



CSI Chapters **Rho &
Iota Delta Sigma are
pleased to announce the
inaugural Alabama
CSI Statewide Networking Event!**

Professional Advocacy in Action

10:00am – 10:30am – Opening Business Meeting

10:30am – 11:30am – Morning Plenary with Dr. Shawn Spurgeon

11:30am – 12:30pm – Lunch

12:30pm – 1:00pm – Advocacy poster sessions

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Afternoon Session with Dr. Shon Smith

2:10pm – 3:10pm – Afternoon Session with Dr. Paul Hard

3:20pm – 4:50pm – Advocacy planning meeting – (with CFAs)

4:50 pm– 5:00pm – Closing Remarks

Register at <http://bit.ly/4817RSVP>

**Held at The University of Alabama
Ferguson Student Center
Saturday, April 8th, 2017**

Dr. Shawn Spurgeon, Univ. of Tennessee—Knoxville



Keep fighting the good fight: Tennessee's response to counseling legislation

In the last 5 years, several states have enacted laws designed to challenge the basic tenets of the ACA Code of Ethics. These laws make basic assumptions about the meaning of the therapeutic relationship that counselors establish with their clients, and these assumptions challenge the basic philosophy of the counseling profession. These laws have been designed to challenge that notion by implying that counselors who adhere to the ethical codes have no protection and are therefore vulnerable. The proponents of these laws cite religious freedom as the foundation for their objection to the ethical code.

During this session, I will provide a brief overview of legislative efforts that have negatively affected the counseling profession in Tennessee, including the 2016 Tennessee legislation that legislated an exception to A.11.b. Values within Termination and Referral. Then, I will review lessons learned regarding advocacy efforts to help others in future similar situations. Finally, I will provide information on how we can assist clinicians in developing advocacy skills to improve client services and affect positive change on mental health services

Bio

Dr. Shawn L. Spurgeon is an Associate Professor of Counselor Education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, currently serving as Coordinator of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education in 2002 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has published articles on African American male development and Professor Counselor identity development and has presented at several national and regional conferences on these subjects. He served as the faculty advisor for the Upsilon Theta chapter of Chi Sigma Iota for 9 years. Dr. Spurgeon was a member of the American Counseling Association's 2014 Ethics Revision Task Force and served as Chair of the ACA Ethics committee for 4 years. He currently serves as a Board Member for the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). He is the Past-President for the Southern Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (SACES) and is the first recipient of the Cortland C. Lee Multicultural Excellence Scholarship Award. Dr. Spurgeon has previously worked as a mental health counselor in a family services agency, a private practice, and a community mental health center. His work has included couples, families, and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. He is currently licensed as a Professional Counselor (LPC) in North Carolina and Tennessee.



**Dr. Shon Smith,
ACA Southern Region
Advocacy Chair, University of Florida**

***Advocacy in Action:
Looking Back to Move Forward***

Advocacy is a concept that can evoke visions of protesters and picket lines, phone banks and information booths, and maybe even knocking on doors and accosting strangers on the street. But at its most basic level, advocacy means to help or assist, which is the essence of counseling? As the counseling profession moves forward, all counselors need to learn how to advocate for their clients. Advocating for all clients' means that counselors will help not just by talking about their clients' presenting issues, but by ensuring that they have access to the resources necessary to meet their needs. This shift toward advocacy is reflected in the increasing number of counseling programs that train students in working for social change.

As calls for counselor advocacy grow, so does the need for strategies to carry out advocacy work. Rebecca Toporek helped provide counselors with practical steps for implementing advocacy efforts through her development of the ACA Advocacy Competencies as part of a task force. Dr. Smith will address these *Advocacy Competencies*, provide a historical context of advocacy socially and discuss how counselor educators, professional counselors and students alike can put Advocacy into Action. At the conclusions attendees will be able to; assess their current advocacy competency level; identify one advocacy competency; and put one advocacy competency into action.

Bio

Dr. Shon Smith has 17 years of experience as a Counselor Educator and currently sits on the faculty of the Counselor Education Program at the University of Florida. His primary research interests are in the areas of multicultural and social justice counseling, clinical supervision, counselor education programming/evaluation, leadership and advocacy within the counseling paradigm. Additionally, he works with and conducts research with interpersonal violence perpetrators and victims, the co-occurring populations (mental health and substance abuse) with reserve and guard veterans and military families on adjustment and re-adjustment issues and has been a Professional Counselor for over 23 years. A Veteran, SSG Smith has been deployed to Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan and has conducted several humanitarian missions in Central and South America as a Combat Medic and received a Bronze Star and other military awards for his service.

Dr. Smith has served the counseling profession in several leadership roles on a state, regional and national level through elected office, committee involvement or membership to several professional counseling associations within the American Counseling Association. Currently, Dr. Smith serves on the ACA Awards Committee, ACA Southern Region Advocacy Committee Chair and Past Chair of the ACA Southern Region (ACA-SR) representing 21,000 of the 57,000 members of the ACA that reside in the southern region.

