

Mosaics

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SUMMER 2008

News from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work

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NOW TO WORK

Commencement 2008 sends 276 new UB MSWs into the world,
some to serve needs close to home, some to go far afield.

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Mosaics

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The University at Buffalo is a premier research intensive public university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York. UB's more than 27,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 300 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

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Our News

Alumni come home

More than 125 alumni and friends attended Alumni Day 2008 on March 27.

Linda Ray, executive director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County, gave the keynote address. She described the role her multiagency collaboration plays in providing a single, safe location where victims of domestic/intimate partner violence can gain access to legal, medical and counseling services and the role social workers play in the collaboration.

Two workshops focused on potentially violent clients. Kenneth Duszynski spoke on

how to be self-protective without operating from a fear base. Faith Hoffman, who has been instrumental in making the Buffalo VA hospital a leading center in identifying and treating violent families, provided strategies for recognizing domestic violence in combat-affected families.

A big thank-you for field educators

Field educators were honored at a reception May 1 at UB's Jacobs Executive Development Center in Buffalo. This annual event recognizes field educators' commitment



One happy crowd (and smart, too)—2008's student award honorees

Front row, from left: Nicole Fava, Outstanding Student Award (Buffalo campus); Chris Lunsford, Niles Carpenter Award; Ellen Bean, Dena P. Gold Memorial Award; Christina Howells, School of Social Work Alumni Association Award; Jennifer Willett, Hazeltine T. Clements Memorial Award; Kristin Cangialosi, Dorothy Lynn Honorary Award; Heather Tighe, Kistopher L. Braselton Memorial Award; Rebecca Green, Terese Eusano Memorial Award. *Back row, from left:* Matthew Tice, NASW Award; Maurice Samuel, DREAM Award; Melissa Davies, Thorn and Rose Award; Laura Landry, Julian Sodja Memorial Fund; Allen Bethea, Archie W. Swanson Honorary Award. *Not in photo:* Gabriella McBean, Louisa Cielen Award; Eugenia Stevens, Outstanding Student Award (Rochester campus); Charity Lowry, Outstanding Student Award (Jamestown campus); Cathleen Reddy, Outstanding Student Award (Corning campus).



FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

to UB MSW students, the school and the profession. The reception drew 100 field educators and students.

Marie Watkins, MSW, PhD, director of the community-based youth development program at the Nazareth College Center for Service Learning, and Nicole Rizzo, LMSW, director of the restorative justice program at Child and Family Services of Erie County, were honored with the 2008 Outstanding Achievement in Field Education Award. Students nominated 31 field educators for the award.

International social work

Social work students Matt Tice and Jennifer Willett, and faculty member Filomena Crittelli attended the 25th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations on March 31. Their trip was part of the School of Social Work initiative to infuse the social work curriculum with a global focus in social work practice.

The two students also took part in the first global social work student conference at Fordham University. The meetings, which included presentations from leading figures in international social work, provided an opportunity to learn more about the U.N. and about issues related to international social work.

In June, the school hosted the 4th Interdisciplinary and International Confer-

ence on Clinical Supervision sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse. There were 176 attendees, most of whom also attended preconference workshops. Participants from the Philippines, China, Ireland, New Zealand, the U.K. and Australia joined practitioners from across the United States.

The 2008 conference was the most interdisciplinary to date, attracting social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and counselors in schools, residences and substance abuse agencies. ■

SPRING 2008 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

The Buffalo Center for Social Research 2008 distinguished scholar was Michael Hogan, Ph.D., New York State Commissioner of Mental Health. He lectured on "Transforming Mental Health in New York State." Hogan served as chair of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. The April 10 event drew an audience of more than 150, including UB faculty and students and guests from agencies across Western New York.



A videotape of the lecture is available for viewing at <http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/research/distinguished.asp>.

For notification of future Buffalo Center for Social Research events, contact Denise Finnan at (716) 829-3991, ext. 101 or at dfinnan@buffalo.edu.



In the next issue

At the School of Social Work, we train researchers who can generate the evidence for evidence-based practice. In the next issue of Mosaics, you will meet a PhD graduate who is now doing research in the community; an NIH researcher in Washington, D.C.; and a program researcher with a new approach here in Buffalo. And our research faculty will talk about service learning and the hands-on research experience.

I'm surprised to discover how few people realize we have four campuses—the main campus in Buffalo and off-site programs in Jamestown, Rochester and Corning. We created our off-site programs in response to requests from communities; a key factor in establishing the programs was the lack of a nearby public MSW program. As a public university, we take our mission of access seriously, and for each off-site program, we decided the need warranted offering the MSW there.

Therefore it's with mixed feelings that we now see our last Corning class graduate. The Corning program has educated many excellent social workers from a wide region, including Pennsylvania. It's the farthest program from our Buffalo campus (130 miles) and is actually much closer to Binghamton than to Buffalo. Our sister SUNY university at Binghamton has now developed an MSW program; it received accreditation in 2006. This good news, however, lessened the need for our continued presence in Corning. Hence my decision that this will be our last Corning class. I want to thank the students, alumni, faculty, staff and field educators who made the Corning program so successful. We look forward to continuing our relationship, especially through our online courses and with Mosaics. We will continue to celebrate your successes.

