

# Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2013

Targeting social workers  
for *jobs*



School prepares students to  
meet increasing demand for  
social work professionals

# Message from the Dean



Jack M. Richman

While North Carolina continues to recover from the recession and its aftermath, including one of the country's highest unemployment rates, we find ourselves facing an ever-increasing demand to produce more and more highly trained social workers against a backdrop of declining state funding.

As our lead article in *Contact* shows, the job outlook for social workers—compared to other professions—looks particularly impressive, with a projected 25 percent increase in the number of practitioners in the field by 2020. However, we know that this growth is due partly to the financial difficulties that still trouble so many nationwide and the increasing need for resources and services to help individuals stabilize their own lives.

As dean of one of the Top 5 Schools of Social Work in the country, I remain proud of our dedicated faculty, staff and students, and I know that each of them is committed to

improving the outcomes for all hard-working families in our state and beyond.

I am confident that our profession can help create solutions to address the persistent challenges those in need are facing. But in light of additional budget cuts, I am reminded of the many reasons that we continue to depend on and appreciate the financial support of our alumni, friends and community.

With each new year, I am more impressed with the work of our faculty, not only because of their innovative research but also because of their commitment in helping us expand our international reach. For example, in January, we welcomed a visiting delegation of faculty from East China University of Science and Technology, School of Social and Public Administration. As you recall, we signed a “memorandum of understanding (MOU)” with ECUST in 2008, giving our faculty and students opportunities to study abroad and to collaborate with international peers on research, grants and other academic projects. We have similar MOUs 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.

As a result of this international collaboration, we will welcome a visiting scholar to the School this fall. **Suresh Pathare**, Ph.D., is director of the Social Work Program at BPHE Society's Centre for Studies in Rural Development, Institute of Social Work and Research in Ahmednagar, India. He will join us as part of a project he is completing involving a systematic review of food security issues in the United States and India.

This year also brought much good news to some of our faculty members. I am happy to announce that **Shenyang Guo** was named the Wallace H. Kuralt Sr. Distinguished Professor for Public Welfare Policy and Administration. The endowed chair was created to honor the work of the late Kuralt, a UNC alumnus who spent more than 25 years as director of public welfare for Mecklenburg County.

The UNC Board of Trustees also approved promotions for **Natasha Bowen** and **Rebecca Macy**, who are now full professors. And we welcomed four new junior faculty members to the School: **David Ansong** from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis; **Paul Lanier**, an MSW alumnus of UNC and Ph.D. graduate of the Brown School of Social Work; **Melissa Lippold**, a Ph.D. graduate from Penn State; and **Cindy Fraga Rizo**, who is completing her Ph.D. in social work at UNC.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to several faculty members, including **Paul Smokowski**, who accepted a position at the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. Paul was named the Foundation Professor for Child and Family Resilience in the School of Social Work and the associate director for Youth Violence Prevention of the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center at ASU's College of Public Programs. **Amanda Sheely** accepted a tenure track position at the London School of Economics in the School of Social Policy.

We also bid farewell to retiring faculty members **Dennis Orthner**, **Irene Zipper**, and **Kathy Johnson**, each of whom we honored for their distinguished service to UNC and to North Carolina.

In closing, as we think about the future of our School, we know that innovation will play a larger role in our path to success. Ultimately, multiple strategies for generating sustainable funding to support all of our programs and students will be needed. We continue to pursue new solutions with market potential, including certificate programs, continuing education classes, services, products and other entrepreneurial ideas.

Despite the challenges ahead, I assure you that our mission is still clear: to provide the highest quality curriculum and education experience for our students so that we produce the best social work researchers and practitioners in the country.

# Contact

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## Give us your e-mail address for a chance to win prizes!

The School would like to send you our monthly e-newsletter, which includes alumni news and continuing education opportunities. Would you please give us your e-mail address?

To sweeten the deal, we’re giving away prizes! Submissions received by **December 31, 2013**, will be entered into a random drawing to win two tickets to the UNC vs. Virginia basketball home game. We’re also giving away 10 runner-up prizes of School of Social Work T-shirts.

Everyone who enters online will receive a thank-you prize of a car window decal, magnet or other little surprise—while supplies last!

To enter, go to: [ssw.unc.edu/win](http://ssw.unc.edu/win)

# School prepares students to meet increasing demand for social work professionals

By Susan White

Every year in early April, representatives from more than 50 public, private and nonprofit agencies arrive at UNC's School of Social Work armed with bundles of colorful brochures, stacks of business cards, and ample enthusiasm. As participants in the School's annual Career Day, the groups not only get the chance to plug their organizations but the time to recruit potential employees from a pool of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in social work programs across the state.

**Amanda Hutchinson**, a recruiting supervisor with the national nonprofit Youth Villages, was especially eager to promote her agency's work this year. After all, the organization had 120 job openings nationwide—10 to 15 of which were based out of offices scattered across North Carolina. In fact, the nonprofit, which serves emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families, was among more than two dozen agencies advertising vacancies, including for family counselors, school social workers, program directors, community therapists, and child welfare workers.

“The kind of target we’re really seeking is that recent grad and new clinician to the field who has one to two years of experience,” Hutchinson explained. “And from what I’ve seen just today, the resumes are really strong.”

That the social work profession is hiring at a time when many employment sectors are still slowly recovering is a good sign, said university and state social work leaders. Indeed, the job outlook for social workers appears to be more promising than for many other professions. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that from 2010 to 2020, the number of U.S. social workers is projected to increase 25 percent to nearly 812,000 workers—well above the 14 percent average growth projected for all occupations across the country.

According to the labor department, this increase in demand is due partly to changes in health care and to aging baby boomers, who will require more support services. Projections also show a need for more social workers in schools because of increasing enrollments and in agencies that work directly with families and children. Nationally, the number of mental health and substance abuse social workers is also expected to increase 31 percent.

The demand for more social support is already being felt in North Carolina, where many households are still hurting financially, largely due to an unemployment rate that as of June, hovered just shy of 9 percent—higher than the national rate.

History has shown that when people are struggling, social workers will be there to lend a hand, said **Sharon Holmes Thomas**, assistant dean of Recruitment, Admissions and Financial Aid at UNC’s School of Social Work.

“Anytime you have social ills and problems, there’s going to be a job for social workers to help alleviate some of that stress, to help build new programs, and to implement new services,” Holmes Thomas said.

Families and communities are also driving the need for more social support, especially around issues such as mental illness, she added. Years ago, individuals would have been less likely to discuss these and similar topics, she said.

“Today, there are so many more things on the forefront that we’re talking about and in a good way,” she said. “We’re talking about difference. We’re talking about strengthening communities, and I think social workers are perfectly trained to work with communities and with families to help them navigate the process in dealing with these different issues.”

As executive director of the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NC-NASW), an advocacy group representing 4,000 social work members, **Kathy Boyd** greets the current employ-

ment climate with slightly mixed emotions. After all, part of the organization’s role is to promote the profession.

However, salaries for social workers still lag behind many other occupations. According to federal labor statistics, the median annual wage for all social workers in May 2010 was \$42,480, much lower than the six-figure salaries earned by the nation’s top 20 highest paying occupations, including financial managers, podiatrists, political scientists and natural science managers.

“Human service professionals are like teachers—they just make less money, and that’s a battle we’ve been fighting for years,” Boyd said. “As a society, we don’t value that type of work as much. So, a banker with a bachelor’s degree makes more money than a social worker with a master’s degree. Someone who works with money is seen as more valuable than someone who works with human beings. That’s another thing we have to change.”

The growth in the social work profession is also complicated by the fact that in North Carolina, many workers are competing for the same jobs, Boyd noted. Why? Statewide, there are 23 accredited programs that offer a bachelor’s degree in social work (BSW) and 11 accredited programs that offer a master’s degree (MSW).

“So we have a lot of social work graduates,” Boyd explained. “Not to mention, the state licensing board gets five to eight calls a month from people who are social workers and licensed in other states who are interested in moving here. So North Carolina is very popular when it comes to where social workers want to be in general.”

Applications to UNC’s School of Social Work likely reflect some of that interest in the Tar Heel state. Over the past couple of years, the School has received 500 applications annually to its MSW program, less than a third of which are accepted each year. Currently, about 300 students are enrolled, and about 125 were expected to graduate in May.

Among these numbers, is one other noticeable trend: a stronger group of applicants.

“I think we’re seeing an increase in the number of people who are coming in with real-world, real-life experience,” Thomas said. “Whether they are volunteering with AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps or gaining valuable professional or volunteer experience, we are seeing strong candidates who can articulate their interests within social work very well. They are thinking more about what it means to be a social worker. That it’s not just, ‘I want to be a therapist’ or ‘I want to help people and communities.’ They’re thinking more about our mission of social justice and about working with and collaborating with and empowering vulnerable and oppressed communities that are underrepresented and underserved.”



Kathy Boyd



Sharon Thomas

*Continued next page*

Nationally, the number of mental health and substance abuse social workers is expected to increase 31 percent.

“What is reported to me is that our students are clearly wanted by employers because they are bright, they work hard, and they are prepared. They’re just good students, and that’s supported by the fact that we’re ranked the 5th best School of Social Work in the country.”

*Dean Jack Richman*

Some social work students are already considering how to get hired in such a competitive environment. For example, **Erin Bergstrom** is a first-year MSW student at UNC and at least a year away from graduation. But she is eager to stand out in the social work crowd. So, on April 8, she joined the more than 100 BSW and MSW students from across the state who handed out resumes at the School’s spring career day event. Bergstrom said she was determined to get a “head start” on the employment search.

“I’m just trying to get an idea of what organizations are looking for and what they’re offering,” she said.

Graduates willing to move to a more rural area of the state where social workers are needed but more difficult to find will have an advantage over those searching for jobs in the Triangle, Boyd noted.

Students are not the only ones feeling some pressure to compete. In addition to dealing with challenging budget cuts in recent years, UNC-system campuses are facing additional scrutiny to ensure that graduates are well prepared to meet employers’ needs. At UNC’s School of Social Work, academic leaders regularly evaluate how the social work profession is changing.

“There’s a constant give and take on what the field needs and what training we’re providing,” said School Dean **Jack M. Richman**. “We always have feelers out there to make sure that we’re being consistent with where the field is moving.”

Even so, there is plenty of evidence to support the School’s historical reputation for educating the best social work researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, Richman added.

“What is reported to me is that our students are clearly wanted by employers because they are bright, they work hard, and they are

prepared,” he said. “They’re just good students, and that’s supported by the fact that we’re ranked the 5th best School of Social Work in the country.”

The extensive field training that UNC social work students receive also enhances their attractiveness for employment, said **Rebecca Brigham**, director of the School’s Field Education Program. Each semester, in addition to completing course work, UNC students are concurrently placed in internships at various social work agencies, hospitals, nonprofits and schools within the state.

Individually, social work students each complete 1,128 field education hours—228 more than national accrediting standards require, Brigham said. All total, students contribute about 125,000 volunteer hours to 120 agencies each year, an amount valued at \$1.6 million.

The goal, Brigham said, is to help students take what they are learning in the classroom on issues such as homelessness, substance abuse addiction, and domestic violence, and to apply that knowledge in their field work with individuals who may be struggling with those challenges.

“This is where students learn and practice the skills they need for the profession,” she said.

For some, the field experience often leads directly to employment. **Reiss Powell** was offered a position with an outpatient substance abuse program at least three months before graduation. Powell knows his last year of fieldwork as a substance abuse therapist with the agency helped land him the new job.



Photo courtesy Reiss Powell

Reiss Powell





Denise Shaffer

“At first, I was really nervous about my job prospects and felt overwhelmed with approaching the job search,” said Powell, who graduated in May. “But then I got really lucky because of my field placement. The plan is for me to start out working this summer, and then I will transition to full-time.”

**Charrise Hart**, a graduating student in the School’s Winston-Salem 3-Year MSW Program, also credits her field experience for helping her land her first full-time job as an

MSW graduate. Hart worked last semester with the communications and development coordinator of the North Carolina Housing Coalition, where she honed her skills in grant writing, fundraising and marketing. That opportunity, she said, led to a recent job offer as the marketing and development coordinator with Triangle Family Services.

“The School of Social Work really prepared me for that position,” Hart said. “The connection between faculty and field instructors really helped guide my career and my future.”

Locally, leaders at county departments of social services say MSW programs also contribute to their overall workforce success. Such programs ensure that graduates enter the practice field with

a broad educational background, extensive hands-on training, and a thorough knowledge of ethical boundaries.

“I think as much as possible, we depend on the (UNC) School of Social Work to help us in identifying folks who have a genuine capacity and empathy for helping people and who also are able to demonstrate that, which makes a huge difference in the ability to work effectively with families,” said **Denise Shaffer**, assistant director for the Orange County Department of Social Services. “They have to truly be strengths-based in their practice and by and large, I think most of the students come here with that skill.”

Even in more optimistic economic times, state and School social work leaders know that some graduates may still need to send out more resumes and go on more interviews than some of their peers, especially if they hope to work in a region already flush with candidates. To stand out, social workers must do a better job of marketing themselves and “documenting their worth,” Boyd said.

“It all gets back to salaries and how we’re viewed as a profession and being able to tie what we do to positive outcomes and tie that to something positive to society,” she said. “We as a profession seem to be so consumer and client-oriented that we focus on the client, and we tend to forget to tell everybody the good that we do.”



At the School’s annual Career Day, students discuss employment options with representatives from over 50 North Carolina social services agencies.

# Alumni take social work careers down diverse paths

By Susan White

One is the head of a Georgia state agency responsible for the early care and education of 450,000 children. Another has a BA in ancient Greek, manages the Currituck Beach Lighthouse and founded a charter school for underserved students. The third has a degree in sociology, a minor in Native American studies, and has a dream of serving the Lumbee Indian community where she grew up.

So what do these individuals have in common? All three earned a master's degree from UNC's School of Social Work. They are also among the hundreds of thousands of social workers across the country who are helping, albeit perhaps informally, to educate others about the diversity of careers within the social work profession.

Although social service stereotypes have long persisted, today's social workers are proof that the field is more challenging to pigeonhole. In reality, social workers are employed in countless settings all over the world, including with nonprofit groups, hospitals, police departments, and grassroots advocacy organizations.

Furthermore, as the UNC alumni featured below illustrate, the journey to social work practice may not always involve the same career path, but the desire to improve the quality of life for those in need remains the same.



For alumni, the journey to social work practice may not always involve the same career path, but the desire to improve the quality of life for those in need remains the same.

### Bobby Cagle, MSW '98

Since January 2011, Cagle has served as commissioner of Georgia's State Department of Early Care and Learning, an agency that licenses and monitors child care facilities, operates a child and adult care food program, oversees pre-K programs, and manages a system designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of all early learning programs and services.

Based on his responsibilities, Cagle knows it would be easy to mistake him as a career educator. But he is even more confident that his social work background, including his graduate experience at UNC, fully prepared him for his current position.

