

PROFESSIONAL UPDATE NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S Letter

E. Wayne Bland, MSW, LCSW, CACII

In the middle of writing this column, I got a call that Bruce Hoopes had died. I sat for a long time and thought about how important he was to the addiction field and how many people he touched directly and personally and through his work as the Director of Addictive Disease Services. I mourn him as a personal friend as well. But I also thought about each of you in your own unique way touching addicts and alcoholics who without you would be lost. Sometimes, I think we forget how important we are as counselors and administrators in this field. Sometimes, I think we are lonely and wonder if anybody cares. Sometimes, because of the difficulty of the days, we just want to walk away. Sometimes.... but we don't, we take the next step, and we do not ever know how important that is, that no matter where we find ourselves, no matter how bad it can get, there is someone who needs us and we cannot walk away.

Someone quoted at Gerald Ford's funeral, and I do not remember the person nor the person who said this, but I remembered the quote: "*God preserves humanity because at any one time there exist 10 just individuals without being aware redeem mankind*"

- ❖ You are counselors who save that one alcoholic who would have killed himself without you.
- ❖ You are the group worker who day after day against all odds, prayed the serenity prayer and believed that addicts could get well.
- ❖ You made the 12th step call in the crack house.
- ❖ You held the child, the wife, the mother when their lives were falling apart because of alcohol and drugs.
- ❖ You cried when the government cut all the TANF funding and there was no one to pick up the pieces and your anger could not be consoled.
- ❖ You held the crack baby and wondered if we could care for it.
- ❖ You went to the jail cell and feeling scared and alone, you found one human who needed you.
- ❖ You sat with the teenage boy who had been sexually abused and you picked up the phone and called the authorities.
- ❖ You searched for the place that would see your client.
- ❖ And finally in your own place and in your own time, you found justice.

You are one of the Just.....one of the 10 just individuals and don't ever forget it.

I admire you. I salute you for your bravery.
WAYNE



GACA Board of Directors

Front Row: Denise Dobbins, Wayne Bland, Chuck Yzenski, Diane Sherman, Ewell Hardman, Cindy Armstrong, Lewis Clymore. Back Row: Chuck Smith, Janet Retterbush-Guerke, Scott Maddox, Wayde Washburn. Not Pictured: Jim Vaughns, Frank Barker.



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GACA Board of Directors & Administration

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E. Wayne Bland, MSW, LCSW, CACII
President 2010 – 2012
(Savannah)

Diane Sherman, PhD, NCACII, CCS
President-Elect 2010-2012
(Marietta)

Lewis A. Clymore, CACII, NCACII, CCS
Secretary-Treasurer 2010-2012
(Decatur)

James A. Vaughns, MS, LPC, MAC, CACII, CCS
Past-President 2010-2012
(Centerville)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Armstrong, LPC, CACII, MAC, CCS – East GA (Evans)

W. Frank Barker, Jr., LPC, MAC, SAP, CS, CSAT – Coastal GA (Savannah)

Denise Dobbins – Middle GA (Dudley)

Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII – GA-at-Large (Lithonia)

J. Scott Maddox, MS, LPC, CACII – Metro Atlanta (Atlanta)

Chuck Smith, CACII, CCS – Northwest GA (Ringold)

Wayde Washburn, MDiv, NCACI, CACII – West GA (LaGrange)

Chuck Yzenski, BA, CACII, CCS – South GA (Eastman)

Vacant – Northeast GA

ADMINISTRATION

Sue Purvis Otts
Executive Director

Marlo Scoggins
Education Coordinator

Kim Shock
Office Assistant

Board of Directors Election Results

Diane Sherman, PhD, NCACII, Elections Committee Chair

The Elections Committee is pleased to present the 2011-2012 Board of Directors for GACA. Thank you to all our candidates – and those who nominated them – for their willingness to serve on the Board of Directors. We invite all candidates to participate in one or more of our working committees. For more information contact the GACA Office at 770-434-3144 or gaca@gaca.org.

Region 1 Northwest GA - Chuck Smith, NCACII, CACII, CCS - Ringgold

Chuck has been a member of GACA since 1991, a CACII and CCS through the Association since 1995; nationally certified through NAADAC since 1996. He has actively served on the GACA Certification Board since 1995 and has a reputation for service that promotes fair and efficient opportunities to counselors seeking to be a credentialed substance abuse professional. Chuck developed and implemented The Carter Hope Center Recovery Residence in Dalton, Georgia and has served as its Director since 1999. "I want to use my skills and experience to serve addiction counselors in the state by serving on the GACA Board of Directors. I have enjoyed working on the Certification Board of GACA for the past 6 years and would like to continue to serve the Association from the Northwest corner of the state as an active member of the Board of Directors". Contact Chuck at chuck@chcenter.com

Region 8 South GA – Chuck Yzenski, CACII, CCS - Eastman

Chuck Yzenski has been a member of GACA since 2003, certified as a CACII since 2003, and a CCS since 2009. He is returning to the Board of Directors as an elected member after serving his first year as an appointee for Region 8. He currently works for the Georgia Department of Corrections and is the Lead Counselor and Clinical Director of the Tifton Day Reporting Center. "My goal as the Region 8 GACA board representative is to help GACA continue its long history of developing, training and certifying the best addiction counselors in the state and continue to be the best certification association in the state. It is a privilege to continue my service to the South Georgia region and it is also my goal to present any concerns from South Georgia to the Board for consideration. You can contact me at cyzenski@live.com

Georgia-at-Large – Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII, CCS - Lithonia

