



# ISCA *Insight*

The Newsletter of the Illinois School Counselor Association  
a state chapter of the American School Counselor Association

Spring 2012 Issue

[www.ilschoolcounselor.org](http://www.ilschoolcounselor.org)

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The ISCA Insight is published quarterly.

The mission of the Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA) is to provide leadership, advocacy, and collaboration for Illinois school counselors, which results in systemic change to enhance the success of all students in their academic, career, and social/emotional development.



**Thaddeus Sherman, Mary Carideo, Dr. Erin Mason, Brian Law, keynote and ASCA Past-President, and Violetta Losowski at ISCA's Annual Conference in Skokie.**



**Dan Stasi, ISCA Executive Director; Nicole Pflieger, Keynote and ASCA School Counselor of the Year; Dr. Erin Mason, ISCA President-Elect and Ray Piagentini, ISCA Past-President at ISCA's Annual Conference in Springfield.**



**Students and staff from DePaul University enjoying ISCA's Annual Conference in Skokie.**



## Newsletter Highlights

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a division of



# National School Counselor Week

from Laurie Siegel  
President



A message from the President...

## ISCA Providing **ADVOCACY** for you!

By Laurie Siegel, President ISCA

Advocacy, as we know is one of the best methods, we as School Counselors, get our voices heard. Currently, The Chicago Teachers Union is negotiating the Teachers contract (school counselors included), which ends in the summer of 2012.

For the School Counselors, that are not counselors in the Chicago Public Schools, below is a brief explanation of the current School Counseling practice in CPS;

- Currently the counseling case load is: **1 to 600**. A second counselor position in a school is not allocated, until the school population reaches 1201.
- Counselors, in most schools are not exclusively counseling positions; they also serve as the special education case manager in addition, to their role of School Counselors. This role includes many clerical tasks such as scheduling special education meetings, copying, sending conference notices out, contacting and meeting with parents, contacting staff

and many other duties related to special education. In most cases, this case management role, takes **about 70-80%** of the counselors week.

- Counselors are responsible for 8<sup>th</sup> grade articulation, all the school wide testing in addition to classroom guidance, group and individual counseling. They are also responsible for the student records; incoming outgoing and record review. In addition, they have many other tasks that are asked of them from the administrative staff. These include, but are not limited to; hall and lunch duty, classroom coverage and at times discipline.

During the last few months, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Chicago Teacher Union Counselors' Committee. The chair of this advocate group is Kristy Brooks. Our task is to assist with the negotiations of the teacher's contract, in hopes to make some much needed changes to the School Counselor's roles and responsibilities.

A couple weeks ago, I had the distinct privilege of representing **The Illinois School Counselor Association** and the Chicago Public Schools School Counselors along with my School Counseling colleagues: Kristy Brooks (Melody Elementary School), Dr. Shelby Wyatt (Kenwood Academy High School) and John Casey Cameron Elementary School) at the Chicago Teacher's Union bargaining table.

Together, we presented at the bargaining table, our present issues/concerns, along with what School Counselors in the Chicago Public Schools, truly **need and want**. The following is the new language that is being put into the proposed Chicago Teacher's union contract:

- **The American School Counselor Association** (ASCA) recommends a student-counselor ratio of **250 to one**. All school counselors shall hold the state mandate Illinois type 73 certificate in School Counseling or possess the Illinois type 78 certificate. Counselors shall be assigned to the school counselor ratio of no more than 250 to 1 as recommended by the American School Counselor Association.
- School Counselors shall spend **80% of their time in direct service contact with students**. School Counselor's duties will focus on the overall delivery for the total program through guidance curriculum, individual student planning, and responsive services. School Counselor's duties shall be related solely to the ASCA standards and **shall not include case management**.

# Calendar of Events

## MAY 2012

5/2-4/2012 IACAC Annual Conference-Itasca  
 5/13/2012 Mother's Day  
 5/28/2012 Memorial Day

## JUNE 2012

6/17/2012 Father's Day  
 6/23/2012 ASCA Delegate Assembly-Minn.  
 6/25/2012 ASCA Conference

## JULY 2012

7/04/2012 Independence Day

## SEPTEMBER 2012

9/03/2012 Labor Day

## OCTOBER 2012

10/08/2012 Columbus Day  
 10/31/2012 Halloween

11/04/2012  
 11/11/2012  
 11/08-10/2012  
 11/22/2012

12/08/2012  
 12/25/2012

02/27/2013

04/12/2013

04/19/2013

## NOVEMBER 2012

Daylight Savings  
 Veterans Day  
 ICA Conference  
 Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER 2012

