

SOCIAL WORK IN THE PUBLIC EYE

An article in *Continuum*, the University of Utah magazine, detailed the research on behavioral oncology by Peter Maramaldi, assistant professor of social work. Maramaldi and Usha Menon, assistant professor of nursing, are "pursuing the radical notion that we need to know how basic human nature affects cancer screening behavior," *Continuum* reported. "They are driven to learn how people's beliefs about disease affect their actions."

According to the magazine, "Maramaldi, a lifelong New Yorker with social work, public health and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, joined the social work faculty in 2001 and serves as associate director for research for the W. D. Goodwill Initiatives on Aging. He was named a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar in 2002."

"The national award has enabled him to conduct an exploratory study into health beliefs and cultural factors contributing to behaviors related to colorectal cancer incidence and mortality disparities among African American and Caucasian populations in the United States," *Continuum* reported.

"Older people carry a greater cancer burden than the young," *Continuum* quoted Maramaldi as saying. "As people survive cancer, we have to understand how to enhance survivorship



Peter Maramaldi

and maintain their quality of life. This includes their caretakers as well."

The *Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger* included comments from Barbara Solt, senior program associate at the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, in an article about former Iran



Barbara Solt

hostage Kathryn Koob. Koob was one of the Americans held hostage in 1979, along with 53 other U.S. embassy staff members in Tehran. Koob recently spoke to a group of medical professions on mental health issues facing Americans returning from or confronting severe trauma, the paper reported.

"By reinforcing protectors

and a willingness to accept that circumstances are beyond a victim's control, [Solt] said the legitimate goal of resiliency training should be not merely surviving but thriving and benefiting at the conclusion of the traumatic episode," the paper reported.

Solt earned a doctorate in social work from Catholic University, writing her dissertation on "The Resiliency of Survivors."

Flagstaff, Ariz., social worker Donna Clark contributed a column to the *Arizona Daily Sun* about dealing with a diagnosis of cancer.

Clark advised people with cancer to take steps to ensure that they understand all the information they are receiving. "If possible take a tape recorder with you to record every conversation with a medical professional," she suggested.

Clark also advised those with cancer to "delay scheduling any type of treatment until you can review your findings. By now, you will probably be totally overwhelmed. This would be an excellent time to find an oncology social worker. An oncology social worker will help walk you through the decision-making maze."

"A social worker can also connect you with sources that can knowledgeably answer any remaining questions or arrange for you to see [a registered nurse] for a pre-surgery class to find out exactly what to expect," she wrote.

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