



# TAC-The Alumni Connector

*SIUE Department of Social Work  
College of Arts and Sciences*

Volume 2, Issue 4

Fall-Winter-2007

## Fall Greetings

Gerald V. O'Brien, Ph.D. - Associate Professor and Interim Department Chair



I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new (how long, by the way, can I get away with the "I'm still new at the job" excuse?) Interim Chair of the Social Work Department. As many readers of our TAC Newsletter are aware, Dr. Venessa A. Brown became

Assistant Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity on September 1, 2007 after serving in the Social Work Department for 12 years. We wish Venessa the best of luck, and thank her for her service to the Social Work Department.

Since most of you know me already, I won't spend much time on introducing myself. I have been with the Social Work Department almost ten years, largely teaching policy and macro-practice courses, and my research interests include disability history, particularly eugenic control, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and metaphor analysis related to aversive public policies that constrain the rights of marginalized groups.

As we approach the midpoint of the academic year, it is an exciting time to be involved in the Social Work program. Among other program improvements, we

have two new, highly qualified faculty members, and we are looking forward to a restructuring of the curriculum for both the undergraduate and graduate programs. In short, our program is healthy, and we have an active, engaged faculty that is intent on moving the program forward.

I do want to personally thank every one who has assisted the Social Work Department, both in the past and currently. Our Department plays a role in ensuring the efficient and professional provision of social services in the Metro-East area, and we could not fill this role without key groups such as our alumni, practicum supervisors, agency directors, and Advisory Board members. As social workers, we understand the importance of system linkages and intercommunication. We truly appreciate the community relationships that our program has built over the years, and view these relationships as an essential element in reaching our departmental goals.

Lastly, I would like to thank my faculty and staff, who have made this transition easier than it otherwise would have been. I would like to especially thank Kellene Hamilton who has, for the past several years, taken on the added duties entailed with getting this TAC Newsletter out. This is an important means of communication for the Social Work Department with our alumni and community partners, and I do appreciate all

## *Holiday Gathering*

*Alumni, Students and Community Partners are invited to attend*

*The Social Work Department Holiday Gathering on*

*December 6, 2007 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.*

*SIUE Morris University Center—Maple/Dogwood Rooms*

## 2008 Scholarship Gala Keynote Speaker

### Vickie Newton KMOV News 4 Anchor/Reporter

Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom will be the site for the Department of Social Work's Second Annual Scholarship Gala. The Keynote Speaker for the evening will be KMOV News 4 St. Louis Anchor/Reporter, Vickie Newton.

Vickie was nominated for an Emmy as Best Anchorperson by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in both 2002 and 2003, winning the award in 2003.

Vickie is a well-known face to viewers in many different cities. Before coming to KMOV Channel 4, she worked as an Anchor for CNN Headline News, reporting from the network's world headquarters in Atlanta. Also in Atlanta, Vickie was an Anchor/Reporter at WSB-TV, the city's #1 news station. Previously, Vickie worked at WDIV in Detroit, KMBC and WDAF in Kansas City, and KATV in Little Rock, Ark.

Vickie takes great pride in her community involvement. Besides making numerous personal appearances for various causes and organizations, Vickie serves on the St. Louis Board of Directors for the YWCA, the Alzheimer's Association, Jazz at the Bistro and Opera Theatre—St. Louis. Most recently Vickie was appointed to the Music Panel of the National Endowment For The Arts. She also was selected as one of the St. Louis Business Journal's



prestigious "40 under 40." In addition, Vickie served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Black Journalists, representing Region VIII.

One Issue that has always been important to Vickie is literacy. She learned the value of reading and education from her mother, an English teacher. Within months of joining KMOV, she spearheaded the formation of a partnership among organizations that promote literacy, including the Literacy Roundtable and St. Louis Rams. Vickie was recently recognized by Bi-State Literacy Organizations with a grant named in her honor.

Vickie received her Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Detroit. In her spare time, Vickie enjoys reading and playing the piano, so it is no surprise that her most prized possessions are her book collection and grand piano. Vickie's love of music began at the age of seven when she began taking piano lessons. Now a concert pianist, she continues to take lessons to this day. She also hopes to start a consortium of piano teachers who will offer free music lessons to children.

