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Letter to the Editor

Franklin C. Post

RCD Graduate Student- San Diego State University

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TO THE EDITOR

As a student I have always looked at national conferences as a time of splendor for those fortunate enough to present their research. It is a time to be relished as one's research is seen as pertinent information, and for our colleagues to be current in their knowledge and expertise. It is also a time for individuals or groups to voice concerns about the field.

Providing a forum to introduce new concepts, techniques, and theories, a conference is also used as a place to meet and network with peers. Individuals feel strength in membership that only a national organization can provide. This concept of unity, belonging, and free exchange of information allows us to feel as though we are working toward common goals as helping professionals.

Students need to understand and appreciate the power of such an experience. The power is one of motivation and inspires individuals to become more fully integrated into their profession. Do you remember your graduate years? If you did not actively participate in a conference, why?

Dr. Tennyson Wright, Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs, University of Southern Florida, spoke at a recent graduation ceremony and emphasized several times that the graduates need to "become more involved in the business of the business they are in." Why must students wait to graduate before realizing this important concept?

The next generation of resources that will provide counseling, research, and training are the students of today. They need to be recognized as such, and be nurtured so that our profession will continue to grow and become stronger. ADARA has begun with the 1993 conference to recognize the importance of student participation.

The few students who recognized this before graduating provided a new and exciting dimension to the ADARA conference. The student presentations were well received by all who attended the Poster Session. Confirming that professionals are interested in graduate level research, numerous requests for copies of their presentations were made. I am looking forward to the continued development of students into the mainstream of the organization.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the people who helped make the 1993 ADARA Student Poster Presentations a reality. Special thanks to Ron Jacobs, who supported the idea and assisted in networking and design, and Dan Langholtz, who welcomed the concept as beneficial to ADARA. I would also like to thank Greg Long who, as President, provided official approval and support, as well as personal time to meet with student presenters at the conference. Gerard Walter, Editor of JADARA, is progressive in realizing the potential students have in being future leaders, and dedicated this issue to student research. Susan Sands provided emotional and technical support, and Matt Searls provided technical support. To these individuals and the student participants, I say thank you.

Franklin C. Post
RCD Graduate Student
San Diego State University