

# Mosaics

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News from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work

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Social workers with legal tools, lawyers with heart. PAGE 4

# Mosaics

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[www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu)

The University at Buffalo is a premier public research university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Social Work is one of 12 schools that make UB New York's leading public center for graduate and professional education.

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## Winging it in San Francisco

The 11th annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, "Bridging Disciplinary Boundaries," took place in San Francisco in January. School of Social Work faculty presenters included Tom Nochajski, Mansoor Kazi, Barbara Rittner and Wooksoo Kim. Current and past PhD presenters included Brian Pagkos, Heidi Milch and Nicole Tomasello.

Dean Nancy Smyth hosted a reception for a large gathering of UB School of Social Work friends and alumni, who enjoyed the evening remembering Buffalo days, with inspiration supplied by some Anchor Bar chicken wings shipped to San Francisco for the occasion.



Catherine Dulmus, associate professor and director of the Buffalo Center for Social Research, chats with UB alumni Paul Smokowski (MSW '95), associate professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, and John Bricout (MSW '94), who holds a joint appointment as an assistant professor of social work and occupational therapy at Washington University in St. Louis.

## Clinical supervision conference

The Third International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision, hosted by the University at Buffalo, will be held June 7–9 at the Marriott Hotel in Amherst, N.Y.

The conference is devoted to clinical supervision theory, practice and research, and focuses on core issues in clinical supervision that cut across professional disciplines. The conference is an opportunity for practitioners and researchers from several disciplines—psychologists (including school, counseling and clinical psychologists), social workers, nurses, marriage and family therapists, psychiatrists, substance abuse counselors, counselor educators, speech therapists, and other mental health professionals and educators—to meet and to learn from each other about current issues, practice and research findings related to clinical supervision of students and practitioners.

There will be preconference workshops on June 7 presented by Frederick Reamer (Rhode Island College) on "Ethical and Risk-management Issues in Clinical Supervision: Protecting Clients, Supervisors and Agencies"; Thomas Nochajski (University at Buffalo) on research grant writing for NIH agencies; and DiAnne Borders (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) on networking for clinical supervision researchers.

The conference offers three streams of sessions: clinical supervision practice, clinical supervision research and matters of interest to graduate student researchers.

Plenary sessions will include presentations by Frederick Reamer ("The Ethics of Supervision: What Every Clinical Supervisor Needs to Know"); David Powell ("Evidence-Based Practices and the Clinical Supervisor"); and Sandra A. Rigazio-DiGilio ("Towards the Operationalization of Cultural and Contextual Competencies in Clinical Supervision: A Marriage and Family Therapy Model").





## FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

There will also be a presentation of juried papers with an emphasis on empirical findings, theory construction and supervision practice; poster sessions and workshops on clinical supervision practice; and informal round table discussions on "Hot Topics in Clinical Supervision." For the schedule, program information, continuing education credits, hotel information, etc., go to [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/csconference](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/csconference).

### VISA Center addresses behaviors

The School of Social Work has entered into an agreement with the Buffalo Public Schools to provide specialized group treatment and violence-prevention programs to help students who have been suspended return to their regular classrooms.

The programs will be offered through the VISA Center (Vision-Integrity-Strategy-Accountability) at Buffalo's new Academy School @ 44, which opened in September to serve students with social, emotional or educational difficulties that prevent them from succeeding in their regular classrooms.

The VISA Center builds on eight years of UB research into the causes of and solutions to disruptive and at times violent behavior in the classroom. It is part of a project of the recently established UB Center for the Study and Prevention of School Violence, headed by Lawrence Shulman, professor of social work.

In addition to their academic work, students referred to the VISA Center receive structured individual and group treatment programs that include instruction in conflict resolution, anger management, self-esteem and other personal issues that prevent the student from succeeding in the classroom. Individual and family counseling or referrals to community agencies also are provided, where appropriate.



Buffalo Public Schools' new Academy School @ 44 is the site of the School of Social Work's VISA Center.

