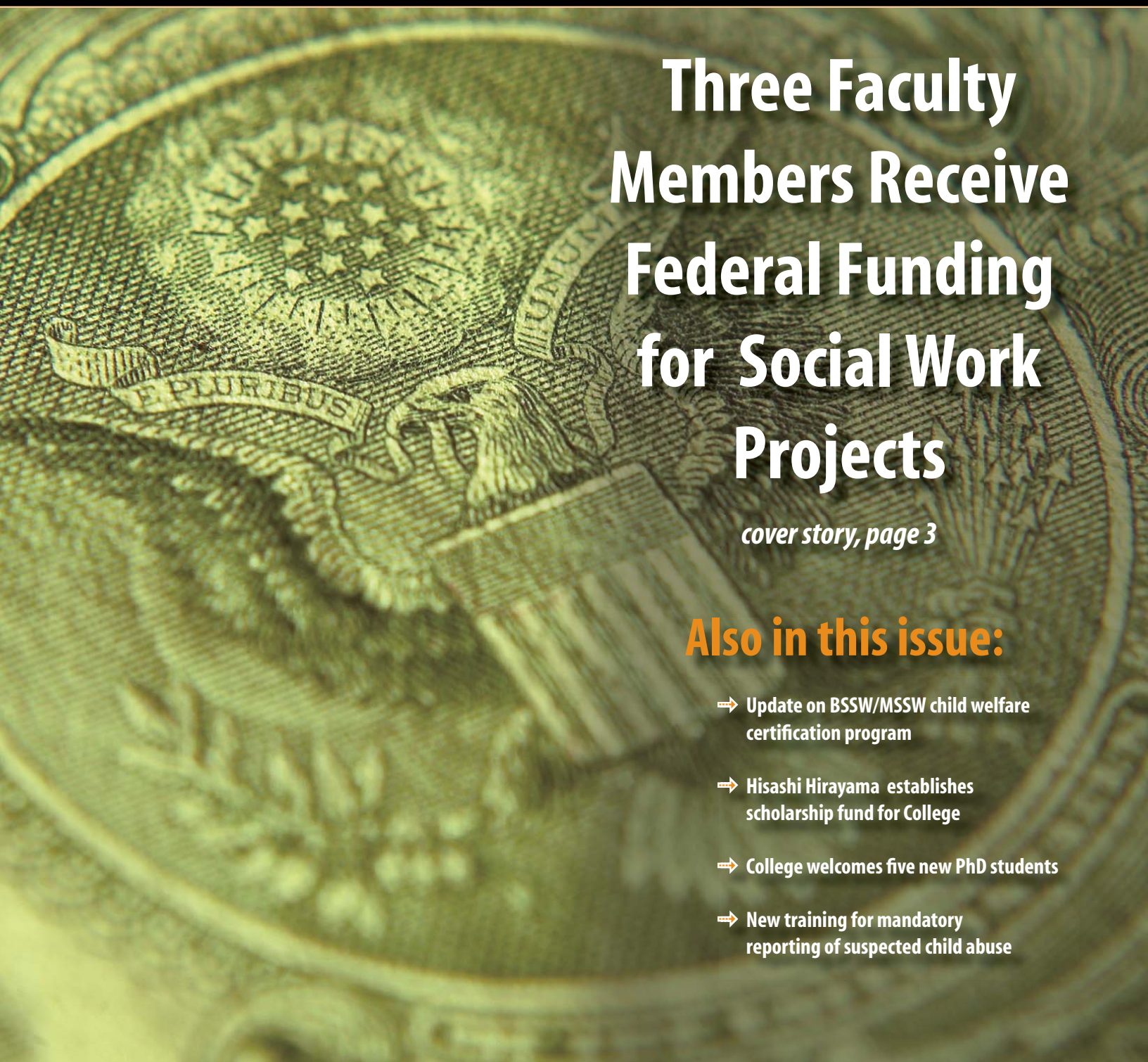




Spring/Summer
2006

stimulus

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

The background of the lower half of the cover is a close-up, slightly blurred image of a US dollar bill, showing the intricate patterns and the eagle emblem.

Three Faculty Members Receive Federal Funding for Social Work Projects

cover story, page 3

Also in this issue:

- ➡ Update on BSSW/MSSW child welfare certification program
- ➡ Hisashi Hirayama establishes scholarship fund for College
- ➡ College welcomes five new PhD students
- ➡ New training for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse



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Welcome to the Spring 2006 issue of Stimulus. I have heard from so many of you with compliments about our new look for Stimulus as well as our improved College of Social Work Web page.

Thanks to all of you for your comments and suggestions. We look forward to continuing to hear from you.