Hanukkah Begins  
 Christmas

## FEBRUARY 2013

Day on Hill

## APRIL 2013

ISCA Annual Conference  
 Chicago  
 ISCA Annual Conference  
 Central Illinois

## “Thank You!” from the Conference Chair

By: Erin Mason, PhD, ISCA President-Elect



ISCA members, I'm pleased to announce that, collectively, more than 500 participants attended the Springfield and Skokie ISCA conferences! Numbers were up, which speaks to an involved and energetic membership. We were literally "standing room only" in some cases, such that we will be looking for larger venues for the future, especially for the Chicago-based conference. It's a great problem to have, thanks to you, our ISCA members! I was truly inspired by the positive energy that exuded at each of the conferences, especially considering all of the current challenges in our field and the obstacles that exist day to day for so many school counselors in our state. By coming together at conferences, networking and collaborating, we truly create change within ourselves by feeding off of one another's vision, enthusiasm, creativity and courage.

Presenters, exhibitors and volunteers, thank you for providing your valuable services, expertise and time. You make the conferences relevant, educational, professional and enjoyable. Many states cannot boast such successful conferences through their associations; ISCA is fortunate to have such variety for sessions, as well as bountiful volunteer and exhibitor support. Conference planning is time and energy intensive and the theme of "creating change through collaboration" was a definite part of how the work got done. Special thanks go to the ISCA board members who took on many tasks over the past year including reviewing conference proposals, recruiting volunteers, recruiting and preparing the awards and making conference decisions to best serve ISCA members. Finally, none of the ISCA conferences would happen without the commitment, experience and knowledge base of our Executive Director, Dan Stasi.

Please consider that I'm sending out a heartfelt "thank you" to each of you for being an ISCA member and for making the conferences a success this year. I wish you the best as you run the marathon that is the end of another school year and I look forward to continuing to serve you as ISCA president next year.

# President Elect Elect Update

By: Steve Murray

In April, I attended the Illinois School Counselor Association's annual meetings. For two full days I listened to counseling professionals discuss a range of school counseling topics. The presenters who shared their expertise, counseling theories, and success stories were the best of the best.

I walked away from the conferences armed with knowledge and felt inspired by all of the new ideas, but before I reached the parking lot I was awash with anxiety. My exhilaration faded as I contemplated adding any of these newly learned programs or concepts to my current workload, as my plate is already overflowing.

I believe that every counselor that attended the conference aspires to be the best of the best. But I wondered whether there is something tangible that sets one counselor apart from the rest. Was there a common denominator that all of the presenters shared? Is it luck, intelligence, work ethic, effort? How is it that some professionals rise to the top of their profession while others strive for excellence but settle for ordinary?

I found answers to all of my questions in a short (only 75 pages) but profound book by Seth Godin, titled **"The Dip, A Little Book That Teaches You When to Quit (And When to Stick)."** Godin explains that high-achieving, goal oriented individuals, like those who attended the ISCA annual conference, run into obstacles both professionally and personally. Godin encourages the reader to discard the advice, we've heard from our parents, teachers and coaches since kindergarten. "Quitters never win and winners never quit," rather, he suggests that the professional superstar knows when to stick and persevere and when to quit and offers advice on how to be a strategic quitter.

The concept of quitting is foreign to the high achieving professional. As good stewards for our schools, we never quit. In fact we take on more responsibility each and every year. We volunteer for committees and support every school initiative all in our pursuit of being the best. Godin understands that best is a relative term. However he is clear that being the well- rounded team player is not the

secret to success. Godin moves his theory forward by asking, "How often do you hope that your doctor is a safe driver and a decent golfer?"

The common element that separates one professional from the next is the ability to visualize what it means to be the best and having a laser like focus on getting there. Godin says successful professionals encounter obstacles or fall into "the dip" where no matter how great the effort the results remain flat. We've all been in the dip – when we devote more hours, more resources and more energy only to feel frustrated when the outcome falls short of our expectations. Godin equates the dip with being stuck in a cul-de-sac where you are going around and around or finding yourself on a dead-end road or going over a cliff. He suggests there are three ways to negotiate the Dip: cross it, get stuck in it or quit it, and that for many, the smart move is to quit, reallocate resources and try again in another space.

