

Visions

a publication of the WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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SPRING / SUMMER 2007

Social Work Month Celebrations honor Maryann Mahaffey, Diversity and Alumni

The School of Social Work held an impressive array of events to celebrate March, Social Work Month, beginning with a moving tribute to the memory of professor emerita Maryann Mahaffey, continuing with an informative Annual Diversity Lecture by faculty member and expert on Africa, Durrenda Onolemhemen, and culminating with the annual Alumni Association annual meeting and awards luncheon.

The tribute to Mahaffey was a fitting beginning to the month-long celebration because it focused on her long



The late Maryann Mahaffey's husband Herman Dooha and daughter Susan join Dean Vroom at tribute ceremony.

career as a social worker and teacher. Speakers included Dean Vroom, Maryann's long-time Chief of Staff Sara Gleicher, WSU Board of Governors member and School of Social Work alumna Jacquelin Washington, and Board of Governors member Annetta Miller. Family reflections were shared by Maryann's husband Herman Dooha and daughter Susan. Every speaker talked of the appropriateness of honoring Mahaffey in this way and at this time, because of her devotion to both the profession and the school.

The School's Annual Diversity Lecture was delivered by Dr. Onolemhemen on March 22 in the Community Arts Auditorium. Entitled "Post Genocidal Rwanda: An American Social Work Professor in Africa," the talk brought the large, attentive audience up to date on the tragedy of Rwanda and concluded with several suggestions for those wanting to become involved in helping, discussing about the role of social work practice in post-genocidal Rwanda. The country needs well-trained social workers to work in agencies, helping victims of genocide and displacement. Mathilda Mukantahana, a U.S.-based social work professor, and a committee of social work professors, including Onolemhemen, examined the curriculum of schools in the United States, Europe, and Africa and began a four-year social work program at the National University

Rwanda. The first year is devoted to language training; the second year focuses on foundation courses; and the third and fourth years focus on core courses in social work. Onolemhemen concluded her remarks by listing some of the country's current needs: MSW programs, more BSW programs and more books as well as audiovisual equipment.

The Alumni luncheon on March 30th honored Alice G. Thompson, CEO of Black Family Development for more than 13 years, as "Alumna and Social Worker of the Year 2007", and Nancy Diehl, head of the Felony Trial Division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, who was named "Citizen of the Year" 2007.

Thompson received her BSW degree, as well as her MSW, from the Wayne State University School of Social Work. She has served her alma mater as a tutor/mentor, member of the Board of Visitors, as well as delivering the



Diversity Lecture speaker Associate Professor Durrenda Onolemhemen pictured with two attendees.

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Social Work Month

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keynote address at the 2006 Dean's Graduation Recognition Assembly.

Diehl, who graduated from Wayne State University Law School in 1978, reminded the audience that she was a lawyer, not a social worker and, tongue-in-cheek, wondered if luncheon organizers knew that when they decided to honor her and invite her to deliver the keynote address. Since 1987, Nancy Diehl's work as director of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Child Abuse Unit gained state and national attention as a model program using a team approach of prosecutor and social-worker advocate handling cases in the criminal justice system. She currently serves in the community as chair of the Wayne County Council Against Family Violence, on the Executive Committee of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice as well as being a director of the Guidance Center.

City Councilwoman Joann Watson presented both honorees with testimonial resolutions on behalf of her colleagues. ■



Alumni Luncheon honorees Nancy Diehl (left) and Alice Thompson

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On campus we are winding up a busy, successful school year. In early May we awarded over 100 Bachelor's and almost 200 Master's degrees. Of course that means over 300 more alumni joining all of you. Our first PhD students have completed their initial year in the program, soon to be joined by a second set. In March we celebrated Social Work Month with three outstanding events, starting with a well-attended and inspirational tribute to professor emerita Maryann Mahaffey, continuing with a most informative Diversity Lecture delivered by our own Durrenda Onolemhemhen on the plight of Rwanda and culminating in the Alumni Association luncheon which honored two outstanding women. You can read more about these events in the cover story of this issue.



You'll also want to read about Anna Santiago's important, favorably reviewed book, *Why Not in My Backyard?* And regarding another faculty member, there is an article about the important research Anthony King has just completed on the attitudes of residents in Michigan about programs to assist prisoners who are reentering their communities with the goal of reducing the number of inmates who commit additional crimes.

