



Welcome

- 40th Anniversary Gala
- Honors and Recognition
- A Look Back

# Action Council Newsletter

■ FEBRUARY 2018 ■ CONFERENCE EDITION

## From the Editor

**ERNEST SHAW, LMSW**



Welcome to the 2018 Cross-Cultural Conference. We are celebrating our 40th conference this year and we are glad that you have chosen to be a part of our celebration.

We also urge you to review the conference edition of our newsletter. The primary goal of this organization is to promote cultural competency through the various educational events and networking opportunities that we sponsor and present throughout the year. This edition of the newsletter will provide our readers some of the highlights of the past forty years, thank those individuals and organizations who continue to contribute to our success and extend an invitation to everyone to join us for future events.

I would also like to ask all of our members to contribute to the content of the newsletter by submitting print-ready news items and photographs to me at Ernestshaw2001@yahoo.com. We know that you are doing great things out there that we all need to know about. Please remember that the opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies of our organizations. We welcome corrections, opposing opinions, and constructive criticism.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*James Starnes, Action Council President*

I love summer months! Outdoor activities and fellowship keep me energized. There is, however, something about February. That month which is granted the least number of days and in which Jack Frost surrenders to "The Hawk" excites me. February is conference time! It is time for new concepts, new ideas, new friends, old friends and warmth for which the cold weather is no rival.

On behalf of the Action Council Board of Directors, I welcome you to the 40th Cross-Cultural Conference. We realize that you have many training options. We are honored that you selected this conference. It is always a joy to welcome first-time attendees. We also celebrate those who have been a part of the Action Council family. It is our sincere hope and desire that all of you will make this conference an annual "must do" agenda item.

Our planning committee has worked diligently. The program content is relevant and timely. The presenters are all experts in their fields, and the best our nation has to offer. We have replaced our student day with a student track. In so doing, we hope to provide students with educational and networking opportunities to prepare them for the workforce.

Congratulations to the local planning committee for coordinating our first "Empty Plate" project. Proceeds this year will benefit the Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties.

If there is anything we can do to enhance this experience for you, please let us know.



# Student Learning Institute

*Thommi Lawson, Ph.D.*

**Thommi Lawson, Ph.D.**

It is with great excitement that I am proud to launch the Student Learning Institute on the 40th Anniversary of the Cross-Cultural Conference. Expanding Student Day from one day to a three-day experience for collegic students, the institute will provide additional resources to support professional identity development. Professional identity development is a process by which an individual reaches an understanding of her or his profession in conjunction with her or his own self-concept, enabling the articulation of occupational role, philosophy, and professional approach to people within and outside of the individual's chosen field (Brott & Myers, 1999; Smith & Robinson, 1995).

Professional identity development is a critical process for those pursuing careers in helping professions as it strengthens the connection to their chosen life's work and commitment to the profession. The Student Learning Institute includes active engagement where students will present poster presentations as well as opportunities for reflection and networking via panel discussions and workshops preparing students for life after graduation.

If you are a student, consider joining the Action Council and be a part of the continued expansion of the Student Learning Institute. If you are a professional, consider becoming a mentor to a college student. Please contact me at [thomasinalawson@webster.edu](mailto:thomasinalawson@webster.edu) to learn more.

*A Tradition of Service*

**Ida Wannamaker, MD**



**Tracy Richardson, ME.d**



The Orangeburg Chapter of the Alpha Tau Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was formed in 1943. Dr. Ida Wannamaker, future president of the Action Council and important figure in the Cross Culture Conference served two terms as President of Orangeburg chapter of the Alpha Tau Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated from 1988-1992.

The Anderson, South Carolina Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was granted a charter in May of 1978. For nearly four decades the members of the Anderson Chapter have served as educators, advocates, and activists in their quest to improve the well-being of their community. Tracy Richardson, a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council, is a long-time member of the Anderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Tracy is the new president of her chapter.

