

Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2011

Doing **more** with **less**

School focuses on
progress despite
economic challenges





From the Dean...

Our cover story in this issue of *Contact* is especially timely — how our School is coping with ever-deepening budget cuts. I'm sure you're aware of the severe cuts public education has undergone in North Carolina during the past few years.

We are dealing with the economic realities, and I'm proud to say that our School is not only soldiering on, we're progressing. Sometimes challenges present an opportunity to discover new ways of accomplishing goals, to innovate — and that is what we are doing.

You'll read in the lead article (p. 4) several examples of faculty who are taking us on new, exciting paths.

Our School aims to be a leader in finding innovative and sustainable solutions to multi-faceted social problems. We're actively pursuing new public-private partnerships and entrepreneurial endeavors, including developing tools with market potential.

And our international reach continues to grow. The School's collaboration with China continues, and this year we established

connections in Sweden, India, Kenya and South Africa that have already led to exciting opportunities for faculty and students.

Our faculty are doing incredibly important work in raising funds for research, and by doing so, enhance our teaching and public service. Several have recently won very competitive research grants, including **Betsy Bledsoe, Mimi Chapman, Gina Chowa, Trenette Clark, Gary Cuddeback, Michal Grinstein-Weiss and Irene Zipper.**

Mark Testa continues to be a national leader in foster care policy, and is developing a workshop series on child welfare. Look for more information to come on this exciting project.

We welcomed a new assistant professor in July, **Susan Snyder**, who recently completed her doctorate at UCLA. Her area of interest is child welfare practice and macro policy, and she has over ten years of experience in the field.

Three faculty, however, are moving on — **Anna Scheyett, Melissa Grady and Kelly Reath.** After two decades of being a

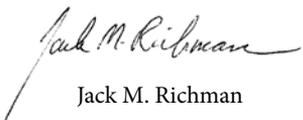
part of our School, Anna will become dean of the University of South Carolina's College of Social Work. Melissa is relocating to Washington, D.C., and Kelly is becoming the BSW program director at East Tennessee State University. They will be greatly missed.

I'm happy to announce that faculty member **Joelle Powers** has agreed to succeed Anna as associate dean for academic affairs.

As you'll see throughout this issue, our students, faculty, staff and alumni are accomplishing great things despite challenging times.

Our applicant numbers continue to set record levels. We are attracting a diverse student body and some of the best and brightest graduate students in the state and the nation.

With perseverance and your support, we will continue to succeed in our mission of teaching, research and service.



Jack M. Richman

Contact

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Doing **more** with less

Facing another year of deep budget cuts, School focuses on progress, potential and finding new ways of doing business

By Susan White

Throughout the spring, state lawmakers scrambled to fill an estimated \$2.4 billion shortfall and warned universities across the UNC system that budget cuts of 14 percent or more would be needed to help fill the gap. On July 7, the UNC Board of Governors announced that UNC-Chapel Hill would be among the hardest hit of the 17 campuses, with a budget cut of nearly 18 percent. Although such a decrease in funding will be difficult to absorb, at UNC's School of Social Work, leaders are determined to focus on progress and potential.

Despite the current budget picture, the School remains committed to attracting and retaining a high caliber of students, said **Dean Jack M. Richman**. Furthermore, faculty members are still pursuing creative and innovative research projects aimed at solving pressing social problems. School researchers are also exploring partnerships with nonprofits, non-governmental organizations and the private sector as part of a greater effort to develop more sustainable funding.

"Yes, we're paring down, but we're not falling down," Richman said. "There are still many positive things going on here, and so many people still want to be here. I know we'll weather through this."

Annual state funding for the School has remained generally flat for the last three years. Of the School's total \$18 million budget, about \$5 million, or 28 percent, comes from recurring state dollars. Much of the remainder comes from faculty members who bring in state, federal and foundation funding to support research and training initiatives; private gifts from alumni and friends also support the School.

Facing a potential \$750,000 cut for 2011-12, Richman announced in February that the School is suspending two of its four distance education Master of Social Work programs. No new students will be enrolled this fall in the Mountain Area or Winston-Salem Advanced Standing programs, both of which targeted working professionals. Current students will be allowed to complete their study next year. Because of economic uncertainty, it's unclear if the programs will be reinstated.

"The School has been providing distance education programs in North Carolina for over 30 years," Richman said in a letter to faculty members and staff in February. "I do not relish making these reductions in our service to the state...."

The decision to defer the programs was difficult, Richman said, especially with the School facing other significant sacrifices, including another year of higher student tuition and fees and no pay raises for faculty and staff.

"There's no doubt that the whole way we do things is being challenged," he said.

However, the budget cuts will not erode the School's core academic mission, Richman stressed. There remains much to be proud of including a national ranking that keeps UNC's School of Social Work among the Top 10 graduate schools in the country. Even with the most recent increase in tuition and fees, the School still offers one of the more affordable MSW programs in the nation—an estimated \$9,946 for in-state students and \$25,382 for out-of-state students.

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Josh Hinson is helping design a new master's certificate program for social work with immigrant populations

Record numbers apply

Student recruitment also continues to thrive. About 500 applications were received for next academic year alone. Of the third or so students accepted, several have been awarded highly competitive UNC academic scholarships and fellowships that will provide significant financial support, said **Anna Scheyett**, the School's associate dean for academic affairs.

"I think this clearly demonstrates that even though we've been in a shrinking economic time, we're still getting the best students who can compete across campus," she said.

Donations help

Generous private donations remain vital for supporting faculty research and attracting and retaining top students. The School received three more such gifts last year — an unrestricted gift of \$25,000 from **Miriam McFadden**, a former social worker and a member of the School's board of advisors, to support faculty; a \$250,000 annual donation from **Sam and Betsy Reeves** of Florida, to support doctoral students in social work; and \$100,000 from **Pansy Morton** of Raleigh, to endow a scholarship that honors her late husband. The Morton scholarship will be awarded in 2013 to a rising final year MSW student who is interested in direct practice with clients with mental illness.

New certificate program in the works

The School continues to invest in its curriculum by offering students more choices, including online courses, Richman said. Faculty members are also considering a new graduate certificate program in immigrant populations. The certificate would help to ensure that social work students who are interested in working with immigrants are better prepared to do so, said **Josh Hinson**, a clinical instructor who is helping to design the certificate program. Such expertise is especially needed in North Carolina, where Asian and Hispanic populations continue to grow, he said.

"There is a huge need for social workers who can work with immigrant populations in all areas — mental health, policy, community development and organizing," Hinson said. "But research shows that there are not enough social workers who are competent to work with specific populations and to meet this need."

Expanding our international reach

Over the past few years, efforts to enhance student opportunities abroad have intensified to meet an increasing interest in international social work. This summer, the School hosted its seventh study abroad trip to South Africa. Last winter, more than two dozen students and faculty members participated in the School's first study abroad trip to India.

Continued success, Richman added, also depends on an exchange of ideas, which the School is promoting through new collaborations with the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) in Pune, India, and with the School of Health, Care and Social Welfare at Mälardalen University in Västerås, Sweden. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with the universities last year and will enable two UNC social work students per semester — four students per year — to study at the partner universities. Students at MIT and at Mälardalen will have the same opportunity at Carolina. The partnerships also enable faculty members from the participating universities to work together on research, grants, and other projects.

"We do have a very bold international agenda, but we know that we need to extend our reach in the world," Richman said.

Increasing the School of Social Work's footprint nationally and internationally is part of an effort to meet the University's challenge for more bold innovative thinking. UNC Chancellor **Holden Thorp** issued that call in response to the creation of President Barack Obama's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



Thorp is a member of the panel, which has encouraged universities to explore better ways of commercializing campus research and ideas to help create more jobs and improve the economy.

However, in the field of social work, such a quest isn't so much about job creation as it is about identifying and solving social problems on a larger scale. At the School, many faculty members are already developing solutions to tackle pressing issues such as addiction, poverty, and family violence. Many are also investigating greater ways to share their research knowledge by collaborating with nonprofits, non-governmental organizations and the business community. (See related stories, "School of Social Work teams up with Carolina for Kibera for help Africa's poor" and "Faculty testing new solutions to help people save money, exit poverty" on pages 12-13.)

Still, social work researchers generally have been reluctant to embrace commercialization as part of their work. In such a challenging economy, everyone must be open to new ideas, Scheyett said.

"Being at the table is important rather than sticking our heads in the sand," she said. "In general, I think the traditional models of higher education are weakening — everything is changing. We're being asked for more accountability, and federal funding is dwindling. The traditional mechanisms are just thinning, so we need to think about doing things differently."

Michael Lambert is creating an online tool practitioners can use to evaluate emotional well-being in minority adolescents and adults





Sheryl Zimmerman is developing a website that will enable consumers to research assisted living facilities

Faculty developing tools with market potential

School Professor **Michael Lambert** has been on the cutting edge of this new frontier for a while. Lambert has spent much of his research career developing measures that address the social, behavioral and emotional functioning in children, adults and families. He is currently working with a Minnesota company to develop an online psychological screening tool that he hopes to eventually market to practitioners as a resource for better identifying behavioral problems and emotional well-being in minority children and adults. Such new testing tools are needed, he said, because most existing measures do not consider cultural values and differences — a challenge Lambert recognized early in his training while working with adults and children in English-speaking Caribbean nations.

“Most of the measures that are currently used — the tasks or questionnaires — are designed within the United States largely by white, middle-class professionals,” said Lambert, who has helped develop about a dozen new measures. “I’m not saying there’s anything wrong with that, but they develop the standards for these measures primarily by talking to individuals who are from the white majority group.”

These standards are then considered the norm for society that “all must follow,” including children and families of color, Lambert said. “It’s not only unfair to say that the standards of one population is the healthiest and best standard, but in doing that, you are not figuring out what the strengths are in the other population that the majority could use.”

Lambert’s work is unusual because most researchers do not have the expertise, time, or desire to develop new psychological measures, he said. Potentially, that means there is a huge market for any products he creates.

As a researcher who works to improve the quality of life of older adults, **Sheryl Zimmerman** is learning to appreciate the value of such entrepreneurship. Zimmerman, a UNC distinguished professor and director of aging research at the School of Social Work, has published studies for years that focus on the health and well-being of adults in assisted living residences. Yet, she wondered if she and her research team were doing enough to ensure that older adults and their families are sufficiently informed to choose a residence that meets their needs. Then she applied and was accepted to the UNC Kenan-Flagler “Launching the Venture” program, which helps faculty, students and staff develop commercialization strategies for technologies, devices or ideas. Now, Zimmerman is starting to see how her work can make a bigger difference.

Through the UNC program, she and her colleagues have made great strides in developing an online website to help consumers compare the services offered at the nearly 40,000 licensed assisted living residences across the country. Unlike nursing homes, which must follow federal regulations, assisted living residences are regulated by each state, so services and care varies within and across states. Thus, choosing the right assisted living residence can be confusing, time consuming and at times frustrating, Zimmerman said.

The social work professor hopes to ease the process with the online database and website.

“Using valid and reliable measures, assisted living providers voluntarily submit a detailed profile of their physical structure, support services and pricing plans to our team,” Zimmerman said, describing the product. “This information is built into a database that consumers can access — for a sliding fee — to objectively compare options and identify a top five list of choices that matches their wants and needs.”

The entrepreneurial venture has helped Zimmerman to consider how to get “information most directly to the people who need it.”

“That’s not the way researchers generally think,” she added.

Pursuing public-private partnerships

School professor **Gary Nelson** has long been a proponent of social entrepreneurship and sustainable development. An associate director of the Jordan Institute for Families, Nelson is also a co-founder of the Institute for Sustainable Development and teaches courses on social enterprise, entrepreneurship and sustainability.

There has never been a better time for the School to actively pursue public-private partnerships, Nelson said. For example, the Jordan Institute’s Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES) is reviewing and helping to expand a training curriculum for a home health care provider that employs thousands of caregivers around the world. These caregivers assist seniors in their homes with day-to-day activities, such as light housekeeping and preparing meals. CARES is working with the corporation to enhance training for caregivers who work closely with clients with dementia.

The partnership enables the School to address a community need and to establish a potential new source of revenue. Similar business-minded efforts will need to become the norm across campus, especially if state dollars continue to dwindle, Nelson said.

“Everything in order to live has to diversify, so the School has to diversify to thrive,” he said. “That means diversify audiences, money, everything. Things must change to accommodate a different way of doing business.”

Gary Nelson’s group is helping a major home healthcare employer enhance training for caregivers of seniors with dementia



School collaborating with universities in Sweden, India and China

By Susan White

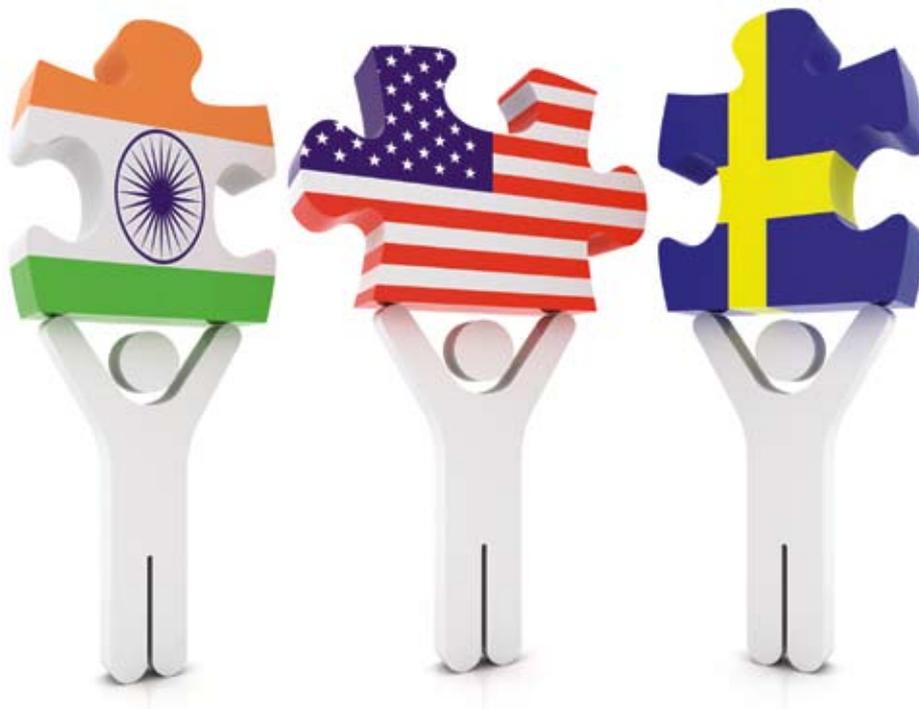
School of Social Work students and faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill now have more opportunities to study abroad and collaborate with international peers on research and other academic activities.