The VISA Center is staffed by a violence-prevention specialist and an MSW group therapist. In the fall, graduate students in the School of Social Work will be placed as interns in the school to assist with student treatment and counseling. Prior to being admitted to the VISA Center, both students and parents or guardians meet with the VISA staff to discuss the program as part of an intake process that identifies student problems and strengths and to set goals to be achieved. ■

Engagement in the community may be an important part of every professional school, but it is the driving force for the UB School of Social Work. In this issue, we highlight the vital contributions to the community made by graduates of our JD/MSW program. This unique group of alumni blend their education in social work and law to practice in a variety of settings and in a range of capacities as advocates for responsive policies and practices for the most vulnerable and disenfranchised members of society.

We believe that if we ask our students to commit to changing communities, then we must be active in changing the community. Every member of our faculty and professional staff influences communities in multiple ways: sharing expertise on an agency or professional association board of directors, conducting research projects in partnership with community agencies, reviewing and editing articles for social workers and other professionals all over the world, writing books that educate the next generation of social workers in the U.S. and abroad (for example, in China!), among many other activities.

In the same way that we give to our communities, our community of donors and friends gives to us. We have received many generous gifts (see pages 12-15) from people who are engaged with the School of Social Work and who make it possible for us to continue to make a difference in people's lives.

Nancy J. Smyth, PhD, LCSW



## The graduation issue

Graduation is a joyous time at the School of Social Work. We say good bye to a whole class of students, they say hello to the world.

In the next issue, we'll look under the mortarboard and profile a few members of the class of '07.

We'll introduce you to some extraordinary men and women whom we think you'll be proud to welcome into the ranks of your fellow alumni.



KC Kratt

# Trained for good

*Dual degree in law and social work produces varied careers*

UB's four-year JD/MSW program trains persons to practice law or social work—or both—with the expectation that their careers will be informed by a deep understanding of both law and society. Here are six accounts of what our dual-degree graduates are doing with their two-edged education, beginning with attorney Andrew Radack, above.

By Lisa Game and Jonathan Havey

## TWO SKILL SETS—WITH A BRIGHT LINE BETWEEN THEM

Andrew Radack (JD/MSW '97, opposite page), thought he had to choose between law and social work—that it was one or the other. When he arrived at UB to study law, he discovered to his amazement that he could have both.

“I had worked at Job Corps. I had worked at a children’s home. I had worked at Changing Seasons—an alcohol and drug facility—as a criminal justice specialist. I worked with MICA (Mental Illness and Chemical Addiction) clients, prostitutes, criminal justice clients, and cases with alcohol and drug addicts. I also did a year in a psychiatric hospital as their addictions specialist.”

Radack decided to round himself out with an MSW concentration in Children and Youth. But he’s not entirely out of the addictions field.

Besides being an attorney, he is also a village justice for Silver Creek, New York, and he sees drunk drivers in his courtroom. “I try to integrate my social work degree into my profession with the addictions piece. I’m able to help defendants in front of me as well as my clients. I push a lot of people into getting the treatment they need and getting on probation instead of going to jail.”

The children and family aspect comes into play in Radack’s role as a law guardian where he represents both neglected children and children charged with crimes in family court.

Having an MSW makes communicating with clients easier, although Radack is firm about the boundaries between social work and legal work. “I don’t play their therapist, but I can refer them to counseling. I can tell them what I think

they need and I can get them help if they want it, and if they don’t, that’s fine too. I always suggest, though, that it’s in their best interest to stay out of jail if they can show the court that they’re doing something regarding counseling or treatment.”

As much as he enjoys it, Radack’s job does have its drawbacks. He explains some of the negatives: “My areas of law—criminal law and family law—are two of the most emotionally demanding areas. Usually, nobody’s happy with you. In criminal law, they’re disillusioned with the system, they hate the judges, and they hate the legal system. In family law—especially in cases of neglect—they’re going to be upset with the social worker, the caseworkers, child protection services, the judge, and me, so that’s a little discouraging.” Radack adds that after about six months of insomnia he learned not to take it personally.

“From a professional standpoint, you need to be one step ahead of your clients,” he says. He believes that someone is always out there to help when needed. “I think that when the pupil is ready, the teacher will appear—that’s true with self-help groups, law, social work and counseling.”

## POLICY WONK AND JUSTICE

Carolyn Siegel (JD/MSW '99), seemed destined for her current job as a coordinator of policy services at Erie 1 BOCES. Not long after she graduated from the joint degree program, she happened to see an ad in the paper seeking a certified teacher with knowledge of education law and/or school district operation.

