



University of Tennessee, Knoxville

TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange

Stimulus Alumni Newsletter

Social Work Office of Research & Public Service
(SWORPS)

12-1-2009

Stimulus

UT

Follow this and additional works at: https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_socstim

Recommended Citation

Stimulus. fall/winter 2009. (2009). Trace.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_socstim/23


This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Work Office of Research & Public Service (SWORPS) at TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Stimulus Alumni Newsletter by an authorized administrator of TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

stimulus

The Alumni Newsletter for the University of Tennessee College of Social Work



Fall/Winter
2009



Promoting Social Justice in Diverse Populations

Andrea Prince (BSSW '08)
Accepts Position in Ghana,
West Africa, p. 4

Dr. John Wodarski Receives Grant
for Work in the U.S. Virgin Islands, p. 4

Dr. Cindy Davis Joins Fulbright
Specialist Program, p. 6

also in this issue

The Children's Mental Health Services Research Center (CMHSRC) Receives 5-year, \$3.2 Million Grant
SWORPS Announces the Opening of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation



<i>From the Dean's Desk.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>David Patterson's Work in the News.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Ruth Martin Honored for Community Efforts.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>SWORPS Opens Center for Applied Research and Evalution.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>COVER STORY: Promoting Social Justice and Change in Diverse Populations.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Andrea Prince Accepts Position in Ghana.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>John Wodarski Receives Grant for Work in the U.S. Virgin Islands.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Cindy Davis Joins Fulbright Specialist Program.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Theora Evans Honored as APHA Social Worker of the Year and Social Work Section Chair.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Children's Mental Health Services Research Center Receives Multi-Million Dollar Grant.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Courtney Cronley's Teaching and Research Benefit Diverse Populations.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Amanda Blomberg Receives Dockery Family Reunion Association Award.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Lyle Cooper Attends MINT Training in Spain.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>SWORPS Staff Honored.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Photo Gallery.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Jan Yorke Receives Veterinary Social Work Research Grant.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Sherry Cummings Awarded Fellow Status.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>SWORPS Publications Unit Receives International Award.....</i>	<i>10</i>

Welcome to the Fall issue of Stimulus!

This fall we highlight some of our outstanding faculty, doctoral students, alums, and supporters. Our capital campaign kick-off has been very successful to date. The close of the capital campaign is 2011. We invite you to join your fellow alums with a donation to the college to help keep our programs strong and the college moving up in the rankings. Congratulations are due to all of you! The strength of our college relies on the quality of our students, the outstanding teaching and research of our faculty, and the leadership of our alumni and donors. Thank you to all of you who have stepped up to help us in the capital campaign!

This issue also highlights some of the staff and programs of our Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS). From winning awards to engaging in critically important service and grants, SWORPS continues to serve the state and region in helping to improve services to vulnerable populations.

As you read this issue, you will note the college's increasing emphasis on global social work practice and the provision of international experiences for our

students. Much of this emphasis is supported by donors who have provided resources to support these efforts. We are especially grateful to those who recognize the need to educate our students for our world without borders.

As I read this issue of Stimulus I marvel at the resilience of our college. Despite the economic recession and the stark realities of the budget crisis, the faculty and staff of the college and our donors and alumni continue to move forward with creativity, enthusiasm, and staunch determination. Your commitment to the college is nothing short of amazing! It is a privilege to work with such dedicated faculty, bright and enthusiastic students, and strong supporters of the college. Despite the current economic realities, the future remains bright for the college as we move forward in important ways, not only remaining relevant to practice concerns but also in creating new knowledge to lead us into the future.

Thanks for all you do to support the college!

Ann M. Powers

David Patterson's Efforts Against Homelessness Featured

Dr. David Patterson's work with Knoxville's Homeless Management Information System was featured in the summer 2009 issue of *Quest*, The University of Tennessee magazine for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. The article was written by Betsy DeGeorge, publications manager at SWORPS, and focused on the importance of connecting local agencies to the homeless community by means of an internet-based data-collection system.

In the article, Dean Karen Sowers noted the importance of Patterson's work by stating, "This project becomes increasingly important as the economy worsens and unemployment rises. We must continue to promote effective services to our neediest children and families."



Brad Fenwick, UT Vice President of Research and Engagement, presents CSW faculty member David Patterson (center) with a framed copy of the cover of the summer 2009 issue of *Quest* magazine.

Ruth Martin Honored for Work in the Community

Ruth Martin, former field instructor at the college and recent retiree, was honored at the Knoxville Convention Center on August 7, 2008. Martin, a very active member of the Knoxville community, has been instrumental in the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Office on Aging program LIVE (Living Independently through Volunteer Efforts). In her work with the program, she helps seniors remain independent in their own

homes. During her tenure as field instructor, Martin mentored hundreds of undergraduate and masters level interns.

