

stimulus

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

Spring/Summer
2011

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE



College of Social Work



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Moving forward and getting stronger!

Welcome to the spring and summer 2011 issue of *Stimulus*. We are pleased to introduce you to Chancellor Cheek on page 3 in this issue. Our new chancellor is providing critically important leadership for our campus and the social work program. Developing relationships with the legislature and the Board of Trustees as well as spearheading the VolVision Quest to the Top 25, Chancellor Cheek has a clear vision for the future. This is indeed an exciting time for the college and UTK.

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 and our donors and alumni continue to move forward with creativity, enthusiasm, and staunch determination. The college has received recognition of our abilities in providing outstanding education through distance education technologies. The experience in offering our MSSW program online has allowed us to develop other programs. Our new DSW program is designed to provide advanced clinical knowledge and skills in clinical leadership. Providing a leading edge advanced clinical curriculum that is offered online, this program will allow experienced clinicians an opportunity to advance in the profession and their careers while continuing to work and live in their community.

Our capital campaign is winding down, and as we near our goal, we invite you to join your colleagues in making a pledge to the college through an annual gift, an endowment, a deferred gift through your will, or through a charitable remainder trust.

In this issue we feature some of our donors who are supporting the college and students in a variety of different ways. As state funding continues to decrease, support from our donors becomes increasingly important. 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.

We are pleased in this issue to recognize faculty who continue to engage in critically important research. These examples illustrate how the college, our faculty, and our alums work every day to strengthen our communities. The college has a continued emphasis on developing knowledge related to the importance of organizational culture and climate and its relationship to positive mental health outcomes. The college remains committed to knowledge dissemination of our research findings to the practice community.

This fall, our annual homecoming gala will coincide with Veteran's Day. We invite all of you to come and celebrate the College of Social Work and recognize and honor our faculty, students, alums, and friends who have served our country. We look forward to seeing all of you there—bring your appetite and dancing shoes and get ready for a great time!

Our future remains bright for the college as we move forward in important ways to not only remain relevant to practice concerns but also to create new knowledge.

Thanks for all you do to support the college!

Alice M. Sowers

Tennessee Mental Health Association Honors Helen Ross McNabb Center with Excellence Award

By Kirche Rogers

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) honored Helen Ross McNabb Center's Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) with the Program of Excellence Award during the TAMHO 2010 Annual Awards and Recognition in Nashville, Tennessee, in December.

The Program of Excellence Award recognizes programs of TAMHO member corporations that go above and beyond the standard to find creative and groundbreaking ways to provide effective community-based services. Honoring programs enables TAMHO to demonstrate that excellence, innovation, and quality are alive and well in the public system.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center's Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) is funded through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in conjunction with the college's Children's Mental Health Services Research Center.

The outpatient, evidence-based adolescent treatment program addresses the epidemic of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders among youth ages 12–18. The program provides three months of community-based, in-home therapeutic treatment followed by three months of supportive aftercare known as Assertive Community Care (ACC). Clinicians provide

thorough assessments, individual and family therapy, group pro-social activities, and case management services in the community to meet the needs of each client.



McNabb staff accepts TAMHO Program of Excellence Award. Pictured left to right: Mary Katsikas, Director of Children and Youth Mental Health Programming; Mona Blanton Kitts, Vice President of Children and Youth Services; Catherine Oaks, Program Coordinator; Jennifer Hill, Assistant Director of Blount County and Sevier County Services; Jerry Vagnier, Vice President of Operations.

The program, which serves Knox and Blount Counties and has the capacity to serve 35 clients each year, was very successful in its first year of operation, reaching 100% of the recruitment requirements. There has been a measured 89% reduction in substance use frequency, 82% reduction in substance use problems, and 82% reduction in family problems since intake. The significant reduction in substance use is directly related to the positive coping skills and community support system by A-CRA staff for program participants.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center is now in its 63rd year of operation. It has grown into a regional not-for-profit, integrated system of care providing mental health/mental

retardation, substance abuse, and social services in 17 East Tennessee counties. UT CSW alumnus Andy Black, CEO and president of the Helen Ross McNabb Center, is pleased that the Center has been recognized for its service to the community.

