

VISIONS



From the President

Mark Freeman
Rollins College

I would like to present my vision as incoming president of ACCA by outlining some hopes and dreams the Executive Board is discussing for next year. I believe our division is poised at the crossroads now. We have been in existence for more than a decade and have made some remarkable progress by advancing college counseling as a profession within the field of counseling in general. We have had two great national conferences; we publish an award-winning journal and provide members with a quality newsletter, website, and listserv. We have a strong leadership pool. We need to continue to develop active and committed volunteers to help lead us into the future. To that end, we need to create a new vision that matches the times, with some concrete ways to meet our challenges in the next few years. Before I outline my plan let's look at the context of our profession today.

College counseling is squarely on the radar screen of this nation. We have had several high profile college suicides this year and in the last few years. Congress is actively interested in providing colleges and universities with extra funding for college counseling. The federal government now provides exceptions to FERPA for parental notification regarding alcohol use and abuse on campus because of national concern and attention to this problem. Parents are wondering what kinds of support systems exist on campus for their children attending college. Parents are more involved with their children's education and lives after high school than at any other time in our history.

At the same time, college administrators are looking for cost savings due to budget constraints. One target for

reducing costs often involves cutting the budgets or outsourcing college-counseling services. Research and practice have now shown how disastrous this strategy is for colleges, universities and the students they serve. Not only does it increase attrition, but it also increases crises and liability. Just because counseling services are moved away from campus some administrators believe liability is reduced as well. With this strategy college officials lose contact with the most challenging and vulnerable students on campus when counseling is non-existent.

How do we as an organization work to educate and improve matters within this context? Our goal is to sponsor as much research and professional development for our members as we possibly can afford to do. The action plan is as follows:

- Sponsor research with substantial funding demonstrating how college counseling helps students stay in and complete college (persistence and retention grants)
- Sponsor research regarding how college counseling adds to the overall health and well-being of the campus as a vital component of any higher educational institution
- Provide on-line continuing education for ACCA members on relevant college counseling topics including suicide prevention, cutting, promoting our purpose on campus for survival, grief counseling, and other requested topics
- Send our most requested presentations and presenters to various regions and states around the nation that are willing to organize a drive-in one day conference opportunity for their colleagues
- Acquire ethical corporate sponsors to enhance these and other learning opportunities for our members

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ACA Governing Council Meeting Report

Keren M. Humphrey
ACCA Representative

Meeting: Kansas City, MO
March 30-April 1, 2004

This is my last report to you as your Representative to the American Counseling Association (ACA) Governing Council since my term is ending. I am pleased that you elected Sylvia Shortt as your next Governing Council Representative. She will do a great job and, I think, keep our ACCA tradition of active leadership in ACA affairs at an optimum level.

The ACA Governing Council meeting held just before our Kansas City Convention was a busy one that revealed successes and challenges to our national professional association and to the counseling profession at large. There was a great deal of discussion and debate of issues characterized by respect, collaboration, and a sense of shared mission. There were many items that pertained to the day to day running of the organization and a few others that I will highlight here:

1. The financial concerns we had last year, mostly attributable to the national economic picture, have improved and ACA continues to draw from a solid financial base. At the direction of the Governing Council, steps were taken during the last year to maintain financial solvency, and they paid off. There were some hard cuts that minimized some of our programs but were necessary. We approved a FY 2005 Budget reflecting \$8,437,704 in revenues; \$8,434,138 in expenses. It is, as you can see, a very tight budget that is appropriate for tight economic times.
2. We approved a new Organizational Affiliate for ACA that we expect to become a division in the near future. The *Association for Creativity in Counseling* (ACC) will bring a wonderful new dimension to our profession and our associations – watch for more information about them in your *Counseling Today*.
3. We reviewed and endorsed “*Competencies for Counseling Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Clients*” prepared by the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Counseling and we passed a resolution to Protect Intersex Children from Unwanted Surgery, Secrecy, and Shame.
4. We directed the appropriate entities to explore alternative dues structures and payment systems along with a cost/benefit analysis for the Fall 04 Governing Council. This was the result of a great deal of discussion of how we can reduce dues, enhance membership in divisions AND ACA, enhance multiple division membership, and recognize the special needs of students and retired members.
5. We directed the ACA Task Force on High Stakes Testing to develop a written position statement on high stakes testing that will serve as ACA’s official statement on the matter. We endorsed the AASCB National Credential Registry Portability Policies and Procedures
6. We directed the Publications Committee and staff to identify ways to provide ACA publications in Spanish and report back at the Fall 04 meeting. We specifically directed development of video training tapes in Spanish aimed at counselors, researchers, counselor educators, and students.
7. At the 2003 Anaheim meeting, the ACA Governing Council regrettably began the process of revoking the charters of two divisions, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) because of continuing violations of ACA bylaws pertaining to its divisions. I am pleased to report that both divisions responded positively by changing their bylaws so that they are once again in line with those of all ACA divisions and ACA. ASCA did this by the Fall, 2003 Governing Council meeting and AMHCA at this Spring, 2004 meeting. I am very, very pleased with these actions and hope this frees all of us up for sustained, mutual collaboration in the service of the counseling profession.