Covenant Health in Knoxville recognized her tireless efforts to improve the lives of others with the Covenant Platinum Award, which honors seniors who represent positive aging, living life to the fullest, and "putting the 'plus' in 65-plus, the 'gold' in golden years, and the 'citizen' in senior citizen."



Ruth Martin (far left) joins other Covenant Award winners Roger Frey, Bob Hayes, Shigeko Uppuluri, and Senior Advocate Libba Jaco at the awards ceremony.

SWORPS Announces the Opening of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation

The college's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) is pleased to announce that it has acquired the former Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) and has renamed it the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE).



As a division of SWORPS, CARE employs a team of former SSRI staff who join with other SWORPS professionals to deliver survey research services to a wide range of customers in the fields of social work, transportation, civil engineering, public health, education, child care, human services, and exercise science, among others. Linda Daugherty, who oversaw SSRI projects for over seven years, serves as CARE's assistant director.

One of the unique features of CARE is its multistation phone bank that allows staff to conduct large-scale telephone interviews and surveys using Sawtooth WinCati software. "Our 22 station phone bank now allows us to keep our own telephone data collection in house. Our staff, including project managers, statisticians, evaluators, data processors, and interviewers are serious and purpose driven, hard working and energetic, ready to take on new challenges, and use new methods to creatively solve new, and old, problems. With CARE as part of the SWORPS organization, we can offer more in-house options to meet the needs of our clients," states Maryanne Cunningham, associate director of SWORPS.

In addition to conducting telephone interviews using targeted samples and random digit dialing samples, CARE offers the following services:

- o Personal interviewing
- o Focus group management
- o Web-based surveys
- o Mail surveys



Promoting Social Justice and Change in Diverse Populations

by Vicky Bridgeforth

During the past year, recent graduates and faculty members have embarked on social work projects in Africa, the Caribbean, and Australia. Here are three of their stories.

Andrea Prince (BSSW '08) Accepts Position in Ghana

Andrea Prince recently accepted a position as a Program and Volunteer Coordinator for an organization called Village Exchange International/Ghana (VEI/VEG) located in Ho, Ghana. As an undergraduate in 2007, she spent a semester studying at the University of Ghana in Legon, Ghana, and it was during this time that her initial interest in international career opportunities developed.

According to Prince, Village Exchange International strives to empower Ghana's disadvantaged women through three primary pillars of intervention: poverty alleviation strategies, reproductive and sexual health programs, and research including quantitative and qualitative methods applied to women's health issues. The VEI-Ghana's poverty alleviation program currently incorporates two project areas. The first involves credit services for women using the VEI Microfinance Institute.

VEI aims to increase women's access to capital for business development. The organization's main goal is to increase access to credit facilities in order to empower women by giving them the



Women from the Takla Gbogame Village in Ghana earn money by creating jewelry and marketing it on the Internet (<http://www.villageexchangeinternational.org>).



Andrea Prince models a hand-made batik vest produced by one of the business ventures that Village Exchange International sponsors.

financial means necessary to improve the lives of their families and communities.

The second project area involves the development and support of market-led businesses. In these ventures, VEI acts as the entrepreneur, providing the market research, product chain development, and infrastructure development of businesses to support young women.

The two businesses that have resulted as a product of this initiative include Lady Volta Beads, a small business that started with women from the Takla Gbogame village creating beautiful, culturally influenced jewelry for profit. The second business venture is Lady Volta Batik, a program in which young mothers are able to continue learning to become seamstresses while earning enough income to help care for their families.

The VEG Reproductive and Sexual Health programs seek to improve access to information on reproductive and sexual health issues, as well as to provide support and realistic solutions for young mothers and other identified groups. Their current initiatives include a Teen Pregnancy Survey, the VEG Youth Centre, and the Takla Gbogame Awareness program. "Our organization is continuing to grow," says Prince. "We also run projects in partnership with the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Centre of Community Studies Action and Development (CENCOSAD) in Accra. We hold after school clubs that promote positive images for young women, teach life skills, and promote learning. Examples of our current successes include a photography project, writing clubs, drawing clubs, and a girls club."

Another of VEG's primary goals in relation to their reproductive and sexual health programs is to target youth to be peer educators in sexual and reproductive health. Having completed an MSSW from Columbia University in New York, Prince finds her current work very fulfilling. She attributes a portion of her success to the foundation she established at the CSW.

Prince says, "Throughout my career at UTCSW, I was supported and encouraged to take a less traditional path. I was allowed to complete social work courses and field work at the University of Ghana, and I was taught how to translate my skills and knowledge in the field of international social work. I feel the work I am doing now is both exciting and challenging, and I know I am well prepared for the task."

