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ABSTRACTS OF MASTER'S THESES, 2004
SMITH COLLEGE SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL WORK

ASALMAH K. ABDULBAAQEE, Antecedents That Are Characteristic to Adult Males' Sexual Offending Behaviors

This study examines the behavior and attitudes of adult male sexual offenders. It is a qualitative, exploratory study aimed at identifying antecedents that are common to adult male sexual offending behaviors. The overriding goal for this study is to identify what reoccurring factors or themes serve as common denominators in self-identified sexual offenders. This goal emerged into four hypotheses: (1) Sexual offenders do not voluntarily seek treatment for their offenses; (2) Sexual offenders fantasize about sexual fantasies before they sexually offend; (3) Sexual offenders have a history of abuse; and (4) Sexual offenders have exposure to pornographic materials.

Findings from this research are based upon self-reports of registered sexual offenders using the Ambivalent Sexism Inventory and Offender Information Sheet. This inventory is designed to measure two forms of traditional gender ideologies: hostile sexism (HS) and benevolent sexism (BS). HS is adversarial and expresses derogatory attitudes toward women and BS is more traditional, viewing women as needing to be protected by men.

The results of this study are inconclusive due to the small sample size and its inability to determine significance in data analysis. However, some inferences were observed that were consistent with other research. For example, the majority of the men in this study used or viewed pornography, which is often found to be common among sexually offending behaviors. This study also found that the majority of these men were receptive and voluntarily sought treatment for their offending behaviors, which is different from the generalized perceptions of others.

CHERYL A. ALEXANDER, Understanding the Experiences: Exploring the Effects of Physical Restraints on Previously Traumatized Adolescents

This study was undertaken to explore the effects of physical restraints on previously traumatized, adolescent patients, and to examine the relationships that exist between psychological trauma and physical restraints.

Seven adult individuals who identified as having had trauma histories prior to experiences with physical restraint during their adolescence

participated in this study. Demographic and qualitative data were collected. Demographic questions pertained to the age, gender, racial/ethnic identity, family income, and education level of each participant. The qualitative questions were open-ended, semi-structured, and retrospective and included inquiry into participants' thoughts about what their treaters had understood about their prior histories.

All participants reported to have developed traumatic symptoms in response to experiences with restraints, most notably feelings of anger, powerlessness, confusion, loss of control, an inability to trust, and nightmares about specific incidences of restraint.

A major conclusion of this study was that restraint procedures did not appear to incorporate the therapeutic concept of empowerment espoused by trauma theory.

LYNNE MARIE ANDERSON, The Resiliency of Women in Substance Abuse Recovery Who Came From a Childhood of Abuse

This research study explores the resiliency of women in substance abuse recovery who came from a childhood of abuse. Resiliency in this context means the ability to rebound from adversity allowing for context to be woven throughout the life span of the person. Resiliency reflects a process by which adaptations from past trauma are transformed into strengths in current life. This population of women has not been studied in the literature.

A sample of nine women were culled from flyers from local therapist's office and handed out at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. The women were questioned about their childhood of abuse, the beginnings of their use of substances, during addiction, and the factors that lead them to recovery, how they have lead their lives in recovery and what behavioral characteristics were developed during their childhood that has sustained them through recovery.

The most resilient women were found to have more characteristics similar to those noted in the resiliency literature, including intelligence, attachment to a caregiver or other supportive adult, and attribution of blame to the perpetrator. Other factors such as high prevalence of an eating disorder and a drive to survive or tenacity were also discovered. Further research with this population would aid other women in early sobriety.

AMANDA C. ANTENUCCI, Sex Legislation: Government Funding of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Sex Education Programs and the Implications for Queer Youth

This policy analysis examines government funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education and how these programs alienate queer youth. Abstinence-only-until-marriage assumes that all youth will eventually marry, therefore the existence of queer adolescent sexuality is denied. By excluding the needs of queer youth, abstinence-only agendas put these young people at increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and ultimately, social isolation.

Believing that youth are likely to engage in sexual activity if given information about contraception, conservative lawmakers and activists designed abstinence-only programs to promote chastity as the sole option for unmarried people. Three federal funding streams have been created to provide grants for abstinence-only education: The Adolescent Family Life Act, section 510(b) of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, and Special Projects of Regional and National Significance-Community Based Abstinence Education. Programs designed to make money available to only the most conservative agendas.

The Bush administration has continued to develop more restrictive criteria for abstinence education grants as well as increased the amount of federal dollars spent in the no sex outside of marriage arena. This paper suggests that current political trends focused on promoting heterosexual marriage exist as an endorsement of conservative values, if not a backlash against people seeking same-sex marriage rights. Despite the fact that there is no reliable evidence proving an abstinence-only approach to be effective, cash-poor school districts across the nation have accepted abstinence-only funding and are therefore promoting conservative values regarding sexuality.

CLAIRE ARCHARD, Empowering the Therapist: The Role of Self-Awareness And Self-Acceptance in the Treatment of Patients Diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder

This qualitative study explored psychotherapists' experience of their own learning and growth when working with patients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (according to DSM-IV-TR criteria), and the impact of their experience on their personal development and on the therapeutic process. The study was based on an understanding that the effec-

tive treatment of borderline psychopathology requires a capacity on the part of the therapist to continually identify and address ongoing issues of empathy, self-hate, intimacy and aggression within herself.

The twelve psychotherapists who participated in the study were social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists, averaging at least twenty years of experience in the field. They were recruited through snowball sampling.

The major finding of the study was that the growth of self-awareness and self-acceptance, particularly relating to issues of perceived imperfection, deficits and vulnerabilities, was essential in facilitating an authentic and compassionate response to patients' projections and externalizations of empathic deficits, self-hate, and aggression both inside and outside the therapeutic relationship.

The study argued that definitions of empathy should include the concepts of belief in and compassion for the patient, the experience of hate and rage in the therapist, and should embrace an understanding of the physical dimension of empathic attunement and the concept of the body as co-therapist. In addition the study highlighted the importance of including the role of aggression and hostility in defining intimacy.

The study also underscored the seminal importance of projective identification in understanding many of the psychotherapists' lack of awareness and recognition of the experience of self-hate within themselves when treating patients with borderline psychopathology.

The findings highlight important qualities in the learning and growth of psychotherapists when working with patients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, those of commitment to learning from the patient and to understanding and learning about themselves.

KENTA ASAKURA, Dichotomy Between Racial and Sexual Identities: An Exploratory Study of the Double Minority Status Among Gay Men of Asian Descent in the U.S.

The present study explored gay men of Asian descent (GMAD) and their double minority status as being gay and as a person of color in the United States. The purpose of this research was to empirically examine and understand the GMAD's complex dual-identity development, which existing literature and theory had neglected.

In-depth qualitative interviews were conducted with ten study participants, who self-identified as GMAD, and were sampled from the Seattle, WA area. Participants were recruited through various social organizations/groups as well as through personal referrals, and interviewed regarding their experiences and meanings of being a GMAD and their double-minority status in the United States. Participants' ethnic backgrounds, immigration history (for overseas-born participants), generational status (for American-born participants), and degrees of being "out" as gay men varied.

The following four major themes emerged as the findings: GMAD identified with being gay more strongly then being Asian. GMAD struggled with homophobia in their Asian ethnic cultures and communities. GMAD struggled with the racial stereotypes and discrimination both in the mainstream gay community and in a larger American society. GMAD struggled to integrate their racial/ethnic identity and gay sexual identity.

Each of the major themes is reviewed in relations to previous literature, while limitations of the study are noted. Finally, implications for clinical social work practice with GMAD population as well as recommendations for further research are discussed.

JEFFREY ASMAR, Multicultural Organizational Development and Community Supported Agriculture: A Theoretical Study

This theoretical thesis examines the conceptual foundations of multicultural organizational development and Community Supported Agriculture. It attempts to integrate these two separate ideological constructs through the use of the case example of the Holcomb Farm Community Supported Agriculture Project located in Granby, CT.

First, the study reviews the body of literature pertaining to multicultural organizational development. Then, it examines the theoretical foundations and social exclusivity concerns of the Community Supported Agriculture movement as a whole. Finally, in an effort at integrating these two separate conceptual constructs, the author conducts a multicultural organizational assessment of the Holcomb Farm Community Supported Agriculture Project. This case example identifies the barriers to participation of poor, urban-dwelling, people of color in this communal farm and identifies possible interventions intended to promote greater diversity in the project, including: the creation of a multicultural internal change team; the promotion of individual multicultural development; and the articulation of an explicit commitment to diversity development.

This case study provides a practical example of the synthesis of the theoretical literature pertaining to multicultural organizational development and Community Supported Agriculture. It also demonstrates the import of examining the role that institutionalized racism plays in restricting the ability of public and private organizations to adequately serve marginalized populations. Finally, the author calls for the development of suitable programs and of appropriate means of service delivery specifically tailored to meet the needs of under-served populations.

APRIL KAVANAGH BALLARD, (Health Care for the Homeless, Baltimore, MD) Enduring the Trauma of Homelessness: Stories of Strength, Resilience and Survival

This study explored how people cope with the experience of homelessness. The histories of homeless people often include traumatic experiences and the experience of becoming homeless and the on-going daily challenges of homelessness have also been conceptualized as trauma (Goodman, Saxe, & Harvey, 1991). In spite of their traumatic past and present, people who are homeless survive and persevere.

Semi-structured open-ended interviews were conducted with a small sample of homeless men and women. Interviews focused on three major topics: 1) personal histories before homelessness, including traumatic experiences, 2) daily life experiences during homelessness, and 3) personal strengths and coping mechanisms used to face the on-going experience of homelessness.

The findings fit into eight broad categories of coping and strengths: 1) getting help from other homeless people and helping others in return, 2) developing a support network and sense of community, 3) isolation and avoidance of others, 4) street smarts and knowledge of resources, 5) accessing drug and alcohol treatment and developing a support network through the recovery community, 6) reconnecting with family, 7) spirituality and faith, and 8) telling one's life story.

AMANDA BARNUM, How do Mediators of Different Professional Backgrounds Define And Pursue Success? A Qualitative Study of Mediators from Social Work, Law, and Religious Leadership

This study was conducted in order to determine to what extent professional background is a significant factor in how inter-disciplinary mediators define and pursue success. The central goal of this research project was to examine how mediators from the backgrounds of social work, law, and religious leadership relate their previous professional socialization to their current practice of mediation.

Twelve research participants were selected, four from each profession of origin. All mediators had ten or more years of mediation experience. These mediators were surveyed and interviewed about the following aspects of their mediation practice: 1) views of conflict and its role in relationships, 2) mediator style, 3) mediator values and skills, 4) definitions of success, 5) professional comparisons, co-mediation and referrals, 6) addressing power imbalances.

The major conclusion of this work is that respondents from all professional backgrounds, when approaching the actual process of mediation, named other factors that were more significant than their profession of origin: years of experience, training orientation, style, and gender balance (in regard to co-mediation). The second main conclusion is professional background was a significant factor with regard to conflicts requiring specialized knowledge. Respondents shared that their referral practices took into account the unique substantive knowledge of inter-disciplinary mediators.

SARAH BASHIR, Animals and Psychotherapy: An Exploratory Study of Therapists' Perceptions of Animal-Assisted Therapy

This study was undertaken to explore therapists' perceptions of animal-assisted therapy with adult clients. In particular, therapists were asked to describe the functions, advantages, and disadvantages of animal-assisted therapy based on their psychotherapy practices. It was hoped that this study could provide insight into the use of animal-assisted therapy with adults, since there is a lack of research on this specific topic.

Seven mental health professionals were interviewed about their experiences. They came from several disciplines and each had variety in training, and had been practicing for several years. Most of the participants worked with dogs in psychotherapy, though one participant worked with cats. All participants were asked to discuss their psychotherapy practices, including how they incorporated animals into their work.

The findings of this study showed that these participants found animal-assisted therapy to be quite useful as part of treatment with adults. It appears that animal-assisted therapy is helpful in engaging clients, developing the therapeutic relationship, and helping clients to work through their concerns. The findings also suggest that therapists benefit from the positive physiological, psychological, and social effects of animal-assisted therapy. Thus, it seems that this study supports the literature, showing that animal-assisted therapy is a beneficial tool with adults in psychotherapy.

RACHEL G. BENSINGER, A Look into the Lives of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

This study was conducted to examine the unique experiences of adults living with Asperger's Syndrome (AS). Qualitative data was collected to determine the challenges that individuals diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome face in adulthood. Most of the current research on AS focuses on childhood and overlooks the manifestations of symptoms in

adulthood. This project was designed to give voice to an unheard population and contribute to emerging research on AS.

Eleven adults with a formal diagnosis of AS were recruited through Internet web sites specific to Asperger's Syndrome. Eight women and three men were interviewed either by phone, email or in person. Each participant was asked to describe how AS impacts their life in the primary areas of relationships, employment and school.

The findings of the study exposed varying outcomes for adults with AS specific to individual characteristics and life circumstances. The data revealed high-functioning adults who use creative methods of coping with AS to adapt to their environments.

Understanding the impact of the signs and symptoms in adults may help the general population adjust to meet their needs.

GRANT BIALEK, How Male Social Work Clinicians Maintain Their Professional Integrity When Sexually Attracted To Their Clients

This study was undertaken to discover how male social work clinicians maintain their professional integrity when sexually attracted to their patients. From reviewing the literature, it was expected that participants would be sexually attracted to some clients, feel uncomfortable as a result of their attraction, generally feel inadequately prepared to deal with their attraction, and be unsure how to manage it. The study was intended to explore how participants felt and thought about their attraction, and how they maintained their integrity and avoided boundary violations.

Nine participants were interviewed using an interview guide formulated with reference to the literature and previous studies on the issue. Participants were asked a series of questions to assess how they experienced, what they thought, what they did, and how they were prepared to deal with feeling sexually attracted to a client.

Findings showed that attraction is generally comprised of physiological sensations, thoughts and feelings; participants believe that being in a stable relationship helped them manage their attraction; it seems normal and is usually uncomfortable to feel attracted to a client; a well managed attraction can benefit the therapy; and most participants feel inadequately prepared to deal with the issue.

Increased education regarding erotic countertransference may serve to differentiate the issue from that of boundary violations such that clinician competence can be enhanced as discomfort decreases, and so that supervision may serve as a better support for addressing the issue so that clients can reap the benefits of a successfully managed attraction.

STACIE BILOWZ, Exercise As A Useful Treatment For Depression And Anxiety: The Way In Which Mental Health Clinics Are Incorporating Exercise Into The Treatment Of Their Clients

The purpose of this research study is to examine how mental health agencies incorporate exercise into the treatment of clients diagnosed with depression and/or anxiety. This thesis was inspired by observing the sedentary behavior of the clients in a day program and the consequent weight gain as a result of psychotropic medication.

Research illustrated that exercise can successfully combat symptoms of depression and anxiety as well as obesity. The thesis sought to investigate the way in which workers in the mental health field have gone about incorporating exercise into the treatment of clients with depression and anxiety, what difficulties they may have faced, and what kind of support was received.

There were ten participants who were interviewed by telephone conferences which lasted between 25-50 minutes. The participants come from a variety of backgrounds in the mental health field. All had extensive knowledge in exercise and many had backgrounds in movement, dance, or martial arts.

The most noteworthy findings showed that the staff members were consistently supportive of exercise; that clients responded favorably to exercise groups; that meditative and movement exercise groups were the most common types of exercise used; and that the participants found that exercise had positive effects on their lives.

Further research is warranted in this area. It would be beneficial to explore why programs may not use exercise a part of the treatment of their clients and what impedes exercise groups from being formed.

JENNIFER BOBROW, Invented Worlds: The Role of Fantasy for Adult Survivors of Child Abuse

This study was undertaken to explore the role of fantasy in the lives of adult survivors of child abuse and to determine if this defense was an effective coping strategy for managing the abuse. Additionally, this study examined the impact of the client's use of fantasy on the therapeutic relationship and explored treatment implications that emerged.

Eleven licensed therapists who worked with adult survivors of childhood trauma and abuse were interviewed and asked about the abuse history, use of fantasy, and treatment of one of their clients. The findings of the research showed that fantasy took on a variety of shapes for clients ranging from personifying a stuffed animal to creating split off parts of

the self in the ways of alters. The themes of the fantasies included attempts to escape the abuse, control the abusive situation, and obtain protection and fill unmet wishes and needs in their relationships as children. The findings revealed that there was a relationship between clients' abuse experiences and use of fantasy and that most clinicians believed that their client's use of fantasy was extremely adaptive at the time of abuse. Future research is warranted in the areas of fantasy and child abuse and should include interviews with abuse survivors directly.

JESSICA E. BONDI, Relational Aggression in College Women: A Qualitative Study

This study sought to determine whether female college students experience relational aggression, a form of aggression that uses the manipulation of relationships and the threat of social exclusion to harm others (Werner & Crick, 1999), and to gain a greater understanding of those experiences.

This project was undertaken in light of research suggesting the prevalence of relational aggression in younger girls, and its negative influence on social-psychological adjustment. In addition, previous research, specifically those using qualitative methods, had not explored relational aggression in young adults.

Semi-structured interviews were used to explore female college students' experiences of relational aggression in fourteen female college students, of European-American descent, who attended private liberal arts colleges in New England at the time of study.

