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Stimulus Alumni Newsletter

Social Work Office of Research & Public Service (SWORPS)

10-1-2000

Stimulus, Fall 2000

UT College of Social Work

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Fall 2000

Stimulus

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work

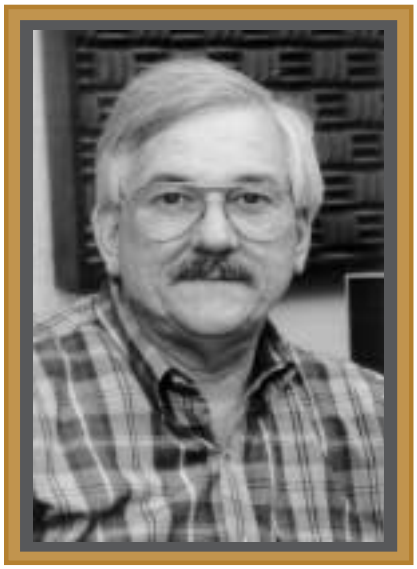
New Tools, New Staff Members Enhance SWORPS's Services

by Paul Campbell and Pan Riggs

Special Report

A quiet revolution is taking place in the offices of SWORPS, the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service. File cabinets are disappearing as information is moved to digital files on a server; data quality is improving as new software helps evaluators collect and analyze data more effectively; and social service clients are receiving better service—all because of a few new tools and bright people who know how to use them. Using programming tools and the internet, SWORPS's software engineers have developed a model information-management system that benefits SWORPS employees as well as public welfare and social service agencies and their clients.

Large-scale, results-oriented government programs such as welfare reform require a high volume of information from a variety of sources to effectively evaluate the impact, design, and delivery of new program initiatives. SWORPS combines years of evaluation experience with programming tools that have cryptic names like *SQL Server* and *Active Server Pages*. The result is the creation of an environment that can be accessed via web browser yet provide necessary levels of confidentiality. This system enables administators, direct service providers, and contract staff members to share knowledge and information regardless of geographic location.



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

Net Concepts

The *internet* is well-known. The *intranet*, an in-house internet connected to but protected from the world-wide web, is rapidly becoming standard technology in many organizations and academic institutions. The *extranet* connects intranets to selected audiences via the web, allowing SWORPS to interact with agencies, partners, and customers.

This extranet concept is central to SWORPS's recent projects, because SWORPS software engineers have developed applications with web-based interfaces for its state partners. SWORPS hosts principal applications, databases, and active server pages on servers at its Knoxville location. Authorized users across the state have controlled access, using groupware and security programs.

The CSR Project

SWORPS has developed several web-based database-driven applications. The largest project is Customer Service Review (CSR), which reviews case records in the Tennessee Department of Human Services to ensure that cases are closed appropriately and in accordance with policy. CSR data that used to be collected on paper forms once filled rooms of file cabinets; now this information is managed in a database housed on a SWORPS server. The cutting-edge system can accommodate 100 concurrent users statewide, who need only an internet browser and security clearance to access it from any computer. Reviewers in six locations are now using the automated system, and the remaining site will be online in the next few weeks.

The Customer Service Review project has become prototype for other, smaller projects for TDHS. (See the list of projects on page 9.) The advantages of the new system include increased accuracy, better compliance with policy, and faster reporting times. The system verifies the appropriateness of the input data and alerts the user to items that require special attention. The database-management functions, which are centrally located

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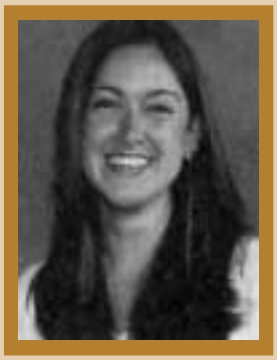
Two Recent CSW Alumni Win Top Honors



Kristi Disney, an August 2000 BSSW graduate of the College who was profiled in the last issue of *Stimulus* for her outstanding work as a community volunteer, was a 2000 recipient of UT's Torchbearer Award. While at UT Kristi was a member of the Student Government Association, the Campus Judicial System, the Undergraduate Academic Council, and the Interfraternity Council. In addition, she contributed to *The Daily Beacon*, the Volunteer Yearbook, and Phoenix, all while maintaining a 3.1 average. Congratulations, Kristi!

