



University of Tennessee, Knoxville
**Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative
Exchange**

Stimulus Alumni Newsletter

Social Work Office of Research & Public Service
(SWORPS)

12-1-2006

Stimulus, Fall/Winter 2006

UT College of Social Work

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_socstim

Recommended Citation

Stimulus, Fall/Winter 2006. Fall/Winter 2006. (2006). Trace.
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_socstim/48

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Work Office of Research & Public Service (SWORPS) at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Stimulus Alumni Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.



Fall/Winter
2006

stimulus

The Alumni Newsletter for the University of Tennessee College of Social Work

Promoting Initiatives to Protect the World's Children and Adolescents

cover story, page 3

Also in this issue:

- ⇒ Office of Research and Public Service
Receives Compassionate Employer Award
- ⇒ MSSW Students Recruit Foster Homes in
Refugee/Immigrant Communities
- ⇒ Sherry Cummings Elected President of
Gerontological Social Work Association
- ⇒ Social Work Day on the Hill





*Welcome to the
Fall 2006 issue of
Stimulus!*

You are receiving this issue just in time to remind you of the 2006 Homecoming Gala on September 22. Instructions on how to reserve your place for the gala are contained in this issue. If you are one of the many who have attended you know how much fun we have. If you haven't attended before I encourage you to come, share fellowship with faculty and graduates from your class and meet some of our new students. Dining, dancing, and sharing BIG ORANGE fellowship...what could be better?

As we usher in the new academic year we also welcome a new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to the university, Dr. Robert Holub. Dr. Holub comes to us from the University of California, Berkeley. We are very excited to have him join us. Look for the spring issue of the Stimulus which will feature an interview with our new Provost! We also welcome four new faculty to the College of Social Work. Dr. Bill Bradshaw, associate professor at the Knoxville campus, has extensive experience in clinical social work and will be teaching and providing leadership in our clinical sequence. Dr. Bradshaw has had several research grants including the evaluation of the effectiveness of psychodynamic psychotherapy and the evaluation of restorative justice interventions. Sarah

Craun is also joining the Knoxville faculty. She is a recent doctoral graduate from UCLA. She has practice experience in clinical social work and conducts research in the area of child abuse treatment and prevention. Drs. Catherine Simmons and David Dia are joining the faculty at the Memphis campus. Dr. Simmons is a recent doctoral graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is a Board Certified Diplomate and has extensive experience as a clinical mental health practitioner in the military. Dr. Dia is a PhD graduate of the University of Maryland. He has adjunct faculty teaching experience, has appreciable clinical experience in behavioral health, and engages in research in the area of psychosocial functioning of siblings of children with anxiety disorders.

As you peruse the newsletter you will see that the college continues to excel and expand into new areas. We are particularly excited about our expansion into global social work practice. We are working hard to find ways for our students to have more international experiences and for our faculty to engage in international research and faculty exchange programs. Many of you have shared your own excitement and interests with me in our growth and expansions. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your continued pride in your alma mater! We continue to excel because of your support and friendship.

See you at the gala in your dancing shoes!

(I'll be the one in ORANGE!)

Sarah M. Dowell

From the Dean's Desk..... 1

SWORPS Given Compassionate Employer Award.. 2

Cover Story: Promoting Initiatives to Safeguard the World's Children and Adolescents..... 3

MSSW Students Recruit Foster Homes in Refugee/Immigrant Communities..... 5

A Fond Farewell to Development Director Andy Dunsmore..... 5

The College Welcomes Four New Faculty..... 6

Theriot Wins Teaching Award..... 6

Social Work Day on the Hill..... 7

Dr. Cindy Davis Researches 'The Other Side of Cancer'..... 7

Sherry Cummings Elected President of Gerontological Social Work Association..... 8

Kyndyll Lackey Awarded Presidential Management Fellowship..... 8

Photo Gallery..... 9

Students Collect Books for University Damaged by Hurricane Katrina..... 10

Three Social Work Students Receive Accolades... 10

The Compassionate Friends Present Compassionate Employer's Award to SWORPS

by Betsy DeGeorge

For Debra Reagan, a member of the staff of The UT College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS), one way of honoring the memory of her son, Clint, who died last August, was to nominate her colleagues for an award that recognized the importance of their acts of compassion. And so, on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, a group of individuals from the university and from the organization, The Compassionate Friends, met for an intimate ceremony recognizing SWORPS as a Compassionate Employer.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, nonprofit, support group for families grieving the death of a child. Through this organization, parents who have experienced the death of a child reach out to the newly bereaved. In this relationship, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both find healing.

This year Compassionate Friends honored 65 employers across the country that had shown themselves to be of exemplary assistance to someone experiencing loss. When 20-year-old Clint Reagan passed away, Debra says, "The ways in which I was shown support are too numerous to remember. My co-workers provided food, cards, flowers, and calls of support." Even now, she continues, "Our office offers flexible hours. They encourage me to take a walk or a break when needed. Someone is always there to listen when I need to talk. The people around me have all pitched in to help with the workload. I am confident that all I would have to do is make a need known and someone would be there." Debra and her husband, Alan, have also expressed appreciation for the assistance that the university has extended in relation to working through issues related

to insurance, counseling, and legal advice.

