Exploring our Complex Relationships with Animals
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Evidence-Based Practice Forum
page 2
The positive response to our inaugural edition of GSSW Magazine has been truly gratifying.

In this, our second issue, we turn our attention to the many intriguing connections between people and animals in a wide variety of social work settings.

The Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver has been a leader in this cutting-edge field since we began offering courses in animal-assisted social work almost a decade ago. Today, under the direction of our new American Humane Endowed Chair Frank R. Ascione and Clinical Associate Professor Philip Tedeschi, our Institute for Human-Animal Connection is establishing a national and international reputation as a center for both research and education. We invite you to learn more about the many ways our students, faculty and alumni are using animal-assisted interventions, both by reading their stories in this issue of GSSW Magazine and by visiting us online at www.du.edu/socialwork.

We also hope you’ll keep in touch with us, sharing your professional achievements and other news by submitting Class Notes, and making sure we have your current contact information so we can share news of the school with you. This fall, GSSW will begin a series of major events leading up to our 80th Anniversary Celebration in the spring of 2011. Planning is already underway, and details will be posted regularly on our Web site.

Meanwhile, GSSW’s faculty, staff and students join me in thanking you for your continued support and participation. We truly appreciate your interest in our school!

Sincerely,

James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW

On the cover: Making a special connection with the elephant on our cover is concentration year MSW student Kelly Erikson, who’s earning GSSW’s Certificate in Animal-Assisted Social Work. The photo was taken during a course last December that included two weeks of experiential service learning in Kenya. Read more in Professor Tedeschi’s article beginning on page 6.

Scholars-in-Residence Partner With GSSW

Since 2008, GSSW has partnered with community scholars and researchers from Denver area agencies, organizations and academic institutions. These Scholars-in-Residence collaborate with our appointed faculty and doctoral students on research and scholarship.

Marc Bekoff, PhD

GSSW welcomed Marc Bekoff, PhD, as a Scholars-in-Residence in October. 2009. Bekoff is a world-renowned researcher and author in the field of animal behavior, cognitive ethology (the study of animal minds), behavioral ecology and animal protection. Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, he is also a Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society and a former Guggenheim Fellow.

With Jane Goodall, Bekoff co-founded Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: Citizens for Responsible Animal Behavior Studies in 2000. A member of the Ethics Committee of the Jane Goodall Institute, Bekoff also serves as an ambassador for Goodall’s Roots & Shoots program. In 2009, he was named a member of the Scientific Expert Advisory Panel of Voiceless. The Fund for Animals, and a faculty member of the Humane Society University. The recipient of numerous national and international honors, Bekoff has published more than 200 papers, three encyclopedias and 25 books.

Sarah M. Bexell, PhD

Sarah M. Bexell, PhD, also named a GSSW Scholars-in-Residence in 2009, has been engaged in wildlife conservation, conservation education and humane education for many years. She has served since 2006 as the Director of Conservation Education and Communications at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and an Education Specialist in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program. Bexell was instrumental in helping the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and Chengdu Zoo establish their conservation and education departments. She was an Instructor in the Environmental Sciences Department of China’s Sichuan University in 2007-08.

Bexell has been an Invited Lecturer at Georgia State University, the University of Georgia’s Institute of Ecology and Shorter College. The author of many scholarly works, she is the recipient of numerous research grants. Both here and abroad.

Myles Edwards, PhD

One of GSSW’s first Scholars-in-Residence appointed in 2008, Myles Edwards, PhD, has been on the staff of the American Humane Association since 1993 and has served as Director of Research for Children and Animals in its Children’s Division since 2004. He has conducted human services research and evaluation in settings that include child welfare, mental health, health services, criminal justice, and alcohol and substance abuse. While Director of Research and Evaluation at a community mental health center for twelve years, Edwards served as Chair of the Research and Evaluation Division of the National Council of Community Mental Health Centers, and he was a member of its Board of Directors. He has had consulting contracts in 22 states, with the Federal government, and with numerous local governments and agencies.

The author or co-author of many scholarly publications. Edwards also has addressed numerous national and international meetings and conferences since 1973.

John Fluke, PhD

Another Scholars-in-Residence since 2008. John Fluke, PhD, is the founder and director of the American Humane Child Protective Services Research Center, whose purpose is to improve public child protective services through the development of evidence-based policies and practices. For 28 years, Fluke has led, designed, supervised and participated in research and evaluation efforts to improve services to children and child welfare populations. His efforts have served both the public and private sectors, including all levels of government, non-profit organizations, and national and international associations.