Major findings included participants' discomfort with conflict; with the experience and expression of anger; methods of conflict avoidance, such as ignoring and withdrawing; triggers of relational aggression, such as living situations, competition for social status and alcohol use; and a sense of ambiguity about conflict in participants' friendships.

Implications for clinical practice are suggested, including training for college personnel to help female students mediate conflict, group interventions, and recommendations for prevention strategies in children.

LIZA BROWN, Does Mainstream Sex Education Speak to the Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Adolescents?

This study was undertaken to explore the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) adolescents in mainstream sex education and the ways in which mainstream sex education programs relate to or exclude the experiences of GLBT adolescents, as is reflected in the current and historical representations of GLBT individuals in schools. media and societv in general.

Thirteen GLBT males and females between the ages of 18 and 21 were interviewed and asked to reflect upon their experiences in public school sex education programs. Questions elicited information about participants' expectations of their school sex education programs, actual content of their sex education programs and the inclusion or exclusion of GLBT issues, participants' personal experiences of school sex education and recommendations for the future of sex education.

The major findings included respondents' minimal hopes and expectations for sex education programs due to varying degrees of apprehension that they attributed to their discomfort with the topic of sexuality in general and experiences of homophobia in the school and community. Respondents described discomfort and disappointment that was often acutely linked to the particular experience or awareness of having a stigmatized sexual identity. The majority of respondents described disappointments at not learning about GLBT identities or issues in their sex education programs and described ways in which this negatively influenced their senses of themselves and the world around them. Being omitted caused and exacerbated feelings of alienation and shame that might contribute to the heightened risk among GLBT adolescents for substance abuse, homelessness and suicide.

CHRISTINE L. BUI, The Long-Term Effects of Marital Infidelity on Adult Children

This study was undertaken to explore the perceptions of adult children whose parent had an extramarital affair during their childhood or adolescence. The purpose of this study has been to explore the patterns of trust and intimacy in romantic relationships in adult children (ages 21 - 48) whose parent's affair occurred before they were 18 years of age. While there is substantial existing literature documenting the impact of marital infidelity on couples and young children, very little attention has been paid to adult children who experienced their parent's affair when they were young, and who are now negotiating their own intimate relationships. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 participants to gather individual recollections of growing up during their parent's affair.

The findings of the research showed that overall impaired trust was a major factor resulting from long-term parental infidelity. Participants who reported being exposed to their parents' affair reported higher levels of distrust and severe self-esteem impairment. Overall, there were no significant differences found between participants from divorced and intact family of origin. Unexpectedly, participants who experienced their

parents' remarriage as a positive model or the stepparent as positive parent substitute for the original parent seem to be able to adjust better and have fewer problems with impaired trust and adequate levels of self-esteem.

AYANA B. BURNETT, Whose Ideals Are Being Upheld: An Exploration of Oppression's Impact on the Construction of Heterosexism within the African-American Community

This deductive theoretical research study was undertaken to explore what impacts, if any, racial oppression of African descendants has had on the construction of heterosexism within the African-American community. Focus is placed upon examining the roots of divisiveness within the African-American community and the specific role oppression plays in this divisiveness. The prevailing hypothesis is that heterosexual privilege and preference within the African-American community is indeed an effect of slavery.

Three theories comprise the primary framework of this study: the theory of Oppression, Afrocentric theology, and Psychodynamic theory. The theories of Race/racism and spirituality/religion are also used as secondary frameworks of understanding. Key concepts include Sexuality, African-American community, the African world view, and oppression.

This study concludes that what African-American communities are experiencing, regarding heterosexism and homophobia, appear to be modeled after the European conceptualization of sexuality, and not the traditional African world view.

KATHLEEN MARIE CAPEN, Creative Arts Therapy in Treatment of Veterans with PTSD: A Theoretical Study

This theoretical study explored how involvement in the creative arts can be healing for veterans with PTSD. Concepts from three complementary theories, (self-psychology, creative arts therapies, and group therapy), served as the explanatory framework for synthesizing the therapeutic benefits of arts groups for veterans with PTSD. A specific art group was used as a case study to illustrate how the theories could be applied. It is the premise of this thesis that members of this art group benefit from participating for the following reasons: 1) Creative arts therapies help group members to heal by bypassing language barriers accessing those experiences for which they do not have words. 2) Selfobject twinship functions are experienced among the group members to help break the isolation that is so often experienced among trauma survivors. 3) The group serves as a mutual aid system for its members where group members benefit from helping each other.

4) Community events provide opportunities for the audience to empathize and connect with veterans. 5) Community events provide opportunities for group members to participate in social action, influencing how current and future veterans are viewed and treated in the broader society.

Creating and sharing art with others who have experienced trauma and then sharing art with the broader community appears to be healing and therapeutic for veterans with PTSD. Social workers are encouraged to learn more about the integration of art and group therapy, and to work with interdisciplinary teams to implement these therapeutic techniques.

FREDERICK J. CARLISLE, Clients' Analysis of Transpersonal Psychotherapy

This study was undertaken to explore clients' analysis of their experience with transpersonal psychotherapy. While a significant amount of literature by transpersonal theorists and psychotherapists enunciates the efficacy of transpersonal work in addressing personal and social problems, little research has investigated the experience of transpersonal clients themselves. Does subjective evidence find transpersonal work effective? If so, when and how? In what respects is it found lacking?

Due to the largely unsubstantiated claims, the present research employed a qualitative research design that was exploratory in nature. The sample was drawn from those involved with the Diamond Approach, a transpersonal school that combines Eastern spiritual wisdom with Western psychology. Nineteen volunteer subjects (10 men and 9 women) provided data through responding to semi-structured, narrative questionnaires.

The findings of the research provided strong validation that transpersonal psychotherapy, such as the Diamond Approach, has beneficial psychological and spiritual effects. The results provided guidance for effectively addressing the needs and concerns of an emerging population.

JENNIFER LYNN COLELLO, Clinician's Perspective on Effective Treatment of Adolescents who are Living with Parental Mental Illness

This exploratory study was conducted to begin to formulate clinical interventions for effective treatment for working with adolescents who are living with parental mental illness. The study involved the completion of ten individual interviews with clinical professionals in a variety of direct care settings.

The findings reveal that adolescents can benefit from a variety of treatment modalities which focus on adolescent care, education around

mental illness, and care coordination of the mentally ill parent. A range of coping strategies were identified and discussed, as were the roles of case management and other treatment modalities.

KELCIE COOKE, Restoring Justice: The Viability of Victim Offender Mediation in Cases of Domestic Violence

This study evaluated the potential of Victim Offender Mediation to be used in cases of domestic abuse from the perspective of facilitators of domestic violence support groups. By encountering and evaluating the VOM model, participants were better informed about possible justice options, empowered to critique current modes of justice, and encouraged to formulate ideas for new interventions that would respond to the emotional impact of the violence their clients had suffered while addressing their complex needs.

A qualitative, flexible, exploratory, study was used to uncover the personal and professional perspectives of facilitators of domestic violence support groups through-out a metropolitan area. Nine participants were introduced to the theory and practices of VOM, asked to evaluate its goals and methods, whether or not this model should be implemented, and if so, how. Further questions explored participants' critiques of the criminal justice system and their recommendations for appropriate forms of intervention.

The findings of this research showed respondents had many concerns about and recommendations for the appropriate application of VOM in cases of domestic violence; however, they also believed that VOM would be very beneficial to survivors of domestic violence who were healed from trauma and had been out of an abusive relationship for many years. Benefits included using VOM as a means of self expression, a place to find closure, and an opportunity for victims to feel empowered. Further data suggested that this population must be offered individualized interventions and services that sensitively and effectively meet their needs.

TARA LEIGH COSS, Women's Perspectives on the Influencing Factors of Anorexia Nervosa

This study was conducted to explore women's perspectives on the influencing factors of their anorexia. Secondly, it was undertaken to determine whether these perspectives are consistent with various causal theories of eating disorders.

Twelve women who had been diagnosed with anorexia for at least one year took part in an interview that inquired about a number of different

topics. These topics included treatment histories and effectiveness, current symptoms, family attitudes and involvement, childhood experiences and other significant factors.

The major findings of this research showed that women most often reported family factors as being significant influencing factors on their anorexia. Other factors included socio-cultural factors, personality traits and psychological factors. These findings support some of the literature presented, however due to the complexity of the disorder, the results cross multiple theories.

JENIFER B. CUTLER, Policy of Self-Care for Psychotherapists: How Agencies are Addressing the Self-Care Needs of their Mental Health Clinicians

Providing mental health services involves a series of potential risks for psychotherapists. Occupational hazards, such as burnout, depression, suicidality, substance abuse, and sexual misconduct with clients are not uncommon. As a result, job performance is compromised, boundaries with clients are crossed, and employing agencies find themselves either unable to provide quality service or in need of expending resources to replace staff in instances of employee turnover. Prior research suggests that these circumstances can be prevented or ameliorated with clinicians' attention to self-care and that employing agencies can be highly influential in self-care practices and support.

This study elicited narratives from mental health clinicians to explore precisely how various employing agencies are addressing their self-care needs. Data was acquired through semi-structured interviews with 12 clinicians from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Findings revealed a wide range of agency efforts being made to support clinicians' self-care. However, these were perceived by a number of study participants as being largely insufficient. This study identified measures that deserve particular emphasis and precaution if agencies are to adequately support the self-care needs of their clinical staff.

MATTHEW CZAPLINSKI, How Psychotherapists Understand and Work with Clients Diagnosed with Psychoses Who Report Strong Mystical, Spiritual, or Religious Experiences and Beliefs

This study sought to gain insight into how psychotherapists work with clients diagnosed with psychosis concerning issues of spirituality. Questions for research included: How do therapists distinguish between psychosis and spiritual experience reported by clients? What approaches

do therapists use with such clients? How do therapists' own spiritual backgrounds affect the therapy? How do they report that clients make meaning of experiences? Do therapists feel that spirituality is beneficial for clients diagnosed with psychosis? Do therapists report that race, culture, ethnicity, sexuality, and/or gender affect clients' meaning-making?

Seventeen experienced psychotherapists who had worked with clients diagnosed with psychosis concerning spiritual issues participated in semi-structured interviews. Findings indicated that these therapists generally felt that understanding the reality of their clients was more important than distinguishing psychosis from spiritual experience; when they did make a determination, criteria were situational and relative. Most therapists interviewed, while using a psychodynamic frame of reference, implemented a more ego-supportive approach when working with such clients, and all felt that medication could be helpful, with important caveats. Most therapists felt that their own spirituality informed their work, yet felt limited by dominant ideology and institutions in addressing spirituality. Therapists saw spirituality as an important element of client meaning-making, along with culture, community and family.

Recommendations included self-assessment and training for clinicians regarding spiritual issues in therapy, the study of first-person accounts from people diagnosed with psychosis, and acknowledgement of the importance of spirituality in assessment and treatment of clients with psychoses.

TYANN J. DECHAMBEAU, Parental Expectations of Children's Sexuality and How Those Expectations Affect the Parent-Child Relationship after a Child Discloses His or Her Homosexuality

This study was undertaken with the purpose of exploring parental expectations of children's sexuality and how those expectations affect the parent-child relationship after a child discloses his or her homosexuality. Key areas such as the gay and lesbian experience, parental attitude of homosexuality, the meaning of child's homosexual identity, parental stages of acceptance and loss, and supporting parents are used as a framework to discuss and highlight the personal experiences that these parent's had when their child said, "I'm homosexual".

This is an exploratory study using flexible, qualitative methods. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 parents. The selection criteria included the biological parents of self-identified gay and lesbian children. Parents must have one child who identifies as gay or lesbian who has come out to them formally or informally within the last 25 years, and is an adolescent or an adult at the time of the interview.

The findings showed that participants did have specific expectations on their children's sexuality, specifically that their children would be heterosexual just as they are. This expectation then lead to some negative feelings when their child disclosed that they were homosexual. However, participants in this study were fairly quick to shift those negative feelings by seeking support in organizations such as PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays).

ANTHONETTE N. DEPRIMO, Heterosexism and Mental Health: Exploring Heterosexual Privilege

This study was an exploration of the impact of heterosexism within the field of social work by asking the following research question: How does heterosexism in the workplace impact homosexual therapists? There was a surprising lack of literature devoted to the topic of heterosexism within the field of mental health. Past research focused on homophobia, issues related to homophobia, literature related to general workplace homophobia and heterosexism and clinical practice recommendations for therapist working with gay or lesbian clientele

A sample of 13 homosexual therapists were interviewed. Participants were selected from six geographic areas. Those areas included California, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee and Texas. Interviews focused on several areas of inquiry including demographics, participants' experiences of coming out at work, participants' experiences of heterosexual co-workers self disclosure, participants' experiences of institutionalized heterosexism, and incidents of heterosexism experienced by participants.

The findings of this study showed that heterosexual therapists' overt and covert self-disclosure of sexual orientation had a negative impact on their homosexual counterparts. Nearly all participants interviewed believed that their workplace was heterosexist and that they themselves had suffered incidents of heterosexism. Implications for social work practice and recommendation for future research were considered.

CAROLYN IVES DINGMAN, Aging Successfully: Experiences and Perceptions of Oldest Old Women

The purpose of this study was to explore the aging experiences of oldest old women (85 and older), examining the changes and challenges they faced during aging and the ways they adapted and coped. The study also sought to determine what conditions and traits the women felt promoted successful aging.

A flexible, exploratory design with semi-structured interviews was used for this study. The sample included 12 women between the ages of 85 and 97 who lived in or around San Jose, California. All were middle-class, reasonably healthy, English-speaking, Caucasian women living independently in apartments or single family homes.

Findings show that the women maintained optimistic outlooks despite changes in physical and cognitive functioning. They participated in productive activity and social interaction according to personal preference, or they adapted to age-related losses. More than half expressed high levels of life satisfaction. With regard to factors promoting successful aging, all 12 women stressed the importance of a positive attitude, productive activity, and social interaction. Half believed good health was important, and most were ambivalent about the importance of living independently. Religion, financial resources, marriage, and a healthy lifestyle were other factors mentioned.

The study's findings support the conclusions of Erikson (1950) and Rowe and Kahn (1998), that quality of life in old age relates to the choices individuals make as they pass through each developmental phase of the life cycle.

ELIZABETH HAMBLEN DODD, Codependency and Career Choice: A Comparison of Codependent Personality Traits Between Female MSW and MBA Students

The focus of the current study is to examine whether it is more likely that female MSW students possess codependent personality traits than first year female MBA students. A review of the existing codependency literature indicates that people who choose to enter helping professions are more likely to have codependent personality traits. The majority of this research is descriptive in nature with little empirical data to support these ideas. The purpose of the current study is to give support to the existing literature that implies that individuals who enter helping professions are prone to codependency.

10 female, MSW students and 10 female, MBA students were asked to fill out a demographic survey as well as the Friel Codependency Inventory. Students were solicited from graduate classes at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas.

The hypothesis that female MSW students would score higher on the Friel Codependency Inventory, thus exhibiting more codependent personality traits, than female MBA students was supported by the data gathered. Specifically, it was found that 60% of the MSW students fell in

the "moderate/severe codependency" range, while only 40% of the MBA students did. 40% of the MSW students fell in the "mild/moderate codependency" range, as did 40% of the MBA students. No MSW students were in the "mild/codependency" range, however, 20% of the MBA students were.

COLETTE DOWLING, Vagina Dialogues: The Developmental Underpinnings of Older Women's Fear of Losing Youth and Beauty

This thesis shows that some older women defend against their fear of the loss of youth and beauty with self-effacing methods of denial. It assumes that social pressure alone is inadequate for comprehending the severity of the problem and seeks intrapsychic explanation in the post-Freudian feminist theories of female development. These theories, from Karen Horney to Doris Bernstein, increasingly emphasize the importance of the female genital in the formation of a girl's identity and superego. Doris Bernstein, in fact, has constructed a new concept—the female superego—stating that it includes "dictates," or contents, that are unique to girls.

The paper documents examples of women's self-deprecating comments, taken from case material in the literature, and subsequently summarizes theory on female development. It shows how feminist theorists whose ideas are included in this paper have been omitted from the curricula of social work programs and psychoanalytic training institutes, and suggests a history of censorship that begins with the work of Karen Horney, the first to depart from Freud's phallocentric theory of female development.

Finally, using Bernstein's theory, the thesis argues that the dictate to be beautiful is part of the contents of the female superego, and suggests that this powerful demand underlies the extreme difficulty some women have in integrating into the body ego their aging faces and bodies. The concluding discussion offers suggestions for clinical approaches to the treatment of older women based on the intrapsychic understanding of the nature of their narcissistic deficits.

VICTORIA ELLIOTT, Is There a Connection Between Family Dynamics And the Development of Bullying and Victim Behavior in Children?

This study took place in a rural, economically disadvantaged community where the level of community violence and domestic violence had increased at an alarming rate over the past 14 years. The community's middle school has been found to have a high prevalence of bullying behavior.

The purpose of the study was to investigate differences between the family dynamics of bullies, victims, bully/victims and noninvolved students and how these differences might relate to the development of bullying and victim behavior through the use of three different measures: a demographic survey, the Family Systems Test and the Family Environment Scale.

