

# UAB Counselor Education Newsletter

Fall Term, 2006

## Inside This Issue:

### Headlines

State Rehabilitation Award	1
Fall Term Orientation Held	1
ALCA Reception Hosted	1
Core Re-accreditation	1
Search for New Professor	1

### School Counseling News

Questions for Lindsey Shar	2
Shandrita Curtis Attends ACA Convention	2
School Counseling Advisory Committee	3
Chi Sigma Iota Members	3

### Rehabilitation Counseling News

Student Rehabilitation Association (SRA) Formed	4
Rehabilitation Counseling List-Serv	4

### Community/Agency Counseling News

Special Needs Focus Group	4
---------------------------	---

### Professors' Activities

	5
--	---

### Faculty Research

	6
--	---

### Chi Sigma Iota News

	6
--	---

## Dr. Stephens Recipient of State Rehabilitation Award

Dr. Barry C. Stephens was chosen as the 2005 recipient of the *O. F. Wise Professional Award*, Alabama Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association. This award is given each year to someone who has shown life-long dedication in the field of rehabilitation.

## The Counselor Education Program Held Fall Term Orientation for New Students

Students admitted into the Counselor Education Program for the Fall term attended a mandatory orientation meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2006. Students were exposed to an overview of the CE program, specific information on evaluation (i.e. high stakes assessment), APA writing style, dispositional evaluations, Chi Sigma Iota, and upcoming CE events.

## Counselor Education Hosts Reception at ALCA

The UAB Counselor Education Program hosted a social for UAB alumni at the ALCA conference on Thursday, November 16 from 6:30 – 7:15. A presentation was made about the Counselor Education's new Challenge Course Specialty Area. Dr. Glenda Elliott was also honored at the second inductee into the UAB Counselor Education Hall of Fame.

## CORE Re-accreditation

In July 2006 the UAB Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration has received notification from the Council on Rehabilitation Education, Inc. (CORE) regarding their success in achieving re-accreditation. The UAB program has a long history of uninterrupted accreditation with CORE, and is pleased to continue in that tradition.

## Search Continues for New Professor

The UAB Counselor Education Program will be interviewing potential candidates to join the CEP faculty during the spring term of 2007.



## School Counseling News

Questions for Lindsey Shar, Honored as "Outstanding School Counseling Student," 2006

***Lindsey, when you found out you had won this honor, how did you feel or what did you think?***

"To be honest, I was shocked. There are so many outstanding students in the school counseling concentration that I was surprised I had been selected. It was then that I realized what an honor it was to be recognized. Truly, there are so many gifted, talented and intelligent people in our program that to be awarded for anything is an incredible, if unexpected, achievement. I am equally proud of myself and humbled by the recognition.

***What do you think separated you from other students who might have been recognized?***

I am certainly no more intelligent or talented than the other students in our program, so I really had to think about why I had been selected. I think what separated me from other students could be that I have had some experience in the "working world." I chose to work for 4 years between the completion of my undergraduate degree and the beginning of the quest for my master's degree. By doing this, I have had the opportunity to experience "life lessons" that cannot be taught in a classroom setting. I now know when to adhere to what theory tells us, and when to ignore theory altogether and rely on instinct. In addition, my traveling experiences have allowed me to experience various cultures, and I am able to acclimate myself and react more readily to people who are not like me. Besides these things, I am really just an ordinary graduate student who works hard, studies hard and enjoys what she learns.

***What does it mean to you to be part of this school-counseling program?***

The school-counseling concentration has opened my eyes to who a counselor can be. We truly can have an impact on a person's life, and while that is frightening in some contexts, it is also empowering for counselor and student alike. As counselors, we help others find their inner strengths, their inner essences, their inner selves. Being a part of this program has shown me not only how to empower my clients with this knowledge, but it has instilled in me respect, determination, loyalty and devotion to counseling as a profession.

School Counseling Students who are Board members of Chi Sigma Iota

Lindsey Shar – President  
Nancy Osborne - Secretary

Shandrita Curtis - School Counseling Liaison  
Elaine Haskins - Treasurer

School Counseling Student Shandrita Curtis Attends the American Counseling Association Convention in Montreal, Canada.

***What was it like for you to go to a conference which was so large?***

To be honest it was overwhelming and exciting. Several times I asked myself 'what am I doing here'? At any given time you could hob nob with the counseling greats that you only see pictures of and read about. For me it was a humbling experience; to see so many professionals at varying levels of their careers learning together. I made positive connections with several presenters. I would not hesitate to do it again.