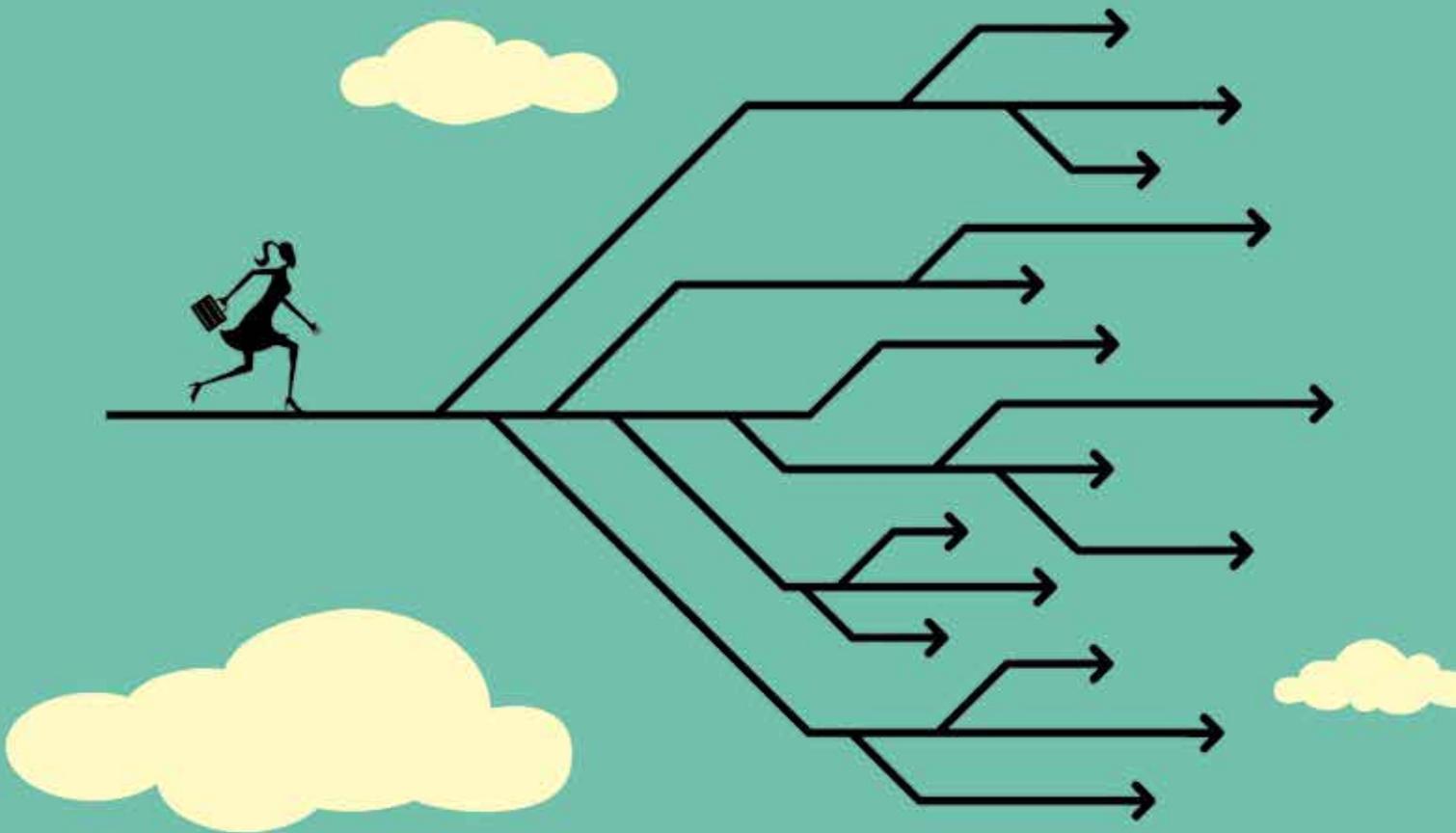
"I concentrated on management planning and community practice, and when I think back on my education there (at the School of Social Work) and just the kind of process that it takes you through—

from the foundational courses that everybody has to take to human development and then through the policy courses and management courses—not a day goes by that I don't have to draw on something that I learned in the graduate program," said Cagle, who serves as a current member of the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors.

That time at UNC, he said, also taught him to think seriously about where he wanted to be professionally. Long-term, the young graduate who gained experience as a social worker and then as a probation officer, eventually saw himself in a leadership role. His resume reflects his commitment to that goal. Over the years, he has served in various leadership positions, including as: the judicial district manager for the N.C. Department of Corrections, director of the Graham County Department of Social Services, deputy director for Youth and Family Services for Mecklenburg County, and director of Legislative



Bobby Cagle, MSW '98, visits an elementary school earlier this year. Cagle is the commissioner of Georgia's State Department of Early Care and Learning.



and External Affairs and director of Family Services for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.

Although his practice as a social worker has evolved over 15 years, Cagle can still trace the intersection of his current work in early childhood education with his previous efforts in helping to solve many of the problems that vulnerable children and families face. Such a revelation just means he's doing exactly what he was meant to do, he added.

"If you look at most families that have issues, you can trace it back to their real challenges with education," he explained. "So, in the role that I'm in now, I have this feeling like I'm coming full circle. Landing in early education at this point in time is really kind of a blessing. I've been able to bring experiences that I had to help set up policies today that are family friendly and to help families access the services they need to remedy issues regardless of where they are."

## Meghan Agresto, MSW '05

Agresto certainly didn't start out to be a social worker. After graduating from UNC in 1997 with a degree in ancient Greek, she landed a Fulbright scholarship and then spent a year studying in Athens, Greece. For someone with her interests, the typical next step would have been to pursue a Ph.D. But Agresto shook off the thought and toyed briefly with entering law school instead.

Then one day, a newspaper ad caught her eye. A domestic violence center in Chapel Hill had an opening. Agresto was intrigued and applied. She'd studied Spanish and even spoke fluently thanks to

a year in Spain during her undergraduate years at Carolina. She was certain the agency, which also served a growing population of Latino families, could use her help. She got the job and was appointed as a court advocate for Spanish-speaking women.

The experience was Agresto's first major exposure to the non-profit world. She was hooked and soon after, she enrolled in UNC's School of Social Work. While pursuing her MSW, she continued to hone her nonprofit skills by working for the domestic violence center in Chapel Hill.

Then in 2005, serendipity struck. Agresto was hired as the site manager for the Outer Banks Conservationists—an opportunity that enabled her to merge her long-time love of history with her passion for community advocacy and nonprofit management. Today, Agresto oversees the historic preservation of the Currituck Lighthouse in Corolla, N.C., a tourist destination that receives tens of thousands of visitors annually. She hires staff, trains museum docents, writes grants and manages the budget.

"I am living in the social work world," Agresto said. "I am a macro-direct person. And I don't mind wearing a lot of different hats. I'm doing pretty much what every other nonprofit has to do—everything."

Perhaps as a result of falling immediately in love with her new community, Agresto also quickly recognized an unmet need. For years, children in Corolla had to travel about two hours by bus twice a day into neighboring Dare County to attend school. Her solution? Agresto founded the nonprofit Corolla Education Foundation and

last fall, she opened the community's first charter school. Today, the Water's Edge Village School employs two teachers and serves about 16 kindergarten through sixth-grade students.

Learning how to start her own nonprofit was "eye-opening," she said. "I didn't hire an attorney to develop the bylaws. I did that. I didn't hire someone to build a budget for me. I did it. And that's where I credit the School of Social Work. There was a need in this town and I had the know-how, and a degree, and the confidence to completely go after it."

Social work also taught her the valuable lesson of building effective relationships, Agresto added. Together, she and community members continue to look for ways to strengthen families that the new school serves.

"You know, I'm not working for a DSS (department of social services), but I am putting my social work degree to use out in the world, and I've been successful, and I'm grateful for it."

## Brittany Strong, MSW '13

From the moment she walked through the doors of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building, Strong made her practice intentions clear: she wanted to return to Scotland County to give back to her community. Strong, who identifies as Lumbee Indian, said for too long, her hometown has struggled with a lack of jobs and the repercussions of unemployment.



Brittany Strong, MSW '13

"A lot of what I see is systemic," said Strong, who graduated in May. "Our community used to be fairly self-sustaining. We had a lot of textile plants, but now all of that's gone. So now you're seeing a lot of people without work and who have gone without work for years. And the stress that this has caused has created gateways for members to start using alcohol and drugs."

Such challenges, she said, have helped to perpetuate "negative stereotypes" about a part of the tribal community that has such a vibrant culture. "We've created these same stereotypes about ourselves, and it's just been really hard to overcome."

Ultimately, Strong hopes to help change those perceptions and to assist the community in getting back on its feet. Solutions will take time and must consider the overall well-being of every individual



Meghan Agresto, MSW '05, founded the nonprofit Corolla Education Foundation, and opened the community's first charter school.

and family in the town, she said. As a social worker, she's learned that problems are often interconnected.

"With social work, we're not just looking closely at health issues, we're looking at what causes, for example, this person to overeat. Is it cultural? Is it spiritual? We explore the whole aspect of the person." Given the current job market in the county—unemployment rates continue to hover around 16 percent—Strong knows that like many of her neighbors, she may have to look outside of her community to find a job. Prior to graduation, she had applied for several positions just over the state line in South Carolina, where her father is currently employed.

Regardless of where she lands, the social work graduate said she is determined to raise awareness about the needs of her community, even through volunteer work.

"Our people need programs created to help them, and we need people there to work with them one-on-one and to help them work through all the issues that they're dealing with," she said. "For me, being able to take my social work experience there ... and to help my people be better and to live the quality of life that they deserve—that's my goal."

*Photos courtesy Meghan Agresto, Bobby Cagle and Brittany Strong.*

# Child Welfare Collaborative helps fill a critical need for workers

By Susan White

Nearly 15 years ago, state lawmakers created a program to respond to a workforce crisis in public child welfare. Today, that program—the Child Welfare Education Collaborative (CWEC)—is a leader in preparing social work graduates for one of the profession's most challenging jobs.

Established in 1999 and housed within UNC's School of Social Work, the collaborative program is supported by state and federal funding and includes 15 North Carolina university members offering BSW or MSW degrees. Since its founding, the program has helped to educate social work graduates for employment in child protective and foster care services, including investigative work in child abuse and neglect.

The collaborative has also helped the state to fill a gap within a field that often struggles with staff turnover, said clinical associate professor **Evelyn Williams**, CWEC director, and **Wanda Reives**, CWEC professional educational coordinator.

According to the N.C. Division of Social Services, child welfare service agencies in the state experience annual turnover rates of 32 percent to 44 percent—losses largely due to job stress and a lack of qualified workers. In North Carolina, child welfare workers are not required to have a degree in social work. As a result, such inexperience in the practice can contribute to staffing challenges, Williams said.

“And where staff are turning over at higher rates, it really is disruptive to getting positive outcomes, especially in human services where the relationship between the social worker and the child and the family that they are serving is so critical to continuity of services and in bringing about outcomes that we're looking for for children,” Williams said. “It also costs a lot of money each time someone has to be replaced.”

However, the collaborative is helping to further strengthen the profession, Williams and Reives agreed. To attract future workers, the program offers enrolling students a stipend, which can be used to pay for tuition and fees. Students then receive extensive classroom and hands-on field training to ensure that they are prepared to practice



Collaborative faculty Evelyn Williams and Wanda Reives

immediately upon graduation. This preparation includes competency training that all new child welfare workers would need to know before starting a job, such as understanding laws and policies in the delivery of child welfare services and strategies for interviewing young children, Reives explained.

The collaborative guarantees child welfare workers for the state because graduates must commit to working with a county social services agency for every year of financial help that they receive. Since 1999, nearly 800 graduates have completed the program. Another 122 collaborative students graduated in May.

Research has shown that county agencies actively recruit these new workers, Williams said. “Eighty to ninety percent of our graduates find employment after graduation and about 40 percent are hired by agencies where they completed their field training,” she said.

Collaborative graduates also tend to stay longer and have higher job satisfaction than colleagues who did not complete a similar program, Reives added.

“Eighty to ninety percent of our graduates find employment after graduation, and about 40 percent are hired by agencies where they completed their field training.”

*Evelyn Williams, CWEC Director*



Photo courtesy Tamsin Woolley

At her field placement in Chatham County this year, Tamsin Woolley (left), MSW '13, worked alongside Kelsey McCleave (right), an MSW 2012 graduate and a Child Workforce Collaborative Scholar. McCleave currently works as a case management and foster care social worker.

At the Wake County Department of Social Services, **Lisa Cauley**, assistant division director for Child Welfare, has also noticed that collaborative graduates are often promoted within the agency. For example, of the county's 25 social work supervisors, six graduated from a collaborative program, she said.

"That means they worked in the field and stayed long enough to have credibility to stay in as supervisors," she explained.

Over the years, the Orange County Department of Social Services has been among those agencies purposely pursuing collaborative graduates, said **Denise Shaffer**, the department's assistant director. Students who complete the program have a better understanding of the challenges in working in child welfare, she said. They also have more direct practice experience.

"We're a huge supporter of the collaborative program," Shaffer said. "It really makes a big, big difference. In fact, a student coming out of an MSW program with no work experience and no collaborative experience doesn't even meet our minimum requirements."

That's good news for **Tamsin Woolley**, a collaborative and leadership scholar who graduated with an MSW from UNC in May. During her tenure in the program, Woolley was placed in Orange County social services, where she received training in assessments and investigations and then in Chatham County, where she gained experience in case management and foster care.

"Having the opportunity to do the different job functions within child welfare was a great opportunity because I got to see what I like to do and don't like to do," Woolley explained. "I also got at least an understanding of what the roles are, how they fit with each other, what the expectations are, and what the job entails."

Woolley landed a job in foster care in the Triangle area just before graduation. As a UNC social work and collaborative graduate, she is confident that she's entering the workforce well prepared.

"I think overall, the collaborative has given me a really strong foundation and the confidence to do the work that I've learned here."

"We're a huge supporter of the Collaborative program. It really makes a big, big difference."

*Denise Shaffer, Orange County  
Department of Social Services*



# Social workers march for social justice at “Moral Monday” movement in Raleigh

By Susan White

For weeks, protesters have flocked to the state legislative building in Raleigh, eager to denounce new laws and policies that some argue will have a detrimental effect on women, children, minorities and low-income families.

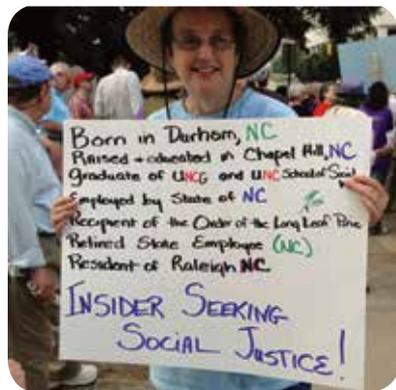
The “Moral Monday” events, which were organized by the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP, kicked off in April and over three months, captured national media attention and drew thousands of demonstrators from across the state and from across racial, gender and economic lines, including countless UNC social work students, faculty, staff and alumni. By late last month, more than 900 total participants had been arrested during the rallies.

Most came to rail against a broad swath of legislation championed by the state’s new Republican majority—initiatives opponents claim will negatively affect North Carolina. These changes include: gutting unemployment benefits for 170,000 workers; rejecting the expansion of federal Medicaid



Faculty member Denise Dews

benefits to 500,000 uninsured residents; requiring drug testing for welfare applicants; requiring photo ID to vote; shortening early voting by one week, banning Sunday voting and eliminating same-day registration; adopting additional restrictions on abortion and abortion clinics; cutting education funding; and eliminating bonuses for teachers with higher degrees.



Joan McAllister, MSW 70

The changes are breathtaking in scope and are a regressive step for a state that was once known as a “progressive beacon in the South,” said **Joanna Fullmer**, a second-year MSW student at UNC.

“What I see are ideas that have been put in place that are most harmful to vulnerable populations such as children living in poverty and to people of color,” said Fullmer, who attended nearly a handful of Moral Monday demonstrations.

