



CSJ Activist

Newsletter of Counselors for Social Justice,
a Division of the American Counseling Association

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Social Justice Emphasized in Counselor Education and Supervision Preparation: An Interview with Judi Durham, ACES President By Denise Pickering

I recently had the opportunity to talk with Judi Durham, Ph.D., President of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), a division of the American Counseling Association, about the focus on social justice that ACES has highlighted in the last few years. Judi shared that she thinks this emphasis “has always been there but it wasn’t articulated.” She made the comparison to the growth of the multicultural movement in counseling stating that: “there were people who held that value for a very long time but it wasn’t until fifteen years ago that as a profession we embraced and articulated those values. I think that the same is true with social justice in ACES...the valuing of social justice has been there for a long time.” She acknowledged that she wasn’t sure why a social justice emphasis had not been articulated previously but decided that it would be a part of her service and leadership on the ACES Executive Council. Her commitment to this is evidenced by the fact that ACES, a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA), has identified the theme: *Vanguards for Change: ACES Social Justice* for their upcoming conference in Columbus, OH from October 10-14, 2007. Many of the education sessions will address social justice and Dr. Courtland Lee, President of the International Association for Counselling, will be the keynote speaker. The conference will conclude with a Social Justice Summit on October 14, 2007.

A synopsis of events that led to the current focus on social justice in ACES was outlined during our conversation. According to Judi, the 2003 ACES Executive Council meeting focused on redoing the Vision Statement in order to adopt a Strategic Plan for ACES. “In that meeting, we adopted the language that ACES should be the ‘vanguards for change’. We discussed this at length to make sure that some sort of phraseology that gave voice to a multicultural or diverse society be included. It was

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CSJ President’s Update Hugh C. Crethar, President University of Arizona

It is a great honor to serve you in the capacity of President of Counselors for Social Justice this year. As some of you may have noted, I briefly reported CSJ’s seven goals for the coming year in *Counseling Today*. In this first edition of the newsletter during my time serving as President, I thought it would be helpful to clarify a little more on these goals. We, the leadership of CSJ hope to continue to carry out the mission of CSJ to readjust the focus of counseling to an agenda that brings increased equity, access, participation and harmony for all.

Specific areas of concentration for CSJ in 2007-2008 include:

1. Increased inclusion of membership in social justice work, presentations, writing, and other activities.
 - a. We have developed a great Day of Learning for the ACA Convention. It will include presentations by leaders in multicultural counseling from the board of the National Institute of Multicultural Competence (NIMC) as well as leading researchers in social justice as it applies to counseling and counselor education.
 - b. We also are about to launch our new peer-reviewed journal, *Social Action/Acción Social: Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology*. This journal is being produced in a joint venture with the leaders of Psychologists for Social Responsibility. We are very appreciative of the good work of

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clear that multiculturalism and social justice were part of our values and part of what we wanted to make sure was clear in all counselor education and supervision.” From this meeting, subsequent discussions and committees worked on aligning the Strategic Plan with the Vision Statement so these values were clearly articulated. Judi noted that “by happenstance, that Strategic Plan was not adopted and so we’re again at the place of needing to articulate a Strategic Plan (for ACES).”

This led us to discussing the Social Justice Summit that will close the ACES 2007 Conference on October 14, from 9AM-12PM. This event is designed to be an opportunity to gather together to not only talk about social justice, but also discuss strategies that people are using to emphasize social justice in counselor and supervisor preparation. Judi shared part of her hope for the Summit is that social justice “will become a household word...the articulation of the value becomes more clear. And then there will be real strategies. We’re saying we value this, we’re talking about this, but how do we make sure that it’s infused into all of Counselor Education? How do we make sure that it’s infused into all of supervision so that it’s just not something that’s just talked about but something we actually put into practice and do?” The many leaders in counseling and CSJ that have contributed to the planning of the Social Justice Summit hope that it will serve as a springboard for future summits and subsequent development of theory, pedagogy, and research on social justice in the counseling profession. More about the Social Justice Summit at the ACES 2007 Conference can be found by going to: <http://acesonline.net/features.asp?feature-id=913433921>.

