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Stimulus Spring 2005

College of Social Work

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Spring/Summer
2004



stimulus

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work

UT College of Social Work Partners with Agencies to Create Homeless Database

Special Report

by Kathy Perkey

The UT College of Social Work recently began a partnership with the Knoxville Homeless Coalition, City of Knoxville, Knox County, and Comcast to create a computer network to help better serve the homeless population. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) has been funded by a \$277,790 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and will be directed by Drs. Roger Nooe and David Patterson, both faculty members at the College. This system, which will be active by October 2004, is part of a plan to end chronic homelessness throughout the country.

Nooe stated, "With the complexity of the problems of homelessness, the more coordination services and resources



Dr. David Patterson (left) and Dr. Roger Nooe (second from left) survey a homeless camp in Knoxville.

you have, the better the Knoxville community will be at addressing the problem of ending homelessness. This information system links agencies so they can enter data on homeless clients. It will enhance our ability to count homeless populations, identify service needs,

Consideration is being given to a future linkage of all systems statewide.

provide a service-delivery tracking system, and lead to better coordination among agencies."

UT is one of only two universities in the U.S. working with local homeless coalitions in the development, deployment, and operation of databases to serve the homeless. UT's involvement in the system demonstrates the University's desire to improve quality of life in the community. Several other communities in Tennessee have similar systems, also funded by HUD.

The local HMIS system will focus on agencies in the Knoxville and Knox County areas and will ensure services and resources are offered and used by the homeless population. The system will link homeless shelters and other homeless providers to coordinate these services and resources and to reduce duplication of services provided to the homeless.

Each homeless agency will be provided access to the secure, web-based database system. The system will store information such as where the person lived prior to needing assistance, his or her health status, any substance abuse problems, and the services the person received at the facility. Data from the project will be analyzed to provide trends and

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Interested in Obtaining a Ph.D. in Social Work?

The UT College of Social Work's Ph.D. Program offers specialized training in research methods with a focus on direct practice and management and community practice issues. It also

- ◆ Provides access to world-class faculty doing research on the culture and climate of human service agencies, child neglect, foster parenting, juvenile justice, gerontology, antisocial behavior, and school social work.
- ◆ Features guaranteed three-year stipends and fee waivers and student health insurance.
- ◆ Provides offices and computers with access to the Web for Ph.D. candidates.
- ◆ Presents opportunities to work with Children's Mental Health Services Research Center researchers.
- ◆ Is located in Knoxville, a region with a low cost of living and pleasant yearly climate.
- ◆ Is home to two CSWE Minority Fellows.

If you are interested in joining the College of Social Work's Ph.D. Program or for further information, please contact

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Billie Spicuzza (MSSW '72) Honored with YWCA's 2003 Tribute to Women Award

by Kirche Rogers

Billie Spicuzza (MSSW '72) was selected as the Knoxville YWCA's 2003 Tribute to Women honoree in the Human Services category in October 2003. Spicuzza, vice president of Housing for Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC), was selected for her significant contributions and influence in the field of human services, her leadership qualities, professional growth efforts, and level of achievement in the field.



Spicuzza was nominated for the award by KCDC, who paid tribute to her "vision, leadership, and 'can-do' attitude as a driving force in recognition of KCDC by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a leading provider of affordable housing in the state of Tennessee and the nation."

In 1972, Spicuzza began her career with KCDC as an intern while working on her Master's degree from the College. That internship serving the elderly in public housing led to her first job with KCDC. Since that time, she has served as vice president of both the social services and housing departments. Spicuzza is known in the human service community and assisted housing industry as an innovator, always looking for new and better ways to impact her clients' needs for housing, child care, elder care, education, training, transportation, etc.

Her achievements with KCDC's social services department have included expanding counseling, self-sufficiency, and health services to the entire client population of 13,000 children, adults, and elderly; developing the first computer-based training program for residents known as the Career Investment Academy; and developing

The Manor, Knoxville's only independent living and supported care housing for low-income elderly.

Spicuzza's recent work continues to reflect her focus on improving residents' total environment. She will lead the effort to upgrade 11 assisted housing properties containing 3,600 units as part of KCDC's housing strategic investment plan aimed at "redesigning neighborhoods."

Spicuzza applauds the YWCA for its annual Tribute to Women. "The event not only recognizes women for their contributions and achievements, it informs the community about many creative, worthwhile programs and activities," she stated. "The award recognized my work to create and implement programs and services that enhance total well-being, which encompasses the community as well as the individual. The UT College of Social Work helped me develop the administrative skills needed to assess systems as well as individual needs and to meet the challenges of working in the broad-based, diverse area of assisted housing. The award is a great honor for me and the profession of social work." Spicuzza's dream is "to see the day when no child can be identified as 'a project kid'."

Spicuzza holds a Bachelor's degree from Auburn University and is married to Frank Spicuzza, a faculty member at the College and director of the BSSW Program.

Kirche Rogers is a publications specialist with the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS).