We all know that any venture worth undertaking is bound to be wrought with difficulties, so Godin urges us to embrace The Dip and push through it. The only thing that separates the winners and losers in life is that the winners chose to push through The Dip when the going got tough. He also provides ways to identify when The Dip you think you're in is actually just a cul-de-sac or dead-end tasks. The only thing that's easier than quitting when times are hard is sticking with the dead-end. Godin's idea can be summarized in one phrase: "Quit the wrong stuff, stick with the right stuff, and have the guts to do one or the other. While dips are something to be overcome, cul-de-sacs and cliffs are to be avoided."

As the end of the school year approaches, this is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year, and use **The Dip**, to fight through those obstacles that are holding you back.



Save the Date!  
**DAY ON THE HILL** in Springfield  
 Wednesday, February 27, 2013

# ISCA Providing Advocacy for You

By: Laurie Siegel, ISCA President

- School Counselors shall not be responsible for duties related to special education case management, and shall not be designated as case managers in their schools. School Counselors shall be responsible for delivering school counseling programs that address the academic, personal/social, and career development of their students and that align with the ASCA National Model. No more than 20% of a School Counselor's time shall be allocated to non-counseling activities. One School Counselor shall be allocated by the CPS board for every 250 students.
- An additional duty free **hour each day** will be provided to School Counselors, to complete mandatory paper and computer documentation activities. In order to facilitate 100% compliance

with direct service, school counselors shall not be required to serve lunch duty, recess duty, provide classroom coverage, or other duties that are not related to school counseling services. School Counselors shall attend individual school faculty meetings when appropriate.

Our promise to you is that, ISCA will continue to update you on the ongoing progress of these CPS union negotiations. We as School Counselors must advocate for what is best for our students. We can be the change agents that our schools and students so badly need. **Advocacy now!**

## Illinois Counseling Association

### Call for Articles

# 2012 ILLINOIS COUNSELOR MAGAZINE



**10,000 copies sent to counselors in Illinois**

**Articles should be 1500 words or less and be accompanied by a brief (100 word) bio and your photo. Arial 9pt font single space.**

**Send your article to Pat McGinn, Editor at [patmcginn@uchicago.edu](mailto:patmcginn@uchicago.edu)**

**See the ICA website at [www.ilcounseling.org](http://www.ilcounseling.org) for the last 3 issues located from the Home Page under "Publications"**

# Licensure Coming for ALL School Counselors

A new law was passed last year that will result in some changes in ISBE and certification.

Public Act 097-0607 became effective 7/1/11.

This is making several changes that are being phased in over time in the testing and certification system within Illinois.

**Substitute the term license for certification.** Teachers, principals, school counselors, etc. will all be licensed under ISBE instead of certified. This is distinct from mental health counselor licensure (LPC/LCPC) under IDFPR. Sometime on or after July 1, 2013 all certificates will be converted to licenses. As we had announced to our members last year all fees for certificates were increased to \$75 on January 1, 2012. They will be increased again to \$100 on January 1, 2015. Many sections of the current certification code will be repealed sometime on or after July 1, 2013. Master Certificates will be eliminated.

There will be three types of licenses.

- 1 Professional Educator License
  - Teacher
  - Administrator
  - School Service Personnel
- 2 Educator with Stipulations License
- 3 Substitute License

Gone are Type 04, 03, 73, 78, etc. All endorsements and qualifications will be under the one license

Professional Educator License

A Type 73 w/ School Counselor WILL BECOME

Prof. Ed. License w/ Endorsement: School Counselor.

The ECS, Electronic Certification System, will be where all information will be maintained. This system will be updated. It is suggested that you check to see that your information in this system is accurate and correct any inaccuracies.

## TAP REPLACES BASIC SKILLS TEST

The Basic Skills test has already been replaced. The new test is called the (TAP) Test of Academic Proficiency.

- 0 Replaces current Illinois Test of Basic Skills
- 0 Computer based/ \$125
- 0 Four subtests: Reading Comprehension (401)
- 0 Language Arts (402)
- 0 Mathematics (403)
- 0 Writing (404)
- 0 Must pass each section. Can retake sections not passed. Total of 5 tries, must have passed all 4 sections by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> try.
- 0 Can take 5 times, even if one has failed Basic Skills 5 times.

The TAP test must be taken and passed successfully before final admission to a degree program leading to school certification/licensure.

## CONTENT AREA TESTS MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE INTERNSHIPS START

The School Counseling Content Area Test is required NOW before starting an Internship. We are still awaiting an opinion from ISBE if they are required before a Practicum begins.

The next Test Application Deadlines are soon!

