stimulus

UT COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI MAGAZINE — Fall / Winter 2012

HERITAGE of EXCELLENCE VISION for ACHIEVEMENT

MISS LORA LEE PEDERSON has been named acting director of the Nashville School of Social Work, sponsored jointly by Vanderbilt University, George Peabody College for Teachers, and Scarritt College. The school is operating under an accelerated war program and is training workers both for present and postwar needs.

"The entrance of the United States into the present World War has created large demands for trained workers in the old and established services and in certain new services," Miss Pederson said today. "Day care for children has been established as mothers have gone into defense industries. The rise of juvenile delinquency has been unquestioned by thoughtful people who are familiar with the 50 per cent rise in juevenile delinquncy in England during the first year of the war, as well as the appalling condition of children in our country revealed by recent studies."

The Nashville School of Social Work is giving special attention to dependent, neglected, or illegally employed children.

70th Anniversary Issue

1. Students excel
2. Faculty achieve
3. College remembers
4. Alumni give back

—More

Table *of* Contents

Dean's Welcome 1

PhD Student Receives Prestigious Fellowship
and
Alumna Wins Gold Medal at 2012 Olympics..... 2

Heritage of Excellence:
Memories of the College's Impact on Social Work Since 1942 3
History of cooperation | Curriculum development and training for TDHS | Children's mental health services | Protecting and caring for children | Homelessness, AIDS, and substance abuse | A vision for achievement

Vision for Achievement:
College of Social Work Faculty–Scholars, Researchers, and Leaders..... 5
Faculty papers accepted for presentation and publication; faculty member wins grant | Cummings appointed to CSWE Council on Leadership Development | MacMaster keynotes for summit at Duke University | Davis wins Fulbright Specialist Fellowship

Degrees Making a Difference:
UTK College of Social Work Alums Give Back to Their Communities..... 7

Strand Receives Honor; Prepares for Third International VSW Summit..... 8

Called to Serve:
A Military Family Becomes a Social Work Family..... 9

Photo Gallery 10

WELCOME TO THE FALL 2012 ISSUE OF STIMULUS!

A Heritage of Excellence and a Vision for Achievement is such an appropriate theme for this issue of *Stimulus* as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the College of Social Work. Looking both back into our history and visioning for the future while we celebrate our recent advances and achievements, we share with you some of our history and development of partnerships over the decades, some of our current progress, and we share with you some of our hopes and vision for the next decade to come. Throughout the issue we highlight faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

You will actually note several themes throughout this issue of Stimulus: veterinary social work, international social work, emphasis on evidence-based practice and intervention research, technological applications to support our agencies and departments in Tennessee, and trauma-focused practice.

I am grateful to the faculty, students, donors, and community supporters who made so many contributions to our success over the last 70 years. Our recent success in the Capital Campaign is only one example of the hard work and commitment made to the college. We are well poised in moving forward because of all of you!

Come and join us at the gala on November 2nd and celebrate our 70th Anniversary!

Karen M. Sowers

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT
KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

PhD Student Nate Williams Receives Prestigious NIMH F31 Fellowship

Hundreds of exceptional students from many of the nation's top universities submitted proposals, but it was second-year PhD student Nate Williams who received a prestigious and competitive National Institute for Mental Health F31 Research Fellowship for his project "Understanding the Impact of Organizational Implementation Strategies on Evidence-based Treatment Use." The Fellowship is a three-year award.

"This research project focuses on understanding how mental health organizations can support clinicians as they try to implement evidence-based practices in real-world service settings," explained Williams. "The study I'll be doing with this fellowship is focused on understanding what kinds of organizational strategies might be most effective in supporting clinicians."

This type of research is known as "implementation science" and, Williams noted, is an important focus for the National Institutes of Health, as well as other funders, such as foundations, right now. "There is a big gap in many areas of medicine, mental health, substance abuse, etc., between what we know works and what typically gets delivered to clients....Implementation science is about figuring out how to translate effective treatments into practice settings in a way that they provide maximum benefits to the clients," he explained.

Williams was gracious in the acceptance of his award, calling it a "true team effort" and crediting the faculty and staff who made it possible, particularly those in the college's Children's Mental Health Services Research Center. "Having my proposal accepted was a tremendous honor," he said.

