Focus on Professional School Counseling Practice

Photo courtesy of Cayce Pope, Ed.S.
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Message from the Editor
Dr. Julia Whisenhunt, Gamma Zeta Chapter

In this edition of the Exemplar, we focus on professional school counseling practice. The role Professional School Counselors play in protecting, supporting, and guiding the next generation remains vital to our society. In this edition, we hope to honor the outstanding contributions of Professional School Counselors and highlight effective school counseling practice.

Following an informative update from Dr. Holly J. Hartwig Moorhead, CSI Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Louisa Foss-Kelly, 2022-23 CSI Executive Council President-Elect, provides us with a Professional Counselor Advocacy Update. In this article, Dr. Foss-Kelly discusses current trends and legislative changes that impact the Counseling profession. Further, she presents updates on CSI’s work towards promoting and protecting our profession. Following those critical updates, Dr. Felomino A. Gargar discusses vital advocacy and humanitarian work conducted by members of the Iota Phi Chapter in the Philippines. Next, the Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho Chapter presents various strategies that can be used in online counselor education programs to promote chapter engagement and productivity. In line with our Fall theme, Julie Uribe and colleagues present a summary of inter-chapter collaborations that promote advocacy within the schools. Next, Dr. Stephen Kennedy, Chief Operating Officer of CSI, presents a compelling article regarding laws pertaining to school counseling practice and strategies for School Counselor advocacy. The final article is presented by the CSI Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee member, who shines a spotlight on Dr. Seneka Gainer and her tireless advocacy efforts for the Counseling Profession. We close this edition with candidate information for the 2023-24 Chi Sigma Iota Executive Council.

We are excited to present this edition of the Exemplar and hope the contents are helpful for our membership. We welcome proposals for the Spring 2023 edition, which will highlight Group Counseling. The Spring proposal deadline is December 12, 2022.

Dr. Nicole Stargell  
Dr. Devon Romero  
Daun Kwag  
Dr. Julia Whisenhunt
Headquarters Updates
Dr. Holly J. Hartwig Moorhead, CSI Chief Executive Officer
Upsilon Nu Chi Chapter

“The world of professional counseling, in its training and practice, cannot be a world of minimums, learning only enough to get by; it must be a world in which one continues to seek maximum insights, maximum skills, maximum competencies; a life devoted to continuous learning as one accepts the reality that to counsel, to intervene in the life of others, is a world of obligation to render the most effective service, to do no harm, to be attentive, to give the gift of time and hope to clients as a manifestation of one’s commitment to the quest for personal excellence.”

Dr. Edwin L. Herr, CSI Past-President

One of my favorite parts of my role within Chi Sigma Iota is connecting with hundreds of counselors throughout the year—students, faculty, practitioners—who are united in why they became members of CSI and remain members of CSI. When I hear members talk about why CSI, their reason is both profound and simple…counselors from all specializations, representing differing communities, across many different backgrounds value excellence. After meeting necessary, important minimums of competence and conduct, they strive toward the most excellent demonstrations of practice, research, scholarship, education, supervision, and leadership.
On the (new!) CSI website, you can find two papers about “The Quest for Personal Excellence,” written by members of the CSI Academy of Leaders for Excellence, along with excellence papers authored by CSI members. In one of the papers authored by Dr. Edwin Herr, he notes that professional excellence is rooted in a quest for personal excellence and this is central to CSI’s position on leadership. Though years go by, things change in our communities, modalities of counseling evolve, and we adjust to what circumstances around us require, generations of CSI members remain committed to an enduring shared mission: promoting excellence in counseling.

The pursuit of excellence takes time. It is a continual developmental process that requires investment and effort. It is not achieved and then forgotten about.

CSI members embody a consistent commitment to pursuing excellence, providing support year after year for the Society’s established programs that recognize excellence in individual and chapter efforts and provide resources for members, such as CSI’s awards program, Excellence in Counseling Research and Chapter Grant opportunities, leadership resources and trainings, our Chapter Rebate Program, professional development opportunities, and access to CSI’s Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy, the Counselors’ Bookshelf, and, of course, the Exemplar – all of which accompany local chapter activities. (To be impressed with the breadth and depth of 400+ CSI chapter activities and programs, check out the chapter Spring Annual Reports.)

CSI members’ commitment to excellence endures, even as circumstances change and new opportunities arise and complex challenges emerge. Since CSI was established in 1985, Professional Counselor Identity has been intentionally integrated within the Society’s programs, resources, funding priorities, and policies as a critical factor to ensure excellence in counselor training and practice. A precursor to the AASCB and ACA 20-20 initiative, in 1998 CSI hosted two national invitational conferences of counseling leaders to develop a coordinated national plan for professional advocacy to promote the important work counselors do with excellence for the benefit of clients and communities. As the counseling profession faces new opportunities and challenges in the rapidly changing world of mental health care, the CSI Executive Council recently approved new professional advocacy resources that CSI’s Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee will be sharing with members and chapters throughout this year to inform counselors about professional advocacy issues and to support members in effectively engaging in professional counselor advocacy. Be sure to read the Professional Advocacy Update written by Dr. Louisa Foss Kelly, CSI President-Elect, in this issue for more information about what these resources will include and how you and your chapter can become more informed about professional advocacy issues that impact you and your clients and how you can effectively
advocate.

Additionally, hundreds of volunteers who serve within their chapters as well as on CSI International’s committees and review panels have been hard at work developing resources and programs to support members in cultivating personal excellence that informs professional excellence. All committees submitted Plans of Action on August 1, and their members have already started their projects for the 2022-23 year, some of which include the following…

**Chapter Faculty Advisor Committee & Chapter Development Committee**
The Chapter Faculty Advisor (CFA) Committee and Chapter Development Committee have developed CFA and Chapter Leader trainings that are being presented at three of the regional ACES Conferences: NCACES (September 30), RMACES (October 29), and SACES (November 4). We thank both committee members and our other experienced presenters for offering these sessions. Also, new CFAs are invited to participate in a mentoring program by contacting Dr. Anna Viviani (anna.viviani@indstate.edu), CFA Committee Chair, and Dr. Stephen Kennedy (stephen.kennedy@csi-net.org), CSI Chief Operating Officer.

**Counselor Community Engagement Committee**
The Counselor Community Engagement (CCE) Committee is recognizing chapter CCE activities on their committee’s Facebook group. Apply to have your chapter recognized for the CCE activities you are facilitating! The deadline for the current round of applications is November 30, and you can [download a flyer](#) here and submit your application using this [Google form](#).

**Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee**
For the ninth year, the Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee will facilitate the annual [CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest](#). Active CSI members can enter the contest in one of two categories: Entry-Level Students and Doctoral Students/Professional Counselors/Counselor Educators. Participants are being invited to address these questions:

- What are some key indicators of professional counselor identity?
- What national, state, or local legislation has or could potentially impact professional counselor identity in your state or area, and in what way might it do so?
- In what ways have you or could you advocate with regards to professional counselor identity, specifically in relation to the legislation you mentioned?

