

TAC-The Alumni Connector

Volume I, Issue 3

January 2005

MSW Program Seeks Reaffirmation of Accreditation

By Venessa A. Brown, Ph.D.

Happy New Year! The MSW Program continues to move forward in a very positive way. The MSW Curriculum and Planning Committee spent a most productive semester updating the graduate catalog, reviewing the curriculum, discussing the possibility of a part-time program, revising the practicum manuals, and addressing student needs.

This spring the MSW Curriculum and Planning Committee will concentrate on writing the reaffirmation report for re-accreditation. The review is scheduled to take place in 2006. Reaffirmation is when the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) reviews the MSW program for an eight year

renewal of the current accreditation. The reaffirmation process is conducted one year prior to the programs reaffirmation date. The MSW Curriculum and Planning Committee will begin by revisiting the program's mission, goals and objectives. We will seek assistance from all our alumni, the community and other professional social service agencies. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and concerns as we journey through this process. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Venessa A. Brown, MSW Program Director at 618-650-2450 or email me at vbrown@siue.edu. Have a productive and safe year. We would love to hear from you.

Tunney Named New MSW Admissions Director

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW



Dr. Kathleen Tunney has been appointed as the new MSW Admissions Director for the MSW program.

With the March 1 deadline rapidly approaching, Dr. Tunney and the Admissions Committee are working on ways of making the admissions process

as smooth as possible. Factors considered when reviewing applicant files include grade point average, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, personal statement, and letters of reference.

The MSW committee then reviews all these materials, making admission decisions based on the applicant's clarity of professional goals, commitment to the purposes and values of the social work profession, academic skills, interpersonal skills, a clear sense of professional goals and interests, leadership capacities, the ability to translate life experience into self-knowledge and self-awareness, along with openness to diversity and learning. All of these qualities are important to success in both graduate school and professional practice.

Kathleen Tunney earned her BS in Human Services from

Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, in 1981, earning a Master of Social Work degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1983. Ten years of clinical mental health practice with individuals and families was followed by a Ph.D. in social work from the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

In the fall of 1997, Dr. Tunney came to SIUE, earning tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the spring of 2003. Her research interests focus on social work education methods and outcomes, including the effectiveness of using simulated clients to teach counseling skills, and the relationships between students' personal values and their attitudes toward social work problems such as poverty and school violence. She teaches in both the BSW and MSW programs, primarily in the areas of social work practice and human behavior theory. Currently active in committee work in the department, she is also President-Elect of the SIUE Faculty Senate, as well as serving on various task forces studying curriculum revisions campus-wide.



Tunney Travels to “OZ”

By Kathleen Tunney, Ph.D.

No, Dr. Tunney has not gone to see the Wizard!

“Oz” is a word used by Australians to describe their own country—a shortened version of the term they use to describe themselves—“Aussies.”

As part of sabbatical plans, I traveled to Adelaide, Australia, to present two papers at the Global 2004 International Social Work Congress, a meeting jointly sponsored by the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). The topic of one of the presentations was: “Social Work Field Education as Social Development: A Lithuanian Case Example.” This talk was based on my work in Lithuania, and featured a model of social development in which students’ field work became the basis for community and agency program development in an atmosphere of both great enthusiasm and great resource scarcity. The other talk focused on “Personal Value Priorities of Social Work Students.” This was based on my research with undergraduate social work students, focusing on how personal values affect attitudes toward contemporary social problems such as poverty and school violence.

During the trip, I also made a tour of mental health facilities, accompanied by area practitioners. Many of the dilemmas common to American mental health practice are also seen in Australia—issues such as health insurance coverage for mental health; challenges of working with dually diagnosed clients; and the continued erosion of public support for mental health services.



However, inpatient care seems to represent a larger portion of the care continuum than it does in the U.S. There is also a larger range of inpatient options for various groups such as youth, elderly, and those with medical health conditions complicating their mental health status. Another challenge the world over:

Effective collaboration between service providers.

At the conference itself, it was also clear that many other social problems are much the same the world over—a major focus of concern was the extent to which non-profit agencies are experiencing limits to their ability to speak out on issues of social justice. Many groups are “muzzled” by the nature of their funding. Specifically, when a group accepts public funding, they are not allowed to criticize government policies. While in the U.S. non-profit agencies cannot use public money for lobbying, the situation described above seems to go beyond that prohibition, limiting any comments of any kind. Conference attendees expressed dismay at this situation, and yet recognized the real fears of agencies and employees about losing their jobs or their funding.

