



Going full circle: Amanda Duffy Randall returns to her Exam Committee roots

The item development consultant for the Bachelors exam has a 20-year history with ASWB, and it all began with her appointment to the Exam Committee in 1994

Some pretty talented celebrities have come from Nebraska, whether by birth or by residency: Fred and Adele Astaire, Johnny Carson, Sandy Dennis, and Paul Revere (of Paul Revere and the Raiders) to name a few. So it's not surprising that ASWB's newest item development consultant hails from the same state or that she had aspirations of becoming a Rockette. Amanda Duffy Randall, Ph.D., a former ASWB president and former member of the Exam Committee, has been signed as consultant for the Bachelors exam. She will begin her work as coach and subject matter expert for item writers in January 2015.

Although Randall is the newest consultant to the exam development program, she has been involved with the association for 20 years. She has served on or chaired virtually every committee, including the Board of Directors. She currently serves on the Governance Task Force and the Foundation Editorial Review Board.

Her affiliation with ASWB began in 1994, when she was appointed to the Exam Committee by then-president Sunny Andrews, her mentor. She served until 1996. She was appointed to the 1996 Job Analysis

Task Force, where she served as a subject matter expert, and to the 1996 Exam Issues Task Force, which she co-chaired. In 2013, she was reappointed to the Exam Committee and served through 2014.



Other appointments to ASWB committees and task forces include: Program and Education Committee, 1996-April 1997; DARS Committee, 2002-2003 (now the Regulation and Standards [RAS] Committee); Bylaws Committee, chair (2004-2005) and member (2010-2011); Finance Committee, 2009; New Board Member Training Committee, 2009-2010. She was elected to the Nominating Committee and served as chair in 2003. Elected in 2007 to the Board of Directors, she served as director at large through 2008. She was then elected in 2009 as president-elect. She served as ASWB president in 2010 and 2011 and as past president

in 2012. During her terms on the Board, she served as liaison to the following committees: Program and Education Committee, 2008-2009; Examination Committee, 2011-2012; and Finance and Nominating committees in 2012.

Randall recalls how different the Exam Committee was in its beginning years: “We wrote items four times a year after administration of paper tests. We heard appeals on items and we would debate the answers. Candidates would call the office to say they thought an answer was wrong.”

Randall will join current item development consultants David Aiken (Clinical exam), Monica Roth Day (Masters exam), Bynia Reed (Clinical exam), and Nancy

Sidell (Masters exam). She is looking forward to working with the item writers and continuing to work with the Exam Committee in a new way. “It will be an interesting way to use a lot of experience. It has a more micro focus, because it will be concentrating on individual items,” she said. “It will be fun. The people on the committee are so smart. Experiences are so different. I always leave with far more knowledge than I came with.”

Randall is the director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska Omaha. She has a private practice working with adolescents, couples, families, and LGBT families. She holds an MSW and a Ph.D., and has more than 25 years of

teaching and practice experience. Her areas of expertise include sexuality and mental health practice for adolescents and adults.

In her personal life, she enjoys her blended family of six sons and a daughter. Two grandsons have become a joy in her life as well. Grandson William, three and a half, is daughter Abigail’s son. Grandson Daniel, five years old, is the son of her oldest stepson, Jason. Randall is proud that Daniel, whose mother is from Kazakhstan, speaks Russian as a first language. And she still has that dream about the Rockettes. She was looking forward to attending a performance of their Radio City Christmas Spectacular in Omaha after she returned home from ASWB’s Annual Meeting.