Nancy J. Smyth, PhD, LCSW



Nancy J. Parisi

Great Grads Times Four

The School of Social Work conferred 90 more master's degrees in 2008 than it did in each of the two years before. This has been the case every third year since 2002, when the first full cohort of students from the school's extension programs in Corning, Jamestown and Rochester completed their MSW programs. In the following pages, you will meet MSW graduates from each of the four campuses. The story beginning on Page 10 describes the MSW extension programs.

CHARITY LOWRY - Jamestown

It would be somewhat misleading to hold up Charity Lowry as representative of what one can get from the UB MSW program. But this is, nonetheless, her story.

Lowry earned her MSW at the Jamestown extension campus, completing her final field education hours in August. Her first field placement was as an intern in mental health counseling with Catholic Charities in Olean, N.Y., where she lives. Less than two years later, after having gone to work for Catholic Charities as a case manager in the meantime, and after completing a second placement for the organization, working in emergency-related services in the Jamestown office, she has now been named director of all Catholic Charities' Southern Tier operations. Nice progress for a student.

She will oversee services in three counties provided by offices in Jamestown (Chautauqua), Wellsville (Allegany) and the central office in Olean (Cattaraugus).

Lowry was working as a parent educator for a small non-profit in Olean when her boss told her that if she wanted a career in the field, she should get an MSW. She is a single working mother so the full-time program in Buffalo wasn't an option; entering the part-time program in 2005, she made the 50-minute commute to Jamestown with two Olean classmates. She remembers many "white knuckle" winter nights on the road over the three years.

By the time Lowry was assigned to her first field placement, she was working as a trainer with a county employment program called Cattaraugus One-Stop. When a case manager position opened at Catholic Charities in fall 2006, she applied without telling anyone in her internship because she didn't want special consideration. She got the job, which involved managing the cases of adolescents with mental illness who are referred by county social services as having needs classified as "intensive," the middle of three levels of intervention, requiring at least one contact per week.

"I knew Catholic Charities was a fit for me," she says. The job put Lowry on the road to see her clients in their own surroundings at home, at their counseling appointments or at school during free periods. She assessed their needs and coordinated services with the goal of keeping them out of the hospital and at home, if possible.

One of the reasons she was comfortable with Catholic Charities was her experience working with field educator Jesse

Zeiders. When she arrived at her placement to apprentice as a mental health counselor, Lowry says she knew nothing and that she considered what she had to learn to be "very scary." But with careful, supportive guidance by Zeiders, she did learn the work. "I walked away knowing I could do this," she says.

Her connection with Zeiders will continue as she works toward her clinical license. "The 'R' is gold down here," Lowry says. She knows only two LMSW-R social workers in the three-county area where she will be directing Catholic Charities offices.

Indeed, Lowry says that in the three Southern Tier counties that Catholic Charities serves, the needs are great, underserved and "most definitely underfunded." But she has good resources at hand when she needs to fill positions: her successor as the Olean intensive case manager will be Nichole Cerra, MSW '08 (Cerra appeared in the spring issue of Mosaics), who has been working in the same office as a supportive case manager; Matt Wenke, MSW '08, will step into Cerra's position in the Olean office; and Jackie Joy, MSW '08, who was Lowry's classmate in Jamestown, has accepted a therapist position there with Catholic Charities.

"There is great talent coming out of UB," Lowry says, wearing her Catholic Charities hat. "And this area is starved." She plans to talent-scout the next cohort of Jamestown extension students when they start the three-year program this fall.

Now that she's finished her own three-year program, with her master's in hand, with a new complement of skills, a new network of friends and a job she can use to improve lives across three counties, Lowry can stop to breathe occasionally.

"It was a challenge. I'm a single mom and I was working full-time. But I had an amazing family behind me," she says.

That she is already director of an important social services provider is in keeping with Lowry's assessment of herself. She



CHARITY LOWRY

says she knew she had administration in her future, if not quite this soon.

“Where I am now all goes back to my first internship,” she says. “I owe it all to the MSW program.” —J.M.

JASON MCLLOUD - Corning

Ten years ago when Jason McLoud, with his brand-new bachelor’s degree in psychology, started traveling from small town to small town in Steuben County, N.Y., checking on at-risk adolescents as a county preventive services caseworker, he’d had some training in interviewing and not much more than that.

He learned on the job—and he learned well, although he worries about cases he could have handled better during this education on the road. After seven years, he was promoted to supervisor of his unit, responsible for nine caseworkers providing PINS diversion and child protection services for the northern half of the sprawling, mostly rural county.

McLoud had just started the UB MSW program at the Corning extension campus, so he spent three more years on the road, traveling to class and to his field placements in Elmira, playing the theories he was studying against the realities of his job. He took what he learned at night to work in the morning; class discussion extended into discussions with co-workers.

“It really worked out for me,” he says about the MSW program. “It gave me a lot of ideas about how to improve functioning in my unit.” One that he’s working on now is developing a caseworker model to address deficiencies he sees in on-the-job education.

“We learn procedures just by being here,” he says. “We learn by trial and error, we learn from our peers—but they don’t always know the best way.”

McLoud guesses that few, possibly none, of his caseworkers could clearly describe the role of a caseworker—they know how to do the work but they haven’t had the benefit of learning from a formal model of casework. “It’s surprising. Social service departments are very bureaucratic but we don’t have a manual for how to do this work.”

