Any discussion of the counseling profession today must start with September 11, 2001. That date was a defining moment not only for the country as a whole, but for the profession of counseling and what we do as counselors. It is important that we remember that for many young professionals, 9/11/01 marks the defining moment for their generation, much as November 22, 1963 was the defining moment for those of us in the “baby-boom” generation. They will continually define their lives in terms of pre-9/11 and post-9/11. That singular event will color their view of the world and the perceptions of their role as professional counselors for many years to come. September 11, 2001 was the day they lost their collective sense of innocence, invincibility, and security. It was also the day that they saw how what happens in any part of the world can have significant local consequences.

The events of 9/11/01 brought together in a profound manner many important counseling themes. In one day all that I have promoted over the years with respect to multiculturalism/diversity, social action, and international issues coalesced in striking fashion. In the days and weeks that followed those horrific events it became obvious to me that we had to think about counseling in dramatic new ways. It was clear that we needed to think differently about our training concepts and delivery models to ensure that we can meet the needs of clients in a technologically sophisticated and globally interconnected early 21st century world.

The basis of counseling in the complex and often dangerous world in which we find ourselves living centers on a fundamental idea of the type of society that we as counselors should be promoting. As professional counselors we need to rethink our views on human development and refine our methods of promoting it. In our work we must adopt a view of an enlightened society that holds values that will maximize human potential.

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A View of an Enlightened Society

I possess a view of such a society, which draws its inspiration from the wisdom of great thinkers and activists throughout history whose idealism and efforts inspire the possibility of a better world. Thinkers and activists such as Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Mohammed, Plato, Thomas More, Thomas Jefferson, Mahatma Gandhi, Jackie Robinson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela. These individuals all had the courage to articulate their vision of an alternative reality. The universality of their ideas and actions has withstood the test of time. These visionaries and activists provide a foundation for an enlightened society.

- A society where the family unit, in all its variations, is a highly valued institution worth preserving at all costs.
- It is a society where newborn babies do not die from poor health care and young children do not starve to death. Where teenagers survive adolescence, and older people live out their final years of life in dignity, respected for their wisdom.
- An enlightened society has no glass ceilings and all people have an equal chance to develop their potential to its fullest.
- An enlightened society is one where all people have access to the technology that is vital to a decent quality of life.
- An enlightened society is one where the hate and frustration which underlies all forms of intolerance and violence is positively channeled into constructive energy.
- In an enlightened society politicians are leaders with vision, and not partisan ideologues who babble in hollow clichés that are packaged for 30 second sound bytes.
- An enlightened society is one where there is respect for and celebration of all forms of human diversity. In such a society, people recognize their interconnectedness and realize that uniqueness strengthens the bonds of the human family.
- It is a society where we use our resources to sustain global interconnectedness and well-being.

I would urge us to think of the realization of such a society as we grapple with personal and professional development as counselors in a post-9/11 world.

Promoting such a vision will require some strategic themes around which 21st century professional counselors must rally. I would like to propose three such strategic themes. They are interrelated and speak to issues on a local, national and global scale. These themes take on a sense of urgency and importance as the smoke from the destruction of 9/11 begins to clear and a new world order emerges.

Multiculturalism and Diversity

The first of the strategic themes is multiculturalism and diversity. The tragic examples of ignorance and acts of intolerance which followed 9/11 underscore how much work needs to be done to promote cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect regarding human diversity.

It is time to get beyond paying mere lip service to issues of multiculturalism and diversity in counseling. Counseling excellence must be
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predicated on all counselors possessing the awareness, knowledge and skills to be truly culturally responsive in their work with clients from increasingly diverse backgrounds. All counselors must be culturally responsive and competent to meet the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism and diversity they will face as professionals.

Social Action

The second of the strategic themes is social action. Social action encompasses the professional and moral responsibility that counselors have to address the significant social, cultural, and economic challenges which have the potential to impact negatively upon the development and well-being of the clients with whom they work. It relates to counselors’ sense of social responsibility. It involves counselors taking stands on social issues and working to eradicate systems and ideologies that perpetuate discrimination and disregard individual rights. A sense of social responsibility implies that professional counselors have an important role to play in fostering and supporting a society that is more enlightened, just and humane.