At the end of March, the school presented its first array of Continuing Education Courses to help social work professionals meet the new state licensure requirements. This is the first time in Michigan that our profession has joined the many others in requiring that practitioners periodically take courses to sharpen and refresh their skills. Our offerings are based on the state requirements and on survey results to assess the needs of professionals in the field. We will offer a second set of courses this fall. From the feedback I have gotten, these offerings are proving most valuable to those who have participated.

You'll also find news about several alumni who have received various kinds of recognition for their achievements. This is the kind of news we always are eager to put in *Visions* because, after all, it is your newsletter. If you have news to share, I urge you to be in touch with the editor, Al Acker.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Dean Phyllis Vroom

Santiago Book Examines Impacts of Deconcentrated Assisted Housing

Continuing our series on faculty publications, this time we highlight *Why Not in My Backyard?* written by Anna Santiago and several others, including George Galster, a WSU colleague. The book was published in 2003 by the Center for Urban Policy Research of Rutgers University.

Santiago, who heads the school's new PhD program, is also co-principal investigator with Galster, Clarence Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs. They are heading a longitudinal study funded by the Ford and MacArthur Foundations, assessing the impact of asset building programs offered to foster self-sufficiency and improve the lives of public housing residents and their children. Recently, Galster and Santiago initiated a new study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development examining how neighborhoods affect the developmental outcomes of low-income minority children.

David P. Varady, of the School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati, in his review of the book, writes, "While a body of literature has emerged in recent years dealing with the benefits to low income families of living in low-poverty, decent quality residential settings, there has been little research on the effects poverty deconcentration strategies have on such neighborhoods."

This important book fills a glaring knowledge gap to aid the formulation and implementation of national and local housing policy.

Varady adds that "*Why Not in My Backyard?* helps to close this gap in the literature by examining the property value and crime level impacts of (1) the Section 8 program in Baltimore County, MD, (2) the scattered-site public housing program in Denver, CO, and (3) the supportive housing program for special needs households in Denver. The multi-method strategy includes key informant interviews, econometric analysis and focus group discussions. The non-technical overview of their statistical modeling approach is easy to understand, no minor achievement!" Varady concludes with the comment that the book "should contribute to a more informed and sophisticated discussion of the neighborhood impacts of assisted housing programs."

In another review Gerald Daly, from York University in Toronto says, "This book provides a comprehensive evaluation of the neighborhood property value and crime impacts of deconcentrated assisted housing. Using a multimethod research strategy, the authors analyze a Section 8 program in Baltimore County, a scattered-site public housing program in Denver, and a supportive housing program for special-needs populations in Denver as case studies. The authors combine archival research, informant interviews, econometric analysis, and focus groups to obtain definitive answers to these questions and provide practical recommendations for policymakers across the country who are forming and implementing programs to deconcentrate assisted housing. This important book fills a glaring knowledge gap to aid the formulation and implementation of national and local housing policy. It should be read by students, policymakers, and neighborhood residents alike." ■

King Study Assesses Attitudes about Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative

Associate Professor Anthony E. O. King, working with Janelle Rivard, MSW, has recently completed an important study assessing the attitudes of Michigan residents about and support for publicly funded prisoner reentry programs and services. In addition, the study assesses the extent to which Michigan residents are aware of the magnitude of the prisoner reentry problem in the state, and whether they believe the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) should focus more on rehabilitating prisoners rather than on punishing them.

The Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) is an innovative, statewide, prisoner reentry project designed to enhance public safety and reduce inmate recidivism by offering inmates a continuum of services and support during their incarceration, as they make the transition from prison to the community, and while they are on parole.

The success of the MPRI depends largely on whether or not Michigan residents support the policy of investing new state funds in community-based prisoner reentry programming and services. If that support is lacking, the state will be hard pressed to maintain the project. In its absence, prison overcrowding and high recidivism rates will continue to plague the state. In a state with a budget deficit of almost a billion dollars, the increasing cost of housing and feeding a record number of prison inmates siphons off valuable public revenues from an already strained state budget. Thus, measuring the level of public support for state-funded prisoner reentry services is an important part of assessing the potential success of the MPRI project.