On a lighter note, we were able to enjoy traditional music, performed by the aboriginal people from South Australia, where the conference was held. We also sampled national cuisine, including kangaroo steaks!

Roger Boyd Attends 2005 SSWR Conference in Miami

By Roger Boyd, MSW, ABD



Social work faculty member Roger Boyd recently attended the “Celebrating a Decade of SSWR” of the Society for Social Work Research at the Hyatt Regency in Miami, Florida from January 13-16, 2005. The Society is committed to improving and expanding research in the field of Social Work and has quickly become one of the more influential organizations in the social work

profession. In addition to attending a number of workshops and presentations, as well as having a chance to see old friends and colleagues, Roger also conducted preliminary interviews with candidates that were attending the conference who were applying to fill the vacancy left by Dr. James Trent. Roger has been a member of SSWR since he joined

the social work faculty at SIUE.

Roger Boyd obtained his BSW (1997) and MSW (1998) from SIUE. He is a doctoral candidate at St. Louis University and expects to complete his Ph.D. in early 2005. He was hired as a full-time lecturer in Fall 2004 at SIUE. Boyd teaches in the Children and Family areas, Research Methods, Generalists Practice in Neighborhoods, Communities and Organizations along with Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

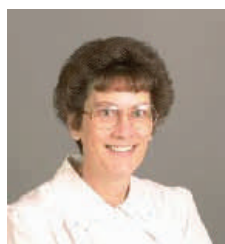
Editor’s Note: Roger Boyd is a tremendous asset to the students and faculty of the Social Work Department at SIUE. I hear good things about him all the time when I am in Field Site visits.

Social Work Department Staff

The TAC Newsletter is taking this opportunity to honor our competent Social Work Department staff of Sharon Haar and Judy Zimmerman. If you ever need help finding a class, a professor, or making a connection, problems with your computer, the light in your classroom, securing equipment for videos or presentations, or just need a friendly smile or conversation, these two women are the ones to go to. They work at being helpful and professional in all they do! They are social workers at heart!

Sharon Haar, Department Academics Secretary

By Thomas Gusewelle, MSW



Sharon Haar has been involved with the SIUE faculty and students on the Edwardsville campus for 13 years.

Sharon began her career at SIUE in the Chemistry Department and later moved into the Department of Social Work, which has proved to be a satisfying career choice.

Prior to coming to SIUE, Sharon had worked for Korte Construction. She was employed with Korte for fifteen years as a cost supervisor.

Any person on the campus who needs information regarding the social work program will ultimately become acquainted with Sharon Haar. In many respects, Sharon is the gate keeper for providing information to the social work programs at SIUE. Sharon serves as a liaison between the

students and the faculty when it comes to completing paperwork and ensuring that academic requirements are met.

Sharon enjoys working with a dedicated faculty and a diverse student population. She feels lucky to work among professionals who strive to ensure that students reach their goals. Sharon believes that, "The students are open and diverse. Also, the students are getting younger each year!"

Dept. Administrative Secretary, Judy Zimmerman

By Thomas Gusewelle, MSW



Judy Zimmerman has been at SIUE for 10 years, the last five of which have been spent in the Department of Social

Work. Judy has noticed a modest change in the students over the past ten years, and she describes the students to be "getting younger each year." The Department of Social Work has been a satisfying career choice for Judy, and she describes the overall culture of the department to be positive and goal-driven.

Prior to coming to SIUE, Judy worked for a men's clothing store and as a secretary for an insurance company.

Judy's administrative duties include handling departmental contracts, schedules, and budgets. She also works with the graduate assistants. As she works with the faculty to attain departmental goals, she often takes on the responsibility for many other tasks.

She consistently works toward ensuring that the department functions as a cohesive group.

Judy participates in the faculty meetings where the department goals are discussed, and her daily responsibilities are tailored toward achieving those goals.

Judy enjoys being part of the professional staff and working toward assisting students in fulfilling their educational goals at SIUE. According to Judy, the Department of Social Work is a "close knit group, that remains positive, goal-oriented, and focuses to work together to solve problems."

Student Social Work Association—Helping Others

By Shirley Rakers, MSW

The undergraduate Student Social Work Association has been very active during the fall 2004 semester. They kicked off the year by having two fund raisers which included a car wash and a pizza sale. Some of the money raised from these events was donated to The William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center for their annual holiday party for those they serve. The students were also involved in homecoming week activities to promote awareness of the Social Work Department on campus. This included one student running for homecoming queen and others participating in playing Family Feud in the Morris Center. Unfortunately other activities were canceled due to a very rainy homecoming week.

