

AISW Guest Editorial

Margaret E. Adamek

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve as guest editor for the Spring 2001 issue of *Advances in Social Work: Linking Research, Education & Practice*—the refereed journal of The Indiana University School of Social Work. The task has been both a privilege and a challenge. I conclude the experience in awe of the profession and the wide range of human and societal issues social workers confront in their practice, research, and educational endeavors.

A new feature in this issue is the inclusion of e-mail addresses of each of our first authors to facilitate scholarly exchanges among our readers and the authors. This issue contains one invited piece and six peer-reviewed articles. Our Editor-in-Chief, Barry Cournoyer, invited Michael Spencer from the University of Michigan to submit a paper based on his presentation at the January 2001 conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. Dr. Spencer's paper, *Identity and Multicultural Social Work Research: A Reflection in Process*, calls on social work researchers to think critically about multiculturalism and its impact upon our personal and professional lives. In particular, he urges us to consider the implications of multiculturalism in all aspects of our research activities. He questions the assumption that qualitative methods automatically ensure the advancement of social justice and challenges quantitative researchers to incorporate reflective and transformative approaches. Dr. Spencer reminds us of the power of research to serve as "an agent for social change and social justice."

Carol Cohen and Michael Phillips of Fordham University partnered with Marianne Chierchio of Catholic Charities in Brooklyn to explore the topic of agency and university collaboration in efforts to assess client outcomes. In *How Are We Doing: Agency/University Collaboration for Assessment of Client Outcomes*, they discuss a cooperative effort that integrated the doer and thinker roles. They also provide recommendations for social service agencies and schools of social work interested in forging client outcome assessment collaborations.

In their article, *Social Work Programs' Use of the World Wide Web to Facilitate Field Instruction*, Jerry Finn and Steven Marson discuss how the Web may enhance field instruction at both the BSW and MSW levels. Their content analysis of the Websites of nearly 300 social work programs suggests that the World Wide Web is under-utilized by many schools of social work in support of field instruction. In addition to identifying several model Websites, the authors present practical strategies for using the Web to improve field education.

Using a case study of the Indiana Youth Service Bureau, Karl Besel explores the dependency of nonprofit social service organizations on governmental and local revenue sources. His study, entitled *The Role of Local Governmental Funding in Nonprofit Survival*, highlights key factors that influence the viability and sustainability of nonprofit agencies. Dr. Besel alerts social work administrators to recognize the importance of fostering long-term relationships with local funders as a means to enhance organizational stability.

A group of social work researchers at the University of Tennessee, Rodney Ellis, Anne Pruett and Karen Sowers, explore the topic of seclusion and restraint of juveniles in the U.S. In their article, *Issues in the Seclusion and Restraint of Juveniles: Policy, Practice and Possibilities*, they review several pieces of recent legislative, professional, and popular literature regarding the use of seclusion and restraint practices, and identify the major issues currently under discussion. Despite some areas of consensus, professionals have yet to reach a definitive agreement as to what constitutes appropriate procedures for the seclusion and restraint of juveniles.

In *Healing Rituals for Survivors of Rape*, Colleen Galambos explores the use of therapeutic rituals at individual and collective levels to help rape survivors. Dr. Galambos describes the key components of rituals and shares the reactions of participants in one such ritual—an annual candle-lighting ceremony for rape victims and their friends and families. She concludes that therapeutic rituals can provide clinical healing within different contexts and client populations.

A collaborative team from the University of Alabama, Lucinda Lee Roff, David Klemmack, Debra McCallum, and Michael Conaway, conducted a follow-up to an earlier investigation of Alabama residents' opinions about the degree to which welfare recipients and welfare employees defraud the government. As was the case in the earlier study, the majority of respondents see welfare recipients as dishonest. The percentage of respondents that believed welfare employees to be dishonest doubled from 1981 to 2000. Consistent with the previous study, beliefs that welfare employees are dishonest predicted higher, not lower, support for government programs and services.

As the oldest school of social work continuously affiliated with a university in the nation, we at the Indiana University School of Social Work welcome you to share with us in celebrating our 90TH anniversary this year. While we look back in commemoration, we also look forward to using *Advances in Social Work* in new and creative ways to highlight developments in the field of social work. Watch for new presentation formats and special topic issues to be announced in the near future. In an upcoming issue we plan to present a series of articles addressing the newly approved CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards as they relate to advances and innovations in social work research, education, and practice.

A hearty *THANKS* to all of the authors who contributed to this issue and to the many reviewers who provided thoughtful comments about manuscripts. Special thanks to Traci Holt at Indiana University for facilitating communication with authors and reviewers and keeping the journal processes organized and on track. I am also grateful for the vote of confidence from my IU faculty colleagues who believed I could shepherd this issue to fruition. While it takes “a village to raise a child,” in academia it takes a community of scholars and support staff to produce a quality scholarly journal. I am proud to be a part of such a community.

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