Editorial: A Dedication to Carol J. Williams

by Steve Marson, Ph.D.

I first met Carol in 1994 when she first joined the BPD's (Baccalaureate Program Director) Committee on Information Technology and Social Work Education (CIFTSWE). During that time frame, the committee members were frantically seeking to diversify its membership. Carol was the first woman to admit that she shared our nerd-like passion for computers and technology.

Unlike the rest of us, Carol was always quiet and unassuming.   I vividly recall the day when she told me that she had an MS in computer science. As it turned out, this quiet and unassuming woman had greater knowledge of computer technology than the entire membership of the committee. Her shyness was often *misinterpreted* as a lack of self-confidence.

This misinterpretation became apparent in 1998-1999. The entire computer-dependent world was on the threshold of panic while awaiting Y2K.* The BPD Board of Directors commissioned CIFTSWE to address the Y2K issue during the fall conference in St. Louis. Carol's quiet but self-confident posture reassured the BPD membership when she spoke to a standing room only presentation entitled "Y2K: Will my computer crash on January 1, 2000?" (at the 16th conference). Carol was able to translate her intimate knowledge of computer programming to reduce panic by explaining the specific problems *and solutions* that social work educators, students, and practitioner would face for Y2K. The attendees left the presentation reassured. The logo for the presentation was recycled on many BPD documents related to computers and technology.

Five years ago, Carol once again came to the rescue. As editor of JSWVE, I was having some technical difficulties. Although very busy, Carol went out of her way to assist me. It was at that point that I begged Carol to join the editorial board as a technical advisor. She did and was a great asset to our work. Her absence leaves a great void in the management of JSWVE.

After a long battle with cancer, Carol died Friday, November 12, 2010, at St. Peters University Hospital in New Brunswick. Later, Boylan Funeral Home handled a private cremation. On December 5, 2010, a memorial service was held where social work professors, students, and practitioners said their final good-byes to Carol. Following are memorial statements made by her friends and colleagues:

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Carol was one of the BEST friends and colleagues that I have had the pleasure of having known. We met at the BPD Conference in San Diego more than 20 years ago, and we instantly became friends and colleagues. Carol and I published together and we would laugh that it took the two of us to publish, because both of our universities offered us limited resources. She had the resource of SPSS available, and I had limited funding available for the study. Her husband O'Neal was always by her side at our BPD conferences and in many ways became part of the BPD family.

Carol, I will miss you dearly. I am ever grateful that our paths crossed and that you shared your friendship and love.

Gloria Duran Aguilar, PhD, ACSW
Florida A&M University

I received the news that BPD member Carol Williams passed away over the weekend. Carol Williams of Kean University was a long-time member of BPD who made many significant contributions to the association. Many may know her as the publisher of the BPD Update, but she also served on a number of committees, including gerontology and technology. She was serving as a current member of our Nominations Committee.

She had been ill for some time and was receiving support from her husband, O'Neal. Carol will be missed by all who knew her, and BPD was significantly enriched by her presence. Please join me in expressing the deepest sympathies for the family.

Michael R. Daley, Ph.D., ACSW
President, Association of Baccalaureate
Social Work Program Directors

I can't believe that I won't see Carole at the next conference. I always looked forward to catching up with Carole and O'Neal. She was always smiling and warm and helpful with anything you might need.

Deneece Ferrales, Ph.D., LCSW

Folks, I hardly "knew" Carole--we met face to face only once. But I relied on her technical knowledge, and we were long time e-mail buddies. I feel like I am out on a tightrope without a net now that she is gone. What a loss!

Susan Sarnoff

* During the 1960s to late 1980s there was a widespread practice in all computer software to use two digits for representing a year rather than using four digits. As the 1990's approached, experts began to realize that the use of two rather than four digits was a major shortcoming in computer software. In the year 2000, some computer systems would interpret 00 as 1900. This would cause massive shutdowns for millions of computer databases that used dates – including social work practice records. The panic was coined "Y2K." Large corporations were hiring computer programmers to debug their mainframes. Commonly, those who had Y2K skills were making $500 an hour for debugging. Everyone was in a panic!