"Implementation science is a ripe area for social work researchers because it focuses on how we can translate what we've learned from science into really effective interventions in the real world with real people," Williams said. "It's one thing social work is all about."

– Thomas Walker, Information Specialist at SWORPS

What's on this issue's cover?

The cover of this *Stimulus* features several photos drawn from the college's history. Here's a key to what you see:

1. A meeting of the College of Social Work Black Caucus in 1973
2. A newspaper clipping from August 19, 1942, announcing Lora Lee Pederson's appointment as director of the Nashville School of Social Work
3. UT Nashville Center, where many social work classes were held
4. The original location of the School of Social Work at 421 21st Ave. South, Nashville

Alumna Tianna Madison Wins Gold Medal at 2012 London Olympic Games

College of Social Work alumna and track-and-field athlete Tianna Madison competed in the 2012 London Olympic Games in August, winning a gold medal in the world record-setting US women's 4x100 meter team. She also finished fourth in an individual 100m race.

When she was a Lady Vol, Madison won the SEC Indoor and Outdoor Long Jumps, the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Long Jumps, and both Indoor and Outdoor All-America honors.

Moreover, she succeeded in her social work studies and was named Academic All-SEC and was a member of the Lady Vol Academic Honor Roll.

Since graduating, Madison has continued to focus on her sport professionally, but she's also put her social work skills into practice. She is the founder and current president of Club 360, a program seeking to empower girls and young women ages nine and up to make educated decisions about their life and combat the many negative influences that they face. It seeks to teach them to live by core values of self-respect, integrity, and honor.

"I never wanted someone to see my name and say, 'Great athlete,'" Madison said. "I wanted a list of things to follow that. I'm passionate about so many things. I want to be remembered as someone who has a big heart and helps people follow their own dreams."

– Thomas Walker

HOMECOMING GALA November 2, 2012
https://www.sworps.utk.edu/csw/gala

A Heritage of Excellence

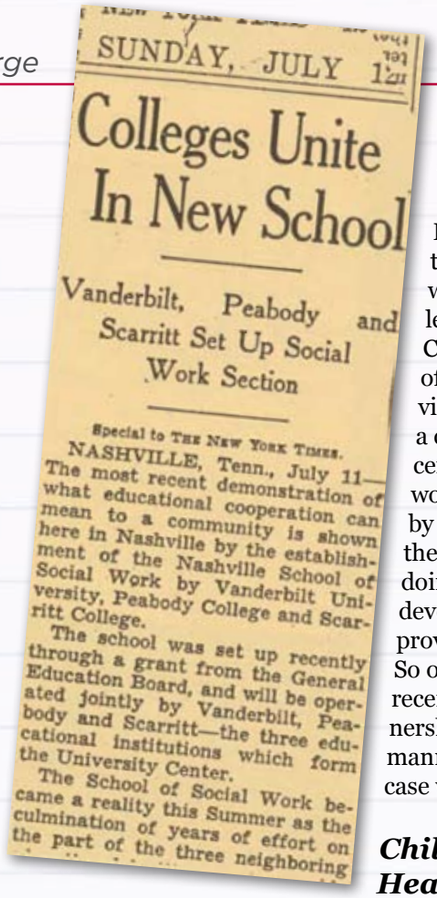
Seventy years ago, the mothers and fathers of social work in Tennessee conceived a new idea about social work education and committed themselves to providing a continuing investment in professional education for public social services. Based upon partnerships among concerned social work educators, the Nashville School of Social Work, later to become the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work, opened in 1942. The New York Times lauded the project as a "demonstration of what educational cooperation can mean to a community."

by Betsy DeGeorge

History of Cooperation

The school was unique because of cooperation. Three institutions, Vanderbilt University, Scarritt College, and Peabody College, joined forces to establish a school that would provide education for students who would be able to serve the social work needs of the state of Tennessee. That heritage of cooperation has been honored and developed throughout the history of the school and college. It has provided stimulus for active service to the community through research by college academicians and through immediate interaction with practical issues by an active public service corps within the college.