In selecting the honorees, Compassionate Friends considers policies that reflect a compassionate attitude toward bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. The group looks at whether companies grant additional time off beyond the typical three days, how flexible employers are in work assignments and job evaluation, and how readily employers provide support services and time off so bereaved employees can seek counseling. The group also looks for other acts of compassion shown to bereaved employees.



Paul Campbell, director of SWORPS, and Karen Sowers, dean of the college, received the award from Tom Baer, a representative of the local chapter of The Compassionate Friends. Dr. Jan Simek from the UT Chancellor's Office and Alan Chesney, executive director of Human Resources, attended the ceremony. Chesney commented, "To have external recognition . . . is really great. One thing that is important is that the College of Social Work practices what they preach; it is a testament to the College of Social Work."

—Betsy DeGeorge is the
Publications Manager for SWORPS

Interested in Obtaining a PhD in Social Work?

The UT College of Social Work's PhD Program offers specialized training in research methods with a focus on direct practice and management and community practice issues. It also

- ◆ Provides access to world-class faculty doing research on the culture and climate of human service agencies, child neglect, foster parenting, juvenile justice, gerontology, antisocial behavior, and school social work.
- ◆ Features guaranteed three-year stipends and fee waivers and student health insurance.
- ◆ Provides offices and computers with access to the Web for all PhD students.
- ◆ Presents opportunities to work with Children's Mental Health Services Research Center researchers.
- ◆ Is located in Knoxville, a region with a low cost of living and pleasant yearly climate.
- ◆ Is home to two CSWE Minority Fellows.

If you are interested in joining the College of Social Work's PhD Program or for further information, please contact

Dr. William R. Nugent, Chair
PhD Program
The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
Henson Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-3333
Phone: (865) 974-6481
Fax: (865) 974-6437
Email: wnugent@utk.edu

Promoting Initiatives to Safeguard the World's Children and Adolescents

In its Quality Enhancement Plan, The University of Tennessee has embraced the call to prepare globally educated students. In keeping with that initiative, the College of Social Work recently co-sponsored a workshop on intercultural education that featured three nationally renowned internationalists in the area of child welfare.

by Margot Kline



Across the globe, children and adolescents are disproportionately affected by poverty, war, migration, and human rights violations. Large numbers of these young people are left homeless and without families due to natural and man-made disasters, HIV-AIDS, and armed conflicts. Others live without necessary medical care, are deprived of education, or face various forms of exploitation including forced military service, child labor, and prostitution.

Because of international social forces and events, including the movement of immigrant and refugee populations, the problems of the world's children seem now, more than ever, to be close to home. And as a result, social work must face the challenge of meeting the growing needs of children and adolescents. In order to prepare a new generation of social work professionals—one that is equipped to deal with issues both locally and around the world—academics in the social sciences must first make students more aware of global issues. In addition,

new treatment methodologies and competencies will be urgently needed to cope with the social problems emerging today. (For an example of work that is being done to help refugee populations in Tennessee, see the story on page 5.)

Recently, the social sciences (and social work and child and family studies specifically) have recognized and accepted the extent to which practices and professional environments are shaped and influenced by global interdependence. In an effort to promote global awareness, the College of Social Work sponsored a one-day workshop to address ways that social service practitioners could promote initiatives to help safeguard children at risk.

The workshop, which took place at the University Club in Knoxville on April 24, was also co-sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, The Center for the International Study of Youth and Political Violence, and the Department of Child and Family Studies. Three highly esteemed

experts in the field were the presenters:

Robert Blum has served as the U.S. representative to the World Health Organization on adolescent health



and has also served as a consultant to the Pan American Health Organization, World

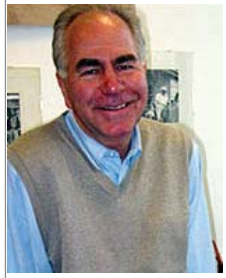
Bank, and UNICEF. He established the Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health while at the University of Minnesota. Among other projects, he currently has funding for research studying children in Vietnam. He has been chair of the Alan Guttmacher Institute Board of Directors and was president of the Society for Adolescent Medicine. He also chaired the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Adolescent Health and Development from 2001 to 2005. Dr. Blum is currently professor and William H. Gates, Sr. Chair of the Department



This feature is media enhanced. For more information about the state of the world's endangered children and to find out what you can do to help, go to the Website of UNICEF's Voices of Youth: www.unicef.org/voy/explore/sowc06/explore_sowc06.php

of Population and Family Health Sciences, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

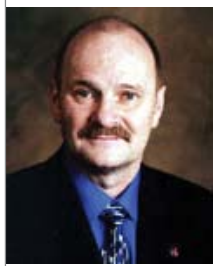
Neil Boothby's work focuses on the impact of war and political violence on the development of children and



the subsequent humanitarian response, as well as international human rights and protec-

tion measures. He is a newly appointed associate clinical professor of Population and Family Health at Columbia University and serves as the director for the Program on Forced Migration and Health. He is also the director of the Children in Crisis: High Impact Programs, a partnership initiative between Save the Children and Columbia University. Previously, Dr. Boothby served as the director of the Children in Crisis Unit at Save the Children Federation, Washington, D.C. He is formerly a professor of the Practice of Policy Studies and director of the Hart Leadership Program at Duke University, and also was an adjunct associate professor at the School of Medicine and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. He earned an EdD from Harvard University in Education, Special Programs, Child Development and Social Policy.

