This column is a continuation of my notes on formulating a research question in our last news letter. I’ve indicated that it is important to address the ‘so what’ question in formulating a research problem. Often I have heard scholars justifying a research question in a selected field by pointing out the paucity of studies on the research topic. I do not always agree with this position. Very often studies based on the paucity justification tend to describe social facts. Social facts are indeed useful. The social, psychological and other factors that contribute social factors force us to think about causal relationships. So next time you think of writing a paper, your research question should focus on a causal relationships. It is also possible that very little is known about the social fact you are interested in. Qualitative study design can certainly help you here.

Here are a few tips to help you interview smartly.
1. Remember first impression is the best impression. - Dress like a professional.
2. Think positively - about the interview and about yourself.
3. Your posture matters. Don’t walk looking at the ground.
4. Sit well in your chair and don’t be fidgety.
5. Smile and try to mean it as much as you can.
6. Make moderate eye contact.

BROWN BAG SESSION:
Look for BROWN BAG sessions normally scheduled for second Wednesday of every month during the semester. They are usually held in Room 217 Building A (Social Work School) between 12.00 PM and 1.00 PM. We had two excellent presentations this semester already. Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne made an excellent presentation on “Use of Theory and other Forms of Evidence in Practicum and Dissertation Research” on September 26, 2007. The second presentation was by Dr Regina Praetorius on “Marketing yourself: the Teaching Philosophy and CV” held on Oct 17, 2007, Thursday, at 12.00 PM in 217 Social Work Bldg. A. The presentation was followed by a very lively discussion. She provided several useful tips for constructing a vita.

“UT Arlington is preparing for its first (ever) initiation ceremony to the PHI KAPPA SOCIETY on Nov. 19th. PHI KAPPA PHI is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. The society’s mission is to “recognize and promote academic excellence” in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others. I had forwarded nominations for two students. I’m most happy to tell you all that both nominations were successful. Please welcome our newest PHI KAPPA PHI members: Ms Heidi Strickler and Mr. Rob Aaron. Let us follow the footsteps of these pioneers next year.

Look for this column in the next issue…
Students Cont’d:

Amy M. Blakeney:
I have been a social worker for over 13 years receiving my Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin in 1994 and my Master of Social Work at the University of Houston in 1999. I have worked in a variety of settings from Mental Health in Las Vegas, Nevada to School Social Work in Galveston, Texas. My most recent work experience was running the Continuing Education Program at the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work and assisting with Community Research. In assisting with the various Community Research projects, I became aware of my love for research and my desire to obtain my Ph.D. My primary areas of interest are Adolescent Sexual Health, Reproductive Health, and Gender Equality at the community, national and international levels. I have a wonderfully supportive husband, two precious children, ages two and almost 4, three dogs and a cat.

Nada Elias-Lambert, LMSW:
She works as a Community Education Coordinator at the Turning Point Rape Crisis Center, Plano, TX. She has developed county-wide sexual assault awareness education program, developed and implemented sexual assault prevention training for volunteer educators, educated a variety of community groups on sexual harassment and assault awareness, trained and supervised volunteer educators and undergraduate interns, maintained statistical information regarding programs, answered hotline and provided crisis intervention.

Adrienne Garcia-O’Malley:
Adrienne is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Former Internationally Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Certified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP), Certified in SASSI administration & scoring (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory), Certified Domestic Violence Victim’s group Facilitator, Certified Domestic Violence Educator, Certified End Nicotine Dependency Facilitator, Certified Juvenile First Offender Facilitator, Previous Certified Practicum Instructor, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Certified Practicum Instructor, University of TX, Arlington

Stephen Baldridge:
Stephen completed the following article: Baldridge, S.N. (2007). Passive abuse: A conceptual framework for attachment theory and adolescents. Perspectives in Social Work, 6(1), 14-17. This article examines the literature regarding the different characteristics to develop a conceptual framework revolving around Bowlby’s theory of attachment, specifically as it relates to the caregiver-child relationship developed in the first three years of life.

LaJuana Hector:
In June, LaJuana presented “Crisis Case Management: A Conceptual Model” at the 2007 National Meeting and Conference for the Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) held in New Orleans, LA.

Leigh Johnson:

( cont’d pg. 3)
Students Cont’d:

Candy Madrigal -
Licensed Clinical Social Worker:

Peer Review/Competitive Conference Presentations:


Pillai, Vijayan; Dheeshana Jayasundara and Candy Madrigal “Reproductive Health and Social Development.” Presented at the 15th Symposium of Internacional Consortium on Social Development. 16-20 July 2007. Hong Polytechnic, Hong.Kong.


Dean Sinclair:
Third Year Student received notice of article “Homosexuality & the U.S. Military: A review of the literature has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Homosexuality.

Aaron Robb, M.Ed., NCC, LPC-S (Forensic Counseling Services):


“Parenting Coordinators: Beyond the Statute” co-presented with the Honorable Jeff Coen at the Dallas County Family Law Section meeting, June 2007.

“Families in transition: Helping parents cope with the interrelated legal and emotional issues of divorce and child custody disputes” co-presented with Brad Craig and Carol Mapp at the National Association of Social Workers/Texas State Conference, October 2006.

“Defending against Daubert, effective courtroom testimony and standards for preparation of a social study” co-presented with Hector Mendez and Trevor Townes at the Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices 22nd Annual Training Conference, October 2006.

Also, over the summer I was selected as a reviewer for the Journal of Forensic Social Work, which begins publication this fall from Haworth Press.

BABIES:
Aaron Robb and his wife LeeAnn had a baby, John Michael Robb in January!!!