

Mosaics

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Mosaics

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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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Our News

Alumni Day 2007

The 2007 University at Buffalo School of Social Work Alumni Day was held March 29 at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott in Amherst, N.Y. More than 100 people attended. Dean Nancy Smyth and UB President John Simpson welcomed guests at the kickoff lunch.

Alumni chose between two CEU credit-bearing workshops. One consisted of presentations on "Traumatized communities: Evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy of trauma," by David Pratt, MSW, PhD, and "How trauma exposure impacts children, the adults who care for them, and the professionals who serve them," by Trina Laughlin, LCSW. The other workshop was "Consultation with severe trauma exposed social workers," by Joanne Twombly, LICSW.

Michael Weiner, commissioner, Erie County Department of Social Services, gave the keynote address, "A changing political environment: The impact on social services."

Reception for field educators

The 2007 field education reception was held on May 3 at the historic Butler Mansion in Buffalo. The reception honors the contributions of our field educators who supervise MSW students in their field placements.

This year's recipients of the Outstanding Achievement in Field Education Award were Kathryn Marsh from Catholic Charities, nominated by a Buffalo campus student, and Greg Finch from Arnot Ogden Medical Center, nominated by a Corning campus student.

Tracie Bussi of Crisis Services and Sue Sharcot of Roswell Park Cancer Institute received Special Recognition Awards.



Simone Ragland '07 and Rebecca Firszenbaum '07 network at Alumni Day.

Letter from northern England

Howard J. Doucek, associate dean for faculty, reports on a recent excursion.

I recently had a wonderful opportunity to spend ten days in northern England as a guest of a UB School of Social Work colleague, Mansoor Kazi. Mansoor invited me to present to an undergraduate criminology class at the University of Huddersfield on the use of single system designs for program evaluation.

Having never visited northern England, I contacted Peter Lyons, PhD '96, who is an associate professor and research center director at Georgia State University and who was born and raised in a town outside Liverpool, to ask if he might be interested in joining me. Peter graciously agreed, as he had some work to do there on his own. As sometimes happens in such situations, we were invited by John Slater, a faculty member at the University of Bradford who is also a lay magistrate in Family Court, to present on interagency collaboration, and Anne Hollows, principal lecturer and research coordinator for social work at Sheffield



FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

Hallam University, to present on risk assessment research, development and evaluation. We hope to explore the possibilities for faculty exchanges and student study abroad programs with both.

Northern England was once an industrial giant, but industry has declined there over time. The city of Bradford has been in decline, but as we in Buffalo know, such places can be hidden gems. Bradford is ethnically diverse, with a population of some 485,000, approximately 78 percent white and 19 percent South Asian. Sheffield, a city of 527,700, was, also like Buffalo, a major producer of steel. It is now enjoying a revival; according to the BBC it is considered one of the fastest growing cities for investment in England outside of London. Sheffield is approximately 91 percent white, 4.6 percent South Asian and 3.4 percent black. The population of Huddersfield is about 122,000, with an overall West Yorkshire urban area of 146,234. It is of note that the 2006 National Student Satisfaction Survey found the social work students at the University of Huddersfield to be the most satisfied of all social work students in the UK.

In addition to spending most of our time at the three universities, I visited York, where it is said that Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, was crowned in the fourth century, and where 150 Jewish citizens killed each other and committed suicide rather than convert in the 12th century. I also visited Conway, a city in Wales that was walled off by the English several hundred years ago in an attempt to subdue the Welsh population. In short, it was a packed ten days. ■



Fellow travelers Howard J. Doucek, associate dean for faculty at the School of Social Work, and Peter Lyons, PhD '96.

As another class of our master's and doctoral students graduate, they move into a world where social workers are in high demand. They leave the university acutely aware of how much they don't know. A degree lays the foundation for an education. What determines how effective social workers will be is their ability to develop and deepen their knowledge and skills.

I'm often asked how to stay current with best practices, evidence-based practice and new theory and research. Participating in high-quality continuing education is one answer. However, this isn't as simple as it sounds. Most of us don't want to commit the time that it takes to really master new knowledge and skills. One-day trainings are good for an introduction to a topic, but real mastery can only be had by going deeper. You can achieve this through certificate programs, in workshops that span several days, by reading, and through specialized consultation and supervision. Personally, I've found that the last element is essential to the application of the knowledge gained through workshops or reading.