William Rowe's work focuses on the effects of war, deprivation and disaster on children and adoles-



cents. He has extensive project experience in Indonesia, Canada, and Palestine/Israel. He is the

director of the School of Social Work at the University of South Florida and is principal investigator for a large scale project in inner-city Tampa that serves at-risk adolescents. Prior to his appointment at

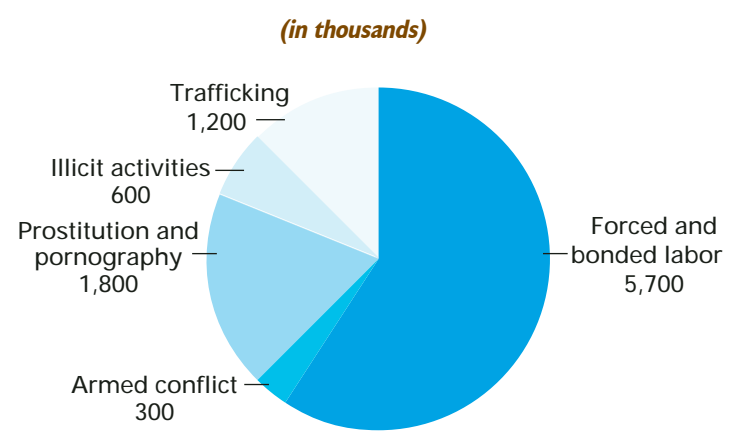
USF, Dr. Rowe was the dean of the School of Social Work at McGill University. He has spearheaded international initiatives in education focusing on peace-building in Palestine and Israel, the development of child welfare structures in Indonesia, and child protection and safety in various countries throughout the world.

Real World Examples of International Practice

During the one-day workshop, which was free to faculty from all disciplines, the three presenters shared their real world experiences working with international agencies. Robert Blum discussed the work he has done with the World Health Organization, which has focused primarily on the study of risk and protective factors affecting adolescent reproductive health in developing countries.

Neil Boothby discussed his experiences with Save the Children Federation on behalf of children/youth affected by violence in Africa and elsewhere. Speaking about children who are forced to take part in armed combat, he said, "One of the important elements is that individuals who use kids in their quest for power . . . have to be given a clear

Children in unconditional worst forms* of child labor and exploitation



* **Unconditional worst forms of child labor:** These forms of labor correspond to those outlined in Article 3 of the International Labor Organization Convention No. 182. **Source:** International Labor Organization, *Every child counts: New global estimates on child labour*; ILO, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour; Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour, April 2002.

message by the international community that we don't tolerate this. There are many levels in which one can act, all of which are important."

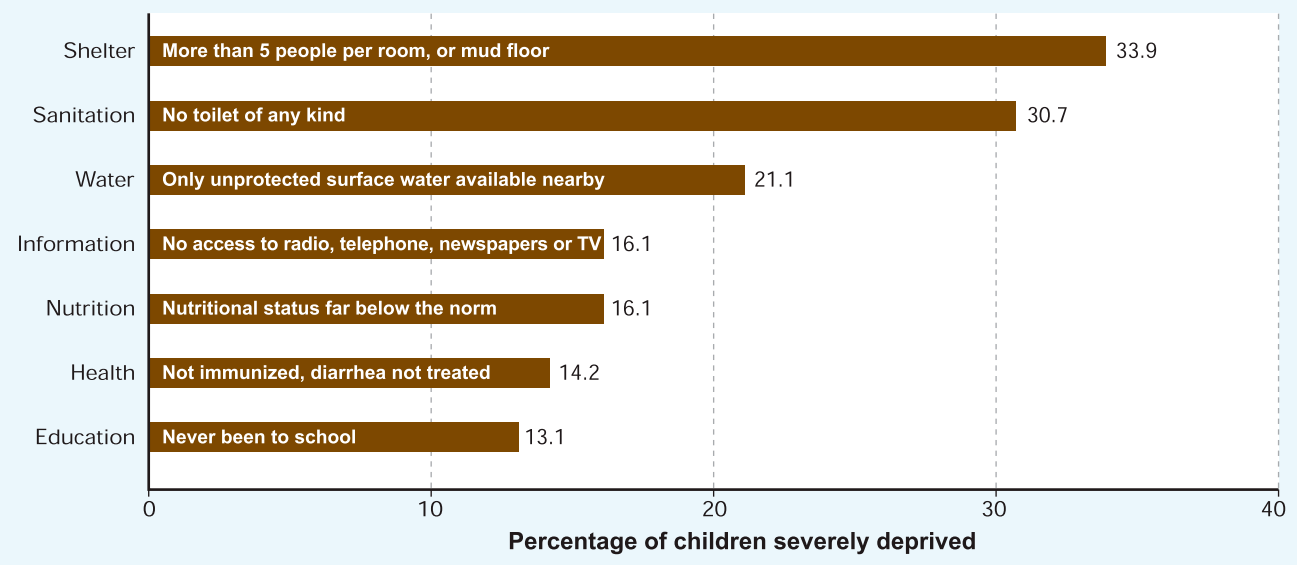
William Rowe spoke about how he has developed education, peace, welfare, and child care initiatives in Canada, Indonesia, Israel, and Palestine.