The events of 9/11 and its aftermath make abundantly clear that counselors must be equipped to play new roles in society. The levels of systemic ignorance about Islam, for example, and the intolerant acts directed towards innocent American citizens of that faith were convincing evidence that a societal dialogue about religious and cultural differences is long overdue in this country. Who better to facilitate such a dialogue than culturally competent professional counselors?

However other events and social dynamics also call for a new breed of professional counselor. Increasing gang violence, homelessness, environmental pollution, growing unemployment, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and abuse and neglect of children and older persons are just some of the issues that reflect profound social, cultural and economic dilemmas confronting American society. Such phenomena negatively affect the quality of life for millions of people and impact psychological and social development across the lifespan. We must offer our profession’s assistance in addressing these societal challenges.

Internationalism

The third strategic planning theme is internationalism. The theme of internationalism was brought home to me in a very powerful way when I had the honor and privilege of hearing Nelson Mandela speak at the University of Maryland in the fall of 2001. It was shortly after 9/11 and his words put the events of that day into a different perspective for me. He said that while much of the world sent condolences and grieved for the United States, it was important for this country to hear from the rest of the world (particularly those parts of the world considered to be “underdeveloped” or “developing”) about the events of September 11, 2001. He asked us to consider our place and role in the world as the richest and most powerful nation in history. He then asked those of us in the audience to put ourselves in the place of an individual in his country or the many other countries where masses of people face a struggle to meet their basic needs on a daily basis. From that perspective, he asked us, could we begin to understand how anger and resentment begins to fester towards the United States?

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Response to Courtland Lee

Fred Bemak

Dr. Fred Bemak is currently a Professor and the Program Coordinator for the Counseling and Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at George Mason University. He has done extensive work in the area of social justice and mental health, working in 30 countries and throughout the U.S. Fred is a former Fulbright Scholar, a Kellogg International Fellow, and a recipient of the International Exchange of Experts and Research Fellowship through the World Rehabilitation Fund. At George Mason University Fred has facilitated the development of Masters and Doctoral training programs that emphasize multiculturalism, social justice, leadership and advocacy and has been working with these issues for over 30 years. He is a former director of an Upward Bound program as well as NIMH funded and state funded mental health programs. Fred has consulted, provided training, presented, and administered grants working extensively with youth and families at-risk and refugees and immigrants with an emphasis on cross-cultural counseling and social justice.

I would suggest to you that the field of counseling has been largely maintaining and perpetuating the status quo as it holds on to old practices. Leaders in the field such as Courtland Lee have challenged the counseling profession to move ahead and respond to modern times and a “changing world.” This can be seen through strides to incorporate multicultural competencies into training, practice, and research. Yet in many ways we have not moved ahead to build upon these accomplishments and help the profession move forward with an articulated vision such as the one that Lee presents in his article.

Pathway to the Next Era

Courtland Lee’s article is visionary and offers a pathway towards the next era of counseling. He presents a case for global interconnectedness and internationalism. My experience working throughout the world would be consistent with this need. I am constantly amazed by the impact, both positive and negative, that Western based counseling has had on the international community. A recent example relates to a conversation with a counselor educator from Botswana that I met at an international conference. My colleague had learned from Western training about the “proper” way to sit when working with clients, e.g., leaning forward in one’s chair, directly facing the client, making eye contact, legs planted firmly on the floor, etc. In turn, she was teaching all her students about the “proper” way to conduct counseling. Furthermore, she was invested in a model of doing individual counseling, even though Botswana is a country where family and community are of great importance and typically important decisions are made collectively. Her great concern was that clients were not returning for counseling after the first or second sessions, even though she was doing everything correctly and as she and her students had been trained. As Lee suggests, we must work within the “unique context of national, cultural, and individual realities,” and clearly the importation of Western style training that is not adapted to the unique characteristics related to family and community and communication styles in the Botswana culture, is likely to face problems. The same would hold true for any other culture around the world.

