

EDITORIAL – *Perspectives on Social Work: A community affair*

At *Perspectives on Social Work*, our primary mission is to provide opportunities for students to enhance scholarly skills in writing, editing, and gain exposure to the publication process. When I became editor of the journal this fall, I found myself questioning why the primary mission wasn't more related to the practice social work itself. However, as the semester unfolded and I encountered more decisions to make on behalf of the journal, I came to fully embrace this mission as our guiding star. Building scientific knowledge is collaborative enterprise and the many roles students play in this journal are imperative for its success. Yet as students, we must learn the skills to write quality scholarly manuscripts, provide thorough reviews, and navigate the publication process. I've come to realize that a student-run journal that showcases student work provides a welcoming environment for skill development. At *PSW*, the editorial staff is committed to the professional development of our authors. Not only do we receive satisfaction from helping our fellow doctoral students, we are beneficiaries of lessons about writing and publication in our roles. To me, this giving and receiving is the foundation of community and I am proud of the role *PSW* is playing in community-based competence building (Johnson et al., 2014).

With this in mind, we are in the process of making several changes in our operations. As you will notice on the following page, we have initiated awards for articles and reviewers. These awards allow us to recognize our community members who have dedicated time and energy to producing the science of social work. The winning authors help set a standard of excellence in *PSW* articles. Our reviewers make each article published better, help all of our authors improve, and make the work of the journal possible. Our top reviewers are students we have relied upon for their willingness to accept assignments as well as their timely and insightful reviews. In another effort to acknowledge our reviewers, we have begun collaborating with Publons (www.publons.com) to provide them with recognition of their contributions to the journal.

In the upcoming months, we will be introducing further changes that we hope will enhance the journal and continue to develop skills and a sense of community among the students involved in this collaborative effort. In my role as editor, I aim to help build a community where supportive and collegial student scientists come receive knowledge and skills while share their gifts and talents with others.

Rebecca L. Mauldin, LMSW
University of Houston
Editor

References

Johnson, W. B., Barnett, J. E., Elman, N. S., Forrest, L., Schwartz-Mette, R., & Kaslow, N. J. (2014). Preparing trainees for lifelong competence: Creating a communitarian training culture. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 8(4), 211-220. doi: 10.1037/tep0000048

Perspectives on Social Work Awards

Best Empirical Article - 2015

Prock, K. A., Cummings, C. E., DeNuccio, A., Hindes, K. L., & Hughes, A. K. (2015). Social Workers' Perceptions of Working with People who have HIV/AIDS. *Perspectives on Social Work, 11*(2), 14-25.

Kristen A. Prock is a doctoral student in the School of Social Work Michigan State University. She earned her MSW at Indiana University-South Bend, and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Her research interests include victimization of vulnerable populations, with a specific focus on homeless youth who identify as LGBT, services provision within homeless youth shelters, and violence against women.

Cristy E. Cummings is a doctoral student at the Michigan State University School of Social Work. She earned her MSW and her Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies from Indiana University South Bend. Her research interests are broadly in the areas of gender and sexuality, with her current work focusing on both female and male survivors of sexual assault, especially related to help-seeking behaviors and access to services.

Alec DeNuccio is a master's student in the School of Social Work at University of Michigan. He earned his BASW from Michigan State University in May 2016. Alec is interested in macro level practice and community organizing.

Kailey L. Hindes completed her BASW at Michigan State University in May 2016, and is currently working in with foster care youth. Her research interests include social work attitudes and care transitions in older adults.

Anne Hughes is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. She earned her PhD from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Her research interests include aging and health, with a focus on improving care for frail or vulnerable older adults. She is a John A. Hartford Foundation Faculty Scholar in Geriatric Social Work.

Best Non-empirical Article - 2015

Lateef, Husain. (2015). Afrocentricity theory revisited: An alternative framework for assisting Black youth. *Perspectives on Social Work, 11*(2), 26-31.

Husain Lateef is a current doctoral student in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. He obtained his MSW from the University of Michigan and his BA from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Currently, his research focus is exploring positive development among African American youth.

Best Reviewers

2014 – 2015: Andrea Joseph, University of Pittsburgh

2014 – 2015: Katherine Williams, Loyola University Chicago

2015 Honorable Mention: Cole Hooley, Washington University