

Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2010

90 Years





From the Dean...

This issue of *Contact* presents a retrospective view as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the School of Social Work.

Our program has evolved from a primarily training institution to one that has earned national prominence for its quality classroom and field instruction, cutting edge research, invaluable public service, community engaged scholarship and technical assistance. We are indeed proud of our rich history, and prouder still of where we are today and the exciting future that lies ahead.

This year, our MSW program continued to experience tremendous growth in admissions applications. For the third year in a row, the number of applicants increased nearly 20%, resulting in an outstanding pool of new students. Doctoral applications rose as well.

We have also added to our faculty. Nationally renowned child welfare expert **Mark Testa** joined us in January as the Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor. Please see p. 25 to read about his influential work.

In addition, we are welcoming three new faculty members in July: Professor **Michael Lambert**, and assistant professors **Trenette Clark** (MSW '03) and **Amanda Sheely**.

Two, however, are moving on — **Lynn Usher** and **Susan Parish**.

Lynn has retired, after being with the School of Social Work since 1993 as the Wallace H. Kuralt, Sr. Professor of Public Welfare Policy and Administration.

Susan has been with the School since 2003 and is the director of the Developmental Disabilities Training Institute. She has accepted a distinguished professorship at Brandeis University.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you and best wishes to Lynn and Susan in their new endeavors. They will be missed.

Budget realities are still difficult, with new cuts on the way, but we are making adjustments. Alumni and friends continue to support the School and our scholarship endeavors, which allow us to continue to help students with financial aid. **Sam and Betsy Reeves** have generously pledged \$250,000 annually to provide multi-year funding for doctoral students.

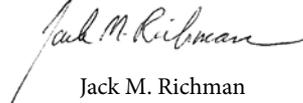
These are lean times but we are managing. Our faculty continue to be very successful in applying for and getting grants. To note just a few: **Gina Chowa** for AIDS research, **Joelle Powers** for a project to boost mental health in public schools, and **Gary Bowen** and **Irene Zipper** to connect resources to military families with developmental disabilities.

The School's leadership in social work research is further evidenced with two of our professors now editing journals. **Mark Fraser** was appointed editor-in-chief of the newly-launched Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research (www.jsswr.org). And **Matthew Howard** has been appointed editor-in-chief of Social Work Research, the flagship journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

Our leadership role extends nationally to mental health care as well. **Mark Fraser and I** are members of the National Academies of Practice, an interdisciplinary group in Washington, D.C. that advises public policy makers on health care issues. Mark was also recently inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Welfare.

And our international work continues. Faculty and students recently returned from study abroad in China. **Shenyang Guo and I** presented at the 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Hong Kong in June. **Michal Grinstein-Weiss** is leading a new initiative to implement child development savings accounts in Israel. You'll read about helping Haiti post-earthquake, on p. 20. And we are planning an exciting new study abroad opportunity — India.

Our students, faculty and alumni are accomplishing great things despite persistent economic challenges. With your support, together we can achieve another 90 years of innovative teaching, research and service.



Jack M. Richman

Contact

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contents

School of Social Work Celebrates its 90th Anniversary

Honoring our past, shaping our future • 4
School becomes a research force • 8
Maeda Galinsky: For 45 years, 'Grand dame' of the School • 10
Curriculum evolves over the years • 12
Students bring diversity, experience to the program • 13
Personal reflections • 14

School News

Social work meets social media • 16
UNC study: Latino teens happier, healthier if families embrace biculturalism • 18
Student Darshan Mundada passionate about international social work • 19
Faculty members help Haitian agency serve earthquake's youngest survivors • 20
Social workers will play important role in Haiti relief efforts • 21
Grinstein-Weiss leads effort to implement child development accounts in Israel • 22
School holds 89th annual commencement • 22
MSW and doctoral scholarships and awards • 24
Child welfare expert Mark Testa joins the School as distinguished professor • 25
Faculty spotlight • 26
New books • 29
Faculty member and children's advocate Gary Shaffer dies • 29
Fraser becomes Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Welfare • 29
Carlton-LaNey given national social work education award • 29
\$1 million project connects resources to military families with developmental disabilities • 30
UNC study: Emotional support crucial to helping military families deal with deployments • 31
Contact Magazine website launches • 38
Winston-Salem MSW program expands • 38
Garland, Weller named Outstanding Doctoral Students • 38
Clinical Lecture Series fall schedule • 38

Alumni and Development News

Distinguished alumni award winners • 32
Alumni update • 34
School receives \$250,000 annual gift to doctoral program • 37
Alumni president's letter • 39



Dean Morton Teicher (2nd from left) presents the Annie Kizer Bost Award to Betty Kelly, Lura Deaton and Paul Patterson, May 8, 1973, in front of Alumni Hall. Image from the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library. Photo on front cover: Class of 1985

1920 - 2010

THE UNC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
CELEBRATES



HONORING OUR PAST. SHAPING OUR FUTURE.



Florence Soltys
teaching the course
"Death and Dying,"
Summer 1989

Photo by Billy Barnes

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS to one of the country's best, UNC's School of Social Work has defined and redefined itself throughout its rich 90-year history.

State lawmakers in North Carolina likely never envisioned the significance of their decision to establish the School of Public Welfare – the predecessor of today's School. But in 1920, the course was set and renowned sociologist and reformer Howard W. Odum was tapped as the School's first leader.

Over nine decades, UNC's social work program has evolved from a primarily training institution to a program that has earned national prominence for its quality classroom and field instruction, cutting edge research, invaluable public service, community engaged scholarship and technical assistance. This tradition of excellence has enabled the School to produce practitioners and research leaders who are committed to providing innovative solutions to critical social problems such as poverty, mental health and domestic violence.

After nearly a century, there is much to be proud of, said Dean Jack M. Richman, but much more work remains.

"I expect our School of Social Work will be leading in social work education — teaching, research and service — for the next 90 years."

By Susan White

Many people and moments are essential to the history of UNC's School of Social Work, but three influential change-makers are largely credited for the program's growth and success. Charlotte businessman **John A. "Jack" Tate**, School Dean **John Turner** and TV journalist **Charles Kuralt** embraced the vision, passion and tenacity that launched a historic movement in the 1980s and 1990s, firmly establishing the School's fiscal, academic and physical presence.

The numbers tell much of the story. Twenty-five years ago, the School's endowment barely stood at \$40,000. By 1996, it had grown to \$4 million. That seed of success further flourished over the years, enabling the School to build an endowment now worth nearly \$16 million, an amount that includes funding for student scholarships and chaired professorships.

Although the School's very first classes amounted to less than a dozen full-time students, more than 300 MSW and 45 Ph.D. students are enrolled today. In 2009, U.S. News & World Report ranked the UNC School of Social Work's MSW program No. 8 out of 165 programs evaluated nationwide.

The School has grown physically, too. Back then, there was a small central building with some office space and only a hodge-podge of additional offices and classrooms around campus. By 1995, students, faculty and staff were celebrating the opening of a \$10 million, 75,000-square-foot facility, appropriately named for the men who fought for its construction: the late Tate, Turner and Kuralt.

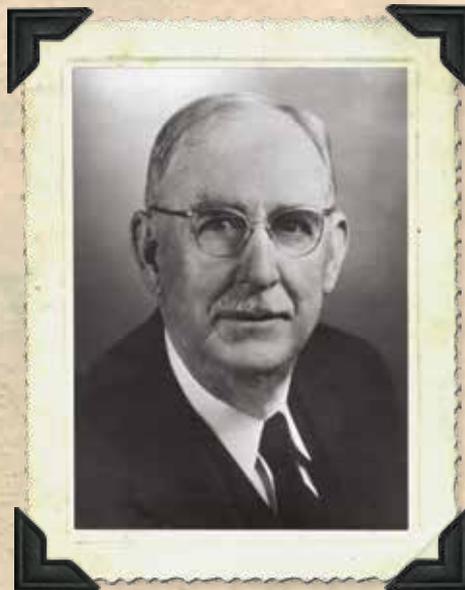
Without a doubt, this threesome's efforts laid the foundation for the School of Social Work's achievement as one of the top graduate programs in the country, agreed current and former School leaders and faculty members.

"They not only got the money, they got the people interested in social work," said **Maeda Galinsky**, a Kenan Distinguished Professor and faculty member for 45 years. "They helped raise the awareness of social work within this School, within the University and throughout the state."

Historically, the School's journey began in 1920, one year after North Carolina lawmakers decided that the state needed well-trained welfare workers to serve the public's needs. Ultimately, the newly founded School of Public Welfare — a title that evolved until 1950 when it became the School of Social Work — helped launch a new era in the social work profession.

Over the next 50 years, the School enrolled American Red Cross workers, helped develop mental health services throughout the state and organized field placement work for students. With pioneer scholar **Alan Keith-Lucas** on faculty, the program also began to develop a reputation around group child care.

The School transformed alongside the country as it encountered new challenges. According to an undated, written "Historical Perspective," the program "shared the post-World War II preoccupation with a clinical emphasis, achieving eminence as a functional casework school. It responded to America's awakening to poverty and civil rights with a range of field and classroom learning opportunities ... (that included) work with groups



The School's first leader, Howard Odum

and communities."

By the 1970s, student enrollment had risen to more than 100, and the School had extended its curriculum focus to prepare students for direct and indirect services. However, even with expansion and academic progress, the School still lacked status, including within the University's stone walls.



In 1966, Hortense McClinton (far left, 1984) joined the School of Social Work, becoming the first black faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill.

“Today, it’s seen as an outstanding School of Social Work around the country, but it certainly wasn’t even mentioned within that same breath when I came here,” said Galinsky, who arrived in 1965.

The drive to prominence began with John Turner. A writer, scholar and teacher, Turner joined the UNC faculty in 1974 as the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of Social Work. He was named School dean in 1981, becoming the first African American dean at the University. He wasted no time in making his mark.

In Turner’s view, the School was languishing. There was no Ph.D. program and very little research. Perhaps most striking, there was barely any funding, nor was there any plan in place to campaign for donations.

“When I started, it was kind of a joke that they had received a \$75 gift that had been unsolicited,” recalled Elizabeth Benefield, the School’s former assistant dean for development. “People just weren’t being asked to give.”

Even by the mid ‘80s, the social work program still longed for a permanent home. For years, professors and students were scattered across campus in five different buildings, including the alumni building, where faculty members often encountered pesky visitors.

“There were cockroaches in the basement,” said Galinsky, a native of New York. “I would come in, turn on the light, close my eyes and go (stomps feet on the ground). I wasn’t used to the southern animals that were here.”

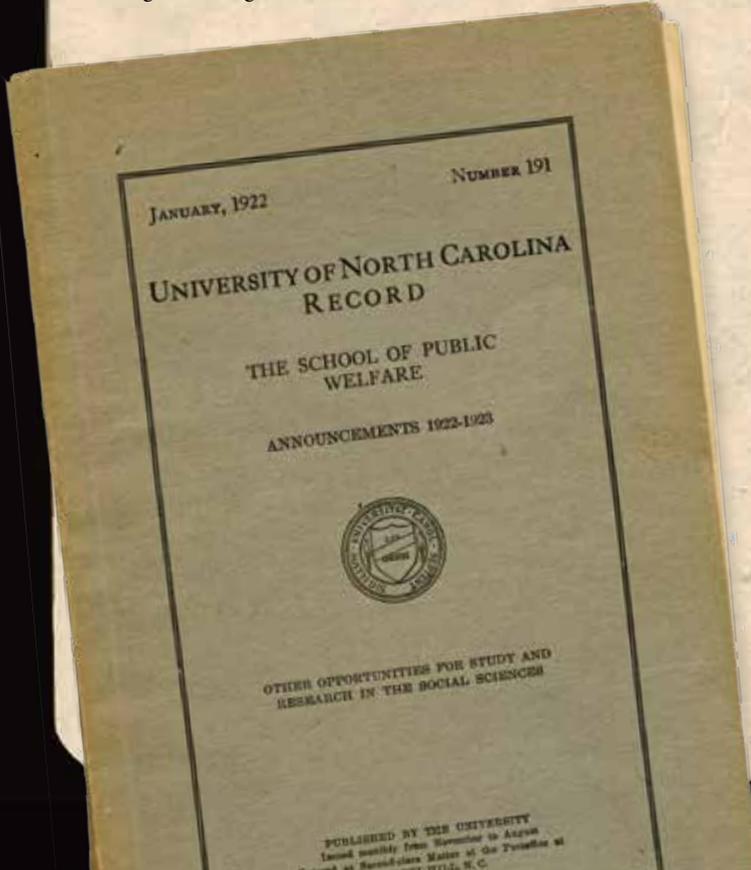
Without a building, School officials were forced to beg for classrooms every year, a routine that resulted in instructors lugging teaching materials around campus. Turner and others worried that the School would struggle to attract and hold on to faculty members.

“You felt like you were the stepchild of the University,” recalled Louise Coggins, current chair of the School’s board of advisors and a 1980 MSW graduate. “You felt like you had to be poor and not wear good clothes. That’s how we were viewed and where things were.”

Under Turner’s helm, the School soon plotted a new path toward national recognition and respect. Turner’s first strategic move: asking retired banking executive and former UNC-Chapel Hill trustees’ chairman Jack Tate for help. Tate, according to a 1996 article in the Raleigh News & Observer, helped the School develop “a five year plan to get better facilities, well-known professors and more resources for social work programs.” Tate and Turner also assembled a board of advisors, a power group of business leaders, philanthropists and politicians. Kuralt, whose father had graduated from the School in the 1930s, was among those tapped for the board.

Together, the men mapped a plan for the School’s financial growth. The timing was perfect. The University was about to launch its Bicentennial campaign and had asked each school to submit a fundraising goal. With Benefield on board as the School’s first development director, Tate and Turner decided to pursue \$5 million, an unheard of amount for a School that had no history of fundraising.

But Tate, Turner and Kuralt made quite a persuasive team. Tate had deep business connections and was skilled at reaching out to the corporate community. He could reason with his peers that they had a responsibility to children and families in need. He was also determined. He had already begun traveling every other week from



Prior to moving into our current building, the School of Social Work’s home was at 223 E. Franklin Street. This small building housed offices only; classes and events had to be held elsewhere on campus wherever available space could be found. Photo by Linda Wilson, 1989.

his Charlotte home to Raleigh to lobby lawmakers for the millions needed for a new School building.

Turner was the charismatic visionary, who was highly respected for his knowledge of the field. He could convince potential supporters that for the School to develop as a top-notch research base and attract more well-known professors, it needed a Ph.D. program. Kuralt was the down-to-earth newsman who brought everyday America into homes across the country. As the son of a social worker, he valued the profession and could easily frame a message encouraging supporters to do the same.

"They were the perfect team in every way," Benefield said. "They had the passion, and they had a huge following of believers. It felt like there was nothing we couldn't do."

Within five years, the accomplishments mounted. The School exceeded its fundraising goal, raising an impressive \$6 million, an amount that wowed University leaders; many donors included family names UNC had courted for years. By 1992, the General Assembly had approved full funding for construction of the School's five-story brick and concrete building. Within the following year, the Ph.D. program was underway, and the School was under new leadership, following Turner's retirement. New Dean **Richard L. Edwards** picked up where his predecessor left off, guiding the School through more unprecedented growth and change.

By 1996, all eyes were fixed once again on the School with the opening of the Jordan Institute for Families, a research, training and technical assistance institute focused on solving social problems and strengthening North Carolina's families. Funded by a \$1 million donation from basketball great **Michael Jordan**, the institute boosted the School's name recognition and influence. Additional money continued to flow in over the years, enabling the School to set up endowed professorships, including ones to honor Tate, Turner and Kuralt.

UNC's School of Social Work had finally arrived.

"Long-standing families who had been committed to social justice issues in this state wanted to be a part of what we were doing," said **Mark Fraser**, the John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need and associate dean for research. "It became a movement."

And that movement led to an awakening, said Benefield, who also credits the School's support to a newly crafted message. Instead of simply asking for money, the School had encouraged potential donors to invest in the economic and social well-being of the people of North Carolina.

"We wanted them to know that they were investing in the future of our state," Benefield said.