ALL students that will be interning next year MUST take and pass the Content Area test in school counseling before beginning their internship.

Deadline are approaching for the last two chances to take this before Fall.

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0607.pdf>

***“(105 ILCS 5/21B-30 new)  
Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.***

***(d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall be allowed to student teach, serve as the teacher of record, or begin an internship or residency required for licensure until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.”***

This means that if a student is planning a Fall 2012 internship they need to have passed the content exam for school counseling and of course the Basic Skills (TAP) too.

Test dates: [http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL16\\_testdates.asp](http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL16_testdates.asp)

## Concerning the Basic Skills Test

If you had taken the Basic Skills Test as a requirement to get into a program after 2002-2003 and you are applying now for a different certificate (you originally were a history teacher and got a teaching certificate and now got your masters in school counseling and are applying for a Type 73) you DO NOT need to retake the Basic Skills (TAP) test.

But if the Basic Skills was taken prior to 2002-2003 and you are applying now for a different certificate YES you need to retake the Basic Skills test (TAP).

BUT if you wait until after 7/12/2012 the law changes and NO you do not need to retake the TAP regardless of how long ago you took the Basic Skills.

As always verify with your ROE.

## Testing Dates and Fees

Test Date	Registration Deadline Regular	Registration Deadline Late	Emergency Registration Period	Emergency Registration Period	Score Report Date
July 7, 2012	May 25, 2012	June 15, 2012	June 15-July 2, 2012	June 18-July 2, 2012	August 3, 2012
June 2, 2012	April 20, 2012	May 11, 2012	May 11-June 2, 2012	May 14-June 2, 2012	June 29, 2012

More details are at: [http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL16\\_testdates.asp](http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL16_testdates.asp).

### Internet Registration

All registration periods. To register on the Internet, your registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. Central time on the registration deadline for the period.

### U.S. mail registration information U.S. Mail Registration

Regular and late registration periods only. To register by mail during the regular registration period, your registration materials must be postmarked by the regular registration deadline. During the late registration period, your registration materials must be received by 5:00 p.m. Central time on the late registration deadline.

### Telephone registration information Telephone Registration

Emergency registration period only. To register by telephone, call (800) 239-8107 or (413) 256-2870, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Central time, Monday–Friday, excluding the following holidays: September 5, 2011; January 2, 2012; and May 28, 2012. You must call by 5:00 p.m. Central time on the emergency registration deadline.

Test of Academic Proficiency, single subtest	\$49
Test of Academic Proficiency, all 4 subtests	\$99
Content-area tests	\$60 each

### Registration processing fee

(must be paid once for each paper-based test administration or each CBT registration) \$26

Late registration fee (paper-based testing) \$30

Emergency registration fee (paper-based testing) \$90

Computer-based testing fee for content-area tests

(assessed for each content-area test taken on computer; there is no CBT fee assessed for the Test of Academic Proficiency)

\$84 per test

# A Day on the Hill

By: John Gianoulis

I would like to thank you, Dr. Ockerman, and Dr. Whitney for organizing and attending the trip to Springfield for our counseling program. It was a great day and I'm very happy that I got to participate in it and meet many of my classmates. I was paired up with Kate Tyll and thought our day was very productive and educational. I'd like to share some details of our experiences.

After waiting for a while outside the House, we decided to go up to the gallery. One of our assigned reps was Rep. Monique Davis (D-Chicago) and although we never spoke to her, we did get to hear her speech on 5290. When she was finishing, Kate recognized Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) as she was walking out to come to talk to us!! Since Kate interns at Highland Park High School, she was hoping to get some time with Rep. May. So we quickly got up and, literally, ran downstairs as they were looking for us. It was great that Kate spotted her (at a pretty far distance!) otherwise we would have missed the opportunity. Kate brought up House Bill 5290 and Rep. May talked about reporting and was very curious how this was going to be handled in the future. She said she would support the bill.

After speaking with her, we decided to go to the office of our Senator John Cullerton (D-Chicago). Since he is the President of the Senate, we weren't surprised when his administrative assistant told us he was not available. She was very nice and wrote down all our information and said she would make sure he definitely received it.