All 159 seventh grade students in the middle school were asked to participate in the study, but only 12 of these students and their parents decided to take part in the study. Even though the group of participants was small and skewed (higher income, more intact families than in population) the phenomena of bullying and victimization were very prevalent. Therefore, the family dynamics of the four groups warrant special attention for social work and future research.

However, due to the small number of participants the results of this study must be interpreted with caution. In addition, the findings of this study cannot be generalized to other population due to its lack of racial and ethnic diversity.

DEBORAH EVANS, Lives Out of Context: Exploring American Culture's Effect on the Relationships of Immigrant Mothers and Their Daughters

This study explored the influence that American culture had on the relationships of immigrant and refugee mothers and their daughters. This study also investigated how agencies and social service providers in the United States might improve social services to this burgeoning population. Data was gathered from a sample of nine adult women who either raised a daughter or are currently raising a daughter in the United States. In many cases migration was not voluntary, but forced. Participants represent eight different countries on three continents including Africa, Asia and Europe.

Consistent with the literature, findings suggest that American culture does affect the relationships of immigrant and refugee women and their daughters in important ways. What's more, immigrant and refugee mothers value the importance of teaching their daughters about cultural traditions, religion, and life skills from their old country.

The major findings reflect the mothers' attitudes and perspectives around these areas: mothering in a new country, adaptation and acculturation, mother's guidance of daughter's learning and development, and ideas for improving social services to this population. This research

represents a vital step in increasing cross-cultural literacy and understanding while shedding light on America through the eyes of new members of American society.

JULIE FADEN, Survivors of Domestic Violence: A Descriptive Study of the Informal Support System of Women Who Have Left an Abusive Partner

This study examined domestic violence survivors' relationships with their informal support system and how these relationships affected their experience of abuse and their process of escaping it. Participants were also asked about their coping methods, self-perceptions, others' perceptions of them, and recommendations they would provide abused women and their friends and family. This understanding helps identify and clarify ways that victims can be helped and supported by friends and family to increase the likelihood of freeing themselves from the abuse.

Nine survivors of domestic violence participated in a face-to-face, semi-structured interview that lasted for a period of one to two hours. All participants were English-speaking, female adults who had been free of abuse for at least one year.

This study found that abused women tend to become isolated from their informal support system during the abusive relationship, but are able to resume or rebuild these relationships, or form new ones, once the abuse ends. The majority of the reactions to the abuse that the women received were supportive, but few friends and family were aware of or acknowledged the abuse. A few of the responses were negative as well. These findings illustrate the lack of awareness and communication around domestic violence, highlighting the need for increased education and research to address it.

NICOLE R. FALCONE, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Narrative Therapy, and Resilience Theory: Integrating Theories of Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder

This study attempts to answer the question of how DBT, narrative therapy and resilience theory advance general theory of borderline personality disorder, the understanding of the needs of people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and the utility of treatment in professional practice. Aspects of theoretical overlap are considered, as are ways in which the theories may enhance or contradict each other. This study presents succinct formulations of each theory drawn from literature

and does not present original data. The reader is given the theoretical context of each approach and an understanding of how each approach applies or might be applied to treatment of borderline personality disorder. The need for further empirical studies of these approaches is also considered. In examining narrative therapy and resilience theory I argue that narrative therapy would be effective in the areas (areas that I see as related to each other) that DBT has not been effective in treating: depression, hopelessness, reason for living and suicidal ideation. DBT may be more appropriate for someone that is having difficulty managing emotions and narrative therapy may be more appropriate with someone that is struggling with making meaning of their past, present and future. Ultimately, integrating the theories in treatment would be most likely to foster resilience.

ELIZABETH E. FIFE, If Johnny Threw Rocks at the Police Would You? A Theoretical Thesis Exploring the Individual's Participation in Political Protest Violence

This study was undertaken to explore the individual's participation in political protest violence. What happens to the individual within the context of a political protest? What dynamics influence that individual's behavior? Specifically, what elements affect the individual participating in protest violence when violence is outside of her personal norms?

In order to better understand the nature of protest violence, theories of aggression and violence are explored as well as theories of group behavior. Social identity theory is also investigated as a tool for addressing the affect of group membership on the individual's behavior. Additionally, an overview of the history of political protest in the United States is presented in order to provide the appropriate context for discourse on the subject.

The major conclusions of this study suggest that, based on social identity theory, the individual participates in political protest violence in order to not threaten those aspects of the self that are derived from the relevant group membership. By participating in protest violence with other members of the esteemed group, the individual solidifies her status as a group member, thereby enhancing her own self-esteem and self-concept.

JANE ELIZABETH FISHER, Reaching Through the Wires and Tubes to the Heart of the Patient: The Understanding and Use of Compassion in Western Medical Practice

This study investigated how physician specialists and patients with life-threatening illness understand the nature and use of compassion

within the patient-physician relationship including the language and actions that communicate compassion; whether or not compassion can be learned; the usefulness of compassion from the perspective of both physicians and patients; barriers to compassion in medical practice; beliefs about the effect that physicians' compassion has on the outcome of illness; and similarities and differences between participants' understanding of compassion and compassion as understood within the contexts and practices of Mahayana Buddhism.

The principal reason for undertaking the study was to enhance the growing body of knowledge about the practice of compassion as an adjunct to medical treatment and healing. Five patients with life-threatening illnesses and five physician specialists with extensive experience treating seriously ill patients were interviewed individually. The major finding of the study was that both patients and physicians believe that compassion can positively affect recovery from illness.

Additional findings identified specific behavior and emotions reflecting compassion; the consistent agreement among doctors and patients about the barriers to compassion; specific positive effects of a physician's compassion on his or her patients' emotional states and healing process; and that verified agreement among patients that compassion has a direct effect on the actual outcome of illness.

Finally, study results demonstrated new ways that physicians can communicate compassion to patients in spite of barriers.

AMY GEORGE, The Nature of Sponsorship in Alcholics Anonymous: Planting the Seeds of Recovery with Experience, Strength and Hope

This independent investigation studied the nature and role of sponsorship in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. The aim of this study is to help clinicians treating clients who may be involved in AA or who they may recommend attend AA, develop a deeper understanding of the sponsor/sponsee relationship.

A total of ten sponsors in the program of AA participated in this study. Data was gathered through a demographic survey and a face to face interview. Four participants were women and six were men. Questions they were asked regarded their experiences as a sponsor, for example, what they see as possible roadblocks, what is successful sponsorship, how they define sponsorship and what their favorite part of sponsorship is. Data was coded for common themes.

The thematic findings across participants were the notions that sponsors must be "available" for their sponsees both physically and

mentally, that sponsors act as a "power of example," and that they are friends and guides" to their sponsees. It was also found that sponsors find that it helps them to maintain their own sobriety by helping another person, that when they have to share their "experience, strength and hope" they have a better chance of staying sober themselves.

HANNAH S. GOLUB, Attachment Perspectives: How Adults Adopted as Infants Experience Attachment to their Adoptive Parents

From an attachment perspective, adoptive relationships involve many circumstances. This study specifically looks at adoption through the attachment lens by exploring attachment issues of adult adoptive children and their adoptive families. Focus is placed on the relationship between adoptees and their adoptive parents from the perspective of the adult-child. In particular, how do adults adopted as children experience their attachment to their adoptive parents.

In order to understand attachment from the perspective of the adoptee, fifty adult-adoptees were studied. The findings of the study showed that the largest group of the subjects (40%) fell within secure attachment but that the majority of the subjects (60%) identified attachment styles that were not secure.

L. C. GONZALEZ, Colombian Immigrants Identify and Define Political Violence and Its Effect on Acculturation in the U.S.

This study was undertaken to identify how adolescent pre-immigration exposure to politically motivated events affects the acculturation process of young Colombian immigrants in the U.S, as well as how each individual defines political violence and the level of exposure they have endured.

Interviews were conducted by the researcher in Spanish with ten Colombian immigrants who lived part or all of their adolescence in Colombia and who are immigrants in the New England region of the U.S. The participants answered questions about life in Colombia prior to migration, their personal immigration story, individual understanding of political violence pre and post migration, experiences detailing political violence, acculturation and perception of their future as immigrants. Findings detailed how the effects of exposure to political violence pre-migration were mirrored in the participant's personality development, their manner of acculturation and their need to create meaning to the existence of this phenomenon in their lives. Issues of race and ethnic discrimination, although not part of the questions in this study, were also extremely relevant for all participants.

LINDY E. GRAHAM, The Tree Model and Facilitated Joint Brainstorming: An Examination of Two Theoretical Models For Intergroup Conflict Resolution

The purpose of this study was to examine two theoretically-informed models for intergroup conflict resolution. One model examined was the Tree Model, developed by University of Virginia Medical School's Center for the Study of Mind and Human Interaction. Developed by Vamik Volkan (1999), the Tree Model is based on the principles of psychoanalytic theory.

The second model examined was the Facilitated Joint Brainstorming model from the Harvard Negotiation Project of Harvard Business School. Developed by Roger Fisher (1996), the Facilitated Joint Brainstorming Model is based on the principles of social exchange theory.

The two models were examined through Kettner's (1975) ten-component framework for comparing models. The ten components are as follows: the author's point of view, the theoretical underpinnings of each model, the level of intervention, the target group, the nature and role of the facilitator, the decision-making process, the degree of specificity, the process, the value premises, and the model's research base.

The models were also examined to assess strengths and weaknesses. A proposal for a model that combines components of both models was discussed for the benefit of future conflict resolution work.

NAOMI GREENBERG, An Exploratory Study of Coping Styles and Resiliency Among Transgender Youth

This study was conducted to explore the various coping styles and resiliency of transgender youth. Eighteen adult participants, who self identified currently, and prior to age nineteen, were interviewed for the study. The study employed a fixed method's approach to the interviews which were conducted in person, by phone and over the Internet. The participants shared, through their narrative answers to the interview questions, various perspectives on the roles and impact of family, peers, social institutions, religion, mental health and medical systems on their ability to cope with their transgender identity. In addition, participants were able to communicate their personal feelings and understanding of their resiliency as navigators of society with an oppressed identity.

The findings of the study showed the complex matrix that individual's use to cope with their transgender identity during their adolescence. Prominent themes in the findings include a high incidence of feelings of depression and suicidal ideation during adolescence. Many participants

were vocal about the choice to stay closeted during their adolescence as greatly impacting their overall sense of well-being in the world as well as their ability to enjoy authentic relationships with others. All the participants expressed a hope that mental health clinicians would gain insight into the internal and external stressors of transgender youth.

RENE A. GUERETTE, Correlations Between Spirituality, Environmental Awareness, and General Well-Being: A Quantitative Study

This study was undertaken to examine a possible correlation between an individual's spiritual connection to their environment and his/her general well-being. The researcher's hypothesis is that an individual with higher spirituality and environmental awareness will also be more likely to have higher general well-being.

The Spirituality Assessment Scale, the General Well-Being Scale, the Student Environmental Awareness Questionnaire, and a demographics survey were given to 40 students at the University of Colorado at Boulder in Boulder, Colorado. The data collected from these instruments was analyzed for general frequencies and correlations between these three constructs.

The findings of the research showed a significant correlation between spirituality and general well-being, but did not show an over-all correlation with environmental awareness. Several reasons for these findings are discussed and further research using these constructs is encouraged.

MELISSA HALE, An Exploratory Study of Identity Formation of Adolescents with Cochlear Implants

This exploratory study aimed to examine the identity formation of adolescents who have received cochlear implants. The goal of this study was to highlight trends in how receiving a cochlear implant can affect the identity development of adolescents. The research of this study was collected through the healthcare providers of adolescents who have received cochlear implants as a toddler or child. The study asked about the perceptions of providers working with these adolescents as well as their beliefs about the development of identity of these adolescents. This qualitative study used survey questions to determine trends and patterns of the psychosocial and identity formation of adolescents with both open and closed nominal questions. The data collected were contrasted with the literature regarding cochlear implantation, Erickson's stages of

development, (Deaf) adolescent development and a rejection of a "psychology of the deaf."

MARY DOWNS HERRON, "That's an Extra One": Adolescent Transgender Identity and Self-Acceptance

The transgender identity has typically been received by many in the social service community as a pathology, something to cure, rather than a legitimate human identity in need of acceptance. Unlike other such identities, this one has been much overlooked by the social science literature. Consequently, with so little commonly known about the development of and risks faced by this vulnerable population, clinicians are often unclear as to how and where to begin. This investigation shows clinicians that transgender clients, particularly adolescent clients, are following normal and recognizable stages of identity formation. Understanding this developmental structure should help service providers to better understand their transgender clients and, in turn, to better meet their needs.

Four openly-identified transgender adolescents agreed to be interviewed for this study. Their experience and insight established an outline of the developmental steps taken along the road to self-acceptance. In addition, these participants identified the risks and benefits this journey entails and in so doing provided an assessment of their on-going clinical needs. As service providers, we need to be ready to serve these adolescents effectively, but such a mandate is difficult without a clear understanding of the transgender experience. This investigation offers insight into this complex developmental process, which in turn provides a measure of understanding not previously specified.

CATHERINE E. HORTON, When There Are No Words: The Impact of Trauma on the Developing Brain and Attachment: Implications for Working with Traumatized Children

This theoretical study was undertaken in an attempt to construct a neuropsychobiological concept of the traumatized child. In the last decade advances in neuropsychological research have provided the fields of social work, psychiatry, and psychology insight into the biology of attachment and brain development. In addition the impact of trauma on these phenomena has been explored. In order to provide traumatized children with the most appropriate treatment, understanding their neuro-biological experience is crucial. Understanding the neurobiological impli-cations of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder allows clinicians to bridge the

gap between psychological theories of trauma and neurobiological realities. This study addresses normal brain development, the neurobiology of attachment, and the impact of psychological trauma. In addition, implications for treatment of the traumatized child are discussed.

JAMIE A. HOWARD, Factors that Enhance the Achievement of White Racial Consciousness

This study was undertaken to gain insight into the factors that enhance the achievement of a type of White racial consciousness. White respondents were examined whose racial consciousness is grounded in an understanding of the socio-political ramifications of skin color (specifically, of privilege and systemic discrimination), and aware of the ubiquitous nature of racism in its personal, cultural and institutional forms. Four factors were looked at for their presence and effect in the achievement of the above-described racial consciousness; they are: 1) did the respondent learn more from significant events or over time; 2) how emotional was the experience; 3) did they learn from live, interactions or from secondary sources (books, articles, videos, discussions), or both; and 4) do White people learn best about race from People of Color, other Whites, neither, or both.

A questionnaire was e-mailed to 338 people who were asked to forward it on to other people they know; 56 questionnaires were returned.

The study found that those who achieved the above-described racial consciousness learned from highly emotional and challenging events that usually involved People of Color as principle informants, and the significance of the events came to have meaning through the respondent taking a class or workshop to facilitate the learner in their coming to understand what they experienced and how they perceive the racialized world around them.

Classes and workshops on racial issues can help social work students and others achieve such a racial consciousness and the development of essential cross-cultural competencies through incorporation of the insights gained by this study.

SALLY ANN HOWELL, The Effects of Gender Socialization on the Presentation of Depression in Men

This study was undertaken to examine the impact of gender socialization on the presentation of depression in men. Utilizing current research which theorizes about how men's experience of depression differs from women as a result of gender, this work questioned whether the effect of gender socialization would create an experience of depression

for men that is different from the one detailed in the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Fourth Edition-Text Revision.

An instrument was developed that combined statements created from depressive symptoms found in the DSM-IV-TR along with statements created from masculine-specific recommendations for the assessment of depression in men. The questionnaire was distributed to 75 men who had suffered from depression. Nine questionnaires were returned, and the data was analyzed through the use of descriptive statistics.

The findings of this research indicated that men did experience the symptoms outlined in the DSM-IV-TR, but also found a number of the masculine-specific symptoms to be true as well. Further conclusions could not be drawn or generalized as a result of inadequate sample size.

JACQUELINE HUMPHREYS, "Is there a Word for Extra Shock"?: Exploring Mothers' Response to Their Daughters' Disclosure of Sexual Abuse By Mothers' Partner.

Through speaking with mothers whose daughters have disclosed sexual abuse by mother's partner, this qualitative study sought to increase understanding of the initial, post-disclosure process for mothers. This study focused on level of trauma experienced by mothers at the time of the disclosure and the variety of responses to the disclosure.

Six mothers were administered a Posttraumatic Stress Disorder diagnostic scale and engaged in a semi-structured interview. Participants were non-offending mothers whose daughters had disclosed sexual abuse by mothers' partners. Most mothers had learned of the abuse 2-3 years before the interview, while one mother knew 4-5 years before and, another mother had been told 16 years before this study. Most mothers identified as Caucasian except one woman whose race will remain undisclosed per her request. Socioeconomic status varied from below poverty level to upper middle-class.

The major findings of this study indicate that participants experienced the disclosure by their daughter as a traumatic event and their responses were diverse and normative. Half of the participants met the criteria for PTSD. Five of the six women had a Symptom Severity Rating of moderate to severe. It is incumbent on professionals to acknowledge the many ways in which mothers are affected by the disclosure in order to better meet the needs of these women in crisis.