The study examined four specific questions: Do citizens of the state of Michigan agree that MDOC should focus more on rehabilitation than on punishment? Do citizens of the state of Michigan support spending public funds to help inmates successfully transition from prison to their communities? Do citizens feel reducing Michigan's prison population is an important state responsibility? Do citizens of the state of Michigan understand the magnitude of reentry related issues: number of inmates in state prisons; percentage of current inmates eventually released from prison; percentage of released inmates that return to prison within three years.

The subjects for this study were selected using a cross-sectional telephone survey of Michigan residents. The Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies (CUS) conducts an annual survey of Michigan adult residents, using computer-assisted telephone interviewing. A random-digit sample of 9,000 Michigan residences was selected to ensure proportional representation of all 83 Michigan counties. After purging business and disconnected numbers, over 7,000 numbers remained. Ultimately after a random selection, there were 703 respondents to the survey.

Attitudes about state-funded prisoner reentry programs and services and knowledge about the state's inmate population were measured in three ways. First, respondents were asked three open-ended questions concerning their knowledge about the state's prison population. Second, respondents were asked to respond to four statements concerning: state spending on rehabilitating inmates and former offenders; the relative importance of reducing Michigan's prison population; whether the state currently focuses more on rehabilitation or punishment; and (d) whether the state should focus more on rehabilitating or punishing offenders.



Associate Professor Anthony King conducted survey.

Third, respondents' attitudes about state-funded prisoner reentry programs and services were measured, asking participants to rate six statements about specific types of services returning inmates and offenders typically need in order to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Finally, the questionnaire asked respondents to rate two statements concerning whether the state or private nongovernmental agencies are primarily responsible for helping inmates when they leave prison

Key Findings

Respondents to the survey were primarily white, married, and female. The typical respondent was in the early fifties, but about half were younger. Nearly 40% of the respondents had incomes of \$25,000 or less, with almost one in five above \$60,000. About half of the respondents had 12 years of education or less, and about a third completed bachelors or masters degrees. The average respondent significantly overestimated the size of the Michigan prison population and grossly underestimated the percentage of inmates that is eventually released from prison. On the other hand, respondents' perceptions of inmate recidivism were fairly accurate. The average respondent estimated that about half of all inmates return to prison within three years of their release. Actually, about 48% return to prison within three years.

Two-thirds of all respondents, and nearly 70% of black respondents, felt the state spends "too little" or "way too little" on rehabilitation and approximately two-thirds of the sample thought that the state currently focuses "a little" or "a lot more" on punishment than on rehabilitation. A significantly higher percentage of black respondents felt the state focuses "a little more" or "a lot more" on punishment rather than rehabilitation. On the other hand, a little more than six out of ten respondents felt the state *should* spend "a little" to "a lot more" on rehabilitation

rather than on punishment.

About 80% of respondents felt that reducing the prison population was "somewhat" or "very important." A little more than half of respondents agreed that public funds should be used to help former prisoners, but support for publicly funded services for inmates varies, according to the type of assistance. About six out of ten respondents agree that the state should help released inmates find jobs (a slightly higher percentage of black over white and other-race respondents agree with using public funds to help inmates find jobs), but two-thirds of respondents don't agree with using public funds to make sure reentering inmates have reliable transportation. About 45% of respondents support using public funds to pay homeless inmates' housing expenses; however, 48% do not think public funds should be used for this purpose. Black, lower-income, and formerly married respondents were more likely to agree with using public funds to pay inmates' housing expenses than other respondents. 40% of respondents would allow inmates to receive state funded financial assistance and social services for about six to 12 months. But nearly 25% would not provide state funded **financial assistance** or would limit access to such assistance to one month. A little less than 20% of respondents would not allow inmates to receive **social services** or limit access to these services to one month. Finally, the majority of respondents feel that both the state and the private sector are equally responsible for helping inmates when they leave prison.