Fullmer said the state’s new voter ID law particularly concerns her. The law requires residents to produce a government-issued ID, such as a driver’s license or passport, in order to vote in 2016. Supporters of the law say the requirement will help prevent voter fraud, while critics argue the measure attempts to address a problem that doesn’t exist.

Furthermore, opponents say such requirements will likely suppress voter turnout among the poor, elderly, young and minorities, all of whom may have difficulty obtaining valid ID due to, for example, lack of transportation or prohibitive costs. According to a state study, more than 300,000 registered voters—most of them elderly or low-income minorities—lack driver’s licenses or other forms of government identi-

fication. The changes also prohibit students from using college and university IDs to vote.

“It seems to me this policy exists for no other reason than to disenfranchise people who tend to vote Democratic,” Fullmer added.

**Daniel Ham**, also a second-year MSW student, agreed. Ham, who joined Fullmer and other social work students for many of the protests, said any efforts to marginalize individuals demands that social workers step up and speak out.

“As a social worker, I strongly believe in my ethical commitment to advocacy and working with and for the most vulnerable people in our society,” he said. “The policies being enacted now directly impact the lives of so many citizens and will determine the future opportunities and future quality of life for so many. Social workers need to be among the crowd advocating for change.”

For some, this latest call for social justice has served as a reminder of all the sacrifices made and the work accomplished in the fight for women’s rights and for civil rights.

“I still remember my mother taking me as a 10-year-old to pro-choice rallies,” recalled **Denise Dews**, a clinical instructor at UNC’s School of Social Work. Dews, who attended two Moral Monday events, said her mother actively campaigned in the 1970s for women’s reproductive rights.

“It’s something that I think most women of my generation never thought would be an issue again,” she said.

Although she grew up in Birmingham, Ala., ground zero for the civil rights movement, Clinical Assistant Professor **Bebe Smith** said she was too young at the time to understand the significance of the era. Even so, Smith, who participated in three of the Raleigh demonstra-

*Continued on p. 15*



MSW students Ariel Reynolds, Mawiyah Patten, Joanna Fullmer, Daniel Ham, Jeremy Moore and Rachel Smith

# Shining light on the needs of wounded and disabled veterans

By Susan White

As more and more U.S. troops return home from America's wars overseas, many communities across the country are facing the challenge of how best to care for the nation's wounded and disabled veterans and to support effectively their successful transition into civilian life.



Col. Kevin McDonnell

Retired Army Col. Kevin McDonnell, director of the U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition, spoke to those challenges during a lecture on Sept. 20, 2012, at the UNC School of Social Work.

McDonnell served 29 years as a Green Beret in many command positions and provides direct oversight of non-medical case management for the Care Coalition. The coalition offers recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, and transition services to special ops troops

who are wounded, ill or injured.

The lecture, which was free and open to the public, also included a panel discussion with McDonnell, and Tommy Norman, president of Norcom Properties and founder of Charlotte Bridge Home, a nonprofit that assists Charlotte veterans with education, employment, and health care needs; Paul Passaro, a U.S. Army combat veteran and program director of Charlotte Bridge Home; and **Easter Maynard**, MSW '97, leader of Golden Corral Corporation's signature philanthropy project Camp Corral, a free summer camp for children of wounded, disabled or fallen soldiers.

Nationwide, interest in shoring up support for service members has increased with the news that many communities are welcoming home troops who are dealing with a myriad of physical and mental health problems, including traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders.

"So many may face physical issues or emotional concerns," said School of Social Work Dean **Jack M. Richman**. "They may require employment and training assistance, health services, partner and parenting counseling, or assistance in dealing with homelessness or housing issues."

Richman said he's pleased that UNC and the School of Social Work are already playing a significant role in preparing professionals to meet these veterans' needs. The lectured offered members of the public a chance to learn more about how they can help, too.

View a video of the lecture online at: <http://vimeo.com/51306606>



WNCN-TV news anchor Pam Saulsby, shown here interviewing Dean Jack Richman, came to the UNC School of Social Work to film a story for the evening news about our lecture. It focused on the role social workers play in helping soldiers returning from war to adjust to civilian life, especially those suffering from physical or emotional trauma; and how communities can support veterans.



*Moral Monday, continued from p. 14*

tions, said she felt a sense of historical responsibility to get involved with the grassroots activism in North Carolina.

"(The protests) really got me to thinking about this historical context that we live in and how race and all these things are woven together," said Smith. "I also feel like some of the complacency that we've felt as a society has gotten shaken up a bit."

**Joan McAllister**, MSW '70, can appreciate that sentiment. At 68, McAllister, a retired state coordinator for a program serving children aging out of foster care, said she has "always been kind of on the margins of social movements." Although she marched against the Vietnam War, and she supported civil rights, McAllister said as a young college student from Chapel Hill, she was a bit naïve about the realities of segregation and discrimination against African Americans.

"I think my head was in 'La-La Land,'" she recalled. "I would read about what was going on in other places but if it wasn't happening apparently in my front yard, I didn't know it was happening in my city. It just didn't hit me really what all was going on."

As a result, McAllister said she lived her life in a bit of "bubble." She was eager to support important causes but never willing to risk her

personal or professional reputation for the fight. That is, until this year. After watching week after week of what she referred to as "draconian" legislation being introduced in Raleigh, McAllister decided she'd had enough. So she started attending the Moral Monday protests and on July 1, she was among 83 participants arrested.

"I guess you could say I had a historic guilt kind of thing," McAllister said of her decision to participate in 10 of the rallies and to get arrested. "Part of it for me was to finally take that step and to do more than just offer lip service."

McAllister and others agreed the protests are just the beginning. Over the next few months, rallies are expected to branch out across the state and efforts to register voters are being discussed. Expect social workers to continue to be among those raising their voices, Smith added.

"It really is that democratic principal of participatory government that I feel is pretty much something that social workers believe in," she said. "That it's a government for all the people and not just some of the people and not just the people who have the wealth to be heard."

*Photos courtesy Denisé Dews, Joan McAllister and Joanna Fullmer*



## BHRP looks to enhance training and services around mental health and substance abuse

By Susan White

For nearly two decades, the state has contracted with the School of Social Work's Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program (BHRP) to provide training and technical assistance in mental health and substance abuse services. This year, BHRP staff is considering new ways to better serve professionals in the field, as well as exploring new initiatives to further assist adults and children.

Leading these efforts are School Professor **Kim Strom-Gottfried**, who was named BHRP's principal investigator last summer, and **Tara Bohley**, who was recently hired as a clinical assistant professor and BHRP's new program coordinator. Strom-Gottfried is the Smith P. Theimann Distinguished Professor for Ethics and Professional Practice; Bohley is the former senior human services planner/evaluator at Forsyth County Department of Social Services in Winston-Salem.

Both say they see exciting opportunities for BHRP to address some of the state's unmet needs.

"As I think about going forward, I see us still trying to bring cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice to a wide variety of professionals, including to the state's constituents," Strom-Gottfried said, referring to the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. "But I think we're also looking at other niches that need to be filled around issues of substance abuse and mental health."

Although BHRP is widely recognized for its classroom and online trainings around addiction, including practical guides for parents, program leaders said they are eager to strengthen resources and support around mental health. One project staff members are particularly interested in pursuing is "Mental Health First Aid." The evidence-based

curriculum has been used in other states and internationally to teach the public about the signs and symptoms of mental illness and how to respond to mental health crises. The topic is timely, Strom-Gottfried said, given the current national attention around gun violence and the role of mental health services. Most of these discussions stemmed from the mass shooting in December at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

"This project is really geared toward the nonclinical world, promoting awareness and understanding and educating people who want to learn more about how they can help to reduce the stigma of mental illness," Bohley explained. "We're in the process now of completing the train the trainer protocol, but we're looking forward to offering the program to various communities such as schools, public agencies, churches, and corporations."

BHRP staff will also be focusing more on enhancing children's mental health, an effort that Clinical Assistant Professor **Lisa Lackmann** is leading. Lackmann, MSW '89, is the former system of care coordinator for a program that managed public mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities for three area counties. Lackmann is currently collaborating with the state on ways to increase the use of community-based services to children with behavioral health challenges to give them a greater chance of staying in their homes and out of residential care.

"Lisa's role is to assess the community services throughout the state, to assemble the data, and to make recommendations to state officials as they refocus on trainings and policies that emphasize community-based care," Bohley said.

Down the road, BHRP might also consider projects for integrating mental health services into schools and primary care offices, Bohley added. Most children and adolescents with behavioral health challenges are never seen in specialty mental health services. By embedding clinicians in schools and doctors' offices, many of which have already been clamoring for assistance, more children are served before behavioral health challenges become entrenched, Bohley explained.



Lisa Lackmann

"Offering behavioral health services in the places ... where kids are naturally found makes sense in terms of increasing access, improving outcomes and reducing costs," she said. "So Lisa is very interested in the integrated care models and wants to do more work in that area."

Each new initiative fits well with BHRP's mission to bridge the gap between research, academic resources and clinicians in the field, Strom-Gottfried said. But they also complement the work of staff members who remain focused on training and study around substance abuse issues.

For example, Clinical Instructor **Melissa Godwin** has developed expertise around perinatal substance use and is currently working with the state on a project involving women who are pregnant, addicted to opioids or in recovery, and receiving medication-assisted treatment such as methadone or buprenorphine. Godwin is working with a state-wide group to address how best to support pregnant women in getting treatment, maintaining recovery and managing the initial physical dependence and withdrawal that may occur for newborns if they were exposed to opioids during pregnancy.

"Connecting, engaging and retaining pregnant women with comprehensive substance abuse treatment services that take into account

her unique needs and experience as a woman leads to the best outcome for her and her baby," Godwin explained. "Those needs include addressing typical barriers to treatment such as child care and transportation."

Such research is proof of what BHRP has always done well, added Strom-Gottfried.

"This program is the go-to place for sound information and dissemination, whether it's to the state division or directly to providers," she said. "Clinicians know that the information they're getting from us has been weighed and measured. There's an examination of best practices, so whatever they're getting, they know it's up to date and that it's sound. That's also why it's so great that BHRP is situated within the University. It really fits with our mission here."



Melissa Godwin

BHRP faculty members, including **Worth Bolton** and **Ron Mangum**, also continue to bring cutting-edge training into the practice field, she said. Bolton, a clinical assistant professor, is currently working

on training for a new assessment project. The goal is to teach licensed clinical addiction specialists how to screen members of the military services to determine if those who have tested positive in a drug test need further treatment.

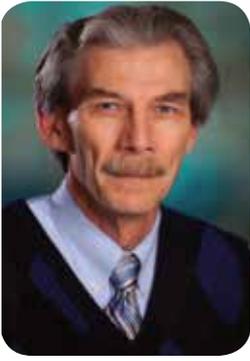
In addition to his field training in evidence-based practices, Bolton coordinates the Certificate in Substance Abuse Studies within the BHRP program. This popular program prepares social work students to work with individuals with addictions. Program graduates who complete one year of supervised practice are then qualified to receive the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist Credential, which prepares

*Continued next page*



Max Englund

BHRP Principal Investigator Kim Strom-Gottfried (left) and Program Coordinator Tara Bohley



Worth Bolton

them for work in any aspect of behavioral healthcare, Bolton added. Since the program began, 172 social workers have completed the requirements.

“Each year, we have programs calling, interested in our graduating students,” he said.

For the last six years, Mangum, a clinical assistant professor and education specialist, has been managing the state’s Peer Support Specialist program. Peer Support trains recovering substance users and individuals recovering from mental illness to act as mentors and to support clients transitioning out of

rehabilitation programs and back into the community. The program succeeds, he said, because of the “lived experiences” of each peer specialist. Currently, there are about 785 specialists who have been certified across North Carolina, including 41 military veterans.

“I don’t know what it’s like to live underneath a bridge. I don’t know what it’s like to live on the streets and to never know where my next meal is coming from. I don’t know what it’s like to be picked up by police and placed in handcuffs and placed in involuntary or voluntary care. But that peer support specialist does,” Mangum said. “And if you put that person with the lived experience on a team with people who are academically trained, it just enhances the chances for improved assistance for that client in need.”

Mangum, who will also be providing the Mental Health First Aid training, said he’s pleased to see BHRP expand its service to the community. “I really think we’re looking at how to enhance what we’re already doing but also how to increase our impact in the field of mental health and substance abuse in the state of North Carolina.”

That outreach, Strom-Gottfried concluded, will also involve widely marketing BHRP’s research connections and training expertise, especially to clinicians who might not always have the time to keep up with the latest evidence in the field.

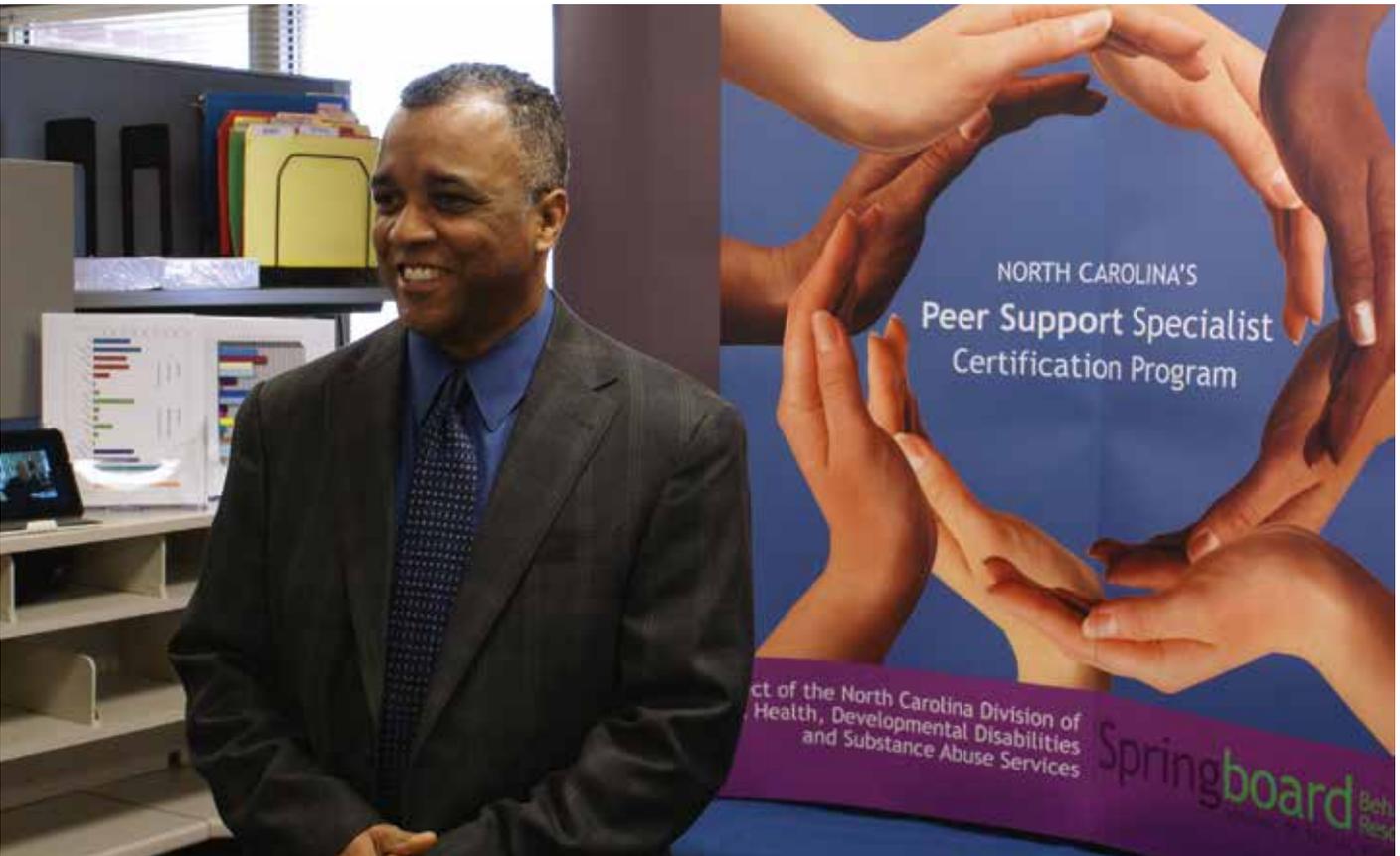
“Think about how busy practitioners are,” she said. “But the ability to have sound information at your fingertips is enormous. So how do we make what we do now even better for folks? I’m really excited about the team we have, and the opportunities that are there.”

