

ACPE News

of the North Central Region

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**Make plans now to attend the NCR 2009 Annual Meeting
October 18-20, 2009 - Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI:**

Shaping Our ACPE Future to Survive & Thrive Through an Examination of Foundation, Structure & Practice

As ACPE leadership looks into the future, they see steadily increasing operational expenses, a continuing decline in our traditional revenue streams, and a decreasing ability of members to provide the volunteer hours needed to run the organization as we have historically done. Pro-active changes need to be made. These have begun through:

- the establishment of the Foundation for Clinical Pastoral Education
- the creation of a special task force of the ACPE Board of Representatives to look at how we might best structure ourselves to do our business most efficiently
- and some major adjustments beginning in January 2010 in how we do accreditation.

You planning committee and board have invited three persons to our annual meeting with expertise in each of these areas who will share information and enter into facilitated conversation and dialogue with us during plenary sessions Sunday evening and all of Monday morning. They are:

- The Rev. Stuart A. Plummer:** founding member, Vice-President and Campaign Cabinet Co-Chair of the Foundation for Clinical Pastoral Education
- The Rev. Sally A. Schwab:** ACPE President-Elect and Chair of the ACPE Board of Representatives Task Force on "Administration, Governance & Business Affairs"
- The Rev. Karri A. Oertli:** Chair, ACPE Accreditation Commission

**These are critical times for ACPE, and we need the voice and wisdom of all of us.
Please come and learn and then let your voice be heard!**

This event will provide ample opportunity for us to provide our input and perspective to the process. We cannot leave this important work to a few in leadership—competent as they might be. It leaves them with an unfair burden and with a smaller database from which to make decisions than they deserve to have.

Registration information and a detailed conference schedule will be made available in August. By the action of the NCR Board at its April meeting this year's registration fee will be \$100.00 for CPE Supervisors, Faith Group Representatives, Clinical Members and Seminary Representatives and \$75.00 for supervisory Education Students and retired CPE Supervisors. Travel re-imbusement will be increased to \$30.00 for zone 1; \$50.00 for zone 2; and \$80.00 for zone 3; and adjusted to \$80.00 plus 25 cents per mile traveled in excess of 700 miles round-trip for zone 4.

All of us have had a student or two along the way who would be aptly described by the following quote of unknown origin I heard in passing on a TV program the other day: "...a village idiot, enamored with his own shadow, oblivious to the setting sun!" However, more often than not, I hear praises about the quality of the students we are privileged to work with, who make the supervisory endeavor worth all of the hard work. And at times I get the opportunity to experience the latter first-hand, both in the groups I supervise myself, and in the students I encounter in my travels and engagements as regional director. The work of two such students follows.

The first, **Kristen Schmor Rice**, is a supervisory education student at Gundersen Lutheran in LaCrosse, WI. Her recording through poetry of a powerful moment of ministry moved me deeply when I encountered it as I participated in a consultation for her with the Minnesota SES group as she prepared for Candidacy. Her husband, incidentally, is a military chaplain currently stationed in Iraq. He is assigned to the base where a troubled young soldier killed several of his colleagues recently, and has obviously had his hands full dealing with the aftermath of that tragedy. (Another quote of unknown origin comes to mind for him: "A hero is a person who does what has to be done when it needs to be done regardless of the consequences.") Please keep the couple in your prayers.



Kristen Schmor Rice

Word and Sacrament

The little boy almost had my name.
Christened with a close variant, that also meant anointed,
I peered into his tiny face, stepped into his tiny hours,
and felt lavish in my 29 years.

A mother my age, still in her post-partum bed,
is crammed in next to the isolet, where she can reach up and touch
the feet of her firstborn.

A father my age is standing and softly weeping.

They are Catholic; anyone could do this; only three phrases are essential.
So who am I, what do I mean, standing here bleary-eyed, under the weightless validation of my brand-new
Presbyterian papers?
Next to a child whose name means anointed.

I scrub my hands 'til the nurse says, "You're fine, hon."
The staff hands me gown, water, shell, and hover, like the helicopter meant to take him shortly, camera at the
ready. Their self-assured efficiency so opposite the awe and awkwardness I feel.
But no one's watching me.
The room hinges on one beloved being and the fact that his heart is still beating.
One life in the room bends all the living toward him, a fragile and flickering sun.
I begin to prepare the pieces of the ritual, lay the gown across his soft body,
pour the water in the shell.

What about the Word?
The voice comes from I-don't-know-where, a piece of polity buzzing in my ear, an unwelcome nuisance,
I ignore it.
What about the Word? A bit more insistent.

The voice of my own tradition, that says the word and sacrament belong always together, and proclamation precedes the rite.

What about the Word? What word would suffice for this family?
What sermon of mine wouldn't cheapen their incomparable grief, wouldn't mock
the mother's hungry arms and the father's fading dreams?