Finally, you have to be online. On the Internet you will have access to the most current knowledge in our field, including the latest evidence-based treatment manuals, updates on new research, and opportunities to consult with colleagues across the world.

Nancy J. Smyth, PhD, LCSW



In the next issue

As social workers, we like to think that our work transcends mere monetary considerations. But as professionals operating in the real world, we know that money, like any other resource, can often help us make a bigger difference. In the next issue of *Mosaics*, we will explore how financial resources impact the school's mission and capacity.



Eric Frick

Long journey well begun

Ten years on the road to the future of social work

By Lisa Game

The decision to pursue a career in social work hit Kelly Jackson like a lightning bolt one day when she was crossing the Cornell campus as an undergraduate student. “I just stopped in the middle of the sidewalk and was like, ‘That’s it—I’m going to take social work!’ And suddenly it all clicked. My mom [Cynthia Jackson (MSW ’95)] is a social worker and loves it, and when I started taking classes I really connected with the material.”

Jackson’s passion for social work may be more deeply rooted than that epiphany on a beautiful New York day. She feels like she may always been a social worker, particularly on more stormy days during her childhood. “I used to rescue insects and worms.” She laughs at the thought. “They would get trapped in the house and I would have to save them or it would keep me up all night. And when it would rain, I just had to make sure that none of the earthworms got squashed—my parents would be walking with

me and it would take forever because I'd be scraping worms off the sidewalk or moving them to the side."

After receiving her BS at Cornell in 1998 and her MSW at SUNY Albany in 1999, Jackson came home to Buffalo to look for a job. She went to work at Gateway-Longview, a children's services agency, as a case manager in their foster care and adoption program. A year later, she switched to the day school/day treatment program at the same facility, where she could do more clinical work.

"I was doing play therapy, solution-focused therapy with kids 5 and up," she says. "I really got to get my hands wet doing the clinical aspects of the job. Sitting once a week with the kids and their families and doing some family counseling—that was a great experience."

"BEYOND RACE"

As much as she enjoyed being a clinical social worker, Jackson felt that something was missing. "I was working there and meeting with these kids and families and wondering, 'Am I being effective?' I had gone through school and learned different techniques and lots of information, but I felt that people were connecting more to my personality than to my skills as a social worker." Unable to ignore her questions, Jackson met with then School of Social Work PhD program director Howard Doueck, who encouraged her to start exploring what kinds of research she would be interested in. After taking an introductory research course with Brenda Miller, her curiosity was sparked and she decided to pursue a PhD.

Another reason Jackson chose UB was for the support she knew she could receive in her area of research. "I was really interested in multiracial people,

so my broad umbrella research area is diversity and cultural identity. Dr. Hilary Weaver was championing research in the field of diversity and welcomed my topic of studying multiracial identity."

Jackson felt that the field of social work had made only a limited contribution to her area of interest, and she wanted to help expand that contribution. Her dissertation, titled "Beyond race: Examining the cultural identity of multiracial people," studies how multiracial people form their identity. "I'm biracial, so that was something very personal to me. I want to learn more about people who are like me and also learn more about myself." During her research, Jackson discovered that multiracial people tend to have a very fluid identity, so rather than focusing on children and youth, as she had in the past, she decided to concentrate on adults over age 21.

WHEN SHE GETS TO PHOENIX

In July, Jackson, a native Buffalonian, will move to Phoenix, Arizona, to begin a tenure-track appointment at Arizona State University. "I'm really excited, because when I went for my interview and presentation, everyone was genuinely interested in what I had to say. And the school is extremely supportive of my research on multiracial people, and they are encouraging me to continue with that." She admits to projecting her worries about the move onto her Siberian Husky, Yuma, who will accompany her. "I'm trying not to focus on what a change it will be for me," she laughs, "I'm more worried about my dog and how he'll react to the desert climate!"

When she was working on her PhD, Jackson was close to her family—literally. "I actually live next door to my parents.

Living across the country from them will be very difficult. My family is my means of strength. They are who I am."

Not only does Jackson attribute her success to her family, but she also sees them as a resource. "They piqued my level of interest in multiracial identity. My parents got married and had kids during a time when it wasn't really cool for a black man and a white woman to do so. I was able to see things a little differently, and that's what made me want to do research in this area."