First place award recipients in each category will receive $500, a one-year membership renewal in CSI, and publication of your essay in the CSI *Exemplar*, the CACREP newsletter,
and at csi-net.org and cacrep.org! Online submissions are due on November 15 at 5 PM EST.

**Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Committee**
The Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Committee will be reviewing research grant proposals in three areas: Professional Advocacy Research, Leadership Research, and Wellness Counseling Research. Online applications are due on November 15 at 5 PM EST. Also, nominations are open for CSI’s Individual Awards and Chapter Awards with a deadline of December 1 at 5 PM EST.

**Leadership Fellow & Intern Selection & Mentoring Committee**
The Leadership Fellow & Intern (LFI) Selection & Mentoring Committee will review applications for our next cohort of LFIs as well as our next Edwin L. Herr Fellow after the deadline of December 1 at 5 PM EST.

**Wellness Counseling Practice and Research Committee**
The Wellness Counseling Practice and Research Committee maintains a website within csi-net.org where they provide regular updates about new research on how professional counselors are helping clients to be more well. Also, watch for a new virtual training on the CSI Counselor Wellness Competencies that will be offered in the spring!

**CSI Counselors’ Bookshelf**
CSI’s Counselors’ Bookshelf includes peer-evaluated reviews of books, movies, TV shows, music, and other media that CSI members have found useful in both their quest for personal excellence and professional excellence. We are pleased to share that Dr. Clark Ausloos and Ms. Vanessa Doran, both former Section Editors, have become the new Co-Editors of the publication. Three new Section Editors have joined the team: Dr. Patricia Brenner (Books to Become Better Counselors), Dr. Erik Messinger (Bibliotherapy), and Dr. Kelly Dardis, who will work with a new Podcasts and Digital Media section that is already accepting submissions. Dr. Jennifer Gerlach (Professional Books), Dr. Everett Painter (Music), and Dr. Daphne Washington (Movies & TV Shows) continue to serve as Section Editors as well. We invite CSI members to visit the Counselors’ Bookshelf webpage to submit their reviews of valuable resources, and we also encourage prospective reviewers to complete a Volunteer Interest Form.

Members also can access quality professional development and earn free CE through participating in CSI’s webinar series. Conversations about professional counselor advocacy
continued in a fall webinar presented by Dr. Christine Suniti Bhat on October 20, 2022 at 2 PM EDT when she will discuss, “Counselor Professional Identity: Why It Matters and What YOU Can Do to Strengthen It!”

Finally, as you make plans for personal and professional development this year and even next year, please note the dates for 2022-23 CSI Days events that will be held online in spring 2023, as well as 2023-24 CSI Days events that will be held in-person at the 2023 ACES Conference in Denver, CO.

As we have for 37+ years, CSI remains a community of counselors who support each other in our quest for excellence and we warmly welcome three newly chartered chapters into our Society. We look forward to seeing the contributions new members of these chapters will make to our community and the counseling profession.

- Beta Epsilon Upsilon Chapter at Buena Vista University
- Tau Omega Upsilon Chapter at Trinity Washington University
- Lambda Chi Beta Chapter at LaGrange College

Share your practices of cultivating excellence with us (holly.moorhead@csi-net.org) as together we remember the challenge offered by Dr. Herr that, “To intervene in the life of others is a world of obligation to render the most effective service, to do no harm, to-be attentive, to give the gift of time and hope to clients as a manifestation of one’s commitment to the quest for personal excellence.”
CHI SIGMA IOTA COUNSELING HONORS SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS

CSI International publishes two professional publications to provide useful research, evidence-based recommendations, and resources to professional counselors, counselor educators, and students.

LEARN MORE HERE ABOUT THE JOURNAL OF COUNSELOR LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY AND THE EXEMPLAR!

JOURNAL OF COUNSELOR LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

A blind peer-reviewed journal that publishes research, scholarship, and professional dialogue.

GOAL:
To promote leadership development, bring awareness to advocacy initiatives, and support professional dialogue regarding issues in the field.

Accepts empirical, theoretical, and conceptual pieces on the following topics:
- leadership
- professional and client advocacy
- professional identity for counselors, counseling students, and counselor educators

Published twice annually

Visit Taylor&FrancisOnline for author guidelines, submission information, and additional details about JCLA.

THE EXEMPLAR

A peer-reviewed publication that disseminates scholarship and highlights practices of leadership excellence in professional counseling.

GOAL:
To disseminate scholarly activity, highlight examples of professional excellence among membership, and promote activities of CSI International.

Features articles in each of the following six column areas:
1. Chapter Happenings
2. Student Success
3. Counselor’s Corner
4. Educational Advances
5. Chapter Resources
6. Excellence in the Field

Published three times annually

Visit csi-net.org/page/Exemplar to view past issues of the publication. Contact exemplar@csi-net.org to submit articles.

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Fall 2022
One certainty in professional advocacy is that change is constant and uncertainty is part of the journey. Watershed changes to our profession are currently underway, changes that will have long-term and a potentially permanent impact on our work and, therefore, on the people we serve. As a priority in keeping our ship upright, we must understand and defend our Professional Counselor Identity as a means to maintain and promote the integrity of our profession and to ensure clients are served well. With a strong Professional Counselor Identity, clients can be assured that they are working with a counselor who has been trained with and abides by high standards that counselors have established for counselor training, accreditation, credentialing, and professional ethics. With this foundation, we meet the needs of both the public and the profession of counseling. It takes time, energy and great resources to be a voice for professional counseling. CSI has a long, rich history of commitment to Professional Counselor Identity, the promotion of the profession and professional advocacy, and as such our members actively monitor and care about critical policy and legislative trends. CSI remains committed to providing our members with current information and practical resources at multiple levels, vital in this era of increasingly complex political landscapes.

**CSI’s Seat at the Table**

CSI wants to make certain that you, as a member, can be informed when you sit at the table for important conversations. CSI continuously represents members’ interests in strengthening and protecting the profession, regularly meeting with leaders of the American
Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the American Counseling Association (ACA), and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). Recent collaborations with ACES, CACREP, and NBCC have resulted in presentations on Professional Counselor advocacy at Fall 2022 ACES Regional Conferences in Nebraska, Idaho, and Maryland. CSI has recently hosted a number of informative webinars with ACA, NBCC, ACES, and CACREP and offers over 25 webinars on leadership and advocacy on the CSI website. This year, CSI became an affiliate member of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), the national organization committed to enhancing counseling regulation through advocacy. Further, CSI’s CEO Dr. Holly Moorhead attended and presented with Dr. Kelly Duncan, ACES Executive Director, at the 2022 NBCC Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit for state licensure board regulators in Philadelphia, PA. As you can see, CSI’s outreach is extensive, representing members in important national conversations and influential arenas.

