students interested in obtaining faculty positions in the future, working collaboratively with faculty members while a graduate student gives you an advantage and an earlier entrance point into the field. Collaborative work with graduate students provides faculty members with benefits as well. Students are able to expand upon faculty members' areas of interest and can help faculty with completing manuscripts, thus helping the faculty members' professional development as well.

Within most classes, students are given the opportunity to develop papers which could be developed and submitted for publication. Many ideas for articles are developed within class papers or through cited limitations in previous research that can lead to an interest area that graduate students with faculty support can develop. With this basic introduction to research, students can gain valuable experience and learn within a mentoring relationship how to conduct research or write for scholarly journals. Often, one collaborative publication can lead to future interests or a mentor relationship with a faculty.

Tips for Working with Faculty on Manuscript Publications

To begin working with faculty members on manuscripts, it is important to contact faculty members who share similar interests in research. For graduate students at non-research institutions, this may mean contacting faculty outside of your own department. However, a match in interest area is often more important than departmental allegiance.

Once the contact has been made, be clear about how you can contribute to the project and illustrate your previous research work (i.e., research papers you have done; presentations you have made; ideas about research you have an interest in from cited deficits in the literature). The probability of working on a research grant that will pay you and allow for collaborative publications may not be available, so volunteer to work on the manuscript and show your level of commitment to research.

Set a plan of action to work collaboratively. Set concrete meeting times, hold regular meetings, and decide on between-meeting assignments (i.e., collecting literature, analyzing data). Remember the benefits of collaborative work, and work as a team member, following through with assigned tasks.

Decide about the authorship of the article. This process should be done before the work actually begins so that both parties involved will know what their responsibilities are. In deciding upon authorship, graduate students usually start as second authors (without previous publications). Grad students as second authors may not do the bulk of the writing, but they may collect literature, analyze data, and contribute to the writing of the (Continued on page 13)
Collaborations for Manuscript

(Continued from page 12)

manuscript. It may be helpful to consult an article that addresses ways that can assist both students and faculty in clearly defining authorship credit (Winston, 1985). Once authorship has been determined, a clear description of duties and expectations will limit later confusion.

Once you have begun work on the manuscript, remember to take your time to do quality work that is truly reflective of your commitment to the field. By allowing people to read and critique your work, and by seeking out frequent readers, the likelihood of producing journal quality work increases. Be prepared to do many revisions of your work, and be open to constructive criticism. Use the APA Publication manual (1994) like a bible and follow APA style for all of your future work. Locate an appropriate journal as an outlet for your work, and target the readership of that journal by writing to that audience.

Practical Considerations for First Time Student Authors

As a student who is working collaboratively with a faculty member for the first time, there are a few considerations and factors to consider. First, remember your principal commitment is that of a student and be sure to be aware of time management and your involvement in scholarly work, educational assignments, and family obligations. Second, it is important to prioritize and set reasonable limits for yourself. As a student, you are not reasonably expected to finish the manuscript within a month. Work with your faculty mentor closely and follow his/her lead. Because he or she has most likely been publishing for some time, allow him or her to teach you about the publication process. Third, be open to the fact that not all faculty will be willing to work collaboratively with you and respect that option. However, do not become dismayed or discouraged by the rejection. Rather search outside of your depart-

ment, and seek out other publication sources besides journals (i.e., newsletters, association magazines) to begin your publishing career as a student, thus building experience to bring to faculty members at a later time.

Fourth, consider the ethical issues that arise when working collaboratively with faculty. These may include the power imbalance that exists between faculty and graduate students (Fine & Kurdek, 1993) and the effects the power imbalance has on the faculty-student relationship (i.e., class grading, letters of recommendation). Additionally, graduate students should be aware of the benefits they gain from working with faculty members (i.e., exposure in the department, frequent contact with faculty outside of class) and how they will effect the collaborative process.

Finally, graduate students collaborating on manuscripts should be aware that first time jitters are expected for all beginning authors. However, it is important not to get discouraged over your collaborative process and dismayed by your experience with one faculty member. Keep involved and seek our research opportunities with other faculty if one relationship ends or goes away.

As a first time author, it is necessary to understand the editorial review process for journals and be aware that: a) most reviews of completed manuscripts may take up to 12 weeks, b) you may have your manuscript accepted without revisions (very unlikely), accepted pending revisions, rejected with an invitation to revise your work, rejected or rejected because of the manuscript's inappropriateness for the journal (with recommendations for other journals) and c) most manuscripts are not fully completed until months after the initial submission, so do not become frustrated or discouraged.

In Conclusion

In working collaboratively on manuscripts with faculty, I recommend that students believe in the quality of work submitted and the contribution of the work to the profession. Do not be afraid to ask for help or question the scholarly publication process. Consult other grad students about their experiences and learn from them while identifying your own milestones and pitfalls. Remember that competition is high to work collaboratively and put your all into the work you produce.

