



Volume 18, Issue 3

Fall 2004

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The ACOSA Update!

ACOSA ANNUAL MEETINGS IN THE BIG APPLE

Special Panel Presentation COMMUNITY ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL WORK *Monday, February 28, 2005* *7:00– 8:00AM Soho Room*

Social work needs to shift its professional thinking and practice regarding the economic dimension of social welfare. Panelists will examine conceptual issues and empirical evidence in order to suggest how these strategies can be incorporated into social work practice and curriculum. The panel will consist of four presentations:

- ✓ *Financial Management Practice with Low Income Families*, Margaret Sherrard Sherraden, PhD
- ✓ *Comprehensive Models for Welfare-to-Work and Workforce Development Efforts*. Roberta Rehner Iversen, PhD
- ✓ *The Integration of Community Economic Development with Social Services*. Howard L. Nemon, PhD
- ✓ *Social Work Advocacy on behalf of the Working Poor* Susan Kerr Chandler, PhD

Dear *ACOSA Update!* Readers,

Inside this belated Fall 2004 (now Winter 2005) issues of the *ACOSA Update!* are details on the 2005 COSA Symposium, ACOSA meetings, and special events at the Annual Program Meeting (APM) of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). **Meetings are at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Manhattan, New York, from February 26—March 1, 2005.** Information about the conference is available at <http://www.cswe.org> We are planning an early spring issue with highlights from the APM in the Big Apple.

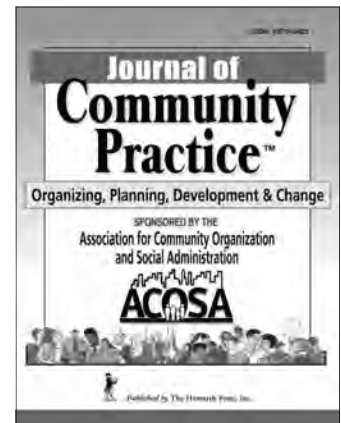
An important announcement is the proposed by-law changes. Please review these and provide feedback to ACOSA Chair, Cheryl Hyde (see page 2).

It is also time to VOTE for ACOSA board members and leaders. A ballot and return envelope are enclosed with this issue of the Update!

— Tracy Soska, Editor
tsssw+@pitt.edu

Inside This Issue!

ACOSA Chair: Message from Cheryl Hyde	2
ACOSA at CSWE-APM - Symposium	3
Policy Opinions: Moral Values and the Politics of Sin	4-5
Taco Bell Boycott Gaining Nationwide Support	6-7
Program Sets Vision Care for the Uninsured	8-9
Public Dialogue Engages Social Workers	10
Incoming ACOSA Chair: Mary Rogge	11
HOPE IN HARD TIMES: An Open Letter from Si Kahn on the 25th Anniversary of Grassroots Leadership	12-13
ACOSA Awards 2005, Social Work Day at the UN	14
New Books & Electronic Resources	15



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Messages from ACOSA Chair — Cheryl Hyde

ACOSA BYLAWS CHANGE PROCESS

One major undertaking during the past year has been a full review of the ACOSA By-laws. The By-laws committee, ably chaired by board member Ellen Netting, has completed its task and made recommended changes.

These proposed revisions address such issues as:

- ◆ Clarifying the social work roots but interdisciplinary nature of ACOSA.
- ◆ Streamlining and refining ACOSA's "Statement of Purpose" to match the website statement.
- ◆ Clarifying membership voting at the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Expanding term lengths for key officers to insure continuity and succession
- ◆ Reducing lengthy descriptions of ACOSA regions in the bylaws
- ◆ Increasing size of quorum needed for board actions
- ◆ Updating Affirmative Action language in the bylaws
- ◆ Revising "financial responsibilities" to make business transactions easier.
- ◆ Clarifying Board Officers responsibilities and succession.
- ◆ Streamlining the Symposium Committee and adding all Standing Committees and their charges.
- ◆ Making a new Article by combining ACOSA publications, e.g., Journal and Newsletter

The ACOSA board has reviewed these recommendations and made suggestions as well. It is now time for membership input.

Because the By-laws document (with recommendations) is so large, it will not be sent directly to members. Instead, it has been posted on the ACOSA website. What we are asking you to do is go to the website (acosa.org), review the by-laws, and email me any comments, suggestions, and/or questions. I will synthesize your ideas for the Board's discussion of the by-law revisions at the upcoming Board meeting. We will also discuss these revisions at the Membership meeting.

In order for me to do all the necessary preparation, I need your comments no later than February 15th. Your input is desired, though I ask that you please be as succinct as possible and remember that the By-laws committee has already done a substantial review. Thanks in advance.

Cheryl Hyde, Chair chhyde@ssw.umaryland.edu

The Community Organization & Social Administration (COSA) Symposium

This year's ACOSA meetings held in conjunction with the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) has proven to be more of a challenge than usual. The departure of CSWE staff person, Rochelle Gershenow (with whom we had developed a very good working relationship), numerous glitches in the electronic submission process and subsequent late review of abstracts, and the acceptance of too many submissions have resulted in difficulties too numerous to mention.



Despite the problems, 16 papers were accepted (the maximum) that will be presented in 7 sessions. The program as we have received it is on page 3. Please note that CSWE did not provide names of co-authors for these papers, nor did they indicate the session chairs or session groupings. Be sure to check ACOSA and CSWE websites for further details.

Once again, I am reminded of the exciting work that so many of us are doing. *I hope you will join us for another terrific Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) symposium and the ACOSA Membership Meeting, Awards, and Reception.* I look forward to seeing you in New York for some (much needed) reconnection and rejuvenation.