BACK ON THE PATH

Asked what she'll miss about the UB School of Social Work, Jackson's response is emphatic: "The students!" She elaborates: "Just being able to work with them and have a partnership with them is amazing. I teach at night, so I mostly work with the part-time MSW students who are balancing so much besides the three hours they're in class with me, and it's inspiring." Jackson hopes her new students at Arizona will be just as impressive and exciting.

Reflecting on her time at UB, Jackson encourages students to persevere. "Just keep going. You're in school, but you also have a life. There are going to be hurdles and things that knock you off course, but as long as you get back on the path, success is more than possible."

According to Jackson, being able to get back on the path is one of the most rewarding aspects of the program. "My most fabulous memory at UB was at graduation." When President Simpson announced the five PhD candidates for 2007, they received a standing ovation—not only from the crowd, but also from the faculty. "It was the most powerful moment of my career." ■

Looking Back, Looking Forward With Two Recent Graduates



Name: Julie Rockmaker
Degree: MSW '07
Concentration: Community

Why social work?

"When I went to Buffalo State College, I took an Introduction to Social Work

class and it affirmed that this is what I like to do—to go out there and make a difference. Even if you don't realize it at the time, you're making an impact on someone's life."

Why the UB School of Social Work?

"I chose UB over other social work programs because I feel that Buffalo has a diverse culture that has a lot to offer students. I went to Buff State as an undergraduate and liked Buffalo and the surrounding area. I also knew that the UB School of Social Work has a very good reputation in the community. Additionally, going into the community concentration, I liked that the class sizes were small, and the electives offered with that concentration appealed to me."

What I'll remember

"During my last class in the community concentration, Dr. Filomena Critelli brought us sparkling juice to congratulate us on our accomplishments and to toast to our futures. Also, I went to the American Dental Education Association Conference in New Orleans to do a poster presentation during my time at the school, and they were really supportive of me."

What I learned

"I've done a lot of research in my internship with Dr. Kim Zittel-Palamara [MSW '96, PhD '03] that focuses on access to care for women with postpartum depression. Knowing that there are people out there who are suffering and living with postpartum depression on a daily basis and knowing that there are ways to eliminate the gaps in access to care for these women is what drives me. It makes me want to get up and go do research and interview more women and collect findings and eventually even contribute to a change in policies."

What now?

"I'm going to take a year or two away from school, working as a clinical social worker. I'll be looking at PhD programs in social work. Then back to school and back to research."



Name: Yhermana Puello
Degree: BA/MSW '07
Concentration: Children and Youth

Why social work?

"My passion comes from being able to help people. Once I started the program, I realized that I especially love working with kids."

Why the UB School of Social Work?

"I went to school in the Bronx. When they sent an advertisement from the university, I saw the campus and I saw the people smiling and people reading, and I said, 'I want to go to this school.' The diversity is just huge here, and getting to know people from different countries and traveling with friends from different countries over my five years here has been wonderful."

What I'll remember

"When I came to the United States [from the Dominican Republic], I was 18 and in high school. I didn't know any English at all and had a school counselor who told me to go back to my country because it would take me forever to graduate. And here I am, five years later, having graduated high school, college, and now I have my master's degree. I believe that I have grown both personally and professionally here. Yhermana became Yhermana here."

What I learned

"Education never ends. I want to encourage people to continue with their education and not to settle just because they have a job. Education changes things for society and helps to break stereotypes. We've all been educated in this program together. We're new social workers and we have new ideas. We have new things to bring to the world, new ways of thinking. We need to act on that."

What now?

"I want to work with families and, eventually, I would like to be the director of an agency. To do that I need to have the social work aspect, but I would also like to have some legal training. Over the summer I am applying to law school."

COMMENCEMENT 2007

In 2007, the School of Social Work graduated its largest class ever: 192 MSW, 7 JD/MSW, 6 BA/MSW and 5 PhD.



Barbara Rittner, associate dean for external relations, congratulates Rebekah Crofford MSW '96, PhD '07.



UB President John B. Simpson welcomes the graduates, their families and friends to the 2007 School of Social Work graduation ceremony.



< President Maurice John of the Seneca Nation participates in the hooding of Rodney Haring MSW '02, PhD '07 with Hillary Weaver and Susan Dickerson.



Associate clinical professor Denise Krause (left) and assistant clinical professor Sue Green enjoy a moment together after the ceremony.



< Proud soon-to-be graduates, applauded by an equally proud faculty at the start of the commencement processional.



