

# Interaction

**ASERVIC**

*Volume X, No. 1*

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Thank you for reading this issue of *Interaction*. The weeks since I have become the ASERVIC president have been very hectic and also very powerful. In July I had the opportunity to attend the American Counseling Association's Council of Presidents and Regional Chairs (COPARC) meeting and leadership institute in Washington, D. C. During that meeting, I was able to visit state representatives to lobby on behalf of ACA members, mental health professionals, and school counselors. In addition I was able to coordinate many upcoming events with other division presidents. Most importantly, I was delighted that many counseling professionals, regional chairs, chapter and division presidents were very interested in what ASERVIC stands for and what we do. This gave me a chance to market our current programs and to invite people from other divisions to join ASERVIC during our many events this year.

A week after returning from COPARC, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASERVIC Conference on Spirituality: *Navigating the Spiritual Journey of Life*. This was a very exciting conference, there were a great variety of sessions and the expertise of the presenters was evident. The overwhelming feedback that the officers and board members received from conference attendees was that the conference is a valuable contribution to professional development and personal fellowship of counseling professionals. In the next couple of months we will be deciding on the location and venue for the 2012 ASERVIC Conference. In addition, we will be giving our members more information about the upcoming spiritual journey to England, a trip that members can participate in during the summer of 2011. One other important event happening this year in ASERVIC is the revamping of our bylaws, which are available for viewing at [www.aservic.org](http://www.aservic.org). Please view the by-laws and we will be voting to accept the proposed changes to the by-laws at the ACA-ASERVIC luncheon. I encourage each of you to stay tuned, this is sure to be an exciting year for ASERVIC!!!

## History of ASERVIC Competencies

*Special thanks to the individuals who dedicated their time to Summit II and these revised competencies:*

*Mark Young*

*Richard Watts*

*Michele KIELTY Briggs*

*Mike Robinson*

*Grant Hayes*

*Judy Miranti*



*Lisa Jackson-Cherry*

*Cheri Smith*

*Chris Faiver*

*Geri Miller*

*Scott Young*



*Sharon Cheston*

*Bryce Hagedorn*

*Craig Cashwell*

*Marsha Wiggins*

*and*

*Linda Robertson.*

## ASERVIC Competencies

*Craig S. Cashwell*

Included on the next page are the ASERVIC-endorsed competencies. The ASERVIC Board of Directors tasked The Summit on Spirituality working group with revising the existing competencies and this became a priority for the Summit participants. In a delightful twist of synchronicity, one of the Summit participants, Linda Robertson, was working on a dissertation in which she was conducting a large scale factor analysis of the competencies. Her findings greatly informed the revision process. Thus, the new competencies have a solid empirical foundation that largely affirmed the work of the original Summit on Spirituality.

Based on empirical evidence, the new competencies are organized into six categories. The first two categories, *Culture and Worldview* and *Counselor Self-awareness*, contain competencies related to how a counselor's beliefs, values, attitudes, and assumptions should interface with a client's worldview. These competencies are included first to demonstrate that self-awareness, the person of the counselor, and a championing of diversity are all cornerstones of the ASERVIC approach to integrating spirituality and religion into the counseling process.

The remaining categories are intended to provide counselors with more of the "How" of integrating spirituality and religion without being prescriptive. Consistent with the developmental emphasis of the counseling profession, there is an emphasis on the developmental and ever-evolving nature of the spiritual journey. Further, there is an emphasis on consideration of spiritual and religious issues during the initial conceptualization and planning process. Throughout the counseling process, the competencies stress a constructivist approach to working with client belief systems, emphasizing that counselor-client communication and interventions should be respectful and sensitive of the client's beliefs.

Although these competencies may play out differently in different settings, it is the belief of the Summit working group that these competencies are applicable across counseling settings.

**Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling**  
**Competencies for addressing Spiritual and Religious Issues in Counseling**

(Revised and Approved, 5/5/2009. Copyright 5/5/09)

**Culture and Worldview**

1. The professional counselor can describe the similarities and differences between spirituality and religion, including the basic beliefs of various spiritual systems, major world religions, agnosticism, and atheism.
2. The professional counselor recognizes that the client's beliefs (or absence of beliefs) about spirituality and/or religion are central to his or her worldview and can influence psychosocial functioning.

