

# TAC-The Alumni Connector

Volume 2, Issue 2

Winter 2006-2007

## Adjunct Professor Travels to Cuba

By Marianne Wilson, MSW



Cuba is geographically close yet remote to many Americans. I learned many surprising things and was deeply impressed on a visit to this beautiful little country in May of 2006.

The Bringing Hope Foundation of Miami escorts American travelers to Cuba under the current federal regulations. Each traveler is

asked to bring twenty pounds of donated school supplies and/or medical supplies, the kind you can get over-the-counter at pharmacies and discount stores. This requirement enriched our experience, as it enabled us to visit a rural school as well as the Catholic Charities office in Havana to bring our donations and learn a little bit about education, health care and social services in Cuba.

Cuba is a bundle of contradictions. In sharp contrast to the United States, all Cuban citizens are provided excellent education and health care. But Cubans are limited by lack of economic resources and opportunities.

The literacy rate in Cuba is reported to be 98%. All schools are public, and students learn in small classes (13 to 15) taught by a teacher and an assistant. We were told that when Castro assumed power he sent teachers up into the mountains and to all the rural areas to instruct every last farmer to read. Higher education is tailored to individual aptitude, and state support is provided for the brightest students to go to University. Sadly, Cubans' economic opportunities are limited by the fact that they cannot easily get permission to leave the country.

All Cubans have access to good quality medical care under a socialist health care model. We learned that Cuba trains many more physicians than it needs and

donates their services to African and South American countries. There is a pharmaceutical industry in Havana. And yet some basic products are still beyond the reach of many Cuban families because of their poverty. The significant need for basic first aid supplies began to be more evident to me in the Miami airport; many of the Cubans and Cuban-Americans boarding our flight to Havana were carrying huge bundles filled with packages of aspirin, ibuprofen, antibiotic ointments and other such medications.

Under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul Society the Catholic Charities office in Havana operates health care, social service and prison ministries very similar to what they do in the United States.

No one goes hungry in Cuba. There is a ration booklet system in use for food purchases similar to what was used in the United States during the Second World War, but the financial support comes from the government. People can also make purchases at traditional open air produce and meat markets as their incomes allow. Some families eat better than others, but every family, no matter its income, is provided the means to get enough groceries.

The people of Cuba went through a period of severe austerity during the 1990's after the Soviet system collapsed and financial support from Russia stopped. Fidel Castro addressed the Cuban people in 1992 and warned them that this was coming. He termed it "el periodo especial" - the special period - and predicted fairly accurately that it would last about ten years. It was a very difficult time. Hunger and malnutrition became significant problems. It has been reported that the average Cuban lost 20 pounds during this period. Natural gas, gasoline and electricity were in very short supply. Farming methods had to be converted to the old ways that did not rely on machinery; oxen were put back into service, chemical pesticide use was discontinued and natural pesticides and fertilizers



# Chair's Message—Winter Greetings

By Venessa Brown, Ph.D.—Associate Professor and Department Chair



Happy New Year! I hope your new year is a start of new beginnings. Last fall marked an opportunity for a new direction and change for the Department of Social Work at SIUE. We have had a delightful yet

challenging fall semester. It has been truly a season of change. We have collectively come together and developed a shared vision with both short and long term goals. Many of these goals were borne out of communications with our alumni and community partners. You requested that we become more visible in the community, and we have done just that. We are embarking on several initiatives to achieve this goal. For example:

- Kellene Hamilton, our Practicum Liaison along with one of our adjunct faculty, Deborah Vogel developed our new department slogan, "Where Crossroads of Academic Excellence and Community Commitment Meet."
- Three faculty, Drs. Boyd, Tunney and myself conducted a community assessment for SIUE Head Start.
- In September, I conducted a diversity workshop for the staff at the Illinois Center for Autism, which was well received.
- In the Spring, I will conduct a workshop for the Riverbend Head Start on "Finding strengths when engaging families."
- Dr. Carol Wesley, our Director of Practica, and myself had the pleasure of visiting four social services agencies in the region this fall. We were greeted with anticipation, smiles and appreciation that we would visit our community partners and get first hand knowledge of how our students were doing. This experience was very good for Dr. Wesley and me as it gave us an opportunity to see the impact that our students are having on the community in which we serve. One Practicum Supervisor stated, "SIUE has the best prepared students when it comes to practice." Our goal is to continue our community visits this spring, and to make this an ongoing goal of the Department.