We are delighted that Vickie Newton has accepted the invitation to be the 2008 Keynote Speaker for the Scholarship GALA on March 1, 2008, at SIUE Morris University Center in the Meridian Ballroom. Social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Dinner being served promptly at 6:00 p.m. The evening will also include live music, cash bar and silent auction. Mark your calendars and make

#### RESERVATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Mail Reservations to:

SIUE Department of  
Social Work  
Campus Box 1450  
Edwardsville IL 62026-1450

OR Call:  
Judy Zimmerman  
(618) 650-5429

**TICKETS:** \_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Each \_\_\_\_ \$350.00 Table of 8

**DINNER CHOICE:** (Indicate number)

\_\_\_\_ Orange Glazed Chicken Breast

\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Lasagna

**Method of Payment:**

Checks made payable to "SIUE Foundation"

Credit Cards accepted - complete and sign

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Master Card Visa American Express

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket are non-refundable. Purchased Tickets will be held at the "Will Call Table" on the evening of the event.

# Today's Students Tomorrow's Leaders

By Amanda "Mandy" Wagoner, MSW



Hello, my name is Mandy Wagoner. I graduated from SIUE in 2003 with my BSW and in 2004 with my MSW. During my undergraduate and graduate years I had the opportunity to complete my practicum at Anderson Hospital in the Social

Service Department. Following my practicum experience, and after the completion of my degrees, I was able to remain at Anderson Hospital as a full-time employee. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Director of the Social Service Department. My responsibilities range from patient care to management duties. The Social Service Department, including myself, assists patients and their families with nursing home and rehab placement, psychiatric placement, hospice placement, adoptions, out patient dialysis arrangements, advance directives, transportation

needs, financial and medication assistance, and community referrals. In addition, the Social Service Department works with patients and their families who are dealing with end of life situations. As the Assistant Director, I am also involved with several committees at Anderson Hospital. I serve as a member of the Patient Education Committee, Employee Appeal Committee, and the Ethics Committee. I recently finished my duties as a member of the Turning The Beds Over Team, which focused on faster and earlier discharges from the hospital.

I am honored to have this opportunity to share my social work experiences with those who are currently working towards a Social Work degree or those already in the profession of Social Work. My experiences at Anderson Hospital and SIUE have been remarkable, and I would like to thank those organizations for providing me with the opportunities that facilitated my growth as an individual and as a social worker. Thank You.

## 3 CEU Workshop: Managing Passive-Aggressive Behavior

By Kellene M. Hamilton, LCSW, DCSW, QCSW

The Department of Social Work presents a half-day of continuing education for Social Workers and other human service professionals. Managing Passive—Aggressive Behavior: a practical guide to Nicholas Long's "The Angry Smile" will be presented by Gigi Dowling-Urban, MSW, MA, on Friday, December 7, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This event will be held in the Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center at SIUE.

This presentation is designed to assist social workers and other helping professionals in how to deal with their utter exhaustion and frustration in managing children and adolescents with passive-aggressive behavior.

The seminar will cover the following key points:

- Reasons that students select passive-aggressive behaviors
- Socializing experiences at school and in the family

that promote passive-aggressive behaviors

- 5 Levels of passive-aggressive behaviors
- How staff and parents can get "sucked into" behaving in a counter passive-aggressive way
- Positive strategies for managing your own anger in living/working with passive-aggressive folks
- Positive strategies in addressing and managing passive-aggressive behaviors.

This workshop is approved for Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors. The registration fee is \$49.00 and the student rate is \$25.00. This fee includes light refreshments and free parking in Visitor Lot B.

To register for this event contact Emily Coffin, Office of Educational Outreach, 618-650-3207 or 618-650-2663. Email: [ecoffin@siue.edu](mailto:ecoffin@siue.edu).