At this point it was time to leave for lunch but in the hallway I recognized Sen. John Milner (R-Carol Stream) from one of the cards I was carrying. He was in the middle of a conversation with three men but we decided to wait until he was done which was about ten minutes later. I introduced myself and Kate and thought I would see what he had to say about additional funding for education, specifically for school counselors. His

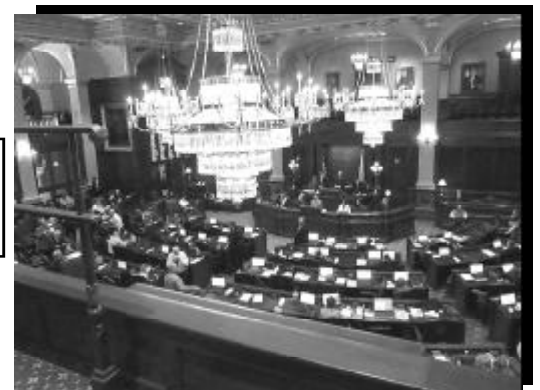
response was "where would the money come from?" so I quickly changed the subject to bullying prevention. He was much more responsive to that and is a strong supporter of "anything Anti-Bullying." He explained to us that he was a police officer for 30 years so he has witnessed first-hand the damage bullying can do. He talked about how the cycle needs to be broken and how crucial it is for parents to not dismiss bullying as "no big deal" and "it happens to all kids—it happened when we were growing up." He talked about how bullying can be compared to gang violence. It has become "too normal" for kids to retaliate with guns and we need to continue to try and prevent this. He said that "slowly but surely, the cycle needs to be broken so this type of behavior is not normal." I told him we were part of a group that took a bus from DePaul and how Bullying-prevention is a huge priority and focus in our program and mentioned DePaul hosting the Illinois Anti-Bullying Conference this year. He thanked us several times and said "thank you to the rest of your group for doing what you're doing" and urged us to continue advocating and lobbying for this. He said he will always support anything related to bullying prevention. I thought

this was a great way to end the afternoon at the State Capitol!

Personally, the build-up and uncertainty of this trip made it pretty intimidating but now that I've gone through it, I wouldn't feel that way the next time. Also, I would now feel comfortable contacting a politician about issues that can help our profession. I'm glad I stepped outside my comfort zone and look forward to future events! Thank you!



**Dr. Erin Mason, Vince Walsh-Rock, ISCA VP Counselor Supervisor and Amy Thompson, Legislative Chair, lobbying**



**Illinois House of Representatives**



# A Day on the Hill

By: Alex Glezev

The "Day on the Hill" event was a great learning, networking and fun opportunity. In my opinion this one-day practical experience gives flesh and blood to the class discussions about advocacy. I learned how to identify who my state representatives is. In addition, I learned how to effectively communicate to them action that I want to be taken towards a specific bill.

I must admit that prior to this trip I have always been somewhat cynical about the politician's attitude towards their constituents. My preconception was that politicians follow their own interest and care about their constituents' concerns only on the surface level. I was surprised by the great number of representatives and senators that came out of the chambers to talk to our group. I was carefully observing the representatives and senators involvement in the conversations. They were not only listening carefully, but were participating actively as well. I think this event has helped me built more trust in the legislative process, which has previously been a "black box" for me. Now that I am somewhat familiar with its workings, I think I am much more likely to contact my representative or senator on issues that are of interest to me.

In terms of networking, it was interesting to meet representatives from IMHCA and learn more about their lobbying

and advocacy efforts. They were specifically pushing for passing bills HB 4037 & SB 3744. These bills would extend the licensure for LCPCs and would allow LCPCs to become facility directors in mental health institutions.

The "Day on the Hill" had a fun side as well. I experienced first-hand the atmosphere at the Capitol. The Capitol seemed to be governed by organized chaos. Hundreds of constituents are competing for their legislators' attention. The legislators are hurrying to get to different committees, offices and chambers. The beautiful architecture seems to balance this chaos with its quiet presence.

Last but not least, I was able to interact with my classmates outside of the classroom environment. This was refreshing, as I experienced additional details and angles that I had previously missed. I think this shared day drew us closer together.

I would definitely recommend the "Day on the Hill" event to other students in the College of Education. It is a great way to solidify some of the theoretical advocacy highlights presented in class. In addition, it is a great opportunity to learn about the efforts of mental health organizations like IMHCA and mingle with peers from the College of Education.

## Online Support for NBPTS

Washington State University (WSU) offers a unique online support program for school counselors seeking National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification. The NBPTS school counselor certificate presents challenges that are different from any other NBPTS certificate. As a result, in 2009, WSU developed an online support program specific to school counselors targeting the unique requirements for NBPTS Certification. For more information please contact [Debra Pastore](#). Some school districts offer perks/stipends for NBPTS Certificate holders.

