



Spring 2001

Stimulus

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work

Dr. John Wodarski Receives National Recognition for Alcohol-Awareness Program

By Margot Kline

Special Report



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In December 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (DHHS-CSAP) selected John Wodarski, the College's Director of Research, to receive a national award for an alcohol prevention program that he developed. "Teams-Games-Tournaments (TGT)," as Wodarski's program is entitled, offers a unique approach to teenage alcohol prevention that combines peer support with group rewards.

The system utilizes three methods: games used as teaching devices, small groups that functioned as work units, and task- and reward-structures used in traditional classroom settings. "The TGT focuses on group rather than individual achievement to help students learn about the biological, psychological, sociocultural, and physiological effects of alcohol consumption," explained Wodarski. It also teaches self-management techniques for responsible drinking, promotes assertiveness training to help teens resist peer pressure, and teaches participants how to recognize and treat drinking problems.

Five schools located in metropolitan, semi-metropolitan, and rural Georgia took part in the program. During its administration, the TGT program lasted for four weeks and involved public high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who were organized into groups of eight members. Students were given a pre-test of alcohol knowledge. Based on participants' scores, each team was assigned two members who scored high on the test, four who scored in the mid-range, and two who scored low.

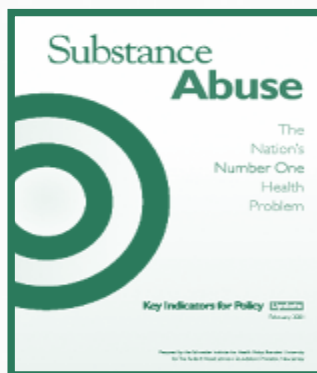
Each TGT team participated in 50-minute alcohol-education classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Then, on Thursdays, the TGT teams completed worksheets in preparation for a "tournament" that took place each Friday. Individual and team scores were tabulated at the end of each tournament, and these were posted during the next school day for the entire student body to view.

In order to carry out the program, teachers who conducted the alcohol-awareness classes and facilitated the tournaments were given reading materials on the TGT technique, on alcohol and alcohol abuse, and on behavioral and self-management techniques. Each teacher then participated in a four-hour training workshop. After the workshop, Dr. Wodarski was available to the teachers as a consultant. Periodic videotaping of the instructors in the classroom was also used to assure levels of competence in the implementation of the program.

To provide a means of assessing TGT's effectiveness, 526 students participated in TGT groups; 361 took part in traditional alcohol-prevention programs administered by regular teachers or highway

patrol personnel; and 384 made up a control group that received no alcohol-awareness instruction whatsoever. Pre-tests, post-tests, one-year followups, and two-year followups were completed for all participants.

The results of the study showed that the TGT participants had significantly improved attitudes regarding abstaining from drinking and driving. They experienced a change of 16.5 points between pre-test and post-test, compared to attitude changes of 2.7 for the



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released a substance abuse chartbook in March 2001. It can be ordered at http://www.rwjf.org/rw_dynamic-set.jsp.

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traditional group and .9 for the control group. In addition, the TGT group showed a 12.7 percent reduction in alcohol consumption between pre-test and post-test, while the traditional and control groups showed no reduction at all. The TGT group also showed a significant reduction in the amount of alcohol consumed at any one time: single-session consumption dropped 40 percent, compared to almost no reduction for the traditional and control groups.

In recognition of the success of the TGT program, it was named "A Promising Substance Abuse Prevention Program" by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will be included on SAMHSA's website dedicated to disseminating information about preventing substance abuse (for more information, go to <http://www.preventiondss.org>).

"As a result of being identified, your program can be included in a national CSAP dissemination program," stated Ruth Sanchez-Way, the acting director of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention in a letter to Dr. Wodarski.

—Margot Kline is a publications specialist at SWORPS.

In Memoriam

The College would like to recognize four social workers who passed away recently.

Colleen Brick

Colleen Brick passed away on February 12, 2001, in Nashville in a tragic auto accident. She graduated from the Nashville MSSW program last May, and she was an associate legislative research analyst at the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Office.

Richard (Rick) Carrigan

Richard (Rick) Carrigan passed away on December 12, 2000, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He received an MSSW degree from the Knoxville location in 1982 and worked as district director for the Tennessee Department of Human Services and as team leader for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Myles Cooper Ridley

Myles Ridley passed away on December 25, 2000, in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from the Nashville MSSW program last May and was a winner of the Black Graduate Fellowship Award. Ridley received a BSW degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

Elizabeth (Mattie) Stewart Sammons

Mattie Sammons passed away on December 21, 2000, in Whiteville, Tennessee. Sammons was a pioneer social worker in Tennessee, beginning her career in rural Appalachia during the Depression. She was instrumental in bringing relief to Morgan County, one of Tennessee's worst hit areas, and was a pioneer in the classroom through her creation of "Meeting the Needs of Children," a 12-part television series with an accompanying teaching guide.

Cindy Davis Joins Faculty in Nashville

Cindy Davis recently joined the UT College of Social Work's Nashville faculty.

Davis is an assistant professor and is responsible for teaching research methods and social work practice courses in clinical concentration. Davis's professional experience includes working as a lecturer in the School of Social Work at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. She received a BA in psychology from UT; an MS in social work from UT; a PhD in social work from UCLA; and a post-doc in clinical psychology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Davis's research interests include women's health, HIV/AIDS, cross-cultural research, and social work in health care.

