



### Editor's Introduction

<b>Journal:</b>	Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education
<b>Article Title:</b>	<i>Editor's Introduction</i>
<b>Author(s):</b>	<i>Seymour J. Rosenthal</i>
<b>Volume and Issue Number:</b>	<i>Vol. 5 No. 1</i>
<b>Manuscript ID:</b>	<i>51003</i>
<b>Page Number:</b>	<i>3</i>
<b>Year:</b>	<i>2002</i>

Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is a refereed journal concerned with publishing scholarly and relevant articles on continuing education, professional development, and training in the field of social welfare. The aims of the journal are to advance the science of professional development and continuing social work education, to foster understanding among educators, practitioners, and researchers, and to promote discussion that represents a broad spectrum of interests in the field. The opinions expressed in this journal are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policy positions of The University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work or its Center for Social Work Research.

Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is published three times a year (Spring, Summer, and Winter) by the Center for Social Work Research at 1 University Station, D3500 Austin, TX 78712. Journal subscriptions are \$110. Our website at [www.profdevjournal.org](http://www.profdevjournal.org) contains additional information regarding submission of publications and subscriptions.

Copyright © by The University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work's Center for Social Work Research. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

ISSN: 1097-4911

URL: [www.profdevjournal.org](http://www.profdevjournal.org)

Email: [www.profdevjournal.org/contact](mailto:www.profdevjournal.org/contact)

## Editor's Introduction

*Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSW*

### **It's All in the Family**

As practitioners, researchers, and policy makers—or a singular combination of each field—we have spent considerable effort in addressing motherhood through specialized employment, training, and social support programs, while treating the role of the father as part of the problem in the family constellation. However, during the last five years, the wheel has slowly turned and now recognizes fatherhood as integral to the concept of family, along with other previously rejected models. Those members of the human services community mentioned above must be poised to make more than a politically correct shift in their traditional orientation of serving predominately female participants to serving males as well. It is with this tumultuous and exciting period of change in mind, that we introduce the Journal's latest special issue on the rapidly burgeoning topic of fatherhood in America.

We are pleased to recognize the stellar work of our guest editors for this issue, Drs. James R. Dudley and Jay Fagan, in stimulating a series of diverse, important, and policy-laden articles on the state of fatherhood initiatives. These articles capture both individual and collective perspectives and experiences in addressing the needs of fathers, and cover a broad range of service domains, from direct service to advocacy to policy reform. Drs. Dudley and Fagan's article, "A Time to Support Fatherhood," provides an engaging overview of the

history of fatherhood's rise to prominence, from moral, legal, and public policy perspectives. Our esteemed guest editors identify several groups of "at-risk" fathers who are in need of holistic services and support that capitalize upon their inherent strengths, as opposed to their deficiencies. The articles compiled in this special, double issue serve to build a foundation upon which the wider practice community can begin to discuss and strategize about effective parenting interventions.

Of special note in this issue was the outstanding contribution of Keith M. Argue, the Journal's Articles Editor, in editing and enhancing manuscripts for this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce our intention of publishing future special issues on such topics as welfare reform, continuing education programs within universities, HIV/AIDS, and the state of faith-based initiatives. These special issues will focus on policy directions, program innovations, and research findings from a variety of perspectives. Please feel free to contact me at [srosenth@temple.edu](mailto:srosenth@temple.edu) to offer your suggestions about future special issues. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome on issues relating to the articles we publish on continuing education.

Also, please visit our website at <http://www.temple.edu/professionaldevelopment> to find pertinent information about subscription and manuscript submission.

---

*Seymour J. Rosenthal is former Director of the Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Associate Dean for Research and Community Development, and currently Professor, School of Social Administration, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122.*