



Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spring 2017

PROJECT NO REST

North Carolina's Response
to Human Trafficking



From left: Dean Larry Davis of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; Bobby Boyd, MSW '69; and SSW Dean Gary Bowen gather at the 4th annual Bobby Boyd Leadership Lecture in May.

Beginning a new adventure

Eight months ago, I began a new adventure as dean of the UNC School of Social Work. As many of you know, I've been with the School for more than 30 years – first as a student, then as a professor – and I thought I knew just about everything there was to know about the School. As it turns out, I had more to learn! And, it's all good! But we are not going to rest on our laurels; we are going to continue to move forward on every aspect of our mission.

Since August, I've had the opportunity to work closely with our world-class faculty to launch exciting new programs, some of which you'll see featured in this issue of Contact. I've met many of our donors and learned more about the reasons they choose to support our School and our students. And I've worked with our University's chancellor to refine our strategic plan, including the launch of a new Collaboration on Social Justice and Racial Equity, which marries the core strategies of the University with the goals of our School.

Throughout this process, I've enjoyed support from Jack Richman, who served as our School's dean for 13 years and who continues to serve as our associate dean of international programs. Our School is on a forward path, and I am proud of what our faculty, staff and students are accomplishing together.

We have much still to accomplish, and I think of my role as being like an orchestra conductor and my faculty and staff as the orchestra. One of my jobs is to recruit and retain the best "musicians" available. My job also involves getting this talented group to play in concert, and my associate and assistant deans ("first chairs") are instrumental to my success in transferring the score (our strategic plan) from the page into the best performances possible (teaching, research and service activities to achieve our objectives). In this process, to continue with the orchestra analogy, we must ensure that we remain in tune with the needs of the people we serve. Our goal is to make a real difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities in North Carolina and beyond.

Thank you for your role in our success. It is a privilege to serve as your dean.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bowen
Dean and Kenan Distinguished Professor

Contact
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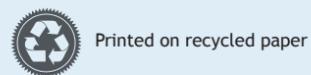
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OUR MISSION
The mission of the School of Social Work is to expand knowledge regarding social problems and programs, to educate social workers for advanced practice and to provide leadership in the development of socially and economically just policies and programs that strengthen individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

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Social workers in the military?

Alumna finds success and purpose in serving

By Susan White

Lt. Col. Rachel Foster, Ph.D. '08, admits she was more interested in tagging along with friends for fun to a college job fair more than 20 years ago than approaching any recruiters seriously to discuss her plans after graduation. But the gentleman in a neatly pressed Air Force uniform piqued her curiosity. He was there, he said, to recruit social workers who had their master's degrees.

"I remember thinking, 'What? There are social workers in the military?' It just never even occurred to me."

Years later, Foster often finds herself on the receiving end of such questions. Like many other service members, she entered the military, in part, because of family members who served and believed in the ideal of giving back to one's country. But Foster, who grew up in Michigan and graduated with a master science degree in social administration from Case Western Reserve University, also longed for a challenging career that gave her purpose.

Since entering the Air Force as a social worker in 1998, she's found just that and more.

Her assignments have taken her across the country, from her early days at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois to Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado to Lackland-Kelly Air Force Base in Texas to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. Along the way, she has risen through the ranks to various leadership positions, earning more than a dozen major awards and decorations for distinguished service.

Among her roles, she has served as the officer in charge at a deployed combat and operational stress clinic in Afghanistan and as a deputy squadron commander. As the research and policy chief for the mental health division of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, she and her colleagues focused on a host of social issues such as suicide prevention, deployment stress, mental health, alcohol and substance use, and prevention of family maltreatment. In 2013, she was appointed Air Force surgeon general advisor in the office of the vice chief of staff for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office — a post that placed her in the Pentagon for more than three years.

Most recently, Foster was named chief research liaison to the Office of the

U.S. Secretary of Defense for the Family Advocacy Program. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing research and related projects for the military's four service branches that involve the response and prevention of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect.

That the military is using its own rigorous scientific approach to address individual and

need to move, requires a lot of commitment. So it's important that people understand who we are, what some of our risk factors are and our challenges and how we can protect this population, which serves and protects the country."

Foster, who is among more than 250 practicing uniformed Air Force social workers, views her duty to support and advocate

"I think people are oftentimes surprised to hear what it is that I do, because there are so many myths about what social workers do in general."

— Lt. Col. Rachel Foster, Ph.D. '08

family problems may be surprising, but the efforts are important for better understanding the specific challenges that service members face, Foster said.

"The military is certainly a microcosm of the general U.S. population, but we are still a unique population," said Foster, who has a research background in child abuse and neglect. "The culture is very different, and the demands put on the work center, including the regular

for service members, their families and veterans as the most important part of her job. This message is the one she shares most often, especially when encountering perplexed looks from those who are unfamiliar with military social workers.

"I think people are oftentimes surprised to hear what it is that I do, because there are so many myths about what social workers do in general," she explained. "Years ago, when I began



Lt. Col. Rachel Foster, Ph.D.

to think about different professions, I considered counseling, and I looked at marriage and family therapy and licensed professional counselors. But social work aligned with how I thought about people in general — that there are vulnerable populations and, at times, those populations need advocates."

Social workers are best equipped to support military service members and their families because they are trained to approach problems from a strengths-based, holistic perspective, Foster said. That means social workers are more likely to learn about military culture and the variety of experiences and dimensions that service members bring to the table before tagging a diagnosis to a problem.

"Our social work training allows us to see the missing pieces and to respond with policy solutions that aid a particular population," she said.