Finally, have perseverance in getting your work published and gaining the experience necessary to succeed and contribute to the field through publication contributions.

References


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Chapter Happenings

Rho Chi Epsilon Chapter

New officers for the Rho Chi Epsilon chapter at Radford University, Virginia, have been elected. They are Kim Green, president; Juliann Smith, vice-president; Quovadis Washington, secretary; Terri Chandler, treasurer; and Matt Ginipro, historian. Student representatives are Lindsay Livesay, community counseling; Catherine Denmark, student affairs; Dan Bowman, school counseling.

The chapter has planned many activities for the fall, including a potluck dinner to welcome new students, a bowling tournament, and a fund raiser. The chapter publishes a newsletter and has several "Brown Bag Chats" planned to provide professional development for students.

Nu Chapter

Nu chapter sponsored a program focused on raising awareness of developmental issues and strategies for working with gay and lesbian young people. Dr. Susan Seem was the guest speaker. She discussed negative societal messages about homosexuality, experiences of young gays and lesbians with isolation, invisibility, and the coming out process; and ways for counselors to better understand and respond to gay teens.

Nu chapter's annual Awards and Initiation Brunch was held on June 4th. It was an especially festive occasion because it marked the 10th anniversary of the founding of Chi Sigma Iota and the Nu chapter. Following a welcoming and introduction by President Judy Kwarta, honorees and guests enjoyed a delicious variety of foods and lively conversation. Awards were presented to Mary Santor, Outstanding Nu Chapter Member and to Dr. Muhyi Shakoor, Outstanding Contributions to Counseling.

The Nu chapter is also preparing to assist with the New York Counseling Association Convention held in Rochester in October.

Alpha Chi Chapter

In the "President's Column" of the Alpha Chi Newsletter, President Samantha Burdette wrote of the direction the officers and membership seem to be finding. Her words reflect what many chapters and members are seeking:

"Did any of you watch the last episode of Northern Exposure on TV a few nights ago? A mysterious rabbi shared an old Yiddish proverb with Michelle that sounded oddly familiar to me. 'If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there.' I wonder if Lewis Carroll’s Cheshire Cat was an expert in Yiddish phraseology?

"Fortunately for us, last month’s Chi Sigma Iota activities gave us a great deal of direction to help us all know where we are going. At both the leadership retreat, with your officers, and at the business meeting, with a broad selection of our membership, I heard what we wanted Alpha Chi chapter to focus on in the coming semesters.

"Some things we might have been able to predict. When leadership priorities were discussed, I heard familiar ideas: 'Encourage active participation.' 'Facilitate students interacting with professionals.' 'Provide opportunities for networking.'

"What I didn’t expect, however, was the emphasis I heard on striving for excellence in our profession. I heard several times that you think it is important that we aim to present the cutting edge in research to our members. You want to work to educate people about counseling and become involved in our community. And you want current information on ethical behavior and regulations. Knowing that lets us tailor our efforts to your needs, and we plan to begin to incorporate those ideas into our workshops, presentations, and our newsletter."

Please Send Newsletters

All chapters are encouraged to send their newsletters to Shawn R. Schooten, Creative Living Center, 1212 21st Ave., Rock Valley, IA 51247.

Chapter Leadership Network

CSI interns David Letiecq and Jeffrey Mostade, both members of the CSI Chapter Development Committee, are the Co-Chairs of the new Chapter Leadership Network (CLN). The mission of the CLN is to promote excellence through communication and collaboration among leaders of CSI chapters. Membership in this network is open to all elected officers and committee chairs of CSI chapters.

A major purpose of the CLN is to promote communication and networking among chapter leaders. The professional development of CSI chapter leaders will be enhanced through the existence of a forum for exchange of information among chapter leaders. Further, David and Jeffrey have a goal of encouraging collaboration among CSI chapters through networking among leaders.

Meetings of network members will occur on CSI day at the annual convention. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Mostade at 13600 Shaker Blvd. #802, Cleveland, OH 44120 or David Letiecq, 1211 Q St. NW, #1, Washington, DC 20009.
Letters from Motherless Daughters:
An Informal Sorority

By: Hope Edelman.

Letters from Motherless Daughters is a compilation of women's essays and letters describing their grieving process after losing their mothers at an early age. These essays indicate that the grieving process never really ends for motherless daughters. Each author in the book takes a look at her life and relationship with her mother, and each agrees that, since her mother's death, her life has never been and will never be the same.

Editor Hope Edelman, also a motherless daughter, began researching this topic in an attempt to answer some of her own questions. She found that much of the literature available dealt only with the crisis phase of the grief process and did not address the life-long adjustments one has to make.