- We were also awarded a grant from the graduate school to enhance graduate education through community engagement. This initiative will allow us to travel to more community agencies, re-engage our social work board, and enhance our graduate program materials.

So as you can see we are moving forward to become visible and excellent in all we do. One of our major accomplishments this past fall was a new social work library. Many of the faculty donated books and journals that allowed us to open the first social work library in the Department. We utilized one of our micro labs for library space. The library has been very beneficial to students, and many of the students have commented on how nice it is to have the social work encyclopedia, dictionary and all types of journals immediately accessible.

We are also building community among ourselves. Last fall, right before the semester started, we had our first faculty retreat at Pere Marquette Lodge. The adjunct faculty were also invited and there were five of them in attendance. An orientation was provided for adjunct faculty to orientate them to the department and university. The event was a time for us to collectively embark on new goals and a shared vision for the Department. We had a lot of fun and accomplished our goals for the retreat.

September and October were busy months for us preparing for our Reaffirmation of the MSW Program. We were visited by three faculty from other institutions for three full days, and we were allowed to tell "our story". Although there were a few concerns in which we needed to tell our story a little clearer, we were delighted that they found eleven strengths in our program that exceeded adequate. We look forward to our continued growth as we strengthen our program to be one of the best in the region, state and nation.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, we had our first social work holiday gathering celebrating our alumni, community partners and current students. Our Dean, Dr. Kent Neely, Associate Dean, Dr. Carl Springer, College of Arts and Sciences Development Director, Marilyn Marsho, Assistant Provost, Dr. Sue Thomas, Alumni Director, Steve Jankowski, Dr. Howard Ramsey (English) and many of our community partners, students, faculty and friends graced us with their presence at our gathering. More importantly, it was a delight to hear our Dean talk with passion about Jane Addams, a social work pioneer. His knowledge of her life and contributions to the field of (See page 3— Chair's Message...)

# Community Service and Collaboration

By Roger Boyd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor



Senior, Daad Hariri represented the SIUE Social Work Department admirably at the Martha Welch Research Day held October 3<sup>rd</sup> by the SIUE School of Nursing. Daad was asked to join a panel of health care professionals discussing

issues of health care in a multi-cultural society. Daad recounted her experiences from a Lebanese-American perspective in accessing services in the U.S. health care system and fielded questions as a panel member. Daad's participation in the Martha Welch Research Day event was a continuation of the collaborative efforts that have evolved between SIUE's Department of Social Work and the School of Nursing over the last several years.

On Saturday, October 14, 2006 Stephanie Garner and Kim Grubaugh volunteered at the Collinsville site of Habitat for Humanity as part of SOCW-400. They learned how to install insulation and dry wall. Along with the manual labor aspect of volunteering, Stephanie and Kim were able to speak with the

owner of the house and the coordinators of the site. They enjoyed their time volunteering because it gave them a chance to learn about the various aspects of community organizations and to give something back to the community.

Assistant Professor Roger Boyd just returned from the 135<sup>th</sup> annual American Public Health Association conference in Boston, Massachusetts where he presented a paper on "Teaching Policy Advocacy for Tomorrow's Social Work Professionals." Dr. Boyd declared it to be one of the most engaging conferences that he had been to in the last several years. While at Boston he also attended a presentation by members of the "Brotherhood Project" from Chicago's South Side. Their approach to men's health in the Woodlawn area closely parallels what Roger and Dr. Rita Arras from SIUE School of Nursing are in the early stages of developing with their "Healthy Fathers, Healthy Families" project in conjunction with the St. Clair County Health Department, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation and the East Side Health District. An effort to bring some of the team members down to Southwestern Illinois to present their project is currently underway. Dr. Boyd is a Section Councilor for the Social Work section of the APHA and is looking for

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## Southern Illinois University Edwardsville-Department of Social Work

### Where Crossroads of Academic Excellence and Community Commitment Meet

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## Chair's Message—Winter Greetings

(Continued from page 2)

social work was impressive. The gathering was enjoyed with over 150 people attending.