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Air Force Lt. Col. Rachel Foster, chief research liaison to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the Family Advocacy Program (OSD FAP), reviews a report with an OSD FAP colleague.

Photos: U.S. Air Force Public Affairs

Building bridges

Project NO REST brings agencies together to combat human trafficking

By Susan White

More than seven years later, Kiricka Yarbough Smith still vividly remembers the tone of resignation in the caller's voice. "The first thing he said was,

"I already know you're not going to believe me because no one else has. But I'm going to try one last time."

Smith, then employed with the N.C. Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA), listened as the 26-year-old former college student explained in graphic detail how for nearly nine months, he had been a victim of sex trafficking while living in Seattle. He'd recently moved to North Carolina and desperately needed counseling services. But he was also struggling with how to share his experience with family members, many of whom were questioning why he had left school.

Sensing the young man was ready to give up, Smith agreed to help him find services. But his experience also motivated her. She had to do more to fight this abuse.

Today, Smith is doing just that as the human trafficking project administrator for Project COPE (Collaboration, Outreach, Protection and Empowerment), a program under the N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement. Smith is also among a group of public and nonprofit agency officials who have partnered with the UNC School of Social Work to combat human trafficking through Project NO REST.

Project NO REST (North Carolina Organizing and Responding to the Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Children) is a five-year effort initially funded in 2014 by the U.S. Children's Bureau to address the trafficking of individuals, age 25 and younger, in North Carolina. Research professor and project director Dean F. Duncan leads the project, which recently received a two-year, \$4.9 million grant from the N.C. Governor's Crime Commission.

Worldwide, an estimated 800,000 victims are trafficked each year, according to Human Rights First, a national nonprofit that works with governments and law enforcement to disrupt trafficking networks.

North Carolina has become an attractive state for the trafficking trade, thanks to convenient access to major highways

and ports, a large military presence and an expansive agricultural community with a high demand for manual labor, Duncan said. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center has ranked North Carolina 10th in the nation based on the number of phone calls made to the center's national hotline.

Given that "human trafficking has been going on since the history of time," the problem is likely larger than most expect, said Robin Colbert, associate director of NCCASA.

"When people, particularly in marginalized communities, don't have needed resources, they are more likely to be exploited," she said. "This is about money, and it is about economics, and it is about selling someone over and over for your own personal gain."

Project NO REST aims to strengthen the state's efforts to eliminate and prevent sex and labor trafficking and to improve services and outcomes for those who are trafficked, particularly children and youth in the child welfare system. The project will focus on five pilot sites, representing 17 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. A key part of the project is a statewide public media outreach campaign that provides information through TV broadcast and social media to direct victims to the project's website. This public campaign is designed to help reach and engage youth and young adults who may already be trafficked and direct them to services.

Equally important, Duncan said, are the critical roles that Smith with Project COPE and leaders with NCCASA will play in ensuring that pilot communities can identify human trafficking, know how to respond to survivors, and are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to strengthen the well-being of youth victims.

"What we're trying to do is strengthen the infrastructure for responding to trafficking in North Carolina by



Project NO REST director Dean F. Duncan discusses the campaign with team members (from left) Jennie Vaughn and Joy Stewart.

What is human trafficking?

The U.S. Government defines human trafficking as:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age [or "is under 18"].
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to [or "in order to subject them to"] involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

bringing together people who are already involved in anti-human trafficking work and encouraging them and supporting their work," Duncan said. "Ultimately, we want to make sure we're building bridges between all these organizations so that we reduce the risk of children falling through a gap in services."

NCCASA has been on the front lines, helping to fill this gap for the last 15 years. The statewide alliance aims to eliminate sexual violence through education, advocacy and legislation. To that end, NCCASA works closely with the state's rape crisis centers, college campuses, law enforcement and other agencies that may encounter victims of sexual assault or human trafficking.

"The key to eliminating sexual violence is more than just training, it's preventing it before it occurs and providing an appropriate response when it does," Colbert said.

Using online webinars and in-community workshops, NCCASA trains individuals on sexual violence prevention every year, Colbert said. For 2015 and 2106, more than 6,700 total people participated in nearly 200 training and presentation events across the state. As a Project NO REST partner, NCCASA will continue its ongoing efforts by providing similar training and technical assistance on how communities should respond to human trafficking.

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Building bridges: Project NO REST brings agencies together to combat human trafficking,
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“A lot of our work focuses on trauma-informed training, including recognizing how the effects of trauma can influence a victim’s behaviors,” Colbert said. “We also talk about how to start a sexual assault response team in your community and how to work with law enforcement. But we provide any type of training that our membership or other folks tell us that they need.”

Project COPE, which teaches direct service providers how to identify human traffickers and victims, will also coordinate training over the next two years. Since December, Project COPE has trained more than 3,500 people, including school resource officers, guidance counselors, law enforcement officials, and youth community groups, such as YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs.

“These trainings are important because when we talk about sex trafficking, people often have these ideas that it’s prostitution,” Smith said. “So really helping these agencies and particularly law

enforcement understand that what they’re seeing is not prostitution – it’s rape – is critical.”

Vulnerable youth are at greatest risk of victimization, Smith said, noting that an estimated 70 percent of trafficking victims have been involved in the foster care or child welfare system. Other targets include youth with low self-esteem and those living in poverty. However, Project COPE uses this same knowledge to educate others, including youth, on the warning signs of a human trafficker: someone who is controlling and abusive, who isolates and often “grooms” their victims, Smith added.

“They will spend a lot of time listening to (victims), wooing them, buying them nice things, doing things for them, and then the trafficking happens,” she said.

