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Stimulus Alumni Newsletter

Social Work Office of Research & Public Service  
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6-1979

## Stimulus, Vol. 4, No. 4

UT College of Social Work

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# Stimulus

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

VOL. 4, NO. 4

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

JUNE, 1979

## 48 p. CHINA STUDY TOUR november 13 - december 1

The China Study Tour will provide a rare opportunity for social workers and guests to combine study with sightseeing, meet the Chinese people and gain first-hand knowledge of their culture. The tour, sponsored by the UTSSW Alumni Association and the Office of Continuing Social Work Education, will be operated by the United States-China People's Friendship Association and is LIMITED TO 24 PARTICIPANTS.

Anne Freeman, a 1977 graduate of the Memphis branch who has visited China twice, will be tour leader. Group members who elect to participate in the organized, educational component of the tour will be able to attend a series of special workshops prior to departure and during the trip. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be awarded to those participants. The educational focus will be an examination of

*(continued on p. 8)*





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## Primmer Fills Summer Institutes Post

Frank Primmer has been appointed Assistant Project Director of the UTSSW Summer Institutes. According to Betty J. Cleckley, Associate Dean and Project Director, Primmer will assist in implementing the NIMH-funded Institutes for racial/ethnic minority undergraduate students in social services programs. The Institutes have been designed for culturally, educationally, and financially disadvantaged students who are completing their sophomore years in other southeastern schools, and who are interested in pursuing graduate social work education at UTSSW and ultimately mental health careers.

Primmer, a native of Illinois, completed his graduate studies at the University of Iowa School of Social Work while working as a mental health research assistant with the Iowa state legislature. He has also had considerable experience working with disadvantaged students.

The Summer Institutes were scheduled to begin at the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in Knoxville on June 18, 1979. Three consecutive summers will be needed to complete the course requirements. Twelve hours of course work will be offered the first two summers (1979 and 1980), and during the summer of 1981, there will be a practicum in a mental health agency designed to facilitate the students' learning and interest in mental health.

A variety of courses will be offered, stressing the development of communication and research skills and examining, through a mix of independent study/research, tutorials, and other seminars, issues in rural social work; race, poverty, and human development; culture, mental health, and ethnicity; and related areas. Students who successfully complete the summer's work may earn up to nine quarter hours (six

*(continued on p. 3)*



*Shown in a recent planning session are (left) Frank Primmer, Assistant Director of the UTSSW Summer Institutes and (right) Betty J. Cleckley, Project Director and Associate Dean of the School.*



24 pt. Venus Bold. Ext.

## Former Professor Sellards Dies

Ruth W. Sellards, 69, retired associate professor in the University of Tennessee's School of Social Work, died May 3 after a brief hospitalization. She had been an associate professor from 1963 until 1976 and had previously served in a variety of academic capacities with the School of Social Work.

Her career with the University began in 1958 when Ms. Sellards was appointed part-time lecturer in the School of Social Work. From 1959 until 1961 she served as full-time associate professor, and in 1961 left the University to join the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati (Ohio) Medical School, returning to the Knoxville campus in 1963 to resume her duties at the School of Social Work. While at UT, she developed the course, "Imaginative Perspectives on the Human Condition," which examined the usefulness of literature in understanding human behavior.

She began in the field of social work in 1933 as a caseworker with the Emergency Relief Administration at Battle Creek, Michigan. She served as Director of the Berkshire Branch, New England Home for Little Wanderers, Pittsfield, Massachusetts; caseworker at the Michigan Children's Institute; and casework supervisor at the Family Service, Saginaw. From 1951 to 1956, she was Executive Director of Family and Children's Services, Midland, Michigan. Prior to joining the UT faculty in 1958, she was casework supervisor at Child and Family Services, Knoxville.

In the mid '60s, her involvement in Head Start Programs included consultation for the Head Start Program in Claiborne County, Tennessee and a UT training program for Social Work Aides in Head Start. She conducted workshops and presented papers on emotional disturbances in adolescents and learning disabilities in children.