**CSI Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee**

The CSI Leadership and Professional Advocacy (LPA) Committee, chaired by Dr. John Harrichand, plays a vital role in supporting client and professional counseling advocacy among CSI members. In addition to the usual charges the committee fulfills year to year, the LPA will begin to gather information about events and trends and distill this information to the essentials of what you need to know and what you can do about it. The LPA Committee aims to understand issues that impact members’ everyday work, such as reimbursement, parity, and clinical rights, in the context of broader political changes. The committee highlights key accomplishments of CSI members through recognition of Professional Advocacy Agents and Heroes and offers CSI chapter leaders and members a helpful Professional Advocacy Tips manual. The LPA Committee is always seeking new ways to offer helpful training and support for chapter leadership development and individual action.

**Individual Action Counts**

While group efforts are essential, it is not enough to assume that because our professional organizations are working hard to advocate for the profession, we do not need to act. Individual member action at the state level is critical. For example, last year the Florida legislature adopted the Counseling Compact, an interstate agreement that will allow counselors in Compact states to practice in other member states without having to obtain a new license in the state where the client resides. Within separate legislation that passed during the same legislative session, Florida changed statutory language to allow master’s psychology graduates in programs accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) to become Licensed Mental Health Counselors. Therefore within one session, the state significantly
and irrevocably damaged the counseling license while introducing that same license to other Compact states. Similarly, last year’s HB 972 in Georgia included a master’s degree in clinical counseling or counseling psychology and omitted mention of any accrediting body within the educational requirements for licensure in that state. It is safe to assume that other states will need to likewise defend their counseling license against the inclusion of other mental health disciplines. It takes vigilance by state counseling organizations, CSI chapters, and individual professional counselors to know what is happening at the state level and how to access tools to advocate for our profession, to defend our identity as professional counselors.

In looking at your own backyard, do you know what is happening with professional counseling in your town, county, or state? Are you connected to your state counseling organizations in a way that enables you to respond with meaningful action? Each of us has a responsibility to value the profession, ourselves, and our clients enough to speak out loud. Isabel Briggs Myers wrote, “We cannot safely assume that other people’s minds work on the same principles as our own. All too often others with whom we come in contact do not reason as we reason, or do not value the things we value, or are not interested in what interests us.” This being the case, we cannot assume local and state powerbrokers and professionals from other disciplines such as psychology, social work and marriage, and family therapy, understand who we are and what we have to offer the mental health community. Owning and having pride in your profession and telling others about who you are as a professional counselor can make a huge difference in your everyday counseling world. Through a strong Professional Counselor Identity, we can together assert our values and promote our best interests in the public discussion.
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CSI Webinars
Recorded webinars on a variety of professional topics are available in your Member Dashboard on the CSI website. Recently added webinars include:

Counselor Professional Identity: Why It Matters and What YOU Can Do to Strengthen It!
Dr. Christine Suniti Bhat

Maintaining a Safe Environment for Marginalized Populations: Legal and Ethical Considerations for School Counselors
Dr. Anita Pool

Counseling in a Racially Turbulent Society: Moving beyond the Multicultural Counseling Course
Dr. Carla Adkison-Johnson, Dr. S. Kent Butler, Jr., Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Dr. M. Sylvia Fernandez, & Dr. Courtland Lee
Convergence for Excellence: The Iota Phi Experience  
Dr. Felomino A. Gargar  
Iota Phi Chapter

Chartered in 1988, the Iota Phi chapter of Chi Sigma Iota at the Holy Child Colleges of Butuan was the first internationally chartered CSI chapter. Dr. Lily Rosqueta-Rosales served as the first president of the Iota Phi chapter, and she has been recognized as a member of the CSI Academy of Leaders and as a CSI Advocacy Heroine. In an effort to facilitate connections between CSI members and chapters based in the U.S. and internationally, the Exemplar published highlights of the Alpha Sigma Omega chapter at the University of the Philippines - Diliman in the Summer 2021 issue, and is pleased to publish this highlight of the Iota Phi chapter in this issue.

CSI invites members and chapters to connect. The online CSI Chapters Directory provides details of each CSI chapter and chapter-specific leadership.

The Republic of the Philippines has 7,641 islands and only 2,000 of these islands are inhabited. The remaining more than 5,000 islands are yet to be named. Being a tropical archipelago with various white corals, deep and high forests, towering and in-lake active volcanoes, the Philippines remains one of the best countries to explore. There is always the abundance of trees and warm sea waves over white sands. People respond well to the high humidity, typhoons and hot summer sun. This is the land where professional and licensed counselors whose membership and commitment with Iota Phi resembles the Ring of Endless Light.

Iota Phi members are leaders in their respective communities and their advocacies in the counseling profession distinguish themselves as facilitators to promote wellness and growth in others. As they converge as members of Iota Phi, they beam a light of excellence which changes the lives of many. Guided by the mission of Chi Sigma Iota, the Iota Phi - Chapter shares the same mission to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling.

Establishment of Counseling Homes

On August 8, 1988, the first counseling home in Davao City, Philippines was founded by Dr. Rodulfo P. Esteves, the present Faculty Advisor of Iota Phi, and was co-founded by Dr.
Felomino A. Gargar, the current Iota Phi - President. It was a proactive response to the growing number of young people who abused drugs and committed crimes, families in crisis, marital discord, and other social problems.

For almost 35 years now, the counseling home has shared in the lives of many the mission which states:

“St. Peter’s Counseling Home is a center for search and growth.
It is a shelter for the helpless,
A fortress for the inner self,
A shield for the vulnerable,
A guiding hand for one
Who explores the meaning of LIFE.
It is God-centered, because every human act of love
Is man’s gift to HIM.
It is dedicated for man
Who is of more value than the whole world.”

Today, this counseling home has served and saved thousands of lives locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Internship among graduate students in guidance and counseling in real-life settings is made available in St. Peter’s Counseling Home (SPCH).

The advocacy of the two Iota Phi leaders is recognized in the Philippines, as Dr. Rodulfo P. Esteves was awarded Most Outstanding Professional of the Year 2010 by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Philippines; Dr. Felomino A. Gargar received the same award last July 29, 2022 in a fabulous and significant program in Manila Hotel, the heritage hotel of the country.

Inspired by the success of SPCH in Davao City, the same founders established the Holy Child Colleges of Butuan (HCCB) New Wine Counseling Home on July 18, 2018, in Butuan City, Philippines, to respond to the increasing rate of suicide among the adolescents and problems related to mental health in the Region. Caraga Region, where Butuan City is the premier city, was once one of the poorest regions of the country.

The founders welcomed indigent students from the region and provided them a home to stay while they served as student assistants of the HCCB. They were provided food and other needs, and underwent training to live productive lives while schooling; they were exposed to group process, prayer meetings, community service, and sports activities on weekends. The program is called Work Office Study Pray Play (WOSPP). The inclusive group is very culturally-diverse, since many of the grantees of the program come from the different tribal groups of the country. The group of 50 from each class have become ripples of change in their respective communities.
Scholarship Grants for Deserving Students

Being recipients of academic scholarship awards from high school to advanced studies, the faculty advisor and the President of Iota Phi launched scholarship programs in the school they founded and expanded the program not for the brightest students alone, but also for the average students who are highly motivated to earn college education to be free from poverty. The program, which started in 1998, has now produced guidance counselors, teachers, police officers, nurses, midwives, business professionals, information technologists, community leaders and pastors. One barangay in Davao Oriental, the easternmost part of the Philippines, which used to be underserved, is now turned into a productive happy community because their children have become successful professionals with the program. Very warm and festive welcomes greet the leaders of Iota Phi as they regularly visit the community. The HCCB Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling program offers the Dr. Lily Rosqueta-Rosales Scholarship. The founders of HCCB honor the Founding President of Iota Phi with this scholarship grant because of her leadership and contributions to the counseling profession in the Philippines.