The ACES 2007 Conference has the potential to be an amazing educational experience. Thanks to Judi Durham and ACES leadership for emphasizing social justice as integral to the work that we do as counselors by identifying it as the 2007 ACES Conference theme. Learn more about the ACES 2007 Conference at: <http://www.aces2007.net/>.

Call for Articles:

We are in need of articles for this coming year.

Please submit articles related to social justice issues.

Below are the due dates for submissions.

October 14

December 14

March 14

May 14

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Newly Elected Leaders of CSJ

**Eric Green,
CSJ President Elect**



Hello. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Eric Green, and I am President-Elect of CSJ. Vivian McCollum got me interested and involved in this organization several years ago while she was mentoring me through my doctoral program at the University of New Orleans. I was born and raised in South Louisiana my entire life. Being an active member of this organization, I have completed advocacy duties throughout my professional career, including working at the Child Advocacy Center in New Orleans where I counseled children who were sexually abused. My current role is as professor at Johns Hopkins University, where I train graduate students in advocacy and child psychotherapy with traumatized children. I am honored and humbled to be your upcoming president. Please let me know if you need anything, as we try to formulate a plan and vision for the 2008-2009 year.



**Serving the CSJ Family
Manivong Ratts, PhD, NCC**

It is truly an honor for me to serve as the new treasurer of Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ). I have been a member of CSJ since its inception. However, I was never actively involved in the organization until the 2004 ACA Conference in Kansas City, MO. It was at this conference that I decided to attend the CSJ board meeting. I wanted to be more actively involved in helping shape the social justice counseling movement and meet colleagues of like mind. Being at this meeting was refreshing as I met people who shared similar social justice values as myself.

I joined CSJ in 1999 because I believed we needed to transform the counseling profession if we are to truly eradicate society of oppression and empower those we serve. I learned that traditional counseling paradigms, which are based on Eurocentric values and beliefs, were limiting at best when addressing oppressive social structures. I truly believe that if we are to eradicate society of oppression than we need to use alternative paradigms that are centered on multicultural, feminist, and social justice dynamics. In other words, we can no longer continue using the master's tools if we want to dismantle the master's house. CSJ has been important in helping to make social justice a clearer presence in the profession.

In terms of myself- I am a social activist, a refugee, and I am Laotian American. I was born in Vientiane, Laos and immigrated to the United States as a refugee in 1976. My family and I immigrated to the United States because of the Vietnam War. I share these events and experiences because they form the foundation for why I do social justice work. Currently, I work as an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology at Seattle University. My writing and research are in the area of social justice, the advocacy competencies, anti-oppression work, transforming school counseling, and social justice education.



**Rhonda Bryant,
CSJ Community Representative**



My name is Rhonda Bryant and I am pleased to serve as CSJ's Community Representative for 2007-2008. I would like to take this opportunity to share a bit about myself with the CSJ membership.

Currently, I am an associate professor of school counseling at Albany State University, located in Albany, GA. I have been a counselor educator since 2000, having earned my Ph.D. at the University of Virginia in Counselor Education. I have been a member of the American Counseling Association for many years and I am pleased to serve as a leader in CSJ. My primary goal for the upcoming year includes raising the visibility of CSJ within the ACA and national communities. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

If you would like to contact me, my e-mail address is rhonda.bryant@asurams.edu.

Explanation of Elected Leadership for CSJ

I am writing this section of the *CSJ Activist* in an effort to bring clarity to the entire membership about which leadership positions are elected, how long the terms are for each position, and when the next positions are due for nominations. It is my hope that this will aid in encouraging membership activity in CSJ leadership as well as bring greater transparency to the process.

Below is a grid the Board has devised to clarify all elected leadership positions in CSJ, how long we are in office, and when each office will require new leadership. The second column, labeled "Board for 07-08" clarifies current elected leadership, with each subsequent column clarifying positions already filled and those that are available.

CSJ Board of Directors Grid

	<u>Board for 07-08</u>	<u>Board for 08-09</u>	<u>Board for 09-10</u>	<u>Board for 10-11</u>	<u>Board for 11-12</u>
Past President	Torres-Rivera	Crethar	Green	***	###
President	Crethar	Green	***	###	@@@
President Elect	Green	***	###	@@@	&&&
GC Rep.	Lopez-Baez	Lopez-Baez	###	###	###
Communications	Pickering	***	***	@@@	@@@
Retiree Rep.	Jackson	***	***	@@@	@@@
Student Rep.	Snow	***	***	@@@	@@@
Treasurer	Ratts	Ratts	###	###	&&&
Community Rep.	Bryant	Bryant	###	###	&&&
Counselor Rep.	Vargas	Vargas	###	###	&&&

The below grid clarifies when nominations are due to ACA for a given position. Please note that the color and symbol is intended to be used to match up with the above grid.