TRICIA L. JOHNSON, The Role of Mindfulness Meditation and Practice in Psychotherapy from the Clinician's Perspective

This project was undertaken to determine how mindfulness meditation and practice impacts psychotherapy from the clinician's perspective. This study examined aspects of self-awareness, self-care and sense of well-being, as well as qualities important to clinical work, such as empathy and compassion. Larger context for clinical work, including sense of generativity, meaning, purpose and spiritual issues were also explored. In addition, clinicians were asked about the use of mindfulness meditation and practice as a therapeutic element in individual treatment sessions.

This exploratory study was a qualitative, flexible method inquiry of 13 experienced clinicians from a variety of mental health disciplines whose practice of psychotherapy was informed by a current, established mindfulness meditation practice. In addition to having a regular practice, all participants had attended at least one weeklong mindfulness meditation retreat, and all had training in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (Kabat-Zinn, 1979). The method of data collection comprised in-person interviews of participants approximating one hour long.

Major findings revealed significant benefits of mindfulness meditation and practice to therapists and clinical work. Participants reported significant positive changes across all aspects of investigation for the study. In addition, findings revealed major themes: profound connectedness and gratitude, shifts in the "helper" role, key assumptions about health, sickness and well-being, and the seamless integration of mindfulness in daily life.

MBSR offers a useful, accessible, secularized language, training and practice to address multiple aspects of human experience in a way that is complementary to current professional knowledge and practice in the field of mental health.

ALLAHNA KAJ, The Role of Religious Struggle in the Development of Spiritual Maturity: A Relational Model for Growth and Transformation

This exploratory study is concerned with the way in which religious crises, like the loss of faith, excessive feelings of guilt, alienation, and conflict with theology might be important to spiritual growth. Specifically, this study hypothesizes that religious struggle is an antecedent to spiritual growth and transformation. Its goal is to offer a tentative model for the successful navigation of religious struggle. As secondary topics, it also explores the use of a relational model to understand religious and spiritual concerns, and considers the role of childhood religious development and biopsychosocial factors in shaping adult outcomes. It also includes implications for clinical practice, and suggests a number of potential avenues for future research.

Ten men and women who had experienced religious struggle, and successfully navigated it, were interviewed. All had long been connected with faith communities, but only one had retained his faith and community of origin. They were theologically and culturally diverse, representing faith traditions from orthodox Judaism to Buddhism. Thus, ten very different voices described a common journey through religious struggle.

The findings of this thesis support its central hypothesis, i.e. that of a relationship between the successful navigation of religious struggle and spiritual maturity. While causality cannot be claimed, the participants' retrospective narratives suggest that specific strengths arise out of struggle. The majority of struggles encountered were related to interpersonal conflicts, feeling conflicted about dissonant aspects of theologies; and struggling with the loss of faith.

Further, the findings support the utility of a relational model for conceptualizing spiritual conflict and development, provided the relationship with the Sacred is understood as unique and primary and thus outside the framework of classical object relations. Childhood experiences and biopsychosocial factors seemed to play a role in shaping adolescent and early adult development, but were not predictive of outcomes. Seeking religious and secular counseling, holding a benevolent worldview, and engaging in ongoing spiritual practice and problem-solving were associated with the successful resolution of religious conflict, resulting in personal growth and transformation.

SANDRA KILEY-DAVIS, Women's Psychological Responses to Abortion: A Theoretical Study of Social Support and Religion as Contributors to a Negative Psychological Outcome

This study was conducted to explore the relationship between social support and religion with regards to women's psychological outcome following abortion. Empirical literature researching both social support and religion as they pertain to well-being and abortion were examined and critiqued. The results of these studies indicate that when social support is not perceived as helpful to the woman she is more likely to experience a negative psychological outcome following an abortion. The studies also indicate that women who identify with religions that are

strongly opposed to abortion, such as Catholicism, they too are more likely to experience a negative psychological outcome following an abortion. Aspect of both social support theory and religion theory were applied to these results further illuminating their contribution. Implications for social work are then presented.

CHERYL KOSKINEN, Children's Books as an Adjunct Tool to Therapy with Children and Families

The purpose of this research study was to expand knowledge in the area of bibliotherapy (use of books), specifically, the use of children's books as a tool in therapy with children and families. Secondly, this study was conducted to further clinicians' understanding of ways to utilize children's books in therapy.

The participants in this study were clinicians at a child and family agency in the San Francisco Bay Area. A survey created by the researcher was completed by 25 clinicians and seven of those clinicians participated in a 30 minute face-to-face interview.

The findings of the research revealed that all seven clinicians believed there are benefits to using a children's book in a therapeutic setting. They discussed themes that they felt were best addressed with a children's book and other external tools that they believe to be effective in therapy. They also gave their opinion as to what made them interested in using children's books, benefits and obstacles to using children's books in therapy, what their understanding of the term bibliotherapy is and talked about their use of cinematherapy which was examined in this study as a parallel concept to bibliotherapy.

DANIELLE RENEE LANCON, (Re)Envisioning Family: Queer Family Development and Processes of Resilience

This study explored the different ways gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals are creating and strengthening their family systems in the context of a homophobic society. Resiliency theory was used as the framework for this study on queer family systems. The resilience approach, which works from strength perspective and places families in a particular context, allows for queer families to be studied in a way that moves beyond ascribed pathology and homophobia. The framework of resilience gave a voice to the participants in this study and provided recognition for the successful strategies employed by queer family systems in creating and strengthening their family units.

Eight participants between their mid-twenties to late forties, who

self-identified in some way as a member of the queer community, had biological or non-biological children, and were in a long term relationship with a partner who self-identified in some way as a member of the queer community, were interviewed.

The findings of this study showed that queer family systems are diverse, individualized and complex. While both differences and similarities surfaced in the study, three main themes emerged: 1) redefinition or redefining of "family", including affirming behavioral and symbolic, or process of meaning-making; 2) family networks, including social and supportive connection to friends, and 3) family and community and resilience, including strategies used by parents to protect their children from homophobia. Each of these three themes conveyed a sense of family cohesiveness, meaning and affirmation. The themes worked in concert to affirm and reinforce these marginalized family structures. Findings also indicate that homophobia, heterosexism and legal issues, including marriage and adoption, continue to discount and oppress this population. This study gives voice to gay, lesbian and bisexual parents and families and supports the need for clinicians to educate themselves on the complexity of these family structures and to appreciate and embrace their diversity.

EBONI A. LANIER, African Americans Awareness of Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's Disease has been found to be more prevalent in African Americans than whites. The Alzheimer's Association has identified Alzheimer's Disease as a "Silent Epidemic" hitting the African American community. It is identified as the "Silent Epidemic" because it is affecting African Americans before they are aware of its symptoms or the impact. It is estimated that 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's Disease by the middle of the century (2050) unless a cure is found. In the coming years the health care system could easily become overwhelmed by the increase in Alzheimer's cases.

In a study completed by Dr. Scott Roberts at Boston University, it was found that African Americans showed less awareness of the facts of Alzheimer's Disease, they reported fewer sources of information and indicated less of a perceived threat of the disease. This research study was a replication of Dr. Robert's study, with modifications. A questionnaire was used to identify in what areas African Americans lack the basic facts. The findings are presented through the use of descriptive statistics. Finally, implications for practice are addressed with possible suggestions on how to help African Americans cope with this disease and also become more educated in the areas in which they lack knowledge.

SUJIN LEE, Exploring the Relationship Between Asian Mental Health Practitioners' Level of Acculturation and Self-Identity and Their Experiences with Race and Ethnicity in a Clinical Setting

This quantitative study with some qualitative components attempts to investigate if there is any significant relationship between an Asian clinician's level of acculturation and cultural self-identity and his or her experiences with race and ethnicity in a clinical setting. It is hypothesized that there is a significant relationship between Asian clinicians' level of acculturation and their cultural self-identity and their experiences with issues of race and ethnicity in a clinical setting. Other areas explored include Asian mental health practitioners' experience with graduate and post-graduate school education and trainings as well as their experiences with issues of race and ethnicity in a clinical setting.

Seventy-two Asian mental health practitioners who had master's or doctoral degrees and who have been working in the clinical field participated in a mail survey that was designed to assess their experiences with issues of race and ethnicity in a clinical setting and their graduate/post-graduate school education and trainings. The Suinn-Lew Asian Self-identity Acculturation Scale (SL-ASIA) was used to measure their level of acculturation and cultural self-identity.

The major findings indicate that there is a significant relationship between level of acculturation and frequency of client raising issues of ethnicity in a clinical setting. Specifically, clinicians with higher levels of acculturation report lower frequencies of the client raising the topic of ethnicity in therapy. Other significant findings implied that there is a strong need to incorporate a non-dominant cultural frameworks, especially with Asian perspectives in social work and other clinical education and trainings to effectively deal with issues of race and ethnicity as clinicians of color.

SARA ROSE LESSER, Sexually Active Connection In Long Term Queer Female Relationships

This qualitative study explored what enables some long-term queer female couples to maintain a sexual connection. It examines the factors and influences that impact upon the sexual connections of the participants. The study also examined the role that sex plays in the lives of these couples.

Twelve individuals in long-term queer female relationships and two in a long-term genderqueer relationship, making up seven couples participated in this research through in–depth interviews. Participants were interviewed individually and then together with their partners for a total of twenty-one interviews. Participants also filled out a demographic questionnaire.

The findings of this research demonstrated that participants had many influences on their sexuality including aspects of identity, experiences of discrimination, as well as the impact of societal attitudes toward sex and sexuality. Also influential were life factors including work, school, children, grief and loss, physical and mental health and the impacts of sexual abuse, trauma and sexual violations. This study found that sex played an important role in the relationships of the participants. This study also found that overall relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, sexual communication, and sexual continuity are important aspects, which have enabled these couples to maintain a sexual connection over the course of their relationships. Lastly, this study found that sex and sexuality are conceptualized as political for participants, in a number of ways.

DANNA LIPTON, An Exploration of the Relationship Between Coping Styles and Eating Disorders in an Inpatient Population of Adolescent Females

This study was undertaken to determine the nature of the relationship between eating disorders and coping styles in a clinical population of adolescent females. This research sought to answer five primary questions: (1) What is the relationship between eating disorders and coping styles? (2) Do adolescents with anorexia nervosa rely more on avoidant styles of coping than on emotion-focused styles of coping with stress? (3) Do adolescents with bulimia nervosa rely more on emotion-focused styles of coping than on avoidant styles of coping with stress? (4) To what extent do adolescents with eating disorders rely on social supports within in stressful situations? And (5) How similar are the approaches of coping with stressful situations used by adolescents with anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa?

Sixteen adolescent females between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one with a diagnosis of anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa at the inpatient unit were given the Ways of Coping Questionnaire, which measures the coping styles of confrontive coping, distancing, self-controlling, seeking social support, accepting responsibility, escape-avoidance, planful problem-solving, and positive reappraisal.

This study did not elicit any significant findings, but it did show that self-controlling behaviors might be the most preferred coping style for both adolescent females with anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

From the mean report, the style that was most used by both groups indeed was self-controlling. However, the style used the least was distancing for the anorexia group, and positive reappraisal for the bulimia group. T-test answers and means reports were used to address the research questions contained in this study.

KIMBERLY A. LOIKA, It's Not Just a Zit: Theoretical Perspectives on the Impact of Acne on Adolescents' Self-Esteem

This theoretical investigation was conducted to formulate a new perspective on the impact of acne on adolescent's self-esteem. Clinical research has illustrated that acne can be detrimental to adolescents' psychological health and self-concept. Acne has been shown in various studies to contribute to anxiety, depression, decreased quality of life, social isolation, and in some cases, suicidal ideation or suicide. The purpose of this analysis was to understand why the effects of a mainly cosmetic condition are often so devastating.

The psychodermatological literature on the effects of acne was reviewed. The phenomenon of acne was then examined through two theoretical lenses. The first perspective employed Erik H. Erikson's and Jean Piaget's theories of normative adolescent development to understand the impact of acne on adolescents. The second view considered the impact the media has on adolescents' self-esteem in evaluating the effects of acne on adolescents. Heinz Kohut's theory of self psychology was used to draw common conclusions from each of the two theoretical perspectives. Suggestions for further research and implications for social work practice were discussed.

This study illustrated the value of theoretical research in understanding the impact of acne on adolescents. By examining the phenomenon of acne from several different perspectives, a greater understanding of the loss of self-esteem and other negative effects of acne on adolescents was gained.

SALLY M. LOWDER, Assisting Artists with Creative Block: Comparing Winnicott, Milner, and Kris' Theories of Early Development

This theoretical thesis explores the relationship between early childhood development and the creative process. The focus is on artists and writers who are creatively inhibited and how a beginning clinical social worker can use psychoanalytic theories of development to gain a deeper perspective on creative block. D.W. Winnicott's ideas of potential space, holding environment, symbol formation, transitional object, transitional phenomenon, and play are presented as being significant to an infant's mental capacity for imagination and creativity. Winnicott's concepts are used as a frame for discussing similar ideas of the creative process proposed by Marion Milner and Ernst Kris. Terms that Milner identified as providing a basis for understanding creative processes and examined in this paper are illusion, plunge, and regression. Dr. Kris' ideas explored in this paper are: neutralization, sublimation, and regression in the service of the ego. The three theorists' ideas will be examined in terms of their similarities and how they apply to artistic endeavors. A therapeutic model specifically targeting blocked artists is postulated utilizing the concepts discussed in this paper.

SHIRA L. LUFT, Ethiopians' Adjustment to Life in the United States: A Qualitative, Exploratory Study

This qualitative study was undertaken to investigate Ethiopians' adjustment experiences with life in the United States, and to identify influential factors that may facilitate or impede their adjustment. The study also examines the generalizability of existing literature on refugees' and immigrants' adjustment to Ethiopians' adjustment experiences to the applicability of models of adjustment and coping and control theory to this population.

An open-ended interview was administered to a total of ten Ethiopian adults who have lived in the United States for a least one year. Seven participants engaged in a face to face interview, and three submitted responses to the same protocol via email communication. Through content analysis repeated themes were identified across the interviews.

Participant responses revealed eight content areas salient to their adjustment experiences. The findings revealed that the sample evidenced atypical positive adjustment outcomes, but supported existing literature on Phases of Adjustment, positive models of coping, and control theory. The interviews also revealed the importance of social support and the significance of negative race relations in participants' adjustment experiences.

JESSICA E. LUTY, Group Treatment for Male Violence: Does the Duluth Model Address the Needs of Men who Batter?

This study was designed to identify the psychological states of domestic violent offenders and how these psychological states responded to treatment using the Duluth Model of Domestic Violence. More specifically, this study aimed to explore the psychological needs of men who batter and examined whether the Duluth Model of Domestic Violence is an effective treatment model for violent offenders. Very little research

exists on the effectiveness of the Duluth Model despite the fact that it is used throughout the United States as a method of treating domestic violence offenders. The current study, although inconclusive, supports the fact that the need for control is an important psychological need for batterers. This study also finds that the need for external safety is a strong psychological need for batterers, but is not a need that is addressed in the Duluth Model.

The current study consisted of 23 men who completed the CHANGE program in Durham, North Carolina. The CHANGE program employs the Duluth Method. The men completed a questionnaire, which asked for their demographic information and answers to questions on the Traumatic Stress Institute Belief Scale, Revision N,

This study concluded, with noted low internal reliability, that both the need for control and the need for external safety were particularly salient for the men in this study. No relationship existed between the need for control and the need for intimacy, nor the need for safety and the need for intimacy.

STELLA MORGANA MACLEOD, Self-Mutilation or Body Beautification: The Meaning of Tattooing and Piercing and Implications for Social Work Practice

This study was undertaken to discover whether there are similarities between the reasons people give for obtaining tattoos and/or piercings and those understood as motivations for self-mutilation. The psychiatric and psychological studies that have been conducted in the past have primarily studied people who were clients in mental health clinics, patients in psychiatric facilities, and those who were incarcerated, and were often viewed as personality disordered in some fashion.

One hundred customers at a tattoo studio (that also does piercing) responded to a questionnaire that asked respondents what reasons were significant in their decision to obtain a tattoo and/or piercing and whether they had experienced certain traumatic events in childhood.

The major findings of this research was that, while more than 80% of respondents had experienced some traumatic events in childhood, their reasons for seeking a tattoo or piercing were quite pro-social and incongruent with the motivating factors behind "self-mutilation." It was also found, however, that those who identify motivating factors that were more "anti-social" and distancing had experienced more traumatic events that those who did not, and those who engaged in both tattooing and piercing had experienced more traumatic events than those who engaged in only tattooing or only piercing.

SOPHIE MARZIN, The Assessment of Social Workers' Knowledge of Reentry Adjustment

This study was undertaken to determine if social workers knew about reentry adjustment, defined as the process of readapting to the home environment and culture after a sojourn abroad long enough for the sojourner to have adapted to the host environment and culture. The hypothesis of this study was that social workers lacked adequate knowledge of this phenomenon despite its impact on different populations that they are likely to meet in their professional settings.

A questionnaire was built specifically for this study. The participants targeted were clinical social workers holding an MSW or a higher degree. The sample consisted of 24 respondents recruited via the Office of Alumni Affairs of the Smith College School for Social Work, and seven respondents found through personal contacts.

The mean number of correct answers was only 5.2, showing that the sample surveyed had some knowledge of reentry adjustment, with some misconceptions that contradicted what previous researches concluded about the phenomenon. The sample was too small to verify statistically if there was a correlation between correct answers and having a reason –professional or personal- to know about reentry adjustment.

