



ISCA *Insight*

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

June 2006 Issue

• email: ilschoolcounselor@yahoo.com • <http://www.ilschoolcounselor.org>

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Busier Than an Ant at a Picnic

Amy Thompson - ISCA President



Amy Thompson

Busier Than an Ant at a Picnic. Have you heard or used this expression lately? I know it's an old phrase and clearly says, "I am WAY too busy to keep up!"

As school counselors we are all called upon to perform many feats. Some of these duties fall

directly within the guidelines of appropriate tasks for our training and others could be done by a properly trained monkey. While on some level I resist the monkey-like tasks and sometimes resent being asked to use my time so ineffectively, I also know what it means to be a "team player." I can continue to strive for the objectives of the Illinois or ASCA Developmental Model, and I will, but I remind myself that the model is the ideal. Just look at this partial definition of the word *model*:

Model:

- A preliminary work or construction that serves as a plan from which a final product is to be made.
- Such a work or construction used in testing or perfecting a final product.
- One serving as an example to be imitated or compared.

The ASCA National Model is a plan, an example to be imitated or compared and to be used toward perfecting a final product. In other words, it's a goal. Can goals always be fully achieved? And if so, once it is achieved, is our work done? I think not. If our profession is to continually grow, we must face our work the way we tell our students to face their future; with hope, hard work, and

flexibility. Therefore, I suggest that we simply do the best we can every day. As I have said many times this year, "It might be baby steps. It might even be three steps forward and two steps back. In the end, it is still progress."

As I approach the end of my term as President of YOUR Illinois School Counselor Association, I find myself wishing we

"As School Counselors we are all called upon to perform many feats."

could have accomplished more, yet, I am proud of our progress. To remind myself of all that we – the leadership of ISCA, all of you wonderful school counselors, and counselor-educators out there who go to work everyday trying to make the best of your particular place in the world have accomplished, I need only read the report I am submitting to the ASCA Delegate Assembly (included on page 4). Yes, we still have much work left undone but we are walking ever-so-steadily forward. The best part of it all? Our students are better for it.

Let's support each other and truly show that we yield the power to make good things happen. Perhaps we can find what Dorothy discovered toward the end of *The Wizard of Oz*:

Glinda: You don't need to be helped any longer. *You've always had the power to go back to Kansas.*

Dorothy: I have? (continued page 2)

President-Elect's Message

Roseanne Oppmann MS, NCC, LCPC

SPRING CONFERENCE 2006

Our 2006 spring conference was held on April 21st at Elgin Community College and it was a big success. This year's theme was "Power In Numbers" and there were many wonderful presenters, exhibitors, and opportunities for networking. There was a valuable workshop for every counselor from elementary through high school. We were also very excited to have Mark Kuranz, who was past president of ASCA, as our keynote speaker. The conference concluded with our President, Amy Thompson, leading an idea sharing session called Community Forum on Data: Where to get it, How to Use it. This was the perfect way to pull everything together and leave attendees with valuable thoughts and ideas to take back to their schools.

A huge part of our success is due to the funding we receive through

our exhibitors. This year we were very pleased to have the exhibitors listed below at our conference. Please feel free to contact them to take advantage of what they can offer school counselors.

The spring conference is always a wonderful way to wrap up the current school year by networking with other counselors who work in the school setting and celebrating who we are as professionals

Blueprint Education
Contact: Marmy Kodras
(800) 426-4952 *4840
www.blueprinteducation.org
marmyk@blueprinteducation.org

Center for Distance and Independent Study-UMC
Contact: Alicia Bixby
(800) 607-3727
(573) 882-6413
craned@missouri.edu

College and Career Press
Contact: Andy Morkes
(773) 248-6590
amorkes@chicagopa.com

Dan Sperry Magical Entertainment
Sperris Entertainment Group
(630) 267-0785
(320) 224-4491 cell
staff@dansperry.com

Indiana University School of Continuing Studies
Contact: Irene Fox
ifox@indiana.edu
http://scs.Indiana.edu

Lifetrack Services
Contact: Tom Frick
(800) 738-6466
frickconsult@prodigy.net

Stern's Books
(773) 506-0683
www.sternbooks.com/contact.html

U.S. Qual Employment Opportunity Commission
Contact: Rita B. Coffey
rita.coffey@eeoc.gov

Amy Thompson - ISCA President

(Continued from page 1)

Scarecrow: Then why didn't you tell her before?

Glinda: Because she wouldn't have believed me. She **had to learn it for herself.**

Tin Man: What have you learned, Dorothy?

Dorothy: Well, I - I think that it -

that ***it wasn't enough just to want to see Uncle Henry and Auntie Em. And that it's that - if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard, because if it isn't there, I never really lost***

it to begin with. Is that right?