Letter from the Dean



Before you read any further, please look at the Contents of this issue of *Stimulus*. Why? Because the Contents demonstrates how well the College is doing! And why is it doing so well? Because of the loyalty and support of all of you! As a supporter of the College of Social Work, you are a part of everything that we do. Right now, in this minute, you are making success

a continuing, achievable possibility for our students, faculty, graduates, and for the communities in which we reside. Thank you!

As you review this issue, I hope that you will take great pride in the accomplishments that you have helped to make happen. The College has received a significant new grant. Drs. Nooe and Patterson will be developing an information tracking system for the homeless in Knoxville. Although we are highlighting this

particular grant award in this issue of *Stimulus*, all of our faculty continue to engage in important research to inform practice. In fact, as you read this issue, you will find a new addition to *Stimulus*. Each spring issue will highlight some of the research conducted by our faculty members that has important implications for social work practice. We hope you enjoy this new aspect to *Stimulus* and find the information useful in your own practice.

I also am pleased to report to you that after last fall's rigorous academic program review (mandated by the state of all public academic programs), the College received a very positive and outstanding assessment. Thank you to all of you (alumni and community supporters) who participated in the review process. Your continued support and participation help to keep us strong and successful.

As we look forward, the future of the College appears very bright indeed!

Ann M. Nooe

BSSO-SWO Creates a "Field of Cans" for This Year's *CANSTRUCTION*[®] Competition

by Betsy DeGeorge



This year's BSSO-SWO *CANSTRUCTION*[®] entry won the "Best Use of Labels" award.

The "Field of Dreams" is more than a movie or baseball field to the College's BSSW Student Social Work Organization (BSSW-SWO). Fifteen students from BSSW-SWO used this theme to bring attention to the problem of hunger and to address the nutritional needs of many members of the local community last fall.

CANSTRUCTION[®] is a national event sponsored by the Society of Design Administration and the American Institute of Architects that encourages community groups to design and build structures from packages of food. These structures are displayed in prominent locations such as Knoxville's West Town Mall. When dismantled, the food is donated to distribution outlets for the needy such as the local

Second Harvest Food Bank.

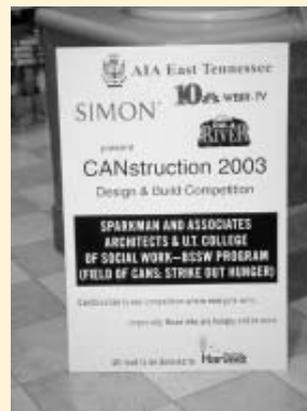
The BSSW-SWO's entry used approximately 1,500 cans (primarily canned soup), 200 boxes of spaghetti, 100 bags of dried beans, two boxes of chewing gum, and 40 boxes of Cracker Jacks. Inspired by the movie *Field of Dreams*, "Field of Cans: Strike Out Hunger" was an enormous baseball stadium. Faculty advisor, Frank Spicuzza, said, "We were very pleased in regard to the structure. This

particular structure was well designed, and we had more cans of food to work with. I think it really looked like a baseball stadium."

Area grocery stores donated or discounted the food used in the project. Local architectural firm, Sparkman and Associates, provided design advice. Members of the BSSW-SWO supplied the energy, time, and construction know-how for the project.

The students found the experience to be valuable in many ways. They came to realize the importance of planning and teamwork and the necessity of resourcefulness and creativity in finding solutions to problems.

The student participants became a team and enjoyed a sense of pride in making a contribution to the fight against hunger and in implementing this enormous project. "There is little doubt in my mind," says Spicuzza, "that this project enhances leadership skills."



The College joins several corporate sponsors to support *CANSTRUCTION*[®] each year.

The local *CANSTRUCTION*[®] competition collected over 25,000 pounds of food for Second Harvest Food Bank. Christina Lizzol, a senior in social work and president of the BSSW-SWO commented, "The biggest benefit is feeding the hungry. *CANSTRUCTION*[®] is just a real creative way to do that." Lizzol added that the BSSW-SWO's entry won the

"Best Use of Labels" award in the local *CANSTRUCTION*[®] competition.

For more information and pictures of other entries from around the country visit the *CANSTRUCTION*[®] website at www.canstruction.com.

Betsy DeGeorge is the publication manager for SWORPS.

College's Leading Faculty Donors Set a Standard for Giving

Compiled by Kate Miller

Faculty at the College of Social Work are perhaps the main reason the College is so highly regarded nationally. All of our faculty make enormous contributions through their outstanding teaching, mentoring of students, research and scholarship, and public service activities. There are a select few members of the faculty who deserve special recognition because, in addition to the many ways they contribute to the College as faculty, their personal gifts place them among the College's leading financial contributors. Dean Sowers remarks, "The generous financial contributions these faculty make are testimony to their fervent belief in the importance of the College's mission. They are leadership donors, and their example of leadership, sacrifice, and dedication should inspire us all."