"Many of the world's children are at risk of exploitation. This includes children in developed countries as well as developing and underdeveloped countries," says Dean

Sowers. "It is critical that we prepare ourselves and our students to respond to this growing global problem," she added. "The support from the university has allowed us to bring in top scholars who actually work in real-world settings to solve child and adolescent exploitation problems around the world. The evaluation results of the seminar were outstanding with participants reporting a renewed enthusiasm as well as new skills for engaging in international initiatives."

—Margot Kline is the Graphic Designer for SWORPS

Severe deprivation among children in the developing world, by different deprivations



Age ranges: Education: 7-18 years old; Information: over 3 years old; Nutrition: under 5 years old

Sources: Gordon, David, et al., *Child poverty in the developing world*, The Policy Press, Bristol, UK, October 2003. Note: The data used in the original study have been updated using Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

A Fond Farewell to Andy Dunsmore



Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Andy Dunsmore is leaving the CSW to accept the position of Director of Development for

the Department of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University. "I am excited about the opportunity that awaits me in Baltimore, but a great deal of my heart will remain here with my Tennessee friends," says Dunsmore.

The college made tremendous strides in the four years that Dunsmore served as Director. At the close of fiscal year 2002, the CSW had raised \$65,662.40 from 265 donors. This fiscal year, which concluded on June 30, 2006, the college reached a new high of \$220,834.15 from 333 donors.

In a farewell letter to the college's alumni and friends, Dunsmore writes, "I firmly believe the College of Social Work is one of the university's true gems. I am certain that under Dean Sowers' leadership, and with your continued support, the college will continue to move forward and achieve even greater prominence. I have been comforted and inspired, while serving as director, by the knowledge that the research our faculty does and the social services our graduates deliver make a whole lot of lives much better. The mission of this college is terribly important. A lot of social work still needs to be done to make our world safe and healthy.

"Development officers, faculty, and staff members come and go, but institutions endure . . . I know you, and the other wonderful supporters that I have known during my time here with the college, will receive my successor with the same warmth and generosity you have always shown me. Whoever succeeds me will delight in knowing you and be truly privileged to work with you in support of such an important and noble cause."

MSSW Students Recruit Foster Homes in Refugee/Immigrant Communities

by Kirche Rogers

MSSW students Carla Aaron and Jennifer Hamilton, employees of the Department of Children's Services (DCS), are helping improve the lives of children in Nashville's refugee and immigrant communities through their internship experience. Aaron is the Regional Administrator for Davidson County, and Hamilton works with the Special Investigations Unit in Nashville at DCS's Central Office.

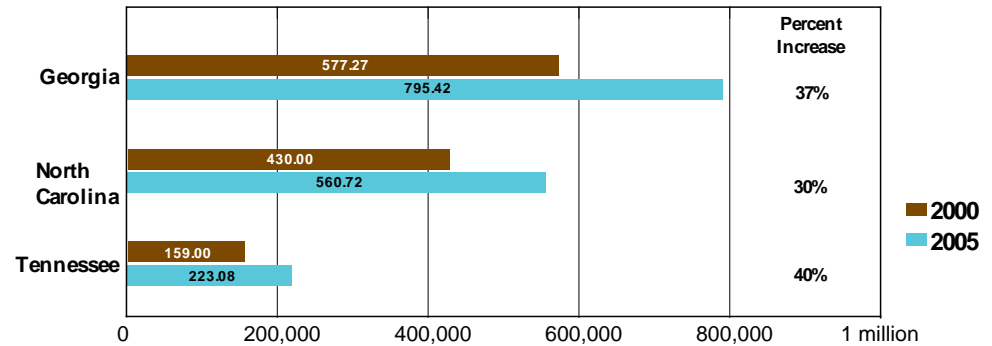
Aaron and Hamilton's internship involves establishing a program to recruit foster homes in communities that include Somalis, Liberians, Hispanics, Sudanese, Kurds, and Bosnians. Nashville is a federal relocation center for refugees, and due in part to this program, Nashville has the largest Kurdish population of any city in the United States. Many have relocated to Nashville to escape violence in their homeland. As the refugee/immigrant population has grown, so has the need for social services in these communities. DCS has recognized this need and is working to provide safe homes for children who need them.

