

From The Editor

In the current issue, I am pleased to welcome our new dean of the Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW), Professor Alan Dettlaff. As the only graduate social work program in Houston, Texas, the fourth largest city in the nation, we are extremely proud to have Professor Dettlaff lead our college as we continue to cultivate critical and creative thought that contributes to our social work profession. Under the leadership of Dean Dettlaff, we are optimistic about the future of the GCSW and the opportunities for innovation and prosperity that are to come!

During the delivery of the Aaron Rosen Lecture at the Society for Social Work and Research 19th Annual Conference, Matthew O. Howard (2015), asked, “What is the single crowning research discovery in social work?” Such a complex question instantly captivated the interest of the audience and left me with a curiosity that could not be easily satisfied. To this day, I believe that our social work identity continues to evolve and the best is still to come. We continue to study many of the most complex social challenges of humankind. We also continue to discover solutions and develop best practices. Moreover, the rigor of our social science continues to be evidenced in the results of innovative social work research. *Perspectives on Social Work*, our GCSW doctoral students’ online journal, offers doctoral students around the nation an opportunity to leverage their research and extend the shared vision of excellence within our profession.

The current mini-series reflects the passion of three contributing authors. Miranda Cunningham’s article leads this issue and draws our attention to important aspects of teaching first-generation college students. She links our social work values, at the core of the profession, to skills that may be utilized when considering the needs of these students. Sara Jo Helba shares her classroom experience of teaching undergraduate students and demonstrates how self-awareness and authentic presence helps in her own development and that of her students. Finally, Noe Mojica challenges researchers to reconstruct the definition of masculinity and to move away from models that stereotype the caregiving provided by Latino fathers. He provides suggestions to increase diversity in approaches to research.

These articles encourage us to evaluate our current practices and utilize our unique social work skills in the delivery of human services and teaching. Social work scholars are uniquely positioned to identify gaps that improve the translation of services in the classroom and in the community. I encourage my fellow doctoral student colleagues to continue to conduct, replicate, critique, and contribute to the social work research and knowledge base. It is because of our commitment to advocacy, our service to the most vulnerable, and our ability to evoke empathy and heighten awareness of societal injustices, that I remain optimistic about the scholarship and future of our social work profession. I hope these articles provide you a piece of intellectual stimulation and I wish you a summer filled with a balance of self-care and innovative teaching, research and practice!

Maurya, Glaude, MSW, LCSW
Editor

Editorial Policy:

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