Systemizing services was the subject of McLoud’s concluding field placement with Glove House in Elmira, N.Y., where he and a classmate worked on a manual of interventions for use with the adolescent population in the organization’s residential facilities.

The Glove House clinical director wanted a better assess-

ment tool to use with kids at intake, at mid-stay and when they left a residence. McLoud and his partner reduced the terminology of diagnoses and symptoms to a 15-item checklist of most common behavioral problems encountered with Glove House residents.

They also compiled activities and other interventions appropriate for the behavior problems on their checklist in order to more systematically coordinate assessment and programming.

His initial field placement had been in a Glove House residence, learning the fundamentals of counseling under the supervision of Kevin Murphy, the organization’s director of social work. During the first half of the placement, Murphy had McLoud simply establish himself as a presence in the house he was assigned to, watching and getting to know the 10 residents who ranged in age from 9 to 18, and letting them get to know him. For the second half of the placement, he would have been an understudy to the house social worker, but the social worker left and McLoud was in the deep end on his own. “It worked out,” he says. “It was a decent house with a good combination of kids.”

He especially values the skills he learned in cognitive behavioral therapy, for which he credits “some class work and a ton of work in the field,” and he says he might contemplate doing private therapy eventually.

McLoud is committed to his work in the county—“I’m into what I do”—and the county has been committed to him. The deputy commissioner of social services arranged for him to take UB courses at Corning as a nonmatriculated student some years ago and supported his tuition during the MSW program he just completed.

What the investment bought the county is a manager who describes himself as “totally energized” by the program. “I really feel smarter than I was,” McLoud says.

He also took away a heightened appreciation for something he already knew. When Buffalo-based faculty member Peter Sobota, MSW ’85, lectured on the role of social workers as deviants, standing apart in order to see from the perspective of the oppressed, he hit the heart of the matter for McLoud, an ex-rock-’n’-roller and self-described rebel. “That’s totally what I’m all about.”

Now he’d like to spread the benefit. He says that, ideally, he’d teach all his caseworkers what he learned in the MSW program. They could then better teach the parents they interact with, who could then better teach their children. In McLoud’s

vision, his MSW education will radiate out from the county offices in Bath, producing incrementally better outcomes for the children and adolescents his department serves. —J.M.

TOBI KEEFE - Buffalo

What better occupation for a social worker in the few weeks between receiving her MSW and starting a job that requires licensure than working the phone to make sure everything got done to secure a seat at a licensing exam in July.

Tobi Keefe, MSW '08, tracked her paperwork through UB and then talked it through the state Office of the Professions until she had the authorization number she needed. She spent her first career in sales, so she knows how to use the telephone.

In her new career, she will combine that well-developed skill and the new clinical skills she developed in the MSW program in a position as a member of the Veterans Administration national suicide prevention hotline team, based in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Keefe says that in all her years in sales, which she was good at, she was teased by something that didn't quite fit the role, something that felt awkward. Now she knows what it was. "In social work, we call it passion," she says.

When she was finishing the program, at the threshold of professional practice, one of her professors told her that she had found her voice. She was ready.



TOBI KEEFE

Two years before, Keefe had felt a little lost in a field of study in which everyone but her seemed to know the meaning of words like decompensate. She hadn't run into that one in sales. She knew how to "do" school, but the volume of work was daunting at first. It took a semester for her to understand what social work was about, but then she got it—and she liked what she understood. Earlier in her career, she'd completed a master's program in human resources development without ever

really finding coherence in it.

Keefe expected to gravitate toward older students in the MSW program but discovered that age wasn't a factor at all in developing friendships.

She was almost willfully ignorant of the world of social work when she started because her father had told her, when she was young, at a time when there were many fewer professional opportunities available to women, that whatever she did, she shouldn't be a social worker because she was too much of a bleeding heart. Now she knows that the technical term for bleeding heart is compassion.

Her father did not raise a shrinking violet. When Keefe started in sales, it was a man's field. She says that two of the hardest things she did in sales were getting in, and getting out. She finally had a conversation with a social worker friend who pushed her to seriously consider study for an MSW. She looked at programs in Rochester—she and her husband live in nearby Victor, N.Y.—including UB's Rochester extension program, and finally settled on UB in Buffalo because she wanted to complete the program in two years.

She spent two days a week in Buffalo, staying with a friend's daughter who was in medical school, and two days in the field nearer home, thanks to placements arranged by Shirley Reiser, MSW '76, coordinator of the UB Rochester extension. "A lot of things worked out really well," she says.

Among the circumstances that aligned was a foundation-year field placement in an inpatient acute mental health site at the Canandaigua Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It fit her interest in adult mental health. Keefe had the chance to see a considerable variety of patients and work with a multidisciplinary mental health team in a system that was its own network of services.

In her second-year field placement in an outpatient mental health clinic at Clifton Springs Hospital in Clifton Springs, N.Y., Keefe developed mental health counseling skills and learned to perform bio-psycho-social assessments. She says that time pressure—90 minutes total, 60 minutes with the client—made the assessments challenging. Those skills will be critical in her new job when Keefe is assessing and sorting calls coming from anywhere in the country, determining as soon as possible whether what she's hearing is an imminent problem.

"I love working with veterans," she says. The Iraq War has put veterans' issues in the news today, but the population includes elderly Second World War vets and aging Vietnam War

vets. Keefe says she expects to gain additional clinical perspective in her work with the VA.