Nationally recognized for his research in assessing and analyzing decision-making in human services delivery systems. Fluke is also acknowledged for his innovative and informative evaluation work in the areas of child welfare administrative data analysis, workload, cost analysis, performance and outcomes measurement for children and family services. He is the author or co-author of numerous scholarly publications, and he has presented papers at both national and international meetings and conferences.

For more information about GSSW’s Scholars-in-Residence, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Faculty Directory.”
Imagine scholars, researchers, practitititons and legislators all coming together in support of a single concept. That’s what happened last November when GSSW hosted a forum on recent developments and challenges in evidence-based practice (EBP).

“We need to know what works and what doesn’t,” explained forum chair Jeff Jenson in his introduction. “Then use this knowledge to improve social work education and practice.” Jenson, the Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk, is GSSW’s Associate Dean for Research.

Keynote speaker Tonya Edmond, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work, led the forum’s first plenary session. She described the school’s ongoing effort to infuse evidence-based practice into every aspect of its social work curriculum. “Ethical practice must be informed by the best available evidence,” she said. “We have to recognize and respect what we’ve gained from our own practice experience, but be flexible enough to try new interventions that are supported by research.”

Panelists responding to Edmond’s presentation included Kristi Mock (MSW ’83), LCSW, who described how the Mental Health Center of Denver has implemented EBP during the past 15 years. She applauded GSSW’s efforts to expand the pool of social work graduates “who are open to new ideas, capable of asking questions and able to evaluate the literature.”

Professor Kathleen Olmman, another panelist and GSSW’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, said she supports the move toward EBP but cautioned against relying too much on research that may not take into account marginalized populations. She also noted that some agencies lack the financial and technological resources that EBP requires.

The forum’s luncheon speakers were Colorado State Senator Maryanne “Moe” Kelley and Todd Saliman, Director of the Office of State Planning and Budget. Both emphasized the economic impact of EBP. At a time when budgets are stretched to the limit, Keller noted, “the practice community must ensure their programs are data-driven in order to get funding. Business as usual just isn’t good enough.”

Afternoon keynote speaker, University of Toronto Associate Professor and Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare Aron Shlonsky, summarized the current state of EBP and its future within the social work profession. “Social workers can be the glue that holds interdisciplinary teams together,” he observed. “But what we need to improve on is bringing EBP to the practice.

Panelists responding to Shlonsky’s address included David Bernstein (MSW ’75), Director of the Center for Effective Interventions at Metropolitan State College of Denver; William Hildenbrand (MSW ’70), Executive Director of Denver’s Savio House; Shaaron Mihalic, MA, Director of the Blueprints Initiative at the University of Colorado’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Youth Violence; and Michelle Neal, MS, RN, Program Director of the Nurse-Family Partnership Program at Denver’s Invest in Kids.

Panelists discussing the morning plenary included Dr. Aron Shlonsky, Kristi Mock (MSW ’83), LCSW, Dr. Kathleen Olman, Dr. Stacey Fredericks, Ann Petrie, MSW, NFA, LCSW, GSSW Field Education Director; Dr. Marc Wilsok, Director of Colorado State University’s Social Work Research Center; and Kevin Bert, LCSW, FAC, R, Assistant Director of Graduate Services at Denver’s Synergy Substance Abuse and ADHD Treatment Program.

For additional information on our Web site at www.du.edu/socialwork.
I have long been fascinated by the myriad, intricate and sometimes challenging ways the lives of animals and people intersect. Now, as Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, I look forward not only to continuing the excellent training in evidenced-based, animal-facilitated social work practice provided by my colleague, Phil Tedschki, but also to expanding student and faculty research.

My own research journey began when I participated in a large-scale evaluation of programs designed to teach school-aged children caring and compassion for animals, especially those we call pets or companion animals. Our study demonstrated that empathy toward animals could be enhanced and, even though this was not specifically targeted in our training program, generalized to empathy toward people.

I then turned my attention to the darker side of human-animal relations, cases of animal abuse perpetrated by young people and by adults. Our research found that children who were maltreated or exposed to domestic violence were more likely to abuse animals than were children from non-violent homes. We also found that other children, in spite of their own victimization, were strongly attached to their pets who often served as a buffer or safe haven in the midst of family distress.

My most recent research, published in 2007, shows that animal abuse is ten times more likely to occur in homes with domestic violence than in non-violent homes. This work was replicated in a 2008 Australian study that used the assessment methods developed in my research.