Ms. Sellards received her A.B. at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1932. She did graduate study in Education at the University of Michigan in 1932-33 and obtained the MSW degree from that University in 1952. She received the Dean's Certificate, Program for Advanced Study, Smith College School of Social Work, in 1957.

She was a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education.

Memorial services were held Saturday, May 5, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church in Knoxville. Burial was in Ms. Sellard's hometown in Midland, Michigan.

The Ruth Sellards Annual Award for Best Paper in Social Treatment, established by Ms. Sellards in 1976, will continue as a memorial award. Contributions may be sent to the University of Tennessee School of Social Work, Knoxville Branch, 907 Mountcastle, Knoxville, TN 37916.

Mag., 18 pt. Italic

## Primmer Named . . .

(continued from p. 2)

semester hours) for each of the first two summers, with such credit being awarded by the students' home institutions. It is expected that upon receipt of degrees from their respective undergraduate institutions and successful completion of the three summer institutes, students will apply to the UT Master of Science in Social Work program.

The faculty for the project, states Primmer, has been selected from UT graduate programs, three from social work and one from educational psychology. A total of three first-year MSSW students from the UT program will provide participants with leadership, didactic knowledge, emotional support and training in basic socialization.



24 pt. Italic

18 20.5

27.5

33.5

36

42

# Alumni Responses to Survey Will Aid School

In June, 1978, 1405 graduates of the University of Tennessee School of Social Work were mailed a comprehensive Alumni Survey. The survey, administered by the Office of Continuing Social Work Education, was designed to identify ways of improving the School's graduate educational program. Four hundred and eighty-five alumni responded to questions about their employment status, background, and the UTSSW curriculum.

As analysis of the survey data nears completion, some interesting results have surfaced. Most of the respondents (66 percent) were highly satisfied with their UTSSW educational experiences, while only 9 percent were not satisfied. Of these alumni, 74 percent had specialized in social work treatment, and 20 percent had specialized in administration and planning. According to 40 percent of the respondents, the core course in practice methods and the course in treatment with individuals and families were the most helpful courses in the UTSSW curriculum. The core course in research was selected by 24 percent of the respondents as the least helpful.

Since most alumni had specialized in social work treatment, it was not surprising to find that 223 or 46 percent used social work treatment methods (i.e., casework, group work, and family therapy) in their first post-MSSW social work positions. However, 84 respondents (17.3 percent) utilized administrative and planning methods (i.e., administration, policy, research) in their first post-MSSW social work positions. More alumni respondents (203 or 42 percent) continue to use social work treatment methods predominately in their present social work positions, although an increasing number (155 or 32 percent) use administrative and planning methods predominately.

Of those who participated in the survey, 50 percent were graduates from the classes of 1970-78, 25 percent were

graduates from the classes of 1962-69 and 25 percent were from the classes of 1940-61. Ninety-one percent were white and 4.1 percent were black. Three hundred and eighty-two or 78.8 percent of the respondents were employed in full-time social work positions at the time of the survey. Thirty-one percent were earning yearly salaries of \$12,000 to \$16,000; 20 percent were earning between \$16,000 and \$20,000; and 17 percent were in the \$20,000-\$30,000 yearly salary range. Eleven percent were making less than \$12,000 and only 5 percent of the respondents earned more than \$30,000 a year.

A significant number of the alumni (40 percent) indicated interest in a doctoral program at the University of Tennessee School of Social Work, should one be developed. Of that number, 21 percent were very interested in such a program.

Forty percent of the respondents specified courses they would like to see offered by the Office of Continuing Social Work Education. Most (56.7 percent) wanted various treatment courses, while 32 percent asked for administration, planning and supervision courses. Sixty percent indicated a desire for further services from the School, with 43.1 percent of that number requesting more workshops.

