

EDITORIAL

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Welcome to our fourteenth issue of *Advances*! For the past six years, this journal has been offering top quality articles that whet the appetite of the reader and incite a drive to deeper explore the vital information given.

We have provided regular issues, such as this issue, and special topic issues in each Spring. Therefore the reader has received the best of both worlds: a wide range of topics and one topic explored in great detail. This Spring we will be offering a special issue on the theories of Human Behavior in the Social Environment. The sixteen articles in the special issue will critique different theories, analyzing the history and evidence base for each theory. It will be a great contribution!

This issue is filled to the brim with fascinating articles that explore and explain topics vital to social workers regardless of their focus of practice. Darcy Siebert tackles a tough topic, maximizing the response rates in survey research, and demonstrates successful strategies to do survey research effectively. Rosenwald and Hyde explore a rarely researched issue: do the political ideologies of social workers influence their behavior with clients. Melissa Taylor offers an intriguing discussion of the comfort level and activity of social workers in mental health when dealing with involuntary clients. Diane Green describes the challenges and importance of assessing spiritual well-being and then meticulously reports her research efforts to create a scale that helps social workers better understand their client's view of his or her mental, physical and spiritual well-being. Jane Woody challenges us all to incorporate prevention into our practice and the vital role that educators have in bringing this vital concept to the classroom. Sharon Moore and her colleagues enlighten us on the experience of clients receiving hunger service assistance, how the clients can appear challenging, and several practical tips on how to be most effective with the clients. David Westhuis and his colleagues offer a very nice review of the debate on distance education, concerns about online technology, and their research findings from offering a research course in two options: as an online course and as a traditional classroom course. Johansen and Ouellette eloquently advocate for improving the partnerships between agencies and faculty and offer a framework called "the learning community" as a way to make better mutual learning experiences occur.

As can be seen by my brief overview of the issue, the reader has a vast range of insightful articles to choose from. Each article engages the reader in thinking deeper about important aspects of our every day practice. Spirituality, prevention, collaboration, self awareness, expanding our world view are just a few of the topics within this issue. I invite you to sit back in your most comfortable chair, cup of coffee or hot chocolate in hand, and begin to read these fascinating articles. Let the life long learning begin!