

stimulus

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

Fall/Winter
2010

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE



College of Social Work

Growing and Thriving in Tough Economic Times

also in this issue

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We are growing stronger every day!

Welcome to the fall issue of Stimulus! Please note in this issue the college's Annual Gala announcement. We look forward to seeing all of you there. Bring your appetite and dancing shoes and get ready for a great time!

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

In this issue we are pleased to recognize some of our outstanding alums who have made significant contributions to the profession and to 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.

As you read this issue, you will note the college's increasing emphasis on global social work practice and the provision of interna-

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

As I read this issue of Stimulus, I marvel at the resilience of our college. In the midst of economic recession and budget crisis, the faculty and staff of the college and our donors and alumni continue to move forward with creativity, enthusiasm, and staunch determination. Our Veterinary Social Work Program, now offering a VSW certificate, and our distance education MSSW program are glowing examples of the leading-edge education offered by our faculty.

Your commitment to the college is nothing short of amazing! It is a privilege to work with such dedicated faculty, bright and enthusiastic students, and strong supporters of the college. Despite the current economic realities, our future remains bright. We not only remain relevant to practice concerns but also create new knowledge to lead us into the future.

Thanks for all you do to support the college!

Ann M. Sowers

Dr. David Dia in the Spotlight as Hoarding Consultant

Dr. David Dia, an expert in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and the treatment of anxiety related disorders, has been making his rounds recently on several nationally televised shows. Dr. Dia has appeared on four episodes of the Discovery/TLC channels' *Hoarding: Buried Alive* and on an episode of the A & E channel's *Hoarders*. He also traveled to Rockefeller Center in New York to appear on an episode of *The Dr. Oz Show*.

Dr. Dia has specialized in the treatment of anxiety and related disorders for the past 12 years. Some of his colleagues from around the country knew of his work with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and suggested that the television stations contact him to help on their shows. All three shows on which Dr. Dia appeared focused on helping individuals overcome hoarding tendencies. He worked



CSW Assistant Professor David Dia on the set of TLC's *Hoarding: Buried Alive*.

closely with expert therapists and professional organizers to help individuals identify reasons for their hoarding behaviors, and, through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, treat the disorder.

Dr. Dia is grateful for the opportunity to help these individuals and states, "Being able to help people who would not otherwise be able to get help has been tremendously gratifying. So many of these people are suffering, and there is a lack of treatment providers with the expertise to help."

After the shows' filming ends, Dr. Dia continues to consult with the families, organizer, and therapist as needed. Dr. Dia is an assistant professor in the College of Social Work and is located at the Nashville campus. Go to <http://www.drdaviddia.com> to see Dr. Dia in action!

—Kathy Williams

Thanks to All Involved in Reaffirmation of Accreditation Process

In December 2009, the college submitted its application for reaffirmation of accreditation to the Council on Social Work Education after a considerable amount of effort was spent writing, collaborating, and producing the final products. Dean Sowers states, "The faculty and I wish to thank all of our community

agencies, field instructors, members of our advisory committees and Board of Visitors for their input and support in our application for Reaffirmation of Accreditation. Our site visitors were quite impressed with your connection to and support of the college. Thank you for all you do for the College of Social Work!"



The accreditation materials reflected how CSWE practice competencies are integrated into the college curriculum. Separate volumes presented self evaluations of the Bachelor's and Master's programs, description of curriculum for both programs, and course syllabi.

College of Social Work and College of Veterinary Medicine Offer Certificate Program

Since 2002, the College of Social Work and the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) have worked collaboratively to build a strong foundation for educating social workers, veterinarians, and the general public about the intersection between veterinary medicine and social work.

Training professional veterinary social workers to help people in relation to human-animal bonds and in a variety of settings is the vision of the UT Veterinary Social Work program (VSW). Elizabeth Strand, director of VSW, describes her work this way:



Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of the Veterinary Social Work Program and Certified Grief Counselor, with her dog Crockett.

"My business is not the animals. My business is the experience of people in regard to the animal. The unique thing that a veterinary social worker brings to the people who own animals is our concern for people in light of their response to animals."

Beginning in the fall of 2010, through extended collaboration between UT's CSW and CVM, a Veterinary Social Work Certificate Program is being offered to current master's level social work students. Focusing on the application of social work's best practices, they will be trained in four areas of Veterinary Social Work:

- The link between human and animal violence
- Grief and loss
- Animal assisted interactions
- Compassion fatigue management

Strand states that the program is looking forward to working with a small group of students in this first phase of implementation. She anticipates a second, larger phase, which will accommodate post-MSSW students through distance learning. Go to <http://www.csw.utk.edu/students/vsw> to view an audio enhanced media presentation.