Duplication of this research on a larger scale would indicate whether social workers should receive training on the phenomenon of reentry adjustment. Alternatively, social workers could set up their own research about the difficulties that returnees face. They could set up culturally sensitive programs for potential returnees and look at the efficacy of such programs on the level of difficulties experienced upon return.

MARLO MICELI, (The Hanna Perkins Center, Cleveland, OH), Consultation in Day Care: A Descriptive Study

This research study documented and described the day care consultation process. Qualitative methods and grounded theory was used to look at whether or not the consultation model at the Hanna Perkins Center for Childhood Development enables day care workers to utilize current knowledge about successful childhood development.

Reflective, participatory-based data was gathered by interviewing eight consultants, in the NDCCA (National Day Care Consultation Alliance). The consultants were interviewed as a group and individually during this study. Both types of interviews encompassed an open-ended questioning style which was used to gain information about the consultation process.

Literature was reviewed about the history of day care leading up to its prevalent use today. Vast amounts of information pertaining to current

thoughts about healthy childhood development were also reviewed. In addition, the Hanna Perkins Center also provided years of data about the history of their consultation model which yielded further theoretical basis as well as practical data accumulated over the years.

The material gained from the interviews demonstrated how consultation is currently being used in a day care setting. It features vignettes that illustrate how Hanna Perkins consultants used successful childhood development principals to aid day care workers understanding about the children in their care.

ARIA BETH MICHAELS, The Spoiled Identity of the Facially Stigmatized: A Theoretical Study of an Unrecognized Population

This study was undertaken to recognize the impact of stigma on those individuals who are stigmatized by their facial appearance and to explore how current theories of identity development do not meet the needs of this unique population. The dearth of current and past literature dealing with the distinctive experiences of facially different individuals suggests the importance of this study.

This study explores those experiences through the lenses of English literature, American history, sociology, and social psychology, making clear the need for identity theory and models for this currently ignored population of stigmatized individuals.

Through this multidisciplinary lens, the micro and macro effects of stigmatization become evident and allow for increased recognition of the need for identity theory and models for this currently ignored population of stigmatized individuals.

Currently, there is an absence of existing literature that presents the challenge of stigmatization confronting this population. Also there is no identity model available for social workers, therapists, school counselors, and psychologists who work with facially stigmatized clients. An integrated theoretical approach was developed in this study to assist clinicians who have clients who are members of this population. This approach was based on theories of stigmatization, internalized oppression, self psychology, and aspects of Afrocentric psychology.

SARAH MILES, When Experiencing Parental Separation or Divorce During College: Is Parental Separation Or Divorce Experienced Differently by College Age Daughters for Whom It Was Expected and by Those for Whom It Was Not?

This exploratory study examined the effects of parental divorce or separation on daughters in college, how parental separation or divorce may affect a daughter's attainment of age-appropriate developmental tasks, and whether or not college age daughters who were expecting their parents to divorce or separate experienced it differently than those who were not expecting their parents to divorce or separate. Chickering's (1993) theory of college student development was used as the framework for exploring the possible effects of parental divorce on college age daughters.

Eight women who experienced parental divorce or separation during or immediately before college, who were between the ages of 17 and 21 at the time of the separation or divorce and between the ages of 23 and 35 at the time of the interview, participated in this study. Some of these participants had not imagined and others were not surprised by parental divorce or separation. This study found that participants perceived themselves as experiencing a sense of loss, a change in relationship with one or both parents and a change in their role, a sense of diminished trust in people and in life in general, and an increased level of self-confidence, as a result of being more independent after parental divorce or separation. Daughters who had not imagined parental divorce or separation experienced a sense of loss of the childhood home and their idealized family and a diminished level of parental financial and emotional support. Daughters who had not imagined parental divorce or separation also perceived themselves as having a strained relationship with a parent or parents after the divorce or separation more so than did those who were not surprised by it. Generally, parental divorce or separation did not seem to significantly affect either group of daughters' ability to attain age-appropriate tasks in college.

ELIZABETH ENGLISH MOGA, Outward Bound Instructors' Perceptions of the Efficacy of the Double Diamond Model for Facilitating Adventure-Based Practice: An Exploratory Study

This exploratory study investigated the Double Diamond Model for facilitating the adventure experience as perceived by Outward Bound instructors. Outward Bound instructors who were trained, and currently instructors. Outward Bound instructors who were trained, and currently use the model, offered their perspectives on what works, adaptations they made to improve the model, how they used the model and it's components, how they assessed whether the philosophy of the model works and what enhancements could be made to increase its efficacy.

The subjects, which included two females and six males ranging in age from 25 to 54, were asked open-ended questions about their experience using the Double Diamond Model, the training they received, and what they viewed as most valuable.

The major finding of the study showed that the instructors used components of the Double Diamond Model in their facilitation of adventure-based experiences, but did not integrate the entire process. Unique elements of the model, such as the "exchange of gifts" were seen as valuable to facilitators' perspective on their work and in interaction with program participants. Several elements of the model may be optimal when applied to clinical populations.

MINA MONROE, Meeting the Psychosocial Support Needs of Parentally Bereaved Adolescents

This exploratory study examines the psychosocial support needs of parentally bereaved adolescents (PBAs) who experienced the death of a primary care giver between the ages of 13 and 19. Grief experts working with PBAs were asked how PBAs could be most effectively supported through their grieving process. The objective of this study was to determine ways to best meet the unique needs of PBAs.

Twelve grief experts were asked open-ended questions about the psychosocial support needs of PBAs. Major findings include 1) PBAs appear even more vulnerable than the general adolescent population; 2) meeting PBA's psychosocial support needs can be exceptionally challenging; 3) PBAs need to have choices and control over the process of getting their psychosocial support needs met; 4) educating mental health professionals, educators, spiritual advisors, primary caregivers and peers is critical to meeting PBA's psychosocial support needs.

My findings are particularly valuable because very little research examines how to best meet PBAs psychosocial support needs. Social workers could provide more effective services by increasing their own awareness of how to meet PBA's psychosocial support needs and incorporating my findings into their practices. Further research in this area is also critical to better understanding PBAs and their unique psychosocial support needs.

ERICA R. MONTS, Should Therapists Who Have Experienced Their Client's Issue Self-Disclose?

The present study asked the following question: Should a Therapist Who Has Experienced Their Client's Issue Self-Disclose? The goals of this project were to A) tie the literature on countertransference, self-disclosure, and common experience between therapist and client together B) capture the experiences of therapists who treat clients with a similar issue to their own whereby they decided to self-disclose or not and

C) gather the therapist's views on the implications of their decision. The literature review examined countertransference, self-disclosing, and common experiences between clinician and therapist. It also acknowledged theoretical and cultural influences. Fourteen clinicians volunteered through this researcher's two internship sites for a one-hour interview. Questions revolved around their self-disclosure practices when they identified having a similar issue to their client. Half the subjects reported using self-disclosure while the other half did not. Theoretical orientation and the years of experience were more influential on self-disclosure practices than any other factors, including the relationship. Identification, rescue-fantasies, and higher levels of empathy were the most prevalent reported reactions to the client in therapy. Literature reviewed countertransference, proponents and opponents for self-disclosure, clinicians and clients experiencing a similar issue, theoretical and cultural influences. Further studies would benefit from including client responses to the self-disclosure and their perception of therapist countertransference.

LAURA ANN MORGAN, Catholic School Days: The Influence of Catholicism on Catholic High School Students' Negative Decision-Making Process

This study was undertaken to explore adolescence and development around the issue of religion's influence on decision making. More specifically, this project examined Catholicism versus peer involvement on the adolescent decision making process regarding negative behaviors. This investigation is important to understand if these young people feel there is a link between their religious life and their overall sense of themselves.

This was a descriptive project, and a fixed research study that applied quantitative research methods. A questionnaire was distributed to 164 students in the junior class of a Catholic high school in Long Island, New York. These students were asked questions of self-assessment and religion versus peer influences of negative behaviors. They were encouraged to give their personal opinions on religion, spirituality, morality, and their Catholic high school experience through open ended questions.

The findings show that the majority of the surveyed students do consider their religion before making negative decisions, defined by lying, cheating and stealing. Additionally, there was a significant difference between students who attended Catholic school for more than four years versus those attending less than three. The findings of this study demonstrate that Catholic high school students do think about their religion, more then their peers' opinion, before making negative decisions.

KATHERINE H. MORIARTY, Erotic Sadomasochism: Women Finding Meaning and Opportunities for Personal Growth through Radical Sexual Practices

The purpose of this study was to add to the dearth of information on women who practice consensual erotic S/M. Through a better understanding of the subjective meanings women ascribe to their own erotic power play, this research explored how women find opportunities for personal growth through erotic power exchanges. In addition, this study aimed to give therapists a better understanding of the lived and self-interpreted experiences of individuals when working with clients who may engage in S/M practices. Much of the clinical literature assumes S/M to be pathological, while other literature highlights the intrapsychic and relational growth that is plausible through erotic S/M.

Ten females who engage in some form of erotic power play answered a short demographics questionnaire. Interviews were then conducted in order to solicit responses to questions designed to explore how women make meaning of their erotic S/M practices and how erotic S/M can impact one's sense of self and relationships with others. The findings of the research showed that the ways in which participants make meaning of their erotic power play varies as widely as the practices they engage in and the terms used to describe those practices. All ten participants in this study reported feeling that their kinky practices have enhanced their sense of self and their relationship with others. Opportunities for personal growth, or what the literature describes as intrapsychic and relational growth, are abundant, given that the S/M play is safe, sane and consensual.

BROOKE MORRIGAN, Psychotherapy with Adult Survivors of Childhood Sibling Incest: Therapists' Experiences and Views

This qualitative study examined the views of 9 clinical social workers regarding sibling incest family-of-origin dynamics; the theoretical frameworks they use in the treatment of sibling incest clients; and the adequacy of their education for this work.

These therapists believed generalizations cannot be made about sibling incest families. They used theoretically eclectic approaches to treatment and differing approaches to assessment. They did not receive education in their graduate schools of social work for doing this work, but had to learn on the job.

These therapists found that certain sibling incest sequelae are more severe than those of parent-child incest survivors and that boys'

experiences are underreported and somewhat different from sequelae in girls. No findings emerged about racial or ethnic differences in prevalence or experience of sibling incest.

The study found there is relatively little empirically sound research from which to draw generalizable conclusions about sibling incest. The literature remains dominated by the father-daughter incest paradigm, with very little study of sibling incest, the incest of boys, or possible differences in incest experience among different racial or ethnic groups. No reliable figures exist on the prevalence of sibling incest, and what are described as effects are not actually known to be anything more than sequelae. No comprehensive, integrated theory of trauma yet exists. Implications and recommendations for research, practice, theory development, education, and public policy were presented.

JOELLE MOURAD MITCHELL, An Exploration of the Relationship Between Self-Esteem, Locus of Control, and Involvement in Service-Oriented Community Projects in Adolescents

This study used a mixed method design to explore the relationship between self-esteem, locus of control, and involvement in service-oriented community projects in adolescents. Due to adolescents' developmental stage, it was hypothesized that service involvement could serve to positively connect adolescents to their communities and could raise participating individuals self-esteem, experience of their own self-efficacy, and help participants develop a positive role and place in society.

The Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale, the Nowicki-Strickland Locus of Control Scale, and a demographic and qualitative questionnaire were administered to two main groups of high school adolescents. A total of 65 students completed all three measures. The qualitative data was coded and analyzed and major themes were determined through analysis of the qualitative data.

Although the small sample size and lack of racial and religious diversity in the sample caused much of the quantitative findings to be inconclusive, the themes found in the qualitative data provide rich, complex pictures of adolescents' understanding and growth process as a result of service-learning involvement. From these themes, it is evident that service-learning has the potential to be an effective intervention in helping adolescents transition through what can be a difficult developmental stage.

DEVON T. MUSSON, Somatic Countertransference: Theoretical Considerations and Treatment Implications

This paper is an effort to examine the phenomenon of somatic countertransference in the challenging treatment of Anorexia Nervosa. As a clinician treats an individual with Anorexia Nervosa, the objective experience of countertransference provides the opportunity for the clinician to gain information about the individual's body, affective, and relational experiences. There is a phenomenon among some clinicians treating individuals with Anorexia Nervosa, termed somatic countertransference, wherein they experience the somatic, bodily sensations of the client. In this paper, the author explored this phenomenon, beginning with an examination of Anorexia Nervosa via a self psychology theoretical lens, and followed by an inspection of projective identification using object relations theory. The paper then moves into an exploration of somatic countertransference and how and why some clinicians are available for this experience. Finally, the implications of somatic countertransference for the treatment of Anorexia Nervosa were addressed.

MEGAN C. MYERS, Comforting Touch Between Nurses and Patients: An Exploratory Study with Implications for Medical Social Work Practice

The purpose of this study was to explore nurses' use of touch with patients in order to inform medical social work about the use of comforting touch in professional practice.

The study sample consisted of 14 currently licensed, registered nurses with at least five years of nursing experience. They were drawn from various departments of a small, community hospital and a large, urban, teaching medical center. Data were collected through a semi-structured interview and a self-report demographic questionnaire. Participants were questioned about their use of instrumental and comforting touch in their professional practice as well as training or experiences they recognized as having influenced their decisions around their use of touch. In addition, nurses were asked to discuss the use of touch by other professionals in the medical environment and make recommendations, particularly in light of medical social work practice.

The findings of the research showed that participants viewed providing nurturing care as a critical part of their nursing role. All had chosen to include comforting touch in their practice. Comforting touch was used to stabilize patients physiologically, provide reassurance, and build relationships. Most of the nurses in this study believe that comforting touch is appropriate in the context of medical social work. Recommendations for incorporating comforting touch into professional practice are discussed. Conclusions are presented around the roles of practitioners, researchers, and educators in legitimizing the use of comforting touch in helping and healing relationships.

KIMBERLY MARY NELSON, The Etiology and Treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder: A Theoretical Study

This theoretical thesis examines the etiology and effective treatment formulations and interventions for individuals diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder. The study is based on a premise that a paucity of literature exists regarding the utilization of psychodynamic theories concerning the treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder. The study was undertaken because of the author's prior experience briefly treating a patient diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder.

A comprehensive review pertaining to the etiology of Dissociative Identity Disorder is followed by an analysis of psychodynamic theories that include object relations theory and self psychology theory. Both theories are examined and compared in order to offer effective clinical formulations and interventions for therapists who treat patients diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder.

The study concluded that within both theoretical models a significant relationship exists between repetitive trauma and Dissociative Identity Disorder. The use of multiple alters represents a maladaptive form of coping with repetitive traumatic events. The theoretical models examined formulated that patient's lacked an adult that was able to validate and contain affective responses of the trauma that aided in the development of maladaptive mental health symptoms and a diagnosis of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Scholars from both theoretical models propose that the unintegrated affective component remain a focal issue throughout therapy, which emphasizes the importance of developing an empathic connection with patients to properly assess the processes of recovery. The theoretical models examined both point out that initially an outcome that promotes an integrated self-structure is typically sought.

CHRISTINE LAURA OLIVER, (Cambridge Health Alliance Department of Outpatient Psychiatry, Cambridge, Massachusetts) Medication and Relationships: An Exploration of Relational Impacts of Long Term Use of Psychotropic Medications

This qualitative study was undertaken to explore first-hand perceptions of the relational impacts of taking psychotropic medications. Specifically,

this investigation sought to examine individuals' relationships with mental health providers, with themselves (i.e., sense of self), and with others in their lives. Throughout these domains, issues of empowerment, disempowerment and compliance were examined.

Data was gathered via in-depth, semi-structured interviews with twelve adults who had been prescribed any of a variety of psychotropic medications for a period of at least one year. Average length of use was reported as between ten and fifteen years. Participants were solicited via flyers placed within the waiting rooms and psychopharmacology office of a large community mental health agency in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Subjects reported their experiences with psychotropic medications influenced relationships in three domains. Subjects reported a trajectory over time towards feeling more empowered regarding medication decisions, feeling increasingly comfortable advocating for themselves with their providers, and an increase in collaborative decision-making about medications. Subjects reported the most important element of the therapeutic relationship was a sense of being heard. The majority of subjects reported that taking psychotropic medications served as a personal reminder of their illness as well as reinforcing a sense of social stigma. Participants reported the strongest negative relational impacts of medication use were ways they reinforced a sense of social stigma, and any reference to medications used to invalidate subjects experiences, thoughts, and feelings. Many subjects also connected aspects of a medical or disease model towards mental health issues with reduced stigma.

PAULINE OVENS, Sexual Risk-Taking Among Men Who Have Sex With Men: A Theoretical Analysis Applying Trauma Theory and Ego Psychology

This theoretical thesis explores and applies two psychological theories, trauma theory and ego psychology, in an attempt to examine and better understand the psychological factors behind sexual risk-taking behaviors among men who have sex with men (MSM).

My study issue is explored by a method of deductive theoretical analysis in which I research and discuss the relevant tenets of trauma theory (childhood/early trauma and ongoing trauma) and ego psychology (adaptive and maladaptive defensive functioning) as they pertain to MSM who engage in high risk sexual behaviors.