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Response to Courtland Lee

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Courtland also writes about some of the great thinkers of our world, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Mohammed, Plato, Thomas Moore, Jefferson, Gandhi, Jackie Robinson, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela, who gave insight and guidance in forming an enlightened world. Unfortunately, in our profession, these great minds in history are not mentioned in our training, practice, or supervision. Their courage, wisdom, brilliance, and actions, should certainly inform our counseling profession, a profession based on change, growth, and transformation, yet, they are conspicuously absent. I would echo Lee’s call for an enlightened world that honors the vision of these luminaries, including family and community, accessible health care for all people, rich or poor, equal opportunity to develop and grow personally, socially and professionally, sustainable and accessible resources across national boundaries, and the continued confrontation of intolerance and discrimination. Yet somehow our counseling profession has largely divorced itself from these broader social issues and concerns, leaving others to care for the social ills and inequities throughout our country and world.

Response to Lee’s Themes

Let’s look for a moment at the three important strategic themes Lee outlines for the 21st century professional counselor. First, he talks about multiculturalism and diversity. He challenges the field to stop paying “lip service”. I would strongly support this theme, believing that we as a field have reached a plateau of sophistication about how to be politically correct regarding such issues as multiculturalism and diversity. Many of our colleagues can talk about the theories and values related to multiculturalism yet when they are working with clients across cultures, ethnicity, or race, or engaged in a private conversation, the political correctness disappears, clearly illustrating the absence of understanding of the real issues and meaning of multiculturalism. The concern and challenge is how we deepen these issues so that values, beliefs, and practice are derived from places of heartfelt knowledge and awareness rather than a cognitive well-thought-out response.

The second theme Lee talks about is social action and a moral and social responsibility. Where and when did we lose this value professionally? How did we get to the point of working with someone who has been a victim of abuse, rape, discrimination, or oppression, with an intent to help them adapt and cope with these painful experiences, while neglecting the fact that 10 other clients from the same community had also been referred that week for the same problem? I would concur wholeheartedly with Lee that we have a calling and a responsibility to confront these larger social issues. Of course this requires a significant shift, a change in training and practice that lends itself to redefining our role and jobs, or as Lee calls it a “new breed of professional counselor”.

The third theme is about internationalism, particularly for those of us in the U.S. who live in the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world. As a profession we are in a position to help and aid so many countries through our work. One recent and straightforward example of this was through the ACA Media Committee, of which I was Chair last year. I learned that there was a standard practice of discarding numerous written duplicate materials (books and journals) after a prescribed period of time to keep the materials updated in a limited storage space. The Media Committee submitted a resolution to ACA that $800 is allocated annually for mailing these materials to developing countries that could not afford the materials or the mailing costs. ACA passed the motion and the first set of materials was sent out last year to a Central American country. This is but a simple example of how each of us and the counseling profession can contribute to our professional colleagues around the world. In my thinking, similar to Lee’s, it is a calling for us as individuals and as a profession, to actively and proactively challenge the violation of human rights, educational inequities, inadequate health care, access to housing, and meeting basic needs such as food, that affects millions of people throughout the world.

An International Strategic Plan

The idea presented in Lee’s paper for an international strategic plan from professional counselors is profound and should not be discarded off-hand by those of us who are not working within a global arena. This has applicability to all of us as professional counselors contributing to a better future world. CSI is the core of our future and has no light task as we reflect on assuming responsibility and leadership for our future. Inherent in this future work is a contribution towards human dignity, human rights, and social justice with...
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Mandela stated that for many in less fortunate areas of the world the perception of the United States is that it is a rich and spoiled giant that does not care about anyone else. While he was in no way condoning the acts of the terrorists, he asked us to consider how anger and resentment toward us and our way of life could get so strong that people would be willing to fly airplanes into American buildings. This line of reasoning made scores of us in the audience extremely uncomfortable, which I think was Mandela’s goal. He went on to say that we as Americans have a moral responsibility to use our great wealth and power to assist the rest of the world in addressing the challenges of basic human rights, including education, food and decent housing.

