

Editorial

Long Shadows

The long shadows of fall are beginning to descend reminding us that the leisurely pace of summer gets ratcheted up a few notches. For many of us, activities this time of the year take on a life of their own and we are caught up in a myriad of tasks. Your International Alliance for Invitational Education is also caught up in the increased tempo. The Leadership Institute held in Ottawa, Canada was a sell out this October, and plans for the next World Conference scheduled for October 12-15, 2000 is already building a head of steam. A pre-publication announcement of *Invitations to Dialogue: The Legacy of Sidney Jourard*, which is sponsored by the Alliance, will also be found in this issue of the journal.

The first article of this issue of the journal, "Invitational Counseling: A Fresh Vernacular Marriage and Family Therapy", is co-authored by W. Cris Cannon and John J. Schmidt. The authors submit that the Five P's of invitational education (i.e., people, places, policies, programs and practices) provide both a stance for marriage and family counseling and a point of focus for both counselor and clients as they thread their way through the mazes of marital and family discord. Two brief case studies enhance the authors' presentation. Those interested in marriage and family counseling will find this article of particular interest.

Dana L. Frakes addresses the difficult issue of "Humor in Counseling: An Invitational Approach." In a well-documented article, Frakes carefully attends to both the possibilities and hazards of the counselor's use of humor in the counseling setting from an invitational point of view. Inappropriate humor could lead to an "orange card" of sarcasm, and too much humor could detract from the counseling process. Counselors particularly will find this article worthwhile, but the implications are clear for other person-to-person interactions.

Suzanne Degges White presents a unique study of children in her article, "Inviting Self-Efficacy in Children: Taking the Competition out of

the Game.” White created a noncompetitive game of physical skills for elementary school children and got each individual child to predict her/his likelihood of subsequent success in future tries of these physical skills. White examines age and gender differences in the children’s predictions of future success in this simple, but well-structured experiment.

The long shadows of fall may be encroaching upon us, but the reader will find some interesting reading in the pages that follow. Enjoy.

William Stafford
Editor