



Volume 20, Issue 2

SUMMER 2006

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The ACOSA Update!

ACOSA SPREADING ITS INTERNATIONAL WINGS

“Thinking Globally” has emerged as a vital theme with ACOSA, and this summer a host of international programs and conferences kept many ACOSA members busy. When the Council on Social Work Education stressed global connection and opportunities at its 2005 Annual Program Meeting in New York, ACOSA took this international challenge to heart.

This issue of The ACOSA Update! features articles by faculty, student, and community members who have spent summer traveling internationally, engaging in a host of important conferences, and reflecting, not only on their global perspectives, but on the role of community practice and community in social work education and social welfare policies and programs. In comparing and contrasting these international perspectives on community practice, ACOSA can strengthen macro practice education and professional development.

Terry Mizrahi and Yossi Korazim continue their work of enhance macro practice social work in Israel, and this summer invited ACOSA Chair, Mary Rogge, to keynote an



important national conference in Israel.

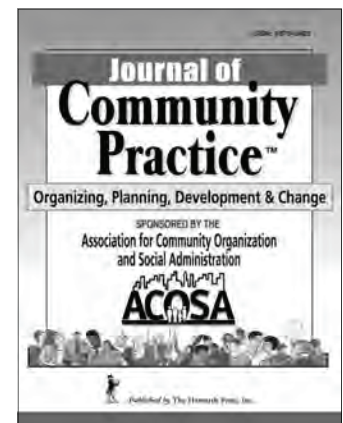
Students were also busy attending international conferences on social work and community development, including the “1st

Global Conference of Social Work Students” in Munich, Germany and the Annual International Community Development conference in Montreal, Canada. Others reflect on CO practice in other countries, such as Japan.

Whether its recognition, such as the CSWE International Commission award presented this year to long-time ACOSA leader, Alice Johnson Butterfield and her Jane Addams College of Social Work colleagues for their collaboration with Addis Ababa University in establishing a social work program there or board members promoting international dialogues on macro practice, ACOSA has sprouted its international wings. -- Tracy M. Soska, Editor

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ACOSA Chair's Message - *From the Local to the International*

By Mary Rogge

Dear ACOSA Members

Please allow me to remind, reprise, and re-emphasize several aspects of what's happening in ACOSA. **First, please renew your membership if you haven't**, check in with colleagues to remind them to do so also, and set yourself the task of recruiting at least two new members this quarter. If you find yourselves among the non-renewers, please expect a contact from your ACOSA regional board representatives encouraging you to re-up.



Second – as you've seen through the ACOSA listserv, in this *Update!*, and on the website – **the new Call for Proposals for the next *Journal of Community Practice (JCP)* editorial team is out and deadlines are approaching!** Our thanks to the JCP Search Committee Chairperson and Susan Murty and the Search Committee for choreographing this crucial effort. Add as well another round of sincere thanks to our current editors who have brought their talents and energy to the *JCP* these last years and whose contributions during this transitional phase have not ceased. **Please consider and promote the Call seriously**; we look to generate proposals that will take the *JCP* yet another step in its development.

Your good work and research needs to be shared throughout the interdisciplinary macro practice community. Beginning in the next issue of the *Update!*, we'll be asking board and committee members to report on aspects of ACOSA on which they have been working. Remember that the **CSWE APM has switched the fall and is scheduled for October 27-30, 2007 in San Francisco**. This is gearing up to be an exciting time for ACOSA, given that we'll be celebrating a 20 year anniversary.

A strong international theme pervades this issue of the *Update!*, as **colleagues write about macro practice in Japan and about the state-of-the-art from conferences in Munich, Montreal, and Israel**. The more we can assess critically and cross-fertilize macro practice experiences among nation states, the greater are our opportunities to locate knowledge, skills, and practices that work. The 33rd World Congress of Schools of Social Work, in Santiago, Chile, will have ended by the time you receive this newsletter. And among upcoming conferences, consider submitting to showcase your work at the 15th Biennial International Symposium of our sister organization, the International Consortium for Social Development (formerly IUCISD; <http://www.iucisd.org>), in Hong Kong July 16-20, 2007 (abstracts due December 15, 2006).

In May, I was honored to represent ACOSA, along with ACOSA Board member Yossi Korazim, former ACOSA and NASW president Terry Mizrahi, and Israeli ACOSA members, at the **first-of-its-kind National Conference "Strengthening**

the 'Social' in Social Work" in Jerusalem. Terry, Yossi, and Elisheva Sadan at Hebrew University were key organizers of this well orchestrated, well attended, and intensely engaged exchange of ideas among educators, students, community social workers and practitioners, and government officials.

As I listened to other speakers (thanks to the good graces and fine skills of volunteer translators; Terry and I were the only two who presented in English), and talked with our Israeli colleagues, I was struck more by similarities between Israeli and U.S. community practice issues and challenges than by differences. Among the topics of debate were, for example: 1) increasing macro content and student numbers in academic programs; 2) balancing risks and benefits of advocacy from within and outside of government; 3) and creating political, interdisciplinary solidarity and movement among community social workers and constituents. We share a common base of fighting for social change and justice with regard to poverty and other "isms", health disparities, immigration, population growth, theocracy, terrorism, civil and human rights, and degradation of the natural environment. In Israel's larger geopolitical milieu, however, the fight for social change and justice takes on a scale, intensity, immediacy, and complexity about which most of us here in the U.S. can only guess. In that volatile and dynamic context, the dedication with which our community social work colleagues in Israel pursue the work of justice and social change is that much more inspiring.

Among the outcomes was a decision by a post-conference planning group to explore communication and linkage between Israeli and U.S. ACOSAns. Structurally, this decision advances the work of the ACOSA Ad Hoc Committee on International Initiatives, established by the Board at our March '06 meeting and co-chaired by Yossi Korazim and Lee Staples. I encourage you to contact them if you are interested in the work of this committee. We hope to follow up on a series of post-conference meetings that were held with Yossi, myself, and several Israeli environmental justice-focused organizations (Life & Environment: the Israeli Union of Environmental NGOs, the Israeli Union for Environmental Defense, the Association for the Preservation of Nature) to explore new collaborations that crosscut social, economic, and environmental justice and change efforts.

