ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**John Sommers-Flanagan**, PhD, is a faculty member in counselor education at the University of Montana, a clinical psychologist, and mental health consultant for Trapper Creek Job Corps. He loves working with tough kids for his own particular reasons—which you can ask him about when you see him hanging around at professional conferences. John will usually readily admit the competitive streak in his nature. In his spare time he fantasizes a peculiar form of March Madness where user-friendly counseling approaches compete head-to-head with “empirically supported” manualized techniques. Of course, in the end, the user-friendly approaches win the tournament in a rout, thus proving forever that developing and maintaining a positive relationship with young clients is much more effective over the long haul than applying a few impersonal techniques as described in a treatment manual or attempting to medicate away undesirable behaviors and moods.

**Rita Sommers-Flanagan**, PhD, is a faculty member in counselor education at the University of Montana, a clinical psychologist, and shares the position of mental health consultant at Trapper Creek. A slightly better writer than John, she is also a former director of women’s studies and a consultant at the Missoula Vet Center. Rita readily identifies with the rebel ego-state that is so clearly apparent in some of the youths she works with. Her retirement plans include brightly dyed hair and the writing of long, insightful beat poetry. In the meantime, she writes, teaches, recycles old houses, and mulls the meaning of life.