***What was the most interesting part of the conference for you?***

Two things made this conference interesting for me: the people, and the subject matter. At this conference I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with professionals that write the

...Cont'd page 3

...Continued from page 2

**School Counseling Student Shandrita Curtis Attends the American Counseling Association Convention in Montreal, Canada.**

that I have been reading for years. What an honor to be able to debate and share with them on personal and professional levels. That alone was priceless. But more important the subject matter was excellent. I had the opportunity to hear and share my thoughts about several topics- children of divorce, the 'down low man', and effective peace techniques in schools- just to name a few. At one point I was reaching the point of information overload, but I was so intrigued I found myself wanting more.

**Why did you want to go to this conference?**

I was initially encouraged to go to the conference by Dr. Tyson, Brooks, and Stephens. I was flattered that they thought enough of me to be a representative of the UAB Counselor Ed program. But aside from that fact, I saw this as a great opportunity to travel and network with other students and professionals. I wanted to challenge myself to step outside of my Alabama comfort zone to begin developing an international counseling mindset.

**Would you recommend other students to go to this conference?**

Most definitely! This conference challenged my thinking about what it means to be a counselor and what I want my contribution to be as a counseling professional.

**School Counseling Advisory Committee 2006-2007**

The following individuals will be representing their systems by being part of the Counselor Education's School Counseling Advisory Board for the 2006-07:

Karen Boyd  
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## Rehabilitation Counseling News

### UAB Student Rehabilitation Association (SRA) Formed

In the Fall of 2005 the *UAB Student Rehabilitation Association (SRA)* was established. The SRA is composed of rehabilitation students are in good standing in the program. SRA members are encouraged to become members of one of the national professional organizations in the field (ARCA or NRCA). Dr. Barry Stephens (Program Coordinator) and Dr. Pam Mobley (Adjunct Faculty Member) serve as co-advisors.

The mission of the SRA is: *"To promote student identity with the rehabilitation profession by facilitating exposure to and interaction with information and issues in the field"*. The goals of the SRA are to: help shape student identity as professional counselors in the rehabilitation setting, facilitate a better understanding of people with disabilities, keep students apprized of current issues in the field, facilitate student interaction with professionals and future colleagues in the field, and provide opportunities for students to contribute to and participate in the profession.

At the beginning of each semester the SRA sponsors a social event to welcome new students into the program and provide a mixer for all rehabilitation majors. The SRA organized members to attend the Alabama Rehabilitation Association Conference in Auburn on September 14 & 15, 2006.

The SRA website address is <http://www.ed.uab.edu/sra/> . The website address for the UAB Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration is <http://www.ed.uab.edu/counseloreducation/rehabilitationcounseling.htm> .

SRA officers for 2006 are:

President - Melissa Bearden

Secretary/Treasurer – JeVida Yow

Program Committee Chair – Abby Bell

RC Advisory Committee Representative – Melissa Bearden

Vice-President – Sheila Samples

By-Laws Committee Chair – Nikki George

CSI Liaison – Abby Bell

### SRA establishes List-Serv for Rehabilitation Counseling Students

This semester, the SRA initiated a list-serv for all students in the UAB Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration. The list-serv is intended to enhance communication among rehabilitation students. Thanks to Dr. Jeff Anderson for his assistance in establishing this valuable resource. The address for the list-serv is [rehab\\_ed@lists.it.uab.edu](mailto:rehab_ed@lists.it.uab.edu) .

## Community/Agency Counseling News

### Special Needs Focus Group

Approximately one year ago, a focus group was conducted at New City Church with parents of children with special needs. The themes from this discussion were infused and woven into a script . Current UAB counseling students teamed with UAB Counseling graduates, current Auburn Ph.D. students and UAB undergraduate students in an effort to raise awareness regarding special needs children, parents, and community engagement. The performance took place at the New City Church



*Special needs focus group meets to discuss options to improve local system.*

...Cont'd page 5

**Continued from page 4**

**Special Needs Focus Group**

where member of the UAB faculty, community leaders, church members, and distant travelers heard about the needs of parents of special needs children.

“We need more options” clearly stated the frustration of some African-American parents who were portrayed. Parents themselves may be lacking resources and general knowledge on how best to advocate for an appropriate educational plan for their children.

As the Community/Agency Counseling Advisor, I am more proud of our students than ever. For them to stand for something and have opinion; even if it is in “character” speaks volumes about their fiber. It is good to know that they ARE concerned about the community and are willing to come to its aid.