Cindy Davis



—Kathy Perkey

Don't Miss These Upcoming Professional Continuing Education Workshops

Psychology of the Aware Ego and the Challenges of Bringing That Awareness to Relationships

Presented by LeAnne Dougherty, DSW, LCSW and John Dougherty, MD

Knoxville—Monday, May 14 & Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Solution-Focused Brief Therapy

Presented by Bo Walker, LCSW, DCSW
Chattanooga—Wednesday, May 16, 2001

To register for these workshops, please call Donna Mitchell at (865) 974-6016 or obtain a copy of the Spring 2001 brochure and registration form on the SWORPS web site at <http://www.sworps.utk.edu>.

Watch for These Upcoming Fall 2001 Workshops!

Ethics in Using Psychotropic Medication with Children

Presented by Heather Dzielwulski, LCSW

Oncology Social Work

Presented by Janice Threlkeld, LCSW and Pam Murph, LCSW

Resolving Ethical Dilemmas with Older Clients

Presented by Sherry Cummings, LCSW, PhD and Colleen Galambos, PhD

Self-Defense Workshop

Presented by Lt. Pete Garza

Web Page Construction for Human Service Professionals

Presented by Vaughn A. DeCoster, LCSW, PhD

Letter from the Dean

This year has been full of exciting activities. In January, we welcomed a new member to our Nashville campus faculty, Cindy Davis. Dr. Davis already has been a wonderful addition, bringing expertise in international issues and cancer research. Coming to us all the way from Australia, Dr. Davis's positive, sunny disposition and optimistic manner already have had an effect on students and colleagues alike. As we welcome new faculty, we bid goodbye and best wishes to Judy Fiene and Jenny Collier, who retired in January, and to Bill Bell, who will retire at the end of June. Although they will no longer be active members of the faculty, we look forward to their continuing association with the College.

In March, the College welcomed the Council on Social Work Education Reaffirmation for Accreditation site visitors. Five trained visitors from across the country toured our campuses and met with faculty, students, field instructors, community leaders, and University

administration. The site team examined our curricula and field components and provided faculty and administration with positive and useful feedback. We want to thank all of the students, alumni, field instructors, and friends of the College who gave so generously of their time in support of the College during the reaffirmation process. Special thanks goes to the outstanding College staff who devoted many extra hours and creative ideas to support our reaffirmation process.

Faculty and staff are now turning their thoughts and energies into planning for our year-long 60th anniversary celebration. Many statewide activities are being planned with special celebrations in Nashville in February at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting and in March at the statewide Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare. Local celebrations also will be taking place in Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville.

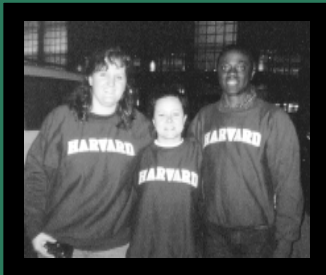
We invite you to join in on the planning and to mark your calendars for the fun and celebration!

John M. Norrell

Doctoral Students Present Paper at Harvard Conference

By Kathy Perkey

In December, CSW doctoral students Alex Washington, Beth Wilson, and Daphne Cain received the honor of presenting their research paper, "Differences Between HIV Counseling and Testing Rates of African American and European American Women during Prenatal Care," at the W.E.B. DuBois Graduate Society Student Conference held at Harvard University. The paper was presented on the "Black Body Politic" panel, which was designed to examine the intersections of race and gender on the black female body. The paper, authored by Washington and coauthored by Wilson and Cain, presented data from their pilot study to determine whether African American women have equal access to HIV counseling and testing during prenatal care. Their data was gathered as part of the

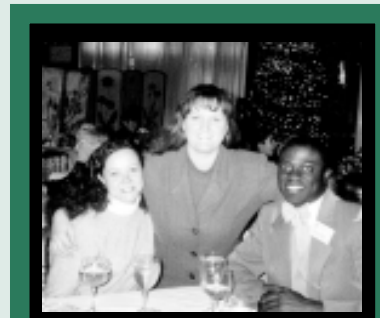


(l.-r.) Beth Wilson, Daphne Cain, and Alex Washington

Volunteer Infant Parent Services Study, a project developed by Dr. Terri Combs-Orme for UT's Children's Mental Health Services Research Center.

Harvard received more than 130 abstracts, which were reviewed by a committee made up of members from various disciplines and varied schools; only 50 papers were chosen to be presented at the conference. Among the schools represented were UC-Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Rutgers, Yale, and UT. The conference was attended by more than 150 people; it allowed graduate students from diverse academic disciplines with a particular interest in African American Studies and African Diaspora Studies to meet, present, and exchange ideas about their research among peers, professors, professionals, and cultural workers. Featured at the conference were panels on topics such as critical race theory, hip-hop, African Americans and cyber technology, performance studies, and literary criticism.

—Kathy Perkey is the editorial assistant for Stimulus.



(l.-r.) Daphne Cain, Beth Wilson, and Alex Washington

SWORPS Plays Key Role in STARS

By Jennifer Buhman

Keeping kids safe is a childcare provider's most important job. But is it enough? Intellectual stimulation, social skills development, and age-appropriate activities—these distinguish merely adequate from truly excellent out-of-home care for our children. And that difference in turn has long-term repercussions on our children and our community.