As professional counselors living in the richest and most powerful nation in history we must adopt a global perspective on what we do. Here in the early years of the 21st century we must understand that there is a new global interconnectedness. Despite hostilities in many parts of the world, there is great anticipation about a new era of mutual respect and cooperation among nations. This has been heightened by universal improvements in communication and travel that have made the world in many respects a “global village.”

It is important, therefore, that we establish professional links with education, mental health and related colleagues across national boundaries. Both individually and organizationally, we should move beyond provincial conceptions of theory, research and practice to join in collaborative efforts to foster notions of counseling that transcend geopolitical boundaries. Through collaborative efforts, counselors can work to help people world-wide lessen the impact of social transformations on their lives and well-being. Additionally, through social action, counselors can be part of a process that promotes global interconnectedness. The global mission of counseling should be to promote human development within the context of unique national, cultural and individual realities.

An Agenda for Global Social Action

The goals and objectives which can be derived from this mission can form the basis of a global social action agenda for counselors. Important aspects of such an agenda include:

1. Assisting in Nation-Building.
Counseling can promote models of empowerment for people with a history and tradition of totalitarianism or social marginalization to help them build nations that promote human potential and well-being.

2. Challenging Intolerance.
Racism, sexism and religious intolerance poison the quality of life for both the victim and perpetrator of intolerant acts. Counselors should use their facilitative skills to promote dialogues for understanding across lines which divide people. Efforts should focus on helping people challenge intolerant attitudes and practices. The goal should be to promote conditions that will help groups of people resolve conflict and move beyond mere tolerance to a position of mutual respect and understanding.

3. Promoting the Integrity of the Family.
New interventions are needed to help people around the world confront dysfunction that interferes with the quality of life, both inside and outside of the family structure. This, no matter how the notion of family is conceptualized.

International collaboration among counselors should be translated into social action to bring pressure to bear at all levels, from the individual to the governmental to address these issues. Strategically, we must be prepared to think globally and act locally in our approaches to counseling practice.

I would encourage us, as professional counselors, to seek ways to collaborate with national counseling-related associations throughout the world to develop a view of counseling and human development in a global context. This view might then be translated into an international strategic action plan with a unified mission and a set of goals and objectives to guide counseling practice. Such a plan should have broad applicability across borders and cultures. This is particularly important given the significant transformations which have occurred throughout the world in recent years. These transformations can be found in such areas as the nature of employment, cultural diversity, migration and refugees, the roles of men and women, increasing rates of innovation and expanding technology, and major changes in patterns of local, regional, and national identity. The scope of these transformations has often negatively affected the function of those institutions which promote human development in many parts of the world, including the family, school, workplace, social welfare agencies, government agencies and religious institutions. As the impact of these institutions has been weakened, the potential of counseling and related services has increased.

CSI’s Challenge

Strategic planning should stress
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collaborative global social action on
the part of CSI members. Through
international collaborative efforts with
national professional, governmental
and non-governmental organizations,
CSI members can work to help people
lessen the impact of social transforma-
tions on their lives and well-
being. Additionally, through social
action, CSI members can be a part of
a process that promotes global inter-
connectedness among counselors
and related professionals. Given
this, the global intent of CSI, the
counseling society international,
should be to promote human de-
velopment in collaboration with other
counseling-related associations within
the unique context of national, cul-
tural, and individual realities.

Challenges to Collaboration

There are, however, several
important challenges to such interna-
tional collaboration among profes-
sional counselors that must be con-
sidered. The most obvious are differ-
ences in language and culture. As
we begin to collaborate across
geopolitical boundaries we must be
sensitive to language differences and
be cognizant of unique cultural reali-
ties and differences in worldviews. A
crucial aspect of international collab-
oration must be the development of
multicultural competencies. These
must be at the center of our global
professional consciousness.