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CROSS CULTURAL CONFERENCE GALA

FEATURING JAZZ MUSICIAN WYCLIFF GORDON



The celebration of the 40th edition of the Cross-Cultural Conference was kicked off with a gala featuring the music of trombone player Wycliffe Gordon. Gordon was a music student at Florida A&M University and a member of the Marching 100 in 1987 when he came to the attention on New Orleans' music legend Wynton Marsalis. We used the occasion to honor Palmetto Health, the state's largest health care system. Richland County Treasurer David Adams, Retired Chaplain Thomas Summers and Mr. Vince Ford were just some the dignitaries who participated in the program.

Reviews of the events of the evening were quite favorable. Action Council board member, Mark Bellamy attended with wife Kathy. Mark said "I really enjoyed myself" and Mrs. Bellamy noted "the entrainment was great, good food and good company. Another board member, Elaine Leonard expressed similar thoughts. She said, "The event was excellent, music, Food, and networking." Richard and Gloria Harris attended the gala to celebrate their wedding anniversary. The couple engaged others in attendance and met members of the board and invited notables. Mr. Harris was overheard saying "these people are not bums. This is my first time attending something like this, but I am coming next year. Tracy Richardson, Nadine Livingston, President Starnes, Valarie Aiken and all of the board members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the evening a success and to kick off our 40th anniversary on a high note. Mr. Wycliffe Gordon and his talented musicians should also be commended for their splendid performance.



*Tracy Richardson is employed by the Anderson Oconee Pickens Mental health Center. She is also an educator at Anderson University. Tracy and Nadine Livingston worked together with other members of the planning committee to organize a very impressive Gala to kick off our 40th Anniversary celebrations.*

# HONORS & RECOGNITION



## Arvay Marchee' Ross Receives Honor

Arvay Ross is a graduate of Francis Marion University, in Florence, South Carolina. She is an enthusiastic second-year mental health counseling student at Webster University-Myrtle Beach Campus and a student member of the Action Council. She is the recipient of the 2017 National Board of Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Scholarship. This was a big honor for her! Said Nadine Livingston, a member of the Board of Directors and the Planning Committee for the upcoming Cross-Cultural Conference.

Arvay aspires to work with couples, families, adolescents, and the geriatric population. Her research is focused on developing resources for individuals who are at a transitional age in the foster care system. She is currently employed at a women's recovery center in Conway where she is charged with assisting women who are recovering from addiction.

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## Dr. Lawson Honored

Thommi Lawson, Ph.D., LPC. NCC of the Department of Professional Counseling at Webster University's Myrtle Beach Campus was recently awarded the 2017 Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) Training Award by the National Board of Certified Counselors Foundation. The ACS award advances the professional identity and development of counselors throughout the nation ensuring the highest standards of clinical practice for the counseling profession. Only one recipient is selected each year to receive the \$500 award.

Dr. Lawson earned her doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Mercer University – Atlanta and is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Nationally Certified Counselor. She is a core faculty member at Webster University – Myrtle Beach. Her research agenda focuses on improving the academic and psychosocial outcomes of nontraditional post-secondary students and aims to reform service delivery models that attract, support, and retain nontraditional students to achieve academic success.

Dr. Lawson will bring her expertise to the 40th Cross-Cultural Conference as she speaks about Maximizing the Conference Experience: The Art of Networking. This workshop will provide students with a solid understanding of the importance of networking, how to build and grow your network and ultimately how to make use of it.

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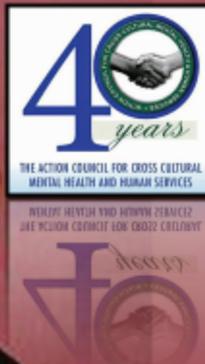
## Cornell Ruff Receives Recognition

During the 2017 South Carolina Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors conference Cornell Ruff was recognized as the professional of the year. Mr. Ruff is a long time member of the Action Council, and currently serves on its Board of Directors. He is a retired RN from the Department of Mental Health, and remains active in his community and throughout the state of South Carolina. Mr. Ruff considers the work he does with mental health and AA his ministry.