In this book, Edelman charts the grieving and healing process through her own introspection and through her discussion and correspondence with many motherless daughters.

An Overview

Edelman reminds readers that the grieving and healing processes are experienced differently by each individual, and she recognizes that the process cannot be labeled or divided into set stages or time periods. However, from the variety of material she has researched and received, she has found patterns of thoughts and feelings which assist her in dividing the book into five chapters. These chapters are based on the number of years since a mother's death occurred and the patterns of thought and/or feelings which seem to accompany each time frame.

Chapter one looks at the first five years of adjustment and acceptance. Many of these stories and letters describe the acute grief which occurs after a death, and they emphasize the absolute importance of receiving love and support during this time.

Chapter two, "Pain Turns to Longing: Five to Ten Years," looks at the time when most women who lost their mothers as adolescents and young adults are moving into transitional times like puberty, and for those who were children at the time of death, marriage and even childbirth. This seems to be a time of longing for guidance and care. In Chapter three, "On the Outside Looking In: Ten to Twenty Years," it seems that women start to focus more on how the loss has impacted their lives rather than focusing on the actual death. One positive aspect of this introspection is the strong sense of pride and resilience daughters feel knowing they have survived this traumatic loss.

Chapter four, "Experience Turns to Insight: Twenty to Thirty Years," shows deeper levels of reflection and awareness. Women begin to see how their losses have actually shaped their lives. Many women are also reaching, or have reached, the age their mother was when she died. This can create a new crisis or longing.

Chapter five, "Lives Shaped by Loss: More than Thirty Years," shows the continuing search for understanding and the long-term effects the loss has not only on the daughters themselves but also on other family members. One of the major points of this chapter is how important it is for young sons and daughters to be allowed to grieve when they experience the loss of a mother; by doing this, Edelman suggests that they are helped for a lifetime.

References and Referrals

The book provides information for joining and/or forming a Motherless Daughters Support Group along with references and a recommended reading list.

This enlightening and powerful book is recommended for counselors and clients dealing with loss. Edelman concludes the book by clearly stating what the contributors to the book hope to accomplish through their writings: "By sharing that experience with the members of our informal sorority, we hope to find additional solace in each other's words.

Regional Contacts

Within the United States, the CSI Council has determined that a regional structure based on that of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision can be beneficial to CSI chapters. The Faculty Advisor Network will be the basis for identifying five individuals to serve as Regional Contacts for CSI. These individuals will work with the Executive Director to provide assistance for the establishment, conduct, and maintenance of active CSI chapters.

For more information about the Regional Contact Program, please contact Jane Myers in care of CSI Headquarters.
Mary Thomas-Burk  
(Continued from page 8)  
and the faculty mentors are the key to chapter success. I believe the solid foundation of Chi Sigma Iota has been based on the work of dedicated professionals who themselves are professionals of the highest caliber and who inspire the same commitment in future generations of students. Many professionals who are not members of the Society would welcome the opportunity to be members. All it would take is a concerted effort by local Chi Sigma Iota leadership to invite qualified professionals into our ranks. Think of the richness these seasoned professionals would bring to our organization and visa versa.

My hopes are broad based and visionary. My goals are concrete and focused: 1) to provide support to local chapters for mentoring and training; 2) to promote the networking of chapters within states and regions; 3) to assist counselor education programs in establishing new local chapters; 4) to promote the value of Chi Sigma Iota with qualified professionals and invite their participation; 5) to explore the networking of Chi Sigma Iota with CACREP, NBCC and state licensing boards; 6) to support the excellent work already begun by Chi Sigma Iota nationally and internationally and to initiate new programs as needed. If elected as your president, I pledge to carry on the rich tradition of Chi Sigma Iota and work hard to serve you.

Susan Fournet Tynes  
(Continued from page 8)  
state and regional infrastructures for their local CSI chapters and would work to initiate and sponsor such projects in states which do not have them. I would also like to facilitate telecommunications amongst CSI members via an e-mail directory or an electronic bulletin board. I would investigate the feasibility of some type of computer discussion forum which would allow regular, interactive exchanges among members. Special interest groups (e.g., private practitioners, researchers, school counselors) would have opportunities to correspond frequently with peers and consult with colleagues in different specialty areas. Access to this form of communication could reduce isolation and stimulate regular contact with peers to collaborate, share knowledge and experiences, and support one another.

Another goal I have for CSI is to continue to improve opportunities for students (e.g., add at least one “students only” lecture to CSI Day), for here is a way to influence future counselors and the future of counseling. The Bylaws state CSI is “… to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment ….” It is toward these ends that I submit some of my personal goals for CSI and, if elected, pledge to work diligently to make progress towards them. I am honored to be nominated as president-elect of CSI.