**Counselor Self-awareness**

3. The professional counselor actively explores his or her own attitudes, beliefs, and values about spirituality and/or religion.
4. The professional counselor continuously evaluates the influence of his or her own spiritual and/or religious beliefs and values on the client and the counseling process.
5. The professional counselor can identify the limits of his or her understanding of the client's spiritual and/or religious perspective and is acquainted with religious and spiritual resources, including leaders, who can be avenues for consultation and to whom the counselor can refer.

**Human and Spiritual Development**

6. The professional counselor can describe and apply various models of spiritual and/or religious development and their relationship to human development.

**Communication**

7. The professional counselor responds to client communications about spirituality and/or religion with acceptance and sensitivity.
8. The professional counselor uses spiritual and/or religious concepts that are consistent with the client's spiritual and/or religious perspectives and that are acceptable to the client.
9. The professional counselor can recognize spiritual and/or religious themes in client communication and is able to address these with the client when they are therapeutically relevant.

**Assessment**

10. During the intake and assessment processes, the professional counselor strives to understand a client's spiritual and/or religious perspective by gathering information from the client and/or other sources.

**Diagnosis and Treatment**

11. When making a diagnosis, the professional counselor recognizes that the client's spiritual and/or religious perspectives can a) enhance well-being; b) contribute to client problems; and/or c) exacerbate symptoms.
12. The professional counselor sets goals with the client that are consistent with the client's spiritual and/or religious perspectives.
13. The professional counselor is able to a) modify therapeutic techniques to include a client's spiritual and/or religious perspectives, and b) utilize spiritual and/or religious practices as techniques when appropriate and acceptable to a client's viewpoint.
14. The professional counselor can therapeutically apply theory and current research supporting the inclusion of a client's spiritual and/or religious perspectives and practices.

## **ASERVIC National Conference** *Stephanie F. Dailey & Carman S. Gill*

It is with great pride and excitement, that we bring you a summary of the 2010 ASERVIC National Conference. Held on a peaceful, picturesque stretch of beach in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the conference took place on August 1-3, 2010. The conference was the combined effort of past and current ASERVIC leadership who wanted to provide a forum which would allow for genuine and meaningful discourse on how to effectively address client spiritual concerns as well as provide a venue for self-reflection, rejuvenation, and relevant fellowship with other professionals. The conference certainly met this goal in that attendees were provided with practical information about integrating spirituality and the ASERVIC spiritual competencies into counseling practice and, as evidenced by the pictures below, were able to participate in meaningful experiential activities which deepened their own spiritual journey.

### ***Walking Meditation: A Morning View***



### ***Springmaid Beach Retreat and Resort*** ***Myrtle Beach, South Carolina***



### ***Preacher Mike speaking about the Lumbee Community***

**Additional donations can be sent directly to: Burnt Swamp Association PO Box 1207 450 Prospect Rd. Pembroke, NC 28372**

Conference attendees were warmly welcomed by keynote speaker, Dr. Craig S. Cashwell, who spoke to members about “Attachments and Attachments” emphasizing his own personal experiences and spiritual journey. The conference’s Empty Plate Project was hosted by Dr. Cummings or “Preacher Mike”, who offered the prayer for the House of Delegates during the 2009 National Day of Prayer. Preacher Mike is a leader in the Lumbee Community and a member of the local Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. While speaking to conference attendees, Preacher Mike warmly related the history of the Lumbee people and spoke to the great strength of this Native American community. Preacher Mike is involved with numerous endeavors to help the Lumbee Community including responding to indigent, elderly and disabled residents with emergency medical, transportation, utilities, and housing needs. Other projects include helping the community respond to crisis and food and shelter requests. Led by Dr. Lisa Jackson Cherry, 2008-2009 ASERVIC Past-President, this year’s Empty Plate Project raised \$500.00.

ASERVIC would like to thank both Dr. Cashwell and Preacher Mike for not only welcoming attendees, but also for instilling us with a sense of purpose and connectivity as we began the conference.