On **March 9, 2007**, we will have our first **Scholarship Gala** during National Social Work Month. The Scholarship Gala will be the Department's first initiative to develop funds in support of future social work students toward the completion of their education at SIUE. We hope to have at least 300 participants, and we would love to have you join us. The tickets will be \$50.00 each and will include a sit-down dinner. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting Judy Zimmerman at 618-650-5429. More

information about the event is found in this TAC Newsletter on pages 10 and 11.

Thank you on behalf of the faculty, staff and students for your continued support of the Department of Social Work, and we look forward to fulfilling our goals with your involvement. Please feel free to keep in touch with the department by contacting us at 618-650-2450 or email us at [vbrown@siue.edu](mailto:vbrown@siue.edu).

Happy New Year!

Venessa A. Brown, Ph.D.

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# MSW Program Director: News and Notes

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph.D., Associate Professor



There is a lot going on in the MSW program, and we are very pleased with our progress this fall! As our Chancellor noted in his “State of the University” address recently, SIUE is on the move—our momentum as a premier metropolitan university is growing, and the Social Work program is proud to be a part of

that. Watch us grow! We are building on the best and reaching for the most, all across the campus.

**First**, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) site team came for a visit in the first week of October. The team left us with a very “do-able” exit report which reflects both the strengths of our program and the things we need to work on for continuous program renewal, consistent with the standards for accredited programs. In February, the Commission on Accreditation (a sub group within the CSWE) will review our Self-Study, the site team report, and our program’s response to the site team report. We anticipate that the Commission will at that time grant our MSW program re-affirmation of accreditation, for the standard period of eight years.

**Second**, we are now beginning to focus our attention on curriculum revision. We have been gathering information for quite a while about what our community agencies, students, alumni, employers and field instructors think about our curriculum including

their suggestions for change. We are also putting this information together with the mission, vision, and values of the university; the College of Arts and Sciences; the Graduate School; and our own Department-level mission, goals, and objectives. As you can tell, this is a very major project which must balance many competing factors—and get people graduated with viable skills in a timely manner!

**Third**, we are in the planning stages for a recruitment and marketing campaign for the MSW program. We have a very solid program, and we need to get out in the community and tell people about it! We are “recruiting” people to help us do this, so if you have interest in going to visit area colleges (including other departments at SIUE), or in hosting a recruitment team to come to your agency and promote our MSW program, please let us know. We also have recently received a grant from the university from a program entitled “SAGE” (Strategic Action for Graduate Education). This grant will help us go out into the community and promote our availability to partner with community agencies for research and projects, as well as to seek students who are interested in graduate-level study.

**Fourth**, we are planning a series of conference and social events for next spring, to coincide with and complement the SIUE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Social Work Month, and Women’s History Month.

Please share with us your thoughts about the knowledge, skills, and values that you think are most important for MSWs to have. Don’t delay—the time is now to share your views with us. E-mail: [ktunney@siue.edu](mailto:ktunney@siue.edu)

## MSW Field Instructor Training

By Carol Wesley, Ph.D., Director of Practica



The Department of Social Work held its annual Field Instructor Training Program on September 15, 2006. Agenda items included conducting a successful agency orientation, effective field supervision, understanding learning styles, integrating theory and practice, ethical issues in field education,

and feedback and evaluation. About twenty field instructors, who received continuing education credit for the day-long workshop, participated in the training and provided insightful questions and comments to the discussions. Field Instructors are the heart of our program and provide valuable service to our profession, clients, students and University. We thank you for this service and participating in a stimulating and productive training program!



# Fall 2006 Graduates

## Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!

