



TAC The Alumni Connector

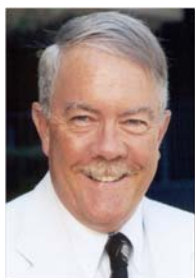
*SIUE Department of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences*

Volume 4 issue 2

Fall 2009

Greetings and Reflections

By Larry Kreuger, Ph.D., Department Chair and Professor



I am delighted to be the new Chair and Professor in the Department of Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

My door at Peck Hall is always open, and I look forward to meeting you the next time you are on campus. If you have not been on campus for awhile, you will understand why we were excited to learn in August 2009, that the SIUE campus has been selected by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the seven "up and coming" universities in the Midwest. The Department offers two professionally accredited programs that meet the requirements for licensure in Social Work in Illinois.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I began my academic career teaching sociology and social work courses in a small college in South Dakota in the late 1960's. As the youngest member of a sociology and anthropology department, I was given two social work courses to teach at the undergraduate level, but, I had no formal coursework or experience in social work. I scrambled about for help, finding a very friendly MSW who guided me through several years worth of course preparation, class exercises and community projects which helped make my instruction meaningful to sociology majors. In those days, there was no BSW degree!

In 1978, my spouse and I ventured forth from Aberdeen, SD to Saint Louis University both earning our MSWs. I worked in field placements with the St. Louis Mental Health Association and in two psychiatric clinics. Remaining in the School of Social Work at SLU to complete a PhD in 1983, I spent two years post-MSW working in a hypertension clinic at the John Cochran Medical Center located on North Grand Avenue. My dissertation was an investigation of help-seeking

among widowed women. I was offered a position at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1983 and stayed there for twenty-six years by commuting from our home in South St. Louis City to Columbia, before accepting the Chair position at SIUE in July 2009.

Jan and I were delighted to be invited the summer of 2008 to help build a new doctoral program in Social Work at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, spending a month there that year and again this past May-June of 2009. We have learned many things from our new friends in Africa and continue to be impressed at how people struggle to survive each day.

I have been very fortunate to have had numerous opportunities to do evaluation research in the greater St. Louis area on projects that introduced me to homelessness and the impact of disasters on children; and projects with the United Way, the Midland Division of the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities USA, the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and the Mark Twain Mental Health Center in Hannibal, MO. I am proud of my textbook in Social Work Research Methods which is in its second edition.

Students in my classes hear me declare that the present times are complex. Someone once said, *we never fully understand an experience until it is completed and occasionally years may pass before we finally figure it out.* The problems we face as professionals, in our various communities and in our global village, are likewise not going to submit to simple solutions. We are going to need *creative and inventive practitioners* in social work to lift up those who have been put down, to help redirect the energies of those who have given up, to strengthen those who are weakened, to non-judgmentally respond to all who seek our help...regardless of the their circumstances, backgrounds or memberships. This is the path we have chosen.

As I look back over 40 years as a professor and in all

Greetings and Reflections, continued

my years as a student the most important quality of those I came to appreciate above all others was *active listening*. Specialists tell us that passive listening is the very first skill we learn as we arrive in this life. Soon we learn to see, and talk and then finally to write. We spend considerable energy especially on this last skill, writing. Yet, it is the very first one that may need the most work. Practice your listening skills, and as Henry David Thoreau said, "...you will meet with success unexpected in common hours."

When you were graduated from college did you have more questions than you had when you started? Are you still looking for answers? As Chair of this Department, I hope the answer to both of these questions is yes. I hope you continue to question and continue to wonder and seek out better answers, and more efficient and effective interventions, more timely solutions that reduce pain and suffering.

Borrowing a story from another context, changing the setting and participants somewhat to fit our lives in social work, let us visit the tale of a social work alumna. After graduating with her social work degree, she heard about a mentor that supposedly lived on a mountain path somewhere in Tibet. This student saved her funds for air fare and equipment, finally getting a chance to make the long journey. After landing she rented a jeep and drove for several days into a valley where the mentor lived. Up she climbed, taking two days to make her way to the top. She wondered as she climbed why she encountered no one descending. Was she alone? She saw no one. Finally reaching

the top, she still found no evidence of any activity. She fell asleep, and had this dream.

Off to the south, she heard a voice. Yes, there was an elderly woman pointing a finger at her, asking her if she wanted help. "Indeed!" she declared, "I need your help. Are you the mentor?"