Those of us studying this phenomenon also found that victims of domestic violence delayed seeking shelter at battered women’s programs out of concern for their pets’ welfare. This knowledge has helped to increase the number of shelters willing to admit the pets of the domestic violence victims they house. Additionally, a number of states now include pets in orders of protection or restraining orders. At this writing, similar legislation is pending in Colorado.

My current research progresses on two paths. In collaboration with the Colorado Coalition against Domestic Violence, I recently submitted an application for research funding to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (one of the National Institutes of Health) to better understand the effects of exposure to both domestic violence and animal abuse on children’s mental health. I am also working with my GSSW colleagues and the National Adult Protective Services Association to continue examining animal welfare and abuse issues among older adults. Meanwhile, I see almost unlimited possibilities for our Institute for Human-Animal Connections in both teaching and research. Our vision for the future includes:

- expanding the integration of animal-assisted curriculum content into each of the five MSW practice tracks (child welfare, high-risk youth, families, adulthood and life challenging, and community practice);
- enhancing our reputation as a center for the study of and dissemination of information about evidence-based practices and scholarly research, this includes developing funding resources for research and community-based programs, developing community collaborations, enhancing doctoral student mentoring and training, hosting conferences and symposia, establishing IHAC as an information clearing-house and facilitating development of an advisory council. Our Scholars-in-Residence program and IHAC Fellows;
- continuing development of a research focus on problems in human-animal relations, as well as prevention and intervention programs directed at human and animal welfare;
- exploiting emerging opportunities for research, training and applications in conservation social work, i.e., expanding the social work-ecological model to include respectful appreciation of natural environments and resources, nonhuman animals, and environmental health and sustainability;
- serving as a model for the ethical treatment of animals in research and practice.

We have set an ambitious agenda for IHAC; one that we cannot begin to achieve in isolation. We invite interested alumni and friends of GSSW to learn more about our efforts and to consider supporting our work.

Learn how you can support the Institute for Human-Animal Connection on page 18. Visit IHAC online at www.humananimalconnection.org.

American Humane Endowed Chair Frank R. Ascione (center) is flanked by (L-R) Provost Gregg Keitel, Chancellor Robert Coombe, former American Humane Association President and CEO Marie Beliew Wheatsley, and Dean James Herbert Williams.

Faculty staff and students joined University administrators and other honored guests in October, 2009, to celebrate the installation of Professor Frank R. Ascione, PhD, as GSSW’s American Humane Endowed Chair. The $2 million Endowed Chair, established in 2008 by the American Humane Association, is the first for GSSW and one of the first in the nation created to explore the expanding field of animal-assisted social work and research the bond between humans and animals. Ascione also serves as Executive Director of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, another recipient of substantial financial support from American Humane.

“Joining the GSSW faculty as the first American Humane Endowed Chair is a distinct honor and an unparalleled opportunity,” says Ascione, whose family was on hand for the event. The installation, which included a lecture by Ascione on his recent research, was followed by a gala reception.

Before coming to GSSW, Ascione was a professor in the Psychology Department at Utah State University in Logan, as well as an adjunct professor in Family and Human Development. He is an internationally acclaimed researcher, lecturer and author. “Dr. Ascione is the perfect scholar to lead the kind of rigorous research this endowedowment will allow,” says Dean James Herbert Wheatsley. “American Humane and DU have forged a dynamic partnership to advance research nationally into the human-animal bond.”

Ascione also serves on the Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Council of the Latham Foundation, is past president of the Southwestern Society for Research in Human Development; and is a member of the cadre of experts for The American Psychological Association’s Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family. He has been a visiting professor at GSSW since December, 2008.
Hallucinations are not detected in this text.
An Activist for Animals and People

Foundation year MSW student Shelby McDonald first saw the horrific effects of animal abuse as a middle school Humane Society volunteer. Hit by her even harder when, years later, she adopted Kozmo Keaner from a shelter and realized the border collie/greyhound mix had cigarette burns on his back. Still, it took a while before McDonald knew she was destined for a career that would help not only abused and neglected animals, but people as well.

“I started off wanting to be a vet,” she recalls, “but then I realized you can’t change anything for animals unless you change people.” That led McDonald to an undergraduate psychology major, eventually to a doctoral program in the same field. Seven months into the doctorate, she realized something was missing.

“Being an activist for vulnerable populations is what drives me as a person,” she says. McDonald took a two-year break from academia, then discovered GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection. Now she’s completing her first-year internship at IHAC and couldn’t be happier. “GSSW is the only place I could go and do exactly what I wanted to do,” says McDonald. “This has been an amazing experience for me.”