See a video about this story on the School’s YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/uncssw>



Springboard, BHRP’s online training portal, is available at <http://bhrp.sowo.unc.edu>.



Ron Mangum manages North Carolina’s Peer Support Specialist Certification Program, and will also be providing the Mental Health First Aid training.

# New project aims to prevent homelessness of people with severe mental illness

By Susan White

Faculty members at the UNC School of Social Work have launched a new pilot intervention program that could help to prevent homelessness and other adverse outcomes for adults with mental illness who have been discharged from hospitals, shelters, prisons or other institutions.

**Barbara B. Smith**, a clinical assistant professor of social work and psychiatry, was awarded a \$567,257 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem to direct the project in Orange and Chatham counties. Smith received the award during her tenure as co-director of the Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health at UNC's Department of Psychiatry; the project is a collaborative endeavor with the Center.

The three-year grant is being used to support Critical Time Intervention (CTI), an intensive case-management program that helps individuals with severe mental illness transition from homelessness or institutional settings into communities.

For some, such a transition can be especially difficult without adequate support, Smith said. CTI was developed to help vulnerable adults successfully navigate those challenges. Specifically, CTI team members develop trusting relationships with these adults, then help to identify each person's specific needs and assist the individuals in accessing necessary supports, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment and housing and vocational services. The



Bebe Smith, MSW '93

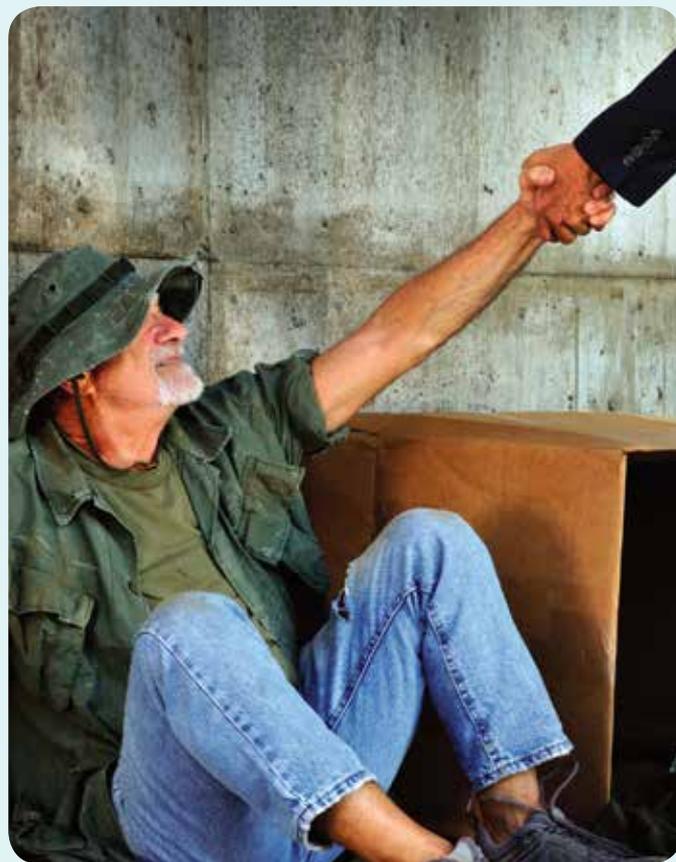
goal is to ensure that clients receive the assistance they need upfront and when necessary, on-going support to maintain stability in their lives, Smith said.

"The model really is flexible and allows the CTI worker to get a good sense for what the client will need formally and informally for the long-term," she said. "I also think the model is needed because we've not done a very good job in addressing the needs of people with severe mental illness."

The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that about "25 percent of the homeless population has a serious mental illness, including chronic depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia." More than 45 percent struggle with substance abuse. According to studies, the CTI model has shown some success nationwide in helping to reduce homelessness and hospitalization stays, Smith said. Additional research, she said, also has shown some promising results in reducing the negative symptoms associated with schizophrenia.

Without adequate shelter, medical or mental health care, homeless persons with mental illness often wind up in emergency rooms or in jails, neither of which is equipped to provide long-term solutions. With the intervention model, Smith said the CTI workers have the opportunity to divert these vulnerable adults away from hospitals, emergency departments and the criminal justice system by linking them to needed assistance sooner.

"If we can get involved with people intensively when they have a high level of need, then we can perhaps avert a crisis and help people move into a more stable situation," she said.



Over the last several months, Smith and CTI staff have been working with agencies in Orange and Chatham counties to identify intervention participants. About 60 individuals have been referred so far and CTI staff are working closely with about half of those, Smith said. Helping these clients find housing is key, Smith added.

"It's been gratifying to see the real difference we've been able to make in people's lives when they move into a place of their own," she said.

School of Social Work Assistant Professor **Gary Cuddeback**, who is co-principal investigator on the project, will help to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the CTI model. Cuddeback, who has been leading a federal research study in the same two counties, has long been interested in helping to keep people with mental illnesses from cycling in and out of the criminal justice system.

Altogether, the project should serve about 210 people over three years. But Smith sees the potential to help many more if the pilot program is successful. As part of the project, Smith and Cuddeback will help to educate others on the CTI model and to promote its adoption statewide.

"Long-term, we can save costs because emergency room, and hospitalizations and other institutional care are expensive," she said. "But more important, we can also reduce suffering by addressing people's real needs and finding ways to connect them to the supports they need or developing those supports because sometimes they're just not out there."



Gary Cuddeback, Ph.D.

# Solving the ‘wicked problems’ of child welfare will require comprehensive reform

By Susan White

Over the last year, social work leaders, child welfare administrators, researchers, philanthropists, and policymakers have gathered to debate the “wicked problems” of child welfare, including how to reverse the traumatic effects of maltreatment and neglect on child well-being and how to overcome the barriers that prevent children from returning home or finding safe and permanent homes with alternative caregivers.

For UNC School of Social Work Professor **Mark Testa**, who helped spearhead these initial discussions, the real work toward comprehensive reform is now ready to begin. The first step: Finding innovative ways to bridge the research and practice divide.

Over the next few years, Testa will be working closely with the Children’s Home Society of America, a national association of some of the oldest child-serving agencies in the nation, to develop a child welfare, practice-based research network to help educate communities about the welfare of the nation’s children. This network will focus on those children most affected by problems of persistent poverty, domestic violence, parental substance abuse and loss of stable family life.

Furthermore, this scholarly endeavor will serve as the foundation for building a national public education campaign to improve federal policies and practices that affect the health, safety and economic well-being of children. One specific goal for that campaign will be to urge U.S. lawmakers to expand the opportunity for all states to experiment with innovative tools and programs that aim to protect children from abuse and neglect, provide them with stable homes, and improve their overall social, mental and physical well-being.

“What we’re talking about now is a major change in how the federal government structures its support for local innovation initiatives,” said Testa, the School of Social Work’s Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor.

This latest call-to-action for child welfare innovation began in February 2012 with the first of a series of three roundtable sessions known as “The Wicked Problems Institute.” Testa helped organize these groundbreaking discussions, which concluded earlier this year in Washington, D.C. The institutes brought together a diverse group of experts who are eager to tackle the interrelated problems of child maltreatment, family breakdown, and social and emotional stress. All



At the meeting in Washington, D.C., Dean Jack Richman and Professor Mark Testa were presented the Champion for Children Award from the Children’s Home Society. They were honored in recognition of their leadership and support in development of the Wicked Problems of Child Welfare Institute to shape and improve policy, practice and research.



are pressing issues that have long challenged researchers and social workers because of their complex causes and incomplete solutions.

Nevertheless, there is a growing body of research evidence from various states that have tried and evaluated alternative ideas and practices that are demonstrating success in improving child welfare, Testa said. These states have tested their ideas using child welfare waivers, a federal funding program that could help advocates build a much needed evidence base for further improvements and innovations in the child welfare system, Testa added. But that opportunity might not happen if the waiver program expires as scheduled in 2019.

Since 1994, these waivers have granted states the flexibility to use federal dollars differently, such as foster care funding that traditionally has been targeted toward keeping children in state care. States with an approved waiver have introduced innovative strategies that have, for example, helped foster children find permanent homes, engaged parents in drug-recovery programs, and enhanced training for child welfare staff.

Although the original child welfare waiver program expired in 2006, Congress resuscitated it five years later. States must apply to participate in the program. Nine states have received waivers and based on the 2011 legislation, an additional 20 waiver demonstrations could be approved for states over the next two years.

For Testa, one major goal of the public education campaign will be to persuade the federal government to maintain and expand this waiver model long after 2019.

“So what we’re aiming toward now is working with states and our public and private partners to create the evidence-base for what we need to know to do true reform,” he said. “We also have to begin to demonstrate the evidence-based solutions that we want to make sure are fundable under a federal act. At the same time, we have to set the stage for the notion that this is going to be a permanent work in progress.”

In other words, there are no guarantees that all new programs and strategies will be automatic successes, he added. Over the next few years, the goal will be to explore more closely what has been working and to encourage child welfare providers to embrace practices that have proven effective.

Researchers also have to be prepared to accept that new unanticipated challenges will emerge over the next few years as the reform campaign gets underway, Testa said.

“We have to recognize and be adaptable to changes and understand that our best laid plans will likely create other wicked problems that will then need to be re-solved over and over again.”



Students, faculty and staff gathered at Duke Divinity School in March for an anniversary celebration luncheon.

## MSW and MDiv dual degree program celebrate 10th Anniversary

By Susan White

When academic leaders from Carolina and Duke first launched a dual master's degree program in social work and divinity, one key point was made clear: the program had to help students think critically about the integration of faith and social work. That goal remains central to the success of the interdisciplinary program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Today, UNC's School of Social Work and Duke Divinity School offer one of the most integrated MSW/MDiv dual degree programs in the country, said **Amelia Roberts-Lewis**, an associate professor at the School of Social Work, and the dual degree program coordinator. This recognition is due, in part, to faculty members from both institutions who were willing from the start to collaborate often on the program's curriculum and to regularly reach out to students, field faculty, and staff to ensure that all needs are met, Roberts-Lewis said.

Student training opportunities have also been key. Every year, students gain hands-on experience as both pastors and social workers through internships in a variety of social agency and faith-based settings, including churches, hospices, crisis response centers, urban ministries, prisons, and outreach agencies.

As of May, 32 students have graduated with the dual degree. Seventeen, including **Jennie Wilburn**, are currently enrolled in the four-year, full-time program. Wilburn, who is in her third year of study, credits the program for helping her to develop her passion in migrant farmworker rights. Wilburn spent much of last semester helping to bring attention to injustices in the agriculture industry through work with two North Carolina organizations: Farmworker Advocacy Network, and Student Action with Farmworkers.

"I think that my experiences in the field have been the most formative part of my experience," Wilburn said. "My field placements have challenged me to do things that I am uncomfortable with, pushed me to do things that I never considered and opened up new opportunities and experiences to prepare me for a future career."

A significant part of every student's preparation includes two integrative seminars, which are taken in the first and final year of study. These seminars enable students to integrate the theological, biblical, theoretical, ethical, pastoral, social justice, empirical and practical dimensions of social work.

This intensive training also includes the development of a capstone project in the final year, in which students must demonstrate their understanding of how the two disciplines can work successfully together. The project is intended as a tool, Roberts-Lewis said, for challenging

the church and church leaders to consider recent evidence-based research and best practices when responding to social problems that the church has historically ignored or not addressed well. These problems include HIV/AIDS, intimate partner violence, sexual trafficking and homelessness.

Many of these projects have given graduates the confidence to raise awareness and education around these critical issues, Roberts-Lewis said. In some cases, social workers have even been hired to help churches and faith-based communities to develop interventions to address these challenges, she added.

Over the years, the dual degree program has focused more on encouraging students and graduates to conduct research and to gather empirical data from congregations in an effort to better solve problems within the faith communities. **Angela MacDonald**, MSW/MDiv '10, is among the graduates conducting such research.

MacDonald is part of a study for the Duke Clergy Health Initiative, a \$12-million, seven-year program designed to improve the health and well-being of United Methodist clergy in North Carolina. Research has shown that many pastors face significant ill health, including high rates of blood pressure, obesity and depression, MacDonald explained. The research initiative is examining ways to tailor health interventions to clergy members.

The dual degree, MacDonald said, has enabled her to relate to the pastors on a theological level and given her the practice skills to connect the clergy to needed resources, including mental health care.

Given her original plans to work in a rural church community, MacDonald said she's grateful the dual degree program opened her eyes to new possibilities. In fact, she realized the broader opportunities during the summer of 2009, while working as a chaplain at the veterans' hospital in Durham.

"At that point, it really crystallized for me how ministry and service can be done outside the church walls," she said.

Although social work and divinity diverge in some ways, ultimately, the goal of the dual degree program is to help students consider how combining both disciplines can create change, Roberts-Lewis said.

"I think these programs have worked well together because when you clearly understand social work, which focuses on disenfranchised people and a desire to empower people, you can then also recognize that the theological framework shares similar values," she said.

# Congratulations

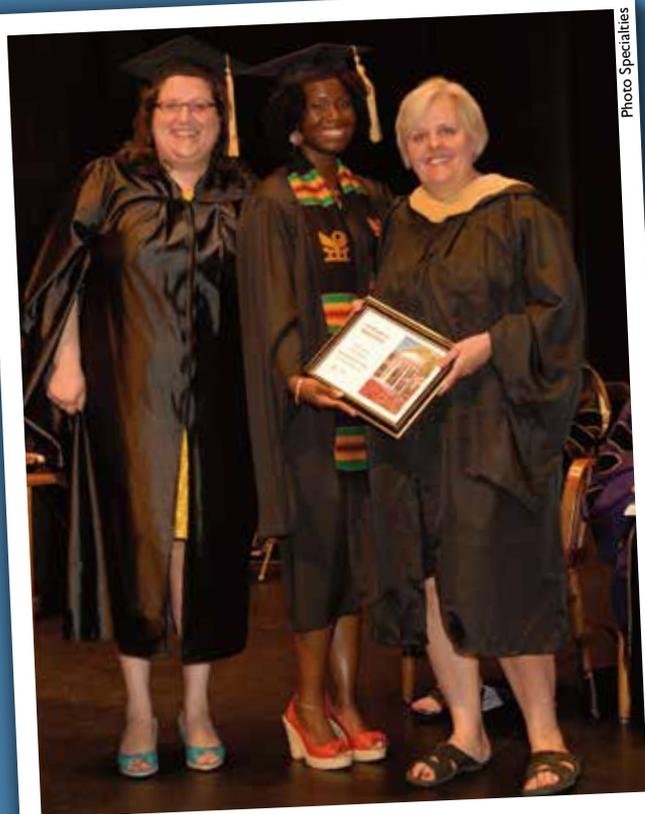
## Class of 2013

The UNC School of Social Work held its 92nd annual commencement on May 11, 2013. Over 1,100 people packed Memorial Hall to celebrate the 141 MSW and seven Ph.D. graduates. Alumna Michelle Johnson, MSW '98, gave the commencement address.



