

## Transformation and Inspiration: Taco Night at The Hannah House

*A Good Work's Volunteer Event*

By: Julia Martin

The April wind blew strong across the lawn of the Hannah house as folks gathered to take part in the weekly ritual of Friday Supper. Children were playing in the freshly greened grass of early spring as adults socialized in the open-air dinning pavilion. Counselors were in the kitchen, at times perhaps too many, stirring, chopping, opening cans, warming tortillas, and swirling about as they attempted to miraculously produce enough tacos to fill the stomachs of over a hundred hungry individuals. Temperatures were rising as they felt the pressure to get the food outside. Fortunately, with the aide of some culinary-ninja-style superhero help, the beef and beans were perfectly hot and ready by the time the dinner bell rang. The true beauty of the evening revealed itself as the typical barriers between volunteers and those in need were removed, and people were able to establish connections through the brief but profound communion of shared mealtime. The tacos were tasty, all were impressed, and conversations developed into opportunities to express thoughts about life, work, children, love, sports, and a sundry of other typical dinnertime themes.

Meeting new people can be a lot like traveling to a foreign country. It can evoke a variety of responses and is different for every person, but crossing cultural boundaries ultimately proves enriching on both a personal and societal level. Several of the CSI volunteers described feeling reservation during the early part of the evening. However, as the hours wore on, people began to relax and were able to allow themselves to be fully present and connect with the Supper attendees. Interacting with individuals who are living in situations that are seemingly worlds apart, but are in reality living mere miles away from one another, sheds an obvious light on the disparity between the rich and poor in The United States, Ohio, and local community. Friday Supper at The Hannah House is infused with a dedication to elevating social consciousness among volunteers and community members. It is a weekly tradition that establishes a greater sense of community cohesiveness and strengthens the link between those who have and those who have-not. The CSI volunteers worked hard and shined brightly as outstanding representatives of Ohio University and the counseling department, and it was clear that all involved walked away with a feeling of deeper understanding both of themselves and their role as advocates for social justice.

## CSI Annual Banquet

A fun time was had by all at the Alpha Chapter's Annual Banquet held in Baker University Center on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Kelley Schubert, President of the Ohio Counseling Association shared words of wisdom to those in attendance as the evenings keynote speaker.

The auction was a huge success featuring donations from local businesses, along with some from CSI members and friends. The auction raises money for a scholarship fund benefitting a second year master's student.

The highlight of the evening was the induction of 27 new members to the Alpha Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota and a creative awards ceremony for graduating students.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's banquet once the date is announced!



**Chi Sigma Iota** is an international honor society for professional counselors, counselor educators, and students in the counseling field. Established in 1985 at Ohio University, CSI strives to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling, while also recognizing high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical counseling excellence. Members of Ohio University's Chapter (Alpha) are part of a 250 chapter, 12,787 active member organization. Additional information about these chapters and CSI as a whole can be found at <http://www.csi-net.org>.

## CSI EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

### Alex Reed's Leadership Reflection

My experience as an officer of Chi Sigma Iota has been a very positive one during this school year. I feel very fortunate that I was elected to the position of vice president and later to assume the duties of president. The positions allowed me to utilize both my leadership skills and my service skills. I am happy that I had the opportunity to be so involved in the planning of this year's banquet as well as help plan and organize the Sue Apple Run. I am most thankful for the collaboration that I was able to do with the rest of the executive board, committee chairs and all other members. I feel that not only was I able to increase the professional respect that I already had for the other officers and members I am closer with them as friends now. It was very inspiring for me to see all the work that we were able to accomplish this year. Overall I think that we had a very good year for CSI. Although I will not be on the executive board in the upcoming academic year, I look forward to remaining an active member in the Alpha chapter throughout my time in the PhD program. Thanks again to the entire Alpha chapter for making this a great year!!

### Counting the Benefits: A Treasure's Reflection

By: Jennifer Hoyt

Being Treasurer of the Alpha Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota has been a great experience for me this year. One of my favorite events this year was sponsoring a Friday Night Supper at Good Works. My biggest challenge was trying to plan a menu for 150 people and stay on a budget. The Friday Night Supper was a very rewarding experience for me and I hope Chi Sigma Iota continues this in the years to come.

Another rewarding experience for me was applying for SAC funding to help bring Erin Gruwell, the real-life teacher from the movie Freedom Writers, to speak at Ohio University. Chi Sigma Iota partnered with Kappa Delta Pi to apply for SAC funding and was awarded \$1,750. This money allowed Chi Sigma Iota to be one of the many sponsors of The Patton College Diversity Lecture by Erin Gruwell. With this said though, I wish I would have been more educated about the free funding opportunities on campus.

Some wisdom for the next treasurer: 1.) Stay organized. I bought a cheap pencil bag to keep receipts and reimbursement information in. Make sure you bring the treasurer's bag to every meeting because you never know when you will need a form to fill out or need to look something up. 2.) Keep your account book up-to-date and as detailed as possible. This is helpful when you have to look something up from previous years. Always know how much money is in the account. 3.) Finally, make friends with Joyce Skinner at Student Organizations in Chubb Hall. She is a lifesaver and will be the best resource for you.