The Scotland Partnership

Developing Real-Time Evaluation Strategies

By Mansoor A. Kazi, Director, Program Evaluation Center

The partnership between UB's Program Evaluation Center and Moray Council in Scotland is an annual study abroad opportunity for students, faculty, alumni and friends of the School of Social Work. The trip includes a two-day seminar arranged by Moray Council for its workers to learn from program evaluation findings and for visitors from UB to learn from the work of one of the few local government social services' departments to evaluate its daily practice.

Participants in our 2006 trip included two MSW and two doctoral students, as well as a colleague from Gateway-Longview, a comprehensive children's services agency in Buffalo. We worked hard for several days and also explored and enjoyed tourist attractions across Scotland. Moray Council colleagues arranged for us to tour the historic city of Elgin, beginning from a pub where Bonnie Prince Charlie rested in the days of the wars between England and Scotland, and ending in the ruins of a historic church with a well-kept ecclesiastical garden. We stayed for one night in Edinburgh during our journey from Glasgow. We had dinner at the home of a senior manager of Aberlour Trust (an equivalent of Gateway-Longview) in Stirling, and then drove through the beautiful mountains via Aviemore to Elgin.

The working part of the trip was intense. The group from UB was able to learn about real-time evaluation strategies and

to participate in implementing them. Moray Council Children's Services have been using the real-time evaluation strategies developed by UB's Program Evaluation Center for over six years. These strategies involve the integration of reliable outcome measures that can be used repeatedly to measure change over time.

The result is a single-system design for individual service users; but when you put the data together, say every three months, then at every interval you also have a one-group pre-test-post-test design and even a comparison group design if service users are receiving different types of interventions within the same agency. When combined with the demographic and other information routinely recorded by most human services, it is possible to investigate patterns in the data every three months and to inform the development of the interventions.

For example, one can use binary logistic regression models to investigate what interventions work and in what circumstances for every three-month period, including prediction of the odds of the intervention producing improved outcomes in given circumstances. In this way, the outcome can be linked to the potential causal factors with or without a control group. This strategy helps to investigate what human service interventions work and in what circumstances, enabling the human service workers to better target their interventions and to develop new

strategies in real-time for users in the circumstances where the interventions are less successful.

Four of the six who visited Moray Council produced evaluation reports and presented at conferences. These include:

Kazi, M. A. F., Pagkos, B., Milch, H. and Tomasello, N. M. (2007). Evaluation of Moray Youth Justice Team: Sixth Interim

Report. University at Buffalo: Program Evaluation Center.

Kazi, M. A. F., Pagkos, B., and Tomasello, N. M. (2007).

Integrating evaluation into practice and utilizing binary logistic regression models to investigate the effectiveness of practice.

Paper delivered at the Society for Social Work and Research Eleventh Annual Conference, San Francisco. ■



The trip wasn't all social work: There was time for landscape and wildlife photography (opposite page and far left).

In Elgin, (left to right) Kim Schepart (MSW '06), doctoral student Nicole Tomasello, tour guide Ron Reid, doctoral student Brian Pagkos and Mansoor Kazi.

A visit to Stirling

For dinner on our third night in Scotland, we visited the quaint home of Patricia Hall, who is one of Dr. Kazi's former students, her husband Adrian and their two adolescent boys. Their home sits atop a hill in the emerald city of Stirling, closely surrounded by other one-story stone houses on a tight network of sidewalks and streets. We were excited because Patricia's husband is legendary in Dr. Kazi's circle for his culinary skills.

At Hall's door we met familiar Scottish smiles and the robust scents of dinner cooking. Joyful to entertain, the family welcomed us as if we were a part of their extended family they hadn't seen for years, returning from a journey across the ocean. Our meal was a medley of fresh vegetables, potatoes and meats, and plums simmered in wine for dessert, topped with homemade cream. During our time together, we laughed and told stories of our childhoods, of our differences and similarities. I sat back on the couch, plate and fork in hand, listening to the various conversations, about barriers to social work practice in rural settings, about gardening, about cooking.

We ended our visit with a hike up to the William Wallace monument, located on one of the highest hills in Stirling. The monument offers magnificent views of scattered villages and pastures and glorious green hills rolling to the horizon. The Hall boys led our descent, stopping frequently to pick up sticks and act out scenes of two valiant knights in battle.