Conclusions

These results are consistent with previous studies concerning citizens' support for rehabilitating prisoners. Over the last decade, the public has consistently sent a clear message to state legislators, governors, and state departments of corrections: focus more resources on rehabilitating offenders and less on punishing them. In addition to documenting support for state-funded prisoner reentry programming and services, this study also suggests that Michigan residents place a relatively high priority on reducing the state's prison population. The two issues, effective prisoner reentry programming and smaller inmate populations, are related. If prisoner reentry programs can reduce recidivism rates among paroled offenders and the number of new admissions to state prisons remains stable, then the state should experience a significant reduction in the overall inmate population.

The data should encourage the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and its Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI) partners, because, overall, Michigan residents support reentry programming and services. The state and private agencies, churches, and other non-governmental community groups should be equally responsible for helping inmates when they are released from prison. Nonetheless, a relatively large percentage of citizens want to limit the type of services released inmates receive and the length of time for which they receive that assistance.

King and Rivard acknowledge the Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies' Survey Research Unit for data collection support and assistance, as well as their indebtedness to Dr. Robert Kahle, of Kahle Research Solutions, Inc., for his participation in the development of the prisoner reentry survey items and questions. ■

Continuing Education Workshops help Professionals Further Training

On March 23, 2007, the WSU School of Social Work began offering a series of workshops designed to help professionals in the field stay current on developing trends and to help them comply with Michigan's recently enacted licensure program. More than 400 social work professionals attended one or more of the eight workshops held on the WSU campus or Oakland Center the last week of March. The course selection was based on surveys the school did to ascertain which courses were most needed and were approved for credit by the NASW-MI Continuing Education Collaborative.

These first sessions ran smoothly for the most part, although there were scattered instances of overcrowding or uncomfortable conditions. Policy changes already implemented have solved these minor inconveniences, so the next workshops in the fall will be even better.

Visions wondered what participants thought about the courses, so we asked a few for comments. Jean Teschner, a past honoree as "Social Worker of the Year," says, "I welcome the CEU pathway as a way to help me expand my clinical knowledge and increase my macro skills. Other professions have required members to upgrade their knowledge for years, while we have not been required to. I attended the workshops on ethics and on cognitive-behavioral approaches to pain management, which were very well presented."

Ethel M. Kellie, MSW, LMSW Women Veterans Program Manager/MST Coordinator, adds: "I attended three of the social work continuing education classes offered by WSU this past March. I found that each class was well worth the time and expense invested. Each faculty member was well prepared, organized and kept the students involved with various learning activities. These are actually the best professional development

courses I have taken in my 25+ year social work career. Keep up the good work!"

Finally this, from Jim Lewis, Vice President of Adult and Affiliate Programming at Matrix Human Services: "Since the Wayne State School of Social Work has expanded the Continuing Education Program, I have attended sessions on Pain Management and Ethical Issues in Social Work. I have found both to be extremely beneficial in my ongoing education and I look forward to future offerings."

The next continuing education workshops will be held in the fall, and the schedule will be based in part on feedback the school received from participants in the March series. Workshops will be offered in Oakland and Macomb counties as well as on the main WSU campus. For information, visit the school's web site at www.socialwork.wayne.edu or contact Dr. Peggy Brunhofer at (313) 577-4408 or aa2450@wayne.edu ■

Brehler Competition honors Thornton and Siegl Manuscripts for 2007

Walter O. Siegl and Kelly Thornton, winners of the 2007 Elizabeth N Brehler Scholars Program manuscript competition were honored at a reception on April 25. This was the second time in the 17 years of the competition that two manuscripts were honored in the same year. Siegl's paper, entitled "Transitioning between Two Cultures" chronicles the author's transition, relatively late in life from a career in chemistry to the educational path of becoming a social worker. Thornton's paper, "Conflicts Within: Personal Bias and Professional Self" describes the author's conflicting emotions as she struggles to understand her own past in the context of clients with similar experiences.

In recent years, a mentor dimension has been added to the program. Each entrant is required to choose and work with a faculty member from inception to submission of the manuscript. Thornton's faculty mentor has been Assistant Professor Poco Kernsmith, while Siegl has worked with Assistant Professor Antonio Gonzalez-Prendes. Commenting on the process of writing her paper, Thornton says, "Deciding on my topic for the Brehler was actually the first thing that popped in my head; however it was not something I was sure I could write about. I discussed my ideas with my faculty mentor, Poco Kernsmith and she encouraged me to write it. The paper was more difficult to write than I originally thought it would be. Putting everything down on paper was just another step in the healing process for me. I was able to look back and see how far I have come and that has been extremely important for me."