Cheryl Hyde, ACOSA Chair

**PLEASE VISIT THE
ACOSA BOOTH
IN THE EXHIBIT AREA**

COSA SYMPOSIUM AT CSWE-APM

Sunday, Feb. 27th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Field practicum experiences of macro-oriented students: Are we doing them justice? Karen Hopkins, University of Maryland

Teachable events: The immigrant workers Freedom Ride of 2003. Louise Simmons, University of Connecticut

Social work in higher education: Expanding the role through cross-disciplinary education. Jeanne Finch, SUNY-Stony Brook

Monday, Feb. 28th 8:30 - 10:00 am

Follow the money: Fiscal management concepts for the social work administrator. Harvey Newman

Cutback management strategies in public human service agencies: Experiences in nine counties.

Thomas Packard, San Diego State University

Monday, Feb. 28th 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Volunteers, staff and participant roles in faith-based programs: Education & practice implications. F. Ellen Netting, Virginia Commonwealth University

The ties that bind: Exploring stakeholder relationships in human service organizations. Martha Golensky, Grand Valley State University

Monday, Feb. 28th 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Building capacity of grassroots organizations: An examination of costs and benefits. Joanne Sobeck, Wayne State University

A program evaluation of ACORN's Accelerated Income Redistribution Project. Fred Brooks, Georgia State University

Tuesday, March 1st 8:30 - 10:00 am

Trashing our kids? Exploring community disorder, urban youth attitudes, and prosocial behaviors. Carol Snively, University of Missouri – Columbia

Constructing a social justice framework for youth-centered community change. Susan Kemp, University of Washington

Tuesday, March 1st 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Mandatory collaborative networks: A story of local implementation in Canada. Judith Dunlop, University of Windsor

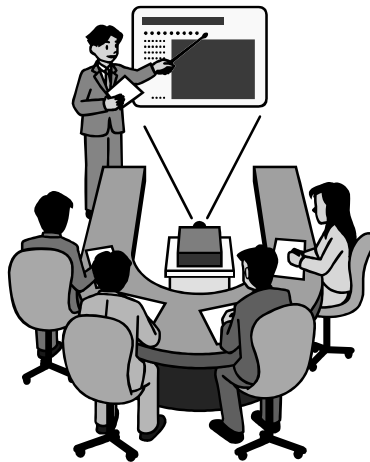
Overcoming structural barriers to collaboration: Multidisciplinary lessons for community organizers. Jon Shefner, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Tuesday, Mar. 1st 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Ethical decision-making in community practice: How organizers choose strategies and tactics. Donna Hardina, California State University at Fresno

Building capacity through empowerment evaluation: Addressing maternal depression in a rural community. Sarah Price, Washington University

Organizational learning: Application and relevance to social service organizations. Monique Busch, IARCC Institute for Excellence, Inc.



**Don't forget to Vote for
ACOSA Board & Officers
Election. Ballot**

Moral Values and the Politics of Sin

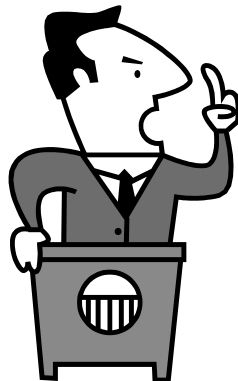
By Richard Boettcher, PhD

Dick Boettcher is Professor of Social Work at The Ohio State University.

My friends and family know that I enjoy prognosticating about future outcomes on just about anything, from sporting events to elections and even to court decisions before they are rendered. They also know that my predictions are seldom correct. But as my office neighbors at OSU can attest, the “seer” within me called the national election results correctly and for the right reasons: George Bush was simpatico with the moral values of the voting public. I told my colleagues “W” would win because he understood – much better than Kerry – the moral essences of the American world view and, also better than Kerry, he was convincing in his expression of his concurrence with American core moral values. I deeply regret being correct about this prediction; I fervently wish I could have been wrong, as usual. What follows is one lesson I think we should learn from the elections of 2004.

For those of us who see individuals as actors whose opportunities and decisions are strongly influenced by environmental factors, and who prefer governmental supports for families and communities and the regulation of market forces to ensure fairness, over against those who see individuals as essentially responsible for their own lives and life choices and who prefer no governmental regulation of market forces as well as non-governmental sources of support for families and communities – in short, those of us who prefer a liberal agenda over a conservative one – the 2004 elections have taught us that we must understand the religiously based core values of the opposition. Beyond merely understanding the essence of these core values, we must also comprehend how these values operate in public policy debates and in political elections. And, yes, we must understand how these core values can be used, activated and manipulated to gain political power through the elections of those who concur with the liberal point-of-view.

As a first step toward a broader and deeper understanding of the dynamics of core values and how they work in public elections it needs to be acknowledged that



POLICIES & OPINIONS

these values are reducible to human preferences. That is, values are an expression of one preferred state of affairs over another. Such preferences become a part of one’s human experience and personal consciousness through the process of socialization by authority sources who tell us what to prefer (i.e., value), as well as through socio-emotional-cognitive reflections frequently stimulated by personal experiences. The “neo-con,” for example, will point to the Bible as the basis for his beliefs about same-sex relationships, thereby invoking divine authority for his core values. The liberal-humanist will offer arguments to show that his acceptance of same-sex relationships is derived from Jeffersonian-Madison political philosophy and, therefore, to be preferred as a more American point-of-view. When offered as positions reflecting absolute moral correctness, both viewpoints are, of

course, inherently flawed. But for purposes of understanding the essence of “core values,” it is important to note two dimensions of this construct. First, values are expressions of human preferences; and, second core values have large implications which bear upon peoples reasons-for-being. In our example, one position lays claim to serving God’s law while the other claims to uphold the intention of our nation’s founders. In any discussion of values, there is a means-ends chain involved, which goes all the way up to the top of the ladder of being. And this is why “core values” pack so much punch; they invoke existential purpose.