The leadership level of giving to the College begins to form with the select group of donors who make gifts of \$1,000.00 or greater each year at the President's Club level. Membership in the Tennessee Society is extended to donors who give or pledge as much as \$25,000.00 to the University within a ten-year period. There are five faculty members who belong to the President's Club. They are Catherine Dulmus, Rod Ellis, Charles Glisson, William Nugent, and John Wodarski. Dean Karen Sowers and Hugh Vaughn are members of the Tennessee Society.



Dr. Catherine N. Dulmus joined the College's faculty in the fall of 1999. An assistant professor, her area of

research is childhood trauma with a focus on prevention of mental disorders in children. Recently she completed a study on the prevalence of bullying among students in a rural school district. She has authored or coauthored numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as six books. She is coeditor of the *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work* and associate editor of *Stress, Trauma, and Crisis: An International Journal*. In 2002, she

received a UT Citation for Excellence in Teaching from the Provost. Dr. Dulmus joined the President's Club in 2003. When asked what being a donor to the College means to her, she replied, "As the College of Social Work has invested in me as a beginning scholar, so do I want to invest in the College. As a donor I am able to be both a contributor and a supporter of the cutting edge research being conducted by my colleagues, as well as to the funding of student scholarships. I am pleased to contribute in this small way."



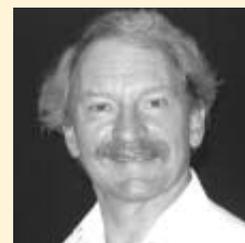
Dr. Rod Ellis is an associate professor and the acting associate dean for the Nashville Campus of the College.

His professional experience includes both academic and practical work, primarily in the areas of juvenile justice and child welfare. He does research and publishes in these areas as well as in the area of cultural competence. During his four years with the College, he has taught a variety of courses including Social Work and Oppression, Foundations I and III, and Advanced Policy. He serves on a number of community boards and advisory panels, most notably the Disproportionate Minority Task Force sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In his capacity as acting associate dean, he has recently begun working with Frank Spicuzza to form an initiative to create fellowships for Hispanic students. Dr. Ellis says, "To me, giving to the College is an important means of expressing my support for students, faculty, staff, and the future of our profession. The College has a vital mission: educating and preparing the professionals of the future. The dollars I give represent one of the ways in which I can assure that we continue to effectively fulfill our mission. In today's lean economic times, I believe we must all do everything we can."



Dr. Charles Glisson is a university distinguished research professor and founding director of the College of Social

Work Children's Mental Health Services Research Center. Dr. Glisson received his Doctorate in 1976 from Washington University at St. Louis. Since joining the College's faculty in 1987, he has been awarded and directed \$20 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants. In addition to funding from NIH, he has received funding from the Health Resources Services Administration, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and other state and national agencies. He has also received the UT Alexander Award for Outstanding Teaching and Research and the Outstanding Research Award from the Society for Social Work and Research and is a member of the MacArthur Children's Mental Health Research Network. His work has been cited in national reports of the U.S. Surgeon General, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Advisory Mental Health Council. His most recent research was praised by both the director of the NIH and the director of the NIMH for contributions to the delivery of behavioral health care to children. "State funding and tuition cover only a portion of the costs of running state universities," says Dr. Glisson. "Contributions help these universities keep tuition low, compared to private institutions, and thereby provide educational opportunities to students who might otherwise not be able to attend. These opportunities are especially important in Tennessee where so many students are the first in their families to attend college."



Dr. William Nugent, director of the Doctoral Program, joined the College in the fall of 1991. Before coming to the College,

he was the training director for a network of family service agencies and runaway

shelters in Florida. Dr. Nugent received both his MSW (1982) and his Ph.D. (1986) in Social Work from Florida State University. He is a full professor at the College and teaches in the BSSW, MSSW, and Ph.D. Programs. His research interests include measurement and assessment, research methodology, suicide risk assessment and prediction, and juvenile justice issues. Dr. Nugent states, "I have a commitment to the College becoming one of the top social work programs in the nation, and donating to the College is one way to help make this happen."



Dr. Karen M. Sowers was appointed professor and dean of the College in August 1997. Prior to her appointment at UT, she served as director of the

School of Social Work at Florida International University from June 1994 to August 1997 and as the Undergraduate Program director of the School of Social Work at Florida International University from 1986 to 1994. She received her baccalaureate degree in Sociology from the University of Central Florida in 1974, her Master's Degree in Social Work from Florida State University in 1977, and her Ph.D. in Social Work from Florida State University in 1986. Dr. Sowers is nationally known for her research and scholarship in the areas of juvenile justice, child welfare, cultural diversity and culturally effective intervention strategies for social work practice, and social work education. Her current research and community interests include the development of initiatives to support responsible and involved fatherhood, the implementation and evaluation of community-oriented policing, welfare reform, school violence, and juvenile justice practice. She has authored or coauthored numerous books, book chapters,

