

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling

Spring 2011



2011 LASERVIC Calendar

- LASERVIC Acadiana Workshop -The final workshop for 2010—11 will be Friday, May 6. "Children Can't Protect Themselves...It is OUR JOB!!" will be presented by Shannon Johnson, LCSW, Claudia Abell, GSW, and Lisa Mount, LCSW. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Lettie Guilbeau or Marie Hebert at 337-234-5510.
- LCA 2011 Conference Call for Programs Deadline—April 30. For more info, go to www.lacounseling.org
- LASERVIC Executive Board Meeting, June, TBA.
- LCA 2011 Conference, Baton Rouge Hilton Capitol Center, Sept. 18—20.

Keep in touch; visit LASERVIC at
www.laservic.org



A Message from the President : Jodee Elliot



As a school counselor, my time is broken down by semesters. It is hard to believe that the spring semester is approaching its end. When I think back to August, was that really eight months ago? School years certainly go by in the blink of an eye. When I think of the LCA conference, it seems like last month, yet that is not the case. And before we know it, we will be celebrating Easter. Why is it that time passes us by so quickly? And isn't it the case that our task-oriented nature always keeps us thinking about the future? Maybe that is why we do not seem to know where our time goes.

Spring happens to be my favorite season, and this spring I vow to enjoy every moment. My hope is that I will remain mindful of all the beauty that surrounds us. I want to take it all

in and embrace all of what nature has to offer. I want to bask in the extra sunshine and longer days. I want to remember what this season is all about - rebirth and renewal.

If spring provides anything, it provides the opportunity to start fresh with a renewed sense of spirit and a new perspective. Whether we are beginning a garden, starting a new writing project, or checking off a few of those New Year's resolutions, everything feels better when the weather is warm and the sun is shining. So whatever it is you may be renovating, refurbishing, or rebuilding, there is no better place to start than to start from within, and there is no better time than right now. And when we do cultivate the strength and creativity in ourselves to realize our dreams, let us take these experiences and use them as a teaching tool to help others

raise the awareness and the confidence they need to transform their lives. Happy Spring!

Being president of LASERVIC and part of the LCA executive board has been very gratifying. There have been so many people with whom I will maintain contact. Even seeing each other a couple of times a year, the connections made through LASERVIC are very meaningful. LASERVIC can provide so many different opportunities: friendships, learning experiences, continuing education, leadership opportunities, spiritual growth, and a support system.

I believe in the mission of LASERVIC and am thankful for the board and my predecessors and look forward to the future of LASERVIC. May we all continue to promote spirituality in counsel-

LASERVIC “Doubles Awards,” Recognizes Betty Cooper, Lettie Guilbeau, Marie Hebert, Sheila Nicholson, and Judy Miranti by Mary Ellen Stegall/Jodee Elliot

Traditionally, LASERVIC presents its division awards at the annual LCA conference. Last year, the two award recipients were unable to attend the conference in Baton Rouge. It was decided at that time to present the 2009 awards at the 2010 conference in New Orleans. So for the first time, LASERVIC would present “double” awards at this year’s division luncheon.

The 2009 Awards Chair, Jodee Elliot, acknowledged Dr. Judy Miranti for Distinguished Professional Service. Dr. Miranti has been with LASERVIC from its earliest years. She has also been very involved with ASERVIC, LCA, and ACA. She works at Xavier, but prior to that, she was at Our Lady of Holy Cross College for an extended period of time. Dr. Miranti was a counselor educator (she founded the program there), and she was also Vice President of the college. She travels internationally to present on spirituality.

Elliot then presented the Humane and Caring Person Award to Sheila Nicholson. Nicholson works at St. Christopher School in New Orleans. Many LASERVIC counselors may remember Sheila’s inspiring address at LASERVIC’s luncheon in Baton Rouge a few years ago. Prior to becoming a counselor, she was a social studies teacher for several years for the 8th graders. In addition to being actively involved in her school community (faculty, staff, students, families), Nicholson feeds the hungry out of her own car on holidays and at other times during the year. She has also been instrumental in obtaining funds for a

school for impoverished children in Guatemala.

After Dr. Miranti and Ms. Nicholson were honored, Mary Ellen Stegall, 2010 Awards Chair, announced this year’s honorees. This year’s recipients for the Distinguished Professional Service Award are Lettie Guilbeau and Marie Hebert. These two ladies have spearheaded LASERVIC’s professional development activities for a number of years in the Acadiana area. This is in addition to their work as teachers and counselors at Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School in Lafayette. As co-chairs, they have located and administered four workshops a year which is quite an undertaking. Their tenure of service was scheduled to end last year, but when unforeseen circumstances resulted in their successor being unable to serve, they very willingly and quietly stayed in their positions. The success (financial and professional) of these workshops allows LASERVIC to continue its donations while providing a professional service for its members.