Since we – those who prefer a liberal expression of core values – want to prevail through the electoral process over those who identify with other core value expressions, what more might we need to know about how these phenomena operate in the political and policy making field? Political scientist, Kenneth J. Meier refers to public debates about drugs, alcohol, abortion, sex education, gambling and school prayer as the “politics of sin.” Issue differences surrounding these top-

“The 2004 elections have taught us that we must understand the religiously based core values of the opposition. Beyond merely understanding these core values, we must understand how these values operate in public policy debates ...”

(Continued on page 5)

Moral Values...

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ics are very different from other policy topics such as taxation, foreign relations, the economy and social security, for example. Morality politics are characterized by very high saliency in the public consciousness due to their connection to deeply held values (i.e., preferences). Morality related policies require very little expertise or investment of human intellectual capital to understand, or on which to take a position. They are hot button topics; people get to positions about these topics very quickly. Politicians of all stripes who discuss these issues try to simplify them, even though they may be quite complex – e.g., abortion and stem cell research – in order to enlist and sustain the impulsive reactivity which these topics generate. This tactic, used by both conservatives and liberals, tends to sustain a political base of support, and, as was the case in the 2004 elections, even generate recruits. The “politics of sin” is a very powerful force in our society as persuasively demonstrated by great American story tellers like Dreiser, Rølvaag and Sinclair Lewis, for example. This powerful engine can pull millions of carloads of citizen voters into election booths so that their core values might be fulfilled in public policy.

Many post 2004 election analyses have pointed to the fact that Republican candidates benefited enormously from a broadening of the party’s fiscally conservative base by the infusion of evangelical (i.e., fundamentalist”) Christians with working, middle and upper middle class backgrounds. If liberals want to appeal to these voters, does it mean that we must abandon our positions, for example, on equal rights for gay and lesbian citizens and a woman’s right to chose an abortion? How can we expect future liberal candidates to capture the “core value vote” unless we abandon our own core value positions?

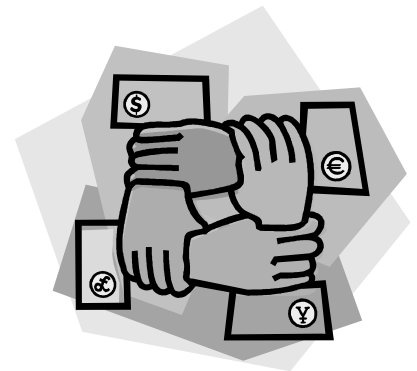
Disavowal of our core value preferences is not required. What is required are candidates, at national state and local levels, who can neutralize the attractiveness of conservative core values with even more appealing core values of their own. And, I believe, these compelling

“Morality related policies require very little expertise or investment of human intellectual capital to understand, or on which to take a position. They are hot button topics...”

values must be Christian centered and, Bible based, not because this faith tradition has a corner on the Truth, but because it is relevant to the vast majority of voters.

For example, the next liberal candidate for president, male or female, should be identified with either the Midwest or the southern regions of the country. The candidate should be a professing Christian who is comfortable and demonstrative with his or her expression of faith. This hypothetical candidate should be prepared to show how his faith has led him (or her) to embrace and advance core values such as individual freedom of choice, tolerance, justice and fairness, and caring for each other regardless of lifestyle or the difficult choices which life requires of us all. This candidate needs to show how these values reflect an authentically Christian paradigm which is very different from the Christian paradigm espoused by “neo-con” politicians.

What is this paradigm? Marcus Borg, a very well-respected, contemporary protestant theologian, writes that, as an expression of faith, this Christian paradigm accepts other religions, e.g., Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, as true and authentic paths to right conduct and salvation. This paradigm also acknowledges women as equal persons under God and in all roles within the organized church. And this paradigm does not view homosexuality as sinful. Rather, it accepts gay and lesbians as full members of the community of faith.



Borg refers to this paradigm as the “emergent Christian viewpoint” and asserts that it has become well established in both protestant and Roman Catholic circles, church teachings, and seminary curricula over the past one hundred years. Surely, a religiously-centered liberal candidate could speak confidently about his or her own faith as a reflection of this emergent paradigm.

According to the political strategy I am advancing, to be successful, the next liberal presidential candidate must

(Continued on page 9)

Boycott of Taco Bell Gaining Nationwide Support

By *Bill Whitaker*

Unsuccessful negotiations between the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and Taco Bell/Yum! Brands are generating increasing campus- and community-based support for a nationwide boycott of Taco Bell. The boycott was launched three years ago to encourage Yum! Brands' attention to farm workers' human rights, wages and living and working conditions.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The boycott has received broad support and is currently endorsed by 35 religious organizations including the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Church of Christ, Pax Christi USA, the Ecumenical Council of the Episcopal Church and the National Council of Churches. In addition, the boycott has been endorsed by forty-four global justice, community and workers' rights organizations, and sixteen student organizations

Major universities including the University of Chicago; the University of San Francisco; Notre Dame; the University of Pennsylvania; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles; Duke University; San Diego State University, Middle Tennessee State University; California State University, Los Angeles and Cal Poly Pomona have endorsed the boycott and terminated or refused to establish relationships with Taco Bell.

The CIW has been attempting with little success for several years to improve the wages and working conditions of farm workers in Florida. Although progress has been made in reducing physical violence against individual farm workers, working conditions and wages fail to meet minimally acceptable standards.

Immokalee is in South Florida, an area referred to by a Justice Department official as "ground zero for modern slavery." Six cases of involuntary servitude have been prosecuted successfully in the area in the past six years. The CIW anti-slavery campaign has resulted in freedom for more than a thousand tomato and orange pickers held in debt bondage and resulted in prison sentences for agricultural employers.