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Professional Advocacy

Mark Scholl
Long Island University

Public Awareness and Professional Advocacy Committee Report

At the ACA Conference in Kansas City, the Public Awareness and Professional Advocacy Committee presented the results of the survey data (N = 237) they have been collecting for over a year and a half.

The poster session was entitled “*College Counselor Advocacy: The Results and Implications of a National Survey.*” More than 60 conference attendees visited the poster sessions and received handouts. For a copy of the survey results, please contact committee chair Mark Scholl at Mark.Scholl@liu.edu.

The committee is currently working on an article based on the results of the survey. Caroline Wilde, winner of ACA’s Counselor Educator Advocacy Award, is the newest member of the PAPAC.

Please write your Senator in support of this important bill for college counseling.

Update on the “Campus Care and Counseling Act” (HR3592): S.2215 was introduced to the Senate as by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Mike DeWine (R-OH) and cosponsors Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Hillary Clinton (D-NY). An amendment to the 1965 Higher Education Act, S.2215 proposes \$10 million in competitive grants to centers on college campuses that provide mental and behavioral health services to students. Louise Douce, counseling center director at The Ohio State University, was one of the experts called on to testify before the Senate. Please consider contacting your Senators asking them for their support. Sample letters and e-mails can be found at <http://www.apa.org/ppp/ppan/action.html>

*Thank you,
Mark Freeman
ACCA President
Rollins College*

Who Knew?

Stephanie Fujii
Estrella Mountain Community College

Many people ask me, “What made you become a community college counselor?”

Often people think it’s the big bucks – Okay, no one thinks that, but it’s actually nowhere near as bad as my lawyer friends think. I am fortunate to be in a district which provides a comfortable salary.

Some think it’s because I didn’t want to do private practice. Which, while true, it was never a desire, nor the motivation for getting the degree in the first place.

Others think it’s due to the high esteem counselors in education are given in our society. Alright, no one ever believes that, but while society may not view what I do as important or as worthwhile as who is the next Apprentice or who’s dating J.Lo., I know in my heart the work I do with students, with faculty, and with the community my college serves is very, very important and very, very worthwhile.

My first introduction to the community college was not through attendance as a college student, but rather post bachelor’s degree/pre-master’s in 1991. I was finishing my second year as a residence hall director in Portland, Oregon at a small, private, liberal arts college. At 25, I had aspirations of someday being a chief student affairs officer, and knew that if I wanted to be marketable, I needed to build upon my experience. And, so when I inquired, and was given the opportunity to volunteer at an urban community college, I jumped at it.

The community college, though larger in enrollment than the college I was working and living at, was much smaller in size- campus, buildings, parking, etc. It was much more diverse in it’s students and employees; age, ethnicity, ability. It had a security guard at a gate to the parking lot. While the college did not have tagging or vandalism on its property, it was an area of the city which had a high

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American College Counseling Association Conference March 10 - 12, 2004 * Biloxi, Mississippi



Our conference planners!



June Williams
Conference Coordinator



Sylvia Shortt, ACCA
Conference Committee Chair



Georgia ACCA
Conference Committee



Louisiana ACCA
Conference Committee



Hoped you were here for the:

Learning



Dining



Networking



Award Winners

and fun!



ACCA Conference: A View from Two New Professionals

Deanna Tilley & Terry Fitzpatrick
Southeastern Louisiana University

Attending the ACCA Conference was truly an enlightening experience. Topics varied from the theory-specific to the emotionally charged, from the ethically bound to the more innovative approaches—making it impossible not to find something of interest with which to schedule a full and productive day. Informative, insightful, and often entertaining, the presenters fulfilled expectations professionally during the sessions, as well as personally during periods of informal networking. Throughout the conference, opportunities were there to ask questions, share experiences or just sit back and absorb it all.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Robert P. Gallagher, was outstanding in the manner in which he painted a self-portrait of Murphy's Law at its funniest. His monologue was exuberant as he generated an invisible energy that amused even the most stoic of personalities.