The older woman paused and said, "I'm not sure I know the answers my dear, but I know the questions."

"What questions?" said the social work graduate.

"There are three..." said the mentor. "First, you must ask 'When is the time?'"

"Second you must decide, 'Who are the people, who are to be involved?'"

"Third, you must figure out, 'What should I do?'"

To make sure she got it right the social worker repeated..."When is the time? Who are the people? and, 'What should I do?'"

"Yes", replied the mentor.

"Thanks!" said the recent grad as she started to leave...thinking her trip had not been in vain as she had been handed three critical questions....Just as she turned to leave the mentor called out..."Do you want the answers?"

"Oh, Of course, of course...what are the answers?"

The mentor paused for a moment and said: "*Young lady, (1) the time is NOW, (2) the people involved are WHO EVER YOU ARE WITH, and (3) what you must do, my dear, is CARE.*" — This story sums up my

Ethics Workshop presented by Natalie Holtzman 6 CEUS \$79.00/Registrants 4 or more from same agency 1/2 price, Student Rate 1/2 price. Free Parking

Registration: Call (618) 650-2663 Emily Coffin, Office of Conferences and Institutes

When: February 26, 2010 9:00–4:00 p.m. / Continental Breakfast, Lunch included

Where: St. Elizabeth Hospital, 211 South 3rd Street, Belleville, Illinois

Co-Sponsors: SIUE Department of Social Work and St. Elizabeth's Hospital- Care Coordination Department

Sharon Haar Retires—Thanks for the Memories

By Carol A. Wesley, PhD. and Judy Zimmerman, Office Support Specialist



Sharon Haar, Office Support Specialist for the Department of Social Work, will retire after 18 years of service at the end of this fall semester.

Sharon came to SIUE in September, 1992, and began her employment in the Chemistry Department working with Dr. Jason on a grant. She

transferred to the Department of Social Work in

August, 1997, where she has been a major support to faculty and students in both the undergraduate and graduate social work programs. Sharon's professionalism, support, and willingness to help beyond the scope of her assigned duties and responsibilities was acknowledged in February, 2008 when she was recognized as *Employee of the Month*.

As she retires, we thank her for her contributions to the success of our program and wish her well in her future endeavors. Sharon will be missed by everyone.

BSW Program Review

By Gerald V. O'Brien, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of the BSW Program



The BSW Program is currently in the midst of our Program Review conducted through the Office of Assessment. As part of this review, last spring students and faculty completed questionnaires pertaining to what they believe to be the major strengths and needs of the Program. The Department wrote a self-report related to the

Program in the summer, and a review team was constituted by the Assessment Office, which is within the Office of the Provost. We currently are completing student and faculty interviews, and hope to see and respond to the review committee's report prior to the end of this semester.

I am very proud of the strides we have made over the past few years to improve the BSW Program, and especially want to express my personal gratitude to Sharon Haar, who will be retiring at the end of this

semester. Over the past decade, Sharon has been instrumental in assisting students entering the Program, coordinating student schedules and assisting in overall Program operations. She has been an invaluable support for our BSW students, and will be sorely missed.

Other issues that we are currently looking at in the BSW Program include a review of our Senior Assignment and related assessment activities, and fine-tuning of our curriculum sequence plan. These issues are both important elements needed to prepare the Program for our next CSWE review, which will occur in a few years. We also are going to be looking at ways of recruiting students, both at the University and local community colleges.

Once again, I would like to thank our community stakeholders, alumni, agency and field placement supervisors and all the other people within the region who support our mission, and help us to carry out the

Retirement / Holiday Party

By Judy Zimmerman, Office Support Specialist

The Department of Social Work will host a **Retirement / Holiday Party on December 7, 2009** at the Morris University Center in the Maple-Dogwood Room from **4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Please join us to wish **Sharon Haar**, Office Support Specialist, the best in her retirement after 18 years of service at SIUE. Let's get into the season with an early celebration of the Holidays. All are invited to come and visit with your Alumni Friends, Faculty, Students and Staff as we celebrate with Sharon and enjoy **Hot Hors D'oeuvres, Cake, Coffee and Punch.**

Student Social Work Organizations



ABSSW, By Christian Cooper, MSW Student

My name is Christian Cooper, and I am the current President of the Association of Black Student Social Workers (ABSSW). ABSSW officers include; Vice President: Alesha Morrison, Treasurer: Carmelita Davis and Secretary: Nicole Bush. Our organization will commit to enhance the quality of campus life and empower people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services, and research. We hope to provide a structure and forum through which student members can exchange ideas, offer support, and develop programs in the interest of the black community as well as the student body. We also hope to create an atmosphere wherein academic and professional excellence and aspirations can coincide with minority interests.