Ewell has been a member of GACA since 2000, certified as a CACII since 1990, and a CCS since 1993. He is returning to the Board of Directors as an elected member after serving his first year as an appointee for Georgia-at-Large. Ewell has additionally served GACA for the past year as Chair of the Training and Education Committee. He is currently Clinical Director of Northstar Recovery Inc. in Fayetteville, in partnership at Arise Recovery Center in Newnan, in private practice with Georgia Diversion and Recovery, and is staff at The Summit Counseling Center in Alpharetta. "I enjoy the work of counseling, consulting, and training on addictions and integration of spirituality in counseling since being certified in 1990. Goals for the Board of Directors in 2012 are: 1. Improve the functioning of GACA; 2. Increase reasons for addiction counselors to become members of GACA; 3. Increase reasons for addiction counselors to be certified through GACA; and 4. Balance the budget of GACA. I wish to enhance the well-being of as many counselors as possible through this service". Contact Ewell at ewellhardman@gmail.com

Returning Board Members

President – Wayne Bland, Savannah, wbland11541@comcast.net

President-Elect – Diane Sherman, Marietta, d Sherman@actsconsultinginc.com

Secretary-Treasurer – Lewis Clymore, Decatur, lclymore@primarypurposerecovery.com

Immediate Past-President – Jim Vaughns, Centerville, jamesvaughns@cox.net

Region 3 – Metro Atlanta – Scott Maddox, Atlanta, scott@smaddox.com

Region 4 – East GA – Cindy Armstrong, Evans, cindyleea@hotmail.com

Region 5 - Middle GA – Denise Dobbins, Dudley, denise@promiseofhopega.org

Region 6 - Wayde Washburn, LaGrange, wayde@addictionrecoverylagrange.com

Region 7 – Frank Barker, Savannah, wfbarker@recoveryplace.org

Certification Board Chair – Janet Retterbush-Guerke, Tifton

Board of Directors Reports

Region 5 Middle GA – Denise Dobbins

This year my attempt to connect with the people of Region 5 has been limited as email has been my resource. I appreciate those of you who have responded to my contact. The goal of my seat is to reach out to you and hear your voice....what are your service needs, your training needs? Awareness or concerns.... Would you respond to an attempt for a Region 5 networking meeting? We've had two great conferences this year and I hope you had an opportunity to join us with at least one of them. Along with some great opportunities to sharpen our skills and get those CEU's, we all benefit from the time of connecting with others in our field, learning from them and laughing with them as we incorporate some fun into the conferences as well. If you are in Region 5..... please send me your email address to update. Blessings! Denise can be reached at denise@promiseofhopega.org

Region 6 West GA – Wayde Washburn, MDiv, NCACI, CACII

Region 6 reports that a couple of area members were able to attend the GACA Fall Training and Education Conference in Toccoa in October. Also, a couple of emails were sent out to the area members, but a few were returned as undeliverable. If Region 6 GACA members have not received emails, please contact Wayde to update your contact information. Due to the distance of the Region North to South, a couple of meetings in the Region are being planned to reach out to the membership and potential members. If you would like to share your ideas on meeting (times, places, meeting content), again, please let Wayde know. Wayde can be reached at wayde@addictionrecoverylagrange.com

Region 8 South GA – Chuck Yzenski, CACII, CCS

Hello, my name is Chuck Yzenski and I am the region 8 representative on the GACA board of Directors. I appreciate your vote that has allowed me to serve region 8 for the next 3 years. If you have any concerns that you would like for the GACA Board of Directors email me at cyzenski@live.com. I would like to have quarterly meetings in region 8 to give you the membership to make your concerns known. If you would like to host one of these meetings please let me know via email at cyzenski@live.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Surveys

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the GACA survey. Approximately 110 surveys were returned and have provided the Board of Directors with some great feedback. At our last Board meeting in August, I had the pleasure of sharing the results with the other Board Members and we then had the opportunity to prioritize the areas to address as a result. The surveys addressed the areas of membership, certification, training, Board of Directors, website, legislation and clinical supervisors.

One individual had indicated on their survey that until this survey no one had ever asked what that person thought or asked for feedback and they were excited that they had a voice in the organization. The Board of Directors were all in agreement that the members of GACA need to be heard and that as Board we need to listen and respond. One area that was consistently rated favorable was the training that is GACA sponsored. GACA will continue to offer affordable training at multiple locations. The Board discussed a plan of having a training in every region at least once every two years. The goal is to increase region functions and trainings. Board members from each region will be asked to correspond with members in their regions through email, trainings or other region events.

Another area that will be addressed is the GACA website. Members indicated that they go to the website for information and plans are being made to improve and update the website. Areas to be explored include having all applications on line and enabling members and applicants to complete all processes on line. Region pages were discussed and the minutes of the Board meetings will also be posted. The newsletter was also identified as being useful to members and as something that should continue.

The Board members also discussed ways to continue to increase the involvement of the GACA members in the day to day processes of the organization and will continue to explore ways to create more volunteer opportunities and volunteer committees. Many members reported feeling minimally involved and it is a priority of the Board to increase member involvement and participation.

All of the areas the Board chose to focus on relate to communicating with our members and increasing involvement -region events and correspondence, GACA website and newsletter, trainings and volunteer opportunities. The Board of Directors is working to make the changes membership has asked for. Thanks again for the feedback and for providing the Board with objectives to pursue!

Cindy Armstrong
Membership Chair

GACA MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2011

The GACA Member Awards were presented at the Fall Conference and Retreat held in October at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa. Congratulations to the recipients and a special thank you to the individuals who nominated their colleagues for recognition of their commitment to our field.