Nomination Due Date	Election Month	Positions up for election
4/07	12/07	***
4/08	12/08	###
4/09	12/09	@@@
4/10	12/10	&&&

"Not everything that is faced can be changed.
 But nothing can be changed until it is faced."
 ~ James Baldwin

As for the elections to come, nominations were due over 3 months ago. Nominations for the next elected positions this coming year were as follows:

President Elect

Michael D'Andrea
Cher Edwards

Communications Officer

Nicole R. Hill

Graduate Student Representative

Megan Reibel
Zulema I. Suarez

Retiree Representative

Judy Lewis

Nominee statements for each of the above nominees will be published in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

Although the 2009 elections seem many months away, I would like the membership to know that ACA expects us to have our ballot ready to go a few weeks after the convention in Hawaii in 2008. Please realize that all board positions require a minimum 2 year commitment, with expectations of meeting regularly with the board online as well as in person at the ACA convention. Board members are also expected to serve actively on various committees to help CSJ be successful and effective. All members of CSJ should consider recruiting nominees for the following positions for terms beginning in 2009:

- ◆ President Elect (3 year term)
- ◆ Governing Council Representative (3 year term)
- ◆ Treasurer (2 year term)
- ◆ Community Representative (2 year term)
- ◆ Counselor Representative (2 year term)

Nominations go through the elected board. We will not be accepting them until after the winter holidays. A reminder will come in this newsletter as well as the CSJ Listserv. I hope this is helpful information. If it is not, feel invited to contact me or any other elected board member with your questions.

*Education is
the most
powerful
weapon which
you can use
to change the
world.*

*- Nelson
Mandela*



Hugh Crethar at ACA in Detroit.

President's Update (Cont. from Page 1)

Rebecca Toporek and Tod Sloan in editing this new peer reviewed journal! They can be reached at: rtoporek@sfsu.edu & sloan@lclark.edu.

- c. For a third year, we are working with NIMC to offer free training to members of the community of the ACA convention hosting city. The CSJ Liaison to this service is Michael Chaney, of Oakland University. He can be reached at chaney@oakland.edu. We would like to see many CSJ members, if not most who attend the convention, involved in this service. It has been a great experience the past few times.
2. Continued local, state, and regional chapter and affiliate development and involvement.
 - a. We are working on developing some changes to the CSJ bylaws that would bring more clarity to the process of inclusion of state chapters. We also intend to propose a board position to give representation to state chapters.
 - b. We are excited by the continued development of state chapters. The most recent development is that of Texas Counselors for Social Justice, which is being developed as a division of the Texas Counseling Association. Anyone interested in this developing chapter, contact Selma Yznaga, a recent 'Ohana recipient, at Selma.Yznaga@utb.edu.
 - c. We hope to be including chapter updates in future editions of this newsletter.
 - d. CSJ is working with the Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors in the development of the first Social Justice Summit to be held at the ACES national conference in Columbus, Ohio on the morning of October 13th. The summit is being organized under the direction of our wonderful ACES President Judi Durham, with Denise Pickering at the helm. I am quite sure it will be a memorable and pivotal day in counselor education.
3. Teaming with other associations and chapters of ACA in projects focused on social justice as related to counseling and counselor education.
 - a. See 1, c. and 1, b. We hope to add to this list and are very open to ideas from the membership as well as members of other associations.
4. Improved membership communication and contact.
 - a. Under the leadership of our President Elect, Eric Green, a membership committee has been developed. The committee is currently developing a "welcome packet" for new members as better organized responses to membership developments. One of the things that should be coming out of this committee is a certificate of membership. We hope to be able to send it to new members soon. If you have questions or suggestions for this committee, please email Eric at ericgreen@jhu.edu.
 - b. A CSJ listserv was created by Edil Torres Rivera last year and is still up and running. We should be posting instructions on how to get on and off the listserv on the website shortly. In the meantime, if any of you want to join it, please contact Edil at edil0001@ufl.edu.
 - c. As you may have noticed, we have two Editors for the *CSJ Activist* newsletter this year. Laurie Vargas, of San Francisco, has graciously accepted the responsibility for another year and is being joined by Zulema Suarez, of Tucson. It is my understanding that they plan on releasing 4 editions of the newsletter throughout this year. They may be contacted at l.vargas@earthlink.net & zulemais@gmail.com.
 - d. We are also in the process of reviving the website, under the direction of Denise Pickering, our hard-working Communication Officer. Any and all changes to the website are to continue to run through Denise. Our website is <http://www.counselorsforsocialjustice.com> and Denise may be contacted at Denise.Pickering@uvm.edu.
5. Further dissemination of social justice scholarship about sociopolitical and economic inequities facing counselors and clients/students in schools and communities.
6. Updating the bylaws to reflect needed changes.
7. Maintaining an active support network online and in person for engaging in social justice activities in schools and communities.