This article explores memories of the impact the college has had upon the development of and practice of social work since 1942. Longstanding relationships with the Tennessee Departments of Human Services, Children's Services, and Education, as well as other local agencies, were developed early in its history. In fact, the 1942 announcement of the opening of the Nashville School of Social Work described the anticipated cooperation with Tennessee Public Welfare, now the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Since then, the college has had continuing influence upon research and practice in the fields of children's mental health, homeless management, child neglect and abuse, child care and day care assessment, drug abuse, and many others.



SUNDAY, JULY 12

Colleges Unite In New School

Vanderbilt, Peabody and Scarritt Set Up Social Work Section

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 11—The most recent demonstration of what educational cooperation can mean to a community is shown here in Nashville by the establishment of the Nashville School of Social Work by Vanderbilt University, Peabody College and Scarritt College.

The school was set up recently through a grant from the General Education Board, and will be operated jointly by Vanderbilt, Peabody and Scarritt—the three educational institutions which form the University Center.

The School of Social Work became a reality this Summer as the culmination of years of effort on the part of the three neighboring

A clip from the Sunday, July 12, 1942, *New York Times* announced the opening of the new School of Social Work as a collaboration of Vanderbilt University, Scarritt College, and Peabody College.

Curriculum Development and Training for TDHS

On October 11, 2012, Dean Karen Sowers met with TDHS Commissioner Raquel Hatter and Joy Stoots, director of the TDHS Office of Learning and Professional Development, to celebrate the most recent achievement of many in a long relationship. Together, TDHS and SWORPS had been awarded the 2012 Communicators Silver Award of Distinction for Interactive Media, honoring a Civil Rights training created by pooling talents and experts from TDHS and the University of Tennessee. Since its release, more than 11,000 state workers have completed this online training.

But this is not the first time these organizations have worked together for excellence in training. In 1988, the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) implemented a comprehensive training certification program for social work counselors newly hired by TDHS. That effort brought these organizations together doing face-to-face training, developing curriculum, and providing training manuals. So online training is the most recent manifestation of a partnership, using technology in a manner that serves 21st century case workers.

Children's Mental Health Services

Since its founding in 1988, the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center has conducted studies throughout the United States focused on improving services to youth and families. These studies have addressed abuse, neglect, delinquency, substance abuse, mental health problems, and related issues. Charles Glisson and colleagues have drawn national attention to the significant impact of organizations' cultures, climates, and worker attitudes on the effectiveness of their mental health and social services, including the capacity to adopt and use new evidence-based treatments. John Wodarski and col-

leagues have tested a variety of new prevention and treatment practices related to HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and mental health.

The center has long emphasized the use of interdisciplinary staff and faculty, as well as a collaborative inter-university approach, as essentials to better research designs and results. Additionally, the center has partnered with a range of mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, and social services organizations to conduct its studies. The center's work has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National Institute of Mental Health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has also been a significant funder. Other projects have been supported by the W.T. Grant Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and other private foundations and donors.

Protecting and Caring for Children

As Lora Lee Pederson, the first director of the Nashville School of Social Work, prepared to assume leadership of the fledgling institution, she traveled to a number of Southern states with the purpose of identifying needs that trained workers would face upon graduation. Pederson was concerned with child welfare at a time of a massive expansion of day care enterprises, and advocated that special attention be given to dependent, neglected, or illegally employed children.

Care for and protection of children has been a recurring concern of the College of Social Work. In 2001, after a tragic incident leading to the deaths of two children in a day care program, the state initiated a partnership between the college (SWORPS) and the state child care licensing department, collaborating to provide Quality Assessment and Evaluation of the Tennessee Report Card and Star-Quality Child Care Program. This STARS program was designed to help childcare providers nurture the children of Tennessee in a manner that is in keeping with best practices. The SWORPS-developed system of assessment based upon scientifically verified child environment rating scales made Tennessee's program one that is replicated nationally and internationally. Teresa Dorian, director of the TDHS assessment program has stated, "Since the initiation of the Star-Quality Program in 2001, we have seen the level of quality improve steadily among licensed providers in Tennessee."

Our vision for achievement in the next few years is guided by an appreciation for all that has happened throughout our history and a desire for energetic excellence as we meet the challenges of the future.
– Dean Karen Sowers

Dean Karen Sowers (right) presents TDHS Commissioner Raquel Hatter and staff with the 2012 Communicators Silver Award of Distinction for Interactive Media.

