



# Counselors For Social Justice

A Division of the American Counseling Association

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## WELCOME Letter from our President:



Dear Social Justice Colleagues,

I am delighted to be sending you another newsletter as my term as President of CSJ reaches an end. We have had quite a year with numerous social justice activities on the global and national levels that greatly impact our counseling profession. Tremendous strides have been made in our social justice work passing a law allowing same-sex marriage (even though we're moving slowly, being the 21st country to do so!), growing momentum to finally take down the Confederate flag, growing awareness and changes, albeit slow, regarding police brutality in the Black community, growing environmental awareness, more fully understanding the plight of refugees and immigrants, raising awareness about immigration, supporting the transgender community, etc., etc.

It is no surprise that we had a number of powerful presentations at the 2014 ACA conference dealing with a wide range of social justice issues.

I want to thank the CSJ Board including Quentin Alexander, Rita Chi-Ying Chung, Judy Daniels, Jane Goodman, Michael Hutchins, Kevin Tate, Angelica Tello, and Mary Whitfield-Williams who have been working tirelessly to move CSJ forward. Also my deepest thanks and appreciation to Janet Windwalker Jones who did an outstanding job with the Strategic Planning Committee paving the way for systematic pathway to our CSJ future, Rachael Goodman, who headed up the first year of grants funded by CSJ, and Joseph Williams who coordinated the CSJ awards for this past year. My heartfelt congratulations are extended to the newly incoming Board members, Gloria Aquino Sosa as President-elect, Joseph Williams as Counselor Representative, and Anna Locke as Student Representative. What a lineup! And of course to all of you across the country and globe who are committed to advancing social change through social justice, many of you who

are initiating new social justice chapters in your communities and universities, my congratulations and appreciation for continuing the movement forward and the commitment to change and to CSJ, to help improve our profession and our world.

Each year at the ACA Conference CSJ is given a set number of presentations as a Division. This year I am very happy to announce and let you know in advance that we will be sponsoring four invited sessions that will include a powerful session with 5 ACA Past-Presidents entitled, The Roads Taken: ACA Past Presidents Reflect on Social Justice Opportunities Taken and a Vision for Social Justice Counseling, a second session with well-known social justice leaders entitled, The State of the Union: Social Justice Leaders Discuss the Past, Present, and Future of Counseling and Social Justice, and two poster sessions entitled, Trauma, Stress, and Resilience among Refugee and Immigrant Women and Logos and Liberation and Career Work with First Generation College Students from Low-Income Backgrounds. These sessions are in addition to any presentations that you may have submitted which will be reviewed by the ACA Program Selection Committee.

I am hoping once again that you will read the wonderful articles in this newsletter and apply this information to your everyday work as counselors as well as your personal lives. Thank you to Shannon Ng and Yujing Li for their time and wonderful job as co-editors of our newsletter.

As always, I encourage each of you to consider contributing to future newsletters about your social justice experiences, reflections, and ideas.

Wishing you a wonderful and justice filled remainder of 2015!

Warm Wishes,



## LETTER

from the  
editors

Social justice is an ideal we strive to uphold and to inspire others to advocate for among their social settings and with their clients. In this summer's newsletter we explore the concept of social justice counseling from both a global and domestic perspective. We learn of new ways to become involved on a larger scale through the Call to Conscience movement and we take time to remember the mission of CSJ through all the static and noise that can often distract from the true purpose.

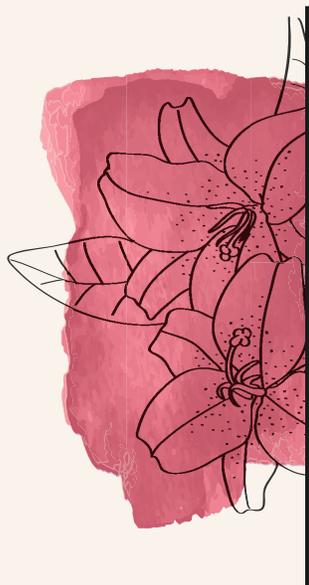
It is an honor to serve alongside so many socially minded counselors with such rich experiences. As editors for the newsletter we wish to encourage each of you to reach out to us and share you ideas for future. We joined this division to create change and to be encouraged by one another. Our experiences reaching out and helping others can ignite a spark for others to do the same in ways that foster autonomy and empower our clients yet still break the bonds of social injustice.

Thank you to all of our authors this quarter and thank you for reading and learning with us for a better tomorrow.

Regards,

*Shannon Ng*, Print Editor

*Yujing Li*, Graphics Editor



# CLARIFYING CSJ'S MISSION

(This column originally appeared in an email sent by the President of CSJ on the CESNET and CSJ list serves. It is reprinted with permission to help members feel confident they can contribute in meaningful ways to the goals of Counselors for Social Justice.)