SSWA, By Chealsi Fancil, BSW Student

The newly elected officers for the 2009/2010 school year are President – Chealsi Fancil, Vice President – Tracy Mathias; Secretary – Brittany Reynolds; Treasurer – Tara Artinger;

and Student Liaisons – Whitney Curry and Katie Whalen.

The Student Social Work Association is excited about their many upcoming activities. We plan to be involved in a community project called Bucket Brigade or Habitat for Humanity. Closer to Thanksgiving, we will be collecting hats and gloves. These items will be distributed to both children and adults who are in need. Also around this time, we will be collecting items to help provide a family with a Thanksgiving dinner. We plan on “adopting” a family for Christmas, and organizing a food drive to help local families in need around the holidays.

For the spring semester, we will once again be playing bingo at University Nursing home, which is always a big hit with the residents. We have also been looking into opportunities to help promote awareness regarding child abuse and domestic violence. We are looking forward to being involved in the community and the school, and look forward to the many activities we have planned for this year.



GSSWA, By Serene Tobey, MSW Student.

The Graduate Student Social Workers Association (GSSWA) has gotten off to a good start this year by confirming our officers and advisor: Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Bryan Duckham; 2nd year chair:

Serene Tobey; 1st year chair: Michelle Cates; Treasurer: Lacy Barkley; Secretary: Amanda Pound; Community Liaisons: April Schutz, Tara Rogers, Beverly Woody, and Ginger Hickman; Faculty Liaisons: Kendra Donaldson and Kayla Nickel.

We are looking forward to working with the new members of the committee. As our constitution states, we are here as a formal structure of communication between faculty, SIUE, and other students in the program and to offer opportunities for further professional development for our graduate students.

This year already, our students have been involved in activities benefiting the community. In September, our students raised over \$300 to participate in the 5K walk/run for freedom which benefited International Crisis Aid, an organization rescuing girls from human sex-trafficking. The money raised will go toward the construction of a 24 bed home located in St. Louis, MO for victims of human sex trafficking in the United States.

Currently, we have an ongoing clothing collection benefiting Call for Help, Inc., for their medical advocacy program for rape victims. After a rape, the police take all the clothing of the victim for evidence and the hospitals typically do not give away their scrubs. Therefore the medical advocates bring comfy clothing for the victims.

Later in the semester, we will be adopting a family for Christmas and will be involved in supporting food drives and toys for tots. Also, we are planning on having a trivia night on January 30, 2010 (tentative date, pending location) to bring some much needed revenue into our organization, along with community awareness of the social work graduate program at SIUE. So wish us luck, and we look forward to the coming year!

5K Run/Walk Participants:

Serene Tobey, April Schutz
and Amanda Pound



MSW Class of 2009 Hooding Ceremony

By Gary W. Crone, MSW Graduate

A graduation and hooding ceremony was held August 1, 2009 in Evergreen Hall for the MSW graduates. The new graduates were put to the test of overcoming obstacles sooner than they expected as the hall speaker system was not working. None the less, the celebration was a success as the 35 graduates, with faculty and their guests would not allow anything to dampen the day.

Dr. Kathleen Tunney, Dr. Carol Wesley and the new Chair of the Department of Social Work, Dr. Larry Kreuger, presented the graduates. Each graduate chose a family member or friend to assist with their hooding and received a certificate recognizing his/her accomplishments.

Graduate Janice Donaldson was selected by her peers to give the commencement address to her fellow

students. The celebration concluded with an outdoor photo of the MSW Class of 2009.



Summer Commencement 2009 Congratulations from Faculty and Staff !

Bachelors of Social Work

Kristen E. Browne, Diana R. Burch, Ashley C. Daniels, Maylena M. Daoud, Michelle D. Giles, Jennifer L. Haberer, Stephanie A. Hughes, Christina M. Kampwerth, Caitlin E. Kos, Jamie A. Rickert, Andrea R. Robben, and Tarah A. Rogers.