"The Helen Ross McNabb Center is honored to be recognized by the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations for our A-CRA program," says Black. "The Center's goal is to provide compassionate, quality care through the many programs that serve East Tennessee. TAMHO's Program of Excellence

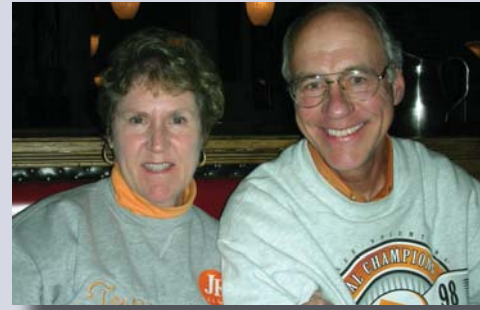
Award validates that the Center's innovative programming is necessary and effective and truly does improve the lives of the people we serve."

The college has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the Helen Ross McNabb Center in various capacities. Dean Karen Sowers noted, "Helen Ross McNabb has been a national leader in providing evidence-based interventions. It has been invaluable to our community, and I join TAMHO in celebrating its outstanding work. It has been a privilege to partner with the staff and leadership of Helen Ross McNabb."

—Kirche Rogers is an Information Specialist for the UT College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service and is the Editor of Stimulus

Alumni Create Endowed Scholarship

By Stephanie Piper



Anne and Neiland Pennington of Nashville have created an endowed scholarship to provide tuition assistance for graduate students in the MSSW program. The scholarship is funded by a bequest in their wills.

"Both Neiland and I highly value education and feel that it's important for everyone," says Anne. "Being a master's level social worker and having two degrees from UT have enabled me to have a wonderful career, in both psychology and as a school social worker, and we want other people to have the same opportunity."

Anne worked as a psychiatric and medical social worker in Tennessee and spent 19 years as a behavior management specialist and school social worker in Illinois public schools. Since retiring and returning to Nashville, Anne has volunteered in the community and for UT. In addition to her work for the Nashville Symphony and Opera, Anne is active in Belmont United Methodist Church's Room at the Inn Homeless Outreach. Anne serves on the Advisory Board for the Nashville campus of the college and on the college's statewide Board of Visitors. She is the current president of the UT Alumni Association—Williamson County Chapter. In November, Anne was the recipient of the College of Social Work's Outstanding Alumna Award.

"We are delighted that the Penningtons have made this lasting gift to the college," notes Dean Sowers. "This legacy will provide important educational opportunities for future generations of social work students."

—Stephanie Piper is the Development Director for the College of Social Work



You Can Now Visit Us on Facebook!



The College of Social Work is now on Facebook! Get the latest news and information on events and happenings in the college here: www.facebook.com/utcollegeofsocialwork. Just click the Facebook "Like" button at the top of the CSW page to get regular updates. Thank you for all you do to support the college!

Wodarski Receives \$400,000 SAMHSA Grant

By Kathy Williams

Last fall, John Wodarski, PhD, received a 3-year, \$400,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fund the E-Therapy Screening and Interventions for Vulnerable Young Adults with Substance Abuse and Co-morbidity program. The funded program is a collaborative effort between the College of Social Work, a large rural mental health center, Helen Ross McNabb Center's Regional Mental Health System, and community substance abuse service providers.



The efforts of Dr. John Wodarski will generate more than \$2.5 million in SAMHSA grants over the next 5 years.

Many young adults living in the mountainous rural areas of East Tennessee who are abusers often have limited access to office-based services and lack the funds and transportation to access treatment. The E-Therapy program should eliminate these barriers by utilizing Internet-based interventions to provide substance use and abuse information, feedback on individual drug patterns, prevention and treatment intervention, and referrals, and contains a peer outreach component.

Dr. Wodarski states, "There will never be enough social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric workers and nurses to provide help to everyone that has mental health issues—period. It is estimated that E-Therapy can help about one third of the people who have mental health issues; thus, we must investigate this as a possible avenue of improving the mental health of Americans."

The E-Therapy program has already begun, and according to Dr. Wodarski, has had a "spectacular response." The program will serve at least 240 clients over the next three years.

