

TAC-The Alumni Connector

Volume 2, Issue 1

July 2006

Venessa Brown, Ph.D. - Chair Elect

By Venessa A. Brown, Ph.D.



Greetings! What an exciting time to be at SIUE. It is a pleasure to serve as the new Chair of the Social Work Department here at SIUE. When I decided to accept the position as Chair, the first

thing that came into my mind was “success starts with you” our faculty, alumni and the community. The Department of Social Work will be working on a vision for the future and plan that will definitely include you, our alumni and community partners. We hope this next year will be the beginning of revisiting the mission and goals that surround our passion for social work practice and social and economic justice for children and families. We will develop our departmental plan around the University’s vision of a premier Metropolitan University which strives for EXCELLENCE. We will also develop departmental goals and activities around the College of Arts and Sciences desired characteristics and capabilities of graduates. We will share all of this with you after our first Annual Fall Faculty Retreat to be held prior to the start of the fall semester.

During the fall faculty retreat, we will be discussing and planning major activities that will require your investment and commitment. I have heard from many of you who have stated, “Dr. Brown I support you and the department 110%”. Thank you and you will hear from us. Some preliminary plans are:

- hosting a Holiday reception in the fall/winter to honor our Alumni and Community Partners
- a scholarship gala in the spring during social work month

- submitting an application to become a member of the National Honor Society for Social Workers,
- re-connecting with our Alumni, and
- many more exciting events throughout the year.

I hope to be making visits to your community agencies over the next couple of months to talk about the program and do some student recruitment. If you would like to have me come and talk to your staff or administrators, please contact me and we will arrange a meeting. If your agency is interested in becoming one of our practicum sites, please contact our Practicum Director, Dr. Carol Wesley (618-650-5932), and she will be happy to discuss with you the process of becoming one of our community partners.

Our social work program is fortunate to have two program directors that are very committed to the success and growth of our department. Shirley Rakers, MSW who is our Undergraduate Program Director and Dr. Kathleen Tunney who is our MSW Program Director, will be more than happy to share with you any information about those programs.

Our faculty and staff are exceptional and have a wide range of experience. Please come and visit the department and allow us to show you around the University. A lot has changed and the campus is more beautiful than ever. We’ll keep a look out for you and remember “*Our Success Begins With YOU*”.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Dr. Venessa A. Brown, Chair

Department of Social Work

SIUE Department of Social Work- “... a force for social change ... whose mission is to preserve, promote, and achieve the social wellbeing of all individuals, families, groups, and communities through the education of competent and ethical ... social work practitioners”

CEU Workshop Series Spring/Fall 2006

By Deborah F. Vogel, MSW, LCSW

During Spring 2006, the Department of Social Work and Illinois Association of School Social Workers (IASSW), co-sponsored two half-day continuing education workshops: *Inside the Mind of a Self-Mutilator*, presented by Kitty Klee, Ph.D., and *Realities of the Child Welfare System*, presented by Cynthia A. Lolley, MSW, LCSW, and a full day workshop: *Aging: Contemporary Issues, Concerns and Mandates*, presented by Courtney Tierney, MSW.

Coming up in Fall 2006: workshops will begin on **Friday, September 1**, offering two half-day workshops beginning at 9:00 a.m. with: *Not All Monsters in Your Child's World Live Under the Bed*, presented by Nancy Vetter, MSW, LCSW and at 1:00 p.m. with *Sex Offenders: Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are*, presented by Patrick Hoatlin, MSW, LCSW. **Friday, October 13**, Dr. Ann R. Taylor will present at 9:00 a.m. on: *How to Combat Homophobia in the Classroom*, and in the after-

noon session PFC Mike Bazzell from the Alton Police Department will close the Fall series with his presentation on *Child Safety on the Internet and Internet Crimes*.



Participants of "Aging" workshop

All workshops are open to social workers, nurses, clinical professional counselors, teachers, other helping professionals and parents. Each session will award 3 CEU's approved for Licensed Professional Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. respectively for the morning and afternoon sessions.

Advance registration is preferred—Fee for entire day is \$69 or \$40 for 1/2 day session. Students receive a 50% discount. Call: Emily Coffin of the Office of Continuing Education at (618) 650-3210 or email Ms. Coffin at: ecoffin@siue.edu.



Inside the Mind of a Self-Mutilator—Participants



Realities of Child Welfare—Participants

We are interested in topics for future workshop series. This is your opportunity for feedback...contact Kellene M. Hamilton, CEU Committee Chair at (618) 650-2650 or Email at kehamil@siue.edu.

