Preface

Perhaps you are wondering why we chose this photo for the cover. Well, first, we think it conveys the idea of many different concepts building on one another to create a compelling image. To us, that’s what the individual VISTAS articles do in respect to the current state of the counseling profession. A second interpretation is that the concentric circles represent how we can manage our lives – circling upwards to more and better – or spiraling down and out. It is our choice. VISTAS assists us to make the right choice: upwards and better! We liked the photo (one of ours) and thought it fit. Hope you do, too.

VISTAS was initiated in 2004 to offer ACA members their own authoritative professional database of counseling information and resources. Importantly, we wanted all ACA members to believe that if they had a good idea, they could write about it and have a good chance of it being shared with others, i.e., by getting it published. It is unique in the extent to which we work with authors to insure that their articles are acceptable for publication.

As VISTAS has grown and developed over the years, it has inspired and motivated advanced graduate students, new professionals, and even older professionals who have approached writing with trepidation in the past to put their ideas, experiences, and research results into writing. In other words, it has served as a user-friendly introduction to peer-reviewed publication submission. VISTAS is not just for new writers. It offers experienced authors and counseling leaders a venue for sharing their most recent experiences and insights much more quickly than is possible through traditional peer-reviewed publications.

We know all these things are happening. We have the letters and comments from VISTAS authors to substantiate them! And because of this, we believe that VISTAS will always be new – focused on what counselors need and want to be.

VISTAS assures a fresh and steady flow of up-to-date, vital information into ACA’s online library. All ACA members can access the ACA library by logging in on the ACA home page (www.counseling.org), scrolling to the bottom of the page, and clicking on the “Library” box. You can access the full text of all VISTAS articles directly by scrolling down to “VISTAS Online” under “Other Links” at the bottom of the Library page.

The marketplace has a way of determining what is to be and what is not to be. As VISTAS grew in size and use, it became clear that it was outgrowing what the market could support in terms of the cost of producing a hard copy publication. So, for VISTAS 2010, with the active support and encouragement of ACA’s Executive Director, Richard Yep, the decision was made to go totally digital. It is still a refereed, peer-reviewed publication. (All articles are stripped of identifying information before being submitted to the review panel.) But we are no longer limited to a set number of articles for inclusion. The only determinants for acceptance into VISTAS are the substance, relevance, and usefulness of the content and the quality of the writing.
So, keep accessing, reading, using, and especially contributing through sharing your own ideas and experiences. You can be part of the momentum making VISTAS better and bigger!

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