Greetings to my colleagues in the counseling profession,

I think it is time to chime in with some thoughts and perspectives regarding Counselors for Social Justice and ACA that may help clarify some issues. A few comments as follows:

-  CSJ is fully committed to participating and being part of ACA. We are represented on the ACA Governing Council, and similar to other ACA Divisions, regularly discuss how to promote social justice principles and the CSJ mission within the ACA framework.
-  Within CSJ there are numerous perspectives and everyone has a right to voice their opinions within the context of working towards the goals and mission of CSJ. In our CSJ Board meetings we have found and facilitated an openness to achieve consensus about both CSJ and CSJ's role in ACA. This is a non-negotiable and unwavering focus of CSJ – to work within the ACA context and advocate for change towards social justice principles within the counseling profession.
-  As an ACA Division CSJ serves the purpose of being the central hub for social justice counseling. That is why CSJ was initially created, and why CSJ continues to be a Division. Of course we welcome individuals promoting any social justice oriented projects and activities to join with CSJ with an aim to create a more peaceful, harmonious, and just society through the counseling profession. We would hope that those involved with social justice work that is aligned with the goals of cooperation and values of social justice link with the CSJ organization.
-  CSJ is about counselors addressing the injustices that exist in our society where people, groups, and communities have lost power and privilege. This is an absolute basic premise in social justice counseling in combating issues of racism, sexism, discrimination, ableism, abuses of power, abuses of privilege, equal access, equal opportunity, etc., etc., etc.
-  I had an experience a number of years ago as a featured speaker talking about social justice at a conference in Latin America. During the Q&A session I was asked, “How tolerant should social justice counselors be?” My response to that question stands for what

I have always believed about social justice: “There is a limit of tolerance for intolerance.” I want to be very clear about this – I do not condone nor have tolerance for racism, sexism, abuse, violence, genocide, homophobia, etc., that contributes to the violation and oppression of another human beings rights or equality. To be even clearer, back to the limit of tolerance for intolerance, I do not see room for these individuals within the CSJ framework. This is no different than those who fought and fight for peace, for women’s rights, or for the civil rights movement. No one who was against peace is/was invited into the peace movement, no one who is sexist is/was welcomed into the women’s movement, and no one who is racist is/was welcomed into the civil rights movement. This is not divisive, simply a philosophical belief that establishes core values of CSJ and any social justice movement – if you agree with this basic value system please join us – we embrace you. In turn, although I respect and honor everyone’s right to counter and disagree with CSJ’s core beliefs, if you disagree it certainly wouldn’t make sense for you to affiliate with CSJ. This is no different than my not having an interest or expertise in some other ACA Divisions and therefore not joining them or becoming involved in their divisional work and issues.



CACREP is a major issue in ACA right now. There are literally 1000’s upon 1000’s of silent voices who have not chimed in on ACA Connect or in the important discussions going on throughout the United States and globally right now. I personally have a great respect for CACREP establishing standards and moving the counseling field forward. Where I disagree is with the exclusivity and narrow focus that the CACREP standards have taken. This is not an anti-CACREP stance – rather it is a pro-CACREP PLUS stance where we believe that other guidelines and accrediting options alongside CACREP may have tremendous benefit for the larger counseling profession. In fact CSJ has passed a motion to this effect, setting forth a divisional policy to support all counselors. I am highly concerned that the future giants like Carl Rogers, Fritz Perls, Carol Gilligan, Derald Wing Sue, Albert Ellis, Thomas Parham, Alfred Adler, Aaron Beck, William Glasser, Salvador Minuchin, Cloe Madanes, Donald Meichinbaum, Jay Haley, Virginia Satir, Patricia Arredondo, Irvin Yalom, etc., etc., would have significant restrictions as core faculty in a CACREP accredited program. I can hardly begin to express to you the level of concern this generates for our future as a profession. We are also concerned that many professional counselors without CACREP accredited training or students from high quality non-CACREP programs continue to belong to organizations like AMHCA, which have clearly stipulated that they will not support students or professionals who are not/will not be trained in CACREP programs. Clearly, this issue requires far more in-depth discussion, and there are many strongly held opinions pro and con, but just so we are clear, CSJ favors ACA and those standards, policies, and practices that are inclusive and support all counselors, not just some counselors.



Taking a social justice stand always promotes discord. I know we as counselors want

harmony, collegiality, and friendly atmospheres...who doesn't? And yet.....movements for justice, equality, openness, and dignity for individuals and communities have always been accompanied by love, passion, and commitment as well as conflict, tension, dissension, and discomfort. I would suggest to you that this is part of the package and is not and should not be about personalities. It is about issues!

I hope this provides some clarity about CSJ and my own value system in my role as CSJ President. I am typically not prone to become involved in online discussions, but wanted to share my perspectives as the current CSJ President and my vision for CSJ.

Cordially,

Fred

**DR. FRED BEMAK**

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

## **CSJ AND UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS**

The Counselors for Social Justice division of ACA is on the forefront of implementing chapters at the university level to create a greater impact on the counseling and social justice fronts. Please look for further information on this effort in the coming months!

## **CALL FOR AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

CSJ is now seeking members and a committee chair for the Awards Committee for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Positions require a one year term. For more information please contact Dr. Joseph Williams at [jwilli32@gmu.edu](mailto:jwilli32@gmu.edu)



## *Mental Health and Social Justice in Mexico*

Social justice is a fundamental principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence; however, Mexico has serious problems promoting it. The poverty rate in Mexico is the highest among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2011). In 2010, 46.2% of Mexicans suffered from multidimensional poverty (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática, 2010). The multidimensional methodology is a measurement of poverty based on the analysis of the fulfillment of social rights such as health, education, social security, social cohesion level, employment and a life free from violence. According to the figures on poverty in Mexico in 2008, stated by UNICEF, 50.6 million Mexicans did not have enough income to meet the basic needs in health, education, food, shelter, clothing and transportation in that year.