### Reflection from the Desk of the Secretary

By: Stephanie Kern

As the Alpha Chapter Secretary, I have been highly involved in chapter activities all year long. I am certainly sad to see it come to an end. I look forward to being involved next year as well.

This year the Alpha Chapter has been involved in a lot of activities in the community. One of my favorite experiences as Secretary was the Orientation Mixer at the beginning of the year. I really enjoyed getting to know the new students and we had a great turnout! I also really enjoyed the Sue Apple Memorial 5K. It took a lot of planning and organizing, but it is such a great cause and all paid off in the end.

There are a lot of things that the executive committee learned throughout this process – it must be passed on! For next year's secretary, Carrie: don't stress! That is the number one thing I learned – people are people, and we can only do so much. Things will get done. I think it was helpful to be super organized and to think one or more steps ahead to keep things on track. Finally, have fun! Being part of the executive committee does not mean that you have too many responsibilities to enjoy the position.

I truly enjoyed my experience with the Alpha Chapter the past two years, especially as the Secretary this year. Alpha Chapter had a busy year, and has a lot to show for it!

## Professional Development: Conferences & Publications

### Publications

- Middleton, R. A., Ergüner-Tekinalp, B., **Williams, N. F.**, Stadler, H. A., & Dow, J. E. (2011). Racial Identity Development and Multicultural Counseling Competencies of White Mental Health Practitioners. *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*, 11(2), 121-138. (will be published in June)
- Williams, N. F.**, Brown, S., Greer, C., & Jenkins, F. (2011) Academic Failure, Unemployment, and Incarceration: Poor Outcomes for Transition School-Aged Youth with Learning Disabilities and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 4(2), 3-8.

### Presentations

(Natalie Williams – see below)

- Lopez, C., Fulton, B., & **Williams, N. F.** (2010, November). *The Impact of Racial Identity Development on the Supervisory Relationship*. Presentation delivered at The Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and Human Services Faculty Research Forum. Athens, OH.
- Williams, N.F.** (2011, April). *Lesson Learned: Sex Education for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Implications for Rehabilitation Counselors*. Poster presentation delivered at the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association Student Research Forum. New Orleans, LA.
- Williams, N.F.** (2011, April). *Let's Talk about Sex: Sex Education for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities*. Presentation delivered at the Graduate Education Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research Conference. Athens, OH.

(Amber Koester- see below)

- Schoepke, A. L.** (2011, April). *Ethics for the counseling of homebound individuals*. Presentation delivered at the Ohio Rehabilitation Counseling Conference. Mt. Sterling, OH.
- Beamish, P. & **Schoepke, A. L.** (2011, April). *Children exposed to domestic violence: Systemic treatments*. Poster presentation delivered at the SAMFC/T Spring Workshop at the University of Akron, Akron, OH.
- Bhat, C. S., Glance, D., **Koester, A. L.** & Williams, M. A. (2011, March). *The Alpha Chapter of CSI: A legacy of community engagement and local advocacy*. Poster presentation delivered at the American Counseling Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Patterson, C., Bhat, C. S. & **Koester, A. L.** (2011, January). *The Experience of infertility: Counseling strategies for individuals, couples, and groups*. Presentation delivered at the Ohio University College of Education Research Forum, Athens, OH.
- Beamish, P., Preece, M., Kerns, C. & **Koester, A. L.** (2010, November). *Children exposed to domestic violence: An ecological approach to intervention*. Presentation delivered at the All Ohio Counseling Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Linscott, J., Kerns, C., Fanning, G., Glance, D. & **Koester, A. L.** (2010, November). *Dating violence prevention: How to effectively implement a prevention program in schools*. Presentation delivered at the All Ohio Counseling Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Patterson, C., Bhat, C. S. & **Koester, A. L.** (2010, November). *The experience of infertility: Counseling strategies for individuals, couples, and groups*. Presentation delivered at the All Ohio Counseling Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Glance, D., Fanning, G. G., **Koester, A. L.**, Soto, W., Williams, M. A. & Beamish, P. (2010 October). *Clinical impairment: Revisiting gatekeeping policies and procedures at master's level counseling programs*. Presentation delivered at the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Malone-Pringle, O. A., **Koester, A. L.**, Boyd, C. & Joseph, M. A. (2010, October). *Ethics with HIV/AIDS clients*. Presentation delivered at the Ohio Rehabilitation Association Conference, Columbus, OH.

(Jen Hoyt – see below)

- Hoyt, J.** (2010, November). *Effective Advocacy for People with Disabilities*. Poster presentation delivered at the All Ohio Counselors Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Hoyt, J.** (2011, April). *Effective Advocacy for People with Disabilities*. Poster presentation delivered at the Graduate Education Association Conference, Athens, OH.