Sarah Miller, Sarah McRary and Lauren Metzger

Michelle Rogers



Rachel Albert, Charity Sneed and Marilyn Ghezzi

Photo Specialties



Jennifer Pappalardo, Erin Neal Magnus and Nakita Chantel Noël

Michelle Rogers



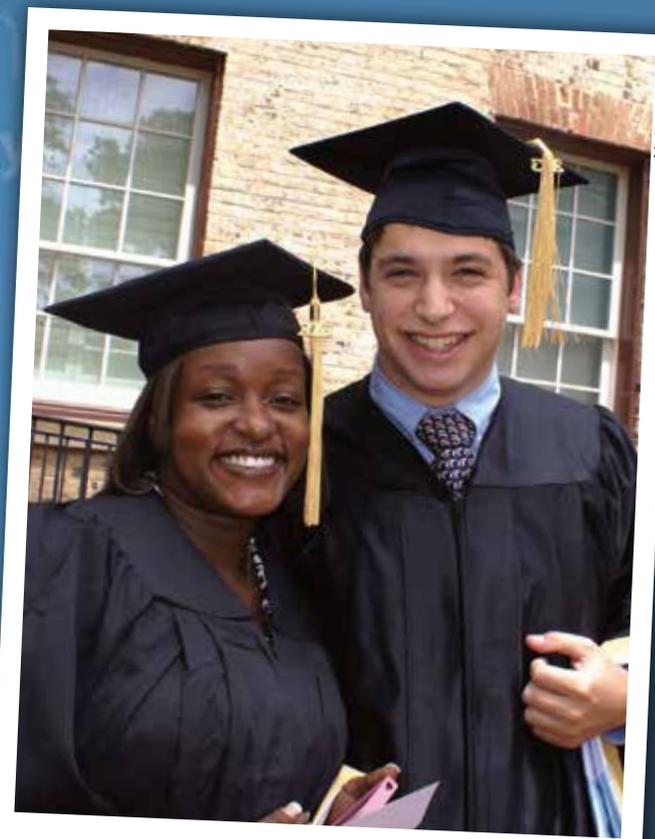
Elizabeth Caccamo, Claudio Caceres Araya, Sarah Campbell, Antoinetta Cash and Cassandra Chugh

Michelle Rogers

diploma memories dream  
**excellence** integrity  
friendship



Michelle Rogers



Michelle Rogers

Caraina Garris and Dan Goldin

community

grow

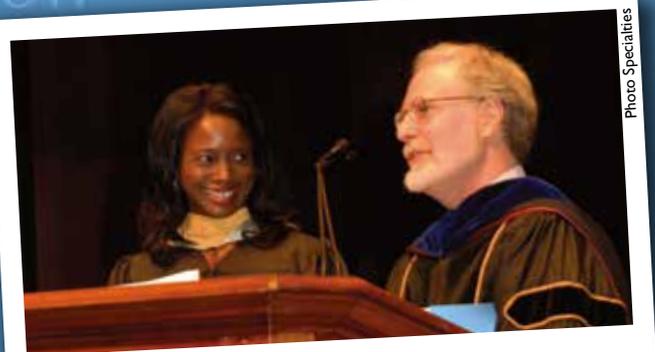


Photo Specialties

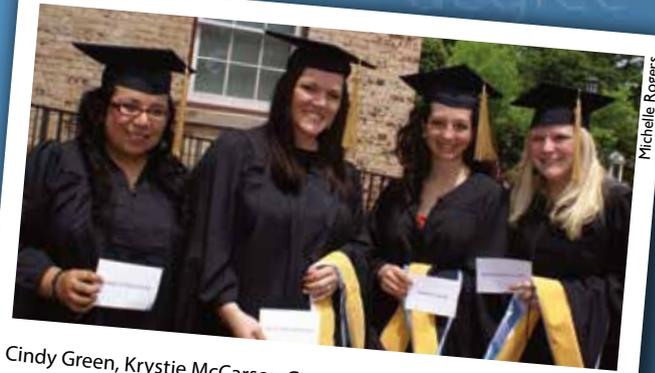
Michelle Johnson and Jack Richman



Michelle Rogers

Melea Rose-Waters and Laurel Sisler

success



Michelle Rogers

Cindy Green, Krystie McCarson Green, Sarah Guidi and Jordan Gulley

degree



Michelle Rogers

Lydia Johnson, Joy Johnson, Jennifer Jackson, Juanita Hill and George Jahnes

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[www.flickr.com/photos/unc\\_school\\_of\\_social\\_work](http://www.flickr.com/photos/unc_school_of_social_work)

# 2012-13 MSW Scholarships and Awards

**Alumni Development Award**  
Elyse Mallory Keefe

**Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship**  
Kimberly Autumn Bowers, Anne Mabry Peacock, Courtney Anne Pope, Madeline Julianna Serpa

**Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship**  
Theresa Martin Bayless, Dean Allen Fox, Brittany Hunt, Indhira Mmefre Anietie Udofia, Samantha Weare Zwemer

**Annie Kizer Bost Award**  
Jeanne Kay Cross, Tamsin Woolley

**Mary Jane Burns Book Award for Excellence in Clinical Social Work**  
Leigh Meredith Strube

**Chaney-Jacobs-Preyer Award**  
Annie Elizabeth Kouba, Indhira Mmefre Anietie Udofia

**Brett Chavis Memorial Scholarship**  
Elena Claire Fowler

**Robert and Peggy Culbertson Scholarship**  
Robert R. Smith

**William E. and Catherine M. Cummins Award for Outstanding School Social Work Practice**  
Stacey Ellen Craig Riberdy

**Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship**  
Shenita Paulette Mangum

**Bertie Oscar Edwards Scholarship**  
Sarah Dale-Ann Miller

**Child Welfare Education Collaborative Scholars**  
Joseph Bridges, Leslie McGee, Antoinette Taylor

**Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship**  
Gail Jane Bush, Claudio Andres Caceres Araya, Mshairi Jerita Evans, Earl Robert Forbes, Allison Christine Harrison, Virginia Susan Lewis, Erin May Neal Magnus, Shannon Elise Spillane, Antoinette Denise Taylor, Katherine Denise Thompson

**Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship**  
Amber Claire Whitford Bishop

**Alan Keith-Lucas Scholarship**  
Sara Gordon Pitts, Deanna Janay Davis

**Jeffrey Langston Scholarship**  
Kelsey Smith Crowe

**James and Connie Maynard Scholarship**  
Wren Hurrle Davisson

**Meehan Scholarship**  
Elisa Patricia Ford

**Betsy Rogers Millar Scholarship**  
Hannah Meacham Legerton, Anthony Joseph Maglione, Mark B. Williams

**North Carolina Workforce Project Leadership Scholars**  
Antoinetta Cash, Cassandra Chugh, Amanda Kahan, Krystie McC Carson Green, Jennifer Pappalardo, Tamsin Woolley

**Jane Curtis Parker Award**  
Christine Engle Alvarado, Kisha Shontel Minor Irvin, Marguerite Bridget Keil, Caitlin Heather Mayton

**Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship**  
Kristy Treadway Smith

**Ellen E. Power Scholarship**  
Rhonda Bennetone

**Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. Scholarship**  
Lorlita Deabril Spann

**Janice Hough Schopler Scholarship**  
Amber Claire Whitford Bishop, Alison Lee Brown, Natalie Marie Dittmore, Lena Jewel Harris, Valerie Nichol Haywood, Elizabeth Leon, Sarah Dale-Ann Miller, Jeremy Moore, Allison Laurens Oxford, Kiah Dawson Pape, Sierra N Spellmon, Denea Monique Sellers, Whitney Sewell, Antoinette Denise Taylor, Sarah Elizabeth Tencer, Mark B. Williams

**Social Justice Fund Scholarship**  
Karon Falaq Johnson

**Florence Soltys Memorial Scholarship**  
Amber Claire Whitford Bishop, Kristen Marie Stefureac, Laura Josefina Williams

**Springle Memorial Scholarship**  
Valerie Nichol Haywood, Laura Josefina Williams

**Linda M. Summer Scholarship**  
Elisa Patricia Ford

**Leah Tannenbaum Scholarship**  
Elizabeth Meek Caccamo, Melissa Fenn, Elizabeth Leon, George Brownlee Jahnes, Leslie Rochelle McGee, Lauren Moss Pate, Joni Owens Riffey

**Kristen Marie TenHarmsel Anderson Scholarship**  
Avery Phillips Lee

**Smith P. Theimann Scholarship**  
Caroline Paige Oxford, Samantha Weare Zwemer

**Walsh-Cioffi Award**  
Monica Rose Ferenz, Michelle Yolanda Roper-Cartier, Johannah Christine Swank

**Ellen Black Winston Scholarship**  
Melea April Rose-Waters



## 2012-13 Doctoral Student Awards

**The Gerontological Society of America-Hartford Doctoral Fellow in Geriatric Social Work**  
Tiffany R. Washington

**Graduate School Merit Assistantship**  
Christopher J. Wretman

**North Carolina Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (NC-ACE) Pre-doctoral Fellowship**  
Caroline I.B. Robertson, Kristina C. Webber

**Outstanding Doctoral Student Award**  
Cynthia Fraga Rizo

**Royster Society of Fellows**  
Shiyou Wu

**Royster Society of Fellows Dissertation Completion Fellowship**  
Cynthia Fraga Rizo

**Sam & Betsy Reeves Doctoral Fellowship**  
Kanisha Latina Coleman, Katie Lyn Cotter, William James Hall, III, Christina Elyse Horsford, Candace Leigh Killian, Wen (Vivien) Li, Rainier De Vera Masa, Jenna Nicole Tucker, Kevin Robert White, Ahmed Whitt

**Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2013)**  
Jenna Nicole Tucker

**Turner Dissertation Award**  
Sarah Dababnah, Cynthia Fraga Rizo

# You can make a difference



When alumna **Megan Highsmith**, MSW '01, joined the UNC School of Social Work Board of Advisors last year, she was surprised to find out how critical giving is to the success of the School, and that even small amounts help tremendously.

“I had no idea until I became a board member how much the School depends on donations to be one of the best social work programs in the country,” said Megan. “I had assumed that the School got tuition money and that covered the costs.”

In fact, only about 40% of the School’s total operating costs are funded by tuition and state dollars.

Please join Megan and make a donation today to our general support fund or a scholarship fund.

Your gift truly makes a difference.

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

*Thank You For Your Support*



Scan this QR code using a smart phone to give online



# Faculty spotlight

## Deborah Barrett



Barrett was interviewed for a story in *Social Work Today* magazine on “Pain care advocacy: Battling the anti-pain medication mindset.”

The Chronic Pain and Fibromyalgia Association featured an interview with Barrett in its *Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Life* magazine. Portland Book Review also published a review of Barrett’s book, “Paintracking.” Barrett authored “What is Paintracking?” in the Spring 2013 edition of *Pain Pathways* magazine.

Barrett’s online tracking tool, which she developed to work in conjunction with her book, is now available at [paintracking.com](http://paintracking.com). Barrett was also a guest on “Aches and Gains,” a WBAL (Baltimore) radio show.

## Betsy Bledsoe-Mansori



Bledsoe-Mansori co-authored a number of articles, including in *Social Science and Medicine*, the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, and the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. She also co-authored a paper with colleagues from Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Chicago, University of Toronto, and Columbia University in the *Journal of Evidence Based Social Work*.

Bledsoe-Mansori presented the work of her team, which includes current doctoral students and UNC alumni, on the adaptation of interpersonal psychotherapy to treat perinatal depression in low-income adolescents at the 5th International Conference of the International Society for Interpersonal Psychotherapy in Iowa City in June. She also presented at the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health Meeting in Paris, France and made presentations in Houston, Texas; San Diego, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; and Asheville.

## Worth Bolton



Bolton received the 2012 Norbett L. Kelly Distinguished Service Award from the Addiction Professionals of North Carolina in appreciation of his contributions to the field of alcoholism and chemical dependence.

## Gary Bowen



Bowen received the School of Health and Human Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award from UNC-Greensboro.

Bowen co-authored a chapter, “Families and Communities: A Social Organization Theory of Action and Change,” with Jay A. Mancini from the University of Georgia. The chapter was published in the “Handbook of Marriage and the Family.”

He also published two chapters with colleagues on community capacity building: “The Resilience of Military Families: Theoretical Perspectives,” in *Family Theories: A Content-Based Approach*, published

by Routledge (Taylor & Francis); and “Families and Communities: An Analysis of Theoretical and Research Paradigms,” in *Handbook of Marriage and the Family*, 3rd Edition, published by Springer.

Bowen and Mancini delivered the presentation, “Innovative Approaches to Reaching Families,” at the National Research Summit for Reserve Component Military Families.

Bowen’s community capacity building project, directed at providing support initiatives for military members and their families, has received \$1.1 million in additional funding from the U.S. Dept. of Defense.

## Natasha Bowen



Bowen was promoted to full professor.

She and **Kara Van de Grift**, MSW ‘12, worked closely with the principal and teachers at a low-performing school in Halifax County last fall to help optimize the classroom context for learning.

Bowen, with **Aaron Thompson**, Ph.D. ‘12, and former faculty member Joelle Powers, published “A Quasi-Experimental Test of the Elementary-School Success Profile Model of Assessment and Prevention” in the *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*.

Bowen and doctoral students **Kate Wegmann** and **Kristina Webber** also published “Enhancing a Brief Writing Intervention to Combat Stereotype Threat Among Middle School Students,” in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

## Iris Carlton-LaNey



Carlton-LaNey presented “The Role of Storytelling in Qualitative Research,” the Egon Guba Lecture for the Qualitative Research SIG for the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in San Francisco.

Carlton-LaNey also presented “Elders’ Stories: Lessons Learned From Listening,” the kickoff keynote for the 35th Summer Institute on Aging sponsored by West Virginia University School of Social Work and West Virginia University Center on Aging in Morgantown.

## Mimi Chapman



Chapman and visiting professor **Meihua Zhu** presented, “Picturing Migration: Using PhotoVoice to Understand the Lives of Migrant Mothers in China” at the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact, in Stockholm, Sweden.

Chapman and **Kelly Williams**, Ph.D. ‘09, published “Unmet Health and Mental Health Need Among Adolescents: The Roles of Sexual Minority Status and Child-Parent Connectedness,” in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.

Chapman was also quoted in a Feb. 23 News & Observer story, “UNC’s Next Leader Has Challenges Ahead.”

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## Gina Chowa



Chowa and doctoral student **Rainier Masa** published “Wealth Effects of an Asset-Building Intervention Among Rural Households in Sub-Saharan Africa” in the *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. Chowa, who is the lead author and principal investigator of YouthSave Ghana, also recently published a baseline

report on the experiment. **Mat Despard, Masa**, and colleagues from Washington University and University of Ghana co-authored the report.

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## Trenette Clark



Clark and MSW student **Dolores Chandler** presented “Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Substance Use and Health Among African Americans,” at the UNC Ethnicity Culture Health Outcomes October Seminar Series at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

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## Chris Egan



Egan attended a conference in Tennessee with The Council on Quality and Leadership and received an award for being the longest certified assessor of their Personal Outcome Measures.

Egan was quoted in the Nov. 3 News & Observer article, “Families Have Special Needs, But Get No Special Help.” He was also elected to serve as president of the Arc of North Carolina Housing Boards. The Boards own over 300 properties that provide housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental illness.