That students are often already familiar with what trafficking looks like is not surprising, Smith said. “For the most part, a large percentage of the youth we’ve encountered say, ‘Yes, my next

door neighbor, my cousin, my friend or me – I’ve already experienced this.”

Over the next six months, in addition to providing training and education within the pilot communities, the Project NO REST team will assess current prevention efforts to understand what challenges still exist and what’s needed to support anti-trafficking activities that are already showing success, Duncan added.

Moreover, the team will assist the pilot sites in developing a plan for collecting reliable demographic data on the trafficked youth these communities are serving.

“Human trafficking has devastating consequences for victims and our entire community,” Duncan said. “So we need to know more about the factors that result in youth being drawn into trafficking. Then we can use that information as a guide for the type of activities that are still needed to prevent other youth from becoming trafficking victims.” ♦



Ebon Freeman-James (at right) guides the discussion during her final Alumni Council meeting as president in April.

Update from the Alumni President

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Alumni Council for the School of Social Work for the past three years. In that time, I have done my best to represent our alumni as the liaison for various boards, meeting with prospective students during Welcome Weekend and greeting new graduates during graduation. By far, my favorite opportunity has been staying connected to the school through the many challenges (e.g. local legislation, budget cuts, police brutality, disenfranchisement) that have impacted the School, our state and this country over the past several years. I’ve been so proud to see that social workers can and do rise to every occasion, even if it’s difficult, even if no one else wants to and even when people don’t know what to do.

When last year’s Contact magazine was printed, Jack Richman’s upcoming departure was a time of mixed emotions and, frankly, anxiety as there was no clear successor. I even heard that one poor soul

cried so hard in her farewell to Jack that she couldn’t talk in front of the entire Board of Advisors or the next day in front of the Alumni Council (yes, it was me!). Since that time, we have installed a new dean, Gary Bowen, who is not only a fantastic social worker, professor, researcher and now administrator, he is one of the School of Social Work’s most tenured faculty members AND an alum.

As I step down in my role and pass the baton to newly elected president Ashley Benefield, I am heartened to know that she shares the enthusiasm of the Council in being of service to you and continuing to support this extraordinary School of Social Work as it looks toward celebrating its 100th anniversary very soon. We are at a unique time in this country that is fraught with worry for many, hope for others and uncertainty for all. As alumni from this highly ranked institution, we are poised to take on the many challenges that the future holds and help ourselves and others triumph. Adversity is nothing

new to those we serve or to those who serve, but not only are social workers resilient, we are able to see the hope in hopeless situations and move forward not knowing what will happen but knowing that we can make an impact for the better.

Research-based decisions, doing the right thing and truly being helpful go hand in hand at the UNC School of Social Work, and that continues to make a large impact across this state, country and the world. During this tumultuous time, a unique opportunity presents itself, and we can demonstrate just how valuable and necessary our profession is. I leave you, my colleagues, with a heart full of hope for the future, and I hope this serves as some encouragement to you to keep fighting the good fight, moving forward and working together for the good.

Truly,

Ebon Freeman-James, MSW, LCSW

2016–2017 Alumni Council

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Setting standards

Student-led research finds inconsistent access to sexual assault policies, consent definitions across U.S. colleges, universities

By Susan White

Although most U.S. colleges and universities publicize sexual assault policies and consent definitions on their schools' websites, a recent UNC study found that small public schools, private schools and those with majority male student populations were less likely to provide or maintain similar information publicly.

Given that sexual assault on college and university campuses continues to be a pervasive problem, findings from the study suggest that many schools could strengthen their conduct standards by more clearly communicating sexual assault policies and consent definitions. Such efforts, the researchers concluded, could help to better inform and support students, increase sexual assault reporting and promote a safer school environment.

"For our investigation, we wanted to know how easily and successfully students, faculty and staff can find their college or university's policy and how their school defines sexual consent," said Laurie Graham, a Ph.D. student in the School of Social Work and the study's principal investigator. "The focus was important because how a campus responds can affect whether people report a sexual assault or not. Even how sexual consent is described can have implications for how people view their own experiences."

The research study, which was published online recently in the *Journal of School Violence*, was supported by the UNC Center for Injury Prevention and conducted

by the Gender-Based Violence Research Group, an interdisciplinary team that formed three years ago, composed of students, faculty and staff from the UNC School of Social Work, Gillings School of Global Public Health, RTI International Military and Family Risk Behavior Research Program in Research Triangle Park and other local researchers and practitioners.

The article is the first from the study team, which conducted a nationally representative review of websites for 995 schools with four-year undergraduate programs. The study, which included historically black colleges and universities and tribal institutions, focused on schools that receive federal funding because these campuses are mandated to have sexual assault policies in place. The study, researchers agreed, is a first step toward exploring whether sexual assault policies and consent definitions help to prevent sexual assault on college campuses.

Nationally, campus sexual assault has been identified as a significant social problem. According to a 2015 report from the Association of American Universities, an estimated 26.1 percent of undergraduate women and 6.1 percent of undergraduate men experience sexual assault "by physical force, threats of physical force or incapacitation," by their senior year.

For its study, the UNC research team explored whether school characteristics, such as public versus private and student population size, are associated with having or

not having sexual assault policies and consent definitions publicly accessible online.

Results showed that most schools, or 93 percent, had a sexual assault policy and 87.6 percent had consent definitions that were retrievable from online campus websites. Public schools and schools with more than 5,000 enrolled students were more likely to have a policy and consent definition compared to private and smaller schools.

In addition, the study found that schools with a minority of female students were less likely than those with a higher percentage of female students to have such policies and definitions. Moreover, nearly 40 percent of majority male schools did not have a publicly accessible consent definition online.

