



CSJ Activist

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

VOL. 6, NO. 2

MARCH, 2006

The Future of CSJ

Edil Torres Rivera, CSJ President Elect
University of Florida

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As my time to serve as the Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) President approaches, I am beginning to think about my time to serve and, in an effort to better serve, I have been asking CSJ members around me how the association can improve or be of better service to the organization. The response to what concerns most of the membership of CSJ does not surprise me, but it does represent a big challenge, given that I only have a short year. This means that if I want to "walk the walk" I must act on their concern now. The concern that the membership expressed was communication

and transparency. In other words, CSJ members want to see more communication about what their elected leaders are doing in relationship to the motions that CSJ has made to ACA, the legislation, or the profession in the name of social justice. That is they want to receive regular correspondence from CSJ in one form or another.

In the quest to provide a solution to this problem, I am proposing a number of action items for this coming year. The **first** action item that I want to propose is in tune with Dr. Hutchins' motion in which CSJ redefined Social Justice to be a

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Students Advocating for Greater Empowerment: Finding Our Voice

Elizabeth Foster, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Sit up straight! Look at me when I'm talking to you! Work quietly now. These are the tenets of appropriate student behavior. Despite aspects of cultural insensitivity and inequity, students absorb and reflect these social mores and become passive participants in the education created for their benefit and development. While many of these directives fade by the time a student enters graduate school, a lingering sense of deference often remains. This sense of receiving rather than creating educational opportunities may shape the academic relationships students establish within their departments. It is clear to most students that our university's beloved educators are worthy of great reverence. In spite of this admiration, many students miss the rich

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Future (Cont. from Page 1)

construct that can be studied and present evidence that oppression is harmful. Steps toward a working definition of Social Justice in counseling were already initiated by Hugh Crethar in the *CSJ Activist* (2004). The **second** item is related to the first item wherein CSJ will look at curriculum and begin to delineate how a social justice curriculum looks in a manner where it is not just lumped in with the multicultural curriculum. The **third** action item that I would like to propose is the return to the listserv as the most convenient way to keep our members informed of the CSJ activities. The **fourth** action item that I am proposing is one in where the call for official nominations should be open to all members and to advertise this in our webpage and listserv. The **fifth** action item that I am proposing is one to create a membership position that is separate from the President Elect and that can be a little longer than just one year. The **sixth** action item that I am proposing has to do with the committee chairs submitting reports to the executive committee every 90 days. The **seventh** action item that I am proposing has to do with a regular executive committee. As a young organization, we need to stay on the top of the latest news and events, and as such the executive committee should meet at least once a month and not just before the ACA convention. The **eighth** action item that I am proposing has to do with the engagement of the President Elect and the President. In other words, the President Elect should be involved in the decisions that the President makes and, in case the President is unable to attend a meeting or make a decision, the President Elect should be able to represent the presidential interest. The way in which CSJ is run now is almost like the way in which political parties run the country – between party lines. That is not what CSJ is all about. The **ninth** action item that I am proposing has to do with state chapters and student members. I am

proposing that CSJ recognize the state chapters as our blood line and as such the inclusion of such chapters needs to be more apparent than just a line in our meetings. This is also true of the student members – these members need to be included in all task forces and given responsibilities. This will make them feel a part of the structure of CSJ and not just an afterthought. Finally, the **last** action item has to do with the creating of a research task force that will promote and encourage research about social justice and that the products will become signature products of CSJ, which will help for future development, and advocacy of Social Justice and mental health in ACA and APA. ◻

COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 2006 CONFERENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY,
FAIRFAX, VA

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
&
SATURDAY APRIL 29

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. ANTHONY MARSELLA

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE
www.csjconference2006.com

From the President's Pen: Social Justice and Advocacy Counseling

Vivian J. McCollum, CSJ President

It appears that we are faced with a society and a professional organization that are confused about what social justice is and why there is a need for advocacy counseling. The majority of us find advocating for others to be part of our normal existence, as necessary as breathing. Others feel compelled to support one specific issue that affects them or ones that they love. Still others feel that there is no place for actively supporting issues of social justice within the counseling profession.



Let me begin by explaining what I believe social justice is. Social justice includes basic rights, evolved rights, and freedom from oppression. It includes providing access to goods and services for all facets of our populations and expecting acceptance of differences.