The number of people in extreme poverty increased by 1.3 million people in Mexico in a period of two years, going from 11.7 million in 2010 to 13 million in 2012, as revealed by the Ministry of Social Development (Secretaría de Desarrollo Social, 2012).

The Social Gap index (Consejo Nacional de



Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social, 2010) is a measurement that encompasses education, access to health services and decent housing variables. The figures in 2010 for Mexico are very unflattering, half of the national territory has medium and to high levels of social gap and there is a great contrast and inequality between the different states, Chiapas and Oaxaca are among those with the worst Human Development Index, similar to countries such as Nigeria and Senegal (UNICEF, 2008).

For many decades, poverty and social marginalization in Mexico were considered mere economic problems. Nevertheless, recently closer attention has been paid to a more complex set of economic, social and cultural practices that make up the “social exclusion”; that is, when some sectors of the population are excluded from the benefits such as political, social and economic development based on racial, economic, gender, ethnic or physical disabilities discrimination, among others.

Poverty, migration, marginalization, inequality and interpersonal conflicts are social problems that have great impact on the lives of the people, which make them psychologically and socially vulnerable; therefore, the Mental Health situation in Mexico has had a negative balance. According to the 2002 – 2010 National Survey of Psychiatric Epidemiology (Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatría Ramón de la Fuente, 2010), there are 15 million people suffering from a mental disorder compared to the three thousand health professionals trained to treat them in Mexico. Most of these professionals lack efficient strategies for promoting social justice and to reduce the external factors (e.g. stress, family disintegration, financial problems, unemployment, insecurity, discrimination, etc.) that determine psychological distress. Fortunately, in 2011 the Mental Health

Act for the Federal District was introduced in Mexico, stating that every person has the right to psychological well-being, identity, dignity, respect and a comprehensive psychological treatment in order to achieve an ideal social integration (Gobierno del Distrito Federal, 2011). However, the demand for services exceeds the supply by far. The challenge is enormous and requires highly skilled professionals to provide counseling services that meet the comprehensive needs of individuals.

Mexican mental health professionals still follow traditional counseling models which do not respond to the changing social justice needs of our nation. We urgently need to delve into the subject because statistics produced by several Mexican community centers for psychological services show a great need to address and protect the basic rights of human beings in a society by focusing not only on internal emotional needs of individuals, but also the external social and cultural factors directly linked to people's psychological well-being: domestic violence, addictions, bullying, poor school performance, employment discrimination, sexual abuse, institutional harassment, suicide, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, unemployment, school drop-outs, and self-mutilation, among others (Smith, Baluch, Bernabei, Robohm & Sheehy, 2003). Psychologists and counselors perpetuate injustice by overfocusing on individual factors to explain social behavior, which abstracts the individual from important sociohistorical contexts (Prilleltensky, 2008).

An exploratory research study was conducted to call attention to the urgent need for Social Justice counseling training that will translate into better trained Mexican professionals to face the mental health needs of the Mexican population.

Various focus groups with Mexican counsel-

ors and psychotherapists were conducted based around clinical interventions in 3 clinical cases regarding indigenous migration, child sexual abuse and high school bullying. A Social Justice perspective to intervene in those cases was also discussed.

Findings show the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors about the Social Justice Model within their own clinical practices. Information gathered shows the knowledge and opinions Mexican mental health professionals have:

1. Traditional models in Mexico place an emphasis on psychopathology as the cause of emotional problems, the external factors associated are ignored in the counseling intervention process.
2. The Social Justice approach appears to be counter-productive for clinical work: Neutrality is in danger; invasive in client's world; creates client dependence; not a duty of counselor.
3. The Social Justice perspective includes intervention strategies that go beyond the clinical traditional roles and produce resistance and fear of working with a Social Justice paradigm within a Justice bereft society.
4. This approach is detrimental for counselor's practice: Reduced income; time consuming; no solidarity among colleagues; burn out; frustration.
5. Sense of hopelessness that things can get better in an lawless country.

However, there is recognition among the participants of the focus groups of the need for specialized training and an ethical call to work toward the construction of a nation with stronger social justice. There is an urgent need for Social Justice counseling training that will translate into

better trained Mexican professionals to face the mental health needs of the Mexican population.

Graduate programs in the United States are pioneers in incorporating both the social justice competencies in training and research. One of the most successful programs is at George Mason University (Bemak & Chung, 2007; Bemak & Chung, 2011; Bemak, Chung, Talleyrand, Jones & Daquin, 2010; Chung & Bemak, 2012; Talleyrand, Chung & Bemak, 2006). GMU social justice training model has proved to be a very complete program in the academic bibliography, research documents and with plenty of empirical support. For instance, Drs. Fred Bemak and Rita Chung, academics from George Mason University (GMU), are the creators of the Multi-Phase Model of Psychotherapy, Counseling, Human Rights, and Social Justice. The MPM is a psychoeducational model that incorporates affective, behavioral, and cognitive intervention and prevention strategies that are rooted in cultural foundations and relate to social and community process and change. This program at GMU strives for national and international excellence in implementing a counseling perspective that provides a foundation in basic counseling skills and focuses on social justice, multiculturalism, internationalism, advocacy and leadership (Chung & Bemak, 2012).