My professional and personal heartfelt appreciation to the many new colleagues I had the opportunity to meet and learn from through this activity for ACOSA. In particular, I extend special thanks to Drs. Terry, Yossi, and Elisheva, for their marvelous generosity, hospitality, and good humor before, during, and after the conference. Terry and Yossi note in their article that the Israel "Strengthening" Conference was the latest ACOSA-related activity in Israel. Stay tuned, dear colleagues, for it surely is not the last.

Recent Development of CO Practice in Japan

By Shinichi Murato, MSW

It was three years ago, when I traveled to Japan with Dr. Terry Mizrahi of Hunter College School of Social Work (HCSSW) to have a lecture about some concepts of community organizing in academic settings. I was a graduate student of HCSSW at that time, and I was learning about community organizing in Japan for the first time. Learning about CO in Japan fascinated me a lot maybe because I was not expecting much from Japan. After living in the U.S. for eight years, now, I am back in Japan working on my doctorate at Doshisha University researching on CO in Japan.



According to Japan's census from the year 2005, Japan's aging population (over 65 years old) has reached 21.0%, at the same time the population under 15 years old has gone down to 13.6%. This made Japan the country with the highest aging population rate and lowest youth population rate in the world.

It was an astonishing news to many Japanese, although the government and scholars were expecting this since the 1980s. In fact, social welfare policies have been gradually reformed since 1980s not only because of aging trend but also because of post-modern economics and neo-liberal political trend. Japan was once experienced welfare state at the tip of economic boom, but privatization and decentralization have been the current trend in last fifteen years.

Social Welfare Service Law, which was enacted in 1951, five years after the World War II, was changed to Social Welfare Law in 2000. There are many important changes made in this reform. One of the most significant changes was that each municipal government was obliged to develop a local social welfare plan. Those local social welfare planning must be developed with citizen participation, and their purpose is to improve the quality of social services and to develop necessary social services in communities. Another significant change was to include the concept of "Chiiki-Fukushi." Chiiki-Fukushi, literary means community based social welfare, is a concept equivalent to community organization in the U.S. It doesn't have one clear definition, just like C.O. in the U.S., and it is understood as a combination of community-based social service and social action/citizen participa-

tion. It is one of those "dump the all good elements in" types of word. It is, however, important to note that the idea of community is in the forefront of social welfare policy in Japan.

Professor Kensaku Ohashi(2006), the current president of Japanese Research Association for Community Development, has noted once in his article on Chiiki Fukushi Kenkyu that social work was never practiced in Japan until the 1990s. Many social welfare programs were designed strictly in top-down system, and social workers were to provide services according to the government's order. Although there are settlement houses and religious organizations that have been active in a community for nearly a century, their influence has been minor.

Despite the fact that social welfare budget has been and will be under the risk of being cut, and the national government's responsibility to maintain the level of social welfare has been transferred to local municipal governments, some scholars are optimistic about this shift. They are optimistic that it will improve the quality of social work practice on a community level because of devolution. In other words, there is no quality control at a national level; it will be up to each municipal government either to improve/maintain its social welfare program through citizen participation or to lead to a disaster by bad management. Japan is entering to the era of local governance, and it will be more needs for community organizers to be involved in a matter of community.

As of today, more than half of local municipal governments in Japan have developed their own social welfare plan (either full or some portion of) after the enactment of the Social Welfare Law five years ago. In the process of developing a plan, there have been many different and creative ways of which community organizers have involved. In a city from Aichi prefecture, for example, residents organized a planning board of 100 representatives in the community. They held community meetings regularly. At the meetings, they first educated themselves about current social welfare policies, and then they assessed the residents' needs for social service programs.

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"It is, however, important to note that the idea of community is in the forefront of social welfare policy in Japan."

INFLUENCING STATE POLICY

2006 Contest Winners

by Bob Schneider, VCU

Each year INFLUENCING State Policy conducts a national contest for undergraduate and graduate student projects that "Influence State Policy." ACOSA is pleased to recognize our ISP colleagues and their contest winners.

BSW Programs

ISP's three (3) undergraduate program winners and their faculty mentors are as follows:

Kaela Byers, Lisa Crook, Lis Sojourner, and Chris Veeh of University of Kansas in Lawrence tracked Senate Bill 47 that addressed the overrepresentation of minority youth in the Kansas juvenile justice system. Recognizing that the issue was not well understood, they devised an educational strategy by developing relationships with legislators, bureaucrats, and religious leaders. The students successfully advocated for SB47, which is aimed at reducing racial, geographical, and other biases, awarding grants to county programs. SB 47 is awaiting the governor's signature. Students increased their knowledge of how legislative maneuvers are used to advance or retard the progress of a bill. **Dr. Lori Messinger** was the faculty member supporting these students.



Amy Vitale of Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island became involved in Marriage Equity Rhode Island (MERI), a community organization aimed at legalizing same-sex marriage in Rhode Island. She worked with the Coordinating Committee to transport residents to a rally at the Rhode Island State House and became a registered state lobbyist in April 2006. Through conversations and research, she analyzed how voters can influence legislators' policymaking. Her persistent presence at the Legislature helped influence some lawmakers' ideas. Although the bill did not pass this year, Amy demonstrated that new faces and new strategies remind decision makers of the necessity to understand the underlying issues of controversial legislation. **Dr. Johnelle Luciani** was the faculty member supporting this student.

Forrest Robert Stepnowski, Katie Stevens, Alice Jenagin, Kallie Gatzmeier, and Karie Rice of University of Washington in Tacoma responded to an ongoing legislative battle for the past 29 years involving discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBTQ) community. They lobbied for HB 2661, which adds the words "sexual orientation" to the state's existing anti-discrimination law and gives LGBTQs the same rights as other oppressed groups. They handed out fact sheets, set up an information table on campus, placed posters in school, initiated a phone chain, monitored legislators' voting, and provided contact information for students to contact their legislators. The bill was passed in January, 2006, and the group learned how to fight for the disenfranchised and discriminated populations who feel powerless. **Dr. Janice Laakso** was the faculty member supporting these students.

