

TAC-The Alumni Connector

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2004

Miscellaneous Hopes, Potential and Accomplishments

By Thomas Regulus, Ph.D., Department Chair

The 2004-2005 SIUE school year has begun like most other years. Our recent BA/BS and masters in social work graduates are beginning their careers with the potential for significant professional accomplishments. A new group of social work students has arrived with hopes and expectations for academic excellence and bright professional futures. Our faculty has returned to inspire and prepare a new cohort of social workers for continued scholarship and service to the profession

and to fellow citizens. But this year, our hopes, potential, and accomplishments within and outside the University seem somewhat larger than they have in the past. I would like to share a few of my reflections:

With the recent retirement of Dr. David Werner, Vaughn Vandergrift has become the new SIUE Chancellor. Dr. Vandergrift will continue to nurture excellence at the University (See Hopes, Potential.. page 6)

Venessa Brown, Ph.D. — New MSW Director

By Kellene M. Hamilton, LCSW, DCSW



Dr. Venessa Brown has been appointed Director of the Master in Social Work program. Dr. Brown received her Ph.D. from Clark Atlanta University in 1994. She earned a Bachelors in Social Work and Psychology from Greenville College and a Masters in Social Work from Atlanta University. Her work

history includes 10 years experience as a Child Protective Services Investigator for the State of Georgia and extensive work with the Juvenile Court System, and working in a private adolescent treatment center, an oncology unit in a public hospital, and at a private United Way counseling agency.

Dr. Brown has presented professional papers in the United States and internationally. The focus of her current research is "international child welfare" which has taken her to Central America, South Africa, and the Caribbean studying and researching women and children's issues.

Dr. Brown "is committed to diversity" which coincides with the Social Work Department's commitment to the

preparation of students for competent and ethical practice with diverse populations in a variety of social work settings.

As MSW Program Director, Dr. Brown's goals for 2004-2005 are "visibility in the community, (i.e. training, grants, program evaluation); jointly applying for grants in the department that would provide more grad assistantships for our students; work on reaffirmation for accreditation; discussion on second year curriculum and advanced standing program issues; inspiring students to attend professional conferences and present some of their work; encouraging students to join professional organizations; and developing some international exchange relationships to expose our students to social and economic issues around the world."

Dr. Brown is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., President of the Board of Directors for National Christian Multicultural Student Leaders Conference, Inc., and the author of *Child Welfare Case Studies* published by Allyn & Bacon. She is currently working on a manuscript with Enrique Howell on international child welfare.

A Look at the Past - WWII Holocaust

By Thomas Gusewelle, MSW

Recently, Dr. Gerald O'Brien visited Germany with a group of twenty scholars and researchers from throughout the United States and Canada. He toured Germany to augment his interest and study of eugenic control as a method of restricting the rights of marginalized groups. The most dramatic program of eugenics was Nazi Germany's effort to eliminate the disabled population through the T4 Program during Hitler's reign. Approximately 200 to 250 thousand "disabled" individuals were killed at euthanasia sites.

Dr. O'Brien visited gas chamber

sites where mass killings and cremation were carried out. The group visited three of the six gas chambers used for the T4 Program. Around 1942, the "human ovens" were disassembled at the end of the



Dr. Gerald O'Brien

T4 Program, and reassembled for use at the holocaust sites.

Many Germans would like to move beyond the Holocaust, but the prevalence

of memorials is a constant reminder of this dark era in German history. Numerous documents have also been maintained for historical purposes.

Each scholar of the traveling group delivered a presentation on historical issues related to persons with disabilities and eugenics or current bioethical issues.

According to Dr. O'Brien, the four-week trip was a very enlightening experience. He plans to remain in touch with several researchers from this travel group.

Seeing Takes on a Whole New Look On Screen

By Shirley Rakers, Undergraduate Program Director



BSW Program Director, Shirley Rakers at work!

In the Summer 2003 semester, the Social Work Department acquired space for new video labs in Peck Hall. As a result, students and instructors no longer need to trek to Founders Hall or haul equipment to classrooms

to practice their clinical skills. Not only are these new labs convenient but they are also efficient as they were recently upgraded with high-tech cameras. Also, gone are the carts loaded with TVs and VCRs as this equipment is now mounted on the walls. These labs are a welcome addition to the department, and the faculty looks forward to seeing our students on screen.



(Who knows we may capture the next "Mary Richmond" on film.)

