The special section of this issue of Reflections includes two stories and a poem sharing experiences in the teaching and learning process from multiple perspectives. The practice community provides a rich context of learning for students, academic faculty, and community practitioners: It presents opportunities to amplify the teaching and learning process; examine external and internal forces that support and hinder the development of knowledge and skill; and integrate theory and practical application while engaged in the actual experience. Most educational programs for the helping professions provide students with hands on training. In social work education we use the term "field work" or "internships" for this guided learning model. In academic institutions, we might participate in this mind-expanding experience when we take a sabbatical leave to return to the world of a practice about which we teach. Community agency staff similarly enter this exciting arena of learning when they supervise students and work toward mutually defined educational goals. The unifying force that links each of these arenas of teaching and learning is the interaction between the individual and the environment which enhances the cultivation of knowledge and its application to other avenues of our personal and professional selves. "At the Edge of Discovery: A Year in AIDS" by Robert Neubauer relates a journey of personal and professional enlightenment while "testing the currency of his knowledge and skill" in a return to practice. Stacey Peyer and Kelley Anne Berglund, in "Who's Teaching Whom," share dialogue of growth during a year as student and field instructor "moving through pain and mistakes of their pasts, opening their hearts to an incredible journey" that has had significant impact in their professional and personal lives. Eleanor Nay-Chiles writes about "The Heart of Social Work" on the occasion of being chosen as one of five recipients of the National Heart of Social Work Award in 1997. I invite you to enjoy the stories of these individuals as they embrace their professional growth with passion and tenacity; perhaps it will spark memories of your own stories that you too can share with others.

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Eleanor Nay-Chiles was the recipient of the 1997 Heart of Social Work Award at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in Chicago.