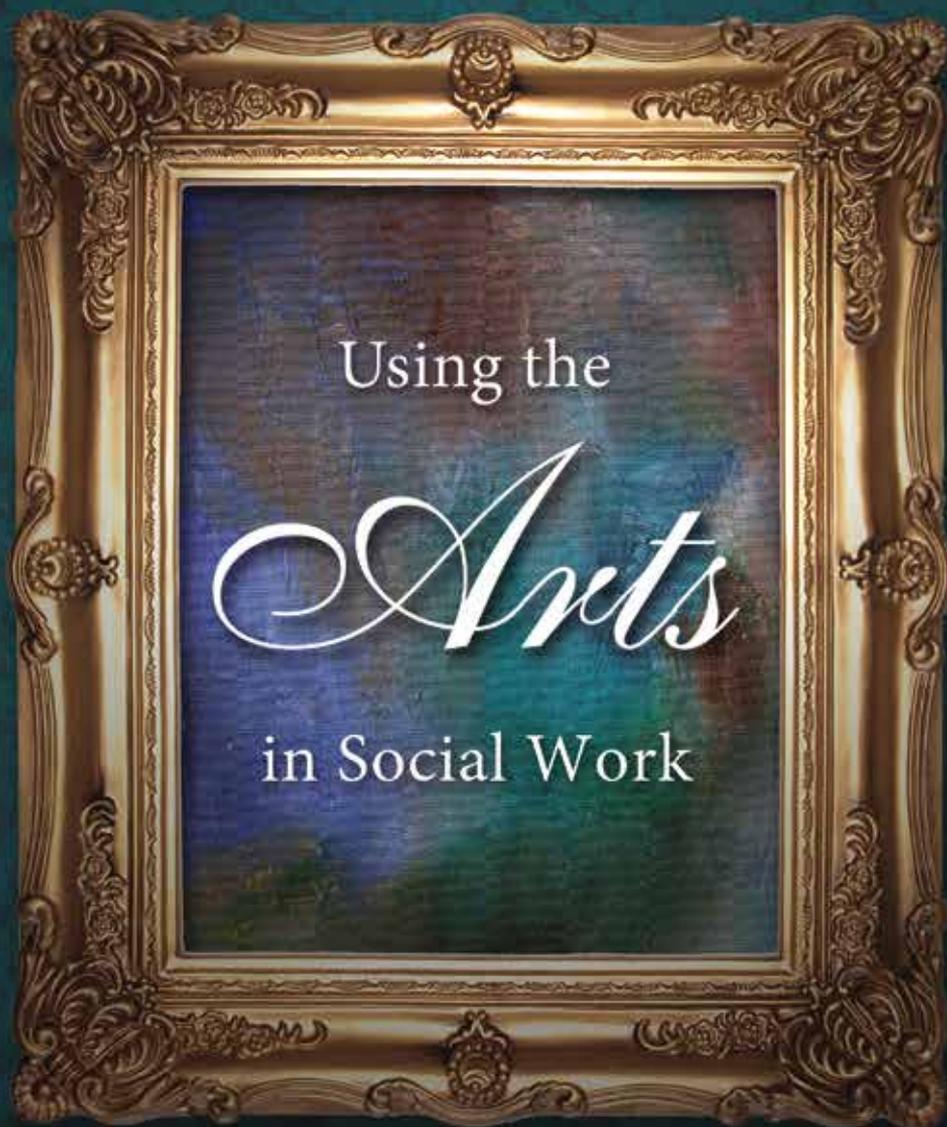


Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2012





From the Dean...

Fall is always an exciting time in Chapel Hill, as we welcome our students and look forward to a new year of possibilities.

While the past four years have been challenging due to unprecedented state budget cuts, the good news is that our School is not only surviving, we are progressing. This is possible because of the hard work and unwavering support of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends.

I am so pleased that the economy is finally starting to turn around. We were able to offer small raises this year thanks to the state legislature, important for faculty and staff retention. With continued support, we are hoping to move forward and rebuild areas we had to tear down due to budget restrictions.

This year brought a number of successes, including national recognition, additional research dollars, gifts, faculty publications, and expansion of our international reach.

We were named one of the top five social work programs in the country, in U.S. News & World Report's 2013 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools."

Also this year, our doctoral program underwent a rigorous and thorough independent review, required by the University every

7-10 years. We passed with flying colors. The reviewers gave our program a glowing report and accolades. Thank you to doctoral chair **Kathleen Rounds**, doctoral program coordinator **Brenda Vawter**, and former associate dean **Joelle Powers**, for their outstanding work.

After seven years of leading our doctoral program, Kathleen has decided to step down from that role. She isn't leaving us though; she will still be here and will continue to manage our dual degree program with UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health. I want to thank Kathleen for the fabulous job she did to make this arguably the #1 social work doctoral program in the country.

Kenan Distinguished Professor **Sheryl Zimmerman** has agreed to lead the program, and has been named associate dean for doctoral education.

Also taking on an additional faculty role at the School is Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor **Matthew Howard**, named to the newly-created position of associate dean for faculty development.

This summer we were sad to say goodbye to Joelle and to **Michal Grinstein-Weiss**. Joelle has accepted a position as associate dean at Boise State University's Department

of Social Work, and Michal as an associate professor at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. They will be missed.

I'm happy to announce that faculty member **Rebecca Macy** succeeds Joelle as our new associate dean for academic affairs. Rebecca was also recently named the L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families.

This fall we welcome our largest incoming MSW class. Our School continues to attract a diverse student body and some of the best and brightest graduate students in the state and the nation.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank YOU for helping us succeed through trying times. Your support of our mission of teaching, research and service truly makes a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack M. Richman".

Jack M. Richman

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Printed with soy ink
on recycled paper



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

The School would love to keep in touch with you, and send you our monthly newsletter. Would you please give us your e-mail address? To sweeten the deal, we're giving away prizes!

Submissions received by **October 15, 2012**, 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 by October 15 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





Social work faculty find valuable teaching tool in the creative arts

By Susan White

The curriculum at UNC's School of Social Work has long relied on a mixture of required and recommended readings, as well as a heavy dose of writing and analytic discussion. But over the past several years, some faculty members have turned to a nontraditional tool to enhance their teaching: the creative arts.

No doubt, there are still foundational theories that instructors must cover using the traditional text, explained **Travis Albritton**, a clinical instructor and director of the School's Triangle Distance Education Program.

"But it's also important for me to be creative and to say, 'OK, now let's take some of the theory that we've learned and apply it in a real world way,'" he added.

Albritton did just that last fall while teaching the School's 500 course, "Infancy to Adolescence." The class helps students to explore "individual development during childhood and adolescence in the context of family, community, culture, and the larger environment." Although the class generally focuses on the factors that influence children's development, such as the community they grow up in, the school they attend, or their access to health care, Albritton encouraged his students to consider a child's growth through a slightly different lens—the musical and cultural genre of hip hop.

Students were eager to participate in such a discussion after learning of a presentation that Albritton had completed for a national conference on how hip hop culture influences children. What resulted was a social justice lesson that incorporated videos, a documentary film and literature, an examination of song lyrics, and an in-depth conversation about the subtle and not-so-subtle

messages that some hip hop artists communicate, including about African Americans, women, and education.

"We approached it from the standpoint that this is just one way to think about development," Albritton explained. "What are the media that are influencing language, dress, thoughts about school, and thoughts about relationships? And while you have to acknowledge that there are parts of hip hop that don't send very positive messages, you also can't stick your head in the sand and ignore the fact that there are numerous students across races and cultures who listen to this music every day."

For MSW students interested in working with children in schools or in direct practice, the lesson was eye-opening. "I had some students who are in their 40s and early 50s and they said, 'Wow this is totally new to me, but it's important that I pay attention to it,'" Albritton said.

Marbeth Holmes, a rising second-year MSW student, was among those who appreciated Albritton's willingness and approach to threading a more mainstream topic into the course. In fact, Holmes was quite familiar with the subject matter. At 49, she's been a long-time fan of hip hop and even uses the genre in the English classes she teaches as a community college instructor.

The performing arts are a valuable tool for bridging understanding of real life experiences, she said.

"I do think that even for scholarly students and instructors... those kinds of opportunities that are nontraditional are valid and important because much of our cultural and social value systems are rooted in entertainment," she said. "So I think (using the arts) affords an academic opportunity to explore in what ways our

Continued on p. 6



Travis Albritton

practice in social work and the people we encounter are influenced.”

As a clinical assistant professor and as the co-director of a community peer support group for artists with mental illness, **Laurie Selz-Campbell** has seen firsthand how creative endeavors and disciplines positively influence individuals. The visual arts, for example, often enables a person to reveal a part of themselves that social workers and counselors find very informative, especially

when considering a client’s holistic wellness. (See related article: *Finding Hope and Recovery Through Art*, p. 8.)

“Art allows us to see the pieces of the person that are really intact,” she said. “So even with all the symptoms they may present, they still have this ability to create. That’s important for us to see because in social work, we’re really committed to the bio-psycho-

social-spiritual development or all of those sides of the person. Art is one way that we can bring all of those into the conversation, especially the spiritual, which I think as social workers, we sometimes struggle with how to bring that in in some kind of meaningful way.”

Like Albritton, Selz-Campbell has learned how to use art to better engage her students, especially around the topic of oppression and institutional discrimination. In April, she invited students, faculty and staff to the School-sponsored event, “Brushes with Life: Art, Artists and Mental Illness.” The presentation included a film screening and conversation with artists with mental illness and gave attendees a chance to think critically about stereotypes and myths.

“I want the students and faculty to think about people with severe mental illness in different ways,” Selz-Campbell explained. “As social workers, we spend a whole lot of time assessing and diagnosing and planning and intervening and evaluating. So we tend to think that these are the most severely ill folks who are hard to work with and who have lots of issues. But then we don’t see this other piece—that creativity is possible and that it’s part of the recovery process.”

School Associate Professor **Mimi Chapman** has, perhaps, cultivated the most fertile ground for intersecting art and social work. She regularly infuses visual images into her teaching and into her research, which focuses on children’s health and mental health, immigration and acculturation issues. Her experiences have attracted the attention of academic peers. Chapman has presented twice on her work with art to UNC’s Center for Faculty Excellence and this spring, she shared her lessons with faculty at the Center for Innovative Pedagogy at Kenyon College in Ohio.

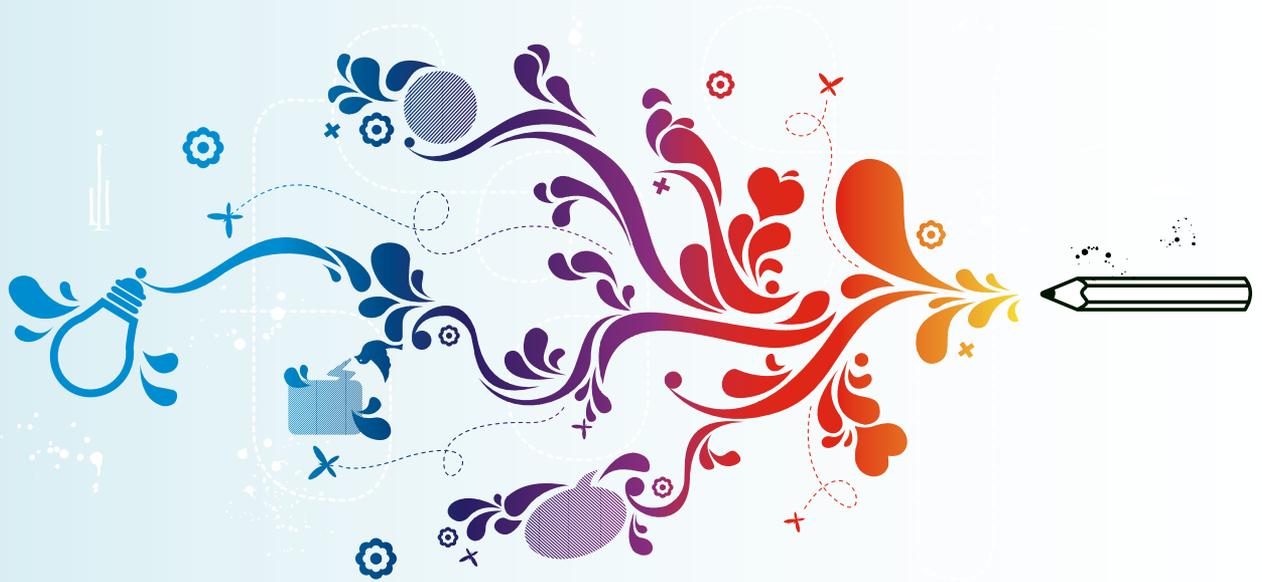
Her experimentation began in 2010, when she first partnered with UNC’s Ackland Art Museum. The goal was to create an exercise that uses paintings, photographs, and sculpture to challenge and expose students’ ideas and assumptions about everything from race and gender to sexual orientation and social class. (See related article: *Art Helps Social Work Students See the Full Picture*, p. 10)

“It’s really about the subjectivity of perception,” explained Chris Currie, Ackland’s coordinator of academic programs, who has worked closely with Chapman. “How we perceive things differs depending on our life experiences or where we come from personally and culturally.”

Understanding the root of those perceptions is vital, especially for practitioners who often work with diverse groups of people, Chapman said. And while the School’s curriculum is designed to teach social workers in training to self-reflect, instructors are “sometimes short on innovative strategies to help students achieve those goals,” she said.

However, through Chapman’s partnership with the Ackland, the associate professor has found a unique way for provoking student thought. Take for example, a nationally published photograph of people jumping from the Twin Towers on 9/11. Such powerful





Laurie Selz-Campbell

images—some subtle and some completely overwhelming—have encouraged deeply emotional conversations that Chapman said would not have likely occurred during a traditional classroom discussion.

Such open and honest sharing taught students a lot about each other and themselves, said Derek Easley, MSW '12.

“What I learned is that your initial response to something is rich with information,” said Easley, who encountered Chapman’s art exercise in a class earlier this

year. “There’s useful information in that story (that one creates), especially around being aware of biases.”

But can art play an equally important role in informing social work research? Chapman certainly thinks so, at least with her own work. For the past few years, she has used art as part of an intervention project with teachers at a middle school in Siler City, where more than 50 percent of the town’s residents are Latino.

The training, called “Yo Veo,” was developed to help teachers understand and intervene with new immigrant youth and relies on a series of images from photojournalist Janet Jarman (janetjarman.com). Jarman’s pictures capture the harsh reality of a family from Mexico before and after their immigration to the United States. Teachers have praised the project, and some have noted that the photos have encouraged them to more seriously consider their students’ life experiences, Chapman said. “Some teachers have said, ‘They (students) bring so much to school with them that we don’t know anything about,’ or ‘This makes me more compassionate to the young people that I teach and to their families.’”

Chapman hopes to expand on the program’s success. The training project is currently being offered to teachers in a second middle school in Chatham County, and Chapman hopes to incorporate the

program into others once additional funding is in place.

In the meantime, Chapman continues to capitalize on other ways to introduce art into her research. For instance, last year, she integrated a photo project into a cross-cultural study that she is directing in China. The study explores the strengths and challenges facing in-country migrant women in Shanghai. As part of the project, migrant women were given cameras and told to snap photos that illustrate their communities and perspectives. The women ultimately produced a montage of intimate and often painful photographs that have helped researchers and policymakers better understand the migration experience. (See related article: [Photos Help Researchers Learn More About Migrant Life in China](#), p. 12.)