**SIUE Department of Social Work**

**"Where Crossroads of Academic Excellence and Community Commitment Meet"**

# A Refugee Camp in the Heart of Chicago

By Marianne Wilson, MSW, LCSW



Being forced to leave home because of war or violence is a terrifying reality for millions of people throughout the world. Parents try to keep families together in the midst of chaos. Children see parents and siblings executed, sexually assaulted, or are themselves severely injured by land mines. Children get separated and lost

from families.

Uprooted people may have to walk for days without food or water, children carrying smaller children, all carrying whatever possessions they salvaged on the run, not knowing where they are bound for, or even if they will ever be able to return home. Displaced people immediately confront the most stressful of concerns all at one time: how to survive, where to go, how to live, how to get water and food, keeping family together, fatigue, attending to injury and illness, and protecting personal safety. Not knowing when the ordeal will end or where they will end up are typically the most stressful aspects of the refugee experience.

The international organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, which is known in the U.S. as Doctors Without Borders) is often the first responder to such emergencies, and has provided refugee assistance in more than 70 countries. This organization, founded in France in 1971 and now with chapters in many other countries is always at work somewhere in the world. MSF has a well developed system through the construction of refugee camps for assisting people who are fleeing for their lives and trying to find stability and safety. The camps serve anywhere from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of people in locations throughout the world.

Medecins Sans Frontieres constructed a mock refugee camp in Grant Park in Chicago from September 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to portray the terrifying, life threatening and demoralizing experience of refugees. As a social worker and sometime-classroom instructor teaching about issues related to cross-cultural health and mental health, I have long been interested in this humanitarian organization. At the invitation of MSF I attended the exhibit in Grant Park in September, and really deepened my understanding of what it feels like to be fleeing one's homeland and trying to regain stability at the threat of one's life and with only the barest of resources.

MSF teams consist of medical doctors, nurses,

logisticians, water and sanitation experts, epidemiologists and other medical and non-medical workers who deliver emergency aid to people in developing countries that are affected by armed conflicts, epidemics, and natural and man-made disasters.

In organizing safe places to provide care and stability for refugees, MSF logisticians have to quickly locate an area adequate in size to establish a camp. Some camps, for example those in Sudan, serve hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and may be needed for many years. Technicians have to find water sources to pump and then purify a water supply. Latrines and sanitation facilities have to be quickly constructed. Nutritional needs have to be assessed and met. Triage based medical care is begun. People with life threatening infectious diseases have to be isolated and treated. Vaccination programs are begun for the rest of the population.

Several tents are quickly constructed, each with a specialized purpose such as emergency medical care, vaccination, cholera patient isolation and treatment, nutritional needs assessment and food distribution. Teaching about sanitation to prevent the spread of malaria, tuberculosis, cholera and other infections that can quickly become epidemic in the overcrowded conditions of refugee camps are part of the work of these emergency teams. Language barriers can be an obstacle to this, and much teaching is done through charts, pictures, and with the aid of translators - when available. Even under the best of circumstances many refugees become ill from consumption of contaminated water, but often don't have a clean water source before they reach the camps.

Injury and illness, mental stress and days without food all weaken the immune systems of displaced people and make them more vulnerable to infection and disease. Extreme stress combined with language differences can create obstacles to the delivery of emergency help. For example, in one camp, people who had been fleeing for their lives were suspicious of the treatments used to purify the water supply by people who were strangers to them. Fearing the water was being poisoned they would not drink it, further jeopardizing their health. MSF teams have used local healers, teachers and ministers to intervene when this has happened.

Treating mental health is a significant challenge for refugee camp teams. Stress factors for refugees are extreme and unrelenting. Persons displaced by violence experience disturbed sleep, nightmares, flashbacks of violent experiences, feelings of panic, psychosomatic pain and other symptoms of emotional disturbance.