“I’m a certified teacher,” she says. “I was president of Springville-Griffith Institute’s school board and a member for 15 years, and education law wasn’t going to be a problem. This was a perfect fit. My

hand went up in the air and I said, ‘Oh, that job’s for me.’”

Working with five policy associates, Siegel helps develop school district manuals for more than 340 school districts in the state. Siegel enjoys the research and writing her job requires, but likes the people best. “They’re just fantastic,” she says. “They’re from all over the state, and you’d think there would be some differences or conflicts, but it all runs very smoothly.”



Carolyn Siegel '99

Siegel says both sides of her dual degree program are important in her work: “My educational preparation from the community concentration gave me a deeper understanding of how the development of policies at the local, state and national levels impacts individuals as well as systems. This understanding of the mezzo and macro impact of policy decision-making encourages me to anticipate, as much as possible, the unintended consequences of policies I develop for school districts. My courses in organizational development helped me understand the structure of various organizational entities and helped me appreciate the challenges of dealing with large and small bureaucracies.”

At home in the town of Colden, Siegel serves as a part-time town justice.



She deals with traffic cases and an occasional criminal case. Her social work background has a role in this work too. “I try to do some degree of restorative justice rather than just penalizing people. In cases with addictions, such as DWIs, we do have the ability to send people to drug court in Amherst or Lackawanna. But when the problem doesn’t seem as serious, I have them meet with me monthly so I can check in and see how they’re doing.”

A recent career highlight was her participation in a group admission to the U.S. Supreme court bar with the New York State Women’s Bar Association. Siegel even had the chance to meet Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg after the admission ceremony.

Siegel has no second thoughts about her late-career decision to invest in a JD/MSW. “When I applied, I figured I would either end up as a social worker with clout or an attorney with a heart—and in my job at BOCES and my position as a judge, I sometimes get to be both,” she says.

### A HAND FOR THE HOPELESS

Jorien Brock (JD/MSW ’03), an attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services, got the best of two worlds in the JD/MSW program: “Social work provided a heart for law and law provided some of the authority for social work.”

She says that, unfortunately, social workers still run into obstacles because of old biases about the profession. “The combination of the two degrees seemed like a good fit for what I wanted to do.”

Brock completed the community concentration in her MSW program. “That’s where my heart is,” she says, “focusing on systemic-level social change and organized social change, but making sure to keep the macro level issues in

mind. With the law, I focused on social justice issues.”

In law school, Brock worked on a large class-action lawsuit regarding poor elderly people in nursing homes who were being taken advantage of financially. This helped her realize that she wanted to focus on issues of poverty, homelessness and marginalized populations. That led her to Neighborhood Legal Services.



Jorien Brock '03

Brock works on the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Homeless Outreach Project that helps homeless people find a stable source of income and then use that income to make necessary changes in their lives. There are two main pieces to her job: “We go out to the various homeless shelters in the area and talk with people who think that they may have SSI claims. We also work on helping people secure public assistance benefits through the Department of Social Services so they have something to live on while they’re waiting

for their SSI claim to come through.”

Brock spends time with clients to ensure they are receiving the right benefits in the amount they’re entitled to, and helps them resolve issues or problems that may arise.

She says she wishes people in her professional communities, whether the legal community or the social work community, were more aware of the possibili-

ties of working with a JD/MSW. “The skills we bring from a social work perspective are invaluable for facilitating the communication part of legal work,” she says. “Whether you’re working with clients or institutions or government agencies, the MSW portion provides a much broader range of possibilities within the work community.”

Brock is frustrated by the injustice of homelessness and poverty, but she stays positive. “It’s wonderful to see progress being made and the changes you can bring to a person’s life. These people are in crisis—so to be able to bring relief and help them secure the resources they need

is a powerful thing. When they’re able to secure a benefit for themselves or they’re able to move into a new apartment and out of the shelters, or when they take the next step in their SSI application—it’s a big deal and it’s nice to be a part of that.”

### WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS ‘JOB ONE’

“I wasn’t ever planning on being your typical litigating attorney, and the reason I opted for the JD/MSW program was so that I could do something more creative

with both degrees,” says Christa Foschio-Bebak (JD/MSW ’01), Court Improvement Project (CIP) coordinator for the 8th Judicial District. “I really wanted to focus on policy initiatives, grass-roots organizing and planning.”