Glinda: That's all it is!

Since we can always use a little help – after all, Dorothy DID have those magical ruby slippers- I hope ISCA can help you find your ruby slippers. I wish you the very best in the work you do everyday!

Executive Director Outlook

- Dan Stasi

Summer is upon us. With the season change we also find a change in leadership at ISCA. It has been my pleasure to serve the ISCA board for the last year. Amy Thompson has been wonderful to work with and has done a great job of moving ISCA forward. I look forward to my work in the future with the ISCA Board and our new President, Roseanne Oppmann.

This June the ASCA Conference will be in Chicago. This is a great opportunity for school counselors to get involved as attendees or volunteers.

CICO continues to represent school counseling interests politically in Illinois. As the lobbyist for CISCO/ISCA we will push to continue to push for legislation that will be beneficial to school counselors. Please take time this summer to volunteer to help your local legislators with their campaign or a community event or parade.



Executive Director Daniel Stasi and Bonnie the Bugler (Arlington Park) at a recent Fundraising Event for members of the Illinois House of Representatives

Children's Mental Health Partnership Funded Included in State of Illinois Budget

To all of you who called and wrote letters, thank you! To all of you who posted this in your professional journals and listservs, thank you! We are no longer an unfunded mandate!

Maria

** High Priority **

Good news! The FY 07 state budget just passed by the General Assembly includes \$5 million for the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership. Two million is line itemed for ICMHP in the DHS/DMH appropriation, and \$3 million is in the ISBE appropriation, also line itemed for ICMHP. This is a major victory for the children's mental health movement in our state and I want to thank all of you for your contributions to this effort. Our focused planning and

coalition-building work has paid off. We now get to work together to implement a number of our priorities as outlined in the ICMHP Strategic Plan and our advocacy materials.

Special thanks and enormous appreciation go to all the advocacy groups, especially to Voices for Illinois Children, and Gaylord Gieseke and Sean Noble, for spearheading the legislative advocacy effort, and to ICMHP legislative members, particularly Kathy Ryg for her superb leadership and Beth Coulson for her constant support in moving the ICMHP agenda through the legislative process. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful advocates and policy makers working on behalf of children's mental health. We will

discuss all of this in greater detail at the May 31st Partnership meeting in addition to celebrating our great success.

Again, thanks to all of you for working on behalf of Illinois children and families. We are making a difference!

Best,
Barbara

Barbara Shaw, Director
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
100 W. Randolph, Room 6-600
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 814-1514

Illinois Counselor Association Report to ASCA Delegate Assembly

SUMMARY OF YEAR'S

ACTIVITIES:

*The President and President Elect attended the ASCA Leadership Development Institute in Honolulu, Hawaii. Conducted Leadership Transition Meeting in August and inducted new officers. Voted to contract with an Executive Director and approved Dan Stasi for the work. From our Theme, "Power in Numbers," the Leadership Team developed three avenues of focus: Membership, Legislation, and Utilizing Data.

*Re-wrote Strategic Plan (listed on next page)

*Developed a Work Plan (listed on next page)

*Appointed a Task Force which was led by Dr. Anna Marie Yates to re-write the Illinois Developmental Model making recommendations about integration of the ASCA National Model, Illinois Social Emotional Learning Standards, School Counselor Standards in Illinois, and Illinois School Counselor Best Practices. This task force continues to work diligently toward accomplishing this major task.

*September 29, 2005 "*No School Counselor Left Behind*" featuring Dr. Carol Dahir in conjunction with Illinois Counseling Association at Concordia University in River Forest.

*November 11, 2005 Membership meeting during the ICA Conference. By laws changes were approved by member votes new treasurer and some Regional Representatives were identified and hosted a social/reception after the membership meeting.

*April 21, 2006 ISCA Spring Conference. "*Power In Numbers: People,*

Data, Legislation." featuring former ASCA President, Mark Kuranz, as luncheon keynote speaker.

nine breakout sessions and a community forum on Data.

*Many members of the ISCA Leadership team and membership served on committees to continue development of plans and implementation/intervention to meet the standards set forth by the Illinois Children's Mental Health Act.

*Co-sponsored a booth with ICA at IL Principals Association Conference.

*ISCA President served on a panel of Student Services Personnel at the Illinois Association of School Boards Conference to address the roles of School Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists and how they are interrelated and yet, all necessary.

*ISCA Leadership team members spoke to a wide range of audiences throughout the year to promote the profession and share the goals and work plan of ISCA as well as to promote the ASCA National Model. Much of this work was led by Maria McCabe

*Local Arrangements Chair for ASCA Conference.