In October, members donned Halloween costumes, and went trick-or-treating for canned goods, and they collected 25-30 sacks of food. The canned goods, along with gift certificates to purchase turkeys for the traditional holiday dinner, were donated to a child welfare agency in Jersey County as Thanksgiving baskets for families served by this agency.

Thanksgiving provided another opportunity for members to become involved in the community. Many students volunteered to assist local shelters and churches serve Thanks-

giving dinner in Belleville and East St. Louis forgoing their own traditional family gatherings. Others assisted agencies in Clinton, Bond and Washington Counties by delivering food baskets in the more rural areas of the region. Students often got their families involved in these projects and the participants ranged from their children to their grandparents.

In December, students erected a "Giving Tree" to collect new hats, gloves, toys and used coats and clothes for a local



school with a large Hispanic population to ensure that children would be warm while walking to school or waiting for the school bus. Several boxes of new gloves and hats were collected and

delivered.

Following a very active semester, the students held a well

Student Social Work Association (SSWA) Officers 2004-2005

President.....	Heather Polczynski
Vice President	Tiffany Darr
Secretary	Kristin Alldredge
Treasurer.....	Melissa Biggs
Student Liaisons:	Rebecca Michaels
	Marshall Ukena
	Becky Choate
	Ginger Hickman

Regulus-Gilmore Award Winners 2004-2005

The recipients of the Regulus-Gilmore award for 2004-2005 are Mary Williams and Kristie Grawitch. The purpose of the fund is to support an award for a student or students in the MSW program and recognize outstanding promise or achievement. The student must be full-time and demonstrate potential for high academic achievements in the field of social work with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The award was established to honor the memories of Nellie Gilmore and Lucille Regulus, mothers of Mary Pamela Regulus and Thomas Regulus, Ph.D., Department Chair.

CEU Workshops SIUE Campus

(See page 7 CEU Committee Report for full story)

February 18, 2005

Critical Incident and First Responder Debriefing, Presenter: George Smith, LCPC

March 18, 2005

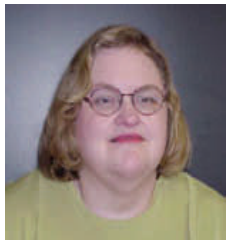
Compassion Fatigue/Secondary PTSD, Presenter: Melanie Schaafsma, MSW, LCSW

May 20, 2005

Ambiguous Loss/Disenfranchised Grief, Presenter: Deborah F. Vogel, MSW, LCSW

Field Supervisors-Practicum Colloquium April 21, 2005 at SIUE

By Carol Wesley, Ph.D., ACSW, LCSW



The annual Practicum Colloquium will be held **Thursday, April 21, 2005 at SIUE**. The Colloquium is designed as an educational opportunity for field instructors as well as a time for field instructors to interact with social work faculty on a small group basis. CEUs will be available for participants. We are currently planning the content for the Colloquium. More info will be mailed in March. If you

have any specific needs, suggestions or comments about what you would like to see presented or learn more about at the Colloquium, please do not hesitate to contact:

Carol Wesley, Ph.D., ACSW, LCSW
at 618-650-5932 or email: cwesley@siue.edu

Your input is always welcome!

*For the things we have to learn
before we can do them, we learn by doing them.*

—Aristotle—

Fall 2004 Graduates Congratulations from Faculty & Staff!

BSW Graduates

Chrissie Bourrage, April Lomax
and Ann Mordock.



MSW Graduates

Amy Hart, Mark Hellige, and Jami Jernigan.

Where Have All the Alumni Gone?

Bernadette Costello, MPA (BSW, 1982) has a Masters in Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill (1987). She is currently a Doctoral Candidate at George Mason University—in College Teaching—Public Administration is subject area.

Bianca Bauer, (MSW, 2004) is a hospital social worker employed by Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois.

Melissa Certa, (MSW, 2004) is a school social worker in the Carrolton School District, Carrolton, Illinois.

Nancy Dodson, (MSW, 2000) (BSW, 1999) is an Advanced Child Welfare Specialist with the Department of Children and Family Services in Granite City, Illinois.

Jarod Giger, LCSW (BSW, 1998 & MSW, 2001) is working for the State of Missouri Department of Mental Health, St. Louis, Missouri and is also in private practice and consultation business in St. Louis, Missouri.