That investment continues to return benefits, adding to the School's esteem. Last year alone, the School received \$16.2 million in federal, state and foundation funding to support programs, training, and technical assistance that directly or indirectly impact the state's nine million residents.

A portion of this money also funds the research of faculty members who are seeking innovative solutions to society's most challenging problems, including issues of addiction, aging, poverty, mental health, family violence and affordable housing.

"Our faculty and staff are incredibly strong, have global reputations and produce important and meaningful research that leads to more effective social work practice," said current Dean **Jack M. Richman**. "They care about educating our students and are among the best in the world."

Financial growth also has enabled the School to attract a diverse group of students and to assist them in paying for their education. Over the last decade alone, the School raised \$21.3 million through



Our building namesakes at its dedication in 1996: businessman Jack Tate, former dean John Turner, and legendary journalist Charles Kuralt

the University's Carolina First campaign, 152% of its goal. Through these funds, the School has created three new endowed professorships and 14 new scholarships. A record amount of more than \$240,000 in scholarships was awarded in 2007-08.

The School's continued academic and financial success reflects the vital work of **Tom Lambeth**, who succeeded Tate as board chair, and Coggins, the board's current leader, said **Mary Beth Hernandez**, the School's current associate dean for advancement. Their leadership ensured that the School "expanded and strengthened its relationships internally and externally," she said.

"But I also give a lot of the credit for the past decade to our volunteers and to Dean Richman's leadership and for having a vision and saying, 'This is what we need to do,' and then inspiring people to give," Hernandez added.

Students play a critical role in this growth as well. Many continue to receive support long after graduation by participating in various School-sponsored trainings, workshops and lectures. They join the nearly 4,500 alumni who give back by serving in direct practice and management positions and working with racially diverse communities in rural, urban and suburban settings across the country.

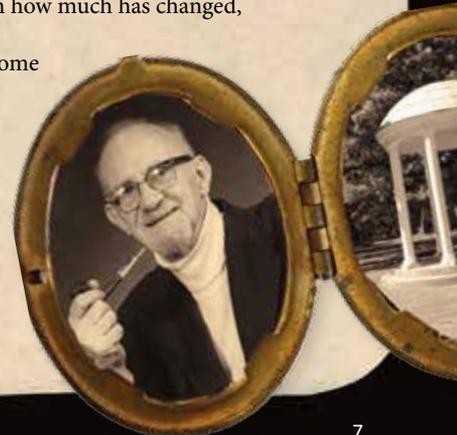
"I think one of the biggest reasons for our growth and success is because of our students," said **Iris Carlton-LaNey**, a social work professor. "The students who graduate from this program are being placed in positions throughout the state where they are influencing policy, practice and hiring."

Collectively, the School's achievements further support the successful social work program that Tate, Turner and Kuralt envisioned years ago, Coggins noted. And although the legacy is hardly complete, after 90 years, it's nice to reflect on how much has changed, she said.

"It's very interesting to have come so far from being that poor step-child to being somebody that everybody is listening to," she said.

"Everyone now knows we make a difference."

Pioneer scholar Alan Keith-Lucas





“Grant to Social Work,” July 3, 1968. Second from left: Samuel Fudge, director of the Group Child Care Project. Far right: Dean Alan Keith-Lucas, who started the Child Care Project at the School. Image from the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

School of Social Work becomes a research force

By Susan White

School leaders knew the odds. Building a research program from scratch at UNC’s School of Social Work would involve a lot of heavy lifting. But by the late 1980s, the risks of not moving forward were too great. If the School wanted to take a place among the nation’s best graduate schools, it had to attract more top-notch scholars.

In 20 years, it has done just that and more.

“We have gone from being an unknown to a known, from being mistrusted on campus to fully trusted ...,” explained Professor **Dennis Orthner**, who was hired in 1988 to help develop the School’s research funding. “We now can walk into any door, and we’re known. We can walk next door to Public Health, and we’re respected. We can walk to Nursing or to the Frank Porter Graham (Child Development Institute) center, and we’re respected.”

The pursuit to the top began in the late 1980s and in the most primitive environment, especially for scholars **Maeda Galinsky**, **Gary Nelson** and **Gary Bowen**. As Galinsky carved out a niche in social group work, Nelson and Bowen developed their expertise in aging policy and services to military families, respectively. The professors accomplished their work, although there was practically no money for research or even a research infrastructure, said current Dean **Jack M. Richman**.

“There was no development. There was no external funding. It simply didn’t exist,” recalled Richman, who joined the School as a clinical assistant professor in 1983. “When we did research, it was small, and we had to fund it ourselves.

“We didn’t even have computers then,” Richman added. “We had one computer with dial-up in a hallway, but that’s it. It was like we were in the Stone Age.”

Still, **John Turner**, then dean of the School, saw much promise, including in Orthner, a professor from the University of Georgia. At the time, the decision to hire Orthner may have perplexed some. After all, his degrees were in sociology and economics, not social work. But Orthner’s research interests were rooted in issues affecting vulnerable children and families, including poverty and public education. Like Bowen, who happened to be a former student of Orthner’s,



Basketball great Michael Jordan, Carmen Hooker Odom, and then-Chancellor Michael Hooker, at the UNC School of Social Work on Oct. 1, 1996 for the dedication of the Jordan Institute for Families

the Georgia professor was also interested in the welfare of military families.

Perhaps most important, Turner believed Orthner could successfully kick start the School's research funding as he had done in Georgia. "Dennis was really at the beginning of all of what we have now," Richman said.

One of Orthner's first responsibilities was to establish the School's Human Services Research and Design Laboratory, which helped promote and support faculty research interests. Orthner's team quickly went to work, building a network infrastructure within the School, including its first email communications system. The new tools enabled the School to save thousands of dollars — money that the research lab in turn offered to faculty members as pilot funding to run small projects and test new ideas. School leaders hoped that these enterprises and others would spark further funding as well as boost the social work program's overall presence within the scientific community.

Historically, the School had dramatically grown as a training institute, helping professional social workers stay up-to-date on the latest evidenced-based practices in child welfare, aging, mental health and substance abuse. But with a more intensive focus on intervention research, the School offered North Carolina an exciting opportunity — the chance to engage with academic scholars committed to providing cutting-edge solutions to some of the state's most pressing social and economic problems.

Projects flourished within a decade. The School's new research and design lab managed nearly \$2 million annually, including the first major research work for the state: a five-year evaluation of North Carolina's welfare-to-work program.

The state project became a stepping stone for the School's efforts in supporting investigations that strengthen children and families. North Carolina leaders also welcomed the diverse contributions of faculty members and their groundbreaking work. There was a first-of-its-kind study that examined the effects of welfare reform on school performance and a project that tested a collaborative, holistic approach to improve the state's adult services programs. The state valued the rigorous studies, not only because they informed practice and policies but perhaps more important to taxpayers, the research ensured that programs aimed at assisting the state's most vulnerable were operating effectively.

"It was a very radical time because we were experimenting in lots of ways," Orthner recalled.

The innovative work demonstrated the School's commitment to service, but a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign would position faculty closer to the goal of creating lasting social change. The campaign was spearheaded by Turner, Charlotte businessman **John A. "Jack" Tate**, and TV journalist **Charles Kuralt** and ultimately garnered the School \$6 million to support its academic core, including the creation of a Ph.D. program.

The money also provided the necessary financial capacity for the program to create endowed professorships to attract sought-after

scholars. The School wasted little time filling the first two chaired positions, hiring **Mark Fraser**, former director of the Ph.D. program at the University of Utah's School of Social Work, and **Lynn Usher**, former director at the Center for Policy Studies at Research Triangle Institute.

Fraser, the John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need, and Usher, the Wallace H. Kuralt, Sr., Professor of Public Welfare Policy and Administration, strengthened the School's social intervention research, especially around at-risk children and families, and helped raise the UNC program's profile nationally. Fraser also helped develop an internal base of people to assist faculty members with grant proposals, raising the School's competitive edge for federal awards.

"For the faculty who came in initially, it was really risky," Orthner noted. "But I think those early steps were very, very important for getting our national reputation off the ground."

By 1996, the School had amassed a variety of national experts specializing in school success, violence prevention, child welfare and eldercare. These scholars regularly published, bringing the program additional exposure and recognition. But with the founding of the Jordan Institute for Families, the School had a national research model.

The institute, which was created with a \$1 million donation from **Michael Jordan**, brought together scholars who could work closely with North Carolina communities to address problems threatening to undermine the state's most vulnerable families, including poverty, mental illness and substance abuse.

Today, the institute houses more than a dozen research, training and technical assistance programs that benefit the state, including the N.C. Child Welfare Education Collaborative, the School Success Profile, the Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program, the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES) and the N.C. Area Health Education Center Training Partnership.

"The Jordan Institute gave the programs name recognition, credibility and a banner that we could use for a lot of different things," said **Gary Nelson**, the institute's associate director for program development and training initiatives.

The institute also enabled the School to demonstrate its wealth of knowledge within the social work field, added Orthner, the institute's associate director for policy development and analysis.

"Back then, we didn't have the cachet of being competent in research," he said. "Now, there's no question about our competency."

The work of individual faculty members, especially throughout North Carolina, only enhanced the School's reputation.

"Not only are we doing training, we have projects throughout the state that are developing new ideas for how to improve the effectiveness of social and health services," explained Fraser, who served as the first director of the Jordan Institute. "We have **Betsy Bledsoe** who is working with adolescent mothers. We have **Rebecca Macy** who is working in the field of intimate partner violence. We have **Natasha Bo-**



Continued on p. 23

Maeda Galinsky: For 45 years, ‘Grand dame’ of the School of Social Work

By Susan White

For at least half of the School of Social Work’s 90-year existence, there has been one constant: **Maeda Galinsky**. In 45 years, hundreds of students, dozens of faculty members and nine deans have come and gone, but Galinsky, a Kenan Distinguished Professor, has remained.

Those who know her best are hardly surprised. Her name is as synonymous to the School and UNC as it is to the theory and practice of social group work. In social work circles, Galinsky is considered a pioneer scholar for her work on groups and on intervention research.

“She is the grand dame of the School of Social Work,” said **Louise Coggins**, MSW ’80, and chair of the School’s Board of Advisors. “She represents what social work is.”

“She cares amazingly, deeply about students and about faculty and has helped this School to be what it is today,” added Dean **Jack M. Richman**.

For the 75-year-old Galinsky, teaching, researching and writing have been her passion since the start of her career in the 1950s, although the call to “help others,” came much earlier. “I’ve had a rebellious streak since I was little,” said Galinsky, who grew up in College Point, N.Y. “I would always talk to the person in trouble — someone whom you weren’t supposed to talk to.”

Galinsky said she fully realized her career path as an undergrad majoring in social relations at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass. While there, she served as a volunteer and then director of a program that enabled student volunteers to work with the mentally ill in a



Galinsky holds a 2009 book she co-authored, “Intervention Research.”

psychiatric hospital. “I just knew that social work is what I wanted to do,” she said.

Galinsky went on to receive her MSW and Ph.D at the University of Michigan, where she also taught for a year. Then, in 1965, her husband David was offered a position with UNC’s Department of Psychology. Soon after, Galinsky was hired as an assistant professor at UNC’s School of Social Work. Although excited about the new opportunity, she accepted the job with slight trepidation. After all, for a city girl raised up North, the South in the 1960s was a tinderbox.

“I learned, however, that many people here were eager for racial equality and that they were willing to work together to effect change,” Galinsky recalled. “While the area and the culture felt strange at first, I grew to love living here.”

Forty-five years later, she marvels at how much the University, but especially the School of Social Work, have evolved. Although trained as a researcher and practitioner, Galinsky arrived during an era when the School was focused on teaching students the functional model of social work.

“It was more about building the relationship and working within the agency requirements,” she said. “It was really casework. Group work, community organization and research were kind of on the periphery at that point.”

However, Galinsky was undeterred and despite the lack of funding, pursued various pilot studies with then colleague, **Janice Schopler**. They paid out-of-pocket for some of their early research. Over the following two decades, Galinsky’s work flourished along with respect from other scholars.

“She was on the ground floor of (social group work),” Richman said. “And over time, she became a stalwart. She historically represents this whole basis of group work.”

Galinsky has always been a critical thinker and prolific writer, and she continues to write and publish today. Much of her work has been accomplished alongside colleagues who respect Galinsky’s willingness to join forces. Collaboration, she said, has taught her to be a better researcher. Time has shown her the value in embracing others’ perspectives, while standing firm for her own convictions.

“Her biggest strength is her extraordinary ability to ‘think with,’” said **Mark Fraser**, who has co-authored and co-edited numerous journal articles, journals, book chapters, books and other presentations with Galinsky. “She has the unusual capacity to excite ideas in others. She simply makes us all better scholars and better people.”

That admiration extends to the classroom, where students have often been in awe of Galinsky’s ability to “translate theory to practice



Galinsky, sitting on the table, with her students, 1971

with ease,” said **Traci Wike**, a doctoral student. “She is creative and intellectually curious,” Wike said. “This equates to interesting and sometimes challenging conversations that always involve my learning something from her.”

Those meeting Galinsky for the first time also quickly learn that the petite professor packs quite a youthful spirit and a wry sense of humor. “Every time my daughter is in the building, Maeda plies her with candy and then grins and lets me know ‘She’s all yours now!’” said **Anna Scheyett**, the School’s associate dean for academic affairs.

More often, her humor and generosity collide in very subtle ways, as Wike discovered last winter when she ran across Galinsky’s purple sweater hanging in the fifth-floor suite outside the professor’s office. Attached to the sweater was a note, offering the garment to anyone who might be chilly.

“It’s ugly, but it’s warm,” the note read.

“That is what I love about Maeda,” Wike said. “She is a wonderful balance of intelligence, warmth, humor, and just general goodness.”

That Galinsky would be thrilled to still be walking the halls of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building when the School celebrates its 100th anniversary doesn’t surprise **Dean Jack Richman**. She remains a valued voice and will contribute wherever she can, he offered.

At the same time, she is well aware that many others her age are fully embracing their retirements, enjoying life’s casual pace. And al-

Galinsky, Louise
Coggins and
Janice Schopler,
1980



though she’s slowed a bit, she just isn’t ready to join them.

“It just feels good to be a part of a profession and a School that care about people and their environment,” Galinsky said. “Students come here because they want to help people and make the world a better place for all. If you can help one person, you’ve done a lot.”



The School of Social Work used to have a prominent Group Child Care Certificate Program. This photo was taken at the playground at the University Methodist Church Day Care Center on Nov. 20, 1975. At far right is Samuel Fudge, director of the Group Child Care Project. The children are Galinsky’s: Adam, Dana and Michael. Image from the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

Curriculum evolves over the years



By Anna Scheyett,
Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs

This year, the School will celebrate its 90th anniversary. It's hard to imagine that beginning. Cars and "talkies" were novelties. Prohibition was in full force, and the Depression was around the corner. And in the midst of it all, the School of Public Welfare (our original name) was founded. Looking back, many changes have occurred within the School and its curriculum since 1920. Originally focused on public welfare, the School expanded over the years to also emphasize social work practice across a range of fields, including health, mental health, community practice, administration

and policy practice. Perhaps the most significant change has been the emphasis on research, including the production of and use of empirical evidence in practice settings. This decision to strengthen our School with research hugely affected how students are taught.

Even when I was a student (back in 1987-89), we were taught treatment models, such as object relations and other psychodynamic approaches and some basic functionalist approaches, but we never reviewed the literature to critically examine the evidence for the efficacy of these models and approaches. We simply learned them, and we were expected to use them in our practice. Intervention research was hardly on the radar years ago.

Now, the School's curriculum requires critical thinking and the use of evidence-based and promising practices — interventions that have been shown to be effective based on empirical research. Social workers don't just learn one model and stick with it. We are expected to keep learning and growing throughout our careers, critically examining and evaluating our own practice and the research literature.

What is really exciting and what we can truly be proud of today is that some of our own faculty members are leading the country's efforts in generating the social work empirical literature. Students now have the opportunity to learn about innovative research findings in domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse, for example, within the same academic community where that research is taking



place. Students can even participate in these research projects through the School's assistantships and research awards programs.

