

## EDITORIAL

The third issue of the international magazine “*Orientación y Sociedad*” (Guidance and Society), is published in the midst of turmoil. The socio-economic and cultural crisis has deteriorated each and every form of life and production, especially those related to the condition of poverty and indigence. As a result of the economic measures taken, the crisis has been made extensive to most of the population as well as to the activities depending on imported materials, such is the case of printing supplies. Various had to be the strategies implemented in order to make this issue a real thing, after having had to surmount the academic instances necessary for the elaboration of the magazine, and to resort to different forms of self-financing.

Argentina is undergoing a profound social crisis that is also mainly a moral one. Within such frame, vocational-careers guidance, or on-going guidance acquires a paramount significance.

For the adolescent or young population it is no longer a matter of choosing a course of studies and a lifestyle; the problem has become deeper and more complex: to understand our times, to live the uncertainty, to try to come to terms with values again and to grasp the importance of one’s own forces in the reconstruction of our country as well as to generate new projects in “one’s own” place. One of the problems we have been concerned with along this particular year is the number of young people who has emigrated and those willing to do so, totally unaware of what they leave behind and fantasizing about what they shall find abroad. At the Guidance Center at our local university we have been working on that field.

These are hard times indeed. More than ever before it is our duty as counselors to look for new strategies and lines of concurrence with colleagues and professionals from other areas in the social sciences in order to provide new answers and to pose new questions towards achieving a responsible counseling.

The core of this issue is made up of three papers; two of them were written by two professional members of the Counseling Team of Spanish Universities and the third one, by a researcher from Argentina: *Cross-cultural counseling: problems and prospects*, by Elvira Repetto; *Evaluation of study competence in pupils between 12-14 years old*, by Luis Sobrado Fernández and *"The Quintuple Way – Cognitive Strategies – Transformation Strategies"* by Sergio Labourdette.

Several papers –finished and/or underway– related to different contexts of national and foreign universities can be found in the research advance section.

In the summary section, three initial investigations are presented, whereas in the section related to scientific events, such events are preceded by the speech Dr. Ferreira Márquez, member of the advisory board of our magazine and former president of AIOSP (*Association Internationale d’Orientation Scolaire et Professionnelle*), delivered during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of said association in September 2002, in Paris, France.

**Mirta Gavilán**