Community Service

Iota Phi members and leaders have contributed in notable ways to their community and the counseling profession. “Counseling-On-the-Air,” in coordination with the largest radio station in the region, was launched during the pandemic years in Mindanao, the second largest island of the Philippines. Dr. Felomino A. Gargar served as counselor on the air to reach out to the majority to bring relief from anxiety brought about by the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Myrna Batino, Dr. Nena Valdez, Dr. Lucila Bance, Dr. Rosenda de Gracia and Dr. Mary Ann Gina M. Valderama, all from Luzon, the largest island of the Philippines, were among those who served as speakers or resource persons in webinars which promote quality assurance, excellence in counseling practice, and mental health. They are also actively involved in research. Mr. Wilfredo II Francis Mina, MSC, ND spearheads the activities and fellowships of guidance counselors in the northern part of the country. He advocates for yoga and meditation, while Ms. Maria Emma T. Daga, RGC, LPT is active with guidance services in public secondary schools aside from her involvements in religious and professional organizations. Mr. Oscar Gomez is active with community activities. Ms. Annabelle Sangalang...
serves the Philippine Guidance Counselors Association (PGCA) and other professional organizations aside from her services as a community leader. Dr. Raga Manongiring Bacarat devotes her time in her school for the Muslim communities of Marawi City, Mindanao, Philippines, while Dr. Ricardo Guanzon from Luzon upholds mental health and professional counseling aside from his active involvement in the field of medicine. There are other projects and activities that other Iota Phi members have been doing which may not be documented, but Iota Phi considers all of them as part of their commitment to service and dedication to excellence.

**Advocacy for Peace**

Aside from the year-long series of webinars on mental health, Iota Phi considers the advocacy on peace, hence, the theme of the next national conference, “Living Peace Across Disciplines and the Counseling Profession.” Professional counselors as facilitators of healing and mending relationships should affirm, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me,” and explore avenues to bring peace.

**Iota Phi, Quo Vadis?**

In keeping with the vision, mission, and goals of Chi Sigma Iota, Iota Phi visualizes the future as an era of living excellence. We shall continue to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership and excellence in counseling. Iota Phi will perpetually recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling. As Confucius says, “the will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential, these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”

The Founding President of Iota Phi, Dr. Lily Rosqueta-Rosales, emphasized that membership in the honor society is by invitation. Only those who excel and observe the highest moral standards are invited for membership. With all the Iota Phi members delivering excellence from all regions of the Philippines, they converge a culture of excellence in the Philippine Archipelago.

Felomino A. Gargar, Ed.D,
Diplomate IABMCP, Fellow PCHA
Chapter Happenings—Promoting Connection and Leadership: Insights from an Online Counselor Education Community

Jody Vernam, Dr. Lisa M. Ansell, Ana Barend, Veronica Conley, William Whitcraft, Dr. Deedre Mitchell, and Dr. John King
Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho Chapter

Technology and online formats have changed the context by which counselor educators and students foster professional relationships (Kleist, 2018). Within the unique contextual challenges of online counseling programs, counselor education programs must provide socialization opportunities to encourage connections, aid professional identity development (Kuo et al., 2018; Spruill & Benshoff, 1996), and foster student leadership skills (Kleist, 2018). As leaders from two online chapters of Chi Sigma Iota at Liberty University, the Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho and Rho Eta Rho Mu chapters became dedicated to bridging the connection gap of an online learning environment to foster leadership skills and build community within our organizations. In this article, some of the Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho and Rho Eta Rho Mu student leaders, as well as the Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho faculty advisors, present challenges encountered, and the strategies used to develop a thriving online academic community.

Challenges and Strategies

One challenge in leading and organizing an online group is establishing effective communication channels. Leaders and members may prefer verbal dialogue to explore ideas, create plans, and finalize decisions. Because students have numerous time obligations, synchronous meetings cannot occur for every communication need. However, e-communication channels can facilitate the flow of information and student engagement. Video communication can capture the nuances of voice tone and facial expressions, while bulleted emails effectively communicate to-do lists. We found it imperative to keep contact lists up to date and that members appreciate streamlined emails to reduce inbox overload.

Another challenge faced by online leaders is establishing a virtual location, akin to a residential departmental suite, to house the academic community’s general administration duties and documentation storage. One strategy is to utilize the university’s selected learning management system (LMS) to provide a virtual “home base” for members. The LMS provides a familiar, central location to store and access documents, organize helpful resource modules, and send announcements. Additionally, members can creatively utilize the special features of
their LMS to generate polls, track involvement, and formulate interaction opportunities such as discussion forums.

Scheduling a time and purpose for graduate students to meet face-to-face is an additional challenge an online community can strive to meet with intention. If space and time are regularly available, dialogue and connection will follow (Chi Sigma Iota, 2020). As such, the Rho Eta Nu Alpha Rho and Rho Eta Rho Mu chapters found that having consistent outreach and meeting times encouraged engagement and connectivity. To maintain member interest, the chapters chose to use this time for professional development opportunities that matched the interests of students and alumni across various counseling specialties, from mental health to school counseling. The chapters used surveys to gain awareness of the needs and interests of chapter members. Survey results showed that members desired a balance of formal professional development and unstructured social time to connect and build relationships. Utilizing the expertise of our members and university leadership allowed the chapters to offer various virtual professional development opportunities. Additionally, a monthly student-led “Connection Hour” and “Open Mic Night” became informal opportunities for students to interact while growing in their professional identities. These synchronous online meetings became a less structured opportunity for members to participate and ask questions around themes such as theoretical orientation, licensing procedures, and preparing for job interviews. With permission, some professional development opportunities were recorded for asynchronous viewing, with the links easily shared in the chapter’s LMS.

Because human beings thrive through meaningful connections (Siegel, 2017), it is incumbent upon counselor educators and student leaders to promote and maintain opportunities for engagement. While online communities may have challenges, creative use of available technology to overcome encountered challenges can establish many engagement and development activities. Through intentional efforts, relationships can be developed, new gifts and abilities are encouraged, and professional and personal growth can occur.
Jody Vernam, MA, NCC, LPC

Lisa M. Ansell, Ed.D., LPC, NCC, LCPC, CBIS

Ana Barend, MA, NCC

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John King, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Chapter Happenings: Facilitating Engagement and Advocacy Within Schools and the Community

Julie Uribe, Nkenji Clarke, Victoria Brenner, Deanna Revels, Taylor Irvine
Omega Zeta, Rho Alpha Mu, Phi Omicron Chi, Kappa Sigma Upsilon, and Beta Rho Chi Chapters

Active engagement within the school and community is central to the school counselor’s role and includes an equitable approach to closing achievement, opportunity, attainment, and funding gaps in their schools, districts, and communities (American School Counseling Association [ASCA], 2018). In addition, school counselors are vital change agents in leading solidarity and promoting community sustainability. Critical to actualizing this vision, school counselors are called to be transformational leaders, tasked with advocating and upholding the equitable treatment of diverse populations in school and community settings, collaborating with stakeholders and coordinating resources, and demonstrating resourceful problem-solving and professional efficacy (ASCA, 2018; Bryan et al., 2019). These school counselor responsibilities, in action, are the vehicle through which transformative advocacy is carried out, thus promoting the profession and addressing systemic barriers that inhibit client access and development (ASCA, 2018; Bhagwan, 2018).

