

Editorial: A Dedication to Wayne Evens

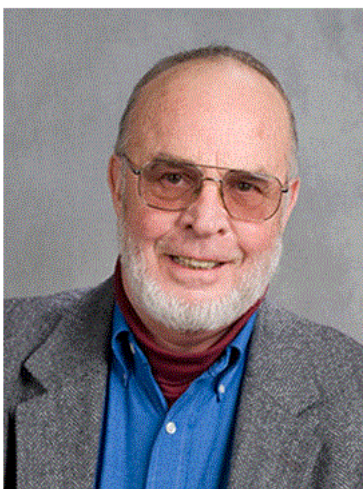
Stephen M. Marson, Ph.D., Editor

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I first met Wayne Carl Evens at a BPD conference in 1990. We became immediate friends and working colleagues. Most of our conversations addressed teaching, research methods (particularly autocorrelation for single-system designs) and, of course, social work ethics. Actually, our first conversation involved the ethics of failing to test for autocorrelation in single-system designs. Among academic social workers, it was a hot topic during that timeframe.



In 1982, Bloom and Fischer published a paradigm-shifting book titled *Evaluating practice: Guidelines for the accountable professional*. This book had a profound influence on Wayne Evens and me. The problem Wayne and I discussed was that this landmark book was “one-dimensional.” The book exclusively addressed single-system designs for the evaluation of practice. In 1988, the Council on Social Work Education formalized the concept of the “generalist model” and required this vision to become the centerpiece of BSW education. Wayne and I (and many others) immediately recognized that the one-dimensional nature of single-system designs could be only one small part of the BSW (generalist model) toolbox.

In 1990, Catherine Alter and Wayne authored a book titled *Evaluating your practice: A guide to*

self-assessment. “Toolbox” was the key concept behind the book. Alter and Evens linked practice evaluation protocols to practice. They realized that practitioners were frustrated because single-system designs do not fit most forms of social work practice. They introduced six practice evaluation tools. Wayne told me that they envisioned their book as a supplement for social work practice courses and gave me a hardy laugh after he learned that their book was being adopted for research courses. The book was a best seller for Springer Publications. The authors and this publisher did not expect the book to be adopted for research classes.

Wayne was my dear friend and colleague. He was an enthusiastic member of our editorial board. He was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in late fall of 2016 and has been fighting it since then. He passed away peacefully Sunday, April 16, 2017, surrounded by his loving and supportive family.

Wayne asked, before his death, that we all take time to reflect on our relationships with him and remember him at his best. This editorial is my effort to reflect and remember him. He will live on in us all, and we can honor him by choosing kindness over anger, respect over judgment, and love over fear.

His signature footwear was cowboy boots. To bestow honor upon him, the graduating social work majors decided to attend commencement by wearing cowboy boots. They posted a picture to document the event. (*next page*)

I sent out an electronic call and invited subscribers to submit testimonials to honor Dr. Evens. You can find them on the following pages.



From: Allison Sherr
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 6:08 PM
To: smarson@nc.rr.com
Subject: Wayne Even Tribute

To whom this concerns:

I was lucky enough to study with Professor Evens for four years. He was and always will be a social worker to aspire to. I learned how to be compassionate, hardworking and kind from him. You could always count on Wayne to help in any way that he could. Even after graduation, we kept in touch and he continued to teach me how to be a better social worker. I hope to make him proud and become the social worker he knew I could be. I wouldn't have had the courage to apply for and attend graduate school without his help and guidance. Wayne will be sorely missed.

Thank you!
Allison Sherr
Bradley University, BS/Social Work, 2014
Loyola University Chicago, MSW,

From: Gregory Adler
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:13 PM
To: smarson@nc.rr.com
Subject: My tribute to Wayne

At Bradley University Wayne was my professor and academic advisor. During my time at Bradley I had him for multiple social work classes. A large amount of what I know about social work I learned from him. He challenged me to think critically and to think about social work from many different perspectives. He made his classes fun, always made sure that every student got their questions answered, and always made sure that students understood the material. Whenever I needed help with something, Wayne would go the extra mile to help me and do everything he could. When I would register for classes, Wayne made sure I was taking what I needed to and told me what combination of classes would be best to take. Wayne genuinely cared about my success and getting my degree. Wayne was a phenomenal professor and a great man. He was kind, caring, and truly had his students' best interests in mind. Wayne was an inspiration and role model to me. Wayne was one of a kind and he will be deeply missed.

Sincerely,
Gregory Adler

Wayne Evens was first my student at the University of Iowa School of Social Work and, I must say, one of the finest students I ever had the pleasure of working with. He was always way ahead of the class and ahead of me if truth be told. It was the middle 1980s, a time when academicians were pushing practitioners to adopt research-based practices or, if they weren't available, to do research on their own practice. We encountered much push back from the field, and I realized early on there had to be a way to not only make research methods accessible but doable to our hard working colleagues in the field. It was then that Wayne became my colleague. Wayne's thoughts paralleled my own and *Evaluating Your Practice* was born. Wayne's contributions to this book were creative, imaginative and extremely helpful. We enjoyed our work together and stayed in touch for many years. Our profession has lost a good and talented member.

Stephen, thank you so much for doing this.
Catherine Alter

From: Steven Dolins
Date: Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 2:22 PM
Subject: Wayne Evens tribute
To: Portia Adams <padams@fsmail.bradley.edu>

Wayne was a caring, empathetic colleague. In 2010, Wayne facilitated a retreat for the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, which I chair, where we developed a strategic plan. Dr. Claire Etaugh, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at that time, asked him to do this work for service to the university and without compensation. He ably led the process which was challenging and sometimes contentious, and we frequently laughed about the various machinations that took place. The department is still utilizing that same Strategic Plan today. As a small gesture, I gave him a Chicago blues piano compact disc I produced; afterwards, he would always ask about the pianist and "like" my various Facebook posts on music. Wayne was always cheerful and willing to listen. It was a pleasure and comfort to see Wayne in the hallways and outside of Bradley Hall. He is sorely missed by me and many other Bradley University faculty members.

Steven Dolins, Chair and Professor
Department of Computer Science and Information
Systems
Bradley University