We, as leaders in the movement of Social Justice and Advocacy Counseling, must possess the “knowledge to empower”. That means that we must seek out injustices wherever they are and provide a platform of the provision of just acts. I implore you to “Empower someone today.” ☐

CSJ NEWSGROUP FORMED!

Kristin Talka has created a yahoo newsgroup for all CSJ Membership:

- The group name is “counselorsforsocialjustice”
- The group home page is located at this link:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/counselorsforsocialjustice>



In order to join it, users will need to create a yahoo account, which is free. To do so, click on the above link and follow the directions.

The CSJ group email is counselorsforsocialjustice@yahoogroups.com.

It is our hope that the membership of CSJ will join and use the newsgroup to better facilitate communication as we continue to develop as an association.

Students (cont. from page 1)

opportunity to collaborate and partner in the excitement of education by perpetuating the role of a marginally involved recipient in their educational endeavors.

Students in the University of Hawai'i Counselor Education Program are challenging this antiquated notion of education with a new student group: Students Advocating for Greater Empowerment (SAGE). As an independent student organization, SAGE is working to promote democracy in education. Students have met to discuss their role in higher education, the importance of advocacy and empowerment, and ways to foster communication and involvement within the Department of Counselor Education (DCE).

As a result of these meetings, students have started the careful process to advance the definition and perception of graduate students. Defining students' perspectives on their rights and responsibilities is vital to the process of empowerment and advocacy. Additionally, providing a forum to sanction open discussions is essential to student development. Students were queried via e-mail and meetings to clarify important concepts such as advocacy and empowerment relevant to professional growth.

Based on the feedback received from the above sources, SAGE presented DCE students and faculty with a website run for and by students. The SAGE website includes professional resources for students and counselors, contact information to announce student projects, and an anonymous on-line forum. The forum was set up in a web log or "blog" style to stimulate discussions on relevant issues, encourage students to present topics of interest, and provide an interactive virtual community for the department.

In addition to the creation of an on-line community, a newsletter called *The Student*

Voice was designed and distributed, and select classes were surveyed in an effort to accurately represent the collective voice of students. To further the goals of student advocacy and empowerment, the newsletter will be presented quarterly and a comprehensive department-wide survey is in the works. The survey suggestion was offered because many realize that oftentimes only the most verbal students in the department receive recognition from the department chair and faculty members concerning their needs. By surveying all of the students in the department on a regular (e.g., annual) basis regarding a broad range of issues relevant to students' lives, SAGE members believe that all students will have a better opportunity to provide meaningful input into the policies that impact their professional development and foster a greater level of democratic participation among students in the process. Likewise, the newsletter will make available an additional avenue for student participation, information about student projects, and the opportunity for students to find and use their collective voice.

To view the SAGE website visit: www.geocities.com/sagemanoa or contact SAGEmanoa@yahoo.com.



SAGE members Brian Kajiyama and Elizabeth Foster relax after Brian bowled another strike, beating faculty member Michael D'Andrea at the annual bowling social.



Call for Submissions: The Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology (JSACP)

JSACP is currently accepting manuscripts in English and Spanish that promote reflection on community change and system transformation in which counselors and psychologists play a role. Appropriate manuscripts may include social action research, theory, as well as examples of practice. JSACP is an official publication of Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) and Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) and is published with the support of the Doctoral Program in Community Research and Action at Vanderbilt University. This electronic journal upholds highest academic and professional standards and will be published twice a year electronically (PDF) with articles in either English or Spanish, with an extended abstract in the other language. The deadline for the first issue is June 1, 2006. Manuscripts will be reviewed through a masked, peer review process.

Manuscripts submitted should be relevant to counselors, psychologists and related professionals as well as students and educators. Policy makers, community organizers, and activists should also find the content to be informative and relevant to their work.

The following are examples of the types of articles that are appropriate for JSACP.

- Articulation of theory of social action practice in counseling and psychology
- Examples of collaborative efforts to address a particular social issue, accompanied by ample critique
- Research using methodology that brings the voices of communities and individuals most affected by particular social problems to the forefront
- Research documenting the nature and complexity of a particular social problem
- Outcome research highlighting community interventions that have been successful in addressing social issues, or case studies of unsuccessful projects
- Interviews of notable practitioners, community organizers, activists, psychologists, counselors and educators
- Dialogues between scientists/practitioners, policy makers and community members both nationally and internationally

For editorial policy and other information, visit www.psysr.org/social-action.htm. Tod Sloan (sloan@lclark.edu) & Rebecca Toporek (rtoporek@sfsu.edu), Editors

CSJ University Chapter Forming at the University of Florida!