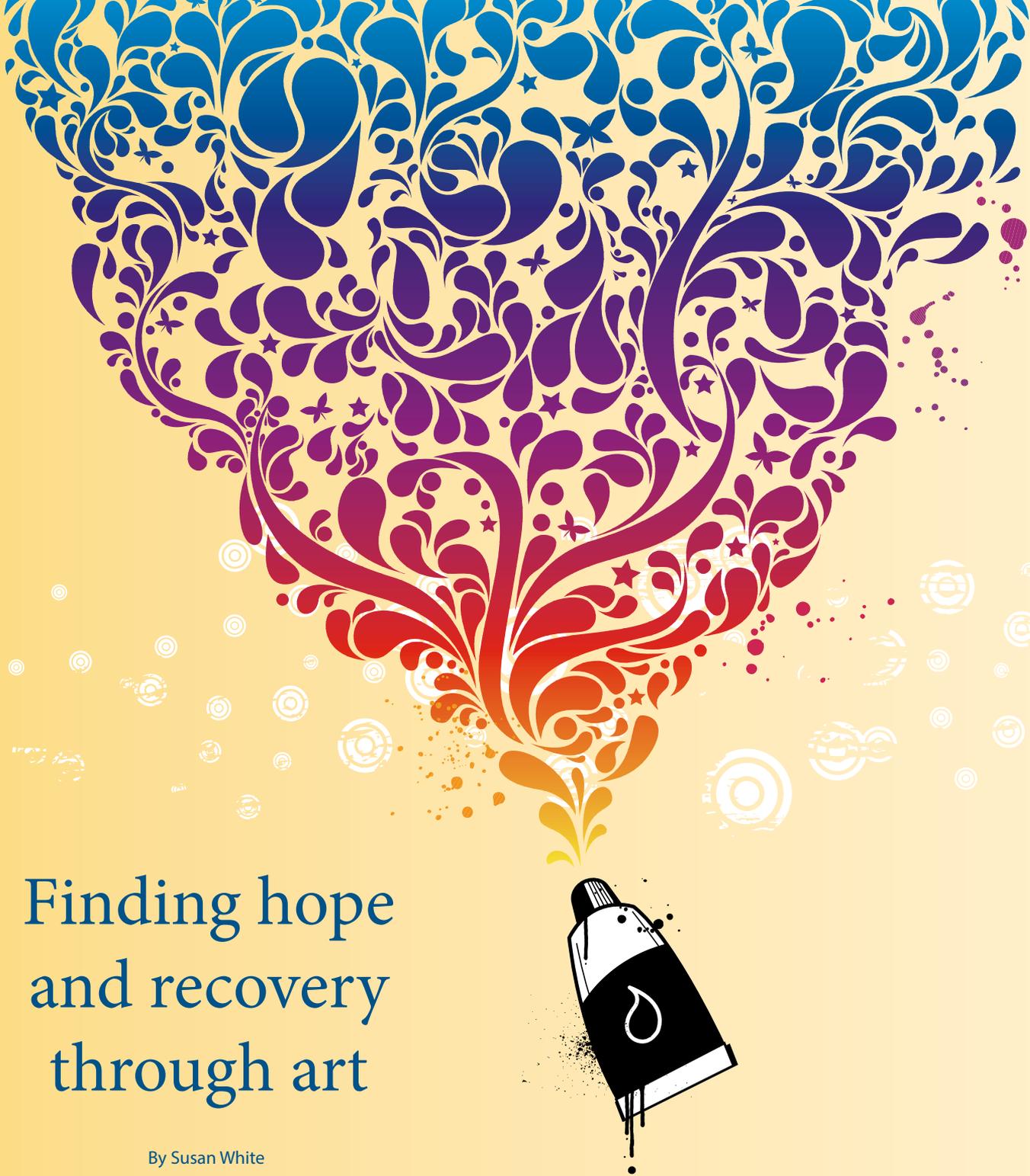
By viewing life through so many creative lenses, Chapman said she’s learned to examine the world around her a little more closely and “to consider the impact” of what she sees differently.

In turn, she and other instructors have been pleased that students have reacted so positively to the infusion of art into social work education and practice and that they have been so welcoming of another reflective space.

“I didn’t know if they would see (art) as something far removed from what they’re here for,” Chapman said. “But I think that they very much welcome exercises that allow them to think deeply about what they’re doing and the space to experience the emotions that they have related to their work with clients. I’m always amazed by them in different ways, but their willingness to be intellectually curious in trying something different is encouraging.”



Mimi Chapman



Finding hope and recovery through art

By Susan White

Over the past year, a community of artists in Chapel Hill and Carrboro has bonded around tables overflowing with sleeves of rainbow markers, tubes of acrylic paint, and boxes of colored pencils. Each gathering has been an opportunity to showcase their creativity and talent. But members, all of whom live with mental illness, have come to value these same meetings for offering something much more—the chance to share common challenges and hopes for the future.

The arts and peer support group provides a safe environment for individuals with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, or

post-traumatic stress disorder. Members meet weekly to discuss their successes and struggles and to share their passion for the creative arts. Laurie Selz-Campbell, a clinical assistant professor at UNC's School of Social Work, and Hillary Rubesin, an expressive arts therapist, licensed professional counselor and community relations manager with the N.C. Art Therapy Institute, developed the group to offer additional support to the mental health community.

"People who experience mental illness often feel alone and without purpose or value," Selz-Campbell said. "These experiences can be just as painful and disabling as the psychiatric symptoms themselves.



Peer support addresses both of those things. It brings people together. It's the idea that peers have wisdom and insight to share with one another, which is just as important as the help that they receive from professionals."

Art is the vital link that brings group members together, she added.

"These are all people for whom their identity as an artist is important to them," she said. "It's something they value about themselves and that brings them joy. So, we saw the art as a way of getting the conversation started and as a way to help these individuals build community among themselves."

Some of the artists had already connected through two ongoing successful programs: an inpatient occupational arts group in the N.C. Neurosciences Hospital and "Brushes with Life," a creative arts program also supported by the hospital and the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health. Artists' work is regularly featured in a Brushes with Life art gallery on the third floor of the hospital. Support from the UNC center, along with several small grants, helped launch the peer support group last year. Additional donations have enabled the group to continue and grow. This year, meetings moved into donated space in Carrboro's Caramore Community, a residential supportive housing and employment training program for adults with mental illness.

Between seven and eight members generally attend group sessions, which are open to individuals 18 years and older. Members use painting, drawing, collage, poetry and music to reflect on the daily

realities of living with mental illness and to share moments of progress and inspiration.

"I'm writing less notes and Post-its to myself, which is really incredible because I would make lists and lists, and lists about lists, which is obsessive, and I'm not doing that anymore," said Mollyann Wingerter, while sketching a self-portrait during a group meeting last summer. "I just got sick and tired of making lists."

Seeing group members use their art to learn more about themselves or to work through issues they might be struggling with is rewarding, Rubesin said.

"Whether it's with a poem or a painting or a song, the arts let us take whatever's going on inside, and put it outside of us," Rubesin said. "When those thoughts or emotions are separate from us, we are able to



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Laurie Selz-Campbell



Students view an exhibit of the artists' work, held in April at the School of Social Work



Art helps social work students see the full picture

By Susan White

For nearly an hour, the students puzzled over the details of the wall-sized photograph on display at UNC's Ackland Art Museum. First, they identified every obvious element. There were four shrouded female figures. Each varied in age and each stared back at their observers from a room blanketed in what appeared to be Arabic script. The river-like text even flowed over the models' clothing and partially exposed skin.

The image's more subtle details, including the artist's message, were slightly more difficult to discern. Cautiously, the classmates tossed out their questions. Could it be a sacred text? Was there a multigenerational meaning? Was the artist exploring choice and individuality?

"But what's your emotional response to this?" Mimi Chapman, an associate professor at UNC's School of Social Work, nudged a group of students last year. "How does it make you feel?"

One reply was direct. "It makes me angry," said one MSW student. "My first thought was about gender and power and how it just brings up a lot of what I've learned about Islamic culture and the ways that women are treated. So whether or not this picture is about that, I don't know. But that's my reaction."

For this class session, there were no right or wrong answers, only opportunities for a group of social work students to look inward and

explore how their perceptions shape the world they see. Chapman uses the exercise in a couple of her classes as an innovative way of challenging students to think about the art of diagnosis and client care.

Through art, Chapman encourages the students to examine, for example, how political and religious beliefs, or personal characteristics, such as race, gender, age and sexual orientation, influence a social worker's conclusions about a client and that client's needs.

"This is a different way of understanding our own assumptions," explained Chapman, who partnered with Robert Colby, Ackland's former coordinator of academic programs, to develop the art and observation exercise. "As a clinician, you have to open yourself up to a wide range of possibilities. And yet, we live and work in an environment that narrows the possibilities, both through the symptoms that we use to get a diagnosis and then through stereotypes and things like that.

"So this is a way to break that open and to help people think about what it is that they see naturally and what they might be missing because of their own biases. It's really all about what we bring to the work that we do and how that might color our connections with clients."

Although art is often incorporated into other disciplines, Chapman became interested in collaborating with the Ackland after reading about a program at Yale University that uses art to help medical stu-



dents sharpen their observational skills. Chapman thought a similar exercise could benefit her students because social workers, like other health professionals, often struggle to assess their clients.

“Sometimes, I think our students get a sense of something that they see, but they don’t know exactly what they’re zeroing in on when they’re talking to a client,” she said.

Colby welcomed the idea of working with the social work students. After all, art enables individuals to examine the explicit and the implicit within a neutral environment. And people, like art, can be very confusing sometimes, he said. When faced with something or someone we don’t understand, it is only human nature to try to affix meaning to the unknown, Colby added.

“I think when we see something we don’t know, our minds actually go into a mini panic, and it works very quickly to make that image comfortable—to put it somewhere very quickly into some kind of matrix so that we can know what that is,” Colby explained. “I’m sure that goes back to how our brains are wired. But that mentality doesn’t serve us so well if we’re looking for longer or fuller understanding of what we have. So looking intentionally and talking about it extends that experience.”

During a session at the Ackland, Chapman’s students gathered in the museum’s print study room to discuss a handful of works Colby had selected for the class assignment. The classmates pondered the shrouded figures in the oversized photograph.

The work is part of a series by New York-based artist Lalla A. Essaydi, who grew up in Morocco and lived in Saudi Arabia for many years. But this information and the artist’s creative intentions were purposely absent to help promote a more thoughtful conversation around the work, Colby said.

“So if we were to draw a conclusion about what this work of art was about, what it is that this work of art is saying, or what is the message—understanding that messages can be complicated—what kind of conclusions could we draw?” Colby asked.

One student wondered if the artist was addressing assimilation,



Mimi Chapman and a student study one of the paintings at the Ackland Art Museum.

noting that the younger girls in the photograph were each covered less by cloth and by what appeared to be religious text than the other older women standing next to them.

“I look at this and I’m thinking coming from an American point of view, that maybe if this is taking place in the U.S., then as the generations are getting younger, religion is becoming a little bit less (important),” said the student. “And as a result, their outward appearances are changing.”

Colby encouraged other classmates to weigh in with their thoughts. Another suggested that the work illustrates the disappear-

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Mimi Chapman explains the purpose of the art exercise to a group of her students.



Robert Colby asks for students’ thoughts on a framed photograph by New York-based artist Lalla A. Essaydi.

Photos help researchers learn about migrant life in China

By Susan White

The dark-haired woman loosely gripped the long-handled broom and stared directly into the digital camera. The simple image of someone at work might seem mundane. But to the pictured mother—a migrant worker in Shanghai, China—the snapshot illustrates her commitment and determination to help her family, especially her oldest son, who has cancer.

The personal photograph—just one of more than 150 capturing the lives of migrant mothers in Tongji Village—is part of a study that social work researchers hope may shed some light on the strengths that support and the challenges that confront both in-country migrants in China and Latino immigrants in North Carolina.

Mimi Chapman, an associate professor at UNC's School of Social Work, and Meihua Zhu, a professor at East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), are collaborating on the research project, which began last year and is designed to compare the well-being of migrants in their new homes. Chapman, whose research focuses on children's health and mental health, immigration and acculturation issues, received an \$11,000 grant from the Armfield-



Reeves Innovation Fund to support the study. The International Association of Schools of Social Work also awarded her a \$4,000 grant, which she and Professor Zhu are using to develop course content on migration that is cross cultural. Zhu is in North Carolina for a year to work with Chapman and to learn more about her research with Latino immigrants.

For their collaborative project, the researchers first needed to explore what life is like in Shanghai for migrant families, most of whom left homes in China's countryside in search of better jobs in the city. So late last year, they incorporated a participatory exercise called, "PhotoVoice," into their joint study as a way of empowering migrant women to share their own perspectives. PhotoVoice gives participants cameras and encourages them to take photos that they believe represent their community, their own stories, or point of view. For this exercise, the researchers asked the mothers to capture pictures that illustrated "being a parent."

In November 2011, more than a dozen mothers who volunteered for the participant exercise sat down with Chapman and Zhu in Shanghai's Tongji Village to share their images. The photographs were intimate, sometimes slightly out of focus and in the case of the mother with the sick child, heartbreaking.

"She began her story by telling us that she couldn't read or write," Chapman explained, "but that she and her husband each work 12 hours a day to support their life in Shanghai and their son so that he can get the treatment he needs."

Chapman isn't sure such difficult details, which she said illustrates "some of the dilemmas that come up with this migration experience," would have been revealed had the researchers relied on a traditional investigative approach to learn more about the mothers' lives.

The photos in this story were taken by the migrant mothers in Tongji.



“Rather than doing a survey where we imposed questions that we think are important, PhotoVoice really allowed them to bring to the fore things that they think are important,” she said. “If I asked you what does it mean to be a mother in Tongji Village, you might say this, this and this. But when you actually take pictures of it, new things come up that you might not have given voice to. So when you look at your environment, it may be different than when you think about your environment.”

Each participant had one day to shoot photos that painted a picture of their lives. Among the other shared snapshots were playful children in cramped quarters and mothers hovered over the shoulders of sons or daughters as they diligently completed homework.

So many of the families desire to give their children more than they have, Zhu said. That sentiment was particularly illustrated in the photographs from one mother who, rather than focus on life inside her village, chose to capture sunny landscapes in Shanghai and a bouquet of colorful balloons. Her images, she said, symbolized the happiness and better life she wished for her children, Chapman explained.

“The mothers always care about their children and their children’s future—that they can get a good job and earn more money,” Zhu said.



The mothers also recognize that a good education is the bridge to a better future, Chapman said. “I was struck by lots of people talking about education and how they expressed pride when their children were doing well and concern when they weren’t,” she said. “They worried when their kids didn’t seem as interested or motivated by school.”

Those themes resonated with Chapman. Over the past few years, her research work has helped highlight the need for more supportive environments for new immigrant Latino youth, particularly in North Carolina schools.

As more and more children from the Tongji Village migrate into Shanghainese schools, they, too, may need additional support, Chapman said. “There are certainly tensions in our schools when kids from immigrant families start moving into schools that have not traditionally served that population,” she said. “So, I’ll be interested to see if those same kinds of tensions emerge (in China).”

At the same time, Chapman is also learning that just because people from different cultures share similar challenges doesn’t mean that there’s a one-size-fits-all solution.

“Every context is really different,” she said. “I think I’m learning that local solutions are good solutions, and that you can’t necessarily import themes from one place to another, although it certainly informs your thinking.”

Continued on p. 14



work with them, play with them, re-imagine them, and then reintegrate them if and when we feel ready. I think, for people living with mental illness, there can be so much going on inside their heads that it's hard to organize their ideas and make sense of them. So to be able to put those thoughts outside—for example, on a canvas, or in an expressive movement—can be a really powerful experience.”

By coming together, group members also get the chance to discuss how their daily lives with mental illness are similar and different. Artists are often encouraged to explore their journeys by creating a piece of work that is based on a general theme or artistic exercise. For example, during one session, Selz-Campbell asked members to create a piece that answered the following half statements: I am..., I wonder..., I fear..., I know..., I wish..., I believe..., and I see.... Each individual artwork was then collected into a collage to showcase the strengths and power of the group.

Using a sponge brush, Claudia Moon dabbed deep blue paint around magazine cutouts of water scenes glued to a piece of paper. A self-described “beach bum,” Moon used her love of the water as a partial theme for addressing the group exercise.

“I wonder where that wave came from,” Moon stated, while discussing her creation last summer. “I know a lot about the ocean. I see the water when I close my eyes.”