Masters of Social Work

Kacie L. Bendtsen, Claudette D. Bland, Latosha R. Blaylock, Ashley E. Buehnerkemper, Samantha C. Christie, Paul T. Cotton, Gary W. Crone, Amanda B. Davenport, Jessica P. Diel, Janice M. Donaldson, Autumn C. Dunham-Neubert, Nicole D. Eldred, Ashley M. Fensom, Brianna M. Fritsch, Elizabeth A. Hayn, Misty D. Jones, Caryn A. Lewis, Alesha M. Loudermilk, Matthew L. Matheny, Bernard Nutsukpui, Sarah Parks, Erika A. Pierce, Theresa A. Purchas, Beth A. Revell, Mallory C. Sample, Erin M. Schmitz, Rebecca R. Schmollinger, Janell E. Smart, Barbara G. Sweat, Karen E. Whitted, Lindsey B. Williams, Stephanie M. Young, and Shannon M. Zakrzewski



Congratulations to ALESHA MORRISON and RACHAEL FINLEY who received the Graduate Scholar Awards for the Fall 2009-Spring 2010 Semesters at SIUE

Today's Students Tomorrows Leaders

By Lovie Spencer-Thomas, MSW



I am Lovie Spencer-Thomas a graduate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Social Work program December 2003 BSW and December 2005 MSW.

I am currently employed at Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In March 2009, I

was promoted to Child Welfare Advanced Specialist.

At DCFS, I work with intact families and provide a wide range of services to families to ensure stability, safety and well being. I work very closely with the courts, police, mental health professionals, hospitals and many other community and governmental service providers. I believe that DCFS is a leader and innovator in providing services that promote and preserve families. I am very devoted and enjoy my work at DCFS.

After years of contemplation, I decided to return to

college to pursue higher education, and this fall, I began studies at Capella University in pursuit of a Doctorate of Philosophy in Human Service Degree. It is my aspiration to become an educator in the Social Work profession. I truly enjoy being a social worker. I love the challenges of working closely with families and communities, empowering and encouraging new behaviors, ideas and possibilities.

I am a wife and mother of two children. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. As when I was in college, I continue to be an active and involved member of my community, serving the youth of Springfield's eastside as Vice President of Pilgrim Rest Church Youth and Young Adult Ministry. I am also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, and this year will be my second year leading the Springfield's DCFS field office Thanksgiving Basket distribution program.

When time permits, I enjoy walking, shopping and joking. I love to laugh and to make others laugh; I find it fulfilling to laugh with others.

Phi Alpha: Xi Iota Chapter

By Carrie J. Pegg, MSW Student



It's a new chapter year for Phi Alpha: Xi Iota Chapter!

We are currently recruiting individuals to act as Secretary/Treasurer and as Vice President. Current president is graduate student Carrie J. Pegg

One change we are trying to implement this year is developing a Phi Alpha invitation list for undergraduate and graduate students two times during the academic year. This echoes the Phi Alpha constitution requirement of two meetings per chapter year.

We are also planning two fundraising events this

chapter year, but we need everyone's help to make it a success. The first fundraiser is tentatively scheduled to take place from November through December. We will be participating in holiday wrapping for Borders customers at the Borders in Edwardsville. Those Phi Alpha members that participate will be given a portion of the money raised to purchase needed items for either a past practicum site, or an upcoming site; this is our way of thanking various organizations for opening their doors to us and the larger community.

The second fundraiser, which will take place during the Spring, will be either a book drive or a book fair; further decisions will be made with Phi Alpha members' input.

Last, but certainly not least, it is also our goal this year to become an officially recognized organization at SIUE.

Alumni Corner

By Cheryl Logston, MSW, LCSW



Greetings from Belleville! I am Cheryl Logston, School Social Worker at Belleville Township High School East. I feel lucky to be working in a school that has such an atmosphere of support and collaboration. This is my fifth year at East, prior to my position here, I worked as the

Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Memorial Hospital in Belleville for 23 years. I was encouraged by a MSW peer to complete my own MSW. What a blessing it has been for me. I finished in the spring of 2000 and was hired by my practicum site: Regional Office of Education Safe School. I enjoyed the change of pace but in 2004, Memorial wooed me back to work in an older adult mental health day program. Because I had completed

the hours for my LCSW, new challenges were available to me. I loved it-loved being back at Memorial but opportunity knocked again with an opening where an SIUE friend and MSW program peer was working. Never downplay the importance of the contacts you make in your MSW program! And never downplay the versatility and flexibility of your MSW. There are so many opportunities for us out there!