Homelessness, AIDS, and Substance Abuse

Problems that social workers addressed in 1942 related greatly to dramatic historic events. The Great Depression had affected the lives of most citizens. Recovery from the effects of joblessness, homelessness, and poverty were issues that social workers faced, especially those employed by public welfare departments.

World War II had marked out new categories of social services. The field of social work was defining itself and defining its terms: one-on-one intervention, social group work, community organizing, and case work were being discussed in classrooms as the need for new approaches arose.

Today while poverty and war persist as deep social problems, interconnected issues of homelessness, HIV-AIDS, and substance abuse, among others, have motivated research and intervention by the college.

Faculty members have become recognized in Knoxville as leaders who creatively address the many problems related to homelessness. It has always been difficult to count the number of people in a community who are homeless. Annual point-in-time counts were, traditionally, the single best indicator of how many homeless individuals reside in an area. However, beginning in 2004, Dr. David Patterson collaborated with more than 10 community agencies to create a computer-based data network called the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Ongoing grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for this project has allowed all the agencies in the area serving the homeless population to work together. HMIS encourages increased quality of service for homeless individuals as well as increased availability of data to inform decision-making and allocation of resources.

Other major issues of the day include dealing with AIDS and substance abuse. Dr. John Wodarski, faculty member at CSW, has worked tirelessly as an administrator of grants for research and intervention related to these concerns. Working as partner with the Virgin Islands Division of Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Drug Dependency Services and the Until There's a Cure Foundation, the college is providing HIV-testing, education, and counseling to the youth of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Closer to home, Wodarski and his colleagues are providing substance abuse and mental health services for people living in remote and underserved areas of Appalachian Tennessee. This project focuses on using technological tools to deliver interventions that would otherwise be unavailable.

Heritage of Excellence, Vision for Achievement

Upon the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of this institution, Sowers is anticipating a future marked with successes like those of the past, built upon cooperation, collaboration, and vision. She looks forward to meeting the UT goal of becoming a top 25 public research university. "For 70 years, strong women and men have provided excellent educational opportunities to Tennessee students. They have actively led in the social service arena, making just judgments, collaborating for good outcomes, and cooperating with agencies across the state of Tennessee. They have engaged in an exceptional level of research and creative thinking, becoming leaders in their fields of study. Our vision for achievement in the next few years is guided by an appreciation for all that has happened throughout our history and a desire for energetic excellence as we meet the challenges of the future."

A Vision for Achiev

College of Social Work faculty stand out for their scholarship, research, and leadership in the field

In its 70th year, the College of Social Work continues to facilitate and support outstanding scholarship, research, and teaching. In the past months, our faculty have been recognized for their contributions to the field: many have had papers selected for presentation at conferences and publication in academic journals, some have won prestigious grants and a Fulbright fellowship, one was appointed to a position of leadership in the social work community, and another has been showcased as a leading social work thinker at a prominent university. Our faculty's big ideas are what makes our college one of the best—and one that continues growing with the support of alumni, students, our staff, and our faculty.

"We're so proud of the amazing work that our faculty are doing to distinguish the college among its national peers. I know that we'll continue to exemplify the very best in social work scholarship and be on the cutting edge of new developments in our field," said Dean Karen Sowers.

FACULTY PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION AND PUBLICATION. FACULTY MEMBER WINS GRANT.

Six faculty members along with one PhD student have had papers and presentations accepted for presentation at the 2013 Annual Conference of the SSWR. They are:

- Kim Cassie, PhD, assistant professor, for her abstract, "Chains That Bind: Racial Disparities in the Use of Physical Restraints in US Nursing Homes."
- Sherry Cummings, PhD, associate dean and professor, for her abstract, "Predictors of Depression Among Caregivers of Older Adults with Severe Mental Illness."
- Cindy Davis, PhD, professor, for her abstract, "Community Based Participatory Research with Underserved African-American Women with Breast Cancer: Lessons Learned."
- Sungkyu Lee, PhD, assistant professor, for his abstract, "The Role of Criminal History in Mental Health Service Use Among People with Severe Mental Illness," which was selected for poster presentation at the conference.
- Terri Combs-Orme, PhD, Urban Child Institute Endowed Professor, John Orme, PhD, professor, and Tess Lefmann, PhD student, for their paper, "African American Parents' Cognition about the First Three Years of Life."