Field Education: Field Supervisors Roll Call

By Kellene M. Hamilton, LCSW, DCSW

Field Practica provides students an opportunity for the application of theoretical knowledge in a variety of social work settings. Students are challenged to apply knowledge and values while developing generalist skills and receiving appropriate feedback and modeling from field

supervisors. The requirements for field supervisors are an MSW degree, two years postmasters experience in the field of social work, and one year of experience at their current work site. With this issue, *The Alumni Connector (TAC)* will begin the roll call of current field supervi-

sors in an effort to recognize their dedication to the profession and their commitment and contributions to the education of SIUE Social Work Students. Check out these dedicated social workers on pages 7, 8 and 9, many of which are SIUE's Alumni.

“Children and Adult’s Understanding of Biological and Psychosocial Causes of Pain”

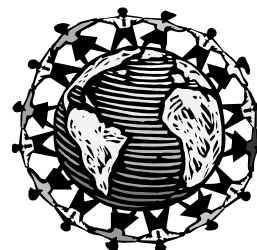
By Kristie Grawitch, MSW Student

I recently presented my research, “Children and Adult’s Understanding of Biological and Psychosocial Causes of Pain” at the Conference on Human Development in Washington, D.C. I explored what 5 and 6 year olds, 9 and 10 year olds, and adults believed were possible antecedents to physical pain. My findings indicated that younger children were very accepting of psychosocial causes of pain (e.g., getting a headache because someone is mad at you) and that these young children were influenced by *how* a pain was presented. Specifically, they showed greater understanding of the biological processes associated with illnesses, but were more familiar with the proper names of injuries. I also found that middle school children were very inflexible in how they viewed causes of pain, with almost 100% of them rejecting all psychosocial pain causes. In light of

these findings, social workers must remain aware of developmental differences in children’s thinking about pain, recognizing that young children demonstrate boundless cognitive flexibility and middle school children rely on rigid structure and rules for pain. It is important to remember that each age group presents its’ own strengths that can facilitate children’s understanding of pain when they encounter it in their lives.

With funding from SIUE from the Alumni Association, the Social Work Department, and the College of Arts and Sciences, I shared the results of this study with people from all over the world. The Conference on Human Development was three days of research presentations, guest speakers, and networking opportunities. I learned about research concerning many social work issues, from pro-

viding intervention services to autistic children and their families to therapeutic approaches to working with juvenile offenders. Moreover, I networked with people who work in a variety of settings. For example, I shared a meal with a woman



who teaches impoverished children English as a second language in South Africa, a woman who serves clients with major

neurological deficits, and a woman who works with inner-city families in Pittsburgh, PA. It was enlightening and empowering to interact with so many knowledgeable people, and I am grateful that SIUE made my attendance possible.

SIUE Professor Travels South of the Border

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph. D.

This summer I was given a last-minute opportunity to travel to Costa Rica for a week as part of a service, learning and research group sponsored by the Provost’s Office. This group of ten students and three faculty spent a total of two weeks in Costa Rica, working on a project jointly sponsored by the Costa Rican Ministry of the Environment and SIUE.

This project involved working on improving facilities at the Carara Nature Preserve, on the Central Pacific Coast of this central American nation. Through improved facilities, ecotourism in the region will be improved, thereby improving



in “touristy” activity, as the students were very eager to pitch in and work on the service projects.

the economy of the region. Students from a range of programs at SIUE participated, and worked hard with some relaxation opportunities from time to time -- guided hikes in the rain forest canopy, and lunch in some of the small villages. We did not spend much time

Next time, maybe we can interest some social work students in this adventure! There are many social development needs, because unemployment is high in the villages around the nature preserves, and so there is a real problem with poaching—the animals and birds are vulnerable to poachers, in large part because the people have few other methods of making a living. There are farmers, and there are those in the ecotourism industries, and even though Costa Rica as a country is doing better than many of its Central American neighbors, there is always room for more ingenuity and resources for the poorest of the residents.

Events and Happenings

MSW Student Orientation

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph.D.

On August 19, 2004, the faculty and staff welcomed a group of new MSW students, with a day of activities designed to provide "survival strategies" for success in graduate school. The new group was able to ask questions of faculty, and of recent graduates of the program, along with currently enrolled students. As usual, this was the most important part of the day for the group—the faculty information was important and useful (of course!), but students really appreciate hearing "the straight story" from other students.

Another part of the day featured lunch and welcome from the College of Arts and Sciences administrative staff--the deans of the College have always supported the Department of Social Work, and were kind enough to take time out to greet the latest group of students.