## Noncredit Opportunities

*National Urban League*  
July 22-25, Chicago, IL

*Fourth National Institute on  
Social Work in Rural Areas*  
July 29-August 1, Laramie, WY

*American Sociological Association*  
August 27-30, Boston, MA

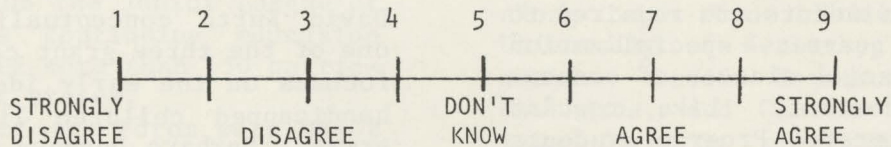
*Sixth Annual NASW Professional  
Symposium*  
November 14-17, San Antonio, TX

*China Study Tour*  
November 13-December 1

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In order to plan continuing education programs specifically designed to meet your needs, we need some feedback from you regarding program format, content and scheduling. We would appreciate your completion of the following questionnaire. Please mail it to: Phyllis Betz, 2012 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE USE THIS SCALE TO RATE ITEMS 1 THRU 15 \*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT THE MOST APPROPRIATE RESPONSE NUMBER IN THE BLANKS PROVIDED \*\*\*

I WOULD ATTEND MORE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS BUT:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ the distance to the programs is generally too great.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ my agency cannot pay the fees.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot pay the fee.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot take much time off because my job is too demanding.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the programs offered do not really meet my needs.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ the programs offered are too elementary.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ the programs offered are too advanced for me to understand.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ so many programs are offered at once I cannot attend them all.

I WOULD LIKE MORE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE:

- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ one/two day workshops lead by local or state people.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ one/two day workshops lead by nationally known people.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ one day workshops held on Saturday.
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ two/three day conferences/institutes on a topic with several different speakers.
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ a week long, indepth study of a particular subject area.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ a weekend, indepth study of a particular subject area.
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ an indepth study of a particular subject area held one evening a week for several weeks.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ Your highest degree
- 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_ Year you completed your highest degree
- 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_ Your county of residence.

Workshop topics of interest to you \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



16 pt. Bold

## Memphis Accelerated Program

The UTSSW Memphis Branch launched its Accelerated Program March 12, 1979 with the admission of seven students.

Qualifying standards are the same as those for Nashville Branch Accelerated students, but the program differs in its time schedule. Instead of a ten-week summer program, Memphis offers a two-week seminar preceding spring quarter. Then students are required to take spring quarter specialization courses plus special classes of concentrated core content. Like regular students, Accelerated Program students attend field work agencies two days a week.

The Memphis Branch students report courses to be more theoretical than undergraduate work, and say they must work hard to keep up with those who have completed core courses in fall and winter. However, they feel the program is valuable and are pleased to have the opportunity to complete their graduate studies in a shorter time.

The students who will be the program's first graduates are Susan Glazer, Fred Groskin, Carol Sams, Susan Stanfield and Jacqueline Watkins of Memphis; Karen Lawhorn of Oxford, Mississippi; and Elizabeth Walker of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

## Lakeshore Conferences on Aging and Mental Health

The second conference sponsored by the Aging and Mental Health Program will be held June 28-29, 1979, at Farragut High School, Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee. Conference topics are Acute Psychiatric Care for the Aged and Special Mental Health Needs of the Black Aged. Faculty for the Acute Psychiatric Care component consists of an interdisciplinary team from Duke University Medical Center and Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, headed by Dr. Alan Whanger. The Black Aging component will be led by Dr. Jacquelyne Jackson, Associate Professor of Medical Sociology, Department of Psychiatry, and Senior Fellow,

Mag., 16 pt. Italic

## CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in the Spring STIMULUS that David Kurtz of the Nashville Branch was awarded a \$106,500 grant from the Bureau for the Education of the Handicapped (BEH). Actually, the Regional Intervention Program Advisory Committee received the \$106,500 BEH grant for FY 1978-1979. Dr. Matt Timm is the Director of the Project. David Kurtz conceptualized and wrote one of the three grant components which focuses on the early identification of handicapped children living in rural areas. Barbara Devaney has been hired to direct this component. The Bureau recently notified the Advisory Committee that funding for the second year (FY 1979-1980) has also been approved.

