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**From The Editors**  
**Amy Russell, LMSW**

Perhaps the most personal substance a doctoral student can share is their writing. Such disclosure makes us vulnerable. Written manuscripts and intellectual work are our life-force in the academic world of publish or perish. When we are told that we should not take it personally when our manuscript is rejected, it is still a most difficult challenge. This is also distressing on the other side as an editor. I wish there was enough space and time to include all student submissions in *PSW*, since enhancing student writing skills and exposure to the publication process are the ultimate goals of the journal. This humanity of writing and editing, however formidable, I believe makes us better social workers. We learn to digest rejection as a growing process, review through a strengths-based perspective, and use our power to provide feedback as an affirming, non-hierarchical collaboration.

Apprehension behind our vulnerabilities reveals the expectation to be perfect. Brown (2004) describes vulnerability as related to expectations of ourselves and how we should be in the future. For doctoral students, this vision is of our tenured, respected, and expert selves. These expectations are also manifested in observing faculty. I think this is where we forget about process, discovery, and the learning curve. To best remind us about this process, we must seek out those faculty members who support, collaborate, respect, and critique us in the manner that feels safe; this requires building relationship and connection where we can comfortably share ideas in their formal form as writing. Even while it may be personal, acknowledging this vulnerability is essential. Without vulnerability created by scholarly critique with the mentors that we have chosen, we would not have the essential opportunity to grow, learn, and find our academic voice (C.B. Brown, personal communication, August 10, 2006; Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, & Tarule, 1997). And thus is the beauty of social work: relationship!

References

- Belenky, M.F., Clinchy, B.M., Goldberger, N.R., & Tarule, J.M (1997). *Women's ways of knowing*. New York: Basic Books.
- Brown, B. (2004). *Women and shame: Reaching out, speaking truths, and building connection*. Austin, TX: 3C Press.

University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work  
*Perspectives on Social Work* congratulates the following doctoral students on their  
accomplishments for spring and summer 2006

**Dana Smith**, LMSW, MPA graduated from the Johnson and Johnson Health Care Executive Program at the Anderson Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles in July, 2006. Dana was one of 40 health care executives nationwide who received a full scholarship to participate in the June 2006 program which brought together professionals in agencies vital to the health care safety net. At the close of the program, she was one of seven students chosen to give a formal presentation of her work to her peers, representatives from their boards of directors, sponsors from Johnson and Johnson, and sponsors from the Health Resources Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Eusebius Small** presented at the National Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) conference in June 2006 on "Critical Race Theory". He was also awarded a Minority Fellowship from the Council on Social Work Education.

**Peter A. Kindle** presented "Serving the unbanked: Credit and financial services in America's fringe economy" with Howard Karger at the Building Communities Conference in Washington, DC; "The myth of neglect: Evidence of gay and lesbian issues in leading social work journals" with Gary Norman at the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association; "Do social work researchers discriminate against gay and lesbian people?" with Gary Norman, "The problems with guest worker programs" with Kacie Campbell-Liput, and "The high cost of poverty: Credit and financial services in America's fringe economy" with Howard Karger at the 21<sup>st</sup> National Meeting and Conference of the Social Welfare Action Alliance. His publications included book reviews in *Social Work and Christianity on God's politics: Why the right gets it wrong and the left doesn't get it* and *The kingdom is always but coming: A life of Walter Rauschenbusch* as well as a review of *Immigrants and social work: Thinking beyond the borders of the U.S.* published in the *National Organization of Forensic Social Work Newsletter*.

**Amy Russell** presented at the CSWE conference February 2006 on "Daily Marijuana Use among Mexican American Non-Injecting Heroin Users", and also at NASW/TX Houston branch meeting July 2006 on "Getting Out the Vote: Political Activism Training". She also continues to be politically active on NASW/TX's political action committee, TPACE.

**Jack Griffin-Garcia** presented at the 2nd International Conference on Youth Empowerment (ICOYE) in Hong Kong in June 2006 on 'Empowering Youth in Higher Education'. Jack was also awarded a Graduate Fellowship from the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston.