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New Website for Columbia Social Work Review, Powered by the Center for Digital Research and Scholarship

The Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS) is pleased to announce the launch of the new website of the Columbia Social Work Review (CSWR). CSWR (formerly the Journal of Student Social Work) is an annual peer-reviewed journal for social work students to share their research, experiences and views with both those in the Columbia community and in the social work field at large.

The mission of CSWR is to "provide a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas that integrate social work practice, education, research, and theory from the perspective of social work students. Founded by students at Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW) in 2003 as the Columbia University Journal of Student Social Work, the academic journal provides an opportunity for students in the field of social work to share their unique experiences and perspectives with fellow students, faculty, and the larger social work community."

CDRS teamed up with CSWR to create a new website worthy of showcasing Columbia social work students' work. CDRS designed the site and provided the ISSN, and now powers that platform and works with CSWR to deposit journal articles in Academic Commons, Columbia's institutional repository, which enables CSWR research to be freely read around the world.

New editor-in-chief Claire Schoen said of the website launch: "Last year was our ten year anniversary, and CSWR has gone through lots of changes. Unlike other reviews that anybody can submit to, only CUSSW students and one-year-out CUSSW alumni can submit to CSWR, which really puts the emphasis on what current students are interested in writing about. We teamed up with CDRS to launch our new website in order to promote and increase the prestige of CSWR, but more importantly to promote and increase the prestige of the authors themselves. Rather than having their research in hard copy, each author will be able to refer their peers, faculty, and future employers to an online link to their research, which everyone can access."

Those submitting articles to CSWR face a stiff competitive process. Of the fifty submissions the CSWR editorial board received last year, they accepted 6 and printed 5. The expectation is that they will exceed these numbers this year. "Our highly competitive submission process enables us on the editorial board to truly highlight who will be the future leaders in the social work field. We've received a huge interest from students in sitting on the CSWR editorial board, too; this year over 28 applicants applied for 8 new editorial positions," noted Schoen. Currently, CSWR features twelve editorial
board members; one editor-in-chief, two executive editors, one senior editor, and eight associate editors.

Kathleen Chiarantona, outgoing CSWR editor-in-chief, added: “The opportunity to work with CDRS this year has enabled us to create a whole new website for CSWR, which has had a tremendous effect not only on our presence at Columbia and within the social work community, but within the whole academic community at large. Uploading our students’ articles to Academic Commons has enabled these articles to be searchable online, and having our authors cited and referenced has allowed them to join the body of literature on the topic. All in all, we think the website is fantastic and looks incredibly professional, really legitimizing our presence as a real publication.”

Rebecca Kennison, CDRS Director, commented: "Redeveloping CSWR's site to provide students, faculty, and those from the wider social work community with a prestigious space in which to showcase excellent work by Columbia's CUSSW students is hugely exciting. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with a group of such inspired, talented individuals."

The Columbia Social Work Review is currently seeking scholarly papers that apply critical analysis to current topics in the field of social work for its next volume, to be published Spring 2013. To get in touch with the CSWR team regarding submitting a paper, please review the submissions guidelines on the CSWR website. - Claire Schoen, CSWR editor-in-chief

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