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Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Duke Medical Center. Dr. Jackson is a prolific author and is nationally recognized as an expert on Black Aging. Dr. Carl Wilks, Associate Professor, UT Memphis School of Social Work, joins Dr. Jackson in leading the Black Aging component. A barbeque dinner and Aging film festival will be held Thursday evening.

Out-of-town participants will stay at the Sheraton Inn West, Cedar Bluff Road. The Aging and Mental Health Program is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and presented by Lakeshore Mental Health Institute and the East Tennessee Grant Planning Committee. There will be no registration charge.

The Middle Tennessee series on Aging and Mental Health will open on October 25-26, 1979, with a Conference on Normal Aging to be held at UT Nashville.

For additional information on either conference, write to the Aging and Mental Health Continuing Education Program, Lakeshore Mental Health Institute, 5908 Lyons View Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, or call (615) 584-1561, ext. 7481.



Mag., 24 pt. MEDIUM

## Family Violence Forum Termed "Success"

The Forum on the Treatment of Family Violence, held in Knoxville April 16-17, was described as "extremely successful" by coordinators Dick Edwards, Phyllis Betz and Susan Barnes. Co-sponsored by the Office of Continuing Social Work Education, NASW-Knox Area Branch, Child and Family Services of Knoxville, and the Junior League of Knoxville, this continuing education seminar attracted more than 150 participants from four states.

Highlights of the Forum were major addresses by Leila Whiting and Norman Polansky. Ms. Whiting is a nationally recognized expert on child abuse and neglect, and currently a staff member

of the National Association of Social Workers; Polansky is a noted researcher on child neglect and is a professor at the University of Georgia School of Social Work.

Skill development workshops for members of the helping professions were conducted by Whiting and Polansky, along with Lane Veltkamp from the University of Kentucky, UTSSW faculty members David Harrison and Thomas Cruthirds, and Charles Gentry, Executive Director of Child and Family Services of Knoxville. In addition, the Junior League developed two workshops specifically designed for volunteers.

*(continued on p. 9)*



Coordinators for the Forum on the Treatment of Family Violence held in Knoxville this past April were pleased with the response to the two-day event. Pictured with OCSWE staff members Phyllis Betz and Dick Edwards (second and third from left) are Charles Gentry of Child and Family Services (left) and Leila Whiting of NASW (second from right), workshop leaders, and Joyce Tapscott (right) of the Knoxville Junior League.



48 pt. *Format: Rickshaw,*

# China Study Tour

(continued from p. 1)

fulfillment of human needs in the People's Republic versus how these needs are being met in other countries. There will also be regular seminars during the trip, and tour members will spend approximately three hours each day visiting communes, hospitals, schools, factories and living complexes. In addition, there will be ample time for planned sightseeing.

While no tour itinerary is finalized by the China Travel Service until the group actually reaches its first city inside China, the tour is scheduled to visit Peking, Shanghai, Hangchow and Kwangchow (Canton). Low-cost, optional tours to such places as Japan, Malaysia or Bali are also available as a continuation of the trip at extra cost. Once you have gone as far as Hong Kong, it's a great chance to see that part of the world!

Cost of the tour is \$2,400 per person, which covers air transportation (from Los Angeles), ground transportation, three meals daily in China, two-day orientation in Los Angeles, and certain other expenses. There will be a separate \$50 registration fee for those participating in the educational portion of the tour. (Treasury regulations permit income tax deduction for some education and training expenses.)

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### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

JULY 1, 1979	Deadline for \$100 deposit (per person); refundable until July 31
SEPTEMBER 7, 1979	Balance (\$2,300) due
OCTOBER 1, 1979	\$50 registration fee for continuing education component due
NOVEMBER 13, 1979	Tour begins

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Don't miss the boat for this unique 19-day visit to the People's Republic of China! Clip and mail the coupon below TODAY!!