Tina Hoeft, (MSW, 2004) is a school social worker in the Freeburg School District, Freeburg, Illinois.

Kelly Lumpkins, (BSW, 2004) works for Alton Catholic Charities as a caseworker.

Meisha D. Lyons, MPA (BSW, 1998) is the Grant Monitor for the Illinois Attorney General, Chicago, Illinois and has earned her Masters in Public Administration.

Amy Pannier, LSW (MSW, 2001) is a Long Term Care Consultant for Health Services Consultants, Inc. out of Champaign, Illinois.

Tammy Partelow, (MSW, 2004) is the Intake Coordinator for Chestnut Health Systems., Granite City, Illinois.

Maxine Tourville, (BSW, 1987) is an Advanced Child Welfare Specialist with the Department of Children and Family Services in Granite City, Illinois.

Mandy Wagoner, (MSW, 2004) is a hospital social worker employed by Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois.

To appear in **Where Have All the Alumni Gone ?** e-mail information to Kellene M. Hamilton, at: kehamil@siue.edu or send to SIUE Social Work Department, Campus Box 1450, Edwardsville, Illinois 62026

National Association of Social Work (NASW) Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Thomas Regulus, Ph.D., Department Chair

This year, 2005, marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Association of Social Work (NASW). The founding of the NASW followed by three years the founding of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 1952. Both the NASW and CSWE evolved through the merger of predecessor professional and educational governing and coordinating bodies to frame modern, as of the 1950's, organizations and agendas for professional practice and the training and education of social workers. The development of the NASW and CSWE in the 1950s were efforts to resolve and prepare for the internal needs of the profession at that time, and, to position the profession to address emerging challenges to social justice and the well being of all people in the last half of the 20th Century. In retrospect, both the NASW and CSWE have served the profession and their social constituencies well.

In these first years of the 21st century, the NASW and CSWE have again undertaken the tasks of comprehensive self-assessment to identify needs of professional practice and education to serve our constituencies. They have and are charting internal and external plans and strategies to continue their professional missions for the advancement of social justice and the social well being of all citizens in the new and changed social, political and economic environments of American society and the global world. In this

50th anniversary year, the NASW will celebrate the successes of its inaugural first 50 years and begin to frame its agenda for the next fifty years. Key among its tasks will be strategies to broaden national and global understanding of the profession's mission and services.

The SIUE Department of Social Work embraces and congratulates the NASW on its 50th anniversary. We will actively participate in the celebration of its history and the planning of its future. The Department will collaborate with the Illinois Chapter of the NASW in sponsoring a **forum on health care** in Illinois, **April 18, 2005**, and an **LSW/LCSW Review Course May 6, 2005**, both to be held at SIUE. For more information go to www.naswil.org In March, I will participate in the national NASW Congress that will be held in Washington, D.C. as part of the process of discussing and developing a national agenda for the organization.

I encourage all social workers and friends of the profession to review the history of the NASW, to reflect on its professional achievements, to identify the present and future needs of the profession, and to actively engage yourselves in discussion and planning for the future of the NASW.

Happy 50th Anniversary professional social workers!

Belinda Gunning Named New Executive Director

By Thomas Gueswelle, MSW

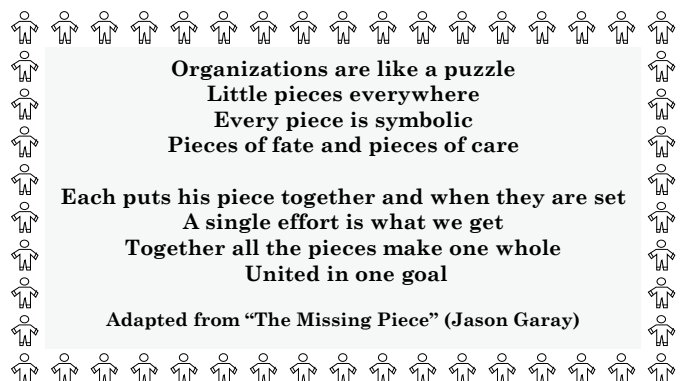
On November 16, 2004, Belinda Gunning was elevated to Executive Director of Behavioral Health Alternatives in Wood River, Illinois. Belinda has been at Behavioral Health Alternatives for thirteen years and has served this agency as a crisis worker, total quality management supervisor, and program director. Belinda earned both her BSW and MSW from SIUE in 1991 and 2001 respectively.