"One of the things we recognized is that it takes a lot of time, effort and resources to pull people together to agree on and pass a new policy, so smaller institutions might be at a disadvantage for doing so," Graham said.

Of the total school websites reviewed, UNC researchers further analyzed the content of consent definitions at 100 schools and found that information varied considerably in details and comprehensiveness by school. About 12 percent had limited definitions, while 75 percent defined consent more comprehensively. Some common themes emerged, including around physical incapacitation, incapacitation due to drugs and alcohol and age of

"A lot of the definitions talked more about what the absence of consent looked like rather than what active consent looked like."

– Ph.D. student Laurie Graham

From left, professor Rebecca Macy and Ph.D. student Laurie Graham discuss the findings of their recent study.

consent. Most definitions asserted that sexual consent could not be given when there is "force, incapacitation and coercion."

"A lot of the definitions talked more about what the absence of consent looked like," Graham said. "How can someone actively consent, and what does the presence of consent look like?"

Having such policies in place are important for demonstrating an institution's commitment to eliminating sexual assault, said School of Social Work professor Rebecca Macy, whose research

focuses on family violence, interpersonal violence and violence prevention. However, because the federal government has not been clear about what all campuses should include, most colleges and universities are relying on various processes to ensure that students are safe, she said.

"These policies are really critical because that's the standard by which students will be expelled from universities or protected or not protected on campuses," said Macy, a co-author of the study. "The challenge is there is no one single set upon agreed policy, at least not in North Carolina. That means

that every university is doing this differently so how they envision consent is kind of the core argument and how they apply these policies, that's going to be something that the courts are going to have to work out." ♦

The study co-authors also included MSW/MPH dual degree student Erin Magee; Gillings School of Global Public Health MPH students Sarah Treves-Kagan and Stephanie DeLong, associate dean for research Sandra Martin, research associate professor Michael Bowling and research associate professor Beth Moracco; and RTI senior public health scientist Olivia Ashley.

A partnership 7,000 miles in the making

By Susan White



Assistant professor Paul Lanier wasn't sure what to make of the email he received nearly two years ago from a curious Ph.D. student in Tokyo, nearly 7,000 miles away. But through that one connection, researchers in Japan and scholars here at UNC have begun to forge a promising partnership that both believe could help to improve the well-being of families abroad and in the United States.

For Lanier, this journey began with a doctoral student at the University of Tokyo's School of Integrated Health Sciences. She was interested in child maltreatment and prevention but was having difficulty finding much research on the topics in Japan. Her mentor, professor Hideki Hashimoto, suggested she start with U.S. researchers who are considered experts in the field, a search that eventually led her to Lanier and his articles on evidence-based policymaking in child welfare.

Although he had not conducted any international research, Lanier had much experience evaluating state and national prevention programs that target child abuse and neglect. The request for help intrigued him, especially as he learned more about Japan's alarming rates of child maltreatment; the country has seen a 93 percent increase in incidents over the past 25 years, he said. Researchers have suggested that the problem of maltreatment has

grown worse because families are overstressed with work, underpaid and lacking extended family support. Yet no clear picture exists, Lanier said, for why rates are so high, largely because Japan has never collected comprehensive data that can be evaluated and used to generate programs and policies aimed at prevention.

"In an effort to protect family privacy, the information they do collect on families gets locked in a file cabinet," Lanier explained. "They don't use it for research. They just don't have a system to take all these individual cases that get reported and try to better understand them and conduct research to drive policy."

However, the United States has collected such information for years through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Lanier's own research depends heavily on the database, which serves as a warehouse for child maltreatment incidents across all 50 states. In addition, Lanier and other faculty with the Jordan Institute for Families use data collected through child welfare, Medicaid and other public systems in North Carolina to help county and state policymakers understand the experiences of families and make evidence-based decisions.

Last year, Hashimoto began talking to Lanier about the possibility of the University of Tokyo building a similar data system — technology that could help Japanese researchers get to the roots of child maltreatment in their own country. Lanier and other UNC School of Social Work faculty members are discussing plans now to assist in those efforts.

But Lanier is equally excited about the opportunity to learn from his Japanese peers. In fact, he thinks they may hold some promising ideas for improving how public health and social services are delivered in the United States. For years, his research has shown that negative perceptions of social services in this country, particularly around child welfare and other parenting support programs, often prevent individuals in need from seeking help. As a result, Lanier has wondered: Is it possible to change how people in the United States think about these services?

Japan may have one answer, he said. Thanks to his work with Hashimoto, Lanier has started to examine how public services in Japan are delivered to children and families in a non-stigmatizing way. During a recent trip to Tokyo, Lanier toured an agency similar to a U.S. department of social services or public health and discovered a much different environment than what clients sometimes encounter in this country.

"If your family needs to use a social service here, you often get a very different feeling even when you walk in. The social workers are usually great, but the environment says, 'Stay away,'" Lanier said. "What I saw [in Tokyo] was how to develop a family-friendly, open, non-judgmental environment for families to come into when they need help."



Rather than sterile offices and waiting rooms with armed guards and metal detectors, Lanier found the agency in Japan painted in bright and welcoming colors and divided into spaces with inviting names, such as "Children's Corner" and "Parents' and Children's Plaza." Rooms were filled with activity areas designed to entice youth to read, color, enjoy music and play table tennis and other games. Brochures and other printed materials encouraged families and their children to "come anytime, to play all day and make new friends."

"I was just blown away by it," said Lanier, who made the tour in February as part of an invitation to present two lectures on child welfare and evidence-based policymaking at the University of Tokyo. "It was very clean and organized. People were smiling and friendly. In the infant area, the floor was heated. They tried to make it nice and welcoming for all people."