David Dupper, PhD, professor, Cynthia Rocha, PhD, associate dean and professor, Rebecca Jackson, MSSW, coordinator of field services for the college, and Gayle Lodato, MSW, director of international initiatives for the college, have published their paper, "Broadly Trained but Narrowly Used?: Factors that predict the performance of environmental vs. individual tasks by school social workers," in the in-press issue of Children & Schools.

Sunha Choi, PhD, lecturer, received a grant from the Fahs-Beck Community Trust Fund for her project, "Access to Healthcare among Asian Subgroups in the US: Examining the interaction between community and individual level characteristics using multilevel modeling."

ASSOCIATE DEAN SHERRY CUMMINGS APPOINTED TO CSWE COUNCIL ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Associate Dean Dr. Sherry Cummings has been appointed for a three-year term as a member of the Council on Social Work Education's Council on Leadership Development, effective July 1 of this year, and continuing until June 30, 2015. The work of the Council has a critically important role in developing the strategies that will ensure an adequate number of leaders for the profession who represent the ethnic and programmatic diversity of social work education. She was selected for the appointment because of the Council's belief that her "knowledge, experience, and talent will further our goals."

SAM MACMASTER KEYNOTES FOR SUMMIT AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

Sam MacMaster, PhD, associate professor, was the keynote speaker in the first-of-its-kind Crack Summit at Duke University, hosted by the Duke University School of Nursing and the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition. The

vement

summit focused on crack-cocaine addiction and understanding its many causes. MacMaster dispelled stereotypes of crack-cocaine users for participants of the summit. Challenging the image of addicts as being primarily young, black males, MacMaster pointed out that for every one black adolescent crack user, there are eight white users. MacMaster pointed to media outlets for the pernicious misconception.

"We are creating a separation that doesn't really exist," he said. "And that separation allows us to judge people, to create stigma, and to say, 'It's not us, it's you'....And in America in 2012, how you're treated depends on the color of your skin."

CINDY DAVIS WINS FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST FELLOWSHIP

Cindy Davis, PhD, professor, has won a Fulbright Specialist Fellowship, which took her to Malaysia for four weeks during June and July 2012 to present her research, provide pedagogical demonstrations, lead workshops, meet with administrators, and engage in curricular assessment.

In a three-week stay at the Department of Social Work at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and a one-week stay in the Department of Social Sciences at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Dr. Davis led two open lectures and workshops for faculty, students, and community partners about her research on women's health, especially breast cancer, and immigration and refugee issues in the United States. She also assisted faculty and graduate students with writing for publication, providing a workshop, "Getting Published in Social Work," and working individually with faculty members and graduate students on the publication process. Dr. Davis led another workshop for faculty on online course development and delivery using Blackboard technology to meet the needs of urban, rural, and international students, in which she demonstrated a completely online MSW class.

In the visits she also assessed social work curricula in both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with the goal of reviewing current courses to provide feedback and materials as needed. Lastly, she consulted with administrators and faculty on international exchange opportunities for social work students and faculty and discussed the possibility of a formal exchange arrangement.

– Thomas Walker

PHOTOS *Top row, from left* – KIM CASSIE, SHERRY CUMMINGS, SUNHA CHOI, TERRI COMBS-ORME, JOHN ORME, DAVID DUPPER | *Second row, from left* – CYNTHIA ROCHA, SUNGKYU LEE, GAYLE LODATO | *Third row, from left* – CINDY DAVIS, REBECCA JACKSON | *Fourth row* – SAM MacMASTER

#socialwork

Stay connected with CSW news. Follow us at **twitter.com/utkcsw** and like us at **facebook.com/utcollegeofsocialwork**

7 Degrees Making a Difference

UTK College of Social Work alums give back to their communities

The academic life of our college began in September of 1942, when the Nashville School of Social Work opened its doors with five full-time faculty and 40 students, 25 of whom were full-time. By 1944, the school had been accredited by the American Association of Schools of Social Work. In June of that year, two of those early students received Master of Science in Social Work degrees. **Camille S. Roberts** was one of those first graduates of the Nashville School of Social Work. After graduation in 1944, she began her career as a healthcare social worker in the social services department at Vanderbilt Hospital.

Since the founding of our school, 7,989 individuals have graduated from campuses across the state of Tennessee including Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. Now, there are even graduates of online programs.