Stegall next introduced the 2010 Humane and Caring Person Award winner, Betty Cooper. With decades of counseling experience in Catholic and public schools, Cooper has touched the lives of countless educational communities. She also served as the supervisor of counseling services for Lafayette Parish school system for many years.

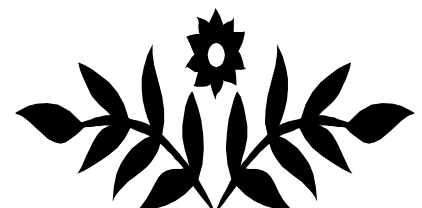
In this position, Cooper encouraged and supported her school counselors’ participation in LASERVIC activities and workshops. In her address to the luncheon audience, Cooper acknowledged the importance of spirituality to ALL students and their families. Cooper has been “retired” for a number of years, but continues to volunteer in Lafayette and to attend LASERVIC workshops. She recently answered the call to return to assist with Lafayette Parish’s counseling services for a transition period. Cooper’s caring service to clients and mentoring to colleagues merits her this fitting award.

LASERVIC thanks these wonderful recipients for continuing to inspire their clients and colleagues. **Send names for 2011 nominees to maryesteg@aol.com.

Acadiana Workshop To be Friday, May 6 By Lettie Guilbeau

The last workshop of the 2010—11 series will feature speakers from Hearts of Hope: A Children’s Advocacy Center. The three presenters will cover child sexual abuse, perpetrators, prevention, and reporting. They will also describe the grooming process. A resources list for assistance in Louisiana and nationwide will also be provided.

A Lafayette City Police Department detective will review internet safety and use as it pertains to child abuse. He will discuss increasing awareness as to what is on the internet.



Secondary School Update: Spring Has Sprung

By Susan D. Hymel

As we enjoy the wonderful spring weather, we have many things to look forward to in our lives as secondary school counselors. Most of our seniors are making their final decisions. Our underclassmen have done scheduling for next year and are ready to accept new challenges and, of course, we are in the midst of testing.

Another wonderful thing for Louisiana is hosting the annual ACA Conference in New Orleans. By the time you read this, you will probably have heard the inspirational words of Soledad O'Brien who is a voice for the many who are unable to speak for themselves. Or perhaps you will be reminiscing about the talk given by a leader in the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy field, Judith Beck, PhD. Hopefully you will be invigorated with new thoughts and ideas about ways to "Keep Our Promise and Retain Our Potential", or ways of creating an environment of "No Sexting or Cyberbullying." Perhaps you will be brainstorming about ways to "Integrate Spiritual and Religious Issues in Counseling Programs," figuring out how to reach adolescents who have been "Growing Up Online." After all there are sooooo many possibilities.

I hope this newsletter finds you basking in glorious weather, enthralled in a bevy of new ideas and possibilities and hopeful as the school year winds down. I share the prayer of St. Francis of As-

sisi as we all seek to be instruments of God in the numerous settings in which we assist clients. No matter the setting, we are all doing God's work.

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi – A Counselor's Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

LASERVIC Election by Dr. Cathy Austin



As past president, it is my responsibility to conduct the elections for this year. As part of this process, each year we call for nominations to fill open board positions. We also encourage our LASERVIC members to volunteer to lead our group.

Answering the call to serve this year is another very capable group of candidates: Roy Petitfils, Holly Esworth, Catherine McDermott, Mary Ellen Stegall, and Scott Reason. On behalf of LASERVIC members, I would like to express our gratitude to this wonderful group of individuals, willing to serve in leadership positions for our organization..

I am asking you to take the time to cast your vote by mailing the ballot mailed with this newsletter to me, to be postmarked on or before May 7.

I would like to point out that the other positions on the back of this newsletter are appointed positions. These include secretary, professional development—New Orleans, professional development—Acadiana, publications, awards, membership, social action, and graduate student representative. For more information, you could contact the current holder of that position (name and email on the back of this newsletter) or any member of the current board.

Reading a Good Book this Summer?

The newsletter is always looking for book reviews, poetry, ideas, inspirational stories for the newsletter. While you are enjoying the warmth and rejuvenating summer, consider sharing your learning experiences and literary talent with the other members of LASERVIC.

May you have a restful and peaceful summer.....God bless!

**THE OFFICIAL LASERVIC
NEWSLETTER**

Mary Ellen Stegall
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*Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical
and Religious Values in Counseling*

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