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UT College of Social Work

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A Time of Transition

The school is presently undergoing a number of changes that are consistent with the revised mission of the university that emphasizes increased quality, research, and scholarship. During the summer of 1985, the Administrative Council met with the Provost and his staff to discuss the university’s academic program review of the school. For the School of Social Work, university-wide changes, such as the change from a quarter to a semester system, and school-specific changes, such as the school’s “Plan of Action for the Later 1980’s," present interesting challenges. Faculty are actively involved in the change to a semester system. The total number and credits of courses needed to graduate will change, and the curriculum must be redesigned for a more appropriate fit. The School of Social Work’s Master’s Transition Committee met with the Curriculum Committee on October 18th and agreed upon a framework for the semester system. Some highlights of the model are that the foundation curriculum will be one semester, concentration will be three semesters, and that there will be four semesters of field. There will also be more research in the program, and the new plan will reflect that.

The Semester Program

The switch from a quarter to a semester program, to begin in the fall of 1988, is one that is full of challenges. University guidelines suggest that the number of courses and the number of hours each be reduced by one-third. Courses will have to be redesigned, and "any switch gives you the opportunity to reevaluate your curriculum," notes Dr. Roger Nooe, interim associate dean at the Knoxville campus.

A Master’s Transition Committee was appointed at the beginning of the summer and later met with the School-wide Curriculum Committee. From this came the proposed model of one semester of foundation, three semesters of concentration courses, and four semesters of field.

One of the areas that will likely expand is the research component. "The Council on Social Work Education is requesting that there be more research in the curriculum, and the school is already planning that," says Dr. Nooe.

Another difference in the new model concerns student placements. Previously, in the quarter system, students began their placements in January and went four days per week from January until June. Under the proposed semester model, students will start their field placements in September and go three days per week through June. Consultation with a number of agencies support that many will like this better, and it will be more consistent with other departments.

The baccalaureate program’s transition to semester presents additional challenges in that there are general study requirements that have to be met by the undergraduate. The doctoral program faculty are also thinking through implications of the semester transition.

Accreditation

Presently the school is redrafting chapters from the academic program review self-study and modifying it for 1984–1985, with different members of the faculty contributing to different chapters. There will probably be about 15 chapters, although most chapters will deal with accreditation standards.

After the self-study is completed and submitted, the school will await a visit from the site team, which generally includes two or three social work educators, a person from practice, and the site team chair. The Commission on Accreditation meeting takes place in early June, and the school is confident that it will be reaccredited for the full cycle of seven years. "The work we’ve done on the academic program review has helped us in ways to show the strengths of the program," notes Dean Granger.
Baccalaureate Program Comes to Knoxville Campus

On September 1, 1985, the Knoxville campus inherited a fully accredited BSW program when the program moved from the Human Services Program in the College of Liberal Arts to The School of Social Work. Dr. Roger Nooe is Acting Chair of the BSW program. The primary objective of the program is to prepare students for the first level of social work practice, but it may also equip them for advanced standing in social work graduate programs.

The BSW program offers supervised field practice settings in the greater Knoxville and Knox county area, including youth programs, family service agencies, elderly programs, drug and alcohol abuse programs, hospitals, nursing homes, corrections, and welfare agencies.

An important aspect of the program is the acquisition by students of the ten competencies that define the areas of expertise of the baccalaureate professional social worker (Baer & Federico, 1978). These ten competencies are the learning objectives of the program and are intertwined throughout the curriculum. The ten competencies are to (1) identify and assess situations where the relationship between people and social institutions need to be initiated, enhanced, restored, protected, or terminated; (2) develop and implement a plan for improving the well-being of people, based on problem assessment and the exploration of obtainable goals and available options; (3) enhance the problem-solving, coping, and developmental capacities of people; (4) link people with systems that provide them with resources, services, and opportunities; (5) intervene effectively on behalf of populations most vulnerable and discriminated against; (6) promote the effective and humane operation of the systems that provide people with services, resources, and opportunities; (7) actively participate with others in creating new, modified, or improved service, resource, opportunity systems that are more equitable, just, and responsive to consumers of services, and work with others to eliminate those systems that are unjust; (8) evaluate the extent to which the objectives of the intervention plan were achieved; (9) continually evaluate one's own professional growth and development through assessment of practice behavior and skill; and (10) contribute to the improvement of service delivery by adding to the knowledge base of the profession as appropriate and by supporting and upholding the standards and ethics of the profession.