# The Good Hands



Our organization has endured through the support of benefactors such Dr. Macey and the efforts of John Morris, Willie Bethune and others who have secured resources on our behalf. We have also endured by living within our means. Dr. Doris Cantey was the first treasurer. However, for as long as anyone can remember, Herbert Walker a Certified Public Accountant, has served as treasurer of our organization and has done so in a manner that has been professional as well as priceless. Good hands have cared for the resources of this organization.



Miss America, 1994, Kimberly C. Aiken, daughter of long time Action Council and Conference supporters, Valarie and Charles Aiken was the featured speaker at the 1994 Conference. She focused on the topic of homelessness.

## The Columbia Record

Monday, April 9, 1984

### Educator Grace Palmer killed when hit by car



Grace B. Palmer was a civil rights leader and humanitarian who died in 1984. However, we continue to honor her each year by awarding *The Grace Brooks Palmer Humanitarian Award* to a person who exemplifies values and behaviors that transcend issues of race, ethnicity, and gender.



Mary Green, LMSW with Irene's family

Irene H. Singleton was a secretary, receptionist and so much more at the Fairfield County Mental Health Clinic in Winnsboro where she worked with Mary Green.

She died in 1991, but an award bearing her name is given annually to a SCDMH clerical staff person.

## The State

Columbia, SC, June 11, 1991

### Irene Singleton

**WINNSBORO**  
Services for Irene H. Singleton, 65, will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday at White Oak Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m. today at Gibson's Funeral Service of Winnsboro.  
Mrs. Singleton died Friday. Born in Fairfield County, she was a daughter of the late Jesse Harrison. She retired from the state Department of Mental Health, Winnsboro office, and was the founder of the Harrison Family Reunion. She was member and past secretary of Good Hope Baptist Church, past president of the missionary society and chairperson of the educational fund.  
Surviving are her husband, John W. Singleton, sons, John Singleton Jr. of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Daniel Singleton of Woodbridge, Va.; daughters, Roberta Patterson of Huntington Beach, Calif., Renee Daniels of Athens, Ga., and Pamela Gladman of Los Angeles; sisters, Mae Ashcraft of Newark, N.J., Dorothy Gibson of Cleveland, Elizabeth Goins of Blythewood, Ruth Caldwell of Winnsboro, Mabel Graham of East Orange, N.J., and Janet Mason of Huntington Beach; and brothers, John and Herbert Harrison, both of Cleveland.

# The Local Planning Committee

In the early years of the Cross Cultural Conference, the event was held at various locations around the state. Each area that hosted the conference established a Local Planning Committee. The role of the committee was to assist Dr. Corbitt with logistics that included: recommending a venue, negotiating costs, and marketing. Once the Action Council for Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services was created and a Board of Directors established, much of those responsibilities were absorbed by the Board. The local committee's primary responsibility then became organizing the conference convocation and marketing.

Over the years, the decision was made to keep the conference in Myrtle Beach to minimize cost. Since that time, the Myrtle Beach Local Planning Committee has served diligently. Some of the members have

been on the local planning committee since the early years of the conference when it was still rotating. Spearheaded by Action Council Board Member Mark Bellamy, the local committee has evolved to focusing not only on the convocation; but providing valuable input on the overall conference. For the 2018 conference, it was a local planning committee member who took on responsibility for the Student Learning Institute; transforming it from a one day event, to giving students the opportunity to attend workshops designed specifically for them over a three day period.

The Cross Cultural Conference is forever indebted to the local volunteers who have assisted with the conference over the years. It is this dedication and commitment that has aided in the conference being able to celebrate 40 years.



Dr. Moses Rabb's 1964 wedding in St. Louis garnered a notice in the January 16, 1964 edition of *Jet Magazine*. He was a junior psychologist at the SC State Hospital and a colleague of Dr. Corbitt during the upheaval of the 1960s. He was also one of the early leaders of The Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference. Dr. Rabb died on October 30, 2016.



Deacon John McCarroll, Executive Director of Greenville's Phillis Wheatley Center for more than thirty years was one of the figures in the early history of the Action Council and the Cross Cultural Conference.