—Betsy DeGeorge

Growing and Thriving in Tough Economic Times

by Betsy DeGeorge and Kirche Rogers

In the midst of budget cuts and fewer resources, the College of Social Work has found ways to carry on and strengthen its tradition of high quality education, research, and services to the community.

Distance Education Program Offers Full-Time Option

What began as a part-time program manned by one person has expanded into a full-time operation staffed with a program coordinator, field coordinator, and administrative support personnel.



Implemented in June 2008, the college's distance education program has grown significantly and is now offering a full-time degree program.

In May, the program graduated its first cohort of 13 students. "Our first group of graduates are truly amazing students," says Kate McClernon-Chaffin, distance education coordinator for the college.

"They are incredibly gifted and have thrived in the distance education program," says McClernon-Chaffin. "They have been well-received in the community through our field practicum, and I believe they are ready to practice in their communities."

The distance education program offers MSSW students the opportunity to learn from remote locations, which enables them to earn a degree that may have at one time been impossible due to both the time and monetary expense of traveling to a campus.

"Students throughout the state of Tennessee and in neighboring states can now receive their MSSW degree regardless of where they live, and they can do so as full-time, part-time, or as advanced standing students," says Sherry Cummings, associate dean at the Nashville campus. "I believe that students are attracted both by the program's flexibility and its rigor. They know they are receiving a quality education and will be well prepared to enter the field as social work professionals after they graduate," she adds.

Currently, 125 students are enrolled in the college's distance education classes. In the part-time program, students take 6 hours of coursework per semester, and in the full-time program they take 15 hours. At present, 19 students are enrolled full-time, and 28 advanced standing students are enrolled part-time. Almost all of the full-time students live in rural areas and most work in social service agencies such as nursing homes or adoption agencies.

Classes are presented using a variety of online technologies; some face-to-face Saturday meetings take place at a central location. "Teaching in the distance education program has been enjoyable, as it allows me flexibility

Expanding the Distance Education Program, finding new sources of funding through grants, and adopting energy-saving habits in the classroom and workplace all play a part in becoming leaner and greener.



Kate McClernon-Chaffin is the distance education coordinator for the College of Social Work.

and creativity in teaching courses,” states Associate Professor Cindy Davis. “I would say that online teaching has definitely been a rewarding experience.”

Beth Simpson-Cullor is one of the 13 students who graduated in May and received the Chancellor’s Award for Professional Promise prior to graduation.

“For many social workers in the Tennessee area, it would be practically impossible for them to meet their goal of earning their MSSW without the distance education program because of time constraints,” Simpson-Cullor says. “The social work program is essentially the foundation necessary for me, and

other practitioners, to build a better community, a better country, and a better world. The implications of a distance education program can be far-reaching, and that is so inspiring and empowering!”

Amber Lawson, who has accepted the position of program coordinator for the Cleveland, Tennessee Regional Intervention Program, says she plans to conduct additional outpatient therapy at Hiwassee Mental Health Center, where she completed her graduate internship.

“I don’t feel that I missed out on anything by not being in a traditional classroom,” Lawson says. “I was able to attend classes from home without having to drive hours to a campus and, for the most part, [that meant] I could work around my other obligations.”

McClernon-Chaffin looks forward to the success of the full-time program and hopes it will expand to more states in the future. “We are really trying hard to get the program running like a well-oiled machine.” Given its success so far, the possibility of offering an even more wide-ranging program seems very likely.

For more information on the distance education program, go to

http://www.csw.utk.edu/students/mssw/distance_ed.html or contact Kate McClernon-Chaffin at kmcclern@utk.edu; (615) 256-1885.



Two SAMHSA Grants Add to the CSW’s Funding

On January 21, 1961, John Wodarski was a young college student, considering all kinds of possibilities.

“I was a whippersnapper,” he says, “who wasn’t sure whether I should become a medical doctor or an engineer or go into business. But that day I heard a speech, and it changed my life.”

That day, Wodarski sat in the audience at the Presidential inauguration and heard this eloquent address: “Man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty. . . To those peoples in the huts and villages across the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts. . . Now the trumpet summons us . . . to bear the burden of a long . . . struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself. . . And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

College of Social Work



With the words of President John F. Kennedy as a guide, Wodarski began a career of helping people through social work. Currently the focus of that career is being defined by several large grants awarded to him by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Because of Wodarski's expertise in the application of the empirically-proven Community Reinforcement Approach to the treatment of substance abuse, he and several teams of researchers and clinicians are developing programs of outreach, pretreatment, and treatment services designed to impact substance-using youth.

One grant directs his attention to his home area of East Tennessee, addressing the prevalence of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders among adolescents aged 12–17. The other focuses on reducing high-risk HIV-related behaviors among substance-using young adults aged 18–24 in the U.S. Virgin Islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, and ultimately to reducing HIV among this very poor and vulnerable population.

The incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region is the second highest in the world, according to studies undertaken by the United Nations, and as the epidemic spreads, culturally responsive interventions are more and more necessary.

Last year, Dr. Wodarski developed a program based on a package of evidence-based interventions, including outreach, motivational interviewing, and the Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA).

That pilot program, funded by Until There's A Cure Foundation, became the model for the HIV/AIDS Primary Prevention Program with Caribbean Youth being funded by SAMHSA for a period of 5 years. The University

of Tennessee and Norfolk State University will be working with a team of 82 indigenous workers in the Virgin Islands to break the cycle of substance-abuse and high risk behaviors that lead to contracting HIV/AIDS.

The project will provide culturally relevant outreach services to more than 5,000 young adults, pretreatment services to 1,000 young adults, early intervention, and enhanced substance-abuse treatment services to 356 young adults over the 5-year span of the program. The use of a community-reinforced approach to treatment is a common link between the project in the Caribbean and one in East Tennessee.

Wodarski explains that this methodology was "developed to utilize social, recreational, familial, and vocational reinforcers to aid clients in the substance-abuse recovery process. It aims to use the community to reward [non-abusive] behavior so that the clients make healthy lifestyle changes."

Dean Sowers noted the importance of the CRA approach to services: "His work has impacted students in our college and throughout the university, and helped young people from East Tennessee to the Caribbean. We are extremely proud of the work and professional example of our colleague, John Wodarski."



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

The East Tennessee Assertive Adolescent Family Treatment Program is a joint venture with the Helen Ross McNabb Center. Having competed successfully with 184 agencies for one of 12 national grants, the program will establish an ongoing model for training, feedback, and certification.

Using the McNabb centers as a base, service providers will work with over 100 youths and caregivers in an outpatient environment. By identifying negative forces such as peer influence, inadequate educational success, inattentive parents, and the ready availability of drugs and alcohol, students are encouraged to restructure toxic environments and make commitments to healthy behaviors.

A phenomenal success rate of 80 percent has been recorded in previous projects that have applied the CRA methodology. The UT College of Social Work team looks forward to having such a positive impact on the lives of youth in East Tennessee.



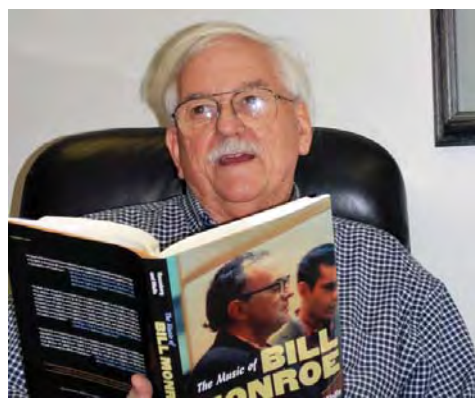
Adopting Greener Habits Helps the Bottom Line

The entire university instituted a "Switch Your Thinking" campaign and an Energy Conservation Policy in 2008 that aligns with the university's mission and goals for instruction, research, and public services.

Since that time, the campus' electricity use has decreased by 10 percent.

Students, faculty, and staff at UT Knoxville have all been actively involved, and as a result, the University has saved \$1.25 million in electricity. This money is now available to support the university's teaching and research mission.

SWORPS Director Paul Campbell Celebrates 30 Years with the College and 40 Years' Service to the Community



Paul Campbell reads a book about Bill Monroe, a Kentucky mandolin player and songwriter known as "The Father of Bluegrass Music."

Paul Campbell, research professor and director of the college's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service, has devoted his life to serving others. A Tennessee native, he has embraced the culture of the region and brought together an impressive team of individuals to share in his tireless efforts to improve the lives of the underserved and those without a voice.

Now the longest active member of the faculty in the college, Campbell recently celebrated 30 years of service to the university and state of Tennessee. He began his journey in the field of social work at UT when he entered the MSW administration program in 1968, during its first year of operation. Campbell's career has been filled with "firsts": He was president of the first and the second year class and was involved in student activism, successfully advocating for an optional Capstone event instead of a required master's thesis.

In addition to his success in the academic arena, Campbell hosts a long-running radio show on the university's public radio station, WUOT. His involvement in radio occurred as a result of his second-year MSW field placement with the East Tennessee Development District, where he successfully wrote a grant to the Appalachian Regional Commission to develop Youth Leadership radio programs in seven East Tennessee colleges. Following graduation in 1970, he was named director of the program and established Appalachian study initiatives in four of the colleges, including UT.

In 1975, he became host of a 30 minute show, *Music of the Southern Mountains*, and he later assisted in developing a companion program, *Live at the Laurel*, sponsored by Jubilee Community Arts, an organization he helped initiate.

