

Fall 2004

## President's Address

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# *Interaction*

**ASERVIC**

Volume VIII, No. 1

Fall, 2004

## *President's Address Tracey Robert*

Hello Everyone! Greetings from Connecticut! Hope you all have enjoyed a peaceful and restful summer and are enjoying cooler Fall weather.

I am excited about leading this organization that has played such an important part in my personal and professional development. Many of us have struggled to integrate spirituality, religion, and ethical values into our counseling and ASERVIC's mission is to provide resources and expertise in this area for the profession. I am encouraged by the cooperation, collaboration, and support that exist within ASERVIC's leadership and look forward to fostering those elements within our membership as well.

The first few months have been full of transition activities and planning for our Executive committee meeting in September at a retreat center in Connecticut, and for the April ACA convention in Atlanta. Thankfully, the transition process has been smooth with the tremendous work that Craig Cashwell did last year as our past President in organizing and communicating with our members and leaders. Many of our committee chairs are interested in continuing their service and helping keep the mission alive!

The Executive Committee and Board members have been looking strategically at the needs of our members and are committed to cost-effective and professionally sound products and services. Streamlining the committees to address the need of the organization through revision of the Bylaws has been a constant effort by the leadership and I will continue to support that effort.

I hope to continue to support the new member services and products the Executive Committee and Board members have initiated. These include a new textbook on the spirituality competencies by Craig Cashwell and Scott Young, both past Presidents, that will be published this Fall by ACA. In addition, under the guidance of Craig and Scott, ASERVIC is in the process of producing monographs on topics related to integrating spiritual practices into counseling. We hope to add these items to the resources listed on our web page. This year we will be focusing on increasing our outreach to members through expanding our website to include products such as the CD: *Guided Meditations for Counselors and Clients* by Craig Cashwell and James Benshoff. This tool has already proven to be of interest to visitors at the ASERVIC booth at the 2004 convention.



## President's Address (continued)

We have also been fortunate to have the exceptional leadership of Denny Engels as our journal editor. Denny will be retiring from that position next year and we have a new Editor-elect in place, Christopher Sink. I have no doubt the transition will be effective and we will continue to have an outstanding publication. Manuscripts are being sought for upcoming issues so please feel free to send them to Denny at engels@unt.edu.

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration fostered by our new ACA president, Sam Gladding, we are again co-sponsoring a reception at the Atlanta convention with other ACA divisions and look forward to participating in the Day of Learning with the Counselors for Social Justice by offering a summit on ethics in counseling. Some of our members (Judy Miranti and Harriet Glossoff) are currently serving on the ACA task force for the revision of the ACA Code of Ethics. Check out our newsletter for updates on the process.

We hope to reach new and current members through our state divisions and will re-institute the State Division President's luncheon at the Atlanta convention. It is a great time to share activities and issues across the country and we hope to share those in this newsletter as well. Our State Division committee chair, Gordon Spice, has spoken with or visited more than 18 divisions. Let us know what you are doing!

I would encourage those of you who are doing research in the area of spiritual, ethical, or religious values in counseling to remember the ASERVIC research grant that is available and will be awarded at the 2005 convention in Atlanta. Please contact Dr. Marie Shoffner at University of Virginia if you are interested and refer to the article in this newsletter for details. This is another area of outreach for our members and our profession.

Our connections are the spirit of our organization and are essential to our mission. The leadership is here to serve you so, please feel free to write us to share ideas, activities, practices, or resources that you have found valuable in your work.

## Membership Demographics

Membership in ASERVIC, as of 8/2/04, is 1570. A demographic breakdown of our membership reveals the following:

### Highest Degree

Associate/Certificate	3
Bachelor	49
Master	557
Doctorate	293
Educational Specialist	21
Other	5

### By Ethnicity

African American	47
Asian/Pacific Islander	12
Caucasian	774
Hispanic/Latino	23
Native American	8
Other	16
Multiracial	0

### By Gender

Female	582
Male	340

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