Jonathan Walton, University of Florida

The University of Florida is happy to announce the creation of a new Counselors for Social Justice chapter. Over forty counselors in the program have joined as either active or part-time members and the number is still growing. The group is primarily student-run with the help of faculty advisors Dr. Kitty Fallon and incoming CSJ President-Elect Dr. Edil Torres-Rivera. Members are in the process of electing officers, creating bylaws, and creating the foundation for a long tenure at the largest public institution in the state.

The chapter considers itself entirely non-partisan and has placed an emphasis on several core ideals. At the top of the list is an experiential component that emphasizes members' involvement in community activities. It has also reached out to local organizations in an attempt to streamline their efforts and those of local community agencies with the mission of the chapter. Members will be required to be active in a variety of community mental health and outreach activities.

In addition, the chapter hopes to conceptualize and carry out research in a variety of social justice related topics. Twelve members of the club will

participate in four presentations at the George Mason University conference during the last week of April. Presentations will include a look at career issues amongst marginalized populations, school violence, and the role of oppression on mental health.

Increasing awareness of social justice related issues is another pillar in the chapter's foundation. Members will work to promote social justice themes in counseling models and training programs and on relevant local, state, and national government bodies. The chapter highly endorses a model of counseling which takes into account clients' entire experience and the affect that racism, sexism, and classism may have played in their situation.

We would love to hear from other CSJ chapters in an attempt to nationalize some of our efforts and create dialogue between chapters. Please contact us at either edil0001@ufl.edu or waltonj3@ufl.edu with any questions or advice. See you at George Mason in late April! 🍀

“Fix the system, not the student.”

-Reese House

CSJ Day of Action Activities in Montreal

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Location: Palais des congrès de Montréal – Montréal Convention Center, Room 516E

11:00 am – 12:30 pm:

Social Justice, Action Words: Where Are We Now?

Vivian J. McCollum, Moderator, Stuart Chen-Hayes, Michael Hutchins, Sandra Lopez-Baez, Edil Torres-Rivera, and Tod Sloan

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm:

HIV/AIDS and the African American Community: How Can Counseling Be Used to Address This Issue? An Update from the Field.

Vivian J. McCollum, Moderator, Angela D. Coker, Lee Covington-Rush, S. Kent Butler, Rhonda Bryant, Yolanda Edwards, and Julia Bryan

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm:

Second Generation: How Young Professionals View Social Justice and Advocacy

Hugh Crethar, Moderator, Eric Green, Anneliese Singh, and Adam Zigelbaum



Other Activities for CSJ at ACA

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
CSJ Board Meeting	Friday, March 31	Salon 8
CSJ Candlelight Vigil	Friday, March 31	Salon 8
CSJ Day of Action (presentations)	Saturday, April 1 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Convention Center Room 516E
AADA, ASERVIC, C-AHEAD, CSJ Joint Reception	Saturday, April 1	Salon Musset
ARCA-CSJ Brunch	Sunday, April 2	Salon Musset

GMU Counselors without Borders Hurricane Katrina Trip

Fred Bemak, George Mason University

The George Mason University Counseling and Development Program *Counselors Without Borders* project recently completed a trip to assist survivors of Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Rita Chi-Ying Chung and I brought 14 students to the coast and spent a week counseling people from the community. Since so many Katrina letters have been so long I decided to simply list a number of bullets that capture the highpoints which are as follows:

- The area is destroyed and continues to be a disaster zone. Many people still live in tents, the military has sectioned off parts of the Gulf Coast with barbed wire and checkpoints, there are very few hotels, restaurants, or shops that are open, and debris remains everywhere including large chunks of metal, wood, nails, car parts, household goods, etc. on the roads and surrounding land.
- Many people have not yet received insurance that would help them start a new life, there are few jobs to be had, water is still unsafe to drink, many people remain without cars since they were ruined during the hurricane, and there is a sense of lawlessness that permeates everyday life.
- The Mississippi Department of Mental Health provided transportation to and from Jackson to the coast (about a 2-hour ride each way). We rode in buses that had large signs on the side which read "Mississippi State Hospital." This was especially interesting when we all piled out to get food in a restaurant.
- SAMHSA worked it out for us to stay where they were staying rather than in tents. Thus we stayed in a secure adolescent treatment facility in an empty building on mattresses on the floor and mattresses on wood frames. In order to get in and out, we had security keys and codes and had to go through 5 locked doors.
- We saw a total of 600 clients, or about 7 clients average per person for counseling during the one week we were there. The way to see clients there is to go to the Disaster Relief Centers (we worked in 6 centers which ranged from an old blasted out boarded up K-Mart building to football field sized tents) and approach people who are endlessly waiting in folding chairs to fill out paperwork at one of the numerous desks set up for various types of help. Also, once we were established there, many relief workers sent clients to us.
- Racial tensions are very high and overt conflict is just below the surface. This is particularly evident regarding issues such as who is getting insurance coverage and who is not, who is getting a trailer to sleep in and who is not, who takes more food from the free marts that are set up, who takes more clothes from the free markets that are established, who has access to the resources and who doesn't, etc. We diffused a number of potentially volatile situations. In addition, there were security guards and police everywhere.
- The stories of the people we saw were profoundly sad, moving, and heartening. Most people demonstrated a resilience and courage that would make any of us proud of the human race. Others were tragically depressed, traumatized, angry, sad, grieving, and hopeless within the structure of the federal and state services. We could easily have doubled our student numbers and seen 1200

clients and still be only beginning to make an impact.

- The social injustices throughout the experience are evident - the poor and people of color are struggling to access services, resources, and support while white folks and higher-SES folks appeared to be in better shape. The lack of services for traditionally disenfranchised groups was horrendous.
- Every night the GMU *Counselors without Borders* team debriefed. We left this open ended and began the first night with a second session. Each night after that we met 2-3 hours. One hundred percent of the students cried deeply during the debriefing sessions, sharing stories that moved them. Simultaneously, Rita and I provided consultation and supervision and watched the students transform into highly competent skilled disaster relief counselors during the week. Every student (yes, 100%) claimed that their lives have been transformed as a result of this experience. The last night we processed the entire week examining interpersonal issues, high-points, low-points, lessons learned, skills gained, racial tensions, the social context for what was going on, social justice, and next steps.
- One next step is that the entire team (16 of us) is going to capital hill to talk about the need for additional funding for more of this work - social justice in action! Luckily our university is only 15 miles from Washington D.C.
- Another outcome relates to my attempt to track down funding to open the door for other university programs to do this

work and follow suit, sending down faculty supervisors and graduate student teams. My strong opinion is that the restrictions about being licensed and 2 week stays dramatically limits the ability to meet an overwhelming need for mental health support and counseling. While there I met the person who headed up the 9/11 mental health work in NYC. Her comment was, "We need 2 years of mental health counseling here by teams like your students." The way it is set up now we will never be able to do it.

So the bottom line was that we each underwent an invaluable experience that went directly to the spirit and soul. We are on a march to move the agenda on this and will be talking to legislators and potential funding agencies to open the door for more mental health work. This is one glaring example of social injustice in motion, and I am hopeful that we, as a body of concerned professionals, can try and address these horror stories that don't belong anywhere near contemporary times in the year 2005.

ON HAVING COURAGE...

***"I AM ALWAYS WILLING TO
VOLUNTEER TO BE DEVILISH,"
-SHANNON B. DERMER***

***"WHEN MY ENEMIES STOP HISSING,
I SHALL KNOW I'M SLIPPING,"
-MARIA CALLAS***

ACA Governing Council Report

Michael Hutchins, CSJ Governing Council Representative

The ACA Governing Council addressed a series of important concerns for the association and the profession at its Fall meeting. The first order of business was a presentation by Paul Meyer, Principal Partner of Tecker Consultants. He presented a knowledge-based, decision-making model which continues to provide a structure for Governing Council meetings.

The first order of business was to approve the agenda and the meetings of previous meetings. This was followed by a clarification of the status of divisions and, in accordance with our by-laws, the election the student representative to the Council. This year's student representative to the Council is Angelo Gomez, a student at the University of Maryland.

ACA President, Patricia Arredondo, held a Strategic Visioning Retreat in Scottsdale, AZ in August. As a result of this retreat, five strategic priorities were identified and adopted for ACA. These included: a) developing a signature product, b) increasing public awareness, c) providing professional development, d) increasing multicultural awareness, and e) developing partnerships with other associations and entities. Five subcommittees, which later developed into task forces, set off to develop these priorities. (As the CSJ representative, I now chair the Multiculturalism Task Force.) A sixth priority was approved by the Council. This priority is "improving the conditions of counselor employment."