How did Siegl settle on Gonzalez-Prendes as a mentor? "Professor Gonzales-Prendes was my professor... he did a great job teaching...and I saw him as serving as a role-model for his students. I learned a tremendous amount from his classes. For me it was a no-brainer to ask him to serve as my mentor. He was able to make some very useful comments and suggestions and I was able to take his suggestions and rewrote the paper ... again to finally come up with an essay I felt fairly good about." Visions also asked Siegl how he thought the experience of writing the Brehler essay might help him in his career. He replied "The thought-exercises involved in writing the essay helped me



Participating in announcement of 2007 Brehler Competition awards, from left to right: Winner Kelly Thornton, mentor Poco Kernsmith and competition donor Richard Brehler.

to clarify my thinking and to gain some insights into changes I needed to make if I were to become an effective clinical social work practitioner. Those insights have already been helpful and were put to use during my work with veterans in my internship at the VA hospital. I expect that I will continue to benefit from those insights and changes and I begin my social work career."

The manuscript competition is underwritten by the Elizabeth N. Brehler Scholars Program, established by Richard Brehler and his family in 1991 to honor the memory of Elizabeth Nettie McCaughan Brehler, a school of social work student who died in June of 1990. The school is grateful to her family and friends whose generous support provides this opportunity for students of the school.

The goal of the competition is to encourage students to explore their personal and professional values and the difficulties they have experienced in applying those values in their social work practice. The Brehler Committee includes members of the family and past winners of the competition and is chaired by MSW Program Coordinator Margaret Brunhofer. The committee judges submissions objectively, based on the competition criteria, and without knowing anything about the authors. The committee meets in March to name the winning paper or papers.

Instructions for submissions to the 2008 Brehler Manuscript Competition will be available in September. Students interested in entering can contact Loren Hoffman, 313-577-4464 or aa2851@wayne.edu Mentor commitment forms will be due in early December and the competition submission deadline will probably be in early February of 2008. Anyone interested in reading the winning manuscripts can find them on the school's web site: www.socialwork.wayne.edu ■



Second Winner Walter Siegl flanked by his mentor, Antonio Gonzalez-Prendes (left) and Assistant to the Dean Loren Hoffman

First-year Faculty Member Faith Pratt Hopp Awarded \$100,000 Hartford Faculty Fellowship

As she completes her first year on the faculty, Faith Hopp has recently been notified of her appointment as a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar. The two-year, \$100,000 award, one of 10 in a highly competitive, nationwide process, recognizes Hopp's prior achievements in the field of gerontology and anticipates her increased leadership and skills in teaching and research. Her particular concentration is persons with advanced heart failure and their need for appropriate health care, end-of-life care, and supportive services. Little information is available concerning the perceptions of heart failure patients, their caregivers, or social workers relative to the care received or attitudes toward palliative approaches.

Hopp's study proposes to obtain pilot data necessary to better understand the needs of this population, and, more particularly those from minority groups. Drawing on the chronic care model, the proposed study will garner detailed information about how persons with advanced heart failure experience their illness, their perceptions, and their use of formal and informal services. The study will assess willingness of persons with heart failure to participate in palliative-focused interventions and randomized trials, along with caregiver perceptions of heart failure care and the role and potential for social work in addressing the health and psychosocial needs of this population.

As Hopp prepares to begin her fellowship in the fall, she sat down with Visions to talk a bit about her plans. "The School of Social Work has a long history of conducting research in diverse urban settings...(a)s part of this effort, I expect to play an important role in generating interest in research and practice in gerontological social work among undergraduate, masters' level, and doctoral students." She adds, "Receipt of a Hartford Fellowship will allow me to develop



Hartford Faculty Scholar Faith Hopp

my own teaching expertise on research, policy, and services in gerontology, and will aid in my development as a gerontological leader who can mentor others in... effective strategies for social work gerontology education."

This project is an excellent example of the cross-disciplinary approach WSU is stressing, because it will also involve school of medicine professors Rob Zalenski, who is director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care Excellence (CAPE) and Peter Vaitkevicius, also Chief of Cardiology at the John D. Dingell Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City, the

Faculty Scholars Program was founded to increase faculty commitment to training social workers to meet the growing and specialized needs of an aging population. The program is administered by the Gerontological Society of America.