WSU NBPTS School Counseling Support Program:  
<http://education.wsu.edu/certification/nbpts/counseling/>

## ICA Conference Springfield Hilton Springfield, IL November 8-10, 2012

Workshop Proposals are still being  
accepted through June 30, 2012  
[www.ilcounseling.org](http://www.ilcounseling.org)

# A Day on the Hill

By: Kristina Kuusik

I went into Day on the Hill with an open mind, anticipating I would discover a whole new side of what advocating really means and learn more about the Illinois legislature. I think the trip as a whole was a bit overwhelming for me because I do not know much about politics or government to begin with, and I am not originally from Illinois so that made it even more confusing for me.

I think the preparation on the bus ride down was helpful. I appreciated how Professor Mason and Professor Ockerman role played for us (one being a DePaul student, one being an Illinois state representative), as that helped me mentally prepare how I would speak to one of my legislators. They also provided us with a list of “talking points” to discuss with our legislators.

- Increased funding for K-12 education / promoting ASCA ratio recommendation
- Increased MAP (Monetary Award Program) Funding
- House Bill 5290 Bullying Prevention
- LCPCs as Facility Directors House Bill 4037
- Extension of the Counselor Licensure Act House Bill 4520

It was beneficial going over these “talking points” so I would have a better idea of the bills and current issues we would be discussing.

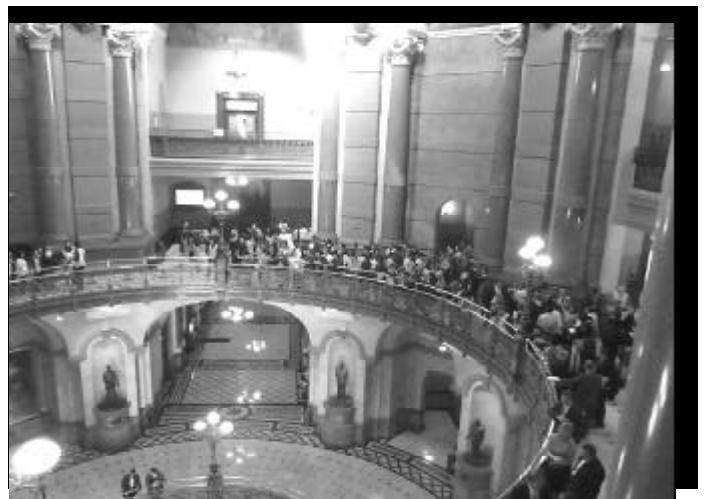
When we arrived at the Capitol building, I was blown away. The building was gorgeous and the atmosphere inside was truly energetic. It was interesting to see the different kinds of groups that were lobbying for a particular cause. We proceeded upstairs to try and wait for our legislators to come so we could speak to them. Time kept passing and no Senators were coming out, so a group of us decided to go up to the Senate gallery and listen in on their session. This was truly eye-opening. It was interesting to witness the voting, or lack there of, that took place in the room. We were laughing at how lackadaisical the job of a Senator is during those voting sessions. They all seemed to be talking amongst each other, playing on their computers or eating. We were finally able to hear some discussions take place which was interesting, and we saw some of the legislators who we are constituents for. After sitting in on the gallery, Kerry, Ali and I went downstairs and waited to see if our Senators would come out and speak to us. After awhile of no one coming out, we decided to go down to their offices and see if we could speak with their secretaries or leave some information on their desks regarding advocating for change in school funding and/or talk about the anti-bullying bill that we would like to see passed. This was interesting because we got to see the Illinois Governor in the elevator, along with many other Illinois Senators in their offices. Although I was never actually able to speak to anyone, it

was interesting to see what a day in the life of a Senator is like. I left my information along with what I hope to see changed in funding for Illinois schools in many of the Senator’s mailboxes, in hopes of hearing back from at least one of them.

Overall, Day on the Hill showed me how difficult it can be to advocate on behalf of an issue that you are passionate about. It takes time and effort to get your point across and actually be able to speak with a state legislator. It was interesting to talk to some of the counselors that were on the trip and hear about how their advocating in the past has helped them in their profession today. This trip helped me realize how important advocating can be and how I will strive to do my best at advocating on behalf of my students and current issues as a counselor.



**Day on the Hill participants**



**Lobbying “at the rail” in Springfield.**

# CICO Report

We held our annual meeting with counselor educators from across Illinois. Over 90 educators attended from 37 different universities. All Illinois School Counseling Programs were represented. We discussed the future of licensure in Illinois. The licensure act is up for renewal this year. We have been working for some time on getting this law renewed with the changes we wanted.

