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INTERNATIONAL COUNSELLING CONNECTION

A subsidiary program of CACREP

December 2012



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of the IRCEP newsletter. As Bob said "the times, they are a changin" (please refer to the lyrics on the right-hand column). The CACREP Board of Directors recognized this reality and, in response to numerous international inquiries related to accreditation, they established the International

Registry of Counsellor Education Programs (IRCEP) in 2009. The vision of IRCEP is to foster excellence in the education and training of professional counsellors worldwide through the creation of a registry that uses common professional requirements deemed essential to the education and training of counsellors regardless of culture, country, region, work setting, or educational system.

The waters around us have grown. We are connected to others across the globe because of advances in technology, travel and the lowering of trade and political barriers. Counseling as a profession is no longer confined to the borders of the U.S. or other developed countries. Practitioners around the world engage in counseling related education and practices. Those practices may be called counseling, spelled with one or two "l's, psychology or by some other name. But regardless of the word used to describe those practices they are designed to "empower diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education and career goals" (ACA, 2010).

In the few short years since its inception IRCEP has grown from a steering "committee" of one (me) to a working committee of 10 counselor educators from around the globe. These dedicated individuals have developed international registry standards and procedures. Committee members have been busy on behalf of IRCEP working with programs in their host countries and presenting at international conferences on the topic of quality assurance in counselor education. There are 33 U.S. based CACREP accredited programs listed on the registry and IRCEP has just received its first application for registry from an international program. IRCEP now has a part time staff member on the CACREP staff (Sarah Betz) who dedicates one day a week to the development and activities of IRCEP. IRCEP has established an Association of International Graduate Students and hosted a luncheon for international students studying in the U.S. at the SACES conference in October of this year. Two counselor educators, who were educated in the U.S. and who returned to their home country

IN THIS ISSUE...

[Chair's Report](#)

[News](#)

[Steering Committee](#)

[Events](#)

[Global Perspectives](#)

Bob Dylan lyrics

"Come gather 'round
people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the
bone.
If your time to you
Is worth savin'
Then you better start
swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-
changin'."

-Bob Dylan

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to teach, provided presentations regarding their experiences. The response from the graduate students was overwhelmingly positive. IRCEP is exploring ways to continue to involve these students in the activities of IRCEP. And this is the first edition of our electronic newsletter. "The times they are a-changin'".

There have been many lessons learned along this journey and there are still many to be learned. International work takes time and patience. The world is a big place. Educational systems, languages, and cultures vary greatly across the globe. But relationships have been established with our international colleagues that are mutually beneficial. Working together we can promote the development of the profession around the world and enhance the lives of the people we are trained to serve. We invite you to engage with us in this journey and hope that you will visit our website at www.ircep.org to learn more about us.

ACA (2010). 20/20: A vision for the future of counseling. Retrieved from <http://www.counseling.org/20-20/definition.aspx>

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Stanard

Chair, ICREP Steering Committee



IRCEP hosted luncheon at SACES 2012 Conference

IRCEP hosted its first international student luncheon at SACES 2012 Conference. Students were invited to hear from the Chair of IRCEP Steering Committee and two international guest speakers who spoke about their personal experiences of studying counseling in the United States. [Read more](#)



Steering Committee Updates

WELCOME

IRCEP would like to welcome its newest Steering Committee Member, Amanda Hawkins (Chair of British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy)

FIRST INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

IRCEP is excited to announce that it has received its first international application from Centro Argentino de Psicología Humanística y Counseling Holos-San Isidro in Argentina. The application is currently being reviewed by the Steering Committee and is scheduled for CACREP's July 2013 Board Meeting.



ACA Conference March 2013

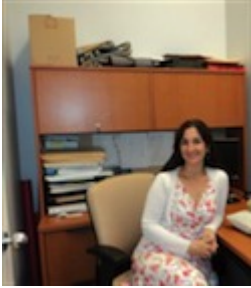
IRCEP has been invited to co-present at the ACA Conference in Cincinnati with the International Counseling Interest Network. For more information please contact ircep@ircep.org.



Teaching and Learning in Guatemala: Women Helping Women

By Mary Alice Bruce, University of Wyoming

“Driving on muddy roads amidst sugar cane fields, we made our way to the firecracker factory and into the lunch hall where about 35 women and their children warmly greeted us. The purpose of our afternoon together was to offer information, answer questions, and give resource materials regarding nutrition, pregnancy, nursing and general health. Service activities such as this are commonplace for these Universidades del Valle de Guatemala faculty members with whom I was honored to be a visiting professor.” [Read more](#)



A Dream Work?...

By Nalan Yilmaz, Visiting Scholar from Turkey at North Carolina State University

“Being in the right place is an important issue in all aspects of life. I do not think that focusing on only research, going back to Turkey and publishing an article is enough with a visit abroad. Visiting abroad as a scholar is more than this. I found myself in an environment that is very developed, supportive, open to share the experiences, and very diverse. This richness is my real gain here at the Counselor Education Department at NC State.” . [Read more](#)



A Path of Transformation around the World

By Syntia D. Santos, Counselor Education Ph.D. Student – North Carolina State University

“...As an international student in the counseling field I have learned that it is necessary to embrace change as our only constant in life; that it is through transformative travel that we can become citizens of the world; and that the definition of who we are is truly the sum of every experience in life and every connection we ever had, and therefore the concept of who we are is dynamic, flexible and adaptable to every stage and time.” [Read more](#)