CEU Committee Members:

Mary Ann Baumgarden, Venessa Brown, Emily Coffin, Elise Fields, Patrick Hoatlin, Enrique Howell, Cynthia Lolley, Sako Maki, Karen McKinney, Dianne Parker, Shirley Rakers, Leisa Soer, Nancy Vetter, Deborah Vogel, Linda Vogel, and Sandy Becker-Warden.

International Qualitative Research Conference

By Roger Boyd, Ph.D.

Social Work Undergraduate Research Academy Scholar, Jennifer Mellick, and her mentor, Assistant Professor, Roger Boyd, presented their research papers at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry held May 4-6, at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana campus. Jennifer's paper "The Effects of Increased Security Measures in Selected Metro-East High Schools" and Dr. Boyd's "Gated-Community Emergence in the Metro East: The Politics of Growth and Development in St. Clair County, Illinois" were presented during the "Urban Issues and Qualitative Inquiry" session.

Jennifer was one of 22 students this past year that was selected to participate in SIUE's Undergraduate Research Academy, which provides exceptional undergraduates an opportunity to engage in advanced class

work with a faculty mentor. Jennifer is the first Social Work student in ten years that has received this honor. It was especially exciting to observe Jennifer more than holding her own as an SIUE undergraduate social work student with some of the top doctoral students in the country who also presented at the conference. Jennifer has been accepted into the MSW program at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, and we wish her all the best in her continued academic endeavors.

Dr. Boyd and Dr. Rita Arras from SIUE's School of Nursing presented a co-authored paper "Tobacco Use on a Midwestern University Campus" studying the impact of tobacco use on the SIUE campus and the educational experience of the students in an interdisciplinary context.

Tunney Travels to Lithuania

By Kathleen Tunney, Ph.D.

In April 2006, Kathleen Tunney spent three days in Vilnius, Lithuania on a training project for Project HOPE. The training focused on HIV-AIDS case management, and involved trainers from several countries, including Lithuania.

Dr. Tunney's part of the project focused on the psychosocial issues involved in HIV-AIDS, including the importance of stigma-reducing activities and provision of social support from multiple sources.

The main mode of transmission of HIV-AIDS in Lithuania is IV drug use, and so the training focused on harm risk reduction strategies in this area. Not surprisingly, given this mode of transmission, the needs of incarcerated persons were also given emphasis in the training.

The Lithuanian AIDS Centre in Vilnius was a key part of the organization of the training, and provided local faculty to address the unique situation of individuals, families, and communities in the region.



There was not much time for sight-seeing, and this module of the training was three full days, but we did have a chance to visit the Roma community (gypsy) camp, and one of the regional prisons.

As with any nation, poverty and social isolation are contributing factors to any social problem, and Lithuania is no exception. It appears, however, that services to prisoners and parolees are very well-integrated in their system, which is a very good thing. Interestingly, problems of stigma seem much the same anywhere. They are powerful forces, and the Project HOPE effort in this regard is a worthy one.

Lithuania is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, between Latvia and Russia, and is geographically slightly larger than the State of West Virginia. The population is estimated to be 3,589,906 as of July, 2006. (www.cia.gov/publication/factbook/geos/lh.html)

MSW Program Director: News and Notes

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph.D.



First, greetings to alumni and others reading this newsletter. I hope your summer is both restful and productive.

Second, I would like to say how pleased I am to be appointed as the next MSW Program Director, following on the excellent work of Dr. Brown in this

capacity. Over the next few weeks and months, in concert with Dr. Brown as our new Department Chair, Shirley Rakers as BSW Director, and all the rest of the faculty, staff, and students, we look forward to addressing our challenges and building on our strengths as we plan for the next year.

Third, those next year events include a site visit from the Council on Social Work Education in October 2006,

as one step in the process of re-affirmation of accreditation of the MSW program in the spring of 2007. We are also working on revising the format for the SOCW 565 (Integrative Project) course, using a portfolio approach. This method will enable students to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum in a way which promises to reflect greater depth and breadth of learning over time in the program. We are also working on an outline for a part-time program, an option which students have been telling us would be very useful to them as a means of succeeding in school while also balancing family and work responsibilities.

And last but not least, be sure to watch this space for more news and notes and updates on progress toward all of the above goals, and more!

Thanks again for all you do for clients and for the social work profession. We appreciate you very much.