McDonald’s internship centers on IHAC’s Colorado LINK Project, an effort funded by the Animal Assistance Foundation to examine how animal abuse may be related to interpersonal violence and other crimes. The project’s goal is to enhance prevention and treatment methods used by law enforcement, human services, animal-control and other professions, establishing Colorado as a national model for handling abuse cases.

Since pet owners tend to think of their pets as family members, McDonald explains, “violence against pets is an act of family violence.” Social workers who don’t make that connection may miss crucial information about child abuse and other interpersonal violence within the families they serve.

The key says McDonald, is education—something she sees herself providing in the future as a professor and scholar in the field.

Bridge Kids Making a Difference

If you were in Denver’s public housing neighborhoods last summer, you might have noticed something unusual: teams of elementary school kids wearing official-looking orange vests and using enormous glue guns to attach labels to storm drains. Their efforts, aimed at keeping residents from dumping toxic substances into the drains, were part of an environmentally focused human education program implemented at GSSW’s Bridge Project in affiliation with the international organization, Roots & Shoots.

A program of the Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots is a youth-driven global network whose service learning projects promote care and concern for animals, the environment and the human community. Mandy Jeffries (MSW ’05), Health Case Manager at the Bridge Project, first heard about the program from Professor Philip Tedeschi. Jeffries registered as a Roots & Shoots group leader, then worked with “ecoteams” at three Bridge sites to identify and remedy a neighborhood problem.

“I wanted the kids to take ownership,” says Jeffries, “and let them come up with the plan.”

The children first mapped the storm drains in their communities and tested water using kits donated by Denver-based non-profit FrontRange Earth Force. When they researched where water from the storm drains ended up, the kids were surprised to discover it flowed straight into the city’s rivers and creeks, without ever passing through a water treatment facility. The group sought the help of Denver’s Public Works Department, which provided the glue guns, tools and even the snazzy orange vests. On a hot July day, the children split up into teams and glued warning labels on as many drains as they could.

Bridge undertook three other Roots & Shoots projects during the past year, led by GSSW student interns earning GSSW’s Certificate in Animal-Assisted Social Work. Kelsey Hopson helped a group of children raise money to support a Kenyan girls’ soccer team. Devon McClellan led a contest to create a design for reusable shopping bags and a neighborhood trash and recycling inventory they hope will convince the City of Denver to provide recycling services in the city’s public housing neighborhoods. Both Hopson and McClellan plan to graduate from GSSW in June.

“The children who participate in these projects really take pride in what they accomplish,” says Jeffries. “They know they’re making a difference in their own neighborhoods and in other communities as well.”

GSSW’s Bridge Project has served children and their families in Denver’s public housing neighborhoods since 1991. Learn more at www.du.edu/bridgeproject

DoctoRAL StreDENTS HonoRED

The second annual doctoral program reception, held on January 8 at Craig Hall, provided an opportunity for faculty, staff and administrators to get better acquainted with GSSW doctoral students and learn more about their research. The reception also honored PhD candidate Kate Trujillo, who received the JFK Partners CoLEND (Colorado Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and Related Disabilities) Fellowship Award from the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado (CU) School of Medicine. CU Assistant Professor M. Kay Trel, PhD ’05, Trujillo’s mentor and herself a former recipient of the Fellowship, presented the award.

The JFK Partners CoLEND Fellowship was established in the 1960s to support research and training in the field of developmental disabilities. Calling the fellowship a “great opportunity,” to explore animal-assisted interventions with children with autism. Trujillo works as part of an interdisciplinary team that includes a pediatrician and a clinical psychologist, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapists.

Other PhD candidates honored at the reception included Jessica Haxton, MSW, LCSW, recipient of the 2009 GSSW Dissertation Support Award for her research on interactions among chronically ill older adults and their caregivers.

PhD candidate Susan Roll (far right) received the 2009 Feminist Scholarship Award from the Council on Social Work Education at their Annual Program Meeting in November. The award recognizes innovative scholars who contribute to the advancement of feminist knowledge as it pertains to social work theory, research, practice and education. Roll’s paper was entitled “The Coping Strategies of Low-Income Women Using Work Support Benefits from a Socialist Feminist Perspective.” Pictured with Roll is her dissertation advisor, Associate Professor Jean East.