One of the goals of the program is to keep children in their respective communities so that they can attend the same schools and churches. Aaron noted that living with foster parents in the same cultural group means that children have fewer changes in their environment, which is helpful in their transition to living with new families.

Rod Ellis, associate professor at the Nashville campus and advisor to Aaron and Hamilton, noted that the greatest single indicator of children in custody is poverty, and many of Nashville's refugees and immigrants are impoverished.

"These folks come into the Nashville community with nothing—no food or money. Plus, there are language

Growth in foreign-born population between 2000 and 2005 (in thousands)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 ACS; Foreign-Born Population 2000 U.S. Census Brief

barriers and bias among some of the people and institutions in the Nashville community," he stated. This new program will help mitigate some of these barriers.

The first step in the process has been to develop relationships with the leaders of Nashville's refugee/immigrant communities. This process has taken time, but progress has been made. Earlier this year, Aaron and Hamilton met with representatives from the immigrant and refugee communities. They shared what DCS does, expectations of the department, and what information DCS needs from those who are interested in providing foster homes.

This initial communication with the various cultural groups helped Aaron and Hamilton build trust with these leaders. Two DCS employees, one from Pakistan and one from Bosnia, also serve as liaisons with community leaders. Ellis noted that establishing relationships with these communities involves a process of education and a process of reaching across cultural differences to understand each other.

The process of education has been a reciprocal one. In addition to DCS employees' talking with communities about DCS's services, community leaders have educated some DCS staff members on their cultures.

"Relationships have been built

and strengthened through these contacts," Aaron said. As relationships continue to be established, progress is being made in recruiting foster homes. In particular, DCS has received calls from the Somali, Sudanese, and Hispanic communities. As the immigrant/refugee populations learn more about DCS and about child abuse, additional cases will be revealed.

The next step in the process of recruiting foster homes is to develop a resource manual that includes DCS contacts and other agencies in the Nashville area. This manual will be distributed to the refugee/immigrant communities. Aaron and Hamilton hope that other agencies in the Nashville area will help. "Community involvement is first and foremost what we need to work with these communities," stated Aaron. "DCS can't be the only one to help."

Hamilton stated, "The internship has helped DCS become more aware of the cultural factors, beliefs, and language barriers in Nashville's immigrant and refugee communities."

Ellis agrees. "DCS is to be praised for its efforts in taking steps that are anticipatory instead of reactionary," he said. "It's a wonderful internship experience and a powerful initiative in the community."

—Kirche Rogers is a Publications Specialist for SWORPS

The College of Social Work Welcomes Four New Faculty Members

by Kathy Williams



William (Bill) Bradshaw, PhD, MSSW, has joined the college's

Knoxville campus as an associate professor. Prior to accepting the position at the college, Bradshaw worked as an associate professor at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. He received his MSSW from St. Louis University and his PhD from the University of Southern California. His social work interests are mental health services research; psychopathology; individual, group, and family psychotherapy; and victim/offender mediation.

Dr. Bradshaw has received several research grants, including one for the evaluation of the effectiveness of psychodynamic psychotherapy and one for the evaluation of restorative justice interventions.



Sarah Craun, PhD, is joining the Knoxville campus as an

assistant professor in the BSSW program and will be teaching Social Work Practice. Dr. Craun received her PhD in Social Welfare from UCLA in

2006, so this is her first academic job. She worked clinically as a hospital social worker during graduate school.

Dr. Craun stated, "I am very excited to join the College of Social Work, which is well-known for the quality of its students and faculty."



David Dia, PhD, LCSW-C, is joining the Memphis campus faculty as

an assistant professor. He will be teaching Clinical Social Work Practice with Individuals and in the future will be teaching Psychopathology and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Prior to joining the college, he was one of the owners of a large group private practice in Maryland. Dr. Dia specialized in the treatment of childhood anxiety disorders. He completed his cognitive-behavioral training at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and advanced supervision in anxiety disorders at the Anxiety and Stress Disorders Institute of Maryland.

Dr. Dia stated, "I am very pleased and excited about joining the UT College of Social Work. The college has a great reputation and I look forward to being a part of its ongoing success."



Catherine (Cathy) Simmons, PhD, LCSW, is joining the college's

Memphis faculty as an assistant professor and will be teaching evaluative research. Prior to accepting the position with the college, Dr. Simmons worked as an adjunct professor and was a full-time doctoral student at the University of Texas at Arlington. She also worked as an Air Force social worker at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. Dr. Simmons has worked as an active duty social worker in Texas, Korea, and Japan, and as a social worker for the state of Delaware.

During her career in social work, Dr. Simmons has received numerous awards, including the 2006 University of Texas at Arlington University Scholar, UTA Dean of Social Work's Excellence in Research Award, and the United States Air Force Social Worker of the Year.