According to U.S. Department of Labor data, the average piece rate paid to tomato harvesters in 1980 was 40 cents per 32-pound bucket. Today, harvesters still receive 40 cents per bucket, earning in inflation-adjusted dollars less than one-half of what they did 24 years ago. At 40 cents per bucket, workers must pick and haul two tons of tomatoes to earn \$50.

Yum! Brand Foods, Inc. is the largest restaurant corporation in the world, with annual sales exceeding \$24 billion. It is the parent corporation of Taco Bell, Long John Silver's, Pizza Hut, KFC, and A & W (Rootbeer) All American Food.

At the same time that farm workers' wages have declined precipitously, the share of profits from tomatoes paid to growers has also fallen. Only the corporate share has increased. In 1990, farmers received 40 percent of the value of the tomato crop. Today they receive only 25 percent. Yum! Brands requires all of its outlets to purchase their produce through the United Foodservice Purchasing Coop., a Yum! Brands' subsidiary.

According to *Like machines in the field: Workers without rights in American agriculture*, a March 2004 Oxfam America report, growers squeezed by the buyers of their produce pass on the costs and risks imposed on them to the lowest rung of the supply chain, the farmworkers they employ. The tremendous buying power of the United Foodservice Purchasing Coop — which supplies Yum! Brands throughout the country and the world — makes tacos and fast food cheaper at the expense of a living wage for growers and farmworkers.

The CIW is making three demands: 1) Taco Bell/Yum pays

Today, harvesters still receive 40 cents per bucket, earning in inflation-adjusted dollars less than one-half of what they did 24 years ago. At 40 cents per bucket, workers must pick and haul two tons of tomatoes to earn \$50.

(Continued on page 7)

Boycott of Taco Bell

(Continued from page 6)

one penny more per pound of tomatoes to its suppliers and ensures that the payment is passed on to the workers; 2) Taco Bell/Yum implements an enforceable and independently verifiable code of conduct to eliminate labor abuses in its supply chain; and 3) Taco Bell/Yum uses its purchasing power to convene three-way talks among themselves, the CIW, and growers.

Former President Jimmy Carter made the following statement after unsuccessful negotiations at the Carter Center between the CIW and Taco Bell/Yum:

"I have followed with concern for a number of years the appalling working conditions in the Florida-based tomato industry. While production costs in the industry have increased over the past 25 years, wages have been effectively stagnant, as giant cooperative buying mechanisms hold prices down. Conditions are so bad in parts of the industry that there have been two separate prosecutions for slavery in recent years. ... While Yum's belated acknowledgment of the need for improved pay and conditions is welcome, this cannot be considered a serious proposal. Yum is saying that only if the CIW ends its boycott will it be willing to support efforts to improve wages, and only if the rest of the industry does. This is a lost opportunity for the head of the world's largest restaurant company to take the lead in eliminating human rights abuses that he knows exist within his supply chain."

Idaho's Boise State University is the latest battleground in the "Boot the Bell" campaign. Although aware of the growing boycott movement, in summer 2004 the Boise State administration choose to accept \$4 million over a 15 year period in exchange for renaming the Boise State basketball Pavilion "Taco Bell Arena." The contract with Es-O-En, a Taco Bell franchisee that operates 54 Taco Bell outlets in three states in the Pacific Northwest, was made when few students or faculty members were present on campus.

During fall semester 2004 Taco Bell became a major issue for Boise State students, faculty and staff and the university's increasingly diverse community. The Progressive Student Alliance brought the issue to Student Senate. National Taco Bell corporate headquarters in Irvine, California, entered the fray purchasing a full page ad in the campus newspaper in an apparent attempt to influence Faculty Senate deliberations. Following two sessions of heated testimony from Taco Bell supporters and opponents, the Faculty Senate

voted 17 to 2 to ask the university administration to terminate the \$4 million contract, restore the previous name of the basketball arena and remove all Taco Bell corporate logos from campus buildings and facilities.

The conspicuous branding of the basketball Pavilion with the Taco Bell logo is a sore point for members of the Boise State University community concerned with human rights, especially for Mexican and Mexican American students, faculty and staff. Taco Bell advertising campaigns are repugnant to many who see them as reinforcing undesirable stereotypes. Taco Bell opponents believe requiring the university community to participate in commencement activities in the "Taco Bell Arena" suggests insensitivity to basic human dignity.



Serendipitously, the Honorable Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, was scheduled to present the BSU Distinguished Lecture in October 2004. She spoke eloquently, describing the shocking farm worker living and working conditions she personally had observed in Florida and confirmed the concerns that have resulted in the nationwide Taco Bell boycott.

Robinson offered the hope that Taco Bell might follow the path taken by the Gap, the major clothing chain that, in response to boycott and public concern, has become an advocate for fair wages and safe working conditions in its supply chain. Talking about possibilities and hope for a better world, she encouraged Boise State University, in a principled way, to return the money and to tell Taco Bell that the university cannot do business with them until Taco Bell/Yum!Brands meets CIW demands. In so doing, she contended, Boise State could encourage support for the rights of farm workers and attract national attention that will help the university take its desired place as a major metropolitan research institution with a recognized commitment to civic engagement.

At this writing the university administration is refusing to terminate the contract. Students, faculty, staff and community partners are continuing to build the pressure they hope will finally cause the administration to place its influence on the side of human rights.