Hopp is interested in learning of any Visions readers who have social work experience working with heart failure patients and who might be interested in participating in the research. Please contact her at bb2938@wayne.edu or phone her at (313) 577-4423. ■



Audience of 500 Attend Harris Lecture by Claudia Black

Claudia Black, PhD, MSW presented the 19th Annual Edith Harris Endowed Memorial Lecture for an audience of over 500 students, faculty members and social workers at the Community Arts Auditorium last October. This annual lecture comes through the generosity of Mr. Mort Harris and the Harris Foundation, and provides a perpetual legacy to the memory of Edith Harris. Claudia Black's presentation titled, "Social Work Comes Face to Face with Addiction and the Family," was delivered before a rapt audience, and over 200 licensed social workers obtained credit for attendance, as approved by the Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative, thus earning continuing education credits as required for license renewal. SSW Professor Anthony Gonzales-Prendes gave an enthusiastic report: "it was nice seeing a full house at the Community Arts Auditorium. I felt that the theme of her presentation, the impact of addiction on families and children, is of great importance to social workers at all levels of practice. Social workers, whether dealing with policy or practice at the micro or macro levels at some point come face-to-face with this issue...an effective and engaging presenter."

A reception followed the lecture, and the university Barnes and Noble bookstore arranged for Black to sign copies of her book, "It Will Never Happen to Me," which has been translated into nine languages and sold over 2 million copies. The unprecedented popularity of the lecture meant that many attendees were not able to receive Black's handout materials. If you would like to receive a copy, contact Loren Hoffman at aa2851@wayne.edu or call 313-577-4464 to leave instructions for sending the material.

The Edith Harris Lecture committee, consisting of faculty members Poco Kernsmith, Anthony King and Antonio Gonzales-Prendes, are close to naming the speaker for next year's talk, scheduled for October 18, 2007. Save the date and watch for details on the 20th lecture in the next issue of Visions. ■



Dr. Claudia Black spoke on how families are affected by addiction

Why are charitable gift annuities so popular?

Here's one good reason:

A charitable gift annuity provides you or another beneficiary with a guaranteed fixed amount every year for life. At the end of the beneficiary's lifetime(s), the remainder is transferred to the School of Social Work to be used as determined by you. In addition, you will receive an income tax deduction, you may save on capital gains taxes depending on the type of asset transferred, and your annuity payments may be partially tax-free.

To have a plan created for you, please contact Kim Cross at 313-577-5186 or kimcross@wayne.edu. For more information, please visit wsugifts.org. ■

Wayne State Gift Annuities Current Single Rates

Age	Rate
60	5.7%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90+	11.3%

MESSAGE FROM *Kim Adams*

Your Alumni Board is catching its collective breath after a very busy time of planning for and then enjoying the activities of Social Work Month. As you may have read in the cover story, your association sponsored or co-sponsored three events in March., a memorial tribute to longtime member, friend, teacher and benefactor Maryann Mahaffey; followed by a most instructive Diversity Lecture on Rwanda by Durrenda Onolemhemen. The month culminated in a wonderful and well-attended annual luncheon at Alumni House on March 30th, which honored Alice Thompson, CEO of Black Family Development as "Alumna and Social Worker of the Year 2007", and keynote speaker Nancy Diehl, head of the Felony Trial Division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, who was named "Citizen of the Year" 2007.

Just in time to honor this year's graduating students, your alumni board has also replenished a supply of alumni merchandise which includes hooded sweatshirts in pink or forest green. To order school of social work alumni merchandise contact Loren Hoffman, the dean's alumni liaison, for an order form or more information (aa2851@wayne.edu or 313-577-4464).

As I finish my two years as president of the alumni association board, I want to thank the board and membership for their support and Dean Phyllis Vroom for her visionary leadership of the school. Under Dean Vroom our alma mater has accomplished much and will continue to provide excellence in professional social work education and continuing education in service to the profession. In closing I wish to congratulate your newly elected president of the alumni association board, Georgene Thornton, who will take office in August and will introduce your new board officers in the next edition of *Visions*.