—Brian Pagkos



Continuing Education

The best come to Buffalo

By Barbara Rittner, Associate Dean for External Relations



Kenneth J. Duszynski, MEd, CRC, a certified police academy trainer, presents a program on psychopaths, sociopaths and violent crime at a School of Social Work Continuing Education Summer Institute program in July.

Where can you learn from an internationally known expert in trauma one week, and a superb local practitioner the next? In programs offered through the UB School of Social Work's Office of Continuing Education (CE).

The School of Social Work's continuing education philosophy is based on the linked propositions that a professional degree is just the beginning of knowledge, and that regular attendance at workshops and training sessions will ensure the necessary expansion and currency of that knowledge. Great practitioners never stop learning. Over the past 20 years, thousands of great Western New York practitioners—and others from outside the field of social work—have signed up for intellectually challenging, empirically based, cutting-edge training and workshops. And they keep coming back for more.

Even though they practice in a state that doesn't mandate continuing education for licensure, New York social workers are motivated to stay current and to learn from the best. Beyond this natural constituency, people outside the field have been enrolling in the UB School of Social Work's CE programs as well. "It makes for some very exciting discussions," says CE director Lesa Fichte.

The scope of training opportunities in the summer 2007 catalog is impressive: trauma, domestic violence, addictions, therapy with children, psychopharmacology, schema-focused therapy, evidence-based treatments, and motivational interviewing, to name just a few.

"At one point we pretty much focused on alcohol and substance abuse training," says Mary Civileto, a longtime employee of CE who is currently its fiscal coordinator. "Now we have

a wide range of options." Because there is always more to teach practitioners than can be presented in a single session, CE has developed certificate programs with a unified course of study.

TRAUMA

About six years ago, School of Social Work dean Nancy Smyth (who was then the school's associate dean) built on her passion for evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment to help create the first certificate program offered by the School of Social Work. The trauma counseling certificate program has become one of the most sought-after offerings of CE, in part because so much of social work practice involves traumatized clients, and also because the program has attracted so many internationally known experts to teach sessions.

In one year alone, CE brought five experts in trauma treatment to conduct training in Buffalo. One, Bessel van der Kolk, a clinical psychiatrist, international expert, and researcher on the developmental, biological, psychodynamic, and interpersonal aspects of trauma and its treatment, is the director of the Trauma Center in Boston. He trained approximately 190 community

human service professionals in May 2007. “If you are only able to see one trauma speaker in your entire career, this is the person to see,” says Smyth, herself a trauma expert.

In the treatment of PTSD, few clinicians are as well known as Edna Foa, the developer of prolonged exposure therapy. A two-day training program Foa conducted for CE last summer was well attended not only by social workers but also by many clinicians from other disciplines throughout Western New York.

Under Lesa Fichte’s guidance, CE also has been able to respond to one of the area’s most underserved needs—training practitioners who work with children. Fichte scored something of a coup when she retained world-renowned child and adolescent trauma clinician Ricky Greenwald (founder and executive director of the Child Trauma Institute) to provide an 18-day training program leading to the certificate in child and adolescent trauma treatment.

Other renowned experts who have presented training in the trauma certificate program include Richard C. Schwartz, PhD, developer of internal family systems therapy; Roger M. Solomon, PhD, international trainer in acute critical incident trauma management; Joanne Twombly, LICSW, expert in dissociative disorders; and Lisa Najavits, PhD, developer of “Seeking Safety” therapy for PTSD and substance abuse.

CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS

CE uses innovative programming and new delivery systems to broaden the range of training available. Project director Cheryl Ogilvie says CE is committed to “giving workers the skills they need to serve their clients to the best of their abilities. We’re continually learning about new trends in meeting the needs of workers, as well as the clients they’re serving. We’re able to customize training.”

This commitment to the needs of CE’s client base led Fichte to enter into a pioneering collaboration with the organization Toronto Advanced Professional Education (TAPE). Working together, the School of Social Work’s Office of Continuing Education and TAPE will make adult mental health training available online across North America. “It is exciting to partner with the UB CE program,” says TAPE CEO Beatrice Traub-Werner. “This partnership has the potential to reach across borders to practitioners desperate for current information. It will be exciting to see the exchange of ideas about best practices as viewed by Canadian and American providers.”

ONLINE COURSES

Online training is not new to the CE program: CE currently offers an online overview of trauma and a course on co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in a format that accommodates the busy practitioner. Online courses offer tremendous opportunities for learning that adapt to people’s schedules.