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## Jodi Flick



Flick presented on suicide at the N.C. Foundation of Alcohol and Drug Studies Summer School in Wilmington and conducted crisis intervention training for local law enforcement officers from three counties (“Suicide Assessment and Intervention”). Flick was also the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Youth Violence

Prevention Conference in Charlotte.

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## Mark Fraser



Fraser gave a presentation on his China study, “Let’s Be Friends” at the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact, in Stockholm, Sweden. Fraser co-authored the study with Fan Wu from Nankai University in China, **Shenyang Guo, Maeda Galinsky** and **Steve Day**.

Fraser also participated in an invitation-only retreat at Bainbridge Island, Wash., on “The Future of Social Work.” The University of Southern California, the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, and the Society for Social Work and Research sponsored the event.

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## Shenyang Guo



Guo was named the Wallace H. Kuralt Sr. Distinguished Professor for Public Welfare Policy and Administration.

Guo was also invited to teach summer courses at Peking University. He taught at Remin University of China, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and at China’s Youth College of Political Sciences on “Advanced Statistical Models of Causal Inferences.” Guo had two new peer-reviewed publications on new methods to enhance accuracy of

longitudinal research and the importance of using effective and robust methods to correct for measurement error in longitudinal research.

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## Mary Beth Hernandez



Hernandez was quoted in a July 17 Inside Higher Ed story, “Turning Young Alumni Into Donors.”

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## Matthew Howard



Howard discussed the dangers of addiction to bath salts in the winter/spring edition of *The Forensic Examiner* magazine.

Howard was also selected to attend the Harvard Institutes of Higher Education Management Development Program, a nationally competitive program that offers training in budgeting, planning, human resource management, and other administrative skills essential to successful education management.

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## Anne Jones



Jones presented, “Adapting a Manual for a Group Intervention with At-Risk Parents,” at the International Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, in Long Island, N.Y.

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## Rebecca Macy



Macy received a 2013 Office of the Provost Award for Engaged Research for her work on family violence. The award recognizes UNC faculty, units and organizations for engaged scholarship.

Macy, **Dania Ermentrout**, doctoral student **Cynthia F. Rizo**, and alumna **Natalie Johns**, MSW ‘08, also published, “Directors’ Opinions About Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Strategies That Help Survivors” in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Macy was interviewed for the May 21 edition of the Social Work Podcast series, on “Identifying and Responding to Sex-Trafficking Victims in Social Service Settings.” She is serving as a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill task force examining the University’s policy on handling sexual assault cases.

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## Sherry Mergner



Mergner was selected as the lead social worker for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (LEND) grant.

Mergner; her son Noah Hrynewych; his former speech therapist and a SSW/AHEC training consultant, Virginia Thompson, contributed to the development of a new book by Michelle Garcia Winner, “Social Town Citizens Discover 82 New Unthinkables for Superflex® to Outsmart!”

*Continued on p. 28*

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## Gary Nelson



Nelson was among three University recipients named 2013 Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy.

Nelson, directing the Leadership in Transition team in the Jordan Institute for Families, also convened a statewide leadership congress with more than 100 stakeholders and leaders of the state's mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse systems.

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## Dennis Orthner



Orthner and his research partners on the CareerStart project developed a new guide that will be distributed to all school districts in North Carolina. CareerStart is an intervention program that helps middle school students connect what they are learning in school to future career opportunities as a way to reach those most at risk of

failing.

Orthner also co-authored "Improving Middle School Student Engagement Through Career-Relevant Instruction in the Core Curriculum," in the *Journal of Educational Research*.

Orthner was quoted in an article in the June 2013 edition of *Runner's World* magazine, "Can Love and Running Coexist?"

He retired in 2013 and is now an emeritus professor.

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## Jack Richman



Richman was interviewed on two TV news broadcasts on July 21, 2012, about the mass shooting in Colorado. Richman discussed what could lead someone to commit such an act, and the psychological effects that survivors and witnesses may face, such as PTSD.

Richman and **Mark Testa** each received a Champion for Children Award from the Children's Home Society for their leadership and support in development of the Wicked Problems of Child Welfare Institute to shape and improve policy, practice, and research (see related story on p. 20).

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## Amelia Roberts-Lewis



Roberts-Lewis conducted training for the UNC Housing Department on "Cross Cultural Communication: Using Ethnographic Interviewing as a Practical Tool."

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## Kathleen Rounds



Rounds was invited to give several lectures at East China Normal University and East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, and at Capitol Normal University and the China Youth University for Political Science in Beijing.

Her presentations focused on "Risky Sexual Behaviors Among Adolescents" and "Adolescent Delinquency and Antisocial Behavior."

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## Bebe Smith



Smith wrote the article, "Mental Health Group Homes and Care for Persons with Severe Mental Illness," for the newsletters for the Orange and Wake County chapters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Smith also published an op-ed, "Early Intervention in Youth Mental Health," in the Jan. 15 Durham Herald-Sun.

Smith was also featured in the April 2013 NASW News feature, "Social Work in the Public Eye."

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## Susan Snyder



Snyder published the article, "Typologies of Substance Use and Illegal Behaviors: A Comparison of Emerging Adults with Histories of Foster Care and the General Population," in the *Children and Youth Services Review*.

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## Kim Strom-Gottfried



Strom-Gottfried was elected by the University faculty to the Faculty Athletics Committee of the UNC Office of Faculty Governance.

Strom-Gottfried became a columnist for *Ethics Newslines*, a 10,000-circulation newsletter published by the Institute on Global Ethics. She was also quoted in an April 22 Daily Tar Heel story, "UNC Shifts Focus to Provost Search."

Strom-Gottfried presented on "The Ethics of Social Networking" and "The Ethics of Supervision," in Greenville at the Children's Services State of the Art Conference.

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## Mark Testa



Testa was quoted in an Associated Press story, "Report: More Support Needed for Kinship Caregivers," which ran in several media outlets including Norwich Bulletin, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, SeattlePI.com and FoxNews.com.

Testa presented "Supporting the Alternative Care of Children by Relatives: The U.S. Guardianship Assistance Program" at the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact, in Stockholm, Sweden.

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## Marty Weems



Weems and alumna **Katie Maxwell**, MSW '98, launched Social Workers Unite ([www.SocialWorkersUnite.org](http://www.SocialWorkersUnite.org)), a new initiative to connect and support social workers, social advocates, educators and all other social development practitioners who work diligently to promote social and economic equality and justice for all.

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## Lisa de Saxe Zerden



Zerden had the chapter, "HIV Prevention Interventions with Puerto Rican Injection Drug Users," published in "HIV Prevention with Latinos: Theory, Research and Practice," which is available from Oxford University Press.

Zerden also presented two papers at the Public Health Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco: "Harm Reduction Advocates and Law Enforcement Officers: Unlikely Partners or Natural Allies? Evidence from North Carolina," and "When Evidence-Based Practice Meets Evidence-Free Policy: Case Examples From Law, Social Work and Public Health."

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## Sheryl Zimmerman



Zimmerman recently received funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to convene a national conference entitled "Public Reporting on Housing with Support Services for Aged and Disabled Consumers."

She was also quoted in a Sept. 30 article in *The Tennessean*, "Training for Alzheimer's Caregivers Doesn't Go Far Enough, Advocates Say."

## Irene Nathan Zipper



Zipper presented “Service Systems and Families: Building Community Capacity to Support Families with Children Who Have Special Needs” at Jönköping University in Sweden as part of an international course on Environmental Assessment and Intervention in Early Childhood.

She also presented at the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact in Stockholm, Sweden.

Zipper retired in 2013 but plans to continue some activities with the School of Social Work.

## In memoriam: Deborah Vassar



Deborah J. Vassar, a clinical instructor and education specialist with the School's Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES), and the Family and Children's Resource Program (FCRP), died suddenly from a heart attack on April 1, at her home in Snow Camp, N.C. She was 62.

A native of Keysville, Vassar graduated with an MSW degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1977. Following graduation, she worked in social service departments in Virginia as a case worker and as a child welfare supervisor. In 1993, she was hired by FCRP, where she began to develop curricula and lead child welfare social worker training.

Memorial contributions in Vassar's name (checks only) can be made to the UNC School of Social Work Foundation to support ongoing leadership development and coaching for social workers. Please write “Deborah Vassar Fund” in the check memo line.



## Five honored with inaugural School of Social Work faculty awards

This year, the School of Social Work established five new annual awards to recognize outstanding faculty members. The 2013 award recipients are (standing, from left): **Evelyn Williams**, Excellence in Public Engagement Award; **Mark Testa**, Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award; **Wanda Reives**, Excellence in MSW Student Advising Award; **Natasha Bowen**, Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring Award; and (seated) **Rebecca Brigham**, Excellence in School and University Service Award.

Associate Dean for Faculty Development **Matthew Howard** was instrumental in creating and promoting these awards. Faculty committees were organized to establish the guidelines for each award, review nominations and select the recipients.

## Dean Jack Richman teaches and develops partnerships in China

UNC School of Social Work Dean **Jack Richman** spent 10 days in China as part of an ongoing partnership with several international peers to share academic research and training.

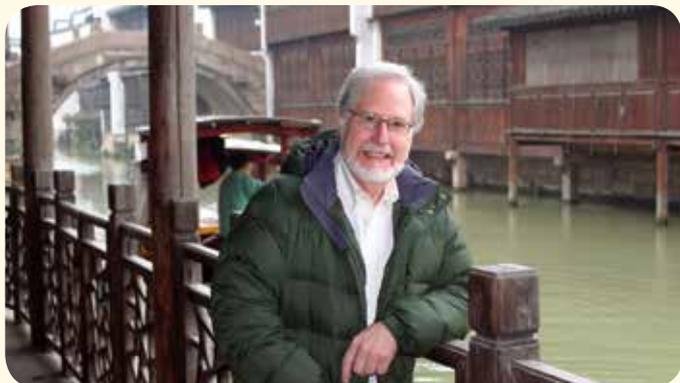
Richman, who visited Shanghai from March 16-26, was invited to teach three MSW classes at East China University of Science and Technology, School of Social and Public Administration and one BSW class at East China Normal University. During the trip, Richman also presented to 50 social work practitioners from various agencies in the Huangpu District in Shanghai. His lectures focused on intervention research and translating practice theory into evidence-based practice.

The trip came two months after a delegation of faculty from East China University visited Carolina to learn more from School of Social Work faculty who are leading projects and activities on social work

By Susan White

research and education. The trips are part of a faculty and student exchange program that developed out of a “memorandum of understanding” agreement that the School signed with East China University in 2008. The partnership enables students to study at the partner universities and faculty to collaborate on research, grants and other projects.

“This really is about relationship, relationship, relationship,” Richman said of his latest trip to China. “Global endeavors, which the university wants you to invest in, really are about developing relationships and then being available to bring in the expertise. They come here and they learn and they get excited about work going on here, and then they want us to share there. It's also about developing areas of interest in common that will also result in research.”



Photos courtesy Meihua Zhu

# Two new memorial scholarships to benefit MSW students

By Susan White

## McClernon Scholarship to assist students interested in helping those with mental illness

By age 57, Robert Ernest “Bob” McClernon had already spent nearly half of his life in the ministry. So his family was understandably a little surprised when McClernon announced in 1987 his intentions to leave the church to pursue what apparently had been a lifelong passion: to help those with mental illness. For almost another decade, McClernon did just that, serving as a psychiatric social worker at John Umstead Hospital in Butner.

“He said it was the greatest job he ever had,” Daniel McClernon recalled of his father, who died eight years ago at age 74. “I just think he realized that there were a lack of organizations and safety nets for people who lived on the fringe of society, and he wanted to help them.”

That call to serve is one reason the late McClernon remains well-respected as a humanitarian and philanthropist. McClernon’s family hopes his contributions might also inspire social work students to give back to those the late minister and practitioner so compassionately cared about. To assist with those efforts, the family is establishing the **Robert E. McClernon Memorial Scholarship**, which will provide \$5,000 annually to support a student interested in pursuing work in mental health.

“This scholarship is about honoring my father because he helped so many different people,” Daniel said.

Born in Springfield, Mo., Bob McClernon learned at an early age the value of lending a hand to others in need. “There were many

unrelated individuals who reached out and nurtured him during his childhood, and I think that instilled in him a desire to give back,” Daniel said.

McClernon graduated from Drury College in Springfield in 1952 with a B.A. degree in sociology. He then decided to enroll in the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he earned his master’s degree three years later. During that time, he also served two years in the Naval Reserves.

His ministerial career brought him to Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, where he served as a minister of adult education and then to Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, where he was named senior minister and served for 22 years. During his tenure in Durham, McClernon helped develop several programs to assist individuals during times of crisis, including a shelter for homeless women and a program that provides free or inexpensive housing accommodations for relatives visiting inpatients at Duke University Medical Center. McClernon eventually left Watts Street Baptist to become a member of Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, where he also acted as an interim minister. He stayed until the late 1980s when he decided to pursue social work. He remained at John Umstead Hospital until his retirement in 1996.

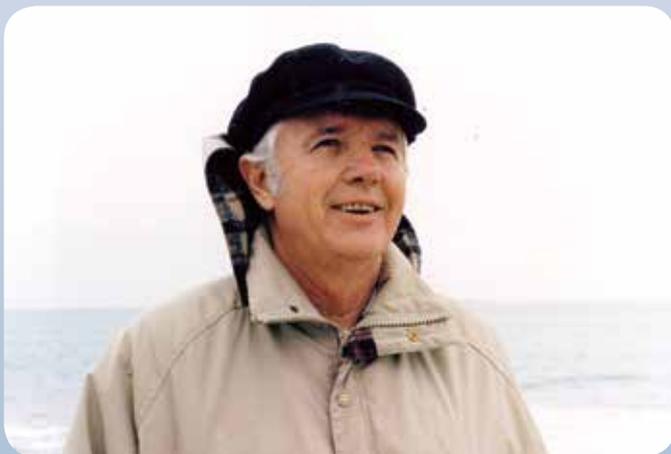
McClernon’s family had long hoped to do something special to honor the late minister and social worker. Although his father did not graduate from Carolina, Daniel said his family has many ties to the University, beginning with his parents who became friends with retired UNC basketball coach Dean Smith many years ago. That friendship extended to Smith’s sister, Joanne Ewing, who attended school with Daniel’s mother, Jonell Willhauck McClernon, a retired nurse who still lives in Durham. Daniel’s sister, Elizabeth M. Becker, also received her master’s in education at Carolina in 1984.

Given McClernon’s passion for social work, the family agreed that establishing a scholarship at UNC’s School of Social Work would be a great way to recognize his achievements and to support graduate students academically.

“One of the things we always talked about was that UNC has a well-respected and reputable program, producing high-quality graduates,” said Anita McClernon, Daniel’s wife. “And we wanted this scholarship to be associated with a North Carolina school and what better than one that’s right down the road that we have ties to.”

School officials praised McClernon’s dedication to the profession and his family’s “generosity and commitment to ensuring that MSW students interested in mental health will be supported.”

“Bob McClernon was an extraordinary person who helped many, many people during his career as a minister and a psychiatric social worker,” said **Mary Beth Hernandez**, the School’s associate dean for advancement. “Receiving the scholarship will be both an honor and an inspiration for MSW students who plan to follow in Bob’s footsteps by serving those with mental illness.”



Bob McClernon

## Brannock Scholarship to help those pursuing work with survivors of trauma and sexual violence

**A**my Louise Brannock, MSW '07, never allowed one facet of her life to completely define her. Rather, she was a loving wife and daughter. An accomplished musician and a dedicated teacher. A vital leader for the arts community and a clinical social worker.

