

Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) Early Spring/January 2021 Newsletter

A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Dear AADA Community,

I am thrilled to greet you as we enter the 2021 calendar year. As I reflected on composing the presidential letter, I noted the vexing complexities already brought forth by this new year. In one vein, we have watched white supremacy manifest in a number of public events, which has heightened racial inequities and trauma extending over several centuries. Make no mistake. For many of us with an in-depth knowledge of developmental practices, we are acutely aware that white supremacy does not appear overnight. In fact, human development has shown us that the implications of these forces stem from cultural, cognitive, and affective factors. For centuries, the culmination of these factors has illuminated serious consequences for communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Conversely, we have witnessed the impact of mobilizing our activism and advocacy efforts in ways that can radically alter the system *and* the culture rooted in these harmful forces. Revisiting my presidential reflections, I am appreciative for how our members have embodied the presidential theme of “**At the Intersections: Equity, Advocacy, and Activism Across the Lifespan**”. On that note, I am grateful that Dr. John Nance, President-Elect and Chair of the AADA 2021 Conference, has taken on the mantle of sustaining this vision for equity, advocacy, and activism within our organization. Please continue to stay tuned for information on the AADA 2021 Conference details.



The COVID-19 pandemic has been heavy on all of us, especially with how the pandemic exacerbated multiple overlapping forms of oppression (e.g., racism, ableism, heterosexism, and classism). Although we have witnessed numerous events of grief, trauma, health disparities and inequities, and racial violence throughout the past year, I am finding hope in the difference that we are making together as a community. AADA has been home to me due to the community of leaders invested in partnerships, relationships, and collaboration. This element has been a remarkable feature of the organization and sheds light on why many members and leaders call it home. To attest to this spirit of solidarity, I am thrilled to highlight **the beautiful relationship between me and Dr. Kim Lee Hughes, President of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD)**. Our relationship and collaboration has invoked so much joy in our activism and advocacy. For our presidential terms, we built **a collaboration between both ACA divisions to amplify the connection among developmental practice, multiculturalism, and social justice**.

Built upon this collaboration, we appointed **Dr. John Harrichand as the Chair of the AADA-AMCD Partner Task Force** to lead two major initiatives that feature 11 spectacular leaders in AADA and AMCD. In one capacity, Dr. Harrichand is overseeing the production of the AADA-AMCD Video Practice Briefs on Multicultural and Social Justice Development, which essentially offers timely perspectives from counseling leaders

enacting these values in their practices. If you have not already seen this wonderful resource, all videos will be posted on your **AADA YouTube channel**: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJkJrpMzsBZ0PnhsZUV8IFA>. Through a second major initiative, Dr. Harrichand is leading the production of the AADA-AMCD Position Statement on Multiculturalism and Social Justice Development Across the Lifespan. We are enthusiastic to share this magnificent statement later this year and the hard work that each task force member has poured into the document. Constructing both initiatives has been no easy feat, and we have so much gratitude for Dr. Harrichand's leadership.

Additionally, you may have seen multiple advertisements for our **AADA 2021 webinar series**. With her leadership, **Janelle Jones, Chair of the AADA Professional Development Task Force**, has revamped our procedures for providing a robust program of experts and continuing education offerings. **Chanel Shahnami Rodriguez and Dr. Matt Nice, the AADA Awards Committee Co-Chairs**, have also promoted several opportunities to distribute grant funding and recognize members of the AADA community. With the February 26th deadline, please view this link for awards nominations and grant applications if you have not done so already: <https://forms.gle/p8m2DjNBSfyPzGXN9>.

To facilitate a stronger sense of community, I plan on hosting **an AADA town hall and networking event**. Please stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the end of February. Every leader and member has demonstrated a profound commitment to community. Thank you for sharing your heart with us. For this reason, I am so proud and honored to serve you as our AADA President. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out to me.

With gratitude and solidarity,



Christian D. Chan, Ph.D, NCC
(he, him, his)
President, Association for Adult Development and Aging

UPDATES ON AADA STATE DIVISIONS

On behalf of the AADA State Branch Committee, Crystal Neal, Ph.D., LPC, the Committee Chair, is thrilled to share with AADA members the following information regarding the recent events and plans that the selective AADA state divisions have for the new year of 2021. The AADA divisions are actively maintaining professional engagement through an array of professional endeavors and dedicating to service.

- **Alabama Association of Adult Development and Aging (ALAADA)**
President: Carolyn Thomas
Several members presented at Alabama Counseling Association 2020 virtual conference.
- **Illinois Association of Adult Development and Aging (IAADA)**
President: Marie Bracki

IAADA hosted a webinar titled *Helping Older Adults Build and Maintain Wellness During the COVID-19 Pandemic* on January 16, 2021 and is planning an upcoming virtual session surrounding retirement preparation.