Late last year, the School signed “memorandums of understanding (MOUs)” to create graduate student exchange programs with the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) in Pune, India, and with the School of Health, Care and Social Welfare at Mälardalen University in Västerås, Sweden. These new agreements enable UNC to send up to two social work students per semester — four students per year — to study at the partner universities. Students at MIT and at Mälardalen have the same opportunity to study at UNC.

The partnerships, which also enable faculty members from the participating universities to work together on research, grants, and other projects, are among a host of collaborative agreements that the School has developed in recent years or is currently working to complete. In 2008, the School signed an MOU that promotes similar exchanges with the School of Social and Public Administration at East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai. Partnerships with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India, and with a university in South Africa are currently being developed.

All of these alliances enhance the School’s “foothold in another part of the world,” and offer much potential, said School of Social Work Dean **Jack M. Richman**.

“It says to faculty and students that if you’re interested, for example, in Swedish policy or if you’re interested in the impact of healthcare in other countries and what we might learn, here’s an opportunity to go over there and study or to develop opportunities to collaborate.”





The exchange programs with MIT and at Mälardalen present an attractive incentive for students: no out-of-state tuition. Instead, students enroll and pay tuition to their home institutions and then work with an academic advisor to determine a program of study or research at the exchange university. Course credits toward the students' degrees are still awarded by their home institutions.

The School's budding relationship with India began taking shape about two years ago as more students expressed interest in studying social issues from a broader world perspective. Last winter, more than two dozen students and faculty members traveled to India for the School's first study abroad trip there (see story on p. 10). The experience gave participants a chance to learn more about India's culture and political and economic systems, including the challenges of addressing severe poverty in the world's largest democracy. The exchange program with MIT enhances opportunities for students to learn even more about the country's history and social policies, Richman said.

The collaboration with Mälardalen builds on connections that Carolina established more than 10 years ago through the "Transatlantic Consortium on Early Childhood Intervention." Rune Simeonsson, professor of school psychology and early childhood education at UNC's School of Education, was the principal investigator for that project, which enabled students from Mälardalen and UNC to attend three-week institutes at their partner universities. **Irene Nathan Zipper**, clinical professor at the School of Social Work, worked with Simeonsson on the project and in 2000, she served as a guest professor at Mälardalen.

The exchange program with Sweden gives UNC students a chance to study within a country that has maintained one of the most generous state-run welfare systems in the world. "By visiting programs and meeting students whose social system is so different from ours, our students can reexamine their assumptions about how social systems operate," said Zipper, who helped spearhead discussions on the MOU. UNC also has much to offer visiting students and faculty, added **Mark Testa**, the School of Social Work's Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professor.

"There is the expectation from our Swedish colleagues that they can also learn from experiences in the United States," said Testa, who studied at Sweden's University of Stockholm in 1973, and helped negotiate the MOU with Mälardalen. Students and faculty may be particularly interested in exchanging ideas that address the challenges of immigration, Testa said.



Jack Richman



Mark Testa



Irene Nathan Zipper



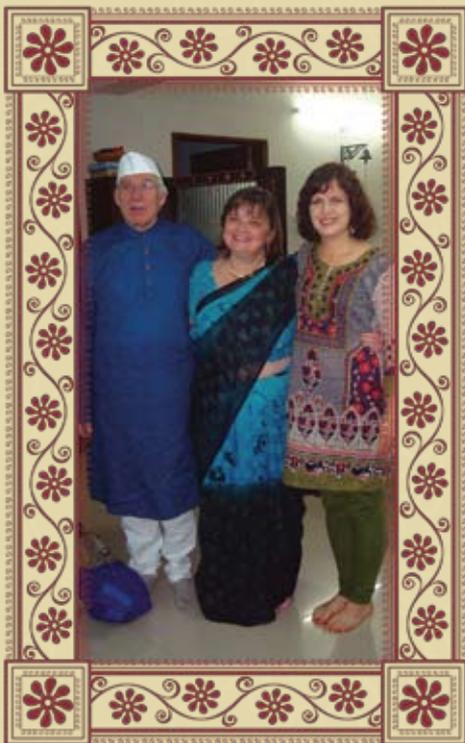
In January 2011, Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, president of Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) in India, signed the UNC agreement.



In November 2010, the School welcomed two social work professors visiting from Sweden's Mälardalen University, Drs. Ana-Lena Almqvist (pictured) and Martha Kesthely.

Exploring social work and culture in INDIA

By Susan White



Faculty members Dan Hudgins, Rebecca Brigham and Betsy Bledsoe in India

After a rocky weather-related start, more than two dozen students and faculty members landed in India over the winter holidays for a two-week educational tour of the country's culture, system of social work and evolving economy.

The Dec. 26 through Jan. 8 trip was the School of Social Work's first study abroad experience to India and included 28 participants, 14 of whom were from UNC's social work program. The remaining included four Carolina undergraduate students and others from universities across the country.

Although an East Coast blizzard slightly delayed travel plans, participants remained in great spirits and were equally enthusiastic about studying in the world's largest democracy, said **Dan Hudgins**, a School clinical instructor and one of the program's leaders.

"I think there was a lot of interest in this trip because we've never done it before and because I think people recognize that India, like China, is one of the emerging powers in the world," Hudgins said.

Much of the trip, which included travel to Mumbai, Pune, Jaipur and Ahmednagar in the state of Maharashtra, was divided into morning workshops followed by afternoon visits to civil society organizations (CSOs). Host universities — TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Government, and the Centre for Studies in Rural Development (Institute of Social Work & Research) — offered lectures to strengthen participants' understanding of India's ancient and modern history, religion and economics.

"The one thing I was very impressed with was how open everybody was about India's problems," Hudgins noted. "There was no attempt to cover up the challenges they have — the environmental problems they face, the legacy of the caste system and the rapid change in the structure of families."

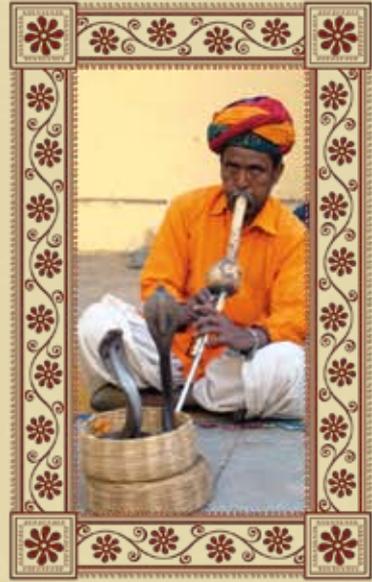
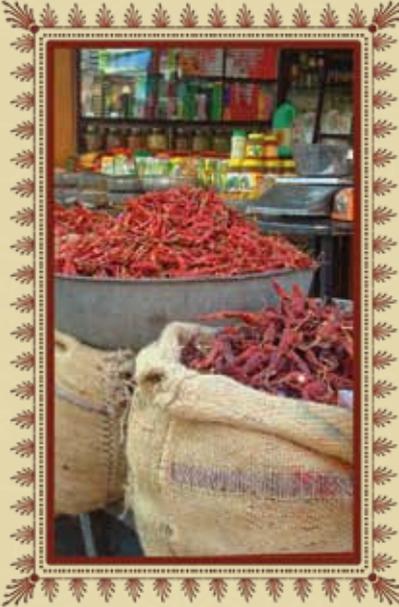
The study abroad trip and others to come are part of a growing academic partnership the School hopes to forge with India's universities. While at MIT, School of Social Work leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the institute as part of an agreement to collaborate on international research and to create opportunities for faculty and student exchanges. Other universities expressed interest in partnering with the School as well, said **Rebecca Brigham**, the director of the School's field education program and a study abroad leader.

"I really think this trip strengthened our commitment to the universities because they saw that we are very serious about working with them," she said.

A significant portion of the trip was dedicated to India's system of social work. Stu-

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Slum in Nairobi, Kenya

School of Social Work teams up with Carolina for Kibera to help Africa's poor

By Susan White

For 10 years, Carolina for Kibera (CFK), an international nonprofit affiliated with UNC's Center for Global Initiatives, has worked closely with individuals, children and families in Nairobi, Kenya, to improve their access to healthcare, education and employment. UNC faculty from the School of Social Work teamed up with the humanitarian organization this summer to begin exploring how to help Kibera's youth increase their financial stability.

Gina Chowa, an assistant professor at the School, is directing the joint venture, which will focus on using the programs and services that CFK already operates to assist young people in building assets. Founded by a UNC student and Kenyans in 2001, CFK oversees a youth sports program, a medical clinic, a reproductive health and women's rights center, and a waste management program in Kibera, East Africa's largest slum.

With the asset development project, UNC researchers hope to determine whether helping Kibera's youth accumulate wealth — such as savings, livestock, household goods and home and land ownership — will further strengthen their long-term security. Such a project unites CFK and the School “for a common purpose and harnesses our strengths,” said Leann Bankoski, CFK's executive director.

“CFK is rooted in the community of Kibera with a mission to develop leaders and alleviate poverty by equipping the community with tools to catalyze change from within,” Bankoski said. “Working alongside the School of Social Work, I truly believe that we can deepen and improve our work in the community by translating the academic mission and research discoveries of the School to actionable, sustainable change.”

Studies have shown that without assets, individuals and families think less optimistically about their futures, said Chowa, whose primary research focuses on building youth capital in developing countries. Families also lack a needed buffer during difficult times, such as when a parent becomes

sick or loses a job. Such challenges are pronounced in Kibera, where parents raise their children on an average of \$1.25 a day, Chowa explained.

“Given the crushing poverty they experience, these families must sacrifice things like school fees and doctor's visits that impact their children's health, education and overall well-being,” she said. “Without adequate resources, youth who call Kibera, ‘home,’ are left with little hope for their future.”

However, programs that incorporate economic empowerment with youth development initiatives have shown promise, Chowa said. For example, in a 2010 co-authored study, Chowa found that young adults in Uganda who received “culturally tailored financial education, microenterprise training, HIV/AIDS prevention and management training, and 1-to-1 savings matches had greater financial assets, total wealth and net worth” compared to those who did not participate in the study.

CFK could employ similar strategies and tools to assist Kibera's youth, but UNC researchers say they first must learn more about the barriers that young people face in accumulating such capital. Chowa traveled to Kibera in June to begin exploring these challenges. Anna Scheyett, the School's associate dean for academic affairs, is assisting with the study and will help with qualitative analyses of interviews with youth, parents, family members, CFK staff, financial institutions and others.

“We need to start where they are,” Chowa said. “So we're not going there to introduce something (new) but to find out what they need and build on that and enhance their capacity within their programs.”



Gina Chowa



Anna Scheyett

Continued on p. 15

Faculty testing new solutions to help people save money, exit poverty

By Susan White

Historically, foreign aid and government welfare programs have focused on offering financial assistance to those in need. But at UNC's School of Social Work, faculty members **Gina Chowa** and **Michal Grinstein-Weiss** are challenging traditional ideas for addressing poverty in developing countries and economic inequality issues across the United States. Although the researchers target different audiences, employ separate strategies and have distinct long-term goals, each is exploring innovative solutions that are designed to help low-income individuals and families build assets of their own.

An international approach to alleviating poverty

Chowa has been pursuing a progressive way of addressing poverty for nearly 20 years. Today, her primary research focuses on building youth capital in developing countries. She is co-principal investigator of "YouthSave," a landmark global research study funded by a \$12.5 million grant from The MasterCard Foundation. The five-year project focuses on how and why youth in the countries of Ghana, Colombia, Kenya, and Nepal save money and potential ways to increase their access to financial services. The assistant professor is particularly interested in learning how accumulating savings impact a youth's educational, economic, psychosocial, physical and mental well-being.

"So in the international arena, we're not looking at savings as a panacea," Chowa explained. "We're looking at whether building assets improves the youths' overall livelihoods." (See

related story on Chowa's partnership and project with Carolina for Kibera, p.12)

Four organizations are collaborating on the YouthSave project: Save the Children, New America Foundation, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGap), and the Center for Social Development (CSD) at Washington University at St. Louis. Chowa, who earned her MSW and Ph.D. from George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, has worked closely over the years with YouthSave's principal investigator, Michael Sherraden, CSD's founder and director.

Chowa's part of the study began last year in Ghana, where she is working to enroll 6,000 seventh, eighth and ninth grade students in YouthSave. One goal is to determine whether low-income youth are more likely to open and contribute to a financial savings account if they have easier access to banking services, such as through cell phone applications and schools.

Chowa also hopes to learn if youth who save are more likely to go on to secondary school and college. Although the government pays tuition for students attending primary and junior high school, these subsidies are eliminated once a child reaches high school age. As a result, many low-income families cannot afford to pay for their child's education — a reality that can further stigmatize the poor, she said.

"Someone recently told me that being in a boarding school automatically tells people around you how rich you are," Chowa said. "So if you can't go to a boarding school, people automatically know that you're low income."

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Through YouthSave, Chowa and her research partners hope to persuade banks to consider low-income people as potential clients, ensuring that those with little income have the same access to opportunities that those with higher incomes have.

“Financial institutions need to understand that if they start with low-income people, they will not make an immediate profit, but they will see results later,” Chowa said. “If they bank the unbanked and these new clients get into the culture of saving with a formal financial institution, and if these kids are able to go higher with their education and get employment and contribute to the nation, they will have kept them as clients and they will be profitable down the road.”



Michal
Grinstein-Weiss

Encouraging Americans to Save

Every year, millions of American taxpayers receive income tax refunds that for some, can amount to a financial windfall. Many will spend these dollars on vacations, clothing, electronics and everyday expenses. But a new research project co-lead by associate professor Michal Grinstein-Weiss, aims to encourage taxpayers — especially low and moderate-income households — to save part or all of their tax refunds.

Duke University and Intuit, the makers of TurboTax software, are collaborating with UNC on the intervention project, “Refund to Savings,” which would offer taxpayers easy one-click access to financial savings products when they file their taxes electronically.

Typically, electronic tax filers are asked whether they prefer to have their refund dollars returned as a cashable check or automatically deposited into a checking account. With Refund to Savings, taxpayers would be prompted to direct all or a portion of their money into a savings or retirement account. If necessary, the financial tool would also guide filers through the steps of creating such an account first.

Developing the prompts for the intervention are vital to the project’s success, explained **Andréa Taylor**, a School research instructor and asset building program manager. Following the principles of behavior economics, researchers are first investigating the factors that are most effective in compelling individuals to save.