—Kathy Williams is a Training Coordinator for SWORPS

The E-Therapy program will provide early intervention and increase access to treatment services for rural young adults, ages 18–24, and returning military men and women suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other disorders including substance abuse.

media enhanced feature

Exploring Issues and Visions: Dean Karen Sowers Interviews Chancellor Jimmy Cheek

By Betsy DeGeorge

Dean Sowers and Jimmy Cheek, chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus, sat down together for an informal interview on Thursday, February 17. They discussed a wide range of topics from Governor Haslam's education initiatives to diversity on the UT campus, from energy conservation to the leadership of the College of Social Work in media enhanced distance education.

The full interview is available for viewing at: http://www.csw.utk.edu/about/stimulus/enhanced/2011_spring but here are a few questions and answers from the session:

Karen Sowers (KS): Students, alumni, and friends of the college, it's my pleasure to introduce to you Chancellor Jimmy Cheek, who has been our Chancellor for the last two years now at the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus. He has wonderful new initiatives and is moving the university forward.

Jimmy Cheek (JC): Thank you very much. I'm delighted to be with you today.

KS: Thank you, and to start off, I wonder if you could tell us a little bit about yourself.

JC: I'm a native Texan. I went to Texas A&M University. I got my Bachelor's and PhD there. In 1975, I finished my PhD and took a wayward trip to the University of Florida for 34 years. Then I saw the light and came to Tennessee and became a Volunteer. I have two children and they're both married and I have two grandchildren, Abigail and James.

KS: As you know, Governor Bill Haslam has an initiative to complete the College Tennessee Act of 2010. Could you tell us a little about how you plan for UTK to help fit in with that initiative?

JC: First of all, there are three things in that Act that benefited us greatly. Number one was a new funding formula for universities in the state. That funding formula focuses on performance. It focuses on graduating students. It focuses on retaining students. So it focuses on outcomes versus inputs. We're very much in favor of the new formula. Secondly, it challenged us to become a top 25 university. We are currently putting together plans to make us a top 25

university. And that means each of our faculty and each of our colleges and each of our units also have to be a top 25 as well. Third, it challenged us to create an interdisciplinary center between Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the area of Energy, Sciences, and Engineering. So we're real excited about that particular Act.

KS: Increasing diversity on this campus has been a high priority of yours ever since you've gotten here. At the College of Social Work we've developed a full-scale diversity plan. I wonder if you could just share with us a little bit about your vision to increase diversity here at UTK.

JC: Our faculty, and our staff, and our students need to look more like Tennessee. We've made some progress in that particular area with diversity of faculty. Our student body is more diverse the last two years than it was the previous five years, but we still have a long way to go. Part of diversity is making our campus a very welcoming place and making our community a very welcoming place. This last summer we had a task force with faculty, staff, students, and alumni and community leaders. They put together a plan to make us a more civil campus.

KS: You may know that the College of Social Work just recently received the Tennessee Distance Education Award. It was a statewide award.





To view Chancellor Cheek's web page detailing his push-to-the-top-25 plan, go to www.utk.edu/volvision-top25

JC: Yes, I do know that.

KS: We were very pleased. We have a distance education MSW program, and we are going through the process of approval for an online DSW program, which is an advanced clinical doctorate. Could you talk about how you see the role of online education and distance education for potential students at UTK?

JC: I think distance education is very important for us as a campus and as a system. I discussed this with the president this morning and told him about the award you (the College of Social Work) got for distance education at the master's level and told him we wanted to launch a professional doctorate that will serve the students, not only in Tennessee, but around the country. That's exactly what we need to be doing. . . providing access to students that can't necessarily come on campus.

KS: It has been wonderful to be able to reach out and provide education to persons who can't quit their jobs and leave their families and come to campus. It's very fulfilling. We're facing a budget cut in the future, now that the stimulus money will be going away, and you've done a wonderful job of leading this campus through a proactive planning process, and I think we are all prepared to go through this. But I wonder if you could talk about what the budget

cuts of the last few years have done to UTK?

JC: They have reduced our budget on this campus by \$57 million. That's 30 percent of the resources that this state one time gave us. That's a huge amount of money. We've made up about \$11 million of that in tuition increases. And so we are going to have mechanisms in place that include state support and tuition support that help us meet the critical needs we have for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

KS: Lastly, as you look into the future, what do you see as our greatest challenges?