PhD Candidate Ziblim Abukari received the Fels-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation/New York Community Trust Dissertation Fellowship for 2009-10 in support of his dissertation entitled “Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Academic Achievement among Ghanaian Youth.” He’s pictured here during his recent return home to Ghana to begin his dissertation data collection.
Concentration year MSW student **Karen Albright** received a Consuelo W. GSSW’s student news

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Regan Linton, another concentration year MSW student, won the 2009 Denver Post Ovation Award for her powerful performance as Alondra in the PFIAMAs theater company’s production of “Man of La Mancha.” PFIAMAs is a Denver-based nonprofit theater company for actors who have physical and/or developmental disabilities. Linton joined the company two years after a car accident resulted in a spinal cord injury that means she will have to use a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Read her Spotlight profile online at www.du.edu/socialwork.

Concentration year MSW student **Kari Baars** received a Graduate Internationalization Grant in July, 2009, from DU’s Office of Internationalization to support her travel to Canada to conduct research on Canadian attitudes toward same sex marriage. Baars is working with Tina Fetner, Ph.D., a professor of sociology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Concentration year MSW student **Karen Albright** received a Consuelo W. Gonnell Memorial Scholarship for the 2009-10 academic year from the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. The award letter from NASW Executive Director Elizabeth Clark notes that the Scholarship Award Panel was “extremely impressed [by Baars’] desire and commitment to work with American Indian and/or Latino populations,” as well as by her academic record and supporting documentation.

Concentration year MSW student and Phi Alpha Honor Society President **Antoinette Gomez** was selected as one of 45 new Fellows for the Center for Progressive Leadership Fellowship Program. This award includes leadership development and training in community organizing.

Honor Society Members Lend a Hand

You might think GSSW students have enough on their plates already: classes, internships, part-time jobs, family responsibilities, even dissertations. Yet many students, like these members of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, also find time to volunteer.

A national social work honor society, Phi Alpha seeks to provide a closer bond among students and to promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Membership in GSSW’s Xi Delta Chapter is based on grade point average and adherence to the Code of Ethics established by the National Association of Social Workers.

In addition to the activities pictured below, the group also sponsored APA Style workshops for MSW students and actively supported a University-wide blood drive benefitting Denver’s Bonfils Blood Center.

Professor Karen Bensen (left), GSSW’s Director of Student Services, joined Phi Alpha members, their families and friends for a cold but rewarding day helping Food Share America package frozen foods to sell at deeply discounted prices to disadvantaged Coloradans. Pictured with Bensen are PhD candidate Karen Scarpella (center), Phi Alpha Vice President, MSW student Catherine Hinz (frogging a friend) and MSW student Antoinette Gomez (right), Phi Alpha President.

Even before classes started last fall, Phi Alpha members like MSW student Tiko Hardy (left) volunteered at this dental clinic sponsored by Colorado Mission of Mercy. The two-day clinic in Brighton, CO, provided nearly $1 million in free dental services to the state’s underserved populations.

MSW student Crystal Calusci (far left) delivers more than 100 pairs of socks, collected during the Phi Alphas’ “sock drive,” to Kelly Holland, Shelter House Manager at the SafeHouse Denver domestic violence shelter.

Read more about Phi Alpha and GSSW’s other student organizations online at www.du.edu/socialwork. Click on “About Us,” then “About GSSW.”
Associate Professor Jean Est (MSW ’79, PhD ’95) and Mary Kranz (MSW ’71), Executive Director of GSSW’s Bridge Project, received 2009 Wall of Fame Awards from the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver for their outstanding community work. East’s award recognized her “support and encouragement to students on their path to self-sufficiency.” Kranz, who has led the Bridge Project’s service to Denver’s public housing neighborhoods since 1997, was recognized for her “efforts to bring education resources to residents and encourage the attainment of a higher education.”

Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson. Site Director of the Four Corners MSW program in Durango, CO received the Leadership La Plata (LLP) Barbara Conrad Award at the Durango Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Celebration in January. LLP is the Chamber’s leadership training and broad-based community education arm. The award recognizes LLP graduates who are consistently involved and active in leadership roles throughout the community and who demonstrate collaborative leadership skills and creative, independent thinking.

Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk Jeff Jenson. Associate Dean for Research, was elected to a three-year term on the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Board of Directors. The results of the online election were announced at the SSWR Annual Conference in January. Jenson also was an invited presenter at the Conference on Intervention Research in Social Work held in October at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. His presentation was entitled “Preventing Childhood Aggression and Bullying Implications for School-Based Intervention Research from the Denver Public Schools Trial.”

In November, Associate Professor Debora Ortega was elected president of the Association of Latino Social Work Educators (ALSWSE), an organization dedicated to the professional development of Latino social work educators and doctoral students. ALSWSE has worked with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) on a variety of initiatives including research on barriers to doctoral education for Latinos in social work, the development of a scholarship fund for Latino doctoral students and the inclusion of paper presentations in Spanish at CSWE’s Annual Program Meeting, something Ortega considers “a significant move of inclusion, especially for our colleagues at the Puerto Rican schools of social work.”