Although in 90 years much has changed, some of the School's core elements remain the same. We still focus on social justice, on the importance of social work ethics, on education that combines classroom work with fieldwork in collaboration with community agencies, and on service to vulnerable individuals, families and communities. The School remains steadfast with its goal: We prepare social workers to make a difference.



Reading Room, 1978

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC WELFARE

17

Tuition and Fees

Tuition fee each quarter	\$25.00
Registration fee each quarter*	12.00
Publications fee each quarter	1.83
Laundry fee each quarter	8.50
Total each quarter	\$47.33

From the recent legislative appropriation the University has erected eight new dormitories. There is just being completed now the beautiful colonial residence-home for young women. In all some 1300 students may be accommodated in the dormitories, while convenient and comfortable rooms may be had in Chapel Hill for a little higher rate. Room rent in the dormitories ranges from \$5, to \$15 a month, including light, heat and service; and in town from \$10 to \$25 a month.

* This fee includes the gymnasium fee, the library fee, the fee for attendance of the University physician, the fee for debates.

1925 tuition and fees = \$47.33



In the summer of 1975, 10 social work professionals from other countries studied at the School of Social Work as part of the “Council of International Programs for Social Workers and Youth Leaders.”

Students bring diversity, experience to the program

During my junior year of college at the University of Michigan, I found social work — or rather social work found me. I had spent my undergraduate career searching for a major and discipline that addressed families and communities in need as well as creative intervention approaches and human service from a strengths-based perspective rather than a deficit model. I also needed a place where I believed I could make a difference.

Finally, one day a college senior I greatly respected who shared similar interests asked me a simple question: “Have you ever considered social work?” Once I researched the field and its mission, I was hooked! My goal in life was to now become a professional social worker and to find an MSW program that would prepare me for this journey.

After researching numerous masters programs across the country, I decided to apply to UNC-Chapel Hill for fall enrollment in 1996. The School of Social Work’s national ranking, incredible faculty and the annual Black Experience Workshop directed by the late Dr. Audrey Johnson drew me to the program, not to mention the chance to break from the Midwest winters! I placed a call to the School’s admissions office and was greeted by the warm southern drawl of **Linda Wilson**, student services manager, who mailed me an information packet on the program. Needless to say, I was elated when I received my offer of admissions to UNC; I even sent my deposit without ever visiting the state of North Carolina.



By Sharon Thomas, Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Financial Aid

When I reflect on my cohort and time in the program, it’s hard to believe how much has changed. My full-time cohort included 39 people with only five (14%) students of color. This fall, we will welcome 68 full-time students with 17 (25%) representing students of color. Just like today’s students, I graduated with an amazing group of advanced standing and distance education (formerly called part-time) students. My concentration year experience was definitely enriched by the diversity and life experience that the part-time students brought to the program as well as the social work practice knowledge and experience that the advanced standing students shared.

This fall, the School will enroll 320 new and returning students in its MSW program. I believe that today’s students are motivated to enter the field of social work for the same reasons that their peers pursued careers years ago: We are all committed to improving the quality of life for individuals, families and communities in need.

What has changed is the range of communities students seek to serve and the range of practice opportunities. Never before has there been such an interest in international social work settings and in serving our global community. We have seen a substantial increase in students with international human service experience, including with the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, and from those with second language skills, particularly Spanish.

It has been an honor and privilege to return to the School of Social Work as a faculty member and to serve as the director of recruitment, admissions and financial aid. It’s hard to believe that it has been 14 years since my first trip to North Carolina and my first meeting with School admissions officials in the same office where I now work every day.

I’m pleased to continue the School’s commitment to recruiting some of the most talented and dedicated students from across the country and across the globe.

Personal Reflections



"I think it's a huge accomplishment to say that in 90 years, our School not only is in all 100 counties of the state but that it has also made a nationwide and global impact based on the research and the problems that the faculty focuses on and wants to solve." – Michelle Turner, (MSW '03), President of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council and member of the Board of Advisors



"I think the School gave us many opportunities and encouragement. You had the opportunity to apply a lot of coursework to actual practice. It all was very useful to me in the varied careers that I had, including working with welfare departments, military bases, large general hospitals, field hospitals and military hospitals." – Ella Hobbs Craig (MSW '50), former disaster representative with the American Red Cross and retired social worker with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska



"I think (the faculty and staff at UNC's School of Social Work) should be very proud that they have educated people from all walks of life. I think the School continues to ground social workers in the understanding that they always need to connect to consumers and clients." – Diann Dawson (MSW '74), Director, Office of Regional Operations, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families



"Nothing speaks so well for the School than the work of our graduates. All over the state, the country, and internationally, we have graduates committed to improving the services, organizations and communities that support families in need. That is the best measure of our success." – Dorothy "Dee" Gamble, former Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Student Services



"Having the MSW degree itself is something of a ticket for you. It tends to open doors. It gave me a foundation on which to practice social work." – Bobby Boyd (MSW '69), retired Director of Catawba County Social Services with 30+ years of experience in social work and member of the School's Board of Advisors



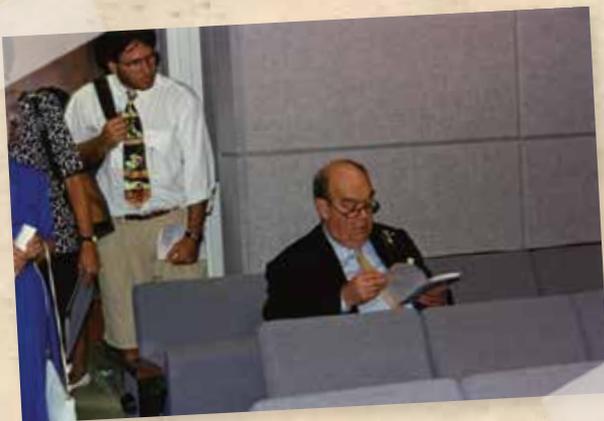
"The School's service to some of the most vulnerable populations in North Carolina is a testament to the ideals and the values that the social work profession represents. I am proud to say that I am a graduate of such a service-oriented institution. Likewise, I am deeply honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve on the faculty and to help educate the next generation of social work professionals." – Travis Albritton, (MSW, '03), Clinical Instructor and Director Triangle Distance Education MSW Program



"We have become a place of both exquisite research ... and exquisite practice training." – Mark Fraser, John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need and Associate Dean for Research



Faculty member Rachael Dedmon, future dean Jack Richman, and student Julie Gaskell (MSW '85), 1984



Charles Kuralt in the auditorium, 1996



“I think the School can be most proud of turning out social workers who are really concerned about their clients and want to help people in any way they can. It’s not just a job.” – *H. Carl Henley, former Professor, retired from the School in 1999 after 31 years*



“This School is really well-positioned to launch international social work because of the intervention scholars we have here now and the high value that we place on intervention research.” – *Gina Chowa, Assistant Professor*

“My goal was to go into social services when I finished school. I really wanted to give back and to work in a field where I certainly felt I would have some impact. And I know that the School prepared me for that and for continuing to learn.” – *Dana Courtney (MSW ’74), independent consultant with Visions, Inc.; member of the School’s Board of Advisors; Alumni Council Past President; and former social worker with 25+ years of administrative and direct experience in human services, social work services and organizational development*



“We are doing all kinds of interesting research here that helps make a difference in people’s lives. But the funding environment is incredibly competitive right now. So I think a key challenge for the School and the faculty is to find funding to sustain and extend the research that we are doing now.” – *Rebecca Macy, Associate Professor*



“In some ways, what’s happened is the School grew up and became a player in a robust combination of research, public engagement and teaching. It came of age and strengthened itself in each of those dimensions.” – *Gary Nelson, Professor and Associate Director for Program Development and Training Initiatives with the Jordan Institute for Families*



“Choosing UNC for my doctoral education was a great decision! I am mentored well, and faculty members have supported my research interests since day one. Also, I practiced as a social worker in North Carolina, so being here is a way of staying connected to the state through my research.” – *Tiffany Washington, Doctoral Student*

“I think our job is like the scholarship says, ‘to help improve the quality of life for people.’ But I always say to students, you can’t be a social worker and go home at 5 o’clock and say, ‘Day is done.’ If you’re committed to a system that’s equitable and just – you’re always a social worker.” – *Iris Carlton-LaNey, Professor*



“I think we can be proud that we are serving North Carolina at the same time that we are advancing the knowledge base – getting (the research) into communities as well as into our classrooms.” – *Natasha Bowen, Associate Professor (Ph.D. ’99, MSW ’96)*



See more 90th Anniversary stories and vintage photos online at <http://ssw.unc.edu/90>



Student lounge, 1982



Social work meets social media

Researchers, social workers champion benefits of blogs, Twitter

By Susan White

Anna Scheyett never considered launching her own Internet blog until a UNC colleague suggested last spring that Scheyett should be sharing her social work leadership experience and expertise with a broader audience.

"I knew nothing about blogging, and I don't particularly follow anybody else's blog," explained Scheyett, the UNC School of Social Work's associate dean for academic affairs. "But eventually kicking and screaming, I set up a blog."

What resulted was "Social Work Leadership," which Scheyett uses as a space for commentary on the roles social workers and others play in addressing social injustice issues. The blog is still building an audience but since finding her footing and developing her own writing voice, Scheyett said she has grown more comfortable with and has a greater appreciation for using social media.

"It really is a quick way to flag issues, which I think can be helpful," she said. "And I think [blogging is] a great way to disseminate information and offer a secondary education around what social work is."

Social workers and social work educators have been using electronic bulletin boards, e-mail and online forums to interact with one another and raise social consciousness for years. But the transition to social media, where users connect, create and share online content, has

been much slower. Until now. Scheyett is among a growing group of academics and practicing professionals learning to navigate Web 2.0 technology, a virtual smorgasbord in which communication and interaction more commonly occurs in waves of Twitter tweets, Facebook feeds, YouTube videos and Blogger posts.

"I have found Twitter very useful," Scheyett said of the online messaging platform where news, opinions and personal information can be shared or "tweeted" in 140 characters or less. "It's a way to push out information to people without being intrusive."

Like Scheyett, other faculty members at UNC's School of Social Work were not initially sure what to make of the innovative technology or why they should even experiment with it. However, associate professors **Rebecca Macy** and **Susan Parish** were intrigued and quickly became the School's most prolific social media users. Both regularly post news or social commentary around their research interests on Twitter.

For Parish, the micro-blogging site has turned into a great personal assistant, helping her to organize and keep track of research news around her interests in disability, poverty and health care issues. Many state and federal government agencies and independent research institutes have established Twitter accounts and frequently post reports

to their pages. “Followers” of these groups receive tweet alerts when new information is posted. Parish is among those alerted when, for example, The Urban Institute issues a new report on children’s health.

“[Twitter] is a very efficient way to follow breaking news and the kinds of policy research that I need to follow,” Parish said.

Rebecca Macy, Ph.D., addresses domestic violence issues in her blog.

Macy started a blog in late 2008 after realizing she could use the site to connect with social workers in the field and others on her work around domestic violence and prevention issues. “I had read an article that said academics should blog because how many people are really going to read our peer reviewed research, and it questioned whether our work is really that accessible,” Macy explained. “So, I’m trying to take my research and evidence and make it more accessible. I’m really trying to connect to people out in the practice world.”

That more social work researchers and clinicians are starting to embrace social media doesn’t surprise Karen Zgoda, a licensed clinical social worker and Ph.D. candidate at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

“I think one of the biggest arguments for using these tools is that clients are already using them,” said Zgoda, whose research focuses on the role of technology in social work. Zgoda writes a regular column on the subject for The New Social Worker Online magazine.

“As social workers, I think it is important to go where the clients are and understand how they are using these tools and how we can use them to help folks,” she added.

Blogs, which enable virtually anyone with Internet access to publish their work or opinions, have exploded as evidenced by the tens of millions of online sites currently in existence.

Although no one appears to track the total number of social work researchers and clinicians using social media, Zgoda has started compiling several lists using Twitter. Many users already work in environments where social media is gaining popularity.

UNC’s School of Social Work is among numerous schools on the Chapel Hill campus that have Facebook pages and Twitter accounts to keep up with alumni, attract prospective students and distribute news and information.

Research shows that higher ed institutions are learning to harness social media to increase exposure and improve recruitment efforts. The National Association for College Admission Counseling reported this spring that more than half of the nation’s colleges and universities now monitor social media for “buzz about their institution.” A third maintain blog sites, while more than a quarter maintain Internet social networking pages.

The trend continues beyond college campuses. Businesses, philanthropic groups and others are also capitalizing on social media. For example, The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and The New Social Worker Online magazine have created blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts to keep practitioners up-to-date on research, best practices and available jobs. Both also recently sponsored online chats through socialworkchat.org to bring social workers together to discuss Internet predators and foster care.

A few websites, such as “Social Work Blogs,” help connect field clinicians with peers, including to those who regularly blog or tweet

about their daily experiences working in mental health, aging or domestic violence agencies. Others offer research and statistics tips. The NASW launched “SocialWorkersSpeak.org” as a way to get social workers talking about and influencing how they are portrayed in film, on television and in the news.

“Some of the most popular movies and television programs deal with issues social workers handle each day, including children and families, the aging, and health and wellness,” said James J. Kelly, NASW president. “However, social workers and the issues they address are not always accurately portrayed in the media. Social Workers Speak will help us tell the real story and generate a healthy dialog between the media and social workers.”

Because social workers are held to ethical standards that apply to confidentiality and conflicts of interests, understanding where to draw the line is a must, particularly for those in direct practice, said Kim Strom-Gottfried, the School of Social Work’s Smith P. Theimann Distinguished Professor for Ethics and Professional Practice.

“I urge people to think about - is this something that you would tell somebody else who you have a general relationship with,” said Strom-Gottfried, who led a workshop on the “Ethics of Social Networking” in April. “Think of your clientele. How would this be perceived? Does this blur the boundaries? Does this make you

feel more visible than you want to feel? What are the things that you are comfortable having known about you?”

“To me, the important part of the conversation is around ethical challenges and where you set boundaries.”

Still, Strom-Gottfried, who maintains Facebook and Linked-In accounts, appreciates the value of online platforms, especially for sharing academic research. “We have knowledge to bring to the town square in this discourse,” she added. “A lot of people are also using social media for problem solving. So I think the risk is worth it.”

Linda Grobman, publisher and editor of The New Social Worker, and a licensed social worker, counts herself among the “early adopters” of new social media, though she has been using the Internet for social work networking for years. She expects other social workers to eventually invest in the communication tools.

“I think today’s traditional-age students already know about it because kids are growing up with technology-assisted learning,” Grobman said. “They already know about Facebook, text messaging, iPhone apps, YouTube and so forth. So as younger people enter the social work field, there will naturally be more social workers using social media.”

Not everyone is eager to dive into the virtual realm. For many academics, including social work educators, the idea of developing an online presence stirs up mixed emotions. Many say they just don’t have the time to blog or tweet, and the rewards of doing either as a scholarly extension of their research or teaching are not clear. Even among those already plugged into the technology, the benefits are not always immediately evident.

Continued on p. 23



Rebecca Macy addresses domestic violence issues in her blog.

**Follow the School of Social Work
on Facebook and Twitter:
http://ssw.unc.edu/about/social_networks**



UNC study: Latino teens happier, healthier if families embrace biculturalism

By Susan White

Over the years, research has shown that Latino youth face numerous risk factors when integrating into American culture, including increased rates of alcohol and substance use and higher rates of dropping out of school.

But a new study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shows adolescents who actively embrace their native culture — and whose parents become more involved in U.S. culture — stand a greater chance of avoiding these risks and developing healthier behaviors overall.

The findings are from a longitudinal study by the UNC-based Latino Acculturation and Health Project, which is supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and directed by Paul Smokowski, Ph.D., an associate professor at the UNC School of Social Work. Researchers interviewed 281 Latino youths and parents in North Carolina and Arizona, asking questions about a wide range of measures of lifestyle and mental health. Participants answered according to how much they agreed with each question (for example, from “not at all” to “very much”), resulting in scores on a scale for each measure.

“We found teens who maintain strong ties to their Latino cultures perform better academically and adjust more easily socially,” Smokowski said. “When we repeated the survey a year later, for every 1-point increase in involvement in their Latino cultures, we saw a 13 percent rise in self-esteem and a 12 to 13 percent decrease in hopelessness, social problems and aggressive behavior.”