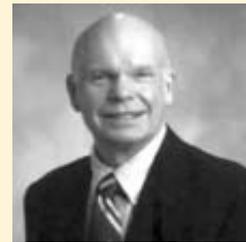
and refereed journal articles. She has served as a founding member of the *Journal of Research on Social Work Practice* and is currently serving on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Evidence-based Social Work: Advances in Practice, Programs, Research and Policy* and *Journal of Stress, Trauma and Crisis: An International Journal*. "I am pleased to be a member of the Tennessee Society and a lead donor in the College of Social Work. I have been dean of the College for over six years now. I have come to love and have great respect for the faculty and students of the College. This is a great place and deserves our support," says Dean Sowers. "For me, giving to the College means helping to support our students and faculty. Tuition continues to increase and students who do not have financial support wind up graduating with large loan repayments. I was helped by financial support when I was a student, and I enjoy being in a position to now help other students realize their dream. Also, public funding for UT has been reduced substantially and I expect that this will continue. Donating to the College also helps provide funds for faculty research and supports."



During the 40 years **Dr. Hugh Vaughn** has served as a faculty member in the College, he has taught thousands of students. Many

of those graduates have gone on to become deans, faculty members, and distinguished practitioners in social work. Dr. Vaughn takes great pride in these graduates and great pride in the College. Dr. Vaughn says, "I support the College financially because of what the College

has contributed to my life both professionally and personally. I urge alumni, friends of the College, and my colleagues to give generously to support the College in its progress toward becoming one of the top Colleges of Social Work in the country."



Dr. John Wodarski holds an MSSW from the College and a Ph.D. from Washington University.

He joined the faculty as director of Research for the combined campuses of the College in August 2000. Prior to coming to UT, Dr. Wodarski served as director of the Social Work Research Center at the University of Georgia, as vice president of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Akron, and as the Janet B. Wattles Chair of Social Work at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Upon joining the College, Dr. Wodarski, along with his wife Lois Ann (who is also a UT alumna with an MS and Ph.D. from the College of Human Ecology) established the Collage's Doctoral Fellowship Fund to support doctoral scholarship in terms of publication and grant development. Having established a record of prolific publication and grantsmanship over the course of his 34-year career, Dr. Wodarski believes that "contributing to The University of Tennessee through membership in the President's Club allows me to leave a legacy of scholarship for our graduates."

Kate Miller is the Stimulus editor and is a SWORPS publications specialist.

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College Helps Create Homeless Database

changes in the homeless population. "All data that is entered is encrypted, so only the agencies that are participating will be able to look at the information," Patterson said. All information is kept confidential and information can only be entered into the system with written consent from the person who receives the services.

The goals of the HMIS system are to reduce redundancy of information collection; maximize and focus resources in support of clients moving out of homelessness; allow service providers the opportunity to consider preventative interventions; and make possible long-term trend analysis, service demands analysis, and evaluation of seasonal variance. Patterson added, "The overarching goals are to improve our ability to effectively and efficiently serve individuals, families, and children in need and advance our efforts to end homelessness."

The College of Social Work's Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) will be coordinating the training and will be managing the network hardware and software for the project. Drs. Nooe and Patterson will be managing the overall system and will be working closely with the agencies to encourage routine use of the system. They will also help the agencies to efficiently utilize the system to gain the most benefits from participation in the HMIS.

Kathy Perkey is the publication coordinator for SWORPS.

Third Annual Homecoming Gala Draws Alumni and Friends

The College's Third Annual Homecoming Gala took place on Saturday, October 25, 2003, at Rothchild's Catering and Conference Center in Knoxville. Approximately 280 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College attended the event. The evening's activities included registration, a silent auction to benefit the Bachelor Program's student organization (BSSW-SWO), a social hour, dinner, awards ceremony, Phi Alpha initiation ceremony, and dancing.



Representatives from Youth Villages were among a number of corporate sponsors who enjoyed the evening at the Gala.



The Jimmy Church Band provided entertainment for the 3rd Annual Homecoming Gala and has become a main attraction each year.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., guests registered and mingled at the social hour. Silent auction items donated by businesses, alumni, and friends were perused by guests throughout the evening.

After dinner, the awards ceremony and Phi Alpha initiation ceremony were held. The Outstanding Alumni Award went to Michael Miller (MSSW '76). The award is given to the alumnus or alumnae who has made a significant contribution to the

College over the past year. During the ceremony, Dean Sowers recognized Billie Spicuzza (MSSW '72), vice president of Housing for Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, who was selected as the Knoxville YWCA's 2003 Tribute to Women honoree in the Human Services category (see article on page 2). In addition, BSSW-SWO students surprised their sponsor, Frank Spicuzza, by announcing that their entry in the local CANSTRUCTION® competition won the "Best Use of Labels" award (see article on page 3).

The Phi Alpha initiation ceremony included the presentation of 25 new members and a candlelight ceremony. Karla Edwards, administrative secretary at the College, was inducted as a Phi Alpha honorary member.

The silent auction was closed at 10:30 p.m., and a record \$1,300.00 was raised for the BSSW-SWO. The evening ended with guests dancing to the music of The Jimmy Church Band, which has become the main attraction of the Gala each year.