Other members created pieces revealing wishes for wealth, a desire for a good husband, and the ability to see wonder in life's little things. As they admired their work, Selz-Campbell pointed out a common theme.

“Even though each and every one of us has been through some kind of loss and storms, in some ways, everybody (artistically expressed their) hope or wishes. Those things haven't been extinguished,” she said. “To me, that's what really jumps out, which is beautiful and a really important thing.”

Group members agreed.

“Everybody is looking for hope, I think, through all this,” Wingerter added.

Photos help researchers learn about migrant life in China
Continued from p. 13

What is promising, Chapman and Zhu agreed, is that their collaborative study and the recently completed photo project have raised awareness among the migrant mothers of the needs within their own community. Most were struck by the challenges their neighbors faced and were eager to support one another.

“They talked about getting together just to talk, to eat together and to share experiences with one another,” Zhu said. They even discussed the need to build a playground so that their children have a safe place to play, she said.

In March, mothers from the PhotoVoice project were also given the chance to share their concerns with Tongi neighborhood leaders in a community forum. Ultimately, everyone agreed that more social work services are needed within the village, Chapman said.

Long-term, the associate professor hopes to secure additional funding to continue the cross-cultural research. At the same time, Chapman wants to make sure that the migrant families she's interested in studying remain part of that discussion.

“We want to be very mindful and really think things through before we propose some huge research agenda that doesn't necessarily make sense,” she said. “We really want the ideas to come from this village.”

ance of identity.

“As they age, they're covered—by the text, whatever it is—and so to me, it's about a loss of individuality,” the student said. “And it's about how sometimes religion is externally put on you, and so it may or may not be their choice to be covered.”

Colby nodded with interest and after a few more minutes of scrutinizing, revealed the photograph's background. Although most students had suggested that the image illustrates oppression, the artist, Essaydi, intended just the opposite, he explained. Essaydi actually photographed the models in a house that once belonged to her extended family. According to a narrative description of the work, the space was once used “to isolate errand girls and women, banishing them for as long as a month to atone in silence for transgressions against the social order.”

Essaydi was using her art, Colby explained, to reclaim this space by intentionally placing the models in the room where they were once confined. The artist enables the women and girls to speak by inscribing the walls, and their clothing and skin with traditional Arabic calligraphy—a skill that Moroccan women were once forbidden to learn.

Colby encouraged the students to consider the impact of the additional information.

“I think I can relate to the idea of creating new memories in a space,” offered one student. “It's something that I've had to do in my own life ... creating a memory that you can associate with something more positive, rather than negative.”

Such realizations are a valuable part of the lesson, said Chapman. A task of a good social worker is to learn not to rush to judgment in their desire to solve a problem, she said. Clinicians must understand that the individuals and families they serve are multidimensional and by fully understanding these dimensions, they can better target interventions.

“You have to figure out how to make yourself a person who is open to a diversity of experiences so that you are able to learn from your client,” Chapman said.

Helen Lewis Gibbs, MSW '11, agreed. Gibbs, who earned a dual degree in social work and divinity, was introduced to Chapman's art and observation exercise in the fall of 2010 and again the following spring. Gibbs looked forward to applying her new observational skills in the field.

“The exercise really helps remind us that our initial impression is not always the full picture,” she said. “We have to continue to seek information and ask questions and give space for people to ask questions of us because then we gain a greater understanding and greater appreciation for the full picture.”



Meihua Zhu (left) and Mimi Chapman (center) meet with mothers in China

MSW program ranked in the Top 5 by U.S. News & World Report

By Michelle Rogers

The UNC School of Social Work's Master of Social Work (MSW) program has been named one of the top five social work programs in the country, according to the latest rankings in U.S. News & World Report's 2013 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools."

The School's rank rose from 8th in 2009 when the last social work program rankings were done, to tied for 5th in 2012, making it ranked the 3rd best public school of social work in the country.

"Being in the top five, in a rarefied air of excellent schools, is a testament to the quality and work of our faculty," said Dean **Jack Richman**. "Their research, teaching and service is receiving national recognition. This is a fantastic accomplishment—especially in this time of budget cuts. The fine work and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our many friends and supporters, is the reason why we remain one of the best schools in the country."





Experts gather to tackle “wicked problems” of child welfare

By Michelle Rogers

Dozens of child welfare experts gathered at the UNC School of Social Work on Feb. 22 and 23, for the first in a series of national meetings aimed at forging solutions to keep children safe and healthy.

Because of their complexity, the field has deemed certain challenges “wicked problems.” The term was coined to describe tricky policy problems that defy ordinary solutions.

Over the coming year, experts will gather for a series of three roundtables called the Wicked Problems Institute. Attendees represent a broad spectrum of foundations, associations, agencies, consultants and educators.

The first meeting on Feb. 22-23 at the UNC School of Social Work focused on the problem of how to balance innovation with evidence-based practice: in other words, making sure child welfare providers can quickly rise to challenges with new, innovative solutions, while also building a solid evidence base for what works.

In conjunction with the institute, members of the public were invited to attend a free lecture entitled “Using Evidence on Cost-Effectiveness to Guide Social Policy and Spending,” on Feb. 22 in the

school’s auditorium. Jon Baron, president of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, and Ron Haskins, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, discussed the opportunities for and challenges of using evidence on cost-effective programs to optimize benefits for children, families, communities and the nation in a tight budgetary climate.

The Wicked Problems Institute series is organized by the UNC School of Social Work and the Children’s Home Society of America, a nationwide network of voluntary child welfare agencies. **Mark Testa**, Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor, and **Jack Richman**, the school’s dean, are spearheading the effort. The Chapel Hill leg of the series was sponsored by the school’s Jordan Institute for Families.

Meetings also will be held in Chicago on Oct. 3-4, and in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 19-20, 2013. The October gathering will focus on how public-private partnership can improve the return on public investment dollars. The February 2013 meeting will consider how the field should deal with the broad goal of child well-being – issues such as children’s health, education and other aspects that go beyond basic safety.



Watch videos of the lectures by Ron Haskins (pictured) and Jon Baron online at: ssw.unc.edu/about/news/social_policy_spending_lecture



Professor Mark Testa (left) with Shaun Lane of the Illinois Dept. of Children and Families Services

School to launch social enterprise venture, The Middle Space

By Susan White

Professor Gary Nelson has long advocated for ideas that embrace social entrepreneurship and sustainable development. Now he and his colleagues are preparing to launch a new venture that they say will not only fill a community need but hopefully, bring in some additional funding that can be reinvested to help the UNC School of Social Work better meet its mission.

Nelson, along with **Christine Howell**, **Katie Stella** and others associated with the School's Jordan Institute for Families, are developing a nonprofit that will help private companies, public agencies and other nonprofits improve the triple bottom line of their organizations—their economic, environmental, and social performance. This new venture, known as “The Middle Space,” or TMS for short, will operate as an arm of the School and serve as a liaison of sorts by helping clients connect to the academic, professional, and public resources they need to successfully clear stumbling blocks that may be stifling their organizations’ potential.



Gary Nelson

“The Middle Space will be a place that offers design consultation, leadership training, and evidence and experiential learning to help people innovate and move past disagreements to close gaps in performance,” said Nelson, who

also serves as an associate director of the Jordan Institute. “Inspiration and innovation emerges when we are willing to suspend our assumptions and embrace our differences. When we do this, we enter the space between the known and the unknown—the middle space—a place of both uncertainty and possibility. Through a process of reflective and integrative thought, action, and learning, we find common ground and birth solutions that benefit us all.”

The nonprofit will offer practice, academic and research knowledge on everything from child welfare to behavioral health—expertise that many outside communities and organizations may have never considered reaching out to the University for, Nelson said. Such a focus fits well with UNC’s commitment to service, public engagement and education, he added.

Although they are still developing a marketing plan, Nelson and his colleagues envision TMS working with variety of clients, such as schools, healthcare groups, and social service agencies. For example, last year, the Jordan Institute’s Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES) began reviewing and designing a learning

The new nonprofit will fill a community need and, in the wake of years of state budget cuts, hopefully generate additional funding for the School

curriculum for a home healthcare provider that employs thousands of caregivers around the world. CARES is working with the corporation, Home Instead, to enhance training for the employer’s caregivers who work closely with seniors.

TMS could help develop similar types of training for other public and privately-owned organizations, said Howell, the proposed nonprofit’s design coordinator, who has a background in developing and training curricula for directors, supervisors and line workers in the field of social work. TMS could also tailor products such as online courses to meet a company’s specific training and leadership needs, she said.

Nelson expects a portion of their clients to come from the private sector, where he noted many more companies are searching for a balance between profit and social good.

“We have noticed that there are companies that are moving to the middle space and moving away from just profit,” he said. “They’re moving to embrace social entrepreneurship and are concerned about achieving a broader collective impact, or a measure in economic return, social benefits and environmental stewardship—a triple bottom line.”

As the co-founder of the Institute for Sustainable Development, Nelson has the expertise to help organizations explore such practices. He’s spent the last several years bringing together businesses, educational experts and private investors to promote the importance of investing in resources that advance environmental stewardship, social equity and economic prosperity. Organizations are encouraged to pursue and achieve these goals by among other things, offering living wages and ensuring that their employees have access to health care and affordable housing.

With TMS, Howell said they will help clients to examine their own “core values and beliefs,” and to evaluate how those stack up against the triple bottom line.

“We’ll be offering them a new frame to look at how their organization operates,” she said. “We also see ourselves largely bringing folks together so they can find their own answers.”

By helping companies consider their own strengths and weaknesses, they are also promoting an important message in accountability, the colleagues agreed. Individual employees need to better understand how their roles affect the “finished product,” Howell added.

“We want to help organizations connect the dots and see that they’re part of a fabric,” Nelson said. “We want them to map the process and see what works and what doesn’t.”

“We think the time is right to move in this direction. The University and School have embraced the challenge of becoming more entrepreneurial and innovative. When we are successful, we will be able to supplement our traditional sources of funding and effectively meet our mission and serve our public.”



School offers new certificate in global transmigration

By Susan White

Starting this fall, the School of Social Work and UNC's Center for Global Initiatives will launch a new program that aims to better prepare students for working with immigrant populations.

Applications are now being accepted for the Graduate Certificate in Global Transmigration—a program that is open to all UNC graduate students who wish to acquire a specialization in issues of human migration, immigration, transnational migration, or refugee work, whether internationally or domestically focused. The certificate may be awarded to students at either the master's or doctoral level.

Josh Hinson, MSW '04, program director and a social work clinical instructor, spent nearly two years developing and designing the program. Such a certificate is greatly needed, he said, especially in North Carolina where there is an increasing demand for skilled social workers who can help meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

"North Carolina has been a huge site for growth in the immigrant population nationwide," he said. "We had the largest rate of growth in the Latino population in the 1990s, and we're one of the largest recipients of refugees in the nation." Currently, the state is home to the country's fourth largest community of Hmong, an Asian ethnic minority group.

School leaders began to think more seriously about developing a certificate program after learning that social work students were encountering these diverse groups more and more in their field work with government agencies, nonprofits and nongovernment organizations. They were also eager to support those students who were specifically drawn to the social work field because of a desire to work with these populations, Hinson said.

Many of these same students requested that the School develop courses and integrate other opportunities for teaching cultural



Josh Hinson

competency around work with immigrants and refugees. Those requests led to further conversations and surveys, including with alumni and field providers, to fully gauge the need for such a program.

"And what our research showed was that social work students are currently underprepared to provide linguistically and culturally competent services to immigrant populations," Hinson said.

School leaders are confident that the Certificate in Global Transmigration can help to strengthen students' skills. Those who enroll in the program should expect to:

- Review current academic research on social, political, and economic trends of worldwide human migration, including the human consequences such as effects on health, mental health, behavior, and individual and family development.
- Achieve core competencies necessary for serving those most affected by transmigration, and to disseminate evidence-based practices for serving these populations in health, human services, and policy settings.
- Develop an individual professional development plan for achieving core competencies with a specific migrant, immigrant, transmigrant, or refugee population or area of practice.
- Engage in needs assessment and intervention/program development with a selected population affected by transmigration, and to present this work in a conference setting.

Although the certificate is only offered to current UNC graduate students, Hinson hopes to eventually open it up to community practitioners and agencies that provide services to immigrants and refugees. Long-term, his sights are set even higher with an eye toward the School developing research around services and policy to address the needs of these populations.

"I'd really like for us to become a national leader," he said.

For more information, including admissions criteria, please visit: http://ssw.unc.edu/programs/Global_Transmigration_Certificate.



Webber and Thompson named Outstanding Doctoral Students

By Michelle Rogers

Aaron Thompson and Kristina (Krysti) Webber are the recipients of this year's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award.

Thompson, Ph.D. '12, received his MSW in 2001, and his M.Ed K-12 Education Administration degree in 2005, from Southern Illinois University. Before entering our doctoral program, he served as principal and special education coordinator for Tri-County Special Education in Murphysboro, Ill.

Doctoral students who nominated Thompson described him as a leader in the doctoral program and a role model for other students.

He has published regularly in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national conferences. In addition, Thompson is regarded as a talented teacher who genuinely enjoys connecting with students.

Thompson regularly volunteered his time and expertise in Durham Public Schools to provide school and district-wide training to promote the use of evidence-based and effective interventions with students.



Aaron Thompson and Kristina Webber

He is now an assistant professor at the University of Missouri's School of Social Work.

Webber received her MSW from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 2002. Before entering our doctoral program, she was a program evaluator for the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education, College of Charleston, where she worked on selective initiatives including increasing parent and student engagement.

Students and faculty who nominated Webber noted her generosity toward other students in the Ph.D. and MSW programs. A fellow doctoral student wrote, "Krysti is the best kind

of collaborator, because she is able to bring fresh and innovative thinking to a project, as well as to help others develop their ideas to full potential."

During the past four years, Webber has secured funding, published manuscripts in peer-review journals, presented research at national conferences, and taught and guest-lectured courses at the School of Social Work, among many other accomplishments.

Collaborative launches jobs website

By Michelle Rogers

People seeking North Carolina social services jobs no longer have to pore through 100 county websites.

Now, thanks to the N.C. Child Welfare Workforce Collaborative at the UNC School of Social Work, there is a central online solution—the N.C. Social Services Jobs Registry.

The registry provides a database of currently available social services jobs in North Carolina. Social service agencies statewide can post their job openings. Site visitors can view the posted jobs, and search based on location, title and salary. They can even view county profiles to learn more about the area where a job is located.

The site was developed and designed by the Collaborative, a project housed within the School of Social Work and funded through a cooperative agreement with the federal Children's Bureau. The pur-

pose of the Collaborative project is to identify and address workforce issues in child welfare in North Carolina. One issue identified was the lack of a central registry for available jobs in social services in the state.

Previously, counties had few ways to find job candidates and similarly, there was no easy way for job seekers to learn about vacancies in county departments of social services (DSS) or in the state-level Division of Social Services. This was especially true for rural areas. But the new registry helps resolve that workforce issue.

Collaborative Principal Investigator Evelyn Williams and Project Director Selena Childs have been busy getting the word out to all 100 county DSS offices so that the registry's job database can grow. On Oct. 27, they officially launched the site by presenting it at the DSS directors' breakfast at the Social Services Institute in Hickory.

The response from the DSS directors was overwhelmingly positive. "We have gotten a lot of support to move forward and partner with us," said Williams.

The site's visitors also find it easy to use—an important goal of the project's developers. "One director described herself as 'technology challenged' but found it very easy to enter data," Williams said.

Visit the N.C. Social Services Jobs Registry at ssw.unc.edu/dssjobsnc.

For other social work jobs, located in- and out-of-state, visit the School's alumni/student job board at ssw.unc.edu/alumnissw/jobs.



Armfield-Reeves Fund helps researchers launch innovative projects

By Susan White

Any academic researcher who has ever applied for a grant knows the process can be painstakingly time consuming and extremely competitive. Red tape and funding eligibility requirements can be daunting and ultimately discouraging, especially for those in search of seed money to kick start a project. And in a tight economy, grantors are often reluctant to dole out dollars, even to the most promising research.