Taking a strength-based approach, school counselors must use community partnerships to address opportunity gaps, create a shared vision, implement a plan, evaluate the progress, listen to the students they are serving, publicly celebrate the success, and continue the community partnerships’ momentum (Bryan et al., 2019). A challenge for counselor educators is ensuring that trainees are adequately equipped to take up this mantle within the school and community. Omega Zeta, Walden University’s chapter of CSI, supports these efforts by leveraging servant leadership, such as coordinating and facilitating quarterly panel discussions that address critical issues within the School Counseling profession. For example, one panel, *Life as a School Counselor*, included a one-hour panel discussion with experienced school counselors from various practice settings and emphasized tips for successful advocacy through collaboration with administrators and critical stakeholders. Following this event, students participated in a one-hour breakout session where they could ask targeted questions, share personal challenges, and receive mentorship from those with lived experience. Another session, *School Counselors: Multicultural Competence and Advocacy*, included professional school counselors sharing real-
life experiences of multicultural challenges faced by themselves and their students. The panelists discussed how they navigated these circumstances and shared victories and failures encountered throughout their journeys. These interactive events promote student and professional engagement, strengthen self-efficacy, and equip trainees with tangible tools to effectively foster equity and positive social change.

Multicultural challenges specific to socioeconomic status is a focus of the school district in Kent, Ohio, especially around the holidays when many children and families go without traditional holiday meals and presents. In response, Kappa Sigma Upsilon (KSU), Kent State University’s chapter of CSI, connected with school counselors from the local school district to conduct a targeted needs assessment rather than assuming community members’ needs, which can lead to providing superfluous resources and silencing the voices of those we serve. KSU also promoted a food drive and collected approximately 114 pounds of food for the Ben Curtis Family Foundation, an organization in charge of distributing food to families of children attending Kent City Schools. Students demonstrated active community engagement by donating their time to the foundation to wrap presents for children and families in need, thus showing the power of community partnerships.

Ultimately, school counselors who embrace an equitable and collaborative approach pave the way for mental health optimization within K-12 education. In school communities where significant barriers impact students from underrepresented backgrounds, the next generation of leaders, educators, and innovators are left with subpar opportunities and a diminished sense of self (Bryan et al., 2019). Identity development in oppressive environments can be traumatic for students and inhibit the successful embrace of self-esteem, leading to mental health challenges. As Professional School Counselors continue to initiate transformational advocacy efforts for closing opportunity gaps, it is important to acknowledge the positive effect of this increased visibility in schools and the community. Therefore, educational equity and access must occur through relationship building and community partnerships to best serve mental health, academic, social-emotional, college, and career readiness needs (ASCA, 2022; Bryan et al., 2019).
Julie Uribe, BA

Nkenji Clarke, MEd, NCC

Victoria Brenner, BS

Deanna Revels, MEd, LPCC

Taylor Irvine, Ph.D., LMHC, NCC
Counselors’ Corner: Advocating for “Duties of School Counselors” Laws That Support Professional School Counselors and Their Students

Dr. Stephen Kennedy
Nu Sigma Chi Chapter

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) describes “inappropriate activities” that professional school counselors are often asked to perform, including coordinating testing programs (ASCA, 2022a). Such activities can prevent professional school counselors from implementing comprehensive programs that serve all students as well as reducing their availability to work with students in crisis. Therefore, this is an ongoing concern for professional school counselors across the United States, including in my own state of North Carolina.

When I was in my master’s program, my interest in professional advocacy motivated me to begin attending the annual Legislative Days, organized by the North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA). During my time as a professional school counselor and doctoral student in counselor education, I then spent four years as NCSCA’s Government Relations Chair. In that role, I had the privilege to work with our part-time lobbyist, the late Dr. Gene Causby.

Dr. Causby had been NCSCA’s lobbyist since the 1990’s, and when I started working with him in 2010, he shared the history of the association’s legislative priorities. Since the nineties, the association had been advocating for a variety of important priorities, such as raising the school counselor pay scale to match the scale of other positions that require a master’s degree (e.g., school psychologists) and reducing student-to-counselor ratios because the average in our state was much higher than the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by ASCA (ASCA, 2022b). For 15 years, NCSCA had also been advocating for a “Duties of School Counselors” law that would address additional concerns, such as the fact that school counselors were often being given duties that prevented them from spending at least 80% of their time in direct service to their students, which is another recommendation from ASCA (ASCA, 2022c). The most problematic non-counseling duty was serving as the testing coordinator, which would cause a school counselor to spend entire days locked in a room organizing standardized tests instead of...
being in their office and available to students.

On December 12, 2012, people across the United States were horrified by the deaths of 20 children and six staff members during the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. The public outcry was so great that legislators in many states, including North Carolina, decided that they needed to pass legislation with the goal of protecting student safety. When the NC General Assembly’s next session began, Dr. Causby informed me that the lawmakers had started to work on a “2013 School Safety Act.”

A professional school counselor is often the only person in their building who is trained to intervene if a student is considering harming themselves or others. Although school social workers receive the same training, they typically divide their time between multiple schools. We, therefore, saw an opportunity to advocate for the “Duties of School Counselors” law by arguing that, if school counselors are not able to spend 80% of their time working directly with students, they may not be accessible to a student in crisis.

Dr. Causby immediately began meeting with legislators, and I contacted school counselors across the state and encouraged them to call or email their representatives quickly. It was critical for our effort to be statewide because legislators are usually only interested in corresponding with the residents of the districts they represent. Because of NCSCA’s annual Legislative Days, many of our members had already established relationships with their representatives. Our professional advocacy succeeded in getting our proposed “Duties of School Counselors” language into the draft of the law, and it passed the NC House of Representative’s Education Committee. However, we were disappointed to learn that the Appropriations Committee removed the language over concerns that they would need to fund more staff for public schools as a result of it.

Nevertheless, due to the statewide effort to educate our legislators about the professional school counselor’s role in keeping students safe, our proposed “Duties of School Counselors” language had garnered considerable support. We, therefore, saw another opportunity. The development of our state’s two-year budget takes several months, and when both the NC House of Representatives and the NC Senate have developed versions of the budget, a “conference committee” with members of both houses works together to reconcile differences between their drafts. Our supporters agreed to re-insert “Duties of School Counselors” into the budget bill as its own new law, and we reasoned that no lawmaker concerned about the cost was going to vote against a 700-page budget bill that had taken them so many months to develop.