In Mexico there is no research or training on this subject, therefore, being Mexican counselors or psychologists we urgently need to delve into the subject. We can follow the steps taken by the Counseling program at GMU to provide great enrichment to the syllabus of the Mexican training programs.

Mexican counselors and psychologists can become valid agents of social change, they may be called upon to advocate for their clients while also empowering them to face and to fight against

the various social barriers that have hitherto prevented the development of the opportunities in their lives (Sánchez-Corral, 2012).

## **Dr. ELSA SÁNCHEZ-CORRAL F.** **UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA**

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## 2015 CSJ Award Winners

1. Dr. Shawn Patrick (Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression Award).
2. Dr. Michael Hutchinson (Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression Award).
3. Dr. Judy Daniels (Dr. Judy Lewis Social Justice Award).
4. Dr. Peggy Brady-Amoon (Ohana Honors).
5. Dr. Larry Epp (Ohana Honors).
6. Dr. Arpana Inman (Ohana Honors).
7. Ms. Judy Harrow (Ohana Honors). *She is deceased. A faculty member from UCF will attend the luncheon and accept the award on her behalf.*
8. Dr. Michael Mobley (Reese House Social Justice Advocate Award).

### CSJ: 'Ohana Awards:

The CSJ 'Ohana Honors awards were created by Drs. Michael D'Andrea and Judy Daniels, Counselor Education faculty at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa, in 1994. They are given annually by CSJ at the American Counseling Association conference in the Spring each year to honor individuals in counseling who affirm diversity and advocate for social justice in the spirit of nine elements of the indigenous Hawai'ian concept of 'Ohana or extended family: Malama: Caring, Aloha: Unconditional Love, Ha'aha'a: Humility, Mana: Spiritual Power, Na'auuo: Intelligence, 'Olu'olu: Courtesy, Lokomaika'i: Generosity. Koa: Courage. Kuponono: Integrity, Honesty.

### Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression Award:

Dr. Mary Smith Arnold (1946-2003) was a cherished member of the counseling and human development professions and a founding mother of Counselors for Social Justice. She was active in civil rights struggles throughout her all too short life and a Counselor Educator on the faculties of Governors State and Kent State Universities specializing in Community and Couple, Marital, and Family Counseling. She was the co-creator of the Unlearning Oppression workshops, taught to thousands of students and colleagues around the world. An ally to all oppressed peoples, Dr. Arnold's spirit of expecting equity

and justice for all peoples was evident in her leadership roles in ACA as a CSJ Governing Council representative and in her work as co-chair of ACA's Public Policy and Legislation committee.

Nominees for this award are professional counselors and counselor educators who have an exemplary record of challenging multiple oppressions in the counseling professions as well as in their local schools and communities.

### The Reese House Social Justice Advocate of the Year Award:

Given in honor of a CSJ founding member, counselor educator, and former program director of The Education Trust's National Center for Transforming School Counseling and Oregon State University Counselor Education professor emeritus who fought tirelessly for equity for all children and youth K-16 in the transforming school counseling movement and in other social justice venues including LGBT equity and HIV/AIDS advocacy. Dr. House, who co-authored the ACA/CSJ Advocacy Competencies, died from throat and neck cancer in 2007. The awardee is given the opportunity to direct funding from the Reese House Memorial social justice advocacy fund toward a school counseling social justice nonprofit advocacy organization of their choosing. Dr. House's vision and memory lives on in the social justice advocacy school counseling/counselor education contributions of the recipients of this award.

*The Award Recipient will have: Demonstrated social justice advocacy for students in K-12 schools as well as the school counseling profession including commitment to closing achievement, opportunity, attainment and funding gaps and/or ensuring career and higher education readiness for all K-12 students. Made outstanding contributions to the counseling profession in social justice advocacy in K-12 schools and/or school counselor education.*

### Dr. Judy Lewis Counselors for Social Justice Award:

This award is in honor of Dr. Judy Lewis who was a founder of CSJ, a past president of ACA, and a visionary social justice leader. Judy was feisty, determined, and an advocate for social justice within marginalized communities, working with women and youth, promoting advocacy within the counseling profession, and working on national political campaigns. She was a prolific writer and always wove advocacy; social justice; empowerment; anti-oppression; power dynamics; critical analysis; and community based counseling, into all of her published works. She was a doer and creator, and she was always willing to take the lead and challenge the status quo.

