

**Behavioral counseling gained importance through a book focused on learning (instead of insight) as the root of change.**

**A. Carl Rogers' Counseling and Psychotherapy**

**B. John Krumboltz's Revolution in Counseling**

**C. Gilbert Wrenn's Counselor in a Changing World**

**By the way, Gilbert Wrenn was John's Ph.D advisor at Minnesota**

**As you may know, I enjoy hearing a person's favorite story.**

**Professor Krumboltz once told me his was the Wizard of Oz.**

**The story aligns well with his views on counseling.**

**John explained that the morale of the story is that people need to do their own growing-up. And how do they do that?**

**The theme of the story is that activity produces development. By doing it, you have it. As John taught us, we need to encourage client action in the real world, not just verbal declarations of decidedness.**

**Like the Scarecrow, John had an extraordinary brain with which he devise new counseling models, methods, and material. Without question, he was the most creative and innovative thinker in our field. Yet more than ideas, people need the courage to act on their interests.**

**Like the Lion, John displayed his courage by leading a Revolution in Counseling (1965), as his first book on behavioral interventions was titled. In the book, he applied behavioral science to counseling.**

**Like the Tin Man, John had the heart to encourage students, clients, and colleagues in learning how to take the actions that life required of them.**

**Acting with wisdom, courage, and compassion, John eschewed the customary and preferred the unconventional. When his once revolutionary learning theory of careers became customary, he crafted the innovative social learning theory of careers. When it too became customary, he created the ingenious theory of planned happenstance.**

**John illustrated happenstance theory by describing the career path that led him to counseling psychology with this anecdote. One day he was riding his bike down a street he had not previously traveled. He saw a group of kids playing tennis. He thought it looked like fun so he wanted to play. He found an instructor to teach him how. It turned out that the instructor taught psychology at Coe College. The professor suggested that someday John take a course in psychology. In due course John became a psychology major and a varsity tennis player at Coe College.**

**John, the tennis loving psychologist, insisted that you have to try new things, go down different paths. His last book on happenstance -- *Fail Fast, Fail Often: How Losing Can Help You Win* – explained the importance of trying something new. Even if you fail, you learn something about your place in the world. That book was Oprah Winfrey’s favorite book for 2014.**

**Unlike the Wizard of Oz, John did not hide behind a curtain. He was a real wizard – meaning a wise and skillful person. At NCDA, he gave memorable presentations with important content, clever slides, and charismatic narration. He presented three of the best talks I ever heard. The first explained the six causes of human unhappiness. 20 years**

**later, the second explained the then radical idea that career theories are largely irrelevant to practice because they focus on career development rather than counselor interventions. And 10 years later the third was an NCDA talk on using virtual reality technology in career interventions.**

**John led us down the yellow brick road of using understanding and empathy to help people take actions to live more satisfying lives. He even suggest that we as career service provides try some new things.**

**John Dwight Krumboltz taught us to**  
**encourage people to explore and expand their learning experiences;**  
**challenge unhelpful beliefs;**  
**embrace unanticipated opportunities;**  
**and take positive actions in the real world.**

**We may forget a few of the lesson he taught us but we will never forget his greatest advice to us. John often said -- “You never forget how a person makes you feel.” We will always remember how Professor Krumboltz made us feel. When you go home, try something new in his honor.**