Now she’s improving child welfare outcomes in a collaborative, systematic way that allows her to use both law and social work skills.

The Court Improvement Project, in collaboration with Erie County’s Department of Social Services, works to improve both the way the court handles such cases and the system itself. “We identify child welfare issues and develop projects around them,” Foschio-Bebak says. “Right now we’re working on a project with the child welfare community and the Buffalo Public Schools regarding foster care youth and the impact of foster care on their education.”



**Christa Foschio-Bebak '01**

Court Attorney Referees is another one of CIP’s projects: the referees review cases every 30 to 60 days in order to lessen the burden on family court judges and make things easier on the families involved in the cases.

The CIP also serves as a community liaison. “We try to improve relationships



**Sara Meerse '96**

in the community so that people can recognize that family court, while sometimes punitive, is advantageous in many respects to the families involved,” she says.

Foschio-Bebak focuses on child welfare and permanency; her community outreach efforts include foster care and adoption agencies, regional offices for Children and Family Services, the Department of Social Services, and the Buffalo Public Schools.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her work is being involved in a cause that can generate positive outcomes for foster care youth. “A lot of times, people attach a stigma to foster care and assume that these kids are bad or did something wrong, when they’ve come into the system because of the adverse circumstances of their family situation,” she says.

Foschio-Bebak chose the JD/MSW program in order to combine community outreach with policy, but she says that the combination wasn’t seamless. “The hard part is being able to negotiate who you are and where you fit within both degree programs and appreciating that, at times, the two schools may have an entirely different approach to the same issue.”

## CHERISH THE CHILDREN

When Sara Meerse (JD/MSW ’96) arrived in Presque Isle, Maine on May 7, 1995, to begin a summer internship in rural legal services with Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA), a statewide nonprofit corporation providing legal assistance to low-income Mainers, there were three inches of snow on the ground. It was the first of many surprises, mostly welcome.

Ironically it was snow that started Meerse’s journey to law school when it forced her to detour through O’Brien Hall, home of UB Law, on her way to the School of Social Work. As she walked through the Law School’s corridors, she saw interesting course titles such as “Terrorism in the Home.” It wasn’t long before she applied to the JD/MSW program.

In law school she acquired “a sense of outrage” at laws that were unfair, and she learned that you can fight back. She also learned how to persuade. In the MSW program, she took the opportunity for in-depth exploration of critical and controversial issues in child welfare.

Meerse was awarded a highly sought two-year fellowship from the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, which funds “gradu-

ating law students who wish to devote their professional lives to providing legal services to the poor... as well as those deprived of their civil or human rights.” Returning to Presque Isle, she worked with families on legal issues involving housing, health care and education. She eventually moved south to PTLA’s Bangor office, and then farther south to the Portland office.

In Portland, Meerse was one of the creators of Kids Legal, a project within PTLA, and has been its directing attorney since its inception in May 2004. Kids Legal focuses exclusively on issues impacting Maine’s low-income children and youth and represents teens and parents in cases where an attorney is not provided by the state. Cases may address access to and participation in appropriate school programming for special-education, truant, or disciplined students; homeless and/or unaccompanied youth; health-related matters, and other issues on the margin of social work and law.

Kids Legal has become a center for Maine community providers and attorneys to contact for consultations and trainings. Meerse is also responsible for a medical partnership with the Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital in Portland, training medical providers to screen for environmental factors impacting a child’s health and then to refer those patients to Kids Legal for representation.

Meerse considers law and social work a perfect match—not only because of the shared skill sets in working with people but because their values also intersect to a surprising degree. “Social work is about improving quality of life for individuals, families and groups,” she says. “Law is about ensuring not only that laws are

enforced but also that citizens know what their rights are, which is definitely a quality-of-life issue.” She says that legal services has to be about access, “otherwise, it’s a system of haves and have-nots.”

Meerse particularly enjoys working with “hard teens.” She says, “Many of the kids I represent don’t look desirable: they’re in court, they use drugs, they fight, are homeless, they have children themselves.” She uses her social work skills to develop relationships with these kids and her legal skills to advocate for them. “I can say, ‘Hey, this kid is salvageable. This kid is part of your community. Here’s what you can do; and here’s what you need to do.’”