CE’s training offerings support the School of Social Work’s vision of a better society achieved through the transmission of knowledge. And like much of what is happening at the school, CE is continually transforming itself in order to maintain its leadership position in training and to provide the best possible service to the Western New York social work community.

For more information about CE and its offerings, visit www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/conted. The TAPE program Web site is www.adv-edu.com. ■■

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROJECT WINS COMMUNITY AWARD



Project coordinator E. Marie Graczyk Holt accepted the Most Valuable Voice for Community Teamwork Award from the Family Voices Network of Erie County on

behalf of the Children, Youth, and Families Mental Health EBP (Evidence-Based Practice) Project. The award was given to the project for exemplifying the promotion of teamwork across the community in order to address children’s mental health issues. The Children, Youth, and Families Mental Health EBP Project is funded with a grant from the New York State Office of Mental Health and administered by the School of Social Work’s Office of Continuing Education. Graczyk-Holt, MSW ’04 and currently a doctoral student in the School of Social Work, is project coordinator for the grant which provides training services on evidence-based mental health practices for children, youth and families to staff at more than 400 affiliated agencies in the 19 counties of the Western Region of New York. Trainings are free to eligible staff and have included such topics as trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, parent-child interaction therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy for adolescent suicide attempters. For more information about the project and resource information, visit the Web site at www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/ebp.

People People

Alumni Association News

Greetings to all ...



I had the pleasure of co-chairing this year's University at Buffalo Alumni Achievement Awards. The event was held on April 20, 2007, at the Adams Mark Hotel with more than 400 in attendance. It was a wonderful, inspiring day that left me feeling such pride in UB. When the Samuel P. Capen Award, the association's most prestigious honor, was bestowed on Annette Cravens, MSW '68, I felt doubly proud.

UB is New York's premier public center for graduate and professional education and the School of Social Work plays an integral role in the university's mission of outreach to the community, the state and the nation, as well as its international connections. Social workers have an undeniably direct role in meeting the needs of society.

Alumni are an invaluable source of information, advice and networking assistance that can help current students, recent and not so recent graduates and, most of all, the communities we live in.

I encourage you to become an Alumni Association member if you are not one already, or to renew your membership if it has lapsed. Indeed, there are many ways to get involved. I ask you to join with me in supporting our profession by becoming involved in our association. Alumni Association members are among UB's greatest assets, providing leadership for tomorrow's graduates and for our communities.

UB alumni chapters exist across the United States. Please visit www.alumni.buffalo.edu and www.socialwork.buffalo.edu to find opportunities for involvement and the special benefits your dues afford you.

My door is always open. Feel free to contact me at (716) 675-4263 or by email at GovGirl55@aol.com.

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

...and congratulations!



On Saturday, May 12, 2007 the University at Buffalo School of Social Work convened its 73rd annual commencement and so I will start this note with congratulations to the School of Social Work class of 2007. Welcome to our alumni family.

Many of you are probably still recovering from your final papers, projects and field placements. I hope you are having a wonderful summer of rest because you will soon see that your learning has just begun. Yes, you will find yourself darting through the social work gauntlet of regulatory agencies, licensure exams, agency policies and yards of tape in shades of red.

Keep in mind that support from your alma mater is just a call or click away. We can help you navigate that gauntlet! You can turn to us for your professional social work needs, whether it is preparing for the LMSW or LCSW exams, specializing in a post-MSW certificate program or keeping your skills current through our continuing education courses. The School of Social Work alumni Web page www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/alumni has been expanded to keep you updated on employment opportunities, licensing requirements and ways to connect with UB and your classmates. Keep checking the alumni Web page for new programs.

And to second Rita's invitation, I hope you will consider taking advantage of Alumni Association membership benefits.

Finally, a special note of congratulations to Drs. Rebekah J. Crofford, Rodney C. Haring, Janine Hunt Jackson, Kelly E. Jackson and Nicole Trabold, our five PhD recipients at this year's commencement.

Kathryn Kendall MSW '95
Director of Recruitment and Alumni Relations

CLASSNOTES

Jose H. Correa (MSW '03)

After graduating, Jose began working as a preventive services social worker for the West Side Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities in Buffalo, N.Y. In December 2006, he accepted a promotion to supervisor of the new kinship preventive unit. This unit focuses on child permanency, whether it involves return to a parent or assisting a caretaker in gaining permanent custody.