Jill Carmichael and Helen O'Beirne of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work lobbied against HB 1146, at the 2006 session of the Virginia General Assembly which was introduced to provide statewide title protection/licensing for social workers.

MSW Programs

ISP's four (4) graduate program winners and their faculty mentors are as follows:

Through her internship with Health Care For All (HCFA), **Jessie Buerlein of Boston College** advocated for the restoration of adult dental benefits that had been eliminated in 2002. This affected over 700,000 persons. Her work consisted of increasing the visibility of this issue to legislators and the public through the development of literature reviews documenting the micro and macro effects created by the elimination of these benefits. She also facilitated the distribution of educational materials to state legislators on a weekly basis. In April 2006, a health care reform bill was passed which included the restoration of dental benefits. Jessie learned the power of activating a diverse group of stakeholders in advocacy and how important persistence is in influencing state legislators. **Ms. Stacey Auger, MSW** was the field instructor supporting this student.



(Continued on page 5)

Influencing State Policy Contest Winners

(Continued from page 4)

However, the bill's sponsors negated involvement by macro social work professionals and students resulting in legislation that was based solely on models for licensing clinical social workers. Jill and Helen were instrumental in raising awareness and support for counteracting this exclusion, eventually leading to the elimination of some of the bill's initial components. The bill passed, but the title protection and licensing components were removed so that they could be reviewed at a later date with more macro social work participation. Jill and Helen learned the importance of working with a coalition, and about how to build trustworthy relationships. **Dr. Robert L. Schneider** was the faculty member supporting these students.



Pamela Hancock and Clare Johnston of the University of Denver applied grassroots strategies to advocate and support Colorado's HB1212, giving women the opportunity to obtain emergency contraception from pharmacists without a prescription. They believed this measure would greatly impact the lives of low-income and minority women who often have little to no access to primary care doctors. Pam and Clare formed a coalition

through the local Planned Parenthood and mobilized a campaign to raise awareness among state legislators. The bill passed both houses, but was vetoed by the Governor. The students learned about the importance of coalition building and keeping long-term goals in mind. **Dr. Jean East** was the faculty member supporting these students.

Pua Kaninau of the University of Hawaii-Manoa transformed personal tragedy into an advocacy effort to establish a statewide program for the early intervention and prevention of suicide for persons between the ages of 10 to twenty-four. HB 3131 was introduced to establish early intervention and prevention programs. By making use of available community resources and having the tenacity to persevere, Ms. Kaninau learned how the personal can become political and helped shape the legislative process. She spoke at many hearings and helped to break the stigma and silence surrounding teen suicide. A bill passed this year opening the way for the Department of Education to implement a prevention program. She learned that it is necessary to be flexible, identify resources, and be willing to persevere. **Dr. Ann R. Alvarez** was the faculty member supporting these students.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON [INFLUENCING STATE POLICY](http://www.statepolicy.org) AND ITS ANNUAL CONTEST, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT: www.statepolicy.org or contact: Dr. Robert Schneider, Chair rschneid@vcu.edu

THE ACOSA UPDATE! would like to correct an oversight from our Spring Issue when we inadvertently left off the names and affiliation of students and faculty from Shippensburg University's Department of Social Work and Gerontology on their "**Hurricane Relief Fundraiser**" article as part of our on-going focus on the Gulf Coast relief. Thanks to the following students and faculty sponsor for their contribution: Nicole Cassell, Amanda

Vastardis, Lisa Pilsitz, Heather Lebo, Michael Griffie, David Mattern, Laura Moyer, Brandon Barnhart, and associate professor, Jennifer Clements.

Keep Up the Good Work, Shippensburg!



Strengthening the “Social” in Social Work

by Terry Mizrahi and Yossi Korazim



An unprecedented national conference was held in Jerusalem at The Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare of the Hebrew University on May 9, 2006 titled “**STRENGTHENING THE ‘SOCIAL’ IN SOCIAL WORK: TEACHING MACRO PRACTICE AND INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL CHANGE**”. 120 participants—educators from all Schools of Social Work, field supervisors, directors, and social work professionals from government, local municipalities and non-profit organizations—interested in social change came together.

The goal of the conference was to get an updated picture of the teaching of macro practice in the Schools of Social Work in Israeli universities and colleges. Discussions included the way in which this aspect of the profession is taught, and what should be altered or added, focusing primarily on education for social change, and social action, on organizing people against social injustices and on influencing social policies to improve the quality of people's lives.

The conference was organized by the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare of Hebrew University and sponsored by The Service for Community Social Work of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Shatil – an advocacy NGO and ACOSA. Elisheva Sadan, who chairs the Community Social Work track at Hebrew University, headed the planning committee, which included members from the sponsoring organizations, faculty from social work programs, and advocacy organizations. Dean Hillel Schmid of Hebrew University-Social Work, Dean Haya Itzaki of Bar Ilan-Social Work, Itzak Perry, head of the Israeli Association of Social Workers, Baruch Sugarman head of the Community Social Work Service, and Rachel Liel, head of Shatil, led off the day by urging social workers to take on the challenge and schools of social work to devote more resources to this end of the profession.

Yossi Korazim, ACOSA International Board Representative, and one of the conference organizers presented ACOSA to the audience, and introduced Mary Rogge, Chair of ACOSA who was the Keynote speaker. Her presentation on “Advancing a Social Change Agenda through Education for Social Work: An American perspective” compared the American and Israeli ways of educating for Macro practice. Throughout the day, speakers touched on the importance of giving social workers the competence and confidence to come together in the workplace, in the community and in the political arena to let their voices be heard, along with those of their clients and constituencies.