“Big funders don’t generally want to do something that seems too risky and they especially don’t want to hand over a half million dollars if they think you can’t pull the research off,” said **Rebecca Macy**, the School’s L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families and associate dean for academic affairs.

Removing such obstacles is exactly what the creators of the School’s Armfield-Reeves Innovation Fund aimed to do when they launched the grant program in 2007. The fund was established with nearly \$600,000—generous gifts from **Sam and Betsy Reeves** of Fresno, Calif., and **Billy and Janie Armfield** of Richmond, Va.

Being able to tap into a group of creative people who are committed to solving some of society’s most pressing needs just made good sense, said Sam Reeves, a ’56 UNC alumnus and staunch supporter of the University.

“I believe in what they’re doing at the School because (researchers) are pursuing programs that are about valuing people,” he said. “I think the goal for this always has been to come up with innovative programs that provide ways in which people can have more opportunities.”

Since the first grants were announced in 2008, nearly \$288,000 has been awarded to support 23 faculty and graduate student-led projects that are focused on community-based engaged research. Grant amounts generally have varied between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Much of this funding has enabled School researchers to collect valuable pilot data that is then used to build more comprehensive studies.

“This funding really has been incredible because it has encouraged faculty and students to think outside of the box, especially knowing that there is a place to get support for innovative ideas,” said **Mary Beth Hernandez**, the School’s associate dean for advancement. “But all of these projects are the result of the generosity of Billy and Janie Armfield and Sam and Betsy Reeves. Time and again, they have shown support to our School and admiration for the research work that our faculty members produce.”

From the start, the Armfield-Reeves fund has sustained a wide range of projects designed to improve the lives of children, families,





Billy Armfield



Janie Armfield



Betsy Reeves



Sam Reeves

and communities. Among these studies have included:

- Interventions aimed to keep more middle school aged students in school
- A pilot test of a program designed to decrease substance abuse among former prisoners and to reduce prison recidivism
- A study to evaluate University support services for LD and ADHD students
- A project aimed at addressing the gap in mental health services to black youth

Although each study has targeted different populations or addressed different needs, all reflect “the University’s mission of service to the state of North Carolina,” Hernandez said.

That the School continues to spread its research work into all 100 counties in North Carolina was just another reason to support the establishment of the innovation fund, Reeves added.

“If you want to touch every county, sociologically, the only place to go to is the School of Social Work,” he said. “That’s how you leverage your money. We have all these bright intelligent people here who have all worked in the field and in some way, they are touching every part of our state.”

Moreover, the funding has enabled School faculty to take on research projects that have rarely, if ever, been explored. Professor **Michael Lambert** was awarded \$10,000 in 2010 for just such a project. The funding has been used to support Lambert’s efforts to improve the mental health services and outcomes of black youth. Such youth generally do not receive or drop out of mental health services prematurely. He is particularly interested in learning more about interventions that would encourage more black youth who need mental health treatment to obtain such services. He’s equally concerned about how to ensure that they stay in treatment as long as is necessary to address their behavioral and emotional concerns. Lambert’s investigation also explores what professional clinicians can do to ensure that these same young people get the care that they need.

A few themes have emerged from the study’s preliminary findings. Parents of black youth have suggested, among other ideas, the need for more black male therapists, advocacy education for parents so that they can better support their children, culturally appropriate treatment plans, and intensive efforts to build trust between therapists and clients. Youth interviewed also suggested that counselors should do more to get to know them first before addressing “presenting issues,” and to be cautious about “providing diagnoses and prescribing medications.”

Lambert is still analyzing the study’s data but is eager to move forward with developing youth intervention and clinician training prototypes. Because he only recently began to amass research experience on intervention development and treatment outcome studies, Lambert knew getting external funding initially would be difficult. However, the Armfield-Reeves money provided the resources he needed to kick start his investigation and should help as he pursues additional money outside of the School to support his research, including an efficacy trial.

“Long term, this funding will help me to further develop my expertise and begin to establish a stronger research record in this area,” he said.



The value of such start-up dollars really can’t be minimized, said Macy, who has received two Armfield-Reeves awards. The associate professor studies family violence, interpersonal violence, human trafficking, and violence prevention.

“This pilot funding definitely increases the chances of getting something from a much bigger funder down the road,” she said. “That’s important at a time when it’s so difficult to get grants.”

Macy received her first Armfield-Reeves funding in 2009, when she and former School Associate Professor Susan Parish were awarded \$20,000 to develop an intervention aimed at reducing sexual assaults against women with intellectual disabilities. The researchers designed a sexual assault prevention program manual and are working to submit a federal grant proposal to rigorously evaluate their intervention.

The second award came last year, when she and **Gary Cuddeback**, an assistant professor at the School, were awarded \$5,000 for a pilot study in Orange County. The researchers are examining the connection between interpersonal violence and women with severe and persistent mental illness. Macy said she realized the need for such a study while offering trainings to community-based advocates who work with domestic violence survivors.

“Many of them kept asking about serious mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression because they said they were seeing more and more women with these issues in their shelters, and they weren’t sure what to do to help them,” she said.

At least 70 to 80 percent of women with a severe and persistent mental illness experience domestic violence in a lifetime, Macy said.

Still, she and Cuddeback wanted to know more about the local community need. So, last summer and fall, they hosted focus groups with domestic violence service providers and providers of mental health services. From those discussions, Macy said they’ve learned that both groups face similar hurdles in trying to help women with complex needs.

“Domestic violence providers don’t have the training and knowledge to assist them but at the same time, they are still committed in trying to do something for these women,” Macy said. “Likewise, mental health service providers don’t always understand all the domestic violence services that are out there for women, including for those who may need a protection order or counseling.”

Long-term, Macy and Cuddeback may submit a grant to the National Institutes of Health to advance their efforts. “Eventually, we hope to develop an intervention or a training model to help address these vulnerable women’s needs by addressing the gaps in services.”

The Armfield-Reeves fund helped make this work possible and enabled the researchers to get the data they needed to strengthen their overall study, Macy added.

Reeves appreciates that the fund is already making a difference. As a businessman, he also believes his family made a great investment, not only in the School but in those whose lives will be affected by social work research.

“The returns,” he said, “have far outweighed the financial costs.”



Gary Cuddeback



Mary Beth Hernandez



Michael Lambert



Rebecca Macy



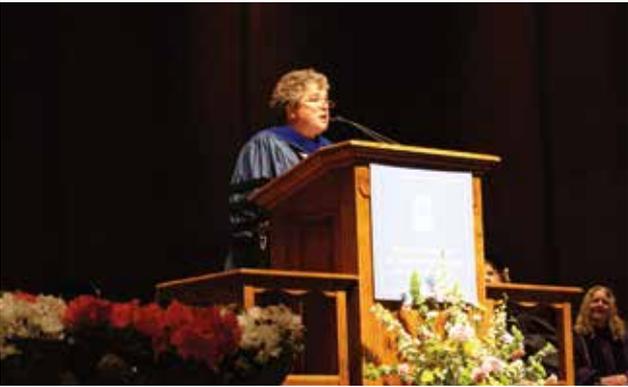
Michelle Rogers

Cookie McMillan and Kelsey McCleave



Michelle Rogers

Jadie Baldwin-Hamm, Heather Ball, Susannah Byrd, Tyler Bing-Lawson, Kate Blackmon and Katherine Benzaquen



Michelle Rogers

Dr. Timothy Tyson



Michelle Rogers

Sarah Smith, Erica Snyder and Holly Stewart



Photo Specialties

Nick Lemmon and Casey Rubenstein

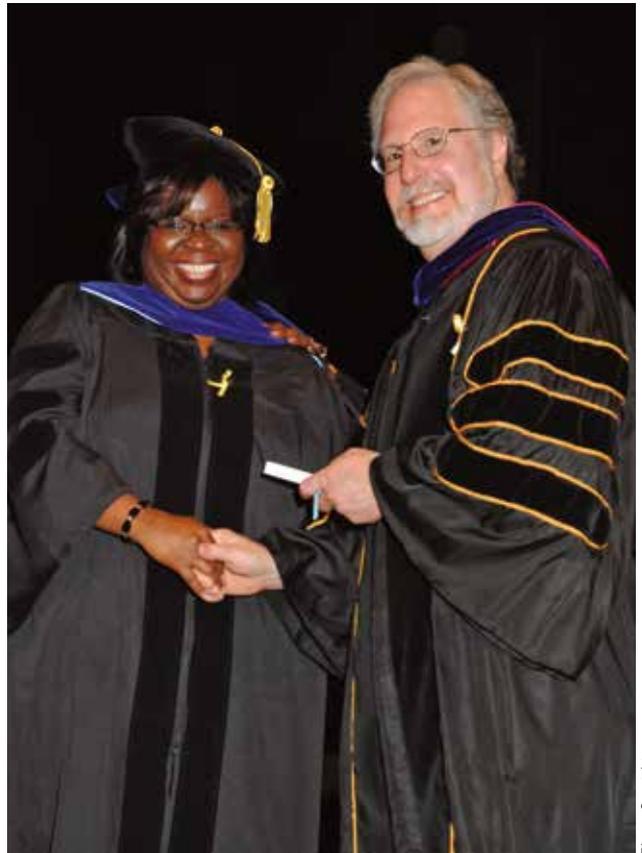
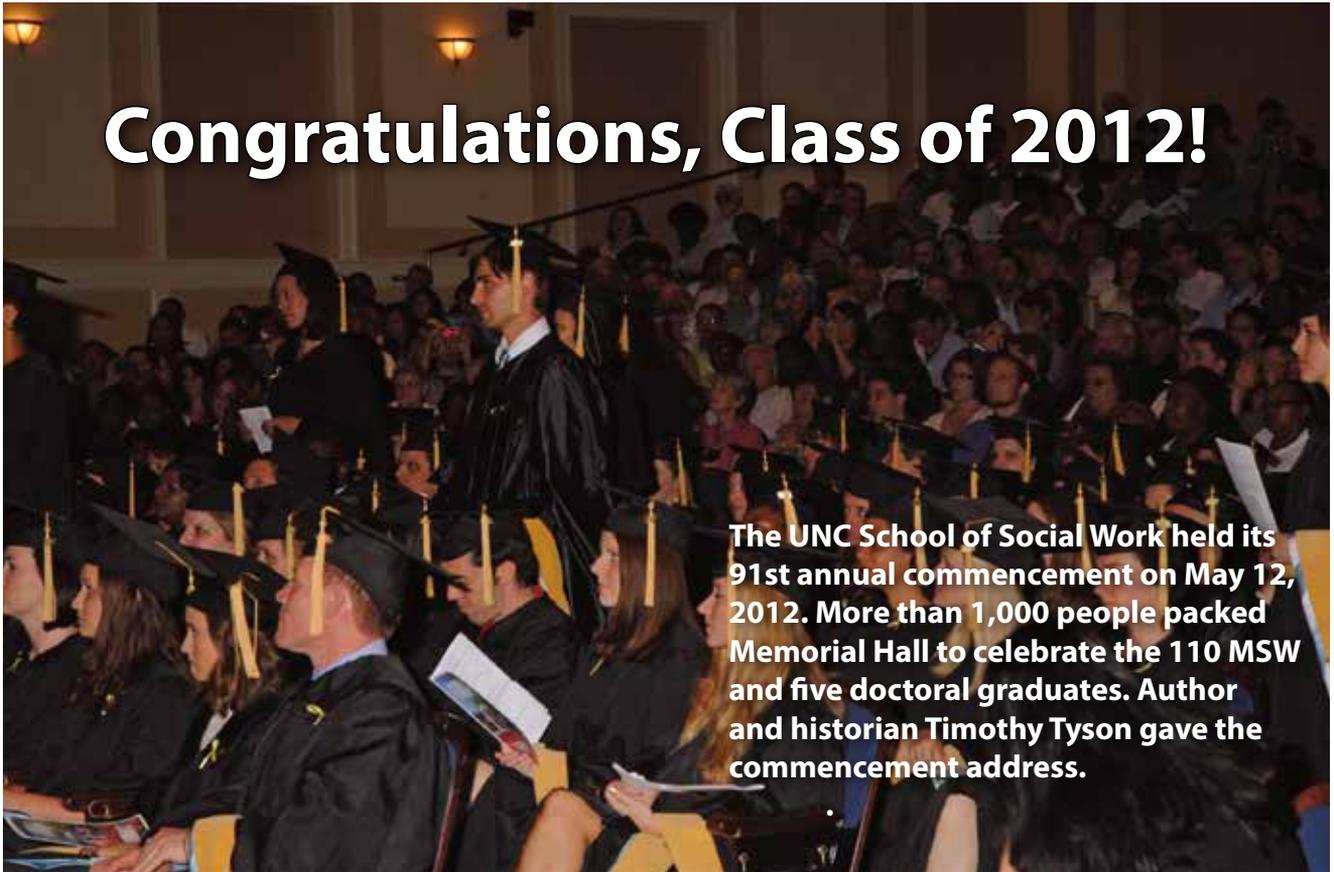


Photo Specialties

Dr. Sharon Parker and Dean Jack Richman

Congratulations, Class of 2012!



The UNC School of Social Work held its 91st annual commencement on May 12, 2012. More than 1,000 people packed Memorial Hall to celebrate the 110 MSW and five doctoral graduates. Author and historian Timothy Tyson gave the commencement address.

Photo Specialties

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



Michelle Rogers

Meghan Chewning, Chelsea Churpek, Wanda Reives and Maria Crossman



Michelle Rogers

Isela Gutierrez and Monica Hadley



Michelle Rogers

Laura Pfledderer and daughter Isabella

2011-12 MSW Scholarships and Awards

Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship
Sandra Forrester

Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship
Rayhaan Adams, Claudio Andres Caceres Araya, Nellie Placencia, Shuang Wang, Tamsin Woolley

Annie Kizer Bost Award
Alison Doernberg

Chaney-Jacobs-Preyer Award
Lindsey Franks, Melea Rose-Waters

Chavis Award
Kristen Stefureac

Robert and Peggy Culbertson Scholarship
Christopher Wretman

Cumberland Community Foundation Scholarship
Lorlita Spann

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

Dean's Research Award
Lauren Knott, Jacquelyn Mroz

Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship
Monica Hadley

Bertie Oscar Edwards Scholarship
Ashley Brown

Child Welfare Education Collaborative Scholars
Jadie Baldwin-Hamm, Meghan Bridges Chewning, Chelsea Churpek, Shaina Draper, Jessica Hodges, Kelsey Daniel McCleave, Alice Faye McMillan, Lyn Clarkson Osteen

Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship
Courtney Albertson Langhorne, Katherine Blackman, Ashley Brown, Cassandra Chugh, Katherine Double, Melissa Fenn, Monica Hadley, Regina Hubbard, Rebecca Kyle, Ivan Martinez, Kibbee Newsome, Erica Snyder, Katie Welch

Hartford Partnership Program in Aging Education
Jessica Katz

Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship
Courtney Albertson Langhorne

Alan Keith-Lucas Scholarship
Elisa Ford, Kisha Irvin, Erin Neal

Jeffrey Langston Scholarship
Jillian Foster

Maynard Scholarship
Katherine Blackman, Erica Snyder

MCH Public Health Leadership Fellowship
Amanda Allman, Katherine Blackman, Alexandra Collins, Alison Doernberg, Kendall Gurske, Erin O'Quinn, Mirna Rauda, Arianna Taboada, Kara Van de Grift

Meehan Scholarship
Rhonda Bennetone, Joe Bridges, Marlon Smallwood

Betsy Rogers Millar Scholarship
Katherine Benzaquen, Melissa Gray, Eileen Slade

North Carolina Workforce Project Leadership Scholars
Craig Adams, Jason Eberly, Monica Hadley, Wendy Pyle

Jane Curtis Parker Award
Adrian Green, Veronica Lett, Kim Swanson, Jillaine VanEssen, Christina Wilson

Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship
Katie Welch

Ellen E. Power Scholarship
Ivan Martinez

Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. Scholarship
Erika Siegal

Janice Hough Schopler Scholarship
Crystal Barnes, Sarah Campbell, Jillian Foster, Jordan Gulley, Allison Harrison, Shenita Mangum, Kelsey Smith, Johannah Swank

Social Justice Fund Scholarship
Rhonda Bennetone, Lorlita Deabril Spann

Florence Soltys Scholarship
Laura Elizabeth Bradbury

Springle Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Benzaquen

Tannenbaum Scholarship
Courtney Albertson Langhorne, Meghan Bridges Chewning, Elizabeth Caccamo, LaTasha Chamblee, Deanna Davis, Kali Geskus, Charisse Hart, George Ahnes, Monica Lonon, Lakesha Mapp, Regina Patterson, Laura Pfledderer, Joni Riffey, Alton Scales, Jane Stewart, Norma Wilson

Kristen Marie TenHarmsel Anderson Scholarship
Jeanne Cross, Elizabeth Jernigan

Smith P. Theimann Scholarship
Jessica Lambert Ward, Karen Oelschlaeger, Melea Rose-Waters, Sierra Spellmon, Kristen Stefureac, Sara Yates

Walsh-Cioffi Award
Bonita Joyce, Rebecca Kyle

Ellen Black Winston Scholarship
Erin Ashley O'Quinn



2011-12 Doctoral Student Awards

Anne-Linda Furstenberg Qualitative Research Award
William Hall, Rainier Masa, Cynthia Fraga Rizo, Jenna Tucker

APPLES Teaching Excellence Award
Tiffany Washington

Armfield Reeves Innovation Fund Award
Sarah Dababnah, Mathieu Despard, Erica Richman

Center for Faculty Excellence – Future Faculty Fellowship Program
Jilan Li, Micaela Mercado, Tiffany Washington

European Association for Research on Adolescence and Society for Research on Adolescence 2011 International Summer School
Kristina Webber

The Gerontological Society of America–Hartford Doctoral Fellow in Geriatric Social Work
Tiffany Washington

Graduate School Merit Assistantship
Katie Cotter

MDRC Doctoral Fellowship Program for Summer 2011
Micaela Mercado

North Carolina Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
Caroline Robertson, Kristina Webber

Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
Kristina Webber, Aaron Thompson

Jane H. Pfouts Research Grant 2011
Candace Killian

Royster Society of Fellows Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Jilan Li

Sam and Betsy Reeves Doctoral Fellowship
Sarah Dababnah, William Hall, Candace Killian, Wen Li, Rainier Masa, Jenna Tucker, Kate Wegmann, Kevin White, Ahmed Whitt, Qi Wu, Angela You

University Research Day 2012, 1st Place, Social Science Oral Presentation
Candace Killian

You

can make a difference



As a professional working in nonprofit development, alumna **Elizabeth Books Freeze, MSW '09**, knows first-hand the difference small but regular donations can make for an organization where every dollar truly counts.

That's why she makes sure to remember the School of Social Work with a gift each year. "Giving to the School is important to me," she says, "because I know that every amount given helps to ensure that future students benefit from the same excellent education and wonderful opportunities that were provided to me."

Please join Elizabeth and consider making a donation today to our general support fund or a scholarship fund.

Together, we can make a difference.

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

Thank You For Your Support



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smartphone to give online



Faculty spotlight

By Michelle Rogers

Deborah Barrett



Barrett is now a blogger on Psychology Today's popular website. Her column on living well with chronic pain debuted in October and is based on her new book, "Paintracking: Your Personal Guide to Living Well With Chronic Pain," which offers a hands-on approach to improving life with chronic pain, whatever the underlying cause.

She was invited by The National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association to write a regular column in its LIFE Magazine on strategies for the supporters of people with chronic pain.

Barrett presented at a workshop for health and mental health providers, sponsored by Durham Community Health Network in conjunction with Duke University Health System, called "Rethinking Pain and Opioid Prescribing Forum," on a panel entitled, "Non-Pharmacological Approaches to Pain Management in our Community."

Betsy Bledsoe



Bledsoe received a one-year grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health to support her research on perinatal depression, "Adolescent Perinatal Depression: Addressing Health Disparities in Low-Income Racial/Ethnic Minority Mothers and their Children through Culturally Relevant, Developmentally Appropriate Evidence-Based Services."

She presented Grand Rounds at the Wake County Department of Health and Human Services in Raleigh, on "An Introduction to Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression."

Bledsoe co-authored a number of articles, including in the Journal of Evidence Based Social Work, the Journal of Social Work Education, and Research on Social Work Practice.

Worth Bolton



Bolton was given the 2011 Jody Kellerman Award by the Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center, of Charlotte, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

Gary Bowen



Bowen delivered the lead keynote address at the 2011 International Conference on Families as Social Capital, in Seoul, Korea. He spoke on "Family Social Capital and the Success of Middle School Students: An Intervention Research Perspective."

In Israel, Bowen provided a seminar on "Learning and Knowledge Development Strategies for Social Work Practice." At a conference of social work leaders at Hebrew University, Bowen presented a model for results-based learning and practice. Other meetings on social work applications of evidence-based strategies were held with the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education, where Bowen

and Dennis Orthner provided consultation on potential strategies for extending that tool to include community engagement and qualities of evidence.

Natasha Bowen



Bowen has contracted with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction to provide professional development to teachers in Halifax County Schools. She will focus her efforts in one struggling school where teachers will receive individual consultation on how to motivate students to behave, engage, and learn to their full potential.

Rebecca Brigham



Brigham was appointed a member of the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Council on Field Education. She is serving a three-year term.

Iris Carlton-LaNey



Carlton-LaNey received the 2011 Legacy Award from the Sisters of the Academy (SOTA). The award was "given in recognition of scholarship, teaching, and service to women who have paved the way and left a mark in which we celebrate and are honored to follow." She also participated in the SOTA Boot Camp in Tallahassee, Fla.

She was the keynote speaker for the USDA Rural Development Community Celebration in Raleigh for their Black History Month Celebration.

Carlton-LaNey was elected to the 2012 National Nominating Committee of the Council on Social Work Education.

Mimi Chapman



Chapman presented in Shanghai, China at the Asian and Pacific Islands Social Work Educators Association International Conference. She spoke on "Strangers at Home and Abroad: Comparing the Needs and Well-being of In-Country Chinese Migrants to Shanghai and Undocumented Latin American U.S. Immigrants in North Carolina."

Chapman and MSW student Alison Doernberg were featured in a March 15 New York Times article, "Art Museums Giving it the Old College Try."

She spoke in Ohio at Kenyon College's Center for Innovative Pedagogy, on "Why Images Work: From Visual Literacy to Critical Thinking."

Chapman was invited by Chancellor Holden Thorp to participate in the workshop, "The Entrepreneurial Mindset – Maximizing Faculty Impact."

Chapman co-authored "Comparing Health and Mental Health

Needs, Service Use, and Barriers to Services Among Sexual Minority Youth and Their Peers” in Health and Social Work; and “Building on Strengths: A School-Based Mental Health Program,” in Essential Case Studies in Public Health: Putting Public Health into Practice.

Gina Chowa



Chowa received additional funding to support a research study in Zambia that explores how financial assets affects the lives of men and women with HIV/AIDS. She received \$7,500 from the UNC Junior Faculty Development Award and \$4,500 from the University Research Council Award. The funding will support a one-year pilot study focused on assessing how revenue from productive assets impacts the economic, physical and mental outlook of men and women with HIV/AIDS. Chowa is interested in developing an intervention program to help HIV/AIDS-impacted families bring more money into their households and set aside a portion in savings.

Trenette Clark



Clark received a National Institute of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research Program award. She will use the grant to continue her research on race/ethnicity differences in substance use trajectories.

Clark presented “Substance Use among Biracial Adolescents and Young Adults: Preliminary Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health” to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Raleigh Wake County Chapter.

Clark was a panelist at UNC’s Center for Faculty Excellence’s Future Faculty Fellowship Program.

Clark presented “Racial Differences in Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Alcohol Trajectory Patterns,” at the 33rd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, in New Orleans.

Mat Despard



Despard presented a workshop, “How to Develop a Financial Capability Project: Building Evidence as You Go,” at the Monitoring and Evaluation track of the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference, in Washington, D.C.

Despard, with **Gina Chowa** and doctoral student **Rain Masa**, presented a brown bag session at Making Cents International in Washington, D.C. entitled, “Closing the Gap Between Evaluation & Practice in Youth Economic Empowerment.”

Dean Duncan and Joy Stewart



Duncan is principal investigator, and **C. Joy Stewart**, co-investigator, evaluating “Project Broadcast: Disseminating Trauma-Informed Practices to Children in the N.C. Child Welfare System.” Project Broadcast is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau.

Jodi Flick



Flick testified at the Legislative Building in Raleigh before the Intentional Death Committee on Risk Factors for Youth Suicide.

She presented on “Trauma Stewardship for Organizations,” at the 25th Family Foster Treatment Association Annual Conference in Orlando.

Flick conducted trainings in Hickory, N.C., for clinicians on “Suicide: Risk Assessment, Intervention and Postvention,” hosted by Catawba Valley Behavioral Health; and on “Caring for Families After a Suicide,” for clergy. She also provided training to the chaplain interns at UNC Hospitals on “Caring for Families after a Suicide.”

She presented in a national webinar for civilian medical and mental health providers on “Suicide and the Military.”

Mark Fraser



Fraser was invited by the Swedish National Research Council to review proposals for a major children’s and youth initiative. He is one of a dozen scholars selected from around the world to participate on the Review Panel, which met in Stockholm.

Shenyang Guo



Guo conducted workshops at Cornell University on propensity score analysis for the 14th Annual National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium, and for the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect’s Summer Research Institute.

Mary Beth Hernandez



Hernandez was awarded the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Davidson College in recognition of her service and leadership to the college and the community.

Josh Hinson



Hinson presented at the National Association of Social Workers-N.C. Chapter’s ethics conference on “Shattered Lives: The Collision of Immigrants and the Criminal Justice System.”

Matthew Howard



Howard published an article examining the prevalence, consequences, prevention and treatment of inhalant abuse in the United States in a special issue of the journal Substance Use & Misuse, supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) International Program. Howard is a member of the NIDA’s International Working Group on Inhalant Abuse.

His article, “Inhalant Use and Inhalant Use Disorders” was published in the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s online journal Addiction Science & Clinical Practice.

Howard gave a talk, “What Lawyers Need to Know about Addicted and Mentally Ill Clients,” to the Annual Conference of the N.C. Bar Association.

He was invited by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to participate on an expert panel focused on neuroscience and child maltreatment. This initiative is a joint effort co-sponsored by partners from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Howard was named the North American Editor for the British Journal of Social Work, a publication of the British Association of Social Workers.

Continued on p. 28

Kathy Johnson



Johnson presented two workshops at the 25th Family Foster Treatment Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla., “Brain Development and the Effects of Maltreatment and Trauma,” and “Separation and Loss: Attachment and Maltreatment.”

Johnson was elected to the board of directors for the North Carolina Professional Society, and serves as chair of the scholarship committee.

Johnson was elected for a three-year term to the board of directors of the N.C. Masonic Home for Children. She also serves on the board of directors for the YJ Children’s Foundation in Haiti, and on the board of directors of The Haiti Connection, in Raleigh.

Anne Jones



Jones presented a paper, “Using a Curriculum-based Group Intervention to Strengthen At-risk Newly Forming Families,” at the 33rd Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups Annual Symposium, in Long Beach, Calif. At the same conference, she co-presented at a workshop lead and organized by Maeda Galinsky, “Developing Practice Manuals in Social Group Work.” Jones’ piece was entitled, “Love’s Cradle: Building Strong Families Through Relationship Enhancement.”

Rebecca Macy



Macy was named the School’s associate dean for academic affairs, and the L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families.

Macy gave a training on “Intimate Partner Violence & Mental Health” at a Domestic Violence Conference sponsored by the United States Attorney’s Offices for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina Office for Victims of Crime.

She was appointed by Gov. Beverly Purdue to the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, which is part of the North Carolina Council for Women.

Macy led a two-day workshop on “Working with Female Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault,” at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Macy and alumna Laurie Graham, MSW ‘11, have an article in the April edition of the journal *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, “Identifying Domestic and International Sex Trafficking Victims During Human Service Provision.”

She led a session at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C. The session, which focused on innovative community-based collaborations, featured the MOVE project in Wake County, N.C., to show the merits of working with a researcher to document outcomes.

Dennis Orthner



Orthner spoke at the University of Delaware’s College of Education and Human Development on “CareerStart: A Middle School Strategy for Promoting Student School Engagement and Academic Success.”

He is working with the U.S. Administration for Children and Families and the Annie E. Casey Foundation to construct a more comprehensive model for serving our military families in the National Guard across the country. He is helping to prepare a report that provides a framework for multi-level services.

Orthner received the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) President’s Award at the organization’s 2011 conference in Orlando, Fla.

Orthner presented a Web conference on “Helping Military Families Create Systems of Social Support.”

In Israel, Orthner provided a seminar on “Learning and Knowledge Development Strategies for Social Work Practice.” At a conference of social work leaders at Hebrew University, Orthner offered a presentation on a theory of learning and practice. Other meetings on social work applications of evidence-based strategies were held with the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education, where Orthner and Gary Bowen provided consultation on potential strategies for extending that tool to include community engagement and qualities of evidence. The Ministry of Education learned about Orthner’s CareerStart project and its evaluation, and is considering the application of that program in the Tel Aviv schools over the next year.

Wanda Reives



Reives and alumna Cheryl Harris, MSW ‘09, presented at a webinar for students on “Making the Most of Your Social Work Degree in the Field of Child Welfare.”

Jack Richman



Richman presented in Sweden at Mälardalen University’s School of Health, Care and Social Welfare on “Intervention Research: Responding to the Gap Between Knowledge Building and Social Work Practice.”

Richman and Assistant Professor Gina Chowa traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, to meet with business leaders and the staff of Carolina for Kibera. They discussed developing an intervention program that aims to strengthen the long-term financial security of Kibera’s youth by offering them job training skills, while also teaching them how to save a portion of the money that they earn.

Lawrence Rosenfeld



Rosenfeld received UNC’s William C. Friday Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award goes to an individual who demonstrates excellence in inspirational teaching.

Laurie Selz-Campbell



Selz-Campbell was inducted as a member of UNC’s Frank Porter Graham Honor Society. The Society, established by The Graduate School, recognizes outstanding service and significant contributions to the development of UNC’s graduate and professional education.

Amanda Sheely



Sheely presented a paper, “The Political and Economic Determinants of Welfare Sanctioning among California Counties: 2000-2010,” at the 2011 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, “Seeking Solutions to Complex Policy and Management Problems,” in Washington, D.C.

She was awarded the American Association of University Women Short-Term Publication Grant for her proposal, “Do Formal Mission Statements Influence Actual Administrative Practices of County Welfare Agencies Serving Poor Women and Their Families?”

Sheely was accepted to the Fragile Families 2012 Summer Data Workshop, at Columbia University.

Paul Smokowski



Smokowski provided testimony at U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, at its second public hearing in Albuquerque, N.M. He participated in a panel discussion on "Life of a Teenager in Rural America."

Susan Snyder



Snyder presented a poster at the Child Welfare Evaluation Summit in Washington, D.C., entitled "Typologies of Substance Use and Delinquency: A Comparison of Emerging Youth with Histories of Foster Care and the General Population."

Tina Souders



Souders presented at East Carolina University's field education orientation for BSW and MSW students and for field instructors. She spoke on "Social Media and Your Professional Reputation: What You Need to Know!"

Kim Strom-Gottfried



Strom-Gottfried presented on "Moral Courage" and "Ethics and Social Networking" at the national conference of the Children's Oncology Camping Association in Boise, Idaho, and "Ethical Boundaries in an Electronic Age" at the Health, Law and Ethics Conference in Raleigh.

Strom-Gottfried presented "Moral Courage for Making Ethical Choices" at the 2nd Annual Leadership Initiative Speakers Series at North Carolina Central University.