## ASERVIC National Conference (cont.)

With nearly 50 educational sessions, 11 poster sessions, and a research forum for individuals interested in conducting or discussing potential research projects on counseling and spirituality, the 2010 ASERVIC National Conference was a great success!

The conference served to help practitioners and educators integrate these competencies into the counseling process regardless of theoretical orientation, religious/spiritual background, or work setting. The vision for this conference was the combined effort of past and current ASERVIC leadership who wanted to create a forum which allowed for genuine and meaningful discourse on how to effectively address client spiritual concerns as well as provide a venue for self-reflection, rejuvenation, and relevant fellowship with other professionals. It is with great pleasure that we report the conference did just that! The pictures in the next few pages capture the spirit of fun and cooperation shared by all at the 2010 ASERVIC National Conference.



## ASERVIC National Conference (cont.)

We hope to continue this tradition of fellowship, unity and professional develop in New Mexico at the 2012 ASERVIC National Conference! The pictures in the next few pages capture the spirit of fun and cooperation shared by all attendees at the 2010 ASERVIC National Conference. ASERVIC would like to thank all the attendees, board members, committee chairs and volunteers who worked diligently to make this conference a great success!



### THANK YOU TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Jennifer Curry, President, 2010-2011

Dr. Mark Young, *President-Elect*

Dr. Elliott Ingersoll, *2009-2010 Past President*

Dr. Lisa Jackson-Cherry, *2008-2009 Past President*

**And Dr. Craig S. Cashwell, keynote speaker**

**Conference Co-Chairs:**

Dr. Shannon Ray

Dr. Carman Gill

**Finance/Registration:**

Dr. Elizabeth O'Brian\*

Dr. Jennifer Curry

**Marketing Committee:**

Dr. Jennifer Curry\*\*

Dr. Lisa Jackson-Cherry \*\*

Ms. Stephanie Dailey

**Technology Committee:**

Dr. Tyson Kuch\*

Dr. Elliott Ingersoll

Dr. Chris Faiver

Dr. Bryce Hagedorn

**Facilities Committee:**

Dr. Bill Evans \*\*

Dr. Michele Kielty Briggs \*\*

**Program Review/Scheduling:**

Dr. Bryce Hagedorn\*\*

Dr. Mark Young\*\*

**CEU's/Evaluation:**

Dr. Leila Roach\*

**Student Volunteers:**

Ms. Aisha Lusk

\*chair / \*\* co-chair

## Religious and Spirituality Modules

Need some help in how to implement spiritual and religious issues and topics into your classes? At the request of our members, we will soon be having a call for submissions for modules that address how spiritual and religious issues can be integrated into classes, particularly CACREP-core classes. Submissions will be peer-reviewed and will include a 1-2 page abstract with power point slides and other information that will assist Counselor Educators in this area. Watch the ASERVIC web for more information and submission guidelines in November. Contact person: Lisa Jackson-Cherry ([lisa.jackson-cherry@Marymount.edu](mailto:lisa.jackson-cherry@Marymount.edu))

## ASERVIC Call for Nominations: President-elect-elect & Executive Board members



ASERVIC is seeking nominations for a President-elect-elect and Executive Board members. New appointments start in 2012 and all positions necessitate a three-year term. ASERVIC members may nominate themselves or be nominated by other members. Please send nominations to Lisa Jackson-Cherry at [lisa.jackson-cherry@marymount.edu](mailto:lisa.jackson-cherry@marymount.edu)

## From the Editor

Previous issues of the newsletter have been posted on the ASERVIC website. However, feedback from ASERVIC members indicated that emailing the newsletter to the members might be a more effective way to distribute each issue. **Since this is the first time we have emailed members an issue, we would like your feedback!** If you do not want to receive the newsletter in this form, please let us know so we can either take you off the distribution list or 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. Contact person: Carman S. Gill ([cgill@argosy.edu](mailto:cgill@argosy.edu)).