In addition, he found services designed and defined in ways to attract clients from up and down the socioeconomic ladder, including through the intentional use of language around child welfare issues. Rather than investigations, social workers provide "comprehensive consultations." Every program and service, including temporary childcare, parent mentors and home visiting support, are available for all families, not just those in crisis, he added.

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"What I saw [in Tokyo] was how to develop a family-friendly, open, non-judgmental environment for families to come into when they need help."

— assistant professor Paul Lanier

Specialty Mental Health Probation New options for Community Corrections

by Karen Kornegay



District Court Judge Pat Evans (District 14, Durham County) might have been the happiest person at the Durham County Human Services Center on Nov. 7, 2016.

She listened, smiling, as UNC School of Social Work associate professor Gary Cuddeback and assistant professor Tonya VanDeinse announced expansion of the Specialty Mental Health Probation (SMHP) project into six North Carolina counties, including Durham County.

Dozens of community leaders, including District Court Judge William A. Marsh III (District 14, Durham County) and Durham Deputy Police Chief Anthony Marsh, broke into applause at the professors' news.

"This is the day I've been waiting and praying for, for 30 years," Evans said, explaining that SMHP helps identify offenders who have severe mental illness and find treatment options for them. SMHP also provides training for probation officers who work with these offenders.

The project offers an immediate response to an ongoing need of probation officers, according to Anne Precythe, former community corrections director for North Carolina. (Precythe was named director of the Missouri Department of Corrections in February.)

"We found that mental health questions were answered but staff didn't know what to do [before receiving mental health training]," Precythe said.

How SMHP works

Cuddeback and his team have worked on the Specialty Mental Health Probation project and related activities for several years.

VanDeinse and research associate Stacy Burgin serve as project directors. Assistant professor Marilyn Ghezzi provides training and consultation for probation officers, and assistant professor Amy Wilson assesses the fidelity

of the project activities. Doctoral student Ashley Givens helps coordinate project activities across the state. Over the past few years, several graduate students from UNC and from North Carolina State University have also worked with the team.

The team is also conducting an evaluation of the project, which will help answer this question: Do probationers with severe mental illness have better mental health and criminal justice outcomes if they receive SMHP, as compared to standard probation?

SMHP began with pilot sites in Sampson and Wake counties. This year, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Administration, the UNC team will work together with the N.C. Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement SMHP in six additional counties: Brunswick, Durham, Guilford, McDowell, Mecklenburg and Orange.

Within these counties, probationers are identified for SMHP eligibility within the first 60 days of their probation. Their eligibility is determined in part by their responses to

mental health questions – for example, "Have you taken medication or been hospitalized for emotional or mental health problems?"

Next, specially-trained SMHP probation officers help connect probationers with mental illness to appropriate mental health services and other resources, in addition to providing standard probation supervision.

Cuddeback said the SMHP project is based on a national SMHP model with five core elements, which include:

- Officer caseloads made up exclusively of probationers with mental illness;
- Reduced caseload sizes (40 probationers);
- Ongoing mental health training;
- A problem-solving supervision orientation; and
- Coordination and collaboration with mental health providers and other community resources.

In North Carolina, the SMHP project also includes several implementation strategies, including one-to-one and group clinical consultations with a licensed clinical social worker and community capacity-building meetings for officers,

local stakeholders and representatives from managed care organizations (MCOs).

Data from the project will inform state policy in the future, Cuddeback said. For Precythe, Specialty Mental Health Probation is already a success.

"We're on the cutting edge in community corrections – I think you'll be very excited," Precythe told the Durham County leaders.

"This goes beyond enforcing the conditions of [probation] supervision," she added. "Our job is to help people be successful in the community.

"The results we've seen in Wake and Sampson counties have been phenomenal, and I think you're going to see the same results here."