After conducting my research, I found that sexual risk-taking behaviors among MSM may sometimes be understood as maladaptive defensive functioning. These behaviors may also be driven by previous trauma in the form of trauma re-enactment. I believe that utilizing these two theories combined can assist us in understanding certain behaviors among MSM. For example, conducting an ego assessment can help us to understand an individual's psycho-developmental history as well as assist us in identifying the presence of, and effects of, early trauma. However, each of these theories also has limitations because they are both "one-person psychologies" which hinders us from understanding groups and their collective experiences as is necessary when understanding oppressed groups such as gay men/MSM. Other factors that may influence or predict sexual risk-taking are also explored in this study, and special attention is afforded to cultural considerations.

REBECCA CLAIRE PALINSKI, Social Workers Commitment To Social Justice Action and The Role of Education

Promoting social and economic justice is a defining value of social work, yet plays a limited role in many aspects of professional education and practice. This study explores the perspective of recent social work graduates on how their educational experiences influenced their social justice commitment and social action in current practice.

Participants were recruited from Boston and New York City using a snowball method. Nine MSW practitioners were interviewed regarding their definition of social justice, experiences with social justice training in the field and classroom, and their social action in current practice. Interviewees shared their views on what changes might be made to enhance social justice training.

The field experience emerged as the more significant setting for social justice training. However, significant obstacles to developing an understanding of social justice issues and social action skills were present throughout the graduate experience. The lack of incorporation of social justice issues into the core social work curriculum and the divide between clinical and social justice methods in the field represented two major problems. Participants recommended wider internship opportunities in settings with strong social justice orientations, increased curriculum integration, and educational training for professors and field supervisors around the process of teaching social justice action.

LIZZY J. PAPPAS, An Exploratory Study: Understanding the Role of Spirituality in the Separation-Individuation Phase for Adolescents Undergoing Clinical Treatment

This study was an exploration of the role spirituality plays in treatment with clients in the separation-individuation phase of adolescence. Specifically, the focus was on the possibility of spirituality serving as a

transitional object during this developmental phase. Twelve clinicians who have experience incorporating spirituality into treatment with adolescents served as the sample in this interview process. The interview guide, which consisted of four broad open-ended questions, was used to collect data. Themes that emerged included 1) styles of incorporating spirituality into treatment, 2) reasons for incorporating spirituality into treatment, and 3) spirituality serving as a transitional object. Responses reflected spirituality's role on the following areas: 1) cognitive issues, 2) the separation-individuation process, and 3) the importance of peers during the adolescent stage of development.

The findings showed that spirituality can provide strength and support to adolescents during the separation-individuation phase of development. Eleven out of the twelve interviewed clinicians explained that incorporating spirituality into treatment with adolescents is beneficial. Three-fourths of the clinicians noted the importance of incorporating spirituality due to separation-individuation issues. Clinicians explained that spirituality can serve as a transitional object during treatment because it is something that adolescents can hold onto; it adds stability, and security.

MAELYNN PATTEN, The Medical Experience for Rape Survivors: An Exploration of How Being Raped After the Age of Sixteen has Impacted Medical Encounters of Six Female Rape Survivors

This study was undertaken to determine how female rape survivors experience medical visits. Previous research outlines the negative healthcare impacts for survivors of trauma, specifically childhood sexual abuse. This study hypothesizes that rape detrimentally impacts rape survivors' experience of medical encounters and that their experiences would be congruent with studies with childhood sexual abuse survivors.

To address this question, this study is exploratory, using a flexible design. Six adult females answered questions about their subjective experience with medical appointments in a semi-structured interview. Study results indicated that rape did have a deleterious impact on the women's experience of medical encounters, particularly gynecological care, although most did not indicate an increase in healthcare utilization. The survivors stressed the importance of various aspects of the patient-doctor relationship in creating increased levels of comfort with doctor appointments, such as extensive communication during the exam and adequate privacy. Additionally, the women believed that medical professionals should ask women about rape history during medical intakes. Other suggestions from survivors mirrored the medical treatment protocols suggested for working with childhood sexual abuse survivors.

These findings imply that existing medical treatment designs for childhood sexual abuse survivors could be utilized to minimize rape survivors distress and reduce the risk of re-traumatization during appointments. Additionally, this study highlights that therapeutic interventions could be helpful as survivors prepare and cope with medical appointments.

KARLA MICHELLE PAZZI, Tunneling Through: How Spirituality and the Grieving Process Affect Each Other

This study explored how individuals experienced the grieving process following a significant death loss in relation to their spirituality. Both theistic and nontheistic spiritual belief systems were included.

Semi-structured interviews of eight adults who experienced the death of a spouse, partner, parent, or close friend were used to gather in-depth material with regard to spirituality and grief. Participants were asked about the development of their spiritual beliefs throughout their lives, their experience with the death of a loved one, and their experience of spirituality and grief in the therapeutic setting. Spiritual and religious belief systems included Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Agnosticism as well as self-defined terms.

The findings of this study emphasize the importance of spirituality during the grieving process. Seven of the eight participants felt that the process of exploring and defining their spiritual beliefs about death and the concept of afterlife was a significant source of comfort. Additionally, the study revealed that five participants whose spiritual beliefs ranged from fundamental Christian to Agnosticism reported feeling a sense of connectedness that emerged from the grieving process. Also of importance, this study found that the suddenness of a loss does not necessarily result in more severe or unresolved grief.

RUTH PEARLMAN, The Psychological and Sociological Effects on Children Growing Up in a Foster Care System That Defies the Basic Tenets of Attachment, Grief, and Trauma Theories

This theoretical research was designed to examine the ways in which foster care has systematically failed to fully recognize the grief reactions and trauma induced behaviors of the children in its care. The content of the research examined the psychological and societal consequences that result from the foster care system's failure to fully recognize the deleterious effects of attachment disruptions, and the grief and trauma reactions experienced by foster care youth. The consequences of foster children's unrecognized attachment difficulties as well as their grief and trauma

reactions were considered from both the micro level of the individual foster child's psychological and social development, as well as from the macro level of the societal implications of having 542,000 children in care potentially experiencing these impediments to their development.

The first assumption of this study was that children do in fact grieve (Worden, 1999). Grief in the foster care child is the result of a loss or a disruption of one or more attachment figures in the child's life. Often the foster child experiences the loss of these attachment figures as traumatic. The second assumption of this research was founded on the belief that a foster care child, without the concentrated support of the foster care system and its assigned caregivers, cannot developmentally and adequately cope with these traumatic losses. A child, bereft of sufficient coping skills and adequate means in which to emotionally develop, is therefore a diminished child who will become a compromised adult.

The study diagramed the sequence of a foster child's experience of disrupted attachment bonds, followed by the unrecognized grief as a result of those disrupted bonds, and ending with the traumatic effects that repeated attachment disruptions and ill expressed grief reactions have on the child. Although this study demonstrated that there is an exhaustive body of literature on attachment theory (Bowlby, 1980, 1963,1951; Fahlberg, 1991; Hughes, 1999; Levy & Orlans, 1998; and Lyons-Ruth, 1996), grief theory (Boss, 1999; Bowlby, 1980; Doka, 1989; James & Friedman, 2002; Marwit, 1991; Stroebe, Stroebe, & Hansson, 1999; and Worden, 1991), and trauma theory (Herman, 1992; Levy & Orlans, 1998), yet the basic tenets of each of these theories are still yet to be uniformly applied to the care and case management of children in foster care.

The findings of this study validate the need for professionals working with foster care youth to gain a psychodynamic understanding of attachment, grief, and trauma theories and to apply and incorporate that understanding into the practices and policies of the foster care system.

NANCY PERSSON, Ethical Considerations for Clinicians and Judges Regarding the Use of the Lamb Warning and Pre-adjudication Assessments and the Impact of those Assessments on Judges' Decisions in Western Massachusetts Juvenile Courts

The goal of the present research is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Lamb warning with respect to pre-adjudication clinical assessments from the perspective that the juvenile has the right to self-determine and to refrain from self-incrimination within the juvenile court setting. A total of twelve interviews with six court clinicians and six judges were

conducted to determine the ethical, legal, and/or dispositional implications of the use of the Lamb warning and pre-adjudication assessments.

Clinicians and judges were most concerned with a child's ability to comprehend the Lamb warning. Clinicians and judges were also concerned with a child incriminating him/herself during the pre-adjudication assessment, partly because s/he does not fully understand the Lamb warning. Clinicians and judges were asked what could be done to resolve these issues; many suggestions were given, however, one predominantly. The pre-adjudication assessment could be conducted, given to the child's attorney for review, and then s/he could decide whether to release it to other interested parties (judges, probation officers, and prosecuting attorneys).

This study could be used for future education of court personnel as to ethical conduct within the court setting, as well as promote a more extensive study to facilitate a policy change into providing children with their due process rights while maintaining the initial goal of the juvenile court.

REBECCA L. PROCOPIO, Therapists' Perspectives on Transference Themes in Sandplay Therapy within the Context of Individual Treatment of Children and/or Adults

This study aimed to add to the current knowledge base on transference themes in sandplay therapy. An exploratory, qualititive research design was employed in order to capture in-depth narrative accounts from clinicians regarding their formulations about transference in the context of treatment of an individual child or adult client with whom they utilized the sandplay modality.

Eight clinicians were interviewed in-person for this project. All of the clinicians held Master's degrees in the fields of social work, mental health counseling, or psychology. However, they represented a wide range of theoretical orientations and training backgrounds, which was evident in their differing approaches to sandplay. The interviews included questions that were design to provide insight on the topics of clinicians' rationales for incorporating sandplay into the treatment process, perspectives on manifestations of transference or relational themes in the therapy, and theoretical orientations that guide their practices. Clinicians were also asked to comment on the role that sandplay played in the illumination of the transference dynamics.

The findings of this research illustrate the commonalities and divergences that this sample population represented in regards to their theoretical stances and applications of sandplay therapy. The importance

of establishing an alliance between client and therapist, as well as the value in awareness of transference and countertransference dynamics, were relevant themes throughout most of these narratives.

KELLY D. PROTHERO, The Value of Personal Therapy in the Professional Development of the Clinical Social Worker

This study was undertaken to discover how the use and value of personal therapy changes throughout the career of the clinical social worker. This study focused on the shifting perception with regard to personal therapy among a group of clinicians through the graduate school, pre-licensure and post-licensure phases of their careers.

Through personal interviews, ten therapists discussed their general impressions of personal therapy, including benefits and drawbacks. Among the therapists interviewed were clinical social workers with a long history of treatment, as well as those with no experience in personal therapy. By offering both of these perspectives this study sought to offer new insight into the role that personal therapy can play in the professional development of clinical social workers.

The major findings revealed that the perceived value of personal therapy changed over time for the clinicians interviewed. While some-what predictable benefits such as experiential learning, support, having a role model and increased awareness were listed as gains made through therapy while in graduate school, respondents surprisingly identified personal treatment while in pre-licensure as equally useful. As respondents spoke of undergoing therapy later in their careers, the topic of increased awareness moved to the forefront of perceived benefits. Therefore, further exploration into the value of raised awareness for clinical social workers may be useful for future studies.

LAURA ANITA RAYBOULD, The Legal Experience of Rape Survivors: An Exploratory Study

This study was undertaken to explore the experiences of rape survivors with the legal system and their decisions related to legal process. Addressing an extremely important area of both policy and treatment, this research attempted to explore the intersections of the survivors' experiences with the system and the outcome of their process.

A questionnaire was disseminated through two rape crisis centers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where they were completed by survivors of rape under the supervision of their therapists and counselors. The questionnaire focused on the survivors' experiences with different aspects of the legal system and evaluated what components were helpful. Recommendations for improved service were also gathered.

The major findings of the research showed that it is an extremely difficult and largely unproductive process for survivors to be involved with the legal system in prosecuting rape. While only one respondent had any legal success, it was found that the degree of helpfulness of the system had a strong, positive correlation with how they rated their current well-being. It was also found that survivors rated advocates, rape crisis counselors, and therapists as being the most helpful in their healing.

JENNY ROBERTS, An Exploratory Study of the Positive, Long-Lasting After-Effects of Peak Experiences

The purpose of this study was to explore the positive, long-lasting after-effects of peak experiences. In 1962, Maslow published a study on the phenomenon of peak experience, which he described as "the best moments of the human being, for the happiest moments of life (1971, p. 105). One of Maslow's hypotheses regarding peak experiences, which he did not study directly, was that peak experiences have positive, long-lasting after-effects. A few other researchers have looked at whether or not peak experiences have positive after-effects, but these studies either did not look at the after-effects of peak experiences directly, didn't report specific effects, or seemingly incorrectly interpreted Maslow's theories.

Twenty descriptions of peak experiences and their after-effects were gathered from seventeen participants. The findings of this research indicated that peak experiences do have a variety of positive, long-lasting after effects on the experiencer's life.

I suggest that these effects, and their connection to mental health, should be researched further. If peaks and their effects are not explored, mental health providers could be missing crucial aspects of a client's experience.

NATASHA M. ROBINSON, The Psychological Well-Being of African American Grandparents Who Raise Their Grandchildren: An Exploratory Study

This study was undertaken to identify coping strategies that are used by African American grandparents who raise their grandchildren. African American grandparents, and especially grandmothers, typically do not seek external support services related to mental and social health; and when the need for support is imminent, grandparents will seek assistance from relatives or from their church congregation.

A questionnaire was sent to 30 African American grandmothers from diverse backgrounds. Eighteen grandmothers participated by anonymously returning the questionnaire. The questionnaire looked at the grandmother's ability to cope.

The findings of the research showed the sixty-one percent of the grandmothers were affiliated with some type of religion and attended church on a regular basis. This may suggest that the participants perceive their attendance in church and the strength they receive from a Higher Being provides them the means to take charge and problem solve on their own without outside intervention.

ALYSIA RODRIGUEZ, The Effects of English Language Superiority Related to Attitudes of Racial Identity and Self Esteem of Puerto Rican Students Enrolled in English Immersion Classrooms

This study explored the impact on Puerto Rican children when transitioning from English as a Second Language classrooms to classes conducted only in English. Children interviewed in this were in some form of English Immersion, where some Spanish was still spoken in the classroom. The goal in the future is complete English Immersion for all children in the public school systems for children having first languages other than English. This study specifically examines attitudes on how important it is to learn English and if this affects Puerto Rican racial identity and self esteem.

Thirteen Puerto Rican children in English Immersion classrooms, grades three, four, and five were identified by school staff, then confirmed by a demographic sheet. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with questions regarding feelings about school, their identity as Puerto Rican, their feeling about being immersed in English, and their perceptions of what other students and teachers thought of them.

Findings indicated that these children enjoyed school and felt they were treated fairly by the teachers. They enjoyed their peers and the classroom and had a strong sense of Puerto Rican identity. Learning English in school did create some stressors and confusion, and children reported sadness when forgetting Spanish.

VALERIE ABRA ROSENFIELD, The White Elephant in the Room: An Exploration of How The Social Work Licensing Exam Can Better Test for Experiential Awareness of White Privilege

This study was undertaken to explore what questions licensed clinical social workers would put on the social work licensing exam to assess take

takers' experiential awareness of white privilege. How would the questions be structured and in what ways would the answers be evaluated for evidence of this phenomenon?

A packet including a brief description of my research, a definition of *experiential awareness of white privilege*, a request to fill out some brief demographic information and to create one question that would hypothetically go on the social work licensing exam was sent to 30 licensed clinical social workers.

The findings of the research show that there are various conceptual and structural ways to test experiential awareness of white privilege. Especially for short answer/essay questions a guideline is necessary to assess test takers' experiential awareness of white privilege due to the wide range of possible passing or non-passing answers.

STACEY LYNN SALOMON, It's Not Under a Rock: The Impact of Racial Microaggressions on Students of Color Attending a Predominantly White Public High School in the San Francisco Bay Area

This study was undertaken in order to explore the issues of racial climate and racial microaggressions in a predominantly white high school from the perspective of students of color, in order to describe how such factors impact students of colors' racial identity and coping strategies.

Fifteen students of color were interviewed in a semi-structured format covering six areas of inquiry: (a) Have these students experienced racial microaggressions at their school? (b) If so, how have they responded to this type of discrimination? (c) How has racial discrimination affected the students, including their academic performance and peer relationships? (d) How has racial discrimination impacted their view of their own race and identity? (e) How do the students feel the school has become aware of or responded to incidents of discrimination? How could the school improve its racial climate? (f) How have the students resisted racism at their school?

The findings of the research confirmed the existence of racial microaggressions at the school. Students described a variety of ways in which racial microaggressions have impacted them academically, socially and psychologically. The students' responses indicated a wide range of reactions and coping mechanisms in the face of specific incidents of racial discrimination and the overall racial climate at their school. Suggestions about how the school could improve its racial climate were described.

LATONYA SCRIVEN, Contributing Factors of Adolescent Pregnancy Amongst African American Females in Wilson, North Carolina: A Case Study

This study was undertaken to discover what factors contributed to an African American adolescent female in Wilson, North Carolina. This qualitative study focused on the perspective of one African American mother and other factors gathered from local newspaper articles as well as statistical data as it related to the adolescent parenting population.

The researcher had difficulty recruiting a participant for this study. The participant participated in semi-structured interviews. The participant, at the time of the interview was a twenty-five year old single mother. She was no longer involved with her child's father and had just recently began receiving child-support from him. She worked nearly 35 hours a week on an hourly wage.