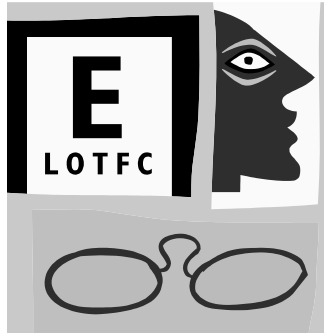
Bill Whitaker is Professor of Social Work and MSW Program Coordinator at Boise State University.

Additional information about the national Taco Bell boycott is available on the website of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers <http://www.ciw-online.org>

Program Sets Sights on Vision Care For Uninsured

by Kelli E. Barker

Whether it is driving to work, watching loved ones grow old, or gazing at a breathtaking sunset – vision is something many take for granted. Yet, without it, one faces barriers to employment, transportation and education. To many uninsured or underinsured individuals living from paycheck to paycheck, a visit to the eye doctor may seem like a peripheral and unaffordable healthcare need. However, lack of access to preventative and immediate vision care can carry consequences that severely damage one's quality of life.



Medical Society. Project Health, modeled after Project Access in Buncombe County, North Carolina, is a community partnership to improve access to specialty health care for low-income, uninsured residents of Indianapolis. They achieve this through coordinating the donated services of physicians, hospitals, medication assistance programs and case management, which all greatly enhance the quality of healthcare. In addition, ECCO collaborates with other social service agencies, homeless shelters, clinics, and schools to outreach to those who may not traditionally have access to vision health services.

To address this barrier to accessing the healthcare system, Indiana University's School of Optometry and School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology was recently awarded a sizeable grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Trust to develop an Eye Care Community Outreach program (ECCO). This new, unique program was formed to improve vision health care through community collaboration, advocacy, education and donated professional eye care. By treating patients holistically, or seeking to connect them to services for other medical and social needs, residents will be able to access adequate health resources, and as a result optimize their quality of health.

In working together with many local agencies, ECCO has created a sustainable, cost-efficient solution to filling gaps in healthcare. If the patient does not have a primary care physician, ECCO connects them with a community clinic in order to decrease primary care utilization of the emergency room. In addition, the patient is assessed for eligibility for other public or health care programs and assisted with the enrollment process if applicable. The patient is viewed as a central part of the system of care, in need of connection and inclusion, rather than merely a band aid approach to healthcare.

In its fifth month of operation, ECCO has exceeded expectations by connecting nearly 300 uninsured individuals at or and below 300% of the poverty level with the donated eye care of local eye care professionals. Its success has been achieved through collaborating with area agencies and then navigating and coordinating these services for the patient. The program works very closely with Project Health, a newly developed program of the Indianapolis

ECCO seeks to address many gaps in the current healthcare system, both nationally and locally in the Indianapolis community. There are 98,000 citizens in Marion County who do not have health insurance. These same people do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare and may be working; however they are in low paying jobs that do not offer benefits. A disproportionate number of the uninsured are minority populations (Hudson Institute, 2002). The program emphasizes its outreach into these populations.

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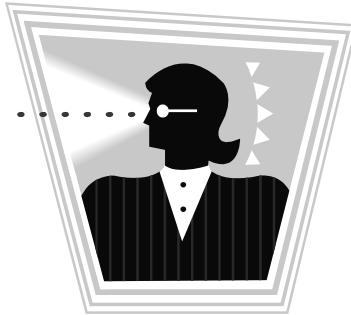
Research by the Center for Studying Health System Change (2004) states that the health-insurance gap among Latino, black and white Americans persisted in 2003. One in three Latinos, one in five blacks and one in 10 whites under age 65 lacked health insurance in 2003. This same survey found that while overall health insurance rates changed little between 2001 and 2003 for all groups, the sources of coverage shifted. All Americans saw a drop in access to employer-sponsored health insurance between 2001 and 2003, but the decline was especially severe for Latinos, who less than 65 percent of non-elderly Latinos had access to health insurance from employers in 2003, a drop of six percent since 2001 (Center for Studying Health System Change, 2004).

(Continued on page 9)

Vision Care ...

(Continued from page 8)

In addition, major eye diseases is becoming a major public health problem. The study revealed that some 3.3 million Americans age 40 and over are legally blind or suffer the effects of visual impairment. This figure is expected to increase to 5.5 million by 2020 (American Optometric Association, 2004). Latinos especially have been found to have overall high rates of visual impairment and eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and open-angle glaucoma, and a significant number are unaware of their eye diseases. Given the expected swell in the Hispanic population in coming years, the social, economic and health impacts of this disparity will only be magnified.



During ECCO's nascent stages, it has been overwhelmingly welcomed into the community by both potential collaborators and patients alike, many of whom have felt excluded from accessing adequate vision care. ECCO has used this program to fill gaps and provide a continuum of care for adults and children, while also providing community education and prevention to raise awareness of the importance of visual health and annual eye exams. Through building partnerships with area public and private sectors, ECCO has created a program localized to the needs of the Indianapolis community that seeks to provide more than just eye care, but to assist in connecting people with larger systems and resources they never knew were available. With this program, a brighter outlook for the uninsured is in sight.

Kelli E. Barker, MSW is a Program Coordinator for the ECCO Program at Indiana University. She received her MSW degree from the University of North Carolina, and first joined ACOSA as a student member.
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For more information, visit
<http://www.opt.indiana.edu/ecco>

Moral Values...

(Continued from page 5)

directly witness to his or her faith as an expression of the emergent Christian paradigm. Such personal "testimony" will tend to have a neutralizing effect upon the attractiveness of the position of evangelical (i.e., "fundamentalist") neo-conservatives and their related core values of divisive exclusivity (the "saved vs. the damned"), extreme individualism and disdain for governmental regulation of market processes. With the achievement of neutralization, the candidate can turn to the larger issues of the liberal agenda including jobs, the economy, national security, equitable taxation, justice for minorities, and a safe environment, for example. But first, the successful liberal candidate must get beyond the "politics of sin," pass the "faith test," and get God back on our side.