Associate Professor Colleen Reed, co-director of GSSW’s Institute of Geopolitics, presented on a Denver CBS Channel 4 news segment in January about challenges facing the so-called “sandwich generation,” those who are raising children while simultaneously caring for their aging parents.

Professor Karla von Mier (MSW ’93) is the new Coordinator of the Certificate in Social Work with Latincios. Assistant Professor Eugene Walls serves as the Faculty Liaison. Von Mier, who completed the certificate during her own MSW studies, teaches one of the required courses for the certificate and also the students’ experimental learning visit to Guaraacaua, Mexico. last summer.

Dean and Professor James Herbert Williams traveled to Naicoii, Kenya, in November to attend a United Nations Expert Group Meeting on National Sustainable Development Strategies in countries emerging from conflict. The meeting was part of an ongoing effort to increase the likelihood of lasting peace by improving the capacities of these countries to integrate sustainable development principles into their development strategies. Williams, who is also conducting a research project in Kenya, was the only American invited to attend the conference.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**


Turner, B., Hamula, M., Martinez, J.M., Salazar, M. & Gibson, A. (Fall, 2009). Faculty of sites in the academia: Teaching in the line of fire. Thought and Action.


**Recent Publications**


The following papers were presented in November, 2009, at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

**Recent Presentations**


The following papers were presented in January 2010, at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research and Research in Practice, Den.

**Peer-Reviewed Presentations**


Kedari, C., Brenner, K., Thompson, S., Berg, K., & Roll, D. Factors associated with trauma and PTSD among street youth in the states. The importance of youth contact.


Sollie, L.T., Brenner, K., Berg, K., & Thompson, S.L. Behavioral science in society.

Tripodi, S.J., Brenner, K., & Montgomery, K. Predicting alcohol use among adolescents: a focus on social and psychosocial factors.


Brennan, D. & Roll, S. Predicting marital fitness from social cohesion and intimate in-race to low-income neighborhoods.

Sollie, L. T., & Thompson, S. & Brenner, K. & Montgomery, K. Predicting alcohol use among adolescents: a focus on social and psychosocial factors.

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GSSW Takes Unique Path to Reaccreditation

All social work programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) must go through a process of reaffirmation every eight years. But GSSW, which has been continuously accredited since 1933, is one of just a handful of graduate schools that have successfully pursued an alternative reaffirmation method.

To the traditional reaffirmation process, led by Associate Dean and Professor Kathleen Olman, GSSW added a two-year study of the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to deliver social work education.

Chaired by Associate Professor Jean East, GSSW’s Technology Integration Learning Team (TILT) began work on the project in 2006, funded in part by a grant from DU’s Center for Teaching and Learning. TILT faculty members included Professor Walter LaMendola, Dean Emerita Catherine Alter, Associate Professor Julie Laser, Professor John Kayser (pictured above), Assistant Professor N. Eugene Walls and Clinical Assistant Professors Michele Stenskiewicz. TILT also included GSSW staff members Ryan Garrett, Manager of Technology Operations, and Ethan Crawford, Digital Instruction Specialist.

TILT sent surveys on e-learning to the deans and directors of all accredited graduate social work programs. 60% of whom responded. This was followed by six focus groups with fifteen social work deans regarding their perceptions of the relationship between ICT and the missions of their schools. TILT also created a faculty development model to support social work educators in using ICT to achieve expected educational outcomes. Finally, TILT investigated the use of various e-learning approaches in social work practice courses, arguably the most challenging courses to deliver effectively in online and blended formats.

The project is documented in a 225-page report, “Social Work Learning Environments in the Twenty-First Century” submitted to CSWE in 2009 as part of GSSW’s successful bid for reaffirmation until October 2016. A key conclusion: While many social work educators focus mainly on whether e-learning can effectively replace face-to-face instruction in the teaching of practice skills, learning can and does thrive in both modes of course delivery, as well as in approaches that blend the two.

“The opportunities to use technology to enhance learning are vast and only increasing,” explains East, “but there will always be a place for the traditional on-campus experience.”

For more information on this project, please contact Associate Professor Jean East at jean.east@du.edu.

New Board of Visitors to Advise Dean

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For more information on this project, please contact Associate Professor Jean East at jean.east@du.edu.