Constants of the college include continual change and exceptional accomplishments. This issue highlights both of those. As spring semester comes to a close we will be saying goodbye to Frank Spicuzza, BSSW program director, who will be retiring.

His incredible leadership over the years has produced one of the best baccalaureate social work education programs in the country. He will be greatly missed, but his indelible mark on the program will continue on. We welcome Dr. Sherry Cummings, acting associate dean for the Nashville campus, onto the administrative team of the college. Her leadership has already been felt in important ways.

As you can see from this issue, our faculty continue to engage in cutting-edge research. Findings from their research will have far reaching implications for the improvement of social work practice and the lives of our clients. We also welcome five new students to our doctoral program. We are pleased to have a talented group of new students. All of these accomplishments underscore our continued commitment to teaching, research, and service.

Special thanks to our very dedicated alums and friends of the college who support us in so many ways. As the University of Tennessee continues its capital campaign you have generously given to the college. Your support provides the extra margin of greatness for the college and we appreciate your connections and support to the college.

John M. Orme

Mandatory Reporting Training Program

by Betsy DeGeorge

Residents of Tennessee are required to report to authorities if they suspect that a child is being abused or neglected. This responsibility is not a new one, but it is one that was clarified in October 2005 through state legislation. All Tennessee residents who suspect child abuse or neglect are required to report it directly to authorities. The fines for failing to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect have been raised from \$50 to as much as \$2,500. Teachers, medical professionals, child care providers, and other professionals who work directly with children are especially sensitive to the need to be conscientious observers and reporters.

Carla Snodgrass, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, explained that the changes "re-emphasize individual responsibility." She adds, "I think every person in Tennessee has been a mandated reporter, if you are suspicious of child abuse and neglect. But people defined their responsibility in different ways. Now it's very clear that if you're suspicious, you are obligated to report it. The spirit of the law has been that everyone has an obligation to report. This just brings the actual law in line with that."

University of Tennessee alumna Susan Steppe and the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) have been working with a group of citizens in Memphis to create a computer-based learning module that will provide training for individuals who are concerned about proper mandatory reporting. These citizens of western Tennessee represent one of three state Citizens Review Panels that focus on issues of child safety and well-being. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is key federal legislation

that addresses child abuse and neglect. The Citizens Review Panels are recipients of CAPTA funds. Other assistance in this project was provided by Renee Malone, communications manager of the Memphis City Schools.

Through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS), SWORPS contributes to this effort by providing staff support and consultation to the three citizen teams, which are located in Shelby County (Memphis), Montgomery County (Clarksville), and rural Northwest Tennessee (9 rural counties). The Shelby County Citizens Review Panel has focused



on the issue of child abuse reporting, particularly as it relates to teachers and other school staff. During the fall of 2003, the panel conducted a survey of professionals in the Memphis City and Shelby County school systems and targeted health fields. Overall, the majority of the respondents from Shelby County schools indicated they had been trained on Child Abuse Reporting and Identification, while Memphis City Schools responded that only a little more than 20 percent had been trained. In both cases the majority of teachers were interested in additional training.

Survey data sparked interest in pursuing a more formalized approach to training for

Go to www.csw.utk.edu/stimulus for a link to the online mandatory reporting training as well as to other media enhancements to this issue of *Stimulus*.

Memphis Campus of the College of Social Work Relocates



In October 2005, the Memphis campus of the college moved from its location on Beale Street to the UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities on Jefferson Avenue. An open house event was held on October 27 to celebrate the relocation.

The new facility includes state-of-the-art classrooms, computer labs, and offices. Each classroom is wired for electronic equipment such as LCD projections and televisions. The computer lab will also serve as a classroom, particularly for research courses.

Please make a note of the new Memphis campus address:

The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
711 Jefferson Avenue
Room W 607, 6th Floor
Memphis, TN 38163



Federal Funding Increases Research Opportunities for College Faculty

by Kirche Rogers



In 2005, three new federal grants were awarded to members of the faculty of the College of Social Work. These funded projects will support research on campus substance abuse services, study child sexual abuse, and investigate environmental justice concerns in a Chattanooga neighborhood.

Principal investigators for these grants are Professor John Wodarski, Associate Professor Becky Bolen, and Associate Professor Mary Rogge. Wodarski will lead the campus substance abuse services grant, Bolen will lead the child sexual abuse grant, and Rogge will be responsible for the overall operations of the environmental justice grant.

Federally funded research projects have always been held in high regard by the university and in the field as a whole. The results from this type of research help move the profession forward. "UT is a Comprehensive Research I University, and the College of Social Work is an active participant in this highest level of academic research. As such, an important role for the college is the development and dissemination of new knowledge that informs practice and promotes healthier lives for children, families, and communities. These three research projects will make valuable contributions to the knowledge base and the social work profession," stated Dean Karen Sowers.