### Masters of Social Work

Melanie Allen, Carla Barten, Tracy Bramlett, Cassandra Buskohl, Kathryn Davis, Dixie Edwards, Grant Guetterman, Jamie Helfrich, Larry Henderson, Laurie Henken, Diane Irwin, Marian Jones, Elizabeth Knight, Nancy Laidley, Dane Lenington, Alyssa Martin, McGandra Ray, Andrea Robertson, Leah Rollinson, Linda Sanders, Sarah Schone, Jessica Shields, Meghan Winter, and

Amy Wort

### Bachelor of Arts

Latasha Roberson

### Bachelor of Science

Brian Bechtel, Michelle Brooks, Elisha Coston, Destini Crockett, Amanda Davenport, Connie Kirkland, Rebecca Michels, Ashley Nelson, Tina Perryman, Heather Polczynski, Stephanie Schwend,



## 2006-2007 SSWA Officers and Fall Activities

**Faculty Advisor: Shirley Rakers, MSW**

Undergraduate Student Social Work Association names its new **Officers for 2006-2007** as follows:

**President: Tricia Cruz**

**Vice-President: Christie Tieman**

**Secretary: Abby Wand**

**Treasure: Kendra Wall**

**Student Liaisons: Ashley Fensom, Ashley Colley, Bonnie Landwehr, and Megan Skrabacz**

**Thanksgiving Day:** Students served meals at St. Luke's Parish Hall, Belleville, Illinois and St. Vincent De Paul's, East St. Louis, Illinois, and provided Thanksgiving Baskets for two families.

**Annual "Glove and Hat Tree":** Gloves and hats were donated to students in need at Kreitner Elementary School, Collinsville, Illinois.

**"Adopt a Family" project:** Two families celebrated Christmas as a result of the SSWA adopt a family project.

Thanks to all who gave of their time and generosity!

## Student Social Work Association News

**By Shirley Rakers, MSW, Director BSW Program**



Once again the Student Social Work Association was busy spreading holiday cheer during the fall semester. Students provided Thanksgiving baskets for two families, collected hats and gloves for a local grade school, and adopted two families for which they purchased

presents and gathered food to ensure a happy holiday.

As is tradition, social work students are more than generous with their hard earned and often limited monies

when it comes to providing for needy families in the SIUE region.

Students will be meeting again in January to plan for events for the spring semester.

This semester is usually set aside for students to become involved with social justice activities affecting residents in the metro-east area. Activities might include lobbying for current legislation, assisting in fund raising events for victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse or raising awareness for a special population. Since advocacy is an integral part of the social work profession, these activities promote student awareness of the needs of our communities.

# Today's Student Tomorrow's Leader

By Jean Buchana, MSW, LCSW



As an SIUE Alumni, my educational history exemplifies the term “non-traditional student”. Surely there are some that remember that SIUE was initially located in East St. Louis. I began my college education there, completing two years before leaving to get married. The school was a small and close community, and I enjoyed working for

Registrar, Dorris Wilton.

After my son, Michael, and daughter Kathy, had started school, I returned to SIUE to complete my BS in Psychology. Financial conditions necessitated that I go to work so I began my social service career working with adults who had mental, emotional and physical challenges. Seven years later, I took on a new challenge working as a social service worker and counselor with abused and neglected children placed in a residential group home. I helped initiate a transitional living program for teen girls to prepare them for independent

living. After 11 years, I felt like I had given all I could to this population and I was ready for a change.

My children were now grown and I had divorced. My dream and goal had been to return to college and earn a Masters in Social Work. I applied, and was accepted into the first class in the MSW program at SIUE, starting in 1997. I was both ecstatic and petrified! I continued to work fulltime and took classes at night. It was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. My sister Margie, my best friend Sharon, and my daughter Kathy, were my major supporters. I graduated with my MSW in 1999.

I have been working since 1998 with Family Hospice in Belleville, Illinois. I obtained my LCSW and became their Social Service Director. Hospice has my heart. Our mission is to provide social, emotional, physical, and spiritual support to the dying and their families so they may enjoy quality of life. It is a great privilege to accompany the dying on their journey, and we learn much from them.