Hats off as well to Spring 2000 grad Elizabeth Billings, who received the UT Citation for Extraordinary Community Service! While maintaining a 3.85 average, she served as a volunteer at the Love Kitchen, at Sarah Moore Green Magnet Elementary School, and at Ronald McDonald House. She also was a member of the UT Varsity Rowing Team, the UT Dance Society, the Alliance for Hope, Amnesty International, and the BSSW-SWO. She participated in many volunteer projects that served rural Appalachian populations and was the founder and president of a UT chapter of Students for a Free Tibet.

Linda Herbert Scholarship Fund Continues to Grow

by Kathy Perkey

Linda Miller Herbert was an interior designer, a published writer of children's stories, an artist, and a student at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Linda wanted to use her degree in social work to share her love with others and make a difference in people's lives. She started making that difference while working toward her MSSW.

Linda Miller Herbert

Linda was moved by the struggles that many single parents have to endure to attend college. She thought very highly of single parents who return to school, and she admired their strength and determination to reach their goals. She then started helping these single parents with their studies, while also maintaining a 3.95 GPA and working on an internship in Senior Services.

Tragically, on November 25, 1992, Linda lost her life in a car accident—though her love for others has continued. At the time of her death, Linda was trying to get a fund started to help single parents attending college. Soon after, the faculty and Linda's fellow students started contributions to create an endowment to carry forth her wish to help single parents. Linda was then awarded her master's degree posthumously.

The Linda Miller Herbert Endowment was started in April of 1993 and has been very successful. Linda's husband, Richard, has played an active role in making the endowment grow.

Mr. Herbert sends annual letters to potential donors to the endowment to keep the fund growing, and his efforts are paying off. The original goal for the endowment was $15,000, and the fund now stands at more than $30,000. Only the interest on the fund is earmarked for spending, so the larger the endowment, the more money is available for the recipient of the Linda Miller Herbert Award.

The award is given each year to a master's student attending the UT College of Social Work in Memphis. Recipients who meet certain requirements can be nominated by faculty and students, and the Dean makes the final decision of who will receive the award. The following criteria are used:

1. The student must be a single, working parent with primary responsibility for child care.

2. The student must be highly motivated and outstanding in some way.

3. The student must be enrolled in the master's program at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, College of Social Work.

4. Students who have financial need and who have not received other university support receive preference.

The Linda Miller Herbert Award is given to the recipient during graduation exercises each May. Richard Herbert each makes the actual presentation of the award, which allows him to further honor Linda and meet the individual who will benefit from the endowment. So far, nine students have received the award, and the number will only continue to increase as the endowment grows.

***—Kathy Perkey is the editorial assistant for* Stimulus.**

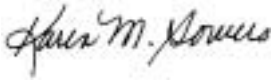
Letter from the Dean

I must have passed a major milestone in my deanship at the College of Social Work. No longer introduced at events as "the new dean," I feel as much a part of the fabric of the College as if I had grown up here. I have all of you—the faculty, alumni, students, supporters, and friends of the College—to thank for making me feel so much a part of the UT College of Social Work family.

We belong to a large family, with about 5,000 alumni, 40 faculty members, 14 staff members at the College, 153 staff members in the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service, and 24 staff members in the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center.

We span the state in our educational, research, and public service activities. In addition, our alumni outreach includes the state, the nation, and even the globe. Still, despite being so large and spread out, our commitment to the University and to the College of Social Work provides a strong bond between us all.