For two recent graduates entering the professional world, attending our first ACCA Conference was not only exciting, but also reassuring. Knowing that there are experienced and talented professionals willing to offer guidance and support, gives us the confidence to take the next step. We look forward to future ACCA Conferences with eager anticipation.

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*Book now ...
summer rates available through August 31, 2004*



ACA Annual Convention
April 6-10, 2005
Atlanta, GA

for information: <http://www.counseling.org>

First Timer's Reflections on ACA 2004 Convention

Stephani Foust & Nicole Alberti
University of Nevada, Reno

When Mark Pope, ACA President, broke out the Kleenex right before his opening speech at the ACA Convention in Kansas City, we both thought our tears would be flowing the whole weekend. This was our first ACA convention, and as graduate students in college counseling, we were learning that hugs and tears are the norm in this profession. Of course, the opening ceremony did have a few heart-felt moments, but it also set the stage for a fabulous weekend of learning, networking, and fun.

We made the choice to go to ACA because we were just starting to embark on the interesting world of counseling in our College Student Development program at the University of Nevada, Reno. We thought tearing ourselves away from our studies and making the adventure (and flying on a propeller plane from Reno to Salt Lake was quite the adventure!) to Missouri would only benefit our learning experience.

As first-timers we felt very welcomed and comfortable, especially by the friendly staff at the ACCA information booth, at which we were frequent visitors. Most of our time we spent attending as many sessions as we possibly could... but there were so many to choose from it was hard to pick! We were never disappointed though, and we brought back with us a multitude of material and meditation techniques to share with our colleagues, or to use for future reference and research. After our brains were taxed with all the information of the day, it was nice to unwind with a little dancing and laughing during the fun night activities.

Although we didn't end up crying all weekend, we were a little sad when the weekend came to an end. Counselors are a fun and wonderful bunch. Thanks for making our first experience at ACA a great one!



ACCA Graduate Students

Lessons from Tina

Camella Broome
University of South Carolina

As I proceed toward the completion of my college counseling internship, I have been reflecting on various clients I've worked with. One client that stands out is Tina. Receiving appropriate supervision while working with this challenging case helped me gain much-needed skills and confidence. The vital role of proper supervision is a lesson I'd like to share with other counseling interns.

Tina presented for counseling in the fall of 2003. I knew from the beginning that her case would be an excellent cross-cultural learning opportunity. Tina was African-American and I am Caucasian. In addition, she was the first GLBT client I have worked with. I took a tape of our first session to my supervisor to make sure I seemed comfortable discussing sexuality issues with her. He confirmed that I seemed to be conveying empathetic understanding and appeared at ease in session.

Tina was struggling with guilt related to fundamental religious beliefs, experiencing social isolation, had family and financial concerns, and struggled with chronic medication-resistant depression. About a month into our work, Tina began matter-of-factly telling me about impulsive dangerous behaviors she'd previously engaged in, and about numerous incidents of sexual experimentation/exploitation during her childhood. I was astounded by some of the things she disclosed, and consulted my supervisor about how to proceed. I knew that Tina's case was more complicated than I'd initially thought, and wondered if I'd reached the end of my ability to help her. I had not had much experience working with more seriously disturbed clients. My supervisor helped me talk through my doubts about being "qualified." After reading

he shared my concern about some of the things she'd disclosed, but assured me that I had the skills and necessary on-site resources to continue counseling Tina. I was relieved, as I very much wanted to continue working with, and learning from, her.

In mid-November, Tina calmly told me she'd tried to kill herself the previous week. This was the first suicide attempt I had dealt with. Though it appeared to have been an impulsive act, I wondered if I'd missed some sign, or not done something "right." After she finished explaining the experience, I asked her permission to call in my supervisor. With his help, it was decided that Tina did not need to be hospitalized. Instead, we helped her develop a plan for how she would spend the next few days, and what she would do if she began feeling suicidal again. From observing my supervisor, I was able to learn more about how to structure such sessions in the future. In addition, my supervisor sat in-session the next week to follow up, but only stayed for part of the hour. This communicated to me that my supervisor believed I was skilled enough to continue my work alone with Tina. The rest of the semester we discussed and created safety plans for winter break. I fervently hoped she would be okay, and was relieved when she called to set up an appointment once spring semester began.