Travis Fretwell, MAC, NCACII, CCS – 1st Annual Distinguished Service Award



This first annual award was presented by the Board of Directors to Travis Fretwell of Atlanta in recognition of Travis's long term support and commitment to the treatment and welfare of those affected by alcohol and drug addiction in Georgia. Travis has been certified with GACA since 1996 and remains a member in good standing. Mr. Fretwell attended Morehouse College and the University of Maryland. Travis serves as the Assistant Executive Director of the Division of Addictive Diseases and Director of the Office of Prevention Services and Programs for the GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. He is also Georgia's National Treatment and Prevention Network representative for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors. Travis has over 24 years in the fields of substance abuse and mental health. During this time he also served as Adolescent Addictive Diseases Program Administrator, Adult Program Specialist, HIV Contract Manager, Gambling Coordinator and Program Chief.

Travis is the visionary behind Georgia's Clubhouse Program an innovative recovery support model for youth and their families dealing with substance abuse issues. His model concentrates on access, retention and engagement of youth and has received national attention. He has directed a multitude of community based programs. Travis is a nationally known presenter and has provided consultation throughout the country on implementation of evidenced-based programs and practices, financial mapping, adolescent substance abuse issues, employment and a host of innovated programs and strategies.

Jim Seckman, MAC, CACII, CCS - President's Award

The President's Award was presented by GACA President Wayne Bland to Jim Seckman of Decatur in recognition of his long and continued commitment to the Association and the Profession of Addiction Counseling. Jim has over 20 years' experience working in the field of addiction treatment in a variety of clinical settings including inpatient, outpatient and residential. He is currently the Clinical Director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Recovery Residences (MARR). He has served as the Executive Director of Breakthru House, Coordinator for Addiction Services at Emory University Hospital, Clinical Coordinator for SAFE Recovery Systems, the President of the GA Association of Recovery Residences (GARR), and served for years on the GACA Ethics Committee. Jim is a frequent presenter at GACA conferences on Ethics and Professionalism, Advanced Group Therapy, Practical Methods for Case Studies, and numerous other subjects. Jim states, "My goal for training is to equip counselors with the insight, knowledge, and skills necessary to provide the best possible services to their clients". Jim has been a GACA member since 1990, a CAC since 1992 and a CCS since 1995.



Mary Linda Hewell, CACII – The Bernard Carter Humanitarian Award

The Bernard Carter Humanitarian Award was presented to Linda Hewell of Dahlonega in recognition of outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of addiction counseling. Linda's friend and co-worker, Linda Ritter, presented the award. Ms. Hewell's nomination was signed by 19 of her colleagues, in part, "In the field for over 30 years, Ms. Hewell has been dedicated to this profession, she has become the standard in which other counselors respect and inspire. Prior to becoming a colleague, her praises were sung by many patients, clients, consumers, their families, her employers, doctors, other clinicians and within the recovery community at large for years. Her ability to establish genuine rapport with her peers and clients is a gift. Her professionalism brings dignity to our society with hope and healing to the most vulnerable. Her

wisdom and guidance is highly sought after by clients as well as other clinicians, seemingly always having a positive impact with the sensitivity of meeting the needs of the client and the clinician in making an individual difference. Linda's diligent work with the SECAD program, Dr. Conway Hunter, promoting GACA and many programs/institutions in our area has been for the greater good of our efforts in striving to establish a legitimate reputation as a necessary discipline and component among those in the therapeutic counseling community. She has been an inspiration to many in this field still working tirelessly and effortlessly to promote, encourage others to maintain a level of excellence in which we all can be proud to be part of the helping profession known as addiction counseling. It is obvious that the high regard for this lady warrants the recommendation of the Bernard Carter award." Linda is a Behavioral Therapist at Laurelwood in Gainesville.

Clint Decker, CACII, CCS – The Counselor of the Year Award

The Counselor of the Year Award was presented to Clint Decker of Savannah by Wayne Bland, who nominated him for his dedication and outstanding contribution to the addiction counseling profession. "Having met Clint 12 years ago, I have known that this is an exceptional young man with a talent for finding programs for addicts, for conducting treatment not to mention his counseling skills. He is dedicated to quality treatment with a sense of fairness and caring not often seen," states Wayne. Colleagues describe Clint as "showing unwavering devotion and support to those working for recovery. He has skills as a counselor and an educator in the field of addiction. Because of the many years he has given to the field of addiction and more importantly the people in recovery, he is recommended highly for this award"; "Clint has served the Savannah community for 15 years and has dedicated his career to social programming that is often times underfunded and overburdened. He has demonstrated his commitment to the field of addictions and recovery through his passion, drive, and career path. Clint manages Recovery Place Community Services and works with the Chatham County Mental Health Court. He ensures that the highest standard is set and met with his staff providing direct care. Clint is a GACA clinical supervisor and has mentored several community members in becoming certified. He is deserving of his award".



Byard Arkward, CACI – The New Counselor of the Year Award

The New Counselor of the Year Award was presented to Byard Arkward by Dr. Diane Sherman, who nominated him for his dedication as a relatively new counselor in the field of addiction. This award is given to a member in good standing who has become certified within the past two years and who is employed as an addiction professional. "Byard is a strong addictions counselor, grounded in his work with persons struggling with alcohol or other addiction. He is mature, dedicated, and committed to good work, ethical practices, and professionalism. Byard understands what it takes to professionally work with people who are struggling with alcohol/drug problems, particularly men." Byard started in the field in 2007 being responsible as the House Manager at Harmony House. When he gained his CAC in 2010, he was employed at OASIS Counseling Center in Marietta providing community-based support for adolescents involved in substance abuse treatment. Most recently, Byard gained employment in the Cobb DUI Treatment Court where he carries a caseload, provides individual and group therapy, is fully immersed in the 8 Practice Domains, and is an important member of the multi-disciplinary team. "In his personal growth," states Dr. Sherman, "Byard is also actively involved in 12-Step service work. Since 2008, he is on the Board of Directors for The Extension, a men's recovery treatment center. Byard has grown from a person in recovery to a clinician. He brings his lived experiences and commitment to his clients to everything he does within the professional and clinical context. Byard remains teachable and receptive to supervision, readily admitting his shortcomings, and demonstrably eager to grow in his own professional development seeking consultation and advisement from our more clinically seasoned team members and myself".