She presented at the National Association of Social Workers-N.C. Chapter's ethics conference on "The Ethics of Responding to Clients and Crime."

Mark Testa



Testa presented in Sweden at Mälardalen University's School of Health, Care and Social Welfare on "Evaluating Child Welfare Interventions: President Obama's Permanency Innovations Initiative."

Marie Weil



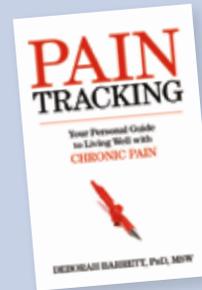
Weil delivered the World Social Work Day lecture at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. She spoke on "Community Practice: From Local to Global Perspectives and Back."

Lisa de Saxe Zerden



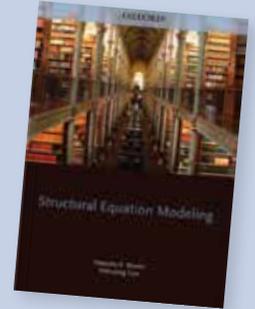
Zerden was inducted as a member of UNC's Frank Porter Graham Honor Society. The Society, established by The Graduate School, recognizes outstanding service and significant contributions to the development of UNC's graduate and professional education.

new books



Clinical Associate Professor **Deborah Barrett's** book, "Paintracking," was published by Prometheus Books. It is a guide to living well with chronic pain.

A book by Associate Professor **Natasha Bowen** and Professor **Shenyang Guo**, "Structural Equation Modeling," was published by Oxford University Press as part of its social work pocket guides series.



Sheryl Zimmerman



Zimmerman, Kenan Distinguished Professor, has assumed the role of associate dean for doctoral education at the School of Social Work.

CSWE and SSWR presenters

Presenters at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 2012 annual program meeting in Atlanta included: faculty members **Betsy Bledsoe**, **Rebecca Brigham**, **Trenette Clark**, **Denisé Dews**, **Dorothy Gamble** (emerita), **Marilyn Ghezzi**, **Anne Jones**, **Jean Livermore**, **Theresa Palmer** and **Tina Souders**; Doctoral students **Jilan Li** and **Candace Killian**; and master's students **Alison Doernberg**, **Davena Mgbeokwere** and **Hawa Owusu**.

Presenters at the Society for Social Work and Research's (SSWR) 16th Annual Conference, in Washington, D.C., included: faculty members **Betsy Bledsoe**, **Gary Bowen**, **Natasha Bowen**, **Mimi Chapman**, **Pajarita Charles**, **Gina Chowa**, **Mat Despard**, **Dania Ermentrout**, **Mark Fraser**, **Michal Grinstein-Weiss**, **Shenyang Guo**, **Matthew Howard**, **Clinton Key**, **Hye-Chung Kum**, **Anne Jones**, **Rebecca Macy**, **Dennis Orthner**, **Joelle Powers**, **Amelia Roberts-Lewis**, **Amanda Sheely** and **Joy Stewart**; doctoral students **Candace Killian**, **Rainier Masa**, **Micaela Mercado**, **Cynthia Fraga Rizo**, **Aaron Thompson**, **Jenna Tucker** and **Qi Wu**; and master's students **Alison Doernberg** and **Karla Rosenberg**.

Cuddeback wins \$665,000 NIMH grant to improve mental health courts

By Susan White

For years, states across the country have been using specialty courts, such as mental health courts, to connect offenders with mental health and substance abuse disorders with community-based treatment and services. Still, many have struggled to keep people with mental illness from cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. At UNC's School of Social Work, Assistant Professor Gary Cuddeback is working to improve the effectiveness of these courts.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has awarded Cuddeback a nearly \$665,000 grant for a three-year feasibility study to test the use of "dual-diagnosis motivational interviewing" in a mental health court that serves Orange and Chatham counties. Motivational interviewing is an evidence-based practice that psychologists, social work practitioners and counselors often use as a way of helping individuals with substance abuse disorders to engage in treatment and to pursue permanent change in their lives.

There are nearly 300 mental health courts already operating across the country. These specialty courts generally give persons with mental illness, particularly those charged with non-violent misdemeanors, a chance to connect with community-based services in exchange for deferred or dismissed criminal charges. However, randomized studies rarely have been conducted in these courts, Cuddeback said. Furthermore, very little research has been done to test the effectiveness of interventions, such as motivational interviewing in these same settings, he added.

The assistant professor hopes to add to that body of knowledge with his latest study, which uses a randomized controlled trial to compare the mental health and criminal justice outcomes of mental health court participants who receive dual diagnosis motivational interviewing versus those who do not. About 120 participants will be enrolled in the study, which targets individuals who have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder and a mental illness.

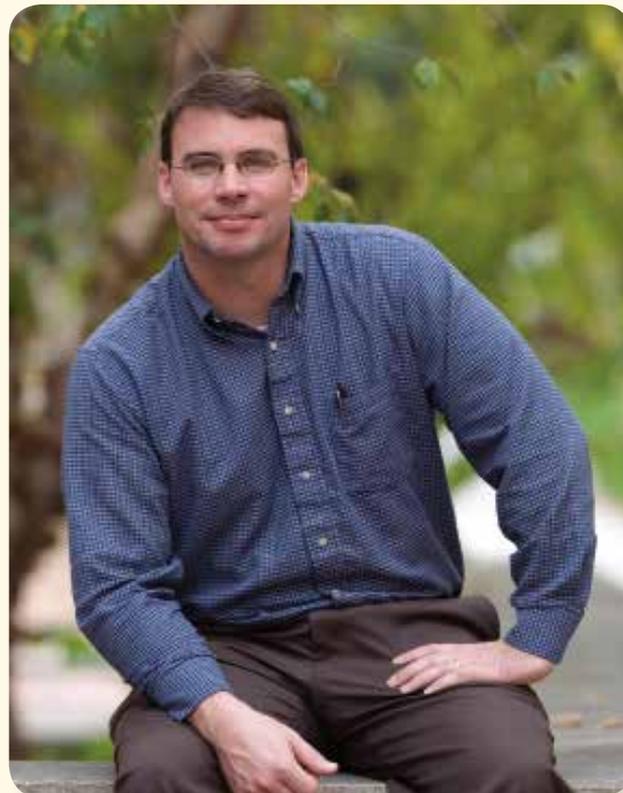
"What this study is supposed to address are some of the primary challenges encountered by mental health courts, which are substance abuse, lack of motivation and lack of engagement on the part of consumers," he said.

Courts serve as the entry and transition points for offenders, and offer a "platform for delivering interventions that might help offenders stay out of the criminal justice system, get out earlier, or not return after they're released," Cuddeback said.

"So mental health courts have great potential to begin to address key clinical issues—substance abuse and dependence—that often bring persons with mental illness into contact with the justice system," he said. "We just need to find interventions to make these courts more effective."

At a time when so many jails and prisons are serving as de facto hospitals for people with mental illnesses, Cuddeback's research is "path-finding," said Mark Fraser, the School of Social Work's associate dean for research. According to a 2010 report from the Treatment Advocacy Center and the National Sheriffs' Association, Americans with mental illness are three times more likely to wind up behind bars than in a hospital for treatment.

"Gary is working at the intersection of mental health and criminal justice where practice is uncharted and where the long-term costs of



Gary Cuddeback

failed policies escalate," Fraser said. That Cuddeback was also able to secure a federal grant when such funding is declining nationwide also "testifies to the creativity of Gary's ideas and the rigor of his methods, both in terms of practice innovation and research design," Fraser added.

Long-term, Cuddeback hopes that the feasibility study's findings will enable him to pursue a larger federal grant to support a multi-site study.

"If you think about the volume of individuals who go through these courts, this has the potential to have a significant public health and public safety impact," he said. "If this feasibility study produces presumptive evidence that dual diagnosis motivational interviewing can be used in mental health courts to improve mental health and criminal justice outcomes, it has the potential to help large numbers of people with severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders within the justice system."



Gary Bowen



Mark Fraser



Matthew Howard



Jack Richman



Lawrence Rosenfeld



Paul Smokowski

Six of our faculty among 100 most influential social work journal authors

By Michelle Rogers

The British Journal of Social Work has published a study, “Influential Publications in Social Work Discourse: The 100 Most Highly Cited Articles in Disciplinary Journals: 2000-09,” that includes six UNC School of Social Work faculty members. The article appears in the Journal’s July 7, 2011, issue.

The study surveyed 79 social work journals published during the past decade and identified the 100 most cited articles. The list includes:

#9 – Matthew Howard

Howard, M. O., McMillen, C. J., & Pollio, D. E. (2003). Teaching evidence-based practice: Toward a new paradigm for social work education. *Research on Social Work Practice, 13*, 234–59.

#21 – Paul Smokowski

Smokowski, P. R., & Kopasz, K. H. (2005). Bullying in school: An overview of types, effects, family characteristics, and intervention strategies. *Children and Schools, 27*, 101–10.

#66 – Dean Jack Richman, Gary Bowen, and adjunct faculty member Lawrence Rosenfeld

Rosenfeld, L. B., Richman, J. M., & Bowen, G. L. (2000). Social support networks and school outcomes: The centrality of the teacher. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 17*, 205–26.

#77 – Mark Fraser

Fraser, M. W. (2004). Intervention research in social work: Recent advances and continuing challenges. *Research on Social Work Practice, 14*, 210–22.

According to the article, the study’s results “suggest that evidence-based practice/social work research plays a particularly important role in professional discourse.”

Bowen receives national School Social Work award in Boston

By Michelle Rogers

Associate Professor **Natasha Bowen**, MSW ‘96, Ph.D. ‘99, is the winner of the 2012 Gary Lee Shaffer Award for Academic Contributions to the Field of School Social Work, from the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA).

Gary Shaffer was a UNC School of Social Work faculty member, and a passionate advocate for children and the field of school social work. He passed away in 2009. Later that year, the SSWAA established this award program “to commemorate his contributions through an annual recognition of a university faculty member that has made significant contributions to the field.”

“I am proud of the contributions that Dr. Bowen has made to the field of school social work for more than 10 years,” said Dean **Jack Richman** in his nomination letter. “She does so on a research level with her peer-reviewed articles related to school social work and schools, on a teaching level by instilling in students practice and research skills critical to school social workers, and on a service level by supporting and advocating for school social workers in multiple settings. Dr. Bowen recognizes the unique needs of school social workers, and she is moved to respond.”



Bowen (right) with Gary Shaffer’s wife, Denise, who presented the award at the SSWAA national conference in Boston.

HONOR ROLL OF Giving

The School of Social Work thanks the many alumni, friends, foundations and corporations who made financial contributions as gifts or grants for sponsored research between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. Thanks to your generous support, our School has become one of the best in the country. We produce leaders in social work education, research, direct practice and community service. Your generosity enhances everything we do. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the listing below. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apology and notify Mary Beth Hernandez at marybeth@email.unc.edu or (919) 962-6469.

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Limor Bachar-Schwartz
Jennifer Lynn Baddour
Terrie Sue Baker
Pat Balentine
Bradley Ray Bannister
Ann McLeod Barkley
David Vann Barkley
Faith Barnes
Nancy Spencer Bartlett
Charles Haywood Bateman Jr.
BB&T Corp - HQ
Julia McCrorey Bell
Diane Marie Bensley
James Edward Bernatzky
Andrew Clark Berry
Ann Elizabeth Berry
Stephanie Eddy Berry
Robin Waldman Bilazarian
Hilda Rebecca Bledsoe

Tricia H. Booker
Deborah Wilson Bowling
Doranne Neumayer Bowman
Sidney Preston Bradsher
Emily Karyn Bredthauer
Gini Bright
Mark Robert Bright
Virginia Bristol
Mary Jane Brooks
Larry Edward Brown
Leah Denise Willett Brown
Nancy Permenter Brown
William O. Brown
Sarah Elizabeth Brunmeier
Paul Michael Brunner
Sabrina Jennette Bryant
William Russell Burkey
Everett Richard Burnette
Thomas Kevin Burns
Jay Burrus III
Kathleen Sullivan Burrus
Helen Cagle-Crumbley
Courtney Ellis Caiola
Jeffrey Vincent Caiola
Kathleen Howard Caldwell
Raleigh Campbell
Linda Sue Anne Carmichael
Jamie Kyte Carr
Mary Ann Carr
Anna Stotts Carter
Curtis Ambrose Cash
Shirley Brown Clark
Laura Struckhoff Cline
Megan Amelia Clode
Meta W. Coaxum
Linda Owens Cole
Linda Stephens Collins
Ann Patrick Conrad
Ann Elizabeth Cook
James Franklin Cook Jr.
Lisa Hooks Cook
Jessica Rose Cooke
Cheryl Casper Coppedge
Lael Jean Cordes-Pitts
Philip Lewis Cottrell
Robert Jackson Coulter
Carol Gilmore Council
Jane Cousins
Dale Smith Cox
Carlton David Craig
William Calvin Crawford Jr.
D. Veronica Creech
Sue Averitt Creighton
Helen Russell Crews
Allison Dorr Daniel
Kenya Tanganyika Davis
Wayne Ray Davis
Angela Goodnight Deal

Lisa Tirone DeCesaris
Susan Parris Del Grande
Jeffrey DeMagistris
Karen Church DeVane
Jo Butterworth Devine
Ivy Dey-Johnson
Beth Boyles Dietrich
Donna Dinsmore
James Francis Dinsmore
Patricia Strickland Dodson
Terry James Dodson
Carole Evans Dubber
Rebecca Jo Dubois
Jill Secreast Duffy
Dean F. Duncan III
Matthew H. Duncan
Patricia Coffin Durrett
Amy Michelle Earnheart
John Benjamin Edwards
Nancy Harper Edwards
Charles Russell Ellison
Gary James Engelhardt
Melissa Oppen Enns
Jane Emerson Evans
Joy Isley Farlow
Margaret Kenney Fergus
Jayne Gloster Field
Bill Finger
Rufus Milton Fisher
Alicia Colombo Flanagan
Danny Tracy Francis
Stephanie Naylor Francis
Jennette Moore Franklin
Marjorie Cianflone Fredell
Willie Ruth Fuller
Elizabeth Jean Fusaro
Joan Ellen Gallimore
Donna Adair Garrison
Sharon Rice Gates
Alfreda Paschall Gee
Tonia Tash Geissler
Vincent Genna
Juliana Geren
Richard Binner Gerrish
Carolyn Bass Gillespie
Thomas Michael Giovannelli
Dorene Sue Goodfriend
James David Gover
Diane Meadows Gramann
Linda Ann Graney
Marshall Guilbert Gravely
Genora Harris Greene
Jean Manning Grotgen
John Frederick Grotgen Jr.
Jennifer Crane Haeefe
Katherine Grace Hall
Martin Thomas Hall
Helen Louise Halleck

Lynne Hamlet
Eric Mallory Harbour
Evelyn Hardy
Catherine E. Hargrove
Carolyn Kirkman Harmon
Robert P. Hartsell Jr.
Shannon Harty
Trudi Heinrich Hatch
Brenda Green Hawks
R. Kent Haywood
Sammie James Heflin
Lindsay Louise Hege
Sara Oliver Henry
Beverly Raney Hester
Cynthia Wynola High
Brenda White Hilliard
Barbara D. Hinshaw
Jeffrey Maynard Hinshaw
Jan Wallace Hoffmann
Cindy M. Hoirup
Karen Ann Holbert
Chrysantra Gantt Holloway
Margaret Rand Hudson
Hugh MacRae Land Trust
Sally Wilkinson Hunter
Dorothy Taylor Irigaray
Christopher Ivy
Myra Stowe Jackson
Jif of Greensboro Inc.
Paul Alan Joffrion
Jacquelyn Skinner Johnson
Marjorie Mae Johnson
Margaret Balfe Johnston
Rome Earl Jones
Gay Spruill Jordan
Gail Harrison Joyner
Judy Myers Julian
Elizabeth Ann Karl
Lee Sandler Kern
Susan Hill Kern
Ann Turner Davis Kessemeyer
Gail McNeil Kirkwood
Katherine Gebb Knecht
Joshua Alexander Knight
Ronald Richard Knopf
Ann Pennington Koehler
T. Frederick Koester III
Aziz Paul Lewis Kommel
Arlene Carper Kozyra
Elizabeth Bassett Krissel
Erik Peter Kristiansen
Jennifer Wilder Kristiansen
Donna Bolick Lail
Marydine Lentz Lamb
Theodore Eugene Lamb
Catherine Ann Lambeth
Karen Sue Landis
Gladys Cusley Langdon