Kim Zittel-Palamara (MSW '94, PhD '03)

Kim was recently chosen to receive the Social Worker of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers–New York State Western Division. Her name was submitted by R. Lewis Jr. and selected by a vote of the organization's steering committee. Kim was presented the award at the May 11 Buffalo State College Social Work Department Graduation Ceremony.

Lourdes Ventura (JD/MSW '98)

Lourdes, who is the deputy chief of staff in the office of the New York State Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm A. Smith, was honored at two events celebrating Women's History Month. On March 22 she received an award at the Fifth Annual Queens Women in Business Award Networking Event. She received a second award on March 25 at the Latin American Women's Council Women's History Month Celebration at Latin American Cultural Center of Queens.

Jennifer Przynosch (MSW '04)

Jennifer was recently promoted to associate director of Horizon Village in Sanborn, N.Y.

Nancy M. Benjamin (MSW '91)

Nancy is currently employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs Western New York Healthcare System as a social worker and spinal cord injury coordinator. She was recently named 2008 chairperson of the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers (AASCIPSW). She is also the facilitator for the local chapter of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association Upstate New York Chapter. Nancy has been a field educator for the UB School of Social Work since 1997.

Tari McGinty (MSW '04)

Tari is currently the liaison for all the Erie County Family Courts for the 8th Judicial District, where she helps develop new treatment courts as well as offering support to judges and case managers in operating treatment courts.

Elizabeth L. Mauro (MSW '92)

Elizabeth has been working at Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services where she was recently appointed executive director. She worked at Mid-Erie in various positions including corporate compliance officer, supervisor of the child mental health clinics, and site team leader. She also served as interim administrator for the agency.

John Bricout (MSW '94)

John joined the University of Central Florida's faculty in summer 2007 as an associate professor and associate director for research. His research focuses on coping success in persons with disabilities living in the community. At UCF, John will be responsible for mentoring and assisting the school's faculty members in their research and scholarship activities. He will also help the school to develop and implement an infrastructure from which it can achieve its goals in research, publications and external funding.

HOMEcoming

TO ALL SSW ALUMS:
Come to UB's 2007 Homecoming, Oct. 5-6!
UB plays Ohio University in football and there will be events galore. For details, check alumni.buffalo.edu/homecoming.

CONTACT US!

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

Staff Profile

Farewell, Jan Palya

By Lisa Game

Amid the graduation excitement, Jan Palya, MSW '86, director of field education, felt like she was graduating too. Palya is leaving UB to move to Florida—"for a new life and a new adventure and to see what happens."

Palya has been assistant dean for field education since 1996, responsible for student field placements; before that she had been a field educator for the school and an adjunct faculty member.



JAN PALYA

She was made assistant dean for field education and off-campus programs in 1999, overseeing the three off-campus programs in Corning, Jamestown and Rochester; in 2005, the position was reorganized as assistant dean for field education and student services.

Palya was the first generation in her family to go to college—in fact, neither of her parents had finished the eighth grade. She started Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a home economics major. "Once I got into the program, I learned that there was an aspect of the school of home economics called community

services. And I just knew that was what I wanted to do."

Palya moved to Buffalo to work at Hopevale, a residential treatment center for adolescent girls. Her supervisor encouraged her to get her MSW so that she could be promoted. "It was one of those natural progressions," Palya says. "It just sort of fell into my lap and it fit. I've been very blessed with opportunities that way."

With MSW in hand, she went to work in an outpatient addiction clinic at ECMC. From there she went to Child and Family Services and then to Southern Erie Clinical Services where she worked as both a family specialist and a supervisor.

"Ten years after I got my MSW, I was directing field education at the school I'd graduated from. I thought that was pretty

cool, being able to do all of those different things with an MSW degree."

The MSW also gave Palya an opportunity to cultivate relationships. "The thing that is most significant to me is my relationships with people who were students here and went on to become field educators," she says. "Being able to see all of these people connected with each other and the impact they're having on the community and other people's lives is an amazing thing."

Palya is enthusiastic about her profession and encourages new graduates to be proud of their field. "The challenge is to make a difference in whatever community you're in, and to keep your options open. There are a lot of opportunities out there to make a difference."

She asks new graduates to give back to the community they came from. "In a few years, they could be field educators for our students. Education is ongoing. This is just the beginning in terms of a life of learning and giving back to the profession."