An even greater challenge to
international collaboration, however,
is the fact that counseling, as it has
been conceptualized and practiced in
North America for most of the past
century, does not exist as a profes-
sion in many other parts of the world.
We must consider that social action
efforts may be hampered in many
parts of the world due to the lack of a
traditional North American-like coun-
seling infrastructure. It might be ne-
cessary, therefore, to form working
alliances with professionals from
related education or mental health
disciplines. Likewise, collaboration in
many countries may need to take
place with professionals from allied
health fields. We may also need to
form social action alliances with
indigenous helpers/healers.

As the world continues into this
new century with both its perils and
promise, we as members of CSI
have the opportunity to assess the
philosophy and scope of counseling
practice. The philosophy of counsel-
ing in the 21st century must encom-
pass a commitment to social change
that focuses on helping to empower
individuals to meet the challenges of
global transformation. The scope of
this commitment must entail a world-
wide collaboration among counseling
and related professionals who have
the awareness, knowledge, and skills
to promote human development
locally, nationally, and internationally.
This is my hope as we begin to
reflect and rebuild from the trauma of

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numerous disempowered and mar-
ginalized groups such as migrant and
refugee populations that now make
up over 10% of the U. S.; with the
alarming spread of HIV/AIDS around
the world; with people discriminated
against because of race, ethnicity,
gender, or sexual orientation; with
almost 12% or 33 million Americans
now living in poverty not to mention
the alarming rates of global poverty;
with victims of abuse and violence
that lead to U. S. children under the
age of 15 are 25 times more likely to
die from gunfire than their counter-
parts in 25 other industrialized coun-
tries; with growing hate crimes that
showed a 21% increase from 2000 to
2001; with the homeless; and so
many other disenfranchised people.
I would agree with Lee that this is our
calling, our moral and ethical respon-
sibility, and our future. It requires a
significant change in how we think
about ourselves as a profession, our
work, and our very core values and
beliefs about ourselves and the world
around us. I am hopeful that you will
consider these issues carefully,
reflect on your contribution and role,
and help us move ahead and meet
the challenges of the new century.

Moving?
E-mail us your new address.
Address@csi-net.org

Need to Renew Your Membership?
E-mail us at renewal@csi-net.org
REFOCUSING THE ROLE OF COUNSELING:  
An International Perspective on 
Courtland Lee’s Counseling in a Changing World 

By William A. Borgen, Ph.D.

As Courtland Lee has pointed out, for those of us in North America, particularly in the United States, but also in Canada, September 11, 2001 provided a demarcation in time, the first such event on our continent for many years. What followed were stories of terrorists, victims, helpers and heroes who showed us the worst and best of what people can be.

I was scheduled to leave Vancouver, on Canada’s west coast, on September 15th to begin a three month sabbatical in Europe. As it turned out the airport reopened the night before my scheduled flight so I was able to leave. When I arrived at my conference in Paris I was immediately struck by several things. Several of my North American colleagues were not there because of closed airspace, flight backlogs and fear of traveling. Expressions of condolence were made from the podium throughout the conference to the citizens of the United States regarding the tragedy in New York. Several delegates from Europe and other parts of the world were saying privately, “Oh, now it’s happened to them.” As I continued my travels in Europe that fall I continually heard this comment. As well, coverage in the media, in addition to focusing on the terrorist attack, spent a great deal time on the conditions that may have led to it, not in any way to justify what had happened, but perhaps in an attempt to understand it.

The events since September 2001 have caused me to reflect from a more international perspective about the role of counseling in preventing such events though helping to create more humane conditions for people and through influencing corporate, institutional and government policies. This has also led me to reflect on ways to create a higher profile for the role of counseling in social advocacy and the development of broadly defined social responsibility.

As President of the International Association for Counseling, I have had the opportunity over the past five years to be involved with people from various parts of the world in discussing key issues related to counseling, from their perspective. This has often occurred during the annual conferences of the association. I would like to provide an overview of some of the key issues that have framed these discussions over the past few years, as a way to highlight the breadth and depth of perspective that we as counselors need in order to be effective professionals within our increasingly multicultural and complex societies.