GACA/NAADAC Membership

Membership in the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association is done at the national level through NAADAC (The Association for Addiction Professionals). All membership is processed and maintained through NAADAC. When you join NAADAC your membership information will then be forwarded to GACA as the Georgia NAADAC affiliate within 60 days of joining NAADAC. Membership is voluntary and is separate from certification.

Benefits of membership in NAADAC/GACA include:

- Discounted rates for the certification and recertification process.
- Select discounts for training and conferences/workshops.
- Quarterly Professional Update newsletter featuring regional educational training, legislation updates on standards for professional counselors, committee updates, and certification policies.
- Eligibility to sit on working committees.
- All benefits of NAADAC which include:
 - Access to Professional Services
 - Malpractice Insurance
 - Counselor, The Magazine for Addiction Professionals
 - The NAADAC Newsletter
 - Independent Study Courses
 - Legislative Alert Network (e-LAN)
 - Up-to-date Website
 - Annual National Conference and Public Policy Conference
 - Advocacy for the Profession in Washington, DC
 - Professional Education and Development

Becoming a NAADAC/GACA Member

Become a member of NAADAC/GACA today and begin taking advantage of the great benefits NAADAC/GACA have to offer. Current membership rates for dual membership with NAADAC/GACA are \$145 for regular membership or \$62.50 for students. Click here www.naadac.org for a direct to the NAADAC website or contact NAADAC at 800-548-0497. All memberships are processed through NAADAC. Payments for membership should be made out to NAADAC and mailed directly to them. Please go to the NAADAC website membership page for more information www.naadac.org

CERTIFICATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

Janet Retterbush-Guerke, MS, MAC, CACII, CCS

GACA Certification Board

CHAIR

Janet Retterbush-Guerke, MS, MAC, CACII, CCS

CERTIFICATION BOARD MEMBERS

J.J. Bremner, CACII, CCS

Curtis Lewis, BA, CACII, CCS

Neil A. Raffan, MEd, CACII, CCS

George L. Sneed, PhD, NCACII, CACII, MAC, CCS

ASSOCIATES

Calvin Nelson, Th.D., NCACII, CCS, RTC, SAP

Barbara Sickmon, MS, CACII, NCACI, CCS

Charles E. Chuck Smith, CACII, NCACII, CCS, TESTING

Stephanne Thornton, MSW, LCSW, CACII, CCS

Frank P. White, Jr, BA, NCACII, CACII, CCS, SAP

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself and provide a brief update on GACA certification activities. I am the new Chair of the GACA Certification Board and live in Tifton, GA. I have been a member of the Certification Board for the past two years, following a year as an Associate. As a long-standing GACA member, I hold a Master's degree in Sociology, a Master Addiction Counselor certification from NAADAC, and have been a Certified Addiction Counselor and Certified Clinical Supervisor through GACA since 1998. I am looking forward to serving as your chair.

I would like to briefly review a few objectives for the coming year. First, the Certification Board is seeking to fill vacancies on the board with individuals who are committed to serving. In order to serve on the Certification Board, one must have CACII and CCS credentials. Interested applicants for the 3-year term would attend 4 business meetings per year along with working at the GACA office 4 times per year (on Saturday) to process certification, recertification, CCS applications and grade case histories. If you are interested in serving on this very active board, please contact the GACA office for details on how to apply. The second objective is to update/rewrite the Certification Board's Policies and Procedures. Third, the CCS process will be reviewed and updated. The fourth objective is to review the contents of the CCS Forum to make it relevant to the issues facing the organization, such as, writing case histories, dual-relationships and confidentiality issues. I look forward to working with you on this agenda and value your input.

Following is an update concerning a few recent GACA activities and events:

- At the recent GA School in Savannah, President-Elect Diane Sherman, Kris Shock and I manned the GACA exhibit booth. The conference lasted 5 days with over 500 people in attendance. We were encouraged by the high level of interest to become certified through GACA.
- Also, we are pleased to have an increased number of applicants to become Certified Addiction Counselors. We had 23 candidates sit for written exam in June and 23 more sat for written exam in September 2011.
- Neil Raffan, MEd, CACII, CCS, a long-term member of the Certification Board, conducted the CCS Tips & Updates (Forum on Clinical Supervision) in Toccoa, GA on Thursday, October 13, 2011. She conducted training on "Writing the Case History".
- The Training & Education Committee is working with Karen Garrett, a frequent presenter at our conferences on Clinical Supervision, to present a workshop on the 20-hour Tap 21-a Clinical Supervision course in February 2012. This course, along with the 4-hour CCS Forum, will satisfy the new CCS recertification requirement

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Contact Janet at janetg@mchsi.com or call (229-392-5184).