Annual nominations and elections for President Elect-Elect, Secondary Level VP, and Elementary Level VP held in spring. Details regarding how to nominate others or self were in the January issue of the INSIGHT which can be found online via our website www.imhca.org

*Membership Chairs and Executive Director developed and implemented new letters to welcome new members, remind non-renewing members to re-join, and remind those

whose memberships were about to expire to re-join.

*Continue to implement the Work Plan.

*Continue INSIGHT publication.

*Continue circulation of "Insight Bytes", a list-serve news update, bi-weekly

*Executive Board continues to meet to manage on-going tasks and issues

*Leadership Team met in October, January and May to set goals, work plan, activities and prepare for various events.

*Executive Board met once per month for ongoing planning work.

*Continue to participate in Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations (CICO) and attend board meetings. Continue work to develop stronger ties with downstate counselors: We now have area reps for the South-eastern and Champaign area regions as well as Chicago and the collar counties.

ADVOCACY/PUBLIC POLICY

ACTIVITIES

Recognized two state legislators at the Illinois Counseling Association Conference in November for their work to approve the Illinois Master School Counselor certification. Attempted to host ISCA "Lobby Day" to promote our profession and seek support to better serve our students. Due to changes in legislative session schedules, both attempts to make this event happen failed. We will try again next year.

FUTURE EVENTS:

No School Counselor Left Behind – follow up with all participants at several trainings statewide sponsored by ISCA, Northern Illinois University, and Eastern Illinois University. (continued page 5)

Report to ASCA Delegate Assembly- continued

ASCA Delegate Assembly
ASCA Annual Conference – Chicago
June 24th-27th

Transition Meeting –July date TBA.

FUTURE PLANS/GOALS

-Continue to offer professional development opportunities to utilize data, the ASCA National Model, and development of Social-Emotional Learning curriculum and intervention plans.

-Grow the Association and serve school counselors statewide.

-Advocate for and promote the mental health of children and parents as well as the educators, administrators, and counselors who serve them.

ISSUES/NEEDS CONFRONTING COUNSELING IN ILLINOIS:

-Lack of Elementary Level School Counselors.

-Need for more support for School Counselors statewide.

-School Counselors being replaced by School Social Workers, in part due to reimbursement and in part due to misunderstandings of the role of each profession.

-Continued need to implement Developmental Counseling statewide.

IMPLICATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF ISSUES/NEEDS TO

ASCA:

As a state, we need to obtain more examples of exemplary state policies that support school counseling.

Then, we need to seek out legislators who wish to promote similar legislation in Illinois.

-Additional legislative consideration: lack of language supporting confidentiality, state mandate on student-to-counselor ratio.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-2008

Strategic Plan Goal 1: Acknowledge and advance the changing role of the professional school counselor by changing the Illinois School Code and advancing legislation.

Strategic Plan Goal 2: Adjust, communicate, and advance the Illinois Developmental Model and align it with SEL Learning Standards and Standards for School Counselors.

Strategic Plan Goal 3: Promote the value and efficacy of the professional school counselor as an essential part of all schools.

Strategic Plan Goal 4: Facilitate networking and professional development and provide information and resources which empower members to perform at the highest professional level.

Strategic Plan Goal 5: Respond to the developing needs of Professional School Counselors.

WORK PLAN

Work Plan for Goal 1:

-Counselor Educator Summit to Collect Data re: Type 78.

-Day on the Hill to advocate for positive legislation or fight detrimental legislation.

-Work with CICO to consider changes in legislation.

-Based on Summit outcomes, make recommendations to State for Type 78 and look toward consistency in all School Counseling Programs.

-Work with our Legislators

Work Plan for Goal 2:

-Continue Model Task Force work with integration of accountability. Once Model determination is made, align with SEL and Standards.

Work Plan for Goal 3:

-Create and promote an official ISCA School Counselor evaluation tool to be used by schools/administrators.

-Exhibit and/or present at the state Principal's Conference.

-Exhibit and/or present at the state School Board Association Conference.

-INSIGHT newsletter.

-Awards for Legislator of the Year, Advocate of the Year, and Level Counselors of the Year.

-Administrator "Tip Sheets".

-Membership Recruitment and Retention.

-Invite Counselor Educators to become more involved

Work Plan for Goal 4:

-ICA Conference

-ISCA Conference

-ASCA Conference

-Special Programs – No School Counselor Left Behind, Type 78 training

-ISCA website

-ISCA listserv

-ISCA Message Board

-INSIGHT bytes

Work Plan for Goal 5:

-Stay involved and in conversation with ASCA, ICA, and CICO to tap needs/trends for school counselors.

-Survey Members

-Work with ISBE re: Certification and Best Practices

-Advocate for School Counselors whose jobs are being changed, threatened, or eliminated.