As part of the school's faculty recruitment plan, the school is beginning a national search for a new chair. It is also in the process of looking at the BSW curriculum and suggesting changes related to the semester transition, studying the issue of one foundation, and locating and assessing field placements for an ever-growing member of juniors and seniors requesting the same. Mr. Frank Spicizza, Associate Professor, finds the pace hectic but the future exciting: There is a tremendous value to the school and all faculty and students in this merger. In gaining the BSW program, the school has the complete continuum in social work education, and additional resources are made available to faculty and students which will result in the advancement of the school toward its stated mission: the education and training of persons for leadership roles in the social welfare practice community and in the social work profession.

Awards

Judith Fiene, a doctoral student, and Lisa L. Kasman of the Nashville Branch are recipients of the University’s Hilton A. Smith Graduate Fellowship Awards for 1985–86. The fellowships are awarded for scholarly performance as evidenced by grades and faculty recommendations.

The following faculty have received the UT School of Social Work Research and Development Awards: Bob Rowen and Carl Wilks, "Phase II: Exploratory Study of Existing Pre-retirement Programs in the Memphis Area"; Muammer Cetingok and Sashi Hirayama, "The Curriculum Contents of the Graduate School of Social Work with Respect to International Education of Domestic and Social Work Education of International Students" and "Stages of Parental Adjustment to the Birth of Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled Children"; Catherine Faver, "Religious Beliefs, Social Work Values and Professional Orientations"; David Harrison, manuscript preparation, "Toward Post-Industrial Personal Social Services: The Case of Community Social Work in Britain" and "Espoused Principles of Social Work in Social Care"; and Sandra Chipungu, "Reunification of Children Placed in Foster Care: A Comparative Analysis." She also received the 1985–86 UTK Faculty Research, Development and Leave Award.

The Office of Continuing Social Work Education Undergoing Changes

With the leaving of Ron Green, the former Director of the Office of Continuing Social Work Education, Paul Campbell has had to meet many challenges. Named interim director by Dean Granger, Dr. Campbell not only must function in his new role, but must be involved in the many changes suggested in the "Plan of Action for the Later 1980's."

One of these changes is the renaming of the Office of Continuing Social Work Education to the Office of Research and Public Service. Dr. Campbell welcomes the change, noting that the new proposed name more adequately reflects the changing mission of the Office.

Another change is the increase of emphasis upon research. "The school is committed to extending itself by initiating a system that will provide local support for Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis faculty research and which will also contribute to the statewide research mission through the efforts of this office," notes Dr. Campbell, adding, "and we're looking forward to being a part of the effort to meet that challenge."
The Future of Social Work Education

by David M. Austin

Tennessee is in an area of growth and development. Since the 1970s, some of the economic gap between the status of the Northeast and the Midwest and the status of the border South has narrowed. This is partly because of the loss of industrial markets by other states and the fact that states like Tennessee and Texas have experienced a great deal of industrial development that has changed the traditional dependence on an agricultural economy and extractive industries.

One outcome of this has been substantial growth in cities. The Saturn plant in Nashville, for example, is going to change the whole configuration of Nashville as a metropolitan area. As a consequence, the political base of power is shifting and the kind of social policy issues to be addressed will be those of an industrialized, urbanized society.

These changes will mean that social work will be an expanding area of professional activity. It does not mean that it will be popular or lavishly funded, but it does mean that the need for social workers in support services for older persons, community support services for the developmentally disabled, child welfare services, and correctional services will expand. This, in turn, will result in pressures both at the state and local levels to create new service programs.