Her detours through O’Brian Hall and Northern Maine finally led Meerse to exactly where she wants to be. She says that pursuing the combined training in law and social work “was the best decision I ever made for myself. This is really my calling. Kids Legal is my dream job. I get to work with kids and poor people. It keeps me on my edge, makes me feel alive. Even on a hard day, I love this work.”

## AND NOW, THE FUTURE

“Most people with a JD/MSW degree go into public service, for obvious reasons,” Stacy Tromble says. But her path will be different. “I came here from public service, so I want to see the corporate side of things and then maybe go back.”

As constituent relations associate in the Erie County Executive’s office, Tromble saw a lot of clients who had profound problems and challenges in their lives. She wasn’t equipped to help them as much as she would have liked, so she decided to go back to school. Actually, two schools.

Tromble chose the Health/Mental Health concentration in the MSW

program; to balance that, she pursued the litigation concentration in the Law School.

“A great asset of having both legal and social work training is that one discipline sheds light on the other,” Tromble says. “For instance, I was able to study health law with insight into how the letter of the law and the policies behind that law impact peoples’ lives.”



Stacy Tromble '07

The dual-degree program has helped open some doors for Tromble. She will be working for a top-50 law firm in Washington, D.C., beginning in the fall of 2007, and she emphasizes the importance of the dual focus in her career.

“The firm that I’m joining takes pro bono work very seriously and devotes a lot of resources to representing those who are in need,” she says. “This past summer, I was able to work on several pro bono cases and my social work background really came in handy. I look forward to having the opportunity to practice health care litigation while at the same time give back to the community. For me, this is the best of both worlds.” ■



# Faculty Profile

## Managing to Make a Difference

By Lisa Game

**K**athleen A. Kost, associate professor and associate dean for academic affairs and director of the MSW program for the School of Social Work, was working as a volunteer director of a community-based hospice program in Boyne City, Mich., when she went back to school to get a social work degree and a master's in public affairs.

"During those degree programs I had to take a lot of classes with PhD students and, boy, was that a lot of fun," she says. So she did that next, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She joined the UB faculty in 1994 and became associate dean in 2005.

The focus of Kost's research is the needs of nonprofits and how they deliver services to disadvantaged groups. "The majority of my work is centered on a population that is the working poor or the very poor," she says. "I have found that, very often, the agencies that serve these groups do not have sufficient infrastructure support." In other words, agencies serving the most needy may be the most needy themselves in such areas as grant writing, auditing or strategic planning.

"They have a lot of good intentions, but little experience in management or administration," Kost says. These problems led to an examination of how the UB School of Social Work may be able to provide training, support and consulting services. From this idea came the Institute for Nonprofit Agencies, initially funded by the John R. Oishei Foundation and spearheaded by Lawrence Shulman, professor and former School of Social Work dean, and by the UB School of Management.

Kost has been director of the institute since 2001. In addition to assistance with grant writing, administration, human resources and financial management, the institute helps to raise awareness about ways nonprofits can creatively pool money and bring in resources, how they can collaborate with other nonprofits to share the delivery of services and how to share needed activity within an agency.

The institute has also informed the school's joint degree programs: "I have had the opportunity to establish relationships with the faculty in the law and management schools, and we started to look at what we could really do to infuse those disciplines with a social work perspective," Kost says. The MBA/MSW program is designed to allow graduates to take on roles, such as executive director of a non-profit agency while the JD/MSW program integrates a human service perspective into the legal profession.

"Social workers have a very holistic view of individuals and communities, and are more likely to see connections to a need or opportunity than someone in another discipline might be able to," she says. "In the realm of the MBA/MSW, it's about safeguarding the delivery of services that are sorely needed but that may not be cost-effective. With the JD/MSW it's the ability to probe beyond the legal issues to see what may be a contributing factor to those legal issues."

Despite administrative responsibilities, Kost still conducts research projects. She's currently working with a former PhD student, Robin Ersing, now an assistant professor at the University of South Florida, on surviving disaster and the role of social networks. She is also finalizing an article on the Institute for Nonprofit Agencies' work with the community.