Kim Adams



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Alumni News from Here and There

Visions is delighted to receive news about the activities of School of Social alumni

wherever they are and whatever they are doing. These items landed in our mailbox in the recent past.

Gary Mathews honored by athletic association

The All American Football Foundation presented its 2005-06 Outstanding Faculty Athletic Representative Award to Gary Mathews, professor and interim director of Western Michigan University's School of Social Work. Mathews received his Master of Social Work degree from Wayne State University and a doctoral degree from Western Michigan University. He was honored last September at a black tie dinner at the Chicago Athletic Club. Last June he completed a three-year term as chair of the Western Michigan University Athletic Board and faculty athletic representative.

Marty Price Awarded Fulbright, will Lecture in Argentina

Marty Price has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant to lecture in Argentina during the 2007 academic year. Price is the Director of the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program Information and Resource Center and Director of Mediation and Training at the Healers of Conflicts Law and Conflict Resolution Center in Asheville, NC. He is an alumni of the school and is also a graduate of Wayne State University Law School. The Council for International Exchange of Scholars approved Price for candidacy on the Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster, a list of approved candidates to be matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Senior Specialists. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in their fields.

After being accepted as a Fulbright scholar, Price was immediately invited by The John F. Kennedy University of Argentina Law School, where he will teach in the PhD program on the topic of Restorative Justice, beginning in mid-April. He will also be the keynote speaker and trainer at an international conference on victim-offender mediation in Tierra del Fuego in May. Price traveled to Argentina and Chile in 2006 on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Democracy and Human Rights International

Information Program. The tour program was called, "Restorative Justice: Practices and Pitfalls - How to Make it Work." Price is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 150 countries for the 2006-2007 academic year through the Fulbright Scholars Program.

Janice M. Fialka, LMSW, ACSW, a School of Social Work alumna has been named Social Worker of the Year 2007 by the Michigan Chapter of The National Association of Social Workers

Over the past 30 years, Ms. Fialka has played major roles in several adolescent health care programs in the tri-county area, including Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center and the SAFE Teen Program of Wayne County Health Department and has pioneered innovative prevention programs for youth. She is a national speaker and trainer on the topic of disabilities and inclusive education, providing lectures and training for international and national conferences in more than half the states as well as Canada. She has published three books: *It Matters: Lessons from my Son*; *Do You Hear What I Hear? Parents and Professionals Working for Children with Special Needs* (co-authored with K. Mikus); and *Whose Life is it Anyway?*

In 2006, Ms. Fialka, her husband, Rich Feldman, and filmmaker, Paul Rossen produced a 25 minute documentary titled, *Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College* which won the TASH Image Award for the Positive Portrayal of People with Disabilities. TASH is an international membership association leading the way to inclusive communities through research, education, and advocacy. This film documents the fully inclusive experience at Oakland University of her son, Micah, who has a cognitive disability. ■

If you have news about yourself or other WSU School of Social Work alumni, please contact Visions editor Al Acker at (313) 577-0309 or by email at 8466@wayne.edu

Wall Street Journal Names Social Work Among Best Careers

CareerJournal, an online unit of the *Wall Street Journal*, has recently included social work in a list of the eight most satisfying careers, based on a survey asking people what makes them satisfied in their careers and then finding careers with those qualities. Besides social work, the other seven were (in alphabetical order): curriculum and instructional coordinators; high-school special-education teachers; hospital and clinic managers; management consultants and analysts; medical researchers; physical therapists; and sales, marketing and advertising managers.

CareerJournal teamed with polling company Harris Interactive, to survey U.S. adults and find what qualities are most common in the jobs of highly satisfied career-focused people. The four attributes cited most were: good intellectual stimulation, strong job security, high level of control and freedom in what to do, and extensive direct contact with customers/clients. With these criteria in hand, CareerJournal then looked to identify careers that best met them, scouring occupational data and employment projections from the Department of Labor and interviewing experts.

For a look at what it's like to work in the field, CareerJournal spoke with Marilyn Reinish, manager of social work at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. She spent 17 years as a clinical social worker and has been in her current role for three years. She oversees a staff of 43.

CareerJournal: What's a typical day like?