When the Jimmy Church Band played, everyone crowded the dance floor at the 2003 Gala!



New Phi Alpha members pass the flame of love and purity during their induction ceremony at the 2003 Gala.

Generous donations from corporate sponsors, alumni, and friends helped to make the Gala the most successful event to date. Corporate sponsors included Akins/Crisp Public Strategies; Child & Family Tennessee; Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers, Inc.; Knoxville Community Development Corporation; Pilot Travel Centers, LLC; and Youth Villages. Contributing alumni and friends included Jim and Donna Bleter, Libby McColl, Betty Robinson, the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center, and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

—Kate Miller

Join the College for the Fourth Annual Homecoming Gala!

This year's Gala will be held Friday evening, September 24, from 6:00 p.m. until midnight at Rothchild's Catering and Conference Center in Knoxville.

The Gala will include an evening of dinner, dancing, and live entertainment provided by The Jimmy Church Band. Tickets are available for \$30.00 per person.

For more information, contact Karla Edwards at (865) 974-6693 or email galainfo@gvmail.utk.edu

Spring Highlight on Research

Evidence-Based Social Work: Connecting Research to Practice

by Catherine N. Dulmus, Ph.D.

Evidence-based social work practice involves utilizing practice guidelines and interventions with empirical support for effectiveness as the first intervention of choice when working with clients. In recent years, the research knowledge base for social work practice has expanded and continues to grow rapidly. The College of Social Work's faculty contribute to this knowledge base by conducting cutting edge research on a variety of social problems and issues. This new, annual column will highlight selected faculty research projects in an effort to assist practitioners in evidence-based social work practice and to inform the practice community and other interested individuals about research findings conducted at the College. In this issue, three faculty research projects are highlighted.

Predictors of Suicidal Thinking

The identification of a client who is contemplating suicide is a very important task for social workers in a variety of settings. Many indicators of suicidal thinking have been identified in previous research, such as lack of social support, depression, and hopelessness. Some of Dr. William Nugent's more recent research has found that what clients don't say may also be important predictors of suicidal thinking. His recent research has suggested that the failure by a client to answer certain questions on an agency intake form may be an indicator of the extent to which the client is contemplating suicide. For example, Dr. Nugent has found that persons who fail to answer a question about their income on a research questionnaire tend to be significantly more depressed, significantly more suicidal, have significantly greater problems with aggressive behavior, and lower self-esteem than persons who answered the question. Dr. Nugent also found that there appears to be a stronger relationship between depression and suicidal thinking among people who fail to answer questions about income than it is among those who answer the questions.

Increasing Protective Factors in Inner City Minority Youth

In Memphis, Drs. Michael Sullivan and Theora Evans have been collaborating on initiatives to increase protective factors in inner city minority adolescents. This past summer they conducted a pilot study to determine the level of self-mastery and the competence of minority adolescents living in public housing developments. The competence areas measured included self-perceptions of scholastic competence, physical appearance, athletic competence, behavioral conduct, social acceptance, global self-worth, family problems,

and their interest in participating in mentoring and social skill programming.

Adolescent scores were analyzed within gender and past grade performance. Findings suggested both male and female youth scored similarly with the exception of physical appearance. Males scored significantly higher on self-ratings of physical appearance than females. Low scholastic achievers tended to rank themselves high in athletic competence significantly more often than higher scholastic achievers in both males and females. This sample of adolescents also scored significantly lower on scores of self-competence (i.e., scholastic abilities, physical appearance, athletic ability, social acceptance, close friendships, behavioral conduct, and global self-esteem).

Findings indicate that these youth have lower self-esteem scores in important developmental areas, and they could benefit from interventions designed to increase protective factors through boosting competence. Mentoring, tutoring, and training youth as peer counselors in social skills are all interventions designed to accomplish these types of goals in this population.

Three-Year Demonstration Project Supports Efficacy of Providing Culturally-Relevant, Federally-Funded, Faith-Based, Substance Abuse Treatment Services

While there has been a great deal of discussion about faith-based substance abuse services, the results of a federally funded project in Nashville add new empirical data to the conversation. Traditional approaches to substance abuse treatment have been problematic among many African Americans given their unfavorable views about available treatments and historical relationships with social services. This is due in part because traditional, middle-class, European-American intervention and treatment models may be inconsistent with the needs of many African American substance users.

For these reasons, a federally-funded (SAMHSA/CSAT TI-12099), faith-based program for African American heroin and cocaine users was developed in Nashville that utilized a culturally relevant framework for services that sought to be inclusive and non-coercive, and was based on Motivational Enhancement Theory and Harm Reduction. The outcome study conducted by Dr. Samuel MacMaster of the Nashville campus employed a non-experimental design to determine the program's effectiveness in reducing

drug-related harm. Results suggest that the program was able to demonstrate reductions in substance use, significant reductions in the number of days using heroin and cocaine in the past month, decreases in high-risk sexual behaviors, decreases in the number of sexual partners in the past month, and increases in condom use. Measures of pro-social behavior also increased.