I have been ever so grateful for the education I have received from SIUE and Carbondale (undergraduate). Doors open, relationships are made and your future has so many possibilities! I live in Swansea with my husband, Jim, and devoted parakeet, Louie. I am a member of First Baptist Church in Belleville where I serve on the Christian Education Committee.

Social Work Scholarship Gala—March 20, 2010

Dear Alumni:

Have you considered going to the Scholarship Gala held by the Social Work Department at SIUE? It is an enjoyable evening, seeing old friends, making new friends, and meeting the students currently enrolled in the Social Work program at SIUE. The GALA also provides insight into the many different areas that we, as social workers, can make a difference.

My husband and I have attended two of the three GALAS, and had a great time. Besides being able to hear good speakers and have a tasty dinner, your support helps to provide scholarships for students in the Social Work program.

Please consider coming to the next Scholarship Gala to be held on March 20, 2010, Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center. Hope to see old friends and make a few new ones.

Thank you.

Terri R. Smith, MSW, LCSW, (MSW Class of 1999)



Saturday, March 20, 2010

Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville Meridian Ballroom

Social Hour will begin at 5:00 pm
Dinner being served promptly at
6:00 p.m.

Featured Keynote Speaker

John P. Foppe

7:00 p.m.

Music, Cash Bar

Silent Auction

Tickets: \$50 each Table of 8/\$380

(\$35.00 per ticket tax deductible)

Reservations Required

Contact Judy Zimmerman (618) 650-5429

MSW Program: News and Notes

By Carl Bentelspacher, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of the MSW Program



The MSW Program has had a very active and successful beginning to the 2009-2010 academic year. As usual, our activities began with an Orientation Day for incoming MSW students on August 20th, the Thursday before classes began.

Over 50 students were in attendance, and they received a warm welcome and 'best wishes' for

a successful year from the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Al Romero, the Assistant Deans, and faculty and staff of our Department.

Representatives from the Writing Center, the Library, the Career Development Center, and the Speech Center were also present to inform students of the services they offer. Finally, our faculty described and answered questions about the curriculum and our expectations about student performance. A special thanks to Sharon Haar for getting together all the important materials for the student's Orientation Packet. Overall, student evaluations of the usefulness of the information provided at the Orientation were quite positive.

In another effort to promote collegiality in the Department, the MSW Curriculum and Policy Committee and the Graduate Student Social Work Association (GSSWA) jointly held a 'Faculty-Student

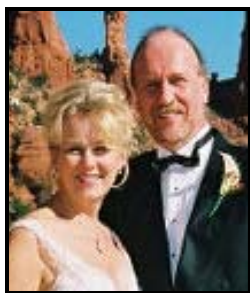
Social Gathering' on Monday evening, September 21. In addition to friendly conversation, a wide variety of food and soft drinks were consumed. Everyone who attended had a great time. A special thanks goes to Judy Zimmerman (Secretary) for her efforts in making the night a great success!

Regarding our course work, we have added a valuable new component to some of our practice courses – simulated clients. We recruited SIUE students to act as 'simulated clients' in role-plays of social worker – client interviews. Students have the opportunity to perform as social workers, under the direction of course Instructor, with simulated clients who have been trained to play an individual with a specific issue/challenge. Following the interview, the students are given constructive feedback by the simulated client (as the client), the Instructor, as well as from fellow students. This method of teaching social work practice skills has been successfully used in our undergraduate program for the past several years, with demonstrated effectiveness. We are pleased to offer our graduate students a similar learning experience.

Finally, I wish to report that our proposed new curriculum is still under review by the College. We very much hope for approval in the near future. We will keep you posted. Bye for now.

Minority Health Disparities

By Roger Boyd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor



Drs. Roger & Rita Boyd recently published the results of their research focusing on minority health disparities in the International Journal of Men's Health. Their intervention study, *Reaching Men at Highest Risk for Prostate Cancer*, has been funded since 2007 by annual grants from the Illinois

Department of Public Health. Their ongoing, community-based research has been a collaborative effort with the St. Clair County Health Department and East Side Health District and focused on the controversy around the risk-benefit balance of

screening: which men should be screened, the most appropriate screening mechanism, and interpretation of results.

