

The Journal for Specialists in Group Work
Announcement from the 2011 Incoming Editor
Christopher McCarthy, PhD, The University of Texas at Austin

As editor, I will continue the high standards for scholarship in group work established by my predecessors. As the premier outlet for group leaders who identify professionally with the American Counseling Association Beyond, the journal will continue to its tradition of promoting knowledge in the area of group work and expand its' influence in both academic and practice settings.

Diversity of topics is a notable strength of **JSGW**. Recent special issues on group work in the schools and for social justice issues are examples of cutting-edge scholarship. I hope to further this type of contribution in the upcoming special issue I am guest-editing on groups in health care settings.

JSGW continues to attract quality submissions describing research on group work, both in terms of articles presenting quality studies and through articles that comment on methodology and best practices for presenting group research. Those of us who conduct group research are aware of the unique challenges and opportunities in this area of scholarship, and I intend to devote further attention to such issues in the near future.

I will also continue the tradition of encouraging articles on group interventions that have received less attention in the literature - for example, in a recent editorial, my predecessor Dr. Sheri Bauman noted that groups designed to address recently displaced or unemployed workers were both timely and particularly welcome in the journal. As editor I will continue to alert readers to the types of contributions the journal is actively seeking.

The issue of under- and unemployment compels me to acknowledge my concerns about the impact of the current financial climate on everything group workers do today. Group leaders are likely facing budget cuts in their work settings in which they work, and will continue to lead groups with members who are struggling to cope with today's harsh economic realities. These times call up all of us to consider the roles we play in our community and profession, and to decide how best to use our expertise in group work to promote welfare at every level of society.

Finally, I want to close by acknowledging that **JSGW** owes its very existence to its membership and contributors. I look forward to serving you all as editor.

Editor Biography

Dr. Chris McCarthy received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Georgia State University in 1995. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and is also the training director for the Counseling Psychology Program. In addition to his research interest in group work, Dr. McCarthy has research interests in coping and health, particularly with respect to stress experienced by educators and students.