



AMERICAN REHABILITATION
COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

A Division of the American Counseling Association

Winter 2009

Plan to *Spring* into ARCA Activities in Pittsburgh



In just a few months, ARCA members and thousands of students will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for another exciting ACA conference. The ARCA executive council has been working diligently to plan activities that both professionals and students will enjoy.

During the conference, an ARCA-sponsored student forum will be held. At this forum, doctoral and master's level students will be invited to present their original work related to rehabilitation issues. Four winners will be presented monetary awards, tickets to the ARCA luncheon, and a one-year ARCA-only membership.

This year, the ARCA brunch will be filled with lots of excitement. The brunch will include, but not be limited to, updates from the executive council; members' input session; awards presentations for the 2009–2010 Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year, 2010 Research Awards, and 2010 James F. Garret Award; and a chance to review students' posters, eat great food, and mingle with other professionals and students within the field of rehabilitation.

Because the use of social networking within organizations and with professionals continues to grow, ARCA will host a dynamic one-hour breakout session. Titled "*Social Networking for Rehabilitation Professionals and Organizations*," this session will discuss the current social networking functions available to ARCA members and elicit feedback from regarding interest in other methods of networking.

In addition, ARCA will sponsor several ARCA-only presentations. Presentation topics will include rehabilitation counseling research, innovative rehabilitation technology, ethics in rehabilitation, rehabilitation education, and other significant areas.

We are looking forward to your presence at the conference and hope you find the planned activities to be worthwhile. Refer to the ARCA website over the next few weeks to find the dates and times of our scheduled activities. We would also like to thank you all for your continued support and dedication to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

ACA Conference

March 18–22, 2010

David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Accommodations:

- Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh (ACA convention hotel)
- Omni William Penn Hotel
- Hilton Pittsburgh

For more information, see:

<http://www.counseling.org/Convention/>

California Says “Yes” to Licensure!



On October 12, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 788 into law, making California the final state to license professional counseling.

This was the culmination of more than 7 years of effort by the California Coalition for Counselor Licensure, whose mission is to promote and advance the profession of counseling and to protect consumers of counseling services in California. The CCCL Board comprises representatives from the California Counseling Association, the California Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, the California Association of School Counselors, the California Career Development Association, the California Mental Health Counselors Association, the California Rehabilitation Counseling Association, the California Rehabilitation Association-North, Inc., the Northern California Art Therapy Association, and the Southern California Chapter of the American Dance Therapy Association.

The bill establishes the license title of Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. This license will cover the general practice of counseling but not specialties, which are certified by national organizations, much like such professions as medicine. It will cover professional clinical counselors who offer psycho-

therapy, as determined by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS); thus, counselors who work in certain settings (government, non-profit agencies and education institutions, and those who do not practice psychotherapy) will be exempt from the bill.

The bill will become law on January 1, 2010, and the BBS will begin to develop rules and regulations regarding implementation. By January 1 of 2011, BBS will make available applications for “grand-parenting” and reciprocity. General licensure applications for individuals not eligible for grand-parenting and reciprocity will become available January 1, 2012.

Rehabilitation counselors were very well represented on the CCCL and greatly supported by all of the other Coalition members. A very significant aspect of the bill recognizes CRCs via the grand-parenting provisions and supervision requirements. The baseline requirements for grand-parenting are quite steep:

- a master’s or doctoral degree with specific coursework
- 2 years postdegree counseling experience, including 1,700 hours of experience in a clinical setting supervised by a licensed professional or a counselor who is nationally certified, AND
- a passing score on the NCE or the CRCE, the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination, and a California jurisprudence and ethics exam.

Rehabilitation counselors in California (or rehabilitation counselors who are thinking about moving to California) are encouraged to review all of the current information about this bill at www.caccl.org.

Patty Nunez, CRC

Nominations: Consider Someone You Know

Across the world, thousands of individuals—through research and/or practice—are improving the lives of persons with disabilities. Do you know an outstanding individual who deserves one of ARCA’s prestigious awards? If you said “yes” to this question, please visit our website (www.arcaweb.org) for more information on how to nominate him or her.

We Are VR!