New Certifications & Recertifications

<p>New CACI John Blalock, Austell Gene Brinkley, Lawrenceville Jane Broadwell, Lavonia Deborah DeMarco, Marietta Wanda Dimas, Demorest Taylor Hagin, Woodstock Gloria Dean Jones, Cuthbert William Parrish, III, Scottdale Beverly Ragland, College Park Caleb Sagesmith, Cartersville Robert Schwartz, Statham Bert Scott, Woodstock Joan Scruggs, Covington Rachael Shiao, Lawrenceville Alyssa Sosinski, St. Simons Island Charles Tucker, Atlanta</p> <p>New CACII Grant AbduRahim, Tuskegee, AL Troy Beaver, Blairsville Kristen Harper, Macon Michael James, Adel Joy Moseri, Atlanta Paula Robertson, Lawrenceville</p> <p>Upgrade CACII Djenane Scott, Hephzibah Charles Vickery, Jr., St. Mountain</p>	<p>CAC Recertifications Monroe Abram, Warner Robins Paul Arria, Demorest Carolyn Bacon, Douglasville Wynema Barber, Marietta Michael Berryhill, St Mountain Cindy Black, Chattanooga, TN Tanya Brown, Hoschton Catherine Carson, Leesburg Elbert Chambers, Jr., Swainsboro Sheilah Cline, Dalton Michelle Coleman, Round Rock, TX Pamela Coleman, Decatur Mabel Conley, Marietta Marjorie Coppins, Roswell Caroline Dagadu, Athens Earl Delmarter, Athens Herbert Elliott, Lithonia Jacqueline Ellis, Cordele Deborah Elzea, McDounght Randy Farley, Riverdale Tammy Floyd, Cedartown Michael Friedline, Athens Westley Gillard, Kennesaw Marl Green, Covington Johnnie Hampton, Valdosta Sandra Hampton, Albany Larry Hardy, Decatur Christie Harris, Columbus Barry Hayes, Perry</p>	<p>Cheryl Hill, Columbus Robert Hinzman, Bishop Victor Hollings, Macon DeJuan Johnson, Atlanta Gray Jorges, Summerville Deborah Josey, Columbus Renee Kalb, Conyers Ashley Kelly, Smyrna Mary King, Brunswick Cleveland Kyles, III, Ray City Curtis Lewis, Covington Scott Maddox, Alpharetta Dan Martin, Jr., Atlanta Kelli McCauley, Pembroke Alan Metzel, Dawsonville Edward Modzeleski, Atlanta Carmen Morales, Lilburn Helen Morton, Brunswick Calvin Nelson, Valdosta David Oughton, Townsend Selina Popovich-Evans, Tifton Tamisha Rogers, Bethlehem Cheryl Sapp, Columbus Glenn Schendel, Gainesville Madelynn Speech, Powder Springs John Palmer, Jr., Lithonia Marc Pimsler, Marietta Joseph Preston, Jr., Monroe Lois Purrington, Dunwoody Wanda Rainey-Reed, Decatur</p>	<p>Michelle Render, Columbus Gerald Rhett, Atlanta Paul Richardson, Jonesboro Scott Rotter, Milledgeville Jean Sanders, Kennesaw Yvonne Shipp-Russ, Talbotton Ansley Silvers, Rome Richard Strickland, Powder Springs Khadijah Stroud-McCottrie, Davey Omar Taveras, Thomasville Gail Venerable, Lithonia Amanda Washington, Columbus Stephen Watson, Tybee Island Gwen Watts, St. Mountain Charlotte Wenzel, Waverly Hall Janet Wynn, Chatsworth Chuck Zzenski, Eastman</p> <p>New CCS James Bass, Snellville Michael Hester, St Mountain Tammie Lee Hurt, Canton Linda Jones, Cumming</p>
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Bruce L. Hoopes **April 13, 1949 - November 8, 2011**

Bruce L. Hoopes, age 62, of Lawrenceville, Georgia departed this life on November 8, 2011, surrounded by his devoted family, following a gallant fight since 2004 to Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD), a disabling brain disease, often misdiagnosed as Parkinson's disease.

Born in Salem, Ohio in 1949, Bruce graduated from Florida State University and earned a Master's in Clinical Social Work from the University of Georgia. Bruce served 34 years with the State of Georgia's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases. He served as a faculty member for the SE School of Alcohol and Drug Studies and for years was a co-leader of a weekly group for adult children of alcoholics. Bruce served on the board of directors for GUIDE (Gwinnett United in Drug Education) and the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association; was an alumnus of Leadership Gwinnett; and served as an ad hoc faculty member at UGA. He retired in December, 2006 as State Director for the Division of Addictive Diseases. Bruce was a deacon at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and taught adult Sunday school for many years. Since 2002, he attended Grace Fellowship Church.

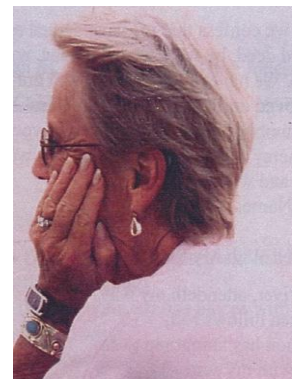
"Bruce lovingly served others, genuinely listened, and was a gentle, kind husband and devoted father, son, brother and faithful friend". Those desiring may make donations to any of the following: CurePSP (For CBD Research), 30 E. Padonia Rd., Ste. 201, Timonium, MD 21093; Grace Fellowship Church Mission Programs, 1447 Dogwood Rd., Snellville, GA 30078, or Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 1400 Killian Hill Rd. SW, Lilburn, GA 30047 in memory of Bruce L. Hoopes.

In the middle of writing the President's Corner column, I got a call that Bruce Hoopes had died. I sat for a long time and thought about how important he was to the addiction field and how many people he touched directly and personally and through his work as the Director of Addictive Disease Services. I mourn him as a personal friend as well. Bruce was a friend of alcoholics and addicts. He was an advocate for quality services and for qualified counselors. He served on the GACA Board for several years. His was a life of dedicated service. He shall be missed.