She is joining a program that was started in August 2007 and had handled 37,200 calls and effected more than 720 rescues in its first eight months according to an April article in the *New York Times*. After a shakedown year, the hotline is adding licensed MSW staff to bolster its operations. Keefe was hired provisionally. She passed her first test: getting a seat at the licensing exam. Then she passed the real test. Now it's Tobi Keefe LMSW. —J.M.

MATT BUDD - Rochester

In each of the past two years, Matt Budd visited cultures very different from the one he knows in Rochester, N.Y., looking at them through the lens of a social work student. Last year he went to Kenya on a trip organized by the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. This year he visited the Dominican Republic on another service learning expedition funded by the school where he teaches.



MATT BUDD

Matt was studying in the Rochester extension MSW program at night and teaching fourth-grade students at the private Harley School in Rochester during the day.

The trips educated him in a way he hadn't expected: they sensitized him to the plight of poor people as mere objects of interest.

In Kenya, Matt visited many places but only for brief stops. He saw life in rural areas and in cities. And at the end of each day, he and his colleagues adjourned to a hotel where they were surrounded by fellow Americans.

On his second trip, he got it. Assisting a community would require immersion and commitment to the people living there. As much as his travels taught him about communities very different from his own, Matt was left with a stronger impression of the negative aspect of this type of trip. He realized that while the people he was seeing appreciate support from foreign groups and are open to visitors, they aren't living sculptures.

"They don't like it when groups come in for short periods,

some only an hour, because it demonstrates a lack of respect for those communities and those people," Matt says. He hopes he can use this lesson in the next stage of his development as a social worker.

Now that he has his degree, Matt hopes to find a part-time position—he'll keep his teaching job—working with children in an agency somewhere around Rochester. He would like to develop a program in which he could guide the same group for an entire year. He'd work with them on needs and support strengths during the school year and during the summer he'd expand their work into their own community and beyond. But not for just a quick visit.

Matt chose to get a UB MSW in Rochester after doing homework on the MSW selection available to him. He decided that UB offered the best program, and he couldn't improve on the location. "It all fell into place at the right time, because the program starts every three years and that happened to be the right time," he says. "With Buffalo having such a strong standing as an MSW program, no question, that's where I wanted to go."

For the immediate future, Matt will incorporate the skills and knowledge of his social work education and field experiences into his classroom. In both his internships—his first was at Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, and his second was with St. Joseph's Villa—he worked with a very different group of kids than his well-advantaged fourth graders.

At Berkshire Farm, he spent three days a week interacting with kids and helping them understand and exhibit appropriate social responses and to develop skills at making safe choices. At St. Joseph's Villa, where the agency focuses on a strength-based approach in working with children and families, Matt says, "We help them empower themselves and find resources and support within their community, so that eventually the client becomes successful without your support."

Matt says he may go back to school for more but first he wants to complete the incorporation of what he just learned into his teaching and his life.

"I think the MSW has been a great building block, and I hope it's not where I stop," he says. "I want to take everything I've gained and learned and continue to build on it. I feel like it's given me so many options, even things like going into research, which I would never have thought of doing before."

He calls the confidence he now feels going into interviews with a UB MSW in his pocket, "priceless." —Jessica Perkins ■

COMMENCEMENT 2008



(Above) Dean Nancy Smyth welcomes this year's proud graduates, their families and friends to the School of Social Work's 73rd commencement.

(Above right) How good does it feel to finish? Graduates celebrate their accomplishments with friends they've made along the way.

(Below) Selected by the faculty as one of this year's marshals, Barbara Rittner, associate dean for external affairs, leads the faculty into Commencement 2008.



DOCTORS OF STYLE

In 2006, social work doctoral students asked why UB academic robes were basic black. (So dull.) Being social workers, the school answered *Why, indeed!* and designed these elegant robes. (Don't ask, act.) A year later, the whole university adopted the new look. Now all UB doctoral graduates walk in high style.



Photos on this page: Nancy J. Parisi



Spreading the benefit

Extension programs train social workers who are needed where they live.

By Judson Mead

The two-year UB MSW program is conducted at a 30,000-student university in a metropolitan area with a population of more than 1.1 million. The pace, the hours, the parking, the field placements, the conversations are peculiar to that place.

So it is with the School of Social Work's MSW extension programs in Jamestown, Corning and Rochester—and that's their difference. The settings are different from Buffalo, and from each other; the students have different relationships with the programs; and the populations they work with—professionally and as master's students—may be quite different from the ones in Buffalo.

The three extension programs, which are now only two with the closing of the Corning program this August, just graduated their third cohort of students—Charity Lowry, Jason McLoud and Matt Budd among them (see story, Pages 4-8). Begun in 1999 and expanding on experimental extension courses UB had been offering in Corning for a few years, the programs enroll classes of about 30 once every three years.

Students move through the three-year programs together and then the cycle begins again. Classes that graduated in 2002, 2005 and this year account for almost 300 MSWs, many of whom work in Southern Tier and central New York counties and represent a significant homegrown cadre of master's-level social workers that wouldn't be available in these areas without the UB programs.