The major findings include: 1) generational pattern of premature pregnancy, 2) curiosity of sexuality, and 3) pressure from male peers to participate in sexual activity. The participant had close familial ties with her mother and younger sibling. She reported no history of substance abuse. She also reported having receive education on sexuality, contraception, and pregnancy prevention from both her mother and school. The participant was not using any method of birth control during the point of conception.

STEPHANIE SEAL, Clinicians' Use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing: A Look Inside the Black Box

This qualitative study explores trained EMDR practitioners' decision making processes involved in identifying when, how, and with whom to initiate EMDR. Nine certified EMDR clinicians were asked a series of questions about their experiences with the introduction and implementation of EMDR in treatment with clients. Participant narratives revealed that this process is primarily shaped by their clinical orientation, the manner of the client's introduction to EMDR, their selective use of various forms of EMDR, and their assessment of the clients' level of "readiness" for each of these particular forms. The findings suggests that the use of EMDR is complex and varied and that differences in when, how, and with whom EMDR is used ought to be considered by researchers evaluating the effectiveness of this form of intervention. Specifically, future research should take into account issues such as 1) assessment considerations beyond diagnosis and presenting symptoms, 2) the variations in how EMDR is used, including the different uses of resource focused and trauma focused EMDR, and the use of EMDR with children, and 3) how implementation of EMDR protocols may vary according to the practitioner's clinical orientation.

GILLIAN R. SEXSMITH, Therapists' Use of Clients' Pets in Individual Outpatient Therapy With Adults Who Have Attachment Problems

This study was formulated to understand how outpatient individual therapists use their clients' pets in their clinical work, especially around issues of attachment. This was an important study as there is sparse literature on this topic.

Using an interview guide the researcher interviewed ten therapists about a case in which a pet played an important role in the client's life. The therapists had degrees in social work or psychology and at least two years post masters experience. The participants were asked to describe the clients' issues around attachment, relationships with their pets, how these things intersected and entered the treatment.

The findings of this research showed that therapists used pets in a range of ways in the therapy. Pets entered the treatment at different point; for some clients it was right at the beginning, while for others it was not until the pet became sick. The findings suggested that pets do serve as a derivative of other relationships that provided therapists with information about the client and previous attachment relationships.

DEVEN SHAH, (Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Seattle, WA), The Voice of Wisdom and Complexity: Exploring Asian Pacific Islander Community Mental Health Clinical Case Managers' Reflections On their Clinical Roles and Clinical Training Needs

This study was undertaken to explore how Asian Pacific Islander (API) Clinical Case Managers (CCMs) working in community mental health with API clients perceive their clinical roles and clinical training needs. Only one other empirical study about API community mental health practice in the voice of API clinicians appears in the literature.

Twelve API CCMs practicing at one API community mental health center participated in face-to-face semi-structured interviews. Participants were asked to reflect upon the clinical nature of their work, their past clinical training experiences, their current and anticipated clinical training needs, and the cultural specificity of their practices and training needs.

The findings indicated tremendous diversity in how CCMs conceptualized, defined, and integrated the clinical and case management aspects and

roles of their practices. Support was found for the pervasive role of cultural broker across all areas of practice, and the cultural broker model of clinical case management is suggested as an integrative guide for clinical practice and training. Stigma around mental health and illness was an issue CCMs frequently encountered and clinically negotiated with API clients. CCMs identified a number of training topics, wanted trainings to demonstrate theory in practice, and described a process of cultural reflection to apply frequently Western-oriented trainings to their API clients. CCMs valued personal experience to inform their practice, particularly intuitive cultural knowledge of their clients' cultures.

SARAH ELIZABETH ROSENTHAL SHERWOOD, Overcoming the Damage: The Impact of Violent Traumatization in Families and Communities on Young Children's Learning and Success in Public School, and the Public Policy Implications

This study was undertaken to determine if children who were victims of violence in their homes or communities in early life have significant difficulties with learning and school success. Secondly, information was sought regarding what schools should do to assist those children who were affected by such traumatizing incidents. In examining these questions, data was gathered exclusively from people who had survived the included types of violence and had attended public schools.

Eight individuals who had experienced violence between birth and age twelve, were currently between the ages of 18 and 29, and had attended public schools in the United States participated. They were interviewed about the duration and psychological effect of the violence they endured, the impact it had on their school success, and any responses they remember on the part of school personnel. They were further questioned about what they would recommend to improve the experiences they had in school.

The findings of the research showed that the violence and trauma reaction did have a significant impact on the functioning of these individuals in the areas of academics, relationships, and behavior. Of further significance for this population was the marginalization many of them experienced when their trauma reactions began to interfere with their functioning. The data gathered did provide a sketch of perceived needed changes, and based on these answers a policy proposal is included in the final chapter of the report.

STEPHANIE SMALL, How Television Viewing During Adolescence May Influence Exotic Dancers' Perceptions of Female Gender Roles: An Exploratory Study

This study was designed to explore how television watching during adolescence may influence exotic dancers' perceptions of female gender roles. Research on this topic is timely because in recent years exotic dancing has become a mainstream phenomenon increasingly targeted at teen and college age women and men, and its effects on this generation have not yet been examined. By interviewing dancers just out of adolescence, I examined whether cultural conditioning by current television played a role in subjects' decision to enter this career and in their conceptualizations of masculinity and femininity.

My initial plan was to use data generated entirely from semi-structured interviews. However, the recruitment process posed more difficulties than I had anticipated, and my study grew to include an analysis of the experience of subject solicitation, including data from field notes, e-mail communications, and online forum discussions about my project, as well as data from actual interviews with five participants who ranged in age from 22 to 24. Two of the interviews were conducted face to face and three participants responded to the questions in an e-mail.

The hypothesis that participants would have watched particularly sex-role stereotyped television programs and internalized specific messages from them regarding female gender roles was not supported by this study. I found instead that the range of television programs watched, subjects' responses to female characters, as well as feelings about and motivations for dancing, were very different for each interviewee. A small sample size and a self-selected sample made generalizations difficult. I used data from interactions during the recruitment process, field notes, and interviews to identify emergent categories. These ranged from media and its effects to feelings about dancing to protectiveness on the part of club staff and owners.

SAMANTHA J. SMITH-MJENZI, Short-Term Filial Therapy With Low-Income Latino Families: A Feasibility Study

Filial therapy is an empowering model of one-on-one, caregiver-child therapy. Caregivers are trained in non-directive play therapy techniques to use in 20-minute, weekly play sessions with their children. Previous filial therapy studies have focused on higher socio-economic and predominantly Caucasian families. This project aimed to ascertain whether filial therapy is an effective intervention with low-income Latino families. Of particular interest, was whether the intervention proved

effective in improving caregivers' acceptance and stress levels, children's self-esteem, children's problem behaviors, caregiver-child relationships and children's peer relations. In general, I was interested in discovering whether the intervention is culturally appropriate with this group.

Due to a limited sample size of six children and five caregivers, the original fixed methods experimental design became a within-subjects repeated measures or quasi-experimental design with an 8-week filial therapy group as the independent variable and the aforementioned outcome measures as the dependent variables. Both quantitative and qualitative measures were utilized. All of the participants identified as Latino and were from families qualifying for free school meals.

Significant improvements occurred in four dependent variables: caregiver acceptance levels, caregiver stress levels, caregiver-child relationships and child problem behaviors. Remaining variables witnessed moves in the desired direction. Qualitative responses supported quantitative findings and also suggested the intervention's appropriateness with low-income Latino families.

While the small sample size and lack of comparable control group precludes ultimate conclusions about the success of filial therapy with Latino families, this limited study's success is encouraging and will hopefully promote further inquiry.

THEODORE BENJAMIN SNYDERMAN, Effectiveness of Referral for Social Work Intervention in a Home-based Elder Care Program

This study was undertaken to examine the effectiveness of referral for social work intervention in a single home-based elder care program, Visiting Doctors, located in East Harlem, New York. Quantitative methods (t-test and multiple regression, n=398) were used to compare and relate categories of psychosocial need utilized for assessment by primary health workers and for referral to social work intervention.

Findings were reported as follows: (a) The social worker was not found to report problems in a higher number of cases than was the referring primary. (b) The social worker was found to report a higher number of cases in certain specific problem areas than was the referring primary, however there were also problem categories in which the referring primary noted significantly greater needs than the social worker. (c) In 35 different instances, a significant relationship was found between a category on the referral form (SWRF) and on the services form (SWSF). In most instances the association between the related items was obvious, however a few of the associations were relatively unexpected.

While this quantitative study did not result in any clearly generalizable findings, as a more focused look at the referral process within one agency it demonstrates the ability of quantitative data analysis to uncover surprising associations. These associations may be utilized to reveal the need for better communication between departments, improve clinical assessment and referral forms, and in general add valuable information to inform the design and planning of more efficient social services programs.

MIRITTE R. STEINBERG, An Exploratory Study: The Academic Attitudes and Goal Orientations of Middle School Girls in an Inner-City Public School

This qualitative study was designed to explore middle school girls' feelings about school and the influences that have helped shape their academic lives. Eleven African American and Hispanic middle school girls attending an inner-city public school in a large northeastern city were the focus of research. The final sample was comprised of three sixth-graders, four seventh-graders and four eighth-graders. Five of the students who participated in this study were Black (one of those students had emigrated from Nigeria) and six of the participants were Hispanic. Using a flexible methods approach, these girls were asked about their attitudes toward school, relationships with parent(s) and other family members, teachers, and peers with regards to academics, as well as about their educational aspirations and professional pursuits.

The data yielded promising findings regarding students' study habits both in and outside of school, motivating factors, influential figures in their pedagogical lives and lofty academic and professional aspirations. The ultimate contribution of this study might be to use findings from this research to develop techniques that would build upon and integrate all of the major sources of influence (parents/family members, teachers and peers) to help improve students' attitudes about school from an early age, and, hopefully, result in enhanced academic success for underprivileged minority females.

MICHELLE R. STEPHENS, Perspectives on Spirituality in Mental Health

This thesis examines mental health literature of the last 25 years to gain knowledge about the perspectives of the mental health profession on spirituality and religion, especially as it relates to practice. Major themes are identified in the literature, while examining the field's interest in spirituality and religion over the last 25 years. The goal of this theoretical

study is to use the literature to understand the perspective of the mental health profession about spirituality, a re-emerging area of professional growth. The literature was methodically examined and systematically coded into four primary topics: research, theory, ethics and practice. Through the analysis of the literature, this study found that spirituality is an important aspect of ethical practice. As such, more education and diversity training is needed for mental health professionals on spirituality and religion. Finally, practical clinical interventions are identified for use in the treatment of clients interested in addressing issues of spirituality and religion.

CAROLYN STEVENSON, Psychotherapy: A Queer Space

This paper challenges intersubjective therapists who find utility in a fluid and co-constructed model to examine whether their approach extends to sexuality and sexual preference. Psychotherapy is a queer – meaning unconventional – space. It is an intimate, intense, and transitional space in which the therapist and patient are encouraged to "play" within their counter/transference. Optimally, this means that it is a creative, expansive space where therapists and patients allow any thoughts, feelings, and fantasies to emerge, allowing formerly foreclosed or unknown experiences to be opened, considered, and better metabolized. Sometimes these explorations will involve erotic and loving feelings, thoughts, and fantasies, and some of the therapist's sexual and loving feelings will be for patients of the same sex/gender, no matter how the therapist and patient self-identify. Therefore, in order to stay open to such feelings, therapists may find it helpful to employ a constructivist – rather than an essentialist – notion of sexuality.

This paper demonstrates that contesting the sense of coherence of such identity categories as "heterosexual," "bisexual," and "homosexual" – or queering psychotherapy – more meaningfully reflects our sexuality. Such contesting also allows intersubjective therapists to better understand the complexities and multiplicities of our identity and may help them be more effective, better meet the needs of their patients, and more fully realize their philosophical ideals.

TRACEY SUTTON, Protective Advantage: Are Social Work Interns Insulated from the Impact of Client Suicide? Experiences of Social Work Interns and Their Supervisors

The purpose of this study was to add to the existing literature regarding the impact of client suicide on therapists in training. Specifically, the research explored the question of whether internship status and the pro-

fessional association of social work interns and their supervisors can provide a "protective advantage" that forms an insulating barrier against the impact of client suicide when it occurs during the training period. While previous studies suggest the impact of client suicide on psychology, psychiatry, and other professional counselors in training is intense, information that refers directly to social work interns is sparse. The literature also suggests that therapists in training could suffer long-term anxiety and damage to their professional identity if supervisors, school administrators, and colleagues do not provide the necessary support to cope with the trauma associated with client suicide.

Seven social work interns and their assigned supervisors were asked to imagine a client suicide guided by a written vignette of such an event. Interviews were then conducted to solicit responses to questions designed to explore the personal and professional impact of such an event. The findings of the research showed that while interns work under the direction of their supervisor, they experience little sense of protection against the devastating effects of client suicide. In fact, interns reported feeling vulnerable while fulfilling the field practicum requirement, due to the perceived lack of training and support from supervisors, agencies and their schools.

G. HIROKO TAGUCHI, A Question of Frame: The Psychoanalytic Stances of Lichtenberg, Lachmann and Fosshage and of W. R. Bion

This theoretical thesis is an exploration of two psychoanalytic stances, namely that of Lichtenberg, Lachmann and Fosshage and that of W. R. Bion, as they serve to expand my understanding and approach with patients and as they influence my view of human development and the human condition.

This paper is an attempt to show how each theory understands infant development in terms of differing views of human nature, understands and approaches the patient, understands adult development, and offers a perspective of the human condition. In chapter one, I explore the psychoanalytic stance found in the most recent collaborative work of Joseph Lichtenberg, Frank Lachmann and James Fosshage. In chapter two, t he psychoanalytic stance of W. R. Bion (1897-1979) is explored. A comparison and discussion of the two stances is presented in chapter four. Finally, in chapter five, I present my conclusions.

It is my hope that clinicians will find something useful and inspiring in both of the psychoanalytic stances that are presented and discussed in this paper.

LISA TON, Why are U.S. Citizens Adopting Internationally? An Exploratory Study

This study was designed to explore why U.S. citizens are adopting internationally. Cost-benefit analysis was used as a framework for this study. Ten in-depth interviews were conducted with parents who have adopted from countries other than the United States.

Findings of this study indicated several factors that contributed to the individual's decision to adopt internationally. One factor is the health of the child and the medical condition of the orphanage of that particular adopting country. A second factor is whether the adopting parents can choose the gender of the child. A third factor is confidentiality between adopting parents and the birth parents. A fourth factor is the age of the adopting parents. Implications for social work practice and policy makers are presented.

SUSAN M. TRUDEAU, When a Client Commits Suicide: Mental Health Practitioners as Suicide Survivors

This study was undertaken to explore the way in which mental health practitioners understand, express and integrate the experience of client suicide. A literature review of general bereavement and suicide bereavement theory was presented. A review of the literature regarding the unique experience of therapist suicide survivors was undertaken as well. The empirical part of the study explored the personal and professional impact of client suicide on three mental health practitioners.

Three clinicians who had experienced client suicide were interviewed. The semi-structured interviews were designed to facilitate the construction of a personal narrative about their experiences. Questions addressed both the immediate response the clinician had to the death as well as the long term impact the event had on their professional identity and style of clinical practice. The way each therapist coped and moved toward resolution was explored.

The data indicated that the three participants experienced a grief response to their client's suicide. Each reported that the event significantly altered the way in which they engaged future clients. All stated that the process of resolution was an on going one.

DAIJIRO UEDA, Spiritual Coping Strategies: Gay Men Living with HIV/AIDS

This study was conducted to explore how gay men living with HIV/AIDS use spiritual techniques to cope with their diagnosis. These individuals may face a heightened awareness of mortality of HIV/AIDS. This study aims to know how this particular population searches for different spiritual answers and techniques of coping due to a shift from terminal illness to a chronic illness of HIV/AIDS thanks to the medical treatment progression.

This qualitative research study used an exploratory, flexible method design. Eight gay men were interviewed about their experience, coping strategies, and spiritual evolution of living with HIV/AIDS. Themes were identified in their transcribed narratives in attempts to observe the evolution of spirituality and coping strategies of the participants.

The five major findings of this study pertain the influence of their religious background, participants' experiences of turning points of spiritual evolution, development of unique methods to cope with facing the mortality of the diagnosis, participants' appreciation of living with HIV/AIDS, and participants' connection connected to their spirituality and to the universe and/or the universal power as a whole but not to a particular or specific object such as God or religious organizations.

JULIA R. WALLACE, Popular Parenting Advice Books: An Analysis of the Culture War in Child-Rearing Manuals

Popular parenting books include contradictory claims, and these differences are often heatedly debated. This thesis is an analysis of how parenting advice is part of the culture war in the United States. Ten best-selling child-rearing manuals, focused on the first 2 years of life, were selected, representing Christian conservative, mainstream, and attachment parenting (AP) texts. A classic text on sleeping by Richard Ferber (1985) was also included. The popular child-rearing manuals were analyzed to see if attachment theory correlated to liberal political ideology and behaviorism to conservative political ideology. Differing advice on home birth, circumcision, response to crying, scheduled feedings, co-sleeping, and weaning were examined. The texts were analyzed for their levels of acknowledgement of issues of class, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Popular parenting advice books were found to be examples of the culture war, with many instances of hyperbole. AP advisors made claims not fully supported by attachment theory, appeared liberal politically, shunned the use of behavioral techniques, romanticized infants and non-industrialized cultures, and largely ignored race and sexual orientation. Non-AP popular parenting advisors advocated behavioral techniques with infants, were often sexist, ignored race and sexual orientation, and were more likely to imply a conservative political ideology. However, both Christian conservative and AP advisors advocated mothers stay with their children rather than work.