The research focus of each of these grants is described in detail on these pages.



Becky Bolen Receives \$93,000 Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services

Last fall, Becky Bolen, associate professor at the Knoxville campus, received a \$93,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The title of the grant is "What Happens to Children After Their Sexual Abuse Is Substantiated?"

Bolen will receive assistance from Phillip Green, of the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center, and CSW Professor John Orme on database use and statistical consulting. Her research will extend through February 2007.

Specifically, Bolen will perform a

secondary analysis of data gathered from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) for children entering Child Protective Services (CPS) because of a reported case of suspected abuse or neglect. The database that houses the data includes 5,504 children ages birth

to 14 years old. All children were entering the child welfare system and were randomly sampled in 97 counties nationwide. Bolen will be analyzing 232 children with a substantiated or indicated case of child sexual abuse. She is interested in understanding the case disposi-

tions of the sexually abused children in the sample, determining factors across the abuse variables—child, nonoffending parent, caseworker, and agency—which predict child removal, initial placement decisions, and wellbeing of these children.

Further, Bolen is interested in understanding the disconnect between nonoffending parents' knowledge of sexual abuse in the home and the removal of a child from the home. "Far too many sexually abused children are removed from their homes, up to 75% over time," she stated. "Often it is assumed that the nonoffending parent knows about the sexual abuse and does nothing to stop it...in an annual report of child maltreatment, over half of mothers whose partners commit sexual abuse are also categorized as sexual offenders." Bolen indicated that the assumption that nonoffending parents know about the abuse contradicts studies of nonoffending parents of sexually abused children in which 75% to 95% of nonoffending parents know nothing about the ongoing abuse. Approximately 75% of nonoffending parents offer partial or full support after disclosure of the child's abuse.

"I find these contradictions between what we know and what we do very disturbing," Bolen noted. "I have been concerned for some time that the difficult choices CPS workers must face may make them favor removal of the child as a solution when the offender remains in the environment. Such a practice could explain the disparate findings between what studies have reported and what CPS does."

The release of the NSCAW database to researchers will allow Bolen to perform a detailed examination of this issue. She hopes that her research will provide an understanding of the factors that determine the criteria and variables involved in removing a sexually abused child from the home.

The College Partners with Chattanooga Groups on Environmental Justice Project

The University of Tennessee has received a four-year, \$900,000 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to increase community awareness, education, and empowerment pertaining to chemical contamination of Chattanooga Creek, which runs through the Alton Park/Piney Woods (AP/PW) neighborhood in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The creek has been



The Chattanooga Creek that runs through the AP/PW neighborhood has been polluted for years and poses a threat to the health of neighborhood residents.

polluted for years primarily by coal tar released from former coal-coking operations. The project began in September 2005 and will end in July 2009.

Mary Rogge, associate professor at the Knoxville campus and principal investigator for the grant, is responsible for the overall operations of the project. Staff from the UT Office of Research and the college's Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) were instrumental in the efforts to secure the funding and develop the fiscal accountability mechanisms for the grant.

The research for this grant will be executed by an interdisciplinary team including staff from the University of Tennessee Center for Environmental Biotechnology, the College of Social Work, SWORPS, the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center, Chattanooga's

Alton Park Development Corporation, and the Southside Community Health Center in Chattanooga. This team has evolved over the past six years and comprises the Alton Park/Piney Woods Environmental Health and Justice Collaborative (the Collaborative).

"NIEHS's support for this project will allow our interdisciplinary and



A sign warns residents of the dangers of Chattanooga Creek.

model of information exchange and community outreach based on the Member Organized Research Exchange (M.O.R.E.) model of the Grace Hill neighborhood settlement house in St. Louis

4. Collect and assess data about neighbors' knowledge of chemical contamination in AP/PW, potential health effects, and health risk reduction strategies and tactics
5. Engage local youths and adults in data collection, information exchange, collaborative partnerships, and actions that influence policy changes

The convergence of social work and environmental concerns is a natural one, according to Rogge. "There are related health and economic issues...we can't ignore these issues and their environmental effects," she stated. A range of concerns exists for children and youth who have been exposed to harmful chemicals in the environment including childhood cancers, developmental disabilities, endocrine disruption problems, and respiratory problems.

Participatory research methods will be used to help adults and youths and research team members look together more closely at these issues. "Community-based participatory research makes sense because we all—neighbors, organizers, health care providers, and university researchers—need to learn from each other," explained Rogge.