To learn more about Village Exchange International, contact Andrea Prince by email at andrea@villageexchangeinternational.org or visit the website at <http://www.villageexchangeinternational.org>

John Wodarski Receives *Until There's a Cure* Foundation Grant for Work in the U.S. Virgin Islands

This past fall Dr. John Wodarski was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Until There's A Cure Foundation to strengthen the social health network of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

In a joint effort the University of Tennessee College of Social Work (UTCSW), Children's Mental Health Services Research Center, Virgin Islands Division of Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Drug Dependency Services (DMHADDs), and the Until There's A Cure Foundation will be teaming up to provide HIV-testing, education, and counseling programs to the youth of the U.S. Virgin Islands. "The need for HIV prevention programming and testing in the U.S. Virgin Islands is tremendous. With an HIV prevalence of 1.6%, the incidences of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region is the second highest in the world, second only to the sub-Saharan Africa," says Dr. Wodarski. "We are proud to have the opportunity to use this generous grant provided by the Until There's A Cure Foundation in order to realize our efforts."



Drug Dependency Services (DMHADDs) and the faculty resources of the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center within the UT College of Social Work to deliver an evidence-based program of culturally specific HIV interventions to the youth of the USVI who increasingly make up larger proportions of HIV/AIDS cases each year.

The hope is to prevent transmission of the virus by identifying HIV-positive youth, intensifying outreach efforts within existing DMHADDs programs, subsequent testing, education and counseling programs that focus on transmission prevention, and healthcare referral.



John Wodarski, top, has maintained professional ties in the Caribbean since helping to initiate an MSW program at the University of the Virgin Islands. The bottom photo shows teenagers in school attire at a community festival in St. Croix, USVI. In small and tight-knit island communities, it can sometimes be a challenge to reach individuals with public health messages and programs.

The Until There's A Cure Foundation is a unique, non-profit organization that was founded in 1993 by two California mothers concerned about the effects of HIV/AIDS on the lives of their children. Since its inception, the organization has been committed to reaching out to the community by funding innovative programs that promote AIDS awareness and prevention education for young Americans, providing financial support for care and services for those living with AIDS, and actively supporting AIDS vaccine development, which offers the best hope for reducing the spread of HIV.

Dr. Wodarski's project, the HIV/AIDS Primary Prevention Program for Caribbean Adolescents (the Prevention Program), will consist of a HIV-testing, education, and counseling program designed to reduce high-risk HIV-related behaviors among infected youth (ages 14–19) in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program capitalizes on an existing relationship between the Virgin Islands' Division of Mental Health, Alcoholism and

According to Dr. Wodarski, the Prevention Program is focused on identifying and enabling youth awareness and self-efficacy with a goal of gradually decreasing the number of unknown incidental transmissions. "HIV incidences have continued to increase, and for the third year in a row the USVI leads the nation with the highest number of confirmed HIV cases at 272.7 per 100,000 U.S. citizens. What is most alarming is that youth are accounting for larger proportions of cases each year." Therefore, the Prevention Program will seek to iden-

tify HIV-positive youth through outreach and subsequent testing and increase the availability of integrated substance abuse and early intervention counseling services through a culturally specific HIV education program with referral to healthcare options within the USVI Department of Health.

The specific program goal is to strengthen an existing community-based collaboration to improve the health and HIV/AIDS transmission risk status of the target population. The proposed budget is intended to provide the resources needed to enable the USVI Health Department to develop infrastructure and program operations appropriate to address the HIV/AIDS problems in the territory by:

1. Increasing, through voluntary testing and counseling, the proportion of HIV-infected youth who know they are infected.
2. Decreasing the number of youth (ages 14–19) at high risk for transmitting HIV infection through an empirically-based, culturally-specific HIV education and counseling program.
3. Increasing the proportion of HIV-infected youth who are linked to appropriate transmission prevention, counseling, education, and treatment services.
4. Strengthening the effectiveness of the U.S. Virgin Islands HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

As a recipient of Until There's a Cure Foundation funding, the CSW participates in the sale of the AIDS Awareness Bracelet, designed by Isabella Geddes arquite da Filicaia and manufactured in Italy. This is a 1/4-inch band has a raised AIDS ribbon on the side, and inside is a small plaque inscribed with "Until There's A Cure®." The cuff bracelet, a beautiful symbol of awareness and remembrance, comes in several metals and in three sizes.