*Recognizes a person (or persons) who has engaged in social justice and advocacy aimed at making the lives of others and/or communities better through empowerment, community organizing, and/or systems change through active engagement. Nominations for this award are assessed by the ACA Awards Committee and two representatives from Counselors for Social Justice. (\$500 honorarium)*

### Award Winner Brief Bio/Summary

**Dr. Shawn Patrick** is an associate professor at Texas State University.

When I think of Dr. Shawn Patrick, my thoughts quickly turn to words like influential, inspirational, deeply dedicated, knowledgeable, and compassionate. Over the years, Dr. Patrick has facilitated countless diversity workshops, taught graduate counseling courses, served on CSJ committees and other similar service, and written numerous articles with social justice related themes. She has founded and tirelessly gives to a Counselors for Social Justice student group which has developed a rich and respected presence in the counseling program, the university, and the community as an action oriented organization dedicated to equality and human rights issues. Gaining an international reputation, Dr. Patrick has developed many innovative teaching practices which aid in illuminating power and privilege, marginalization, and (in)justice. Dr. Patrick has also recently completed a social justice feature documentary called 'Parrhesia' or bold, fearless speech. 1

think the title of her film is what is truly remarkable about Shawn, fearless, bold speech for the betterment of others. It truly is amazing what she has done and is doing. But what is more extraordinary about her is the compassion and care she shows her students and her community. They are genuinely inspired by her passion, authenticity and humility. They are changed in knowing her. Personally, I am continually moved by her deeply held and humble belief that people are wonderful and the world is capable of living in equality. In the end, she inspires me and she deserves to be recognized for her amazing work and her amazing spirit. Please consider awarding her Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression Award.

### **Dr. Michael Hutchinson**

Michael has been active in the American Counseling Association (ACA) and has served as the first Chair of the ACA Human Rights Committee. He has also served as the founding president of Counselors for Social Justice; is a past-president of the Association for Specialists in Group Work; and is a past-chair of the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling. He has written extensively and has presented workshops focused on the ACA Advocacy Competencies and social justice counseling. His most recent international presentations were at the Reconciliation Summit in Amman, Jordan, which was sponsored by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in December, 2009; group work training for mental health professionals in Beijing, China in April, 2010; and cross-cultural group work in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2011 and 2012. He also served on the City of Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Commission. His most recent writing have been in the area of group work and spirituality, post-colonial family counseling, and story-telling and spiritual healing. Michael has retired from private practice and is now a gentleman of leisure committed to continuing his work and writing in the area of social justice advocacy.

**Dr. Judy Daniels** is a professor from University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Judy Daniels is a founder of CSJ and a visionary social justice leader. In fact, the description of Judy Lewis as "feisty, determined, and an advocate for social justice within marginalized communities" is also an apt description of Judy Daniels.

In addition to her long history of effective and culturally congruent work with women, youth, and other marginalized persons, Judy Daniels, who has served as a member of faculty at the University of Hawaii since 1990, is a recognized visionary, leader, advocate, and role model for advocacy within and for the counseling profession and in the community. She is principled, collaborative, and a tireless advocate and activist for social justice. In the true spirit of servant leadership, Judy Daniels often works behind the scenes, generously encouraging and giving others credit, so few are aware of her many accomplishments. We believe this award would be a fitting tribute to Dr. Lewis' legacy as well as Dr. Daniels' past and continuing work.

Judy Daniels is a past-president of CSJ and currently serves as CSJ's representative to the ACA Governing Council. She previously served on the board of the Hawaii Counseling Association and is past president of two Hawaii branches: the Associations for Counselor Education & Supervision and Multicultural Counseling & Development.

**Dr. Peggy Brady-Amoon** is an associate professor at Seton Hall

Dr. Peggy Brady-Amoon demonstrated the Ohana qualities in her work and in every aspect of who she is as a person. Some of her personal qualities are courage, humility, integrity, generosity, care, and intelligence. Peggy has been a committed social justice advocate for many years and she uses her vast experiences to train her students about how to address injustice and oppression and advocate for systemic change. She is a committed and engaged intellectual who works on both grassroots and institutional levels to effect change. Recently, Peggy has been very active in ensuring that all counselors regardless of training and accreditation are allowed equal access to licensure and practice rights. She was instrumental in working towards inclusive

accreditation opportunities for students and faculty who needed alternative and inclusive opportunities. She has worked with CSJ in providing advocacy leadership training at the CSJ giving back to the community projects at ACA conferences. Peggy also was a pivotal leader in the New Jersey advocacy efforts to support all counselors and in doing so she gave generously of her time.

Peggy has the courage to stand up to injustice and the creativity and intelligence to develop advocacy strategies to implement effective change strategies. She is not afraid to fight for what she believes is right but she does so in a very caring and humble way. Integrity and a calm demeanor are always at the forefront of what she does. With this combination of qualities and her deep commitment to social justice advocacy, she is able to implement significant change initiatives and engage others to join with her in these efforts.

**Dr. Larry Epp** is the director of the director of school mental health services in Maryland, and president of the statewide Professional Association for Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors in the state of Maryland. It advocates for LCPCs and LGPCs by working to enhance opportunities for professional growth, employment, clinical competency, parity and legislative equity, while ensuring that quality mental health treatment services are available and accessible to those we serve. President, Legislation & Professional Development (Ohana Honors).