One of the biggest challenges of graduate school is getting used to the differences from undergraduate school--increased volume of reading, and paper-writing, and

independent work, compared to baccalaureate study. One segment of the orientation day talked about this challenge, and ways of balancing the increased demands in an already full schedule, with family and job responsibilities.

This group is energetic and committed, as all groups before them. The orientation day represent the Department's commitment to keep that energy level up, and to provide support and encouragement along the way.

CEU Committee

By Kellene M. Hamilton, LCSW, DCSW

The CEU Committee is scheduled to meet again on September 10, 2004. The committee is working toward bringing quality workshops at an affordable cost to the SIUE campus for continuing education of social workers and other professionals. We anticipate the first workshop will be scheduled toward the end of 2004 or beginning of 2005. Look for a brochure in the mail in the near future with full details of what, where and when.

Who's in the News

Latino Children and Families Building Community Relationships

By Venessa Brown, Ph.D.

Enrique Howell, a native Panamanian is a bi-lingual 2001 graduate of the MSW program and is currently working with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) in the Southern Region. He is often called upon to interpret for clients and workers that are in need of an interpreter in order to communicate and deliver social services to Spanish speaking clients. There are exciting changes taking place in the Southern Region to address the needs of Hispanic/Latino children and their families and he is playing a major role to ensure that their voices are heard. He has participated in a radio broadcast panel put together by St. Clair County's Hon. Judge Wharton. He is also a member of the IDCFS Hispanic Advisory Committee and the Metro-East Hispanic Leadership Group of Greater St. Louis. If you are interested in learning Spanish, or finding out more about the Spanish culture, he is available for training, Spanish lessons and consul-

tation. You can contact Enrique Howell by e-mail at ehowell01@aol.com.

MSW Graduates Elected to Leadership Positions

By Thomas Gusewelle, MSW

SIUE MSW graduates recently were elected to Illinois NASW Metro-East St. Louis District Chapter leadership positions. Dennis Harbison is the new District Chair and Karen Garkie was elected as Co-Chair. We wish them great success in leading the chapter.

2004-2005 SSWA Officers and Student Liaisons Elected

By Sharon Haar, Staff

President: Heather Polczynski, Vice-Pres.: Tiffany Darr;
Secretary: Kristin Alldredge; Treasurer: Melissa Biggs.

Student Liaisons: Rebecca Michaels, Marshall Ukena,
Becky Choate and Ginger Hickman.

Social Work Department Retired Faculty Update

Judy Cingaloni, Ph.D., (1973 to 2000)

By Venessa Brown, Ph.D.

One of the founders of the SIUE Social Work program, Judy Cingaloni, Ph.D., is enjoying her retirement. She is living in Florida with husband Bill and their dog. Judy still has a wonderful sense of humor. I talk to her and Bill often to update them on the status of the Social Work program. Judy's contribution to and leadership in the social work profession, the SIUE Social Work Department and the greater Metro-East is a testimony to the strong practice curriculum at SIUE. She is not forgotten; her work and impact on the students and the program contributed to the growth of social services in Southern Illinois. Judy Cingaloni was awarded the SIUE School of Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Award in 1995.

Richard Swaine, Ph.D., (1971 to 1996)

By Thomas Gusewelle, MSW

In the beginning of Richard Swaine's tenure at SIUE there was no social work program. Dr. Swaine started in the sociology department and was instrumental in devel-

oping the BSW program; a program which eventually evolved into a fully accredited BSW and MSW program. Dr. Swaine came to SIUE with the intention of staying one year; that year grew into a fulfilling 25-year career. When asked what he liked about teaching, Dr. Swaine replied, "I liked to help students progress through the university— to know they would ultimately have a better life. It was not necessarily giving out grades, but seeing students take on challenges and grow, that interested me".

Dr. Swaine is enjoying retirement with his wife and four grandchildren, who range in age from two months to 16 years. He reports, "I actually enjoy household chores, cleaning the basement and polishing the car". Reading, watching the news and singing in the church choir also keep him busy. Dr. Swaine has taken on the role of student in metal/iron/steel classes to enhance his artistic skills in working with these metals and attends a two week craft school in North Carolina each year. Dr. Swaine also enjoys fishing in Canada and catching salmon in Alaska. After a satisfying career at SIUE, Dr. Swaine seems to be making the most of his retirement!

Summer 2004 Graduates Congratulations from Faculty & Staff!