International Conference Themes

In 1999 the IAC conference was in Bratislava, Slovakia, a country that was still reorganizing after the change from the communist government. Here a key area of focus was the child and the family. Even in the midst of extensive social and economic change there was recognition that, as Lee pointed out, the family is a

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foundational crucible that needs our support in order to help children feel secure and accepted in the world. There was also a hope and expectation that counseling would be centrally involved.

In 2000, the conference was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. Here the conference theme was on inclusion in the face of prejudice and discrimination. The conference challenged the concept of diversity, citing it as another way to single out groups as being special, and potentially justifying discrimination against other groups within and across societies.

Again there was an expectation that counseling could and should be a force of positive social change in this regard. This is an area that may need some examination in North America if we are to truly have more people feel accepted, included and responsible to make a contribution to the greater good of our society.

In 2001 our conference was held near Bombay in India with a focus on the family. Here there was recognition of the key role played by the extended family in providing teaching and support for children, adults and couples. In North America the concept of family, and particularly the extended family, has undergone extensive change over the last few generations. If children, adolescents and adults still have the same need for meaningful connections and support from others, we need to continue to examine the role of counseling in supporting these new and evolving family configurations.

In 2002 IAC held two conferences. The first was in Nairobi, Kenya with a focus on the counseling related needs of women and young people. Here it was obvious that the challenges imposed by conflict, corruption, disease, unemployment and other issues are considerable. It was also evident that the impact of these issues was being felt by all members of society. A particular problem that is ongoing in several countries in Africa is the plight of children whose parents have died from AIDS. In an area of the world where there is a widely held belief that the whole community needs to be involved in raising children, there are often not a sufficient number of adults who are healthy enough to participate in their upbringing. Also, in some countries the rate of unemployment is so high that levels of education are dropping as young people lose hope in it leading to a more secure economic life.

Here again it was expected that counseling would play a key role in helping to address some of these daunting societal, cultural and personal issues, if it could be offered in a culturally appropriate and relevant ways. The second conference in 2002 was held in Auckland, New Zealand, and had a high and powerful level of involvement by Maori and South Pacific Island leaders, educators and counselors. In their messages were demands for inclusion in the broader societies of which they are a part, and also presentations of traditional indigenous approaches to helping that may have broader application for counseling generally.

In 2003 the IAC conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland with the theme of the counselor and social responsibility. At the conference we repeatedly heard representatives of organizations such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the International Labour Organization and UNICEF outline the human issues that they are attempting to address. Representatives from each of these organizations issued a plea for counseling to play a greater role in their activities.

Revisit Professional Roots and Broaden Thinking

As a result of these experiences I have become more reflective regarding the role of counseling. I increasingly believe that, if we as counselors are going to assist in the development of the more human and inclusive contexts for people within more civilized and just societies, we need to focus our attention in two areas. First, we need to revisit some of our professional roots. Part of that will involve a renewed examination of the assumptions that drive what we do, perhaps with a focus on reaffirming the importance of the core conditions stated by Carl Rogers – genuineness, respect and positive regard – applied to all of our professional contacts. Second we need to broaden our thinking when we consider those with whom we work. Counseling has always has remedial, preventive and developmental areas of focus. If we are to truly impact our broader environments we will need to begin to focus on the preventive aspects, that is what are the factors that are causing people difficulties and extend our work with institutional, community and government leaders to assist in the development of more equitable policies and practices from a counseling perspective. This must now be accomplished within a complex multicultural, multilingual, multi-religious context that will continually pull us out of our comfort zones, and cause us to examine and question some of our most closely held assumptions about ourselves and other people.