The next item on the agenda was the CSJ motion. It is included here as it was passed:

It was moved by the Counselors for Social Justice that: The resolutions on Promoting a Socially-Responsible Approach to Counseling submitted by the Counselors for Social Justice be endorsed. Motion passed. The Resolutions endorsed by this motion are as follows:

Resolution #1: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative affect that

religious bigotry, violence, and discrimination have on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated is necessary to eradicate these toxic social-environmental conditions in our society.

Resolution #2: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative impact that racism continues to have on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate this complex toxic social-environmental condition in our society.

Resolution #3: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative impact that sexism and sexual violence continue to have on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate these toxic social-environmental conditions in our society.

Resolution #4: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative impact that the ableism continues to have on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate this toxic social-environmental condition in our society.

Resolution #5: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative impact that heterosexism and violence against gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered persons continue to have on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate these toxic social-environmental conditions in our society.

Resolution #6: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative impact that ageism continues to have on human development, it is resolved that the

socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate this toxic social-environmental condition in our society.

Resolution #7: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative effect that poverty has on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to eradicate these toxic social-environmental conditions in our society.

Resolution #8: Given the substantial body of empirical knowledge that describes the negative effect that war has on human development, it is resolved that the socially-responsible approach to mental health-care that Dr. King advocated is necessary to promote peace and the end to all wars in our world.

Following this motion, another motion was introduced and passed. It reads as follows:

It was moved by Capuzzi and seconded by Van Duser that: The maker of the motion relative to the social justice resolutions passed by the Governing Council on October 1, 2005 be requested to provide the knowledge base connected with all eight resolutions so the knowledge base may be used by members of ACA when disseminating these resolutions.

In response to these motions, CSJ is moving forward with the development of an annotated bibliography. We have contacted all of the ACA entities to seek collaboration in developing the bibliography. Additionally, we have contacted the American Psychological Association and Psychologist for Social Justice for collaborative help. This bibliography is a “next step” in providing education and training for the profession and those with whom we work.

The Council went on to endorse the concept of Counselors without Borders and anticipate additional information about this work to be forthcoming in the near future.

Several years ago, a motion was brought forward to the Council to endorse having an “ethnic and racial minority” member on the Governing Council. This has been referred to the Bylaws and Human Rights Committees and a motion was passed to have the AMCD Governing Council representative work with these committees on the development of this position.

The Treasurer’s report indicated that ACA is financially stable at this time. We ended the last fiscal year with a small profit and, with prudence, can do so this year, barring some unforeseen circumstances. ACA has suspended dues payment for those members of the Association who were most directly affected by the hurricanes. We have yet to see the financial results of this decision.

In conclusion, I found the meeting to be exciting and collaborative. I continue to see enthusiasm for moving the profession and ACA forward in a manner that reflects a commitment to advocacy and the building of a caring community. The plans for the ACA/CCA conference in Montreal continue to move forward with some exciting collaboration and enthusiasm. (Don’t forget to get your passports if you are planning on attending!)

I look forward representing CSJ at the next meeting.



Michael D'Andrea presenting to Capital Area CSJ membership



President Elect:	Hugh C. Crethar
Governing Council Representative:	Sandra Lopez-Baez
Retired Representative:	George Andrews
Communications Officer:	Denise Pickering
Student Representative:	Amelia Risner

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”
- Charles Darwin

Quote and Response

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt

A Response to Eleanor Roosevelt’s quote

Janis Quinn, Masters in Counseling Student, Governors State University

I think the question, “Where do universal human rights begin?” is a good question. I believe that human rights should begin close to home because this is the world of the individual and this is where the individual can make small changes. When I become a school counselor, I hope to help make some of these small changes by starting in the school. I hope to create a school atmosphere of equality and respect. Equality for every student is important because every student deserves the right to learn and part of that learning is to respect individual differences.

Advocating for Advocacy: Ask and You Shall Receive

Kristin M. Talka, University at Albany, SUNY

For many students, seeking out opportunities to be engaged in graduate experiences with a social justice and diversity focus is highly important to their career paths. The clinical, research, and coursework we engage in ideally should reflect the needs of the populations we will be assisting post graduation. But what if this is not the case?