Behavioral Health Alternatives provides case management for the adult mentally ill population. The agency offers programs for dual diagnosis and substance abuse, and assists in integrating clients back into the community. The agency assists clients with money management by acting as a representative payee. Behavioral Health Alternatives also offers a temporary lodging program during the months of October through April. As agency Executive Director, Belinda Gunning will now oversee all of these programs.

Belinda's goals include expanding services to accommodate the needs of clients within the community. She

sees the agency as one that is very capable of adapting to the needs of their clients as well as the needs of the community. Currently, Behavioral Health Alternatives has a staff of ten employees. who will work with Belinda to accomplish these goals.

Congratulations Belinda on your new appointment!



Reflections

By John G. Ross, MSW, LCSW

When I recollect my personal experiences as a practicum student, and as I reflect on the interns that I have supervised in several years, I am reminded of a quote by George Washington Carver, which states:

When I was a student, I felt confident that I had obtained

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

the necessary education, knowledge, and basic skills to function as a social service professional. However, my field experiences offered the opportunity to engage in real life situations where my education, knowledge, and skills were tested. In addition, I had mentors and supervisors who allowed me to both learn their craft and to imitate their special talents and skills. I am forever grateful for the professionals who impacted my development as a social worker. I vividly recall a number of my practicum experiences which not only shaped my professional development, but made me a better person overall. One experience that I especially recall involved self-determination. I learned that after a crisis outreach worker successfully engages and negotiates with a client to leave a barricaded and gas-filled residence, the client does not retain the self-determination to smoke a cigarette in the living room of the residence. Of course, there is no substitute for experience in such a situa-

tion— I still fear the smell of natural gas.

As a practicum instructor, I am mindful of the above words of George Washington Carver and try to be ever sensitive to the individual needs of students. I am thrilled to see that students continue to come to us well-prepared and striving to learn more. Students also continue to possess core social work values such as genuineness, care, concern and the willingness to make a difference in a person's life. I find that students come to their internships untainted and are often eager to learn new skills and to produce results. As a practicum supervisor, I see my role as maximizing both the educational benefits available to the students and the rewards available to our organization. By having students who are active participants and contributors to our team we are a stronger organization. Outcomes are reaped by both the organization and the students when students are allowed to engage in and experience the many tasks that are performed within organizations, to imitate the unique talents being shared by experienced staff, and when they are allowed to reflect on the practicum experience. As I see my former intern supervisors and my former students side-by-side in this wonderful field of ours, I recognize that students become teachers, teachers become students, and we all become a little better in the process.

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 Note: John Ross, MSW, LCSW is a U.S. Probation Officer, Eastern District of Missouri. He is a 1989 graduate of the BSW program at SIUE.

CEU Committee Report

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

The Social Work Department's CEU Committee is made up of various professionals drawn from the community. The committee organized in May, 2004 under the leadership of its Chair, Kellene M. Hamilton, LCSW in an endeavor to bring useful, quality, and affordable workshops to the SIUE campus.

The committee recently finalized the schedule of workshops for Spring 2005, and welcomed two new members, Leisa Soer, LCSW and Enrique Howell, MSW during the January meeting. Other members are: Mary Ann Baumgarden, LCSW; Emily Coffin, Office of Continuing Education, SIUE; Lou Kimmel, LCSW; Cynthia A. Lolley, LCSW; Shirley Rakers, MSW; Thomas Regulus, Ph.D.; Nancy Vetter, LCSW; Deborah F. Vogel, LCSW; and Sandra Becker-Warden, LCSW. We have represented on this committee social workers from school social work, government child protective services, private practice, hospital social work, social work with developmental disabilities,

criminal justice, and education.

All workshops will be held on Friday afternoons from 1:00 –4:00 p.m. at the Morris University Center on the SIUE Campus. The cost for each workshop is \$40.00 which includes parking and light refreshments. 3 CEUs will be available for each event. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. If you did not receive the first brochure mailed in January, please do not hesitate to contact: **Emily Coffin at 618-650-3210 or ecoffin@siue.edu or FAX 618-650-2629 or Kellene M. Hamilton at 618-650-2620 or kehamil@siue.edu** to provide us with your name and mailing address.

For a listing of upcoming Workshops please refer to page 4 of this TAC publication. If you did not receive the official Brochure, **Registration** is acceptable day of workshop or by telephone or fax if using credit card, see above for numbers to call or fax.



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