“We’re really trying to figure out what people are looking for in a savings tool and how they might save their money,” said research assistant **Krista Holub**. “Is it talking about kids going to college or saving for retirement or a number of different other scenarios?”

Once those motivations are better understood, a product will be designed and embedded within TurboTax that encourages asset building and simplifies the savings process, Taylor added. Researchers plan to launch the savings tool by 2013.

“We’re really hoping to reduce all the barriers that make it complicated or that prevent us from saving,” Taylor said. “We’re trying to make saving so easy and so streamlined that you don’t even have to think about it. You just click a button and it happens.”

The financial intervention is being developed at a time when fewer and fewer workers are setting aside any savings or investments. According to the Washington, D.C.-based Employee Benefit Research Institute, 27 percent of workers last year said that they had less than \$1,000 in savings, up from 20 percent in 2009. Overall, more than half of workers reported that, excluding their home and any benefit plan, they had less than \$25,000 in savings and investments.

Perhaps more troubling are the percentage of Americans who are unprepared for a financial emergency, Taylor said. For example, in a recent paper co-authored by researchers from George Washington University School of Business, Princeton University and Harvard Business School, nearly half of Americans reported that they would not be able to come up with \$2,000 in 30 days if needed.

“This is really concerning because on average, across all income groups, people noted that they had about \$2,000 in unexpected expenses every year,” Taylor said. “And the top two causes were car repair and health care.”

Long-term, the researchers see their savings tool potentially as an affordable option that could influence other low-cost savings products aimed at helping all American households build assets. Unlike current Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), the Refund to Savings tool would also offer participants more flexibility with their savings.

IDAs, which are a matched savings account program, enable low-income residents to save for a down payment on a house, college tuition or a start-up business. IDAs can be expensive because the programs are funded by federal and state grants and encourage savings by matching — often at a rate of triple or more — every dollar a participant sets aside. Participants must also receive credit counseling, enroll in financial literacy classes and work with a homeownership counselor, also costly efforts.

The Refund to Savings product is very inexpensive to administer because tax filers control if they want to save, how much they do save and how they spend their money, Taylor said. Long-term, the goal is to persuade individuals to take advantage of every opportunity they have to invest in their financial future.

“What we’re ultimately trying to determine is, ‘Can we actually alter people’s savings habits?’” Taylor added.



A new tool will enable taxpayers to have all or part their refunds directed into a savings or retirement account

Carolina for Kibera, continued from p. 12

The partnership comes on the heels of the recent release of a memoir by CFK co-founder and UNC alumnus, Rye Barcott. Barcott began a national tour in late March to promote his book, “It Happened on the Way to War: A Marine’s Path to Peace” (Bloomsbury).

The partnership — also one of the firsts with a UNC graduate school — is a natural fit for the School of Social Work, Scheyett added.

“The mission and vision of Carolina for Kibera are so in accord with those of social work. The program is about empowerment and community and tapping into strengths of vulnerable and disenfranchised people,” she said. “The collaboration is a perfect match, and truly exciting.”

Chowa and Scheyett also hope the collaboration will lead to other cooperative research and training opportunities in

Kenya, including student and faculty exchanges with non-governmental agencies and the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University. The faculty members started some of those discussions during the June trip.

“If we can exchange with other social workers across the world, then we can learn from them, and they can learn from us,” Chowa said.



Exploring social work and culture in India, continued from p. 10



Rachel Nordberg '11 visits women in Ahmednagar, India

dents and faculty members visited some of the country’s CSOs to learn first-hand how these organizations are addressing child welfare, poverty, mental health, homelessness, commercial sex trafficking and human rights issues.

Over the course of their travels, partici-

pants visited the Residential School for Blind Girls; Ekalavya Nyasa, a residential facility for the street children of commercial sex workers; Maher, a residential agency for traumatized women and their children; Apala Ghar, an old age home, orphanage and rural training center; and Shelter Associates, a community development agency of architects and social workers that is using Google Maps to identify slums in India and to connect residents to resources.

All of the organizations were inspiring, said Jennie Dickson, a rising second-year student in the School’s Triangle Distance Education Program. “Even with few resources and overwhelming need, the human spirit is so strong and resilient.”

The broad itinerary was designed to give students and faculty a complete picture of India, including its overwhelming beauty and severe poverty, Brigham said.

“India is a huge country of contrasts,” she said. “The people are beautiful, the colors are amazing, the architecture and the history and the culture are so fascinating, and then there’s the poverty. You see women out in rural areas doing their laundry on rocks next to rivers where they bathe. You see the slums, and it’s right there, and you’ve got to deal with it.”

One of the most memorable moments occurred in a rural village in Ahmednagar. There, participants learned how faculty and students from the master of social work program at the Centre for Studies in Rural Development have been working for

30 years to help transform the village into a successful farming community.

“We spent an entire afternoon in this village,” Brigham said. “We lunched with the villagers, we saw their schools, and we toured their homes. For them, it seemed as though it was a fun way of introducing culture to our students.”

Such an immersion also showed participants that even though India is still developing, the country has much to offer, added **Betsy Bledsoe**, an assistant professor at the School.

“The great thing about the trip is it wasn’t something that we looked at, ‘What can we offer them?’ We really went with an idea of partnering and an idea of what we could learn from them. I think many of our students came away with valuable insights into how practice in the U.S. and policy in the U.S. could benefit from what’s being done in India.”

For **Sarah Smith**, a second-year student in the School’s Mountain Area Distance Education Program, the entire trip was “educational, exciting, eye-opening and life changing.”

“I learned first-hand that social justice issues do not discriminate among cultures,” she said. “Each culture (and country) has its challenges and strengths. Each culture and country has something beautiful and beneficial to offer, and we are one another’s best teachers and best resources.”

To show their appreciation for all of the host agencies, students offered monetary gifts amounting to about \$500 each. Students raised the money through sales of baked goods, jewelry and T-shirts as part of a required service project for the study abroad program.

With such a successful experience behind them, School officials have already begun to think about and plan for the next trip, Brigham said.

“I think we provided a very meaningful educational experience to our students,” she said. “I believe that our relationships with our university partners are strengthened significantly and that there are realistic opportunities for us to partner with agencies and universities in India down the road.”

Nation's first rural youth violence prevention center launches with \$6.5 million grant

By Susan White

An interdisciplinary team of UNC researchers, led by School of Social Work Professor **Paul Smokowski** has been awarded a nearly \$6.5 million federal grant to support a five-year project that includes the creation of a center to provide community support and solutions for preventing and reducing youth violence in Robeson County, N.C.



Paul Smokowski

The North Carolina Academic Center for Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention joins three similar U.S. centers in larger metropolitan areas. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the centers were established under the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control following the 1999 tragedy at Columbine High School.

North Carolina's center will be the nation's first rural Youth Violence Prevention Center and will serve one of the most ethnically diverse rural counties in the United States. Robeson County has a majority-minority population; more than 68 percent of the county's 129,000 residents are Native American, African American and Latino.

The center is a collaborative partnership between the UNC School of Social Work, the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC), and community agencies in Robeson County, including the Robeson County Health Department, the nonprofit Center for Community Ac-

tion, and Public Schools of Robeson County. Smokowski, the project's principal investigator, will direct the center with help from Co-Directors **Natasha K. Bowen** from the School of Social Work, the Rev. Mac Legerton, executive director and founder of the Center for Community Action, and **Martica Bacallao** from UNC-Greensboro.

"The point of the center is to combine and build on existing community assets and bring new resources and programs to the county in order to help support the positive development of youth," Smokowski said. "Increasing community and family resourcefulness is key. Without those resources, youth can lose future prospectives. When youth lose hope, they become more disconnected from family and school, which can lead to other alternatives, such as anti-social behavior."

To assess the impact of the Center's activities, researchers will track community and school rates of violence in Robeson County and across the state. The project will also follow 3,000 middle school students — about half of all middle school youth in Robeson County — over five years to compare the students' development to that of 2,000 similar students in a comparison group from a nearby county. School of Social Work Professor **Shenyang Guo** and Research Professor **Dean Duncan** will lead this evaluation.

By focusing on middle-school youth, Smokowski said the project can potentially reach and affect young people before "problems become entrenched." Research has shown, for example, that dropout





rates, alcohol use, and aggressive behavior increase once students reach high school.

“Our goal ultimately is to promote the positive and successful development of middle school adolescents so that they can go on to have bright futures,” Smokowski said.

In the 30 years that he has served the Center for Community Action, Legerton said that he has seen youth violence directly or indirectly affect “almost every family” in his community. According to the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Robeson’s youth death rate of 123.6 per 100,000 people is nearly double the state’s rate of 74.7; Robeson County’s homicide rate of 23.9 per 100,000 is more than triple the State’s average of 7.2 for 2004-2008.

These difficulties, researchers and community partners agreed, are largely a result of the county’s ongoing economic struggles, which have long-created significant hardships for individuals, families and children. Among communities in the South, Robeson County has been on the forefront of increasing poverty brought on by massive job losses. In the last decade alone, the county has lost almost 9,000 manufacturing jobs. Such losses are reflected in the 30.4 percent of residents who, according to the U.S. Census, were living below poverty level in 2008 — more than double the percentage nationwide.

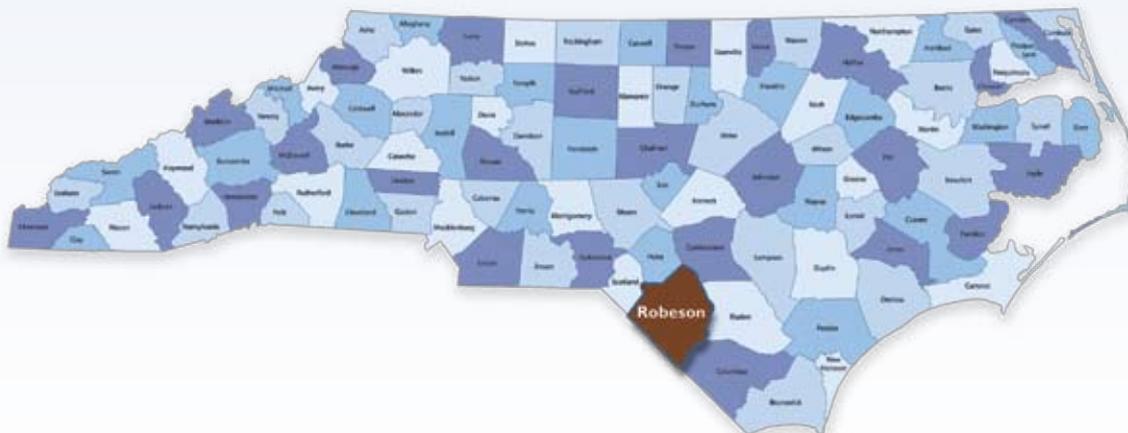
Researchers and community partners will keep these challenges

in mind as they begin to work together to first identify the risks that Robeson’s adolescents encounter as well as protective strengths that offer them support. This assessment will examine the needs of individuals, families and the community as a whole. Strategies and programs that have shown success in preventing youth violence will then be put into place and evaluated over the remaining project period. For example, programs could include those that help students become more engaged in school and others that strengthen families and lower stress factors that can lead to violence.

For Robeson County residents and community partners, the new center offers some long-awaited hope and is an “example of civic engagement at its best,” Legerton added.

“This project will enable us to develop a deeper understanding of youth violence and to implement interventions that can be assessed so that we can develop successful ways to prevent and reduce youth violence,” he said. “So this is a very hopeful sign that through a strong public private partnership, we will be able to impact our youth and families in very positive ways.”

For more information, visit <http://ncace.web.unc.edu>.





School of Social Work study shows success in closing the achievement gap in N.C. schools

By Susan White

A three-year focus on closing the achievement gap in Chapel Hill-Carrboro elementary schools has shown some encouraging signs of success.

According to a UNC School of Social Work study, in a handful of schools where specific learning barriers were identified and targeted for improvement, third graders scored 1.67 points higher than expected on state end-of-grade (EOG) tests in reading compared to previous third graders at the study schools and third-grade peers districtwide. Similar results were found the following year when the students were fourth graders and scored 1.42 points higher on state EOG math tests.

The longitudinal study, which began in 2007, followed the academic progress of about 300 students from third to fifth grades in Carrboro, Ephesus Road, Frank Porter Graham and Morris Grove elementary schools. Morris Grove joined the study in the second year.

Over the course of the study, each school identified challenges to student learning and then collaborated with teachers and parents to design activities, workshops and programs to raise achievement.

Most of the study schools developed goals to strengthen social behavior, learning behavior, and student enjoyment of school, and all showed improvement in those areas, said UNC researchers **Natasha Bowen** and **Joelle Powers**.

Strowd Roses Inc. and Triangle Community Foundation funded the study with a \$375,000 grant, a large portion of which went to participating schools to help pay for materials, training, and intervention strategies to address student needs and improve achievement. The discretionary funding enabled the schools to be innovative and creative in designing their intervention programs, said Bowen, an associate professor at the School of Social Work.

The UNC study also examined the broader success of the schools' efforts by focusing on EOG performance. The targeted schools' scores were compared to each school's previous years' scores and to scores from other elementary schools across the district. Overall, findings showed that reading and math scores were higher than would be expected at two of three schools in the study's first year, while math scores were higher than expected at all schools in the study's second year. In addition, the third grade math and read-

“It’s helping schools look beyond what they usually look at to help kids.” — *Natasha Bowen, Ph.D.*

ing test scores of boys at all study schools were better than expected compared to the scores of boys at other schools in the district. Final study results will be available after EOG data from the last year of the study are analyzed later this year.

“The overall findings suggest that supporting schools with information about their students and money for effective interventions is a promising strategy,” Bowen said. “Because so many efforts are underway to improve achievement in schools, it is hard to prove the effects of any one intervention program. However, the fact that we observed improvement in most of the areas that the elementary schools targeted gives us more confidence that the intervention programs contributed to better EOG scores.”

The study used the Elementary School Success Profile (ESSP) Model of Assessment and Prevention. The ESSP is an assessment tool that helps researchers and schools identify barriers to learning by looking more closely at the experiences of students at home, in school, in their neighborhoods and with families and friends. Schools design and implement interventions based on what they learn from the assessment.

“Teachers already know which of their students are struggling academically, and schools absolutely know that proficiency is impacted by more than just what happens in the classroom,” said Powers, a clinical assistant professor at the School of Social Work. “But in many cases, schools and teachers don’t know much about other aspects of the child’s life and environment that may be preventing them from academic success.”