As an expert on what organizations need in order to thrive, Kost likes the one she works in. "Under Dean Nancy Smyth's guidance and direction, we've been able to create a culture that reflects the best of our profession—one that is supportive, that holds people accountable in a reasonable fashion, and that allows them to have time to think the 'big' thoughts." ■



Kathleen A. Kost

# People People

## Alumni Association News

### Greetings to all ...



I recently had the pleasure of helping to organize a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial observance for the Western New York region, held on January 12, 2007 on the Buffalo State College campus. This annual event challenges Americans to remember, celebrate, and most importantly act to address those issues for which Dr. King and others gave their lives. UB President John B. Simpson, the keynote speaker this year, assisted us in making the celebration of Dr. King's birthday an affirmation of nonviolent education, community service and diversity.

Few Americans have had as much impact upon our country's consciousness as Dr. King. His teachings continue to inspire us to choose important courses of action that improve our communities, such as volunteerism and other forms of civic service. Our observance ceremony continues to improve its goal of helping people learn about Dr. King's historic civil rights legacy and his principles of nonviolence.

As part of the observance events, we invited area school children to participate in an essay writing/fine arts contest. The contest was an educational opportunity that encouraged students to apply Dr. King's six principles of nonviolence to their lives.

As social workers, we exemplify Dr. King's belief in the potential and challenges of individuals in communities. Much like him, we apply our professional knowledge and skills to help people make effective use of their strengths.

Membership in our alumni association is another form of community building. I encourage you to join the alumni association if you haven't already, or to renew your membership. Doing so will help further the mission of our school and the university. Please feel free to contact me at (716) 675-4263 or by e-mail at GovGirl55@aol.com.

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

### ... from both of us!



I'm the School of Social Work's new director of recruitment and alumni relations. This is my third role with the school.

My first social work employment was at the inpatient mental health unit of Woman's Christian

Association (WCA) Hospital in Jamestown, N.Y., where I worked with Mary Bosek, MSW '88, and Carol Wright, MSW '92. There I was introduced to crisis intervention, in and outpatient mental health services, and the value of a UB MSW degree (I'm a proud 1995 alumna).

I eventually became codirector of WCA Hospital's outpatient mental health clinic, and then moved on to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center in a shared staff position assigned to the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene (CCMH). At CCMH, I found my path crossing with the School of Social Work once again when I began teaching as an adjunct in UB's off-campus program in Jamestown, coordinated by Sandra Anderson, MSW '90.

My UB story does not end there. After Sandra retired, I jumped at the opportunity to serve as coordinator of the Jamestown program. For the next three years I happily toiled away, and then, in the fall of 2006, I became the director of recruitment and alumni relations.

Now I find myself gearing up for my biggest challenge yet—*you!* We have over 4,400 graduates, and I want to hear from each of you. Where are you living, what are you doing, what do you want your alma mater to do for you? If I arrive at my office on Monday morning and find 4,400 e-mails waiting for me, fantastic. So fire away! My e-mail address is [ssw\\_alum@buffalo.edu](mailto:ssw_alum@buffalo.edu). I'll be there.

Kathryn Kendall  
Director of Recruitment and Alumni Relations

## CLASSNOTES

### **Elaine Hammond (MSW '02 Jamestown)**

Elaine joined the UB SSW team last fall as the Jamestown off-campus coordinator. Elaine's most recent position was as a psychiatric social worker for the Chautauqua County Mental Hygiene Department in Jamestown, N.Y.

### **Carna Chamberlin (MSW '05 Jamestown)**

Carna accepted a position with Hospice of Chautauqua County in August 2006. She continues to volunteer at Family Services as facilitator for the Friend-to-Friend Grief Support Group.

### **Kenneth J. Herrmann (MSW '75)**

According to the foreign affairs department of the Da Nang City, Vietnam, Web site: "Standing People's Committee vice-chairman Tran Phuoc Chinh had

talks with Prof. Kenneth J. Herrmann Jr. from the U.S.'s SUNY-Brockport and director of SUNY-Brockport program on 9 January 2007. On this occasion, vice-chairman Chinh presented the certificate of merit of the Da Nang People's Committee chairman to Prof. Herrmann for his great contributions to the city's socioeconomic development."

### **Eugenia (Jeannie) Steven (MSW '08)**

Jeannie has published a commentary in the journal *Social Work* on the book *The Careless Society: Community and Its Counterfeits* by John McKnight.

