

# *Interaction*

**ASERVIC**

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## *President's Address: Shannon Ray*



**President**

Shannon Ray  
shanray@nova.edu  
954-262-5725

**Past-President**

Mark Young  
myoung@cfl.rr.com

**President-Elect**

Carman Gill  
cgill@argosy.edu

**Treasurer:**

Jennifer Curry  
jcurry@lsu.edu

**Secretary:**

Aisha Lusk  
aishalusk@yahoo.com

I hope that each of you are enjoying a productive and prosperous year. As we move into the fall season, I find myself reflecting upon some of the notable events of 2012. The Olympics and Paralympics were truly inspiring and an example of the best in us; the massacre at the Sikh Gwardara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin being one example of the worst. As ASERVIC members, this tragedy underscores the important duty that we have in advocacy, education, and promotion of the spirit of unity. Appreciation and respect for others is the foundation of who we are as counseling professionals, and the role-modeling begins with us. No one said it better than Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you want to see in the world".

Please check the website for new information that will be forthcoming regarding the Call for ASERVIC Awards, Monographs and Training Modules, ASERVIC Events at ACA 2013, and preliminary information about the ASERVIC 2014 Conference.

Please know that I welcome communications from you and can be contacted anytime — either by email at shanray@nova.edu or phone at 954-262-5725.

It continues to be my honor to serve in ASERVIC with you.

Peace and blessings,  
Shannon

## Mentorship as a Spiritual Experience

Jodi L. Bartley

Ph.D. student University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Frodo had Gandalf... Plato had Socrates... King Arthur had Merlin. Tales of mentorship are woven into the fabric of the human condition, seemingly steeped in the archetypal structure of life. What is it that makes these relationships so special? Why are we so touched by the stories of Harry and Dumbledore, Mitch Albom and Morrie Schwartz, or Hellen Keller and Anne Sullivan?

Historically, the term “mentor” originated from the character Mentor in Homer’s *The Odyssey* (as cited in Homer, Fagles, & Knox, 1996). In writing of the power of myth, Campbell (2008) refers to a mentor as a “supernatural aid” on the prototypical hero’s journey. As such, mentors emerge on a universal scale when an individual has answered the call of his or her life’s purpose, but struggles in the trials and tribulations of the process. Today the term “mentor” is used to describe a person who nurtures a mentee’s untapped potential, guides him or her along the journey, and provides support in challenging times. Referring to that untapped potential, famous poet E. E. Cummings writes:

We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals  
that something deep inside us is valuable, worth listening to,  
worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch.

Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder,  
spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit. (Cummings, as cited in Brady, 2003, p. 5)

Cummings touches upon a poignant piece: the revelation of something valuable deep inside... something sacred and worthy. Mentors seem to be gifted in revealing that valuable something deep within. As such, they intuit and embrace the authentic process of a mentee’s journey each step along the way. Perhaps when mentees enter this presence, they access a deeper, more transcendent part of themselves; in essence, touching the core of their spirituality.

According to Myers and Williard (2003), “Spiritual experience... is any experience or process in the life of an individual that creates new meaning and fosters personal growth as exhibited by the capacity to move beyond former frames of reference and risk change” (p. 149). In talking about mentorship, it seems that we rarely consider it within a spiritual context. Certainly, there are spiritual mentors, but perhaps all mentors – and all mentoring relationships – are somewhat spiritual. Referring to Myers and Williard’s (2003) definition, mentors help mentees create new meaning, move beyond former frames of reference, and risk change. With them, mentees catch a glimpse not only of the depth of potential inside, but also of the broader expanse of their lives and the world around them.

The attempt to describe any ineffable quality not only feels limiting, but in some ways, feels ultimately elusive. People can develop mentorship plans, structure mentorship opportunities, and even quantify its effectiveness. However, it’s hard to capture the depth of feeling that passes between a mentor and mentee. In those situations, verbal communication is lost, and what’s left is some understanding – perhaps spiritual – that can only be communicated nonverbally. We feel it in the mentee’s quietly inquisitive eyes, searching for resonance, for someone who sees something worthy inside. And then there’s the mentor’s subtle, affirmative head nod, that nod that softly reassures, “Yeah, you’re okay. I believe in you.” Perhaps, it’s in that brief exchange that the spiritual core is brushed and transcendence occurs. And without the words to describe the gratitude and immensity of this archetypal relationship, perhaps we simply honor and embrace the spirit of the experience.

## References

- Brady, M. (Ed.). (2003). *The wisdom of listening*. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications.
- Campbell, J. (2008). *The hero with a thousand faces: The collected works of Joseph Campbell* (3rd ed.). Novato, CA: New World Library.
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- Myers, J. E., & Williard, K. (2003). Integrating spirituality into counselor preparation: A developmental, wellness approach. *Counseling and Values, 47*(2), 142-155. doi:10.1002/j.2161-007X.2003.tb00231.x

## ASERVIC Members—Help Needed!

The ASERVIC Ethical Values Committee, committed to the infusion of spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counselor preparation and practice, is interested in soliciting feedback from ASERVIC members regarding the ACA Code of Ethics in regards to spiritual and/or religious issues in counseling. In the upcoming months, ASERVIC will have an opportunity to provide feedback to the ACA Ethics Code Revision Task Force and we would like you, our members, to share your comments/thoughts. Here's what you can do to provide feedback:

- ♦ Review the 2005 ACA Code of Ethics (<http://www.counseling.org/Resources/CodeOfEthics/TP/Home/CT2.aspx>) and consider what may be missing throughout all sections of the current code or what you believe should be changed, especially, but not limited to ethical issues related to addressing spirituality and religion in the counseling, supervisory, and counselor education processes.
- ♦ Be as specific as possible in terms of what you would like to see added to the code or specific standards or parts of standards you would like to see deleted or changed;
- ♦ Provide suggestions on what language you would like to see modified in specific standards and provide suggested alternative language;
- ♦ Share more general comments; and
- ♦ Submit comments and/or questions to Harriet Glosoff at [glosoffh@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:glosoffh@mail.montclair.edu)

### **Wanted: Newsletter Submissions**

We are interested in articles or information dealing with  
Ethics, Spirituality, or Religion in Counseling.

Please submit any items you may have to Claudia Sadler-Gerhardt,  
Editor

at [cgerhard@ashland.edu](mailto:cgerhard@ashland.edu) by the following deadline:

**December 15—Winter Issue**



Previous issues of the newsletter have been posted on the ASERVIC website. We are continuing to email the newsletter in an attempt to conserve resources. However, if you prefer to receive the newsletter in paper form, please let us know so we can send you a hardcopy through the mail. We want to do what we can to keep this valuable member service coming to you and appreciate any feedback you have to offer.



**The ASERVIC Ethics Committee is always looking for ideas or guest authors for the ASERVIC Ethics Corner. If you have a topic you would like addressed or if you are interested in submitting a piece related to the ethical inclusion of spirituality and/or religion in counseling or counselor education, please contact Stephanie Dailey at [stdailey@argosy.edu](mailto:stdailey@argosy.edu).**



## **CALLING ALL STATE DIVISIONS!**

**Is your state doing something exciting?  
Would you like to share the news?**

**Send us dates, events, or happenings to let us know what's going on in your group. We hope this will become a regular feature in the newsletter.**

**Email your state division news to  
Claudia Sadler-Gerhardt at [cgerhard@ashland.edu](mailto:cgerhard@ashland.edu)**



## ASERVIC OPPORTUNITIES

### Call for Monographs *What Is...?*

#### *A collection of Psycho-spiritual and religious practices in counseling*

A few years ago, a call was sent out for monographs for a tentative book. At the request of the members of ASERVIC, we are excited to resume this project. Submitted monographs will be peer-reviewed for an on-line article submission. Our long term goal is still to pursue the book intent. We will continue the guidelines set forth for the current collection but expand to include monographs on world religions and practices.

*Those who submitted monographs previously will be contacted to determine interest in continuing with this project. There is no need to re-submit as all monographs have been located.*

#### **Include:**

Theoretical foundation and relevant research.

Definition/Description and History (Definition/description and brief historical overview of the experience or practice);

Indications (How the experience/practice can/should be addressed/used in the counseling process);

Cautions/Contraindications (Any factors that should limit or eliminate attention to the experience or use of the practice or that indicate need for referral; if a practice is “unproven” or “developing,” so specify per 2005 ACA ethics);

**All submissions should be sent electronically to Lisa Jackson-Cherry on behalf of the Editorials Review committee at [ljackson@marymount.edu](mailto:ljackson@marymount.edu)**

**Deadline for proposals: February 15, 2013.**

**Please see ASERVIC website [www.aservic.org](http://www.aservic.org) for further details**



## ASERVIC OPPORTUNITIES

### **ASERVIC Teaching Module Project**

In response to our members, The Association for Spiritual, Religious, and Ethical Issues in Counseling has been asked to continue the teaching module project to assist Counselor Educators with the integration of spiritual and religious issues in the CACREP core classes. We were excited by the quality of submissions from the first call. Currently, there are nine teaching modules that have been uploaded to the ASERVIC website ready for integration into your classroom! Please think of submitting some of the great ideas you already implement with others. This is a great way to infuse ASERVIC and spiritual, religious, and ethical issues into the classroom.

**Original materials will be peer-reviewed for an on-line publication on the ASERVIC website.**

**All submissions should be sent electronically to Lisa Jackson-Cherry at [ljackson@marymount.edu](mailto:ljackson@marymount.edu)**

**Deadline for proposals: February 15, 2012.**

**Please see ASERVIC website [www.aservic.org](http://www.aservic.org) for further details**

The 2013 ACA Conference & Expo will be in Cincinnati, OH, on March 21-24. Educational sessions and networking with old and new friends are at the top of the list of “must do” at the conference! As always, ASERVIC will be a presence there with our yearly luncheon, an Interfaith Service, and an information booth. Below are just a few of the dates and times of ASERVIC events for your planning purposes.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>ASERVIC Board Meeting</b>	March 21	9 AM—5 PM	Hyatt Hotel
<b>ASERVIC Luncheon (Order tickets through ACA)</b>	March 22	12 PM—2 PM	Hyatt Hotel
<b>Interfaith Service</b>	March 24	9 AM—10 AM	TBA?

**WE’LL SEE YOU THERE!!**