- **Kentucky Association of Adult Development and Aging (KADAA)**

President: Ashley Beth Debord

President Ashley Beth Debord continues to represent the division on Kentucky Counselor Association (KCA) Advocacy Committee. The division is focused on education of COVID-19 restrictions and best practices in the public and private sector. In 2021, the president is planning to host member live streams with content experts.

- **North Carolina Association of Adult Development and Aging (NCAADA)**

President: Lydia Smith

NCAADA hosted a webinar with North Carolina Association president and presenter, John Nance, PhD, LCMHC-S, NCC titled *Adulting in 2020: Aging Well in Multiple Global and Societal Crises* on November 7, 2020.

- **Texas Association of Adult Development and Aging (TADAA)**

President: John Spoede

TADAA is offering continuing education in January 2021 and volunteer opportunities for a member initiative, *TAADA gives back*.

For AADA readers who are interested in applying for chartering a state division with AADA, please contact **Crystal Neal, the AADA State Branch Committee Chair**, at crystal.neal@capella.edu.

UPDATES ON AADA PUBLIC POLICY

On October 17, 2020, President Trump signed S. 785 – legislation that authorizes federal government classification for professional counselors. This classification supports the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), amongst other federally funded agencies such as the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services to increase hiring, promotion, and increased pay of mental health counselors within these federally supported systems. **Distinction of the counselor professional identity** through this avenue is critical to **supporting the adult and aging populations**. The VA serves a number of mental health needs within intersectional populations, including support for substance use, inpatient mental health, and suicide prevention, etc. Thus, the increased federal access of employment of professional counselors within these agencies supports macrosystemic advocacy to support the mental health needs of adult and aging, military-connected individuals. Increasing access and reducing stigma to mental health care within integrated healthcare can further create accessible mental health care and healing of members of these communities.

Kelsey Sarasqueta-Allen

AADA Public Policy Committee Chair

AADA MEMBERSHIP

AADA membership has been steadily increasing for the past several months.

Membership is the highest it has ever been since at least 2016. AADA is excited about the

growing number of people who want to engage in the division's work and enhance its impact within the profession of counseling.

AADA AWARDS

Each year the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) recognizes individuals and organizations that have made an important contribution to adult development and aging. We invite you to nominate a colleague for an AADA award. Nominees are asked to be a member of AADA. Nominators are not required to be AADA members. We also are offering two research grants for AADA members. The awards will be presented at the 2021 AADA Conference.

Outstanding Research - This award promotes and recognizes exceptional research that will contribute to the body of information regarding adult development and aging. Nominations should include a letter and supporting materials addressing the following:

- a. **Relevance of Topic:** The topic is relevant to adult development and aging
- b. **Quality of Research Paper:** The paper presents sound scholarship; complete and clear literature review based on theory; clear and sound research design; valid and reliable instruments; appropriate discussion of findings using both past research and present findings
- c. **Future Promise of Implications:** The knowledge presented and the conclusions drawn must hold promise for the improvement of the counseling profession

Advocacy in Adult Development and Aging – This award is given to a member of AADA or ACA who has taken the lead on an advocacy event or initiative that addresses a political need related to counseling adults or a need of adult consumers of professional counselor services. Nominations should include a letter and supporting materials addressing the following:

- a. Accomplished an advocacy event or initiative of substance for the counseling field or its clientele in the past year, wherein the counseling of adults by professional counselors was essential to the advocacy.
- b. By event or initiative of substance, consider an achievement that involved other AADA members or an identified group of professional counselors or consumers to take action on a matter of concern to professional counselors who work with adults or to adult recipients of the services of professional counselors.

AADA Distinguished Service - This award is presented to an AADA member with a history of service to support adult development and aging. Nominations should include a letter and supporting materials addressing the following:

- a. **Nature of Service:** Professional service is defined as work done or duties performed primarily with the intent of benefiting or giving service to others rather than for personal gain. This work should be of a nature to promote growth of the profession relative to the needs of adults across the life span. It should have wider perspective and reflect general efforts and effects rather than being limited in scope.
- b. **Relevance To The Profession:** The professional service efforts must be concerned primarily with the profession in general as related to the interests of AADA.
- c. **Significance Of Service:** The nominee has a history of activity resulting in expanding and extending the horizons of the profession in any or all of the following: across the life span; efforts to impact other professions in relation to the needs of adults across the life span; efforts to identify needs of the public and provide services to meet those needs for

adults across the life span; efforts to enlarge the potential clientele for service delivery across the life span; efforts to promote the concerns of adults across the life span within the counseling and helping professions.

d. **Record Of Long-Continued Professional Contributions:** Evidence of substantive work, beyond the call of duty, to improve professional practices and the contributions of counselors to meeting the needs of adults across the life span. There should be a history of substantial efforts to create and improve opportunities for adults and especially older adults to realize their full potential by evidence or work done or duties presentations and publications, and other evidence of sensitivity to the needs of adults across the life span.