JC: Maintaining our commitment to high quality education for our students and a commitment by our faculty and our staff to continue to work extremely hard. We have asked more and more of everyone, and it's been very difficult economic times. At the same time, we need to celebrate our victories. There have been some things that we've done extremely well, and we need to tell everybody about those.

KS: I want to thank you for taking time to share yourself with our alums, students, and friends of the college. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful leader who's taking us into a bright future.

—Betsy DeGeorge is Assistant Director of Publications and Media Technology at SWORPS

CSW Distance Education Program Wins Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Higher Education Award

In recognition of its outstanding work in making social work education accessible to those students who are unable to travel to campus to attend classes, the college's MSSW distance education program received the Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Higher Education's (TACHE) credit program award in November.

TACHE (<http://www.tnache.org/>) is an organization of continuing higher education professionals that advocates better lives for Tennesseans through greater access to higher education and workforce development. The purpose of the credit program award is to recognize an individual or institution demonstrating outstanding and/or innovative credit programming.

"We're honored by TACHE's recognition of the college's distance education program's outstanding credit programming," says Sherry Cummings, PhD, professor and associate dean of the college at the Nashville campus. "We look forward to the continued growth of our distance education program and the further provision of needed graduate-level social work education to working individuals and those living in rural communities."

With an enrollment of about 125 students, the college's MSSW distance education program, located on the Nashville campus, has helped many students.

One student, Reba McBride, is on track to complete her master's degree in spring 2011, something the wife and mother of two says otherwise might not have been possible. "The program has to be designed to accommodate the unique needs of those like myself who are actively involved in career and family life," McBride says. "For me, the most valuable aspect of the distance education program is the ability to log in to the system from any location and at any time. Last spring, I 'attended' class, researched, and submitted a paper from Myrtle Beach, where I was on vacation with my family."



Dr. Sherry Cummings accepts the TACHE award in November 2010.

Similar to its on-campus counterpart, the MSSW distance education program requires 36 hours for a graduate degree for advanced-standing students in social work but allows students to complete their degree without daily travel to campus. All course content is delivered online, along with limited face-to-face Saturday meetings that complete the blended approach to the delivery of the program.

Kate McClernon-Chaffin, distance education coordinator for the college, expresses her appreciation for the award, stating, "I am very proud of this recognition as the TACHE award really speaks to the mission of social work and the UTC SW. I hope that we can continue to provide an excellent education to students across the state in order to improve communities."

In an interview with Dean Sowers (see article at left), UTK Chancellor Jimmy Cheek noted the importance of distance education at the university: "I think distance education is very important for us as a campus and as a system... that's exactly what we need to be doing...providing access to students that can't necessarily come on campus."

—Kirche Rogers

Dr. Charles Glisson

Evidence-Based Practice

Research to 1,000



Charles H. Glisson, PhD, is the founding director of the UT College of Social Work Children's Mental Health Services Research Center.

One of the challenges facing behavioral health practitioners and administrators today is removing barriers that hinder the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs—the use of research evidence to guide practice) in their organizations. Research has shown that EBPs can help behavioral health organizations improve their clients' treatment outcomes. However, according to Dr. Charles Glisson, founding director of the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center (the Center) in the college, an organization's unique culture and work environment have a strong effect on EBP implementation.

In November 2010, Glisson presented a webinar entitled *Making Evidence-Based Practices Stick: Strategies to Prepare Your Organization for Change* to 1,000 practitioners across the United States who are members of the National Council

for Community Behavioral Healthcare. This training was moderated at Georgetown University's National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health. Moderators sent queries to Dr. Glisson, which he addressed, and participants could also ask questions through the moderators.

Glisson was very impressed with the webinar format, stating, "It was an effective and efficient way to reach a wide audience. Practitioners and administrators are hungry for information on how they can effectively implement EBPs in their organizations. This was a wonderful opportunity to share tools developed by our Center with a nationwide audience."

In the webinar, participants learned three main things:

- How their organizations' culture and climate impact their ability to effectively implement EBPs.