She was also a source of courage and inspiration, especially to survivors of sexual assault. A survivor herself, Brannock fully embraced the complicated and often challenging details woven into the fabric of her life. Even a diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2001 could not claim her spirit, strength and hope, said husband Roger Cook. The news simply intensified her resolve to help others. Her commitment to advocacy and healing remained until August 2011, when Brannock—after 10 years of battling cancer—died at age 55.

Over the last two years, her family has struggled with how best to continue the work that Brannock started. However, with the establishment of the **Amy Louise Brannock, MSW Memorial Scholarship Fund**, Cook and Louise W. Brannock, Amy's mother, hope to further Brannock's cause. The family and others have pledged \$25,000 to the UNC School of Social Work to set up the new scholarship, which will benefit qualifying students who are interested in pursuing work with individuals who have experienced trauma and/or sexual violence.

"It's my hope that this scholarship supports the professional development of students who have a particular interest in healing," Cook said. "I view it as an investment in the long-term development of someone to have the capacities to make the world a better place and to heal psychologically wounded people."

The scholarship also helps to publicly recognize Brannock's work within the community, said **Mary Beth Hernandez**, the School of Social Work's associate dean for advancement. "Amy was an amazing person—compassionate, strong and multi-talented—and this scholarship is a wonderful tribute to her life of service."

That professional commitment included Brannock's work at the Durham Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, where she provided psychotherapy to American service men and women who had experienced post-traumatic stress disorder. As a clinical social worker, she also assisted organ transplant patients and survivors of sexual violence. Prior to her death, she was working as a therapeutic investigator for a national research study comparing therapy modalities for military trauma survivors.

"Her work changed lives," Cook said.

Brannock equally inspired others during her career in music and the arts. An accomplished choral singer and pianist, she graduated



Amy Brannock, MSW '07

from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1978 with a B.A. in music education. She then spent five years teaching music and directing choruses in the Pender and Chatham County school systems.

Brannock returned to school in Pittsburgh, Pa., and in 1985, she graduated with a master's degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon University. Shortly thereafter, she was named the director of The Arts Council of Wilmington in North Carolina. Brannock's successful efforts in revitalizing Wilmington's cultural community eventually brought her to Raleigh, where she earned national recognition as the director of community arts development for the North Carolina Arts Council.

During that time, Brannock married Cook, an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina, and the couple settled in Durham.

Brannock's life took an unexpected turn in 2000 after she was sexually assaulted. According to Cook, the personal tragedy gave his wife the will to volunteer with what is now the Durham Crisis Response Center and inspired her to return to school once again. This time, Brannock wanted to pursue a master's in social work, and she enrolled at UNC. That she would earn her degree while also battling Stage IV ovarian cancer was a testament to Brannock's courage, her mother said.

"I think Amy just felt like God had a different purpose for her in her life and that was to help others," said her mother, who lives in Hickory, N.C.

Following graduation, Brannock went on to receive her professional license and then served in various positions at Duke University Medical Center and at the Durham VA Medical Center. Her last 18 months were spent as a therapist and researcher at the Institute of Medical Research based at the Durham VA.

Brannock's healing work as a social worker helped her to "feel a sense of purpose and joy and enthusiasm and gratitude in being alive," Cook said.

"Her life stands for the principle that each moment is sacred, that each of us bears a duty to help in this world, and that even among tragedy, there is joy to be found in living each and every day," he said. "She viewed her life as just an opportunity to connect with people to make the world a more beautiful place."

Brannock also would have been proud that a scholarship in her name will offer social work students the opportunity to complete their educations and to continue the vital work that she cared so much about, Cook added.

"(Social work) is as noble a cause as there is in my opinion," he said. "It's blessed work and anyone who does it is reaching for the highest that people can give. Amy would have been very proud of anyone whom she could have helped to do this work. This scholarship is a continuation of her helping others to realize their potential and to spread healing."

For more information about these scholarship funds or other fundraising priorities and the impact of private giving at the School of Social Work, please contact Mary Beth Hernandez, associate dean for advancement, at (919) 962-6469 or [marybeth@email.unc.edu](mailto:marybeth@email.unc.edu).

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*Thank You*



# Alumni update

## 1970s

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**Deborah Grey, MSW '79, LCSW,** was named 2013 Social Worker of the Year, by the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC). The Social Worker of the Year Award is presented annually to a social work professional who has demonstrated commendable social work practice and involvement with NASW and other professional, civic and community organizations.

Grey has made substantial contributions to the social work profession through her work as a forensic clinical social worker and mitigation specialist in capital murder cases. She has worked on more than 150 death penalty cases and testified in approximately 30 capital sentencing cases, either as a mitigation specialist or as an expert in clinical social work.

**Sammy Haithcock, MSW '79,** received a 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award at the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services' (NCACDSS) Annual Banquet, in New Bern, N.C. Haithcock, a retired director from Durham County, contributed more than 33 years to local departments of social services in Caldwell, Chatham and Vance counties.



**Eugene Sumner, MSW '73,** of Raleigh is serving his 32nd year with the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

## 1980s

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**Glenda Cedarleaf, MSW '80, LCSW,** writes and records pre-made and customized guided imagery CDs to address chronic and acute pain, panic attacks, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, emotional eating,

post-traumatic stress symptoms, chronic and acute health challenges as well as preparation for medical procedures and surgery. Her guided imagery is inspired by 25+ years of experience working in health and wellness settings including hospice, home health, oncology and integrative health centers. She is a clinical hypnotherapist, guided imagery practitioner, and holistic psychotherapist with a private practice in Raleigh and Hillsborough. Her CDs are provided to patients in a variety of settings, including medical offices and in an outpatient surgery center, joint center, emergency department and cardiac catheter lab. She is now a provider with MedCalm.



**Annie McCullough Chavis, MSW '87,** a tenured faculty member in the Master of Social Work Program at Fayetteville State University, was promoted from associate professor to full professor. She is known for her research and publications concerning genograms with African American families.

**Larry Johnson, MSW '81,** received the Director of the Year award. Johnson has served as the Rockingham County social services director for about 13 years and is a prominent NCACDSS member. He was recently named health and human services director in Rockingham County.



**Rick Miller-Haraway, MSW '89,** director of Catholic Charities in Raleigh, was featured in a June 30, 2012, story in the News and Observer, "Tar Heel of the Week: Caring for the Poor, the Weak, and Those Most In Need."

**Paul Reavis, MSW '81,** retired in August 2012 with 16 years of service in the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services. Reavis served as operations manager for mass disaster sheltering for the VDSS and was responsible for opening and staffing mass shelters in the Commonwealth's largest coliseums and indoor athletic facilities. His team's planning resulted in the establishment of one of the nation's best shelter programs for children who have been victimized by large scale disasters. Reavis now divides his time between residences in Danville, Va., and Carolina Beach, N.C., and with his spouse of 41 years, Brenda, and their two granddaughters.



**Danny Rice, MSW '82,** was named 2012 Citizen of the Year by the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce. Rice, the national director of Woodmen of the World, has been involved with numerous community projects in Lenoir County for more than 30 years, including extensive work with the Boy Scouts of America and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and serving as a founding member of the Lenoir County Friends of the Homeless, Inc., an organization on a mission to provide housing for transient families. He retired in 2010 after 25 years as the director of specialized services of the Caswell Center, a nonprofit organization serving individuals and families with developmental disabilities in eastern North Carolina.

## 1990s

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**Paula Bohland**, MSW '98, was named executive director of the Center for Faith & the Arts, in Salisbury, N.C.



**Bobby Cagle**, MSW '98, commissioner of Georgia's State Department of Early Care and Learning, was featured in a June 2, 2012, Atlanta Journal Constitution story, "It's a New Day for Pre-K Oversight." Cagle was also featured in an NPR news story on Feb. 14, "Georgia to Show Off Preschool Successes." Cagle is the commissioner of Georgia's State Department of Early Care and Learning. President Obama visited a preschool in Decatur, Ga., that day to tout his proposal for universal preschool.

**Thomas Lane**, MSW '92, has retired. He left the VA in 1992 in Greensboro for a job as the Family Advocacy Program manager for the Marine Corps in Beaufort, S.C. He retired in 2007 as the director of social work for the Naval Hospital in Beaufort. He also recruited psych evaluations on Parris Island, and treated Marines and Corpsmen from Iraq and Afghanistan for PTSD.



**Katie Maxwell**, MSW '98, and UNC School of Social Work faculty member **Marty Weems** launched a new initiative called Social Workers Unite ([www.SocialWorkersUnite.org](http://www.SocialWorkersUnite.org)), which aims to connect and support social workers, social advocates, educators, and all other social development practitioners who work diligently to promote social and economic equality and justice for all citizens of the world. Social Workers Unite is also a place for social workers and other human services professionals to mobilize and advocate.



**Yvette Murphy-Erby**, MSW '91, director of the University of Arkansas School of Social Work in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, received the 2013 Health and Human Sciences Pacesetter Award. She received the award from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro Department of Human Development and Family Studies, where she earned a doctorate in 2004. The Pacesetter Award is given each year to one outstanding alumnus from each department and program in the UNC Greensboro School of Health and Human Sciences. Recipients are chosen based on attaining local, state or regional recognition through their achievements in scholarship, leadership or service during their career or through civic involvement.



**Charles Odell**, MSW '97, LCAS, was given the prestigious Jody Kellerman Award by the Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center in Charlotte on Sept. 12, 2012. The award recognizes the contributions of an individual in North Carolina who "exhibits excellence in leadership and service in the field of substance abuse treatment and prevention" and is given to a deserving professional each year by Anuvia's board of directors. Odell has worked in the chemical dependency treatment field for 29 years, and is the CEO of the Dilworth Center for Chemical Dependency in Charlotte. He also serves on the advisory board of the McLeod

Institute on Substance Abuse at UNC-Charlotte, the advisory board of the Presbyterian Samaritan Center in Charlotte, and is an adjunct instructor at UNC-Chapel Hill.



**Sha-Lai Williams**, MSW '96, received her Ph.D. (2013) from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. She has accepted a position in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In April, Williams was also inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society at the annual Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education at Yale University.



**Barbara Zelter**, MSW '91, was interviewed on Social-WorkHelper.com on her experience protesting with the NAACP at the legislature in Raleigh, and on social activism.

## 2000s

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**Rachel Aelson**, a 2007 graduate of the Multidisciplinary Certificate in Aging, introduced her new book, "Staying Power: Age-Proof Your Home for Comfort, Safety and Style" (Sage Tree Publishing, 2013).

**Kathryn (Katie) Smith Bauman**, MSW '08, was selected as the North Carolina 2013 CIT Healthcare Professional of the Year. She received the award at the first annual CIT Awards Luncheon, part of North Carolina's 2013 CIT Conference, "Promoting Resilience in the Face of Crisis," on Feb. 19.



**Adriane Casalotti**, MSW/MPH '09, and Bernard Becker were married June 16, 2012. They met at the College of William and Mary, from which they both graduated. Casalotti is a legislative assistant to Representative Lois Capps, a California Democrat, and specializes in health issues.



**Anita Case**, MSW '01, and husband David Meeler welcomed daughter Audrey Morgan Case-Meeler on April 14, 2012. Case is the executive director of Catawba Care, a not-for-profit HIV organization that provides medical care, social services and prevention services. The family lives in Rock Hill, S.C.



**Devon Corpus**, MSW '01, Monterey County (Calif.) Behavioral Health Crisis Team supervisor, received the prestigious ICISF Award (International Critical Incident Stress Foundation), presented at the ICISF 12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping, in Baltimore on Feb. 23. Corpus has devoted her personal and professional life to the mental well-being of Monterey County Emergency Services personnel. She has forged an unwavering one-of-a-kind collaboration between her team of behavior health professionals and law enforcement, specifically with the Salinas Police Department. The Salinas Police Department has developed a unique professional relationship with her, which is based

*Continued on p. 38*

on credibility and trust. Corpus was featured in The Californian on Feb. 11, in the article, "Helping First Responders Cope."



**Marcie Fisher-Borne**, Ph.D. '09, and her spouse, Chantelle, are lead plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit filed by the ACLU against the state of North Carolina for second parent adoption rights for same sex couples. The couple was also featured in a June 20, 2012, Daily Tar Heel story profiling the case. Fisher-Borne also accepted a full-time tenure track position at North Carolina State University in the Dept. of Social Work.



**Eric Garland**, Ph.D. '09, won first place for the First Year Assistant Professor's award from the Florida State University's Council of Research and Creativity for his poster, "Cue-Elicited Heart Rate Variability and Attentional Bias Predict Alcohol Relapse Following Treatment."



**Isabel Geffner**, MSW '02, and School of Social Work Board of Advisors member, was named executive director of the Behavioral Science & Policy Association, part of a new center formed in partnership with Duke University and UCLA and housed at the Social Science Research Institute.



**Lindsay Hege**, MSW '07, and husband Brian welcomed twins Alivia and Penelope on Jan. 27. They join older sister Lila, age 3.



**Faculty member and alumnus Josh Hinson**, MSW '04, and wife Emily, are the proud parents of a new daughter. Elspeth Faye Hinson (Elsie) was born on Sept. 7, 2012, at 3:16 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 21 inches.



**Nikki Mobray**, MSW '04, was featured in a July 2, 2012, article in the News Journal (Wilmington, Del.), "Time to Talk About Sex Abuse." Mobray has been with the YMCA of Delaware for more than five years and worked on various prevention grants but took over this project in January 2012. The YMCA of Delaware is one of three lead agencies bringing Stewards of Children (a three-hour training program that teaches adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse) to 35,000 Delaware adults by 2016. Mobray is coordinating the statewide effort, locating groups to train, and connecting them with the agency's 64 volunteer facilitators.



**Joe Polich**, MSW '09, was named a postdoctoral research fellow at the UNC School of Law.



**Metta Prieto**, MSW '09, husband Marcos and daughter Gigi welcomed baby Orion to the family on Nov. 5, 2012. Orion was born at UNC Hospital and was 7 lbs., 12 oz. and 19.5 inches.



**Karen Smith Rotabi**, Ph.D. '05, an associate professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, joined the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) Department of Social Work. While UAEU has awarded BSW degrees for a number of years, the proposal for an MSW program was approved recently. Rotabi joined the faculty with a particular emphasis on community practice; she teaches humanitarian social work. You can follow Rotabi's work at <http://independent.academia.edu/KarenRotabi>.



**Michelle Turner**, MSW '03, and husband Derek Owen, welcomed daughter Skylar Mai Owen on Dec. 19, 2012. She weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz. Turner is a member and past president of the School of Social Work Alumni Council.

**Sarah Zlotnik**, MSW '07, spoke at a briefing on Oct. 19, 2012, in Washington, D.C., "Children at Risk: Optimizing Health in an Era of Reform," hosted by Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY) in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers.

## 2010s

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**Rebecca Brown**, MSW/MPH '11, was hired in December 2012 as the North Carolina Division of Public Health's adolescent health coordinator. The position came out of a 2009 Adolescent Health Task Force and report submitted to the N.C. Institute of Medicine on how the state can improve health for adolescents in a variety of areas. In her new position, Brown will work to create a virtual Adolescent Health Resource Center for adolescents, parents, and providers. She will also work to build capacity and to bolster coordinated health initiatives across the state that address adolescent health.



**Mary-Catherine (M.C.) Steed Hartley**, MSW '10, husband Matt Hartley and daughter Macy welcomed baby Clara Page Hartley on July 22, 2012. Clara arrived at 6:34 a.m., and was 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 inches.