Outstanding Branch Division - This award is designed to recognize and promote the efforts of an exemplary state division of AADA. Its purpose is to recognize and honor a state division for outstanding contributions related to adult development and aging during the preceding year. Nominations should include a letter and supporting materials of their choice highlighting the activities and accomplishments of their branch. Examples of supporting materials include (but are not limited to): state division activities, organizational structure, state division newsletter. State Divisions nominated for this award must be current, chartered state divisions of AADA. Any state division, officer, AADA member, or an ACA state branch president, may make the nomination. A limit of five supporting letters, evidence or testimonials may be submitted.

Government Relations – This award is given to a member of AADA or ACA who has taken the lead on an advocacy event or initiative that addressed a political need related to counseling adults. The advocacy event or initiative involved contact with government officials at the local, state, or federal level with the purpose of addressing a matter of concern to professional counselors or adult clients. Nominations should include a letter and supporting materials addressing the following:

- a. Through contact (in person or not in person) with government officials at the local, state, or federal level, accomplished a substantial advocacy event or initiative for the counseling field or its clientele in the past year, wherein a political need related to the counseling of adults by professional counselors was addressed.
- b. By substantial event or initiative, consider an achievement that involved other AADA members or an identified group of professional counselors or consumers taking action at a political level through contact (in person or not in person) with local, state, or federal government officials on a matter of concern to professional counselors who work with adults or to adult recipients of the services of professional counselors

The following grants are available to AADA members:

\$500 Research Grant – This grant will fund studies that increase understanding of issues pertaining to adult development and aging. Preference will be given to research that focuses on normative adult developmental phases, stages, and transitions; wellness and positive aging; and/or diversity in adulthood.

\$500 Evelyn Chasan Research Grant – This grant will fund studies that increase understanding of issues pertaining to older adulthood. Preference will be given to research that focuses on older adult transitions, wellness and positive aging, issues arising in older adulthood, counseling with older adults, the training of counselors who will work with older adults, and/or diversity in older adulthood.

You are welcome to submit your nomination and supplemental materials using **the following link:** <https://forms.gle/p8m2DjNBSfyPzGXN9>.

The deadline for submission is February 26, 2020 at 11:59pm Pacific Time.

For any questions, please contact **Matthew L. Nice** or **Chanel Rodriguez, Awards Committee Chairs** at Mnice@iup.edu or c_shahna@uncg.edu

Best,

Chanel Rodriguez, MS, LCMHCA, NCC
Doctoral Student
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
c_shahna@uncg.edu

Matthew L. Nice, Ph.D
Assistant Professor
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
mnice@iup.edu

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. Olivia T. Ngadjui (she/her), LPC, is extremely gracious to be spotlighted as a member of the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) with proud mentioning that she is one of the newest members of the AADA's Newsletter Committee! She is a licensed professional counselor. Recently, she defended her dissertation entitled "Shaking Up The Room: The Process of Professional Identity Development of Black Doctoral Students in Counselor Education" within the CACREP-accredited doctoral program in counselor education and supervision at Idaho State University. She is thankful to have received dissertation research funding from both the Association for Adult Development and Aging and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Her grounded theory study resulted in the formalizing of a transitional model for contextual support in retaining Black doctoral students in counselor education with considerate care. Thus, the transitional model provides context that can be used across cultural intersections (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or affective identity, etc) as well as roles and disciplines. Additionally, her growing research interests include cultural inclusion efforts in education for K-12 and counselor education, integrating wellness practices and philosophies into counselor education, multicultural counseling, and promoting social change. In her spare time, she is currently adjusting to being able to read more for leisure, leaning into doing more in-home workouts, baking non-diary desserts and tending to her family of plants.



Dr. Ngadjui is a native of southeast Washington DC with a Cameroonian background. She holds a Bachelor's degree in biology with a chemistry minor and believes this adds to her drive and enjoyment of finding alignment within the counseling and counselor education fields. She also holds a Master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from The George Washington University. She is looking forward to walking in the spring 2021

graduation at Idaho State University while mindfully considering and applying for employment in hopes of becoming a future faculty in academia.