BSW Graduates

Thelma Cornejo, Suzzanne Freeman, Jessica Hawkins, Amber Hillyard, Tina Jones, Susan Kassly, Jana Leneave, Kelley Lumpkin, Jesse Meng, Logan Oswald, Shelia Rice, Randi Schlaefer, Edward Schuessler, Anna Simaytis, and Shelley Smith.



MSW Graduates

Eva Allen, Bianca Bauer, Christine Beckert, Stephen Bray, Melissa Certa, Stephanie Cywinski, William Goodell, Thomas Gusewelle, Carlene Haar, Michelle Harbison, Amy Hart, Tina Hoeffft, Jennifer Lauf, Julie Lurkins, Tammy Partelow, Jeri Ruff, David Savage, Mariam Schrage, Dustyn Steinhorst, Lea Anne Varble, Helena Viehweg, Amanda Wagoner, Neilie Waldron, William White II, and Marcia Wood.

Where Have All the Alumni Gone?

Laurie Frey (MSW, 1998) is a school social worker in the Jerseyville Community School District, Jerseyville, IL.

Preston Linzy (MSW, 2003) and his wife Lesia relocated to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia area in July, 2004. Preston is currently a Title XVI claims representative with the Social Security Administration.

Martha Turner (BS, 1977) lives in St. Louis, MO. and works for Easter Seals, Missouri which supports families/caregivers that have a child/adult with developmental dis-

abilities in a homelike setting.

Desi Jellen (BA, 1987) is a Victims Witness Specialist for the Madison County State's Attorney's Office.

Charlotte Isaak, LSW (BS, 1993) is Service Coordinator at Faith Countryside Atrium Apartments in Highland, 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, IL 62026

Hopes, Potential and Accomplishments

(continued from page 1)



Thomas Regulus, Ph.D.

and add an ingredient or two of his own. Dean Kent Neely, has begun a strategic planning process that will chart the future of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Social Work within it, for the next several years. Within the Department of Social Work, the School Social Work program has been approved by the Illinois Board of Education to serve the

needs of public schools and aspiring school social workers within the region and beyond. Under the leadership of Kellene Hamilton, a group of stalwart practitioners within the region are crafting a continuing education program for social workers that we expect will become a fixture of service to the profession.

Several of our faculty, Carl Bentelsphacer, Gerald O'Brien, Donald Scandell, and Kathleen Tunney are involved in international social work initiatives as far flung as Lithuania, Southeast Asia, Germany and other parts of the world. Faculty are applying their scholarly, educational, and service expertise at a global level, and returning with insights and knowledge that enrich our understanding of international diversity within the Department and the region.

Venessa Brown recently assumed the Directorship of the MSW program. Her energy and leadership are beginning to be reflected in plans to further the quality of that program. Likewise, the potential of our alumni continue to mature: for example, Lou Kimmel's social work practice and research regarding the provision of mental health services to persons with criminal histories is evolving into a model program for offender services in the City of St. Louis. (Look for more on Lou Kimmel's model program for offenders in the next issue of *TAC*). These and other developments promise to make this a

year of great hopes, potential and accomplishments. In the broader regional, state, and national contexts, there are also reasons for us to have hope and to recognize potential to accomplish the profession's core purposes through social work practice and education. In this fiftieth anniversary year of the birth of the National Association of Social Work, the NASW will celebrate its past and begin to renew and develop a social political framework to guide the profession over the next decade. Similarly, the Council on Social Work Education has begun to reorganize its governance structure and has crafted new policies and standards to guide social work education. All social work practitioners and educators should participate in the various regional, state, and national activities that have been planned throughout the year that will strengthen the profession and social work education. These renewal and reframing activities of the NASW and CSWE are converging at a time when the potential of social work and social welfare systems have come under severe strain. Poverty has increased and public welfare services have been fractured; the well being of elderly and retired citizens is threatened by the economics of medical care, prescription drugs, and threats to social security; institutions of primary, secondary, and higher education have been asked to do more with less; and services to the mentally ill, those convicted of criminal offenses, women's issues, and others have eroded. The need for social work practitioners, for social welfare and justice advocacy and activism, and for relevant social work education is just as great now as it was fifty years ago. This is a year when the hopes, potentials, and accomplishments of social workers and social work educators need to be reviewed, renewed and recast to meet the challenges of the most needy and socially oppressed citizens, populations, and communities.

Alumni, students, and friends are encouraged to follow the Department of Social Work and our bulletin board of SIUE and community events by viewing our web site at www.siue.edu/SOCIAL. The web site is presently being updated to provide a more user-friendly format.