Alumni Corner

By Daniel Hauter, MSW, LCSW, ACSW

Hi, I am Dan Hauter, an SIUE alumnus. I re-entered college at SIUE in 1984, after my farm started bleeding red ink, and it became obvious that I would have to do something else for a living. Returning to college at age 29 was not easy. But thanks to an A.S. degree in Business Administration from Lewis & Clark Community College, I returned to college as a junior. The faculty and the other social work students at SIUE were great. My two years in the Social Work Program provided an excellent education. I graduated in 1986 with a B.S. in Social Work. Two years later, in 1988, I graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a Master of Social Work degree. In 1992, I completed the requirements to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. I have been in the social work field for 20 years, starting out at Macoupin County Mental Health Center and then moving to Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian child welfare agency. Then I worked for five years for the old Illinois

Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. In 1995, I transferred to the Department of Children and Family Services, and I am now the Child Protection Supervisor for the Carlinville Field Office which covers Macoupin and Montgomery Counties supervising a team of investigators. I am married to Lisa Williams Hauter who earned her BA in Social Work from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and an MSW degree from SIUE in 1998. Lisa is also an LCSW and a supervisor at Macoupin County Mental Health Clinic where she has worked for 19 1/2 years. Lisa and I are licensed foster parents. My favorite hobbies include just about everything connected to the farm as well as collecting, restoring, and displaying antique Allis-Chalmers tractors. Lisa and I have a toy poodle, Abby, and we like antiques and enjoy traveling. I also like to hunt and fish. We both have fond memories of our times at SIUE and appreciate the education we received there.



*What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;
what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.*
-Albert Pike-



Spring 2006 Graduates

Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!

Masters of Social Work

Susan Kassly and Linda Wittman

Bachelor of Arts

Kathrine Attaway, Christina Brown, Erin Gerdes, Erin McCarthy, Marcie Moehn, Rachel Wethers

Bachelor of Science

Kristen Alldredge, Brooke Anderson, Rikki Arnold, Kayla Barth, Alicia

Bethard, Melinda Brake, Emily Cosner, Tameka DeBerry, Nicole Evans, Jamie Goodman, Danielle Griffin, Kimberly Hoeflein, Debra Klostermann, Aurelia Koncius, Shanna Kress, Kelly Kulenkamp, Emily McPherson, Jennifer Mellick, Rebecca Michels, Kristina Nail, Jessica Scarbrough, Ashley Sheppard, Kanoi Taylor, Jayme Turner, Carl Washington, Ashley Weathers



2006 Award Recipients

Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!

Social Work Department –Service Award

LaTasha Roberson of Fairview Heights, Illinois was the recipient of the Social Work Service Award. Qualifications were GPA, service and dedication to the profession. LaTasha served as the Student Social Work Association President at the time of nomination.

Regulus-Gilmore Award

Elizabeth Knight was the recipient of the Regulus-Gilmore Award for recognition of outstanding promise or achievement given in memory of Nellie Gilmore and Lucille Regulus, mothers, of Mary Pamela Regulus and Thomas Regulus.

SIUE Competitive Graduate Award for 2006-2007

SIUE University Fellowship and Scholarship Committee awarded Michelle Brooks of Belleville, Illinois the Competitive Graduate Award for 2006-2007. This award is granted to highly qualified new students who are accepted into advance degree programs at SIUE. Only 20 students receive this award annually. Michelle competed for this award which requires submission of a personal history, career goals, a statement of research, scholarly and creative interest to be used by the prospective grad school student in their particular program, and three letters of recommendation.

Where have all the Alumni Gone?

Neeley Brennan-Curtis, MSW 1999, School Social Worker, Belle Valley School District 119, Belleville, Illinois

Bob Brown, MSW, 2003, Addictions Clinician with Sinnissippi Centers in Northern Illinois (he and his wife are the proud parents of twins born in May, 2006)

Jean Buchana, MSW 1999, Social Services Director, Family Hospice, Belleville, Illinois

Cara Cassidy, MSW, 2005, Social

Worker at St. Joseph's Health Center-Wentzville, Missouri on the Psychiatric Unit

Daniel Hauter, BSW, 1986, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Carlinville, Illinois (see Alumni Corner page 4)

Lisa Williams-Hauter, MSW, 1998, Macoupin County Mental Health, in Carlinville, Illinois (see Alumni Corner page 4)

Jeff Morris, BSW, 2005, Family Resource Center—working as a Fos-

ter Care/Adoption Case Manager and is attending St. Louis University seeking his MSW in family concentration.

Rebecca Wills, MSW, 2005, Catholic Social Services, Belleville, Illinois, Specialized Foster Care Supervisor.

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

Lobby Day 2006

By Jerry O'Brien, Ph.D.