My own quality of life is enhanced by my significant other, Russ, and my seven beautiful grand-daughters. The circle of life continues.

## Graduate Student Social Work Association (GSSWA)

By Leah Orwig, MSW Student

The Graduate Student Social Work Association (GSSWA) is very pleased and proud to be a part of the Master's in Social Work program at SIUE. At the MSW orientation this August, the passion and excitement observed in the incoming advanced standing students and 1<sup>st</sup> year regular standing students, made it easy for the faculty, staff, and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to offer a warm welcome for them to the program.

The enthusiasm and warmth experienced throughout the many levels of the department developed into supportive and productive working relationships and newfound friendships. As some of you alums might remember, the grad lounge is quite the hub of activity and a place for gathering, sharing ideas and passion for social work. This is where the energy to reorganize GSSWA began.

GSSWA has begun the process of becoming a recognized student organization by the campus

community, which includes revising our constitution. To ensure the student voice is heard; GSSWA has developed and distributed surveys to all grad students to track what they feel are the strengths of our program and to gather suggestions for the ongoing MSW program. Another emergency survey was developed to track graduate assistants' perspective on a tuition waiver cut which could be implemented next year for the part-time grad assistants. These surveys and meeting notes have been dispersed to all grad students through use of the blackboard internet communication site which Dr. Boyd has facilitated for GSSWA.

Not all of what GSSWA does is work. We also organized a bowling/games night at the SIUE bowling alley. We never knew Dance Dance Revolution could be such a workout. We hope to organize more social/community service events at the end of the semester, especially with the undergrad social work group. GSSWA encourages faculty and alums to participate as well.

# Adjunct Professor Travels to Cuba

(Continued from page 1)

veloped. Thousands of bicycles were imported and many more were manufactured. Cuban families learned by trial and error to grow their own gardens in containers and on whatever soil they had. Many other changes were implemented. After a period of adjustment and adaptation, hunger is no longer a problem and the “special period” appears to be behind the country now. In fact Cuba is now considered a model of how to convert to a sustainable economy. And yes, the 1950’s-era Chevrolets that are seen in photos are very common. They are the last of the American cars that were imported to Cuba prior to the implementation of the U.S. embargo on Cuba, and Cubans are ingenious at keeping these cars running and beautiful looking. They apply that creative ingenuity to many aspects of their lives. Cubans also drive European and Russian cars. For the many that do not have autos there are busses, three wheeled motor taxis and bicycle taxis. Even the thumb is state supported; government vehicles are required by law to give rides to hitchhikers.

The crime rate in Cuba is low and the streets are considered very safe day or night even in Havana, a city of two and a half million.

For decades after the Revolution the expression of religious faith was suppressed in this largely Christian former Spanish colony. That restriction has slowly eased over the years of Castro’s rule; churches are now allowed to participate in community life and Cubans have resumed attending worship services.

Old Havana, Trinidad de Cuba and other colonial areas of the country have been designated by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) as World Heritage Sites, and there is money being spent for the preservation of the beautiful old buildings and cobblestone streets. Many old homes and government buildings in Havana have already been restored or currently have scaffolding indicating ongoing preservation work. Some of the financial support for this restoration work is provided by European countries.

The quality of housing remains very poor – cramped, airless and sometimes lacking electricity - for many

Cubans, but Cuba proclaims proudly that not one of its citizens is homeless.

The arts are financially supported by the government. There is a beautiful Art Museum in Havana filled with paintings, sculptures and other visual arts. Ironically, much of the art on open display in this state-supported museum expresses bitterness about governmental repression of free expression of ideas.

We attended a performance of Madame Butterfly at the Metropolitan Opera, the tickets for which cost about a dollar due to the government subsidy. The audience was dressed very casually - like what you would see people wearing to attend a movie theatre in the United States. They were everyday Cubans of all races and limited financial means whose basic education had fostered an appreciation of fine arts.