Throughout my graduate training, I have on occasion heard other students (and myself) comment on the lack of opportunities to utilize their skills. The following questions have been posed: Are clinical supervisors lost when it comes to conceptualizing the multicultural factors affecting therapy clients? What do I do if my practicum site doesn't offer opportunities to work with minority clients?

The defining role of a student is to learn from those who have the experience and knowledge we need in order to develop competency in the career area we are pursuing. Through our graduate studies, many of us are taught to empower those with whom we work. However, as we encourage individuals to advocate for their needs, we, as students, often forget that we too need to do the same! It is easy for us to fall into the trap of talking, but not doing. If I had a dollar for each time that I complained about something that I was lacking in my graduate training, I probably could have left graduate school, moved to Maui, and retired! And then I tried asking....

Approaching clinical supervisors and faculty for desired opportunities can be a bit intimidating for any student. However, as I have found, faculty and supervisors more often than not are willing to work with students to see that they receive the experiences they desire. Finding out where there is a need is

always a good place to start. Asking questions about existing programs, client needs, proposed projects, etc. may allow students to provide services at a given site that have never been done before. Addressing issues of diversity in supervision, in meetings, and in casual discussion is also a good route. This may allow students to share knowledge that established professionals were not given as part of their graduate training. Thinking outside of the box and taking professional risks, overall, can help to ensure that we receive the experiences we want and need.

Looks can be deceiving. If policy and procedures at a given practicum site or in a graduate course do not allow for desired experiences, thinking about how we define diversity may be just as useful. As a pre-doctoral intern in a hospital setting, my initial assumption was that I was not going to be given a lot of opportunities to work with different racial or ethnic groups. Then I began thinking about how I was defining diversity. While I may not have opportunities to work with racial minority patients, I did question how different medical problems, age, economic backgrounds, etc. contributed to the overall diversity of the patients I was assisting. These questions led me to learn about ways I could aid in advocating for my patients in the not-so-traditional ways that were taught to me, such as providing a therapy group for the caretakers of dementia patients.

Advocating for oneself starting as a student is good practice for entering full time professional careers. It teaches us the skills to mediate new occupational positions and build our CVs at the same time! While we can read about advocacy in our coursework, practicing advocacy for ourselves as well as our clients can and should begin at the graduate level. Remember, it never hurts to ask!

For Our Sister

Recently we saw the passing of Mrs. Coretta Scott King.
We need to take pause and recognize the sacrifice that was a life devoted to the least among us.
No matter who we are, we need to stop and teach a lesson to all young people about grace and dignity
We need to tell them all about the lives she fought for who suffered under gross inequity
Indeed we need to stop and teach the young that the grace and dignity of her character
Outshines the lives of many who came before her

As this journey ends, a new one begins
We need to teach the young to put down the remote for a time
And pick up texts that teaches them about how freedom can shine
Young lady's need to put down the hip hugger pants and other clothes
And learn of this woman's role to save souls

Love is the force that united the race to press for freedom's sake
Love was the force to continue the struggle after an assassin's bullet silenced the words he spake
Love is the force that reminds us that we are in community with those of our number whether great or small
And Love is the only force that can save us all!

Sweet Rest to Sister Coretta Scott King

-by Dr. Cyrus Marcellus Ellis

A Note from the Editor



Hello Fellow Activists!

As this will likely be my final effort as Newsletter Editor, I want to thank each of you who has made time to help keep communication flowing throughout the membership of CSJ. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with each of you. I apologize for not being able to get three editions of the newsletter out to you on a regular basis. As we move forward with our new editor, please watch for announcements on the website and hopefully in the upcoming listserv requesting articles. We do want to learn about your good works and those of others around us as we continue to conspire to create a more socially just world.

Hugh C. Crethar
CSJ Activist Editor and Communication Officer

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

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CSJ Elected Leadership

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President-Elect:	Edil Torres Rivera
Past President:	Sandra Lopez-Baez
Communication Officer:	Hugh Crethar
Treasurer:	Cher Edwards
ACA Gov. Council Rep.:	Michael Hutchins
Graduate Student Rep.:	Kim Snow
Retiree Rep.:	Anita Jackson
Community Rep.:	Kristin Talka
Counselor Rep.:	Manivong Ratts

Any members interested in having access to the CSJ
Bylaws and other governing Documents,
please contact
Hugh Crethar, CSJ Communication Officer.
he may be reached at
(708) 534-4844
Or
h-crethar@govst.edu

**“Put into the world
what you wish were there.”
-Pauline Rose Clance**