“Also, the study showed parents who develop a strong bicultural perspective have teen children who are less likely to feel anxiety and face fewer social problems,” he said. “For every increase in a parent’s involvement in United States culture, we saw a 15 to 18 percent decrease in adolescent social problems, aggression and anxiety one year later. Parents who were more involved in U.S. culture were in a better position to proactively help their adolescents with peer relations, forming friendships and staying engaged in school. This decreases the chances of social problems arising.”

“Such results suggest that Latino youth and their parents benefit from biculturalism,” Smokowski said.

The findings are presented as part of a series of articles featured next month in a special issue of *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, a collaborative initiative between UNC and the CDC. The special issue presents the latest research on how cultural adaptation influences.

Latino youth behaviors — including involvement in violence, smoking and substance use, as well as overall emotional well-being — and offers suggestions for primary prevention programs that support minority families.

“Bicultural adolescents tend to do better in school, report higher self esteem, and experience less anxiety, depression and aggression,” said study co-author Martica Bacallao, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whose work is also featured in the special issue. “It is interesting that, in order to obtain these benefits of biculturalism, adolescents and parents often need to do the opposite of what their natural tendencies tell them. Parents who are strongly tied to their native cultures must reach out to learn skills in the new culture. Adolescents who quickly soak up new cultural behaviors should slow down and cultivate the richness in their native cultures.”



Paul Smokowski

Smokowski added: “The burgeoning size of the Latino population and the increasingly important roles that Latino youth will play in American culture are worthy of community attention. Communities can either invest in prevention to nurture Latino youth as a national resource or pay a heavy price later in trying to help these youth address social problems such as substance use, aggression or dropping out of school; all of which often results from the stress of acculturation.”

Along with Smokowski and Bacallao, Rachel L. Buchanan, Ph.D. ‘08, assistant professor of social work at Salisbury University in Maryland, was a co-author of the study, titled “Acculturation and Adjustment in Latino Adolescents: How Cultural Risk Factors and Assets Influence Multiple Domains of Adolescent Mental Health.”

Student Darshan Mundada passionate about international social work

By Susan White

Second-year MSW student **Darshan Mundada** is passionately committed to international social work and empowering other young people to improve human rights for all. Such dedication is one of the main reasons why Mundada, a Rotary World Peace Fellow from India, never hesitates to pursue opportunities to learn from world leaders and why the 26-year-old often spends his semester breaks abroad.

Last summer, Mundada joined hundreds of other college students, including a handful from UNC, to complete an internship with Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Microfinance guru and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus founded Grameen, which provides the poor with microfinance loans to fund entrepreneurial endeavors so that individuals can lift themselves from poverty.

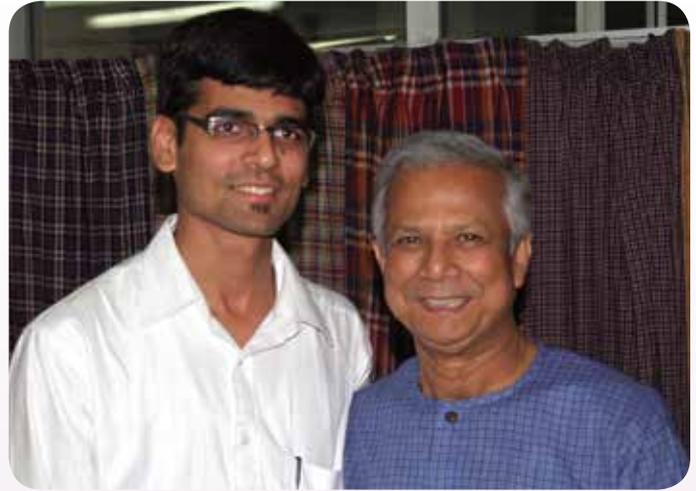
During his time with Grameen, Mundada learned how microfinancing functions on a broad scale — the Bank now serves more than 7 million poor families. Since its founding in 1976, Grameen has exploded into an institutional family of companies, including one offering affordable health care and another developing renewable energy technologies.

Mundada also received an insider's view of the microfinance world with visits to other agencies in Bangladesh, including BRAC, one of the world's largest nongovernment organizations, and Uddipan, a grassroots nonprofit. Like Grameen, both agencies focus on empowering women through educational, financial and other social development services so that they can build independent, sustainable lives for their families.

"It was a great learning experience," Mundada said.

After several weeks with Grameen, Mundada spent the remaining half of his summer vacation in an internship with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Tibet's government in exile in Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh state. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, established the CTA in 1959.

For Mundada, the experience was a chance to observe a government under a man he has admired since youth. Mundada, who met the Dalai Lama in 1996, still draws much of his inspiration from the exiled leader. Their chance meeting years ago encouraged Mundada to form the Friends' Society — a community service, social awareness and eco-conservation organization in India.



Darshan Mundada with Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus

During his internship, Mundada observed each of the CTA's departments, including health, education, and information and international relations. "I learned about how policies are formed and how to get the support of the people," he explained. "I also learned how nonprofits and governments can function together."

He was most inspired, he said, in seeing that the government's employees are "not just there for the money."

"They are there because they share a passion for their country and want it to be free," he said.

Mundada, who graduates this year, plans to return to India, where he intends to help further develop the country's nonprofit sector.

"The work in India is important as the nonprofit sector is currently disorganized, and there is a lot of overlap in services and a replication of models consuming multiple resources," Mundada said. "It is necessary to create a network that will enable organizations to share resources ... and a support network for budding entrepreneurs."



Faculty members help Haitian agency serve earthquake's youngest survivors

By Susan White

This summer, School of Social Work faculty members Mat Despard and Gina Chowa had planned to be developing two projects both hoped could assist in the long-term efforts of building a healthier and more economically stable Haiti. Then the Jan. 12 earthquake hit. The two UNC colleagues have since shifted their priorities and are now focusing their energy and expertise to provide more immediate relief to young survivors in one rural area of the country.

Despard, a clinical assistant professor, and Chowa, an assistant professor, have partnered with Fondation Enfant Jesus (FEJ), an organization that operates a crèche, clean water project, micro-enterprise program and school programs in Lamardelle, a rural farming village about 20 miles east of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. Despard, who adopted a little girl from the organization almost two years ago, said the crèche, which is similar to an orphanage, sustained some damage from the quake, but the 70 children living there were uninjured.

Prior to the disaster, he and Chowa were in the process of helping FEJ and its U.S.-based nonprofit, Village of Vision for Haiti Foundation, secure grant funding to establish a health clinic in Lamardelle and to expand the micro-enterprise program for women. But with the quake uprooting or leaving orphaned tens of thousands of Haiti's children, government officials recently asked that the organizations step in to provide additional shelter and services to the disaster's youngest victims.

Despard and Chowa are now assisting the Haitian organizations with this call for help. First, the colleagues hope to find and help obtain the funding the groups will need to serve more children. "Gina and I are trying to anticipate what channels of funding there are and where others could be," Despard said.

They are also spreading the message of other needed expertise, including public health experts who can ensure that accommodations for earthquake refugees have proper sanitation.

"I really want to emphasize that we are following FEJ's lead because there is so much that we don't know about Haiti," Despard said. "We really want to build a partnership and right now, that means just trying to figure out the help FEJ needs, even if it only means sending money and finding more of it."

Although billions of dollars in donations have been flowing into Haiti since the earthquake struck, a significant portion of this money is designated for the larger U.S.-based nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations working in the country. But getting the Haitian-operated aid organizations the financial support they need is equally important, Chowa said.



Gina Chowa



Mat Despard



“International development organizations need to pay attention to and support smaller nongovernmental organizations like FEJ, because these small NGOs have been working in Haiti with people at the grassroots for a long time and are committed to their people,” she said.

The FEJ, in particular, has a solid reputation for helping children in its care reunite with their parents or find adoptive homes in the United States, Canada and France, Despard said. That reputation is likely one of the main reasons the government turned to the organization for help, especially with a rush of interest from around the world in increasing adoptions from Haiti.

“Part of the reason I think the government is turning to the FEJ is because of their success in ensuring that children don’t have other family to go live with first,” he said. “They are really careful about assessing each child’s situation with their parents.”

The School could potentially offer the organizations additional professional and academic expertise on adoption and foster care, but Despard cautioned that he wants to make sure that any efforts made



are in response to specific needs and requests. As someone who has closely followed Haiti’s political, economic and social history, Despard is very sensitive to the country’s challenges and the tradition of other nations, especially the United States, to jump in with money and ideas. (Despard, who writes a blog on nonprofit issues, has written several posts since the earthquake addressing relief efforts and Haiti’s challenges.)

Organizations like the FEJ are rooted in Haiti, employ Haitians and are ultimately linked to the country’s ability to dig its way out of poverty, Chowa said. They are founded on long-term sustainable solutions “that will improve the well-being of Haitians,” she added.

“There is a need ... for solutions that address health, education, economic well-being and livelihoods,” she said.

Projects, including the ones the colleagues were originally pursuing before the earthquake, also offer these kinds of promises, Despard and Chowa agreed. The proposals, they said, would enable Haitians to care for each other and work together to rebuild the country’s economy.

Continued on p. 23

Social workers will play important role in Haiti relief efforts

By Susan White

Long before a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti, social workers were already among the countless humanitarian workers and aid organizations attending to the impoverished country’s physical and emotional needs. In the months ahead, these same workers will play an even more vital role as extensive efforts to rebuild shattered infrastructure and lives begin.

Although treating the immediate physical needs of Haiti’s sick and injured remains a top priority, providing needed psychological first aid must also be a part of growing relief efforts and the kind of assistance that social workers are well-equipped to offer, said **Joanne Caye**, a UNC School of Social Work clinical assistant professor.

Research has shown that such mental health assistance, especially within the first four to six weeks of a disaster, can help survivors reduce their chances of developing acute stress and post-traumatic stress disorder, said Caye, co-author of, “When Their World Falls Apart: Helping Families and Children Manage the Effects of Disasters.”

“What this means is providing people with accurate information, listening to their needs, letting them know that what they are experiencing is normal and giving them hope. That’s what psychological first aid does,” Caye said. “Some people may ask, ‘What good does that do?’ But the research tells us that ... with a therapeutic response fairly early on, people will be able to gain some sense of control over their lives.”

Since the Jan. 12 earthquake, much of Haiti has been mired in chaos. The catastrophe disabled most of the country’s already worn or damaged infrastructure, including roads and seaport, hampering efforts to get medical supplies, food and water to quake victims. According to media reports, the death toll is expected to rise to at least 200,000 in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince, with thousands more presumed dead around the country and close to 200,000 more injured. Nearly 1 million people have been left homeless in Port-au-Prince, and thousands of others are reportedly living in squalor in makeshift camps.

Shelter — even temporary but close to home — can help children and adults retain a sense of normalcy, a lesson researchers learned



Joanne Caye

firsthand following Hurricane Katrina, said Caye, who served in 2007 as a co-director for the “New Orleans Recovery Initiative,” a rebuilding project through the UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity.

Although thousands of displaced Gulf Coast residents were evacuated to the Houston Astrodome, many of these evacuees were unable to immediately find other housing and in the interim, adopted the astrodome as their “new home.” When these families were forced to leave, many were “re-traumatized” as if they were physically losing their houses once again, Caye explained.

“So if people can be kept relatively close to where their homes are, they don’t go through that,” she explained.

For Haiti’s children, many of whom lost parents and their homes, the reality of the catastrophic event may be difficult to resolve, Caye said. Social workers can help children deal with the emotions that even adults find hard to face, she said.

“One of the big things we know is that children look to adults in terms of how they should respond to a situation, especially younger kids,” she explained. “But if there has been a significant loss, we know that sometimes adults can try and act like they’re not upset or try to shield a child from that loss. And in some instances, that’s not very helpful because it can give kids the impression that they’re not allowed to grieve or to get angry.”

Social workers can assist parents with interpreting cues from their children, including depression that may initially mask itself as moodiness, irritability or rebelliousness, Caye said.

“Understanding a child’s development — where kids are and what that means to them cognitively, emotionally and physically — is so critical when you’re doing this (type of emergency aid),” Caye added. “You have to be able to connect with where that kid is, not where you are.”



Grinstein-Weiss leads effort to implement child development accounts in Israel

By Michelle Rogers

UNC School of Social Work assistant professor **Michal Grinstein-Weiss, Ph.D.** is leading a new initiative to implement child development accounts (CDAs) in Israel. In March, she traveled to Israel for three days of meetings with Israeli government officials and United States experts on asset building.



Michal Grinstein-Weiss

Grinstein-Weiss, who is from Israel, and her team presented a proposal for an Israeli national CDA policy and a demonstration project to test the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a CDA program building on the child allowance structure and education system.

The feedback from Minister Isaac Herzog and the Directors General was very positive. The Israelis decided to form a steering committee for CDAs in Israel to move the proposal forward,

which will include Grinstein-Weiss and her team.

The following week Minister Herzog released details about the proposal to the public. The Marker, an Israeli daily newspaper, published an article entitled, "Herzog's revolutionary proposal: Long-term savings in child benefit." The article covers the specifics of the proposed long-term child development accounts and states that Herzog is determined to champion this effort.

Meeting participants, pictured left to right, included: Esther Dominissini, Director General of the Israeli National Insurance Institute; Michael Sherraden, Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor and the founding director of the Center for Social Development at Washington



University; Isaac Herzog, Israeli Minister of Social Affairs and Services; Mark Iwry, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Retirement and Health Policy in the U.S. Department of the Treasury; Ray Boshara, Vice President and Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation; Michal Grinstein-Weiss; Nachum Itzkovitz, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Services; Daniel Gottlieb, Deputy Director General, Research and Planning National Insurance Institute. Kneeling: Yekutiel Sabah, Head of Research and Planning Division at the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Services.

School holds 89th annual commencement

By Michelle Rogers



Kristie Diehn and Matthew Duncan

See our graduation photo gallery online at:
www.flickr.com/photos/unc_school_of_social_work

The UNC School of Social Work held its annual commencement on May 8. Over 1,000 people packed Memorial Hall to celebrate about 120 MSW and three doctoral students receiving diplomas.

The speaker was community activist **Marisol Jimenez McGee**, MSW '03. **Erica Dunkle**, MSW '10, gave a touching tribute in song to the late **Dr. Gary Shaffer**.

In a presentation by Dean **Jack Richman**, **JoAnn McCachern Swart**, MSW '78, and the late **Myrna Miller Wellons**, MSW '96, were honored as winners of the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The students recognized **Melissa Grady** as Overall Outstanding Professor; **Mat Despard**, Most Innovative Teacher; **Marilyn Ghezzi**, Most Supportive Faculty Member; and **Beth Sauer**, Most Supportive Staff Member. **Shenyang Guo** was honored by doctoral students.



School becomes a research force, continued from p. 9

wen, who is working in elementary schools on assessment and matching kids' needs to evidenced-based programs. We have **Matt Howard's** work in the field of substance abuse.

"Almost everywhere you look now, you find people who are leading scholars, not just in North Carolina, but in the country."

Support for these scholars has grown exponentially, largely because of generous gifts from donors who value the importance of social work research. In 2004, the School received a \$1.2 million gift to recruit and retain faculty from former social worker **Miriam McFadden**, a Tennessee resident and member of the School's board of advisors.

Three years later, **Sam and Betsy Reeves** of Fresno, Calif. donated \$1 million to establish the Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professorship. In 2008, the Armfield-Reeves Innovations Fund was created to provide pilot funding for faculty and student research. The fund was developed with a \$333,000 gift from the Reeves and a \$250,000 gift from **Janie and Billy Armfield** of Richmond, Va.

That same year, alumna **Mel Adair** (MSW, '76) established a charitable gift annuity with the UNC Foundation, directing nearly \$1.4 million to the School of Social Work, one of the largest gifts in the School's history. Adair's gift created a \$1 million endowment for the Johnson-Howard-Adair Distinguished Professorship, bringing the total number of endowed professorships at the School to eight.

"Private funding has greatly enhanced our ability to conduct innovative research and outreach by enabling us to attract and retain top faculty and students and to support them in their work," said **Mary**

Beth Hernandez, the School's associate dean for advancement.