In addition, they are exploring different approaches to reaching those men at highest risk: African-American men who have higher risk for developing prostate cancer and uninsured men who have higher risk for late diagnosis. Until all these issues are resolved, the most prudent, ethical approach to community-based prostate cancer screenings is to provide educational opportunities so men can make an informed decision on the risks and benefits of screening, and whether or not to be screened.

Making a Difference — Across the Miles

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

Social work Students in SOCW 491, Mental Health along with SSWA and students from the School of Nursing are making a difference across the miles somewhere in Afghanistan. Thanks to their generosity, the women of United States Army –Fox Company will be receiving 5 large boxes of basic needs items: tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, baby powder, gum, hard candies, shampoo, lotions, etc.

Accepting the care package items on behalf of the women of Fox Company is Dianne Carson, and 11 month old granddaughter, Savannah. Dianne is the mother of Meghan Alcala, SPC, who is stationed in Afghanistan, and serves as a heavy equipment mechanic for the United State Army-Fox Company. Dianne is a Psychiatric Nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.



Where have all the Alumni Gone?

Paul Cotton, MSW, 2009—Case Manager, BJC Behavioral Health Services, St. Louis, MO

Holly (Hayes) Cotton, MSW, 2008—Life Skills Counselor at Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

Erin Griebel, BA Social Work, 2000, associate with Rosenblum, Schwartz, Rogers & Glass, P.C. She obtained a J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and a Master's in Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, both in 2009. As a law student, Erin was selected to compete as a member of the Washington University Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team. In 2009, Erin was awarded a 7th place individual oral argument award out of over 200 competitors from around the world. . Erin's main areas of practice are criminal defense, and State and Federal Appeals.

Rebecca Schmollinger, BSW, 2008, MSW, 2009—Therapist, Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center, Springfield, IL

Amy Schweizer, BSW, 2005—Unified Delinquent Intervention Strategies Case Manager, Children's home and Aid Society, Granite City, IL

Rikki (Arnold) Scroggins, BSW, 2006—Director of Social Services, Meridian Village, Glen Carbon, Illinois.

Carolyn Yinger, BSW, 2005—Licensing Rep with Alton Catholic Charities

To appear in Where have all the Alumni Gone? Email information to Kellene M. Hamilton at kehamil@siue.edu or call 618-650-2620. Be sure to include your year of graduation and whether you graduated with BS, BA, BSW,

SIUE Department of Social Work

**“Where Crossroads of Academic Excellence and
Community Commitment Meet”**

Simulated Clients—Training Model in SW Classes

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph.D. and Bryan Duckham, Ph.D.



The Department of Social Work is committed to building students' practiced skills. We have a long tradition of lab-based instruction for these skills, and the feedback we get from community agencies—both field agencies and employers—is that SIUE students really know how to communicate; indeed, that their skills

are superior to those demonstrated by interns and staff members from a variety of schools and helping professions. So we must be doing something—a lot of things—right! One of those things is the use of simulated clients to enhance the lab practice experience.

Simulated clients are those persons trained to portray a client situation in a way that offers a more authentic experience than that available through traditional student-to-student role play. Students interact with the simulated client and receive feedback on their use of counseling skills from the client, the instructor, and peers in a small group setting. The method has been in use at SIUE since 1998, and in the last several years, we have institutionalized this method at the undergraduate level through the use of student fees to fund the recruitment, screening, training, implementation, and evaluation of simulated clients in all the required undergraduate practice courses. Most recently, we were successful in acquiring the same funding base for use of simulated clients at the graduate level in selected foundation and advanced practice courses.

Student and faculty outcome information suggests that students find the method both "...anxiety producing and very important" to their learning. Students are exposed to a training stimulus that more closely resembles an actual practice experience, without putting real clients at risk. Faculty find the method valuable for the same

reasons, as well as noting that students are more motivated to learn the concepts of counseling if they know that they will be "put to the test," so to speak, before they even get out into the field.