(Caitlin Nichols – see below)

- Spring, E., **Nicholas, C.**, & Damiano, A. (2011, March). *Preparing students for a successful clinical experience in the hospice setting*. Presented at the American Music Therapy Association Great Lakes Regional Conference, Lake Geneva, WI.

## Outstanding Award Winners!

- Williams, N. F.** (2011). American Counseling Association (ACA) Foundation's Gerald and Marianne Corey Graduate Student Essay Competition, Honorable Mention.
- Williams, N. F.** (2011). National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Graduate Student Scholarship Recipient.
- Williams, N. F.** (2011, Winter). Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and Human Services Travel Grant Award, \$500.
- Schoepke, A.L.**, Linscott, J. & Mayle, T. Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA). An award for \$500.00 granted in March, 2011 to research spirituality and older adults in rural Appalachia.

## Reflection on Rehabilitation Counseling Experience

By Jennifer Hoyt

Two years ago, I started my journey in the Rehabilitation Counseling program at Ohio University. I began as a strong advocate for people with disabilities and had a strong desire to grow as a professional in the field of rehabilitation counseling. The rehabilitation classes that I took during my first year taught me a lot about people with disabilities.

During my second year in the counseling program, I began my internship at the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). Being at my internship taught me the importance of not only advocating for the consumers, but also for myself. I struggled at times because I did not feel like I was getting trained as well as I should have. Since the Athens BVR office works for seven counties, I found that getting the training I needed was hard since the office only had four rehabilitation counselors and they were always traveling. Even though I struggled with training at times, my understanding of the vocational rehabilitation system has grown.

For instance, I have come to appreciate the wide variety of people that I work with. I have learned that I will work with individuals from all different backgrounds. When I first started my internship, I never expected to work with so many individuals who have had felony charges. I have come to realize that you can never know what to expect when you meet with a consumer. It is exciting to know that I will be involved in a field where I have the opportunity to encounter so many people with different experiences.

As I am nearing the end of my journey as a student, I feel confident that my experience in this program has helped me develop the skills I need to work effectively with people who have disabilities. I feel that I have grown as a student, professional, and as a person. I am looking for jobs as a rehabilitation counselor and am preparing myself to take the CRC certification examination in October. I now consider myself to be a professional who is ready to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Now I look forward to what the future holds.

## CACREP RE-ACCREDITATION

Submitted by Dr. Patterson

**CSI:** *What is CACREP?*

**Dr. Patterson:** The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) is the agency that accredits our Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and Counselor Education and Supervision programs.

**CSI:** *What is the benefit of being a CACREP accredited program?*

**Dr. Patterson:** Ohio University's Counselor Education program has been CACREP accredited since 1986.

There are numerous benefits to being CACREP accredited. Being accredited means that you voluntarily agree to be reviewed and scrutinized by a national accrediting team based upon the highest academic standards set by the counseling profession. Highly qualified students seek enrollment in CACREP programs and many academic faculty positions in counseling require applicants to have graduated from a CACREP accredited institution.

Further, the CACREP standards require that we assess and document Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). This means that we go beyond demonstrating that we teach the standards to documenting that our students have met the standards through performance-based assessments.

**CSI:** *When did the re-accrediting process take place?*

**Dr. Patterson:** The last CACREP visit was September 26-29, 2010.

**CSI:** *How often do they review programs for accreditation?*

**Dr. Patterson:** Ohio University was granted full continuing accreditation. This means that we are on an eight-year accreditation cycle.

**CSI:** *What all goes in to the re-accreditation process?*

**Dr. Patterson:** Even though the CACREP reviewers only come to campus every eight years, maintaining accreditation is an ongoing process. Being accredited means that program faculty regularly and systematically review the curricula, practicum/internship materials, and other vital components to the programs and use data collected through graduate and employer surveys, course assignments, the Counselor Education advisory board, students, and other clinical stakeholders to constantly strive to improve the programs. Assessments are conducted in many of the courses to demonstrate student learning.

During the onsite visit, a team of three reviewers from all over the United States come to campus and review our documents, interview faculty and students, tour the facilities, and ask questions to validate that we are in fact meeting the CACREP standards as they were designed. The accreditation decision is made by the CACREP Board and is based on our self-study document, the reviewers' document, and any additional material requested by the CACREP Board.

**CSI:** *Who served on the committee from the OHIO staff?*

**Dr. Patterson:** The CACREP visit requires a team approach and involves everyone in the program. All of the program faculty were involved with the accreditation report and onsite visit. During the visit, the team also met with President Roderick McDavis, Patton College Dean, Dr. Renée Middleton, the Counseling and Higher Education Department Chair, Dr. Tracy Leinbaugh, current masters and doctoral students, and program alumni.

## 2010-2011 Snapshot



### A SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO...

#### CSI Spring Banquet Sponsors:

Dr. Bhat  
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Dr. Davis  
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# Looking Ahead: Alpha Chapter 2011-2012 Leadership

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