The organization also offers several other styles of bracelets, including a new ID bracelet with cord, an African art bracelet,



and jelly bracelets, which are available in many bright colors. These are an important source of fundraising that serve as a bridge uniting people to fight HIV/AIDS. The bracelet increases awareness, compassion, understanding, and responsibility. Bracelets are available in the United Until There's A Cure online store: <http://www.utac.org/bracelet.shtml>

—Vicky Bridgeforth

Dr. Cindy Davis Joins Fulbright Specialist Program

Dr. Cindy Davis, associate professor at the Nashville campus and UTCSW graduate (1989), has been selected to join the Fulbright Specialists Program (FSP). FSP promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at universities abroad.



The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals in select disciplines. They engage in short-term collaborative projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide.

Project activities focus on the strengthening and development needs of higher education institutions. Eligible activities include teacher training; short-term lecturing; conducting seminars, special conferences, or workshops; and collaborating on curriculum planning and institutional and/or faculty development. Dr. Davis spent two weeks at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia; one week at James Cook University in Queensland, Australia; and one week at the University of Auckland in New Zealand this summer. She gave lectures and presented workshops on cancer research, online teaching, and evidence-based practice.

"The Fulbright award is a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues around the world. It has been a great opportunity to discuss student exchanges and future collaboration," states Davis.

—Kirche Rogers

Theora Evans Honored as APHA Social Worker of the Year and Social Work Section Chair

When Theora Evans, PhD, MPH, MSW, talks about public health, she speaks with passion.

When she teaches social workers about public health, she expresses a vision.

"Imagine 12 clients who seek service within days of one another at a mental health clinic where you are practicing,"

she says to a class of aspiring social workers. "Each client is exhibiting signs of depression.

Each is recently unemployed.

What is your responsibility as the professional service provider when faced with

this scenario?" When Evans teaches she seeks to awaken in her students both individual response to clients and broad, community-based response.



"Intervening in the individual lives of clients with depression is only one narrow approach to a problem. It is normative for one to experience depression as a result of the loss of employment. But when a community is experiencing massive job losses, a systemic intervention may also be appropriate. Social workers have historically been the ones to see a wider set of solutions that includes advocacy and structural societal change."

This vision and a lifelong commitment to service in the public health arena will be acknowledged this fall as Evans, associate dean of the Memphis campus, is named 2009—2010 Insley/Evans Public Health Social Worker of the Year by the Social Work Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). This award is named for two leaders in the field, Virginia Insley and Juanita Evans, who both played significant roles in the founding of public health social work education, research, and services. Virginia Insley was the first Chief Social Work Officer for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. She served from 1955 to 1980 and Juanita Evans succeeded her, holding the position from 1980 to 2000.

Theora Evans points to Juanita Evans as one of her personal mentors, considering her one of the greatest minds in adolescent health practice. "She showed me what it meant to advocate for youth," says this year's honoree. "She was a phenomenal visionary. I am honored to receive this award and I certainly did not expect it. It is, however, a crowning accomplishment for me."

In the coming year, Theora Evans will also assume the position of chair of the Social Work Section of the APHA. The organization is made

up of 25 sections, some of which are practice based while others are research area specific. Social workers can be found in virtually every section of the larger organization.

History reveals that public health and social work evolved simultaneously in the United States. Their emergence was a reaction to unbridled abject poverty and quality of life issues that arose at the end of the 19th century. Both were

concerned with social reform and social justice as well as the special needs of mothers and children and the interrelated problems of child health, dependency, delinquency, and child labor. Social work, nursing, and pediatrics were among the first professions to develop public health advocacy and interdisciplinary practice. Currently, each of the aforementioned professions serve populations nationally and internationally without regard for socioeconomic status.

Evans looks forward to leading the Social Work Section. Her goal is to attract the brightest and best young professionals to take ownership of and shape its future within the association. In addition, she hopes to form relationships with members from other disciplines, celebrating the richness of trans-disciplinary practice while sharing the knowledge, research, and skills of various areas of public health.

Theora Evans has worked in the field of public health social work since early in her career. She was introduced to advocacy/preventative interventions while serving as Children and Adolescents program administrator for a comprehensive community mental health center in an extremely impoverished catchment area in Chicago. Later she launched the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, focusing on the passage of legislation to expand Medicaid coverage to newly diagnosed pregnant mothers while advocating for additional funding of other related health policies. Her transition to higher education was motivated by the desire to help shape the minds of practitioners with a view to understanding the balance of client empowerment and community practice.

—Betsy DeGeorge

Children's Mental Health Services Research Center Receives Multi-Million Dollar Grant

The Children's Mental Health Services Research Center (CMHSRC) has been awarded a 5-year, \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to investigate whether it can make positive changes in the work environments within child-serving organizations that improve their cultures and climates, enhance the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based practices and contribute to more effective outcomes for children. The study will be conducted in St. Louis, MO, in partnership with Washington University and 14 area mental health clinics that serve children.

