

TAC-The Alumni Connector

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From the Desk of the Chair

Thomas Regulus, Ph.D.

In this inaugural issue of TAC –The Alumni Connector, it is appropriate to reflect on the legacy of social work and southwestern Illinois. The legacy of the social work profession is grounded in ethical service to people and advocacy for social and economic justice. This legacy is frequently associated with giants of the profession: Jane Addams, Mary Richmond, Bertha Chapin Reynolds, E. Franklin Frazier, Whitney Young, and Consuelo W. Gosnell among others.

What is impressive and satisfying to me is that this legacy is alive and well at SIUE and in southwestern Illinois. The faculty of the Department of Social Work are building on and crafting their legacy of social work education, scholarship and service. Our alumni are also creating personal legacies of excellence in the region through administrative and service leadership. For example, Terri Smith, one of our alumnae, was awarded the Social Worker of the Year award by the Metro-East NASW, and Roger Boyd, on the cusp of completing his Ph.D., has returned to SIUE as a

faculty member to teach a new generation of social workers in the region. Friends and practitioner colleagues alike have and are also creating legacies of their own. Peg Maher, former Executive Director of Hudelson Baptist Services, has left a large legacy as a role model in human service administration. The district chapters of NASW and the Illinois Association of School Social Workers have and are partnering with the Department to strengthen the social work education and practice connections within the region.



Legacy builders of social work in southwestern Illinois...

These illustrations are just a few of the countless social work legacy builders in southwestern, Illinois. Look around you, look at yourself, look at the builders of social work legacies.

Graduates Fall 2003 and Spring 2004

Congratulations from faculty and staff!

Fall 2003

BS: Emily Harman, Eunice House, April Roy, Tamika Rutherford-Johnson, Lovie Spencer.

BA: Natalie Ingram

MSW: Mindy Britt, Preston Linzy, Mackenzie Pherigo



Spring 2004

BS: Danya Artimisi, Jennifer Bell, Pasha Chestnut, Tara Dickson, Stephanie Elam, Lauren Finley, Natalie Hobbs, Atanya House, Jayna Jones, Willeen Liley, Carla Long, Elizabeth Martinkus, Daniel Meneses, Kathleen Ross, Kimberly Schultz, Rachel Sperduto, Sarah Stewart, Shae Whitelow, Rebecca Wills, Linda Wittman, Tyler Zipfel

BA: Cara Cassidy, Shannon Cross, Christina Hamilton, Precious Joy Malone, Shelley Wallace

MSW: Amy Hart

Events and Happenings

Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW, Field Liaison/Instructor

NASW Annual District Awards Dinner

NASW Metro-East St. Louis District Council 2004 Annual Awards Dinner was held on March 26, 2004, at Sunset Hills Country Club, Edwardsville, Illinois. This year's honorees were **Kenneth Aud**, MSW, LCSW Lifetime Achievement Award, **Terri Smith**, MSW Social Worker of the Year Award, and **Gerry Hasenstab**, Public Citizen of the Year Award.

Phi Kappa Phi Inductees

On March 26, 2004, five students from the MSW program were inducted into the honor society for scholastic achievement including: **Ranette Allen**, **William Goodell**, **Mark Hellige**, **Jeri Ruff** and **Mariam Schrage**.

Continuing Education

Dealing with Challenging Student Behaviors: Analysis, Intervention, and Collaboration was presented by

Gaileen Hoenig, Ph.D. and Gigi Dowling-Urban, MSW, MS, on April 2, 2004 at SIUE, sponsored by Region 6 of IASSW and SIUE Social Work Department. The workshop was well attended by over seventy professionals in the fields of education and social work.

Colloquium and Practicum Fair

Field instructors from various agencies gathered together on April 14, 2004, to discuss and share ideas in creating educational and successful experiences and opportunities for field placement.

CEU Committee

Newly formed Social Work CEU Committee made up of various professionals from the community gathered together on May 7, 2004 in an endeavor to bring useful and quality workshops/seminars to SIUE in the near future.

Who's in the News

Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW, Field Liaison/Instructor

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville MSW graduate (1999) Terri Smith was recently awarded the NASW Illinois Chapter, Metro-East St. Louis District Council Social Worker of the Year Award. Nine years ago, Smith began volunteering at Bethany Place, Belleville, Illinois answering phones and caring for children while their mothers attended support group. Today, Smith works as a full-time Case Manager helping HIV/AIDS clients with such issues as medication, housing, medical/dental/vision needs, physical pain and emotional pain from discrimination. Along with confronting social injustice and responding

to the needs of clients. Smith also serves as a field instructor for practicum students from various universities including SIUE. Smith received her award at the 2004 NASW Metro-East St. Louis District Council annual awards dinner on March 24th. Congratulation!

2004 Honorees:

Precious Joy Malone was awarded the Ester Ott Estes Award, Linda S. Wittman is the recipient of the Department of Social Work Service Award, and Jeri Ruff and Kristie Grawitch are the recipients of the Regulus-

Where Have All the Alumni Gone?

Michelle Harbison (BSW 2003) is a hospital social worker employed by Anderson Hospital, Maryville, IL.

Alex Brewington (MSW 2001) lives in Rockford, IL and works for the Rockford Public School District.

Susan Koniak (MSW 2001) works for Lutheran Children and Family Services, Belleville, IL.

Kimberly (Chasteen) Mason (MSW 1998) recently married and moved to Florida.

Lori Frey (MSW 1998) is a school social worker in the Jerseyville

Community School District, Jerseyville, IL.

