



BROMMEL-COZAD-ELLIOTT SCHOLARSHIP IN THE HONORS PROGRAM

When Dr. Terrence Cozad received notice that Dr. Brommel had named a scholarship after him, he wrote the following letter:

“When I entered the Family Institute at Northwestern University in 1985 for my residency, Dr. Brommel was there as an advanced practice student, having already received his training, and mastered his craft with several years of clinical experience. He was there for more in depth training with couples and families.

Dr. Brommel and I met as new students and I was immediately taken by his friendly and calm demeanor, as well as his expansive knowledge and experience; something that I hoped to emulate in the near future. We both shared a love of working with families and couples to help them overcome their struggles and be more successful.

I must say that I learned much from that experience, and from Dr. Brommel. From that point on we became strong colleagues, as well as fast friends. We collaborated on cases and shared many personal and professional experiences. I was always impressed with his insights and success with individuals and couples, something that I continue to envy. Dr. Brommel helped me understand the dynamics and communication patterns when working with couples, while I had the honor of helping him work with individuals.

The other attribute that I admire in Dr. Brommel is the depth of his compassion, caring, and generosity for others. I do not know of another so passionate about his work, of making sure that students have some financial help so that they can be successful in school, and just caring for the wellbeing of everyone he comes across. He truly tries to make a friend out of everyone that he meets.

I consider Dr. Brommel to be one of my closest friends and most admired colleagues. I am extremely honored and humbled that he would include me as a sponsor of one of his scholarships.

Dr. Brommel writes: ‘Cozad impressed me! He was younger than I, but he had a real zeal for helping others with complex mental problems. As a pre-med student at Texas A&M, he had medical insights others did not possess. When we met, he was finishing his clinical years that led to a doctorate from the University of Denver. In my mind he was the brightest in our class. His keen analytical mind and compassionate concerns for his clients set an example for all of us in those clinical years. We remain close friends and always stay in contact.’”

Dr. Elliott and I first met in classes at Northeastern. She had a degree in Social Work and had an abundant amount of clinical experience in several sites across the Chicago area. We both hoped to get a Masters in Counseling and then go on for further graduate work in psychology. Denise had grown

up on the campus of Northern Illinois University where her father was an economics professor. I had grown up on a farm in Iowa and already had a doctorate in communications and theatre from Indiana University. The counseling degree for me was sort of a mid-life change of professions. For Denise it was just a continuation of the case work she was doing. In so many respects, we were complete opposites but we became close friends. Denise had daily experiences as a therapist, and I had been counseling undergrads for decades. Today I consider her one of my closest associates, both as a friend and valued mentor.

Denise probably was the brightest, most mature student in our graduate program at Northeastern. We both got the masters in counseling and shared the hours of study required for the competency examinations at the end. She returned to her world of Social Work and I continued teaching at Northeastern. I began a private practice. A couple of years later independently we decided to do further work and both ended up in the program in Family Therapy at Northwestern University. What a joy it was for me to be back in an academic setting with Denise!

After an MA at Northeastern, Denise enrolled in the Chicago School of Professional Psychology pursuing a doctorate. She continued to work full time and go to classes. Midway through that program she took two years off to come study at the Family Institute at Northwestern. Over the years of that MA first degree and this later work I have no idea how many hundreds of hours we visited about our clients and caseloads. Denise had brilliant insights into so many different types of mental illness. She certainly influenced me as a caring, intuitive therapist who wanted only the better life for those we served.

When Denise finished her doctorate, she moved to the Boston area where she worked in a hospital setting specializing in the treatment of women, especially those suffering from post-partum depression. She became involved in several important research studies that applied theory to specific problems women encountered. These results became scholarly publications.

Today Dr. Elliott has a thriving private practice in the Amherst area of Massachusetts. She and her partner, Kay, also a doctor in psychology, have two adopted daughters. Distance prevents us from meeting, but I can pick up the phone or write and Denise and I just take up where we left off our last conversation. Students who receive this scholarship that honors Denise and go on like her to study psychology have a great mentor out there in the field.

Dr. Brommel notes, "Denise and I met Dr. Cozad and spent glorious hours in classes and socializing. Cozad and Elliott remain my most esteemed colleagues in family psychology."