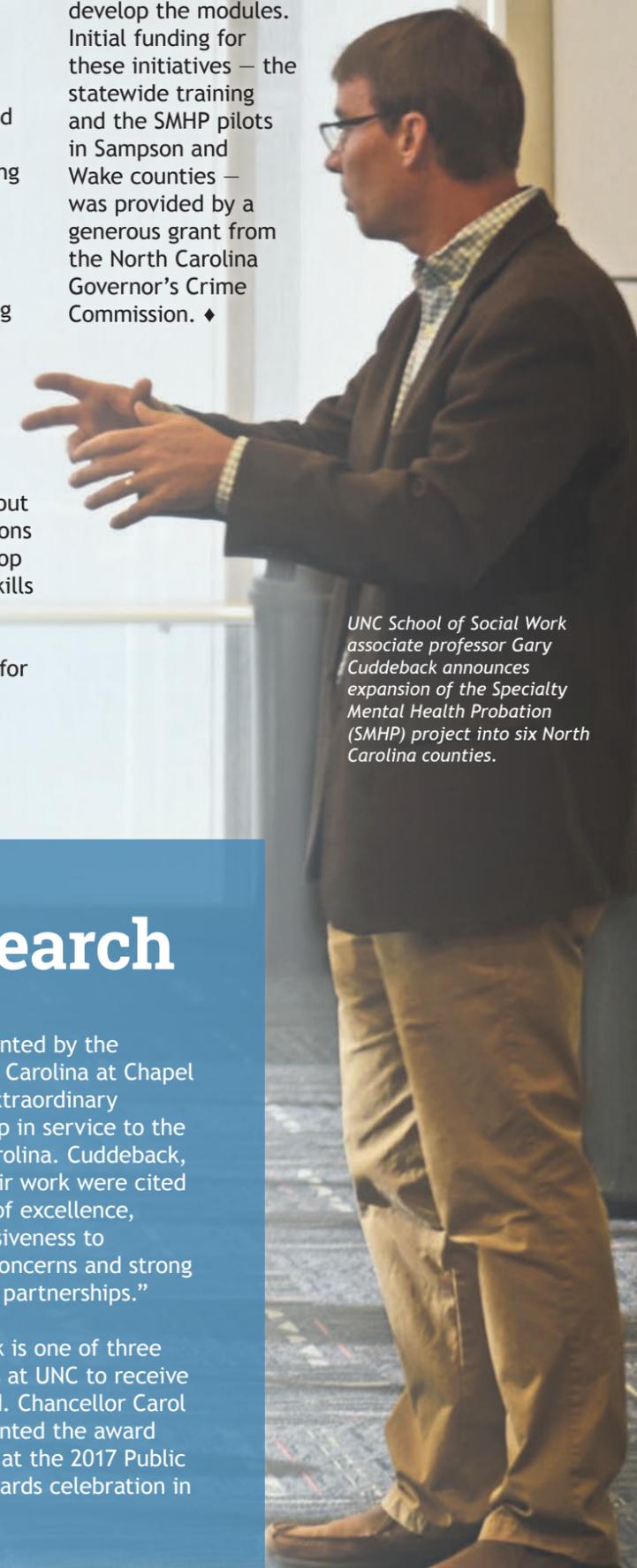
Statewide impact

Providing SMHP in North Carolina counties is one of two project components, Cuddeback said. The second component, a series of six online mental health training modules, is delivered to all probation officers in the state. Nearly 2,200 officers and other stakeholders have completed the training modules.

"We touch all 100 North Carolina counties with this project," Cuddeback said.

Probation officers learn about mental disorders, medications and treatment. They develop a base of knowledge and skills to talk to offenders about mental illness and identify services that are available for offenders seeking help.

DPS and DHHS helped develop the modules. Initial funding for these initiatives – the statewide training and the SMHP pilots in Sampson and Wake counties – was provided by a generous grant from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission. ♦



UNC School of Social Work associate professor Gary Cuddeback announces expansion of the Specialty Mental Health Probation (SMHP) project into six North Carolina counties.

Award-winning research

Gary Cuddeback has received the 2017 Office of the Provost Engaged Scholarship Award for Research, honoring the work he and his team are conducting in the Mental Health and Criminal Justice Evidence-Based Intervention Collaborative. This collaborative is in partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health and Human Services.



This award is presented by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to recognize extraordinary engaged scholarship in service to the State of North Carolina. Cuddeback, his team and their work were cited as "an example of excellence, including responsiveness to community concerns and strong community partnerships."

Cuddeback is one of three professors at UNC to receive this award. Chancellor Carol Folt presented the award on April 5 at the 2017 Public Service Awards celebration in Chapel Hill.



Professor Mark Testa speaks about the wicked problems of child welfare at a North Carolina Family Impact Seminar sponsored by the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy.

Testa receives national honor

Society for Social Work and Research 2017 Social Policy Award

By Susan White

Mark Testa, the Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor in the School of Social Work, is the recipient of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2017 Social Policy Award.

The prestigious national award honors social work researchers who have made outstanding contributions to policy that impact vulnerable or disadvantaged populations. Testa was selected for the award because of his “record of accomplishment that demonstrates the use of rigorous policy research methods, innovation and significant impact of policy research in addressing important social work policy issues,” said James Herbert Williams, SSWR president.

Testa, who joined the School of Social Work in 2009, is considered one of the most influential scholars in child welfare. The co-editor of four books and co-author of 39 articles and chapters, Testa is well regarded for his groundbreaking research in subsidized guardianship,

which has had a major impact on national child welfare policies and practices.

Since arriving at UNC, Testa has intensified efforts to reform and influence child welfare policies. In 2011, he established a partnership with the Children’s Home Society of America to promote collaboration among universities, child welfare agencies, government, foundations and private investors to develop and evaluate promising solutions to the intractable problems that child welfare agencies are confronting across the country. The partners aim to help build evidence-supported services and create sustainable child welfare systems in every state.

Testa also helped launch and continues to lead a series of “Wicked Problems Institutes (WPIs),” which focus on advancing rigorous demonstrations of child welfare interventions that show promise for improving child safety, permanence and well-being. ♦

Social workers in the military? Alumna finds success and purpose in serving, *continued from page 5*

This training is valuable at the micro level as well, including combat environments, where social workers are often needed to help troops cope with the emotional and mental strain of multiple deployments, physical injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and the challenges of returning home to civilian life. Moreover, military social workers, especially in their early careers, are leading much of the necessary mental health treatment and prevention work, Foster added.

“We provide psychological support and group therapy, and we do prevention as outreach, including suicide prevention, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and family maltreatment prevention — all of which is usually surprising to folks outside of the military,” Foster said. “I just don’t think many people are aware that these services are available in the military or that they’re available on the [base].”

Although the increased visibility of social workers in the military (including in deployed installations abroad) have helped expose more service members to practitioners and the assistance they can provide, some service members are still reluctant to seek services because of the stigma associated with mental health, Foster said. Such fears can be especially challenging to break in a culture that is defined by toughness.

But the Department of Defense is committed to changing that perception, she said, including by supporting behavioral healthcare providers in primary care settings so that troops can easily see a mental health clinician as part of a routine health appointment. Additionally, service members are encouraged to participate in programs that focus on resiliency by promoting spiritual, physical, mental and social wellness.

Foster is equally committed to ensuring that those who give their service to this nation also get the help they need. In fact, she continues to see her own patients every other Wednesday at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

After more than 18 years of service, Foster credits both the military and social work for teaching her how to work in challenging environments and how best to support and advocate for people who are often enormously vulnerable.