Fueled by research findings, many states are pushing the boundaries that once defined good childcare, expanding beyond the traditional measures of health and safety. Joining the wave of states promoting better childcare (and sparked by legislation backed by Governor Sundquist), Tennessee's Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Education (DOE), and Commission on Children and Youth are about to launch a new, rated licensing system, dubbed STARS.

So what's the big deal about a rated license program? Ed Lake, Assistant Commissioner of DHS, sums it up: "Choosing quality childcare is difficult for parents under the best of circumstances; this system will provide concise information on various key quality indicators, so parents can better differentiate among quality, price, and other factors that enter into their childcare decisions."

Program Concepts

Starting in July 2001, STARS will award one of four license ratings (from a no-star to a three-star rating) to childcare providers based on their score. This score is determined through a combination of factors such as staff education and development, parent involvement, business management, staff compensation, ratio and group size, childcare program, and environment. More stars mean higher quality childcare—and higher subsidies. The goal of this new rating system is twofold: to improve the quality of childcare and to give parents better feedback.

One essential component of this new rating system is the Environment Rating Scales (ERS), a set of four childcare quality assessment tools developed by childcare

experts led by staff members at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and now in use by North Carolina and a growing number of other states.

Using the ERS, Assessors will visit each licensed childcare provider and determine the quality of children's experiences. An Assessor's report not only provides data to help determine the number of stars that a provider earns, but also helps that provider target areas for improving the quality of care offered.

Partnership for Success

Designing and implementing a new licensing program that affects every licensed childcare provider in the state is no mean task. New staff members must be hired and trained. Existing personnel must be retrained. Policy and procedures must be determined; providers and parents educated; data collected, analyzed, and published. Facing this enormous task, DHS turned to the group that Lake terms "a valued partner of the Department, one that has supported our mission in many important ways for over 20 years": UT's College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS).

Within the deceptively quiet offices of Henson Hall, JoAnna Cheatham and her team of SWORPS experts leapt into action. Cheatham and project consultant Teresa Dorian immediately recognized that the success of this ambitious program would hinge on tight collaboration among many partners; thus, their first challenge was to forge a partnership among DHS/DOE, Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence, the Child Care Resource Centers scattered across the state, and of course UT itself. Each partner will play a vital role in providing direction, staff, training, program management, or data collection for the STARS program. Even within SWORPS, multiple teams are contributing to the effort; the STARS team leads the way, but it relies on the Research and Evaluation Unit to provide management and reporting of a colossal—and critical—set of data.

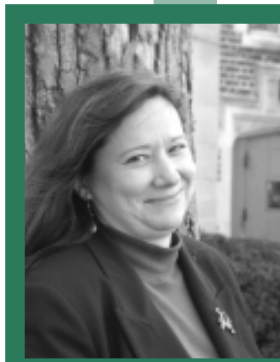
People Count

SWORPS is a key partner in the STARS program, directly responsible for program management, data quality and reporting, and reliability assurance for the Assessors. Reliability assurance



Cindy Hughes, Lead Regional Coordinator

The goal of this program is to improve the quality of childcare and to give parents concrete information about the care their children are receiving.



Teresa Dorian, Project Consultant

What is "Reliability"?

No way around it: the only way to ensure that the Environment Rating Scales are applied consistently is for Assessors to achieve and maintain reliability. Reliability in this context simply means the same thing is measured the same way every time. And that's where the Assessment Specialists take center stage. These specialists are the reliability key for all Assessors, including each other. Act One of their production is to periodically accompany each Assessor on a site visit and conduct a simultaneous and independent assessment. Act Two is comparing the two assessments. How high is the bar? The two assessments have to match by at least 85 percent, or the Assessor is sent for refresher training.

is crucial to the success of this program: all facilities must be assessed consistently, regardless of their location or size and of the Assessor assigned. To ensure reliability, SWORPS will work with the Assessors through Assessment Specialists, who will help individual Assessors across the state achieve and maintain reliability.

Not just anyone with the right degree and extensive experience can be a good Assessment Specialist. Explains Cindy Hughes, lead regional coordinator, "These people are strong team players; they *must* work well with diverse groups, communicate effectively and objectively, and manage multiple tasks simultaneously—all while traveling extensively."

Hughes is complemented by a growing staff of these exceptional people. Filling out the team of East-of-Nashville Assessment Specialists are Jan King, Kristin McCloud, and Amber McClure. Regional Coordinator for the Nashville-and-West region, Betty Beardslee, is building another team of specialists, which includes Heather Wallace, Lillie Romero, and Liz McLaughlin. "Our team shares more than just similar educational backgrounds," reveals Beardslee. "We share a common belief and goal that children deserve quality childcare."

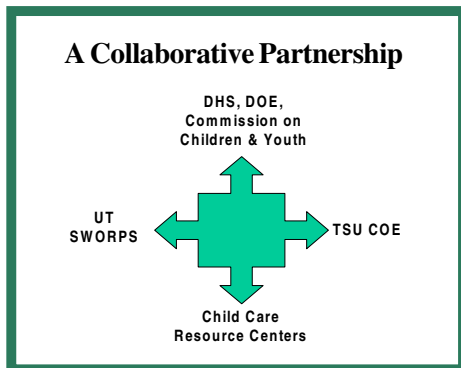
Stepping into the Future

Tennessee is positioning itself at the cutting edge of childcare quality improvement—a move long anticipated, and one whose results will be closely scrutinized by legislators, educators, and parents alike. This pioneering program hopes to prevent not only the glaring tragedies that make the six o'clock news, but also the quiet epidemic of children missing out on opportunities for intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Our College and all the other organizations contributing to the STARS program are poised to take that one small step that could be the giant leap in the lives of individual children. Let us step boldly.