As the current Parliamentarian for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, she tremendously enjoys promoting community through demystifying Robert's Rules of Order. She is also a licensed professional counselor at Portneuf Valley Family Center in Pocatello in Idaho where she specializes in working with children, adolescent and adult clients managing difficulties surrounding trauma, suicidality, homicidality, relationships, self-concept and self-esteem. This year, she received the Multiculturalism and Social Justice Advocacy award and was invited as a 2020 Emerging Leader for the Rocky Mountain Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Among many roles, she highly values her role as an advocate whether in session, the classroom or in her daily life as she values being able to speak towards promoting an equitable environment.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. John J. S. Harrichand (he/him/his), LMHC (NY), LPC (VA), NCC, CCMHC, ACS, is a Canadian of Chinese and East Indian ancestry who was born and raised in Guyana, South America. He is an assistant professor of counselor education at The State University of New York at Brockport. He is also a coordinator of mental health counseling, and co-advisor of Nu Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. Dr. Harrichand earned his Ph.D. in the CACREP-accredited program in counselor education and supervision at Liberty University, and holds a Master's degree in counseling, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Integrative Biology from Providence

Theological Seminary and the University of Toronto at Scarborough, respectively.

Dr. Harrichand's teaching interests include orientation and ethics in clinical mental health counseling, diagnosis and treatment planning, professional advocacy and counselor leadership development, and counseling theories and supervision. He has over 8 years of clinical experience working in community mental health and college/university counseling settings. Dr. Harrichand's research is guided by the American Counseling Association (ACA) Advocacy Competencies, AMCD Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling competencies, ACES Supervision Competencies, and SAIGE Competencies. These competencies continue to inform his understanding of phenomena, clients, students, and groups allowing him to meaningfully contribute to the counseling and counselor education literature. His research agenda focuses on three distinct areas. The first area relates to culturally informed counseling practices for working with minoritized communities: international students, immigrants and refugees, and LGBTQ+ individuals across the lifespan. The second research area focuses on understanding, educating, and supporting early career counselor educators in their teaching and supervision responsibilities related to gatekeeping and psychological safety. A third area of research examines leadership and advocacy development of master's and doctoral students (e.g., legislative advocacy on behalf of the counseling profession and minoritized communities) and supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color counseling leaders through mentorship (i.e., prioritizing wellness and preventing burnout). He is also actively engaged in program

review, advocacy, mentorship and supervision, and frequently presents at local, state, regional, and national conferences.

Dr. Harrichand is actively involved in professional service at the national and state levels. He serves the American Counseling Association completing a three year term (2019-2022) as Co-Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, and Chi Sigma Iota International Counseling Honor Society as Chair of the Leadership and Professional Advocacy Committee (2020-2023). Dr. Harrichand is also Chair of a special partner task force developed by 2020-2021 Division Presidents: Dr. Christian Chan and Dr. Kim Lee Hughes for both the Association for Adult Development and Aging and the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD). He also serves as Secretary (2020-2021) for AMCD; Co-Chair on the Ethical Values Committee for the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling; and the 2020-2021 President-Elect for ACA of New York. Dr. Harrichand is a 2017 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Emerging Leader, 2018-2019 *Counselor Education & Supervision* Editorial Fellow, and 2018-2020 Southern ACES Emerging Leader. He can be reached at jharrichand@brockport.edu or 585-395-5495.

ADULTSPAN JOURNAL NEWS

If you are interested in being a member of the Editorial Review Board, please send a copy of your CV and a letter of interest that highlights your relevant editorial and publication experience to the editor at adultspanjournal@gmail.com.

Note: All AADA members receive free access to the journal which is available online. To access the electronic journal, please use the link below.

- **Step 1:** <https://www.counseling.org/publications/electronic-journal-access-members>
- **Step 2:** Sign in to your ACA account which can be accessed through the link above.



For Print Copy Recipients of *ADULTSPAN Journal*:

The COVID-19 situation has impacted print copies of *ADULTSPAN Journal*. To access the journal once published, please log in to the ACA website, click on **the Publications link** and then **Electronic Journal Access** in the drop-down menu. The link to the journal will lead you to the home page of the journal in the Wiley Online Library where you can access content as well as the full journal archives.

Thanks so much!

Suzanne Degges-White, Ph.D., Editor
Wendy Killam, Ph.D., Associate Editor

Newsletter Committee
Association for Adult Development and Aging

Please submit your work for our AADA newsletter in the future.

We are currently looking for **news, updates, events, book recommendations,** and **articles** from our members for the April edition of the newsletter on any of the following topics or areas.

- At the intersections of equity, advocacy, & activism across the lifespan
- The impact of COVID-19 and its consequences in lives of individuals, families, and communities

Submission: aada.newsletter.2021@gmail.com

Length: 500 - 800 words

Format: Microsoft word

Deadline: March 12, 2021 11:59PM EST

For details, the AADA newsletter committee can be reached at aada.newsletter.2021@gmail.com.

AADA Newsletter Committee

Yoon Suh Moh, Chair

Janelle Jones, Member

Aishwarya Joshi, Member

Olivia Ngadjui, Member

S Anandavalli, Co-Chair Elect

Association for Adult Development and Aging
www.aadaweb.org

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Alexandria, VA 22222

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