

From The Editors
Amy Russell, LMSW

Perspectives on Social Work is a catalyst for students to learn the process of writing, editing, and submitting our original works to propel us toward scholarly endeavors in the finest manner possible. It is a vital opportunity that is unique to the GSSW. *PSW* is run by doctoral students and is for doctoral students. With that being said, *PSW* is facing an impasse; this editorial staff, Peter and I, will be ending our service this upcoming May. We do not have anyone to take our place as editors. Without students stepping forward to continue the mission of the journal, *PSW* will be no more. To me, this is a great loss and a very sad and discouraging thought. Something that editorial staffs before us, who worked so hard to create and develop, will cease to exist. Something that is truly for doctoral students to improve our knowledge and skills will essentially fail because students ourselves would not invest the time in this endeavor. We hope that you feel the same and will respond to this call for a transition team to succeed the present editors. We need this team to consist of at least two persons to step forward by November to ensure a timely and efficient transition. We hope you will seriously consider this dilemma and agree with the present editors that *PSW* is a critical and exceptional part of the PHD program at the GSSW. If you do not, then *PSW* will cease to be.

Editorial: Reflections on Three Years
Peter Kindle, MA, MDiv

Three years ago this month I began my association with *Perspectives on Social Work* as one of the first two student authors to be published in the first issue. Within a few months I had become the managing editor, working with co-editors-in-chief Manuel Zamora and Leslie Raneri, and last spring I joined Manuel as an editor-in-chief.

Few experiences at the UH-GSSW have been as fruitful in preparing me for a career in academe as my association with *PSW*. First, the process of reviewing submissions and preparing editorial comments for authors has provided a wealth of experience that has improved my own ability to communicate in text. Editors do not always assess submissions in the same way and negotiating these differences with my editorial colleagues has enriched my appreciation of peer review.

Secondly, the editing experience I have gained has served as an entrée into a variety of related experiences. The student caucus of the American Psychological Society accepted me as a volunteer reviewer for two student research competitions, in part, because of the editing experience I gained with *PSW*. But my reviewer/editor experience did not end here. Two different offices of the Department of Health and Human Services accepted my self-nomination as a *paid* grant reviewer last summer, one choosing to use me as a panel chair, and I was also accepted as a volunteer reviewer of conference abstracts submitted to NASW-TX for the upcoming fall conference.

Are these experiences typical of pre-comp doctoral students? Frankly, I have no way of knowing the answer to this question. I just know that *PSW* is where this all began for me. As my term as co-editor-in-chief nears its end, perhaps it is time for you to consider serving your school, and yourself, by becoming the next editor. I do not believe that it is a decision that you will regret!

**If you are interested in gaining invaluable experience by becoming a Co-editor or
Managing Editor for *PSW*, respond by November 30th to Dr. Epstein at
mwepstein@uh.edu.**

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 GSSW Doctoral Student Journal
and
**The University of Houston, Graduate School of
Social Work**

Registration details will follow soon.
www.sw.uh.edu/

**Preface to First Doctoral Research Symposium Special Issue
UH Graduate School of Social Work Doctoral Program**

Set in an urban, multicultural environment, the purpose of the GSSW doctoral program is to develop social work researchers, scholars, teachers, and leaders who can facilitate change through rigorous and contextualized analysis of social problems and social work interventions in a manner respectful of the experiences of all affected. Graduates will advance the knowledge base of the profession, promote a scientific basis for social work practice at all levels of intervention, and actively promote global social and economic justice.

In order to expand the knowledge base of social work, the doctoral program holds a journal named *Perspectives on Social Work*. The journal aspires to challenge each reader to probe into and question prevailing views of the Social Work profession by giving thought to the theoretical, practical, policy, and research implications of new or differing perspectives. By intimate examination and exploration of past, present, and future realities, it hopes to enrich and enhance understanding of Social Work and its association with other disciplines. The prevailing theme is to enable a view of Social Work, in all its static, mechanics, and dynamics, as a means to improve our quality of life. *Perspectives on Social Work* is a proud sponsor of the UH Doctoral Social Work Student Research Symposium.

The First Annual Doctoral Social Work Student Research Symposium Planning Committee envisioned a process of showcasing such academic works in a forum that would increase learning, expand social work research, and contribute to the social work knowledge base. Doctoral students were invited to submit dissertation research-in-progress, independent

study projects, concept papers, theoretical models, and other student research for inclusion in the symposium. Through perseverance, program planning and development, and thoughtful creativity, the Planning Committee created an efficacious colloquium, which met the stated scholarly objectives. Included in this special issue are expanded abstracts from the March 31, 2005 symposium, to best represent the academic inspirations and activities of the program participants and the UH-GSSW Doctoral Program.

Articles are published as submitted by the student.

First Annual Doctoral Social Work Student Research Symposium

Planning Committee Members:

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Mahasin Saleh, MSW

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Special thanks to:

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The Greater Houston Area Health Education Center