During the spring semester, my supervisor became my case manager, and I began working with a new supervisor. I presented a video of a recent session with Tina as an example of my work with a client I'd been seeing over several months. Tina had begun implementing some very constructive thinking and behavior patterns into her life, and I was hopeful that perhaps her depression was finally beginning to lift.

About a month into the semester, Tina began telling me about extremely vivid imaginary experiences of several types she'd been having on a regular basis for years.

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Graduate Students in ACCA

Students are the lifeblood of the counseling profession. Your work will help shape the future of the counseling profession. ACCA is committed to fostering the careers of graduate students interested in college counseling.

One of the three member-at-large positions on the ACCA Executive Council is reserved for a graduate student and all the other offices and committees of ACCA are open to graduate students as well.

Networking is an important activity for future college counselors and ACCA provides that in spades! State and national conferences, workshops, ACCA-L - all provide opportunities to meet with college counselors, exchange ideas, foster mentor relationships, and discover resources.

ACCA Research Grants are open to all ACCA members, including graduate students. This could be an important financial resource for support your research project. ACCA Student ACA-Convention Grants are provided for cover fees at the annual convention of the American Counseling Association.

You are important to ACCA! We invite you to actively participate in the organization by sharing your ideas and energy through committee work, contributions to *Visions* and the *Journal of College Counseling*, conference presentations, and building professional relationships with other college and university counselors.

Chi Sigma Iota

A great resource and one of my best experiences in graduate school was participating in Chi Sigma Iota (CSI). CSI is the international honor society for students, professional counselors, and counselor educators. The organization promotes scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership and excellence in counseling. To learn more about this organization and a chapter near you - check out their web site at <http://csi-net.org/>

COUNSGRADS

Darcy Haag Granello
Ohio State University

The COUNSGRADS listserv has been developed to help graduate students from across the country communicate with one another. Students can talk about classes, internships, papers, and ideas about the profession. Darcy Haag Granello, a counselor educator at The Ohio State University, is the list owner. Questions regarding the listserv can be sent to her at granello.1@osu.edu.

To sign up for the listserv,
send an e-mail to

listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

with the following in the body of the message:

subscribe COUNSGRADS (first name) (last name)

Example: subscribe COUNSGRADS janet smith

To unsubscribe,
send an e-mail to

listproc@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

with the following in the body of the message:

unsubscribe COUNSGRADS



Graduate Students!

Please submit articles, mini-case studies, literature reviews, and announcements or reports on what is happening in the "grad school world of counseling." Let us know what you would like to see in future issues!

Send submissions to the
Graduate Student Column Editor:
Derrick Paladino, Ed.S, ABD, LAC, NCC
Doctoral Candidate, Counselor Education
University of Arkansas
dpaladi@uark.edu

ACA Governing Council continued from page 2

8. A continuing problem for ACA and some of its divisions is the issue of membership loss and, specifically, at what point does a division that loses membership stop being a division of ACA (thus losing representation on ACA Governing Council). Several divisions have, in the last few years, hovered at the bylaws requirement of 400 members. These are divisions with important voices and viewpoints that we did not want to lose and, of course, there is the possibility that they will gain members in any given year. At Kansas City the Governing Council approved a bylaws amendment that removes that minimal membership number and substitutes a percentage formula along with solvency and governance directives that will allow current divisions to maintain their divisional status. As one of the primary sponsors of this bylaws amendment, I am particularly pleased that we have acted to maintain diverse voices around the ACA Governing Council table.
9. Updates were provided and discussions held on many other issues, including licensing of baccalaureate level social workers, adding diagnosis to our model licensure law, CACREP standards revision process, development of a wellness curriculum, and setting legislative priorities. Watch your *Counseling Today* for news and updates on these endeavors.

I want to thank ACCA members for allowing me to represent them as a member of the ACA Governing Council. This unique opportunity to serve the counseling profession has allowed me to make a difference in the counseling profession – for clients and for counselors – and is a privilege for which I am deeply, deeply grateful. *Gracias.*



Happiness is when

what you think,
what you say, and
what you do

are in harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi

ACCA Listserv

Rick Hanson
Rockhurst University

The ACCA listserv has for many years been a vital source of connection, collaboration, and consultation for professionals interested in college counseling. There are approximately 300 professionals participating on the list.

To subscribe send an email message to:

Majordomo@listserv.tamu-commerce.edu

In the body type: subscribe acca-l (leave subject line blank)

To subscribe to the digest version send an email message to:

Majordomo@listserv.tamu-commerce.edu

In the body type: subscribe acca-l-digest (leave subject line blank)

You will probably want to be subscribed to **one or the other, not both**, as you would receive redundant messages. You only need to be subscribed to one to participate in the list.

If you want **to unsubscribe** at any point:

Majordomo@listserv.tamu-commerce.edu

In the body type: unsubscribe acca-l (leave subject line blank)

*From the President**continued from page 1*

- Build a coalition of leaders with all other forces in college counseling including- ACCA, ACA, ACPA, APA, and AUCCCD as public policy advocates
- Compile and present to the membership the needs assessment data obtained from the second ACCA conference in Biloxi

These are lofty goals and plans- nevertheless I believe they are obtainable over the next few years and necessary for our survival as a profession. I look forward to serving you in ACCA over the next year.

Journal of College Counseling

Our *thanks* to Dr. Timothy Smith of Brigham Young University for his service as the editor of the *Journal of College Counseling*.

Welcome to our new editor, Dr. Laura Hensley Choate of Louisiana State University. The *Journal of College Counseling* is published twice yearly. Information regarding submissions can be found on our website at www.collegecounseling.org, or you may contact the editor at lhensley@lsu.edu.

Expand Library Resources: Request the *Journal of College Counseling*

The *Journal of College Counseling* (JCC) provides timely articles on professional issues, research, and innovative practices.

As a member of ACCA, you receive a subscription to JCC. However, other professionals, students, and future professionals could also benefit from this excellent resource if you request your institution library to begin a subscription to the journal.

You may cut or copy the form below to make a request, or you may wish to contact your acquisitions librarian directly.



Visions Call!

Please submit articles, mini-case studies, literature reviews, and announcements or reports on what is happening in the "world of college counseling."

Please note that I will be moving this summer and will be without email from June 15th to July 15th.

Feel free to send questions to mel_b@mail.com. I will be able to send you a submission address in July.

Thanks! I look forward to hearing from you!

Next issue submission date: August 1, 2004

Visions is published by the
American College Counseling Association
Editor: Melanie Bullock

The goal of *Visions* is to gather and disseminate information of interest to college and university counselors, as well as the latest news from the American College Counseling Association and the American Counseling Association.

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Library Recommendation Form

Please forward this form to you subject librarian.

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

I recommend that the library subscribes to The *Journal of College Counseling*

Notes to Librarian:

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*Tina**continued from page 6*

She'd never shared these details with anyone before, but remarked that she felt she could talk to me about "anything." These experiences were normal for Tina, and didn't seem to distress her, but I was concerned about the unusual situations she described. I presented videotapes of these discussions in supervision. As a result, the decision was made to involve a clinical psychologist experienced with trauma cases to watch part of the tape. The psychologist commented to me later that she thought my assessment of the situation and line of questioning and responding were excellent, which made me feel good about my skill level. I'd really had no idea what to do except to be curious and gain as much clarity and information as possible.

My supervisor suggested we administer the PAI (Personality Assessment Inventory) to Tina in order to get a more complete picture of what was going on. Tina agreed, and was given the assessment. Prior to the following session, the results were discussed during supervision. My supervisor also came in during my next session with Tina to talk with her about the information presented by the assessment scoring. We came to believe that Tina was experiencing these "daydream realities" as a response to past trauma, not psychosis. We deemed them as just a different way of coping, and something to keep a watch on. Having supervision as a tool to assist in drawing conclusions about what was probably going on with Tina was extremely important, as I was very concerned that Tina was experiencing a more major mental illness.

Throughout the remainder of the spring semester, Tina continued to experience varying levels of depression, and still struggled with the spirituality and sexuality issues she came to counseling with. I believe she made progress with these concerns. She implemented a number of constructive cognitive and behavioral strategies for helping herself. The last time she felt suicidal, Tina obtained the means to attempt, but then decided not to go through with it. Tina plans to move during the next few months, and is hopeful that a change of environment will be good for her. Our final few sessions focused on her more hopeful future and the meaning she has made of what has been a difficult few months. She plans to continue her use of various mental health resources in the community. I value Tina greatly as a

person with tremendous strengths and resilience, and am so glad I had the opportunity to work with her.