The school has the possibility of going in several different directions in response to these future needs. Because it is a statewide school it has a responsibility to examine the needs for professional personnel on a statewide basis. This might include an examination of baccalaureate professional degree programs and master’s degree programs on a statewide basis, and within each of the major metropolitan areas, in relation to their complementary contribution to personnel requirements in both direct services and in planning and administration in a variety of service fields. Another direction of potential development would involve advanced practice concentrations at the graduate level in such distinct fields as health care social work, corrections, developmental disabilities, mental health case management, residential care institutions, industrial social work, and gerontology, in addition to current programs in individual and family treatment.

There is also a need in the profession as a whole for advanced professional education in specialized areas for individuals with an entry-level professional degree and significant practice experience. Nationally there has been a tendency to look to doctoral education as the major form of post-master’s education. However, doctoral programs will not provide advanced practice skills, or the technical knowledge required for advanced practice in specialized settings, or for program leadership and administration in such settings. Doctoral education needs to be supported for its primary purpose—the preparation of scholars for teaching and research responsibilities. There is a need as well to explore the development, perhaps in cooperation with the professional association, of forms of advanced education which are more substantial than the continuing education short course but less costly in resources and time than doctoral education.

A long-term developmental program in practice research has already been identified as part of the mission of the school. This is in addition to the support of research initiated by individual faculty members. The position of the school in a university with an increasing commitment to institutional research and the systematic development of new knowledge provides the opportunity for faculty and students to be involved in the in-depth exploration of the distinctive nature of social work practice in specific program settings. The design of an inclusive program of research which could provide opportunities for the participation of persons in all of the school components will be a major challenge.

David M. Austin, Ph.D., is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. Currently he is a Visiting Professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Tom Cruthirds has contributed the chapter, "The Use of Supervision in Protective Services," to Social Work Treatment with Abused and Neglected Children, edited by Chris Mouzakitis and Raju Varghese, and published by Charles C. Thomas.

Frank Spicuzza is involved in a national study which looks at the extent of methods such as restitution, public service, employment, victim compensation, and individual and group counseling.

Carl Wilks, Associate Professor at the Memphis Branch, has been inducted into the Southwest Missouri State University Athletic Hall of Fame. As an undergraduate, Wilks finished his career with 662 rebounds and a four-year total of 637 points, an average of 8.4 a contest for his career.

Sashi Hirayama and Marvin Feit presented a paper at the Seventh Symposium of the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, which met in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in October.

David Harrison will join the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, in January.

Gideon Fryer is retiring at the end of this year. He has the longest employment history of anyone at the school at all three locations. As a professor, he will have emeritus status.

Sandra Chipungu presented "An Overview of Current Trends and Issues Affecting Women Managers" at the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Center's 1985 Annual Meeting in Nashville, held on November 1, 1985. One of the Nashville Branch's graduates, Diane Derryberry, served as moderator.

John Charping and an alumna of the school, Mariam Slaughter, at the NASW symposium in Chicago on November 1, 1985, presented a paper on 'Project Help' in Nashville. The project uses the billing process used by the electric and gas company in order to encourage check-off donations by the public to help the low-income and elderly get their turned-off electric and gas reinstated during winter months.

Marvin Feit presented a paper on marketing as part of a panel presentation in November at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C.

Carl Wilks and Bob Rowen are extending their research on pre-retirement programs to public agencies.

Claire Lowry is the newly-elected Secretary to the Tennessee Health Care Social Work Group.


Dr. Sandra Chipungu was the moderator.

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Faculty Notes

Ben Granger has received approval for a university-affiliated project in corrections with the Tennessee Department of Corrections. It will be a Prison Division pilot project for developing and implementing community alternative punishment programs for nonviolent offenders. The offender-specific program will include methods such as restitution, public service, employment, victim compensation, and individual and group counseling.

Carl Wilks, Associate Professor at the Memphis Branch, has been inducted into the Southwest Missouri State University Athletic Hall of Fame. As an undergraduate, Wilks finished his career with 662 rebounds and a four-year total of 637 points, an average of 8.4 a contest for his 76-game SMS career.