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 NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$100 (or \$200 with guest). Make checks payable to: UTSSW Alumni Association.

I wish to participate in the educational component of the tour.

I would like more information on optional tours at extra cost.

Please check here if you are a UTSSW alumnus and if so, year of graduation was 19\_\_.

Please mail this form, along with your check, to:  
 China Study Tour  
 Office of Continuing Social Work Education  
 2012 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916

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*24 p. Venus Blvd. Extended (Press Type)*

## Law/Aging Conference II Scheduled

The second Annual Conference on Law and Aging will be held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on September 7 and 8, 1979 at the Holiday Inn. The conference is cosponsored by the UT School of Social Work and the UT College of Law.

In addition to retaining several of the more popular topics from last year's program, the new program will feature an expanded section on mental health problems and will encourage greater participant interaction through the use of workshops.

The program schedule is as follows:

- Friday, September 7, 1979
- 8:00 a.m. Registration
  - 9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks
  - 9:10 a.m. Mock Commitment Hearing  
Demonstration
  - 10:45 a.m. The Role of the Principals  
Involved in the Commitment  
Hearing: Lawyer, Social  
Worker, Psychiatrist,  
Judge and Patient
  - 12:00 a.m. Lunch
  - 1:15 p.m. Series of workshops for participant's selection -- each workshop will be held 3 times to allow for the widest possible selection:
    1. Guardianship/Conservatorship
    2. Privacy/Privilege/Confidentiality
    3. Benefits Counseling and Advocacy
    4. Alcohol and Drug Abuse
    5. Protective Services
    6. Right to Treatment/Right to Refuse Treatment
    7. Developments in Nursing Home Law in Tennessee and the United States
    8. Age Discrimination in Employment
    9. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
  - 3:00 p.m. Workshops Repeated
  - 5:00 p.m. Reception

Saturday, September 8, 1979

- 9:00 a.m. Protective Services  
Available in Tennessee
- 10:00 a.m. Workshops Repeated
- 11:30 a.m. Panel Discussion--Question-and-Answer Period
- 12:00 a.m. Luncheon with Guest  
Speaker
- 1:30 p.m. Adjournment

The registration fee for this one and a half-day program is \$50. To register, please make check payable to the University of Tennessee and send to:

Dean Curtis L. Wells  
UT College of Law  
1505 W. Cumberland Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37916

*Meg., 18 p. 9 Cold State*  
**Forum Successful...**

*(continued from p. 7)*

Each Forum participant received a 225-page resource manual prepared by the OCSWE staff. The manual contains a series of resource papers from the "Curriculum on the Identification, Reporting, Referral and Case Management of Child Abuse and Neglect," developed by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It also has reprints of articles by Whiting, Polansky and Gentry, as well as other articles on various aspects of family violence. A comprehensive bibliography of more than 175 citations covering various aspects of family violence is included in the resource manual. A limited number of these books will be available from OCSWE, 2012 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916, at \$4.95 per copy.



Mag., 24 pt. Boled

## Faculty/Staff/Alumni News

### NASHVILLE:

UTSSW was well-represented at the National Association of Black Social Workers conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, April 16-21. Six faculty members and 11 students attended. We congratulate MARVYN RICE, first-year student at the Nashville Branch, who received one of ten \$100 Book Awards. JOYCE JARRETT, also a first-year student, and CAROLE WATSON of the faculty participated in a roundtable discussion on health care availability. LOU M. BEASLEY moderated a workshop on "The Black Family, Historically and Politically", and presented a paper entitled "Thrust for Permanency: Roadmap for Black Social Workers". BENJAMIN C. MASON and ANNE FORD were also in attendance.

CAROLE WATSON serves on the Executive Committee of NABSW. LOU BEASLEY, a board member and second vice-conference chairman, was appointed first vice-conference chairman for the 1980 National Conference scheduled to be held in Washington, DC, May 1-5.