Both of these programs were a response to the disenfranchising effects of commercial radio on the traditional music of Appalachia. Campbell took leave from the university in 1977 to pursue a doctor of social work degree with a collateral business degree at the University of Alabama.

Upon returning to the college in 1979, his career shifted to continuing education, and in 1983 he was appointed associate director of the college's Office of Social Work Continuing Education (OCSWE). He became director in 1985, and at that time, changed the name of OCSWE to the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) to better reflect the units' transition to staff development and research.

Since becoming director of SWORPS, Campbell has been principal investigator of more than \$200 million in grants and contracts. For the past 10 years, SWORPS has been a major contributor to the recognition of the College of Social Work as one of the top externally funded units on the Knoxville campus.

"Academic engagement that supports the utilization of university resources to benefit the needs of the community is one of the leading emergent philosophies of higher education," explains Campbell. "This is the approach that SWORPS has advocated for over 25 years, and I am glad to still be around to see this trend spread and be supported throughout the institution."

Throughout his distinguished career, Campbell has maintained his involvement in public radio. In 1999, the two UT radio programs that he had started were merged and renamed *Mountain Jubilee*. Campbell still hosts this show every Saturday night at 9:00 p.m. WUOT recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, and as a volunteer, Campbell has conducted a radio program featuring traditional and acoustic music every week for over 40 of these years! "In an era of growing commercialism, placing the region's traditional arts before the general public has been a very satisfying experience," states Campbell.

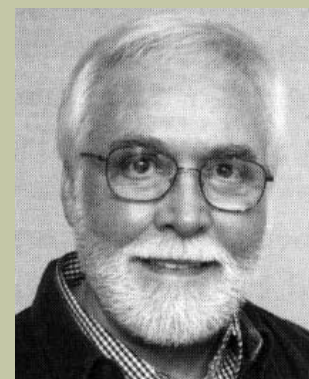
Dean Sowers appreciates Campbell's efforts and shares her thoughts on his influence as an academician and community leader, stating, "Dr. Campbell is a precious resource to the university, the college, our community, and the state. He has helped our communities and the state of Tennessee address critical issues related to social problems. We are indeed fortunate to have Paul with us at the college and university."

—Kirche Rogers

DHS Veteran Don Vaughn Receives Heart of Social Work Award

By Stephanie Piper

Each year, the college presents the Heart of Social Work Award to an individual for his or her special dedication and contributions to the field of social work. The 2010 honoree is Don Vaughn. The award was presented on May 14, 2010, at the commencement exercises for the Memphis campus of the College of Social Work.



Vaughn received his Bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and worked as a teacher and a banker before finding his true calling as a social worker.

He credits his friend and mentor Hugh Vaughn [not related], a beloved former dean and faculty member in the Memphis program, for encouraging him to change professions and apply for a position in human services.

Don Vaughn, recipient of the Heart of Social Work Award for 2010, served Tennesseans in Adult Protective Service for 28 years.

Don Vaughn worked for the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) in Memphis for 28 years. All of those years were spent in Adult Protective Services.

During nearly three decades of service, Vaughn's caring and compassion impacted thousands of clients. He also came to know hundreds of our students from the College of Social Work, both during their field placements with DHS and later, when they became professionals in the Memphis community.

Though he retired in 2004, Vaughn maintains contact with former clients. In presenting the award, Dean Karen Sowers noted, "We are fortunate that Don has also stayed in touch with the College of Social Work, and we are proud to count him among our most loyal friends and supporters."

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

Mary Walker Receives Senator Henry Award

Mary Walker is the 2010 recipient of the Senator Douglas Henry Award for Service to Children and Families at Risk. The award was established in 2008 by the College of Social Work, and its purpose is to honor an individual whose work reflects the values and dedication of Senator Henry. During the senator's long and distinguished service in the Tennessee legislature, his advocacy on behalf of the state's most vulnerable citizens has earned him the title, "patron saint of children and social workers."



Mary Walker and Senator Douglas Henry

Walker is vice president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee.

Last year, the

agency served more than 2,500 children and has been recognized as one of the three top agencies in the Big Brothers Big Sisters national organization.

Walker spent 5 years as general counsel to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and has also worked as an assistant attorney general, a senior referee in the Davidson County Juvenile Court, and an instructor at Vanderbilt Law School. In 2005, she received a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to develop a model coordinating the court system and court personnel in an effective relationship with the Family to Family Service Delivery Efforts. She served as a consultant at Family to Family sites in several states to develop the model.