Duties of school counselors N.C. G.S. 115C-316.1. became law. It mandates that professional school counselors in our state be allowed to spend at least 80% of their time in direct service to students. As defined in the law, “direct service” includes delivering the school
guidance curriculum, guiding individual student planning, and providing responsive services including individual, small group, and crisis counseling (Duties of school counselors, 2013), all of which are appropriate duties as defined by ASCA (ASCA, 2022a). Furthermore, the law prohibits professional school counselors from being assigned the role of testing coordinator (Duties of school counselors, 2013).

I asked to write this article because, while we are fortunate to have this law in NC, equivalent laws do not exist in many states. I encourage all CSI members, especially those who have an investment in professional school counseling, to consider the legislative priorities in your own states. If your state does not have a similar “Duties of School Counselors” law, or if there are additional concerns in your state, some strategies I recommend include the following:

• Encourage your state school counselor association to hire a part-time lobbyist if they can afford to do so. As a professional school counselor, counselor educator, or master’s or doctoral student, you cannot be expected to visit your state legislators on a regular basis. A lobbyist can be responsible for taking on that task.

• Even if you do not have a lobbyist, find ways for your school counselor association to identify urgent legislative priorities and reach out to your membership with advice, and perhaps a draft of a letter, to help them respond.

• Ask your state school counselor association if they have a list of legislative priorities that can be shared with lawmakers. Due to the number of handouts that legislators receive every day, NCSCA developed a short list of bulleted points on a single page. ASCA also has a useful one-page handout showing student-to-counselor ratios in each state (available at [www.schoolcounselor.org/About-School-Counseling/School-Counselor-Roles-Ratios](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/About-School-Counseling/School-Counselor-Roles-Ratios)).

• Watch for unique opportunities to help your proposed legislation move forward. Our law here in North Carolina only advanced after so many years because of a devastatingly tragic event. Nevertheless, the law is currently helping professional school counselors to protect the students, parents, and staff they work with from future tragedies.

• If you are in a state with multiple CSI chapters, work together to contact legislators. Because you will likely be in different parts of the state, you will represent a wider range of constituents than a single chapter.

• Encourage your state school counselor association, or the CSI chapters in your state, to organize an annual Legislative Day if one does not already exist. If legislators have yearly contact with professional school counselors, or others who can help to advocate for professional school counselors, legislators are more likely to remember professional school counselors’ concerns and priorities.
Professional school counselors in North Carolina are fortunate that the effort to codify duties of school counselors succeeded, but the work continues. For example, ASCA’s most recent data shows that the average student-to-counselor ratio in North Carolina is 326-to-1 (ASCA, 2022b). Although this is a significant decline from my own years as a professional school counselor, when the ratio was typically around 375-to-1, the ratio is still not where it needs to be. NCSCA has continued to hold Legislative Days, including virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, to establish relationships with new legislators as well as to maintain the ones we already have. Professional advocacy is an important part of CSI’s Mission (www.csi-net.org/page/about_csi), and I encourage all of you to look for opportunities, both nationally and in your own states, to advocate for the counseling profession as well as the students or clients you work with.
It was an honor to be granted an interview with Dr. Seneka Gainer, Assistant Professor at Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences with Jacksonville University, the Palm Coast campus. She is a part of the Jacksonville University Chapter of CSI.

Dr. Gainer is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPC-S), and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor (LMFT-S). This article documents her inspiration and satisfaction in advocating for the counseling profession.

According to Dr. Seneka Gainer, her introduction to advocacy began in the third grade. Visiting IHOP with her mother, she saw an individual dressed in a way that looked like he was in distress. Troubled by this sight, Dr. Gainer’s mother gave her five dollars and instructed her to say something kind to the man. Sitting with him for a moment and initially not having words to say, the words, “God loves you and so do I” finally emerged. This experience continues to inform her advocacy throughout the course of her life, influencing her decision to become a counselor. Today, her focus is on how to make the worlds fit while compartmentalizing the type of advocacy she wants to do while being a part of this profession. Motivated by her passion for the homeless community, she joined a ministry in California that provided warm, home-cooked meals for individuals experiencing homelessness which “shaped the narrative for me and my life.”

Dr. Gainer recently completed her dissertation on the competencies and preparations necessary for counselors in training when working with clients experiencing poverty. This study assessed the knowledge, skills, and awareness counselors and counselor educators feel are necessary for counselors in training. She explained that additional research is needed to further support the topic. In the future, she would like to produce policy briefs and engage in qualitative research, digging into why there is a disconnect between practitioners and counselor educators on what is necessary for the homeless population. She is hoping her research will help bridge the gap between the different lenses practitioners and counselor educators.
view those experiencing homelessness and poverty.

She attributes the success with her advocacy project to her doctoral program at Idaho State University. There was difficulty trying to find where this issue of homelessness and poverty fit in with counselor education. “On a personal level, I wondered if people cared about this enough for me to engage in research.” She understood that this was a sensitive topic to ask questions about, especially to those experiencing it. Dr. Gainer was genuinely concerned about how much she could engage with this community, how far it would go, and would people want to know about this or even read it. She questioned whether this would be lumped in with another major topic that was easier to read about, and whether this could be viewed as a major issue for counselors to begin effecting change. She wondered if the specific phenomenon of homelessness would only be considered when speaking on the broad topic of multiculturalism. Her doctoral program inspired and reminded her that the topic of homelessness and poverty is important, is worth talking about, and that she should keep moving forward with it.

Her most important advocacy lessons learned are to truly meet people where they are in their advocacy journey and where they are in their life as it relates to their ability and vulnerability to share their experiences. These lessons come to her when working with clients and people she interacts with in everyday life – respecting autonomy and their sense of worth and dignity. She very graciously shared she has a strict policy within herself that she gives money because she wants to give, “not to figure out or discern what someone is going to do with it.” At that time and in that moment, she felt compelled to pull one $100 out and give it to a man seated in front of a clothing store. She was feeling very good about it and got nervous, however, when she approached him, he told her no. “It reminded me that this is something that still involves respect. It is not about the individual being grateful that I am giving. It is, moreover, a question of, can I enter into your space, and do you mind if I help?” This ties in perfectly with engaging in the research with this population and working with colleagues. Asking the question “do you mind sharing your experience with me?” She takes pride in respecting people’s autonomy, who they are, and their choices. This experience alone has helped carry her through her role as an advocate, scholar, and researcher.

Dr. Gainer mentioned that according to HUD, on a single night in 2021, more than 326,000 people experienced sheltered homelessness in the United States. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reported that 580,466 people experienced homelessness in shelters and on the streets in America as of January 2020. Before 2021, the federal government did not always include individuals or families living in trailers in its annual tally of people experiencing homelessness. The most urgent issue is advocacy, proactivity, and our response to homelessness, considering the significant impact on self-efficacy and overall
well-being. Counselors are uniquely positioned to address this issue and can do so with training built into our counselor education programs and continuing education opportunities for practitioners. At times, we are responsive as a counseling profession, however, she believes there are steps we can take to remain proactive, continue to engage in research, and “get boots on the ground” and advocate. Going to Capitol Hill and lobbying to help engage in true allyship. She would like to see consistency and overall systemic change so that we can empower those that work with people in the homeless community and those who seek services as clients.