The voice again: are you the only vessel for the Word in this room?
I meet each parent's gaze in turn. "Is there anything you'd like to say...before we begin?"

The mother sits up in bed and draws near, the father leans in and places his mouth close;
and in sacred broken language

blessed by the groaning Spirit who breathes with us in our weariness and pain,
they weave together a homily of commendation for their son.

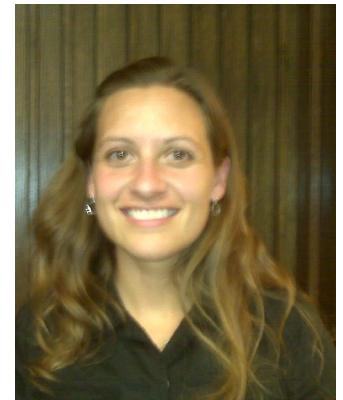
They speak to him of the legacy of love out of which he came to be,
the promise of love that holds a place for him;
one by one they lift the names of those loved ones who have gone before
whom they imagine greeting him in a circle of welcome, the surrogates
who will receive him home and watch over him
in the way they had hoped they could—
they commend him to saints and grandparents,
great-aunts and uncles and old family friends;
creating in their invocations a cloud of witnesses around the font;
a private and hasty ritual is given room to become timeless and communal;
their Word makes way for the Sacrament.

"I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

A sign of our belonging, a symbol of grace conferred;
a mark of our own mortality, and a promise that points beyond it.
The heaviness of our human being and the hope that keeps us afloat.
Those who have seen a hundred baptisms in this place,
and the chaplain who has attended just this one,
are seared by the simple truth of it—
the Great Heart that holds us,
tender as infants, and resilient, and fragile, and adored—
our tears testimony of our anointing.

Rev. Kristin Schmor Rice, 2008

The second, **Julia Taylor**, is a resident in the Fairview CPE program in Minneapolis, MN. She is a graduate of Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN and a member of the Covenant Church who is "interested in hospital, hospice and prison chaplaincy in the future." In her residency she is currently working on an organ transplant unit and mental health unit at Fairview University Medical Center. Julia made her presentation at Fairview's CPE commencement ceremony held three times per year for all students who have completed CPE units over the past four months. In attendance were persons from the community from whom the Fairview Foundation was seeking financial support in order to secure the continuation of the Fairview residency program into the future after the market disasters of 2008 and 2009 and their impact on endowments. I think when you read what follows that you will agree that Julia provided them good assistance in their recruiting!



Julia Taylor

Spring '09 CPE Graduation Reflection

I stand here with a profound sense of gratitude: For the supervisors and clinical coordinators who have challenged us to come to terms with (among many other things) the limitations of our role, our fear of dying, our residual grief from past hurts, and our broken but well meaning families. They bless us with the gift of time and critique. I remember after a lengthy defense of many of my personal flaws a CPE supervisor said to me, “you know rarely if ever in life will people take the time or care enough to challenge you like this.” Even as I shuddered at the mirror placed in front of me, I knew she was right. In what other venue are we encouraged to share our weakness, pain, doubt and fear—knowing it will be heard without judgment? Our supervisors, clinical coordinators, and fellow students care enough about the person we are becoming and the ministry we are joining to challenge us. They know that if we embark on the sometimes painful, often joyous work of integrating our personal growth and pastoral care, we will emerge with greater humility and provide more compassionate care for the patients, families and clients we serve.

I stand here grateful for every patient and loved one who allowed me the privilege of walking with them through illness, loss of independence, crisis of faith, renewed hope, and restored identity. We could not be a part of this life giving work if patients and loved ones did not risk sharing and allow us to mourn with them when they mourn and rejoice with them when they rejoice. I believe we are treading on sacred ground when people invite us into the beautiful messiness of their lives and like you all, it is not a role or responsibility I take lightly.

I am grateful for the humility and openness of an elderly patient dying of cancer who wept as he told me of the affair his wife had while he was fighting in World War II. He had not spoken of it to a single soul for over 50 years. Though his wife had already passed away he was struck by his need to forgive her and perhaps his even greater need to be known and comforted by another.

I am grateful to the patients who have asked us to be with them in their dying, for the family member that looked to me and said, “what do we do now?” for the sister who shook her dead brother and yelled at him for leaving her, for the father who received a new liver and reflected that God gave him life so he could pour his life into people living with down syndrome.

I am grateful to listen and engage the questions asked boldly to us in this work, “After so many prayers, why is God taking away my 12 year old?” “Why did my husband leave me?” “Can we pray for the family of my donor who died in a car accident?” “What kind of life should I live now that I’ve been made well?” “How can I die with honor?” “Do you think there is a reason I survived this suicide attempt?” “How do I forgive my mom for abandoning me?” “Who will take care of my wife when I’m gone?” “Where was God in the midst of my abuse?” “Is it okay to remove life support?” “Will you say a prayer of thanksgiving for my doctor who gave me my life back?”