Simply put, we are hoping to see this year in CSJ as a year of building better unity and community within our ranks as well as increased productivity and activity. It is our hope that you, our fellow members of CSJ will contact us and seek ways to become involved and help us make a difference in counseling and counselor education. I hope to be able to serve you this year in a way that brings us closer together and makes us more effective. If you would like to contact me, email me at crethar@u.arizona.edu.



ACA Convention Scheduling: CSJ Day of Learning Presentation Titles & Presenters (3/29/08)

We are excited to announce the presentations for our upcoming “Day of Learning” at the ACA Conference!

“Introduction to Action Research for Counselors: A Social Justice Approach”

- ◆ Tod Sloan

“What We Must Do and Why We Can’t Wait: Practical Strategies to Transform the Counseling Profession”

- ◆ Patricia Arredondo, Derald Wing Sue, Judy A. Daniels, Thomas Parham, Michael J. D'Andrea, Beverly O'Bryant, Allen E. Ivey & Mary Bradford Ivey

“Preparing Counselors for Social Justice: A National Study of CACREP-accredited Counselor Education Programs”

- ◆ Manivong Ratts & Michael Anthony Ingram

“Counselor Trainees’ Social Justice Awareness, Readiness, and Initiatives”

- ◆ Danica G. Hays & Catherine Y. Chang



Your Editors

A warm welcome to a new year of CSJ. My name is **Laurie Vargas** and I am delighted to serve CSJ as the Counselor Representative. CSJ has been an excellent opportunity for me to meet like-minded individuals. Also within CSJ I serve as co-chair of the Awards Committee, chair of the By-Laws committee, and one of the editors of the CSJ Activist.



Currently I am employed as a Learning Support Professional (aka Counselor) with San Francisco Unified School District while pursuing my MFT license. I am honored to be serving on the board of CSJ and hope to have conversations with many of you regarding the work being done in the trenches. Feel free to contact me at anytime, as we are always interested in articles from our colleagues. Thank you.



Hello! My name is **Zulema Suarez**, and I am an elementary school counselor in Tucson, Arizona. I am half Latina and half Native American (from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe). I am currently a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program at the University of Arizona. I want to stay in the field of school counseling, possibly working with school counselors at a district level.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and work with you this year!

A Note from the Editors

Hello Fellow Activists!

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve you. We invite you to submit your articles or comments to either one of us. We would like to know about the good work you are doing in your schools and communities. We need more articles to publish in the newsletter. We will be publishing a total of five newsletters this year, one newsletter every nine weeks. Please check the submission due dates and get your articles in to get published.



Cactus Flower

If you have any question or comments please feel free to contact either one of us.

Thank you!

Laurie Vargas
L.vargas@earthlink.net

Zulema Suarez
zulemais@gmail.com



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CSJ Elected Leadership

President:	Hugh Crethar
President-Elect:	Eric Green
Past President:	Edil Torres Rivera
Communication Officer:	Denise Pickering
Treasurer:	Manivong Ratts
ACA Gov. Council Rep.:	Sandra Lopez-Baez
Graduate Student Rep.:	Kim Snow
Retiree Rep.:	Anita Jackson
Community Rep.:	Rhonda Bryant
Counselor Rep.:	Laurie Vargas