The results from this project provide data in three areas that may be useful in improving substance abuse treatment. These three areas are the following: 1) the efficacy of a faith-based approach emphasizing spirituality, not directive, aggressive, authoritarian, or coercive counseling techniques as an important component in providing culturally competent and relevant services to a population of long-term hard drug users; 2) the ability of this approach to reduce high risk sexual behaviors among this population; and 3) the efficacy and need for intensive case management services for this population. Furthermore, the program appeared to be particularly effective for African American women, the fastest growing risk group for contracting HIV.

Dr. Catherine N. Dulmus is an assistant professor in the College of Social Work.

Is the Management and Community Practice Post-Master's Certificate Program Right for You?

The Post-Master's Certificate Program is designed for persons with Master's degrees who specialized in a clinical concentration and now either find themselves in management or administration or would like to prepare themselves to move into management or community practice positions. Participants must complete 15 hours of coursework, including three required courses and two elective courses in management and community practice. Coursework may be taken on a part-time, flexible basis. The program is available at our Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis locations.

Contact program coordinator Dr. Rod Ellis at (615) 256-1885 or rellis5@utk.edu for more information.

Alumni Feature

Cindy Borgognoni (MSSW '97) Treats Children and Their Families through Her Work at Youth Villages



Cindy Borgognoni (MSSW '97), assistant regional director for Youth Villages in West Tennessee, appreciates the depth of

training and education she received at The University of Tennessee and how it has influenced her work at Youth Villages. Since attending UT, she has worked with Youth Villages in various capacities and has found that what she learned at UT has brought success to her work and the clients the organization serves.

Borgognoni earned her BA in Psychology at the Knoxville campus in 1992. Immediately after graduation she was employed by Youth Villages as a residential direct care counselor. In 1994, she began working for the newly-formed Intercept program.

Borgognoni's love of her work and some advice from UT professors including Dr. Hugh Vaughn encouraged her to pursue first her MSSW from the College's Memphis campus and then her licensure. "A license enables you to establish a private, independent, social work practice.

However, it is also essential for agencies such as Youth Villages to have licensed practitioners on staff in order to maintain accreditation."

Since its inception in 1986, Youth Villages, a private, nonprofit organization, has been helping children and families live better and more successfully. Over 2,500 youths in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas benefit annually from services such as home-based counseling, therapeutic foster care, and residential treatment that Youth Villages provides. The main facilities at Youth Villages are located in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville.

Today, Borgognoni oversees the Intercept program and group homes in West Tennessee. She is also involved in coordinating different programs related to effectively moving children within Youth Villages's continuum to the least restrictive treatment environment possible. Cindy explained that, "The mission of Youth Villages is to help children and families live successfully. Youth Villages's vision is to treat every child who needs it to enable him or her to live successfully either at home or in the most home-like environment possible, for example, foster care."

Her work has included multi-systemic therapy at Youth Villages, the nation's

leading provider of this kind of treatment. It is based on an ecological model taught in the College. "Multi-systemic therapy is an approach to treatment that focuses not just on one presenting problem, but on all of a client family's 'systems' as targets for change in treatment. This therapy has shown itself to achieve the kind of client success that can be verified and leads to children and families living successfully and happily together," Borgognoni said.

"My personal goals as they relate to work are to serve God through serving and helping other people, including both clients and those I work with. My professional goals are simply to use what I've been given to promote the effectiveness and efficiency of services for families with emotionally troubled youth," she added.

Borgognoni's efforts have resulted in her being able to watch clients succeed in society. "When I run into clients years later who are young adults and contributing to society, happy and with their own families—that motivates me!"

Married for 10 years to Tommy Borgognoni, Cindy has two children of her own. She enjoys spending her time away from work with her family, reading, and especially, enjoying activities within her church community.

—Betsy DeGeorge

College's Phi Alpha Honor Society Collects Coats for the Cold

Last fall, the College's Phi Alpha Honor Society collected 308 new and used coats of all shapes and sizes from faculty, staff, and students at UTK. The goal of the coat drive was to provide permanent winter coats to the needy in the Knoxville area.

Karla Edwards, administrative secretary at the College, and Brittany Atterson, a senior in the BSSW Program and the head of the Coats for the Cold committee, delivered coats to employees at Prestige Cleaners.



Karla Edwards (l.), Administrative Secretary at the College, and BSSW student Brittany Atterson (second from l.) deliver coats to Prestige Cleaners.

Prestige Cleaners cleaned the coats free of charge, and a team of volunteers mended the garments.

The coats were distributed on December 6, 2003, at 418 N. Broadway (the Knox Area Rescue Ministry's parking lot) in Knoxville. Any garments remaining were taken to various schools for children to choose for themselves and their parents or guardians.

Photo Gallery

1



1. The College's Nashville campus had a wonderful turnout of 20 students, family members, and friends who participated in honor of loved ones and helped raise money during the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. Dr. Sherry Cummings led the College, while Virginia Spini, a second-year MSSW student, and Melissa Routh, a first-year MSSW student, co-captained the event, which took place October 13, 2003.