**Erin Krauss**, MSW '11, was awarded the Garcia-Robles Fulbright and will be conducting a project in Chiapas, Mexico, during the academic year of 2013-14. Her project, "Comparative Social Work Practice: From North Carolina to Southern Mexico," is a cross-cultural immersion experience aimed at fine-tuning professional language proficiency, enhancing skills for working across culture, and for understanding social work practice in southern Mexico. Krauss is working with Escuela Superior de Trabajo Social "Jesús Aquino Juan," the leading social work school in Chiapas.

**Meredith Myer Poe Martin**, MSW '11, a reverend at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, spoke at the White House on June 11, 2012. She participated in the Bread for the World Hunger Justice Leaders Training in Washington, D.C. Bread for the World is a Christian nonprofit that advocates to the nation's leaders on behalf of poor and hungry people. Part of this event included meeting with senior staff in the Obama administration from USAID, USDA and the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Martin was selected as one of four to speak at the White House.

**Laura Pfladderer**, MSW '12, was accepted to the U.S. Air Force. She left for commissioned officer training at the end of June and was expected to be stationed in the D.C. area as of August.

**Erica Synder**, MSW '12, is now working full-time for The Salvation Army in Raleigh in anti-human trafficking. She is the injury prevention coordinator, working in conjunction with a consultant to conduct a planning and assessment grant regarding child trafficking in Wake County (ages 21 and under).

**Arianna Taboada**, MSW/MPH '12, is featured in the April 2013 UNC Center for AIDS Research newsletter, profiling her work as the project coordinator of the "Sex Ed Squad," which teaches teens through theatre. The UNC Sex Ed Squad is part of a project that is piloting the AMP! intervention in three school district sites: Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. AMP! is a theater-based HIV prevention and sexual health education intervention that was developed at the UCLA Art & Global Health Center in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit.

**Aaron Thompson**, Ph.D. '12, is an assistant professor at the University of Missouri School of Social Work, in Columbia, Mo. His research interests focus on the U.S. education system and how the cycles of poverty and dependence can be broken when mental and behavioral services are provided to students in a full-service delivery model. His initial teaching responsibility at Missouri includes evaluative research in clinical social work practice.

## In Memoriam



**Melvarene "Mel" Johnson Howard Adair**, 83, MSW '76, of Raleigh, a retired social worker and fervent supporter of the School of Social Work, died on Dec. 20, 2012.

Adair grew up in Dunn, N.C., and earned a B.S. degree in sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1951. After graduation, she married Kenneth Felton Howard, Jr., a 1952 UNC alumnus, and had two sons, Kenneth and Thomas. She returned to UNC and earned her MSW degree in 1976, and then worked for social services in Warren, Harnett and New Hanover counties. In 2008, she established a charitable gift annuity with the UNC Foundation, directing \$1.4 million to the School of Social Work—one of the largest gifts in the School's history. The money created an endowment for the Johnson-Howard-Adair Distinguished Professorship and added to an existing scholarship that her son, Kenneth Howard, also a UNC alumnus, created in his mother's honor.



**Mary Jane Stratton Mayhew Burns**, 75, MSW '74, a clinical social worker specializing in counseling and family therapy and a leader in the Chapel Hill/Durham community, died on Sept. 22, 2012, after a two-year battle with cancer. Earlier this year, members of Burns' Chapel Hill book club created a book award in honor of Burns' memory. The award will be given annually to show appreciation to a part-time final year student in good academic standing and with a professional interest in clinical social work.



**Jermayne Denny Cook**, 63, MSW '92, died on Jan. 13, of cancer at Levine & Dickson Hospice House. She devoted nearly four decades to the service of others. In 2010, she retired as executive director of St. Peter's Homes at McCreesh Place.



**Louise Tadlock Copeland**, 89, MSW '69, missionary, social worker, lifelong volunteer, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died on Jan. 27, in Raleigh.

**Edward Lawrence Garrison**, 71, MSW '67, of Greenville, died unexpectedly on June 29, 2012. He was active in the N.C. Association of County Directors of Social Services, serving as a former president and selected as a Director of the Year. Upon his retirement in 2005, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian award in the State of North Carolina. In 2009, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the N.C. Association of County Directors of Social Services.

**Bill Link**, 81, MSW '61, of Drexel and North Myrtle Beach, S.C., died June 27, 2012, at Burke Hospice and Palliative Care Center. He was a veteran of the Korean conflict, serving in the U.S. Air Force. He also served with NATO in Europe for three years. After college, he worked at several state mental institutions.

**Frances Cressey Seasholes**, 79, MSW '58, of Newton, Mass., died on November 13, 2012. As a child welfare social worker, she was formerly employed by the Orange County (N.C.) Welfare Department, The New England Home for Little Wanderers, The Gaebler Children's Hospital, and Protestant Social Service Bureau. In recent years, she and her husband traveled widely and provided homestays for about 225 foreign students here to study English.

## 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: [ssw.unc.edu/contact](http://ssw.unc.edu/contact).

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## Clinical Lecture Series expands offerings, announces 2013-14 events

By Deborah Barrett and Michelle Rogers

The UNC School of Social Work's Clinical Lecture Series offers lectures on mental health topics to enhance the clinical curriculum for students, and to provide continuing education for graduates and practitioners. It also aims to foster and strengthen relationships among students, faculty and the wider clinical community.

The \$25 registration fee is waived for UNC School of Social Work students and field instructors or task supervisors working with them.

### Chapel Hill Series

Now in its ninth year, the CLS lectures are held monthly on Mondays from noon-2 p.m. in the School's auditorium, beginning in September. Registration and a catered meet-and-greet reception open at 11:15 in the lobby.

Seven events are scheduled for the 2013-14 academic year:

- Navigating changes in DSM-5, with Mehul Mankad, M.D.; **Sept. 16**
- Prevention and early treatment of psychotic disorders, with Diana Perkins, M.D.; **Oct. 14**
- Loving kindness meditation practice, with Mary Brantley, LMFT; **Nov. 11**
- Motivational interviewing and readiness to change, with Paul Nagy, LPC, LCAS; **Jan. 13**
- Working effectively with emotionally vulnerable clients, with Becca Edwards, LCSW; **Feb. 10**
- Ethics of self-determination in aging adults, with Tanya Richmond, LCSW; **March 24**
- Treating chronic pain and substance use disorders, with David Marks, M.D.; **April 21**

The CLS is also excited to announce its new partnership with Wake AHEC, which will extend accessibility of these events through webinar and simulcast programming and also by offering continuing

education credits to psychologists, substance abuse counselors, and other professional counselors, in addition to contact hours for clinical social workers.

To view the Chapel Hill Clinical Lecture Series schedule of events and to register, see: <http://cls.unc.edu>.

If you have questions, contact **Deborah Barrett** at [dbarrett@email.unc.edu](mailto:dbarrett@email.unc.edu).

### Winston-Salem Series

Last year, the School's Winston-Salem 3-Year MSW Program launched a Clinical Lecture Series in Winston-Salem, which was very well received. This successful partnership with Northwest AHEC will continue this year, to meet the needs of professionals in the Triad and surrounding area.

The School and Northwest AHEC are offering four lectures for the 2013-14 academic year:

- The DSM-5, with Marilyn Ghezzi, LCSW; **Sept. 11**
- Ethical considerations in addressing religion and spirituality, with Bryan Hatcher, M.Div., LCSW; **Oct. 30**
- The ethics of psychopharmacology, with Thomas Murray, Ph.D.; LMFT, LPC; **Jan. 8**
- Critical time intervention for at-risk populations, with Bebe Smith, LCSW; **March 19**

The lectures are held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Northwest AHEC's facility in Winston-Salem.

For more information on the Winston-Salem Clinical Lecture Series events and to register, see: <http://ssw.unc.edu/sswevents>.

If you have questions, contact **Theresa Palmer** at [palmermt@email.unc.edu](mailto:palmermt@email.unc.edu).

# Reeves family gives \$200,000 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.

Over the last four years, **Sam and Betsy Reeves** of Fresno Beach, Calif., have contributed a total of \$900,000 to the University to support social work doctoral students.

The doctoral program admits between four and six new students annually and has a total enrollment of about 35. In previous years, it was challenging to recruit the top applicants because UNC was not able to guarantee them continued financial support. The ability to offer multi-year funding at a competitive level significantly enhances UNC's program.



Betsy and Sam Reeves

This year's gift enables the School of Social Work to offer three 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, and develop their related skills in these activities.

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.

## Unrestricted dollars aid the School

By Susan White

The UNC School of Social Work received two generous "unrestricted gifts" this year—money that will go a long way to support activities and programs that state dollars cannot typically fund.

The donations—an anonymous \$500,000 contribution and a "major gift" from Chapel Hill residents **Prue and Peter Meehan**—are vital to the School's overall efforts to support faculty, students, and programs, said Dean **Jack M. Richman**.

"Unrestricted funding allows us to support, among other items, faculty travel and student fees to conferences," Richman explained. "It helps pay for food at faculty retreats and for student scholarship

receptions—all of the things that we wouldn't be able to do otherwise because we cannot use state money for them."

One major item that the School will be investing unrestricted dollars in this year is a video-conferencing system. The system, which will be offered in one classroom of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building, will enable faculty members to broadcast anywhere in the world and offer speakers around and outside of North Carolina a chance to present to



Peter and Prue Meehan

the School without the need to travel.

"This kind of funding gives us the flexibility to develop these kinds of ideas," Richman said.

For Prue Meehan, who currently serves on the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors, supporting the social work program has been a long-time passion. Although not a graduate of the School, Meehan said she appreciates the program's mission and remains impressed

with Richman's leadership and the School's faculty. Giving to the School just made sense, she said.

"The other reason I like to give is because of the importance of the ripple effect," she said. "If you support students and faculty at UNC, it will ripple across the state because many of our graduates stay here." Many of the School's faculty are also doing research in North Carolina, she added.

With the state's economy still recovering, School leaders understand how critical every dollar is, Richman said. More than ever, gifts play a valuable role in helping to support the School's academic endeavors, he said.

"The bottom line is we have to look for ways to supplement our funding so that we can continue to do all the innovative and creative things that we do."



## Rizo named Outstanding Doctoral Student, joins faculty

By Michelle Rogers

**Cynthia Fraga Rizo** is the recipient of this year's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award.

Rizo received a B.A. in Psychology in 2005 and an MSW in 2007, both from Florida International University.

Her research interests include violence and trauma related to women, domestic violence issues specific to treatment and Hispanic populations, marital health, and alternative frameworks for understanding and treating mental illness.

"One of Cindy's most remarkable qualities is the incredible thoroughness of her work," wrote one of her nominators, a fellow student. "She completes every task to the best of her ability, whether it is a short class assignment, a grant proposal, or a manuscript to be submitted for publication."

A faculty nominator said, "Cindy is always encouraging other students, and believes in collective success. She is as happy when a peer reaches a goal as when she does. As a teacher, I can see Cindy taking true pride in students' successes, and taking the time to work with students who are struggling. I believe that her genuine interest in others' success is one of Cindy's many attributes that will make her an effective instructor and mentor throughout her career."

She was presented her award in May at the doctoral program graduation reception, by Dr. **Sheryl Zimmerman**, associate dean for doctoral education.

Rizo, who is completing her Ph.D., is expected to join the UNC School of Social Work faculty as an assistant professor.



Cynthia Rizo and Sheryl Zimmerman

## Gadd wins NASW-NC Advocacy Award

By Michelle Rogers

**Jenny Gadd** is the recipient of the 2013 Myrna Miller Wellons Advocacy Award, given by the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC).

Gadd was selected by the group's Legislative Committee to receive this award, for her persistent advocacy efforts to promote higher quality services within adult mental health group homes following proposed changes to group home funding under the state's Department of Justice Settlement.

She worked with advocacy groups in the state to respond to the state's settlement to protect the individuals who were most affected by the changes. She was regularly seen at the North Carolina General Assembly attending the Blue Ribbon Commission appointed to oversee the settlement. Gadd's work with this important policy issue inspired her colleagues, professors and fellow students.

The Myrna Miller Wellons Advocacy Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated a strong passion to advocate for the social work profession and/or policy issues. It is named for past NASW-NC government relations staff member, and UNC School of Social Work alumna, Myrna Miller Wellons, MSW '96. Wellons, who was an advocate for social work issues and a mentor to many social workers across the state, died unexpectedly in 2010.

Gadd is a student in our Triangle Distance Education MSW Program and is employed by Alberta Professional Services of Greensboro.



Jenny Gadd

## School looks to the future with strategic plan

By Michelle Rogers

The School of Social Work is currently developing a new strategic plan that focuses on goals and initiatives in the wake of a depressed economy and reduced resources from state government to the University.

To determine these goals, a strategic plan steering committee, comprised of Dean **Jack Richman** and several faculty and staff lead-

ers, created five subcommittees to address key topics: the academic program, community engagement, faculty and staff, financial sustainability and research. The School's Board of Advisors, Alumni Council and students also had the opportunity to provide input.

The resulting new plan adopts the following five high-impact goals in support of the mission and core values of our School:

- Create social work practitioners, scholars and educators who seek to effect positive change in people, policy and practice.
- Increase the School's capacity to learn from and have a significant impact on the communities it serves.
- Create a diversified funding base that supports students, faculty, staff and services.
- Increase the output, quality and impact of research.
- Ensure that the academic and working environments fully support recruiting and retaining highly qualified faculty and staff.

Additionally, UNC recently completed its own strategic plan. The School of Social Work's steering committee checked alignment of its goals with those of the University throughout the process.

When finalized later this year, the new strategic plan will be available on the School's website.



## From the Alumni President

This spring, we welcomed another 128 social workers to our alumni family—a family that is nearly 5,000 strong. I often refer to the School of Social Work community as a family because I truly feel it genuinely describes the community that is built here year after year. Strangers become classmates and classmates become friends and professional peers. Ultimately, the relationships that are formed and nurtured within our School have a profound effect, not only on the individuals who forge those friendships, but also on the communities that they serve.

With that thought in mind, I ask that you take a moment to remember what brought you to the field of social work and to consider your experience at UNC and at the School. Think about how those experiences shaped and defined you and how you likely influenced others while pursuing your degree.

I urge you to stay connected, or if need be, to reconnect with your School of Social Work family. As an alumnus, you are a vital part of the bridge between students and the working world.

We need your time, your perspective, and your financial support to continue to thrive. Come participate in the continuing education opportunities, connect with new students at Welcome Weekend, become a field instructor, and stay in touch with the activities at the School through Facebook, Twitter, or through other social media sites.

I also encourage you to consider getting involved with the Alumni Council, which also appreciates your support. If you are interested in joining the council or volunteering for an event, please contact **Mary Beth Hernandez** at (919) 962-6469 or marybeth@email.unc.edu.

Remember, even the smallest of donations of time or money can make a huge difference.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Jennifer Baddour, MSW '99*



Jennifer Baddour, MSW '99

## 2013-14 Alumni Council

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## Give us your e-mail address for a chance to win prizes!

The School would like to send you our monthly e-newsletter, which includes alumni news and continuing education opportunities. Would you please give us your e-mail address?

To sweeten the deal, we're giving away prizes! Submissions received by **December 31, 2013**, will be entered into a random drawing to win two tickets to the UNC vs. Virginia basketball home game. We're also giving away 10 runner-up prizes of School of Social Work T-shirts.

Everyone who enters online will receive a thank-you prize of a car window decal, magnet or other little surprise—while supplies last!

To enter, go to: [ssw.unc.edu/win](http://ssw.unc.edu/win)