A special panel of speakers discussed Multiple Loyalties, whether Social Workers can Fight for Social Change against their Employers? The debate was about whether Israeli social workers had the courage to take a risk for social justice and how risky is this commitment when performed working for the government and opposing it. Several speakers noted that social workers cannot do “it” alone—they need allies in the field including those from other professions, from NGO's, and from client and community groups. Many speakers urged that professionals “on the inside” (government) and on “the outside” (NGOs) coordinate their efforts more closely, and get more support from the academy. People spoke about the need for schools of social work to put more macro content into the mostly clinical and generalist curriculum and to attract more students who want to become community social work specialists.

Terry Mizrahi, who was in Israel on a Fulbright Fellowship served as a member of the planning committee. She spoke on the meaning of “social” and “social activism,” and the importance of providing students and practitioners with the strategies for teaching and doing an empowerment model of social work. The feedback on the day was excellent. Eighty-eight percent of those who attended and filled out feedback forms thought the conference was very good or excellent, and about 96% of participants said they would like to contribute actively to future seminars and learning exchange events. The conference is the latest ACOSA-related activity in Israel. See past *ACOSA Update* newsletters reporting on previous ACOSA-sponsored meetings in Israel and a paper calling for a greater role for macro practice

- Korazim, Y. and Mizrahi, T. (2003), ACOSA Chapter in Israel?, *The ACOSA Update*, Vol. 17, Issue 2:12. http://acosa.org/update_back.html
- Mizrahi, T., Korazim, Y. and Kaufman, R. (2003), “Privatizing the Israeli Welfare State - Options for Governmental and Nongovernmental Community Worker Collaboration”, *The ACOSA Update*, Vol. 17, Issue 4:10-11. http://acosa.org/updt_win2003.pdf
- Korazim, Y. and Schmid, H. (2005), “Reviving Macro-Practice in Social Work: Challenging the Future in Israel”, *The ACOSA Update*, Vol. 19, Issue 2:12,14. http://www.acosa.org/updt_sum2005.pdf

International Management & Community Development Conference

By *Natalie Greene*

This June, I attended the 2006 Summer Program at the Institute in Management and Community Development at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Beginning with an opening keynote speech by economist and political scientist, Riccardo Petrella on the Sunday evening, the summer program participants were asked to



Student Perspective

expand their comprehension of problems and solutions of poverty, housing and living conditions, and war and destruction around the world. In turn, over the next five days, participants had the opportunity to broaden their horizons through a number of self-selected half or day-long workshops in the areas of community organization and development, social action and change, public space, impact of private sector, social and community transformation, service delivery, mobilization, involvement of the media, empowerment, social justice, creative arts, discrimination and oppression, financial management and planning, fundraising activities, democracy and civil society, impact of institutions, technology, and race, class and gender issues. I will report on the workshops I attended at this annual international program.

At the first workshop “The Indispensable Public Space,” we discussed the importance of public space, or “the commons” shared by everyone, and how this type of mentality requires a great deal of understanding of multiple people’s point of views. Public space, such as air, water, parks and even information, can encompass different things in different countries. Most notably, healthcare is considered public in Canada and many other countries with socialized medicine; whereas, the US considers this a private industry. Obviously, the differences in mentality over this issue can have vastly different outcomes for the citizens of those countries.

The workshops on “Changing the World One City at a Time” and “Transforming Neighborhoods” were similar and built off each other on community betterment. I greatly appreciated learning directly from those engaged in neighborhood transformation about how community members, activists and even political and government officials came together to dramatically change the land-

scape in the cities of Montreal, New York and Boston.

While the “Transforming Neighborhoods” relied on key presenters to share their stories and experiences, others often relied more heavily on participation and discussion by the participants. Both the “Movement Building” and “Feminist Analysis” workshops expected more personally sharing of information as well as both small and large group dialogues about specific issues. Using the participant-focused method, the “Movement Building” workshop focused on what aspects are needed to build and sustain strong social movements in comparison to what is needed for non-profits or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Similarly, using a “Feminist Analysis” where we see things and redefine situations from a woman’s point of view, individuals and presenters in that workshop each shared personal stories and discussed how violence affects women and our communities.

To make this summer program even more comprehensive, lunch and evening activities of all sorts were offered. The most valuable one (to me at least) was the 3-hour bus tour of various ethnic neighborhoods within the city of Montreal. Though I was born in Montreal and still have family there, I only lived in the city for the first few years of my life and barely visit more than every few years. During this visit, I stayed with my aunt’s family less than a mile from Loyola campus where I walked to and from each day exploring the Notre-Dame-De-Grace neighborhood where my mom grew up. I talking to my aunt and uncle about the neighborhood and the city as well as discussed my family history and shared stories. I feel I was given a second chance to become better acquainted with the city of my birth in a way I never have before and will appreciate having that opportunity.

In all, the Institute in Management and Community Development Summer Program was an event-filled week packed with informative presentations, interesting and inspiring workshops, and active and lively discussions with other motivated and dedicated individuals. My conversations throughout the week with community organizers and developers, service providers, social activists, artists, and my own family encourage me continue on this path towards improving communities and the lives of the people who live there.

Natalie Greene is an MSW COSA and PhD joint-degree student at the University of Pittsburgh. nrg4+@pitt.edu

Community Interventions in the Treatment of Limb Loss: A Memphis Model

by William Samuels, Sheryl Samuels, Cecile Evans, Veronica Engle

To anyone not familiar with the experience of limb loss, one might have the assumption that a person undergoes an amputation, is given a prosthetic limb, and returns home to live the life they had before the limb loss. There is a public perception that once fitted with a prostheses, a person with limb loss has the same level of functioning as when all limbs were intact. Anyone who has lived through the loss of one or more extremities knows that almost every aspect of life changes.

There are many other social and physical challenges that result from limb loss. These include, but are not limited to, occupational changes, body image issues, performance of activities of daily living, and pain. It is easy for someone with limb loss to feel isolated and frustrated. William and Sherri Samuels lived through the experience of limb loss, and found that they had to be self advocates in obtaining basic coping resources.

William is a social worker, trained in social group work. Through the experience of Sherri's limb loss they found the need and motivation to establish the amputee support group, Out On A Limb (OOAL). OOAL provides a community based intervention to persons experiencing limb loss and their families. There is a true need to provide community support to amputees and provide professional referrals, as life can become a series of challenges after an amputation.