The history of this experiential method is a long one. The use of simulated clients originated in medical education where they have been known variously as "standardized patients" or "simulated patients." Indeed, in the State of Illinois, physicians must pass an examination with a standardized

patient in order to be licensed. This examination is geared toward evaluating the candidate's knowledge of medicine, but also their ability to engage the patient in a dialogue to gather the information needed to use that medical knowledge for diagnosis and treatment. Our own Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield is and has always been one of the biggest proponents of this training method, and for years had as a faculty member Howard Barrows, one of the preeminent scholars in this area.

The simulation method in medicine has been extensively studied through research, and compares favorably with other more traditional methods of training and evaluation of clinical skills in a variety of medical and allied health specialties. The development of standardized cases and training of simulators is crucial to the reliability and validity of the method, and can be tailored to the subject matter and learning needs of the educational group—university, community, or clinic based. There is simply no substitute for "the real thing," and for training and evaluation of helping professionals, we can come close to the real thing through the use of simulation.

GALA Committee Seeking Nominations for March 20, 2010 Community Commitment Awards

SIUE, Department of Social Work Scholarship Gala Committee is seeking nominations for *Humanitarian Award*, *Social Worker of the Year Award* and *Outstanding Agency/Organization Award*. These nominees exemplify the best of the profession's values and mission. We encourage agencies/organizations to share this information about the Community Commitment Awards with employees and include it in their newsletters.

Recipients of the awards and nominators will be notified by the Scholarship Gala Committee prior to the event. To ensure candidates eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines.

Nomination guidelines can be obtained by calling Judy Zimmerman at 618-650-5429 or by e-mailing Gala Committee

MSW Student - Research Project Coordinator

By April Schutz, MSW Student



In September of 2009, April Schutz accepted the position of Project Coordinator for the *Violence Prevention for Adolescent Girls with Prior Maltreatment Project* at Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work. This project, which is the

School's largest research project under their Center for Violence and Injury Prevention grant, is a 5 year study aimed at adapting an evidence-based trauma treatment program for adolescent girls in foster care who have experienced trauma. As Project Coordinator, April is responsible for coordinating all of the details of the project from writing and submission of the application to the Internal Review Board to ensuring that each wave of the project runs smoothly.

Girls in foster care typically experience multiple forms of childhood trauma and exhibit serious mental health and behavior problems that lead to abusing drugs and alcohol, engaging in risky sexual behavior, expressing aggressive and violent behaviors, and re-victimization. Identifying and implementing programming that is effective in reducing trauma symptoms; replacing maladaptive coping strategies; reducing aggressive/violent behaviors, intentions, and beliefs; increasing self-efficacy and social problem solving skills; and preventing re-victimization is the goal of the project.

After spending ten years in direct service, I entered SIUE's MSW program to pursue my goal of moving into macro practice. The knowledge I've gained in macro practice classes and through research projects have been invaluable and have directly contributed to the opportunity I was given at Washington University.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Department of Social Work

2009 Scholarship Gala Community Commitment Awards Nomination Form

Please check the award for which the candidate is being nominated and provide detailed information that meets the aforementioned criteria:

☐ **Humanitarian Award** ☐ **Social Worker of the Year Award** ☐ **Outstanding Agency/Organization Award**

Complete below Description of Nominee's Achievements, Contributions, and/or Activities: Attach additional page if needed and other information (i.e., resume, letters of support, history of volunteer work, or news articles featuring the nominee).

Nominee: _____

Current Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Home or Business Address: _____

Nominator: _____

Current Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Home or Business Address: _____

Deadline for Nominations December 16, 2009

Mail Nomination Forms and supporting documents to:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Department of Social Work

Attn: Judy Zimmerman, Office Support Specialist

Campus Box 1450

Edwardsville, Illinois 62026-1450

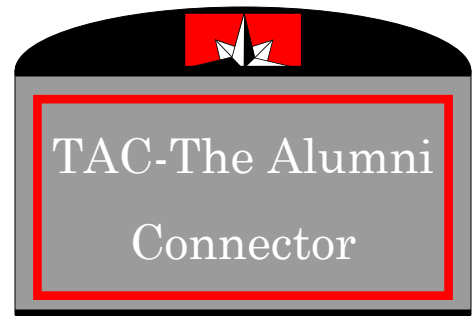
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FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA ON

MARCH 20, 2010 5:00—9:30 P.M.

MORRIS UNIVERSITY CENTER, MERIDIAN BALLROOM



John P. Foppe

Author of "What's Your Excuse?
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