Catherine Nevin-Abel (BSW 1981) is now the Assessment Coordinator at Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio, TX.

Cynthia A. Lolley (BS 1974) lives in Alton, IL and works for the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services as a Public Service Administrator.*****To appear in **Where Have All the Alumni Gone ?** e-mail information to kehamil@siue.edu or send to SIUE Social Work Department, Campus Box 1450, Edwardsville, IL 62026.

Social Work Department Faculty

Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW- Field Liaison/Instructor

Current faculty of the Social Work Department include the following:

Associate Professor, **Carl E. Bentelspacher**, MSSW, University of Wisconsin Madison; Ph.D., University of Southern California. Teaching: social work foundations, group and family interventions, social welfare policy, human behavior in the social environment, children and family policy. Associate Professor, **Venessa A. Brown**, MSW, Atlanta University; Ph.D., Clark-Atlanta University. Teaching: clinical social-work practice, statistics with SPSS application. Instructor, **Roger E. Boyd**, MSW, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; ABD in Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University. Teaching: social welfare policy, children and family policy, foundations in social work, research methods and communities, organizations and neighborhoods. Associate Professor, **Donald J. Scandell**, MSW, State University of New York at Buffalo; Ph.D., Lehigh University. Teaching: clinical practice, health and mental health policy and practice. Associate Professor,

Kathleen J. Tunney, MSW, Western Michigan University; Ph.D., University of Illinois-Chicago. Teaching: mental health practice, human behavior in the social environment, clinical practice with individuals and families. Assistant Professor, Director of Practica, **Carol A. Wesley**, MSW, Saint Louis University; Ph.D., Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Aquinas Institute of Theology. Teaching: health care, aging, field instruction. Associate Professor, **Gerald V. O'Brien**, MSW, University of Missouri, Columbia; Ph.D., University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Teaching: community organization, social welfare policy. Clinical Professor, Director of BSW Program, **Shirley J. Rakers**, MSW, Saint. Louis University. Teaching: clinical social work, sexual abuse, working with involuntary clients, social work issues in health care. Professor, Chair of Social Work Department, **Thomas A. Regulus**, AM (social work) University of Chicago, AM (sociology), University of Michigan; Ph.D., University of Michigan. Teaching: delinquency, substance abuse, policy, human service organizations. Field Liaison, Instructor, **Kellene M.**

MSW Program

Carl E. Bentelspacher, Ph.D., Associate Professor

The MSW Program has continued to grow and develop since its inception in 1997. At present, we admit 30-35 students each year to the program, and between 20-25 students graduate each year. We continue to offer concentrations in Children and Family Services and Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities Services. Also, we offer



training in School Social Work. This past year, we began a review of the curriculum. Our primary aim is to strengthen course content related to knowledge and skills that are needed by generalist MSW practitioners in a variety of local community agencies. In this review process, we are considering the views of our faculty, current and former students, Field Supervisors, and community practitioners. It has been an exciting and informative process for all of us. We will keep you posted on our progress. Any changes to our curriculum will not occur before the Fall 2005 semester at the

BSW Program “Watch Us Grow”

Shirley J. Rakers, MSW- Undergraduate Program Director

In 1996, the Undergraduate Social Work Program had 90 majors. This year, the program has 135 and it is estimated that this number will continue to grow. As a result, the number of sections for practice classes such as SOCW 315 and SOCW 316, which have limited enrollment, have been increased to meet the demand. The department has been fortunate in meeting this challenge by bringing on board experienced practitioners from the community such as Sandra Becker-Warden, the

founder and executive director of Family Life Consultants, who has been a private practice therapist since 1985, and provides extensive knowledge and experience for the students in our program. It is with the assistance of such community practitioners in conjunction with the talented department faculty that our program continues to excel during this time of expansion. We are grateful to all the talented adjunct faculty and field instructors who assist us in continuing

Reflections on Life

“Lo and Behold, I am a Social Worker” (Alex Brewington, MSW)

“I hope that you are well. Periodically, I review notes from classes and just remember my academic career at SIUE, and I wonder how my professors are doing. This is often, and unfortunately not reflected in any correspondence from me” writes Alex Brewington (MSW 2001) who now lives in Rockford, Illinois and works for the Rockford Public School District in a letter to Rev. Dr. Carol Wesley). Brewington wrote, “Lo and behold, I am a social worker. I was probably one before I went to school, but I am definitely living the life now. I am doing school social work with little kids and their families providing both direct and indirect services. I participate on the IEP team, provide consultations for teachers and other staff, facilitate parenting classes and behavior management workshops, provide theraplay with little kids, counseling for families, and work with community agencies to access resources for families. It is rewarding work, work that keeps me busy and focused. I sit on a multidisciplinary committee on the special education team, and I am daily reminded about how important a role social workers play in the decisions that teams make about whether or not a child should qualify for special education services. I am always reminding my

fellow colleagues about the role of culture and environment, the unique dance between a person and her environment. I rule out environmental and cultural factors or rule them in. If a child isn’t learning because her home isn’t functioning, then she probably is not a ‘slow learner’ but had limited learning experiences. It might be environmental. If a child isn’t learning because his first language is Yugoslavian, and he has to speak English in school, he most likely doesn’t have a speech and language disability but a cultural disadvantage.



“Lo and behold, I am a Social Worker”

The more I work, the more I am reminded about how my *voice* has to be the voice of so many who are disenfranchised, so many who are socially isolated or limited. Social work is not for cowards.

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