Personal Website

*Counseling Today*: [Ensuring services truly support those experiencing homelessness](#)

*Dissertation*: Competencies and Preparation for Addressing Poverty in Counselor Education: A Q Methodological Study

Seeking publication? Explore the CSI outlets.
CHI SIGMA IOTA

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You can visit the CSI Store to purchase CSI regalia for your graduation ceremony including honor cords, honor stoles, and medallions. The store also offers customized chapter t-shirts that chapters can order for members. The CSI Store stocks CSI International apparel for all members, including t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, polo shirts, microfleece pullovers, and sweatshirts, as well as CSI logo merchandise including laptop skins, travel mouses, pens, pencils, flash drives, and jewelry.
CSI International Elections

2022

Voting for Chi Sigma Iota International officers occurs each year by a collective vote per active chapter. Visit the CSI website for instructions about how your chapter can vote for CSI’s President-Elect and Treasurer this year - as well as a sample message your chapter can use to encourage your members to participate.

This year, CSI members will be voting for the CSI Executive Council President-Elect and Treasurer officer positions. All active chapter members are invited to vote through their home chapters for the candidate they believe will serve CSI best in these respective positions.

Chapter Faculty Advisors can download a list of their chapter members from the CSI Member Management System. (Sign In > Chapter Login for CFAs & Group Admins (use chapter username and password) > CFAs & Chapters > CFAs > CFA MMS > View/Export Member List)

During October, each chapter’s leaders should contact their members about the CSI chapter voting procedures. Once all individual votes within a chapter are received, Chapter Faculty Advisors will tally their chapter members’ votes and report the candidates receiving the highest number using the online Elections Ballot no later than 5 PM EST on December 1, 2022. Overall, the potential candidates who receive the highest number of chapter votes will be elected to CSI office.

It is helpful to remember that chapter social media sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) are a viable way to communicate information about the CSI election process at the chapter level. We want to urge chapters to include active alumni members in their election outreach efforts. This year’s candidate information is available through our website, Facebook, Exemplar, and the E-News.
Dr. Julia Whisenhunt is a Professor of Counselor Education at University of West Georgia (UWG). Dr. Whisenhunt earned an Ed.S. in Guidance and Counseling from UWG. She earned a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Practice (CACREP accredited) from Georgia State University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Georgia), a National Certified Counselor (NBCC), and a Certified Professional Counseling Supervisor (Georgia). Dr. Whisenhunt is a member of ACA, AARC, ACES, SACES, AHC, CSI, and ISSS. She has served CSI as the Exemplar Editor, Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy Editorial Board Member, Chapter Development Committee Member and Chair, Professional Advocacy Committee Member, Bibliotherapy Reviewer, and Chapter Faculty Advisor. She has a record of service to the profession and serves her community through disaster mental health volunteerism and suicide prevention advocacy. She specializes in self-injury, suicide prevention, crisis intervention, and expressive therapy.

**Goal Statement**

I am honored to be nominated for President-Elect of CSI. Through my membership and various service roles within CSI, I have developed a clear understanding of CSI’s mission, vision, and values. I understand what CSI stands for, and I am prepared to advocate to support both our profession and CSI’s key role in our profession. To that end, I will devote my presidency to four overarching goals.

**Collaborate to Bolster and Protect our Profession**

Leadership and advocacy, cornerstones of the counseling profession, are particularly essential now. With current changes in the field, such as the Counseling Compact and the establishment of the Master’s in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC), professional counseling organizations must collaborate to ensure that Professional Counselors’ contributions are recognized, valued, and promoted. This helps to
propel the field forward and bolster the counseling profession. Collaboration is at the heart of my servant leadership style, and I am excited to join with other key leaders to demonstrate the immeasurable contributions made by Professional Counselors and CSI.

**Enhancing Professional Identity Among Counselors-In-Training**

A key aspect of advocacy for our profession lies in the development of counselors-in-training (CITs). As a counselor educator, I understand the significance of instilling our profession’s values and ethics early in the developmental process. Helping CITs understand Professional Counseling as a related but distinct field of mental health practice is vital to both their practice and the progression of our field. When we prepare CITs who understand the nuances of our profession, practice with intentionality, and uphold professional counseling values, we create the next generation of leaders. Whether through providing resources to counselor educators or directly to CITs, CSI plays a key role in establishing a professional identity for new professionals. My goal is to enhance these resources further so that we invest in new and continuing members.

**Increase Inclusion of Professional Counseling Members**

As CSI Exemplar Editor, I have worked to include the voice of non-academic professional counseling members. Regrettably, many CSI members choose not to renew their membership following graduation from their respective program(s). I would like to understand the reasons for this and operationalize strategies to make continued active CSI membership attractive to professional members. Further improving CSI’s recognition of professional members and their contributions to the field and their communities is necessary.

**Increase Representation of Professional School Counseling Practice**

I have observed a recent shift wherein there seems to be increasingly firm lines between the role of Clinical Mental Health Counselors (CMHCs) and School Counselors. I believe that although there are undoubtedly professional differences between School Counselors and CMHCs, we represent the same broader profession based on the same core values; both School Counselors and CMHCs are Professional Counselors. As CSI President, I will work to identify ways to foster increased inclusion and representation of Professional School Counselors and all professional counseling specialties because I realize that we are stronger when we are unified.

If elected, I will devote my energy to recognizing our members’ contributions, identifying strategies to further unify the profession, and advocating for all Professional Counselors.
Dr. Matt Glowiak is core clinical faculty at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) as well as contributing faculty at Yorkville University. He has been a member of CSI since his master’s program at Walden University (Omega Zeta Chapter). As a doctoral student, Dr. Glowiak served as Publication Committee and Technology Chairs prior to and through serving as President. In 2014 he was selected as a CSI Leadership Fellow and served on the Counselor Community Engagement Committee (CCE), Chapter Development Committee, and Counselor’s Bookshelf. From 2016-2022, Dr. Glowiak served as CCE Chair—participating in many CSI-affiliated presentations, virtual webinars, publications, and otherwise. Aside from his work with CSI, he has served in leadership positions with the American Counseling Association (ACA), Illinois Counseling Association (ICA), Chicago Counseling Association (CCA), and North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Having found his life’s calling, everything he does is with passion and commitment.

**Goal Statement**

It is with great excitement and humility that I have this opportunity to solicit your vote for Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Treasurer-Elect. Since being inducted to CSI Omega Zeta Chapter in 2009, I immediately recognized the immense value in our Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society. As I find all things counseling my life’s calling, I began networking with numerous like-minded others (including those of you reading this). My intentions became ones in which I knew I wanted to serve and grow with CSI—promoting the society while doing my part to help it move forward.