This will also require us, I believe, to respect diversity within the context of a concentrated effort to promote the meaningful inclusion of all individuals as important contributors in our societies. Inclusion does not mean fitting people into our cultural mold, but appreciating the
Reaction to *Counseling in a Changing World*

By Trish Murray

Trish Murray is currently the Director of the Counseling Center at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, NC. She has been involved in college/university counseling for the last six years, but prior to this position she worked in employee assistance counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, and mental health counseling.

Dr. Courtland Lee’s article, *Counseling in a Changing World,* provides a point of entry for a discussion of significant events in American history that have impacted our lives such as the case with September 11, 2001 and November 22, 1963. While both of these occasions represent defining moments for Americans and others, there are equally important moments that deserve consideration and also have left impressions on our minds and hearts as we move forward. Several examples that occur to me are the impact of the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and John F. Kennedy, the explosion of Challenger III, and more recently the events in Oklahoma City and Columbine High School. Furthermore, situations around the globe such as Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, and South Korea are making their mark in history and subsequently impacting how counseling needs to change with these ongoing events. As Lee states, we see how “what happens in any part of the world can have significant local consequences.” Therefore, it is incumbent upon us as professional counselors to access pertinent information from the preceding events and shape our practices in a manner that they will have relevant outcomes for our clients in the United States and abroad.

In order for helping professionals to ensure a continuum of effectiveness, I envision the importance of providing a think-tank for counselors with the expressed intent to examine events both retrospectively and prospectively. When events are viewed through a lens of examining both the past and the future, this contributes to an interactive flow from client to counselor in the local community and beyond.

**Additional Historical Events**

Lee continues by stating that, “In one day all that I have promoted over the years with respect to multiculturalism/diversity, social action, and international issues coalesced in striking fashion.” While this may be evident to Dr. Lee, the reader raises question to how the events of 9/11 would take precedence relative to the other events previously mentioned in addition to other events in history. Specifically, history books are replete with former tragedies which coalesced for preceding generations. One would only have to examine more closely the impact of events like Pearl Harbor, slavery, World War I, Vietnam, and the AIDS epidemic, in addition to the tragedies previously mentioned have had on individuals, communities, and nations. As counselors are expected to transcend cultures as they provide services on an individual and group basis, they are also expected to root their thinking in an historical context. This would ensure counseling effectiveness with a strong theoretical orientation, knowledge of social issues, and useful practical guidelines.

**Additional Great Thinkers and Activists**

I agree with Dr. Lee when he writes that, “as professional counselors we need to rethink our views on human development and refine our methods of promoting it.” I would only add that, as counselors we also need to rethink our views of social development as well. By including a social/systemic viewpoint, we can adopt a view of a society hold values that truly will maximize human potential for generations to come. Dr. Lee proposes a view with respect to an “enlightened society” drawing from the works of various “great thinkers and activists.” Although his list is expansive, there are certainly others that deserve mention. For example, there are individuals such as Benjamin Elijah Mays, Audrey Hepburn, W. E. B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Carter G. Woodson, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Whitney Young, Septima Poinsett Clark, Eleanor Roosevelt, Clayton Powell Jr., Larry Doby, Martin Luther, Frederick Douglas, and Jimmy Carter. Each of the aforementioned persons significantly contributed to what Lee refers to as an enlightened society and subsequently signifies the pinnacle of humanity.

- Humanity that represents economic outreach to impoverished people
- Humanity that advocates excellence in education and achievement in career development
- Humanity that insists on freedom and justice for all
- Humanity that stresses social and economic parity across social lines
- Humanity that promotes equal rights and opportunities for women
- Humanity that encourages political justice and broad-based participation

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Community Consciousness

The social action agenda of which Lee speaks includes “Assisting in Nation-Building,” Challenging Intolerance,” and “Promoting the Integrity of the Family.” To this agenda, one which I call a sense of community consciousness embraces also, “Maintaining One’s Cultural Identity,” “Acting on Positive Social Issues,” and “Defining Global Ideology.” Whether we refer to it as social action or a sense of community consciousness, the intent remains the same – a challenge to counselors to think and act beyond their idiosyncrasies.