- Wayne Bland

Joyce A. Drysdale **September 21, 1932 - July 31, 2011**

I first met Joyce in mid- August of 1989 at Houston Medical Center in Warner Robins, GA. I had been hired as a tech for the then A & D unit where Joyce was employed as an addiction counselor. Joyce took it upon herself to reach out and take me under her wing so to speak and not only trained me in the field of addiction but also pointed me in the direction of GACA eventually becoming a CACII, NCACI and CCS myself. I have often said Joyce taught me everything I know about addiction and life especially with regard to her personal recovery and mine as well. Joyce was indeed a good listener, loyal no matter what. Her commitment and dedication to her own recovery and field of work was indeed a roadmap for the rest of us to follow. I had the privilege to work with Joyce in three different facilities always knowing her dedication and commitment would never falter especially with respect to helping those who suffer from addiction. Joyce knew about love of her fellow man, she knew that love was patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud. Joyce knew if you loved someone you would be loyal no matter what. She was truly that to her family, friends and to her colleagues. Joyce was and still is an inspiration to all of us, she believed in GACA's mission, she will be missed by all. She was my friend. --Respectfully-Steve Jones, CACII, NCACI, CCS



Joyce A. Drysdale, 78, was born in Elkhart, Indiana. Joyce was a member of the NAADAC – the Association for Addiction Professionals and the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association and had been certified as an addiction counselor since 1989. She most recently served as a substance abuse counselor for the River Edge Project Connect, a drug or alcohol rehabilitation center with a primary focus on substance abuse treatment based in Macon. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Margie Balyeat and eight siblings. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests memorial donations to Heart of Georgia Hospice 103 Westridge Drive Warner Robins, Georgia 31088.



Milton L. Abram, Jr.
April 21, 1959 – August 9, 2011

Mr. Milton L. Abram, Jr., 52, of Columbus passed at Emory Hospital in Decatur. The son of Mrs. Eva Abram of Columbus and the late Milton Abram, Sr., Mr. Abram was born in Columbus, GA. Milton was educated in the Muscogee County School System, Columbus, a 1977 graduate of Carver High School, and attended Morris Brown College and Cambridge University, where he attained a BA degree. Milton was a life-long member of the Carver Heights Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder, with the Usher's Ministry and with the Presbyterian Men's Group.

Milton was a Licensed Certified Drug Councilor, having worked with the State of Georgia Street Team. He was owner and operated Rediscovery Inc., a safe house for recovering addicts within the tri-city area. He also established the first NA Meeting in Columbus. Milton believed in helping people and attained Certification as an addiction counselor when very few people believed that addiction was a real problem. He was dedicated to helping the addict at all levels, which in turn, led to the opening of "Rediscovery Counseling Services." Milton continued his service to the addict, and to those wanting to become addiction counselors by joining the Georgia Addiction Counselors Certification Board. He gave back to this field and to the addict.

Georgia Senate Resolution 949, presented by Senator Harbison of the 15th, commended Milton for his services and, "whereas, he was named Man of the Year 1990 by the Men's Progressive Club and was given the 1990 Metro Columbus Urban Leagues Outstanding Service Award and the Mt. Mariah Baptist Church's 2003 "Making Things Happen" community service award, now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, that the members of this body commend Mr. Milton L. Abram, Jr., for his selfless dedication to his community and the chemically dependent".

Milton Abram was a husband, a businessman, a counselor, a clinical supervisor, a mentor, and a friend to many. He was my friend, and I shall miss him. He has left us for a better place with the God he gave his life to many years ago. Rest easy my brother, and keep an eye out for us.

--Your friend and mentor, Jim Vaughns

Toni V. Griffin Curry
June 23, 1938 – April 28, 2011

Toni Curry, 72, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born in Fairfax, AL Toni graduated from College Park High School, received a BA, Education and English from GA State University and worked for the DeKalb County BOE as an English teacher. Toni began her career in addiction counseling in 1974. She earned a Masters in Social Work from GA State University in 1981, and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 1987.

Toni was a pioneer in helping to create aftercare program models still followed today. Her many achievements include Director of Aftercare Services for Peachford Hospital, Director of Aftercare Services/Corporate Consultant for Ridgeview Institute, Founding member of Anchor Hospital and the International Recovery Center in Cannes, France. In 1982, she opened a private practice focusing on individuals and families with alcohol and drug addictions, education/training and management consultation, and SAP Evaluations. Toni served as a Board member for the National Association for Social Workers, SE EAP Institute, the GA EAP Forum, the GA Addiction Counselors Association, Advisory Board for Peachford Hospital, the Professional Advisory Board for Rockdale House, Advisory Board for Outpatient Addictions Center, and the Board for Little Hill Alina Lodge. Toni was appointed by Governor Joe Frank Harris to the Governor's Advisory Council on MH/MR/SA, the Governor's Commission on Drug Awareness and Prevention, and as Chairperson to the Governor's DUI Assessment Task Force. She authored numerous articles and presented as a faculty member at many local, national, and international conferences, including Seminars on Addiction in Italy and Switzerland. She was listed in various Who's Who organizations. In 1976, she designed and directed an aftercare group for airline pilots treated for addiction. She continued as director until April 2011.



Toni was a devoted member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sober for 36 years, she worked tirelessly to help others suffering with and recovering from addiction. She profoundly touched and affected the lives of countless people and leaves a legacy of altruism, dedication, unconditional love and genuine compassion and kindness. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Toni's name to Metro Atlanta Recovery Residences, (678) 805-5110, or The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.



Legislative Update

Governor's Proclamation

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Governor of the State of Georgia proclaimed September 2011 as Recovery Month in the state of Georgia. We appreciate Governor Deal's support and that of all the legislators, addiction professionals, and the recovering community for their time and energy in pursuing this recognition. GACA was once again an active participant in this process. Other sponsors included the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, GA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia, Georgia Behavioral Health Services Coalition, Georgia Association of CSBs, and the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences.