The extension MSW is designed for people who work full-time, many in social services positions, some in other fields who are planning career changes. Students complete the full MSW curriculum in three years, studying year round and taking classes and performing their field internships at night and on weekends. Buffalo-based social work faculty members teach some 60 percent of the extension courses, adjunct faculties of local practitioners the balance. Admission criteria and academic progress requirements are the same in the extension programs as in the Buffalo MSW program.

Unlike the Buffalo student, almost any Corning student—ranging from probation workers to child protective services caseworkers—could present cases from their weekday work for class discussion. Jason McLoud, a social services supervisor, says that these sessions fed right back into their jobs: social service workers already established in careers, listening and brainstorming about their work while they studied the next level of skills.

And the stories from such roundtables in Corning and Jamestown classrooms might sound foreign to Buffalo students, even the experienced social workers among them. Their Corning and Jamestown cousins live and study in a social services environment that is shaped by distance and low population density.

In an urban setting, there may be serious poverty and a great need for services, but there are many services and everyone is fairly close—and fairly visible. In a rural county—in Allegany County, for instance, with less than half the population of

Amherst, N.Y., spread across an area as large as Erie County—what services exist might be located in one or two towns, and the needs across the countryside are often invisible simply because no one is looking.

Jamestown program coordinator Elaine Hammond says that in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties the main problem is poverty, compounded by the related problems of isolation and the distance from services. But the population is far from homogenous: it includes a concentration of aging persons with persistent severe mental illness who are left over from shuttered state institutions; three distinct Hispanic populations with different needs from Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic; a large Amish community with complicated service issues; a Native American population with different needs depending on whether they live on or off Seneca Nation territory.

As with the Jamestown extension, Corning graduates work in an area where services are concentrated in a few larger towns, and the needs, ranging from hospice care to services for children in placements, are widely spread across the rural counties.

Michele Mayer, a family services social worker who coordinated the Corning extension through its final year, says the UB program has been a major influence in the surrounding counties. “The program has furthered the profession in this area,” she says.

She guesses that 85 percent of Corning graduates could not have arranged to earn degrees elsewhere while they worked. The Steuben County Department of Social Services used grant money to send employees through the program from its inception.

Mayer, who the final Corning cohort mordantly called “the closer,” says she is working to connect agencies that have been taking Corning MSW interns with the MSW program at Binghamton University, which is expected to expand into the area.

In Rochester, the purpose of the extension program is less immediately shaped by its surroundings, although it draws students from rural areas (more in the next cohort now that Corning is closed). This extension serves students with more choices than in Jamestown—there are two other MSW programs in the area and the Buffalo campus is only an hour away from the west side of Rochester. They come to combine the benefits of a major research university MSW program with the convenience of scheduling around full-time jobs.

Shirley Reiser, who has been coordinating the Rochester extension since it started nine years ago, has lots of company in the field when she is developing placement sites; and she has the

additional challenge of finding places that can accept interns who can work only at night and on weekends. With more students coming from rural areas, placements close to their home are complicated by the absence of licensed social workers to supervise their education.

“Rochester is blessed with a social work education community and social workers who strongly support collaboration,” Reiser says about her colleagues from other programs. In various combinations, they work together to hire and oversee traveling field educators paid by a state grant managed by the UB Rochester extension; and they have collaborated on a single set of field policies for their different programs.

In another innovative field arrangement, the Rochester extension compensates St. Joseph’s Villa, a large social services agency (and the location of the Rochester extension quarters), for both foundation and advanced field placements, which allows the agency to expand its services and its field education opportunities. The bond between the extension

and the agency is very tight: UB interns, on their own, recently raised enough money to save the house of one of the agency’s clients who is fostering four special needs children.

There is some movement of students between the UB campus and the Rochester and Jamestown extension programs: when students want to pursue a concentration other than health, mental health and disability, they come to Buffalo; occasionally, students start in Buffalo and go to Jamestown to be closer to where they intend to work.

In the instance of Tobi Keefe (see Page 7), who decided to take the two-year MSW program in Buffalo because she didn’t want to wait for the next cohort, even though she lives near Rochester in Victor, N.Y., her field education sites were arranged near Rochester with help from Reiser in the Rochester extension.

In Rochester, extension graduates disperse in the way of cities. But in Jamestown and Corning, most of the students in a cohort stay in their jobs, get promotions in their agencies, or take new jobs in the area. Hammond and Mayer both say that where they practice, everyone pretty much knows everyone else who is doing social services work. Students often know many others in their cohort coming in, and all know each other very well going out. ■



ELAINE HAMMOND

People People

Alumni Association News

Dear (new) fellow alumni,



Once again the SSW has launched another great class into the ranks of our profession—276 new MSWs, an extra large number with the completion of the extension program cycle (see the story beginning on Page 4). Our graduates will go out to serve the communities of Western New York and the Southern Tier and beyond in the state and

the nation as well prepared and committed professionals.

To the graduates: You are now part of our proud family of alumni. You will give voice and bring passion to our values and to our unique approach to working with individuals and families in the larger context of their environments.

You, our alumni—from the newest to the oldest—are a vital part of who we are. You work with us as field liaisons, as members of our advisory boards, and as enthusiastic supporters of the larger university community. You will depend on us to provide you with competent social workers to join your organizations in the future, and we will depend on you to build the future of social work as members of our Alumni Association.