Of her many accomplishments, Walker is most proud of being a co-founder of Renewal House in Nashville. Renewal House is a long-term drug and alcohol residential program for mothers and their children. It is now in its twelfth year of operation. She is a triple alumna of the University of Tennessee, earning a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree in Social Work, and law degree. In presenting the award, Dean Karen Sowers noted that, "Throughout her long and distinguished career, Mary has been a tireless advocate for children. We are proud to claim her as an alumna, and delighted to present her with the Senator Douglas Henry Award."

—Stephanie Piper

media enhanced feature



Dr. David Patterson is director of the KnoxHMIS program.

for social services while experiencing homelessness. The prototypical homeless individual in Knox County is a single white man who is homeless for the first time.

This person:

- Has a high school diploma
- Has never been to prison
- Doesn't have a disability
- Is in reasonably good health
- Is not a veteran
- Is homeless because he has lost employment or is underemployed

In addition, among non-chronically homeless women in Knox County, eighteen percent are without a place to live because of domestic violence. These statements are true. We know

KnoxHMIS—The Homeless Management Information System—Provides a Clearer Picture of Trends in Homelessness Resulting from Recession

By Betsy DeGeorge

they are true because of the data that has been gathered since 2004 through the Knox Homeless Management Information System (KnoxHMIS).

The use of this comprehensive and integrated system has increased dramatically in the last year, with 12 area homeless service providers entering data into the system. Because of the commitment of these service providers to systematically recording their service contacts, the value of the system for coordination of care has also increased.

According to the University of Tennessee College of Social Work KnoxHMIS 2009 Annual Report, the quality of the data entered into KnoxHMIS has improved as implementation has increased, thereby allowing administrators and local officials to evaluate the efficacy of service programs and providing the Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) with data to use in reports to Congress.

The UT College of Social Work, the Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS), and Professor David Patterson have been the hub of the alliance of service providers that use this system.

Patterson was one of the initial principal managers of the first grant awarded by HUD in 2004. He enlisted the services of SWORPS to develop the technical basis for the management network. Since then, this team has demonstrated both a desire to improve the quality of life in its own locality and the expertise necessary to mount a successful community-wide program.

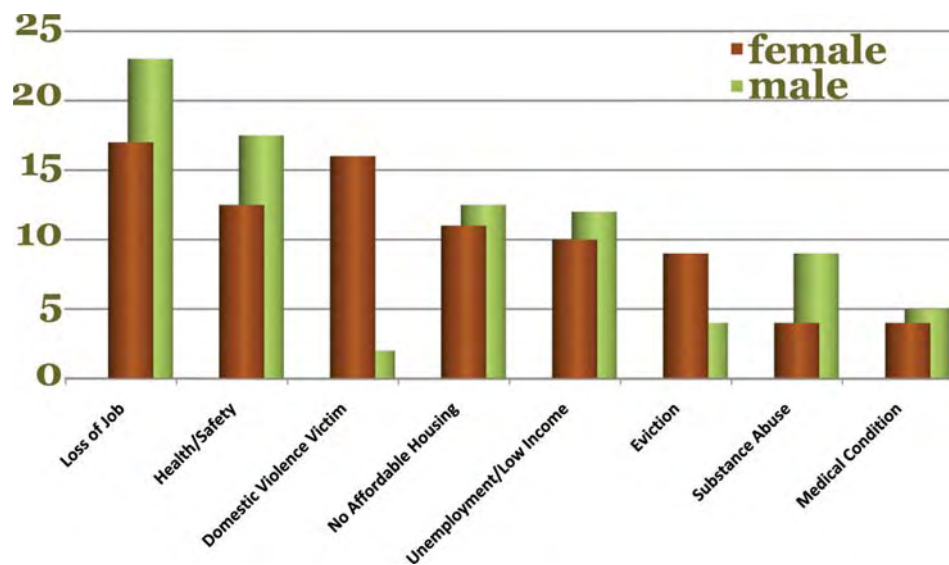
The 2009 renewal of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Award for the amount of \$132,282 allows for the continuation of this thriving

perception ...



...reality

The KnoxHMIS program confirms that homeless individuals are a diverse group of citizens. Community focus is generally on the chronically homeless, who by definition have a disabling condition and have been homeless for more than one year or have been homeless three times or more in the past four years. KnoxHMIS data shows that 74% of homeless people seeking service during 2009 were not chronically homeless—they reported being recently unemployed, underemployed, or in need of shelter due to reasons such as domestic violence or eviction.



KnoxHMIS asked people to self-report the primary reasons for their homelessness. The graph above shows how they responded, by gender. The entire KnoxHMIS annual report, with more charts and graphs, is at <http://knoxhmis.sworps.tennessee.edu>

ing project by providing operational funds for software licenses, servers, and networks; by supporting program staff and training; and by covering costs related to student research associates.