GA Addiction Counselors Association

GACA distributed approximately 200 SAMHSA Recovery Month Information Packets and 400 SAMHSA Recovery Month lunch bags at the Georgia School of Addiction Studies in Savannah in August. We provided website and other contact information for participants to actively make this a part of their September 2011 recovery awareness efforts. The Georgia School of Addiction Studies presented a Kick Off to Recovery Month on Wednesday, August 31st, during the school in Savannah.

Recovery Awareness Fair

GACA was a proud sponsor of the 4th Annual GARR Recovery Fair, held at the Hilton Atlanta Marietta Hotel and Conference Center in Marietta, September 30, 2011. The Keynote Speaker was Ms. Shannon Taitt, Partners for Recovery Coordinator at the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA for the 4th Annual GARR Recovery Fair this September. Ms. Taitt will present an Overview of SAMHSA's Recovery Support Services Strategic SAMHSA is a division within the US Department of Health and Human Services. The event had 110 guests, 32 exhibitors, and 10 sponsors. Once again an exciting, successful event. We encourage all our members to plan to participate in this exciting event in September 2012.

LINKS TO LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

Keep up-to-date via the **Georgia General Assembly Website**: www.legis.ga.gov. Some items at this site: Notes From the House of Representatives - To View the House Reapportionment Committee Meeting; Notes From the Senate - For a list of bills signed by the Governor.

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The **NAADAC e-Advocacy Center** allows you to receive free e-mail action alerts and updates on current legislation and policy proposals. Our alerts will give you the background information you need and allow you to contact your members of Congress in a few quick clicks of a mouse. There is no easier way to stay informed and take action. [Click here](#) to sign up today--all are encouraged to subscribe. In addition to our regular e-alerts, the [e-Advocacy Center](#) is a valuable resource--take a look! It can help you: Identify your [elected officials](#); Find background information on key [legislation](#); See how your members of Congress voted on key bills using our [Congressional Scorecard](#); Even [register to vote](#)!

2012 Addiction Recovery Awareness Day

at the
Georgia State
Capitol

Monday
January 9, 2012

**Invite your
Legislators to
breakfast on the
first day of session
to hear a message
of hope!**

**Starts at 8:00 am
at the church
across from the
Capitol.
Rally inside the
Capitol at 11:00.**

Guest Speakers!

**For more information
please contact the
Georgia Council on
Substance Abuse at**

www.gasubstanceabuse.org



CCS Tips and Updates (Forum on Clinical Supervision)

- **WHEN: Saturday, January 21, 2012 – 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
- **WHERE: The Summit Counseling Center - Johns Creek, GA 30022**
- **TRAINER: Neil Ann Raffan, MEd, CAC II, CCS.**
- **TARGET AUDIENCE: GACA Certified Clinical Supervisors or supervisors preparing application for CCS**

This course is an updated version of our previous Forum on Clinical Supervision. The Forum is required for CCS Recertification once every four years and may also be used toward hours necessary for new CCS certification. This course will define clinical supervision and the role of the CCS as a clinical supervisor in preparing applicants for written examination and the case history presentation. We will review the Case History Presentation which is the final prerequisite toward the Certified Addiction Counselor, Level I & II credential (replaces the Oral Exam as a tool in evaluating applicant competency). Participants will be provided with detailed guidelines to aid the CCS in preparing applicants for certification.

Go To www.gaca.org for registration information.

Training & Education Report

Ewell Hardman, MDiv, MAC, CACII

SPRING CONFERENCE 2012: WARM HEARTS AND STRONG MINDS

I recently read a review of the speech given by the Dalai Lama in 1998 when he was in America and spoke about the continual search for freedom of the Tibetan people. He encouraged the audience to have “warm hearts and strong minds.” He spoke about how “progress in improving human rights will come when people combine intelligence and compassion.” (by Alan Boal and Margaret Magee. November 12, 1998 | News-THE GW HATCHET)

This principle is true not only in the search for human freedom but it is true in our endless search to bring solutions to those who suffer with addictions. We met our challenge in the 2011 Toccoa Fall Conference to bring together quality trainers who gave intelligent solutions with passion.

Our membership has spoken about their desire for better access to Ethics training, and they have asked that we repeat Pharmacology training. We will consider extended courses for clinical supervision, and build on the open panel approaches. Members appreciate panels that bring a wealth of experience applied to current practice problems in spontaneous discussions. Practical courses on counselor self-care and how to handle stress have been well received. We find our membership to be among those who are now experiencing significant workplace stress that contributes to health and finally performance problems. At Toccoa we learned of the expansive plans in Georgia regarding Drug Courts and the changing face of healthcare and how changes will affect opportunities for counselors.

We are in the planning process now for Spring 2012 and are open to our membership's needs and interests. If you were not able to be present at the Fall Conference and have suggestions for us don't delay to send thoughts for consideration.

As an organization I appreciate how our Board and Trainers have continued to set a high bar for training to prepare our membership for the tasks they face in the workplace. We want to express our gratitude to all who made sacrifices whether it was to be a trainer or be a counselor student. Plan to join us in Spring 2012 as we build the tradition of “warm hearts and strong minds” for the field of addiction counseling. You'll be hearing from us soon about details.