“Not everyone has the opportunity to serve in the military,” she said. “As I get closer to my 20 years of service, I realize how fortunate I am to have been able to serve the country and at the same time provide clinical and research support and advocacy to those who serve.” ♦

A partnership 7,000 miles in the making, *continued from page 13*

“They offer comprehensive children’s centers to support your child from infancy to age 17,” he said. “It’s like a one-stop shop. Parents can go to this one center for anything for their child and get support, and it’s a public social service.”

In the coming months, Lanier hopes to bring Hashimoto and the University of Tokyo research team to North Carolina to meet with UNC faculty members who have expertise in child welfare and to exchange more ideas that may benefit both nations. He’s also beginning to think about the cross-national research he’d like to pursue, perhaps examining how perceptions of services in the United States and in Japan impact use of services in both

countries.

“I want to ask families in Japan the same questions that I might ask a bunch of families in North Carolina,” Lanier said. “What do you think about your CPS [Child Protective Services] or your child guidance center, as it’s called in Japan? Are the people welcoming? Are they friendly? Would you be embarrassed to go there? What’s your willingness to use help from there if you know you needed it? Would you want someone from your child guidance center to come into your home? Would you want a public health social worker coming into your home?”

Such questions are important, he

said, because the United States invests billions of dollars annually on services that people often refuse to use. Changing how those services are marketed and delivered could be the key to ensuring that dollars are not wasted and that families seek and receive needed assistance.

“For so long, we’ve assumed that these things — that the settings and context of our social services — are not changeable,” he said. “But it took getting out of my environment and looking at these services through a different lens for me to realize that if we’re going to remain committed to these programs, then something is going to have to change.” ♦

1960s

Nancy Hall, MSW '60, was selected as an inaugural winner of the "7 over Seventy Award," sponsored by Wake Forest University's Sticht Center on Aging, SPARK Magazine, the Winston-Salem Journal and Senior Services. Hall is the founder and president of Second Spring Arts Festival, which promotes creativity in persons over 60. Hall previously worked for the Forsyth County Department of Social Services and The Children's Home.

1970s

MaryAnn Black, MSW '70, was appointed as the new representative of N.C. House District 29. Black, associate vice president for community relations at the Duke University Health System, replaces Rep. Larry Hall D-Durham, who was recently named Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs by Governor Roy Cooper.

William C. Crawford, MSW '77, and **Jim Provencher** had an essay on their emerging photography technique, *Forensic Foraging*, published in *Apogee*, one of the largest photo magazines in the world. Crawford, who taught family policy at the UNC School of Social Work, is a writer and photographer based in Winston-Salem.

1980s

Annie McCullough Chavis, MSW '87, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award from the State of North Carolina in February 2017. Chavis was honored for 40 years of service to the state as a social worker and social work educator. She taught 26 years before retiring in January 2017 as a professor of social work at Fayetteville State University.

Drew Pledger, MSW '88, was named the 2017 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC). Pledger is a school social worker and coordinator of mental health services for the Wake County Public School System and the Crisis Response Team lead for all of Wake County's 177 schools and 160,000 students.

Jim Trent, MSW '80, published "Inventing the Feeble Mind: A History of Intellectual Disability in the United States" (Oxford



In February, alumni Dave Norris '72 and Hank Landes '72 visited Dean Gary Bowen.

University Press, 2016). Trent is a visiting scholar at the Heller School at Brandeis University.

1990s

Lindsey Jordan Arledge, MSW '94, was named the new chief of social work service at the Durham Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System. She began working at the VA shortly after completing her advanced practicum at the facility and has developed expertise as a clinician in mental health and homelessness.

Bobby Cagle, MSW '98, the director for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), was named one of 51 "Notable Georgians" in 2017 by Georgia Trend magazine.

Cedar R. Koons, MSW '93, published her first book, "The Mindfulness Solution for Intense Emotions: Take Control of Borderline Personality Disorder with DBT." Koons lives in Santa Fe, N.M., where she established the private practice team Santa Fe DBT.

Kirsten Krueger, MSW '99, is an international public health program manager and research utilization specialist with nearly 20 years of experience in family planning/reproductive health. An article about her work on

women's health in Africa was recently published by The Exchange, a Knowledge for Health publication supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Tami Pfeifer, MSW '98, was featured as WCHL's "Hometown Hero" for her work as program director for the nonprofit Boomerang. The program works with youth suspended from school to bounce back from challenges and achieve their full potential.

Michelle Grant Scott, MSW '96, and her family relocated from her home state of North Carolina to South Carolina 10 years ago. Since then, she has continued serving as a private practitioner, provided contract work for a local hospice program and taught

as an adjunct instructor for Clemson University, Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina. She is currently the site coordinator for USC's College of Social Work MSW satellite program in Greenville, S.C., where she continues to teach and advise MSW students.

Matt Sullivan, MSW '97, was named Chapel Hill's new fire chief after serving as the interim chief since May 2015.

2000s

Carlton Craig, Ph.D. '05, was named a professor and the director of the School of Social Work at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Craig previously served as the Vernon R. Wiehe Endowed Professor of Family Violence at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work.

Amy Hobson Fadden, MSW '01, and her husband, Brian, established a nonprofit foundation, Aislinn's Wish, in honor of their daughter, who has a rare, progressive genetic disorder called Sanfilippo Syndrome. The nonprofit aims to raise awareness and funds for research into treatment and a cure.