## SSWA Fall 2007 Activities

By Shirley Rakers, MSW, Coordinator BSW Program



The Student Social Work Association will be taking part in the 2007 International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth sponsored by Covenant House on November 15th. The vigil will be held on the SIUE campus at the same time other sites throughout the world will

be holding similar ceremonies as a means

of increasing awareness of the plight of homeless youth everywhere. Other upcoming activities will include providing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the region, adopting a family for Christmas, and the yearly Hat and Glove Tree to ensure that local children are warm this upcoming winter season. In addition, all senior students will be actively involved in a community project this semester to fulfill a requirement for their macro practice course. More information about these projects will be highlighted in

## Fall 2007 Graduates Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!

*Bachelor of Social Work Degree*

Whitney Fairless and Karen Whitted



## Refugee Camp

(Continued from page 4)

(See Page 5 - Refugee Camp ...)

It is not accurate to label this Post Traumatic Stress because the experience of stress is continuous. Teams sometimes have mental health workers, including social workers, but western methods of mental health treatment may be ineffective or even harmful when utilized in nonwestern cultures. Oftentimes indigenous methods of mental health treatment are the only effective ones. They take time, community participation and local healers, and these conditions may not be possible when nearly everyone is traumatized and there may be no one available or trained to facilitate this at the camps.

A refugee camp may be constructed within or outside of the border of a refugee population's homeland. Currently 12 million people around the world are refugees and asylum seekers, having left their countries in search of safety from ongoing violence. Some refugee assistance camps, for example those located in Iran and Pakistan to help Afghan refugees, have been in operation for more than 20 years.

The movement of refugees across national borders may be aborted because of lack of personal documentation or because neighboring countries fear bringing conflict

into their communities. The MSF organization counts 21 million people as internally displaced persons – people who are seeking safety within their own countries. This occurs in some locations where one's own government participates in the assault, such as in Sudan, Uganda and Columbia. Internally displaced persons have fewer rights than refugees, and no status under international laws.

In some locations in the world, violence has been too intense for outside organizations to be able to provide any help at all.

Medecins Sans Frontieres has established itself as a world recognized authority in the field of epidemiology. MSF has other programs including research on new treatments of epidemic diseases and a worldwide advocacy program to increase affordable access to medicines for the treatment of HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries.

It was very worthwhile to tour this mock refugee camp exhibit in Chicago's Grant Park. It really helped me to get a sense of the terror and grief experienced by people who must flee their homes during emergency situations, not knowing if they will ever see their homes again or whether their home communities will ever even exist again.

## Department of Social Work New Faculty

### Welcome from Faculty, Staff and Students!



Hello. My name is Bryan Duckham and I am a new Assistant Professor of Social Work at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. I hail from Boston, Massachusetts, but Saint Louis has been my home for many years. I completed my Master's degree in Social Work at Saint Louis University and my Ph.D. at Loyola

University of Chicago. I bring to SIUE 20 years experience of clinical social work practice in the areas of addictive, depressive, and anxiety disorders. I have worked extensively in private practice, as well as in inpatient and outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment programs. I have a special interest in the philosophy of social work, as well as the intersection of clinical theory and religion/spirituality. In addition, I have a special interest in qualitative research, specifically phenomenology.

I am married with 3 children, Ian (21), Graham (16), and Sophie (4). My wife, Janet, is an English teacher and holds a Ph.D. in English. I play guitar and enjoy singing and playing jazz, rock, folk, and blues music in my spare time (what little I have of it), as well as tennis, running, working out, and reading.



Hi. My name is Shonda Lawrence. I am a new Assistant Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Social Work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I have lived most of my life in the Chicago land area. I completed my undergraduate degree in Law Enforcement Administration at Western Illinois University in

Macomb, Illinois. I received my first Master's degree from Chicago State University in Corrections/Criminal Justice. After graduation, I worked several years as a juvenile probation officer in Cook County. I received my second Master's degree and PhD. in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work. My teaching interests are research, policy, and ethics. My research areas of interest include: the impact of parental incarceration on children and families, child welfare, and African American Men and father involvement. I have two children Jasmine (22) and Justin (13). I enjoy traveling, shopping, cooking and refurbishing old furniture.

Welcome to professors Duckham and Lawrence from Faculty, Staff and Students.