# Religious Roots of the First Conference

*Ernest Shaw, LMSW*

One of the grand traditions of the Cross-Cultural Conference has been the convocations hosted by local religious institutions and their members. Historic Charleston was the site of the 1986 conference and the preliminary events were held at historic Emanuel A.M.E. Church. This year's offering by Luther E. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., MDIV, Professor Emeritus of Church and Community Candler School of Theology Emory University is expected to add to the rich history of the Action Council and the Cross-Cultural Conference. In this article, I will look back at the religious aspect of that first conference held in Greenville, South Carolina in May of 1979 and explore the roots of the institutions that were involved.

Wesley United Methodist Church hosted the Convocation with the One Hundred Voice Choir of Greenville's First Baptist Church providing the music." Dr. Corbitt and conference organizers chose Wesley United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church of Greenville because of the contrasting racial composition of their congregations. However, those churches have common roots. First Baptist Church of Greenville traces its roots to 1822 when a Baptist

minister began holding services in the courthouse. Vardry McBee, "the father of Greenville," donated land for a church. Other Baptist churches grew out of Greenville Baptist and the name of the mother church was changed to First Baptist Church in 1890.

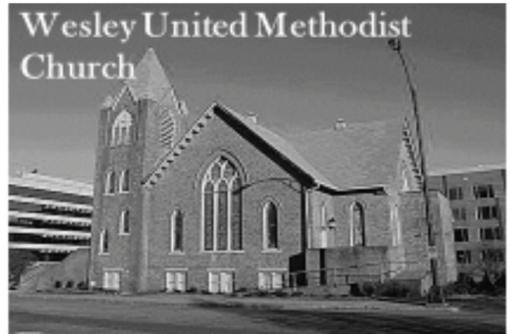
In 1866 a former slave of the same Vardry McBee organized Silver Hill Methodist Episcopal Church on land donated by McBee's son. Silver Hill was one of the first separate black church in our state after the Civil War. In 1896 Silver Hill's minister established the city's first high school for blacks. This school later became Sterling High School, whose graduates included the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Thurman Norris. Norris was an active member of the Action Council and he served as Vice President. Mr. Norris served as President of the Sterling High School Alumni Association. In 1968 the name of Silver Hill Church was changed to John Wesley United Methodist Church.

The contributions of the two Greenville churches to the success of that first conference certainly provided a model that has served us well for four decades.

First Baptist Church



Dr. Otis Corbitt



Wesley United Methodist Church

10-B THE STATE — Columbia, S.C., Monday, May 7, 1979

## Mental Health Conference Opens In Greenville

GREENVILLE (UPI) — Mental health experts gathered here Sunday for a two-day conference aimed at discussing ways to encourage blacks to make better use of available health care.

"In the past, reasons, blacks have entered the health care delivery system only when emotional problems had become so serious that hospitalization was required," said James Daughtry, an official at the

Greenville Mental Health Center.

Although there is a fee for treatment,

ing a center means they will be hospitalized.

"calm, peaceful life," he said.

ters more than other group, he said.



### Conference Hears Consultant On Blacks' Mental Health Needs

GREENVILLE (AP) — Greenville's mental health center will open its doors to black people, a black education and training center said this week.

In James Martin, a member of the Southern Regional Education Board, said black men have a higher mental health rate than other population groups. Yet Martin said

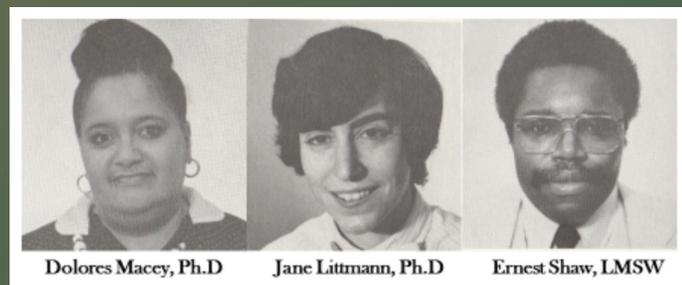
### Clyburn: Blacks Have More Opportunities, More Problems

But Martin said to work and business are to be encouraged by the government because a majority of black health funds are tied to white communities.