Using the M.O.R.E. model, AP/PW

community-focused research team, which has been working together for several years, to bring a new level of resources into AP/PW to address the serious environmental problems faced by the neighbors who live there," stated Rogge. "It is a gratifying feeling to pull the grant together. We have worked since 1999 to understand and tell the resilience side of the [AP/PW neighborhood's] story. The interdisciplinary team is such an important part of the process. We are looking at the same problem through different lenses."

The goals of the project are to

1. Create, implement, and evaluate a neighborhood-based model of collaboration
2. Inventory and build resources for adult and youth leadership and occupational opportunities
3. Create a neighborhood-based

continued from page 4



Deb Maddox, Executive Director of the Alton Park Development Corporation, discusses ways that youths can get involved in community cleanup.

residents and team members will work together to achieve the project's goals.

Community-involvement efforts are already underway. City and county representatives, members of the Collaborative, and youth advocates from several grassroots justice organizations met on January 18, 2006, at the Howard School of Academics and Technology in Chattanooga to discuss ways that youths can get involved in the project, including the development of summer enrichment opportunities.

For more information, please see Rogge, M.E., Davis, K.L., Maddox, D.N., & Jackson, M. (2005). Leveraging environmental, social, and economic justice at Chattanooga Creek: A participatory research case study. *Journal of Community Practice*, 13(3), 33-53. The project's Web address is <http://chattanooga.creek.utk.edu>

... Federal Funding Projects and the CSW

UT College of Social Work Receives SAMHSA Grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded the University of Tennessee a three-year grant valued at \$381,310 per year to fund the expansion of existing campus substance abuse services and motivate students to take actions needed to end alcohol and drug abuse. College of Social Work professor and the project's principal investigator, John Wodarski, stated that this is "an educational program that branches off into a treatment program for students that really need it." The university will use a computer-based screening and intervention program to provide students with substance use and abuse information, feedback on individual drug patterns, and if needed, referral to university and community treatment agencies. Approximately 2,900 of the 29,000 undergraduates students at the university are anticipated to complete the program and 290 are expected to seek additional treatment from local agencies.

As one of 12 universities to receive the grant, UT will be a model for other universities. If the program is successful at UT, the federal government hopes to start similar programs at other universities across the nation.

The High Toll of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

- **Death:** 1,700 college students between ages 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.
- **Injury:** 599,000 students between 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol.
- **Academic Problems:** About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.



- **Suicide:** Between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of college students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking or drug use.

- **Drunk Driving:** 2.1 million students age 18 to 24 drove under the influence of alcohol last year.

Reference: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/StatsSummaries/snapshot.aspx

—Kirche Rogers is a Publications Specialist for SWORPS

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Mandatory Reporting

prospective reporters of child maltreatment. In July 2005, the committee embarked on a plan to pursue the recommendations of their study and worked collaboratively with DCS and SWORPS to develop a computer-based training package for the use of all potential reporters, professionals, and non-professionals, especially teachers in the Memphis school system.

Encouraged by DCS Commissioner Viola Miller, this training has taken shape and is being made available both online and on CD. Renee Malone, communications manager for the Memphis City Schools, provided the voice for the training. Susan Steppe compiled the script under the direction of the Memphis citizens' panel. SWORPS's training and technology expertise served in the execution of this educational endeavor.

Part of the urgency driving the release of this training has been October 2005 Tennessee legislation that clarified laws that require the mandatory reporting of child abuse. Tennessee officials and child advocates are hopeful that the laws will help combat child abuse.

The Citizens Review Panels are likewise hopeful that this educational tool will facilitate that process through confidence built on knowledge of proper procedures and guidelines. The new online course is available for any citizen to study at www.sworps.utk.edu/child_abuse_reporting/start.html. The College of Social Work Web site, www.csw.utk.edu/stimulus, also provides a link to this training as well as to other ongoing Stimulus media enhancements.

—Betsy DeGeorge is the Publications Manager for SWORPS

The College of Social Work Co-Sponsors First Annual Conference on Mentoring in the Mid-South

On October 21, 2005, the UT College of Social Work and The Memphis Mentoring Partnership co-sponsored the First Annual Conference on Mentoring in the Mid-South, "The Promise of Mentoring African American Boys," which focused on the importance of mentoring programs and how mentoring can have a positive impact on young people's lives.

During the conference, Assistant Professor Dr. Gregory Washington presented some preliminary research findings from a study exploring the characteristics of "Manhood Development Programs" in Metro Memphis and the overall effectiveness of mentoring.

The college is currently planning the Second Annual Conference on Mentoring in the Mid-South to take place in October 2006, and is assisting in the development and evaluation of a "Council on Mentoring African American Boys."