Glisson's Webinar on How the Center Brings Cutting-Edge Research to 100 Practitioners

by Kirche Rogers



- Details about the OSC, which was developed by the Center and is the only nationally normed tool for assessing a mental health service organization's culture and climate.
- A proven strategy, labeled ARC, that was developed by the Center to help organizations prepare for EBP adoption and maximize positive treatment outcomes.

Dr. Glisson's research has centered on the link between mental health service outcomes and organizations' social contexts and work environments. He is the first researcher to make this link and is also the first researcher to show that an organizational-level intervention, called ARC (Availability, Responsiveness, and Continuity), that targets social context can improve the implementation and outcomes of evidence-based treatment models.

In the webinar, Glisson referenced several studies conducted by the Center throughout the country showing how mental health service organizations can be improved with tools developed by the Center.

As a result of the webinar, Dr. Tony Hemmelgarn of the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center and Jerry Vagnier from the Center's partner organization, the Helen Ross McNabb Center, presented these results to the spring meeting of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare in May.

This includes results from a study that found ARC improved the outcomes of an evidence-based practice treatment and has been published in the prestigious publication, the *Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology*. Studies

such as these validate Dr. Glisson's extensive work with behavioral health organizations and provide empirical evidence that client outcomes are improved when organizations employ his strategies for removing service barriers in the organizational and community contexts in which the services are provided.

Through the use of cutting-edge technology such as online learning tools to disseminate information, practitioners and administrators will benefit from ground-breaking research such as Dr. Glisson's in a much more efficient way than using less timely methods. With a click of a mouse, participants in his webinar gained valuable knowledge that will help them "make EBPs stick" in their organizations, which will ultimately improve the quality of life for thousands of at-risk youth and adults with mental health service needs.

7 Photo Gallery



1. Chancellor Jimmy Cheek and Dean Sowers with "Smokey" awaiting the arrival of new UT President, Dr. Joe DiPietro.
2. Allison Hedrick, Phi Alpha Honor Society member, gathers coats from the university community for Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry's Coats for the Cold Drive.
3. June Terrell and alums Carol Tindell (BSSW '89, MSSW '91) and Barbara Holden-Nixon (MSSW '70) enjoy sharing time at the 2010 Homecoming Gala.
4. CSW Nashville faculty and guests gather for a group picture at the 2010 Gala.



5. Dean Sowers greets PhD graduates at the UT reception at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.
6. Dean Sowers and CSW alum Paul Maiden (MSSW '80), now vice dean and professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work.



11. The Silent Auction table at the Homecoming Gala is always a hit with guests.
12. Frank Spicuzza, MSSW '72, (far left) and his wife Billie, MSSW '72, (far right) enjoy spending time with doctoral students Teresa Lefmann and Bethanie Poe at the dean's holiday party in December 2010.



13. Board of Visitors spring meeting. Back row left to right: Earl Medley, Darrell Akins, Jo Zarger, Dan Caldwell, Wardell Milan, George Myers, Betsy Child. Front Row left to right: Karen Sowers, Betsey Bush, Libby McColl, Mary Catherine Willard, Carol Tindell, Elisabeth Rukeyser, Barbara Holden-Nixon.

David Patterson, PhD, Announces Plans for Doctor of Social Work Program



Dr. Patterson (right), interim director of the DSW program, and his administrative assistant, John Bailey, welcome inquiries about the online DSW curriculum and program enrollment opportunities.

For some time, the College of Social Work has been looking forward to broadening its degree offerings to include a Doctor of Social Work in Clinical Practice (DSW) degree. The UT Board of Trustees has recently approved the new degree program, which is set to begin in January 2012, pending approval of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The vision that is shared by the administration, interim director David Patterson, and other experienced faculty, is to prepare experienced social workers for advanced clinical practice and leadership.

The college currently offers an on-campus PhD degree that serves students seeking to pursue careers in academic research. The new program is distinctive in that it will provide advanced education for individuals holding either LCSW or MSSW degrees and who have at least two years of clinical practice experience. In addition, the program proposes to utilize an online format.

