

### **Linda K. Gast, Ph.D. "Bio"**

Dr. Linda K. Gast is currently a Licensed Clinical Counselor in the Counseling Center at the University of Maryland where she is also an Assistant Affiliate Professor in the Student Affairs Concentration of the Department of Counseling, Higher Education & Special Education. She has over 35 years of experience in the field of career development and employment. From 1985-2003 she served as the Director of the University Career Center, where she consolidated and expanded campus career and employment services for students. She also served as the Acting Director and Associate Director of Career Planning and Placement at Northern Illinois University, and Assistant Director of Placement, Purdue University. Dr. Gast received her B.A. with Distinction from Indiana University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Counseling and Personnel Services from Purdue University.



Her interest in career decisions, college relations, and recruitment began at Purdue University. "Variables in the Post-Graduation Career Decisions of Engineers" was the subject of her Ph.D. dissertation funded by the General Electric Company (1981). She has co-authored two book chapters: one on career opportunities in counseling and human relations within higher education and another chapter on the need for an institutional commitment to student career development in a book on the senior year experience. She has served as a consultant and trainer to business, government, and education organizations (such as IBM, GE, TRW, CASS Communications; IRS, NSA, OPM; Mercy College, Purdue University, Northern Illinois University) in the areas of college relations and recruitment, human resources planning & training, and organization development. Dr. Gast frequently hosted foreign dignitaries who visited the University of Maryland's Career Center to better understand the concept of career development and to implement similar programs in their home universities. In February 2001, she was invited to Tokyo, Japan to be a keynote speaker for the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Career Development Facilitators Conference for Japanese education, government and business leaders on the topic of the history of career development services in American colleges and universities.

Dr. Gast has served on the Executive Board of the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges and Employers (now the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers); was co-Chair of the Executive Planning Board of The Maryland Network of the American Council on Education, Office of Women in Higher Education; has been co-Editor of the Career Center Directors' National Databank of the American College Personnel Association; and holds memberships in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the National Career Development Association (NCDA), and the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). She has lectured at the local, national, and international levels on a variety of subjects including dual career couples, employment trends, women's issues, organizations in transition, and life/career planning.

Dr. Gast is married and has two grown up children. In her leisure time she enjoys being at the family's beach home in Cape May, New Jersey, making jewelry, singing in her church choir, listening to classical and jazz music, doing Sudoku, and reading anything that catches her eye.