

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It is a source of great pride for the Indiana University School of Social Work (IUSSW) to present this first issue of its journal *Advances in Social Work*. Our hope in initiating this new publication is that it will provide an opportunity for faculty, student and practice scholars from around the world to disseminate their research findings and conceptual frameworks as they apply to social work practice and for practice experience and wisdom to contribute to hypothesis development and research. *Advances in Social Work* is conceived of as a generic and global journal covering all social work methods and fields of practice. We invite contributions from practitioners, faculty and students.

An important element of the IUSSW research program is the evaluation of agency services and practitioner interventions at individual, organizational and community levels. This research program builds on significant community partnerships and provides for the active interaction between practice and research. The IUSSW research and community involvement have provided the impetus for the development of *Advances in Social Work*.

As with any new enterprise we are grateful to the many people who have contributed to its implementation. My personal thanks is extended to the editor and editorial board who have nurtured the journal from conception to birth and to our support staff for their word processing creativity. Our appreciation is also extended to the contributing editors for their support and able assistance as referees reviewing articles submitted for publication.

The IUSSW was founded in 1911 to provide opportunities for faculty and students to apply theories of human behavior on behalf of the well being of Indianapolis residents. The educational program was influenced by the settlement house movement, family welfare services and hospital and medical programs. Over its nearly nine decade long history the School has taken pride in its role of educating competent, thoughtful, contributing social workers. Its graduate program was first accredited in 1923, its baccalaureate program was accredited in 1975 and in 1994 its doctoral program was approved and initiated. The publication of *Advances in Social Work* is another milestone in the School's history providing an outlet for the dissemination of knowledge.

Sheldon Siegel
Interim Dean
May, 2000