As we grow in strength and numbers, we are also aging. In the year 2002, the College of Social Work will turn 60! We have already begun planning for our 60th anniversary party, and we invite you to become a part of the planning. So . . . give us a call and give us your ideas. We're looking forward to celebrating together!



Stan L. Bowie Serves as Vol Mentor

It began by chance at a Knox County Mental Health Association Board meeting last Spring. CSW Assistant Professor Dr. Stan L. Bowie and UT Vol Head Football Coach Phil Fulmer struck up a conversation about the problems young football recruits sometimes face adjusting to college life—especially those students who come from inner-city neighborhoods and find themselves thrust into the limelight and into a large college environment for the first time.

"We just sort of hit it off," says Bowie. "We started talking about how these young men might benefit from having a sympathetic mentor who could relate to their personal experiences, and since I grew up in inner-city Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and have worked with families in urban Miami, it seemed like I was the one for the job."

Fulmer invited Bowie to lunch to discuss mentoring more fully; then he had Bowie meet the rest of the coaching staff.

"We're just getting this started, but the plan is for me to be here for recruits and team members who need someone to talk to about problems related to academics, social life, or just being away from home," says Bowie.

He adds, "With some of the negative publicity that has recently surrounded the team, I'm delighted the College of Social Work can have a positive affiliation with 'The Big Orange.' "

—Margot Kline

Calling All Alumni—Share Your Work Experiences!

UT's Department of Career Services provides career information to thousands of students every year. This information is often instrumental in students' choices of major fields of study and helpful to those who are beginning to focus on areas of career interest. Since students want to receive more of their information via the worldwide web, Career Services is doing all it can to accommodate them.

If you feel that your career path might be of interest to students who are considering a social work major and would like to make your career profile available on the web, just do the following:

1. Go to the Career Services website at http://web.utk.edu/~career.
2. Click on the Alumni Street bus.
3. Click on the Alumni Job Profile Form.
4. Click on "What Can I Do with This Major/Degree?" to make sure your major is included.
5. Click on "Back" and return to fill out the Profile Form.

Career Services also assists alumni in their professional development. It offers information, assessment, and counseling for alumni facing career change or career growth. For additional information regarding the services that it provides, contact Career Services at (865) 974-5435 or visit its website at http://web.utk.edu/~career.

Save the Dates!

Don't Miss These Terrific Professional Continuing Education Opportunities

Getting It Together Legally to Defeat Family Violence

Knoxville
Thursday, November 9, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Church Street United Methodist Church
900 Henley Street, Room CLC 120

Presenter Janet Gurwich, JD, will present a short overview of the current laws concerning family violence. Learn from a practicing attorney how to put the law to use in your own casework.

Webpage Construction for Health Professionals

Memphis
Friday, November 10, 9:00 am to noon
UT College of Social Work
822 Beale Street, 2nd Floor

Be sure to attend this user-friendly computer workshop to learn how to create your own webpage using free web-hosting resources. Presenter Vaughn DeCoster, MSW, PhD, ACSW, LCSW, will teach you how to create your page in less than an hour!

Stress Reduction with Mindfulness Meditation

Knoxville
Wednesday, November 15, 9:00 am to noon
The Knoxville Center Mall
UT/William T. Snyder Classroom

This workshop will teach participants how to be more aware of moment-to-moment feelings in order to reduce stress in their own lives and in their work situations. Presenter Debbie Skyler, EdS, will use her experience as an instructor of relaxation and visualization to teach breathing, sitting, and movement techniques.

For more information about these workshops and others, call Donna Mitchell at 865-974-6016.

The BSSW–SWO Makes News

by Margot Kline

The Bachelor of Science in Social Work Student Organization (BSSW–SWO) is one of three student organizations within the College. In the past two years, the bachelor's level organization has made great strides to increase its membership and its presence in the broader community.

One of the ways that the group has become more active is in the development of a student newsletter (right). It is published twice a year under the direction of undergraduate program director Frank Spicuzza and is produced by the BSSW-SWO publicity committee, headed by Allison Speck, and program/research specialist Gina Cox, who is on the staff of the College.