## Where Have All The Alumni Gone?

**Kimberly (Boggs) Huss**, BSW, 1988, Clinical Screener, Integrated Assessment Program at SIU-C

**Jennifer Huelsmann**, MSW, 2007, School Social Worker, Southwestern Community Unit School District #9 Piasa.

*To appear in **Where Have all the Alumni Gone?** email information to [kehamil@siue.edu](mailto:kehamil@siue.edu) or send to SIUE Social Work Department, Campus Box 1450, Edwardsville, IL 62026*



**NAMI (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS) WILL HOLD ITS**

**2008 PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER CONFERENCE:**

**HOW CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILLNESS AFFECT FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY**

**MARCH 7 & 8, 2008**

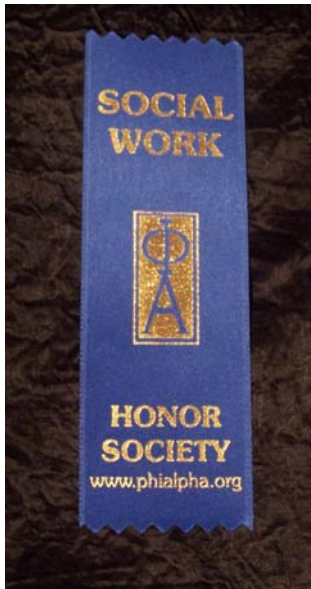
**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Illinois**

**Co-Sponsored by SIUE Department of Social Work**

**For information: Contact NAMI Madison County (618) 798-9788**

# Xi IOTA CHAPTER PHI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY Welcomes New Members

August 2, 2007 at a 2:00 p.m. ceremony, the Department of Social Work inducted 12 new members and two new honorary members into the Phi Alpha Honor Society. Welcome and introduction by Dr. Kent Neely, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Venessa A. Brown was followed by guest speaker, Dr. Carol Wesley.



The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

**History:** The concept of a national social work honor society came from a group of undergraduate social work students at Michigan State University in 1960.

Investigation revealed that local chapters existed at three schools. Those three schools along with a few other schools formed a National Honor Society Committee in November, 1960. For more than a year this committee worked on the constitution and other administrative matters. The name Phi Alpha and the key were adopted from the local chapter which existed at Florida State University. The constitution and formal organization were completed in 1962, and six chapters qualified to become "charter chapters". They were Florida State, Michigan State University, Ohio Northern University, Central State College, University of Dayton and the University of Tennessee. Over 110 Chapters are now in existence, and the addition of new chapters is continuing. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington was formed in 1998.

Each new member and honorary member was presented with a medallion and certificate in commemoration of their induction into the Phi Alpha Honor Society for their achievement and service in the field of Social Work. Congratulations to the new members!

## New Members

*Kristen E. Alldredge*

*Roger E. Boyd, Ph.D.*

*Michelle K. Brooks*

*Melinda S. Brown*

*Shannon N. Hall-Nannini*

*Kellene M Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW*

*Linda Jurging-Pereda*

*Brooke A Mueth*

*Kristina L Nail*

*Jaclyn J. Peterson*

*Rebecca A Rhein*

*Aaron R. Tighe*

## Honorary Members

*Kory May, MSW*

*Deborah F. Vogel, MSW, LCSW*



**"THROUGH KNOWLEDGE  
THE CHALLENGE TO  
SERVE"**

**"ONE MUST NOT ALWAYS THINK SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT ONE SHOULD DO, BUT RATHER ABOUT WHAT ONE SHOULD BE." Meister Eckhart**

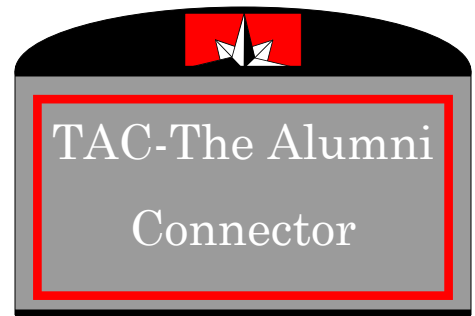


Department of Social Work  
Campus Box 1450  
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**REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE**  
**2ND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA**  
**ON MARCH 1, 2008**  
**MORRIS UNIVERSITY CENTER, MERIDIAN BALLROOM**