Today's graduates practice in many fields, using their training and skills to support social service organizations across Tennessee and the nation. Here are just a handful of the individuals who have graduated from the program and what they do each day.

Pamela L. Wolf, **LCSW**, founder and CEO of Harmony, is a licensed clinical social worker with a Master's degree from the University of Tennessee. Pam has focused her career on providing quality adoption services to children and families. In 1996, Harmony began as a vision for providing real assistance to children in state care. Inspired by the experience of adopting her own daughter, Wolf prepared the first of the cases served by Harmony at her kitchen table. Today, the organization directly employs 36 workers and sub-contracts with 50 to 60 additional social service workers across Tennessee, with an operating budget of nearly $5 million. Each year Harmony assists over 1,000 children and youth, all of whom were formerly in Tennessee's foster-care system. Wolf is motivated by the desire to keep kids and their families together. The organization is proud to say that less than one percent of the children they work with go back into foster care. This stands in contrast to a national disruption rate of 15 percent and higher. Part of their success is attributable to an extensive adoption support and preservation program as well as a system of creative interventions such as therapeutic family support camps, adventure-based learning initiatives, and equine-assisted psychotherapy.

College of Social Work alumnae Elizabeth Carroll, BSSW, JD, Kristi Kulesz, LMSW, and Pam Wolf, LCSW, pose with Moonpie, an equine therapy horse at the new Harmony Family Center at Montvale.

Having recently purchased Montvale Camp outside of Maryville, TN, Harmony hopes that the property will be utilized to benefit other populations as well as theirs, especially in relation to equine therapy, challenge/adventure courses, and natural elements such as hiking trails.

In addition to CEO Pamela Wolf, Harmony is staffed by a large number of graduates from the UT Knoxville College of Social Work as well as graduates from other UT programs.

Jim Kelly, PhD, who served as president of the National Association of Social Work from 2008 to 2011, received his MSSW from the University of Tennessee. Kelly is currently serving as president of Menlo College in Atherton, CA. Prior to Menlo he served as interim provost and associate vice president for Continuing and International Education at California State University (CSU), East Bay, and dean of Health and Human Services at CSU, Los Angeles. Teaching for 17 years in the areas of gerontology, social work, and student orientation, Kelly was a professor and the director of the Department of Social Work at CSU, Long Beach. In addition to opening MSW programs at CSU, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and East Bay, he was a pioneer in distance education having used technology to help establish masters programs for CSU, Chico, Humboldt, Hayward, and Bakersfield.

"My heartfelt congratulations to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work on its 70th anniversary," states Dr. Kelly. "The excellent work you do in educating social workers has a lasting and powerful impact on your students as they help the underserved throughout our nation. My education gave me the tools to step into a noble profession and continues to inspire me to advocate for social justice."

Niya Butts, BS (Social Work), graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2000. Though she has not gone on to formally practice social work, she gives back to her community every day and every season as head coach of the Arizona Wildcats. While at UT, this energetic basketball player helped the Lady Vols advance to four straight NCAA tournaments, including back-to-back NCAA championship titles (1997 and 1998) and three SEC Champions (1998, 1999, 2000). Pat Summitt has stated, "Niya Butts is one of the bright young coaches in the women's collegiate game. I see this [appointment to the Wildcats] as a tremendous opportunity for her to take over the reins of her own program at Arizona. I see her taking the same qualities I saw in her as a player en route to two NCAA Championships—doing all the little things right—and applying them as a head coach at the University of Arizona."

Across Tennessee, the United States, and the world, graduates of the College of Social Work have led as compassionate professionals, helping the people that they meet and serve to lead healthier and happier lives.

–Betsy DeGeorge, Assistant Director at SWORPS

There's more online!

Go online for the media enhanced issue of **Stimulus**—interactive features and links to more material only available through the website:

http://www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/

STRAND RECEIVES HONOR, PREPARES FOR THIRD INTERNATIONAL VSW SUMMIT

Elizabeth Strand, PhD, clinical associate professor and director of the Veterinary Social Work Services program in the UT College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM), received a Charles and Julie K. Wharton Professorship Award for all of her contributions in teaching, service, and outreach. The award is a gift of UT Trustee Charles E. Wharton and his wife, the late Julie K. Wharton.