Inform
Inspire
Improve

African-American Panel Celebrates Rich History and Provides Motivation for Change

The most recent issue of the BSSW–SWO newsletter featured a cover story about a recent panel discussion that was hosted by the award-winning organization.

The BSSW–SWO also conducts an annual silent auction during homecoming week, and this year that event raised $1,400! Other committees within the organization include professional development, chaired by Diane Crawford; community service, chaired by Tammy Watson; social, chaired by Kenya Patterson; fund-raising, chaired by Cheryl Carnes; and research, chaired by Sandy Roof. The group's co-presidents are Amanda Miller and Amy Rimmer; the secretary is Amanda Hodges; and the treasurer is Emily Kerr.

The organization has been involved in several volunteer activities during the past year, such as staffing a free flu-shot clinic, organizing and running a haunted house for inner-city kids, and providing infant care at Great Starts of Knoxville. "The community service committee has been very active in lining up volunteer opportunities for students and raising awareness of activities that students can get involved in," says publicity chairwoman Allison Speck.

In addition to its philanthropic efforts, last February the organization hosted an exciting panel discussion entitled "African American Empowerment for the 21st Century." The professional development committee organized this activity, which featured JaQuitta Williams, news anchor for Knoxville's WBIR television station; Dr. Stan Bowie, assistant professor in the College; Saadia Williams, executive director of Project Change in Knoxville; and Jacqueline Brown, community service manager for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

In April 2000, the BSSW–SWO was honored with the University of Tennessee Citation for Extraordinary Contribution to Campus Life in recognition of its outstanding success both within the college and the community. The coming months promise even more from the organization—next on the agenda is the development of a website! If you would like to contribute to the organization as a presenter or have news that would be of interest to undergraduates, contact Diane Crawford at diandbri@ntown.com or Allison Speck at (865) 974-3351.

***—Margot Kline is the editor of* Stimulus.**

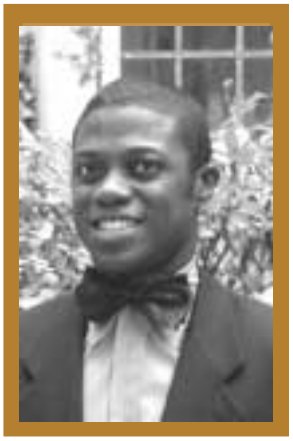
The CSW Salutes Its Third-Year Doctoral Students

The College of Social Work is proud to report that five students are currently in the third year of their doctoral studies. These talented individuals are conducting research on a wide variety of topics, including artificial intelligence, the social climate in schools, AIDS, and domestic violence.

Christopher Flaherty received his BSW from the University of Southern Colorado in 1990 and his MSW from the University of Denver in 1992. Since 1985, Flaherty has served in the U.S. Air Force, where he has worked as a psychiatric technician and clinical social worker. He holds an independent practice clinical license from South Dakota and board certification from the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work. He was selected for Air Force sponsorship to complete doctoral studies at the University of Tennessee, where he is currently researching the use of artificial intelligence technology to improve the prediction of child abuse.

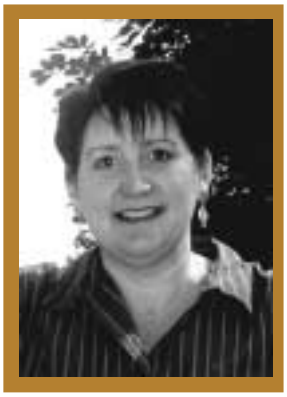
Christopher Flaherty

Thomas Alex Washington received a BA in Sociology from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, an MSSW from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, and an MA in Sociology from the University of Memphis. Currently Alex is working on four research topics: "An evaluation of the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990," "Testing the reliablity of a customized computer program for a research questionnaire, which will be used in the Volunteer Infant Study project," "The homeless need more than just a pillow, they need a pillar: Transitional Housing Programs," and "Perinatal care and HIV/AIDS issues." His dissertation focuses on factors affecting HIV testing of African-American women during prenatal care. Alex has gained experience in social work while working at the Elvis Presley Regional Medical Center in Memphis, the Memphis Veterans Affairs Hospital, and the Memphis Housing Authority.