Ms. Reinish: The day sometimes begins with the evening news the night before. When you work in a large medical center, you often get an early report from the news broadcast when you hear about a trauma, or a burn, or a high-profile patient who has been taken to the facility where you are. ...From the moment your feet hit the floor, you're off and running.

CJ: Describe an encounter with patients that's typical.

Ms. Reinish: It usually involves a warm hug, a hello. People cry with us, because we're a safe place to talk... Sometimes with a long-term patient, and even with a new patient, if you say, 'tell me how you're feeling,' you've opened a door to enable them to talk about something that doesn't have to do with how much medicine they're taking and if their leg hurts or not.

CJ: How many hours a week do you work on average?

Ms. Reinish: I think 55. I like to leave here and leave it behind me. So I will stay rather than bring work home. If there is something going on here, and I know I'm going to have to be involved, I won't leave until I'm more comfortable that I won't be called 19 times.

CJ: How much autonomy do you typically have?

Ms. Reinish: We say on a daily basis, 'You cannot send this patient home.' Whether it refers to abuse and neglect, whether it refers to the fact that mentally they cannot cope, whether we think they should be hospitalized in another facility, especially with a senior, we have to stand our ground.

CJ: How stressful is the social work field?

Ms. Reinish: My stress now is administrative. The stress that a social worker feels is way too many people and too much to do and not enough hours in the day.

CJ: How satisfied are you in this career?

Ms. Reinish: Being able to put pieces together to solve a problem is tremendously gratifying. In terms of a career choice, I know I've made a difference, and that is the most gratifying feeling to me that I could have... There's nothing else that I could think of that I'd rather done.

CJ: What's the pay like in this field?

Ms. Reinish: It's not fabulous; our salaries are not the highest around. But there is a payoff for those of us who do this. And that is just our personality makeup. Three members of my family are social workers. So in spite of not being the wealthiest people on the block, the gains that we personally receive are obviously greater. ■

Landmark Study Warns of Impending Labor Force Shortages for Profession

The following story is based on a press release from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). A national study of licensed social workers warns of an impending shortage of social workers that threatens future services for all Americans, especially the most vulnerable among us, children and older adults.

"From adoption to geriatrics, hundreds of thousands of social workers in the United States play a critical role in the lives of millions of Americans," says Tracy Whitaker, director of the NASW Center for Workforce Studies. "The findings of this study emphasize the need to assure a qualified social work labor force for the future. Predicted changes in the country's demographics over the next years are expected to increase the demand for social work services."

NASW conducted the study, "Assuring the Sufficiency of a Frontline Workforce: A National Study of Licensed Social Workers" in response to a sense of urgency to plan for future needs for the social work profession. The study was conducted with the Center for Health Workforce Studies, University at Albany.

STUDY FINDINGS:

The number of new social workers providing services to older adults is decreasing, despite projected increases in the number of older adults who will need social work services.

Social workers provide valuable services to older adults and their families. They help clients to negotiate healthcare and social welfare systems, to provide resources essential to living and to address the challenges that come with aging. With the aging of the baby boom generation and breakthroughs in medicine contributing to longer life spans, the number and percentage of Americans 60 years of age and older will surge.

The supply of licensed social workers is insufficient to meet the needs of organizations serving children and families.

Social workers fill a vital role in serving children and their families through an array of services, such as counseling, case management, information and referral and crisis intervention in diverse settings. The NASW study points out that the social work profession has

maintained its historical commitment to providing services to children and families; yet social workers face serious challenges that hinder their retention in the field.

Workload expansion plus fewer resources impede social worker retention.

Social workers in a variety of settings described increased workloads and diminished supports. In health care settings, social workers see clients with a broad range of diagnoses, especially chronic medical conditions, psychosocial stressors, acute medical conditions, co-occurring disorders and physical disabilities. Social workers are also the largest providers of mental health services in the country.

Agencies struggle to fill social work vacancies.

In all areas of social work practice, unfilled vacancies were an issue. Agencies have resorted to outsourcing and hiring non-professional staff to fill empty slots, an indicator of current labor market supply deficits. Because more than half of health care social workers are employed by hospitals in metropolitan areas, an additional challenge is to provide comprehensive services to people living in rural areas. ■

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