Today, with 28 tenured and tenured-track faculty members as well as more than 50 clinical and research faculty, the School continues to make new contributions to the social work field, including studies that address HIV prevention, domestic violence, children with disabilities and homelessness. Collectively, the school's faculty members bring in more than \$15 million annually in state, federal and foundation funding to support research and training initiatives.

A few scholars, such as **Gina Chowa**, are even helping to expand the School's reach internationally. Chowa, whose research focuses on the impact of asset building interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, hopes the School will strengthen its ties to international research over the next 10 years.

"What happens globally affects what happens here," she said. "And if you look at what is developing internationally, social work has a big role to play."

Hiring creative people who have ingenious ideas will continue to determine the School's long-term research success, Fraser added.

"It will depend upon the people who stay and how committed they are to reforming social work," he said. "The crucial question is what is it we're trying to do? We're trying to change the image of social work. We're trying to make social work the go-to profession for social justice, for the design and development of creative social programs that will solve social problems. This is where the action could be, and we have a wonderful start at it."

Social work meets social media, continued from p. 17

Mat Despard, a School of Social Work clinical assistant professor, blogs on "All Things Nonprofit" and "Macro Social Work."

Despard sees a functional purpose in using blogs for "content management and connecting people to ideas and perspectives," and generally uses his sites to assist students on classroom discussions as well as others interested in philanthropy. After Haiti's devastating earthquake in January, Despard turned to his nonprofit blog as a space for sharing his knowledge of the country and his personal experiences working with an organization there that cares for children.

Scheyett and others agree their initial hesitancy stemmed from the unconventional way that social media requires people to communicate. "I think a part of it is that social work, probably more than any other profession, is about interpersonal relationships," Scheyett explained. "Being able to conceptualize an interpersonal virtual relationship is kind of challenging. So I think social workers might be a little more hesitant than other academics. That personal connection just isn't there as much. It's not how we communicate."

Yet globally, the Internet and social media are forcing a culture shift over how communication occurs, who participates and what information is spread.

As a self-proclaimed technology geek, Macy eagerly praises social media for the advantages she thinks it affords. For example, Facebook, Twitter and blogs enable her to receive more immediate feedback on her research, she said. They also let her explore others' thoughts for preventing physical, psychological and sexual violence. With just a few mouse clicks, Macy can tap into the brainpower of people and experts she probably would never have another chance of meeting.

And as she noted in her first blog posting in November 2008, the opportunity for such back and forth dialog may lead to new ideas for social change.

"I have come to realize that finding the best ways to help violence survivors and ... [preventing] violence require creativity and innovation," Macy said. "And I believe that creativity and innovation do not occur in isolation. Creative and innovative solutions develop in conversations with others."

Faculty members help Haitian agency, continued from p. 21

The proposed health clinic that Despard was helping to write a grant for would be based on the community-care model pioneered by the humanitarian organization, Partners in Health.

"A cornerstone of their model is they hire local people to act as community health workers and train them to do things like take daily anti-retroviral medications to people where they are living and monitor them to make sure they are taking them correctly," Despard explained. "They provide outreach to let people know about the clinic that is available and education about different diseases and how to prevent them."

Chowa's part of the project focused on educating and training some of Lamardelle's young single mothers in the business of micro-enterprise. Many of the women are extremely poor and have five or six children, most of whom are malnourished, Chowa said. Her proposal explored the potential of bringing women together with different strengths and talents to operate and own shares in a business, enabling them to fiscally capitalize on their collective efforts.

But Chowa was also interested in how such a business venture and the revenue the women hopefully would earn would affect their children's health.

"With five or six children, can you imagine the impact if you just make the mother economically stable? The children can then have health care and money to go to school," she said.

Despard and Chowa hope that they can eventually pick these projects back up. In the meantime, they're eager to help the Haitian organizations where they can and expect the School of Social Work's reach into Haiti to continue.

"I was interested in Haiti before the earthquake," Despard said. "The questions have always been in my mind ... When might there be opportunities to do research in a way that's really helpful and not exploitive? The big question is how can we help but embedded in that is being accountable to what the Haitians want."

2009-10 MSW Scholarships and Awards

Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship
Christopher Earl Nealy

Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship
Jennifer Haynes Bates, Darrell Lewis Coleman, Jr., Tobirus Mozelle Newby, April Smith Parker

Annie Kizer Bost Award
Martina Battle Baldwin, Danielle Renee Doyle, Mary Catherine Hartley

Chaney-Jacobs-Preyer Scholarship
Elina Michailovna Alterman, Tara Elizabeth Hopkins

Robert and Peggy Culbertson Scholarship
Sharon Webber Davis, Bang Dinh Duong

William E. and Catherine M. Cummins Award for Outstanding School Social Work Practice
Carlie Beth Ewen

Dean's Research Award
Lindsey Natasha Atkins, Ryan Franklin Frack, Laura Bibiana Gonzalez, Laurie Michelle Graham, Lauren Jacqueline Hart, Madeline McIntyre Seltman

Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship
Martina Battle Baldwin

Bertie Oscar Edwards Scholarship
Christopher Mark de Beer

Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship
Lee Enoch Abernathy, Laura Xiomara Aponte-Hughes, Limor Bachar-Schwartz, Kindra Maren Clemence, Moira Patricia Conlon, Solita Ann Denard, Erica Shane Dunkle, Sarah Michele Dunsmore, Carlie Beth Ewen, Ryan Franklin Frack, Kayla Anne Fuga, Sarah Elizabeth Furman, Kendra Malia Johnson, Patricia Anne McGovern, Kate Troxler Mitchell, Kathryn Colleen Mulvaney, Lindsay Marie Penny, Alison Leigh Prevost, Erin Amelia Ridout, Kristen Jane Russell, Rebecca Lin Spence

Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship
Kathryn Boswell Brockett, Sabrina Alise Jennette

Alan Keith-Lucas Scholarship
Katherine Vogler Bonanno, Shandra Taneika Chambers, Beth Noel Rupp

Jeffrey Langston Scholarship
Erin Renee Bowman

Meehan Scholarship
Laura Bibiana Gonzalez, Nicole Doreen Moore

Betsy Rogers Millar Scholarship
Halley Mira Carmack, Elizabeth Aull Clift, Julie Owen Goldberg, Lizette Alicia Lopez, Erica TerChera Mayes-Gordon, Christopher Earl Nealy

Jane Curtis Parker Award
Erin L. Krauss, Lindsey Anne O'Hare

Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship
Regina Shannelle Boone

Ellen E. Power Scholarship
Lee Enoch Abernathy

Thomas Reid Sr. Scholarship
Shandra Taneika Chambers

Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. Scholarship
Shannon Elizabeth Beavin, Anna Olivia Kirby

Janice Hough Schopler Scholarship
Jenny Bibiana Forero, Jianrong Zhang

Social Justice Fund Scholarship
Julie Owen Goldberg

Tannenbaum Scholarship
Terronda Lenette Beatty, Sardie Rochelle Izzard, Kendra Malia Johnson, Erik Brandon Osborne, Glenn Robinson, Lauren Amelia Thompson, Danielle Yvette Whitaker

Kristen Marie TenHarmsel Anderson Scholarship
Rachel Marie Coots

Smith P. Theimann Scholarship
Elizabeth Aull Clift, Aislinn Eve Jobes

Walsh-Cioffi Scholarship
Kate Troxler Mitchell

Ellen Black Winston Scholarship
Guadalupe Valentina Huitron



2009-10 Doctoral Student Awards

Armfield Reeves Innovation Fund
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation, University Research Day 2009, UNC
Eric Lee Garland

Center for Development and Learning Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Fellowship
Sarah Dababnah

Maternal and Child Health Leadership Consortium Fellowship
Sarah Dababnah

Center for Global Initiatives Pre-Dissertation Travel Award
Sarah Dababnah

Center for Global Initiatives Pre-Dissertation Field Research Award
Dari Jigjidsuren

The Council of Nephrology Social Workers Educational Stipend from the National Kidney Foundation
Tiffany Renee Washington

Council on Social Work Education Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Minority Clinical Training Fellowship
Carmen Michelle Crosby

Council on Social Work Education National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship, Minority Fellowship Program
Sharon Denise Parker
Tasane Ross Walsh

Duke Child and Family Study Center Post-Doctoral Fellow
Bridget Elizabeth Weller

Gordon H. DeFries Career Development in Aging Research Award
Susan Kay Fletcher

Fahs-Beck Scholar for Research and Experimentation from The New York Community Trust
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Hartford Doctoral Fellowship
Susan Kay Fletcher

Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award
Tiffany Renee Washington

Lovick P. Corn Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Traci L. Wike

NIH Ruth Kirschstein NRSA post-doctoral fellowship with the UNC Program on Integrative Medicine
Eric Lee Garland

Shaver Hitchings Scholarship Award for Service in the Area of Alcohol and Drug Addictions, from The Triangle Community Foundation
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Northeast Region Scholarship
Tiffany Renee Washington

Southeast SAS Users Group 2009 Scholar
Keesha Dunbar Benson

Turner Dissertation Fund
Carrie Pettus-Davis
Tashuna Albritton

World Forum Travel Award to attend the Conference in Belfast, U.K., from the World Forum
Dari Jigjidsuren

2nd Place for Oral Presentation in Social Science, University Research Day 2010
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Travel Award to attend the 2010 Summer Training Workshop on African American Aging Research
Tiffany Renee Washington

Child welfare expert Mark Testa joins the School as distinguished professor

By Susan White



Mark Testa

Anationally recognized child welfare expert and the architect of innovative reforms in the fields of child protection and foster care is bringing his research and professional leadership expertise to the Tar Heel state.

Mark Testa, Ph.D., a professor and director of the Children and Family Research Center at the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, joined UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Social Work in January as the first Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professor.

"I am so pleased that Dr. Testa has accepted our offer to join the faculty," said School Dean **Jack M. Richman**. "Mark is a gifted teacher and his strengths will greatly enhance our School, the University and our ability to serve the people of North Carolina."

Testa said he is equally thrilled to be associated with the School, which he said he has always considered one of the country's "centers for child welfare research." He is also eager, he said, to work with students and share his experiences, including lessons he has learned over the years in reforming public child welfare systems and increasing opportunities for children in foster care.

Testa brings to UNC more than 30 years of research and service, most of which has focused on improving the lives of at-risk children and families. Perhaps most notable is his work in Illinois, which led to a significant overhaul of that state's Department of Children and Family Services and ultimately, a model for national legislation.

For years, more Illinois children were removed from homes and placed in foster care and more cases were assigned to state child welfare workers than the nation as a whole. The state's track record, which included 52,000 in foster care by the late 1990s and caseworkers managing three times the number of recommended cases, was highly criticized. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) pushed for a major overhaul of the existing federal consent decree, charging that the system was failing to protect and care for children in state custody.

Testa's innovative research helped turn the state around. In 1994, he was appointed Illinois' research director for the Department of Children and Family Services. His leadership and policy analysis led to a federal child welfare demonstration that enabled the state to assist relatives who were named legal guardians of children formerly under their foster care. Guardians were given financial subsidies, funding that had not previously been available to relative caregivers.

The demonstration and its companion legislation helped move children out of the foster care system more quickly and into permanent homes. According to Illinois' Children and Family Research Center, by 2003, the number of children in foster care had dropped nearly 62 percent to less than 20,000. The results were so successful, similar demonstrations were replicated in Tennessee and Wisconsin. Congress acted on the findings from these demonstrations and created the kinship guardianship assistance program as part of the "Fostering Connections" Act that was signed into federal law last year.

Testa recently completed a book, *Fostering Accountability* (Oxford University Press), with John Poertner on the reform experiences in Illinois. He hopes the lessons learned will also form the backbone for a collaborative research project at UNC. Policymakers and academics in Illinois, Maryland, and North Carolina will have the opportunity to work with UNC School of Social Work faculty, including research associate professor **Dean Duncan**, on how to further improve child welfare and child practice, Testa said.

The new professor will remain actively involved in other states. Testa, who is helping states to adapt to the new national foster care legislation, was recently named as the independent verification agent under a federal consent decree for Baltimore's child welfare system. For more than 20 years, the Maryland city has been under federal court oversight to improve services and care for children in state custody. Testa will ensure the city system follows required standards.

With Testa's arrival to UNC, Richman has also approved for the School of Social Work to be included among a list of national agencies affiliated with the Fostering Connections Resource Center. This center, which spawned from the federal foster care law, offers states access to data, training information and research experts.

"I think it's good for us in that it highlights (the School) as a resource, and it creates opportunities for our doctoral students and faculty to engage in some pretty interesting and new child welfare work," Testa said.

Testa has been widely honored over the years for his academic and professional achievements. He is the recipient of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Adoption 2002 Excellence Award for Applied Scholarship and Research on kinship care and permanence. In 2004, he received the Blue Bow Award for research and leadership in improving systems of care for children from the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, and in 2006, he was nominated by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, and received the Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Long-term, Testa hopes to help the School engage in an even more active role, locally and nationally, in child welfare reform efforts. One of his goals is to establish a policy institute from which an education and training program would be created to merge the best in foster care research with the best in foster care practices.

"We have to become smarter in how we serve families and recognize when child welfare should be more of a support system rather than one that disrupts lives by needlessly removing children into foster care," he said. "We also need to use the research and knowledge within the university system to improve the quality of policy and practice."

Such efforts, Testa said, could offer some real solutions to North Carolina and other public child welfare systems.

"The challenge is to improve the evidence base for what works best in each of these systems and translate the knowledge into more effective policies and practices for children and families in North Carolina and across the nation as a whole," Testa said.



Faculty spotlight

By Michelle Rogers

Deborah Barrett



Barrett had two articles published in *Fibromyalgia Aware* magazine, entitled “Caring for Kids — and Yourself” (Fall 2009) and “Steering Clear of Scams” (Winter 2010).

Betsy Bledsoe



Bledsoe was named a BIRCWH (“Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health”) Scholar for 2009-12. An NIH-funded program, BIRCWH supports career development of junior faculty members who are commencing research relevant to women’s health.

Bledsoe was awarded a \$2,000 grant for her project, “Perceptions of Breastfeeding Success in Depressed and Non-Depressed Mothers.” The study will run through March 31, 2011. Funding was provided by the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute (TraCS) at UNC.

Bledsoe is a collaborator with a UNC group on a project looking at the relationship between perinatal depression and breastfeeding. The \$50,000 study, “Neuroendocrine Pathophysiology in Postpartum Depression and Lactation Failure,” is funded through TraCS.

Bledsoe was selected for a 2010 NCDEU New Investigator Award. NCDEU is a meeting that focuses on new research approaches for mental health interventions, and is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health and the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology. It will be held in June 2010 in Boca Raton, Fla. The award entitles her to participate in a closed full-day educational workshop. She will also present a poster, “Treating Perinatal Depression in Low-Income Adolescents: Results from a Pilot Feasibility Study of Culturally Relevant, Brief Interpersonal Psychotherapy.” Two master’s students (Anne-Marie Olarte, 1st Year; Abby Zeveloff, 2nd Year) and alumna Amy Sommer, MSW ‘04, are coauthors on the poster.

Gary Bowen



Bowen, Kenan Distinguished Professor, was a featured speaker and panelist at the 2009 RTI Fellows Symposium: Integrating Basic and Applied Research, in November. Bowen discussed “Pathways to School Persistence” in the section on education opportunity and achievement.

Bowen was an invited guest speaker at the 2009 Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations in San Francisco. He served on a panel with Drs. Shelley MacDermid and Dennis Orthner in a session designed to increase understanding of the factors that contribute to resilience in military families. Bowen facilitated a special session at the conference on “Building Bridges to Support Military and Veteran Families.”

Bowen spoke to approximately 50 spouses of the Army’s most senior combat commanders and their command sergeants major on “Building Resilient Families through Community Capacity Building.”

The Commander’s Conference was held in November in Atlanta.

Bowen traveled to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 23, 2010, to deliver a briefing to the Warfighter and Family Program Managers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The briefing was sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy. Bowen discussed his community capacity work that is currently informing intervention and prevention planning activities in both the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

Natasha Bowen



Bowen and three doctoral students — Aaron Thompson, Krysti Webber and Kate Wegmann — spent the first four days of June 2009 in North Hampton County teaching students at KIPP Pride High School about mental health, research methods and how to play acoustic guitar. Although KIPP Pride High is a public charter school in a rural, economically depressed part of North Carolina, 100% of its graduating seniors are going to college in the fall.