Child Welfare Certification Program Gains Momentum

by Josh Reynolds

After a year in existence, the Child Welfare Certification Program is gaining momentum at the College of Social Work. Interest in the program is up, and knowledge of the program's opportunities has spread. The program, a collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) and a consortium of accredited social work schools around the state, seeks to strengthen the ranks of professionally trained social workers within the state child welfare system.

BSSW and MSSW Opportunities

The Child Welfare Certification Program operates at both the bachelors and masters level. Bachelor's students may apply for the Child Welfare Certification Program in the second semester of their sophomore year. If accepted, DCS will fund the final two years of each student's tuition and provide stipends for education-related expenses (up to four semesters). In return, each student will complete a two-year curriculum in child welfare, participate in a DCS field placement during his or her senior year, and fulfill a two-year commitment to work as a DCS case manager upon graduation.

Master's students in the program are individuals who are already working as DCS employees, and who are selected to return to school in order to specialize their training in social work. (Many DCS case managers are degreed in an area of study other than social work.) A total of 14 MSSW candidates currently participate in the program at one of the college's three campuses.

"The basic idea," explained program coordinator Christy Hickman, "is that DCS's practice model embodies certain values—values that are defined in the social work profession. Participat-

ing in this program presents the opportunity for the future child welfare case manager to engage children and families in a way that recognizes the family members' value and facilitates their capacity for changing."

Applications for BSSW Program on the Increase

One of Hickman's responsibilities as program coordinator is to actively recruit potential BSSW candidates. She regularly presents to classes at area feeder colleges

This program seeks to strengthen the ranks of professionally trained social workers within the state welfare system.

Walter State and Pellissippi State in addition to recruiting UT Knoxville students. So far, the results are encouraging. Two students are currently in the BSSW certification program, and a third will likely enter this summer. For the 2006–2007 academic year, Hickman predicts a competitive pool of 15 to 20 candidates competing for five slots.

Hickman works closely with each potential BSSW candidate on an individual basis to see if the program is a good fit. The benefits of the program come with certain obligations, including a commitment to be willing to work for DCS anywhere in the state following graduation. She explains, "Participants in the program do select the five counties they would prefer to work in once they graduate, and DCS does everything possible to honor those choices. There is the chance, however, that there won't be an available position in a participant's

chosen counties. In that case, he or she may have to be placed where there are vacant positions."

Once a student decides that the program is appropriate for his or her needs, Hickman helps them navigate the application process and answers questions about balancing work and school. At the moment, the vast majority of MSSW program participants are fulfilling their studies through the college's extended study (part-time) option, while continuing to work full-time for DCS.

Some potential developments that are being considered for the program include

- An advanced standing option for Bachelor's students who have completed the BSSW Child Welfare Certification Program. This would be an exciting opportunity for the Bachelor's students who want to pursue an MSSW. If accepted to the advanced standing program, it may be possible for the student to postpone the two-year obligation to DCS until he or she earns the MSSW.
- The possibility of making the MSSW option available to non-DCS employees who would contract to work for DCS following graduation.

These options are currently being considered and could be in place as early as the 2006–2007 school year. "The Certification Program as it currently exists, along with these potential developments, demonstrate the Department of Children's Services' commitment to making positive changes by increasing the number of social workers within DCS," says Hickman. "Ultimately, this will work to better serve children and families in Tennessee."

—Josh Reynolds is the Production Coordinator for SWORPS

Professor Emeritus Hirayama Establishes Fellowship



The UT College of Social Work is experiencing a period of record giving, in no small part due to the generosity of individuals who have established named endowments. Professor Emeritus Hisashi Hirayama is the most recent donor to step forward in this manner.

Once fully endowed, the Hisashi Hirayama Graduate Fellowship will fund the tuition of a master's student at the Memphis campus, where Hirayama served as both professor and associate dean. Graduate fellowships are established with a pledge of \$25,000 or greater, and Dr. Hirayama ultimately plans to give in excess of this minimum amount.

Dr. Hirayama began his tenure with the college on September 1, 1975, and became associate dean on August 1, 1993. He retired from the college at the end of the academic year 2000. He now serves as Dean and Director of Graduate Studies at the Tokyo University of Social Welfare.

Andy Dunsmore, director of Development and Alumni Affairs, is understandably thrilled with the gift and the momentum it provides for the college. "We'd like to establish as many of these fellowships as we can," he explained. "They attract and support good students, which in turn enriches the college and the social work profession as a whole."



Julie Dawson, coordinator for the Child Support Employment and Parenting Program, organized a triage to help homeless people determine their needs.



Cathy Irwin (standing), an IT Specialist III for the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS), helped supervise student volunteers.