CPE teaches us to honor our patients in their struggle and not to rush in and fix or rescue, not that we could if we tried. As we work through our own struggles and explore what gives us meaning and value, we can affirm and celebrate with patients as they do the same. As a result of doing this work I have learned to trust God more—seeing first hand that God loves and cares for people in their suffering more than I could ask or imagine, that quite apart from me God is working beautifully and creatively in the lives of the patients and families I’m blessed to encounter. I have bared witness to their strength, ingenuity and courage in the face of illness and lengthy rehabilitation I don’t know I could face myself.

I am grateful to the administrators, board members, and financial donors, many of whom I will never meet, who see value in tending to the emotional and spiritual needs of our patients and ourselves. They have blessed me with one of the most significant years of my life, and in turn given hundreds of patients the chance to tell their story and be truly heard.

**Julia Taylor,
May 21, 2009**

News and Notes of the Region....

A thank you note to the Region from Homer Ashby...

Thank you so much for the donation of \$1,000 that the North Central Region is making to the scholarship fund McCormick is establishing in my name. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are truly overwhelming to me. My association with the North Central Region over the years has been rich and rewarding. May God continue to bless you in your work of preparing men and women for effective pastoral care ministries.

We are delighted to report that little **Sadie Ellen Mysen** (daughter of Rene' Brandt and Andrea Mysen) is doing extremely well after her open heart surgery on April 30th. Thanks for all of your support and well wishes!

Please continue to keep **Amy Snedeker** in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to undergo chemotherapy. She is now more than half-way through her treatment regime, but has about four more months to go and struggles with the side-effects. However, a recent clear CT scan certainly makes that more tolerable! We rejoice that her hospital, department administration, and chaplain colleagues have and continue to be very supportive as Amy continues to work and supervise as much as she can.

Our condolences to **Gordy and Esther Grimm** and their family on the death of son **Jim**, whose book [The Hearts Alphabet-Daring to Live with Cerebral Palsy](#) was featured in one of the previous editions of this newsletter. Jim died on April 14th at age 42.

We are saddened to learn that **Andrew Lester**, one of the keynote speakers at the 2003 ACPE Annual Meeting which our Region hosted in Lake Geneva, WI has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His address is 6600 Castle Creek Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76132.

Stephan Brunelle from Gundersen Lutheran in LaCrosse, WI has had a difficult spring. A perforated appendix landed him in the hospital for a few days in early May and then his father passed away. Stephan was able to attend the memorial service in Davis California on May 18th. He continues to recover from an appendectomy.

And retired supervisor, **Mark Anderson.**, had emergency surgery in Duluth, MN on June 6th for a subdural hematoma. He remains hospitalized at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth as this newsletter is published. However, it is anticipated he will soon be transferred to Sister Kenny Rehab Institute at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in the Twin Cities for further recuperation. A full recovery is anticipated.

We welcome retired Supervisor, **Russell Striffler** into our community. According to **George Franke**, editor of RSN News, he has moved from Arkansas to 3663 Park Center Blvd., Apt. 1204, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 to be closer to family and medical facilities.

Supposedly retired, **Chuck Weinrich**, is currently doing two extended units of CPE simultaneously down in Florida, "something I'd never done in my full-time employment". He is getting coaching and moral support in the endeavor from **Ray Otto**, who also supervises part time for the same Florida Hospital program.

It is exciting to have so many in the certification process these days that it is going to be difficult accommodating all of the requests for committee appearances at this fall's NCR annual meeting! Not only are we training

our own, we are also training students from other countries. **Kyrre Klevberg** and **Torstein Holten**, chaplains from the Norwegian military, are here for three years with **Linda Campbell** at the **St. Cloud VA** and the **Fairview CPE Center**, Minneapolis; and **John Christian Rolfsness** has returned for a second summer unit—this time at **Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital** in St. Louis Park, MN with **Tim Thorstenson** and **Scott McRae**. (He spent last summer working with **Verlyn Hemmen** at United Hospital in St. Paul.) Also with us for the summer is **Margaret McCallum** from Kenville, Manitoba, a Provisional Supervisor in the CAPPE system, who is working with **Dixie Potratz-Lehman** in Fargo with the **Avera Health System**. Avera has just added a news supervisory education student, **Joe Brown**, who met a readiness committee in Minneapolis May 22nd.



Joe Brown & Margaret McCallum

Michelle Oberwise-Lacock has returned to the Region and the Chicago area after working during the past year in Wichita.



Jim Winjum

Jim Winjum has left **Carle Foundation Hospital** in Urbana/Champaign for **Altru** in Grand Forks, where he began officially on May 13th. Your RD will be visiting Carle in June to ascertain their plans for the future. The program is likely to be on hold for a year or two while they seek to establish an endowment for its support.