The ESSP, Powers added, helps educators identify the strengths and risks for a student’s overall school performance. The assessment tool’s online questionnaire can help educators pinpoint, for example, if a student’s difficulties in the classroom are related to anxieties outside the school, such as neighborhood violence or bullying. Teachers and parents also complete the questionnaire to ensure that schools have a rounded picture of each student.

At the four study schools, the ESSP questionnaire was given twice a year to assess student difficulties and progress. Each school also created a team of educators and parents to develop strategies to address student needs. Many of the interventions were selected from an online database of proven practices. For example, to improve academic performance, some schools used rewards for attendance and offered after-school tutoring.

To get more kids to class, Ephesus Elementary worked with parents to find carpool opportunities and introduced them to neighborhood groups that regularly walk with children to school. “Our data show that attendance has been steadily increasing in the past few years, which I believe is a direct result of this intervention,” said Victoria Creamer, interim principal at Ephesus Elementary.

“Our expectation is that improved attendance will lead to improved student achievement.”

Bowen and Powers are encouraged that the elementary schools remain interested in working with UNC. Although more research is needed to explore the broader effects of the ESSP on the achievement gap, Bowen said the interventions have empowered schools to take a more active role in helping students succeed.

“The assessment is helping schools understand all of the factors that are important influences on school achievement,” she said. “So it’s helping schools look beyond what they usually look at to help kids. It’s giving them the data to understand what may be areas that need targeting and then letting the schools set their own goals and make their own decisions about how best to address student needs.”



Natasha Bowen (seated) and Joelle Powers

Mental health leadership academy in the works

By Susan White

Although North Carolina's mental health system has garnered much attention for its shortcomings, leaders from the School of Social Work and Kenan-Flagler School of Business hope to shift some of the focus in the upcoming year toward agencies and programs that are showing promise.



Gary Nelson

The Schools are partnering to develop and manage a Mental Health Leadership Academy, a collaborative venture aimed, in part, at bringing together state mental health officials, private providers, family advocates and mental health advocates to help build a "results-based system of mental health care."

"This is an opportunity to engage very broadly and inclusively the mental health system from the bottom up and the top down," said Gary Nelson, project co-director and associate director for the School of Social Work's Jordan Institute for Families. "I think the timing might be good because the system has learned a lot over the past 10 years."

The idea for the academy evolved from a project that began about three years ago under the Business School's Urban Investment Strategies Center at the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. That initiative offered leadership and business skills training to senior staff at North Carolina's mental health centers. The latest effort, Nelson said, will focus more on working directly with and learning from the state's local management entities or LMEs. These agencies and authorities oversee providers and coordinate and manage public mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in North Carolina.

The academy is expected to move forward in three stages over the next year. Long-term, the goal is to identify up to three LMEs with proven track records for providing quality mental healthcare, to learn more about their successes and to share this information with other LMEs, Nelson said.

For example, those agencies that provide services that keep clients within their communities and out of the state's psychiatric hospitals would demonstrate the success that the academy is interested in learning more about, he said.

"No one agency is perfect, but many have demonstrated important elements of success," he said. "The idea is to look at what works, what doesn't and create opportunities for LMEs and the state as a

Collaborative venture will bring together state mental health officials, private providers, family advocates and mental health advocates

whole to learn from one another and build on individual and common strengths."

Training will then be tailored to each LME's unique contexts and needs, he said.

Finally, at the end of the year, the academy will host a "capstone summit" in Chapel Hill to discuss what has been learned and to develop a plan that includes ongoing education and guidance aimed at improving leadership and management within the state's mental health system.

"Our goal is to help our state's mental health system be successful by improving access and results for individuals and families," Nelson said, "while being good stewards of limited public and private resources."

Clinical Lecture Series Fall 2011

Monday, September 19, 2011

Where Do You Draw the Line? The Ethics of Diagnosing Dementia

Daniel Blazer, M.D., Ph.D.

Monday, October 17, 2011

The Many Faces of Postpartum Depression: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment

William S. Meyer, MSW, BCD

Monday, November 14, 2011

Functional Subgrouping: An Innovative Method for Resolving Conflict

Norma Safransky, M.D. and Heather B. Twomey, Ph.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>



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Family Support Program moves to the School of Social Work

By Michelle Rogers

The Family Support Program became a part of the School of Social Work last July. Formerly housed at Carr Mill Mall in Carrboro, the office has relocated to the first floor of the School.

The Family Support Network, a part of the Family Support Program, was originally developed 25 years ago as a program in the UNC School of Medicine, when a pediatrician and social worker collaborated to prepare a proposal to the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities to fund the creation of three local programs to provide support to families with children who have special needs.

Over the years, that program grew and developed. There are now 17 independently operated affiliates serving families all across North Carolina with a focus on providing parent-to-parent support.

The Family Support Network's University Office, now a part of the Family Support Program (FSP) at the School of Social Work, provides



Family Support Network faculty and staff. Standing, from left: Irene Nathan Zipper, Terrence Mitchell, Karen LeClair, Barbara Leach, Dick Clark. Seated: Gary Bowen, Tamara Norris, Tracey Himmel, Steven Day. Not shown: Andi Ives, Denise Lindley, Michael Naumoff and Erica Richman.

training and technical assistance for these local affiliates. FSP also manages an information and referral service about conditions and disabilities, and about resources available in North Carolina. The service can be accessed by calling (800) 852-0042 or visiting <http://fsp.unc.edu>.

FSP includes special projects focused on supporting military families with children who have developmental disabilities, and on helping individuals with disabilities and their families to make plans to ensure they're prepared for emergencies. The mission of the Family Support Program is to promote and provide support for families with children who have special needs. As such, it becomes an important part of the School's

activities focused on developmental disabilities.

FSP's director, Clinical Professor **Irene Nathan Zipper** is a familiar face at the School, having held a faculty appointment here for a number of years.

\$450,000 grant will help people with developmental disabilities plan for disaster

By Michelle Rogers

The Family Support Program (FSP) at the UNC School of Social Work has been awarded a \$450,000 federal grant for a new project called "PREPreparation for Emergencies and Recovery: Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families (PREP)."

PREP will help families and individuals with developmental disabilities, and the community agencies that serve them, plan for disaster and emergency response. It builds on the peer support model established by the FSP. A multi-level approach engages individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, community members, and state-level organizations to prepare for and recover from emergency situations.

Funding is from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a three-year grant, now in its second year.

"This important project will join the other projects that the School maintains in the area of developmental disabilities in our efforts to move forward in this important area of research, training and practice," said Dean **Jack Richman**.

FSP is developing a web-based tool, <http://www.myprep.org>, expected to launch in August, that will help people create their own emergency plans. The group is also developing training materials to

increase awareness of the need for planning among those who support persons with disabilities; offering comprehensive program evaluation and related research; and identifying policy changes that might be needed.

While this project's primary activities will take place in North Carolina, through a unique collaboration with PLAN!T NOW the materials developed will be available to people across the country.

"We are establishing a new model for supporting individuals with disabilities," said **Irene Nathan Zipper**, leader of the FSP team. "Therefore, this project has important implications for the safety of people with disabilities across the country."

A new website, <http://www.myprep.org>, will help people create an emergency plan



Congratulations Class of 2011

The UNC School of Social Work held its 90th annual commencement on May 7, 2011. Over 1,000 people packed Memorial Hall to celebrate the 122 MSW and five doctoral graduates. Social justice activist Mandy Carter gave the commencement address.

Michelle Rogers



Michelle Rogers

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

Laura Ziemer and April Parker



Michelle Rogers

Annie Francis and Erica Mayes-Gordon



Michelle Rogers

Maggie Coen, Rachel Coots and Darrell Coleman



Paul Smokowski

Doctors Traci Wike, Carrie Pettus-Davis and Tashuna Albritton



Michelle Rogers

Marissa Touhey



Michelle Rogers

Nicole Moore



Photo Specialties

Tobirus Newby and Kate Mitchell



Michelle Rogers

Lining up to enter Memorial Hall

2010-11 MSW Scholarships and Awards

Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship
Morgan Diamond

Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship
Isela Gutierrez, Monica Hadley, Ivan Martinez

Culbertson Scholarship
Adrian Green, Amber Williams

William E. and Catherine M. Cummins Award
Carlie Ewen

Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship
Sophie Minis

Bertie Oscar Edwards, M.D. Scholarship
Ashley Brown

Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship
Josie Baker, Katelyn Brookshire, Janae Brown, Madonna Clifton, Darrell Coleman, Laura Gonzalez Guarin, Aislin Jobes, Erin O'Quinn, Kristen Powell, Mirna Rauda, Maggie Speasmaker, Cora Willow, Nerri Yamamoto

Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship
Kimberly Stennett

Alan Keith-Lucas Scholarship
Karen Burns, Jessica Jerald, Megan Stauffer, Allyson Stone

Jeffrey Langston Scholarship
Janae Brown, Adrian Green

Maynard Scholarship
Karen Burns, Meredith Martin

Meehan Scholarship
Laura Pfladderer

Millar Scholarship
Melissa Gray, Jessica Katz

Jane Curtis Parker Award
Alexandra Collins, Erin Krauss, Lindsey O'Hare, Mirna Rauda

Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship
Shannon Beavin Robinson

Ellen E. Power Scholarship
Aislin Jobes

Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. Scholarship
Nicholle Karim

Janice Hough Schopler Scholarship
Katherin Benzaquen, Meghan Bridges, Isela Gutierrez, Erin Neal, Khanh Nguyen, Rachel Nordberg, Laura Pfladderer, Daniel Velez, Laura Williams

Social Justice Fund Scholarship
Kim Jinorio Swanson

Tannenbaum Scholarship
Rhonda Davis, Noelle Dupont, Sardie Izzard, Monica Lonon, Ellen McAngus, Regina Patterson, Alton Scales, Denise Thomas

Kristen Marie TenHarmsel Anderson Scholarship
Katherine Benzaquen

Smith P. Theimann Scholarship
Morgan Diamond, Kendall Gurske

Ellen Black Winston Scholarship
Elina Alterman, Darrell Coleman



2010-11 Doctoral Student Awards

Armfield Reeves Innovation Fund
Carrie Pettus-Davis, Aaron Thompson

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS Postdoctoral Fellowship at Yale University
Tashuna Albritton

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

Council on Social Work Education National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship, Minority Fellowship Program
Tasaneé Walsh

Anne-Linda Furstenberg Fund for Qualitative Research Fellowship
Sarah Dababnah, Ijeoma Nwabuzor, Carrie Pettus-Davis, Kristina Webber, Kate Wegman

Society for Research on Adolescence International Summer School 2011 Tuition and Travel Award (funded by the Jacobs Foundation)
Kristina Webber

Global Education and Development Studies with the Transatlantic Consortium on Early Childhood Intervention
Sarah Dababnah, Kate Wegmann

Gordon H. DeFries Career Development in Aging Research Award
Tiffany Washington

Graduate Education Advancement Board (GEAB) Impact Award
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Graduate School Merit Assistantship
Qi Wu

Jane H. Pfouts Research Grant
Candace Killian

Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan – 2010 Summer Training Workshop
Tiffany Washington

North Carolina Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (NC-ACE) Pre-doctoral Fellowship
Kristina Webber

Pre-Dissertation Travel Award, UNC Center for Global Initiatives
Sarah Dababnah

Royster Society of Fellows Dissertation Completion Award
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Royster Society of Fellows Fellowship
Micaela Mercado

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Training in Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV
Tashuna Albritton

Sam and Betsy Reeves Doctoral Fellowship
Sarah Dababnah, Melissa Goodbourn, Candace Killian, Rainier Masa, Jenna Tucker, Kristina Webber, Kate Wegmann, Ahmed Whitt, Angela You

Society for Social Work and Research Doctoral Fellows Award
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Society for Social Work and Research Outstanding Dissertation Award 2011
Eric Garland '09

University Research Day 2011 Social Sciences Oral Presentation 1st Place Winner
Micaela Mercado

WCHL Village Pride Award
Carrie Pettus-Davis

Faks-Beck Scholar in Research and Experimentation
Carrie Pettus-Davis

You

can make a difference



Upon hearing the latest budget news at a recent Board of Advisors meeting, **Miriam McFadden** became very concerned about the impact of cuts on the School's faculty and staff. She wanted to do something to help.

So she established a fund that will help support faculty research and professional development. And she's challenging alumni and friends of the School to support her effort.

Please consider making a donation to this fund, our general support fund or a scholarship fund.

Together, we can make a difference.

Gifts can be made using the enclosed envelope, or online at
<http://giving.unc.edu/gift/ssw>

Thank You For Your Support



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smart phone to give online



Faculty spotlight

By Michelle Rogers

Betsy Bledsoe



Bledsoe authored and presented numerous articles and posters. Presentations included the NCDEU meeting in Boca Raton, Fla. where she received a 2010 New Investigator Award; the 2010 State of the Science on Nursing Research: The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, in Washington, D.C.; the BIRCWH Directors and Scholars Meeting, Office of Research on Women's Health, in Bethesda, Md.; the 7th Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research Symposium, National Institutes of Health; the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Conference in Montreal, Canada; the UNC Psychological Club's Clinical Psychology Event; the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health, and National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Arlington, Va.; and the Fourth International Conference of the International Society for Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Amsterdam.

Worth Bolton



Bolton received the "Tom Fellows Award" from the national office of Oxford House, Inc. in Washington, D.C. at the Annual Outreach Staff Training. The award is presented for providing pro bono services and support to the nonprofit, one of the largest providers of sober residential houses. Bolton is a clinical assistant professor with the School's Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program, and coordinates our Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies.

Gary Bowen



Bowen, Kenan Distinguished Professor, was the keynote speaker at several events, including: "Meeting the Needs of Veterans & Military Families: A Summit for Health & Human Services Professionals," at the University of Missouri School of Social Work; "Military Family Resiliency: A Capacity Building Perspective," at the Southeastern Council on Family Relations 2011 Conference in Birmingham, Ala.; the University of Delaware's Developmental Resilience Symposium; and at the "Pathways to School Success, Inside the Schoolhouse Door Conference XIII," at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven. He also spoke on "Storylines of Research: Pathways to School Persistence" at the University of Georgia Department of Child and Family Development.

Bowen and Dennis Orthner presented at the School Success conference in Cluj, Romania.

Bowen was appointed to the National Advisory Board for the Building Capacity for Military-Connected Schools project, University of Southern California.

Bowen and Irene Zipper conducted a workshop, "Supporting Military Families with Children who have Developmental Disabilities: A Community Resilience Approach" at the Forging the Partnership 2011 DoD/USDA Family Resilience Conference in Chicago.

