
From The Editors
Amy Russell, LMSW

I attended my first CSWE conference this February. While I was both excited and amazed, I must admit the experience was also terrifying. Luckily, I got to relax some this year since I am not yet in the same temporal position as the cohorts before me, interviewing, networking, and impressing. But the pressure felt all the same as I watched my classmates do the “on the market” dance. Anticipation and optimism of a prestigious potential faculty position looming in the future is also peppered with a certain publication panic, immediate disappearance of confidence, and the need to disguise any fears as scholarly aloofness. My point is simply that the process of transitioning from student to the potential faculty member is important and also very uncertain time, especially for those of us watching our peers go before us. It would not be so frightening if we did not want to be more than mediocre academics. A requirement of this idea of exceptionality is that we are open to the entire social work world, which attends CSWE conferences, and now, with this issue, has submitted to *PSW*.

At CSWE, my mentor introduced me to some of the scholars that will influence my dissertation and whose thoughts and research will shape me. And hopefully added to that, these persons will perhaps collaborate with me someday. While I admit I was intimidated and awestruck, the sense of community within this niche of social workers was warming and encouraging. This scholarly community is perfectly representative of this inaugural issue of *Perspectives on Social Work*, in which we placed a national call for submissions and received an impressive response. I have enjoyed talking with and reading the work of this social work community of students, faculty, and scholars. *PSW* is proud to showcase their manuscripts.

PSW welcomes and thanks our new managing editors, **Agnes Dulin, Jack Griffin-Garcia, and Eusebius Small**. I look forward to working with them throughout the next year as the responsibility for *PSW* is passed on to them.

Save this Date!
March 23, 2006
Second Doctoral Social Work Student Research Symposium
Today's Research - Tomorrow's Practice
Presented by
Perspectives on Social Work
The GCSW Doctoral Student Journal
and
**The University of Houston, Graduate College of
Social Work**

The CV Builder

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work

Perspectives on Social Work congratulates the following doctoral students on their accomplishments for 2005

Patti Aldredge presented at 51st Annual Program Meeting of the CSWE on “Field of dreams: A transforming model of gerontology program design” with Virginia Cooke Robbins.

Tristen K. Amador’s article “Recruitment and retention of ethnically diverse long-term family caregivers in research” has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* with S. S. Travis, W. J. McAuley, M. Bernard, and M. Thorton. She is Director of Social Services at BayWind Village Care Center and teaching as an adjunct professor at UHCL.

David Aurisano presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “Working with survivors of suicide”.

Peter A. Kindle presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “The new scarlet letter: Escalating employment discrimination against ex-offenders” and “Assessing power and control differentials: Understanding dysfunctional agency from the client’s perspective”; on “Junior scholars and publishing: identifying social work journals receptive to submissions from junior scholars” with Gary L. Norman at the 85th Annual Meeting of SSSA; on “Dual-process explanations for changes in thinking in older adults” at the 3rd Annual NGSWC; on “Need for cognition identifies adults most likely to develop postformal thought” at the 17th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society; on “Burnout and faith development theory: Warnings for practitioners of faith” at the 55th NACSW Convention; and on “When discrimination is legal: The social costs of felony convictions” at the 20th National Meeting and Conference of SWAA. His publications included “A comparative analysis of adoptive family functioning with gay, lesbian, and heterosexual parents and their children” in the *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* with Stephen Erich and Patrick Leung; “Gay and lesbian adoptive families: An exploratory study of family functioning, adoptive child’s behavior, and familial support networks” in the *Journal of Family Social Work* with Stephen Erich, Patrick Leung, and Sharon Carter; “Perceptions of social support among heterosexual and homosexual adopters” in *Families in Society* with Stephen Erich; “Self-reflective helping: Foucaultian insights on helping and power dynamics” in the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*; a review of the book *A stone of hope: Prophetic religion and the death of Jim Crow* in *Social Work and Christianity*; and “Religion and social welfare policy” with Howard Karger in the 5th edition of *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach*.

Brett Needham has accepted a position with the Community Behavioral Health Project. A collaborative effort between the Harris County Hospital District, the Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston and Baylor College of Medicine, he is one of ten Behavioral Health Specialists providing psychotherapy, counseling, and education at Harris County Hospital District satellite clinics (and one school based clinic). Up until July of last year, anyone presenting in the satellite clinics with a mental health issue was referred to Ben Taub. The purpose of the CBHP is to make these services available in the community and is partially funded by a grant from the Hogg Foundation.

Lucinda Nevarez presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “A comparison of three groups of young fathers and program outcomes: Those in school, drop-outs, and high school graduates” with Maxine Weinman.

Gary L. Norman presented at the 85th Annual Meeting of SSSA on “Junior scholars and publishing: identifying social work journals receptive to submissions from junior scholars” with Peter A. Kindle. He is also the new Case Management Coordinator at Montrose Counseling Clinic.

Moisés Próspero presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “College motivation and integration for first-generation students” with Shetal Vohra-Gupta; and on “Strategies for gender and ethnic minorities in overcoming barriers to professional advancement” at the 85th Annual Meeting of SSSA.

Leslie Raneri is a finalist for the New Investigator Award for an abstract and paper submitted for the 2006 Society for Adolescent Medicine Annual Meeting. She will present her paper, “Which adolescent mothers are most at risk of repeat pregnancy?” at the March 2006 meeting in Boston, MA and will receive a cash award and certificate as one of 4 finalists. Her presentation abstract is included in the February 2006 of the Journal of Adolescent Health.

Amy Russell presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “Texas taxation and revenue: Knowledge for effective social work”, “Making the connection: Social workers and political action”, and “Lobby training skills for social workers” with Elena Guarjardo and Mary Bishop. She also continues to be politically active on NASW/TX’s political action committee, TPACE.

Mahasin Saleh presented “Young fathers participating in fatherhood program: Their expectations and perceived benefits” at the 51st Annual Program Meeting of CSWE; on “Young African American fathers and their children: Dimensions of paternal involvement” at the January 2006 SSWR conference and on “Dimensions of paternal involvement: Young African American fathers and their children” at the 52nd Annual Program Meeting of CSWE. Ruth Buzi, Maxine Weinman and Peggy. B. Smith were co-authors on this research.

Dana Smith was named Executive Director of the Greater Houston Area Health Education Center on January 1, 2005. Dana is a part-time student in the Ph.D. program. In her new role, she will oversee fiscal operations and personnel management of this non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of our communities by developing a quality health workforce and helping address unmet health needs.

Shetal Vohra-Gupta presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “College motivation and integration for first-generation students” with Moisés Próspero, and she presented at the NASW-TX Houston chapter meeting in February 2006 on “Utilization of mental health services by Asian-Americans.”

Nicole Willis presented at the NASW/TX conference in November 2005 on “Effectiveness of a school-based intervention for adolescents with incarcerated parents: Findings and implications for practice, policy, and research” with Marilyn Gambrell. She also presented “U-turn: The intersection of DFPS and university partnerships in improving the image of social workers in child welfare creatively with media” and with Patrick Leung “The impact of a Title IV-E training program: A repeated-measures study of CWEP graduates in Houston” at the 9th Annual Title IV-E Federal Region VI Roundtable Conference, New Braunfels, TX in June, 2005. She is also presenting a poster at the February 2006 CSWE conference in Chicago, IL, titled “Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program: Outcomes of a repeated measure study” with Patrick Leung. She is also the Bilingual School Social Worker at Long Middle School in Houston and an adjunct instructor at the UHCL.