The Principal Investigator for this grant is Charles Glisson, Director of the CMHSRC, Chancellor's Professor, and University Distinguished Research Professor, who says that, "Nationally, mental health services are not as effective with children and families as we would like. Our work is built on the notion that improving outcomes for children is more complicated than using a new treatment model. The organization that delivers the treatment must also operate in a way that supports service providers' efforts to deliver effective services. This study is a part of our effort to develop an organizational intervention (Availability, Responsiveness, and Continuity, or 'ARC') that can help social and mental health service organizations be more effective."

Dr. Tony Hemmelgarn, Research Assistant Professor with the CMHSRC, will lead the implementation of ARC in the St. Louis agencies. He describes the new study as a crucial next step in the development of ARC: "In this study, we randomly assign entire organizations, as opposed to programs or treatment teams, to ARC and control conditions. Importantly, this study will be the first that tests the effects of ARC on the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based treatments. It will also be the first study of ARC outside of Tennessee."

—Denny Dukes

media enhanced feature

Courtney Cronley's Teaching and Research Benefit Diverse Populations



Students Introduced to Baker Center

Earlier this year, students in PhD Candidate Courtney Cronley's Advanced Policy Practice course were given the opportunity to "test the waters" in the real world of social work research and public service. Their work is now part of the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy's (Baker Center) archive of community-based scholarship at UT Knoxville.

The Advanced Policy Practice course focuses on community-based change, or grassroots community-identified and organized change. It is designed around the concept of service learning. Cronley, a graduate teaching assistant, taught the course under the mentorship of Dr. Cynthia Rocha, associate dean and associate professor at the Knoxville campus.

Cronley asked her students to organize efforts for community-based policy change on various issues including immigration, sexual trafficking, and organizational advocacy. They formed relationships with local community groups to engage them in problem solving and implementing solutions. A critical component of the assignment was the dialogue between the community and the classroom. Students responded to the needs of the community and applied skills acquired in the classroom, both theoretical and pragmatic, to help the groups address those needs.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of her students' work, Cronley introduced them to the Baker Center,

which has a civic education and engagement mission that aims to educate citizens about how government works and to highlight the critical importance of public service. They toured the Baker Center facility and used it as a tool to connect their classroom scholarship with community needs. "We were able to view the Center's archive of letters written from constituents to Senator Baker, which served as good primary examples," states Cronley.

"The Baker Center is actively attempting to pull together community, academic, non-profit, student, education, and business leaders to formulate relationships with the purpose of solving complex real-world problems. Solutions often encourage a combination of actions by the government, private, and civil spheres of society," states Gavin Luter, coordinator at the Baker Center. He adds, "The College of Social Work seems to be just as interested in building the capacity of its citizens to respond to social issues as the Baker Center, so it makes sense that we overlap on community-based change."

At the end of the semester, Cronley submitted four class projects to the Baker Center's archives, which community organizations will be able to consult in their efforts to create change and solve problems.

For more information about the students' projects, visit <http://www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/>

—Kirche Rogers

Cronley Receives HUD Grant

In a separate project, Cronley was awarded a competitive Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (DDRG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of University Partnerships. This \$25,000 award funded data collection and analysis for an expansion of an earlier study she had

conducted on the culture and climates of agencies that serve homeless populations.

Cronley found that there appeared to be a correlation between the rigidity of policies and the standardization of procedural practice within an organization and the success that organization would have implementing technological changes. Conversely, agencies with policies and procedures that were flexible and inconsistent across the organization were less successful in implementing technological change. This grant allowed her to check her findings with a wider and more diverse population.

The expanded research looked at homeless communities and agencies in the Detroit and Ottawa County areas of Michigan as well as the Knoxville pilot group. The study included a total of 26 agencies and 142 users. The expanded investigation sustained the most significant of the observations that had been made during the Knoxville pilot project.

Cronley explains, "The values and beliefs of people within organizations translate into staff behavior and reflect a general organizational culture. If a certain organizational culture is resistant to technology or to change, it is possible to identify barriers and work to lower that resistance."

Cronley's dissertation study, titled *An Organizational Cultural Approach to Understanding Technology Diffusion among Homeless Service Providers*, uses a multi-level model to examine the relationship between organizational culture and staff members' use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). To learn more about this project and to view a video describing the findings of this research project visit <http://www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/>

—Betsy DeGeorge

Amanda Blomberg Receives Dockery Family Reunion Association Award

Amanda Blomberg, a spring 2009 graduate of the MSSW program, received the Dockery Family Reunion Association Award last fall for her outstanding volunteer efforts to help the Dockery family in Sevierville, Tennessee, maintain their heritage of many years of service to the community.



contributions of African Americans to the history and heritage of that town. Somehow, Amanda was able to grasp the importance of the project in a very short time and immediately dove into the work."