Lauri Hopper Langham
Valerie Robertson Lanier
Stephen Lay
Joan Bardin Lester
Joy Copeland Lineback
Monique Gero Lingle
Garnett William Link Jr.
Marilyn Flynn Link
Glenn T. Lippig
Edna McShane Lipson
Roberta Howes Littlefield
Charlotte Browning Lloyd
Tammy Bryant Locklear
William A. Lofquist
Anne Gerth Logan
Thomas Harvey Logan
Linda Schaefer Lucas
Angela M. Macdonald
Julie Cundari Madgwick
Christine Susan Main
Dorothy Parker Marks
Karen Jane Maskell
Betsy Coffey Massey
Mitchell White Matthews
Roberta Barkoff Mayerson
Gael Diane Elizabeth McCarthy
Irene Ursula McClellan
Camilla Lacy McCleskey
Albert Bonner McClure Jr.
Virginia Scoville McClure
Amily Katherine McCool
Peggy Rushmore McCormick
R. Bartholomew McCormick
Annette Peterson McCullers
William Kirkland McCullough
V. Paul McDonald
Lura Deaton McMurray
Courtney A. Merchant
Robert Charles Merritt III
Bruce Charles Miller
Melanie Pender Miller
Richard Frank Miller-Haraway
Sandra Stroupe Mooney
Christina Lowry Morgan
Alexandra Whiteley Morris
Sandy Moy
Yoshicazu David Nagaishi
Frances Guynn Newman
Noel Emily Nickle
Anna Bair Niemitz
Bruno Anthony Niemitz Jr.
Donna Baker Oliver
Amelia Gibson Ollis
John William Ollis
Jennifer Straw Olson
Alexander Eric Opper
G. Michael Orndoff
Mary Elizabeth Page

Bruce DeVault Palmer
Sherry Sebrell Parker
Mary Jo Ellis Parnell
W. Christopher Parnell
Todd Adam Pauley
Brenda Lea Pearson
Lisa Anne Peaty
Lisa Sinksen Peaty
Nathanael Joseph Peaty
Ann Cassidy Peele
M. Noel Pellish
Maritza Natalia Penagos
Gregory Eugene Perkins
Eugene Louis Perrotta
Jo Ann Milligan Pettiford
Christyn Fisher Pierce
Erik Birckmayer Pierce
Mari Jan Pitcher
Cornelia Morton Poer
Caryl Ann Polk
Mary Ann Todd Preddy
Maja-Lisa Keane Pressley
S. Afton Quinn
Donna J. Shapiro Rabiner
Kaye Radford
Liana Joy Ramirez
Kaye Nelson Ratliff
Beverly Trumble Reeb
Jack Wilson Rhyne
Karen Rhyne
Nelson Lamario Richardson
Nita Peek Rienhart
Jeanne Catherine Rivard
Claire Kathleen Robbins
Donald Gray Roberson
Mary Lee Roberts
Christy Sizemore Robeson
Kecia McNeely Robinson
Sandra Knight Rodriguez
Carl Truitt Rogers
Carrie Beaver Ross
Judith Sue Rothenberg
Elizabeth Smith Rupp
Cynthia Lindsey Sauber

Ann Fulenwider Schenck
Anna Marie Scheyett
Anne Achurch Schnatter
Charles Alan Schoenheit
Peter Allen Scholle Jr.
Sally Christian Scholle
Ivan Charles Schonfeld
Scmakete Foundation, Inc.
Susan Scully
Mara Julianne Servaites
Ursula Rose Sherrill
Marywinne Sherwood
Susan Shields
Freda Bailey Shipman
Bridget Murphy Simmerman
Emily Barbour Simmons
Larry Wayne Simmons
Julia Bone Sinclair
Virginia Quis Sloan
Matthew B. Slotkin
Amy Gwen Smoker
Charlotte Seeman Snead
Kevin Snead
Leona Margaret Sonne
Karen Freeland Sperati
Denise Feinberg Sprung
Sheila Lee Stansberry
Lisa Ann Stauffer
Kenneth Doyle Steadman
Vicki Lynn Copeland Steed
Pamela Decker Steitz
Linda Virginia Stewart
Robert Ray Stump
Gaye Nell Styron
Jo Ann McCachern Swart
David Bruce Sykes
Leslie Woodzelle Syron
Sarah Sizemore Talley
Amy Frances Tamburro
Cora Hodge Taylor
Suzan Monroe Teague
Paul Leo Tessier
Jean Robertson Thompson
Wimberly Beth Thompson

Carolyn Phipps Titus
Richard Earl Travis
Ashley Elizabeth Trice
Walter R. Turner
Rebecca Reardon Tyrrell
Sally Fuquay Umbdenstock
Charles L. Usher
Dirk L. van der Plas
Frederick Turner Varcoe
Barbara Feroe Vietzke
Adrienne Rooks Waddell
Ann Pitt Waldon
Roger Stephen Waldon
Elaine Walker
Roberta Miller Wallace
Brenda Sue Robinson Ward
June Fowler Ward
Peter Hilton Ward
Tiffany Renee Washington
Andrea Lindsay Washo
Carolyn Gaither Weeks
Judith Coffey Wesson
Ashlie Diane West
Sandra June West
Pamela Mullins Wheeler
Ann Archer White
John Crane Whitfield
Ruth A. Whitsel
Barbara Ballard Whitt
Nell Goforth Wiggins
Margaret Wilde
M Annette Parker Wiles
Beverly Perkins Williams
Emagene Emanuel Willingham
Amy Kristin Wilson
Elizabeth Taylor Wilson
Jeanette Assousa Wilson
Linda Thomas Wilson
Ginger Wilson Wilson-Gines
Sallie Casey Woodard
Charles Harold Woodell
Elizabeth Tucker Woodell
Louise Speight Woods
Kenie Marlowe Wrenn

Christy Bennett Yazan
Douglas Morton Young
Roy Allison Young
Sarah Varner Young
Julia Richardson Zahn
Geoffrey Craig Zeger
Barbara Ann Zelter

*deceased

Thank You



Alumni update

By Michelle Rogers

1940s



Dorothy Crawford, a graduate circa 1941, is featured in a March 22, 2012, Macon County News article, “Macon couple celebrates 70 years of life, love and memories.”

1960s

Howard Nathaniel Lee, MSW '66, was featured in an Aug. 16, 2011, Rocky Mount Telegram story, “Educators Gear Up for School Year’s Start.”

1970s



M. Carlean Gilbert, MSW '78, a former assistant professor at UNC and now an associate professor at Loyola University Chicago, was selected by the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care to receive the 2011 Hyman Weiner Award for outstanding qualities as a teacher, scholar and advocate in the area of health care. Gilbert is the editor of *The Clinical Supervisor: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Theory, Research, and Practice*.



Diane Meadows Gramann, MSW '76, was named manager of program services for the Mental Health Association of Tennessee. She received her Advanced Practice Social Worker License in 2010, a new licensure category for the State of Tennessee.



David Smith, MSW '77, retired Sept. 30, 2011, as director of Burke County Department of Social Services, where he spent almost 40 years.



Dr. Portia Taylor, MSW '74, retired from Santa Fe College (Gainesville, Fla.) after 35 years of service. She served as vice president of student affairs since 2002.

1980s



Molly Barker, MSW '89, was mentioned in a Jan. 3, 2012, North Canyon Patch news story and featured in a Feb. 6, 2012, Milwaukee Journal article about the organization she founded, Girls on the Run.

Dorothy Cilenti, MSW/MPH '89, DrPH, served as interim health director for Orange County.

Carl Daughtry, MSW '81, was reappointed to the office of treasurer for the Nash Health Care Board of Commissioners.



Jack Gardner, MSW '81, published his first novel, “Uptown,” a satiric portrait of Charlotte, N.C. Gardner worked for many years as a geriatric social worker in North Carolina, California and Colorado. He was also previously a U.S. Senate aide. He currently lives in Arlington, Va.

Barbara Massey Stelly, MSW '83, retired after more than 28 years of service to the State of North Carolina. The Division of Public Health Women’s Health Branch honored her with a retirement celebration in Raleigh.

1990s



Seanee Garris Alexander, MSW '99, was named the School Social Worker of the Year for Alamance-Burlington Schools. She will receive an expense paid trip to the 2013 National School Social Work Conference in San Diego.



Kara Richards-Baker, MSW '92, won the inaugural 2011 Mitigation Award, given by the Fair Trial Initiative, which honored her at an event on Oct. 27. The award recognizes mitigation specialists who have helped set the standard for professionalism, teamwork and client advocacy.



Thomas “Tab” Ballis, MSW '90, was featured in the November 2011 edition of NASW News for his radio interview as part of the station’s special coverage of the remembrance of the 9/11 attacks. Ballis, an LCSW in Wilmington, spent time at a Ground Zero tent as an on-site counselor for the Red Cross.

Susie Mallard Barnes, MSW '90, completed her Ph.D. in social work from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011, and is leaving her BSW advising coordinator position at N.C. State to become an assistant professor at Campbell University.

Yolanda Meade Byrd, MSW '96, of Salisbury, was inducted into Livingstone College’s 2011 Hall of Fame. Byrd was also mentioned in the Nov. 24, 2011, edition of the Salisbury Post in the article, “Livingstone President Speaks to College About Overcoming Adversity.”

Jeffrey A. Cotter, MSW '90, of San Francisco, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, Va.). He graduated from ODU in 1985, and is a psychiatric social worker specializing in trauma recovery and HIV/AIDS case management. He is the founder and president of Rainbow World Fund.

Patricia Forbes, MSW '98, is featured in a Nov. 7, 2011, Austin360.com article, “Tricia Forbes Makes the Serious Work of SIMS Fun.”

Michelle Hughes, MSW '95, received the 2012 Commissioner's Award from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) for North Carolina, in honor of her significant contribution toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Hughes is a project director at Benchmarks.

Scott Janssen, MSW '93, wrote an article for We Honor Veterans, a National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization website for hospice workers, entitled "Let Us Cross Over the River and Rest Under the Shade of the Trees: The Emergence of Memories of War When Combat Veterans are Dying." Janssen is an LCSW who has been working with hospice patients and families since 1992. He is employed by Duke Hospice in Durham.



Michelle Johnson, MSW '98, clinical social worker, was elected to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, which is the town council for Carrboro. She is also a yoga instructor, and traveled to Kibera in January 2012 to work with a project called the Africa Yoga Project. Johnson met with young girls who are in the equivalent of a brothel. She taught yoga and used her social work skills to talk about trauma and PTSD.

Robin Mauney, MSW '90, worked in Ethiopia most of 2011 with orphans and vulnerable children, and is now in Cambodia working with the Ministry of Social Affairs on their National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.



Yvette Murphy-Erby, MSW '91, Ph.D., was named director of the University of Arkansas School of Social Work in July 2011. She joined the UA faculty in 2004, and previously served as the associate director of the School of Social Work and the undergraduate program director. She continues to maintain an active research agenda.



Daniel Rhodes, MSW '96, was featured in a Nov. 21, 2011, Avant Greensboro article, "Social vs. Lifestyle Anarchism: An Interview with Dr. Daniel Rhodes," about the Occupy movement and social movements connected with it.

Carolyn Rodd, MSW '99, was named principal of Charlotte's Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School after a year leading the business and finance school at Garinger High School. Rodd began her career in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 1999 as a bilingual family advocate at Merry Oaks Elementary. She worked as a social worker and a case manager before joining the district.



Barbara "Bebe" Smith, MSW '93, was named 2012 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC). Smith, former co-director of the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health and clinical assistant professor with the UNC Department of Psychiatry, has been committed to social work throughout her career. She has also accepted a clinical assistant professor appointment with the UNC School of Social Work.

Darlene Steele, MSW '94, was named director of quality and compliance for Hospice of Davidson County. Her expertise is in quality improvement strategies specific to health care administration, and she brings years of experience in clinical documentation and managed care to Hospice of Davidson County. Prior to joining the Hospice staff, Steele served as the quality assurance, service excellence and risk coordinator for Old Vineyard Behavioral Health Services in Winston-Salem.



Teresa Strom, MSW '93, and her family are featured in a January 2012 Endeavors Magazine (UNC) article, "Signal to Noise," about autism and fragile X syndrome.

Sarah Verbiest, MSW/MPH '95, had an op-ed published Nov. 7, 2011, in the Raleigh News & Observer, "Building on progress in infant survival." Verbiest chairs the Child Fatality Task Force's Perinatal Health Committee.

2000s

Meghan Agresto, MSW '05, was featured in an Aug. 23, 2011, Raleigh News & Observer article, "From Lighthouse, Currituck Shines." She manages the lighthouse site for the Outer Banks Conservationists, the nonprofit that owns and manages the lighthouse and its grounds.



Stacey "Vienna" Barger, MSW/MSPH '00, her husband, Pete, and son, Trinity, welcomed two baby girls to their family. Carole Lynn was born on February 3, 2009, and Lily Valentina was born on January 24, 2011. Barger is a public health program supervisor with the N.C. Division of Public Health Women's Health Branch, and manages North Carolina's Baby Love pregnancy care management program.



Devon Corpus, MSW '01, received the Medical Professional Hero Award from the Monterey Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, on May 19, 2012. She is the supervisor for the crisis team in Monterey County, Calif. She coordinates the Hostage Negotiations Team and Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement. She co-coordinates the County's Critical Incident Stress Management Team and was recently approved as an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation instructor. In September 2011, at the Crisis Intervention Training International conference in Virginia Beach, she presented about the County's unique relationship and collaboration between law enforcement and behavioral health.



Jeffrey DeMagistris, MSW '03, was appointed executive director of North Carolina operations for Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas. DeMagistris has more than 16 years of experience in the field of mental health and has served Lutheran Family Services for the last five years as director of the Assertive Community Treatment Team. He is also a field instructor for the UNC School of Social Work.



Dania M. Ermentrout, MSW '04, and husband Dan Smith welcomed their first daughter, Moira Cecilia, on Feb. 25, 2012. Moira joins big brother Asher. Ermentrout is a clinical instructor at the UNC School of Social Work.

Chris Estes, MSW '00, was named to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Formerly the executive director of the North Carolina Housing Coalition since 2003, he has accepted a position in Washington, D.C. as president of the National Housing Coalition.



Alicia Colombo Flanagan, MSW '08, and husband Dave welcomed daughter Alexandra Faye ("Lexi") on Sept. 21, 2011. The family resides in Leicester, N.C. Flanagan is a child protective services investigator at Buncombe County DSS.

Continued on p. 38



Rachel Foster, Ph.D. '08, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. She is stationed in San Antonio, Texas.



Ebon Freeman-James, MSW '02, LCSW, welcomed son Frank Edward James III on Feb. 4, 2012. Frank joins big sister Justine. Freeman-James is a member of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



Elizabeth Books Freeze, MSW '09, is now director of development for Planned Parenthood Health Systems. She is responsible for all fundraising in the Triad area. She was previously the development associate for campaign and annual giving at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro. She is a member of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council.

Mark Hecker, MSW '05, was featured in a March 6, 2012, Washington Post article, "In D.C., Reach Inc. Explores Tutoring as a Two-way Street."

Melissa Johnson, MSW '02, joined the staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as the senior director of foundation relations. She is based out of the New York office.



Susan Stroud Lloyd, MSW '03, was promoted to senior adjudicator at Disability Adjudication Services (DAS) in Stone Mountain, Ga. She joined the agency in May 2009 and was named Employee of the Month in August 2010. She lives in Jonesboro, Ga., with her husband Ryan and daughter, Piper.