—Jennifer Buhman is a coordinator at SWORPS.

For More Information...

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/childcare>
<http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/>
<http://www.tnreports.com>
<http://www.state.tn.us/education/smart>
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu>
<http://child.etsu.edu/center/training/tecta/tecta1.htm>



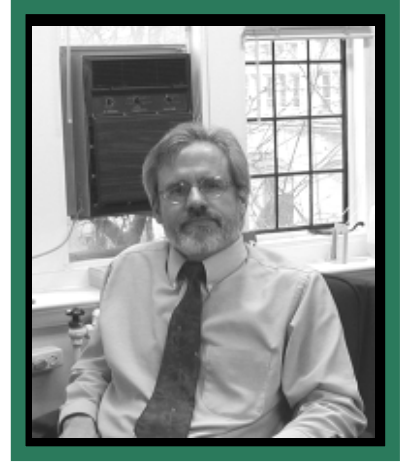
David Dupper Is Named Associate Dean of the Knoxville Location

The College is pleased to announce that Dr. David R. Dupper has been named associate dean for the Knoxville location, effective February 1, 2001. Dupper has been an associate professor in the College since the fall of 1998. He has taught foundations, school social work, and research classes, among several others, during his tenure at UT, and he will

continue to teach the school social work class in his new position.

As associate dean, Dupper will oversee the MSSW program for the Knoxville location, and he will provide

support to faculty and students in an effort to help them achieve success in research and teaching. "I want to be available to students as well as faculty," Dupper said. He also will be involved in recruiting new students for the program, among other administrative tasks.



Dr. David R. Dupper

Prior to joining the faculty in 1998, Dupper served as assistant professor at the University of Illinois School of Social Work. He attended Florida State University where he received bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees in social work. His research interest is in the area of school social work, and, specifically, his research focuses on students with school behavior problems and on finding ways to help at-risk students achieve success in school. Currently, he is working on a book entitled *School Social Work: Skills and Interventions for Effective Practice*, which should be completed in December.

Dupper is looking forward to the challenges of his new position as associate dean. "I want to run as efficient a program as possible," he said. He also stated that "providing leadership is a big challenge, and it's an exciting thing for me."

—Kirche Rogers

Photo Gallery

Dean Sowers and Bill Bates, former UT Volunteer football player and former Dallas Cowboys safety, enjoy tailgating at Bates's dude ranch before the 2000 Cotton Bowl game.



Professor Emeritus Gideon Fryer enjoys tailgating with doctoral students.



Ken Millar, dean of the School of Social Work at Louisiana State University, and Dean Sowers attended a tailgating party before the UT/LSU game in Baton Rouge on September 30, 2000.



Alumni Deborah Winoker (MSSW '73) and her husband John Miller (MSSW '73) joined Dean Sowers at a UT football game last fall.



Julie Edwards (r.), a junior in social work, talks with an interested student at the "Major in Success" event at the University Center.



Leta (l.) and Tom Cruthirds (second from left) enjoy a moment of conversation with John Miller (MSSW '73) and his wife, Deborah Winoker, (MSSW '73) at the Dean's holiday party.



Faculty, students, and family members from the Nashville location joined more than 500 others in the Nashville "Walk for Alzheimer's Disease" this fall. This is the first year that representatives from the College have participated. Organized by Dr. Sherry Cummings and Tressa Miller, a second year clinical student, the CSW contingent raised more than \$300 and braved thunderstorms to participate in the walk. Participants included (l.-r.) Kaitlin Cockerham (Cummings's daughter), Dr. Sherry Cummings, Daryl Chansuthus, B.J. Velasquez, Denise Velasquez, Alexander and Brennan Chansuthus, Dr. Bill Bell, and Tressa Miller.



PhD students Ann Callahan (sitting, front) and Edgar Tyson enjoy a moment of conversation at a barbecue at Dean Sowers's house last fall to welcome new doctoral students and to kick off the beginning of the new academic year. Also in attendance were doctoral students (in background, from l. to r.) Daphne Cain, Elizabeth Strand, and Juan Barthelemy.



Also attending the Dean's holiday party were (l.-r.) Roger Nooe, Louise Harrison (a long-time supporter of the College), alumnus Libby McColl (MSSW '78), and her husband, Bob McColl.

Panelists Inspire Alumni to Take Advantage of Nontraditional Social Work Opportunities at Annual Homecoming Symposium

By Kirche Rogers

CSW students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni were encouraged to take advantage of professional development opportunities and use their skills in nontraditional ways at the annual Homecoming symposium on September 22, 2000, in the University Center Ballroom. The theme of the symposium was "Celebrating the Changing Face of Practice: Leaders in Change Share Their Vision." Four panelists, including Representative Tommie Brown, MSW, DSW; Andrew Dziewulski, LCSW; Cindy Perry, BSSW; and Brenda Southerland, LCSW, CCM, shared their perspectives on how the field of social work has evolved into new areas of practice, including a focus on business, technology, and advocacy.