We discussed that at some point in the future Illinois will likely move to requiring a 60 semester credit hour degree for the LCPC license. Currently over 50% of the states are requiring a 60 credit hour degree. The process to change this is that IDFPF will draft rule changes that are then open for comment and then the rules must be approved by JCAR. JCAR is a legislative bipartisan committee of Senators and Representatives. The final changes will have a phase in process and a future effective date. This date would likely be 3-5 years after the rules are approved. Nothing would require existing Illinois licensed counselors to do over anything. Their license would remain intact as long as they keep up with the renewal process.

One scenario that was discussed was having a LPC license require a 48 semester hour degree as it currently does and the LCPC require a 60 semester hour degree. We did not discuss requiring any additional specific classes beyond the current 13 that are required. Many Illinois degree programs that can lead to licensure in Illinois are already a 60 semester hour degree program.

As this process moves forward we at ISCA and the Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations will stay closely involved and continue to represent the interests of all Illinois counselors and future counselors. Our licenses continue to be the fastest growing mental health licenses in Illinois.

## Current Legislation

### HB5290

Anti-bullying Bill. This bill expands on the current legislation. It includes interventions that can be taken to stop bullying, including social-emotional skill building, counseling, school social worker services, school psychological services, community-based services, and the development of a school-wide approach to preventing and responding to bullying. This legislation barely passed the House 61 Yes-49 No-2 Present.

It is now in the Senate.



*Kris Wheatley, ISCA/ICA Past-President presents the Representative with ISCA Legislator of the Year Award, Representative Linda Chapa LaVia and Daniel Stasi, CICO Executive Director*

### HB 4037

This legislation will add LCPCs as qualified mental health Facility Directors in the Mental Health Code. Currently only LCSWs and Psychologists can be a Facility Director. Dan Stasi, our lobbyist, drafted this legislation and worked with Illinois Senators and Representatives to get it passed. We are thankful for the sponsorship of Rep. Elaine Nekritz in the House. It has passed the House Committee unanimously and was called for a vote of the full House on March 1, 2012. It passed the House unanimously. It was then sponsored in the Senate by Dan Stasi's Senator, Christine Johnson. It has passed the Senate Human Services Committee unanimously and is awaiting a full vote in the Senate.

### HB 4520

Counselor Licensure renewal Act. We have been working on this legislation for about 18 months now.

Dan Stasi met several times with IDFPF staff. We have incorporated several changes to improve the law. Together with the financial support of ICA, IMHCA and CICO we employed a special contract lobbyist to assist with the passage of the new and improved licensure law. We hired Dan Bluthardt the former Director of IDFPF. Dan Stasi met with the Chairperson of the House Licensure Legislative Committee. The bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Skip Saviano and Rep. Sandy Cole. Both are former ICA Legislators of the Year. Dan testified in the House committee on behalf of the bill. The Bill was supported by IDFPF. It passed unanimously in the House Committee and on March 23, 2012 it passed the House unanimously. Then in the Senate the ranking Republican on the Licensed Activities Committee, Senator Pam Althoff sponsored the bill. Sen. Althoff is also a past ICA Legislator of the Year. The bill was cosponsored by the Chairperson of the Committee Sen. Iris Y. Martinez. Sen. Martinez is a Democrat. We are very pleased to see this bipartisan effort. Dan again testified in the Senate and the bill passed the Committee unanimously. It is now awaiting a full vote in the Senate. After that it goes to the Governor for his signature. We will continue our efforts to get this passed as soon as possible.

We continue to discuss and push for changes in the state policy on Medicaid reimbursement to school districts. Currently by state policy only school social workers can provide those services. We want this expanded to include school counselors. Several legislators we talked with were supportive of the concept. Unfortunately the timing could not be worse. Illinois for the first time in a long time is focusing on what can be done to reduce the spending on Medicaid. We will continue to pursue getting this state policy changed.

# ISCA Annual Conference Awards



Laurie Siegel, ISCA President; Barbara Karpouzian (center) receiving the Administrator of the Year Award, and Dr. Erin Mason, ISCA President-Elect



Kenton Bergman receiving the Administrator of the Year Award in Springfield.



Kim Kopec receiving the Internship Supervisor of the Year Award.



Steve Herkert receiving the School Administrator of the Year Award.



Dustin Seemann receiving the H.S. Counselor of the Year Award.



Melissa Ockerman receiving the Counselor Educator of the Year Award.