Bowen was invited by the lead school social worker in Wake County Public School System to serve on the WCPSS School Social Work Advisory Council. As an advisor, she will help school social workers in the school district evaluate their practices and show their impact on student success.

Bowen was also invited by the superintendent of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district to serve on the Community Action Committee for the Success of all Students. The goal of this new committee is to involve the community in raising the achievement of African-American, Latino and economically disadvantaged students.

Bowen and Joelle Powers were invited to present on their project in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district at the Triangle Donors Forum on March 24, 2010. Bowen and Powers are directing a three-year longitudinal study at four North Carolina elementary schools. They are looking at how experiences in neighborhoods, schools, families and with friends affect learning, and how to help schools develop interventions to improve student achievement. The information is collected from students, parents and teachers using an assessment called the Elementary School Success Profile (ESSP), created by Bowen.

Iris Carlton-LaNey



Carlton-LaNey participated in the 23rd Women’s History Month Lecture Series at the University of Texas-Arlington in March 2009. The theme was “Life on the Edge: Women and Hard Times.” She was also the keynote speaker for the 29th Annual Social Work Education Conference at Mississippi Valley State University in

April 2009.

Carlton-LaNey was invited to speak as part of the Summer Lecture Series at Smith College School of Social Work. She presented “African Americans Aging in the Rural South: Stories of Faith, Family and Community” in July 2009 in Northampton, Mass.

Joanne Caye



Caye and first-year MSW student **Megan Key** joined faculty and students from nursing, physical therapy and public health on an "Alternate Spring Break Trip" to Tyrell County, N.C. in March 2010. The group provided a health fair in the small community of Alligator with disaster planning, nutrition items, stress and depression screenings, exercises, games and other activities. They also helped some older residents (referred by Tyrell County DSS), with cooking, cleaning and yard work.

Mimi Chapman



Chapman was named the Carolina Women's Center Faculty Scholar for Fall 2010. Her project will be "Gang Affiliation Among Middle School New Immigrant Latinas in Siler City." She will investigate the scope of the problem in the community and develop intervention models and strategies.

Jodi Flick



Flick is featured in an informative new video on suicide prevention produced by the Mecklenburg County Health Department. It is called "This Will Pass: Suicide Prevention." The video is available online in the Health Department section of the website <http://www.charmeck.org>.

Mark Fraser



Fraser, John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need, presented at the Los Angeles Conference on Intervention Research in Social Work. The October 2009 conference, hosted by the University of Southern California School of Social Work's Hamovitch Center for Science in the Human Services, in collaboration with the

Institute for Advancement of Social Work Research, provided an arena for social workers to present their research findings, elaborate on the importance of research and discuss issues pertinent to the future of intervention research.

Michal Grinstein-Weiss



Grinstein-Weiss received a \$145,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, with Janneke Ratcliffe of UNC's Center for Community Capital, for their project "Learning from SaveNYC: Facilitating Savings for Low-Income Workers." This research project is a collaboration with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs' Office

of Financial Empowerment to evaluate their pilot program aimed at promoting savings among eligible New Yorkers. SaveNYC encourages Earned Income Tax Credit recipients to save a portion of their tax refund, and leave those funds in savings for at least one full year.

Grinstein-Weiss and doctoral student **Pajarita Charles** were awarded one of four nationwide \$20,000 grants from the National Center of Marriage Research for their one-year project, "Does Homeownership Affect Relationship Stability: Evidence from an Event History Analysis." P.I. Grinstein-Weiss' and Co-P.I. Charles' paper will address key questions about the linkages between family instability and well-being.

Grinstein-Weiss received renewal grant awards from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (\$40,000) and the F.B. Heron Foundation (\$25,000) to support the American Dream Demonstration Wave 4 (ADD4) study, which is testing the long-term effects of individual development accounts. This study is supported by seven funders and has raised over \$1.6 million.

Grinstein-Weiss and **Andréa Taylor** were awarded a \$94,638 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as part of the Assets for Independence Knowledge Development Initiative. The Assets for Independence (AFI) Program, administered by ACF, provides the largest source of funding for IDAs in the U.S.

Shenyang Guo



Guo was given UNC's prestigious 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction. "The University Committee on Teaching Awards was greatly impressed by the abundant evidence they found for your outstanding contributions to post-baccalaureate teaching on our campus," wrote Chancellor Holden Thorp. "Both your students and faculty colleagues were enthusiastic in their praise of your commitment to the highest standards. You have clearly provided your students with a rich, supportive environment for higher learning and [an] exceptionally positive role model for their own careers." Award recipients were recognized during a half-time ceremony at the UNC-GA Tech men's basketball game in January 2010. In addition, Guo received an award certificate and \$5,000 prize at an awards banquet in April.

Guo was promoted to the rank of full professor.

Matthew Howard



Howard, Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for Human Services Policy Information, was appointed a member of the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Epidemiology and Behavior Genetics Study Section. The Center for Scientific Review of the NIH and the Italian Ministry of Health, Directorate for Health and Technologies Research have recently signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on evaluation of grant applications from Italian researchers in biomedical fields. Howard was asked to review a portion of these grants.

Howard presented on inhalant abuse to the Office of National Drug Control Policy in Washington, D.C. in October 2009. In addition, Howard was a member of the Epidemiology and Behavior Genetics Grant Review Study Section at the National Institutes of Health on Oct. 6 and 7.

Howard was asked to review grants for the Italian Ministry of Health for 2010.

Howard will have a lead article on inhalant abuse published on the website of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in their journal *Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*.

Howard was asked to serve on the NIH Epidemiology and Behavior Genetics Study Section for 2010. He was also named regional editor of the *Open Social Science Journal*.

Joelle Powers



Powers is the 2010 recipient of the C. Felix Harvey Award to Advance Institutional Priorities. Given by UNC's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, the \$75,000 award recognizes exemplary faculty scholarship that reflects one of the University's top priorities. This year's award focuses on engagement and outreach.

Powers' proposed project is a pilot test of an urgently needed partnership between Durham Public Schools and Durham's public mental health provider, The Durham Center. The partnership will include training staff in one school to recognize mental health problems in students, creating a school-based referral process, and bringing professional mental health providers into the school to serve students.

Continued on p. 28

Jack Richman



Dean Jack Richman presented “Intervention Research: Responding to the Gap between Knowledge Building and Social Work Practice” and “Intervention Development: Data Driven Practice” at the 4th Annual BYU School of Social Work Conference: Research and Clinical Perspectives in Social Work Practice in Provo, Utah in October 2009.

Richman, along with **Miriam Brodersen**, MSW '07, and **Danielle Swick**, Ph.D. '07, have an article published in the Journal of Social Work Education, “Risks and mitigating factors in decisions to accept students with criminal records.”

Richman was among a group of 35 experts from various social work higher education, professional association and military backgrounds who participated in a Washington, D.C., meeting in January 2010 with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE has launched an advanced practice in military social work education initiative to bridge the gap between the number of available prepared practitioners and the demand for social services with military personnel and their families. The initiative will result in an educators' guide to advanced social work practice competencies in military social work.

Richman was invited to present at the International Conference on Social Work Localization, in March 2010 in Shenzhen, China. His presentation was entitled “The Role of Government in the Development of Social Work Education and Practice in the United States.”

Kathleen Rounds



Rounds and **Joanne Caye** served on a panel at the 2nd Annual Training Institute on Trauma-Affected Women, Children & Families. It was held in June 2009 in New York City and sponsored by the Association of States and Territorial Public Health Social Workers. Their panel was called “Public Health and Social Work: Academia's Role in Educating on Trauma.” Rounds also gave a second presentation on “Leadership Programs and MCH (maternal and child health) Bureau Resources for Public Health Social Workers.”

Paul Smokowski



Smokowski was asked to review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's blueprint for a national youth violence prevention initiative.

He was also awarded a highly competitive research leave for 2010-11 from the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of the Provost. He will be writing grant proposals.

Tina Souders



Souders was elected for a three year term to the delegate assembly of the National Association of Social Workers, N.C. chapter (NASW-NC). In addition, Souders delivered a keynote presentation at the 12th Annual NASW-NC Clinical Social Work Summer Institute in July 2009, on “Terminating Therapeutic Work with Clients.”

Kim Strom-Gottfried



Strom-Gottfried, Smith P. Theimann Distinguished Professor for Ethics and Professional Practice, traveled to China in October 2009. She was invited to teach social work assessment and interventions in Shanghai at the East China University of Science and Technology. On the same trip, faculty member **Katherine Dunlap** and Strom-Gottfried presented on social work practice, interviewing, and grief and loss at a conference for social work practitioners, field instructors and students from a variety of agencies in the city.

Sheryl Zimmerman



UNC-Chapel Hill has named Zimmerman a Mary Lily Kenan Flagler Bingham Distinguished Professor. This distinguished professorship is one of the most prestigious honors the University can bestow upon a faculty member.

Zimmerman is the director of aging research at the School of Social Work; director of UNC's Interdisciplinary Certificate in Aging; co-director of UNC's Interdisciplinary Center for Aging Research; co-director of the Program on Aging, Disability and Long-Term Care at UNC's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research; and an adjunct professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health.

Zimmerman's research has focused on social gerontology, evaluation of practice, psychosocial aspects of health, dementia, hip fractures, and improving care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Her work in the field of residential long-term care for older adults has been highly influential for policy and practice.

In other news, Zimmerman was a speaker at a November 2009 NASW symposium in Washington, D.C., to launch a new social work policy institute.



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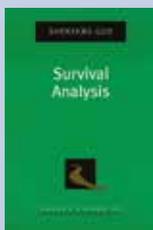
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new books



Professor **Shenyang Guo**'s book, "Survival Analysis," was published by Oxford University Press.

Mark Fraser's book, "Risk and Resilience in Childhood: An Ecological Perspective,"

was published in Japanese by the National Association of Social Workers Press. Fraser is the John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need, and the associate dean for research.



Mark Testa's book, "Fostering Accountability: Using Evidence to Guide and Improve Child Welfare Policy" was published by Oxford University Press. Testa is the Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor.

Marie Weil, Berg-Beach Distinguished Professor, and emerita faculty member **Dorothy Gamble** had a book published by Columbia University Press, "Community Practice Skills: Local to Global Perspectives."



Fraser becomes Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Welfare

By Michelle Rogers

Mark Fraser, Ph.D., was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Welfare.

The organization, established in 2009, is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high impact work that advances social good.

Fraser is the John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need, and the associate dean for research, at the UNC School of Social Work. He has authored or edited nine books and more than 100 journal articles and chapters, and is the editor-in-chief of the newly-launched Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research.

The induction event was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on April 21, 2010.



Mark Fraser

Faculty member and children's advocate Gary Shaffer dies

By Susan White

Gary L. Shaffer, Ph.D., one of the state's leading experts on social work practice and a staunch advocate for children who became a recognizable voice against the use of corporal punishment within North Carolina's public schools, died on Sept. 4, 2009. He was 62.

Shaffer, who dedicated more than half of his life to the social work field and to preparing students for social work practice, joined UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Social Work in 1986 as director of the field education program. He was later named director of the School's summer program.

Although he had been battling colon cancer for several years, the associate professor remained extremely active at UNC and within the North Carolina community, focusing much of his time and energy on international social work and the development of the social work practice within the state's public schools.

Shaffer is survived by his wife Denise; daughter Lisa; brother Gil and numerous nieces and nephews.



Gary Shaffer

Carlton-LaNey given national social work education award

By Michelle Rogers

Professor Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., was awarded the inaugural Distinguished Achievement in Social Work Education Award on April 8, 2010, from the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW).

NABSW wrote the following about Carlton-LaNey: "For over 30 years you have served with distinction as a social work educator. Your scholarship in the areas of African American social welfare history and social gerontology have been vital to preserving the story of the African American experience, highlighting the vast mutual aid efforts and institution building that took place in the Black community, and providing tangible recommendations for practitioners and scholars to build upon to further culturally competent and effective practice."



Iris Carlton-LaNey

\$1 million project connects resources to military families with developmental disabilities

By Susan White

Military families struggling to find services for their children with developmental disabilities will soon have a new network of support.

UNC's School of Social Work and the Family Support Network at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities are developing a project that aims to connect military families more directly to state and local resources, activities and services using a "one-stop" model. The federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration on Children and Families is funding the \$1 million project.

Known as "Strengthening Military Families with Children Who Have Developmental Disabilities," the project is being piloted at Camp Lejeune and will target Marine Corps service members who live off base, said **Irene Nathan Zipper**, a School of Social Work clinical professor. Zipper and **Gary Bowen**, a Kenan Distinguished Professor, are co-investigators of the five-year project.

Although lower-ranking Marines are usually required to live off the installation, such arrangements can be challenging for families who have children with special needs, Zipper and Bowen agreed. Navigating the military and civilian systems can be intimidating and frustrating, Zipper added.

"These are usually the most vulnerable families," Bowen said.

Through the Strengthening Military Families project, service agencies within the community and the military will work together to give families one primary place to turn to when they need help and assist them in quickly identifying available programs and resources, such as children's camps and assistive technology.

The project, which expects to serve 20 families in the first year and 60 by the second, began in late September and is currently focusing on establishing the program and informing families of its availability. Peer support groups will also be established.



Gary Bowen and Irene Zipper

"Parent-to-Parent support will match families who share common concerns and common experiences," Zipper said. "A family that has learned to navigate the system can be a real aid to someone who has a child with developmental disabilities and is new to the system."

As part of the project, Bowen is also developing a graduate course that will teach social work students how to work with military service members and their families. He expects the course to be offered in spring 2011.





UNC study: Emotional support crucial to helping military families deal with deployments

By Susan White

Wives of active-duty soldiers are at risk for psychological problems such as depression, loneliness and burnout, a study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has found.

However, spouses are more likely to handle stress well if they are encouraged to build stronger relationships with their friends and communities, and can potentially lower their long-term medical costs if they receive military support services — including mental health care — early, the study concluded.

“When the military services focus some of their resources and attention on getting their families ready for deployments, this clearly pays off in the readiness of their personnel for duty and can result in fewer emotional and family problems when they return home,” said UNC School of Social Work professor, **Dennis Orthner**, Ph.D. Orthner co-authored the study with **Roderick Rose**, a research associate at the school’s Jordan Institute for Families.

The report is published in the October 2009 issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Family Relations*. The study was commissioned by the U.S. Army Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command. Orthner has been providing research assistance to the Army since 1979.

Orthner said the study’s findings reinforce that on-going efforts to strengthen military families do work but more preventative programs are needed to help couples address problems before they become unmanageable.

“I think the tendency in any large system is to mobilize a mental health system in response to a crisis and then allocate to that side pretty aggressively,” he said. “What our study points out is that there really is a need to shift some portion — if not a large portion — of those dollars to early identification, so that you’re beginning to ID the risks before they become a crisis.”

The effects of combat tours on the whole family have grabbed

more public attention in recent years because of the U.S.’s engagement in two on-going conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and because of the frequency and length of deployments. Military families repeatedly deal with constant separation and reunification, forcing moms and dads, for example, to frequently adjust parental authority.

For their study, Orthner and Rose explored how well Army wives adjust psychologically when their husbands’ jobs take them away from their families. Their research was based on data the Army collected from 8,056 female spouses between September 2004 and January 2005.

About a third of the spouses were “quite distressed,” and those that were tended to be younger, have younger children and have longer periods of separation. Orthner said that was not surprising, considering the makeup of the Army.

“It has a high concentration of young couples who are just starting out their adult lives, and they’re just starting to have kids. So it’s difficult when a young soldier goes away for 12 to 18 months and leaves a wife at home with a 2-year-old or a 4-year-old.”

Still, the study found that the risks for psychological troubles are almost cut in half when spouses receive supportive services from the military, including relationship skills training, which teaches improved communication and financial management.

“These efforts are likely to pay off in less use of mental health services and potentially lower costs for medical care,” the study notes.