Clevonne Turner and Judy Fiene enjoy a moment of conversation during the reception.



(l.-r.) Dean Sowers, Rep. Tommie Brown, Andy Dziewulski, Cindy Perry, and Brenda Southerland

Representative Brown, the Tennessee House Representative for District 28 which is part of Hamilton County in Chattanooga, is an advocate for social work issues in Tennessee and, particularly, for her constituents in Hamilton County. Representative Brown, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority (AKA), was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a warm welcome from Pamela Chesney, president of the Alpha Pi Omega chapter of AKA, at the symposium. Representative Brown shared her experiences as a "grassroots" social worker who has supported legislation which seeks to improve neighborhood safety and children's education, increase job training initiatives, strengthen support for dislocated workers, and provide tax relief for seniors.

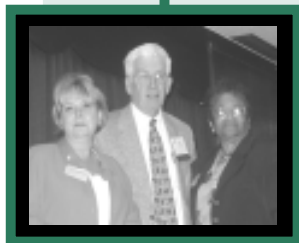
Cindy Perry, Executive Director of the Select Committee on Children and Youth

(SCCY) for the Tennessee General Assembly in Nashville, graduated from the College's BSSW program in 1981. As Executive Director of the SCCY, Perry and her staff study specific social welfare needs and issues around the state and provide input to legislators. "The people who are elected as legislators are not experts in the issues they debate. The legislature needs

solid research and input [from staff] as they debate these issues and make these decisions," Perry said. Perry hopes that social workers will choose to become more active in macro practice social work, especially in light of the critical budget issues that Tennessee legislators are confronting. "We are faced with a long-term revenue crisis if we don't accept the fact that the current tax system is regressive," she

explained. "I hope that social workers will move out of their comfort zones and challenge themselves to think about the big picture."

Andrew Dziewulski, a CSW alumnus and Assistant Vice President and Manager of Business Development for the Information Technology Solutions Group of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, brought a unique perspective to the panel. His work focuses on team-building with organizations that are adjusting to changes brought about by major information technology modernization



(l.-r.) Dean Sowers, Roger Nooe, Rep. Tommie Brown

projects. He helps organizations assess the impact of these changes on how work is done, what work is done, and who does the work. Dziewulski's work brings technology and social work together in a way that helps organizations manage change. His position with SAIC has allowed him to use his social work skills in a nontraditional setting.

Brenda Southerland is a certified case manager and president and founder of Senior Care Consultants, Inc., a private geriatric care management service for older adults and their families in Knoxville and surrounding counties. Southerland spoke about how her clinical experience gave her the background and foundation she needed to establish her own business. Southerland's advice to social workers who are thinking about establishing their own businesses is to "prepare as much as you can [by figuring out] what you need to do to get your business started." She also encourages social workers to align themselves with businesspeople who can serve as advisors.

After the panelists spoke, alumni, faculty, administrators, staff members, and students enjoyed a reception and silent auction in the Ballroom. Proceeds from the silent auction benefited the BSSW scholarship fund.

—Kirche Rogers is the editor of Stimulus.

Post-Master's Certificate Program in Community and Management Practice Offers Alumni an Opportunity to Enhance Their Skills

The College is pleased to announce the establishment of the Post-Master's Certificate Program in Management and Community Practice. According to Dr. Rod Ellis, who is overseeing the program, the purpose is to provide graduates who begin their careers in clinical social work practice and then transition into supervisory positions with the expertise they need to be effective managers and supervisors.

The certificate program is designed so that participants can attend management and community practice classes that are already scheduled. The program requires 15 hours of coursework, including three required courses from the management and community practice curriculum and two electives. Participants have four years to complete the program and have some flexibility in choosing electives.

If you are interested in applying for admission to the Certificate Program in Management and Community Practice, contact Nancy Meyer-Adams at (865) 974-6498 or meyer-ad@swk.gw.utk.edu for more information. Submission of a graduate school application as well as an application from the College of Social Work is required.

TN-NASW Hosts Tipper Gore and Hadassah Lieberman

By Angel Strange

This article is re-printed with permission of the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (TN-NASW) from the Winter 2000 issue of the NASW Newsletter, Vol. 24, No. 4.

On October 25, 2000, TN-NASW hosted a reception for Tipper Gore and Hadassah Lieberman in Nashville. This event was a unique and special experience for everyone who attended, and it energized our efforts to work with these like-minded political leaders.



(l.-r.) Dean Sowers, Tipper Gore, Associate Professor and TN-NASW local planning committee member Colleen Galambos, and Deborah Wolkhamer, Executive Director of TN-NASW

Shortly after the Gore

campaign moved to Nashville, TN-NASW started thinking about ways to incorporate our missions. Nationally, NASW had endorsed Vice President Al Gore's candidacy because the association recognized a mutual belief in advocacy and social justice. This move presented the ultimate opportunity to combine micro and macro efforts within the profession in order to serve our clients better.

Dr. Colleen Galambos, associate professor at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work in Nashville, propelled our initiative to meet with Mrs. Gore because of her interest in mental health issues. The Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE) committee, TN-NASW staff, and the Board of Directors pulled together to harness this prospect. Over the course of several months, this idea came to fruition. The process was not easy by any stretch of the

imagination. A lot of logistical issues impacted our planning. Because of the dedication of Kathy Wood-Dobbins and Christi Granstaff, who co-chaired this event, no detail went overlooked. Along the same lines, we are truly indebted to each of the volunteers who helped in this effort.