“We are beginning the seventh year of HMIS,” states Patterson. “During that period the system has recorded 20,000 cases of people who have experienced homelessness. Last year—2009—over 3,700 people new to homelessness were entered into the database,” he adds. “Each month, over 300 people sought services for the first time from one of the 12 participating homeless service providers in Knoxville.”

The goals that were initially set by HUD include the following:

- maximizing service coordination for homeless individuals,
- providing aggregate data on the population in order to develop long-term trend and service analysis,
- assessing needs as well as service effectiveness.

These objectives are being effectively fulfilled as agencies use the system as a tool of practice that is integral to all interactions with homeless clients. Dean Sowers is pleased with the overall success of the program, both as it impacts the local community and as it provides a research base for the nation.

Sowers notes, “KnoxHMIS is a community outreach research endeavor of the university. Through it we serve Knoxville and by doing so, provide research and learning opportunities to students of our college. Beyond that, using our data, Knoxville has become a contributing community to the national Annual Homeless Assessment Report, now in its fifth year of publication.”

To view this national report, go to <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>

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

Dean Karen Sowers Endows Fellowship

Dean Sowers has endowed a graduate fellowship in the College of Social Work. The fellowship, which will be awarded to a student in the PhD program, is endowed through a bequest in Sowers’ will. “Planned giving is a wonderful way to insure ongoing support for programs that are important to you,” Sowers says. She notes that while she makes annual gifts to the college, this endowment will provide tuition assistance to doctoral students for generations to come.

There are a number of opportunities available for those wishing to make a planned gift, including life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable annuity trusts, and charitable unitrusts. Gifts of real estate and retirement assets are also options. Please contact Stephanie Piper, director of Development, at 865-974-5363 or spiper@utk.edu if you wish to discuss a planned gift.

—**Stephanie Piper**

Rukeyser Fund Gives Social Work Students Greater Opportunity to Study Abroad

Through its commitment to promoting diversity and providing curriculum that readies students for practice in a global environment, the College of Social Work has enthusiastically embraced the University of Tennessee’s “Ready for the World Initiative.” Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Sarah Gardial explains the initiative: “We will increase the number of students who study abroad and change the programming, the opportunities, and the overall feel of campus life. In short, we will dramatically alter what it means to be educated at the University of Tennessee.”

Nineteen students in the college have taken advantage of the university’s international exchange program since fall 2006. More students will have an opportunity to experience the Ready for the World Initiative firsthand through the generosity of Board of Visitor member Elisabeth Rukeyser and her husband Bill, who believe that social work education should include a multi-cultural experience.

“My husband and I had many opportunities when we were young to travel, which broadened our perspectives about how the world works. We believe it is important for social work students to have the same opportunities. When they experience the way people in other countries live, they can relate to and serve them more effectively in the field. We established the fund to help them do that,” states Mrs. Rukeyser.

The Rukeyser fund was established in the spring of 2009 as means for students to take classes and conduct field placements in various locales throughout the world. Funds are awarded based on financial need and the cost of the trip.

So far, three students have received support from the fund. Michael Coleman travelled to Capetown, South Africa, and completed a field placement in a high school with high-risk adolescent students. Kari Holden took social work classes at the University of Ghana, and Elizabeth Gray, a BSSW student who graduated in May 2010, studied with a third-party program called Semester at Sea.



Elizabeth Gray, shown here in Egypt, was able to study abroad with support from the Rukeyser fund.

Gray’s experience took her to Canada, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Morocco, and as part of an International Social Work course, she visited a Croatian orphanage and hospital. She states, “From the classes that I took and my interactions with people, I have a better understanding of cultures and cultural values. I learned a great amount about education systems in the countries where I travelled.”

Gayle Lodato, coordinator for international social work education in the college, explains the importance of the scholarship funded by the Rukeyser: “The opportunity to study abroad strengthens students’ achievement of numerous CSWE competencies, including engaging in practice with diverse populations, advancing human rights and justice, applying human behavior in the social environment, and responding to contexts that guide practice.”

Lodato adds, “Students pursuing a degree in social work can select from multiple locations throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, India, and Australia. Expenses associated with this type of educational experience are often outside of our students’ budgets. The funding provided by the Rukeyser is a tremendous help to our students!”

—**Kirche Rogers**

9 Photo Gallery

1



Scenes from the last College of Social Work Homecoming Gala:

1. A wonderful dinner at Rothschild's Banquet Hall is followed by a live band performance and dancing.
2. (l. to r.) Professor and Dean Emerita Catherine Alter (University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work) and Theora Evans, Associate Dean of the Memphis campus.
3. A silent auction, which benefits the BSSW Social Work Organization, is always a fun addition to the evening.
4. CSW faculty and friends (l.to r.) Gloria Rios-Rena, MSSW exchange student from Monterrey, Mexico; Gayle Lodato, BSSW field coordinator; Gina Cox, Program Resource Specialist; Professor Emeritus Frank Spicuzza and KCDC Vice-President Billie Spicuzza; BSSW Program Director Matthew Theriot and his wife Emily.
5. Dean Sowers with Andy Black, President/CEO of the Helen Ross McNabb Center, and Brenda Black, recently retired Associate Director of Staff Development and Training for SWORPS.