Dr. Simmons stated, "I am overjoyed to be joining the University of Tennessee College of Social Work's faculty. UT is a wonderful school and the College of Social Work is doing important work. It is an honor to be a part of the UT-CSW team."

—Kathy Williams is a Professional Assistant for SWORPS

Theriot Wins Teaching Award



"I genuinely enjoy interacting with students. I feel a rush when conveying a lesson and see students understanding and engaging in discussion," says Dr. Matthew Theriot, assistant professor of Social Work and a 2006 recipient of the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. The UT National Alumni Association serves approximately 300,000 alumni nationwide and encourages excellence in teaching, research, and service.

A lengthy process of nomination, submission of information, observation, and evaluation preceded the final decision and notification to Dr. Theriot that he would be an honoree at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet this spring. Across all its campuses only four UT faculty members received this prestigious award. It symbolizes excellence in the classroom. Theriot is one of two College of Social Work professors to ever receive this distinction and he feels both "honored and undeserving to be placed in such a good company of professionals from our university."

"In the classroom, I strive for responsiveness from my students. I think that competent teaching recognizes the level where the student is and allows for flexibility. I believe in active rather than passive learning. Lectures can serve to introduce a topic, but learning is more enjoyable and thorough when teaching incorporates discussion, working through examples, and the development of a framework that reveals how each part fits into the whole."

Since coming to Knoxville in 2003, Theriot has been teaching courses such as Intro to Social Welfare, Social Work Practice, and Forensic Social Work. His area of expertise is juvenile perpetrators of violence and delinquency. Beginning June 1, he assumed the role of interim director of the BSSW program for the UT College of Social Work.

Don't Forget the Date!

This year's Homecoming Gala is fast approaching! The event, which includes dinner, dancing, and a silent auction, takes place this year on September 22, at Rothchild Catering and Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee. Gala tickets are \$30 and can be purchased until September 21. For more information, contact Karla Edwards at 865-974-6693 or email galainfo@gvmail.utk.edu

Social Work Day on the Hill

On March 1, 2006, several students from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work joined social work students from across the state at the Social Work Day on the Hill event held in Nashville, Tennessee. The event allowed the students to express issues and concerns that face the social work profession and to learn which bills

are being deliberated in the state legislature that are of interest to social workers. Students had the opportunity to design and present posters on various pieces of potential legislation, which were displayed during a breakfast attended by state legislators. During the event, students also had the opportunity to attend committee hearings and visit with state legislators.

—Kathy Williams



Left to Right: Elizabeth Waters, Sunshine Parker, and Nicky O'Reilly enjoying their day "on the hill."



Left to Right: Leia Farrouki, Nicky O'Reilly, Sunshine Parker, and Elizabeth Waters standing in front of their poster, which won the Master's Level Student Policy Presentation Award at Social Work Day on the Hill.



Left to Right: Megan McCleary, Courtney Cronley, Senator Jamie Hagood Woodson, Frank Meeuwis, Cynthia Rocha, and Senator Tim Burchett standing in the floor of the Senate chambers.

Dr. Cindy Davis Researches 'The Other Side of Cancer'

by Josh Reynolds



This year in America, more than 211,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. While breast cancer is traditionally something dealt with by older women, women under the age of 40 (the age at which pre-mammography screening commonly begins) face a host of unique problems.

Dr. Cindy Davis of the University of Tennessee College of Social Work has begun work on a pilot program to establish a model for meeting the specific needs of younger breast cancer patients. This model will include the role of social workers as an active part of the treatment team.

She and her colleagues Dr. John Bell, professor of surgery at UT-Knoxville, and Dr. Wendy Likes, assistant professor in the College of Nursing (Memphis), received a \$40,000 pilot grant from the UT Cancer Institute to develop a statewide, multidisciplinary team to run focus groups across the state to explore the specific needs of breast cancer patients under 40. Once a team from across the state has been brought together, Dr. Davis and her colleagues will then apply for a large national grant to meet the needs of this population.

"There is data out there that suggests younger women are different," Davis explained. "The focus of cancer treatment is to cure at all costs, but the costs for younger women are often quite significant." She added, "Women under 40 have to deal with a much

poorer prognosis, since cancer diagnosed that young tends to be more aggressive. In addition, these women are still of childbearing age and must face the prospect of infertility and early menopause, loss of sexual identity, body image issues, and dealing with family members and young children."

If successful, Davis envisions an approach to breast cancer that emphasizes the critical role of social workers as part of a multi-disciplinary model for breast cancer treatment. This approach represents a break from current practice, which emphasizes clinical management over psychosocial considerations.

"Social worker interventions are poised to meet a variety of patient needs. These can include practical needs, such as how to take care of kids, the role of support groups, marital issues, and family issues, and if it is advanced cancer, how to prepare the children for what might happen, and how to cope with losing hair."

This research is modeled after work Davis did as a behavioral scientist in Sydney, Australia. "Australia has been one of the leaders in incorporating psychosocial guidelines in standard clinical practice in all professions, including medicine," Davis explained. "They have basically equalized psychosocial care with clinical management.