Blomberg arranged a meeting between 10 members of the Association and the Sevier

County mayor plus a leading judge from the area. Both were committed their support to the project. With little supervision, she plowed through research on similar projects in Tennessee and other parts of the country. The result of her research was a 19 page document detailing those projects, contact information, and additional information on other potential resources.

"In a short time, Amanda was able to energize the community group and help propel the project forward. I am pleased she is receiving the recognition she deserves," states Murrah.

Adding her appreciation for the award, Blomberg states, "The Dockerys are wonderful people. I was honored to work with them and be a part of their story, and I was honored to be recognized for my work. The award signifies the meaningful relationship between the Dockery family and LAET."

—Kirche Rogers

Blomberg, one of the inaugural students in the college's evidence-based practice across systems concentration, volunteered to help the Dockery family last summer through a unit of Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET) that focuses on assisting grassroots community organizations throughout the region. "When I learned of the opportunity, I was really impressed with the work already being done by other students," she states. "I decided that it was something I really wanted to be a part of."

"I asked Amanda to take on a project that had stalled," explains Bill Murrah of LAET. "An African American group (the Association) wanted to transform a historic church in Sevierville into a cultural center that would highlight the con-

Dr. Lyle Cooper Attends MINT Training in Spain



Dr. Lyle Cooper, assistant professor at the Nashville campus, was one of a select group chosen to go to Barcelona, Spain, in early June to attend MINT TNT (Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers—Training New Trainers). The conference consisted of three days of advanced motivational interviewing (MI) training techniques and a two-day discussion forum on future directions for MI research and practice. The number of invitations to attend MINT TNT was limited, and applicants were required to submit counseling tapes as well as provide a history of their MI training.

Dr. Cooper was the only person in the network from Tennessee, Alabama, and Arkansas chosen to attend. He is the only MINT member in the state of Tennessee and, as such, the only person in the state who can provide supervision for persons seeking to become proficient in motivational interviewing.

—Kirche Rogers

SWORPS Staff Honored

Two members of the college's Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) staff have recently received professional achievement awards.

JoAnna Cheatham, associate director for the Special Development and Management Programs at SWORPS, was presented the Third Annual Deb Neill and Judy Smith Advocate Award by the Tennessee Family Child Care Alliance (TFCCA) at the organization's annual conference in Nashville this past spring.

The Deb Neill and Judy Smith Advocate Award is presented to outstanding individuals, groups, or agencies whose professional achievements and dedication go above and beyond that which is expected of them in an effort to promote the family child care industry as a whole.

While choosing the recipients for this year's award, TFCCA focused on individuals who are dedicated to strengthening the knowledge base of family child care providers. In her day-to-day work at SWORPS, Cheatham works closely with the Department of Human Services and its numerous partners, including TFCCA, to plan and implement strategies for improving the quality of child care across the state.

"JoAnna is consistent in her crusade to be a champion for children and the child care industry. She is always excited to hear what our (TFCCA) family child care providers have to say and we feel like she is dedicated to implementing their opinions into tools that will strengthen the family child care community statewide on multiple levels. That is why she received this year's award," explains Daphne Cole, executive director of TFCCA.

—Vicky Bridgeforth



Jan King, regional coordinator for SWORPS, was presented the Outstanding Member Award by the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) at the organization's state conference on October 3, 2008, in Nashville. TAEYC is a nonprofit organization made up of preschool, kindergarten, and primary teachers and administrators as well as caregivers, program directors, and individuals who work to promote the quality care and education of young children.

TAEYC organizes conferences and training for child care providers across the state. They also serve as advisors for foster parents, social workers, and day care centers and homes.

The Outstanding Member Award is given to a current TAEYC member who has helped to promote and advocate for the general welfare of children and early childhood professionals and who has taken a leadership role in the association.

King's involvement with the organization began in 1988, and since then she has served as President and Conference Advisory Chair and has been a member of the board for 12 years. King has also contributed in other ways—as co-chair of several conferences, as Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) representative, and as TAEYC Historian.

—Margot Kline





1. Dean Sowers chats with UT doctoral graduates Nancy Meyer-Adams (faculty member at California State University-Long Beach) and Randy Basham (faculty member at the University of Texas-Arlington) at the 2008 Council on Social Work Annual Program meeting in Philadelphia.



2. Stephanie Piper, Mike DeVoto, and Dean Sowers enjoy time together at the Child and Family Tennessee Founding Families Luncheon.