After several date changes and numerous other strategic problems, TN-NASW received a confirmation from the campaign, and on October 25, approximately 120 members, service providers, and social welfare advocates were able to come together with Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Lieberman for a reception at Park Center. Through our meeting, TN-NASW was able to bring light to ways in which the profession can collaborate with political leaders in order to increase services and provide opportunities to people in need. This was the ultimate portrayal of the

ecological perspective because micro and macro level providers connected to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

This event far exceeded everyone's expectations. Both Mrs. Gore and Mrs.

Lieberman expressed an understanding of NASW's mission, and they related ways to integrate policy and practice to those in the audience. Everyone present recognized that the ultimate goal is to achieve a system of service delivery which will improve the lives of all people.

—Angel Strange is a student in the Nashville MSSW program and is conducting her field placement at TN-NASW.



Volunteers from the College's Nashville location worked hard to help bring Tipper Gore and Hadassah Lieberman to Nashville.

Lakesha Jones Spends Summer Helping Troubled Youths

Adapted from an article by Ellen Davidson, Daily Beacon Staff Writer



Lakesha Jones, a senior in the College's undergraduate program, spent the summer of 2000 working at a treatment center for juvenile sex offenders. Jones worked at Youth Villages's Memphis Boys Town, a residential treatment center that houses sex offenders between the ages of 13 and 17, where she participated in therapy and evaluation of the youths.

Unlike many lock-down facilities, which are more like prison, Memphis Boys Town provides recreational therapy for the teens, according to Jones. While working at the center, she accompanied youth on various therapeutic outings. "We went swimming, to baseball games, to the zoo and to museums," Jones said. "We did a lot of stuff in the community."

Jones was also involved in evaluating the offenders at the center. "We had weekly counseling meetings where we went over each child's progress," Jones said. She said the emphasis is always on getting the boys home as soon as possible.

Jones says she plans to enter the master's program at UT after earning her undergraduate degree and later plans to become a social worker. "This experience made me more and more excited about being a social worker because I was able to see how I really helped somebody," Jones said.

—Kate Miller

CSW Students Receive Honors

Tequilla Banks, a student in the Memphis MSSW program, received the Student 2001 Career Development Award from the Society for Adolescent Medicine in November. Banks, one of two award recipients, was chosen for this honor after submitting a proposal explaining her career goals and research interests. At the end of the year, Banks will be required to outline how the award has benefited her and her research project. Banks is conducting research on resiliency and protective factors, including chronic conditions, with the Latino adolescent population in West Tennessee. She is also exploring spirituality as a protective factor. Dr. Theora Evans, Banks's mentor, is helping her with the study. After graduating with her master's degree, Banks hopes to pursue a PhD degree.



Tequilla Banks

Emily Kerr, a senior in the BSSW program, received the Student of the Month award for November 2000. Kerr, who plans to graduate in May, has accomplished many things during her tenure at UT. According to Frank Spicuzza, associate professor and chair of the BSSW program, Kerr "has provided exceptional leadership and service on and off campus." Among her many accomplishments, Kerr completed internships at St. Mary's Senior Services and the Alzheimer's Daycare Center, and she is currently an intern with the Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SACC). Kerr's internship at the SACC involves working with the child abuse prevention program and the personal safety program in local elementary schools. Kerr worked as a volunteer in Argentina with the Campus Crusade for Christ this past summer, and she hopes to work with Campus Crusade for Christ as a full-time employee after graduation. "She is not a leader swept up by power, sensation, and excitement," said Spicuzza. "Rather, she is a leader who mobilizes people and works with others as a team to address challenges." In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Kerr this year received the first Rody Cohen social work scholarship, which is funded by private endowments in honor of Rody Cohen, MSSW '71.



Emily Kerr

Scholarship Contributors Needed

Scholarships in the College of Social Work are relatively few in number and are, therefore, highly competitive. More scholarships are needed to attract and retain highly qualified students. You can help by designating your contributions "for scholarships in the College of Social Work" when you are contacted during a University phone-a-thon or when you respond to a mail appeal. For more information on how you can help provide scholarship funds to the College, please contact Donna Bletner, Director of Development, 303 Claxton Addition, Knoxville, TN 37996-3400, (865) 974-3994, or e-mail dbletner@utk.edu.

Recent Retirees

Jenny G. Collier, who served as an assistant professor at the Memphis location for 32 and one-half years, retired on January 7. Collier taught most recently foundation practice and clinical concentration courses. She joined the Memphis faculty in 1968 after working in several child welfare positions in Ohio and Tennessee. Collier worked in the field as a caseworker and was an instructor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine before joining UT. She served on several committees during her tenure as assistant professor, including the field practice and curriculum committee and the promotion and tenure committee. She was also an advisor to the social work student organization in Memphis from 1983 to 1985. While she has not decided how she will spend her time in retirement, Collier is looking forward to traveling and catching up on some personal goals. She also looks forward to staying in touch with the College.



Jenny Collier speaks to guests at her reception.