“Building bridges” within the practice of community organization will allow amputee support programs, like OOAL in Memphis, Tennessee, to provide resources to persons with amputations and their families, and to health care providers who have not currently developed a definite

interest in the treatment of limb loss. This is an accounting of the experience of William and Sherri Samuels as they founded and have facilitated OOAL.

Beginnings of a Support Group, and Development of Community Interventions

OOAL founder, Sherri Samuels, remembers thinking as she awaited surgery to amputate her right leg above the knee that, “No one could tell me how my life would change.” Although her access to information was extremely limited, she nonetheless interviewed every prosthetist she could find and she questioned doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

Before her discharge from the Memphis Regional Medical Center, Sherri was determined to start a support group for others who faced the loss of a limb, or who had already experienced amputation. “I decided that no one should have to deal with limb loss alone and struggle to find information and resources like I had,”

Sherri says, “I had already done the research so I would be happy to share it.” (**First Step**, vol. 4, p. 34)

Sherri became the founder of Out On A Limb – Memphis Area Limb Loss Support. Her husband, William, a masters level social worker, became the group's facilitator. Bob Silver, executive director of Jewish Family Service - an affiliate agency of the United Way of the Mid-South - offered to sponsor the group.

The group's first meeting was held in June 2004. A dozen people, including persons with amputations and family members, participated. Two months later, several of the new group's members attended the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA)'s annual Educational Conference and Expo in Nashville. Thus, by the end of the summer, a strong bond, or partnership, began to unfold between Jewish Family Service, United Way of the Mid-South, and the Amputee Coalition of America. The establishment of this partnership allowed for a multiple disciplined approach for amputee referrals.

Initially, bimonthly meetings were slow to draw participants. Eventually, however, word began to spread. Increased interest by participants encouraged the group to meet monthly. Area prosthetists shared flyers with patients; and both the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library, and *The Commercial Appeal* began to regu-

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Treatment of Limb Loss...

(Continued from p. 8)

larly announce meetings. The support group was quite surprised to receive a telephone call from a local television news station. The station was doing a story about an amputee soldier returning from the Middle East and needed clarification about prosthetic issues.

PALS, Hurricanes, and PVT

In Spring 2005, OOAL was invited to participate in a national study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study, known as PALS (Promoting Amputee Life Skills), was conducted by the Amputee Coalition of America, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the University of Washington Health Science Center. It was designed to help amputees develop better mechanisms for coping with limb loss. At the same time, attendance at regular OOAL meetings continued to grow.

OOAL also began to receive referrals for assistance. Separate from support group meetings, OOAL group leaders were approached by agencies to help amputees with more complicated needs. Many persons living with limb loss in the Memphis area had neither access to quality health care nor a safe place to live. For many, support did not exist.

OOAL was prepared to address these referrals with strength, and with resources. Individual group members had varied and extensive knowledge of limb loss issues. Some, who worked for local prosthetists, were able to recommend alternatives regarding prosthetic care. Others were able to advise persons referred to OOAL regarding government services, health care issues, case management support agencies, and benefits available through the ACA, and the ACA's CDC funded National Limb Loss Information Center (NLLIC). With the assistance of the NLLIC, OOAL established the nation's only support group sponsored, public access library on limb loss, the **Memphis Amputee Support Library**.

Some of the group's members were trained to offer a simple assessment of these cases. Others met potential, or post operative, amputees and family members in hospitals or physical rehab facilities. On more than one occasion, representatives from the group were asked to provide an "in-service", helping agencies to address ways in which they can address issues regarding the high incidence of limb loss in the Memphis area.

Late in the summer of 2005, however, OOAL opened a

new chapter in amputee support. In August 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita forced hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate the states of Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. About 50,000 fled north on Interstate I-55, to Memphis, and to the Mid-South.

It became clear to OOAL that there were many people with amputations among the evacuees. Unfortunately, as diabetics went without medications, more amputations occurred. OOAL took a strong initiative to galvanize the regional Orthotics & Prosthetics (O&P) community to seek out persons in need; and to provide prosthetic components and services. The response was immediate, and forthcoming. Had these interventions not been available, many vulnerable, displaced individuals would have lost significant mobility, independence, and the opportunity to begin their lives again.

Autumn in Memphis, however, was different. The hurricane season was coming to an end, and OOAL was focusing on an opportunity to train ACA Certified Peer Visitors to reach out to a new population of amputees. On a Sunday in October, fifteen people from five states met for a Peer Visitor Training (PVT). One of the participants was the founder of the amputee support group in Southwest Louisiana; and was herself a hurricane evacuee.

Community Partners

OOAL continues to build bridges with the Memphis community at the local, regional and national levels. The University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, area hospitals, and prosthetic and rehabilitation clinics across the nation continue to share their expertise with OOAL. The Amputee Coalition of America, on behalf of the CDC, has asked OOAL to help them to better understand the incidence of limb loss within the Memphis metropolitan community.

Based upon a 2005 study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, it is estimated that more than 1.6 million people live in the United

"..it is estimated that more than 1.6 million people live in the United States without an arm or a leg.."

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“WE ARE THE FUTURE” - 1st Global Conference of Social Work Students

By *Florian Sichling*

The quaint little town of Landshut in the Southern part of Germany hosted the very first global conference of students of social work. Between July 28th and July 30th approximately 90 students from Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States gathered at the University of Applied Sciences Landshut. This conference also marked the kick-off event for the World Conference of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in Munich from July 30th to August 3rd. About 150 students had registered for the conference, but, unfortunately, students from African countries were not able to attend due to problems with the German immigration authorities. Nevertheless, it was a great turn out for the first attempt to bring together the future of our profession and the title of the conference “We are the Future” reflected this purpose. The idea behind the conference was to provide an opportunity for future social workers to meet colleagues from all around the world, to engage in conversations about issues, values, training and professional identity – and to network.