Palya is keeping her own advice in mind as she embarks on a new stage in life. She is planning to get a real estate license. "My partner has been a realtor for thirty years, and he still loves the profession, so I thought it might be something fun that is totally different from social work but that takes the same kinds of skills," she says. But her life won't be all business and no social work: "I've always wanted to work with literacy volunteers and I'm also interested in getting involved with the Alzheimer's Association. Social work will never leave me."

Palya will also always remember her roots in Buffalo. "I'm so grateful for the opportunities I've had with UB. I've been connected with this school since 1984 in one way or another, so this move is very bittersweet for me. There are a lot of really wonderful people here and I truly love them. I will miss everything about my time here." ■

Development News

A time to celebrate



It was my privilege to join the School of Social Work as director of development three years ago. As the person in charge of securing private support to help fund research, teaching, and our students, I was excited to know I would be looking for funds for a school and a profession that is committed to changing communities in positive ways. But I also worried that we were not always appreciative enough of those whose gifts make important contributions to our school. Each thank you I personally write is to acknowledge how much your past and continued support of our school means. Our last issue of *Mosaics* acknowledged many alumni and friends who have given us material support during the past year. In this issue we showcase this year's award-winning students, honored for their hard work and dedication to the profession. On May 10, we hosted our third annual Student Awards Event to honor ten students representing the best of their class, and to introduce them to the benefactors who established

the awards to honor or memorialize individuals in their lives who made a difference. We had our largest attendance ever for this event and we were delighted to have to set up more tables to accommodate all the family members, field educators, donors, and faculty who filled the room. This is a wonderful opportunity to show donors the impact of their gifts! To all of them, once again, Thank you for investing in these gifted students and in our school. You should know that we can't do what we do without your support.

Students, alumni, and friends: Thank you all for what you do to help us secure our future.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Minnie S. Wyse".

MINNIE WYSE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

2007 STUDENT AWARDS

Julian Sodja Memorial Fund
Joni Maxick-Jason

Terese Eusanio Memorial Award
Tara Taddio

Archie W. Swanson Honorary Award
Nancy Dux

Hazeltine T. Clements Memorial Award
Juliet Campbell

School of Social Work Alumni Association Award
Cindy German

Kristopher L. Braselton Memorial Award
Lisa Lichtenthal

Outstanding Student Award
Jonathan Emiliani

NASW Award
Thomas Donaldson

Dena P. Gold Memorial Award
Rachal Mickaliger

Dorothy Lynn Honorary Award
Nicole Fava



Award winner Rachal Mickaliger MSW '07 (left) with Denise Ammerman MSW '07.

Recent Faculty Publications in the area of diversity

Bay-Cheng, L. Y. & Zucker, A. N. (2007). Feminism between the sheets: Sexual attitudes among feminists, non-feminists, and egalitarians. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 31, 157-163.

Critelli, F.M. (2007). (In press.) The impact of September 11 on immigrants in the United States. *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*.

Shields, B. A., Saladino, A., Proctor-Szilagyi, A. F., Doueck, H. J. (In press.) An integrative model for developing transition based dormitory experiences for individuals with developmental disabilities on college campuses. *Journal of Transformative Education*.

Elze, D. (2007). Research with sexual minority youths: Where do we go from here? *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, 18, 73-99.

Patterson, D.A. & Keefe, R.H. (In press.) Using social construction theory as a foundation for macro-level interventions in communities impacted by HIV and addictions. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.

Kim, W. (2006). Diversity among Southeast Asian ethnic groups: A study of mental health disorders among Cambodians, Laotians, Miens, and Vietnamese. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 15 (3/4), 83-100.

Kim, W. & Keefe, R. (In press.) Examining health-related factors among an eth-

nically diverse group of Asian American mental health clients. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.

Williams, J.H., Auslander, W.F., de Groot, M., Robinson A.D., Haire-Joshu, D. (2006). Cultural relevancy of a diabetes prevention nutrition for African American women. *Health Promotion Practice*, 7(1), 56-67.

Shannon, P. & Broussard, A. (In press.) Assessing the health needs of unique populations of adolescents: A focus group study. *Health and Social Work*.

Shannon, P. & Rawding-Anderson, P. (In press.) Developmental screening in community health care centers and pediatric practices: An evaluation of the baby steps program. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Shannon, P. (In press.) Childhood disability, poverty, and family life: A complex relationship (Chapter 7). In C.A. Broussard and A.L. Joseph (eds.), *Family Poverty in Diverse Contexts*. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Press.

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