More longitudinal research is needed, but spouses appear to fare even better if they have a well-established network of friends and colleagues to lean on during a crisis, Orthner said. Those who do the best, he said, are more mature couples: spouses who are older, married longer and with higher salaries. Additionally, couples already in very healthy relationships are more likely to adjust well to a separation, Orthner said.

“What we’ve found in the past is that ... if you wait until after a spouse comes back to rebuild a relationship or to work on one that was already weak, then it’s too late,” he said. “You really have to think ahead about building strong relationships before they go.”



Dennis Orthner

Distinguished Alumni Award winners

2009



Bobby Boyd

Bobby Boyd, MSW '69, is from Conover, N.C. He retired in Oct. 2008 from a 30-year career as director of Catawba County Social Services.

Boyd's focus on "people, principles, performance and prevention" impacted not only the county, but also the region and the state. Under his watch, the agency developed model programs, including five residential group homes for at-risk children, school social work and teen pregnancy prevention programs, an adoption agency, a children's advocacy center, a shelter program for adult victims of neglect or abuse, a family resource center in subsidized apartments, and numerous partnerships to promote economic self-sufficiency across the county.

Boyd helped forge the first child protective service standards in the state, the first job link center in Catawba County, and the successful implementation of budget-based outcomes. In 2004, in response to the state's mental health reform, Boyd led the agency to develop Family NET, a therapeutic arm that provides individual and family mental health services, as well as prevention programming, across the county.

Boyd serves on the UNC School of Social Work's Board of Advisors and was also an adjunct professor.

His nominators described him as "dedicated, incisive and committed to excellence. His legacy is a prototype for professional social workers and a credit to the UNC School of Social Work." At his retirement, the agency staff and board established the Bobby Kenneth Boyd Endowment Fund at the UNC School of Social Work to promote leadership in public social work programs.

Ella Hobbs Craig, MSW '50, was born and raised in Gatesville, N.C., and resides in Anchorage, Alaska. Her parents placed a high value on education, which led Craig to pursue a social work degree. That effort was interrupted during World War II. Wanting to do her part, Craig accepted a position as a social worker with the Red Cross, working in military hospitals in Florida dealing with any problems the servicemen had that impacted their military service. She was eventually shipped out to the Philippines.

When Craig returned to school, the program had shifted from a public welfare orientation to a functional approach. That grounding served her well when she became a Red Cross disaster



Ella Hobbs Craig

representative, traveling all over the country in the wake of hurricanes, fires, tornadoes and floods.

Craig was asked by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to set up an office in Kodiak, Alaska. The first crisis to deal with was a tuberculosis epidemic. Whole families were sometimes eliminated, but one of the most difficult was when the parents died leaving child survivors too young to fend for themselves. Craig's group went from island to island by mail boat or floatplane — and even dogsled — picking up kids for placement in foster homes.

During the past 50 years in Alaska, she had the satisfaction of knowing that she trained many social workers.

Michelle Hughes, MSW '95, of Durham is the vice president for program services at Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. Hughes oversees the agency's professional education program, evidence-based program team, community capacity-building services and policy/systems advocacy efforts. She is a leader in the area of child welfare and foster care in the state, helping to organize both the North Carolina Foster Parent Association and Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SAYSO), an advocacy group of children in foster care who are working to improve the child welfare system for young people.

Hughes has made a commitment to share the latest research on child development and child welfare practices with practitioners across North Carolina through her training and writing, while advocating for programs in the state legislature. She has authored numerous articles and monographs on issues related to child well-being.

Through her tireless efforts, Hughes is improving the lives of children and their families by reaching out to children, families, social workers, and other child-focused professionals through her organizing, training and advocacy efforts.

She is an active leader in community organizations, serving on the boards of the Burch Neighborhood Association, Democracy North Carolina and the Common Sense Foundation. Her commitment to social change extends into all aspects of her local community and the state.



Michelle Hughes

Constance Renz, MSW '74, of Durham is a licensed clinical social worker and research instructor with the UNC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Since 1993, she has been the director of the UNC Horizons Program, which provides comprehensive outpatient and residential services to substance-addicted pregnant women and mothers and their children. The program teaches women with addictions the skills to rebuild their lives.

Renz's work broke barriers for battered women, a type of crime that formerly went unreported or unacknowledged. She led the Durham group comprised of social service and legal aid workers, activists and victims. This



Constance Renz

group merged with a group from Chapel Hill and formed the Orange-Durham Coalition for Battered Women and received a grant to fund a crisis telephone line, which later evolved into Helpline. Renz served as the director for this coalition.

During her 30-year career, she has also served as the director of the Welcome Baby program in Durham, as a child sexual abuse evaluator on the Duke Children Protection Team and as a child protective services social worker. Renz also developed and taught the family violence course at the UNC School of Social Work for over 15 years.

2010



JoAnn Swart

In addition to being named a distinguished alumna, **JoAnn McCachern Swart**, MSW '78, of Castle Hayne, N.C., was also named the 2010 Social Worker of the Year by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

While working more than 40 years as a social worker with 35 years with the New Hanover County Department of

Social Services, Swart's passion has been responding to the needs of children in the field of adoption and foster care.

She has been active in various statewide meetings, especially in the areas of adoption recruitment and legislative concerns. She has also been a valuable resource for adult adoptees searching for background information, birth parents wanting to learn about their adult adopted children and adoptive parent through support groups.

In 2002, her oldest daughter, age 22, was caught in a rip current and drowned. Swart turned her grief into a mission to educate

coastal residents and tourists about rip current safety. Swart wrote to many organizations in New Hanover County responsible for educating people who lived there or visited the area. She wrote to many rental companies urging them to provide a free pamphlet on rip currents. She also created the acronym "SCAPS," which stands for Stay Calm and Parallel Swim with the shore.

In 2003, Swart became a charter member of the Rip Current Awareness Strategies Team. RCAST's goal is to reduce the number of deaths by rip currents. In 2005, Swart was interviewed on the "Today" show, and in 2007 she made a public service announcement for the local schools' TV channel.

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Commerce National Weather Service gave her a Public Service Award for "significant services rendered for her promotion of Rip Current Awareness." The New Hanover County Commissioners recognized her in 2006 when they affirmed the Governor's Proclamation declaring the first week of June as Rip Current Safety Awareness Week. In May 2009, Swart was named the YWCA Women of Achievement recipient in the volunteer sector.

Myrna Ann Miller Wellons, MSW '96, a North Carolina women's rights and social welfare champion, was honored posthumously. She died March 1, 2010 from a catastrophic stroke at the age of 40.

At her death, she was president-elect of the board for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), North Carolina Chapter; vice-chair of the state's Diabetes Advisory Council and a board member of the Mental Health Association of North Carolina. Wellons had also served as director of government relations for the NASW's state chapter. She was a familiar face at the General Assembly advocating for child welfare, women's rights, diabetes issues and support for North Carolina families.

She was employed in corporate affairs for Lilly USA at her death and was responsible for the company's government relations in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, notably on mental health and diabetes issues.

She was especially noted for her mentoring and training of social workers throughout the state. She was a visiting lecturer at

North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work and Meredith College. It was not uncommon for her former students to call her for professional and personal advice at all hours.

In addition to her MSW, she also earned degrees from UNC in journalism and psychology (ABJM '91) and the School of Law (JD '95).

Wellons was a tireless lobbyist for her causes and worked with Democrats and Republicans on professional issues, such as title protection for social workers and public funding for diabetics.

Wellons is survived by her husband Robert, and their infant son, Christopher, both of Cary.



Myrna Wellons



Alumni update

By Michelle Rogers

1960s

Anne Gerth Logan, MSW '68, has opened a Grand Rapids, Mich., coffee and doughnut shop called "Simply Anne's" in a city corner property she's purchased. She and her husband Tom, a '72 UNC Ph.D., are 30-year residents of the area. Logan retired from Blodgett Hospital/Spectrum Health after 28 years.



R. Terry Lovelace, MSW '67, has published two free digital books, "Simple-7 Solution to Stop Smoking" and "Stress Master," available at <http://www.truthforhealthyliving.org>. Lovelace resides in Winston-Salem with his wife Judy and their dog Rosie.



Dr. William L. Pollard, MSW '69, was appointed president of Medgar Evers College. During his 40-year career, which has included illustrious positions in the public and private higher education arenas, Pollard has worked to promote public universities, garnered millions of dollars in funding to support initiatives such as faculty recruitment, and fostered crucial ties with both alumni and the community at large.

1970s



Dana Courtney, MSW '74, had a letter to the editor published in the Burlington Times News on Oct. 25, 2009, entitled "Domestic violence needs our attention full time." She is now serving on the board of directors for Family Abuse Services of Alamance County and is also a member of the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors.



Ruby DeMesme, MSW '79, wrote a paper entitled "Equipping the Federal Workforce for the Cyber Age," in which IT security plays a critical factor. DeMesme is a senior advisor to the consultancy Deloitte and a member of the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors.



Delores Evans, MSW '72, of Durham received a kidney from her adult son at UNC Hospitals after he died in November 2008. On Jan. 1, 2010, Evans honored her son and helped promote organ sharing as a participant in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., riding on the Donate Life float sponsored by OneLegacy, the Los Angeles-area organ and tissue donor services organization.



Pamela M. Kiser, MSW '77, Watts-Thompson Professor in the Department of Human Service Studies and interim dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named Elon's fourth Distinguished University Professor.



Jo Ann McCachern Swart, MSW '78, was honored on May 22, 2009, by the YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear at their 25th Annual Women of Achievement Awards. In addition, Swart was named 2010 Social Worker of the Year by NASW-NC. See related story on p. 33.

Pamela Suggs Story, MSW '78, was promoted to social work coordinator for Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, N.C., after serving as the school social worker at Westover Middle School for 15 years. She is also an adjunct social work instructor in the social work department at Fayetteville State University.

John B. Williams, MSW '73, retired from the State of Georgia after 10 years of service with the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1993. After 36 years of professional social work, Williams and his wife are looking forward to "the golden years."

1980s



Gary Bailey, MSW '84, collaborated with a colleague to research, write and publish an article in the peer-reviewed Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health. The article, "EAP Licensure: Is it Dead or Lying Dormant," addresses a topic pertinent to employees nationwide and offered an example of the hard, but often unheralded, work of Elon Counseling Services, where he is employed.



Molly Barker, MSW '89, is the founder of Girls on the Run International, a nonprofit prevention program that teaches self-respect and healthy lifestyles to preteen girls. Barker received an Ashoka Fellowship, which is enabling her dream of Girls on the Run becoming a global initiative to come to fruition. The program has launched in Canada and is now exploring expansion into Europe, Asia and Africa with over 40 countries on a waitlist.

Connie Bonebrake, MSW '86, was promoted to senior vice president of post-acute care and senior services for Carolinas HealthCare System. She resides in Charlotte.



Susan Del Grande, MSW '80, of Swansboro, was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in recognition of her "outstanding performance of duty" at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. The award is the third highest granted to civilian employees of the federal government.



Jacquelyn Gist, MSW '85, was elected to serve her sixth four-year term on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. She has now served for over 20 years. For 18 years, Gist has served as the career counselor for nonprofits and social work at UNC Career Services, where she works with many MSW students.

Deborah Marie Atkinson Gonzales, MSW '88, ACSW, LCSW, temporarily moved to Anchorage, Alaska, to work with her husband, a psychologist, in the Fort Richardson Army Mental Health Department under a temporary contract.



Paul Reavis, ACSW, LCSW, MSW '81, was honored in Virginia on May 5, 2009, as one of five recipients of the Governor's Award for Public Service. Gov. Tim Kaine presented the award in recognition of his extensive efforts in disaster shelter planning and raising public awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness.



Mick Rogers, MSW '80, earned an advanced clinical supervisor certificate from Smith College's School for Social Work. He also serves as manager of psychotherapy services at Sutter's Psychiatric Hospital. In addition, Rogers and his wife Pam Marrone (pictured) celebrated their 31st anniversary.

Jan Wood, MSW '82, was presented an award for Outstanding Contributions to Social Work in Public Health at the North Carolina Public Health Association's annual meeting on Oct. 1, 2009. Wood is a maternal health social work supervisor with Wake County's Baby Love program. Baby Love provides support services to low-income pregnant women in high-risk social situations to help them have healthy babies.

1990s



Jennifer Baddour, MSW '99, welcomed baby Lynley Baddour Snead, on Dec. 3 at 1:51 a.m. Lynley weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz.

Ennis Baker, MSW '92, is proud to announce that Orange County Head Start/Early Head Start was granted 50 new Early Head Start slots thanks to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Baker is the early childhood manager and mental health specialist.

Terrie S. Baker, MSW '96, graduated from the Psychoanalytic Institute of the Carolinas as an adult psychoanalyst. Baker is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice, providing psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in Chapel Hill.

Gary J. Engelhardt, MSW '98, LISW-S, is employed by the Cleveland, Ohio Veteran Affairs Medical Center as a clinical social worker in outpatient clinics and also serves as a field placement instructor. He works with veterans of all military eras, focusing on PTSD.

Nina Mackta, MSW '92, has lived in Rhode Island for the past 14 years and works as a school social worker. She developed a mentoring program for preschool through 12th grade students, which has garnered local and national attention and awards. She has two grown children and lives with her husband Dana, who teaches at the University of Rhode Island. "We miss our North Carolina friends and hope you are all well," said Mackta.

Lucia Merino, MSW '99, has been accepted to the doctor in psychology program at American School of Professional Psychology in San Francisco. She continues her work as a psychiatric social worker at Kaiser Permanente Adult Psychiatry Department where she enjoys working with other UNC graduates. Her focus of study will be integral aging and cross-cultural adaptation.



Lori Messinger, MSW '96, Ph.D. '99, delivered the Ron Federico Memorial Lecture at the 2010 Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference in Atlanta. The talk was entitled "Lift Every Voice: Using Music to Inspire Students to Engage in Social

Action." Messinger has also been named as a CSWE Senior Scholar for 2010-11. While on sabbatical in fall 2010, she will be conducting a research project on assessing social work students' ability to provide culturally competent practice with LGBT populations.



Johanna Reed, MSW '99, welcomed daughter Kyn-dall Chloe on Oct. 26, 2009. The family lives in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Lori A. Rolleri, MSW/MPH '97, is moving from Scotts Valley, Calif., to New York City to start a new job with Engender Health as the senior technical advisor/team lead for the Gender and Men as Partners Program. She is leading a global team to integrate a gender perspective in sexual and reproductive health programs in Africa and Asia.

David Whisnant, MSW '96, and his wife Anne have published "When the Parkway Came," the first book on the Blue Ridge Parkway for young readers. Through the couple's history consulting company, Primary Source History Services, they do contract historical research and writing for the National Park Service. For more about the book, see: <http://www.whentheparkwaycame.com>.

Jovetta Whitfield, MSW '95, was named interim social services director by the Durham County Board of Social Services. She has more than 13 years experience in social services, and serves on the Field Placement Advisory Board at the UNC School of Social Work and on the Durham System of Care Council.

2000s



Sarah Axelson, MSW '08, is engaged to long-time boyfriend Fabio Villarroel. They plan to marry in Vienna, Va., in September 2010. Axelson is the program manager for teen pregnancy prevention at Advocates for Youth in Washington, D.C.



Erin Barger, MSW '09, moved to Athens, Ga., where she serves as the director for Athens Urban Ministries, a program division of Action Ministries. She can be contacted at erinbarger@gmail.com.

M. Daniel Bennett, Jr., Ph.D.'04, received a two-year fellowship award from the Mental Health Substance Abuse in Corrections Clinical Research Training Program. The fellowship promotes research in the areas of mental health, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse with incarcerated populations.



Adriane Casalotti, MSW/MSPH '09, is the recipient of the National Association of Social Workers-North Carolina Chapter President's Award. Casalotti is currently a congressional fellow in Washington, D.C., working on health policy on Capitol Hill.



Anita Case, MSW '01, married Dr. David Meeler on July 25, 2009 and honeymooned in Ireland. They reside in Rock Hill, S.C., where she is the executive director of Catawba Care Coalition, a not-for-profit HIV organization.

Carlton Craig, Ph.D.'05, was tenured at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work and promoted to associate professor.



Alumna and School of Social Work faculty member **Dania Ermentrout**, MSW '04, and husband Dan welcomed their first child on April 6, 2009, son Asher Stone Porter Ermentrout.