Dr. Larry Epp is a very soft spoken, caring, and genuine professional counselor. He is a person of integrity and he cares deeply for the counseling profession. He is the longest serving President of the Maryland Chapter of AMHCA, completing his fourth year in that office. His focus over the four years has been to preserve the practice rights of Maryland Counselors and to advocate at the state and national levels for full practice rights for non-CACREP Counselors. (The majority of Maryland's graduate programs were non-CACREP). He organized the testimony before TRICARE officials that helped insure non-CACREP counselors nationally were not dropped as TRICARE providers. He helped found with Michael

Reeder, Advocacy Director, and the state association board, Concerned Counselors, a national website to raise consciousness about the potential restrictions of practice of the CACREP only movement.

In addition, Larry was one of the first non-minority Presidents of the Maryland Chapter of AMCD and a past president and vice president of the DC Chapter of AMHCA. He has worked for 20 years as a counselor, supervisor, and program director in school based mental health programs. He directs the Mental Health Program with the Linkages to Learning Program at Family Services, which was named outstanding organization of 2014 by the City of Gaithersburg. In these efforts, he has worked for 20 years, as a social justice advocate with poor and vulnerable youth to insure their mental health needs are met. Although his focus has primarily been a practicing counselor, he is also a scholar. He has co-authored, with Clemmont Vontress, the book Cross-Cultural Counseling: A Case Book and with Roy Moodley and Humair Yusuf, the book Counseling Across the Cultural Divide.

**Dr. Arpana Inman** is a professor at Leigh University

Dr. Arpana Inman has dedicated herself to social justice and multicultural advocacy through both her research and her community service activities. Dr. Inman's scholastic and research interests are in the areas of multicultural issues and South Asian-Asian American concerns. Specifically, these interests span several topics including immigrant experiences, acculturation, cultural identities, the psychology of women, and multicultural competencies in supervision, training, and social justice advocacy.

In so many ways Arpana is a model for the qualities reflected in the CSJ Ohana award. She is courageous in her advocacy work and willing to take risks in order to serve the greater good. Frequently standing up for fairness and equity, she is able to communicate clearly and ensure equity and access for all individuals in the face of great opposition.

Dr. Inman has been an educator for over 20 years. In this role she has been a highly respected role model for generations

of masters and doctoral students. She leads by example with humility and care. She is able to model both respect and inclusivity of diverse perspectives and yet still set firm boundaries on issues of integrity and professionalism. Dr. Inman has a calm, unwavering, intelligent, and steadfast demeanor. Her leadership style exudes clarity and balance.

**Ms. Judy Harrow (Ohana Honors).** While she is no longer with us physically, her work continues to live on.

Helped ASERVIC and AAPC appreciate diversity. Applied professional counseling to Wiccan clergy training (in-person, through her book *Spiritual Mentoring*, and her contributions in *The Pagan Book of Living and Dying*).

**Caring & Generosity:** Long-term service to counseling, interfaith, and religious organizations. Travelled to teach when frail.

**Unconditional Love & Courtesy:** Two years associate producer of WBAI radio program "Reconnections" doing segments on religious progressives of all faiths. Earned respect of Christian ministers, AAPC, and ASERVIC members.

**Humility:** When we taught a pastoral counseling intensive she was embarrassing in praise of ME despite my learning everything from HER. Would roll out class exercises as though trivial, not realizing that she invented them. I still use them.

**Spiritual Power:** Founder of a branch of Wicca. Wrote best book on pastoral counseling. Member of National Advisory Board of the Consultation on Multifaith Education and the steering committee of the Interfaith Council of Greater NY. Multiple national Covenant of the Goddess (CoG) positions & explained it greatly. Chair-emeritus of the Pastoral Counseling Department at Cherry Hill Seminary.

**Intelligence:** Published in AHP Perspective and Counseling and Values. Teaching, counseling, writing, leading a religious movement, and functioning in organizations require intellect.

**Courage:** First Wiccan legally registered clergy in NYC,

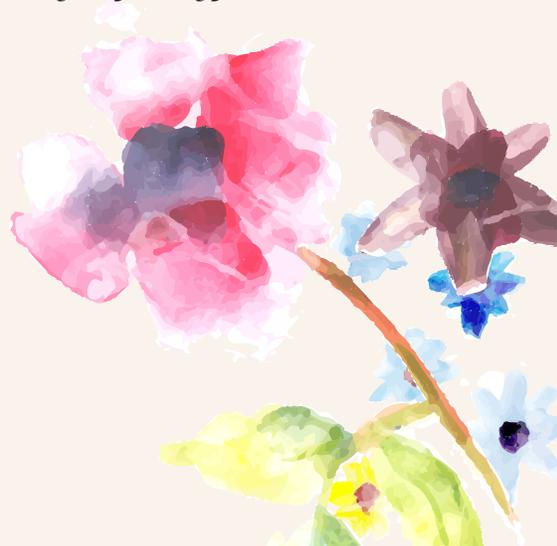
after five-year effort requiring NY Civil Liberties Union. Co-wrote Wiccan chaplains manual for US military. On delegation to 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions. Board member for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

**Integrity, Honesty:** Always.

**Dr. Michael Mobley** is an Associate Professor at Salem State University.

Dr. Michael Mobley embraces all that the Reese House award symbolizes. In his work he demonstrates the courage to speak out about injustices and his advocacy efforts are always framed with humility, grace, and integrity. Perhaps his greatest gift is how he weaves a sense of caring and respect into his interactions with others and his advocacy efforts in working with young people. Over his career he has worked tirelessly at promoting multicultural and social justice advocacy initiatives.