Diedre Ford, who leads the SWORPS software engineering group, issued ID cards to the homeless people in attendance.

UT College of Social Work Participates in Knoxville/Knox County Project Connect in a Joint Effort to Help the Homeless



Approximately 400 homeless people attended the event.

Agencies from all over the city of Knoxville joined together on Thursday, December 8, 2005, in an effort to meet the needs of the homeless population of the area. Called 2005 Knoxville/Knox County Project Connect, the event that took place at the old convention center at World's Fair Park was organized as a triage to assist homeless individuals in sorting out services available in the Knoxville community. Agencies from all over the area were represented at booths set up throughout the convention center, and individuals were linked with the service agencies that could meet needs identified by the clients through an initial intake process.

Services ranged from emergency health treatment (medical, dental, vision, and veterinary for pets) to employment and training assistance, legal aide, and provision of permanent housing. The variety of services was highlighted by the

presence of a homeless dog that toured the facility with various agency representatives. The dog, left homeless by the Katrina disaster, was available for adoption. Julie Dawson, a professional with the Child

Support Employment and Parenting Program, operating under the umbrella of the UT College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service, worked with her colleague Matt Keller to coordinate agencies ready to help homeless clients find employment and/or educational services. They brought together representatives from various agencies. All of these organizations were available to assist clients to become involved with training to develop employment skills or to locate immediate job opportunities. "We have been pleased with the initial response. In the first hour and a half, over 300 individuals went through the intake process and were referred for direct service. One person who hadn't had a check-up in over 20 years received a medical exam," stated Dawson.

The college was well represented at the event and served a critical and

central role in the organization of the event as well as its long-term outcomes. Courtney Cronley, a second year MSSW student, is a student intern working with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). She coordinated a group of over 20 volunteers from the college who participated in the event. Most of this group received thorough training in the use of the computer-based data entry system prior to the day of service. Their skills were put to good use as they entered as many as 75 clients into the database during the first hours of the event.

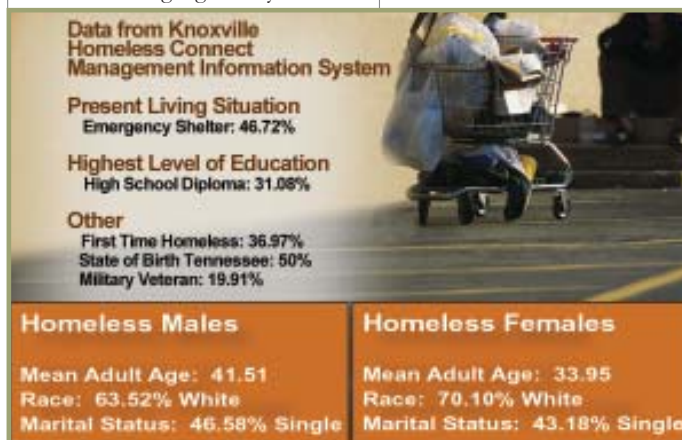


Dr. David Patterson of the CSW (right), who developed a system to coordinate services for the homeless, talks with Courtney Cronley.

"The homeless population is diverse," said Cronley, "and so are our volunteers. Four are members of the CSW staff—Dr. Stan Bowie, Mrs. Rebecca Jackson, Mrs. Gayle Lodato, and Dr. David Patterson. Our student group is both academically and ethnically diverse."

Dr. Patterson is director of the HMIS. He has worked with the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service to develop the database that undergirds HMIS. This system has been deployed to network the agencies of Knoxville/Knox County that are serving the homeless population. It links homeless shelters with other service providers to coordinate services and resources, enhancing the ability to count the homeless populations, identify service needs, and provide a service-delivery tracking system.

—Betsy DeGeorge



This article is media-enhanced.

Go to www.csw.utk.edu/ stimulus to read more about Project Connect as well as other features in this issue.

Dr. Elizabeth Strand Receives Award for Efforts to End Family Violence

by Kathy Perkey

On October 28, 2005, Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of UT's Veterinary Social Work Services, received the Anita Gregg Award from the Community Coalition on Family Violence and St. Mary's Hospital. The award is given each year to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions toward ending family violence in our community.



Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of UT Veterinary Social Work Services and a certified grief specialist, received her doctorate in Social Work from the CSW in 2003.

In 2000, Strand began working with the Community Coalition on Family Violence during her graduate work as a doctoral student in the College of Social Work.

During her work and research, she quickly realized the link between domestic and animal violence and coordinated the first conference in Knoxville focused on this link.

Animals are often used as a way to manipulate women into staying in an abusive situation—some women are afraid that the animals will be hurt if they leave.