As a graduate student, I served as the Omega Zeta Newsletter Editor and Chair as well as Technology Chair prior to and while serving as President. In 2014, upon being
selected a Leadership Fellow, I served as Counselor Community Engagement (CCE) and Chapter Development Committee member while contributing to Counselor Bookshelf and Chapter Grant reviews. Fortunately, the progression continued, as I was selected CCE Committee Chair, which I served from 2016 through 2022. Throughout, the committee provided many presentations both live and virtually, published multiple articles, expanded our disaster response and resource list, and continually served chapters and members in need. With all my leadership positions, I aim for smooth transitions while collaborating with others toward making improvements and pursuing new opportunities. As a former private practice co-owner, I have many years of experience maintaining expenses, keeping spreadsheets, budgeting, investing, payroll, and completing annual taxes. This, combined with my passion for CSI, will guide me throughout the process.

Being nominated to run for position of Treasurer-Elect is truly an honor in-and-of itself, which I consider an accomplishment. If fortunate enough to be elected, I would continue moving forward not only with the enthusiasm, drive, and commitment brought to all my previous positions but with the knowledge, skills, and expertise specific to CSI. Everything I do toward serving the position will effectively exemplify our values, mission, and vision. My hope is to not only serve the role of Treasurer to the fullest extent described by our bylaws but make active contributions toward anything else needed to support our student and professional members as well as society at large.

As a volunteer organization with limited finances, it is crucial that we save, spend, and invest wisely. To this point, CSI has managed finances well. Beyond ensuring a smooth transition, my goals entail creatively expanding our financial resources. Doing so will increase opportunities to provide additional grants, rebates, resources, and opportunities to our chapters as well as enhancing CSI Day, which will inspire further involvement—enhancing the overall experience while concurrently growing our membership body.

I always recognize that organizations like and including CSI are bigger than myself. It takes the work, talent, thoughts, and contributions of the leaders and members, collectively, to grow. With that, I intend to work collectively to ensure that not only are the tasks of Treasurer completed effectively but that we continually move forward. We are, after all, always in this together.
2023-24 Chi Sigma Iota Executive Council Nominee: Treasurer
Dr. John Harrichand
Sigma Alpha Chi Chapter

John J. S. Harrichand, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC, ACS (he/him/his) is a Canadian of Chinese and East Indian ancestry, an immigrant, and son of immigrants who was born and raised in Guyana, South America. He is a proud International Faculty and Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Harrichand currently serves CSI as Journal Reviewer, Chair of the Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee, and Chapter Faculty Co-Advisor of Sigma Alpha Chi Chapter. In addition to his clinical work with the community and college-student populations, Dr. Harrichand’s scholarship centers on counselor leadership development and burnout; clinical supervision and gatekeeping; professional advocacy; and cross-cultural counseling of minority populations (i.e., LGBTQIA+, immigrants, refugees, international students, and sex-trafficked survivors). Dr. Harrichand has received CSI’s Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy Outstanding Article Award, AMCD Young Emerging Leader Award, and AADA President’s Outstanding Service Award.

Goal Statement
Thank you to Chi Sigma Iota for the incredible honor of being nominated for the CSI Treasurer position. CSI has and continues to play an instrumental role in my personal and professional development as a professional counselor, counselor educator, supervisor, and servant leader. This nomination reflects CSI’s ongoing commitment to me as a member and my commitment to honoring the legacy of all who have served and continue to serve the organization and its mission of promoting a clear identity for professional counselors and advocating for our wonderful profession.

My journey with CSI began during my time as a doctoral student, serving as
Secretary for the Rho Eta Chapter at Liberty University. Later, I became the Chapter Faculty Co-Advisor of the Nu Chapter at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Brockport. Currently, I serve as Chapter Faculty Co-Advisor of the Sigma Alpha Chi Chapter at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). I am humbled that the leaders of this organization, all of whom I deeply admire and recognize as leaders and mentors of the counseling profession, have called me to serve in this capacity.

CSI’s Treasurer is tasked with the critical responsibility of managing the financial assets of the organization while finding creative ways to grow our funds so we can continue the meaningful work of the organization. Drawing from the CSI By-Laws, my primary objective is to fulfill the duties of Treasurer which include: i) monitoring CSI’s financial activities; ii) developing CSI’s annual budgets in consultation with its leaders; and iii) presenting a financial report at each CSI meeting. My second goal as Treasurer will be to support the Executive Council so that CSI continues to expand and flourish. Support will take the form of assisting in the reinstatement of chapters, encouraging the development and chartering of new chapters, and increasing revenue beyond membership dues. My third goal will focus on intentionally using funds (i.e., grants and Chapter rebates) to support our CSI Chapters and membership by honoring excellence in leadership, advocacy, wellness, and scholarship focused on multicultural awareness and social justice within professional counseling. My fourth goal is to serve as a resource to Chapter treasurers regarding effective financial practices that align with their chapter’s unique goals. My fifth and final goal is to continue encouraging and mentoring a strong pipeline of counseling leaders, especially leaders of Color and international counselors, who will continue serving CSI, expanding our global reach, thereby advocating, and strengthening the field of professional counseling at all levels (i.e., locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally).

It would be an incredible honor to serve as CSI’s Treasurer. This position would allow me to conscientiously and collaboratively work as a servant leader for all CSI members, while upholding the mission and vision of the organization for current and future generations of professional counselors. Thank you for considering my nomination to serve CSI as Treasurer.
References

Vernam et al. References

Uribe et al. References

Kennedy References
Call for Submissions

CSI Exemplar Editorial Team is accepting submissions for consideration for the Spring 2023 newsletter. This edition will focus on Group Counseling. Please submit proposals by December 12, 2022 to exemplar@csi-net.org in the form of a 250-word APA-style abstract. Proposals should address the edition theme within one of the following columns: (a) Chapter Happenings, 400-650 words; (b) Student Success, 1,300 to 1,700 words; (c) Counselors’ Corner, 1,300 to 1,700 words; (d) Educational Advances, 1,300 to 1,700 words; (e) Chapter Resources, 400 to 650 words; or (f) Excellence in the Field, 1,300 to 1,700 words.

The Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy (JCLA) promotes the development of leaders to serve in diverse counseling settings, brings awareness to professional and client advocacy initiatives, and provides a forum for discussing professional issues. JCLA welcomes empirical and conceptual manuscripts focused on leadership, professional and client advocacy, and professional identity for counselors, counseling students, and counselor educators. Because evidence-based practice is at the heart of the counseling profession, JCLA occasionally publishes exemplary scholarship related to evidence-based practice in counseling practice, supervision, and education.

JCLA is published twice a year and is available worldwide through EBSCO Host and Taylor & Francis Online, with membership circulation in excess of 15,000. The editorial board accepts manuscripts on a rolling basis with an average initial response of two months. To learn more about author guidelines, please visit www.tandfonline.com/ucla. For helpful tips on preparing your work for publication, please review the free CSI Webinar, How to Publish in the Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy. Our manuscript submission portal is located at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ucla. You may also address inquiries to jcla@csi-net.org.
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