As a Marshall University alumnus, I anticipated the 2006 release of the movie *We Are Marshall*, which portrayed the events after Southern Airways Flight 932, carrying almost the entire Marshall University football team, its staff, and fans, crashed on November 14, 1970, killing 75 people. Considered the worse sports tragedy in history at the time, it devastated the community of Huntington, West Virginia.

I will never forget the evening of the crash: I was a sophomore at Marshall, and Huntington is my hometown. Several of my friends were on that ill-fated flight, and I still recall vividly the mass funerals at the Memorial Field House in Huntington as the town mourned the loss of so many lives. In the aftermath of this stunning tragedy, our university president, Donald Dedmon, prepared to suspend the school's football program for the season—perhaps indefinitely. Assistant Coach Red Dawson, who narrowly missed the flight, couldn't face going back onto the field. But in Huntington, Marshall football has always been more than a sport: It's a way of life, and the community's people would rally to save it and see their football program rise from the ashes. After some initial setbacks, Huntington found hope and strength in the leadership of outsider Jack Lengyel, a young coach determined to rebuild Marshall's football program and in the process help to heal our community.

Less than a year later, during my junior year, Marshall University's brand new Thundering Herd was poised to stage one of the greatest comebacks in collegiate sports. A raw, youthful, and inexperienced squad made up mostly of freshman, patched together under the guidance of Lengyel and Dawson, defied overwhelming odds just to march onto the gridiron for the school's first game since the accident. That season, it didn't matter to us whether Marshall won or lost. It didn't even matter how the team played the game. All that mattered was that we played.

I hope you saw the movie and were not too disappointed. It may not rank high in the annals of fine Hollywood movie-making, but the "rise from ashes" depicted in the film for the Marshall University community has great symbolism for what you do so faithfully as vocational rehabilitation counselors. Your focus is not on the ashes in your customers' lives but in supporting them through guidance, counseling, and service provision to rise from those ashes. How satisfying for you to play a real-life part in encouraging and empowering customers in their personal rise from ashes to build new lives on the foundation of employment.

I have always been grateful in my 35-year career to work for a program that brings "the discovery of dreams to the reality of life" for persons with disabilities. Never underestimate your value. Our profession is truly a noble calling, and my hope for each of you is that you serve our beloved profession well. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is indebted

and grateful to you for your service to our customers. As one grateful member of the "team," I encourage you to help others rise from ashes to reach heights never thought possible. The task may be challenging and at times appear hopeless, but do not lose heart. After all, "We Are VR!"

*Bruce C. Ferris
Research and Training Specialist*

Call for ARCA Student Papers

**ACA Conference and Exposition,
Pittsburgh, PA**

March 18–22, 2010

Master's level and doctoral students are invited to submit a paper presentation for the ARCA Student Forum that will take place during the American Counseling Association Conference and Exposition in Pittsburgh from March 18th through the 22nd, 2010.

Papers may be conceptual, empirical, applied research, or other creative endeavors that are based on the student's own original work. Papers will be judged based on the scholarship, quality of proposal, relevance of topic area as it relates to persons with disabilities, and contribution to the field of rehabilitation counseling. Submissions should be prepared according to the style manual of the American Psychological Association (sixth edition) and be no longer than 20 pages, including references. Students must be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program during the fall semester of 2009.

The papers of two master's level and two doctoral-level students will be selected from the submissions, and the authors will be invited to provide "mini" oral presentations in a designated 60-minute student paper forum to determine first- and second-place winners. This session will be held the day before the ARCA luncheon, and the winners' names will be announced at the luncheon.

All four presenters will receive a free ticket to the ARCA reception, a one-year free ARCA membership, and a check for \$400 and \$250, respectively at each level. Other selected papers will be accepted for presentation at the poster session. All students

selected for oral or poster presentations attend the conference at their own expense, but those able to attend the conference and display their poster will receive a one-year free ARCA membership.

Please send four (4) copies of your paper with the following information on the cover page: (a) the presenter(s)' name, address, telephone, email, name of university or college where presenter(s) are enrolled, and student status (master's or doctoral level); (b) title of the paper with a brief abstract (less than 200 words); (c) any requests for accommodations. Send to:

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Deadline for submission:

January 4th, 2010

ARCA Listserv

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newsletter editor

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