Meanwhile, we have received word from **Nancy Waite**, the Director of the Pastoral Care and Healing Arts Department, that the CPE supervisor position at **NorthShore University HealthSystem** (which has been vacant since **Carlos Sanchez** left to return to Texas last August) has been eliminated. They are requesting voluntary withdrawal of their accreditation.

Students and Supervisors involved in the Supervisory Education Process: Please let regional certification chair Bill DeLong know as soon as possible if you wish to meet a regional certification committee at the NCR Regional Meeting this October. We anticipate there will be a lot of you, and we need ample lead time to arrange committees, hotel accommodations, etc.

Congratulations to the following Centers whose requests to the ACPE Accreditation Commission were granted this spring:

continued Accredited Membership to offer programs of CPE:

Loyola University Medical Center — James J. Creighton and Jerry Kaelen, Supervisors
MacNeal Hospital — Dean Hokel, Supervisor

continued Accredited Membership to offer programs of CPE and Supervisory CPE:

Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center — Bill Tallevast, Supervisor

Accredited Membership to offer programs of CPE:

University of Illinois Medical Center — Margaret Neal, Supervisor
University of Chicago Medical Center — Romulo Manching, Supervisor

What's New in the 2010 Accreditation Manual?

Supervisors in Centers preparing for Accreditation reviews in 2010 are beginning to ask questions about the changes to the *Accreditation Manual*. The Accreditation Commission is delighted to share that some significant, and hopefully beneficial, changes have been made, as highlighted below.

Checklists Remain and New Checklists are Added

The checklists that were introduced in the 2005 *Accreditation Manual* have been well received as useful. These checklists remain as guides to Centers about reviews and processes. As well, the Commission added two checklists to the 2010 edition:

- Addition of a Satellite Program
- Addition of a Program of Supervisory CPE

Consolidation of Appendices and Revision of Appendix 19

The number of appendices in the 2010 edition has been reduced from 19 to 9. Most of the consolidation has been through gathering all samples into one appendix and all guides into another.

“Appendix 19” has been changed to “Appendix 5, Parts I and II,” which describe the Standards that are expected to be addressed in the Student Handbook and Curriculum (Part I) and those that are expected to be addressed during the on-site visit (Part II). A “draft” of Appendix 5 is available for your use. Please contact your regional accreditation chair for a copy.

Further, the bullets (or descriptions) of what has been expected as Standard compliance in Appendix 19 have been removed. This action was taken because the Accreditation Commission recognized that, unintentionally, it had added or re-interpreted Standards through these descriptions in ways that were not helpful, and that these descriptions had limited creativity and uniqueness between Centers. Beginning in January, 2010, Centers will be expected to demonstrate how and where they are meeting Standards in the Student Handbook(s) and during the on-site review instead of having to adhere to the ways in which the Accreditation Commission expected compliance. The National Site Team Chair and the Site Team members will work with Centers to discover how Centers are meeting Standards.

Accreditation Review Request and Facesheet

Instead of having to use separate facesheets for different accreditation reviews, Centers now will use one “Accreditation Review Request and Facesheet” for all Commission reviews, with the exception of the annual report.

Clarification of Processes

The processes of removal of notations and called reviews have been clarified.

National Site Team Chairs

As an outcome of the Presidential Taskforce on Accreditation, the Accreditation Commission will begin using National Site Team Chairs to chair all on-site reviews for ten-year re-accreditation visits and new accredited member centers (satellites to accredited member or Candidacy Centers) beginning January 1, 2010. The National Site Team Chairs will receive specialized training in the process of accreditation and will be responsible to ensure that the Site Team members, who will be assigned from the region, will provide competent, consistent, collegial on-site reviews.

Also, as a part of this process, two steps have been deleted from the review process. First, the regional accreditation committee will no longer assign a regional reviewer to look through Center material. Secondly, the regional accreditation committee will no longer vote on the recommendations of the regional reviewer. Instead, the National Site Team Chair and the Site Team members will make recommendations directly to the Chair of the Commission, who will assign a national reviewer to bring those recommendations to the Commission. The regional accreditation committee will be kept apprised of the process through receipt of copies of reports from the National Site Team Chair.

The use of National Site Team Chairs also frees the regional accreditation committee to provide better consultation and mentoring to Centers as they prepare for accreditation reviews.

Addition of “Inactive Status”

In response to the growing number of centers having difficulty filling supervisory positions, with the resulting numbers of those centers voluntarily withdrawing their accreditation due to these vacancies, the Accreditation Commission has instituted a new status for Accredited Member Centers: “Inactive Status.” Information about this new category and a checklist for requesting inactive status, as well as a process for reactivation of full accredited member status, are included.