As a result of the conference, the Animal Task Force, a project of the Coalition, was formed. For its first few years, Strand co-chaired the task force, which recognizes that animal abuse often occurs in an environment in which family members are suffering abuse.

The development of the Animal Task Force is very important in the fight to end domestic violence because, as Strand explained, "Animals are often used as a way to control women who are being abused and some of these women don't want to leave the animals or

are afraid that the animals will be hurt as a consequence of them leaving."

Now, as a result of Strand's hard work and dedication, the animals are rescued and are housed and cared for through Animal Haven until the victim is able to care for the animal in a safe environment. In addition to the animals being rescued, Knox County has recognized the link between animals and domestic violence victims, and Order of Protection forms now include a question about animals in the home and whether or not they have been abused or threatened.

Strand stated, "I'm very grateful for the award, which reflects my work, but more reflects the dedication and hard work of all the individuals that are working together to help the animals and family violence victims."

The college congratulates Strand on receiving the award and wishes her continued success in her efforts to protect animal and domestic violence victims.

—Kathy Perkey is a Publication Specialist for SWORPS

The College Welcomes Five New PhD Students

Jacqueline Clay, originally from Chattanooga, received her BSSW and MSSW from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her study interests are program assessment, social justice, policy analysis, and how policies affect special populations. She is also interested in research that emphasizes the social context that frames economic production, resource distribution, and state action. Jacqueline plans to graduate from the doctoral program in 2009.



Jacqueline Clay

Adrienne Dessell, originally from Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, holds a BA in Psychology from Boston University and an MSW from Simons College in Boston. While in Boston, she trained in public dialogue work with The Public Conversations Project at the Family Institute of Cambridge. She is the previous chair-elect of the local board of the National Conference for Community and Justice. She has a consulting practice that provides dialogue and diversity workshops to numerous schools, community organizations, and groups. She is focusing her dissertation on intergroup dialogue and intercultural communication and related issues on the social psychology of prejudice, oppression, and social justice.



Adrienne Dessell

Brian Russell, originally from Nashville, Georgia, holds a BA in Psychology from Augusta State University and an MSW from Valdosta State University. The focus of his dissertation is gerontology and end of life issues. He is married with three children and plans to graduate from the doctoral program in 2008.



Brian Russell

Cathy Scott, originally from Alabama, has lived in Chattanooga for almost nine years. She received her BS in Social Work from the University of Alabama and an MSSW from Alabama A&M. She is married to Rodney Scott and has two daughters, Sydnee and McKenzie. She was employed at Alexian Brothers PACE before deciding to pursue her doctorate. She has enjoyed working with senior adults for most of her career and is focusing her dissertation on gerontology. She plans to graduate from the doctoral program in 2008.



Cathy Scott

Vandaly Wilson, originally from Spruce Pine, North Carolina, holds a BA in Psychology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and an MSSW from the University of Tennessee. She is focusing her dissertation on the concepts of emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and how that relates to effective leadership. She plans to graduate from the doctoral program in spring 2008.



Vandaly Wilson

—Kathy Perkey



1. Dean Michael Blackwell (r.) of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine celebrates with social work alumni at the annual gala.



2. Farrell Cooper and Terry Stulce (CSW Board of Visitors) and Professor Emeritus Gid Fryer (past outstanding alum) at the gala.



3. Libby McColl (standing), a member of the College Board of Visitors, hosts a table at the annual gala.



5. Phi Alpha Honor Society initiation at the fall gala.

6. Phi Alpha Honor Society 2005 Officers: (L to R) Elizabeth Waters, President; Sunshine Parker, Vice President; Amy Massaglia, Treasurer; and Lauren Dye, Secretary.



7. Members of the Board of Visitors, Betty Robinson (l. center) and Libby McColl (r. center) with their spouses, Jim and Bob, at the Dean's holiday party.



8. Chuck Tindell (husband of Board of Visitors member Carol Tindell) acted out the 12 Days of Christmas with the faculty.



9. Pat Cain of Corporate Development and Dean Sowers enjoy the UT holiday tree.



10. Dean Sowers and alum Alex Washington (Ph.D. 2002) at the UT reception at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).



4. The Board of Visitors Meeting took place on November 11, 2005, at the University Club. From l. to r. on the front row: Terry Stulce, Farrell Cooper, Betty Robinson, Libby McColl, Dan Caldwell, and Carol Tindell. From l. to r., back row: Tommy Perkins, Rebecca Henderson, Betsy Child, Mary Catherine Willard, Earl Medley, Wardell Milan, Karen Sowers, Jim Henry, and Andy Dunsmore.