ASCA National Conference Comes to Chicago Registrations are Still Being Accepted



**CHICAGO
CONFERENCE
JUNE 24-27 2006**

Time is Running Out! Register for the ASCA Conference.

The ASCA Annual Conference, "School Counseling: The Winds of Change," will be here before you know it. Don't miss out on your chance to connect with approximately 1,800 professional school counselors from around the globe. The keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions and networking

events will recharge your batteries and re-ignite your interest in your career. You'll make new friends, learn about new programs, and take home countless practical tips you can put to work immediately.

ASCA's 2006 annual conference, June 24-27, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, will bring together approximately 1,200 pre-kindergarten to post-secondary professional school counselors, counselor educators, supervisors and graduate students.

From educational sessions to networking events, pre-conference workshops to inspiring keynote

speakers, ASCA's conference helps professional school counselors across the country meet their professional development needs.

Conference sessions allow attendees to take away solid, practical ideas they can put to work tomorrow, make valuable contacts in the school counseling field and discover the latest techniques in school counseling.

Free Career Options Program for High School Students

by Student Paths

Guest Article:

Below you will find an informational piece from *Student Paths*, an organization that produces a newspaper and corresponding lessons geared toward high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This organization exhibited at our Spring Conference last year. As a potential service to high school counselors and their students, the article below was submitted by *Student Paths* for your information.

The mission of *Student Paths* is to help students be better prepared for their future. *Student Paths* is a program designed to help students with a wide range of topics related to their transition from high school to the future, and includes a corresponding Lesson Plan Guide

that teachers and/or counselors can use to plan lessons, activities, projects, assignments, etc. Many of the lesson plans compliment and fit within content teachers are already covering. Therefore, they are designed to be easily integrated into traditional classrooms. In addition to the guide, we have numerous resources, worksheets, etc., to compliment and enhance the program. These are readily available for download on our website. *Student Paths* is a great tool to encourage students to keep exploring their options while getting excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Student Paths is sent to subscribing high schools three times per year to over a half million students across the country. The program, which is modeled after the Weekly Reader, is sponsored by colleges

and universities, technical schools & military, **allowing it to be used at high schools free of charge for students in grades 10-12.**

Student Paths is currently available to Illinois high school counselors and teachers. To learn more, please visit our website:

www.studentpaths.com

You can also sign up for a subscription for the 2006-07 school year on the website. In addition you are welcome to call Gayle Saunders, High School Outreach Coordinator, at 1-888-840-1239 for information or to subscribe.

ELECTION...ELECTION...ELECTION

ISCA Elections for 2006 are now! Nominations were requested throughout the winter and spring of 2006 and there is now a full slate of candidates to present to you, the membership. Ballots are inserted in this issue of the INSIGHT. Ballots need to be returned and received by the ISCA office, no later than June 30th. According to our by-laws, you may vote either by fax OR by paper ballot. An explanation of how to submit your ballot is included on the ballot.

Rick Shaw
Candidate for President Elect Elect

Middle School Counselor-Retired
Faculty – Counselor Education courses at National Louis University.
ISCA Middle School Counselor of the Year in 2005.
Conducts Middle School interest groups and wants to look at ways we can create these all over the state.

Joan Kertay, NCC, NCSC LCPC, CADC
Candidate for Secondary School Vice-President

I am currently a school counselor at St. Charles East High School and have been a school counselor for eighteen years. My credentials include: National Certified Counselor, National Certified School Counselor, Certified Alcohol and Other Drugs Counselor (IL) and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (IL).

School counselors are the vision for excellence and the voice for all students. We are agents for change and we can make a difference. As Vice President of Secondary, I will work to increase our impact on the school community. I will provide leadership and service to the members of ISCA and represent the concerns of high school counselors.

Pam Castro
Candidate for Elementary V-P

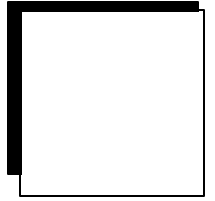
I would like to continue as the Elementary Level Vice President. I am an elementary school counselor who wishes to end the elimination of elementary counselors in many districts in Illinois when in fact we need to increase those numbers. I am interested in working with other counselors to change the way we account for what we do and how we do it. I believe we can do a better job.

My qualifications are my 28 years in the education field and my sincere desire to work with others toward change and improvement. I look forward to the challenge.



**Illinois School
Counselor Association**

P.O. Box 144
DeKalb, IL 60115



Time Sensitive Materials

Calendar of Events

June 24-27, 2006	ASCA Conference - Chicago
June 30, 2006	Election Deadline for ISCA
October 26-28, 2006	ICA Annual Conference- Springfield
March 21-24, 2007	ACA Annual Conference- Detroit