Christopher J. Flanagan, MSW '05, was interviewed on the July 15, 2009 "Town Talk" radio show on WIZS-AM in Henderson, N.C. Flanagan is the recovery services administrator at Recovery Innovations in Henderson.



Rachel Foster, PhD '08, a major in the U.S. Air Force and based in San Antonio, Texas, completed a deployment to Afghanistan as a member of a Combat Stress Team.

Kerry Graves, MSW '04, was elected president of the North Carolina chapter of the Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (NCP-SAC). Its mission is to enhance the ability of professionals to respond to children and families affected by abuse and violence.



Johanna Greeson, PhD '09, has launched Johanna Greeson Consulting, a small research, evaluation and consulting firm, specializing in professional and technical services for individuals, non-profits and human service organizations.

Mark Hecker, MSW '05, graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, and has launched a new educational nonprofit, Reach, Inc., in Washington, D.C. Reach will hire and train struggling adolescent readers to be tutors in high-need D.C. elementary schools. Through this training and tutoring process, they expect both the tutors and their students to experience significant academic gains.

Allison Hicks, MSW '02, married Donald Thomas on Oct. 17, 2009, in Winston-Salem.



Megan Highsmith, MSW '01, is expecting her second child in June. She is employed at Hunter School of Social Work in Manhattan as a faculty advisor.

Joy Mischley, MSW '07, has accepted a job with Seva Yatra, a new "vol-tourism" and socially-responsible travel company based in Delhi, India.

Emily Pelino, MSW/MPH '08, was named assistant school leader for the KIPP Indianapolis College Preparatory School. She is pursuing her M.Ed. at the National-Louis University in Chicago.



Trinity Pellas, MSW '03, and husband Michael welcomed daughter Ava Joy Pellas on Jan. 27, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20 inches.

Jini Pendleton, MSW '03, LCSW, has opened a private practice in Atlanta, specializing in anxiety related problems and stress management.

Amy Salahshour Prentice, MSW '09, and **Matthew Prentice**, MSW '09, were married on May 29, 2009, in Fuquay-Varina, N.C.



Karen Randolph, Ph.D. '98, a highly regarded child welfare expert, was named the first recipient of the Agnes Flaherty Stoops Professorship in the College of Social Work at Florida State University. Randolph has been an FSU faculty member since 2003.



Karen Smith Rotabi, Ph.D. '05, an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work, was appointed to the United States Hague Commission for Intercountry Adoption (ICA). This organization operates within the Council on Accreditation and oversees agency approval under the Hague Convention as per U.S. State Department requirements. Rotabi does this as part of her volunteer service activities, and her research agenda includes intercountry adoption and global social work practice. She has carried out a number

of agency evaluations throughout the U.S. and, as a Hague Commissioner, votes on agency accreditation.

In addition, Rotabi was asked by the Guatemala Human Rights Commission to co-lead a human rights delegation to the nation in August 2009. It focused on violence against women and the "Women's Right to Live" campaign. VCU colleague **Denise Gammonley**, Ph.D. '98, participated as well.

Tim Schwantes, MSW '07, and **Anna McCullough**, MSW '07, were married on Sept. 26, 2009, in Chapel Hill.



Allison McKenney Shultz, MSW '05, and husband Patrick welcomed their first child, Parker William Shultz, on June 10, 2009.

Aaron Swart, MSW '08, is now director of membership services at the National Association of Social Workers-North Carolina Chapter.

Sabrina Williamson Sullenberger, Ph.D.'03, received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at Indiana University. Additionally, she served as the interim associate dean in the Office for Women's Affairs at Indiana University-Bloomington from Oct. 2008 to Dec. 2009.



Michelle Turner, MSW '03, is now working at the VA in a community-based outpatient clinic as a mental health therapist in Raleigh. Turner also serves as president of the UNC School of Social Work Alumni Council.

Danielle Turnage, MSW '09, moved to Gastonia, N.C., to work as a foster care social worker with the Department of Social Services.

Beth Vazquez, MSW '06, has started a new job at The Women's Center in Henderson as the director of career and legal programs. Vazquez was previously employed by Chatham County, where she worked with families and children at the Department of Social Services.



Megan Scull Williams, MSW/MSPH '05, welcomed her second child, Maren Jane, on Oct. 13, 2008. Maren joins her older sister Adele, who was born while Williams was a student. The family resides in the Triangle, and Williams is a research project manager at Duke School of Nursing. She also occasionally works for a private adoption agency, A Child's Hope.



Holly Yaeger, MSW '04, married Jason Royals on March 12 at Elijah's in downtown Wilmington, N.C. The new Mrs. Royals is also a member of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council.

In Memoriam

Eugene Anderson, Ph.D. '73, died Oct. 18, 2009, at age 74 in Johnson City, Tenn.

Cornelia Coltrane Bocchini, MSW '64, originally of High Point, died Oct. 16, 2009, in Pennsylvania at age 69.



Dorothy Elizabeth (Betty) Broder, MSW '91, of Raleigh, passed away on Sept. 20, 2009, following an extended bout with cancer.

Dorothy "Doe" Ferrell, MSW '64, of Raleigh, died on Oct. 4, 2009, at age 87.

Carmen Jean Fix, MSW '86, died peacefully on June 13, 2009, at age 77. Fix was born in Hagerstown, Md., and resided in Eden, N.C. She was retired from Southern Virginia Health Institute.

Samuel R. Fudge, MSW '63, of Chapel Hill, died May 29, 2009, at the Meadowlands Hospice, Hillsborough. He was a former School of Social Work faculty member.



Ruth Thayer Hartman, MSW '45, age 90, died June 25, 2009, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Born in Trinity, N.C., Hartman had a distinguished career spanning many decades as a medical social worker, professor, and a Lt. Commander for the U.S. Public Health Service.

James Watt Kirkpatrick, Jr., MSW '64, age 77, died Nov. 27, 2009 at his home surrounded by family.



Anne Marie Larkin McJilton, MSW '89, age 66, died June 30, 2009, of lung cancer. McJilton, of Chapel Hill, was a social worker and therapist and served on several state boards.

Gwendolyn Pendergraph Sides, MSW '68, of Spartanburg, S.C., died on July 10, 2009.

Helen Nobles Turlington, MSW '71, 89, died on Oct. 12, 2009, in Raleigh.



Myrna Miller Wellons, MSW '96, died March 1, 2010, from a catastrophic stroke at age 40. See related story on p. 33.

James Allen Wight, Sr., MSW '63, died on July 25, 2009, in Cary at age 80.



Barbara Ann Wilfong, MSW '74, 58, died March 30, 2009, at Sunrise Assisted Living in Charlotte. She spent her entire career as a social worker for the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system.

Do you have news to share?

If you have received an award, promotion, taken a new job, gotten married, or added a new member to the family, let us know. We would love to share your news with other alumni and the School of Social Work community. Please e-mail your alumni news and photos to michrog@unc.edu.

Sign up for our e-newsletter

If you aren't receiving *E-Contact*, the School's monthly online alumni newsletter, you're missing important news and events. Send an e-mail to econtact-list@unc.edu to request that you be added to our e-news list.

School receives \$250,000 annual gift to strengthen doctoral program

By Michelle Rogers

A new donation to the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will help attract and retain top graduate students.

Sam and Betsy Reeves of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., are giving an annual expendable \$250,000 gift to the University to support doctoral students at the social work school.

The doctoral program admits five to six new students annually and has a total enrollment of about 35. However, every year the school loses two to three of its top admitted applicants to other programs because UNC has not been able to guarantee them continued financial support.

Jack Richman, Ph.D., dean of the school, said the ability to offer multi-year funding at a competitive level will significantly enhance UNC's program.

"In these economically uncertain times, many applicants cannot afford to enroll in programs that do not guarantee at least four years of funding," said Richman. "This gift helps UNC attract the best and brightest in the field and produce the next generation of social work intervention researchers."



Betsy and Sam Reeves

The gift will enable the school to offer five doctoral students two years of financial support. The fellowships will cover the cost of in-state tuition, health insurance and a nine-month academic stipend. Faculty grants will help fund years three and four. In exchange, students will assist with teaching and research.

Richman said the school's doctoral students are conducting innovative research and testing interventions in a number of areas, including HIV prevention, poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, aging, health disparities, homelessness and strengthening families.

"It seems to me the most effective, efficient way to encourage a positive impact on social problems is to wonderfully train the trainers. The doctoral program at UNC's School of Social work provides this," said Sam Reeves.

A 1956 alumnus of Carolina, Reeves is the owner of Pinnacle Trading in Fresno, Calif. In 2007, the couple donated \$1 million to the UNC School of Social Work to establish the Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professorship and the Armfield-Reeves Innovations Fund.

Contact Magazine website launches

By Michelle Rogers

We are excited to announce the launch of a new website for Contact Magazine: <http://ssw.unc.edu/contact>.

Rather than providing information periodically like the printed magazine, this is a dynamic news site that is updated continuously.



The site is also where the E-Contact monthly newsletter content now resides — alumni class notes, faculty spotlights and student news.

Subscribers to our e-news list receive a monthly e-mail that details the site's new content. Followers of our Facebook and Twitter pages are notified when new stories are posted.

In addition to saving the School thousands of dollars in printing and postage costs, the new site enables us to tell our stories in a fresh, timely and more engaging way.

Site features include:

- Interactivity: Readers can post comments on news stories.
- Multimedia: Videos are included with several articles, and more to come in the future.
- Research tools: Keywords at the end of every post, and a “tag cloud” and search box on every page make it easy to search for information of interest.

Due to budget cuts, the printed magazine is now being published annually, rather than twice a year.

Garland, Weller named Outstanding Doctoral Students

By Michelle Rogers

Eric Garland and Bridget Weller were selected by the doctoral program committee to receive the 2009-10 Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. The winners were honored at a reception May 7.



Eric Garland, Ph.D. '09 Bridget Weller, Ph.D. '10

Garland received his MSW from West Virginia University in 2003 and worked as a psychotherapist until entering the Ph.D. program in fall 2006. He published 12 peer-reviewed articles, made 14 professional presentations, taught three MSW courses, and received five grants and fellowships. Garland's dissertation study is “Biopsychosocial assessment of a mindfulness-oriented cognitive intervention for alcohol dependent adults.”

In July, he will join the faculty of Florida State University.

Bridget Weller received her MSW from the University of Michigan in 2000. She was a Yale University Clinical Fellow, then entered our doctoral program in 2004. Weller has made significant contributions to social work as a Spencer Education Science and Policy Scholar at Duke, a volunteer coordinator and doctoral student board member for the Society for Social Work and Research, and through community service. The title of her dissertation is “Community capacity and behavior problems among adolescents: A contextual effects study using multilevel logistic regression.”

Weller has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at the Child and Family Study Center at Duke University Medical Center.

Winston-Salem MSW program expands

By Michelle Rogers

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work has expanded its Winston-Salem Advanced Standing master of social work (MSW) program to offer two areas of concentration: Direct Practice, and Management and Community Practice.

The Advanced Standing program is tailored to meet the needs of the working adult who has a bachelor's degree in social work. In this 20-month program, classes are held on Fridays at the Forsyth County Department of Social Services. Most students complete their field placement requirements in their home community during the work week.

A traditional MSW program is offered in Winston-Salem as well, for those with a bachelor's degree in another discipline.

To learn more, contact Tina Souders, Winston-Salem program director, at tsouders@email.unc.edu or see <http://ssw.unc.edu/programs/masters/winston/advanced>.



Clinical Lecture Series Fall 2010

Monday, September 20, 2010

Improving Psychological Flexibility Through Mindfulness-based Behavioral Therapies
Tyler Beach, LCSW

Monday, October 18, 2010

When Is It Okay to Want to Die? Ethical Considerations in Treating Depression Among Older Adults
Lea C. Watson, M.D., MPH

Monday, November 15, 2010

Assessment and Treatment Tools for Dissociative Disorders
Gary Peterson, M.D.

Two contact hours available for each lecture. All take place at the School of Social Work from noon-2 p.m. Online pre-registration is required.

Videos from many of our past lectures are posted online.

<http://ssw.unc.edu/cls>



From the Alumni President

Dear Fellow Alumni, School of Social Work Community, and Friends:

In this issue of *Contact* we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the School of Social Work. It's amazing to think of the impact and accomplishments made by the alumni, faculty, and staff of this great program over these past 90 years. Over the near-century that this program has existed, the focus and role of social work has changed and evolved as the world around us has changed. The School itself has had many different faces as deans have come and gone and the School has evolved from a small unremarkable building to the beautiful structure it is today. While there have been many outward changes over time, the commitment to strengthening individuals, families, organizations, groups and communities through socially and economically just policies and practices has consistently remained the mission and heart of this school.

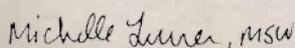
Another year is behind us and, like many years in the past, the School of Social work has much to be proud of. Despite the economic times, the School has received a very generous donation from the Reeves family that will provide funding and support to our doctoral students. This gift will allow stability in funding to continue to recruit top students and provide the financial support needed to them. The Mountain Area Distance Ed program also completed its first year in its new home at the Blue Ridge Community College campus, providing a continued opportunity for the Western part of the state to have access to the MSW program. Members of the School's faculty are also currently playing an important role in Haitian relief efforts.

Another new accomplishment this year is the online version of *Contact*, which can be found at <http://ssw.unc.edu/contact>. **Michelle Rogers** has done an amazing job creating a state-of-the-art interactive website filled with information about the School, alumni, faculty and the profession of social work. It is a great way to stay even further up-to-date with the amazing things going on within the School of Social Work community.

I feel honored to have been able to serve as president of the Alumni Council these past two years and value the opportunity to stay involved with such a great institution. I urge you also to stay connected with the School through continuing education offerings, being a mentor or field instructor, serving on the Alumni Council, or by letting us know about the important work that you are doing every day in your communities.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Sincerely,



Michelle Turner '03



2009-10 Alumni Council

Officers

Michelle Turner '03, President
Mark Sullivan '02, President-Elect
Toby Hoffer '97, Secretary

Representatives

Jennifer Baddour '99
Ebon Freeman-James '02
Tracy Hamilton '05
Jodi Martin '05
Keith McAdam '07
Amily McCool '03
Courtney Merchant '08
Karen Rotabi '05
Holly Royals '04
Annanora Short '01
Barbara Stelly '83
Christine Tronnier '06
Tamika Williams '97

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Mary Sue Cherney '84
Dana Courtney '74
Alan Ellis '96
Julia Gaskell '85
Lyn Green '81
Bill Lamb '74
Leslie Lovett '92
Janice McNeely '71
Jennifer Parker '90
Greg Perkins '03
Matt Sullivan '97

Visit our online news magazine at <http://ssw.unc.edu/contact>



The screenshot shows the Contact Magazine website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The page features a dark blue header with the 'Contact magazine' logo and the UNC School of Social Work logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Faculty, Students, Alumni, and Going to the School. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Main Article:** 'New Web site combines social work, criminal justice' with a sub-headline 'Social work has long been defined as a profession dedicated to helping vulnerable children, adults and families. Yet those caught up in the criminal justice system, including juveniles, are not always remembered as part of this same vulnerable network. But a new web site, Social work & Criminal Justice, aims to encourage and promote research, education [...]'
- Recent Stories:** A list of five articles including 'School receives \$10M gift to strengthen doctoral program', 'Gonzalez celebrates citizenship', 'Fraser named Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Welfare', and 'SSW student's research could advance debate over paralyzing in Turkey'.
- Multimedia:** A section titled 'STRONG Couples STRONG Children' with a video player and a 'Strong Couples' TV spot seeking participants for Dr. Anne Jeeves' project.
- Other Faculty Stories:** A section titled 'Social work meets social media' with a sub-headline 'Researchers, social workers champion benefits of blogs, Twitter' and a quote from Anna Scheyett.
- Archives:** A section with links for March 2010 and February 2010.
- Links:** A section with links for Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and UNC School of Social Work.
- Recent Comments:** A section with comments from Sherry Marger and L. Harris on a conference.

The browser window also shows the address bar with the URL 'http://www.unc.edu/contact/' and the page title 'Contact Magazine | News from the UNC School of Social Work'.