"What we see in the United States is that psychosocial care is treated as an adjunct to clinical management. What I want to see is using social work interventions to deal with the other part of cancer — the emotion, the depression, the practical support needs. This other part of cancer is more personal, but just as important."

—Josh Reynolds is the Publications Coordinator for SWORPS

Sherry Cummings Elected President of Gerontological Social Work Association



On July 1, 2006, Sherry Cummings, acting associate dean and associate professor on the Nashville campus, began a three-year term as president of the Association for Gerontological Education in Social Work (AGE-SW).

The goals of AGE-SW, whose membership includes researchers and educators as well as students, include:

- 1) promoting gerontological social work research and education,
 - 2) increasing the awareness of gerontology within the field of social work,
 - 3) increasing awareness of the contributions of social work perspectives and research within the field of gerontology, and
 - 4) expanding the number of social work faculty and students involved in gerontological research, education, and leadership.
- “AGE-SW is a vibrant, growing group. It’s exciting to have such a large membership,” stated Cummings.

Cummings noted that there are 70 million Baby Boomers in the nation, and by 2020, one out of every five adults will be age 65 or older. At present, the 65 years and older population numbers 35 million. “There is growing interest in this field because people have become aware of the growing number of older people,” said Cummings.

The association partners with several organizations including the

Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Haworth Press, and the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) through the Gerontological Education Center. AGE-SW has a large presence at the GSA and CSWE conferences each year.

AGE-SW partners with GSA, an interdisciplinary association, to help run the John Hartford Social Work Pre-dissertation Fellowship Program. Fellowships are awarded to twenty social work doctoral students in the pre-dissertation phase of their studies across the country each year. Kimberly McClure Cassie, a student in the college’s doctoral program, was awarded a fellowship last year.

“It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with some of the most accomplished social work researchers and educators in gerontology. It is very affirming and intellectually stimulating.”

The rapid growth in AGE-SW membership is due, in part, to increased funding opportunities such as those offered by the John A. Hartford Foundation for gerontological social work researchers and educators.

Cummings is very excited about the opportunity to lead AGE-SW. “It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with some of the most accomplished social work researchers and educators in gerontology. It is very affirming and intellectually stimulating,” she stated. Additionally, she is grateful for the opportunity to be involved with the leadership of GSA and CSWE to help promote the field of gerontological social work.

—Kirche Rogers

Kyndyll Lackey Awarded Presidential Management Fellowship

Kyndyll Lackey, a May graduate of the College of Social Work graduate program’s concentration in Management and Community Practice, was named a Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program finalist by the Office of Personnel Management at the U.S. Department of State. Kyndyll is the first and only finalist to be selected from the UT College of Social Work and is one of only 16 students of social work to be so honored across the entire United States.

The PMF Program was established by Executive Order in 1977 to attract to the federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs. By drawing graduate students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, the PMF Program provides a continuing source of trained men and women freshly educated and aware of current theory and best practice to meet the future challenges of public service.

Kyndyll Lackey began her studies in social work within the clinical tradition, but quickly became aware that her strengths fall in the realm of administration and management. While studying the history of social work she came to see that early social workers were activists and policy makers who advocated change within the grand scheme of government. “It is still the duty of today’s social workers to be politically active and to advocate for any oppressed group of people,” she stated.

PMF is a highly competitive fellowship for which you must be nominated by a dean, director, or chairperson of your graduate academic program. The state department administers selection of finalists based on a review of applications, individual and group interviews, and evaluation of writing samples. Being named as a finalist provides the opportunity to seek an appointment for paid two-year fellowships with certain offices and agencies in the federal government.

The University of Tennessee is proud to have had nine graduate students selected by the federal government as PMF finalists in 2006. Along with Kyndyll, five students were selected from the College of Law, one from Mental Health Counseling, one from College Student Personnel, and one from Natural Resources. All of these students were invited to attend a three-day Career Fair that took place this past April in Washington, DC. The career fair facilitates interview opportunities for finalists and a wide range of government agencies.

Current graduate students who will complete their degrees between September 1, 2006, and August 31, 2007, and who are interested in applying for the PMF program should visit www.pmf.gov

—Betsy DeGeorge





1. Board of Visitors member Hal Ramer (MSSW '52) chats with faculty member Edna Brown at the college reception at the TCSW conference.



2. UTCSW alums share fellowship at the college's TCSW reception.



3. Phi Alpha Honor Society members work with Habitat for Humanity.



4. BSSW faculty "spoof" Frank Spicuzza at his retirement party.

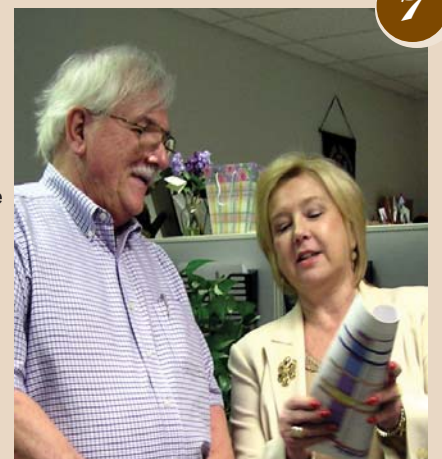


5. Frank Spicuzza speaks at his retirement party.

6. Frank shares a few memories with friends.



7. Dean Karen Sowers discusses an upcoming Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) project with SWORPS director Paul Campbell.