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Forward to 50 Endowment

The Forward to 50 development program continues to grow, with $30,500 in the account and more pledged. The interest from the fund will be primarily used for student scholarship supports. Alumni and friends of the school are encouraged to contribute gifts through annual giving, pledges of intention, major gifts of $10,000 or more, or by naming the school as beneficiary in an estate plan.

The annual alumni scholarship fund drive will be conducted again this winter and spring quarters. Last year approximately $2,000 was contributed to the alumni scholarship fund and to Forward to 50 from this drive.

Alumni are encouraged to make contributions. All contributions are tax deductible. They should be mailed to Forward to 50, Office of Development, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 401 Student Services Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-9989.

Checks should be made payable to the University of Tennessee, School of Social Work.

Alumni Notes

Emily Scott-Lowe, 1979 MSSW graduate of the Memphis Branch, is a licensed clinical social worker and is coordinator of the student counseling services at Pepperdine University. She also teaches on an adjunct basis. She received her Ph.D. in Child Development from Florida State University in 1984.
Symposium Held for Advancement of Family Therapy

The Fifth Annual Symposium for the Advancement of Family Therapy was held October 28–29, 1985 in Knoxville. Sponsored by the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute, the University of Tennessee Psychological Clinic, and the University of Tennessee School of Social Work, the symposium focused on how families use their own resources in responding to their environment. Symposium faculty included Edwin H. Freedman, M.A., D.D., a rabbi and family therapist in Bethesda, Maryland for clergy and other members of helping professions; Carol J. Litzler, ACSW, a family therapist with Access in Leominister, Massachusetts, who specializes in work with abuse and neglect families; A. John Wilson, STM, a Methodist minister who is Director of Pastoral Service for Greenleaf Health Systems, Inc., in Chattanooga; Karen Gail Lewis, ACSW, a family therapist who is with the Eating Disorders Clinic in the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Cincinnati Medical Center; and Edgar H. Jessee, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and Clinical Director of the Oak Hill Center for Adolescents, St. Mary’s Hospital in Knoxville.

Family Therapy Training Workshop

The Family Therapy Training Center of the University’s Center for the Health Sciences has announced a training program, “Family Systems and Medical Illnesses.” The workshop, focusing on the family’s effect on the body’s immune, endocrine and nervous systems, will be presented by Steve Rice, M.D., on March 7, 1986, from 9:00 to 4:30. The fee is $45; registration deadline is February 14, 1986. For more information on registration, contact Mrs. Mary Ellwood, Registrar, at (901) 528–5944.

The Family Therapy Training Center is also considering the establishment of a post-graduate clinical externship program, beginning in the fall of 1986, which would convene one full day each week for nine months and focus on the advanced practice of family and couples therapy. Those interested in participating should contact Robert L. Pugh, A.C.S.W., Director, at (901) 528–5944.

Nashville Students Sell T-Shirts

Three Nashville students did a novel thing this summer. Tony Parnell, Darrell Hogan, and Grace Stanton, students at the Nashville Branch and social workers at the Tennessee Children’s Home, sold “Saturn Has Landed” T-shirts in honor of the new GM Saturn plant to be built in Maury County. A teenager from the Tennessee Childrens’ Home designed the shirts, and the three students sold over 1,500 of them, with the proceeds going to the Children’s Home.

Faculty Notes (from page 4)

Kate Mullins presented a paper in November at the NASW Symposium in Chicago that dealt with the homeless.

Ronald K. Green has become Director of the National Center for Foster and Residential Care, operated by the Child Welfare Institute of Atlanta.

Jerry Cates will join the School of Social Work at Howard University in Washington, D.C., as an associate professor.

Cathy Faver has recently completed an interview study, “Religious Beliefs, Social Work Values and Professional Orientations.” She is preparing a proposal for a historical study, “Women, Religion, and Social Reform in the Progressive Era.” Interested persons can contact her for more information.

Pete Stoddard directed a conference at the Nashville Low-Income Housing Coalition and the Council of Community Services on November 1, 1985. At the conference, Mayor Raymond Flynn of Boston spoke to Nashville members of the business community and civic leaders about housing solutions. The UTSSW was a cosponsor of the conference.