### Newsletter Deadlines

*We are always interested in articles or information dealing with Ethics, Spirituality, or Religion in Counseling. Please submit any items you may have to the Interaction Editor by e-mail at [cgill@argosy.edu](mailto:cgill@argosy.edu) by the following deadlines:*

November 15th, 2010  
Winter 2010 Issue

May 15, 2010  
Summer 2011 Issue

February 15, 2011  
Spring 2011 Issue

August 15, 2011  
Fall 2011 Issue





## ACA Conference Update: New Orleans, Louisiana March 23-27

All ASERVIC members are welcome at any ASERVIC events at the ACA Conference in New Orleans. ASERVIC will also have a booth in the convention hall where we will have loads of information for members! Be sure to check our web site again for the latest information before you leave for the convention. Check the ASERVIC website and upcoming issues of Interaction for updates ASERVIC activities at the conference. Our schedule of events is:

ASERVIC Past Presidents Meeting	Saturday	March 26	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
ASERVIC State Presidents Meeting	Saturday	March 26	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Unity Through Dialogue: The Intersection of Different Identities into One Mission	Saturday	March 26	4:00 - 6:00 pm
Striving for Global Unity: Multiple and Diverse Approaches for Emerging Professionals Forum and Reception	Saturday	March 26	6:30 - 9:30 pm
ASERVIC Interfaith Service	Sunday	March 27	7:00 - 8:00 am
ASERVIC Catholic Mass	Sunday	March 27	8:00 - 9:00 am

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**ACA NEW ORLEANS**  
Co-sponsored by the Louisiana Counseling Association

**Pre-conference Learning Institute**  
March 23-24, 2011

**Annual Conference & Exposition**  
March 25-27, 2011

**Register Now! It's Easy.**

Online: [counseling.org/conference](http://counseling.org/conference)  
Phone: 703-823-9800 x222 • 800-347-6647 x222 • (M-F, 8 am to 7 pm ET)

**AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**

\* Additional fees apply

**Sign up early and get a reduced rate!**  
[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)





## *Editor Sought for the Counseling & Values Journal*

The Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) seeks applications for the position of editor of the *Counseling & Values* journal. *Counseling & Values* is a national, peer reviewed journal with distribution of approximately 2000, and a readership comprised of counselor educators, practitioners, and graduate students. Its mission is to inform the readership of research, recent innovations, and critical issues related to the integration of spirituality and religion in counseling as well as ethical issues.

**The appointment of editor is for a 3-year term beginning July 2011. Appointment is conditional upon the following qualifications:**

- (1) Experience as an editorial board member of a professional publication or similar experience (associate editor or editor of another publication)
- (2) A record of scholarly publications in refereed journals
- (3) A history of involvement in and contribution to the counseling profession, including a focus on spirituality, religion, and ethics
- (4) An understanding of and commitment to the mission of ASERVIC, including ASERVIC membership at the time of application submission. Demonstration of institutional or organizational support (if applicable) is highly desirable.

Interested individuals should submit a formal application containing the following materials by **September 1, 2010**: (1) A current curriculum vitae, (2) A complete list of publications and reprints of no more than five of the applicant's most significant publications, (3) A statement of vision for the editorial direction for the *Counseling & Values* journal, and (4) A statement from an administrator of the applicant's institution or organization describing support for the appointment (if applicable). Phone interviews with top candidates will take place September 2010. The appointment will be announced as soon as possible, and the editor-elect will be expected to begin working with the current editor at that time so as to facilitate the official transition on July 1, 2011. Inquiries should be sent to [jcurry@lsu.edu](mailto:jcurry@lsu.edu).

Please send applications electronically by **September 1, 2010** to:

Dr. Jennifer R. Curry, ASERVIC President

*Counseling & Values* Editor Search Committee Chair

***A Spiritual Journey:  
Religious & Spiritual Sites of England and Scotland***

**May 1 - 12, 2011**

**Sponsored by the Association for Spiritual, Ethical  
and Religious Values in Counseling  
ASERVIC**

Join ASERVIC on a tour of religious and spiritual sites in England and Scotland including Roman, Christian and Pre-Christian religions.

The tour is limited to 30 people. The price is approximately \$3,500.00 based on double occupancy.

Price includes airfare from Atlanta to London and from Scotland to Atlanta on return, all transportation, entrance fees, and the services of a full time tour guide.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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EMAIL: [MYOUNG@CFL.RR.COM](mailto:MYOUNG@CFL.RR.COM)