On February 28th, almost fifty undergraduate social work students attended Lobby Day in Springfield, Illinois. This annual event gives students the opportunity to research and lobby for a proposed bill that impacts social welfare within the state, and to observe and learn about the political process. Students were able to meet with a number of elected representatives, and most attendees learned a great deal about the nature of their legislative proposals and the process of attaining support for bill passage. Student groups advocated on behalf of the following bills:

- House Bill 4715: The Safe Homes Act – would require landlords to change door locks at the request of victims of domestic violence who could provide evidence of abuse or threats to their safety.
- Senate Bill 3016: Sex Offender Registration – would increase the requirements placed on sex offenders, ensuring that they register on a more frequent basis, in order to ensure that the State can better track them.
- Senate Bill 2254: Behavioral Support Plans – would require all facilities that provide services to persons with developmental disabilities to develop appropriate behavior modification plans when necessary.
- House Bill 4322: Domestic Violence Database – would establish a statewide database of persons convicted of domestic violence crimes.



- House Bill 4298: Child Sex Offender requirements - would increase the distance convicted sex offenders could live from a school, park, or playground.
- House Bill 4696: Health Education related to Abandoned Newborns — would require high schools to include educational material on the State's Abandoned Newborn Protection Act to students.
- House Bill 4999: Hospital Fair Billing Act — would require hospitals to itemize patient bills and would restrict them from harassing or intimidating patients in order to obtain owed money.
- House Bill 4526: Grandparent Care – would increase support for information dispersal related to child care and legal issues to grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

All students gathered research on their bills during the weeks leading up to lobby day. Many groups discovered information from their lobby day meetings which led them to reconsider their positions on their proposals or understand why their proposal was not politically feasible at the present time. As usual, students from the Department represented the University very well. They were very prepared, confident, and carried themselves exceptionally well. I would like to thank Tom Regulus and the Department faculty for their continued support of Lobby Day, and am particularly grateful to Roger Boyd for his time and effort.



Dr. Roger Boyd and SIUE Social Work Students meeting legislators on Lobby Day 2006



SIUE Social Work Students with Illinois State Senator, Martin Sandoval (3rd from left) from Chicago



Practicum Spotlight

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW



Ralph Smith

With this issue of TAC, the Practicum Spotlight shines on Ralph Smith, MA, MSW, CDVC, Director of Non-Residential Counseling and Advocacy Services, Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois, Belleville. Prior to receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work from George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Smith earned a

bachelors degree in Philosophy and an MA in Sociology

from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Mr. Smith has served as a practicum field supervisor for SIUE Social Work students since 1999. According to Mr. Smith, "I like students' ideas, their drive and passion. I know that I am the teacher but I also learn from them. I like knowing that students get a good experience here, and they go off to make contributions to the community and the Social Work profession." In addition to being the Director of Non-Residential Counseling and Advocacy Services, mentoring students from SIUE and other colleges and universities, Mr. Smith is a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor and does training for the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence as part of their 40 hour training.

Community Partner

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

The Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization serving residents of Monroe, St. Clair, and Randolph counties. Services are provided to anyone who is a victim of domestic violence/abuse: women, women with dependent children, men, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The mission of The Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois centers on "...eliminating domestic violence in individual lives and society as a whole" based upon the philosophy "...that all people have the right to be free from harm, to be respected, and to determine and pursue their own goals".

Services offered by The Violence Prevention Center of

Southwestern Illinois include:

- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Emergency shelter for battered women and women with dependent children
- Children's services
- Counseling and advocacy services
- Prevention and educational services

For more information contact The Violence Prevention Center by telephone (618) 236-2531 or e-mail information@vpcswi.org

Field Instructor Orientation

By Carol A. Wesley, Ph.D. , Director of Practice

The annual Field Instructor Orientation was held on April 20, 2006. Approximately 25 field instructors attended the orientation to the undergraduate and graduate social work programs. Some of the topics discussed were the requirements for supervision, learning agreements, promoting a learning environ-

ment and the field liaison visit. We are most grateful for the experienced social workers who assist us in educating new professionals by applying classroom education to the "real world" work environment. Please watch your mail for the date for social work field supervisors' training that will be held this fall.

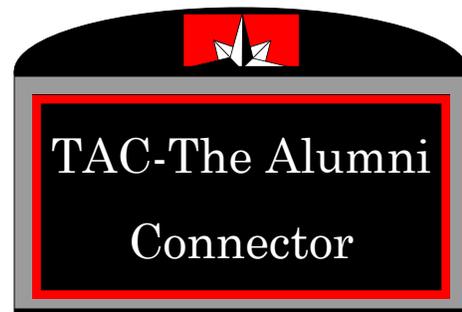
Be the change you wish to see in the world. - Gandhi -

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