The DSW in clinical practice is a professional practice degree and is geared toward working professionals. It will be both an intensive and accelerated program that is designed to enable participants to continue in their careers while satisfying all degree requirements within three years. Utilizing a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous models, the courses will extensively use interactive video

and instructional media to present an evidence-based practice curriculum, richly demonstrating state of the art interventions and leadership skills. In addition, the curriculum will lead the participants to generate client, system, and outcomes research that will concentrate on improvements in practice.

Dr. Patterson anticipates initially training as many as 20 students each year. He states, "We look forward to serving experienced, employed clinicians from across the state and the nation. This

hybrid distance education program will require that students spend one week each summer on the UT Knoxville campus, engaged in intensive knowledge and skills development."

Faculty members from both the Knoxville and the Nashville campuses will use a variety of technological tools to bring first-rate courses to the student group. Examples of courses to be offered are:

- Neuroscience for Clinical Practice
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- Clinical Management
- Trauma Focused Interventions and many others.

Dean Sowers has envisioned the value of this program. "Social work," Sowers states, "is a practice-oriented field, relying on trained clinicians who value the human spirit and seek to alleviate social conditions arising from poverty, health challenges, and issues that threaten life and hope. This program is designed to strengthen the knowledge of practitioners and support clinicians as they build a foundation for evidence-based practice."

For additional information, go to the DSW web site at www.csw.utk.edu/students/dsw. Preparations for this program are now being finalized. Applications will be available online or from the program director at dpatter2@utk.edu.

—Betsy DeGeorge

Social Work Day on the Hill

The annual Social Work Day on the Hill, hosted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW—Tennessee Chapter), was held on March 30, 2011, in Nashville.

The theme of the event was "Social Workers Change Futures." Over 500 students and professionals attended, and students had the opportunity to tour the capitol, sit

in on committee meetings, and meet as a group with their legislators to advocate for issues they found important. A small group of students met with a representative from



Oak Ridge to discuss bullying, and others met with Senator Jamie Woodson and Representative Joe Armstrong.

The BSSW-SWO (Bachelor of Social Work Organization)

hopes that even more students will participate next year and



submit posters to the policy poster contest. Visit the NASW website for more information about social work in Tennessee at <http://www.naswtn.com/> and to learn more about the BSSW-SWO, visit their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/BSWO-at-the-University-of-Tennessee/135480036473275>

photos courtesy of Windle Harmon Photography

New Promotional Materials Support CSW Recruiting and Fundraising

By Margot Kline

This spring, the College requested that several displays and promotional brochures be revised by SWORPS publication designers, in anticipation of upcoming Capital Campaign and recruiting activities.

During the past two years, the college has made great advances in the area of online and distance learning. In addition, just last year the college revised its master's curriculum and was reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education. New promotional materials were needed to accurately describe the CSW programs.

Below are two of the newest brochures; for more information or to download a copy, go to www.csw.utk.edu/students/mssw/distance_ed.html or www.csw.utk.edu/students/dsw/index.html



Dean Karen Sowers and Director of Development Stephanie Piper hit the road for the Capital Campaign.

Doctor of Social Work Curriculum

DSW Online Degree in Clinical Practice & Leadership

- Dissertation for Clinical Practice
- Advanced Evidence-Based Practice for Addition and Dual Diagnosis Treatment
- Social Forensic Interventions
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy I and II
- Psychopathology and Psychopharmacology
- Clinical Management
- Clinical Leadership
- Individual/Group Practice with Clinical Populations
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- Transcultural Research
- Emergent Interventions

"This three-year, two-class per semester program is intended for social workers in clinical practice who want to broaden and strengthen their skills and knowledge of evidence-based practice and leadership in the profession."



DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK ONLINE DEGREE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & LEADERSHIP

www.csw.utk.edu

Distance Learning

The Goal of the Curriculum Concentrations
The distance learning curriculum concentrations produce social workers who use critical thinking processes for systemic, individual, evidence-based practice. The curriculum prepares students to identify problems and to logically identify and implement interventions, crisis situations, and evidence outcomes. Both concentrations prepare students to work in a variety of settings, including schools, healthcare facilities, mental health programs, community-based organizations, social and economic development organizations, and the public sector.

