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## Editorial and Remarks

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## EDITORIAL

This is a noteworthy issue for the Journal, because it contains Paula Dressel's Invitational Presentation, delivered at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting in March of 1994, in Atlanta, Georgia. This presentation was part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Journal. Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend that session know that it was a defining moment. The dedication of those who pioneered this Journal, and the philosophical foundations of the address merged together and spoke to the audience with more than words. There was a sense of common purpose; of brotherhood and sisterhood; of belief in the importance and truth of what was being said.

There is a boilerplate description of the mission of the Journal, often utilized in promotional literature, which includes this statement: "The *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* promotes the integration of the social sciences and the human services in order to understand social welfare. It publishes papers that analyze social welfare policy and politics, social problems, and the operations of human services." Paula Dressel manages to speak to every one of these issues in her address. In what Cornell West calls "these downbeat times", it is important that we not lose track of the key concepts of racism, poverty, and despair. At the same time, we must be vigilant in our search to find new voices to provide vision, hope and leadership. Paula Dressel is one of those voices.

To recapture the tone of the Invitational Session, the introductory remarks of Charles Guzzeta are included below. Dr. Guzzeta has been with the Journal since the beginning and was a logical choice to chair the meeting. In response to the many requests for reprints of the paper, we have rushed Paula's paper into print.

Gary Mathews  
Managing Editor

## REMARKS ON THE JOURNAL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

It's a particular pleasure to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*. My personal association with the Journal goes back to the days of the original publishing odd couple, Norm Goroff and Ralph Segalman. There were not many of us in those days: the Editorial Board has about as many members as there were subscribers.

The idea was to create a journal which unmistakably respected the intelligence of its readers. The intention was to bring the discipline and rigor and objectivity of the social sciences to social work practice. Success depended on the conviction, judgment, dedication, and extraordinary work of the staff—first, Norm and Ralph; then Norm and student assistants; then Bob Leighninger, who did the editing in Michigan while Norm did the publishing in Connecticut. As the work became too much for Norm, Ed Pawlak and Dan Thompson brought in a new look in the middle 1980s. A few years ago, Gary Mathews, Jim Midgeley and Steve Rose joined in. All that time, and with all that help, Bob Leighninger has continued to be the backbone of the Journal; its one indispensable person.

The success of the Journal has been astounding. Without the muscle and money of a major membership organization behind it and absent a publishing house, it has nevertheless grown to become one of the most respected journals in the field.

This success is the result of excellent editing, of course, but mainly because of the quality of articles it has attracted and published.

High in the ranks of scholars whose work has been brought to the field by the Journal is Dr. Paula Dressel, Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean for Social Sciences at Georgia State University.

Dr. Dressel first published in the Journal in 1981, about professional burnout; on job-related issues in 1985, 1988 and 1990; and last year, on the underclass. Her Book *The Service Trap* appeared in 1984. Her long and impressive list of publications includes reports of her studies of families, gerontology, and social

welfare, appearing in *Social Service Review*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *The Gerontologist*, and many others.

In addition, she has maintained a close touch with the applied aspects of her discipline, particularly in her work as a consultant to the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee; her studies of families of women in prison; her service as President of Aid to Imprisoned Mothers, and others. She nicely combines the scholarship and erudition of Cloward and Ohlen with the compassion and service of John Augustus.

One cannot imagine a more fitting embodiment of the principles of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* than Dr. Paula Dressel, who helps us celebrate our twentieth anniversary with her presentation: ". . . And They Keep on Building Prisons; Poverty, Racism and Challenges to the Welfare State".

Charles Guzzeta  
Editorial Board