Staff News

Debbie Jones. Director of Communications and Marketing. received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Denver International Program’s incoming Board President Ron Marquez. An independent non-profit organization housed within GSSW, DIP fosters cross-cultural communication through the immersion of foreign professionals in the society and workplaces of Denver. Jones served on the DIP Board of Directors from 2005 to 2009 and was its President for the last three years of that period. Visit the Denver International Program online at www.denverinternational.org.

Lynda Richerton, Director of Development and Alumni Giving joined Dean James Herbert Williams at the Emerging Leaders in Development awards ceremony. Funded by a collaborative of local foundations, and housed by DU’s University College. Emerging Leaders is a nine-month program of development classes and mentoring experiences. Richerton was one of twelve development professionals selected to attend the first Emerging Leaders program, following a competitive application and interview process.

Lynette Jones retired from her staff position in February, following fourteen years of service to GSSW. Most recently, she supported faculty and assisted with multiple special events. Prior to joining GSSW, Jones was employed at Penrose Library and then at Institutional Advancement.

We wish these two valued staff members all the best in their future endeavors.
Dr. Stephen Roderick, Fort Lewis College Provost (2nd from left) and Dr. Beverly Chew, Chair of the Fort Lewis Psychology Department (center) accept plaques from GSSW honoring the two schools’ "shared spirit of partnership and innovation" in creating the new Cooperative Undergraduate/Graduate Degree program. Presenting the plaques are (L-R) Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellington, Four Corners Site Director; Dean James Herbert Williams; and Associate Professor Jean East, Distance Education Director. The four corners msw program

Of the 64 women and men who have graduated from GSSW’s Four Corners MSW program since it began in 2002, more than half earned their Baccalaureate degrees from Fort Lewis College. Now a new partnership between the two schools is creating a unique opportunity for Fort Lewis students even before they graduate.

Beginning this fall, psychology and sociology majors at Fort Lewis will be eligible to complete both a Bachelor’s degree and an MSW in five years rather than six. The new Cooperative Undergraduate/Graduate Degree program, which received final approval late last year, is similar to a degree option that GSSW has offered to DU’s own undergraduates since 2000.

The first group of Fort Lewis seniors will enter the Four Corners MSW program along with a new cohort of two-year students, in September.

“This partnership between a public and a private institution allows GSSW to maintain a strong presence in the Four Corners area,” says Dean James Herbert Williams. “Both of our schools are committed to the goal of educating practitioners to meet local needs.”

Under terms of the Cooperative Degree program, Fort Lewis psychology and sociology majors may apply to begin taking Four Corners MSW classes during their senior year. Fort Lewis will accept course-by-course equivalency of the GSSW courses, so the students will complete their Bachelor’s degrees during their first year of the two-year MSW program. Earning both degrees in five years represents a substantial saving of time and money, while giving graduates a full year’s head start on their careers.

“It is great for us because we are invested in launching students out to be really successful in their chosen professional fields,” says Professor Beverly Chew, Chair of the Fort Lewis Psychology Department. “This is a phenomenal opportunity for them.”

Read more about GSSW’s Four Corners MSW program by visiting www.du.edu/socialwork and clicking on “Programs of Study.”

The Graduate School of Social Work lost a valued friend when Mosley Cowles Ballantine, longtime chairman and editor of The Durango Herald, passed away on October 10, 2009; she was 84. A member of the University of Denver’s Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1993, Ballantine was an early and enthusiastic supporter of GSSW’s distance education efforts that led to the founding of its Durango-based Four Corners MSW program in 2002. “Mosley cared about the school and what we were trying to do, and she felt strongly that Durango needed what we had to offer,” recalls Dean Emerita Catherine Alter, whom Ballantine advised frequently during the planning of the Four Corners program. Articles and columns published in the Herald have been instrumental in student recruitment and continue to keep the community informed about the program’s positive impact on the Four Corners region. GSSW sends its sincere condolences to Ballantine’s family and her colleagues at the Herald.

Not all human services organizations are healthy places to work. But a new collaborative project at the Erna and Brad Butler Institute for Families is helping to improve both the climate and culture of child welfare agencies, which research has linked to better outcomes for the children and families they serve.

At many child welfare agencies, workers and managers face a host of stressors. These may include chronic budget limitations, recurring reorganizations and loss of positions, high staff turnover and ongoing threats to staff productivity from secondary trauma. the stress that results from working with children and families in crisis. The combination can have a negative impact on an agency’s organizational climate (“what it’s like to work here”) and its organizational culture (“how we do things here”).