### MEMPHIS:

KATE MULLINS served as program chairperson for the 64th Annual Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW) held in Nashville May 9-11. "Accountability: The Name of the Game" was the theme of the three-day forum, which explored issues and problems in accountability as related to human services, mental health and retardation, corrections, public health and education.

Participating in the TCSW Conference was MARVIN FEIT, who conducted a workshop on "Socio-Cultural Factors of Workers in Counseling Violent Families." The workshop focused on improving counseling skills of direct-service workers. "Social Work with Black Elderly," a workshop led by HISASHI HIRAYAMA of the faculty and graduate students DENNIS CHRISTIANSEN, MARY

NITER, ANN PARKER, and KATHY WALLACE, examined the characteristics, needs and coping patterns of elderly blacks in urban areas, and demonstrated social work approaches to increasing their problem-solving abilities.

CARL WILKS and FRED A. GREENE ('72), representative to the UTSSW alumni committee, conducted a workshop on "Deinstitutionalization of the Mentally Ill, and Its Relationship to the Black Community" at the April NABSW Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

### KNOXVILLE:

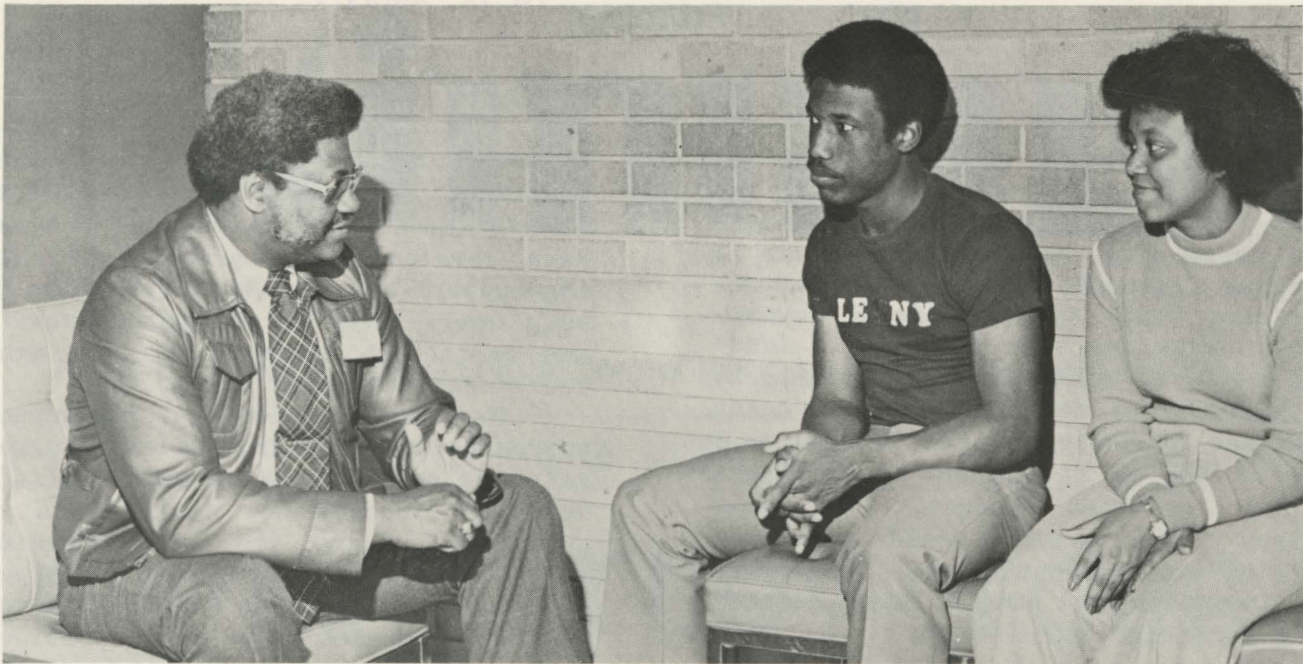
At the April TCSW conference in Nashville, JERRY CATES was co-leader for a workshop on "Title XX: Accountability via Citizen Involvement."