"It is an exceptional honor to be recognized as a positive force in the college, and I cannot express enough my deep appreciation," states Strand on winning the award. The award provides a small one-year stipend, a portion of which Strand intends to dedicate to research in how world religions understand and approach animal death.

Dean Karen Sowers notes the importance of her work, stating, "Dr. Strand is an enormously gifted teacher and researcher in the area of veterinary social work. The Colleges of Social Work and Veterinary Medicine are fortunate to have someone of such quality providing leadership in our Veterinary Social Work program."

Livestock behavior expert Dr. Temple Grandin, pictured, will be one of two keynote speakers at the Third VSW Summit.

In addition to research, Strand is involved in many other endeavors, including teaching the first-year clinical correlations and ethics class and the seminar in veterinary social work; coordinating the communications skills training program for the UTCVM; overseeing the veterinary social work certificate program; and collecting data on how Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) therapy animals in the College of Social Work affect levels of happiness in faculty, staff, and students. This research would also support the HABIT program that already sponsors programs that foster pet visitation to nursing homes, assisted-living residences, retirement centers, mental health centers, residences for children with special needs, rehabilitation facilities, hospital settings, and other facilities.

Strand is also preparing for the third International Veterinary Social Work Summit, to be held April 11-13, 2013. The theme of the Summit is "Is there a role for social work in the care and welfare of animals?" and Strand hopes that it will foster lively conversations among participants. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Temple Grandin and Dr. Hal Herzog.

Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, a bestselling author, and a consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. As a person with high-functioning autism, she has done extensive work on the design of handling facilities. Half the cattle in the U.S. and Canada are handled in equipment she has designed for meat plants. Her book *Animals in Translation* was a *New York Times* bestseller, and her book *Livestock Handling and Transport* now has a third edition, which was published in 2007.

Herzog is the author of *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals*. He is a professor of psychology at Western Carolina University and has been investigating the complex psychology of our interactions with other species for more than 20 years.

The summit is a scholarly conference accepting one-hour workshop, 30-minute podium, poster presentation, and table topic scholarly abstracts. Deadline for submission is December 20, 2012. For more information on the summit, consult http://trace.tennessee.edu/utvswsummit/Third.

– Kirche Rogers, Information Specialist in Marketing and Communications at the UT Institute of Agriculture

Called to Serve

The story of a military family that became a social work family–and why

For Julie and Nicholas Sutter, the decision to pursue degrees in social work started with their experiences as a military family.

Nicholas joined the Navy Reserves in October of 2002 with a desire to serve the United States in the immediate wake of September 11, 2001. By 2006 he was deployed for the first time, leaving behind his wife, Julie, to care for their four children. The deployment was challenging for the family, but Julie found at least one escape–school. She first enrolled in the MSSW program at UTK in 2006, just two months after her husband's initial deployment.

She was the first in her family to pursue a degree in social work. Julie started work in the PhD program at UTK this year.

"I found my way to the PhD program because the experience [of being a military family] piqued empathy in me for those families who do not have the family support we did, particularly those who have soldiers returning home with severe mental illnesses like PTSD," Julie said.

Nicholas Sutter's interest in social work began after a long-term recovery from an injury during his deployment. He was put on medical hold in Florida for almost one year, first for surgery and then for physical therapy. While recovering, he volunteered to mentor non-military, at-risk youth, as well as people just like himself: injured soldiers returning from their deployments.

Upon his return home after the medical hold in 2008, he enrolled, just like his wife before him, in the MSSW program, while simultaneously working full-time as a probation officer at the Department of Children's Services.

In January 2011, just weeks before his final semester in the MSSW program began, Nicholas was deployed on his second tour.

He returned home in December of that year; this January, he began his final semester, graduating in May. He has completed internships at the Blount County Children's Home and the Johnson City Veterans Administration hospital, and is just two courses away from obtaining his Geriatrics Certificate.

Social work seems to run in the family. Julie and Nicholas's daughter, Jordan Kemmer, is currently a senior in the UTK BSSW program. If the experiences of military family life were direct influences on her parents' decisions to become social workers, then social justice issues were Jordan's.

"I am interested in using research to advocate for improved services to military families. Nicholas enjoys working with the elderly, and ultimately wants to work with elderly veterans especially; Jordan is interested in macro practices, but only time will tell where her degree may take her," said Julie.