3. MSSW students Caroline Harvey and Sarah Reymer pack up coats collected for the annual Coats for the Cold drive.



4. (l to r) Stephanie and George Piper and Bill and Elisabeth Rukeyser enjoy the UT-Florida game.



5. CSW Professor Emeritus Dr. Gid Fryer (center) attends the UT-Mississippi game with family members.



6. Dean Sowers chats with UT graduate Paul Maiden, currently associate dean at the School of Social Work at the University of Southern California, at the 2008 Council on Social Work Annual Program meeting in Philadelphia.



7. The 2008 incoming doctoral students include (l-r) Connie Rust, Mholi Vimba, Julie Sutter, Bethanie Poe, and Kelly Martin.



8. Fall 2008 Board of Visitors include (first row, l-r) Betty Robinson, Stephanie Piper, Betsey Bush, Carol Tindell, Mary Catherine Willard, Louise Harrison, Libby McColl, Dona Diftler, Dean Sowers (back row, l-r) Wardell Milan, Jo Zarger, Betsy Child, David Guth, Cindi Dingler, Dan Caldwell, Farrell Cooper, and Mike DeVoto.



9. (Bottom row, l-r) Alumnae Betty Glasscock and Joyce Great-house and friends Dot Underwood and Mary Nell Glasscock joined Dean Karen Sowers and Development Director Stephanie Piper for dinner before the UT-Alabama game.

Jan Yorke Receives Veterinary Social Work Research Grant

Jan Yorke, international PhD candidate and Veterinary Social Work Fellow who lives in Canada, was awarded a research grant from the Waltham Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to supporting humane scientific research into the nutrition and healthy longevity of companion animals and the relationships they have with humans. Since its inception in 2001, the foundation has received more than 500 proposals, funded projects in 20 countries, and provided over \$500,000 toward research that directly improves the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide.



Yorke received \$10,000 from the foundation to further her research related to equine-assisted therapy interventions. Her project, titled "The Neurobiological Impact of Equine Assisted Interventions on Therapeutic Riding Horses and Traumatized Children," examines the benefits of therapeutic riding programs to horses as well as children. "There is a mutually rewarding human/animal relationship in therapeutic riding programs," she states. "I am

studying the relationship of the stress levels of eight- to ten-year-old children who experience trauma such as domestic violence to the stress levels of horses in the programs."

Her study is a single case design involving a small number of participants and volunteers who will help collect data. The study will take place in a therapeutic riding program on a farm in Ontario, Canada, where

Yorke lives and works. She will spend the next two years collecting data and will base her dissertation on her work.

"Jan worked tirelessly to obtain funding for this project, which is a challenge in human animal behavior studies," states Elizabeth Strand, director

of the Veterinary Social Work Services program at UT. "Jan's research topic is truly cutting edge in equine-assisted therapy interventions."

Currently, Yorke is a faculty member at the Georgian College in policing and in the University Partnership Centre in social work. She has been riding horses for the last 25 years and has volunteered as a coach for a therapeutic riding program.

—Kirche Rogers

Dr. Sherry Cummings Awarded Fellow Status



Dr. Sherry Cummings, associate dean and associate professor at the Nashville campus, has been awarded Fellow status from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Fellowship status is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement and exemplary contributions to the field of gerontology as evidenced by expansion of knowledge base in gerontology; professional activities in gerontology; and public leadership in gerontology.

The GSA is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. Its principal mission is to advance the

study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision makers, and the general public. The Society, founded in 1945, is the driving force behind the advancement of gerontology both domestically and internationally. It has over 5,000 members from over 40 countries. To further fulfill its mission, GSA publishes the field's preeminent peer-reviewed journals and each year assembles over 3,500 professionals from around the world at an annual scientific meeting.

"I joined the GSA my first year as a doctoral student and have gained so much over the years from participation in the annual scientific meetings, involvement with outstanding gerontological researchers, and exposure to stellar leaders in the field. I'm very pleased, and honored, to be awarded GSA Fellow status," states Cummings.

—Kirche Rogers

SWORPS Publications Unit Receives International Davey Award



The Publications Unit of the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) was honored by the International Academy of the Visual Arts with an International Davey Award.

The group received a silver award for art direction/graphic design

for a College of Social Work brochure, "Social Work: The Human Profession." The cover image depicts the human genome. It serves as a marketing tool for prospective Social Work students that encourages them to want to look deeper into what the college has to offer.

"In the brochure we talk about the fact that our college has really embraced the idea of being a global learning experience and that social work is a science and that it is studied pretty scientifically," states Betsy DeGeorge, SWORPS publications manager.



A letter announcing the award said, "With over 4,000 entries from across the U.S. and around the world, the Davey Awards honors the finest creative work from the best small firms, agencies, and companies worldwide. The annual International Davey Awards honors the achievements of the 'Creative Davids' who derive their strength from big ideas, rather than big budgets."