# A Look Back

*Ernest Shaw, LMSW*

A few weeks ago, I watched my grandson participate in a fencing exhibition. Afterwards, he eagerly introduced me to his instructor, Jane Littmann. Dr. Littmann and I knew each other despite the fact that it had been more than a quarter of a century since we had last seen each other. In 1980, Dr. Delores Macey hired me to work as a social worker at William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute where she was the Director of Social Work Services. I was actually assigned to the cottage where she was once the social worker and Jane Littmann served as a psychologist with the Child and Adolescent Program.

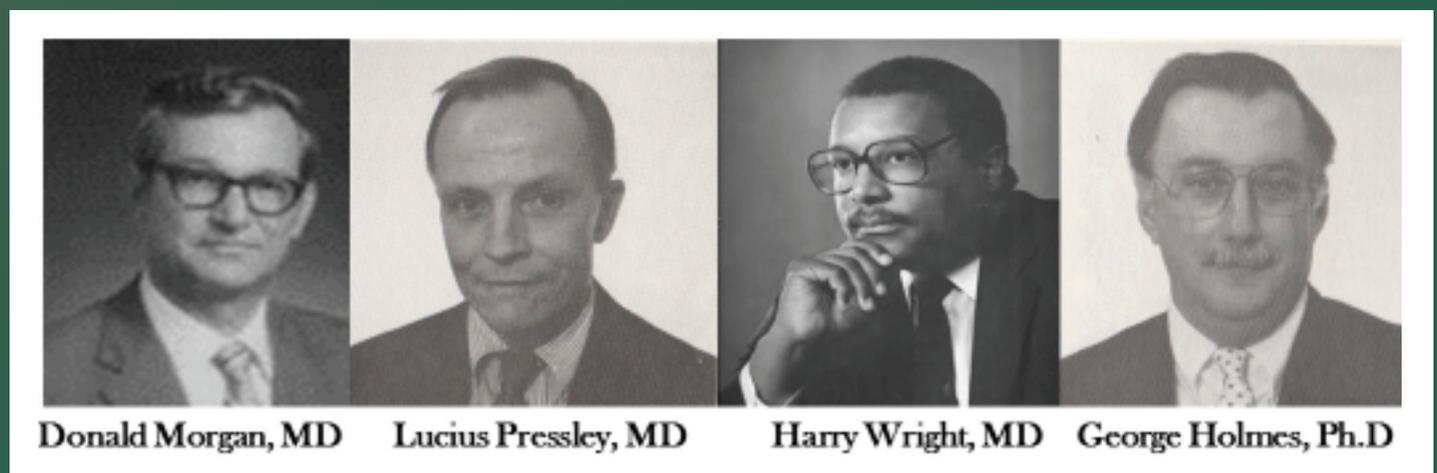


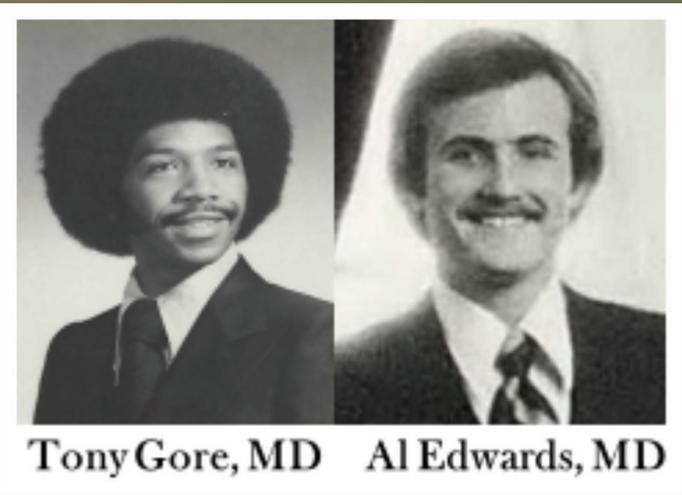
Dr. Littmann introduced me and other coworkers to words such as “epee” and we all knew that she was an award winner in the fencing world who was ranked #1 in the US in Women’s Epee by the time I left Hall. During our brief encounter, we reminisced about the past. I told her that I was still involved with the Action Council and the Cross-Cultural Conference that Dr. Macey has contributed so much to for the nearly forty years of its existence. Several months ago, Dr. Macey told me that her involvement began with the second conference and continues to this date. Dr. Littmann and I recalled so many of our former coworkers who were involved with the Cross-Cultural Conference as well.