MARY BROEMMELSIEK WATERS, Reunited Lovers: A Qualitative Investigation of Rekindled Romances and its Implications for Social Work Practice

This study was undertaken to explore the rekindled relationship, focusing on the attachment process the participants had initially with their parents and their partners as well as the unique qualities of their current relationship with their reunited lover.

Seven couples responded to a questionnaire and were interviewed about their attachment to their parents, their initial relationship with their partner and their subsequent reconnection and current relationship. The responses were analyzed using a number of lenses of assessment as well as grounded theory method and the findings were as follows:

(1) A rekindled relationship adds a depth to the relationship based on shared history, or romantic vision of the other as well as a romantic image of self as seen through the others eyes, and a resurrected passion that is deeply imprinted. Additionally, the relationship is imbedded on a common ground of shared values, a common historical culture and a sense of familiarity and home. (2) The bonds that last are characterized by a sense of calmness, security, comfort and emotional union; a deep friendship. These were described by each of the seven couples. (3) Having an insecure attachment with a primary caretaker does not preclude a successful marriage; however insecure attachment will create interpersonal responses that require attention. (4) Meeting the "right" person at the "right" time is a definite factor in determining whether the relationship remained intact. (5) Four out of seven couples reunited as a result of a chance event. (6) The nine tasks of marriage as defined by Wallerstein (1995) are relevant to the success of the marriage.

GINA M. WATSON, Benefits of Yoga Practice on Body, Mind and Spirit: Implications for Female Adolescent Self-Acceptance

This study explores the benefits of yoga on the body, mind, and spirit of female adolescents and how this impacts their overall feelings of self-acceptance. There is minimal research on this subject making it a valuable topic. Using an interview guide, the researcher interviewed ten girls between the ages of 13 and 21 about their yoga practice.

Adolescence is a time of enormous transition physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Chemical and biological changes take place that alter the physical body as well as impact emotional states. For girls and young women especially, growing up in the United States creates a challenge to developing an authentic sense of self. They are faced with unattainable images of how girls should look and act. As a result, girls begin to feel

fragmented and develop a split between body, mind, and spirit. The findings confirmed the literature on cultural barriers to optimal development for adolescent girls.

Yoga was found to be a safe and secure community where girls are encouraged to be authentic. The body is used for a purpose promoting positive body-image, the mind is clear and calm, less cluttered with judgments, and spirituality is explored connecting girls to a deeper sense of self. Yoga practice promotes the connection between body, mind, and spirit and the findings suggest that this fosters self-acceptance in girls.

ABIGAIL A. WAUGH, Narrative Therapy in an Ableist Society: Inviting Alternative Stories Into the Room

This theoretical study was undertaken to determine whether the social model of disability could be useful to narrative therapy clinicians in their work with clients with disabilities. The study includes literature from both the fields of disability studies and narrative therapy. There is a review of the social model of disability, which locates disability primarily within the society and outside of the individual. There is also a discussion of key narrative therapy concepts, with a focus on deconstruction of dominant discourses and the creation of alternative narratives. Two group narratives, Deaf culture and the Psychiatric Survivor/Consumer movement, are used as examples of alternative narratives to the mainstream ableist discourse. It was determined that the social model of disability could be beneficial to clinical social workers using a narrative therapy lens. However, social workers will need to learn about ableism within their society and profession in order to fully integrate social model concepts into their work with clients with disabilities.

CLIO BELLE WEISMAN, Take it Like a Man: Characteristics of Male Sexual Assault Targets in Juvenile Detention Facilities

This study examined the perceived and actual characteristics of juvenile targets of sexual assault in juvenile detention facilities through the use of unstructured interviews with previously incarcerated adult males, who were asked to reflect back upon their experiences as juveniles in detention facilities. The research participants were asked to discuss what they believed might be a contributing factor to a young man's becoming a possible or likely target for sexual abuse by another inmate; in addition to this, they proposed possible strategies for increased protection of victims and concepts relating to an increasing of the overall effectiveness of youth facilities.

Seven men were interviewed, all but one between the ages of 25 and 35, and all but one identifying as non-white. The interview participants had not been convicted or charged with a sexually violent crime, and none of the participants disclosed that they had themselves been victims of sexual assault while in custody.

The findings revealed a consensus among the respondents, who indicated that youth, physical attractiveness and any outward display of fear, weakness or emotion were the most powerful predictors of who will become a likely target.

ERINA WHITE, An Examination of the Factors that Drive Changes in Sexual Behavior of WIHS Women Over Time

This study was conducted as an effort to contribute to the narrow pool of research examining women's sexual practices. This research is an attempt to explore whether or not change in sexual practices, particularly those of high-risk women, occurs over time and if so, what psychosocial variables may coincide with these changes. In addition, it is an effort to provide valuable insight for the development of future HIV prevention activities.

This study is a secondary data analysis of a comprehensive 8-year longitudinal data set on the course of HIV infection in women in the United States. 1,014 women completed twice yearly interviews regarding their sexual practices and psychosocial well being. Descriptive statistics and growth curve modeling were used in order to better understand the womens' changes in sexual practices over time.

Growth curve modeling reveals that women do change their sexual practices over time and that most women make positive, less risky, behavior changes. In addition the model revealed that race, marital status, sexual orientation, crack use, physical functioning and role functioning are variables associated with more or less condom use. In addition, the model demonstrates that a women's number of partners and her capacity to talk to her partner about condoms are variables impacting the rate of change in her risky sexual practices over time. The low rates of condom use demonstrate the need for future prevention programs, particularly geared for women of color. In addition, these results highlight the need to empower women to talk about and use condoms.

JACQUELINE A. WHITE, The Impact of Parental Death on the Developmental Tasks of College Students

This study examined the impact of the death of a parent on the developmental tasks of college students. For the purpose of this study, the developmental tasks of college students were identified as the ongoing process of identity formation as an autonomous individual, the separation from their families while maintaining emotional connection, and the formation of new attachments in friendships and romantic relationships. Eleven participants in this study experienced the death of a parent.

The findings in this study were largely consistent with the literature. The findings indicated that the grief process for college students who had experienced the death of a parent was a process that participants revisited throughout their own development. Participants described ways in which the death of their parent had a profound impact on the way that they see themselves as individuals and the way that they experience their lives and relationships with family and peers. Participants described the ways in which their perception of their relationship with their deceased parent had evolved. Participants identified ways in which they felt separated from and connected to their deceased parent. The grief itself was identified as a connector to the deceased parent as participants move further away from the death itself and draw closer to adulthood.

KURT LORENC WHITE, New Directions for the Empowerment Concept in Mental Health Social Work Practice: Perspectives from Self-help

This theoretical examination aimed to investigate the role of social work in the mental health field. In so doing, self-help groups and the self-help movement as manifested within the mental health field were examined in terms of their ideology and methods. Herein, the empowerment concept was seen to be central, and this concept was defined and analyzed from a variety of perspectives, both in self-help and in social work. A framework for analyzing empowerment was developed, using the work of Michel Foucault to illuminate the operation of power dynamics in the mental health field. Conflicting viewpoints as to the empowerment concept in social work's history were examined and analyzed, with a special focus on empowerment's role for social work in the mental health field. Historical, ethical, and theoretical viewpoints were all considered.

Recommendations for how social work might remain true to its goals and ideals while working within the mental health field include: to

examine is own power dynamics; to attempt to maintain its position as in-between the dominant players in the field (psychiatry) and the mental health consumers; to increase its own sense of skepticism about when clients are being helped; and to increase attention to the conflicts each social worker struggles with, as these lead to burnout.

SARA WILLENS, The Relationship of Disordered Eating Behaviors and Attitudes to the Multidimensional Nature of Perfectionism Among Female Adolescents

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between perfectionism as a multidimensional construct and disordered eating among a sample of female adolescents. Prior research has suggested that perfectionism may be viewed as a multidimensional construct and that a distinction between healthy and pathological perfectionism should be drawn. Previous research also suggests a relationship between perfectionism and disordered eating among adult women; however, there have been a limited number of studies to date examining perfectionism as a multidimensional construct in relation to disordered eating among the adolescent population. Because many adolescent girls have disordered eating behavior that may put them at risk for future eating disorders, it is imperative to include what can be conceptualized as a subclinical population in research related to eating disorders.

The sample (N=57) for this study included 14-18 year old female adolescents and was obtained by using a nonrandom, purposive sampling technique. Data was collected from 25 ninth grade students at a local private school in Northern California and 32 high school students at a private school in Southern California. Participants completed an Eating Disorder Inventory (EDI) and the Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (MPS). It was hypothesized that aspects of perfectionism would have strong associations with disordered eating among this sample.

Although the generalizability of this study is limited due to sampling, the relationship found in this study between perfectionism and drive for thinness indicates that perfectionism may be a risk factor for disordered eating behaviors and attitudes among female adolescents. More specifically, the results of this study illustrate that concern over mistakes component of perfectionism is most frequently linked with disordered eating behaviors and attitudes and suggest that it would be a potentially useful target in prevention programs. This further supports the previous and current trend in the literature depicting social facets of perfectionism as possible risk factors for developing disordered eating.

AARON WILLIAMS, Clients' Sense of Spirituality and Its Eff(on Their Therapeutic Process

The purpose of this study was to explore how, if at all, clients perceiv their spirituality to be helpful to them in the therapeutic process. Th(has been a fair amount of clinical research stating that client's religic participation is a positive predictor for mental health. There also exi research that has found benefits of the client's use of their spirituality. T researcher wished to understand in the clients' own words about th unique sense of spirituality and if this effectively helped their progress therapy.

The sample consisted of 12 people, aged 27-65. They were ask questions about early religious and spiritual experience, changes in th spirituality since childhood, how or if spirituality was addressed in i therapy room and how their spirituality affected the healing process therapy, if at all.

The findings showed that eleven of the twelve felt their spiritual helped them through difficult times in their lives and in the therapeu process. All of the participants had discussed some aspect of th spirituality with their therapist at one time or another. Most participa stated that talking about their spirituality in the therapy room should approached cautiously. The overall finding was that it is very benefic for the client to be able to talk about and/or use their spirituality conjunction with therapy. It was emphasized by all participants, howe that this must be done with caution on the part of the therapist to rem respectful of the clients' views and to not proselytize or condemn client for their views.

AMANDA R.WILLAMS, Subjective Perspectives on Masculinity a Factor in the Criminal Activity of Incarcerated Adolescent Mal(

This study was undertaken to find out if there is a link betw(masculinity and criminal activity. Young men were interviewed find out if beliefs about what it means to be a man influenced tl criminal activity.

Twelve adolescent male residents of the RFK Children's Action Co a maximum security juvenile detention facility, provided their insight semi-structured interviews. The participants were from varying cult backgrounds and had been committed on various offenses. Participi were asked to articulate what it means to be a man, rules about beii man, and how these values contributed to their criminal activity.

The findings of the research showed that there does seem to t

connection between distinct beliefs about what it means to be a man and delinquency. Participants articulated that when their manhood was challenged or disrespected, they resorted to criminal acts in order to prove that they were "tough enough" to protect their reputation, or to develop notoriety on the streets. Of further significance for this sample was the level of dependency the participants had on the opinion of others, and to what lengths they would go to in order to seek approval from their peers.

LESLIE YOUNG, Directive And Nondirective Art Therapy: Clinician's Views On Application And Use

All art therapy can be characterized by two approaches: directive and nondirective. This study was undertaken to examine how clinicians currently use directive and nondirective art therapy approaches in treatment. The hypothesis states that directive and nondirective art therapy approaches are used differently in treatment. The study provides a snapshot of how clinicians are practicing directive and nondirective techniques as well as their views and perspectives on the two approaches.

Interviews were conducted with eight art therapists or therapists with formal training in art therapy who currently use art therapy in their practice. The interview consisted of questions regarding definitions of the two approaches, their use in practice, determining factors considered in choice of approach, and the advantages or disadvantages of each approach.

The major findings of this study show that the clinician's interviewed use directive and nondirective art therapy differently in practice. Directive techniques are used to provide structure, to facilitate the art making, for assessment and evaluation, and to address specific therapeutic goals. The directive approach was also cited as being the preferred approach in group therapy and in time-limited treatment. Alternately, nondirective techniques were noted for accessing the unconscious, allowing a more natural process of art therapy, and being more relationship-based and in the moment. Also, the nondirective approach was felt to elicit material that is richer and more meaningful to the client.

KURT ZELLEN, The Subject of Intersubjectivity: Reading Merleau-Ponty Into Clinical Formulations of Intersubjectivity

This study consists of a theoretical examination of clinical and philosophical understandings of intersubjectivity. The purpose was to review clinical formulations of intersubjectivity in combination with a philosophical perspective in order to arrive at a more complete understanding of the term. Second, the study hopes to explore how a

philosophical investigation into intersubjectivity can lend itself clinical work.

The study begins by reviewing the intersubjective formulations of th psychoanalytically oriented clinicians: Robert Stolorow, Jess Benjamin, and Christopher Bollas. In addition to each clinicia intersubjective perspective, attention was paid to how each theo formulates subjectivity. Following the clinical dimension, the philoso of Merleau-Ponty was utilized to demonstrate how an ontologi understanding of intersubjectivity could assist in providing clinicians clinical students a fuller account of what is meant by intersubjectivity

EMILY ZIMMER, (University of California Los Ang Neuropsychiatric Institute Partial Hospitalization Program) Par Hospitalization as Treatment for PTSD and Non-PTSD Patients

This study was undertaken to determine if general partial hospitaliza settings are effective treatment modalities for patients with Posttraum Stress Disorder. To research this, a pre-post outcome study was cond ed looking at the change in depression and anxiety of both PTSD non-PTSD patients between their entrance into and completion partial hospitalization program. Four measures were administere order to assess symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as to evidence of diagnosable PTSD and other diagnostic variables. A sec set of measures was administered after approximately one montl attendance in the program. The study originally intended to ac a sample of 50 participants. Due to a variety of administrative clinical obstacles, the actual sample had only six patients. Descri statistics were used to look for patterns in this small sample, and in a difference between the improvement of the PTSD and non-P groups was found. The study concludes that further research in this (with a larger sample size) may prove to confirm the hypothesis partial hospitalization programs are not an effective treatment mod for traumatized individuals.

ORLI ZUCHOVITSKY, Biphobia: An Exploration of Oppre in the Lives of Bisexuals

This exploratory study examined the phenomena of biphobia thr the perspectives and experiences of self-identified bisexual individ The study sample consisted of five males and five females betwee ages of nineteen and seventy-eight, all of whom self-identified wit term bisexual. Participation involved collection of demographic dat

a face-to-face, semi-structured interview which lasted 30-90 minutes. The interview consisted of open-ended, leading, and follow-up/clarifying questions when appropriate.

Some of the major findings of the study were that most participants reported experiencing biphobia both directly and indirectly from a variety of sources. Common themes expressed were the existence of societal stereotypes, difficulties involved in coming out, bisexual invisibility, and the relationship between biphobia and homophobia. Participants did not all agree on what factors constitute biphobia and a number of participants expressed not being familiar with the term or being unclear about its meaning and scope.

BOOK REVIEW

Human Behavior in the Social Environment:
Interweaving the Inner and Outer Worlds
By Esther Urdang, Ph.D.

Reviewed by Robert J. MacFadden, Ph.D., RSW

This is a Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE) text that is targeted at the graduate social work student. Its biopsychosocial perspective is declared early on, but what is unique is that it actually delivers, in particular on the psychological dimension. Indeed, many HBSE texts de-emphasize the psychological dimension in favor of a more systemic and ecological perspective. The author bemoans this gradual erosion, particularly of psychodynamic content in the social work knowledge base, and dedicates the book to providing a deeper understanding of the inner world of people. The text exhorts the reader, using an ocean metaphor, to look beyond the surface of the waves, seaweed, and shells that are washed ashore. Students are challenged to accept that there is a vibrant, deep psychological world that is invisible unless explored and to look at what is significant but not visible - the unconscious, the defenses, internal representations, and internal conflict.

This is the book's most significant contribution. It systematically provides knowledge about this dynamic, rich, and inner world in a consistent manner throughout the text, interweaving and balancing the inner with the outer, the psychological with the social. It focuses particularly on psychoanalytic, ego psychology, object relations, and self-psychology perspectives, connecting where possible with associated environmental, political, economic, and social issues. A review of the Table of Contents provides a clearer image of the content and directions of the book:

Section I: Biopsychosocial
  Overview
  Psychoanalytic and Ego Psychology Theories
  Object Relations, Self Psychology, and Cognitive
    Behavioral Theories
  Social Systems and Community
  Culture and Diversity
  The Family: Forms and Organization
  Internal Structures and Special Family Problems