2



2. Doctoral students Juan Barthelemy (l.) and Andrea McCarter (r.) chat with fellow doctoral student John Miller (second from r.) and his guest, South Carolina medical social worker Tarrah Bonaparte, at Dean Karen Sowers's holiday party. The event was held at Dean Sowers's house on December 12, 2003.

3



3. Chancellor Loren Crabtree (center) and his wife Monica (l.) help doctoral student John Miller (r.) act out the Twelve Days of Christmas at the Dean's holiday party.

4



4. Dean Karen Sowers (standing) enjoys the UT homecoming alumni picnic with Board of Visitors Member Betty Robinson (MSSW '90) (second from l.) and her husband Jim (l.) and Farrell Cooper (MSSW '67) (second from r.) and his wife Gail Walt (r.).

5



5. Dean Sowers welcomes The Tennessee Legislative Select Committee on Children and Youth to the UT Knoxville campus.

6

6. Charles Glisson presents to The Tennessee Legislative Select Committee on Children and Youth on evidence-based practices in Children's Mental Health.



7



7. Congratulations to UT-NABSW Members Nicole "Road Runner" Cook (l.) and Antoinette "Twan" Gorham (r.), who are members of The University of Tennessee Women's Cross Country Team. The Cross Country Team won the 2003 South-eastern Conference (SEC) Championship in Athens, Georgia on November 3, 2003.

8



8. The College's Board of Visitors, Dean Sowers, and Andy Dunsmore, the College's development officer, gather at at the Board of Visitors's meeting on October 24, 2003. Pictured are (l. to r.) Mike Devoto; Andy Dunsmore; Rebecca Henderson; John Miller; Darrell Akins; Terry Stulce; Earl Medley; Carol Tindell; Dona Diftler; Wardell Milan, Sr.; Mary Catherine Willard; Julie Hardin; Dean Karen Sowers; and Betty Robinson.

SWORPS Study Provides Valuable Data for *Nine Counties. One Vision.*

by Daphne Parker

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) is conducting a needs assessment study directed by the *Nine Counties. One Vision.* Social Services Task Force. Phase 1 of the study was recently completed and has provided a wealth of information on demographic and social trends in the Nine Counties region.

The Social Services Task Force is one segment of the *Nine Counties. One Vision.* organization, an alliance of regional residents concerned with the economic, social, and environmental future of the Nine Counties (Anderson, Blount, Grainger, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Roane, Sevier, and Union). Dean Karen Sowers serves as vice chairperson of the task force, whose primary goal is to “create linkages between existing organizations and individuals to enhance service delivery and reduce duplicate services.”



Dean Karen Sowers (l.) and SWORPS Director Paul Campbell (r.) discuss the new demographic report presented at a *Nine Counties. One Vision.* press conference on January 12, 2004.

The task force determined that a thorough needs assessment survey of the Nine Counties would be crucial in

accomplishing this goal. SWORPS agreed to design and conduct this research. There are three phases to the survey. Phase 1, recently completed, involved the collection and analysis of previously published demographic data. Phase 2 will involve a phone survey of the general population, and Phase 3 will utilize information gathered from focus groups of community leaders and social service providers.

The release of the Phase 1 data has generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for the project. At a public briefing on January 12, 2004, Darrell Akins, chairperson of the *Nine Counties. One Vision.* Social Services Task Force said this data should be “invaluable to the planning efforts of our region.” His expectation is that this research will help agencies “make informed decisions about priorities and resource allocation.”

Staff members from SWORPS presented the findings from Phase 1 in an illustrated viewbook, including detailed charts and explanations of the demographic and social trends. The sections of the viewbook detailed population characteristics, economic well-being, social well-being, and the physical well-being of the Nine Counties residents.

Bingham Pope and Cathy Irwin, two of the study’s facilitators from SWORPS, pointed out some of the major findings of Phase 1. Certain counties (Sevier, Jefferson, and Loudon) have had large increases in population, and these same counties have realized remarkable increases in persons aged 65 and over. Also, Tennessee’s Hispanic population has increased 278%. Another significant finding showed that a large percentage of those coming to food pantries were not unemployed. Pope noted that “jobs are not converting into self-sufficiency as they once did; a single-income household cannot make it in this dual-income economy.”

Maryanne Cunningham, associate director of Research and Evaluation for SWORPS, hopes this study will “give proof to verify the needs that are out there.” According to Dean Sowers,



Nine Counties. One Vision. Social Services Task Force Chairperson Darrell Akins and Vice Chairperson Karen Sowers at the public briefing held on January 12, 2004.

this data has already established the need for “more senior services, such as healthcare and retirement facilities, and the need to address the growing Hispanic population with services ranging from English-language classes to job training.” The completion of Phase 1 of this regional needs assessment is an important accomplishment for the Social Services Task Force, and overall a great step forward for *Nine Counties. One Vision.*

Beginning this spring, several workshops will be offered in cooperation with the United Way of Greater Knoxville’s Nonprofit Management Center; these workshops will help teach people how to use the data. Dean Sowers wants to ensure that the agencies throughout the region will not only have access to this data, but will be “able to use it and understand how it affects their programs and planning efforts.”