Bill Bell and John Charping are currently working on a study of 150 divorced couples that studies the effect of support groups on divorced couples. The study is being done through Family and Children’s Services in Nashville.

Anne Ford has returned to the Nashville Branch after completing her doctoral coursework at the University of Denver. She is currently teaching in the foundation curriculum.

Of Note:

Diplomate Offered

A Diplomate in The Health Care Professions is now being offered by The International Academy of Health Care Professionals, Inc. The Academy has been established by prominent members of the various health care professions to grant recognition to those individuals who are able to provide evidence of advanced competence in their area of specialty.

Inquiries are welcome: IAHCPI, Inc., 70 Glen Cove Road (Suite 209), Roslyn Heights, N.Y. 11577

Nina Lunn is President of the Middle Tennessee branch of the NASW this year.

Ellie Moses has been asked to consult and do evaluation research on a project for DHS, Region II–A (Knox County) which studies the impact of the use of a limited-treatment model in sexual abuse and abuse and neglect cases for clients of DHS, Child and Family Services, and PAAASC. Dr. Moses also collected data last winter and spring on a study of fearful flyers. SOAR, a program for fearful flyers, has a major base in Washington; Dr. Moses studied the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Moses has recently completed three chapters with Ruth Gat, M.S., for a book to be published by the Phobia Society of America, Facing Fears and Anxieties: The Phobia Society Guide, edited by Reid Wilson, Ph.D., and published by the Phobia Society of America. In addition, Dr. Moses has also just finished another chapter for a book on gay and lesbian clients, Helping Your Gay and Lesbian Client: A Psychosocial Approach from Gay and Lesbian Perspectives, edited by Bob Kus and published by Alyson. Both are scheduled for early 1986 publication.

Roger Nooe will chair the Knoxville Coalition for the Homeless, formed by Mayor Kyle C. Testerman and County Executive Dwight Kessel. The Coalition’s major responsibilities will be to ascertain the extent of the homeless population in Knoxville, to determine services available and to make recommendations where services are difficult or nonexistent, and to increase communication and coordination of services for existing agencies and organizations working with the homeless.
Transition (from page 1)

quality social work education, but what it does to help the faculty and the school reevaluate what we’re doing and where we’re going is probably the most helpful and the most beneficial part of its focus.”

The Plan of Action for the rest of the decade is an ambitious set of tasks, but a plan that is being implemented very quickly. Among the steps being taken are the addition to the school of the baccalaureate social work program on the Knoxville campus, which became effective September 1, 1985, and modification of the school’s organizational structure.

With the school now accountable for all three degree programs in social work as well as having a statewide mission of graduate education, a name change from “School” to “College” has been proposed. This request will be considered at the winter quarter Board of Trustees meeting. It has the support of the Provost and Chancellor.

The reorganizational structure also calls for changing the branch directors to associate deans in each of the three locations of the school. For the Knoxville location, faculty chairs will be appointed for the BSW, MSSW, and Ph.D. programs, and they will report to the associate dean.

Since these programs are all together in one location, a “one faculty” approach will be emphasized, while still maintaining the necessary autonomy to assure program integrity. The associate deans at the Memphis and Nashville branches will continue to direct their programs and represent the school in their locations. The Office of Continuing Social Work Education will be renamed the Office of Research and Public Service, reflecting the emphasis on research and research supports for faculty, while also providing continuing education and staff development services.

The Plan of Action is an ambitious plan that intends to place the school in the position to maintain and increase the quality of its educational programs and to meet the university’s redefined mission and expectations through the 1980’s. Many of the proposals have been implemented; more will be realized in the future.

Alumni Board to Establish Nominating Committee

The UTSSW Alumni Board will be establishing a nominating committee for the election of new board members, with elections to be held this spring. Alumni who are interested in being nominated to serve as officers or board members should contact alumni board president Julie Hardin or Dean Ben Granger.

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Stimulus is a publication of the UT School of Social Work. We welcome news and announcements from alumni, faculty, staff, and the field. Submit material to Stimulus, Office of Continuing Social Work Education, 1838 Terrace Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996-3920.

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