T. Alex Washington

Nancy Meyer-Adams's academic career is a truly inspiring one. She dropped out of high school in 1971, then after 20 years earned her GED and began pursuit of a doctoral degree. She obtained her BSW in 1997 and her MSW in 1998, both from Florida International University in Miami. Nancy's academic goals were inspired by her two children, who are also currently attending college. Her son is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at UCLA, and her daughter is studying traditional Chinese medicine in St. Petersburg, Florida. Nancy's dissertation is on the effects of culture and climate of middle schools on the prevention of low-level school violence such as bullying and peer harassment. She plans to complete the doctoral program in August 2001.



Nancy Meyer-Adams

Randy Basham graduated from West Liberty State College in 1977 with a BA in both Psychology and Sociology. He received his MSW from West Virginia University in 1981. In addition to his professional studies, he also has extensive practice experience, including 19 years in health care and mental health care delivery. He has taught undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate courses in Social Work and Counseling. He has chaired a Professional Advisory Board for a mental health agency, and has supervised bachelor's and master's level students as well as master's level clinical staff in clinical training. He is currently working on data visualization issues in group evaluation. He has developed additional information technology relative to education during his time in residence with the doctoral program. More explanation will come here about what this information technology involves.

Randy Basham

Elizabeth Wilson received her BSSW in 1991 from Philadelphia College of Bible and her MSW in 1994 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has most recently worked at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing as a Community Psychiatric Social Worker/Mental Health Clinician. Elizabeth is co-founder and past president of the PhD Social Work Student Club at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. She is currently working on her dissertation, "Handling Attrition Problems in High Risk Samples," and expects to graduate in June 2002.

Elizabeth Wilson

—Kathy Perkey

Photo Gallery

Members of the faculty and students from the CSW rallied 'round Karenna Gore Schiff (daughter of Presidential candidate Al Gore) at a recent campaign stop that Ms. Schiff made in Knoxville. Pictured on the front row (l. to r.) are doctoral student Edgar Tyson, alumna Susan Lawhorn, Schiff, and alumna Suzanne Reynolds. On the second row (l. to r.) are MSSW student Alice Cockrum and doctoral students Nancy Meyer-Adams and Juan Barthelemy. In the back are Assistant Professor Mary Rogge (far left), and MSSW student Joslyn Strupp (behind Cockrum).

Board of Visitors member John Turner (l.), who is senior vice president of Education, Training, and Diversity at TVA, enjoyed a glass of wassail with Billie Spicuzza (MSSW '72) at the Dean's Christmas party last December.

Sharon Basham (l.), wife of doctoral student Randy Basham (middle), and doctoral student T. Alex Washington (r.) also shared in the holiday spirit at the Dean's Christmas party. For more information about Basham, Washington, and other PhD candidates, see page 5.

In April 2000, the Dean, along with Rhonda Garren, who is the Community Prosecution Coordinator for the Knox County Attorney General's office, enjoyed meeting with members of SOAR, an inner-city youth group, at the Metropolitan Drug Commission's Youth Fair. Also attending (l. to r.) were UT football players Joey Matthews, Will Overstreet, Travis Henry, and Eric Parker.

Dr. Bill Rowe (standing), the director of the School of Social Work at McGill University in Montreal, was guest speaker at a Visiting Scholar Symposium on International Education that was held during Homecoming in September. Among those who attended his presentation were (l. to r.) doctoral students Nancy Meyer-Adams and T. Alex Washington and Dr. Bill Nugent, director of the UT CSW doctoral program.

