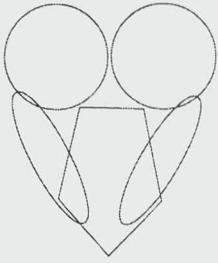


SPECIAL SERIES

Teaching and Learning

Special Editor: Janet Black



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

The Heart of Social Work by Eleanor Nay-Chiles

A profession of community, of caring and hope
A profession whose goal is to help people cope
A profession of change and adjustment to living
A profession to balance the taking and giving

How do we teach the Marvelous Mystery
The skill for today and respect for our history
The Values and Ethics, the Group and the Ego
Assessment and intervention in Micro and Macro

We must listen and learn as we try to impart
What to some is a science, must be learned as an art
In each learner's style is a kernel of truth
And knowledge is stored until it grows into use.

In a People's Profession where We are the tool
The lessons of life are not all in the school
Though content and theory are a valuable part
If the seed is to flourish, it must be touched by the HEART.

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.

Janet Black, Ph.D., is Interim Director for the Department of Social Work and Director of Field Education at California State University, Long Beach.

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.

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