11. New faculty member, Sangmi Cho, enjoys the chocolate fountain at the UT reception at the CSWE annual program meeting.



12. Dean Sowers and alum Chris Flaherty (Ph.D. 2001) at the UT reception at the CSWE annual program meeting.

Nashville CSW Faculty, Students, and Friends Participate in Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk



Pictured from left to right are Anne Landis Williams, Team Captain Susan Langenus, Alumnae Melissa Routh, LaTamara Woodley, Julie Langdon, Leigh Anne Fowlkes, Barbara Kilbourne, and Acting Associate Dean Sherry Cummings.

Students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University of Tennessee College of Social Work (UTCSW), Nashville campus, participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk on October 25, 2005, at Centennial Park in Nashville. The MSW Student Organization (MSWSO) has sponsored a team for the past several years and was recognized by the Alzheimer's Association with a certificate of appreciation for its contributions. This year the team raised \$925 for the cause of research, caregiver support, and patient advocacy. Memory Walk takes place in more than 600 communities nationwide and is the Alzheimer's Association's national

signature event to help those battling Alzheimer's disease. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$200 million. "This was a terrific event that helped to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and raise money for those living with it. The UTCSW participation in this annual walk highlights students' ongoing interest in and commitment to helping older adults who are such a valuable part of our society," commented Dr. Sherry Cummings, acting associate dean of the Nashville campus. MSWSO is looking forward to participating in Memory Walk 2006.

—Betsy DeGeorge

The College Says Goodbye to BSSW Program Director

Frank Spicuzza, BSSW program director and advisor to the BSSW student organization (BSSW-SWO), will retire on May 31, 2006. Spicuzza is completing his 33rd year at the university. Under Spicuzza's leadership, the BSSW program has gained respect both locally and nationally for creating and sustaining an environment that upholds a high standard of excellence in undergraduate social work education. A couple of years ago, the BSSW program developed the slogan, "Education the Way It Should Be." "The program is thriving, thanks to the dedication and accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students as well as the continuous support from the community and the university and college administration," stated Spicuzza.

Spicuzza and his wife, Billie (MSSW '72), plan to move into a new house when he retires and spend time there, getting involved in raised-bed gardening, and organizing his postage stamp collection. He would also like to spend more time bass and trout fishing, continue to travel, and read biographies.

"Thinking back about my years with the college, I have some of my fondest memories of being actively involved with students in the National CANstruction Competition, Race for the Cure, the silent auction at the Homecoming Gala, and the annual softball game."

Spicuzza's dedication to the profession, to his students, and to the BSSW program in general will be missed greatly.



Billie and Frank Spicuzza at the 2005 College gala, where Frank received the Outstanding Alum of the Year award.

Dr. John Orme Appointed to the Editorial Board of The Encyclopedia of Social Work

Dr. John Orme, professor on the Knoxville campus, was appointed to the Editorial Board of the 20th edition of *The Encyclopedia of Social Work* (the Encyclopedia) in

July 2005. The Encyclopedia will be co-published by the National Association of Social Workers Press and Oxford University Press. Dr. Orme and his fellow board members will be responsible for determining content; developing major themes or comprehensive topics; identifying authors; and addressing other issues such as terminology, lengths of articles, and an outline for the structure of the articles, among others. This edition will focus on the expanding scope of technology and knowledge and information related to emerging issues in social work. Critical areas of research in the social work field and important shifts impacting practitioners in the field will be highlighted.



This edition of the Encyclopedia will be published 12 years after the previous edition. This new version will reflect the transformative changes in politics and social and economic order that have taken place since the first millenium. The Encyclopedia will be produced online and subscribers will be able to view and print out articles of their choice in addition to being produced in hard and soft cover.

—Kirche Rogers

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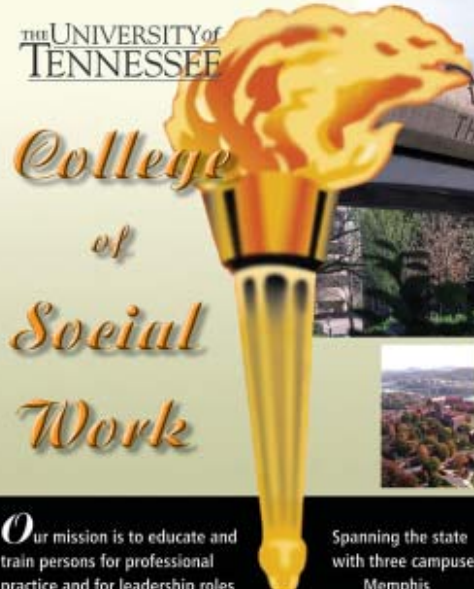
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