## Counselor Education Professors' Activities

### Presentations

Drs. Stephens, Tyson, and Brooks presented content sessions at SACES, held in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Stephens and Dr. Brooks-Presentation at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision in Orlando, FL entitled: Program Evaluation: Using Your Skills for Concurrent Consulting, Research, and Publication Opportunities. This presentation focused on some practical and useful strategies for designing and implementing program evaluation projects in the community. Discussion centered upon: (a) a flexible program evaluation model, (b) examples of opportunities for implementation of projects in the community, and (c) the utility for private consulting, research, and/or publication.

Drs. Stephens and Tyson-Presentation at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision in Orlando, FL entitled: Evaluation of Counselor Education Programs: A Collaborative Activity Among Faculty from Two Universities. This presentation focused on strategies for internal and external evaluation of counselor education programs. Faculty from two university programs described their model of program evaluation and discussed a mutual partnership involving focus groups (in lieu of an exit interview) lead by faculty from the collaborating institution. Program evaluation methods were be discussed

Dr. Tyson presented a poster session entitled, “The Comparison Between Individual and Independent Observer Perception on Initiative, Expression of Opinion, and Group Cohesion.”

Dr. Brooks, along with Vincent Hinton, Franklyn Williams, and Grant Hayes, presented a poster session entitled, “The Impact of Racial Identity Development and Career Thoughts among Black High School Students.”

### Faculty Presentations at ALCA, November, 2006

Drs. Tyson and Stephens presented: “Using a Challenge Course Experience to Enhance a Graduate Student Group Counseling Class.”

Dr. Tyson presented, “Using Challenge Course Games/Initiatives to Support Classroom Guidance or Small Group Counseling.”

Dr. Stephens presented with Dr. Joy J. Burnham, Dr. Carol A. Dahir, Ms. Charlene Harbin, and Ms. Jennifer Spry a session entitled: 21st Century School Counseling: How to Participate in Data-Driven Action Research.

Dr. Brooks presented along with Vincent D. Hinton entitled, “Black Racial Identity and Career Thought with High School Students.”

Ms. Sheets presented, “When Your Client is Deaf.”

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### **Counselor Education Professors' Activities**

#### **Service**

Dr. Stephens-Served as President (2005-06) of the Alabama Chapter of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association

Dr. Stephens led a national on-line discussion for the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association entitled: Counselor Credentialing: Options and Issues for Counselors who Work with People with Hearing Loss: Issues and Directions.

Ms. Patti Sheets serves as a Special Consultant in Deafness to the State Department of Education.

Ms. Patti Sheets serves on a federally-appointed "Expert Panel" which provides educational oversight in the FM & LG v Barbour County case.

Ms. Patti Sheets-appointed to the Executive Counsel of ALCA.

Ms. Patti Sheets-Appointed by Gov. Riley to the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterations where she serves as Vice-Chair.

Dr. Lawrence Tyson was featured as a keynote Luncheon speaker at the Birmingham City Schools Fifth Annual Community Partnership Workshop, July 25, 2006.

## Faculty Research Efforts

Dr. Tyson, along with Dr. Kristi Menear (Assistant Professor, Dept. Human Studies, Adapted Physical Education), published an article in the Alabama Counseling Association Journal (Spring, 2006), entitled "Connecting the National Standards for School Counseling Programs with an Adventure-based Counseling Intervention."

Dr. Tyson, along with Dr. Carol Dahir (Assistant Professor, New York Institute of Technology), published a chapter in the edited book entitled, "Professional School Counseling: A Handbook of Theories, Programs, & Practices."

Dr. Brooks, along with Dr. Andrew Daire (Assistant Professor, the University of Central Florida), published an article in the Journal for the Professional Counselor (Spring, 2006) entitled. "Is Teaching Experience Really Necessary? Teacher Perspectives on the Necessity of School Counselor Teaching Experience."

Ms. Patti Sheets-Collaborating with Dr. Susan Easterbrooks of Georgia State University "Dialogic Reading Intervention with Low Functioning Adults in a Group Home for Deaf Consumers."

## Chi Sigma Iota News

The Zeta Chapter has been extremely busy this fall term. First, they held their annual fall kick at Jim and Nicks to welcome new students. Then, Zeta members joined Fox 6 by painting, planting, and cleaning Brookville Elementary School. Also, Zeta Chapter continued its "TIP" Series, presenting Mr. Michael LeBeau. Mr. LeBeau introduced students to the world of career counseling. Next, Zeta Chapter held a reception on December 16<sup>th</sup> for all of the fall 2006 graduates prior to UAB's graduation ceremony. Finally, the Zeta Chapter Board held its annual Holiday Party on December 19, 2006. Attendees were asked to bring children's pajamas and books, which were donated to a local children's home. See [www.uab.edu/counseloreducation](http://www.uab.edu/counseloreducation) for more information and pictures of these events.

