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2005 CCAPS Mid-level Career Achievement Award

CCAPS Newsletter
May 2006



This year's recipient of the mid-level career achievement award has been an active and highly valued member of CCAPS for many years. She has a proven record of remarkable service and leadership to her center, to her university, and to the professional organizations supporting college counseling center work.

Ellen Emerson received her masters degree from Michigan State University and worked in several university and community mental health settings before earning her doctorate in Professional and Scientific Psychology (combined clinical, counseling, and school psych program) from Utah State University. She completed her internship at the Medical College of Georgia consortium and began her work at the Counseling and Career Development Center at Georgia Southern University in 1995. She started as a staff psychologist and group coordinator and then served as clinical services coordinator and assistant director.

During her 10 year tenure at Georgia Southern's Counseling and Career Development Center, she has been instrumental in growing and strengthening the center. She established and maintained a program of research, assisted in the establishment of a superior practicum training program, established a sexual assault response team and eating disorders treatment team, established a liaison relationship with the athletics department, obtained the first assistant faculty status by a professional in the counseling center, and established a tele-medicine cooperative with the medical college of Georgia to allow students free access to psychiatric services in the rural Statesboro area. And she managed to accomplish all this while consistently leading the staff in number of clients and therapy sessions per year. Note how many of these accomplishments are team or collaboration focused.

Ellen also established a reputation with her service to the whole university community, beyond the collaborative liaisons she established. She served on numerous search committees and was a charter member of the campus recreation advisory board and presentations. In 2001, she was awarded the Citation for Outstanding Contributions to the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Beyond the confines of Statesboro, Ellen has diligently served both ACPA and the Association for the Coordination of Counseling Center Clinical Services. She has served on the CCAPS directorate body and been very involved in the organization for many years. She has also served as a member of the steering committee for ACCCCS, and this year will be hosting the ACCCCS annual conference in Savannah.

As you can tell from her research program, faculty status, numerous presentations, and long list of those she has supervised, Ellen is undeniably committed to the scholar-practitioner approach and is dedicated to helping train and mentor trainees and new professionals. In fact, this year Ellen embarked on a new endeavor on her career path, as she is now the first Clinic Director of a new psychology training clinic in Statesboro.

Ellen is an energetic and dynamic individual and a extraordinary mentor, supervisor, and consultant. Her enthusiasm, devotion, and tireless commitment to Georgia Southern University and to the field of counseling center work make her definitely deserving of this award.

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