Daphne Parker is an assistant coordinator with SWORPS.

@ Don't Miss Out on the Latest News!@

The UT College of Social Work has a new listserv for Alumni and Friends. To sign up and start getting emails about the current happenings in the College, go to <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/csw-af.html>

The College of Social Work Welcomes Six New Ph.D. Candidates

The College welcomed six new Doctoral candidates during a cookout held at Dean Karen Sowers's house on August 26, 2003. The students are Andridia Mapson, Donna Cherry, John Miller, Kimberly McClure Cassie, Kathleen Darby, and Shakira Kennedy.



Andridia Mapson, originally from Los Angeles, California, holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Master's

degree in Social Work, both from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Andridia's Social Work experience includes working for the state of California's Conditional Release Program, where she worked with severely mentally ill adult offenders, dual diagnosed juvenile offenders in a juvenile detention center, HIV-positive substance abusers, and juvenile offenders on probation. Her volunteer experience includes serving as an HIV/AIDS Peer Counselor, helping with annual AIDS walks and Feed the Homeless. She also volunteered for the City of Los Angeles Crisis Response Team, which provides crisis intervention to police and fire departments. Andridia is a certified associate clinical social worker in the state of California and her dissertation will focus on mental health problems and service use among African American female juvenile offenders and its relationship to criminal history. She plans to graduate from the Doctoral Program in 2006.



Donna Cherry, originally from Knoxville, holds a Bachelor's degree in Music from Oregon State University and a

Master's degree in Social Work from The University of Tennessee. She has been involved with Phi Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies and received the Extraordinary Professional Promise Citation from The University of Tennessee in 2003. She has a great desire to work with child welfare issues and her dissertation will focus on foster care. She plans to graduate from the Doctoral Program in 2006.



John Miller, originally from Moncks Corner, South Carolina, holds a Bachelor's degree in Experimental Psychology and a

Master's degree in Social Work, both from The University of South Carolina. John views the social work field as "the discipline that encourages creativity of its members to find the best way to answer questions of the varying populations that are served." John's areas of interest for his dissertation are the influence of historical labeling on the self-perception of U.S. minorities and its effect on the empowerment of said minorities (races, ethnic groups, women, etc.) and the use of sustainable development ideology in rural communities within the U.S. John plans to graduate from the Doctoral Program in 2007.



Kimberly McClure Cassie, originally from Boone, North Carolina, holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree

in Gerontology from Appalachian State University. Her 12 years of experience in the social work field include working as director of Social Services in a long term care facility, Long Term Care Facility Services consultant for the North Carolina Division of Social Services, and area manager for the Western Carolina Chapter of Alzheimer's Association. Kimberly became interested in the social work field because of her desire to assist older adults and caregivers in meeting their long term care needs and to advocate that quality care and services are available to meet the specific needs of older adults and caregivers. Her dissertation will focus on long term care for older adults and their caregivers. She plans to receive her Master's degree and Ph.D. by May 2007.



Kathleen Darby, originally from Austin, Texas, received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Middle

Tennessee State University (MTSU) and

her Master's degree in Social Work from the Accelerated Master's Degree Social Work Program in Nashville. While attending MTSU, Kathleen was awarded the Gloria H. Kimmel "Outstanding Student Award" by her peers. Before pursuing her education in social work, Kathleen worked as a certified occupational therapy assistant and acquired over 17 years of experience in the healthcare industry. Currently, she is employed as a senior researcher at Dual Diagnosis Management in Nashville and is serving a two-year term as treasurer of the Tennessee Chapter of the NASW. Her dissertation will focus on the integrated delivery of services and policies that affect individuals suffering from poly-occurring disorders (mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic medical issues). She plans to graduate from the Doctoral Program in 2005.



Shakira Kennedy, originally from Hartsdale, New York, received her Bachelor's degree from Long Island University and

Master's degree from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Shakira's work experience in Social Work includes resident director at Clark Atlanta University, case worker for Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta, clinical therapist for The Bridge Family Services, case worker/interim supervisor for Neighborhood Youth and Family Services, community mediator for the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and team leader at H.E.L.P. USA—Greenburgh. She was a recipient of the 2001 Student Publication Continuing Social Work Education—Tyehimba Scholarship Award and is interested in conducting research in the areas of organizational structure within social services and looking at homelessness through children's perspectives. Shakira stated, "I am very excited about my doctoral experience thus far, and I am honored to know that I am working with some of the best minds in the profession." She plans to graduate from the Doctoral Program in 2006.

The College is excited to have such remarkable candidates enter the Doctoral Program. We welcome them and wish them the best in their studies and future.

—Kathy Perkey

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