It is an exciting time for both the school and the University at Buffalo. As we grow beyond our reputation as a fine regional school and become nationally and internationally recognized as a center of social work education excellence, I hope you will be right here as active members of the Alumni Association. You can join or renew your membership and explore the many opportunities for volunteerism by visiting these Web sites: www.alumni.buffalo.edu and www.socialwork.buffalo.edu.

As always, feel free to contact me at (716) 675-4263 or by e-mail at GovGirl55@aol.com.

Rita M. Andolina, MSW '88
Chair, UB School of Social Work Alumni Committee

Greetings to all!



There are some exciting programs in the works here at the school and I wanted to give you some inside information. We are currently working on joining and developing a local chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, a national honor society for

social work students. We will also be creating a Facebook page for the school as a place where students and alumni can connect and network. Watch the school's Web site and future issues of Mosaics for updates!

This issue of Mosaics tells the story of our off-campus MSW programs. These programs—in Jamestown, Rochester and Corning—are near and dear to my heart. As a former Jamestown program coordinator (2003-06) and as a resident of Jamestown, I know what a contribution such an accessible program can make in a rural community. By September 2008 we will have had nearly 275 students graduate from the three off-campus programs combined. This infusion of graduate-level social workers into the areas where they live has aided in the delivery of services to traditionally underserved rural and semirural communities.

I would guess that UB social work alumni are more plentiful in the rural areas of Western, Central and Southern Tier New York than any other MSW programs' alumni.

In this issue of Mosaics, Dean Smyth's column discusses the decision to close the Corning program. I cannot end my column without acknowledging the wonderful work and dedication of the past and present Corning coordinators, Antonia Kok, Karen Aikman and Michele Mayer. It is a privilege and an honor to know these educators as colleagues and friends.

Kathryn Kendall, MSW '95
Director of Recruitment and Alumni Relations

Development News

Honor the student



Another academic year has come to a successful close. The class of 2008 becomes the latest generation of gifted social workers in the ever-growing, accomplished group of alumni of the School of Social Work and the University at Buffalo.

On May 8, 2008, we honored students for academic achievement and commitment to social work practice. Most of the 17 awards presented that day were established by generous donors—former alumni and families—in memory of alumni and in recognition of faculty who made significant contributions to their fields. Several of these benefactors attended the event and told the stories of the remarkable persons in whose names the awards are given—enriching the experience for all in attendance.

Building the School of Social Work's scholarship resources is essential to relieve some of the financial burdens our students experience and to make it possible for us to compete for the best and the brightest. This year, more than 40 percent of our students will receive some type of financial assistance. But the pool is neither large enough to cover all our students who need assistance nor all the expenses of those we do fund. We need your

generous support to help us educate the next generation of social workers—not just those who can afford the education.

As director of development, I know that providing a rigorous education and helping students achieve career ambitions are achievable goals—but we need the scholarship resources to make it happen. Now I invite you, our newest alumni, to join your fellow alumni in supporting our scholarship fund.

We hope you will join the celebration of our 75th anniversary in October 2009. Reaching this milestone was made possible by the generosity of the friends, faculty and alumni who have invested in you, and, over the years, in all our alumni. This anniversary year, we are looking for all our alumni to become active scholarship supporters.

As always, I remain dedicated to you, the UB School of Social Work and the University at Buffalo.

MINNIE WYSE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

CLASSNOTES

Paula Allen-Meares (BS '69)

In January 2009, Paula will assume the position of chancellor at the University of Illinois—Chicago. Paula has been dean of the University of Michigan School of Social Work for the past 15 years.

Keith J. Frankel (BS '74)

In November 2006, Keith was elected Justice of the Peace for the San Marcos Justice Precinct in Chandler, Ariz. Keith

moved to Arizona in 1976 and received his MSW from Arizona State University in 1978. Before this career change, he worked in the field of behavioral health in management positions for more than 30 years, including a period as a surveyor for JCAHO.

James Coyle (MSW '81, PhD '05)

James is an assistant professor at the University of Windsor School of Social Work. In addition to developing and

teaching new courses on the topics of challenges in human development and professional writing for social work practice, James has received an internal grant to continue his research in family resilience in collaboration with the Buffalo Center for Social Research. James has also had an abstract accepted by the CSWE APM. His presentation will explore the use of resilience as a framework for developing social work interventions.

continued on next page »

Lillis McLean (MSW '85)

Active with AAUW, League of Women Voters, Kenmore Garden Club, and Seneca Falls National Women's Park, Lillis is planning a return trip to Tanzania in October 2008, 40 years after serving there in the Peace Corps.

Albert Saladino (MSW '87)

Albert was named 2008 Frances S. Engel Social Worker of the Year by the Western New York National Association of Social Workers. He is a professor of human services at Niagara County Community College; he works for Aspire Inc.; and he has founded an ensemble of musicians—with abilities and disabilities—called Universal Mind that has garnered significant local acclaim.

James Peinkofer, LCSW (MSW '91)

James recently published "Lilacs in the Rain: The Shocking Story of Connecticut's Shaken-Baby Serial Killer" (Rooftop Publishing, 2007). It recounts a story that captivated America in the 1950s and was the foundation for the 1972 medical journal article that first detailed Shaken Baby Syndrome. James is also the author of "Silenced Angels: The Medical, Legal, and Social Aspects of Shaken Baby Syndrome" (Greenwood, 2002). His new book's Web site: www.lilacsintherain.com.