For More Information about Distance Education
Call Kate Chaffin, distance education coordinator, at 615-256-1885, ext. 147, or kchaffin@utk.edu

For More Information about the Masters Program
Call one of the campuses:

KNOXVILLE (865) 674-3351

NASHVILLE (615) 256-1885

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College of Social Work

The Master of Social Work Curriculum and Distance Learning Program

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Husband-and-Wife Team Dr. John G. Orme and Dr. Terri Combs-Orme Co-author Book on the Research Process

John G. Orme, PhD, and Terri Combs-Orme, PhD, have been members of the faculty at the UT College of Social Work since 1993. Their energy in social science research is reflected in the enormous volume of published journal articles, magazine articles, book chapters, books, and even webzine articles that each have written.



John Orme and Terri Combs-Orme collaborate on a book included in the Pocket Guide Series for Social Work Research Methods.

Their understanding of the research process is exemplified in their most current joint project, a book published by Oxford University Press entitled *Multiple Regression with Discrete Dependent Variables*. This book resulted from a request from the publisher and is part of the Pocket Guide series for Social Work Research Methods that encourages writing specifically targeted toward social work professionals.

One of the strengths of this paperback is that it uses clear language to guide the reader through each step of the analysis, interpretation, and presentation of research results. This clarity emerged from examples that are introduced in each chapter. "A researcher is interested in the effects of mothers' behavior during pregnancy on their newborns' birth-weights. . . A researcher has a simple question: Did it happen or did it not? Has the spouse abuser reoffended or not?" A researcher wants to examine "variables that influence the effort needed to interview and track 246 mothers of newborns over time."

These veteran authors took examples from their own research practice and provided clear instructions for setting up correct methodologies that support strong data collection and clear analysis. "We think," states John Orme, "that examples drawn from social science make this book resonate with academics who come from a social work background."

Orme and Combs-Orme state that they hoped, in this publication, to "extend knowledge about regression models that examine non-

linear dependent variables. Social workers are interested in studies involving counts . . . number of foster children, number of incidents of abuse . . . plus they look at categories . . . does it occur, doesn't it occur . . . this makes our work more complicated statistically."

Karen Randolph, of Florida State University, wrote a review of the book for the *Journal Research on Social Work Practice*. She states, "First, the clarity in which the authors describe technical material is truly remarkable. Second, explanations are thorough, comprehensive, and complete. Third, the obvious links in content from previous to subsequent chapters help to guide readers seamlessly through progressively more complex material." Randolph later commends the book as one that is written "by two scholars who are without question invested in transmitting knowledge in a way that is easily accessible by their readers."

Terri Combs-Orme mentioned, "John and I have not written many books together, but this, and our next work, *Outcome Informed, Evidence-based Practice*, are real collaborations that draw upon our experience, our teaching, and our complementary skills and abilities. We have enjoyed this easy collaboration, allowing us to consult with our co-author by simply calling across the house."

Multiple Regression with Discrete Dependent Variables is available for purchase from www.oup.com/us/pocketguides and other online book sellers.

—Betsy DeGeorge

—Margot Kline is the Graphic Designer at SWORPS

Terri Combs-Orme, PhD, Produces Recruitment Video for the College of Social Work

This past year, Dr. Terri Combs-Orme of the College of Social Work (CSW) and Patrick Watson of UT's Office of Information Technology (OIT) teamed up to create a new recruitment video for the college. Looking at the completed project, Watson states, "I think it's absolutely necessary to use digital media to reach prospective students. Today's students are immersed in technology and media from a very early age, so delivering content, advice, recommendations, suggestions, and information in the format they're familiar with makes perfect sense. Prospective students and their parents are used to getting the media they want within seconds, so the colleges that can deliver instantaneous content, are going to have the edge."

One of the primary services offered by OIT is innovative technology consulting (ITC). As a part of that service, a Faculty Fellow program has been established to encourage interaction for the promotion of technological innovation by faculty throughout the institution. Terri Combs-Orme was selected as an ITC Fellow for the 2010–2011 academic year.

Fellows devote approximately ten hours per week working with OIT exchanging ideas, doing research on use of technology, and developing instructional design for online learning or other media-enhanced materials. Dr. Combs-Orme entered the fellows program with a vision for creating a wider national presence for the college using video exchange and social networking technologies such as YouTube and Facebook.