Several faculty are scheduled to make presentations at the Fourth National Institute on Social Work in Rural Areas in Laramie, Wyoming, July 29-August 1. JOSEPH DAVENPORT ('68), Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Wyoming, is conference chairperson. Those presenting include BEN GRANGER, REGINA FALCON, JOANNE JANKOVIC, GAIL KURTZ and DICK EDWARDS.

REGINA FALCON has received a UT research incentive award for a research project on social epidemiology. The project, "The Relationship of Physical and Emotional Illness in Rural Appalachia," is a collaborative effort with Dr. Baquar Husaini of Tennessee State University.

CREASIE F. HAIRSTON presented a paper dealing with "Needs Assessment in the Black Community" at the April NABSW Conference in St. Louis.

Congratulations to CHARLIE GENTRY ('61), Knoxville Branch lecturer, whose paper, "A Family Systems/Social Systems Approach to Family Violence," won the Ruth Sellards Award for best paper on a social treatment topic (see article on p. 3). Charlie was also a workshop co-leader at the April TCSW conference.



Dr. Titus Haynes of the Knoxville Branch (left) discusses possibilities for graduate study at UTSSW with two Jarvis College students during a recruiting trip to the Hawkins, Texas, campus. Interested students should direct inquiries about admission to the Office of Admissions, UT School of Social Work, 2014 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916.

*24 pt. Venus Bold. Ext. (Russ Type)*

## First-Year Student Wins Fellowship

Among the 1979-1980 recipients of the Hilton A. Smith Graduate Fellowship Awards, announced by the UT Graduate Admissions Department, is Paula Denise Smith, who will enroll in the School of Social Work graduate program this fall.

A native of Goldsboro, NC, Ms. Smith graduated this spring from Winston-Salem State University where she completed undergraduate work in sociology and psychology. Her college honors include the R.J. Reynolds Scholarship and membership in the Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Honor Society. She is also listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Ms. Smith has indicated her graduate studies in social work will emphasize protective services for children.

The Hilton A. Smith Graduate Fellowship Awards are determined by evaluating the student's academic achievement, personal rating forms and stand-

ing on GRE and GMAT scores. An applicant must have at least a 3.0 overall grade point average, with a substantially higher average recommended, and present high GRE or GMAT scores.

### **Stimulus** *18 pt. Ultra Bodoni*

<i>Executive Editor</i>	Ron Green
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*STIMULUS* is a quarterly publication of the UT School of Social Work. Submit letters or other material to *STIMULUS*, UT School of Social Work, 2012 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.



*20 pt. Bold* "But for a Nail. . ."

The old story drawing a parallel between the loss of a horseshoe and the loss of a kingdom is not unlike what we are faced with today in the threat of serious cutbacks in social service training funds by the federal government. What has been a system of funding based on training needs defined by each state is now in danger of being limited, by action of the Senate, to 3 (or as low as 2) percent of the state social services budget. In many states, such action would represent cutting training budgets by 75 percent; in Tennessee, it would mean cutting back one-third to one-half.

The goals of the federally funded social service system imply the availability of trained practitioners to deliver services. What we find in state after state is a lowering of entry-level educational standards for social service positions. Without a sound, adequately funded training program, the premise on which the whole

system is built--qualified staff--is in question. In Tennessee, the state and a large number of educational programs have developed a comprehensive training-support approach which provides for both entry-level social work education and on-the-job training for the state social service labor force.

The comprehensive training-support approach is in jeopardy unless Congress gets the message that a more realistic level of funding for training is required to support the service system. A decision to fund training at 6 percent of the service funding levels available to each state would provide a much sounder systems approach to the meeting of objectives in the overall provision of social services. All who are concerned with the provision of quality services are urged to notify their senators to work for more adequate funding levels. Let it not be said of the social service system, "But for a nail..." --- RKG

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The University of Tennessee School of Social Work  
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