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From the Editorial Desk

Devika Dibya Choudhuri
Eastern Michigan University

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Devika Dibya Choudhuri, PhD
Editor

This Fall 2003 issue of the Journal of the Michigan Counseling Association is a historical first as it appears to you as an online issue. Based on the budget constraints, the Michigan Counseling Association General Assembly voted to place the journal as an online edition, to save on printing and postage costs. The layout and content of the journal however still aspire to the same high standards that made this journal a winner two years running in the American Counseling Association Best Journal, large branch award category. Given no restrictions on space and cost, we were also able to publish a fifth manuscript in this issue.

This issue of the journal seeks to cover the research, theory, and practice dimensions of our profession. The lead article, by Dr. Breland-Noble, Wanda Collins, and Jennifer King explores the critical issue of color consciousness and the impact of skin tone for African Americans, using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The former methods testify to the generalizability of the findings, while the latter add depth and richness to the experiences and meanings made of these issues.

The second article, by Drs' John and Cathy Pietrofesa, together with John David Pietrofesa, looks at the changes in the Michigan law regarding expert witness testimony, and offers important ways that counselors can be cognizant of the implications of this law and prepare for a potential role as an expert witness. Given the increasing prevalence of expert witness testimony in all kinds of cases involving custody, divorce, child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, or workers compensation, this is a much needed guide.

This issue's third article, by Dr. Abeer Abdo, Dr. Jerome M. Fischer, and Dr. Dan Kmitta describes a research project investigating the use of the Parental Alliance Measure (PAM) with women parenting children with disabilities. The article has implications for counselors in the use of this measure to understand parenting dynamics, develop strategies, and increase involvement in the therapeutic process.

Finally, we conclude with two In the Field articles. The first by Dr. Paul Lavin, a former contributor to this journal, presents a home response-cost behavior modification system that counselors can use with children with ADHD who have not been successful with positive reinforcement programs.

The second article in this section by Dr. Patrick Morrisette and Roberta Graham is an opinion piece on the impact on family dynamics of children's involvement in sports. Using observations, informal interviews, and case vignettes, the authors raise interesting concerns and discussion about triangulation, conflict, parental perspectives, commitments, and roles.

Devika Dibya Choudhuri, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Leadership and Counseling at Eastern Michigan University and is the Editor of Dimensions of Counseling: Research, Theory and Practice.

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