Roselle Scaggs (MSW '94, PhD '04)

Roselle continues to teach in the graduate program at Edinboro University where she played an instrumental role in launching the first online MSW program in the Northwest Pennsylvania area. The program will enroll its first cohort this fall.

Pete Robbins, LCSW (MSW '97)

Pete has been working with the Western New York Health Care Campaign for three years. The purpose of the campaign is to bring "health care for all." He and other members of the campaign are working with the Coalition for Economic Justice to collect stories from individuals regarding the failures of the current health care system.

Sandra Hammond (MSW '98)

Sandy is currently the program coordinator for Children's Domestic Violence Services for Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Elaine M. Maccio, LCSW (MSW '98, PhD '04)

An assistant professor at the Louisiana State University School of Social Work, Elaine was the recipient of awards as an Outstanding Faculty and an Outstanding Feminist Activist. She is principal investigator for the projects "Personal and Social Characteristics of New Orleans' Homeless Youth" and "Human Diversity and Oppression Curriculum in Social Work Education."

Nancy Krtek (MSW '00)

Nancy works at Kaleida as an outpatient psychotherapist while maintaining a part-time private practice. Since graduation, she has obtained a doctor of naturopathy degree, which allows her to utilize integrative techniques (such as energy work) in conjunction with more traditional types of therapy.

Elizabeth Coleman (MSW '03)

Elizabeth is starting a PhD program at Arizona State University. She will be funded through an NIH grant to the

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center for a study of parity in health/mental health and substance abuse.

Sarah Gordy (MSW '03)

Sarah has received a M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church in December 2006. She is now an assistant at Trinity Church in Buffalo, where, among other duties, she works with community organizers and seeks to build her congregation's sensitivity to the needs of the city.

Sean Knoche (MSW '03)

Sean continues to work at Kaleida Health, where he has joined the Mentally Ill/Chemically Addicted department trauma team. He recently trained in EMDR, is learning dialectical behavioral therapy and is running DBT groups and schema focused groups, integrating substantial mindfulness practice with them.

Shatasha Black (MSW '04)

Shatasha is currently pursuing a PhD in counseling psychology while working for Catholic Charities' kinship unit with relatives who are caretakers of children in their extended families. She worked as a social worker supervising visits between birth parents and their children in foster care.

CONTACT US!

Tell your fellow alumni what you're doing through *Mosaics* Classnotes section.
Please send your news to ssw-alum@buffalo.edu.

What was it like then?

The School of Social Work History Project has developed into a story about the stories of social workers and about the way the school has changed.

By Jessica Perkins

Because the stories in the History Project are real, some of the characters in them are frustrated by their experiences with the school and with the profession, others are excited about their education and the paths it set them on. As any social worker knows, that's life.

The earliest stories predate the birth of the parents of the current generation of MSW students. George Lankes, MSW '40, remembers when student loans were unheard of. At the end of the Depression and the beginning of WWII, "everyone felt the financial pinch. The cost per graduate credit hour was expensive. Was it \$10 or \$20 per credit hour?"

In a story from the 1950s, Charles Guzzetta, MSW '54, reminds readers how far the school has come—or at least traveled. For anyone missing the "good ol' days," he remembers that "classes met [downtown] in Townsend Hall, a broken-down building near the Law School and City Hall. They tell me it's a parking lot now. We could not have classes above the second story because of the danger of the floor giving way."

From the 1960s and early 70s, there are heady stories about the role of protest and about the people in the SSW who were advocates of social change. Gary Mathews (a research associate from 1969 to 1973) writes about a famous police raid: "The students massed in front of Foster Hall. The city police massed on Main Street, and for the first time in the history of the university, as far as I know, the police came charging up the hill, shooting canisters of tear gas and swinging their batons. The students came pouring through Foster Hall,

seeking to flee. I asked [dean] Frank Zweig what he was going to do. He said, 'I don't know about you, but I am going through that window,' pointing to the back side of the building."

