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Inaugural Issue of the Scholarship Review

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Inaugural Issue of the Scholarship Review

H. LUIS VARGAS

Editor

This inaugural issue reflects the influence and impassioned support of several key administrators, faculty, clinicians and training professionals. Specifically, the launch of the Scholarship Review was made possible initially by the affirming encouragement of Dr. Linda Osterlund, Vice Provost at Regis University; and most recently, the scope of the journal was advanced by Dr. Anibal R. Torres-Bernal, Associate Dean of the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy at Regis University. Additionally, Drs. Jennifer T. Cates and Thomas D. Lonneman-Doroff, Chairs of the Department of Couple and Family Therapy and the Department of Counseling, respectively, helped to sustain the motivation underlying this journal. Most of all, this journal is especially indebted to Erin McCaffrey, Digital Initiatives & Preservation Librarian, and Hannah Miller, Digital Collections Librarian, at Regis University. Without McCaffrey and Miller's enthusiasm, guidance and work, this journal would not exist.

Associate Editors

The journal's associate editors are comprised of ranked faculty at Regis University's Division of Counseling and Family Therapy and includes Professor Steven B. Bennett, senior faculty at the Division, whose influence was instrumental in getting manuscripts submitted for our inaugural issue. Professor Martin K. Munoz's breadth of knowledge helped cultivate the journal's wide angle vision. Professor John F. Arman has served on several editorial boards, both on-line and hard copy; while Dr. Lindsay L. Edwards' work as associate editor of an established international journal anchors this journal's editorial board efforts.

Editorial Board

The journal's editorial board is predominantly comprised of graduate school program directors, department chairs and/or dedicated faculty from 14 universities across the United States. The editorial board includes licensed clinical psychologists, marital and family therapists and licensed professional counselors. In addition, the board includes private practice clinicians, several of whom are public personalities. Moreover, the journal proudly includes clinical directors and training supervisors from community-based treatment organizations.

Notable scholars on the editorial board include Professor Ian E. Wickramasekera, II, of Naropa University, Boulder, CO. Professor Wickramasekera, II, a licensed psychologist, has published extensively in hypnosis and empathy and developed research and theory involving biofeedback, Dzogchen, empathy, meditation, near death phenomena, psychophysiology, Shamanism, spirituality, and transpersonal experiences. Professor Wickramasekera is a recipient of the Clark L. Hull award for scientific writing. Professor Louis Hoffman is a faculty member at Saybrook University and licensed psychologist extensively published in humanistic psychology and multiculturalism. He has over 10 books published. Professor Hoffman is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the University Professors Press and serves on the editorial board for several leading journals. He is a past president of the Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Division 32) and current President of the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Counseling and Psychological Association. Dr.

Jason Platt has expertise in cross-cultural immersion phenomena. Dr. Platt has presented internationally and published on liberation psychology. Dr. Platt's work on cross-cultural immersion is regularly cited by scholars in the field.

The associate and editorial Board members were invited based on evidence of their enthusiasm for expanded education and clinical training. Knowing that no one fails or succeeds alone, I was compelled to invite my immediate colleagues at Regis University to serve as associate editors. Their collective work in counseling and family therapy helped to set the roots and broaden the editorial foundation of the Scholarship Review. Members of the editorial board branch in from throughout the United States, representing diversity in thought and university culture.

Mission of the Scholarship Review

The field of behavioral and mental health requires clinicians and the academics who train clinicians maintain active and reflective participation in order to promote socially relevant training and professional practice. As such, a reasonable expectation is that we acknowledge, critically consider and integrate the broad range of information, insights and knowledge found in our increasingly integrative social world. The work of clinicians requires inquiry, reflection, insight and courage to invite disparate perspectives that would otherwise remain stigmatized, marginalized and invisible, or reserved for private reflection. While the dominant political worldviews continue to shape our collective reality box, my hope as Editor is to provide a publication platform for authors who engage a differentiated relationship to information and knowledge. In my view, our profession requires a platform to accommodate an ever-expanding body of information and knowledge from the fringes. My aim is to have this publication platform be the foundation for a jungle-gym of the mind where readers may find content that promotes higher-level insights and inspires breadth of considerations, thereby stretching our collective reality box. A more expanded reality box provides clinicians and academics the opportunity to engage discourse on information along the margins of dominant experiences, effectively improving the provision of their clinical services and education.

Inaugural Issue of the Scholarship Review

The articles published in this first issue of the first volume of the Scholarship Review accomplish the mission of this journal in that they collectively challenge assumptions on coping, belonging, vulnerability, differentiation, and courtesy. The articles offer perspective and invite reflection to promote breadth of knowledge.

Deb Coolhart, Anibal R. Torres-Bernal and Kimby Le present results of a University-based qualitative study that compared transgender and cisgender individuals on self-reported psychological symptomology and family functioning. Transgender and cisgender participants of this study did not differ significantly on family functioning. Transgender participants, however, reported fewer psychological symptoms. Despite lower levels of income and education, results of the Coolhart, Torres-Bernal and Le study suggest transgender individuals of this study may lean on unique traits to more effectively cope with stressors.

Martin Baker encourages meaningful reflection on *belonging*. Baker explores belonging as a heroic journey of growth, forever in relationship between remembrance of our childhood innocence and remembering of what authentic belonging feels like, which Baker describes as a homecoming.

Soo Pak shares her unique personal story to provide meaningful and powerful insight to the underworld of human life and the measures taken to protect ourselves from its inherent darkness. Pak suggests it is through our wounds that compassion and beauty, understanding and humility are born; the key is to invite vulnerability.

Lea Powell explores social networking norms with a focus on their contribution towards increased levels of social disengagement and disconnection. Powell encourages readers to establish a differentiated relationship with technology and social media.

Erica Vaiser invites the reader into a critical journey on the virtue of courtesy. Vaiser builds on Robert Sardello's definition of courtesy as a virtue to examine the mutual space between individual souls. As the nature of the individual soul cannot be expressed in solitude, the relationship between client and therapist most closely represents the process of creating a shared space for one's soul to enunciate its existence.

As Editor of the Scholarship Review, I had the honor of studying and learning from each of our authors about the importance of contextualizing experience. I hope you find inspiration in the insightful articles published in this inaugural issue.