Iris Carlton-LaNey



Carlton-LaNey spoke at the 25th Annual Ronald E. McNair Commemorative Celebration and 10th National Research Symposium at North Carolina A&T State University. The conference hosted McNair Scholars from nearly 50 colleges and universities across the U.S. Her session was entitled "You Have Earned Your Ph.D.! 'Now What?'"

Joanne Caye



Caye gave a presentation on "Emotional Abuse" for Eastern AHEC in Greenville; presented at the Charlotte AHEC on "Emotional Abuse," and spoke in Clearwater, Fla. at the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education Annual Conference, on "A Journey in Five Voices: Presenting Narrative Research in Non-traditional Ways."

Caye was a call-in guest March 21 on the KOSS-NewsTalk 1380 Los Angeles radio show, "Chasing the Why" with psychotherapist and LCSW Andrew Pari. Caye discussed her book, "When Their World Falls Apart," about helping families and children through the effects of disaster.

Caye participated in a panel presentation at NCSU entitled "Dreaming to Succeed: Gaining Access to Higher Education for Undocumented Latino Students." Caye also serves as a volunteer teacher for a citizenship class for Hispanics in Siler City.

Mimi Chapman



Chapman was awarded a \$50,000 grant through UNC's North Carolina Translational & Clinical Sciences Institute (NC TraCS), the academic home of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award. She is PI on a project entitled, "Puentes: Bridging Education and Mental Health for New Immigrant Latino Youth." It is designed to address the needs of a growing immigrant population in North Carolina.

Chapman conducted a workshop for the UNC Center for Faculty Excellence on "Art in Health Sciences Instruction: From Visual Literacy to Critical Thinking," where she discussed how she uses art to enhance the meaningfulness of classroom-based practices.

Trenette Clark



Clark received UNC's University Research Council Award for \$5,000 and the Junior Faculty Development Award for \$7,500. The URC study is "Age Patterns and Predictors of Smoking: A Replication" and the Junior Faculty Development Award's study is "From Adolescence to Young Adulthood: The Puzzle of Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Tobacco Use Among African Americans."

She was awarded a \$6,000 AAUW American Fellowship Research Publication Grant. This funding will support her time during the sum-

mer analyzing the Add Health data to examine cigarette trajectories among women.

Clark was chosen to participate in the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Special Populations Research Development Seminar Series, and was also selected to attend the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Fifth Annual Symposium.

Lane Cooke



Cooke is the winner of UNC's 2010 Outstanding Encouragement of Learning and Development Award, and winner of the UNC Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Management. She is the program coordinator for the Family and Children's Resource Program (FCRP).

Jodi Flick



Flick is featured in a video on suicide prevention produced by the Mecklenburg County Health Department in Charlotte. It is called "This Will Pass: Suicide Prevention." This video received the National Alliance on Mental Illness - N.C. Chapter's 2010 Media Award, given at their annual conference.

Flick also presented a conference workshop, "Depression and Suicide in Children." She also facilitates a survivors of suicide loss support group in Chapel Hill.

Mark Fraser



Fraser, John A. Tate Distinguished Professor for Children in Need and associate dean for research, traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, twice to present at conferences. He spoke on "How to Design Interventions Which Penetrate Practice," at the symposium "How to Transfer Public Health Research into Practice," and presented "Introduction to Outcome Studies: Opportunities and Challenges" at the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's international conference on outcomes research.

Fraser participated in the 2011 Stockholm Conference on Outcome Studies of Social, Behavioral and Educational Interventions, sponsored by the Swedish National Board of Health and Social Welfare. He spoke on "Introductions to Outcome Studies: Opportunities and Challenges."

He also spoke on "Preventing Aggressive Behavior in Childhood: The Making Choices Program" at the School of Health, Care and Social Welfare at Mälardalen University, Sweden.

Fraser and **Mary Terzian**, Ph.D. '07, wrote a chapter in the new book, "Social Work Practice Research for the Twenty-first Century," entitled "Advances in Children's Mental Health."

Michal Grinstein-Weiss



Grinstein-Weiss and **Andréa Taylor** partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and Abt Associates, to plan and facilitate a Washington, D.C., forum on asset building research. The forum convened asset building experts from across the country, including researchers, policy makers and community practitioners.

Grinstein-Weiss and team were awarded a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families as part of the Assets for Independence Knowledge Development Initiative. They will examine asset-building program implementation and form recommendations for the next major evaluation of the AFI program.

Grinstein-Weiss and Taylor presented at the Assets Learning Conference in Washington, D.C.

In December Grinstein-Weiss's group organized and co-hosted a conference with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Policy makers, researchers, and community advocates gathered in Columbus, Ohio for an event called "Savings Strategies & Innovations for Low-Income Households."

Grinstein-Weiss was awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Steven H. Sandell Grant Program for Retirement Income and Disability Insurance research, to continue her research on the long-term effects of Individual Development Accounts on wealth and retirement savings.

Shenyang Guo



The Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR) invited Guo to offer a course on propensity score analysis for its first Summer Quantitative Training Institute. Nine participants joined the training at the University of Denver.

Guo conducted webinars for the Children's Bureau on "Propensity Score Strategies for Evaluating Substance Abuse Services for Child Welfare Clients." Guo was invited to present by the director of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect at DHHS.

Matthew Howard



Howard presented at UNC's sixth annual "Conference on Eating Disorders: The Mind-Body Solution." He spoke at a session on "Detecting and Treating Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders and Behavioral Addictions in Women with Eating Disorders."

Kathy Johnson



Kathy Johnson was given the Outstanding Service Award from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) in New Orleans at the organization's 18th Colloquium. Johnson has previously served as a board member, secretary and chair of the state chapter committee, and as president of the N.C. chapter. She is

on the APSAC Task Force on Child Welfare Evidence-based Service Planning Guidelines.

Rebecca Macy



Macy was selected to attend the Chancellor's Boot Camp. Workshop attendees engaged in intense discussions and case studies and participated in strategic planning and team project development.

She spoke on "Domestic Violence: Current Practices and Promising Directions" at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point to help them kick off domestic violence awareness month; gave a training on "Mental Health and Intimate Partner Violence" for the N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Louisville; gave two presentations about the Mothers Overcoming Violence through Education and Empowerment program; and presented at the School's Clinical Lecture Series. She also spoke at the Southeastern Conference of Foundations 41st Annual Meeting in Mobile, Ala., on "Collaboration: Practical Applications for Positive Outcomes."

Macy was recognized for her service as a UNC Faculty Engaged Scholar.

Macy was awarded the Mary Ann Chap Award for Community Service by the Orange County Rape Crisis Center in recognition of her work to address violence.

Macy was part of the N.C. Survivor to Survivor (S2S) project, a web-based resource guide devoted to victim education and public awareness. Macy is featured in a video on the website.

Gary Nelson



Nelson has assumed the role of primary investigator for the Developmental Disabilities Training Institute (DDTI) at the UNC School of Social Work. DDTI creates and shares knowledge and skills to foster improvement in services and outcomes for persons with developmental disabilities in North Carolina. It provides community-based capacity building, learning, evaluation and research.

Dennis Orthner



Orthner presented at a two-day Round Table in Tampa on the stress of combat deployment on National Guard and Reserve families. He detailed his research highlighting the correlation between a soldier's rank and how well their spouse coped with deployment, the connection between social assets and high adjustment to deployment, and family assets that help children cope with a parent's deployment.

Wanda Reives



Reives presented at UNC-Pembroke's 19th Annual Social Work Symposium. She spoke on field work, with an emphasis on the field practicum for students in child welfare.

Jack Richman



Richman wrote a chapter in the new book "Social Work Practice Research for the Twenty-first Century," entitled "Building Capacity for Intervention Research."

Richman and **Shenyang Guo** presented in Shenzhen, China and in Hong Kong, where both had papers accepted as part of the Joint World Conference on Social

Work and Social Development.

Amelia Roberts-Lewis



Roberts-Lewis presented in a webinar entitled, "A Working Life through Treatment, Housing, and a Job," sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Roberts-Lewis has a five-year, \$2 million SAMHSA grant to provide evidence-based practices to Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA).

Roberts-Lewis was a guest editor of the summer 2010 issue of *Social Work and Christianity*, the journal of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work. Several of our MSW-MDiv alumni wrote articles: **Susan Moore Pinson '08**, **Amanda Sackreiter '09**, **Lindley Sharp Curtis '09**, **Joy Turner '08** and **John Michael McAlister '05**.

Kathleen Rounds



Rounds was invited to represent the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau/HRSA funded social work leadership programs at the Prelude to Strategic Planning Meeting, and to attend the Title V Maternal and Child Health Federal-State Partnership Meeting in Washington, D.C. She also co-presented a workshop, "The Effects of Interdisciplinary Training on MCH Professionals, Organizations, and Systems" at the national meeting of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and Family Voices in Washington, D.C.

Rounds co-conducted a workshop on family/professional collaboration for the UNC Maternal and Child Health Leadership Consortium.

Rounds facilitated a session on "Dual Degree Programs: Courses, Research, Practicum, Post MSW Experience" at the annual meeting of GADE (Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work) in Pittsburgh.

Anna Scheyett



Scheyett attended the Harvard Management Development Program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass.

Scheyett was elected to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) board of directors. She is the Region VI representative. She was also named chair of NASW's National Committee on Women's Issues. She participated in the Assurant Services Inc./NASW national board executive committee joint board meeting in San Juan. She also went to the NASW national Annual Leadership Meeting in D.C. and participated in Lobby Day talking with legislative staffers about the Social Work Reinvestment Act.

Scheyett was awarded a contract to work with Family Preservation Services, Inc., of Asheville, to help them develop and evaluate a recovery education center for adults with severe mental illnesses.

Scheyett presented at the 4th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, in Boston. She spoke on "Mental Health System Changes and Reincarceration of Individuals with Mental Illnesses."

Paul Smokowski



Smokowski's \$6.5 million grant to establish the N.C. Academic Center for Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention has been covered by numerous media outlets, including *Medical News Today*, an on-air interview by WCHL Radio, the *Fayetteville Observer*, the *Daily Tar Heel* and also several Spanish media. The *Observer* also published an editorial stating, "Robeson needs what the center is selling. So do the rest of us."

Smokowski was invited to speak at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis on "Becoming Bicultural: Risk, Resilience and Latino Youth."

Kim Strom-Gottfried



Strom-Gottfried, Theimann Distinguished Professor, presented on ethics at several conferences, including: The Fall Collaboration of Professionals Connecting for Victims, in Kill Devil Hills; The Eastern Region Developmental Disabilities Service Conference, and the Substance Abuse State of the Art Conference, both in Greenville; "The Ethics of Social Networking" at the 22nd Annual Leo M. Croghan Conference on Developmental Disabilities in Durham; and "Ethics Dialogue and Dilemmas" at the annual conference of the National Hemophilia Foundation in New Orleans.

Mark Testa



Testa, Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor, addressed the New York City Bar Association on "Implementing Subsidized Guardianship in New York City." His talk was sponsored by the New York City Bar Council on Children. New York's foster children now have the opportunity to achieve permanence through a new option, Kinship Guardianship Assistance, which was authorized under the federal Fostering Connection Act of 2008. The new law was based in large measure on the evaluations that Testa conducted during the late 1990s and 2000s in the states of Illinois, Tennessee and Wisconsin. The purpose of Testa's talk was to share some of the lessons learned from

the state demonstrations as New York State and City prepare to implement the new program in April.

Testa participated in a videoconference on the KinGap Program, produced by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. He explained kinship guardianship as an alternative to foster care.

Marie Weil



Weil participated in the European Union/United States Spring Symposium on Community and Social Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Weil made two presentations, "Current Challenges for Community Practice and Practitioners" and "Educating for Community Practice in a Rapidly Changing World."

Cynthia Wiford



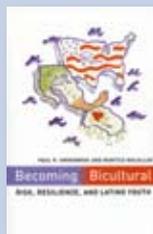
Wiford presented "Using Technology to Advance Women's Treatment and Recovery" at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery, held in Chicago.

Evelyn Williams and Barbara Leach



Williams and Leach presented the keynote address, "When Survival is Not Enough: Embracing Change and Supporting Resiliency in Families," at Alabama's Ninth Annual Fall Social Work Conference at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

new books



Professor **Paul Smokowski's** book, "Becoming Bicultural: Risk, Resilience, and Latino Youth" was published by New York University Press.

Professors **Mark Fraser** and **Maeda Galinsky's** manuals, "Strong Families: A Program of Parent Education, Social Work Practice Series 2" and "Reducing Violence in School: The Making Choices Program, Social Work Practice Series 3" were published in Romanian by Cluj University Press.



Professor **Kim Strom-Gottfried's** book, "The Best of Boards: Sound Governance and Leadership for Nonprofit Organizations" was published by the American Institute of CPAs.

new faculty



Trenette Clark,
Ph.D., MSW '03
Assistant Professor



Josh Hinson,
MSW '04
Clinical Instructor



Michael Lambert,
Ph.D., MA
Professor



Theresa Palmer,
MSW '98
Clinical Instructor



Amanda Sheely,
Ph.D., MSW, MPH
Assistant Professor



Susan Snyder,
Ph.D., MSW, MPA
Assistant Professor
July 2011



Tauchiana Vanderbilt,
MSW '05
Clinical Instructor

Richman advises CSWE on military social work education

By Michelle Rogers

Dean Jack Richman is among a group of 36 experts from various social work higher education, professional association and military backgrounds who has been working with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to develop guidelines for an advanced practice in military social work education.

CSWE launched the initiative to bridge the gap between the number of available prepared practitioners and the demand for social services with military personnel and their families, and convened the experts group last year in Washington, D.C.

The result is a set of educational guidelines specifying the specialized knowledge and skills that social work practitioners need to effectively serve military personnel, veterans, and their families. Directly addressing CSWE's 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS), this guide seeks to increase specialization, certification, and other curricular offerings in social work programs that address military cultural awareness and service-related disorders.

CSWE's guide to advanced military social work practice contains many educational components specifically designed to improve the health and well-being of military personnel, veterans, and their families.

The guidelines outline ways that social work practitioners should champion human rights and social and economic justice to advance the well-being of the military community, and recommends strategies they can use to engage military community leaders and to employ a range of clinical and preventive interventions appropriate for combat-related injuries and diagnoses.



Jack Richman

Howard becomes New York Academy of Medicine Fellow

By Michelle Rogers



Matthew Howard

Matthew Howard was elected as a member and Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

The NYAM advances the health of people in cities. An independent organization since 1847, it addresses the health challenges facing the world's urban populations through interdisciplinary approaches to policy leadership, education, community engagement and innovative research.