College Collects Books for University Damaged by Hurricane Katrina

When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana last August, one university destroyed by the storm was Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), an historically black school. Underwater for three weeks, SUNO's social work library was totally destroyed, and the social work program was forced to operate out of hotels. When Dr. Mary Rogge, associate professor on the Knoxville campus, heard that a fellow social work program needed assistance, she wanted to help.

Rogge came up with the idea to collect books to replenish SUNO's social work library. Realizing this would be a great opportunity for her students, she approached the ten MSSW students enrolled in her Practice with Organization and Communities class with the idea, and the students jumped at the chance to help.

Dr. Rogge stated, "They took on the task with energy, commitment, and the intent to learn more about skills such as organizing teams to accomplish complex tasks, fundraising and resource development, marketing, and leadership." Dr. Rogge served as the organizational task leader for the project as the students collected books for the library in January 2006.

With the help of many individuals and organizations, they obtained some 2,000 books from local and out-of-state resources. Along with the CSW's Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis campuses, Virginia Tech, Central Michigan University, and Ferris State University helped with collection.



The books were shipped to New Orleans in mid-April 2006, and AAA Cooper Transportation Company, located in Knoxville, delivered the books free of charge. Currently, the UT College of Social Work at Nashville and the UT Hodges Library have more books waiting to be collected and shipped out to SUNO. These books will be delivered after the SUNO librarians have had time to catalog and process the 2,000 books already sent.

—Kathy Williams

First year MSSW students (l. to r.): Kurt Osterhart, Andrea Loy, Katie Rash, Ashley Bruce, Joanna Cummings, Kelli Mondero, Katie Fletcher, Lindsay Castleberry, Angie Crandall, and Beth Catchot participated in the book collecting effort.

Is the Management and Community Practice Post-Master's Certificate Program Right for You?

The Post-Master's Certificate Program is designed for persons with Master's degrees who specialized in a clinical concentration and now either find themselves in management or administration or would like to prepare themselves to move into management or community practice positions.

Participants must complete 15 hours of coursework, including three required courses and two elective courses in management and community practice. Coursework may be taken on a part-time, flexible basis. The program is available at our Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis locations.

Contact program coordinator Dr. Rod Ellis at (615) 256-1885 or rellis5@utk.edu for more information.

Three Social Work Students Receive Honors

Cathy Wright, a 2006 graduate of the College of Social Work, has received the BSSW Student of the Year Award. She was nominated for the award by former BSSW program director, Frank Spicuzza. Wright was an outstanding student, and Spicuzza pointed out that she "demonstrated the intelligence, skills, and fortitude needed in today's complex, pluralistic world." As a member of the BSSW-Student Social Work Organization, Cathy was very involved in community service and fundraising. During her junior year, she held an internship with RHA Health Services, where she worked with adults with mental retardation and dual diagnosis. During her senior year she worked at an elementary school in a Project Grad program in which she assisted in increasing academic achievement of at-risk students. Cathy's future plans are to attend graduate school to earn a Master's degree in social work and subsequently practice as a certified school social worker.

Also honored by the Tennessee chapter of the NASW were Bryan Huneycutt and Frank Meeuwis, who were co-recipients of the MSSW Student of the Year Award. Huneycutt and Meeuwis both graduated from the Master's program in May 2006.

—Kathy Williams

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work
Office of Research and Public Service
UT Conference Center
600 Henley Street, Suite B80
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4104

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 481

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED (#164)

The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the University. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996 3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996 4125. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in its efforts to ensure a welcoming environment for all persons, does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in its campus-based programs, services, and activities. Inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

stimulus

Karen Sowers—Dean
Sherry Cummings—Acting Associate Dean, Nashville
Theora Evans—Associate Dean, Memphis
Geraldine Faria—Associate Dean, Knoxville
Paul Campbell—Director, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service
Charles Glisson—Director, Children’s Mental Health Services Research Center
Bill Nugent—Director, PhD Program
Matthew Theriot—Interim Director, BSSW Program
Kirche Rogers—Editor
Margot Kline—Designer

Dean’s Office (865) 974-3176
Alumni Office (865) 974-6693
UT Alumni Association (865) 974-3011
Web Address <http://www.csw.utk.edu>

EO1-4010-003-07 (06087)



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
College of Social Work

Our mission is to educate and train persons for professional practice and for leadership roles in the social services and in the social work profession.

Spanning the state with three campuses:
Memphis
Nashville
Knoxville

Offering education at all degree levels:
Baccalaureate
Master's
Doctoral

If you received more than one copy of this newsletter, please pass it on to a colleague!