Ewell Hardman is on the Board of Directors serving GA-at-Large and is the Director of Substance Abuse Services for The Summit Counseling Ctr/Mt Pisgah UMC, Sandy SpringsOne. Contact Ewell at ewellhardman@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATES
**GACA Spring Training
& Education Conference**
April 22-26, 2012

Oceanside Inn & Suites
Jekyll Island, Georgia

Check the GACA website in February
 For Registration Information



TRAINING & EDUCATION PROVIDERS

REMINDER: NAADAC providers headquartered in Georgia must also have a GACA Provider Number to guarantee acceptance toward Certification/Recertification. NAADAC providers out-of-state are not required to have a GACA Provider Number but do not satisfy certification/recertification requirements listed as "must have GACA Provider Number." (but can qualify as other providers). Training advertised as "GACA approved" may not equate to having a GACA Provider Number. It is the participant's responsibility to verify GACA Provider Numbers for each training. The following Education Providers have received a GACA Provider Number for specific courses. Please contact the provider for training details and to verify courses with GACA Provider Numbers.

ATLANTA AREA

Addiction Solutions Training (Cartersville) 770-714-7605
 Atlanta Intervention Network (Tucker) 770-713-8580 - www.drclark.com
 Circle of Recovery (Decatur) 404-243-5576 - www.circleofrecovery.com
 Diane Sherman (Marietta) 678-522-7132 - training@actsconsultinginc.com
 Divine Exchange Ministry (East Point) 404-647-1639/202-561-9903 - info@divineexchange.com
 Georgia Association of Recovery Residences (GARR) (Decatur) 404-459-0759 – www.garronline.org
 Georgia Intervention Alternatives (Covington) 770-396-4146
 High Impact (Atlanta) 404-523-6074
 Houston Harris Associates (Atlanta) 678-668-5295
 IMANI Associates, Inc. (Atlanta) 404-584-6288 - Rhonda James - www.imaniinc.com
 Institute for Clinical & Professional Development of Georgia (Kennesaw) 678-595-4399 – www.icpdga.com
 Pat Brown (Decatur) 404-217-2722
 Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. (Decatur) 404-289-0313
 Ridgeview Institute (Smyrna) 770-434-4567 - www.ridgeviewinstitute.com
 Shannon M. Eller, LPC, RPT, CCS, CCADC, CCDP-D, NCC (Griffin) 770-468-7424 – www.brighter-tomorrows.com
 Southeast Institute on Chemical Dependency (Atlanta) 678-525-2692 – www.thesiscd.org
 Talbott Recovery Campus (Atlanta) 678-232-3402 - www.talbottcampus.com

COASTAL GEORGIA

Recovery Place Inc. (Savannah) 912-790-6239

MIDDLE/EAST CENTRAL/WEST CENTRAL GEORGIA

Fort Valley State University College of Graduate Studies & Extended Education (Warner Robins) 478-953-7423
 The Crestwood Group (Jim Vaughns) (Centerville) 478-225-6192 – www.crestwoodgroup.org

NORTH GEORGIA/CHATTANOOGA

Atlanta Mission (Jefferson) 706-354-5575
 Crossover Counseling (Gainesville) 706-265-0236 – www.crossover-counseling.com
 Margaret House (Cedartown) 678-622-3736

SOUTH GEORGIA

Darton College 229-317-6895
 A Family Thing (Thomasville) 888-437-9284

HOMESTUDY

Homestudy courses related to counseling are accepted for certification/recertification by GACA, but are counted in the "Other" provider category. They do not count towards the 24 training hours that must have a GACA provider number, be addiction specific and be classroom face-to-face.

California Quantum Units Education 877-665-3311
 Contemporary Teaching 800-365-5950
 Labans Training 800-795-5278

If you wish to become a GACA Approved Education Provider, please click here for the new application [GACA Provider Education Application](#).

Georgia Addiction Counselors Association

The Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) is a non-profit association dedicated to high standards for professionals who provide addiction counseling. Established in 1980 to provide a statewide association of addiction counselors and other persons interested in addiction, GACA is comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors elected by its membership and a volunteer Certification Board appointed by the Directors with the sole purpose of carrying out the mission of the Association. Our express concern was, and remains, the welfare of persons who are chemically dependent or abusing mood-altering chemicals in the state of Georgia.

4015 South Cobb Drive
Suite 160
Smyrna, GA 30080
770-434-1000
770-434-3144
gaca@gaca.org

Find us on the Web:
www.gaca.org

2011 CAC Certification Application and Testing Deadlines

The certification process takes approximately 4 months from submission of initial application. For instance, candidates submitting new application on 12/03/11 which meets minimum requirements, who then successfully pass written testing and submit an approved case history, could be credentialed as a Certified Addiction Counselor by mid-May 2012.

New CAC Applications

New Applications for CACI and CACII are accepted the first Saturday of each month and reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Certification Board. Upon approval, written notifications are sent with instructions and a Written Test application. To sit for Written Examination, test applications and testing fees must be received by the appropriate testing deadline. Deadlines are approximately 6 weeks prior to the written exam. For example, applications submitted by May 7, 2011 and approved would be eligible to test September 10-17, 2011, if test application and fee is RECEIVED no later than July 28, 2011. Following successful passing of the written exam, applicants submit a written case history (based on format provided by GACA) no later than November 5, 2011. For incomplete applications, notification of discrepancies and instructions to proceed will be provided.

	Submission Deadline	Submission Deadline	Submission Deadline
Fourth Quarter 2011			
New Application	October 1, 2011	November 5, 2011	December 3, 2011
Written Exam Application	October 28, 2011	January 28, 2012	January 28, 2012
Written Examination	December 3-10, 2011	March 2012	March 2012
Written Case History	February 4, 2012	May 2012	May 2012

*(Written Exam Application By Board invitation only following approval of application)

New CCS Applications

New Applications for Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) are accepted the first Saturday of each month and reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Certification Board. Upon approval, written notifications are sent with instructions and dates the CCS Written Examination will be offered (approximately every other month). Upon successful passing of the written examination for CCS, a credential will be issued.