

NACSW MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO TWO NEW CASE- BOOKS



Terry
Wolfer



Laine
Scales

Seven NACSW members — Terry A. Wolfer, T. Laine Scales, Helen Harris, and Mackenzi A. Huyser, Laura E. Zumdahl, Mary Anne Poe, and F. Matthew Schobert, Jr.— have each contributed cases to two new collections published by Wadsworth-Brooks/Cole.

These two case collections provide opportunities for social work students to practice thinking like professional social workers. The cases depict situations encountered by MSW and BSW-level social workers, respectively. The cases are drawn from a variety of social work practice settings, with two of the cases taking place in faith based settings. Practice situations involve individuals, families, groups, organizations, or communities. Because the cases are designed for use with the case method of teaching, they differ from most casebooks currently available for social work education.

The case method of teaching involves in-depth class discussions based on detailed, open-ended accounts of actual practice situations. These accounts, referred to as decision cases, stimulate students to decide on the central problem and to recommend a course of action. The resulting case analyses and class discussions help students develop important problem-solving and critical-thinking skills and encourage them to apply theory to practice. The class discussions help students learn to articulate and defend their perspectives but also to listen more effectively and



Helen
Wilson Harris



Mackenzi
Huyser

to develop appreciation for and skills in collaboration. These and related attitudes and skills are difficult to teach in the traditional curriculum but considered essential for effective social work practice.

The casebooks are designed for use in capstone courses, integrative seminars, or field seminars. If the decision cases are used at the rate of one per week, each casebook includes sufficient cases for one academic term. However, the cases may also be used individually across the practice curriculum (courses focused on practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, or communities). For students unfamiliar with case method teaching, the casebooks also include two introductory chapters, one provides a history and rationale for the case method of teaching and the other provides tips on preparing for and participating in case method discussions.



Laura Zumdahl

The accompanying instructor materials provide general guidelines for teaching with the case method as well as extensive teaching notes for individual cases (available only to instructors). To aid case selection, the teaching notes briefly summarize the case, identify content courses for which the case could be used, and suggest possible learning outcomes. To support instructor preparation, they also provide numerous discussion questions and responses (organized in four

categories: fact, analysis, action, and reflection), suggest assignments or classroom activities to supplement the case discussion, and identify print and electronic resources for further information.



Mary Anne
Poe



Matthew
Schobert

While Christian social workers may find all of the cases useful and interesting, two cases feature Christian social workers in faith-based agencies:

In Good Faith by F. Matthew Schobert, Jr. Brandon Dicorte, LMSW was the first Development Director at Food for All, a faith-based, non-profit organization that trained interns in and educated the local community about sustainable agricultural development. Louis Touissant, an intern from Haiti, left Food for All before his internship ended, but he didn't return to Haiti; he disappeared into the U.S., violating the conditions of his visa. When Brandon and Food for All's Board of Directors learned that Louis hadn't returned home they were confronted with the decision of whether or not to report Louis to Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

This Could Get Messy by Scott W. Taylor. Social worker Angelina Pettit enjoyed practicing in a faith-based agency, however, the work was complicated by the agency's integral connections with her church. Her husband, Philip, invited Jacob and Raymond, two single men in his church group, who were also Angelina's clients, to their home for Christmas dinner. This challenged Angela's sense of professionalism regarding dual relationships.

The two casebooks, edited by Terry Wolfer and Laine Scales, are available from Wadsworth Thompson Learning at www.wadsworth.com.