Howard's research specialty is adolescent inhalant abuse. He is the Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for Human Services Policy Information.

Carlton-LaNey given national social work education award

By Michelle Rogers

Professor Iris Carlton-LaNey is the recipient of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)'s 2011 Feminist Scholarship Award.

This award was established by CSWE's Women's Council to recognize innovative scholars who contribute to the advancement of feminist knowledge as it pertains to social work theory, research, practice, and education.

The program honors an accomplished scholar whose work has contributed to social work practice, policy, and research that focuses on the intersections of gender and social justice. It also recognizes an innovative paper that contributes to the advancement of feminist knowledge as it pertains to social work theory, research, practice, and education.

Carlton-LaNey will be formally honored at CSWE's annual program meeting, Oct. 27-30 in Atlanta.



Iris Carlton-LaNey

Grinstein-Weiss wins SSWR career achievement award

By Michelle Rogers



Michal Grinstein-Weiss

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) selected Assistant Professor Michal Grinstein-Weiss as the winner of the 2011 Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award.

This award recognizes individuals who in their early careers have done innovative work and are making a notable influence in their field and in the profession. Their accomplishments reflect innovative scholarship, a rigorous approach to social work research, scholarship that attracts the interest of other scholars, work that exhibits an emerging influence in the field and noteworthy

contributions to advance the profession.

Her research interests focus on public policies related to issues of economic inequality and social development. Specifically, she is interested in policies and programs that promote the well-being of low-income families and their communities.

Grinstein-Weiss was honored at SSWR's annual conference in January in Tampa. She is the second UNC School of Social Work faculty member in two years to be awarded this distinction by SSWR.

School of Social Work helps strengthen foster care services

By Susan White

Although the number of U.S. children in foster care has declined over the last several years, UNC School of Social Work faculty continue to work closely with public and private partners to move even more of the nation's 423,000 foster youth into permanent homes.

Mark Testa, Ph.D., the School's Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professor, and the Jordan Institute's Family and Children's Resource Program (FCRP) are assisting with federal and state efforts to improve interventions for reducing the number of children in foster care and to strengthen services to foster care families.

For years, improvements within the foster care system have been largely driven by federal policy initiatives, such as financial subsidies that help relative caregivers provide children with safe and permanent homes. However, many of the youth who remain in the foster-care system today are older and have special needs that require clinical services and social supports to help them find permanent placements and successfully transition to adulthood, said Testa, a national child welfare expert who joined the School in 2010.

"We're at a stage where we have reduced the population, but the children who remain are often stuck in long-term foster care, which is less amenable to broad-scale policy solutions than in the past," Testa said. "We have to develop empirically-supported interventions to work with these children and their families."

A significant part of Testa's work over the next several years will focus on whether many of these new interventions really are effective. The School professor is the principal investigator for the evaluation-design phase of the federal government's "Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII)." The five-year, \$100 million project is the single largest investment in child welfare demonstrations and evaluation that the federal government has made in recent decades, Testa said. The initiative began last year and is aimed at improving outcomes for children who face the most serious barriers to being placed in permanent homes.

Testa and the project's evaluation team, headquartered at Westat in Rockville, Md., are working closely with public and private agencies in Arizona, California, Illinois, Kansas, and Nevada, all grantee-states chosen to participate in the federally-supported initiative. Each will test evidence-based interventions for reducing the number of children in long-term foster care, particularly severely emotionally disturbed children and older youth who are more difficult to place, to adopt and to return home, Testa said.

During the project's first year, Testa and research consultant, Natalie Conner, Ph.D. '05, worked with the participating agencies to determine the specific population of children to target, to identify promising interventions, and to ensure that their evaluations are "rigorously designed." For example, in Kansas, private agencies that offer family preservation and family reunification services are partnering with the University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc., to help foster parents learn the necessary skills for parenting children with severe emotional behavioral issues.

In California, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is creating a countywide system of care to address the barriers to permanent homes and the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning children and youth who are at-risk of placement in foster care.

"One of the goals is to come up with a good system of identification and an intervention that will enable workers to deal with the issues that led, in some cases, to LGBTQ children being expelled from or rejected by their families," Testa said.

In North Carolina, state officials are also beginning to explore ways to offer more services and training to foster care families after children are placed within their homes. A recent state evaluation found that county government and private agencies need to strengthen ongoing support for foster parents, said Mellicent O'Brien Blythe, a clinical instructor and education specialist with FCRP, which assessed the state's foster parent training system earlier this year. Additional services and support are especially needed for parents taking care of North Carolina's most vulnerable children, Blythe said.

"The biggest unmet need is in behavioral training," she said. "You're talking about parents who have children in their homes, and they're traumatized. There are behavioral issues, and there may even be untreated mental health issues, and they don't know what to do. And not surprisingly, behavioral problems are a significant factor in placement disruptions."

Following a national trend, the number of children in foster care in North Carolina has steadily declined over the past several years from around 11,000 youth in 2007 to about 8,800 today.

Federal policies that support placing children in permanent homes have contributed to this drop, Blythe said.

Although many of the state's local departments of social services already cooperate with private agencies that recruit and serve foster care families, there is interest in strengthening these partnerships, Blythe said. The N.C. Division of Social Services is contracting with FCRP to develop a guide to assist the state's 100 counties on how to work more effectively together and with the private sector.

Efforts will also continue to move more children into permanent homes more quickly, she added. Federal and state policies encourage foster care agencies to place children within permanent homes within one year. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau, of the estimated 276,266 children who exited foster care across the country during fiscal year 2009, the median amount of time spent in care was 13.7 months; in North Carolina, the median length of stay for children was 13.9 months.

"I think for some counties, that's an OK place to be because ultimately, we'd rather keep kids a little bit longer if it means they're going to be more stable when they go home," Blythe said.



Mark Testa



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Giving

The School of Social Work thanks the many alumni, friends, foundations and corporations who made financial contributions as gifts or grants for sponsored research between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Thanks to your generous support, our School has become one of the best in the country. We produce leaders in social work education, research, direct practice and community service. Your generosity enhances everything we do. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the listing below. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apology and notify Mary Beth Hernandez at marybeth@email.unc.edu or (919) 962-6469.

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 Julia Banner Allen
 Patricia Bransford Allen

Rebecca Stevens Alliss
Thomas Arthur Allred
Michael R L Alston Sr.
Louie McDonald Amos Jr.
Christine Fleming Anderson
Angela Hobbs Annas
David Eugene Annas
Caroline White Armstrong
Monika Cizmaik Atanesian
Vickie Lynn Atkinson
Nancy W. Aycock
Jennifer Lynn Baddour
Bradley Ray Bannister
Ann McLeod Barkley
David Vann Barkley
Faith Barnes
Clare Barry
Nancy Spencer Bartlett
Caroline Woody Basham
Charles Haywood Bateman Jr.
Anne Batten
Judy Ann Zikmund Bauman
Julia McCrorey Bell
Terry Richard Berkeley
Ann Elizabeth Berry
Janice Black
Patricia Robinson Bleile
Connie Cope Bonebrake
Richard Paul Bonsall
Doranne Neumayer Bowman
David Lee Bradshaw
Sidney Preston Bradsher
Rebecca Brick Bramlett
Elizabeth H. Brandes
Amy Louise Brannock
Charles M. Brescia
Gini Bright
Mark Robert Bright
Presley Cours Bright
Virginia Bristol
James Williamson Brown III
Larry Edward Brown
Nancy Permenter Brown
John Fouche Brownlow III
Margaret McDaniel Brownlow
Sarah Elizabeth Brunmeier
Paul Michael Brunner
Elizabeth Burgess
William Russell Burkey
Jay Burrus III
Kathleen Sullivan Burrus
Stori Binggeli Butts
Bobby Dale Cagle
Kathleen Howard Caldwell
Raleigh Campbell
Dorothy Ann Canipe
Katharine Warren Cannon
Thomas Richard Cannon

Michael Carroll Cantrell
Jean Dutton Capps
Linda Sue Anne Carmichael
Mary Ann Carr
Deborah Black Carroll
Donald Winfred Carroll
Anna Stotts Carter
Nancy Burnett Carter
Curtis Ambrose Cash
Beth Anne Chalmers
Renee Duffee Clark
Shirley Brown Clark
Nicholas H. Claudy (deceased)
Rosemary H. Claudy
Barbara Evans Cleveland
Laura Struckhoff Cline
Linda Owens Cole
Linda Stephens Collins
Gloria Jean Coltharp
Vincent Peter Connolly
Ann Patrick Conrad
Ann Elizabeth Cook
Lisa Hooks Cook
Lael Jean Cordes-Pitts
Harry Michael Core
Philip Lewis Cottrell
Jane Cousins
Dale Smith Cox
Ellen Marie Crary
William Calvin Crawford Jr.
D. Veronica Creech
Sue Averitt Creighton
Margery Daniel
Alisha Rogers Davis
Kenya Tanganyika Davis
Angela Goodnight Deal
Lisa Tirone DeCesaris
Susan Parris Del Grande
Solita Ann Denard
Karen Church DeVane
Ivy Dey-Johnson
Beth Boyles Dietrich
Donna Dinsmore
James Francis Dinsmore
Regina Bimblich Dropkin
Dean F. Duncan III
Matthew H. Duncan
Carol Overcash Dunlap
John Benjamin Edwards
Charles Russell Ellison
Laura Van Hoven Erdman
Gretchen Evans
Margaret Kenney Fergus
Jayne Gloster Field
Bill Finger
Rachel Steed Finholt
Rufus Milton Fisher
Barbara Jones Frady

Danny Tracy Francis
Stephanie Naylor Francis
Jennette Moore Franklin
Karen Schlegel Freeland
Jeffrey Edward Gardner
Robin Guard Gardner
Anne Louise Garren
Patricia McGlone Gasparello
Alfreda Paschall Gee
Juliana Geren
Richard Binner Gerrish
John L. Giles III
Mai Mai Wong Ginsburg
Dorene Sue Goodfriend
James David Gover
Elizabeth Harrison Granby
Christina Grandstaff
Linda Ann Graney
Francie Demby Gravely
Marshall Guilbert Gravely
Genora Harris Greene
Jean Manning Grotgen
John Frederick Grotgen Jr.
Kathy Guyer-Martin
Chris Gyves
Julianna Gyves
Jennifer Crane Haefele
Ted Hall
Helen Louise Halleck
Evelyn Hardy
Catherine E. Hargrove
Carolyn Kirkman Harmon
Linda Whitesides Harris
Walter Ray Harris
Robert P. Hartsell Jr.
Trudi Heinrich Hatch
Michael Francis Hauser
Wilburn Hayden Jr.
R. Kent Haywood
Betty Walker Hedgepeth
Sammie James Heflin
Lindsay Louise Hege
Frank George Heitmann
Sara Oliver Henry
Bob L. Herman
Beverly Raney Hester
Richard L. Hester
Cynthia Wynola High
Brenda White Hilliard
Barbara D. Hinshaw
Jeffrey Maynard Hinshaw
Vanessa Hodges
Jan Wallace Hoffmann
Cindy M. Hoirup
Karen Ann Holbert
Joanne Swartz Holcomb
Joyce Elaine Holmes
Antoinette Hudson Howard

Marc Alan Howlett
Rebecca Elizabeth Huban
Margaret Rand Hudson
Kristen J. Huffman
Michelle Hughes
Hugh MacRae Land Trust
Albert James Huntoon
Debra-Jeane Camacho Huntoon
Christopher Ivy
Shilpa Jaggi
Joanne Browne Jennings
Paul Alan Joffrion
Jacquelyn Skinner Johnson
Lee Strickland Johnson
Jackie Jones
Rome Earl Jones
Virginia Orlean Jones
Gay Spruill Jordan
Gail Harrison Joyner
Allyson Joy Kane
Lee Sandler Kern
Susan Hill Kern
Peggy Joanne Kinney
Laura Draughon Kirby
Elizabeth G. Kirkwood
Katherine Gebb Knecht
Joshua Alexander Knight
Ronald Richard Knopf
T. Frederick Koester III
Aziz Paul Lewis Kommel
Arlene Carper Kozyra
Donna Bolick Lail
Gladys Cusley Langdon
Lauri Hopper Langham
Valerie Robertson Lanier
Stephen Lay
John Alexander Legge
Joan Bardin Lester
Caroline Brawley Levi
Joy Copeland Lineback
Monique Gero Lingle
Garnett William Link Jr.
Marilyn Flynn Link
Edna McShane Lipson
Charlotte Browning Lloyd
Tammy Bryant Locklear
William A. Lofquist
Anne Gerth Logan
Thomas Harvey Logan
Constance Grigsby Lubeck
Linda Schaefer Lucas
Angela M. Macdonald
Georgianna Mack
Mary Niebur Madenspacher
Julie Cundari Madgwick
Bridget Laura Mahoney
Lynette Jones Mappes
Nancy Myers Marvin

Sarah E. Mason
Mitchell White Matthews
Raymond McClendon
Ryland McClendon
Christi Reid McCloud
Albert Bonner McClure Jr.
Virginia Scoville McClure
Annette Peterson McCullers
Susan Lee McIntyre
Susanne Curtis McKinney
Therese Maureen McKinney
Lura Deaton McMurray
Courtney A. Merchant
Bruce Charles Miller
Melanie Pender Miller
Sarah Morris Moore
Christina Lowry Morgan
Alexandra Whiteley Morris
Sarah Taylor Morrow
Sandy Moy
Yoshicazu David Nagaishi
Ann Welker Nelson
Shirley Michelson Nystrom
Alexander Eric Opper
G. Michael Orndoff
Hope Harrison Page
Mary Elizabeth Page
Jennifer Woods Parker
Reynolds Vanstory Parker
Sherry Sebrell Parker
Mary Ellis Parnell
W. Christopher Parnell
Lisa Anne Peaty
Nathanael Joseph Peaty
M. Noel Pellish
Maritza Natalia Penagos
Eugene Louis Perrotta
Michael Edward Pesant
Jo Ann Milligan Pettiford
Howard Malcolm Piland
Sara Ann Edge Piland
Jennifer Wilson Pilcher
Cornelia Morton Poer
Pamela Hall Pogue

