From the President’s Office

Aloha, members! Whether you have been away for the summer or you have taken a longer hiatus than that, the AMCD family welcomes you. This is an exciting year for AMCD. We are continuing the work of the previous administration by revitalizing programs to re-focus on the primary mission of our organization. As such, we are re-committing ourselves to mentoring, cultural competence, outreach and advocacy, leadership development, and research.

For graduate students, we have a host of creative events that are intended to provide a forum for student voice and dialogue about experiences within the various counseling programs. For new professionals, we are offering mentoring experiences to provide guidance through career advancement. One of the most significant projects that we are developing is the ethnic-specific competencies program. Reaching beyond the fundamental and groundbreaking assumptions of the AMCD multicultural competencies, the ethnic-specific competencies articulate the unique assessment and intervention needs of each of the major ethno-cultural groups. We invite AMCD members to participate in the development of these competencies.

Many of you may have heard about the AMCD/ACES jointly sponsored trip this past summer to South Africa and Botswana. This tour and outreach experience was designed to reach out to our counseling colleagues in the southern region of Africa. The ultimate goal was to exchange ideas about culture-centered disaster response, particularly with counselors dealing with HIV/AIDS invested and affects individuals. This year, we seek to formalize our outreach efforts and further integrate advocacy into what we do. With the assistance of our immediate past president, we are emphasizing the relationship between the AMCD leadership and state-level participation. This year, we will sponsor a summer leadership institute especially geared toward state leaders but beneficial for everyone. We recognize the strengths of each state association and hope to create a network of support and communication between state organizations and AMCD.

AMCD/ACES Southern Africa Experience Successful

By Lauren Shure

This past summer a group of counselor educators, practitioners, and students participated in a 23 day outreach trip in southern Africa. As a continuation of a disaster relief outreach trip to New Orleans in August 2006, this trip promoted culturally competent mental health disaster outreach in order to help meet the increasing need both nationally and internationally. Through the lens of HIV/AIDS as trauma, participants had the opportunity to work with counselors and provide services in South Africa and Botswana.

The first ten days were spent in cultural immersion, touring South

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African sites and meeting with people. Following the tour, outreach participants met and consulted with various agencies working with people affected by HIV/AIDS. An international global outreach conference, organized by outreach participants, was conducted and a ceremony was held at the University of Botswana where $7,000 worth of donated books were presented to augment the counseling/psychology section of their library.

The goal of establishing relationships with agencies in southern Africa was successful. In fact, Dr. West-Olatunji, president of Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) and organizer of this outreach endeavor, is already planning a study abroad program in Botswana for students to participate in next summer. AMCD teamed up with the Association for Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES) to jointly foster counselor advocacy among their division memberships.

To view photos from the trip visit:

http://education.ufl.edu/Counselor/MeetingUs/Files/AMCDSouthernAfricaOutreach.ppt

Outreach Team Members in Cape Town, South Africa (June, 2007)

Asian-American and Pacific Islander Concerns: Introduction from the Vice President

Bryan S. K. Kim

I am most pleased and honored to serve as your Vice President for Asian American and Pacific Islander Concerns. I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and a core faculty in the Department’s master’s program in counseling psychology. I received a master’s degree in school counseling from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa in 1995 and a Ph.D. in counseling, clinical, and school psychology (counseling emphasis) from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2000. My area of research is on multicultural counseling process and outcome, measurement of cultural constructs, counselor education and supervision, and immigrant experiences. My current research examines the effects of culture-specific counseling interventions and client enculturation/acculturation (e.g., cultural values) on counseling process and outcome. This interest in multicultural counseling psychology largely stems from my experiences growing up in Hawai‘i as a 1.5-generation Asian American.

As an immigrant from South Korea and a counselor interested in multicultural issues, AMCD has always been a natural home for me. I joined AMCD in 1994 when I was a master’s student at UH Manoa and, during the past 13 years, I have benefited tremendously from the Association in terms of enhancing my scholarship (e.g., publishing in the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development) and networking with professionals and students. For a while now, I have been looking to serve the Association in some ways so that I can begin to pay back for all that I’ve obtained from the Division. As such, I am very happy to have been elected as the VP for AAPI Concerns. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the AMCD members for giving me this opportunity.

As I begin my three-year term, I have three initial goals. The first goal is the conduct a needs assessment with our AAPI members to identify issues on which I need to focus my energy. In a few weeks, please look for an email message from me and a link to the survey. I would very much appreciate your participation and any feedback you can provide. My second goals is to develop a long-range strategic plan for the AAPI members based on the results of the needs survey. This plan will serve as my road map...
Reconnection at the ACA North Atlantic Region Leadership Conference

Mark Keeney

As the regional representative of AMCD, I will again be implementing the goals of the year, established by the board and by our President. In addition, I will continue my role as a resource and connection between and amongst individuals, branches, regions of AMCD and national division and AMCD branch divisions, between the national division and ACA branch divisions. My regional goals and contact information are available on the AMCD website, www.amcdaca.org. Please contact me if you have any questions or needs.

I attended and presented at the ACA North Atlantic Region Branch Leadership Assembly and Conference, September 27-29 in Philadelphia. During the conference, I shared our goals and to provided information on the history and purpose of the Multicultural Counseling Competencies with all of the attending North Atlantic Region branch presidents. This is only the start of my intentions to continue to provide information and resources for the region during my term.

In terms of modeling collaboration with other ACA entities, I presented my Multicultural Counseling Competencies presentation with the President of the Pennsylvania Association of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling, who reviewed the AGLBTIC’s LGBT competencies. This example of division collaboration was further exemplified by ACA president-elect Colleen Logan’s presentation regarding the intersection of multiple identities in assessing and working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals, couples, and families. The need for interdivisional collaboration was further exemplified when a discussion regarding youth, violence, and gangs and the LGBT student population was raised by the District of Columbia Counseling Association (DCCA) delegation. The ensuing conversation regarding the various types of gangs, violent actions, and potential school and school counselor interventions raised the issue of the need for collaboration, not only within ACA divisions, but with other professional and community associations and organizations working on violence and gang prevention. Please contact me if you are interested in providing resource information to the DCCA delegation regarding their work with students and communities.

In addition, I was able to participate in the NAR ACA regional business meeting discussion regarding strategies to increase branch and regional membership. A salient strategy determined by branch leaders to be an effective plan, was to identify Counselor Educators, along with their current and past students as a starting point to form a branch. Based upon this region’s discussion, I would like to invite our national AMCD members who are counselor educators in the NAR region to contact me for assistance in forming an AMCD branch division within their branch. There is a successful AMCD branch division in the state of New Jersey, with wonderful support from the faculty members of Rider University and The College of New Jersey. For several years, they have been holding annual conferences. (See www.njcounseling.org/NJAMC).

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for my work ahead. My third goal is to increase the AAPI membership in AMCD. Simply stated, members are the life force of any association. Hence I will work hard to encourage both professionals and students to join the AMCD so that they too can reap the benefits of membership. If you have any concerns, questions, or ideas for the Association, please feel free to contact me. My email address is bryankim@hawaii.edu and telephone number is 808-974-7439.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Arpana Inman, the immediate past VP of AAPI Concerns, who has been a wonderful mentor to me during the past year. I have learned a lot from Arpana about the work involved in AMCD. I will do my best to fill the “big shoes” left by Arpana.
AMCD seeks to develop programs specifically to improve ethnic and racial empathy and understanding. Its activities are designed to advance and sustain personal growth and improve educational opportunities for members from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Join us in Hawaii for AMCD's annual meeting at the ACA convention in March 2008!