Jeannie's article, "Perspective Analysis: McKnight's 'Careless Society' and the Strength-Based Approach to Social Work," compares the strength-based approach with McKnight's assertions that helping-industries supplant family and community; that often helping-

professionals hold themselves out as the experts in clients' lives; and that clients are merely passive recipients in the helping process. She points out that in strength-based models, clients are actively involved in goal-setting and treatment planning, and that family and community resources are utilized whenever possible. Her article also reminds us that "the service industry" consists of individuals who cannot be stereotyped any more than other groups of people who share a certain commonality.

### CONTACT US!

Tell your fellow alumni what you're doing through *Mosaics* Classnotes section. Please send your news to [ssw\\_alum@buffalo.edu](mailto:ssw_alum@buffalo.edu).

## UB MSW appointed New York State "crime czar"

In January, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer appointed Denise O'Donnell (MSW '73) criminal justice director, to oversee all the state's law enforcement agencies and be Spitzer's top criminal justice advisor. She will manage 40,000 people in agencies that have a total budget of \$4 billion. In addition to her MSW, O'Donnell also has a UB law degree.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton nominated O'Donnell to be the first woman to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. She held the post until 2001.

In a January 12, 2007 article about the appointment, *The Buffalo News* quoted former U.S. Attorney Patrick NeMoyer, now a New York State Supreme Court judge who O'Donnell served as chief assistant, saying that she brings more than a prosecutor's perspective to the job: "She brings a real humanistic approach." The article also quoted O'Donnell saying that her social work background will help efforts to reduce recidivism rates by criminals and with programs to help young people avoid turning to crime. "So



many of those areas that I worked on [as a social worker] play such a pivotal role in the criminal justice system," O'Donnell told the *News*.



# Development News

## You make us proud



Our graduates possess uncommon ability and a commitment to improving lives. The 4,400 alumni of the UB School of Social Work make a difference in the lives of their clients and the communities in which they live and work.

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Future students seeking a degree from the School of Social Work will have access to more scholarship assistance, thanks to a recent bequest of more than \$400,000 from alumna Jean Schumacher Cook. She passed away on Nov. 23, 2005.

Cook, a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social sciences in 1939 and 1957, respectively. She established the scholarship fund in memory of her late husband, Col. William G. Cook, a 1927 graduate of UB. Col. Cook was the recipient of a scholarship when he was a student, and the couple wanted to ensure that future social work students receive scholarship assistance.

We are grateful to Jean Cook for the foresight she showed in planning for this gift, said Dean Nancy J. Smyth. Because of her generosity, more graduate students will receive financial help.

# Faculty Service

Faculty Who Serve on Boards, Commissions and Committees

**Howard Doueck**

Member, Board of Directors, Parent Network of WNY, Inc.

**Catherine Dulmus**

Member, Community Advisory Board, Buffalo State College, Social Work Department

Member, Clinical Board of Directors, American Board of Mental Health Specialists

Member, SSWR Presidential Task Force on Publications

Member, CSWE National Nominating Committee

Member, CSWE Council on External Relations

**Diane Elze**

Member, Commission for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice, Council on Social Work Education

Member, Board of Directors, Men of Color Health Awareness Project, Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y.

Chair, Evaluation Committee, Men of Color Health Awareness Project

Member, Abstract Review Committee, Society for Social Work and Research

Member, 2006 GAYLA Committee, Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York

**Sue Green**

Member, Board of Directors, Cazenovia Recovery Systems

**Denise Krause**

Member (ex-officio), Board of Directors, AIDS Network of WNY

**Barbara Rittner**

Member, Board of Directors, Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services

Member, Steering Committee, Group for the Advancement Doctoral Education (GADE)

**Patrick Shannon**

Member, Board of Directors, Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled

**Nancy Smyth**

Member, Board of Directors, Erie County Mental Health Association

**Peter Sobota**

President, Springville-Griffith Institute Board of Education

**Deborah Waldrop**

Member, Board of Directors, Amherst Center for Senior Services

Member, National Advisory and Program Committee, Hartford Doctoral Fellows

National Research Mentor, Hartford Faculty Scholars Program

**Hilary Weaver**

Chair, American Indian Caucus, National Association of Social Workers

Member, Commission on Professional Development, Council on Social Work Education

President, American Indian Alaska Native Social Work Educators' Association

President, Board of Directors, Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties

Member, Native American Leadership Commission on Health and AIDS



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