Thomas Graham Pogue
Caryl Ann Polk
Connie Jewell Polk
Ellen Elizabeth Power
Mary Ann Todd Preddy
Maja-Lisa Keane Pressley
S. Afton Quinn
Kaye Radford
Beverly Trumble Reeb
Anthony Stephon Reid
Jack Wilson Rhyne
Karen Rhyne
Pablo Fernando Ribadeneira
Daniel Webster Rice III
Henry Richardson
Nelson Lamario Richardson
Pennie Richardson
Suzette Marie Roach
Donald Gray Roberson
Kecia McNeely Robinson
Lorene Williams Rogers
Michael James Rogers
Dayna Bradshaw Rohrer
David Henry Rosenthal
Judith Sue Rothenberg
Raymond Talmadge Rouse
Elizabeth Smith Rupp
Gail Tyndall Russell
Ellen Jane Safer
William Sanford Salin
Mary Anne Pierce Salmon
Cynthia Lindsey Sauber
Judith Allen Shope Scanlon
Ann Fulenwider Schenck
Rose Field Schenker
Anna Marie Scheyett
Anne Achurch Schnatter
Peter Allen Scholle Jr.
Sally Christian Scholle
Ivan Charles Schonfeld
Susan Scully
Alfred Robert Searle
Charlotte C. Seigler
Mara Julianne Servaites

Jennifer Joy Setzer
Elizabeth Hoover Sexton
Michele Morgan Sheppard
Marywinne Sherwood
Susan Shields
Emily Barbour Simmons
Larry Wayne Simmons
Paula Marie Sims
Julia Bone Sinclair
Virginia Quis Sloan
Matthew B. Slotkin
Ralph Joseph Smialowicz
Susan Ray Smialowicz
Barbara Beene Smith
William Reid Smithdeal
Amy Gwen Smoker
Charlotte Seeman Snead
John Joseph Soltys
Pamela M. Somers
Denise Feinberg Sprung
Amy Rudd Stanley
Marselene Stanley
Sheila Lee Stansberry
Brandy Lynn Starling
Lisa Ann Stauffer
Kenneth Doyle Steadman
Vicki Lynn Copeland Steed
Linda Virginia Stewart
Georgie McCullough Stone
Michael L. Stowe
Matthew Joseph Sullivan
Anna Torian Surface
Howard Mark Surface
Catherine Clinton Suttoni
Peter Gregory Suttoni
Deborah Swaim
David Bruce Sykes
Sarah Sizemore Talley
Diane Evans Tannehill
W. Henry Tarkington
Cora Hodge Taylor
Suzan Monroe Teague
Paul Leo Tessier
Catherine Ward Therrell

Frances Bagwell Thomas
Jean Robertson Thompson
Carolyn Phipps Titus
Kenneth Carr Titus
Mary Beth Tobin
Michelle Rachel Turner
Walter R. Turner
Rebecca Reardon Tyrrell
Sally Fuquay Umbdenstock
Charles L. Usher
Suzanne Columbus Van Pelt
Ann Pitt Waldon
Roger Stephen Waldon
Amy Dean Walker
Belita Stafford Walker
Elaine Walker
Roberta Miller Wallace
Brenda Sue Robinson Ward
Peter Hilton Ward
William Edward Weddington
Carolyn Gaither Weeks
Lynne Hill Wenz
Judith Coffey Wesson
Sandra June West
Ann Archer White
John Crane Whitfield
Barbara Hinson Whitley
Nell Goforth Wiggins
Alice Miller Williamson
Emagene Emanuel Willingham
Amy Kristin Wilson
Elizabeth Taylor Wilson
Linda Thomas Wilson
Virginia Eyler Wittekind
Janet Alexander Wood
Danielle Belcher Woodall
J. Edward Woodall
Sallie Casey Woodard
Louise Speight Woods
Kenie Marlowe Wrenn
Christy Bennett Yazan
Douglas Morton Young
Roy Allison Young
Sarah Varner Young

Thank You



Alumni update

By Michelle Rogers

1950s



Elizabeth Taylor Wilson, MSW '51, celebrated her 84th birthday and her 60th wedding anniversary in July and August 2010.

1960s



Richard Terry Lovelace, MSW '67, Ph.D., will present an advanced clinical workshop entitled "Relieve Hidden Stress to Treat Depression, Injured Self-Esteem, Addiction" at the NASW-NC Clinical Social Work Institute, held in Wilmington, N.C. at the Hilton Riverside July

18-22.



James B. Whitaker, MSW '68, was honored by the Board of Directors of Circles of Care for his 40 years of employment and service to the organization. Circles of Care is a comprehensive behavioral healthcare organization serving the citizens of Brevard County, Fla. Whitaker has been the president and CEO for 34 years.

1970s

Ann Barkley, MSW '79, a retired social work manager with New Hanover County DSS, had a letter published Dec. 26, 2010, in the Raleigh News and Observer on "Vital subsidies."



Shelia Grant Bunch, MSW '78, Ph.D., was named director of the East Carolina University School of Social Work, effective July 2010. She had been serving as interim director since 2008, and was formerly coordinator of the baccalaureate social work degree program.



Connie Cooper, MSW '71, Ph.D., whose career in education and social work has spanned almost 30 years in Savannah, Ga., was named to a new city senior service officer position, dedicated to developing and implementing a plan to increase volunteerism and target volunteers to address the Savannah's greatest needs.



Pamela M. Kiser, MSW '77, Ph.D., Watts-Thompson Professor in the Department of Human Service Studies at Elon University, was formally awarded the University's fourth Distinguished Professorship at a ceremony on Oct. 4, 2010.

Jerry Smith, MSW '77, is now at the helm of the Swain County Department of Social Services, as interim director, bringing to the table an impressive resume with a focus on child welfare. Smith served as a DSS director for 25 years in three different counties, including a year as president of the North Carolina Social Services Association. He also worked as the director of a children's home after retiring from DSS and has written two books about foster homes and orphanages.

1980s



Gary Bailey, MSW '84, was a member of a popular 1970s regional R&B group called "Brief Encounter." Last year, they regrouped to auction a new recording, raising \$4,000 for Haitian Earthquake Relief. Bailey has a private practice as a clinical social worker and psychotherapist, and also provided counseling at Elon University. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in Psychology.



Dorothy Cilenti, MSW/MPH '89, Dr.PH., was awarded a three-year, \$305,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, to fund a project called Women's Integrated Systems for Health (WISH) Distance Learning Initiative. She is a clinical assistant professor of maternal and child health at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and deputy director of the School's N.C. Institute for Public Health, and will serve as the project's principal investigator.



Louise Coggins, MSW '80, was named Philanthropist of the Year by the N.C. Cape Fear Region Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award was given in honor of her community leadership, her personal generosity and her fundraising efforts on behalf of the UNC School of Social Work. Coggins is chair of the School's Board of Advisors. See related story on p. 40.



Libbie Hough, MSW '84, was named 2011 Sole Proprietor of the Year by the Institute for Sustainable Development. Her firm, Communication Matters, of Hillsborough, does strategic marketing communions.

Peter Kramer, MSW '87, was the recipient of a 2010 University Diversity Award. UNC's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and Student Government sponsor the annual awards, which recognize significant contributions to the enhancement, support and furthering of diversity on campus and in the community.



Claire Lorch, MSW '82 received an award from UNC's Carolina Center for Public Service. A community outreach coordinator at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, she was honored for championing the Carolina Campus Community Garden, an effort that has brought town and gown together to provide free fresh produce for University employees most affected by current economic problems.



Danny Rice, MSW '82, retired Aug. 31, 2010, after 25 years as the director of specialized services from the Caswell Center, a non-profit organization serving individuals and families with developmental disabilities in eastern North Carolina. In 2008 he was given the N.C. Governor's Award for Excellence for his contributions in public service.



Cordelia B. Steele, MSW '89, LCSW, BCD, of Rockingham, was named 2011 Social Worker of the Year by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NC). This honor is given annually to a social worker who has demonstrated commendable social work practice in both professional and client communities.

1990s

Jen Algire, MSW '98, was named chief of staff for the CEO of Premier, Inc., of Charlotte. Premier is a performance improvement alliance of more than 2,300 U.S. hospitals and 66,000-plus other healthcare sites working together to achieve high quality, cost-effective care.



Andrea Bazán, MSW '95 was appointed to serve on President Obama's advisory council on faith-based and neighborhood partnerships. The 25-member council brings together religious leaders, scholars and other experts to recommend ways to improve partnerships between government and private groups. The council, which convenes for one year, typically examines ways to better deliver social services. She is president of the Triangle Community Foundation.



Bobby Cagle, MSW '98 was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Cagle was previously director of legislative and external affairs for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.

Sasha Loring, MSW '92, is the author of a book, "Eating with Fierce Kindness: A Mindful and Compassionate Guide to Losing Weight," published in Dec. 2010 by New Harbinger.



Lori Messinger, MSW '96, Ph.D. '99, has accepted the position of professor and director of the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, beginning late this summer. The School offers both a BSW and MSW program and operates from a strengths-based approach to social work practice. Messinger is an associate professor at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.



Tina Moore, MSW '96, and husband, Joe Kinder, of Chapel Hill, welcomed their second son, Harry, on May 5, 2010. Moore is a school social worker with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.



Daniel Rhodes, MSW '96, joined the faculty at Guilford College as a visiting assistant professor in the Justice and Policy Studies department, teaching courses in Community and Justice Studies. Rhodes completed his Ph.D. at UNC-Greensboro in 2008.

Elsie Roane, MSW '93, has an adjunct faculty position at the University of South Carolina College of Social Work, and passed the South Carolina MSW license exam. She previously worked in North Carolina DHHS, DSS and DFS for 30 years. Since retiring, she has been employed at A Child's Haven, a therapeutic child treatment center in Greenville, S.C.



Ursula Robinson, MSW '91, LCSW, was hired as the first executive director of PACE of Guilford and Rockingham Counties, a newly-established organization. PACE stands for "Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly," and is a health care model centered on the belief that it is better for the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs to be served in the community whenever possible.

Carol Rodd, MSW '99, became the principal of the Business and Finance High School at the Garinger Campus in Charlotte. Her concentration was management, planning and community practice. After earning her MSW, she went back to school and earned a second master's in educational leadership and is now blending the two fields.



Matthew Bremer Slotkin, J.D., MSW '94, and **Ellen Sara Pizer**, MSW, were married Aug. 6, 2010. They welcomed the birth of their son, **Levi Carroll Slotkin**, on April 24, 2011. Levi weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. Slotkin is a practicing attorney based in Durham.

Bebe Smith, MSW '93, LCSW, clinical assistant professor, UNC Department of Psychiatry Co-Director, UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health was given an NAMI Wake Mental Health Professional of the Year Award for work on the Group Home Employee Skills Training Program.



Sharon Holmes Thomas, MSW '98, and husband **Montez** have welcomed their first child. **Samuel Henry Thomas** was born Sept. 2, 2011, weighed 7 lbs 4.7 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. She is the UNC School of Social Work's director of recruitment, admissions and financial aid.

John Weatherspoon, MSW '95, ACSW, LCSW, was promoted to state director of home based services for Intercept Youth Services, Inc. in Virginia. Since graduation, he has served in many roles, including a child and family therapist, clinical supervisor, regional director for other family service agencies, and adjunct faculty with Radford University School of Social Work.

David Whisnant, MSW '96, had a book, "All That Is Native and Fine: The Politics of Culture in an American Region," published as a 25th anniversary edition by UNC Press. The Journal of Appalachian Studies published a scholarly roundtable on the history and importance of the book, in its Dec. 2010 issue.

2000s



Sarah Axelson, MSW '08, accepted a position as a teen pregnancy prevention project officer for the Administration for Children and Families in Washington, D.C. This is in addition to her other positions as an adjunct professor at George Washington University, where she is teaching an undergraduate Human Sexuality course, and as a consultant with Healthy Teen Network.

Dipanwita Bhattacharyya, MSW '08, was promoted to department coordinator at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence in Boston. She has been there since 2009 as the outreach and prevention coordinator.



Tanya Smith Brice, Ph.D. '03, was featured in the March 2011 Christian Chronicle in an interview entitled, "Race and the church: A conversation with Tanya Smith Brice."



Adriane Casalotti, MSW/MSPH '09, is working on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congresswoman Doris Matsui, a Democrat who represents the Sacramento area. Previously she was a congressional fellow working with Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA).



Paul Lanier, MSW '08, a Ph.D. candidate at Washington University in St. Louis, was selected for a national dissertation fellowship, the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.



Keith R. McAdam, MSW '07, received his LCSW last year. He also recently presented at the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work's 22nd Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS. He is a clinical instructor/behavioral health provider in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences - Social Work at Duke University Health System. He also serves on the UNC School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



Alicia Cristine Michael, MSW '05, and Jason Lee Kester were married Aug. 7, 2010, at First Baptist Church in Maiden, N.C. She is a foster care worker with Catawba County Social Services.

Gordon Miller, MSW '09, was featured in a Dec. 19, 2010 Burlington Times News article about child abuse cases in Alamance County. He is one of 14 social welfare assessors and forensic investigators employed by Alamance County DSS.



Joy Mischley, MSW '07, spent the past year in New Delhi, India working at SevaYatra, an organization that provides social responsibility solutions to companies and universities in India and the U.S. through effective philanthropy and impactful employee volunteerism.

Debra Neisler, MSW '06, LCSW, started a new position as a child and youth behavioral military family life consultant. She closed her private therapy practice in Durham and is working as a sub-contractor for the Department of Defense on military bases in the U.S. and Europe.



Joe Polich, MSW '09, a student at UNC Law School, was awarded the 2010 Pro Bono Student of the Year by the Pro Bono Board of UNC Law.



Karen Smith Rotabi, Ph.D. '05, MSW, MPH, was featured on the Virginia National Public Radio show "With Good Reason" to discuss intercountry adoptions and Rotabi's experience in Guatemala. She has also been taking active leadership in policy analysis and recommendations for the children of Haiti. Rotabi is an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, and a member of the UNC School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



Alison Whisnant Saville, MSW/MSPH '05, and husband Steve, welcomed their first child, Henry Whisnant Saville, on April 13, 2009. The family resides in Denver, Colo. She works as a project manager for a public health research project at University of Colorado-Denver.

Alison Silver, MSW '06, a clinician in the SecurePath program at the Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood, is featured in a video produced by Together NC. SecurePath is a Wake County SmartStart-funded program that provides home-based mental health services for low-income preschool-age children. Together NC was interested in "finding out how state programs and services impact real people, and what North Carolina would look like if those programs and services disappeared."

Anne Benderson Cheever, MSW '05, relocated to Madison, Wis. with her spouse and launched a private practice just north of Madison.