Marilyn Lundin, MSW '08, received the President's Award from the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Lundin is president of NAMI Johnston County, and she is intensive in-home lead for N.C. Mentor in Goldsboro, which provides care for at-risk youth, adults and children with developmental disabilities and other complex needs.

Anna McCullough, MSW '07, MSPH, had an op-ed published Dec. 2, 2011 in the News & Observer, "Here's to a Smokeless New Year." McCullough is a program manager with the N.C. Cancer Hospital Nicotine Dependence Program.

Alex Miller, MSW '07, of Chapel Hill, was named interim executive director for Equality North Carolina in July 2011. He is a former lobbyist for the organization.



Jenny Nicholson, MSW '03, was featured in an Oct. 2, 2011, front page story in the Durham Herald-Sun. Inspired by playing the online game Farmville, she created a game called "Spent" to educate about poverty and homelessness, and raise money for nonprofit Urban Ministries.



Trinity Pellas, MSW '03, and husband Matthew welcomed a baby boy, Ewan Michael, on Dec. 15, 2011. Ewan joined big sister Ava Joy. Pellas is a school social worker at Daniels Middle and Hunter Elementary schools in Raleigh.



Joe Polich, MSW '09, had a letter to the editor published in the Daily Tar Heel on Nov. 29, 2011, "Free Press Should Be Exercised Free of Fear." In May, Polich received his J.D. degree from UNC School of Law.



Ariana W. Postlethwait, Ph.D. '05, received the Chancellor's Silver Anniversary Award, a university award for excellence in teaching, from the University of Kansas. She is an assistant professor in the School of Social Welfare.



Mary Johnson Rockers, MSW '08, and her band The Spark were guests on WUNC's "The State of Things" radio show with Frank Stasio on Aug. 5, 2011. They were also featured on WCOM-FM radio in Carrboro with Rick Cornell, and in the Carrboro Citizen newspaper. The band is promoting the release of their first album, "Hummingbird Heart."



Karen Smith Rotabi, Ph.D. '05, was given the James Q. Miller Clinical Services Award by the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Rotabi was featured in a Nov. 13, 2011, CBS-42 (Birmingham, Ala.) television news story, "Mission: Healthy Relationships," about the divorce rate for military members. She also co-edited a new book, "Intercountry Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes." Rotabi is an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work, and a member of the UNC School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



Allison McKenney Shultz, MSW '05, and husband Patrick, of Hillsborough, welcomed their second child, Lauren Olivia Shultz, on Feb. 16, 2011. Lauren is doted on by big brother, Parker William. Shultz works for Duke HomeCare & Hospice.



Lisa Sinksen Peaty, MSW '02, husband Nate and daughter Sara Grace celebrated the birth of Lily Catherine Peaty on October 16, 2011. They reside in Winston-Salem, where Peaty is an outpatient therapist at Family Services, Inc.



Michelle Turner, MSW '03, was married on May 28, 2011, to Derek Owen. She is a member and past-president of the School of Social Work's Alumni Council.

Anthony Ward, MSW '01, of Greensboro, was appointed acting director of Guilford Center, the county's mental health agency. Ward has been with the Guilford Center since December 2004 and served in a number of roles, including program evaluator, provider relations manager and most recently mental health administrator.



Elizabeth Waugh-Stewart, MSW '01, was named the inaugural executive director of the Orange County Cultural Center, a new effort in Hillsborough. According to the News of Orange County, the facility's board said that Waugh-Stewart's knowledge of social work and nonprofits helped her win the position, particularly her familiarity with grant writing and fundraising.

Matthew Tuttle, MSW '08, was featured in an April 9, 2012, Chapel Hill Herald article, "First Impressions Count."

Elizabeth Weigensberg, Ph.D. '09, senior researcher at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, participated in a March 8, 2012, panel discussion on "Using Data to Drive Innovation and Improve Services: Workforce Development in Chicago."

Sheara Williams, Ph.D. '04, is now the doctoral program director at the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston.

Andrea Winkler, MSW '08, LCSW, LCAS, is providing training for the Southeastern Regional AHEC to North Carolina's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers on "Gender Responsive Substance Abuse Treatment: Applications to Pregnant and Parenting Women."

2010s



Elina Alterman, MSW/MPH '11, was awarded a Women's Research and Education Institute Fellowship to work as a legislative aide in Washington, D.C.



Rachel Coots and **Alan Harper**, both MSW '11, married on April 21, 2012, in Chapel Hill. The couple met the first day of the MSW program's orientation, started dating in December 2010, and got engaged in March 2011. They reside in Boulder, Colo.



Laurie Graham, MSW '11, was named programs director at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. Graham has worked with the Center since 2008, when she volunteered for the organization as a crisis counselor.



Deona Hooper, MSW '10, created and launched a new social network to cater exclusively to social work, social care, and human service professionals and students, www.socialworkhelper.com.

Caroline Mage, MSW '10, is living in New York City and working at MDRC, a social policy research organization, as a research analyst. MDRC evaluates social programs for low-income populations.



Francinia McKeithan, MSW '11, was selected by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in coordination with the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative to serve as a 2011-2013 state policy fellow. She will work for two years as a research and policy analyst at the Mississippi Economic Policy Center in Jackson.



Darshan Mundada, MSW '11, a former Rotary Peace Fellow, was featured in a July 19, 2011, Rotary publication story, "Foundation Alumni Empower Communities in South Africa, India."

Lindsey Penny Prizer, MSW '10, was selected by the Social Work Leadership Institute at the New York Academy of Medicine to be a member of the Committee on Leadership in Aging. She will be a part of a national work group to establish the activities that will promote leadership and professional opportunities for Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education graduates.



Limor Schwartz, MSW '10, a graduate of our Advanced Standing MSW Program, had her first baby girl, Sivan Olivia Schwartz, on Oct. 26, 2011.

In Memoriam



Patricia Anne Bartell, MSW '69, of Chapel Hill, died at age 81 on Jan. 26, 2012. She was a former UNC School of Social Work faculty member and special assistant to Dean John Turner.



Amy Louise Brannock, MSW '07, of Durham, died on Aug. 18, 2011, after a courageous and inspiring battle with cancer.

Sarah Millicent Crumpler Buchele, MSW '70, died May 10, 2012, after an eight-month illness. She was the co-founder of the Southern Pines Women's Health Center.



Mary-Marguerite Kohn, MSW '76, age 62, a popular Episcopal priest who was an outspoken advocate for social justice, died May 5, 2012, of gunshot wounds suffered in a double shooting at her Ellicott City, Md., church.



Robert McColl, LCSW, MSW '72, died on December 29, 2011, in Knoxville, Tenn.



Brenda Baker Mincey, MSW '89, of Hillsborough, age 53, died on July 23, 2011. She was a social worker at the VA Hospital in Durham for 22 years.



John Ira Moore, Jr., MSW '67, of Raleigh, died July 1, 2011, while swimming at Atlantic Beach with his wife of almost 46 years, Lib. He was 68.



Elaine Ladd Purpel, MSW '82, died peacefully on Nov. 26, 2011. She was a passionate advocate for the mentally ill, their families and their caregivers; and was a founder and president of NAMI-NC.

Fred B. Thompson, MSW '59, died Nov. 14, 2011, in Brevard, N.C. at age 82.

Ann Elizabeth Vogel, MSW '05, of Lincoln, Neb., died May 19, 2011, at age 32. She worked for the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

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Alumna builds career in international social work practice

By Susan White

Natalie Conner, Ph.D. '05, has spent nearly her entire career working with vulnerable children and with the nonprofits and other organizations that serve families in need. Much of her work as a licensed clinical social worker and intervention researcher has been in the United States. But in recent years, Conner's practice and research has broadened into Ethiopia and Haiti, where today she helps organizations improve their services to children and to strengthen their social welfare workforces.

Her interest in international social work developed after traveling with UNC School of Social Work faculty to Lithuania in 1999. That interest became a passion after she and her husband, Dr. Will Conner, MD '96, adopted a child from Ethiopia in August 2008. During a two-week stay in the country, Conner quickly learned of intense efforts there to support the more than half a million orphans and vulnerable children who were aging out of government institutions at 10 and 12-years-old, the age in which most are asked to leave.

She was especially impressed with Beyond the Orphanage Foundation (BTO) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, not only because the nongovernment organization had already adopted best practices for these children but because leaders were eager to ensure that their support programs were working. Conner said BTO also recognized a need to build a stronger workforce of social welfare workers. In turn, she saw a chance to help and jumped on board. Today, she serves as the foundation's child welfare advisor.

"My role has been to advise them on interventions that they select and to assist them in developing their social workers," said Conner,



Natalie Conner (second from right) with Beyond the Orphanage Foundation staff in Ethiopia

who lives with her husband and three children in Charlotte. "So I've been providing social work technical assistance, skill development assessments, trainings in intervention delivery, and evaluation."

Since 2010, she's provided similar assistance and workforce development training in Haiti, where she and her husband started the nonprofit, Community Health Access International (CHAI). The orga-



iStockPhoto



Training group in Ethiopia

nization works to improve health care and to ease emergent health and social problems in the Camp Louise community. The nonprofit was developed after a devastating earthquake killed an estimated 300,000 people and left about 1.5 million homeless.

Conner’s international efforts—particularly her evaluation research—aligns with the work that she has done for years for smaller nonprofits in the United States, including in North Carolina. She is currently working with the Duke Endowment to assess a package of interventions meant to improve the well-being of children in Catawba County. Conner is examining the strengths and weaknesses of the various programs that the county uses to assist children transitioning out of the child welfare system through reunification with their families, adoption, or placement in kinship care.

Her work is similarly focused in Ethiopia and with Beyond the Orphanage, which centers its attention on building resilience in children and families. The organization works to accomplish this goal by helping orphaned and vulnerable children find safe and stable housing with a relative or guardian and by working to ensure that children have access to an education and vocational training, and medical and dental care.

Having highly skilled social workers to assist and counsel these children is a key part of the organization’s success. Conner and her colleagues, including former UNC School of Social Work Clinical Professor Ray Kirk, are helping to address this workforce need. Among other efforts, Conner and Kirk recently led a series of trainings for social welfare workers who are developing alternative care programs to support the hundreds of thousands of children aging out of orphanages. (Heather Ball and Wendy Pyle, both MSW ‘12, also assisted with this project).

More than 100 government workers and field workers from nongovernment organizations and community-based organizations attended, along with students from the first graduating class of the Addis Ababa University School of Social Work. Although part of the technical training focused on teaching participants how to use a specific family assessment tool, the workshops also covered burnout prevention, ethics, and supervision. In Ethiopia, studies have shown that 78 percent of the social welfare workforce quit their jobs for new employment because of burnout, Conner said.

“Because it’s a new profession, they don’t yet have senior mentors who can provide supervision, which is a vital piece of the profession,” she explained. “When you have that supervisor in place, then social workers have someone they can go to for advice, feedback, venting, and a safe place to process things.”

Trainings have also focused on approaching social work from a

“strengths-based” perspective. In Ethiopia, where residents face extreme poverty, adopting such a lens is necessary, Conner said.

“Yet, when you look at the protective factors, you see that these same residents live in communities, that they have lower levels of violence and aggression, that their faith is very prevalent in their daily lives and that they have greater networks of social support,” Conner noted. “So, while there isn’t a lot we can do to mitigate the far-reaching effects of poverty in the absence of adequate resources, we can marshal these protective factors to improve outcomes for kids and families.”

Conner said the work in Ethiopia has been particularly satisfying because field workers have not waited for the government or other leaders to demand that workers improve their skills; rather they have actively pursued and supported the idea from a grassroots level. At the same time, there is still a huge need for professional social workers internationally, she added.

“I would really encourage social workers to do international field placements or to volunteer with international groups because there are so few of us out there. For some reason, we seem to have given that area of intervention over to public health, when in reality, we’re very much needed.”

The more opportunities she has to travel around the world, the more her commitment to the profession is strengthened, Conner said.

“Social work is a value-driven profession and the more I work, the more I understand that the principles of social work are solid, sustaining, and valid. And above all else, I still feel compelled to help resolve the core issues of human suffering.”



Medical and social work team in Haiti. Conner is in the second row behind the man in the red hat; Kirk is behind her.

Five join School's Board of Advisors

By Mary Beth Hernandez



Archer

The School of Social Work's Board of Advisors welcomed the following new members at its meeting on March 30 in Chapel Hill.

Ellen Archer is a 1986 graduate of Carolina and previously worked at the Susan Komen Foundation. She is an active community volunteer and lives with her family in Charlotte.



Blanton

Holly Bowles Blanton is a 1977 graduate of our School and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. Highlights of her 30-year career include co-founding several Wake County agencies, including the Family Violence Prevention Center in 1982 (now Interact) and the Parents Anonymous Chapter to support families at risk for child abuse. Blanton's many honors include being chosen as the YWCA's Human Services Woman of the Year in 2002.



Cagle

Bobby Cagle received his MSW in 1998 and served on the School's Alumni Council for several years. Cagle is the commissioner for Georgia's Bright from the Start early childhood education program. He lives in Atlanta.



Niegelsky

Sam Niegelsky received an undergraduate degree in home economics/early childhood education and an M.Ed. at UNC-Greensboro. In addition to her professional background, she has volunteered extensively in her community of Reidsville, N.C. Her husband Lee is a 1979 graduate of Carolina, and daughter Sarah graduated in 2011.



Tate

John Tate is returning to the Board of Advisors after taking a break to serve on the North Carolina State Board of Education. He is a 1969 graduate of Carolina and earned his MBA at Georgia State. Tate retired from Wells Fargo in 2011 and has served on numerous nonprofit boards in his hometown of Charlotte.

Clinical Lecture Series Fall 2012

Monday, September 17, 2012

How Mindfulness and Compassion Can Free You From Anxiety, Fear and Panic
Jeffrey Brantley, M.D.

Monday, October 1, 2012

Cyberbullying: What We Know and What Can We Do About It (NC-ACE workshop. Free and open to public.)
Susan Limber, Ph.D.

Monday, October 15, 2012

The Use of Religious CBT in People with Chronic Health Problems
Harold Koenig, M.D.

Monday, November 5, 2012

Self-harm Behaviors Among Adults and Adolescents
Jill Compton, Ph.D.

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

<http://cls.unc.edu>

NEW! We are also offering a Clinical Lecture Series in Winston-Salem, beginning in October. See: sww.unc.edu/contact/7909



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 three years, **Sam and Betsy Reeves** of Fresno Beach, Calif., have contributed a total of \$700,000 to the University to support social work doctoral students.

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

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

From the Alumni President

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

The past few years have been tough financially for many of the people we serve, and for many agencies in our state. Budget cuts to human services and education continue, including at the School of Social Work.

The reason our School has been able to survive unprecedented cuts, and yet continue to provide an excellent education, is because we have dedicated and generous alumni and friends like you who believe in the School's mission and continue to support it. If you haven't already, I'm asking you to join us by making a donation to the School's general fund. Even small amounts help. Every dollar truly does count!

I'd also like to encourage you to stay involved with your School through continuing education opportunities, being a field instructor, helping with an event or serving on the Alumni Council.

Alumni play an important role in recruiting future MSW students and helping them network once they graduate. Your Council was active in assisting with Welcome Weekend again this year, and we had a great turnout. With alumni involvement, this has become a flagship event that showcases our School and sets a positive tone for incoming students.

If you are interested in joining the Alumni Council or volunteering for an event, please contact Mary Beth Hernandez at (919) 962-6469 or marybeth@email.unc.edu.



Jennifer Baddour, MSW '99



Welcome Weekend '12

As a mom of two little ones, ages 2 and 4, and working in private practice, often it seems there aren't enough hours in the day, and I'm sure many of my fellow alums can identify with that. We all lead busy lives, and in this economy many are dealing with budget difficulties, but I believe it's important to give back. Whether you are able to give a lot or just a little, your involvement will make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Baddour, MSW '99

2012-13 Alumni Council

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Toby Hoffer '97, Secretary

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Visit our online news magazine and
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