The content of this essay is markedly different from the usual discussions found in this column on social administration concepts and practices. However, without a strong political base of support, the social work role in managing the devolved social welfare state will continue to diminish. To advance the "moral values" we prefer, I believe the liberal coalition must be strengthened and acquire greater potency on the political landscape.

Meier, Kenneth J.

(1994). *The politics of sin*. NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Borg, Marcus (2003). *The heart of Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper/Collins Publishers.

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Responses, rebuttals and new ideas with regard to this column are urgently requested at:

boettcher.1@osu.edu

PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

By *Andrienne Dessel, Sarah Garlington, & Mary Rogge*

Public dialogue work as an approach to social conflict, advocacy and social change is widely representative of many disciplines and is gaining currency in social work (Schoem & Hurtado, 2001; Zuniga & Nagda, 1993). It has the potential to provide social workers across the micro-macro spectrum with the tools to collaboratively engage in seeking social change and justice with others who are in conflict. The practice of public dialogue work combines the theories and practices of social work in a way that advances cross-fertilization of professional roles. Practitioners work in concert to merge clinical and community organizing skills and engage in public dialogue facilitation in a way that achieves maximum social change.

Public dialogue is a process designed to involve individuals and groups in an exploration of controversial and polarizing societal issues. Dialogue is a relational practice that addresses issues of power and fosters change and growth as it illuminates disparities and moves toward advocacy and social justice. Public dialogue includes the creation of a space that enables participants to speak and listen in the present while understanding the contributions of the past and the unfolding of the future. Participants strive to avoid old unproductive language, foster new listening skills, improve communication patterns, value differences, and develop shared meanings (Bohm, 1996; Chasin et al, 1996). Public dialogue work incorporates a range of disciplines from psychology, communication and organizational theory, and there are various approaches to facilitation ranging from pedagogical to participatory (Shore & Freire, 1987; Senge, 1990).

Public dialogue work is employed in

government, non-profit, academic, business, and community-based local and international settings (NCDD, 2004). As an approach to conflict it has been applied to issues ranging



from abortion, racism, women's health, immigration, religion, crime, violence, mental health care, and neighborhood development. Research indicates public dialogue work increases individuals' participation in civic life and college students' commitment to diversity and social justice action. (Alvarez & Cabbil, 2001). We are currently engaged in public dialogue work through the facilitation of study circles on the University of Tennessee campus, community Interfaith Dialogue Forums sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice, and an Arab-Jewish Dialogue group.

Public dialogue potentates a democratic process that acknowledges and respects all parties, creates a context that reinforces the notion that change is possible, and transforms relationships and public decision-making toward positive social change. Through public dialogue work, social workers across the micro-macro spectrum can bring knowledge of the inner and relational world to bear on their community practice, ultimately achieving the internal and external transformation of social justice and change. An extensive bibliography reference on public dialogue work can be found on

the ACOSA website www.acosa.org

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Message from the Incoming Chair — Mary Rogge

DEAR ACOSA MEMBERS

As Incoming Chair of ACOSA, I'll be working to advance the four membership-derived themes [*The ACOSA Update!* 18(2)] of **connections**, **macro practice innovation**, **macro practice infusion** throughout the profession, and **social justice**. I highlight here some – but certainly not all – ways we'll work at the APM to advance two of these themes.



Connections: Building on ACOSA board discussions over several years, we will take new action to augment inter-organizational connections. ACOSAns have interests and linkages with many important organizations; this next year we'll be targeting discussions with colleagues in the National Network of Social Work Managers (<http://www.socialworkmanager.org>) and the Inter-University Consortium on International Social Development (<http://iucisd.org>) about options such as co-sponsoring regional educational meetings and greater membership access to resources such as journals, joint membership, and information exchange. Your thoughts are most welcome!

Social Justice: Members' focus on justice, civil rights, and just plain honest and ethical behavior have only been amplified in recent years. With attention to the justice and international, interdisciplinary interests of ACOSAns, I'll be asking the ACOSA Board to support the

"IASSW Affirmation of Human Rights" adopted by the International Association of Schools of Social Work at the Global Social Work Congress in Australia, October 10, 2004. This three-point statement reaffirms the principles of international human rights treaties, targets violations in regard to detention and torture, and calls social workers to action. I also ask each of us as ACOSAns – many of whom already act in the spirit of this affirmation and for human and civil rights issues in many venues – to share what you are doing through ACOSA venues, including *The ACOSA Update!*

A Final, Important Message: Please use the information in this newsletter, on the ACOSA website, and by contacting ACOSA leadership to ***exercise your ACOSA membership rights and responsibilities. Vote for our new ACOSA board members. Assess and provide feedback on the proposed bylaws changes.*** As Bylaws Committee Chairperson Ellen Netting notes in her message, our bylaws require board and membership adoption of any bylaws changes.

On behalf of ACOSA, special thanks and gratitude to the many individuals who have lost sleep, expended time, energy, and doubtless other personal resources, to prepare this year's ACOSA at APM. We'll be hearing more about these folks in the newsletters to come. Here's to a successful, productive APM; I hope to meet many of you there!

Mary Rogge, Incoming ACOSA Chair
ROGGE@utk.edu

CSWE-APM - ACOSA MEETINGS

ACOSA Board Meeting *Barrymore Room*
Saturday, Feb 26: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Journal of Community Practice
Editorial Board Meeting *Gotham Room*
Sunday, Feb. 27: Noon to 1:00 pm

Annual ACOSA Membership Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 27: 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Times Square Room

ACOSA Reception & Awards Program
Sunday, Feb. 27: 8:30 to 10:30 pm.
Times Square Room

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The ACOSA Update! is looking for articles from the fields of community development, non-governmental, and social administration practice. ACOSA encourages educators and practitioners to share their knowledge and ideas within national and international communities.