Cuba used slaves during the same period and in the same ways that they were used in the American States. One result is that music, cooking, religious practice and other expressions of Cuban culture are a mix of Spanish and African influence. Cubans of all heritages appear to mix more easily than Americans do; in public places

where people gathered we simply did not see people grouped separately by skin color the way Americans tend to do. There is a park in Havana where it is said that baseball is discussed 24/7 among gatherings of men.

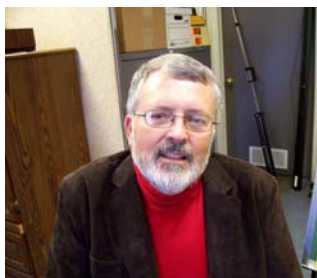
In spite of many hardships and restrictions experienced by the people of Cuba, we found live music, beautiful art and craft work, delicious cuisine and friendship everywhere we went in Cuba. Cubans appeared to us to be about the most resourceful

group of people any of us had ever encountered. We left with the impression of a country that has a lot to teach the world, a country that is progressive in some significant ways, repressive in other ways. We had mixed feelings about the effects of the embargo; we feel it has preserved the integrity of the Cuban culture and landscape while cutting off the people from much needed exchange and support. Of the fourteen people in our tour group, there are about ten of us who continue to learn about Cuba through frequent exchanges of e-mails, books, press articles and films. The Bringing Hope Foundation can be reached by e-mailing:



## Practicum Spotlight

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW



The winter 2006-2007 TAC Practicum Spotlight shines on William "Bill" Hatter former Assistant Director at Big Brothers Big Sisters, Belleville, Illinois and the recipient of the Big Brother Big Sisters of America Skip Walsh award (1999). The

Skip Walsh award is presented to an outstanding CEO of the organization for leadership and involvement in the development of new leaders.

Prior to receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work (1972) from the College of Social Professions at the University of Kentucky, Hatter earned his undergraduate degrees (1966) from Western Kentucky University where he majored in both Sociology and

Psychology and later served in an adjunct teaching role.

Hatter came to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Belleville office in 2000. He provided practicum field supervision for SIUE Social Work students for six years. When asked what he most like about being a field instructor, he replied, "It helps keep you young working with people (students) who want to learn, and it provides you with the opportunity to take a professional look at someone who might become your next employee."

Hatter retired from Big Brothers Big Sisters November 15, 2006 after 24 years of service to the organization. The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Social Work faculty, staff, and students appreciate the contributions Hatter made to the professional growth and development of our students and offer him best wishes in his retirement.

## Community Partner

By Barbara A. Cempura, President and CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois

In 1980, a group of social workers from what was then called Belleville Area Special Education District, founded Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois. They hoped to serve children in the Belleville Area by matching them with a Big Brother or Big Sister volunteer. Today, their dream has turned out to be much bigger than ever imagined. More than 1,200 children from Clinton, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Counties are enrolled in the program and an additional 1,400 children are being served through group programs in area schools.

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sister of Southwestern Illinois is to help youth reach their potential through a "Match" with positive role models and mentors. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves this mission with professionally trained staff that carefully works with the volunteers, children and their families to ensure that their experience is rewarding and fulfilling for all parties.

Results of a research study conducted by

Public/Private Ventures of a group of 1,000 of at-risk children, found that children matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister were:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school, and
- 33% less likely to engage in violent behavior

The dream of the social workers who founded Big Brothers Big Sisters 26 years ago began with one part-time staff serving 25 children in the first year and had grown to an agency with 18 professional staff serving well over 2,400 at-risk youth in one-to-one mentoring and prevention services to groups of students in schools.

For information about volunteering, making a contribution or employment opportunities, call 618-398-3162, e-mail to [bbbsbell@peaknet.net](mailto:bbbsbell@peaknet.net) or go to our website: [www.bbbsil.org](http://www.bbbsil.org)

COME TO THE SCHOLARSHIP GALA — MARCH 9, 2007

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 10 & 11



## Alumni Corner

By Desi Jellen, BSW, CA



Hi, I'm Desi Jellen. I was graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Since then, I have worked as a victim advocate. My first job was with the Oasis Women's Center in Alton, Illinois, following my practicum. I was the legal advocate which

meant that I assisted victims of domestic violence with obtaining Orders of Protection in various counties. I also provided transportation and support for domestic violence victims in other legal matters whether they were divorce hearings or criminal prosecutions. Sometimes, I accompanied victims, escorted by police officers, to their homes to secure personal possessions and other articles in the process of moving them away from violence in the home. When I was not in court, I provided individual and group counseling and helped clients create service plans so they could escape the violence in their lives.