William R. Finger, MSW '02, recently published his memoir, "The Crane Dance: Taking Flight in Midlife," which includes stories from his experiences at SSW. Finger (journeycakespirit.com), who lives in Raleigh, has been editor of a public policy quarterly, a consultant for the N.C. Legislature, and a writer and communications manager at an international public health organization.

Mia Ives-Rublee, MSW '09, was featured in The News & Observer (Raleigh) article, "Athlete activist Mia Ives-Rublee spreading

"disability pride." Ives-Rublee helped coordinate and lead the Disability Caucus of the Women's March on Washington in January 2017. She also was recently featured in "Disability activists amplified: Social media gets the job done," on CNET.com. Ives-Rublee works as a research assistant at UNC.

Lee Chaix McDonough, MSW/MSPH '03, published an essay in elephant journal, a popular online magazine devoted to mindful living. McDonough is a professional coach and licensed clinical social worker living in New Bern.

Meredith C.F. Powers, MSW '03, authored the chapter, "Transforming the Profession: Social Workers' Expanding Response to the Environmental Crisis," which was recently published in "The Ecosocial Transition of Societies: The Contribution of Social Work and Social Policy" published by Routledge Press.

Stephen Reda, MSW '01, has been a stay-at-home father with his two daughters for the last few years. After graduation, Reda assisted in the creation and the opening of the first adult day health care center in Orange County, N.C. After serving as a hospital social worker, including at Durham Regional Hospital (now Duke Regional), Reda moved in 2006 to Nashville, Tenn., to work for a local nonprofit hospice.

Karen Smith Rotabi, Ph.D. '05, co-authored the book, "From Intercountry Adoption to Global Surrogacy: A Human Rights History and New Fertility Frontiers." The book, published by Routledge Press, examines the ethical complexities of intercountry adoption and the relatively new problems of commercial global surrogacy. Rotabi is



In April, alumni (seated from left) Teryn Smith '16, Lizette Lopez '11, Jennifer Manis '11, Antoinetta Cash Royster '13, Marie Funk '14 and Samir Hanef '10 visited the School to participate in a "Confronting Oppression" panel discussion.

an associate professor of social work and MSW program coordinator at the United Arab Emirates University.

Julia Wacker, MSW/MSPH '07, manages the North Carolina Mobile Medication Program (MMP), which recently was awarded the highest honor in the Pioneer Institute's 25th Annual Better Government Competition. The state program, which is coordinated by the N.C. Hospital Association and funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, was chosen from 100 entries from across the nation for its approach to reducing the number of psychiatric hospitalizations and repeated emergency department visits by individuals with severe behavioral health disorders.

2010s

Jadie Baldwin-Hamm, MSW '12, and her husband Jeffrey Hamm were interviewed recently for "NC foster care system stretched to the limit," a TV broadcast that aired on the CBS affiliate WNCN. The couple have been foster parents since 2013.

Christina DeNard, MSW '10, was among 15 students

tapped for the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. DeNard is pursuing a Ph.D. in social welfare at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice.

Marbeth Holmes, MSW '14, director of student wellness for Nash Community College, was recognized last year by the White House and former First Lady Michelle Obama for participation in the 2016 White House Healthy Campus Challenge. Holmes was also featured in "NCC celebrates addiction recovery," published in the Rocky Mount Telegram in September 2016. The article focused on her work with Nash Community College's Collegiate Recovery Program, which serves students struggling with addiction. Holmes started the recovery program, which is the first to be developed for any of the state's community colleges.

Sarah Lineberry, MSW '16, recently testified at a bipartisan Senate and House hearing in Illinois about her work as director of professional services for L'Arche Chicago, an organization founded in 2000 that operates three licensed

"Community Integrated Living Arrangements" where individuals with and without disabilities share life and live together as a family. Lineberry was among those advocating for stronger legislative measures to combat abuse and neglect in Illinois group homes.

Noah Martinson, MSW '10, an assessment coordinator and licensed clinical social worker at N.C. State University, recently worked with a Durham-based production company to produce the suicide prevention video "#StoptheStigma." The Nashville chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recently recognized the video with an Emmy for excellence in visual storytelling.

Donald McDonald, MSW '16, published a letter to the editor in The News & Observer (Raleigh) about the need to give people who are recovering from substance abuse a second chance.

Alumni, do you have news to share? Email updates to unc.ssw.communications@unc.edu for use in Contact or in Impact, the School's monthly newsletter.

New look for Contact



UNC School of Social Work alumni have seen many changes in their alumni publication since the first Alumni News was published in December 1974. Soon, the photocopied newsletter was renamed Insight. By the early 1980s, it merged with other School publications to become Contact. It evolved again, into a glossy color magazine, in 2003. Perhaps future alumni will receive their issues as holograms!

Did you notice a few changes in this issue of Contact, the alumni magazine for the UNC School of Social Work?

Here are some of the changes you might notice:

- You'll receive Contact twice each year, in late spring and in late fall.
- Each issue will highlight feature stories about the amazing things our alumni and our faculty are doing. (In the future, we want to add links to School-produced videos, too.)
- The honor roll of donors will now appear in a new print publication, UNC School of Social Work Annual Report, that we will publish at the end of each fiscal year (look for it in early fall).
- Faculty news, such as journal articles and conference publications, will now appear in a new online magazine that the School will introduce at the end of 2017. This new magazine, which has not yet been named, will focus on research activities and is being developed in partnership with the School's new Office of Strategic Research Priorities.



In addition, the School is working to redesign its website, a process that will be completed later this year. As part of this redesign, the separate Contact website will become part of an expanded news section within the School's website.

Your ideas can help inform these changes! Please use the email address unc.ssw.communications@unc.edu to share your suggestions.