Assistant Professor Dr. Tim Davey and Lynelle Hammett (MSSW '72), who is the interim director of Knoxville's Child and Family Services, chatted at an alumni reception held in Nashville.

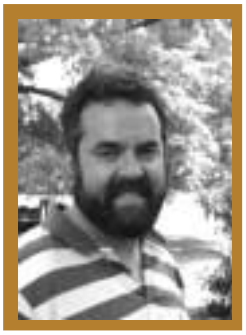
continued from page 1

SWORPS's New Technology Expands

on servers at UT, allow rapid software updates and quick response to policy changes. Reports are automatically generated weekly for each site and monthly for each county—a task that used to take hours. A costly, time-consuming process involving thousands of forms and snail mail has been replaced by a user-friendly process that is available instantly to anyone with a password.

Security

Because confidential and sensitive data is passed along these networks, security is a major concern. To insure privacy, SWORPS staff members created a virtual private network using a firewall. Users are limited to selected applications and databases, data is encrypted between workstations in the field and the application server, and network administrators are allowed to monitor communication and provide audit trails of process.


Phil Livingston

The Software Engineers

To achieve the level of skill necessary to develop and manage such programs, SWORPS has made training and educational opportunities available for new and existing staff members and has recruited and hired highly capable professionals experienced in industry and institutional systems.

Seven people work in the software engineering group, and their credentials range from advanced degrees in abstract algebra and international relations to web design and database management. Still they all share a commitment to making technology work for people.

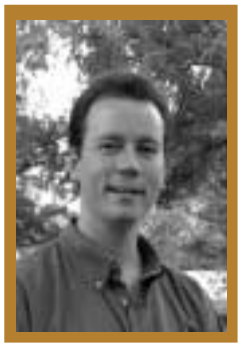
Doug Bible

Caimu Cui

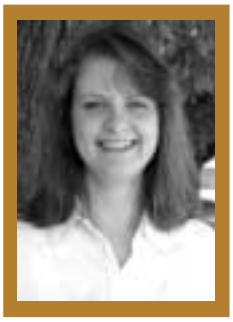
Debbie Daniels

Tim Ford

Phil Livingston heads the software engineering group and designs systems and software applications. Doug Bible, Computer Systems Specialist, installs, integrates, and problem-solves operating systems and addresses telecommunications issues.


Carl Hardin

Caimu Cui, Research Specialist, designs software, develops and tests applications, develops specialized database tools, maintains databases, and troubleshoots software. Debbie Daniels, Senior Computer Support Specialist, is a certified First Responder and provides the first line of support for office staff with hardware and software needs. Tim Ford, Computer Systems Specialist, serves the Nashville location and installs, integrates, and problem-solves operating systems as well as programming and database administration. Carl Hardin, Computer Programmer Specialist, does software design, development, and testing of web-based database applications and specialized database tools. Deidre Hoffman, Computer Programmer Specialist, works with users to define engineering requirements, designs, codes, and tests software applications.


Diedre Hoffman

—Paul Cambell is the director of SWORPS; Pan Riggs is the SWORPS publications manager.

The Changing Focus of SWORPS

In 1985, the Office of Continuing Social Work Education (OCSWE) changed its name to the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS). As the original title suggests, the initial role of the unit was continuing professional education. As the federal government increased funding for public welfare staff development, evaluation, and training, SWORPS's contractual partnership with state agencies expanded. In the early 1990s, the era of re-engineering government occurred in an environment of expanding technical choices and increased program complexity. SWORPS's experience with performance and outcome measurement and institutional research supported increasing involvement in the development of statewide performance management systems to support existing and new program policy initiatives of SWORPS's state partners.

Other SWORPS Projects

Active Case Reviews
Another web-based application, this database-driven project will enable reviewers of active TDHS Families First cases immediate access to data. It will replace paper forms currently used and allow for more accurate and accessible data regarding the quality and accuracy of records.