Judith Fiene,

associate professor and associate dean of the Knoxville location, retired on February 1, 2001. Fiene joined the CSW faculty in August 1987 and became acting associate dean in 1996. She was named associate dean of the Knoxville location in 1998. Fiene was one of the first two graduates of the College's PhD program. She entered the program in 1983 and graduated in May 1988. Before entering the PhD program, Fiene worked as a social worker in the UT Development in Genetics Center located at UT Hospital from 1976 to 1983. She is active in domestic violence and HIV/AIDS causes and is a member of the state Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence. In 1993, Fiene won the Knox County Task Force Against Domestic Violence Unity Day Award, and she was named Social Worker of the Year in 1996 by the Knoxville branch of the National Association of Social Workers. In retirement, Fiene will continue her work to combat domestic violence problems through her membership on the state coordinating council. In her spare time, Fiene looks forward to spending time with her grandchildren, working in her garden, reading lots of books, and taking care of the two cats she recently adopted.

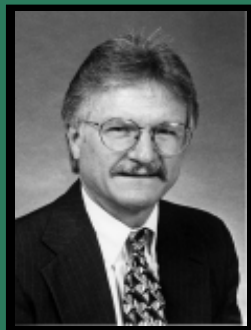


Judy Fiene accepts a gift from the College at her retirement reception.

Alumni Profile: John Miller (MSSW '73) Returns to His Roots in Knoxville

Native Tennessean and MSSW graduate John Miller returned to Knoxville last year after a long absence to rekindle old ties with friends, family, and colleagues and to direct the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA), the only national nonprofit agency headquartered in Tennessee. Miller began his social work career in Savannah, Georgia, where he worked as a caseworker after graduating from East Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology. In 1973, he graduated from the College with an MSSW degree and then left Tennessee to continue his career, not as a caseworker, but as a nonprofit agency administrator.

Miller spent the next two decades directing several nonprofit programs. He began his post-master's social work career with the American Red Cross, where he worked for nine and one-half years. Miller spent the next 11 years overseeing psychiatric rehabilitation programs in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Johnson City, Tennessee. In 1996 Miller's leg had to be amputated, and he began to think about moving closer to his aging parents, who live in Morristown, Tennessee. The perfect opportunity for Miller to move back to East Tennessee arose last year when he accepted the position of president and CEO of the ACA. As an amputee himself, Miller was already familiar with the ACA, and he became excited about the possibility of joining the organization when he saw the job posting.



John Miller

Miller moved back to Knoxville on June 1, 2000. He immediately began learning more about limb loss and the National Limb Loss Information Center (NLLIC), a program run by the ACA through a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 1997, the CDC awarded the grant to the ACA and provided \$800,000 per year in support for three years. The NLLIC serves as an information clearinghouse for amputees and employs information specialists who operate a hotline and communication system for providing assistance to amputees who are seeking information on limb loss and special interest support

groups. When Miller joined the ACA last year, his first task was to submit a grant proposal to renew the NLLIC funding. "I was the greenest person on staff, and the first thing I saw on my desk was the RFP for the second three-year term," he said.

Miller submitted the grant proposal at the end of July, and in October the CDC awarded new funding, increasing the amount to \$1.4 million per year. With this additional support, the ACA was able to expand its staff by 50 percent. Currently, the ACA employs 22 staff members. The grant also allowed the ACA to expand its programs, creating a national network of support groups and regional representatives. The ACA consists of 226 support groups nationwide and 10 regional representatives who volunteer through the ACA's National Peer Network, which is run by the NLLIC.

Since joining the ACA, Miller has worked diligently to spread the word about the ACA's involvement with amputees in Tennessee and throughout the United States. He has established partnerships with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and the UT College of Social Work, among others. When Miller learned that one of the CDC grant requirements called for the ACA to evaluate its programs, Miller called Dean Sowers for help. The ACA was able to provide funds to three of the College's PhD students who are responsible for developing measurement instruments, conducting sampling, training others on how to use the instruments, and conducting focus groups. Bill Nugent, PhD program chair, explained that the ACA grant money provides a great financial resource for students. The opportunity to work with the ACA also allows the students to network with social work professionals in the community and to learn about areas of research that might interest them in the future.

Miller is very pleased to be back in Knoxville and to be affiliated with the ACA, which he says is the "best kept secret in Tennessee." He is married to Deborah Winoker (MSSW '73), his college sweetheart and fellow CSW graduate, and has two children, a daughter and son. His daughter is a junior at Oberlin College, and his son will graduate from the University of Tennessee in May with a degree in aerospace engineering.

—Kirche Rogers

PhD-SSWO Honors Bill Nugent

On December 6, 2000, the PhD Student Social Work Organization (PhD-SSWO) held a luncheon in honor of Dr. Bill Nugent, associate professor and chair of the College's doctoral program. Nugent formed the PhD-SSWO in the fall of 1999. "The luncheon was in recognition of [Dr. Nugent's] contribution and dedication to the doctoral program. He takes very good care of us," said Nancy Meyer-Adams, a third-year doctoral student.

"We wanted to honor Bill for his support of the students. He was the brain trust behind the organization," said Gary Cuddeback, current PhD-SSWO president.

The purpose of the PhD-SSWO is to provide a social network and support group for PhD students. Nugent, who has been chair of the PhD program since the fall of 1996, noticed shortly after he assumed responsibility for the program that there was little camaraderie among the



Dr. Bill Nugent was given a plaque in appreciation for his service to the doctoral students and the PhD-SSWO.