I learned a great deal at Oasis which prepared me for my current position as Victim/Witness Specialist with the Madison County State's Attorneys Office. I've been here since 1989, and I assist victims of all violent crimes advocating for them in the Criminal Justice System. I continue to assist with the filing of Orders of Protection in domestic violence cases; but now, I also work with family members of those who have been murdered, and victims of reckless homicide, aggravated

battery, home invasion and sexual abuse and assault. I provide case status, referrals and networking for counseling agencies and the Attorney General's Victim Compensation Fund. Additionally, I also assist the attorneys in the office, maintaining contact with victims of violent crimes by scheduling appointments, trial preparation, and restitution information. Occasionally, I am privileged to speak in the community, educating others about domestic violence and the court system. In fact, I recently had the honor of appearing as a guest speaker in the elective course on Domestic Violence offered in the Fall Social Work program at SIUE taught by Kellene Hamilton.

Being a victim's advocate, is challenging and rewarding, and I believe that I make a difference for those experiencing violent crimes. In 2004, I became a Credentialed Advocate (CA) at the advanced level with a specialty in comprehensive victim intervention.

I have been married to Steve Jellen for 20 years this November 2006, and we have a beautiful 13 year old daughter named Hannah. Most of my free time involves taking Hannah from one music lesson to another. She plays the violin and the piano and participates in the SIUE Suzuki Program. For fun, I enjoy cooking various ethnic dishes, including Indian, Mexican, and Spanish cuisine. I find pleasure walking, reading, and watching movies, especially anything along the lines of *The Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter*! My favorite walking companions are Hannah and our Border collie, Fiona. I really enjoyed my time at SIUE, and I am proud to



Faculty Retreat at Pere Marquette Lodge, August 2006



Holiday Gathering, December 2006

*An  
Invitation  
for Social Work  
Scholarship  
Gala*

Friday, March 9, 2007

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Meridian Ballroom

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

Our Featured Keynote Speaker will be

**Julius K. Hunter**

At 7:00 p.m.

Music

Cash Bar

Silent Auction

Tickets: \$50 each    Table of 8 \$400

## Keynote Speaker “Julius K. Hunter”

First annual Scholarship Gala being held to raise money for students seeking scholarship benefits for an education leading to a Bachelor and/or Masters Degree in Social Work, will feature Julius K. Hunter as the Keynote Speaker.

Hunter is currently Vice President for Community Relations at St. Louis University. A former teacher, Hunter has a keen interest in the educational growth and development of young people. He has served on the adjunct faculties of Maryville University, St. Louis University, Harris-Stowe State College and Washington University as an instructor in Communications and Broadcast Journalism.

In September 2000, Hunter founded the *Julius K. Hunter & Friends Research Collection*. This research collection offers African Americans the opportunity to conduct genealogical research using microfilms of census data dating back to 1870, maps, books, plantation records, and ship manifests.

Before joining the staff of St. Louis University, Hunter celebrated 33 years of exciting service to the St. Louis area from his position as senior anchor and reporter at Channel 4 (CBS) and a similar position at Channel 5 (NBC). His news assignments have taken him across

the state, country, and world. He is the only St. Louis reporter, and one of few journalists in the nation, who has conducted exclusive one-to-one interviews with five incumbent U. S. Presidents.

Hunter is the author and co-author of several outstanding books of which *Kingsbury Place: The First 200 Years*, and *Westmoreland and Portland Places-1888-1988* still stands today as the University of Missouri Press' all-time bestseller. Hunter also has an avocation for music. He founded and conducted a college choir, and in 1966, he was given the honor of conducting the Bach Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at its Christmas Candlelight Concert at Powell Symphony Hall.