HOPE IN HARD TIMES

An Open Letter from Si Kahn

*I read in the paper, I watched on the show
They said that it happened a long time ago
The years had gone by, I just didn't know
Working for freedom now
The songs that we sang still ring in my ears
The hope and the glory, the pain and the fears
I just can't believe it's been 25 years
Working for freedom now*



Dear Grassroots Leadership Friends,

I remember the morning I wrote these words, the opening verse of my song *I Have Seen Freedom*. It was early in the morning. I had just boarded a plane going to who knows where. I picked up a newspaper lying on the seat beside me and

there, on the front page, was a headline, *25th Anniversary of Murder of Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney*.

I don't know how many people today recognize those names: three young civil rights workers, an African American from Mississippi and two Jews from New York, murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi in 1964 and buried beneath an earthen dam. But I remember. I never forget. I sat there on that plane, surrounded by embarrassed strangers, crying and writing this song.

In 1965, a year after the deaths of these three young men, I came South myself, to work for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, affectionately known as SNCC, the student wing of the southern civil rights movement. I've never gone back, in any sense of the word.

*Sometimes we stumble, sometimes we fall
Sometimes we stand with our backs to the wall
This road will humble the proudest of all
Working for freedom now
Though the road up ahead may stretch out far
and long
We must always remember the roads that we've
gone
Memory will help us to keep keeping on
Working for freedom now*

This coming January 1st, we'll officially celebrate 25

years since the founding of Grassroots Leadership. As I say in the song, with reference to a different anniversary, "I just can't believe it's been 25 years." But it has been. And an amazing 25 years at that—not just because of the work, but because of the spirit that informs it.

The Saturday before last, in the middle of the annual Grassroots Leadership board of directors' meeting, we paused in the early afternoon to go to the McKissick Museum on the University of South Carolina campus to visit an exhibit called *Courage*. That display remembers and celebrates the people of nearby Clarendon County who filed the first of the five cases that were eventually consolidated into *Brown Versus Board of Education*, which undid legal segregation in the United States. Looking at the photographs and montages, I remember the South as it was when I first arrived 40 years ago: the barefoot children picking cotton, the mules and plows, the shot-guns over the doors of the local civil rights leaders, the churches destroyed by arson.

What hit me hardest, though, and what I wrote down in the margins of the program, was the simple statement that greeted me as I walked in:

Try to imagine people who could change American history. You probably wouldn't think of farmers in Clarendon County SC— African American, country folk, poor, laboring by hand and mule, barred from any role in government, often unable to read or write. But they knew that schooling offered a better life. And they decided, no matter what, to open the door of education for their children. What else can any of us say?



*Those who have fallen and given their last
Have passed on to us what remains of their task
To fight for the future and pray for the past
Working for freedom now*

*The song of their laughter, the sound of their feet
The voice of their pain that cries out in our sleep
Will be judged in the end by the faith that we
keep*

Working for freedom now

(Continued on page 13)

HOPE IN HARD TIMES...

(Continued from page 12)

That evening, we paused again to honor and celebrate the 60th birthday of Kamau Marcharia, our senior organizer. Starting at age 17, Kamau spent 11 years in a maximum security prison for something he didn't do. Now he's just been re-elected to his third term on the Fairfield County Council. Board and staff members, Kamau's family and friends, organizers and activists who'd driven in from surrounding states, gathered in the Unitarian Church in Columbia, South Carolina to tell stories, to sing, to remember, to forget.

For the occasion, Director of Grassroots Fundraising Pam Pompey put together two collages, one for Kamau's 60 years, and one for Grassroots Leadership's 25. There were pictures of meetings and actions, copies of newsletters and flyers, newspaper articles and reports.

And, by the dozens, there were photos of our board and staff members, present and past. Somehow, I hadn't realized we weren't all still alive. All of them live in my memory, some just no longer in the world. But here they are in these photographs. Here is Cora Tucker, our founding board chair, a sharecropper's daughter from southside Virginia, tough, outspoken, funny, passionate, stoppable only by death. Here is staff member Ron Charity, who managed 34 successful electoral races for African-American candidates; who taught Arthur Ashe to play tennis; who while at Grassroots Leadership founded COSBY, the Coalition of Southern Black Youth; who, when you asked him how he was doing, always said, "Better now I've seen you." Here is Michael Cooper, our much-loved Assistant Director of Operations, who died last summer, much too young.

Perhaps what is most important about Grassroots Leadership is not what we do, but who we are.

*The wind in the winter is bitter and chill
The cries of the hunted are heard on the hill
I just can't believe there's such suffering still*

Working for freedom now

*The wind blows the summer from fields far away
We stand in the dust in the heat of the day
Our hearts stopped so still that there's nothing
to say*

Working for freedom now

We live and work in hope and faith. We do not know from day to day whether we will win any particular is-

sue, any campaign. Fact is, in the short run, some years we lose as often as we win. But, through it all, even when there's nothing to say, we keep the faith. We "keep on keepin' on." Just like in the old civil rights song, "We ain't gonna let nobody turn us 'round."



Really, we have no other choice. We have inherited a precious legacy, of struggle, of organizing, of resistance, of the "beloved community." Like another civil rights song says, "Now we'll never turn back." Why would we ever want to?

Here's how the song *I Have Seen Freedom* ends:

*Been a long time, but I keep on trying
For I know where I am bound
Been a hard road, but I don't mind dying
I have seen freedom*

I really have, you know. We really have. We just have to realize that we've seen it, tasted it, lived it. If we live in the spirit of freedom, then we can do our work with the absolute faith that we will see freedom again.