PhD students. He wanted to create an atmosphere for the program that would instill a sense of unity among the doctoral students. Nugent thought that if the students had a network of social support, their learning experiences in the program would be enhanced as well. "The students were very interested and took it on. The organization has been more than what I hoped it would be," Nugent said. "The camaraderie and spirit among the doctoral students is different than it was five or six years ago. The organization has institutionalized them as a group."

The activities of the organization have expanded to include fund-raisers such as a food drive and a used book sale. The money raised provides a safety net for those doctoral students who may find themselves in a financial crisis, explained Nancy Meyer-Adams. The organization also offers a mentoring program for new doctoral students. Through the mentoring program, current doctoral students meet with prospective and new doctoral students to answer questions and give them an idea of what they can expect from the program.

Nugent is extremely proud of the doctoral students. "They are a bright, energetic group," he said. "People have come up to me at conferences and complimented me on [them]." Nugent said that the PhD-SSWO has "succeeded beyond my wildest hopes."

—Kirche Rogers

Alumna Kia Bentley (MSSW '79) Publishes New Book



(l.-r.) Coauthor Joe Walsh,
Kia Bentley, and Wadsworth-
Brooks/Cole editor Lisa Gebo

Kia J. Bentley, PhD, a 1979 alumna of the Nashville MSSW program, recently published a new book, *The Social Worker and Psychotropic Medication* (second edition), with her colleague, Joseph F. Walsh. Bentley is an associate professor and director of the PhD program at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work in Richmond, Virginia.

Bentley's new book offers social workers information on how to deal with medication-related issues that affect their clients. The book also presents helpful strategies for including clients, their family members, and other mental health care workers in the treatment process. More information about the book can be found by accessing the Brooks/Cole Helping Professions web site at <http://helpingprofs.wadsworth.com>. In addition to this book, Bentley has published numerous other papers on social work in mental health, and she is the editor of the upcoming text *Social Work Practice in Mental Health: Contemporary Roles, Tasks, and Techniques*.

Social Work Students Attend BGPSA Roundtable

Adapted from an article by Carolina Powers, Daily Beacon
Staff Writer

By Kate Miller



Edgar Tyson

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGPSA) held a roundtable discussion entitled "Can't We All Just Get Along" on November 19, 2000. Students gathered to discuss insights, concerns, and solutions that affect African Americans. The topics addressed at the roundtable ranged from core family makeup to campus involvement. According to BGPSA President Preshious Rearden, "These types of discussions help to foster student awareness of issues and allow students a chance to share their voices with other[s]," and "Discussion is one of the first steps to finding a solution to any problem."

Among the students in attendance were Edgar Tyson and Juan Barthelemy, both doctoral students in the College of Social Work. Tyson informed the group about a program that the College is developing to teach students cultural sensitivity and to encourage students to support efforts for creating a more harmonious campus. Barthelemy advocated communication as the main way to improve student participation in African American student group events and other organizations on campus. "The most powerful form of advertisement is word of mouth," Barthelemy said.

—Kate Miller is a publications specialist at SWORPS.



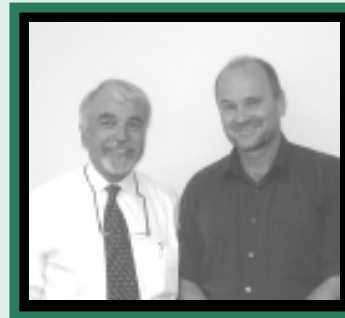
Juan Barthelemy

Dr. Bill Rowe Visits College of Social Work

By Kathy Perkey

Last September, the College of Social Work had the great pleasure of welcoming Dr. Bill Rowe as a lecturer during its Visiting Scholar Symposium on International Education. Rowe spoke to the College's faculty and PhD students about the future of international social work. He discussed social work as social development and used examples from Indonesia and developing nations in the Middle East. He also gave the College insight on how to design its own international exchange programs.

Professor Rowe is the director of the McGill School of Social Work, located in Montreal, Quebec. The McGill School of Social Work is known worldwide, and its student body represents students from the United States, Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The school is involved in many activities and projects such as Northern Social Work, research in HIV/AIDS, services for the disabled, long-term chronic illness studies, services for single mothers, services for the homeless, and community economic development.



Muammer Cetingok (l.)
and Bill Rowe (r.)

For the past 20 years, Rowe has been expanding his teaching skills and his knowledge of social work by providing training and lectures at agencies and universities throughout North America, New Zealand, and the Middle East. He

normally makes 10 to 15 trips a year to various agencies and universities and loves having the opportunity to learn from other cultures and settings. Rowe focuses his training and lectures on child welfare and health issues (especially HIV prevention), and in the last few years, he has explored the development of social work education. The training and lectures are designed for social workers, university faculty members, and students. Through these lectures, Rowe wants to impress upon the audience four valuable concepts: think globally and act locally, expand international partnerships, see social work in the longview and establish lasting programs, and always use a multicultural lens.

Currently, Rowe is working on the development of a faculty recruitment program at McGill and on expansion of the school's research opportunities. He is also researching family violence in Sumatra, Indonesia; foster care in the Ukraine; and social work education in Amman, Jordan. In the future he will be a consultant to the CSW's Committee on International Collaboration and Initiatives.

—Kathy Perkey is the editorial assistant for Stimulus.

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