Members of the SWORPS publications group are (from top to bottom, at right) Vicky Bridgeforth, production coordinator; Betsy DeGeorge, manager; Margot Kline, graphic designer; and Kirche Rogers, editor.



"I am really proud of the work that our publications group does," says DeGeorge. "They are consistently striving for excellence, whether it is in a small design project or a large one. In everything from editing a plan for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, to building online training for the Tennessee Department of Human Services, to creating a brochure for the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center, this group of talented professionals uses its skills to serve its clients by creating products that are accurate, effective, beautifully designed, and functional in every sense of the word."



Adds Dean Sowers, "This is a well-deserved honor. This group is highly creative and innovative, client-oriented, and energizing to work with. The quality of their work is always outstanding."



—Kirche Rogers

**The University of Tennessee College of Social Work
Office of Research and Public Service
UT Conference Center
600 Henley Street, Suite B80
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4104**

**Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 481**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED (#164)

The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the University. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996 3560, telephone (865) 974 2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996 4125. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in its efforts to ensure a welcoming environment for all persons, does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in its campus-based programs, services, and activities. Inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

stimulus

Karen Sowers—Dean

Sherry Cummings—Associate Dean, Nashville

Theora Evans—Associate Dean, Memphis

Cynthia Rocha—Associate Dean, Knoxville

Paul Campbell—Director, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service

Charles Glisson—Director, Children's Mental Health Services Research Center

Bill Nugent—Director, PhD Program

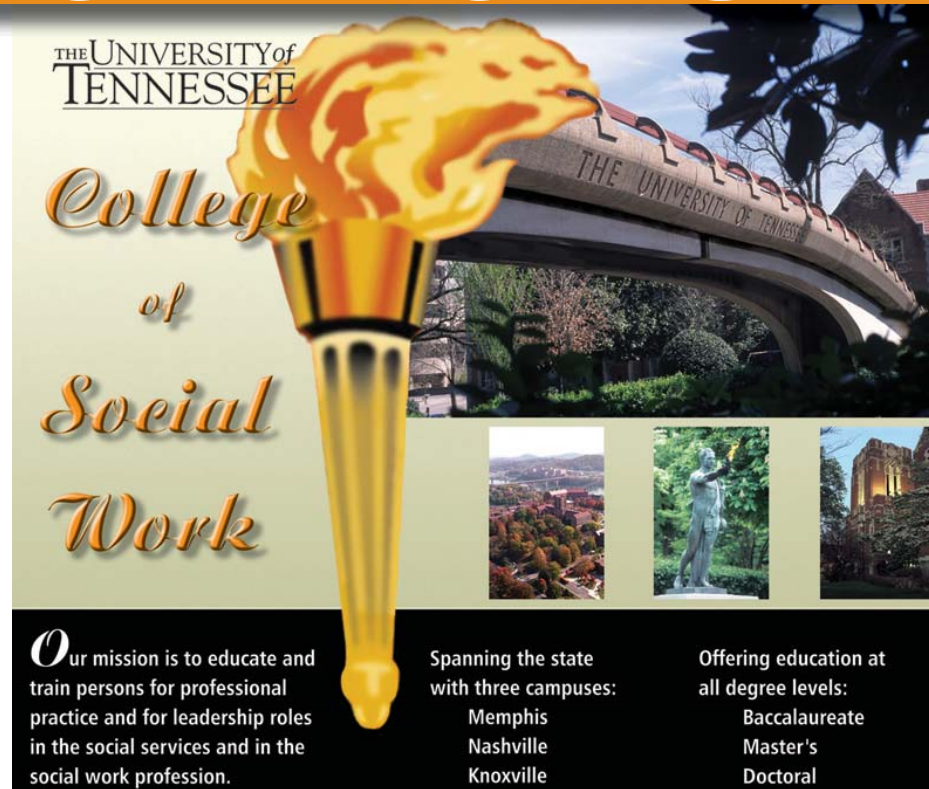
Matthew Theriot—Interim Director, BSSW Program

Kirche Rogers—Editor

Margot Kline—Designer

**Dean's Office (865) 974-3176
Alumni Office (865) 974-5363
UT Alumni Association (865) 974-3011
Web Address <http://www.csw.utk.edu>**

EO1-4010-005-10 (09098)



**THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE**

*College
of
Social
Work*

Our mission is to educate and train persons for professional practice and for leadership roles in the social services and in the social work profession.

Spanning the state with three campuses:
Memphis
Nashville
Knoxville

Offering education at all degree levels:
Baccalaureate
Master's
Doctoral

If you received more than one copy of this newsletter, please pass it on to a colleague!