Dr. Mobley's expertise and research interests include multicultural counseling competencies, perfectionism, scale development, and investigating risks and protective factors mediating resilience among culturally diverse adolescents in community and school settings. Michael has the ability to merge research with practice in community and school engagement efforts. There are many examples of how he has work tirelessly in addressing the needs of marginalized people and I will be focusing on a few aspects of his work with youth. He is currently serving as President of the Society of Counseling Psychology.



# *The Development of Professional Counseling in Uganda*

## Development of professional counseling in Uganda

The most pressing mental health issue over the last two decades has been the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its consequences which have led to stress, anxiety, grief and depression for the infected and affected (Senyonyi, et al, 2012). In addition, traumas due to political upheavals, war and torture, domestic violence and child abuse resulting from family dysfunction, leave many in Uganda in need of psychosocial support (Ojiambo, et al, 2014). In the recent past many adolescents and young adults have been caught up in a cycle of stress, anxiety and depression as they struggle to reconcile the expectations of modernity and the traditional values their parents pass on to and expect of them. In the midst of these challenges, substance abuse and the resultant dysfunctional behavior flourish. Without sensitization and adequate systems that provide universal education and reduce school dropouts, many teenagers and youths without intending to, become addicts.

The educational issues often faced by counselors are related to the mental health issues mentioned above. Many students are direct victims who have faced these mental health challenges. They become indirect victims when parents or significant others suffer these mental health problems. Counselors also address the traditional career guidance challenges such as clients' learning problems, developmental difficulties, problem behavior that interferes with learning, and challenges related to family dysfunction.

Significant contribution to the development of professional counseling in Uganda, will be the process of contextualizing counselor training and influencing policies related to counseling. As a counselor educator and supervisor in a country where counseling is an emerging professional field, there are concerns with the cultural implications of the adoption of theoretical training models and curriculum from the western countries in which the counseling profession has developed (Gong, 2003; Leung, & Chen 2009). It will be important to investigate the implications of this situation on counselor competence and practice (Alvarez, & Lee 2012).

As stated by Jain and Gressard (2014), while moving to a global definition and understanding of counseling, the profession's intention is to support counselor preparation programs around the world to be in keeping with their own country's culture as well as "the broad tenets of education and training common to the practice of counseling across cultures" (p. 76). Research and practice will contribute to counselor competence by informing the interface between training and practice with contextual cultural norms and values. Ongoing research in this area, will yield the development of counselor training models that are responsive to clients' unique needs and cultural outlook in Uganda and globally.



## Assessment of assets and barriers in developing professional counseling

An important asset to the development of professional counseling in Uganda is that counseling as an approach to human development and problem solving, is rooted in the traditional family set-up and community social system (Senyonyi, Ochieng & Sells 2012). The gradual disintegration of these informal means of support and assistance due to individualization and urbanization across my country necessitates the development of professional counseling. Formal institutions in Uganda are recognizing the need and the importance of counseling. The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOE) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) have crafted policies that reflect the importance of counseling (MOE, 2010; MOH, 2005).

The challenges that accompany individualization, urbanization and globalization are ripening the Ugandan setting for the development of professional counseling and this is reflected in mushrooming counselor training programs in various contexts and institutions (Senyonyi, et al, 2012). Through a long process, a national counseling association is now in place (Uganda Counseling Association [UCA]). The association has established an ethical code and seeks to regulate counselor-training programs in higher institutions of learning (UCA 2010). Regulating the training of counselors enhances counselor competence, practice and professionalism (Alvarez, & Lee 2012).

The major barrier to the development of professional counseling in Uganda is in the area of counselor training. In various contexts counselor training programs have been developed and implemented with minimal or no regulation and supervision (UCA 2010). The crafting of programs

and the training of counselors has been mainly spearheaded by professionals from related fields such as educational and organizational psychologists, psychiatrists or social workers, who developed programs reflective of their own professional perspectives. The programs vary greatly in terms of knowledge and skills to be mastered by the student depending on the creators. The graduates of these new programs then took over the administration of the programs and followed the pattern set by their mentors. As a result, a solid counselor identity is sorely lacking.

Although the UCA is seeking the mandate to regulate the programs (UCA 2010), there are challenges that have to be addressed for effective regulation to be realized. A critical challenge to the process is the lack of qualified personnel, such as counselor educators and counselors with doctorates in specialized fields (Ojiambo and Bratton 2014; Senyonyi, et al., 2012). Enforcement of accreditation standards on institutions that lack and cannot find qualified counselor educators, at a time when the population is in critical need of counseling services is unrealistic. In my opinion, until a critical mass of counselor educators is gradually developed, the quality of training for counselors will remain compromised.

As an emerging profession, counseling is facing the challenge of organizing baseline resources that more established disciplines enjoy in institutions of higher learning. Needed resources include, proper infrastructure (to house programs and training clinics), relatively adequate training equipment and materials, and student scholarships. Institutions of higher learning and the government of Uganda have more pressing needs and challenges that make counseling programs a non-priority area. Continued advocacy from counselor educators can assist in making

the UCA full charge of accreditation and of the practice of counseling. This will be critical step in overcoming other barriers in the development of professional counseling.