Dr. Donald Morgan, the former Chief of Psychiatry at Walter Reed Medical Center, was the Director of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry at the USC School of Medicine and Interim Director of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute. He was a frequent speaker at early conferences. He presided at the opening session of the eighth conference in Historic Charleston. Dr. Richard Ellison; Melvin Davis, LMSW; Steven Shea, Ph.D.; Geoffery McKee, Ph.D.; Shirley Furtick, LMSW and Dr. Richard Frierson continued his tradition. Dr. Donald Morgan died in the summer of 2016.

Charleston-born Dr. Harry H. Wright grew up in York County and he came to Hall at about the same time that I did. He graduated from the University Of Pennsylvania School of Medicine with a medical degree and added an MBA Degree from the Wharton School of Business, a school that President Trump termed “the best school.” Dr. Wright was one of the most eminent specialists in his field and an early supporter of the cross-cultural movement. Unfortunately, Dr. Wright who retired in 2010 died last spring.

Pennsylvanian Dr. George R. Holmes earned a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of South Carolina while serving in the National Guard. He came to William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute where he was Chief Psychologist of Child and Adolescent Services during my tenure there. Dr. Holmes died in December of 2016.





**Tony Gore, MD    Al Edwards, MD**

Dr. Lucius Pressley earned a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and he came to work at SCDMH where he was Director of Continuing Medical Education. For several months, Dr. Pressley was the Attending Psychiatrist on my unit and he and I worked with many psychiatric residents including Tony Gore from Chester and Alfred "Al" Edwards from Greenville. We had the opportunity to influence the training of many psychiatrists practicing today. Both Dr. Gore and Dr. Edwards were affiliated with the Cross Culture Conference during the early years. Dr. Gore became the Attending Psychiatrist on my unit when he finished his training. Dr. Edwards became the Director of Mental Health Services at the SC Department of Corrections and was instrumental

in my eventual decision to work with mentally ill offenders. Dr. Edwards has served as Director of the Greenville Mental Health Center since 1993.

The Cross-Cultural Conference is indebted to Dr. Lucius Pressley for another of his contributions. While working for Dr. Dolores Macey and with Dr. Pressley and his residents, I often sneaked away to the medical Library where I read back issues of *The Psychiatric Forum*. For several years, proceedings of the Cross-Cultural Conferences were published in the journal and my introduction to the conference occurred in those pages, thanks to Dr. Lucius C. Pressley. He retired in 1999 and he died in 2009. I am grateful to Dr. Littmann for bringing back so many memories and for teaching my grandson to fence.

Dr. Richard Ellison wrote "Dr. Pressley was a wonderful person. As a young Psychiatrist new to SC, it was Dr. Pressley's calm guidance and encouragement that showed me the way. I owe him a great deal. He was a mentor and a friend, a great man. Surely he rests in peace now. May God bless his family and friends. Ironically, Dr. Ellison followed Dr. Edwards as the Director of Mental Health Services at the SC Department of Corrections. I worked for him and attended my first conference in 2001 at his request.