Hunter is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the “Media Person of the Year” (1993), Catholic Youth Council’s “Lifetime Achievement Award” (1998), *Martin Luther King, Junior Renaissance 2000 Award* by the Missouri State M. L. King Celebration Committee and the “Quest Award” from the Missouri Press Women’s Association (2002).

Given Hunter’s illustrious career, it is not surprising that the dean of broadcast journalism, Walter Cronkite, described Hunter as a “consummate newsman”, and Governor Matt Blunt referred to him as “an integral and influential part of the St. Louis Community.”



# Rosemary Kennedy

By Gerald O'Brien, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Rosemary Kennedy died two years ago this January. The oldest daughter in this most famous of American political families is usually described by historians simply as "John Kennedy's mentally retarded sister" who underwent a botched lobotomy in 1942, when she was in her early twenties, and was institutionalized (in reality though, she lived in a private residence on the institution's grounds) in Wisconsin for the remainder of her life. Both her life experience and her objectification by historians, however, are instructive in relation to a number of important social work considerations. The two that I would like to briefly focus on here are her "diagnosis" and the psychosurgery.

While most scholars who wrote about the family simply parroted the belief that Rosemary was mentally retarded, there is not only little corroborating evidence for this assumption, but the diagnosis itself is discussed in an inappropriate "essentialist" way. In other words, scholars discuss whether Rosemary "was" or "was not" mentally retarded (in the nomenclature of the time, she likely would have been diagnosed as a "moron," the highest functioning category within the feeble-minded

classification), giving little attention to the fact that the diagnosis, especially during her developmental years was not only rudimentary but largely a matter of social construction. In other words, whether a person was diagnosed as feeble-minded was based largely on geographic, family, social class, and, especially in the case of morosity, sexual and moral issues. Even early IQ tests, the most "objective" form of measurement, were heavily weighted to an urban, white, middle-class EuroAmerican test population. In considering Rosemary, for example, the presumption of her intellectual deficits certainly had much to do with her parent's high expectations of their children and the fact that her 'referent group,' which was her siblings, was very well endowed, both intellectually and physically.

The second issue I want to briefly take up is the lobotomy, which left Rosemary with severe physical and mental deficiencies. In this sense, Rosemary is one of many whose conditions can be termed iatrogenic, as they were largely caused by medical intervention. While there are many aspects of the procedure that are interesting in Rosemary's case, what I want to discuss is the "selling" of lobotomies during the

1940s. In his 2005 book "The Lobotomist," Jack El-Hai discussed the efforts made by Walter Freeman, the foremost proponent of lobotomies, to sell the procedures as a means of "calming" persons with mental illness. Freeman, who performed the majority of the surgeries in the country at the time, operated on Rosemary. Not unlike the phrenologists of an earlier era, he spent a great deal of time and effort on public relations, detailing the benefits of the procedure. In retrospect, however, we know that lobotomies had few, if any, beneficial affects, and for many patients the costs far outweighed the benefits.

So what is the message social workers should take from this? First, we need to clearly understand whether diagnoses have an essentialist (e.g., Down Syndrome) or social constructivist (e.g., mental retardation) grounding, as this tells us much about the nature of the condition and informs treatment. Secondly, it is in the nature of those who have an important stake in particular treatments or programs to sell their product, not unlike any other consumer good. Often this is with the best of intentions. Being client advocates, however, means we can understand the role of

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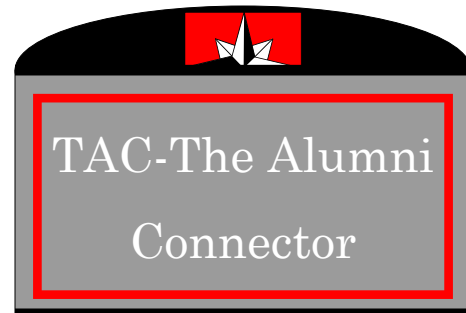
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