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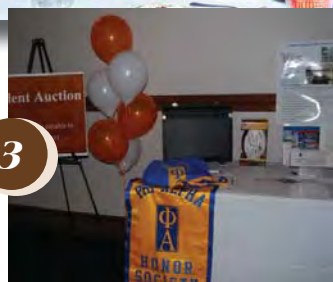
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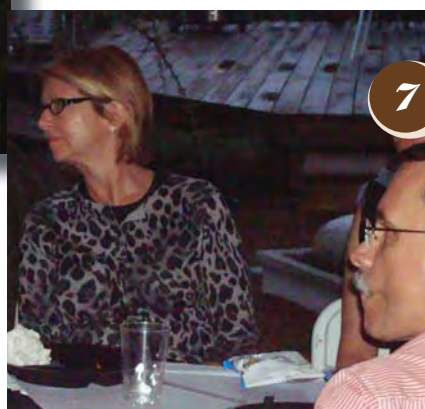


6. The college welcomed three new PhD students in 2009-2010: (l.-r.) Shannon Atkinson, Justin Buccchio, and Taylor Krcek.
7. Provost Susan Martin (left) and Professor Denny Dukes (right) attend the Dean's Fall 2009 PhD student welcoming cook-out.

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8. Dean Sowers and Nancy Meyers-Adams (PhD alumna and faculty member at California State University-Long Beach) at the 2010 Social Work Congress in Washington, DC.

8



9. Kenny Allred (left) and Dean Sowers greet Derek Dooley and his wife Allison (right) at the Chancellor's Associates Reception.

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10. Two CSW doctoral students joined friends and a stadium full of Vols supporters this fall at a UT football game (l. to r.) Nate Evans (1st year PhD student in Advertising); Taylor Krcek (2nd year PhD student in Social Work); Sam Adkins (1st year PhD student in Social Work); and Hannah LeMay (MSW student from Arkansas).

11



11. Phi Alpha Honor Society Knoxville campus Fall 2009 initiation ceremony include (front row, l. to r.) Susan Bradford, Vice President; Stacy Robertson, President; Jamia Wilson, Treasure/Secretary (standing, l. to r.) Aaron Brown, Chad Sievers, Rebecca Juarez, Ashlee Kratman, Jennifer Terry, Miranda Cantwell, Samantha Rainey, Katie Debelius, and Seleste Garriss.

Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support Program Helps Fathers Reconnect with Their Children



"How many of you," Monica asked, "grew up without a father in your life?" Tentatively, one hand

lifted, then another, until the majority of men in the room held their arms high. "Now, tell us, how many of you wished that your father had been there?" In the quiet of the room, nothing changed. All hands remained above the heads of the men who had felt the shame and the loneliness of being a boy without a dad.

The Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX), encircled by the hills of East Tennessee, is the facility chosen to be an incubator for new concepts and approaches that have been born out of a federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) grant. The complex is a state-of-the-art prison facility that houses as many as 2,400 men.

There, Monica Roush and Belinda Jones, coordinators from the Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support (TPOPS), are piloting a curriculum and training series on parenting and child support. The training site is a stark, boot camp environment, where the trainees are all participating in a special program for nonviolent first-time offenders using military techniques to effect changes in the lives of young men.

TPOPS operates as a partnership between Tennessee DHS, the Tennessee Department of Corrections, and the

University of Tennessee through the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

The program goals of TPOPS are to

- establish steady and long-term child support payments,
- reconnect parent and child whenever it is in the best interests of the child, including while that parent is incarcerated,
- help break first and second generation cycles of incarceration,
- ensure that the incarcerated parent has knowledge of his responsibilities for the child's financial well-being,
- connect reentering parents with community services and help them maintain employment,
- help incarcerated men make use of methods for establishing paternity.

The research goals of this pilot project are just as important, with a team of researchers studying

- the effects of training and training curriculum,
- barriers to change such as client background, criminal history, etc.,
- obstacles faced when the client reenters the community,
- the effect of intervention on recidivism,
- the effect of intervention on collection of child support payments.

This new initiative began taking shape in the fall of 2009. The goals of the program are a response to facts that are chilling. Sixty-four percent of the men who enter prison are fathers. Children of offenders are five times more likely than their peers to end

up in prison themselves. As many as 1.5 million children have at least one parent in prison on any given day.