Student Perspective

During the 2.5 days there were two keynote speeches, 11 paper presentations and 5 workshops. The first keynote speaker was *Dr. Stefan Borrman* on “Quality Standards and Theory-Practice Balance in Social Work Education”. The second keynote lecture by *Dr. Elisabeth Reichert* addressed issues of “Professional Identity, Ethical Principles and the Role of Human Rights in Social Work Practice”. From my observations and from talking with students, I got the overall impression that those keynote speeches were the weakest part of the conference. The paper presentations by students on the other hand turned out to be far more interesting.

Junichiro Okoshi from Japan for example spoke on the situation of the homeless in his home country. Economic restructuring and changes were identified as the prime causes for homelessness which seems to affect middle aged males disproportionately more than other segments of Japanese society. This situation is faced by a severe lack of government programs in place to provide services to these populations.

Antoinette Vermeulen from South Africa provided a perspective on social work education and practice in Johan-

nesburg. It was interesting and inspiring to hear that their emphasis in training social workers is on MACRO practice. However, they are still in the process of developing intervention methods that can work in the very specific context of a post-Apartheid society.

Adriana Baicu and *Alina Fiiles* presented on the situation of street children in Romania, stressing that for a lack of statistical data it is difficult to

estimate the number of children actually living on the streets. The dramatic lack of social service programs seems to create a pattern of homelessness that perpetuates itself.

In addition there were presentations on a case study for a barrier-free university in Japan, religious values in social work practice and on social work in a therapeutic community. But overall, the conversations during lunch and coffee breaks were the most valuable part of the conference. To have the opportunity to talk to peers from all over the globe on issues and differences in our training programs as well as the social problems faced by different societies was eye opening and an amazing experience. Seeing a student from South Africa engaged in a conversation with a Romanian colleague on the situation of the gypsy population there was very inspiring. These images aside from the many contacts and new friends will be among the most precious memories from Landshut. The workshop “An International Comparison of Social Work” hosted by the German students *Claudia Elsner*, *Katrin Neureuther* and *Lucia Schlereth* was a great reflection of this impression. It was based on their experience of a film project that tried to capture snapshots of social work issues and practice from all around the world.

In the closing ceremony the future president of the IFSW *David Jones* provided us with an inspiring welcome to a profession that makes a ‘world of difference’. He urged us to be proud of our profession, and acknowledge the contributions that social workers are making every day.

I hope that this conference will not be the last one and that it marks the beginning of a global network between future social workers, because “We are the Future!”

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Civic Engagement and Older Adults: The Success of the Senior Companion Program in a Rural Community

By Sandra S. Butler and Debra Eckart, University of Maine

Civic engagement is a phrase we hear frequently these days. Robert's Putnam's book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000) created quite a stir as he put to words what many of us sensed had been happening: community involvement had been eroding in the United States. He posits that we have withering social trust and unraveling social conditions demonstrated in part by the declining memberships in churches, unions, civic organizations—and yes, bowling leagues—since the mid-twentieth century. Basically, people are choosing to “go it alone.”

Despite this trend, there is also a certain longing for the “good old days” when community members were more involved with one another—even if these visions of the past are not always aligned with reality (Skocpol & Fiorina, 1999). Skocpol and Fiorina note that both those on the political right and those on the left have pushed for increased civic engagement, although with different motivations. Conservatives are looking for greater involvement of families, churches, and volunteer groups which they believe can solve social problems more effectively than big government. Progressives, on the other hand, believe increased civic engagement will empower people and energize democratic politics.

Civic engagement has recently become a priority for the two largest professional organizations concerned with aging and older adults: American Society on Aging (ASA) and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Atlantic Philanthropies has awarded grants to each of them to conduct multi-year initiatives to stimulate research and practice that will ultimately lead to increased opportunities for civic and social engagement by older adults. One area of focus will be to look at the effectiveness of the over-thirty-year old Senior Service Corps programs—RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companion Program (SCP)—and how they need to be modified to meet current demands. Initial research by GSA through forums of professionals and focus groups of older adults indicates that these programs are successful, but could have even greater impact



with modest changes in regulations.

Our own experience with one of these programs, the SCP, in a rural coastal county in Maine corroborates the findings of GSA: The program is very successful but it could be expanded in order to reach more elders. The SCP offers an example of civic engagement that can please both those on the political right and those on the left. While the SCP is a federal government program having poverty reduction as one of its primary goals, it is a fairly low-cost program which increases volunteerism and promotes the ideal of community members looking after one another. According to current guidelines, a person is eligible to be an SCP volunteer if he or she is 60 years of age or older and low-income (125% of poverty line or below). Volunteers are placed with agencies and organizations which connect them with frail elders in the community needing companionship and assistance. Volunteers typically have a handful of elders they visit on a regular basis; sometimes they merely sit and talk over a cup of tea, other times volunteers may run errands or drive the elder to the grocery store or doctor. Oftentimes, the volunteer is the only person these elders have checking on them, and thus may be the first to know if a person is in a critical health condition. Volunteers typically work 15 to 20 hours a week and receive a stipend of \$2.65 per hour. The SCP thus supplements their meager incomes by about \$200 each month. The program covers some transportation costs, but the funding is inadequate, especially in these times of high gas prices.



A recent two-year, in-depth research project investigating the meaning of this program for SCP volunteers, the elders they visited, and the community at large indicated its value at both the individual and community levels. For the low-income older adult volunteers, involvement in the program brings many rewards: they feel good about helping their neighbors in need, they like having a structured activity that keeps them involved in life, they enjoy the companionship of the new friends they make, and the

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Civic Engagement and Older Adults...

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extra money earned is often used for basic needs not covered by their own small fixed monthly incomes. The frail elders who receive assistance from the SCP speak in glowing terms about their volunteers and the help they receive.



They find their Senior Companions to be good company and describe the visits as a bright spot in their days. Moreover, these elders, who want very much to remain in their homes despite disabilities, speak of the increased independence they gain from the help received from their Senior Companions; they report that knowing they will receive this help reduces their anxiety.