## THE COLUMBIA RECORD

Served by the Associated Press and United Press International

Price 20¢    Columbia, South Carolina, Saturday, November 11, 1978    4 Sections 16 Pages

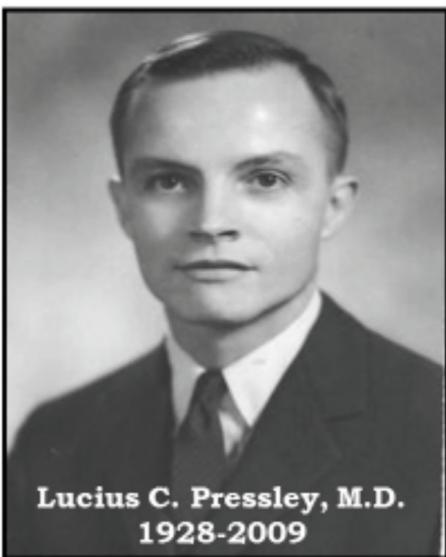
### Mental Health Dept. To Publish Journal

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health announced today national distribution of the first edition of a new professional journal, *The Psychiatric Forum*.

The journal will be published twice annually and will be distributed to medical libraries, clinics and licensed professional people.

In a foreword the editor, Dr. Lucius C. Pressley Jr., said the journal is being published "as a further attempt to serve those who are ill by offering a link between those who have sought that they wish to express and those who are interested in learning by knowing the thoughts of others."

In a letter enclosed with the first issue, Dr. William S. Hall, South Carolina commissioner of Mental Health, says "additional professional journals are . . . required for the widest possible



**Lucius C. Pressley, M.D.**  
1928-2009

### THE PSYCHIATRIC FORUM

Vol. 1, No. 1, Winter 1978

Editor: Lucius C. Pressley, M.D., University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Jerry Adams and Charles Still, both of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute at the South Carolina State Hospital; and Dr. Lionel Truscott, professor of neurology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N. C., and director of the comprehensive stroke program of the North Carolina Regional Medical Program.

Editor: Lucius C. Pressley, M.D., University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Jerry Adams and Charles Still, both of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute at the South Carolina State Hospital; and Dr. Lionel Truscott, professor of neurology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N. C., and director of the comprehensive stroke program of the North Carolina Regional Medical Program.

Dr. Lucius Crawford Pressley (1928-2009) was editor of *The Psychiatric Forum* for many years. Proceedings of the Cross-Cultural Conference were published in this national journal for several years.

# 2019 Call for Proposals

## *Forging Solutions Out of Challenges*

The Action Council for Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services invites you to submit a proposal for the 2019 annual Cross Cultural Conference.

Submit a conference proposal by email to: [crossculture.action@gmail.com](mailto:crossculture.action@gmail.com).

**Proposals are due by 11:59pm April 30, 2018. Share Your Knowledge, Innovative Solutions, and Strategies with colleagues and students.**

### **Suggested Interdisciplinary themes (but not limited to):**

- Technology and outreach
- Evidence Based Practices and Programs
- Substance misuse and addictive behaviors
- Pharmacology
- Trauma
- Veterans
- Child welfare
- Crime and criminal justice
- Health disparities
- Poverty and social policy
- Sexual orientation
- Domestic violence and sexual assault
- Aging services
- Ethics
- Spirituality
- An array of clinical issues

## **Calling All Students!**

### **STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

*Entries are due October 1, 2018*

**For more details on our 2019 Cross Cultural Conference and the proposal entry process visit our website at [www.crossculturalactioncouncil.org](http://www.crossculturalactioncouncil.org).**

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

## Membership Application

Please complete the following membership form,  
detach and mail with dues to:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, ACCMHS  
P.O. BOX 1695 • COLUMBIA, SC 29202

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Membership expires \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

*All dues and contributions are tax deductible.*

Professional disciplines:

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Professional Organizations:

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Identify Cross Cultural Issues of concern to you:

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Are you willing to serve on an Action Council Committee?

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How did you find out about Action Council?

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## Membership Fees

Dues	Type Membership	Check One
\$15	Senior Citizen (age 65+)	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$10	Student	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$20	Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$50	Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$35	Family (2 or more)	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$20	Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Name(s)

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**Action Council For Cross Cultural  
Mental Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 1695  
Columbia, SC 29202**



**THE ACTION COUNCIL FOR CROSS CULTURAL  
MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

A background image of a city skyline at night, featuring a large Ferris wheel on the left and various buildings with lights. The sky is dark blue.

**Thank you for attending the  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual Cross Cultural Conference**