Julie has begun working full-time at the Veterans' Administration, where she is helping with substance abuse treatment for homeless veterans in Knoxville. Nicholas recently began work with a local agency providing individual and group treatment with dual diagnosis adults and hopes to eventually work permanently with the Veterans' Administration. Jordan plans to join the MSSW program at the college after she graduates.

– Kathy Williams, Administrative Assistant in Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering

1 2 3
4 5
6
7 8

PHOTO GALLERY

(1) Joe Albert (l.), vice president of The Rush Fitness Centers, Stephanie Piper, college development director and James O'Bear (r.), associate vice chancellor for development, join Dean Sowers at the UTK–Akron Game.
(2) Professor Emeritus Gid Fryer (front, r.) and Roger Nooe (back, third from r.), board of visitors members Andy Black (back, second from r.), and Darryl Akins (front, third from r.), join Dean Sowers for the UTK–Florida game.
(3) Dean Sowers and Karla Edwards stock the skybox .
(4) Jerry and Robin Askew join Dean Sowers at the UTK–Georgia State Game.
(5) Dean Sowers (center) and Kenny Allred (l.) meet with Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero (r.) at Club LeConte.
(6) Kenny Allred (center) and Dean Sowers (r.) congratulate former Lady Vols Coach Pat Summit (l.) on receiving the Volunteer Award at the UTK Awards Banquet.
(7) Students Tess Lefmann (l.) and Taylor Krcek (r.) at a poster presentation at a conference in Sweden.
(8) Doctoral student Laurel Laiewski presents "Pharmacology and Autism: Essentials for Social Work" at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

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)

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations. In accordance with 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 of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status 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 Office of Equity and Diversity.

stimulus

Karen Sowers–Dean

Sherry Cummings–Associate Dean, Nashville

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

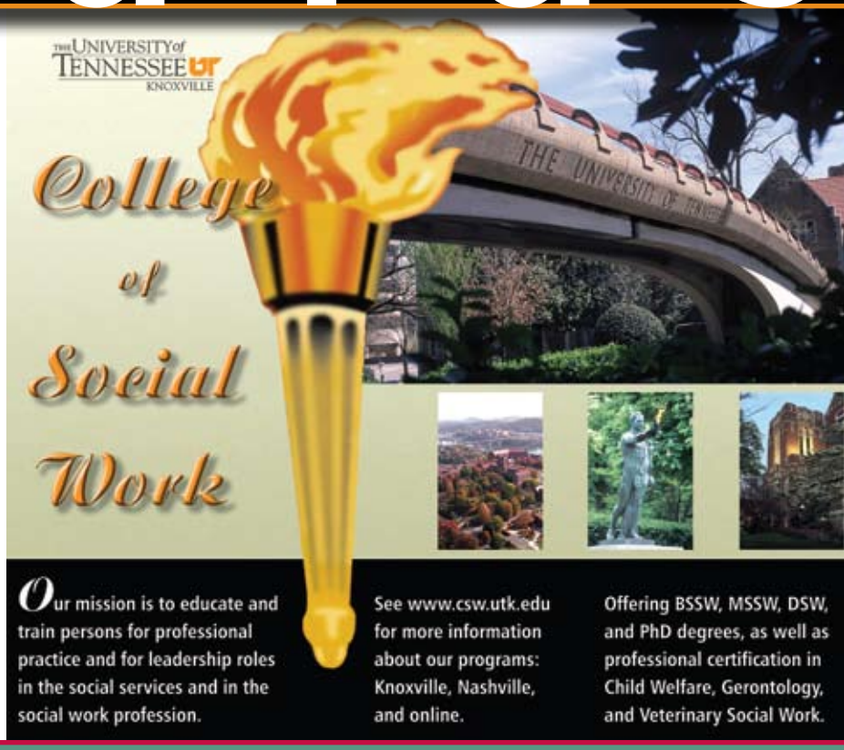
David Patterson–Director, DSW Program

Matthew Theriot–Director, BSSW Program

Betsy DeGeorge–Editor
Thomas Walker–Designer
Margot Kline, Kirche Rogers, Kathy Williams–Contributors

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

E01-4010-002-13 (12091)



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