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From the Editor

Judith Holton

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From the Editor

This special issue of the Review celebrates the 40th anniversary of the publication of **Discovery** (Glaser & Strauss, 1967) and, in so doing, is a special tribute to Barney Glaser, to his energy, his commitment and his dedication to the scholarly pursuit of knowledge and to theory that matters in everyday social life. Those of us who have had the great fortune to meet and learn from Barney are grateful for his genius, his generosity, his patience and his honesty. He's set an example that has touched each of us in a very special way. I hope that you will enjoy reading the personal perspectives shared in this issue. Among those offering tributes are internationally-recognized Swedish scholar, Dr. Evert Gummesson, as well as members of our Peer Review Board from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

We are delighted to offer, as well, an interview with Dr. Glaser in conversation with Italian scholar, Dr. Massimiliano Tarozzi who has just completed work on the first Italian translation of **Discovery** (Roma: Armando Editore, in press). The interview takes a look back over the past forty years with Dr. Glaser reflecting on the growth curve of grounded theory, its relevance and its global reach.

Also included in this issue are three pieces by Dr. Glaser – first, an excerpt from his introduction to **The Grounded Theory Seminar Reader** (Glaser & Holton, 2007) in which he shares the motivation for his troubleshooting seminars and the publication of the many Readers that he has edited over the past 40 years. And we are excited to include here a chapter from Dr. Glaser's next book, **Doing Quantitative Grounded Theory** (Sociology Press, forthcoming) in which he details the substantial influence of his early studies under Paul F.

The Grounded Theory Review (2007), Special Issue

Lazarsfeld at Columbia University on the subsequent emergence of classic grounded theory methodology. Finally, it is most fitting to also reprint here an earlier essay, “In Honor of Anselm Strauss: Collaboration” in which Dr. Glaser pays tribute to his late friend and colleague and the co-originator of the methodology that today we recognize as classic grounded theory.

My first reading of **Discovery** opened a world of learning for me. I'd found what I was seeking in a methodology. The elegance of a good conceptual theory was my quest and **Discovery** showed the way. The balance between systematic process and intuitive creativity - the very essence of classic grounded theory - spoke to me. This was the way to develop real theory - empirically grounded yet free of the burdensome and particularistic descriptive detail that limits conceptual transcendence.

Since first meeting Barney in 2003, I have learned – and re-learned - many valuable lessons; particularly, on staying open to the emergent and to the generative possibilities of grounded theory. I've become all too aware of my propensity to 'structure up' - an approach learned and practiced over many years in my management career. While structure has its place, I have come to recognize its limitations in the creative process. Trusting to emergence has been the great gift for me in working with Barney. I still have much to learn.

- Judith A. Holton, Ph.D.