



Texas Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

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President's Message

by Beth Durodoye

My tenure as 2001-2002 TexAMCD President has been thoroughly enjoyable. Each of the major goals put forth for the year has been met or furthered in some way. The first goal was to increase fiscal responsibility. TexAMCD is presently a financially sound division. Our second goal involved increasing membership. Membership has increased by 9%. Promoting TexAMCD was the final goal. In addition to TexAMCD's panel presentation at the 2001 TCA conference in Dallas, TX, we have co-sponsored programs in Denton, TX and Houston, TX. Links with other TCA committees and divisions have also been established or strengthened.

Perhaps our most exciting accomplishment in the promotion arena however, has been the creation of the new TexAMCD web site. Yes, TexAMCD is now online! This web site was developed by Mr. Rajendra Sanghvi, a Computer Science major at the University of North Texas. The most up to date information about TexAMCD may be found on this site. You will notice that the web page has been divided into the themes of past, present, and future. Members can log on to discover or rediscover TexAMCD's history, obtain a list of current officers and news, and find out about upcoming events. Our site is only a click away at texamcd.unt.edu.

There is a quote that I am fond of that hails from West Africa. The saying goes "I am because we are; and since we are, therefore I am." This sums up my reciprocal relationship with TexAMCD as president. All that has been achieved this past year could not have been accomplished without the help of officers, members, and friends of the organization. I leave the position knowing that TexAMCD will continue in all of its efforts toward positive growth and development. As always, I encourage each member to support and become actively involved in TexAMCD endeavors.

IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE

COUNSELORS
online
FOR THE FUTURE

- ✍ **TCA Professional Growth Conference** - November 13-16, 2002 - Austin, Texas
 - Register for the TexAMCD Luncheon on Thursday, November 14th
 - TexAMCD will also be sponsoring two sectionals: *Defining the Dialogue of Diversity* - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. and *Careers Across Cultures* - Thursday 3:30 p.m. See you there!

- ✍ **ACA Professional Growth Conference** - March 20-24, 2003 - Anaheim, California

Visit TexAMCD's Web Site: texamcd.unt.edu

Ask a colleague to join!

A Review of TexAMCD's Annual Workshop

By Pat Reynolds

The annual TexAMCD workshop took place on April 13, 2002 in Houston, Texas. "Ethics: Enhancing Cultural Competence and Confidence" was led by Sister Marie Faubert, CSJ of the University of St. Thomas, and Dr. Riley Venable, of Texas Southern University. Other presenters included Ms. Maria Salazar, Ms. Salwa Hanna, Mr. Larry Feltz, and Ms. Deidra Lyons-Lewis. Below, Ms. Pat Reynolds, Upper School Counselor at St. John's School in Houston, Texas relates her workshop experiences:

After whetting my appetite with Peggy McIntosh's S.E.E.D. (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) training, I attended "Ethics: Enhancing Cultural Competence and Confidence" in hopes of refueling for the diversity initiatives occurring at my school. Refreshing and different experiential exercises kept me pondering and planning throughout the day. By late morning I was repeating the title of Gary Howard's *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know - White Teachers, Multiracial Schools* over and over in my head.

The mobile exercise (two seemingly equal groups, but one with hidden advantages) reminded me of my privileged position as a White counselor in a private school. As the discussion continued around me, my thoughts wandered to the questions I continually ask myself, "Am I in the right place doing the right work," and "Am I actively an agent of social change?"

During the Mexican Literature Class, a "simple" reading comprehension exercise, my frustrated lack of understanding became apparent. My mind raced as I struggled to comprehend, communicate, hide, and survive. My embarrassment led to the familiar behaviors of students: acting out, cheating, and shutting down. I wallowed in the shame of judgment and the frustration of perceived "stupidity," symbolically walking in the shoes of some of my own students.

Linking with the client through the use of his or her first language and then through similar experiences was a final role-play exercise. I echoed the "ah-has" and mirrored the head nodding as I sensed the emotional relief and then verbal clarity when the "client" was able to tell her story without the filtering of internal translation. I recognized the challenges faced by all who want to share a personal narrative, and I was able to clearly witness how using English only (in this case) may have compounded the client's roadblocks to free expression.

At the end of the day, I found that some of my perceptions had been confirmed, many of my insights had been expanded, and several new seeds of understanding had been planted. I can sum up the day by quoting the message I scribbled at the bottom of my notes; "Find a way to use this at school!"

TexAMCD Officers & Executive Board



2001-2002

2002-2003

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