APA Fellow Award Acceptance Statement

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Let me begin by stating how grateful I am that I have been elected a Fellow of the Society of Counseling Psychology and the American Psychological Association. This is a particularly important honor for me as I reflect on the outstanding scholars and professionals who have preceded me in this recognition. One such scholar and professional who attained fellow status was my major professor Robert O. Stripling who was a mentor to me for many years. I wish to thank my nominator, my letter writers, and the selection committees who made this recognition possible. In addition, numerous other individuals and events shaped my life and led to the work that has been recognized by Fellow status. In this brief paper, I hope to share the people and forces that shaped my work and what I have tried to accomplish.

Beginnings

My Father (Jim Sr.) was a professor of architectural engineering who sparked my interest in technology and introduced me to the world of academia. He was a kind and generous man who taught me problem solving and the complexities of right and wrong. My Mother (Rene) taught me to believe I was capable even when I was struggling in school and to persist when things were difficult. She was a gregarious person, full of life, and keenly interested in people. My wife (Sandy) supported me in each new personal and professional challenge while keeping me grounded in the real world of day-to-day practice. She is loving, supportive, and interesting in ways that I have yet to fully appreciate. My children, Matt and Lauren, helped me to have balance and joy in my life, supported and commented on my work, and provided a regular reminder of the centrality of career and relationships in life. As adults, they became great friends.

Emerging Professional

My mentors in graduate school at the University of Florida, Bob Stripling, Larry Loesch, and Maurice Mayberry, were excellent, providing me with opportunities to publish in journals, present at professional meetings, and lead on projects. They also taught me how to collaborate, share credit, and assume responsibility. My colleagues at the Georgia Tech Counseling Center helped me obtain a foundation as a practicing counselor and program manager that I value today. Bob Reardon and Gary Peterson at Florida State University helped me to successfully transition from college counselor to faculty member, giving me a foundation for my own mentoring of graduate students, faculty members, and practitioners. They also showed me how to integrate theory, research, and practice in a socially responsible manner. Finally, they modeled and reinforced the values of innovation, generosity, collaboration, and an unwavering focus on those we serve.

Goals

Over time, my goals emerged as follows: 1) Improve the capabilities of practitioners and organizations to offer career resources and services that assist individuals in making informed and careful career decisions over a lifetime; and 2) Improve the capabilities of practitioners and organizations in using information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver counseling resources and services in an effective and ethical manner.

Program of Research

My program of research evolved to include the following: 1) Analyze the content and process of career decision making using a cognitive information processing approach, and then apply the knowledge gained to design and deliver cost-effective career resources and services; and 2) Examine the design and appropriate use of information and communication technology in the delivery of assessment and information resources, as well as counseling and guidance services.

Milestones

The following are a few important milestones in my professional journey:

* Working as Senior Counselor at the Georgia Tech Counseling Center
* Collaborating with Bob Reardon, Gary Peterson, Janet Lenz, Debra Osborn, and hundreds of talented graduate students and staff members at FSU
* Maintaining a program development, research, and training role in the FSU Career Center
* Establishing the Center for the Study of Technology in Counseling and Career Development with colleagues in the FSU Career Center
* Exploring the design and use of information and communication technology in assessment, counseling, and career services
* Contributing to comparative analyses of computer-assisted career guidance systems
* Contributing to ethical codes related to the design and use of information and communication technology in counseling
* Contributing to the CIP Approach to Career Problem Solving and Decision Making, including the differentiated service delivery model
* Contributing to the assessment of readiness for decision making, including contributing to the creation of the Career Thoughts Inventory
* Visiting professorships in various countries
* Teaching classes and mentoring graduate students
* Consulting with career service delivery organizations and software developers to implement change and innovate
* Serving as Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Administration in the FSU College of Education as an opportunity to help other faculty members succeed

Having this opportunity to reflect on my professional journey has made me keenly aware of those who have helped me along the way, the importance of the work, and the opportunities that still remain. Thanks again to the Society of Counseling Psychology and the American Psychological Association for this important honor.