DOH Referrals
New data-entry and tracking software will help evaluators who track referrals to the Tennessee Department of Health. The application will help manage information about home visits to ensure the health and safety of Tennessee's children.

Families Services Counseling
Families Services Counseling (FSC) provides counseling and advocacy services for Families First clients. A new web-based database system collects information from counselors across the state, saving time and improving accuracy and reporting capability. More than 3,000 clients are now in the database, which is still growing.

— P.C.

Glossary

Active Server Page:
An HTML page that includes one or more scripts (small embedded programs) that are processed on a Microsoft Web server before the page is sent to the user. Typically, the script in the web page at the server uses input received as the result of the user's request for the page to access data from a database and then builds or customizes the page on the fly before sending it to the requestor.

Electronic Data Interchange:
a standard format for electronic communication of business transactions, such as case records, between organizations.

Extranet:
A private network that uses the internet protocol and the public telecommunication system to securely share part of an organization's information or operations with partners, customers, or others.

Firewall:
A set of related programs, located at a network gateway server, that protects the resources of a private network from unauthorized access via the internet; uses combinations of routers and software.

Groupware:
Software designed to support multiple users who work collectively although located remotely from each other.

Intranet:
Interconnected computers and networks within an organization that allow employees to share company information and computing resources. An intranet can also facilitate workgroups and teleconferences.

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP):
Highly specialized database system that is optimized for access that is primarily read-only. Primary use is for directory services and as the point of access control to the secure system.

Virtual Private Network (VPN):
Private network that is configured within a public network (for example, SWORPS within UT).

— P.C.

Alumni Profile:
Sandra Bell (MSSW '96) Offers Community Services to the Elderly

Sandra E. Bell has worked in hospice care, home health care, hospitals, assisted living, and nursing homes, so she has ample experience in geriatrics. In 1996, she branched out on her own to found Senior Choices, an Alcoa, Tennessee, agency that provides in-home care to senior adults in Blount and Knox Counties.

Senior Choices offers special assistance such as running errands, house cleaning, and monitoring and companion services for seniors. Also offered are counseling and support for the clients and family members who face the difficult transitions of the aging process.

In addition to her work at Senior Choices, Sandra writes a column for *Caregiving* magazine. When asked what she believes to be the greatest benefit from social work, Sandra states, "To help people. I love getting to help clients as well as family members."

Spotlight on New Faculty: John Wodarski (MSSW '67)

A Distinguished Alumnus Returns to Head Research

by Kate Miller

One of the College of Social Work's most respected alumni has rejoined the College as a new faculty member. Dr. John Wodarski was appointed Director of Research beginning Fall semester of 2000 as part of a multi-campus initiative that is aimed at increasing the College's presence both within the university and nationally.

One of Dr. Wodarski's main purposes in his new position is to assist the College with the University of Tennessee's overall goal of becoming a top-25 research university. Dr. Wodarski's office is located on the Memphis campus; however, he will work with faculty across three campuses (Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis) to broaden their research focus, support the growth of research publications, and obtain more grant money for research. He will also be working closely with doctoral students.

Dr. Wodarski received a BS in Social Work and Psychology from Florida State University in 1965. He received an MSSW from UTK in 1967 and a PhD in Social Work from George Washington University in St. Louis in 1970.

Since receiving his PhD, Dr. Wodarski has worked at several prestigious institutions, including Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. He has directed research centers at the University of Georgia, the University of Akron, and SUNY-Buffalo. In his most recent position at SUNY-Buffalo, he was the Janet B. Wattles Research Professor and was the director of the first SUNY-Buffalo School of Social Work doctoral program. Dr. Wodarski has also consulted with many public and private agencies, such as the Kettering Foundation and the Veteran's Administration in Augusta, Georgia.