Beginning with classes on parenting, life skills, and child support, TPOPS is creating a network of strong community resources that may be the key to assisting these men from across the state of Tennessee in successfully rejoining society. Transitioning from prison to community includes finding employment and housing. It also includes valuing children and providing for them financially.

Men who establish healthy family relationships have strong reasons to maintain a lifestyle that will not lead back to prison. Additionally, their positive presence in the lives of their children works against patterns causing second generation recidivism, in which the children of incarcerated individuals engage in criminal behavior with tragic consequences.

"In the curriculum that we have developed," states Belinda Jones, "we talk about the job description of a responsible father. The men enjoy participating in role-plays, with one as a father and one as a child. It's an active way to construct issues and solutions in relation to discipline, goals, child development, communication, appropriate play, and family reunification."

This project may prove to be a model that will be expanded, with successful results, to prisons and communities across the United States.

—Betsy DeGeorge

Alumnus Alex Washington Wins Early Academic Career Excellence Award

The ancient Chinese proverb, "Teach me, I will forget; show me, and I may remember; but involve me, and I will understand!" is the philosophy that guides Dr. Thomas Alex Washington's work as an associate professor at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). This proverb has served him well. An MSSW and PhD graduate of the CSW, Washington recently received the Early Academic Career Excellence Award from CSULB. This award recognizes outstanding faculty members at the early stage of their career.



"I was speechless when I learned of being nominated for the award, and then simply ecstatic to learn that I was selected by my peers from across the entire university," states Washington.

Washington is published in numerous peer-reviewed interdisciplinary, public health, and social work journals and is on the editorial board for *Health and Social Work*, a national peer-reviewed journal, and the *Social Work in Public Health* national journal. He is also currently the principal investigator on an HIV prevention/intervention research study funded by the National Institutes of Health and is part of the CSULB research team that recently received a \$4.5 million grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research.

Washington attributes much of his success to his experiences at the CSW.

"Every opportunity I get, I speak about the outstanding mentoring I received as a doctoral student at UTCWS; my experience was second to none. Because of the skill set my instructors provided, particularly Dr. John Orme, my statistics instructor, I was able to collaborate and lead multidisciplinary research projects beginning as an assistant professor. And to bring my experience full circle, Dr. Karen Sowers provided me with many opportunities to learn how to be a successful teacher and researcher."

—Kirche Rogers

See You at the CSW Homecoming Gala on Friday, November 12!

This year the Gala will include an evening of dinner, dancing, live entertainment provided by Boys' Night Out Band, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 each and are available through the UT Alumni Office. Go to <https://www.sworps.utk.edu/csw/gala> and register today!

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David Patterson, Interim Director, DSW Program

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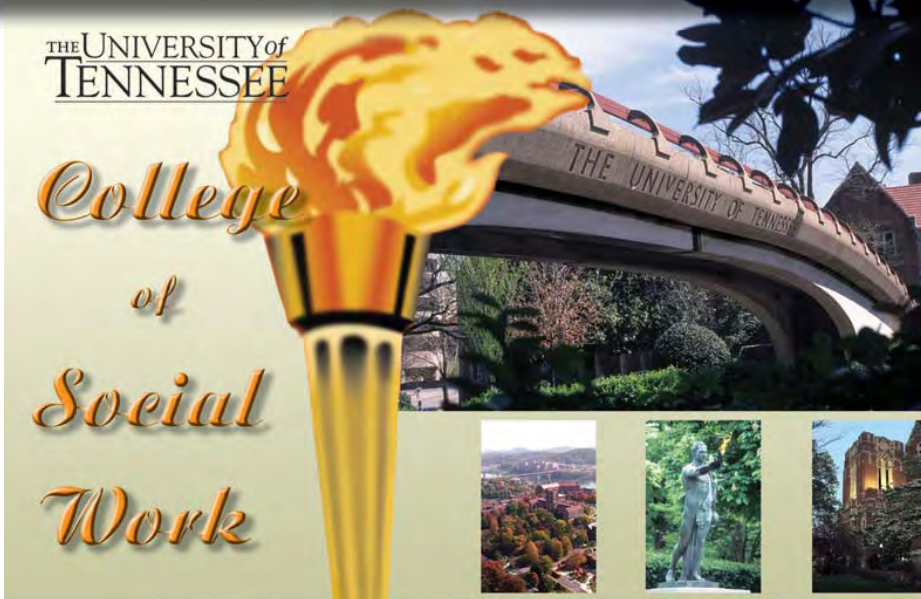
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EO1-4010-003-11 (10088)



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Spanning the state with three campuses:
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Nashville
Knoxville

Offering education at all degree levels:
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Master's
Doctoral

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