Dr. Smith received his doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision with a focus in Marriage and Family Therapy, a master's degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in Rehabilitation Counseling and School Counseling and a bachelor's of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Paul Hard, Auburn University— Montgomery



Professional Advocacy: Embracing the Inner Activist, Ethics, & Logistics

Professional counselors are called to advocate on behalf of their clients and their profession. The current political climate makes the need for effective advocacy all the more crucial. This session examines the ethics of client advocacy, the mandate to professional advocacy, and the logistics of working with state and national legislators.

Bio

Dr. Paul F. Hard is an associate professor of Counselor Education with Auburn University at Montgomery, where his concentrations are in clinical mental health and marriage & family counseling. He has over 13 years of agency counseling and private practice. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and a Certified Counselor Supervisor. His research interests have been in the areas of counselor/professional impairment and wellness, complicated grieving in pre- and post-natal loss, professional credentialing and advocacy, sexual minority issues in counseling, and ministerial termination.

Dr. Hard also holds advanced degrees in theology and has 25 years of ecclesiastical experience as an ordained Southern Baptist Minister. He is the faculty advisor for the Auburn Montgomery chapter of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honors Society and the AUM Gay Straight Alliance, a member of the ALGBTICAL board, Past Treasurer for the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), a former member of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling (ABEC), a Past-Chair of the American Counseling Association's (ACA) Southern Region, and a Past-President of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA). He has been awarded the Jean H Cecil Distinguished Counselor Educator Award, is a recipient of the AASCB Service Award, the ALCA Distinguished Professional Service Award, the ACA Large Branch Award for Best Membership Service, and twice awarded the ALCA President's Award.

His personal hero is Dame Edna Everage who once suggested that he should be placed in a home for the bewildered.

Rho Chapter

CFA: Dr. Bradley McKibben

Rho Reaches Out: Our Journey of Professional Advocacy

Courtney Potts, Kenya Bledsoe, Wesley Webber, Christina Rowan

Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America. Along with related dementias it cost the nation \$236 billion (Alzheimer's Association, 2014). It is also the only leading cause of death in America having no cure, prevention, or treatment to slow its progression. Nearly 90,000 Alabamians have been diagnosed. Rho chapter has advocated for persons with Alzheimer's disease on local, state and national levels through an evolving commitment to leadership and social justice.

Tau Delta Chapter

CFA: Detra Bethell

School Counseling Advocacy Through Empowerment of Elementary Aged Students

Ashley Doudna, Julius Terrell, Katie Herring, Chasity Faulk, & Brooke Murphy

School counselors often encounter challenges related to massive administrative functions, impeding their ability to provide personal/social counseling to students as prescribed by ASCA. This presentation describes a school counselor-in-training led group counseling approach to the empowerment of "at promise" elementary students. Students learn to better manage school challenges and administrators receive data to advocate for the importance of allowing school counselors time to counsel students.



Poster Presentations
12:30—1:00 PM

Iota Delta Sigma Chapter

CFA: Dr. Melanie Iarussi

Advocating for Oncology patients: Transitioning to the Biopsychosocial Mode

Sydney Wasdin & Dylan Gunther

Current oncological care models primarily utilize biomedical methods yet fail to consider mental health a vital part of the recovery process and positive outcomes by integrating mental health care into treatment. Advocating for the integration of mental health professionals within this process is vital to provide effective, wholesome care to patients and to provide greater access of these vital services to the oncology patient population, promoting true “wellbeing,” recovery, and “health.”

Iota Delta Sigma Chapter

CFA: Dr. Melanie Iarussi

Assessing the Impact of a Statewide Professional Advocacy Meeting

Margaret Taylor, Elizabeth Mautz, & Dr. Melanie Iarussi

This study will assess the impact of a statewide meeting to train counselors in professional advocacy specific to issues that may arise to threaten the ACA Code of Ethics and counseling services. Intended meeting outcomes include 1) increasing awareness of the need for professional advocacy and social justice in Alabama; 2) enhancing advocacy competency; and 3) developing action plans. PIs will collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate anticipated outcomes.



Poster Presentations

12:30—1:00 PM

Iota Delta Sigma Chapter CFA: Dr. Melanie Iarussi

NEIGHBOR Program: Promoting Advocacy, Professional Identity, and Mentoring

Justin Maki & Kaitlin McIntosh

Establishing a strong counselor professional identity is an essential component of counselor training and development. In this poster presentation, attendees will learn about a comprehensive, student-led program designed to establish counselor identity. The NEIGHBOR program (New Experiences in Gaining Healthy Balance, Opportunities, and Relationships) emphasizes wellness, advocacy, professional development, and mentoring in counselor education programs and extending into professional practice.

**Poster Presentations
12:30—1:00 PM**

Continuing education credits available for this meeting (5.5 hours total)

The University of Alabama Program in Counselor Education

“Alabama CSI Statewide Meeting”



ACEP No. 4549