"The good social worker does not go on mechanically helping people out of a ditch. Pretty soon, she (he) begins to find out what ought to be done to get rid of the ditch."

—— Mary Richmond ——



Reflections: SIUE's Social Work Department 1986-2004

By James "Jim" Trent, Ph.D.

In September, 1986, when I arrived as a new assistant professor in SIUE's Department of Sociology and Social Work, the social work program had just been reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Indeed, one of the drawing points for coming to SIUE was that the program would have its accreditation for seven years. I was the third of three professors at the time. My social work colleagues were Judy Cingolani and Dick Swaine. Judy coordinated field placements and taught individual practice courses, and Dick taught group work and human behavior in the social environment. I taught macro practice and social policy.

Even as far back as 1986 there was talk of having a MSW program at SIUE, but for various reasons, the program did not get off the ground for another decade. The biggest change in the social work program between 1986 and 2003, of course, was the creation of the master's program. With the new program came not only a doubling of the size of the faculty, but also a burgeoning of expertise among the faculty. SIUE's current faculty members have a depth and breadth of knowledge and skills, of which its graduates can be most proud.

A second major change in the social work program was

its split from sociology to become its own department. Although the relationship between sociology and social work was amiable, departmental status around 2000 gave social work the autonomy required to develop its own internal policies and procedures.

A final change that occurred between 1986 and 2003 was social work's location. No longer, for the most part, scattered in the halls of Peck building, the department got its own centralized offices. These new "digs" allowed faculty to be closer to each other for better communication, and it gave social work a more professional look.

This professional look, along with the genuine professional content of the program, summarize the major change in the program between 1986 and 2003. Once a solid, if sleepy, undergraduate social work program, social work at SIUE has become an excellent department with a highly qualified faculty, eager and strong students, and a growing alumni. Given all these strengths, the department's future is bright. Please allow me to add: "I miss the Department of Social Work very much".

(Editor's note: Dr. James Trent currently is Professor of Social Work at Gordon College in Wenham, MA)

Field Supervisors Roll Call



Anna Simaytis and
Teresa Mitchell, MSW,
Alton Mental Health
Center, Alton, Illinois



Lea Anne Varble, Mary Sharrow MSW,
Community Counseling Center, Alton,
Illinois and Helena Viehweg



Mariam Schrage and Courtney Tierney, MSW, Area Agency on Aging, Belleville, Illinois



Ralph Smith, MSW, Violence Prevention Center,
Belleville, Illinois and Rebecca Mercurio

Field Supervisors Roll Call



Elise Fields, MSW, Illinois Center for Autism, Fairview Heights, Illinois and Susan Kassly,



Wendy Harmon, MSW, Christian County Mental Health, Taylorville, Illinois and Kelli Min Cook



Mary Kay Bonness, MSW, Good Samaritan House, Granite City, Illinois



Della Benham, MSW, Chestnut Health Systems, Granite City, Illinois and Tammy Partelow



Suzzanne Freeman and Amy Pannier, MSW, Rosewood Care Center, Edwardsville, Illinois

Debbie Donham, MSW, DCFS, Jerseyville, Illinois and Ann Mor-



Pamela Rorie, MSW, Hospice of Southern Illinois, Belleville, Illinois and Dustyn Steinhorst



Cynthia A. Lolley, MSW, DCFS, Alton, Illinois and Edna Norman

Field Supervisors Roll Call



David Savage and Jodi Kranz, MSW,
Human Service Center, Red Bud,
Illinois



William Hatter, MSW, Big
Brothers Big Sisters, Belleville,
Illinois



Nancy Weiss-Hays, MSW,
St. Anthony's Health Center,
Alton, Illinois



Denise Brown, MSW, Catholic
Social Services, Belleville, Illinois
and Amber Hillyard

*FOR THE THINGS
WE HAVE TO LEARN
BEFORE WE CAN DO
THEM,
WE LEARN BY
DOING THEM.*

ARISTOTLE



Bil Bowen, MSW, Fair Oaks Nursing
Home, Greenville, Illinois and Randi
Schlaefter



Bianca Bauer, Nancy Vetter, MSW,
Anderson Hospital, Maryville, Illinois
and Michelle Harbison



Vandetta Dennis, MSW,
DCFS, East St. Louis, IL



Kristie Grawitch and Diana
Cuddeback, MSW, Family
Hospice, Swansea, Illinois



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