**Mary Jacinta Nekesa**

**University of Wyoming**

**Sachin Jain, PhD, LPC**

**University of South Dakota**

## What is the Call of Conscience?

The “Call of Conscience” is a term that was popularized during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. This concept continues to be used today by various human rights leaders when calling together persons in the general citizenry as well as people in different groups and organizations to work together to foster a greater level of justice, sanity, and peace in our nation and global society.

As a “calling” this concept is aimed at uniting people, who work to foster justice and peace in our world as individuals and/or in various groups and organizations. However, the power of such efforts is often lost as a result of the fragmented and disconnected work of such individuals and groups. By responding to the “Call of Conscience” in a unified manner, people are able to maximize their collective potential in addressing the injustices that are known to adversely impact the healthy development of individuals in marginalized and de-valued groups by ameliorating such injustices in more powerful and collective ways.

With this brief backdrop in mind, the present “Call of Conscience” is being made to connect citizens in our society in general and members of the mental health and education professions in particular. People familiar with this concept understand that the process of the “Call of conscience” begins by bringing together a small group of people who are interested in trying new and more effective ways to realize a greater level of justice and peace in our society by working collectively with one another.

Through a process of developing a clear vi-

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sion, purpose, and direction, people who heed the “Call of Conscience” are able to expand their numbers in ways that can ultimately result in a mass movement comprised of persons from diverse groups all striving to achieve shared goals.

The first formal “Call of Conscience” took place on Friday, March 13, 2015 during the annual ACA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. At this meeting the persons in attendance agreed to support the National/International Coalition-Building Initiative (Please see the link for this project for more details).

Over the next year, we will cross professional boundaries by reaching out to national social work organizations, psychology associations, social justice organizations, multicultural associations, religious communities, universities, and other institutions whose members may be interested in joining the “Call of Conscience.”

Knowing how many activities and commitments people have going in their lives, a unique aspect of this Call of Conscience is NOT to ask people to agree to work 100% more on 2 or more projects, but rather to commit themselves to participate with others by agreeing to volunteer 2.5% - 5% more of the time they spend at work each week as participants in various action strategies that underlie the Call of Conscience. Assuming that many people work a 40 hour work week (which most of us work much longer) this translates into 1 to 2 hours of volunteer energy being directed to achieve shared goals among those persons who heed the Call of Conscience.

All persons are invited to join in the Call of Conscience movement. More specific information and resources that are relevant for this initiative are available on the Social Justice Creations

website.

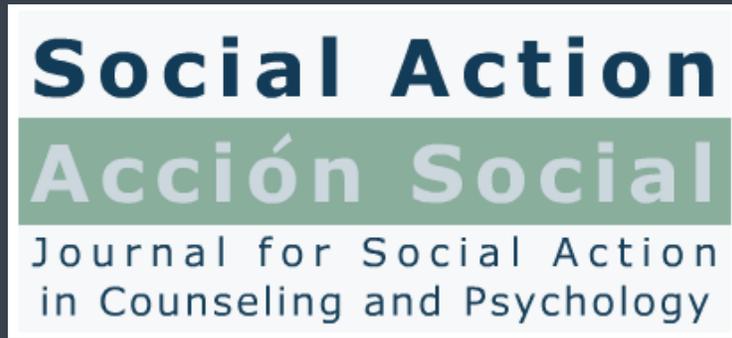
The Social Justice Creations website is the newest project that has been developed to facilitate the organization and implementation of a broad range of social justice service projects and volunteer endeavors across the country and in other nations around the world. The launch date for this new social justice website is mid June 2015.

A personal invitation will be extended to all CSJ members to visit the new Social Justice Creations website and consider taking advantage of the many free resources which will soon be offered. This includes free webinars, free MP3 resources that support the multicultural-social justice counseling and advocacy movements, and other free resources which we hope will increase our efforts to develop and implement more service projects in our communities and nationally as we expand our membership in CSJ to impact our society and promote justice and peace.

Persons interested in learning more about the Call of Conscience project and the Social Justice Creations website can contact Michael D’Andrea at the following email address: [michaeldandrea@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeldandrea@yahoo.com)

**Michael D’Andrea**





It is also important to everyone about the Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology (<http://jsacp.tumblr.com/>).

The mission of the journal remains intact – it is to promote

deep reflection on community change and system transformation in which counselors, psychologists, and other human service professionals play a role. The journal aims to highlight ‘engaged scholarship’ and the very important social change work done by professionals and activists that would not normally find its way into publication. The journal attempts to break down the divide between theory and practice in one of the most critical areas of our work: social transformation toward social justice and peace and accepts articles in English and Spanish. Our dues continue to help pay for this journal which remains free and with open access for everyone, consistent with our social justice mission. Sponsoring organizations continue to be Psychologists for Social Responsibility and Counselors for Social Justice. Many thanks to Rebecca Toporek and Tod Sloan for their fantastic job editing this journal for the last 10 years!

Dr. Fred Bemak

George Mason University