*For peace and freedom,
Si Kahn, Executive Director*

CONGRATULATIONS to GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

If you would like to send a personal note, learn some more about Grassroots Leadership or contribute to their 25th Anniversary Fund, contact Si Kahn.

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Congratulations 2005 ACOSA Award Winners

Career Achievement

Michael Austin (University of California at Berkeley)
Nominated by Julian Chow and Karen Hopkins

James V. Cunningham (University of Pittsburgh)
Nominated by Tracy Soska and Moe Coleman



Emerging Scholar

Stephanie Boddie (George Warren Brown School of Social Work).
Nominated by Ram Cnaan, with additional nominations from Michael Sherraden
and Michael Reisch

Practitioner

Chris Valley, Chief Administrative Office of Families First in Atlanta.
Nominated by James Wolk and six additional faculty members at Georgia State

Thanks for the Awards Committee for their excellent work and choices – Charles Trent, Elizabeth Beck, Dick Boettcher, Amy Khare, and Donna Hardina (chair). Join us February 27th for the Awards Program.

Social Work Day at the United Nations—Register NOW!

Celebrate the 22nd *Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations* in New York City on Friday, February 25, 2005. It is sponsored by the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Work (IASSW). Robin Mama of Monmouth University <rmama@monmouth.edu> is the Conference Co-Chair.

Speakers for the day are listed below:

- *Policy Issues Facing Women in Poverty*: Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Senior Advisor, Office of the Managing Director, World Bank
- *Indigenous Women's Issues*: Esmeralda Brown, Resource Specialist, Economic & Environmental Issues, United Methodist Office for the United Nations
- *Trafficking of Women*: Wenchi Yu Perkins, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Officer Vital Voices Global Partnership
- *Women's Mental Health*: Dr. Gilda A. Glasinovich, President, Council on the Status of Latin American Women



For registration, please go to the Conference website: <http://www.monmouth.edu/~swork/UN> Print the page, and then fax or mail to the address listed. **REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON FEBRUARY 15, 2005.** For other important information, click on the "Planning to Come to the UN" button.

Donations to help support Social Work Day at the UN are welcome! Make a check or money order payable to: *International Federation of Social Workers /UN* and mail it to: Michael S. Cronin, 116 Pinehurst Avenue, #G11, New York, NY 10033-1755

BOOK OVERVIEWS

Rothman Goes Hollywood & Kitchen Capitalism Cooks

HOLLYWOOD IN WIDE ANGLE

How Directors View Filmmaking

By Jack Rothman

Jack Rothman, a social scientist, interviews more than 30 film directors—including Delbert Mann, John Landis, Arthur Hiller, Nancy Meyers, Bill Duke, Martha Coolidge, Andrew Davis, Gilbert Cates, Henry Jaglom, and Walter Hill. And while he has guaranteed their responses would remain anonymous, the result is an intimate and candid portrait of work within the film industry, both on and off the set. *Hollywood in Wide Angle* brings uncensored comments from these ideal informants, along with Rothman's analysis, gives readers an inside look into the process of filmmaking, as well as an understanding of the wider sociological forces that both limit and facilitate such endeavors.

The respondents assembled here represent the broad range of background as well as film directing experience—from award-winning veterans to first timers, from directors of small, independent pictures to studio blockbusters. Collectively, their answers illuminate the day-to-day process of the high-pressure and fiercely competitive—but also frequently fulfilling—environment of filmmaking.



This book will be useful not only to students, but to new and aspiring directors, and other industry professionals as well. Indeed, *Hollywood in Wide Angle* will intrigue anyone truly interested in both movies and the complex industry behind them.

Hollywood in Wide Angle is published by Rowen & Littlefield <http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com/>

KITCHEN CAPITALISM

By Margaret Sherraden,
Cynthia Sanders, Michael
Sherraden

As a study of low-income people who start very small businesses, *Kitchen Capitalism* is the first in-depth study of this topic from the perspective of the microentrepreneurs, making both theoretical and empirical contributions, and reaching important conclusions: On average, microenterprise does not get people out of poverty, but it appears to have other positive effects for individuals and families.

Kitchen Capitalism is published by SUNY Press: <http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60976>



What's On Your Electronic List?

If you are interested in Asset Building policies and programs, visit **The Center for Social Development** (CSD) which is part of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/>

Asset building is defined in CSD's work as *accumulated resources that are invested for social and economic development*. The investments can be in human, social, or tangible assets, most often in education, home ownership, and small business development. CSD is engaged in social development research and policy. CSD's Working Papers are excellent resources (social development, Individual Development Accounts, financial education, etc.) and are searchable by keywords.

The National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) foundation dedicated to helping all Americans acquire the information and gain the skills necessary to take control of their personal finances. NEFE accomplishes its mission primarily by partnering with other concerned organizations to provide financial education to members of the public—in particular, to underserved individuals whose financial education issues are not being addressed by others. Consumers also should visit the [Multimedia Access](#) section of the NEFE web site for a wealth of self-help money-management material.

<http://www.nefe.org/>





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ACOSA Update!

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Contributing Columnist Wanted	ACOSA Update! Is looking for contributing columnists who will make or ensure regular contributions in the following areas: community organizing, field education, policy and technology.

The Association for Community Organization and Social Administration

ACOSA is a registered 501c3 membership organization for community organizers, planners, activists, administrators, policy practitioners, students, and professors. ACOSA members represent a variety of disciplines and professional fields which strive to strengthen community organization and social administration in practice and education. *ACOSA Update!* is published quarterly by the Association for Community Organization & Social Administration (ACOSA).

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