To promote peace and ensure relevancy of our counseling knowledge and practice is to “collaborate with national counseling associations throughout the world to develop a view of counseling and human development in a global context” (Lee). While the number of international counselor associations may be limited in number, the professional counselors who are active in organizations of this type are dedicated and committed to the transfer of knowledge, research, and service across cultures. Technology certainly helps to promote this goal for each of us, and our rationale for limited participation beyond the confines of the Atlantic and the Pacific is much less valid today.

Refocusing the Role of Counseling (continued from page 8)

Refocusing the Role of Counseling can play a major role in helping to address these issues. Across the range of geographies and cultures in which the conferences were held there is an overt expectation that counseling will assist individuals, groups and the broader society in terms of informing policies and practices that lessen problems and promote growth of individuals and groups in our societies, in addition to assisting people with life challenges and problems. Within our own multi-cultural societies and internationally this means that we need to consider ways in which counseling can increase its role its role in promoting just and equitable societies, and we need to continually be aware of the need to offer counseling services in a way that respects the cultural beliefs and practices of those who are participating in it.

CSI Can Assume Leadership

Chi Sigma Iota members may want to assume a leadership role in counselor training by raising appropriate questions of their colleagues and professors alike when examining “Counseling in a Changing World.” One primary discussion point could begin with linguistics since we recognize language similarities and differences within and across cultural groups. Language lies at the core of one’s identity, for to deny one’s language, whether spoken or written, is to denigrate a person’s existence. As Lee accurately states, “As we begin to collaborate across geopolitical boundaries we must be sensitive to language differences and be cognizant of unique cultural realities and differences in worldviews.” Indigenous groups across North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe have many lessons to teach us. The nature of their cultural evolution places them at a vanguard point for learning about myths and realities of helping others. Alliances among such groups, to name a few as Inuits, Insegis, Aborigines, Maoris, etc. represent a source for counselor knowledge and practice.

As the United States extends itself across the Diaspora there is an increasing need for counselors to promote transcultural and multilateral understanding, not only between but also within cultures. Concomitant with such understanding is a thinking process that is constructivistic in nature. As an outcome of such scientific and humanistic insights there are three additional ways of thinking which parallel the strategic themes that Lee proposed.

New Ways of Thinking

The first idea is represented by the term universality. Just as it has been stated, “it takes a village to raise a child,” so too does it take a nation to build a community. A litmus test by each of us needs to be conducted in order to ascertain our readiness for constructing a community, which would thereby lead to a better nation. Along with the concept of universality is a second idea that centers on community consciousness. This requires counselors to become socially and politically active in pursuit of the dream, that being, the identification and perpetuation of the oneness of humanity. Finally, a third idea that comes to mind is one that promotes cultural pluralism. Helping professionals could respond to the potential for intercontinental strengths and resources that come from celebration and respect for moral responsibility. As such, counselors would then have yet another way of gaining access to and subsequently promoting of a global vision. Inherent in a global vision is the concept of global interconnectedness referred by Lee which ultimately leads to a true “global village.”
A Word of Appreciation

Every three years, Chi Sigma Iota publishes a special edition of the Exemplar. For this edition, Dr. Courtland Lee has served as Special Editor. He contributed the key article “Counseling in a Changing World” and invited Dr. Fred Bemak, Dr. Trish Murray, and Dr. William Borgen to respond to the ideas he presents. Together, these authors offer perspectives about the future of counseling that offer inspiration, contemplation, optimism, and challenge. A sincere thanks to Dr. Lee and the other contributors for this special edition.

Cathy Woodyard
Exemplar Editor

WWW.CSISTORE.ORG

Does your chapter need a Chi Sigma Iota banner to display at meetings and inductions?

Do you need CSI honor cords or stoles for graduation?

With winter’s arrival, do you need a CSI sweatshirt? Or how about a new long-sleeved twill shirt with the CSI emblem embroidered on the pocket?

These items—and more—are available at www.csistore.org. You can order and pay for merchandise directly off the web. This new site provides more convenience and quicker service.