During the course of the year the idea for a professional-level recruitment video took shape. Combs-Orme worked closely with Patrick Watson envisioning, planning, storyboarding, producing, and broadcasting the audiovisual story of the College of Social Work. "I wanted to visually show the diversity, excitement, intellectual activity, and dynamic curriculum of our college, while capturing the beauty of Tennessee and the energy of our students, faculty, and community," states Dr. Combs-Orme.

The team from ITC and CSW discussed the demographics of today's student population, both the traditional and nontraditional students. They explored the various levels used to communicate from music to characterization, from photos to sound bites. They determined to utilize a repeated phrase throughout the project. They studied various marketing mechanisms available for communicating after the video was completed.

"I had a fabulous time working on this video," states Comb-Orme. "Patrick Watson really made this possible. I enjoyed working on a project that highlights what a great place the College of Social Work is. I hope that it will be a useful tool in communicating that to the world."

To view this new recruitment video visit www.csw.utk.edu/prospective

—Betsy DeGeorge

Mark your calendars early for the 2011 College of Social Work Homecoming Gala—November 11 at Rothschild's Catering and Conference Center in Knoxville!

This year the Gala will include an evening of dinner, dancing, entertainment provided by a lively dance band, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 each and will be available through the UT Alumni Office beginning late July at www.sworps.utk.edu/csw/gala



Karen Sowers
Dean, College of Social Work



Stan Bowie
Associate Professor, College of Social Work



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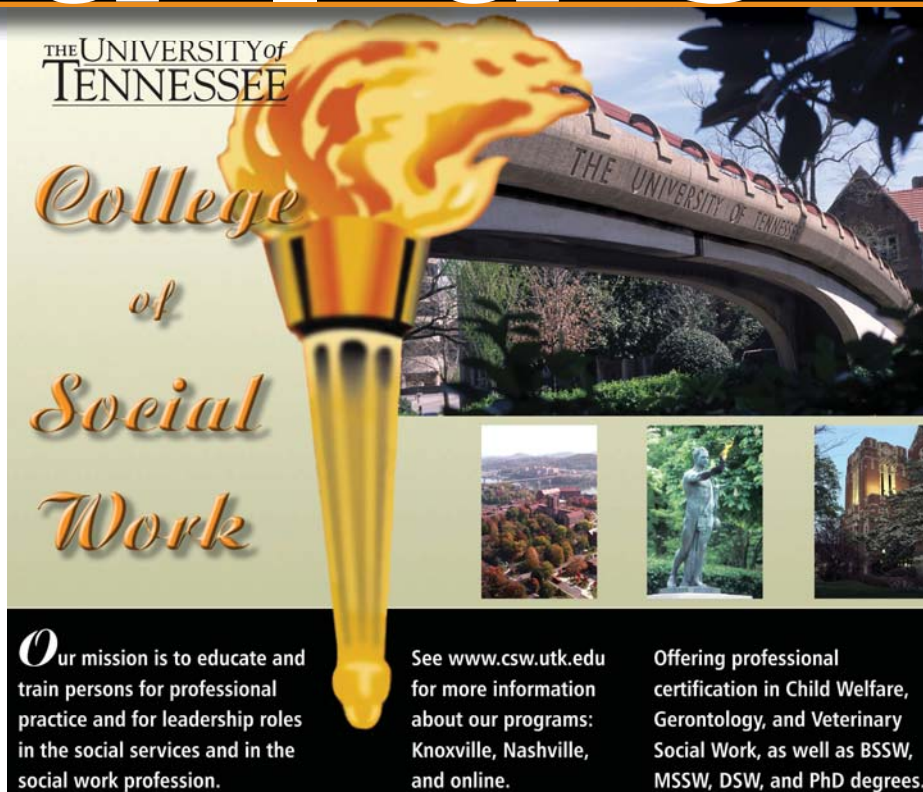
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College of Social Work

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Offering professional certification in Child Welfare, Gerontology, and Veterinary Social Work, as well as BSSW, MSSW, DSW, and PhD degrees.

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