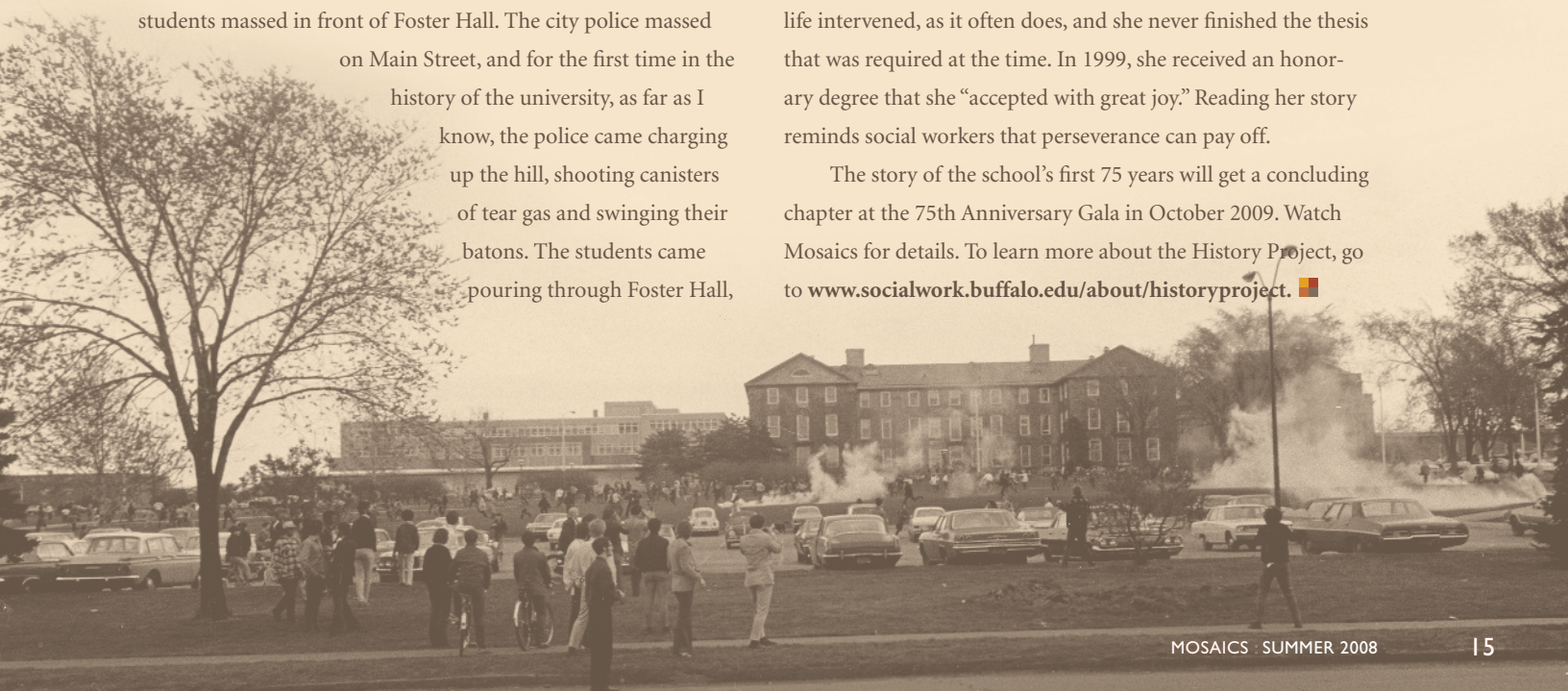
Others recall those turbulent days as a wonderful time to be a social work student. "Our education suddenly became the realities of the world around us. It included things like a sit-in at the welfare department in downtown Buffalo in support of the families who had to sit there for many hours (or days) to wait to see a worker. We learned that social workers are agents of change," says Marian Roffman, BSW '69, MSW '71.

If you are old enough to remember when Gestalt therapy was all the rage, you can relate to the story Will Fudeman, MSW '76, tells about how frustrated he was by the denial of his request to do an independent study in Gestalt. Like a good social worker, he recognizes that confronting authority and pursuing cutting-edge practice was the right thing to do.

Bonnie Collins, MSW '80, writes about an important part of her student experience: "I particularly enjoyed my field placement with a student unit at DSS under the supervision of Professor Gerry Miller."

Ruth Bateman may have taken the longest time in the history of the school to finally get a degree. She started in 1940, but life intervened, as it often does, and she never finished the thesis that was required at the time. In 1999, she received an honorary degree that she "accepted with great joy." Reading her story reminds social workers that perseverance can pay off.

The story of the school's first 75 years will get a concluding chapter at the 75th Anniversary Gala in October 2009. Watch Mosaics for details. To learn more about the History Project, go to www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/about/historyproject. ■



New Faculty

Kelly Patterson, PhD, has joined the SSW as an assistant professor. For the past four years, she has been an assistant professor of urban and regional planning in UB's School of Architecture and Planning. Although her research and background are in planning, not social work, Patterson sees an interest in social justice and social equity in both disciplines.

"If you are an advocacy planner or an equity planner, you share values with social workers: fighting for social justice, looking to develop poor inner-city communities, looking at housing issues," Patterson says. She has focused on housing policy, specifically the effectiveness of Section 8 policy in this region as a means for "deconcentrating" poverty, something that it has failed to do. The issue drew her to social work.

Patterson says that deconcentration is failing in part because recipients of Section 8 housing vouchers typically rely on other social services as well. Poorer people do not want to leave the city where they are networked into the social service delivery system because they are not familiar with how to get the same services elsewhere. Through her research,

Patterson hopes to better understand this phenomenon and work toward ways to implement the transition from inner-city services to services in other areas of the region, in order to facilitate real deconcentration.

"When people are moved to a completely different environment, the administrators of Section 8 are not following up to find out if they have located other services they need," Patterson says. This often causes people who have located housing outside the city to return.

Patterson looks forward to examining this issue from the social work perspective. "Instead of focusing solely on policy, I can start to look at the people, at the groups I'm talking about," she says.

She says she was attracted to the School of Social Work by the "possibility of getting more students interested in a more macrostructural look at these disenfranchised groups because in a clinical setting you're one-on-one with a client and if you know the context where they are coming from, you can better help them."

Patterson is excited to join a school with so many other passionate faculty mem-



KELLY PATTERSON, PHD,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

bers who love to teach. "At a research university, that's unique, so I feel the social work students here are really benefiting from the fact that you've got a very energetic faculty and they're very committed to social work education," she says. "I'm really excited about teaching courses that deal with not only social equity and justice, but policy advocacy—about the role of social workers as advocates for these groups." ■

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