In order to assess the impact of the SCP on the community at large, the research project also involved interviews with family members of frail elders receiving SCP assistance; social service agency staff that place SCP volunteers with elder clients; and other people in the community not affiliated with the program, but interested in the welfare of community elders. For family members the program brought peace of mind, knowing their loved one had a caring friend with whom to visit; it also allowed them respite when they were doing primary care-giving. Agency staff noted how the SCP helped fill some of the many holes in the social service system in this very rural region, emphasizing in particular that SCP volunteers helped to ease the loneliness of isolated elders. Community informants noted that the program kept elders actively engaged and was meeting crucial community needs. They reported that it was particularly effective with the current elder generation in the region who are unlikely to ask for assistance.

“...a little federal money can go a long way toward supporting the natural networks in a community.”

“Neighbors should be helping neighbors” is the classic emphasis of conservative policy makers who believe government programs interfere with natural community and family assistance. In the case of the SCP, a government program born out of the War on Poverty, a little federal money can go a long way toward supporting the natural networks in a community. From our perspective, the SCP is a fine example of facilitating

civic engagement for older adults. While the program has survived these 30 plus years, it has not been allowed to grow to meet the demands of growing numbers of older adults anxious to provide service (including those with slightly higher incomes than 125% of the poverty line) or of frail elders in the community needing assistance. The SCP is a bargain and a fine example of how civic engagement can easily be stimulated with a small amount of government funding.

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CO Practice in Japan...

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Their local social welfare plan was eventually developed with some reflections from the meetings.

There may not have been real social work practice (at least macro social work practice) until recently, but the nationwide community planning is now happening. People are following exactly what CO textbooks are explaining—assessing needs, having balance of power among members, facilitating meetings with democratic representation, etc. We may develop a new CO method in Japan and export it to the U.S.

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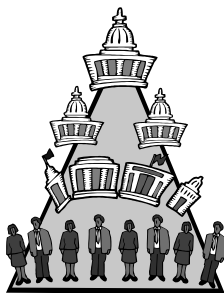
Nonprofit Networks Growing Important

by Jessica Obergas, *The Forbes Funds*

Nonprofit organizations play a unique and important role in our communities. Whether they conduct job training for at-risk youth, feed homeless people in urban cores, assist farmers in developing sustainable agriculture initiatives, provide world class health care, or offer cultural options for families to enjoy, charities touch all of our lives.

Today, nonprofits face trying times. An uncertain economic climate creates a lack of financial certainty; this insecurity leads to increased competition for limited resources. Additionally, public policy might favor other interests, which, with government budget cuts, puts additional strains on nonprofit service providers. These challenges and uncertainties increase the need for nonprofit organizations to collaborate with one another, to share resources, and to work together in addressing organizational and collective missions. At the same time, unfavorable policy and legislation increases the need for nonprofit organizations to speak with one voice and to advocate on behalf of the entire nonprofit sector.

Since the early 1980s, such national organizations as Independent Sector and the National Council of Nonprofit Associations, in addition to 36 active and 11 emerging statewide nonprofit organizations, have served to unite the nonprofit sector across the United States. These organizations provide opportunities for collaboration between organizations; communications regarding issues surrounding the sector; management and professional development opportunities; and advocacy efforts on behalf of the nonprofit sector. These national and state organizations provide one voice for the nonprofit sector on issues of wide concern. Now, a new trend in nonprofit collaboration is emerging: the development of regional nonprofit associations. These associations address many of the same challenges and provide similar services as state and national organizations. The key difference is that these services are focused locally.



Some regional affiliations focus solely on advocacy efforts; others provide only management development resources, and some perform a combination of services. All organizations have a diverse membership base; unlike interest-based coalitions, nonprofit associations count members from a variety of nonprofit subsectors, including the arts, education, health care, human services, and even foundations. These associations are most often member driven and member supported; like their counterparts at the state and national levels, members of regional nonprofit associations pay dues to secure benefits of membership.

A scan of regional nonprofit associations reveals that these organizations are few in number but growing. One of the newest of

these organizations is the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GPNP), sponsored by The Forbes Funds in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Forbes Funds focuses on building the capacity of the nonprofit sector through grant-making, research, and leadership convening. During the beginning phases of the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership, The Forbes Funds and a member-comprised Advisory Team endeavored to create an organization that will serve as a convening place for nonprofit organizations across the 10-county southwestern Pennsylvania region. They desired for the organization to serve as the "voice" of the nonprofit sector in the region. They hoped for this voice to educate and inform citizens about the role of nonprofits in their lives and the importance of supporting these organizations. The Advisory Team also hoped for a mechanism to serve as an advocate for the sector on policy issues of local, state, and national concern. The Advisory Team envisions that the GPNP's ability to organize the charitable sector will impact issues which affect the charitable sector and the region.



In its first year, the GPNP grew to more than 250 members, representing organizations of all types from across southwestern Pennsylvania. A rigorous strategic planning process yielded three areas of focus: developing a robust, sustainable organization; engaging effectively in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels; and educating the public as to the importance of the charitable sector and the public's role in volunteering and individual giving. Current initiatives include: the development of a robust, interactive web site that will serve as a resource to charities and the public alike; a nonprofit voter engagement initiative, recognizing the unique opportunity charities have to register and engage traditionally underrepresented populations in the democratic process; and a public media campaign, utilizing partnerships with a variety of media outlets in the region, to advance the public's understanding of the role of nonprofit organizations and the importance of these organizations.

The Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership is just one example of regional nonprofit associations and their impact on the charitable sector. Modeling their structures and goals after those of national and state associations, regional associations will continue to play a key role in the vitality of the nonprofit sector and, in turn, in improving our communities.

For more information on the *Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership*, contact The Forbes Funds: www.forbesfunds.org

Jessica Obergas was a summer associate with The Forbes Funds jessica.obergas@gmail.com

Limb Loss...

(Continued from page 9)

States without an arm or a leg. This number roughly translates to a ratio of 1:200, or about 0.5% of the overall population. It has also been found that people at greatest risk for limb loss are persons without access to quality health care (**National Limb Loss Information Center**).