Amy Brannock, MSW '07, accepted a position as a research clinician at the Durham VA Medical Center. She is the clinician for a Department of Defense-funded study entitled, "Initial Randomized Controlled Trial of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Distress and Impairment in OEF/OIF Veterans." She is conducting psychotherapy with veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Devon Corpus, MSW '01, is the supervisor for the crisis team in Monterey County, Calif. She coordinates the Hostage Negotiations Team and Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement. She is also the field placement instructor/coordinator for Monterey County Adult Services and California State Monterey Bay.



Amy Hobson Fadden, MSW '01, and her husband, Brian, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Aislinn Delaney Fadden, on Oct. 3, 2010. The couple also has a son, Colin.



Felissa Huber Ferrell, MSW '03, and husband Malcolm welcomed twin boys on May 14, 2010, named Colin Liam and Colton Thomas. Ferrell is the director of adult services at Rockingham County DSS.



Johanna Greeson, Ph.D. '09, has accepted a two-year post-doc position at the Duke University Dept. of Psychiatry with the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.



Lindsay Hege, MSW '07, and husband Brian welcomed their first child, Lila Addison, on March 10, 2010. Lila weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. Hedge is the special events manager at the Ronald McDonald House of Durham.



Megan Highsmith, MSW '01, welcomed her second child, Mercer, on May 19, 2010. She is employed at Hunter School of Social Work in Manhattan as a faculty advisor.

Selden Holt, MSW '01, training coordinator at the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health, was given an NAMI Wake Mental Health Professional of the Year Award for work on the Group Home Employee Skills Training Program.



Melissa Johnson, MSW '02, was named executive director of Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG), a Washington, D.C.-based membership association dedicated to strengthening the capacity of organized philanthropy to support community-based efforts advocating for policies and practices that advance social and economic justice.



Kathryn Keicher, MSW '04, LCSW and partner Susan Perry welcomed son Owen on July 5, 2010. Keicher is a clinical social worker and team leader at Duke Birthing Center.



Patricia Kohl, Ph.D.'06, received funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to evaluate the effectiveness of Pathways Triple P, a parent training program, on preventing and treating behavior problems among high-risk children in the child welfare system. She is an assistant professor at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University and principal investigator of the study.



Sabrina Williamson Sullenberger, Ph.D. '03, welcomed Avila Elora Dutch Sullenberger on March 1, 2011. She was 9 lbs., 8 oz. and 22 inches long. She is doted on by big sisters Cosette and Ireland. Sullenberger is an associate professor at Indiana University School of Social Work.



Kristen and Mark Sullivan, both MSW '02, of Durham, are proud to announce that Eli Obie Sullivan arrived on June 16, 2010. Eli weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. Mark is president of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



Jamie Grissett Swaine, MSW '05, welcomed daughter Rylee Summer on March 6, 2011. She was 8 lbs. 7.5 oz. and 19.75 inches long. Swaine is a clinical instructor with the UNC School of Social Work's Developmental Disabilities Training Institute.

Ashley Ward, MSW '08, established and became director of the For a Day Foundation in Chapel Hill, a nonprofit organization that offers the "Queen for a Day" and "Hero for a Day" programs to the children receiving cancer treatments at UNC Children's Hospital.



Justine Wayne, MSW/MSPH'02, has been working as an independent program evaluator with the Caswell County Partnership for Children, a Smart Start initiative, for the past three years. She has two children, Sam and Lula (short for Tallulah).



Michael Woolley, Ph.D. '03, joined University of Maryland School of Social Work as an associate professor. He was also featured in a full-page article in their magazine, Connections.

2010s



Laura Aponte-Hughes, MSW '11, was named a 2011 Social Work Case Management Fellow by the American Case Management Association. The Fellowship is a nine-month hospital-based program. She will be working at New York University's Langone Medical Center.



Carrie Pettus-Davis, Ph.D. '11 and husband Matt welcomed daughter Sadie Ryan Davis on Feb. 10, 2011. Sadie was 8 lbs. 11 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Pettus-Davis has accepted an assistant professor position at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, beginning July 1.

Helen Dombalis, MSW/MPH '10, accepted a policy associate position with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. She is working on federal policies, including the Farm Bill, and will serve as NSAC's staff member for their marketing, food systems and rural development issue committee.



Liza Gellerstedt, MSW '10, was awarded a \$1,000 prize by The Center for Clinical Social Work for the paper she submitted "demonstrating the author's mastery of the essentials of clinical social work and readiness to enter professional practice." Only five students nationwide received this award.

Rebecca Spence, MSW '10, was named resident services coordinator at Barclay Greenmount, a 139-unit affordable apartment community in Baltimore, Md. Spence has more than five years of experience as a case manager and community advocate for social services organizations in North Carolina and California.

In Memoriam

Eugene Edward Deal, MSW '52, age 93, formerly of Charlotte, died July 10, 2010.



B. Avery Hall, MSW '91, of Durham, died at age 65 at her home on July 28, 2010.



Sandra "Sandi" Lambe Hall, MSW '84, died Nov. 9, 2010, at age 53. Hall was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Guilford County School System, working with children with special needs.

Henry Sanford Howie Jr., MSW '63, age 82, died May 21, 2010, at Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, S.C.

Louise Webb King, MSW '55, died Dec. 18, 2010, in Charlottesville, Va.

Scott Luce, MSW '79, of Winterville, N.C., died Dec. 19, 2010, after battling dementia for many years.

Carolyn Winberry Phillips, MSW '60, of Lexington, died Sept. 10, 2010, at age 79, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem.



Nancy Howard Sitterson, MSW '42, died peacefully at the age of 91 on Nov. 29, 2010 at Carol Woods Retirement Community. She was the wife of former UNC Chancellor Lyle Sitterson, whom she married in 1944.



Thomas Skinner Smith, age 61, of Raleigh passed away unexpectedly Jan. 15. He was employed by the State of North Carolina Division of Social Services as a program consultant in the Child Welfare Services Section.

James Robert "Bob" Stevens, MSW '67, age 70, of Winston-Salem, died June 22, 2010, at Oak Forest Health Center.

Esther Tyler Walton, MSW '69, 73, died quietly surrounded by friends and family, Oct. 20, 2010, at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

Warren L. Wheeler, MSW '82, age 61, of Raleigh, passed away peacefully at his home Aug. 9, 2010.

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.

Subscribe to our newsletter

If you aren't receiving *E-Contact*, the School's monthly alumni newsletter, you're missing important news and events. Subscribe via the newsletter sign-up box at: <http://ssw.unc.edu/contact>.

Alumna Profile

Louise Coggins, MSW '80
Wilmington, N.C.



By Susan White

As a little girl growing up in Rocky Mount, N.C., Louise Coggins often lingered over stories of her grandmother and great aunt, both volunteer social workers during World War II. Coggins admired their strength and compassion. Their dedication to others in need further fueled her own enthusiasm for a profession that she has embraced now for nearly 37 years.

A 1980 MSW graduate from UNC's School of Social Work and current chair of the School's Board of Advisors, Coggins still views her career as the fulfillment of a family tradition.

"It was just a legacy of that's what you do — you give back," she said. "At the time, I didn't really know it was called social work. I just knew that I wanted to give back and help people."

Although she earned a B.A. in psychology from Carolina, Coggins never considered pursuing a Ph.D in the same field. Social work offered more diverse career opportunities and would better prepare her to work with a greater variety of people, she said.

"Social workers have the skills to work in almost any setting, whether it's with the Red Cross, or the military, or senior centers or for a hospital," she said. "So for me, going into social work just seemed like the wisest thing to do because I knew I would be trained for so many different things and that I would be able to help people in the broadest way."

And for more than three decades, she's done just that by providing mental health services to children, adults and families from across the state. Inspired by her own family's work, Coggins got her start as a volunteer, first with a group home for emotionally disturbed teenagers in Chapel Hill and later as a volunteer behavior modification therapist with a center in Butner.

Over the course of her career, she has served as a houseparent and primary therapist at a group home and treatment center for emotionally disturbed youth and as a teacher and center director for pre-school children at a federally-funded child development center.

As a social worker for the Forsyth County Mental Health Clinic in the 1970s, Coggins helped develop a specialized adolescent inpatient program; led hospital educational groups for children; and problem-solving groups for adults and alcoholics. She also trained court volunteers, social workers and detention center staff in behavioral management skills. Since 1980, she has worked as a psychotherapist in private practice, providing individual, marital, family, and group psychotherapy.

"I have felt like social work was a calling since the first time I sat down to work with a client," Coggins said. "I feel like this (career) has offered me just the greatest opportunity to meet so many people,

and I have been so blessed to work with my clients, who give me so much in terms of letting me help them."

Through her service, Coggins also has helped strengthen the profession. In 1991, she advocated for mandatory certification for clinical social workers in North Carolina. Today, licensure is required for all clinical social workers in the state. Such mandates boosted the profession's credibility and helped social workers develop an identity separate from the medical and psychological fields, Coggins said.

"I think social work has defined itself more clearly over time," she added. "We are much more unified as a field today. But I think our roles have grown and the respect that we receive from other disciplines also has grown tremendously."

Social workers have always been change makers, and Coggins continues to be right there among them, often leading the way with her volunteerism. In December, she was named "Philanthropist of the Year" by the N.C. Cape Fear Region Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award was given in honor of her community leadership, her personal generosity and her fundraising efforts on behalf of the School of Social Work.

The recognition was well-deserved for such a tireless leader, said Mary Beth Hernandez, the School's associate dean for advancement.

"I can't even begin to describe the impact that Louise has had on the School of Social Work during her time as board chair," Hernandez said. "She's an enthusiastic cheerleader for the School, as well as a masterful fundraiser. In short, she's just phenomenal!"

Over the years, Coggins also has devoted much of her time and passion to charities and organizations that address significant social justice issues, including racism, sexism, human trafficking, and domestic violence. "We don't just change the world with each individual client but by working with organizations doing social justice social work on the macro level," she said.

All social workers have a critical responsibility to stand up for the vulnerable, whether by offering "time, money, talent or advocacy," Coggins added.

"It's not about people giving large financial gifts," she said. "Social workers already give a ton because they are choosing a profession in which they are not going to make a lot of money. And it's not about giving tons of hours of time. There is simply a need to be involved. We need all sorts of service and levels of giving."

"We have to be active advocate social workers. We have to be out there working for the people who don't have a voice."

Tiffany Washington named Outstanding Doctoral Student

By Michelle Rogers



Tiffany Washington

Tiffany Renee Washington was selected by the doctoral program committee to receive the 2010-11 Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. She was honored at a reception May 6.

Washington was nominated by several of her colleagues. When presenting the award, doctoral program chair Dr. Kathleen Rounds said one nominator's quote best captures what most people wrote: "Whether it is teaching, scholarship, or service, Tiffany performs all with a spirit of excellence."

Washington received her B.A. in Communication Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill, and went on to complete an MSW at North Carolina A&T and UNC-Greensboro. Prior to entering our doctoral program in 2007, she served as a medical social worker in home health and renal dialysis, and was the patient services coordinator for the Southeastern Kidney Council. Her leadership in the field of nephrology social work was recognized in 2005 when Tiffany was selected as the Social Worker of the Year by the North Carolina Council of Nephrology Social Workers. While a doctoral student, she has received numerous other awards and fellowships.

Combining doctoral studies and engagement in community service, she serves on several advisory boards for community-based agencies and is the student representative to the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work. In addition, she volunteers for community agencies and service projects such as the National Kidney Foundation, World AIDS Day, and organized a local drive to increase bone marrow donations.

Scholarship established for mental health direct practice

By Michelle Rogers

Pansy Morton, of Raleigh, has made a gift of \$100,000 to endow a scholarship at the UNC School of Social Work.

The scholarship honors her late husband, who passed away in 1996. Preference shall be given to students who are interested in direct practice with clients with mental illness. Recipients of the award will be known as Hugh MacRae Morton, Jr. Scholars. The first award is anticipated to be allocated in 2013 for a rising final-year student.

Hugh Morton, a '70 UNC alumnus, was a member of the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors and worked closely with Dean John Turner, Jack Tate, and Charles Kuralt in raising money to build the Tate-Turner-Kuralt building. He owned a video production firm and did a lot of work for nonprofits.

"Hugh believed wholeheartedly in the School of Social Work's purpose," said Pansy Morton. "It was important to him. It seems appropriate to me to honor his memory in this way."

Mrs. Morton retired last year as a Spanish teacher from Ravenscroft School in Raleigh. She took her husband's place as a member of the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors, where she continues to serve.



Pansy Morton

Reeves family renews \$250,000 annual gift to doctoral program

By Michelle Rogers

An annual donation to the UNC School of Social Work is helping to attract and retain top graduate students.

In 2010 Sam and Betsy Reeves of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., gave an expendable \$250,000 gift to the University to support social work doctoral students, and have given \$250,000 this year as well.

The doctoral program admits five to six new students annually and has a total enrollment of about 35. However, in previous years the School would lose two to three of its top admitted applicants to other programs because UNC has not been able to guarantee them continued financial support. The ability to offer multi-year funding at



Betsy and Sam Reeves

a competitive level significantly enhances UNC's program.

The gift enables the School of Social Work to offer five doctoral students two years of financial support. The fellowships 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 assist with teaching and research.

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.

From the Alumni President

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

These are tough times for many of the people we serve, and many of the agencies we serve in. News about the state budget and cuts to human services and education continues to be bleak, and the School of Social Work has not gone unscathed. Yet, the work of the School is as important as ever, and the School's faculty, students and alumni continue to rise to the occasion.

This is possible because generous people like you have risen to the occasion. Being on the scholarship committee, I continue to be inspired by the strength and determination of our students. I hope you'll consider supporting these amazing people by making a donation to the School's general fund. Every dollar truly does help.

I also wanted to let you know that Kristen Huffman, director of the annual fund and alumni relations, left the School in February. She was an important part of our team and will be missed. Due to the budget situation, her position is not being filled at this time. This has been a great opportunity for the Alumni Council to contribute by taking on some of Kristen's duties.

We have a very active and dedicated group on the Alumni Council this year. Welcome Weekend continues to be a successful and important event that showcases our School and sets a positive tone for incoming students.

I'd like to encourage you to stay in touch with the School and your former classmates by subscribing to the monthly alumni newsletter (and submitting your news!), and following the School on Facebook and Twitter. There is also a School of Social Work networking group on LinkedIn. You can find links to all of these at: <http://ssw.unc.edu/connect>.

I also urge you to stay connected to the School through continuing education opportunities, being a field instructor or becoming involved with the Alumni Council.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support. You make a difference.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan , MSW '02



Mark Sullivan , MSW'02

2010-11 Alumni Council

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Photo: Michelle Rogers

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