> *"This fall in public forums all across Tennessee I have been advancing the proposition that the University of Tennessee should be, must be, a top-25 public research university."*
>
> —UT President J. Wade Gilley

Dr. Wodarski has been active in many community organizations in several states. His honors and awards include the International Book of Honor, Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals, and the Trailblazers Award from African American Authors. Dr. Wodarski is especially proud to be the only social worker appointed to the John Wiley & Sons Behavioral Advisory Board, which is made up of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Wodarski has been responsible for planning, funding development, and administration of research grants. He has helped raise more than $40 million in research funds for the various institutions and agencies with which he has worked.

Dr. Wodarski has also authored and co-authored more than 400 publications, including 27 books and 196 periodicals. He is currently the co-editor for the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. He has served as a reviewer for many publications, including Social Work in Education, *The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, Contemporary Social Psychology*, and *Behavioral Counseling Quarterly*.

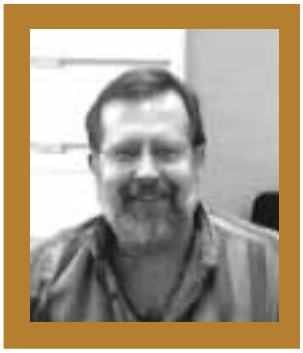
"Dr. Wodarski is a nationally renowned scholar and researcher, and we are indeed fortunate to have him join our faculty. He has an outstanding record in the areas of research, publications, and externally funded grants," says Dean Sowers. When asked about his new position, Dr. Wodarski comments, "I'm glad to be home."

—Kate Miller is a publications specialist at SWORPS.

Other New Faces . . .

Rod Ellis Joins the Faculty in Nashville

Assistant Professor Rodney A. Ellis received a BA in Practical Ministries from Cincinnati Bible College, an MSW from Florida International University, and a PhD in Social Welfare, also from Florida International. His speciality area is adolescent problem behavior. As a member of the Nashville faculty, his responsibilities include teaching, serving on various College committees, advising students, and developing relationships with community agencies. Prior to his work here at UT he was an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Philosophy at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. His other professional work has included directing the Division of Child Welfare for the Florida Department of Children and Families in Ft. Lauderdale, where he was responsible for managing a staff of 400 and administering a budget of $53 million. His work has been published in *Juvenile and Family Court Journal, Journal of Primary Prevention, Research on Social Work Practice,* and *Juvenile Justice Practice*, among others.



Rod Ellis

Shenyang Guo is the Newest Addition to the College

Dr. Shenyang Guo recently joined the UT College of Social Work's Memphis faculty. His professional experience has included serving as an assistant professor at Mandel School of Applied Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he taught research methodology and statistics and was a member of the PhD Executive Committee. He received an MA in Economics from Fudan University in Shanghai, China, and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In addition to teaching, he has published widely and has conducted research in the areas of child welfare, child mental health, population and poverty research, and application of statistical models to social work populations. His academic work has won Dr. Guo two honorary fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation. He was also awarded a fellowship from the Population Association of America and a $283,669 Casey Foundation grant for an investigation that he co-authored.

Shenyang Guo

More Social Work Students Honored

Emily Kerr

Each year the University of Tennessee presents the Volunteer of the Year award to a rising senior who has made an extraordinary contribution to campus and community service. This year, the honor went to Emily Kerr, a social work major from Cleveland, Tennessee. She believes that service is a citizen's responsibility, and says she demonstrates that belief in her work with the BSSW-SWO, the Campus Crusade for Christ, and her sorority, Delta Zeta.

Beverly Gibson

Beverly Gibson and Niya Butts, Spring 2000 graduates, each received Community Service and Academic Leadership Awards from UT. Beverly was honored with an award for University leadership as well as an award for academic achievement. Niya, who was a forward on the Lady Vols basketball team, received the "Unsung Hero" award for her team leadership.

Niya Butts

Heather McCurry

Heather McCurry, another Spring 2000 graduate, received the University of Tennessee Citation for Extraordinary Academic Achievement. She maintained an overall grade point average of 3.98 and was also awarded the College's Sally Holder Johnson memorial scholarship for outstanding achievement in both the classroom and in field practice.

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