In the Spring of 2006, Cecile Evans, professional advisor to the group, as well as a nurse practitioner, and doctoral student at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, introduced the group to the Healthy Memphis Common Table (HMCT). HMCT is a community partnership of over 150 businesses and organizations, with over 600 individual members. The current health care focus of this Healthy Memphis partnership is on "obesity and diabetes." Diabetes is the number one cause of lower extremity amputations in the United States (**NLLIC**). A relationship with Healthy Memphis Common Table will enable OOAL to better understand the demographics of those at the highest risk for limb loss throughout the Memphis area; and will introduce new ways to educate and support people affected by the loss of a limb.

In the summer of 2006, OOAL was nominated as a Merit Finalist for a Community Partnership Award by the Mutual of America Foundation. It is hoped that this prestigious award will raise community awareness to the diversity of needs of people with limb loss. It is also the wish of this article's authors that others will become more familiar with resources currently available for making appropriate community interventions in the treatment of limb loss.

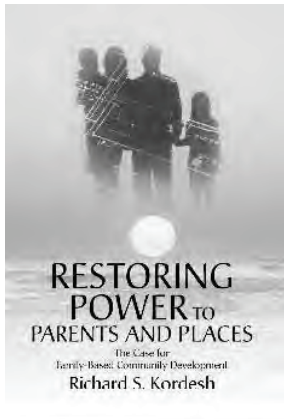
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Restoring Power to Parents and Places



Author: Richard S. Kordesh **Price:** \$13.95 **ISBN:** 0-595-36953-7

Through his research, as well as his experiences as a father, author Richard Kordesh has learned that families have suffered due to the loss of their productive capabilities. Understandably, society tends to focus on problems facing poor children, but it is clear that families of all income levels are in danger of becoming weaker, even to the point where many are being destroyed.

Restoring Power to Parents and Places: The Case for Family-Based Community Development provides a fresh perspective on the debate about the future of the family. It is also a useful guide for community builders, a practical resource for policy makers, and a tool that will empower mothers and fathers and their families. Kordesh blends his twenty years of experience as a community development professional, government official, professor, and father to describe how "the productive family" must be strengthened in order to sustain good communities for children. He shares his ideas to attain these goals

- Creating more productive and powerful parent roles
- Building communities that embrace family enterprises
- Designing public policies that foster family-based community development
- Breaking the liberal-conservative stalemate in the debate over the family
- Reinvigorating American populism so that it refocuses on productive family institutions
- Restoring Power to Parents and Places is a provocative analysis of the family's predicament and a call to action.



Call for Proposals

Editor: Journal of Community Practice

The Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA) seeks an individual or group of individuals to serve as the editor(s) for the Journal of Community Practice. The Journal is sponsored by ACOSA and published quarterly by Haworth Press, Inc. The journal is listed in numerous abstracts and indices including the Applied Social Science Index, Social Services Abstracts, and Social Work Abstracts.

The Journal of Community Practice is an interdisciplinary journal grounded in social work. It is designed to provide a forum for community organizing, planning, social administration, organizational development, community development and social change. The journal contributes to the development of knowledge in social work and the social sciences, including urban planning, social and economic development, community organizing, policy analysis, urban and rural sociology, public administration, community health, and nonprofit management. As the only journal focusing on community practice, it covers research, theory, practice, and curriculum strategies for the full range of work with communities and organizations. Currently, the journal has a four-person team of Editors, Managing Editor (half-time), two Book Review Editors, and an active Editorial Board. The Editor(s) are accountable to the ACOSA Board.

We seek an Editor or Editors who have a demonstrated commitment to the range of macro theory, research and practice in social work and related interdisciplinary fields, as well as experience with editorial functions and roles. We are particularly interested in applicants that can enhance the interdisciplinary and international foci of the journal. We will consider various editorial models including co-editorships, collective (group) structures, or cross-institutional collaborations. Applicants must indicate the institutional support they will receive, particularly financial support for management and copyediting, electronic communications, or other journal management functions (e.g. funds, release time, administrative assistance, space).

The proposal should include the following:

-A vision statement for the journal
-A summary of the qualifications of the applicant(s)
-Ideas regarding editorial structure (e.g. collective or collaborative possibilities) and duties (e.g. solicitation and review of manuscripts)
-Ideas for marketing the journal
-Ideas for any thematic issues that would become books
-CV's of all proposed editors
-A budget, including a statement of institutional support (e.g., Dean/Director)

Please submit your proposal for the editorship by email (MSWord attachment) to:

Susan A. Murty, Ph.D., University of Iowa, School of Social Work
308 North Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242

Email: susan-murty@uiowa.edu Phone: 319-335-3628

Applications should be submitted by October 15, 2006.

The ACOSA JCP Editor Search Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the ACOSA board, which will name the new Editor(s). The new Editor(s) will be chosen by January 15, 2007. Editorial responsibilities will begin June 1, 2007 for a term of five years, with the possibility of renewal. Contact Susan Murty if you have any questions.



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In this issue, ACOSA
goes Global! Read
about these summer
international
experiences

ACOSA
Network

If you have attended international programs or conferences, especially the International Social Work Conference in Munich, Germany this August, please share your experiences and thoughts in *The ACOSA Update!* We hope to feature more articles on international perspectives in community and social administrative practice.

Contact the Editor: Tracy Soska at tsssw+@pitt.edu

ACOSA Update!

Editor	Tracy Soska - University of Pittsburgh Phone: 412-624-3711; tsssw+@pitt.edu
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Contributing Columnist Wanted	ACOSA Update! Is looking for contributing columnists who will make or ensure regular contributions in the following areas: community organizing, field education, policy and technology.

The Association for Community Organization and Social Administration

ACOSA is a registered 501c3 membership organization for community organizers, planners, activists, administrators, policy practitioners, students, and professors. ACOSA members represent a variety of disciplines and professional fields which strive to strengthen community organization and social administration in practice and education. *ACOSA Update!* is published quarterly by the Association for Community Organization & Social Administration (ACOSA).

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