If I had known in the beginning how complex her case would become, I probably would have referred Tina to a more experienced staff member. I am glad I did not, and that my supervisors had enough faith in me not to force a referral. Tina, and the variety of resources available in working with her, proved invaluable to my learning, and to my confidence level as a developing therapist. I know I can handle a variety of difficult counseling situations appropriately partly due to the array of issues I dealt with in Tina's case and the supervision I had related to them.

My supervisors' provided me with valuable guidance, feedback, and appropriate information. They also offered me the benefit of their own clinical experience, and encouraged and supported me as I sought to assist Tina with some very serious concerns. I do not think I would have always known what was best to do without my frequent consults with them. I also do not think I would have developed the confidence I needed without them affirming their belief in my skill as a clinician. They were vital sources of support and information, and this is what I would hope for any intern who is receiving supervision. We learn through experience and working with Tina was an experience I'm not likely to forget. Thanks in large part to my supervisors; it was a very positive experience.

Carmella Broome is a Graduate Student in Counselor Education at the University of South Carolina, specializing in Marriage and Family Counseling Therapy.

Earn Continuing Education Credit Online

Now you can earn credit while you keep up with the latest practice, theories, and research in the field. Several options are available through the American Counseling Associations webpage.

All ACA online courses are approved by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC).

Sample session topics include:

- *Cybercounseling: Going the Distance for Your Clients*
- *Grief Counseling*
- *Empowering African American Males In Schools and Communities*
- *Assessment and Treatment of Core Client Issues*
- *Legal Aspects of Counseling*

To learn more visit: <http://www.counseling.org> (click Resources on the top menu bar - then click Continuing Education on the side menu bar.)

Who Knew?

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degree of it. One of the areas, I worked in was the Women's Resource Center. This was the college's program for single parents and displaced homemakers. The office kept a rack of professional clothing and accessories that the women could borrow for job-hunting and interviewing, since many did not have that type of dress.

Though in the same city, the colleges where I lived and the one where I volunteered seemed worlds apart.

Students at the private school considered the campus diverse- there were the jocks, the 'nolas ("granola" hippie dressed students), and the international (predominately Japanese) students. We had security guards, and they were often called to help clear out the impromptu keg parties. We had vandalism. Usually as a result of the previously stated situations, typically occurring prior to the arrival of security. We had feminists. Upon hearing the college would be going from co-ed bathrooms to single sex, they protested and marched upon the administration building chanting, "2-4-6-8 together, we will urinate." And rather than have hanging clothes for students to borrow, students seemed more into disrobing their clothes. Unfortunately, this was typically in the dining hall. I stopped eating at the salad bar during these stints.

The students at the private school had many advantages that the community college students did not, and while I jest some in the behavior of my private college students, in many ways, both sets of students had their challenges, issues and triumphs. Working with such different types of populations helped to clarify the worth of pursuing a graduate degree in counseling, since both sets could benefit from a college student development counselor.

I have worked in private, public, two-year, four year, small and large Research I types of institutions. I have learned from all. But, for me the community college is where the action is. At the community college, we take them all. Vaughan (1987) wrote:

Just like the Statue of Liberty beckoned those new to our shores, the community college beckons today.

*Give us your young, and your not so young;
Give us your capable, and not so capable;
Give us your minorities, and your homemakers;
Give us your employed, your underemployed, your unemployed;
Give us those in society who have lingered too long on the periphery of the American Dream,
And we will help them to become better students, better workers, better citizens, better people.
- Pursuing the American dream: a history of the development of the Virginia Community College System.*

At the community college, I teach, counsel, advise and work with many different types of students who bring a wide range of life experiences, skills, aptitude and attitude when they enter our doors. These students have inspired, awed and challenged me; professionally and personally. It is not always easy, and at times it can be very stressful; not just due to the students' issues, but to the many roles and responsibilities counseling faculty can have at a community college.

However, the one thing I have found is this: I am always learning- about my students, about the community, about the system, about social services, about instruction, about counseling, assessment, retention, about administration, and about me- the list goes on. And, I really like that. In fact, it's what keeps me energized.

So, when asked "What made you become a community college counselor?" I offer this: It is the place I have found where I can learn the most and do the most good. Who knew? I thought I had to be a Vice President of Student Services to do that. Where as for me, for now, I've found the action, the energy and my need to do good, purposeful and meaningful work is here, as a community college counselor at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, AZ.