Erin Vandermore receiving the Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award.



**Kristy Brooks receiving the President's Award for CPS Advocate.**



**Dr. Christina K. Nolan receiving the School Counselor Educator of the**

## Day on the Hill

By: Vijaya Schnatterbeck

"Coming from a Democratic environment that is contradictory in practice, to me freedom of speech was nonexistent most times and ambiguous at others. Our press is controlled in reality and I have never thought about lobbying or advocating for fear of repercussions instilled from a young age by the people around me. My husband and I talk about issues that are of concern to us all the time and every time we have a political conversation, I always question "Talk is free but what happens next?" When I worked for the government back in my home country, I met my Ministers frequently but it was always polite conversation and I never advocated for a cause I believed in because there were not many people who stepped up to that role. We waited for someone else to take up the cause or followed what the legislators decided and chose not to rock the boat too much.

After this much caution, when Heather my fellow classmate invited me on an advocacy trip to Springfield I was a little hesitant and unsure. We have been learning about advocacy and the importance of it in school counseling but to actually practice it seemed a little daunting. My biggest fear was that I would say something wrong which would make the legislator upset and I will be 'marked' and might not get opportunities in the future because of my transgression. I know I can laugh about it now after the trip but at that time the fear was real for me because of what I have heard about in my own home country.

When I was at the Capitol Building I was amazed by the number of people out and about advocating and these were just regular, everyday folks like you and me. It was humbling and at the same time exciting to see all the Senators and Representatives chatting with their constituents. I was very nervous and when I was partnered with another DePaul student, Rachel it made me feel a little relieved as I was hoping I would let her do the first one and observe. When Senator Silverstein came out, we introduced ourselves and Rachel looked at me and said "Go ahead". I surprised myself by stating my cause and requesting his support without showing him my nervousness. He was very approachable and easy to talk to which helped.

From that point on, I guess I was on a roll to speak to as many Senators and Representatives as possible. The important learning point I got out of this is that, America is the 'Land of the Free' where anyone and everyone has a voice if we want to use it for a good cause that we are passionate about. I was able to answer my own question that talk is free and the next step is to pick the cause that I believe in and advocate for it. Change might not happen with just 32 people but it is the necessary first step towards a bigger goal. Just like a rain drop can leave ripple effects in a puddle of water a small group of us left a lasting impact in Springfield for legislators to think and talk about. Change is a process and it does not happen overnight but this is a good starting point for me.

# ISCA Annual April



Poster Session at ISCA Conference.



Dr. Erin Mason with Brian Law, keynote and ASCA Past-President, in Skokie.



Dr. Toni Tollerud, Dr. Michele Kerulis and Dr. Jim Klein at ISCA's Annual Conference in Skokie.



Nicole Pflieger, keynote and ASCA School Counselor of the Year, presenting in Springfield.

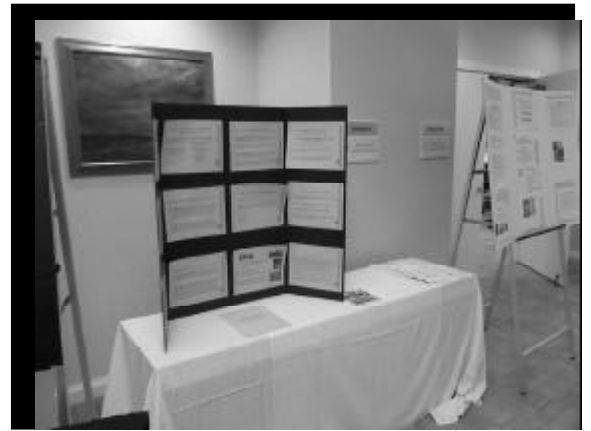


Dr. Erin Mason and Tyrone



Awards Luncheon

# Conference 2012



Poster Session at the  
ISCA Conference



Dr. Erin Mason reviewing  
the conference program  
book with an attendee.



ISCA Conference  
Registration in Skokie.



Volunteers ready to  
welcome guests at the  
ISCA Annual  
Conference.



Dan Stasi, ISCA Executive Director; Dr.  
Erin Mason, ISCA President-Elect; and  
Sarah Martin, Vice President Grad  
Student, at the awards luncheon.



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Counselor Association**

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# Spring Issue

**Save the Dates!**

**ISCA Annual  
Chicago Area Conference  
April 12, 2013 New & Bigger Location**

**Central Illinois Location  
April 19, 2013 Location TBA**