Six years ago, the Children’s Bureau, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children. Youth and Families, funded a number of projects aimed at improving recruitment and retention of child welfare personnel. Findings from these projects, including one at the Butler Institute, highlighted the importance of organizational factors in supporting the child welfare workforce.

Western Workforce, a collaboration among the Children’s Bureau, the Butler Institute and the Native American Training Institute (NATI), represents the next step in the process. The project is developing and testing an organizational intervention at three western sites: the Denver Department of Human Services, the Department of Family Services in Casper, Wyoming, and a consortium of Native American tribes in North Dakota.

To assess the health of an organization, the Western Workforce team has developed a mixed-method organizational assessment that includes an agency survey, focus groups, and interviews with clients, agency staff and community stakeholders. The Comprehensive Organizational Health Assessment (COHA) is conducted at each site: examining a wide variety of factors including professional quality of life, vicarious traumatization and coping, as well as team and organizational factors such as supervision competence, team cohesion and leadership. Tribal-specific scales are included when the COHA is administered within the Native American consortium. The COHA findings provide data for the agency teams to use in developing a plan for improving organizational health. Later, the COHA is re-administered as a longitudinal evaluative measure.

At each site, the organizational intervention also includes the formation of a team that develops strategies to increase the capacity of the child welfare workforce. The combination can have a positive impact on an agency’s organizational health.

Read more about the Butler Institute online at www.thebutlerinstitute.org.
Dear Alumni

We hope you enjoy learning more about our Institute for Human-Animal Connection in this issue of GSSW Magazine. The Institute provides truly unique learning experiences, not only in our on-campus animal-assisted social work classes, but also for members of the Denver metropolitan community and an ever-increasing number of local, national and international online continuing education students.

Meanwhile, IHAC’s research focuses on problems in human-animal relations, as well as prevention and intervention programs, in helping to improve services for at-risk populations such as victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

As Professor Frank R. Astone, our new American Humane Endowed Chair, notes in this issue’s cover story, the ambitious agenda he has set for IHAC is “one that we cannot begin to achieve in isolation.” With that in mind, we hope you will consider a special donation to our Institute for Human-Animal Connection as part of your ongoing support for our school. We have added IHAC as a giving option on the enclosed donation envelope, or you may choose to direct all or part of your online donation to the Institute.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of all those who support the Graduate School of Social Work, its students, faculty, researchers and institutes, as well as our non-profit community agency, the Bridge Project. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions, and we encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have.

Conradly

Lynda Ricketson
Director of Development and Alumni Giving

For a complete list of giving opportunities, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Support GSSW.”

### Donation Funds

Butler Scholars Program for Doctoral Students

GSSW gratefully acknowledges a generous donation from Erna Butler (pictured above) and the Butler Family Fund to support social work doctoral students working with the Butler Institute for Families. Butler Scholars will receive financial support during their third and fourth years of doctoral study, including support for their dissertation work. The Butler Institute will also provide intensive mentoring and research experience during all four years in the areas of intervention research and implementation science.

“Butler Scholars will leave GSSW uniquely qualified to do high-quality intervention research for children, youth and families, in partnership with community settings,” notes Associate Professor Kathryn Potter, Executive Director of the Butler Institute and DU’s Associate Provost for Research. “Butler Scholars also will be skillful in the implementation of evidence-based practices in these complex organizations.”

For additional information, please visit www.thebutlersinstitute.coq

### Class of ’64 Leaves a Generous Legacy

Perhaps Bob Dylan best characterized 1964 in the title of the record album he released that year: the times, he sang, they were a-changin’. Just weeks after the Sixties Klan murdered three civil rights workers in Mississippi, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act outlawing racial segregation in the nation’s schools, public places and employment. Johnson’s War on Poverty initiated a series of domestic programs in health, education and welfare, even as the “Vietnam conflict” was rapidly escalating into a full-blown war abroad.

That was the turbulent world in which GSSW’s Class of 1964 launched their social work careers. Since then, those of those graduates not only have enhanced the communities and lives of the people they served, but they also have created a financial legacy that benefits GSSW students to this day.

Richard C. Hardes was studying for the priesthood when he discovered that social work was his true calling. Well funded at the time, the Minnesota Department of Human Services paid not only Hardes’ GSSW tuition, but his living expenses as well. In return, he was required to work for the department for two years after graduation. “They certainly got their money’s worth,” he laughs, noting that his DHS career actually lasted 31½ years, until he retired in 1996. His wide-ranging impact included work on adoptions, guardianships and foster care; then contracting, monitoring and evaluation.

In retirement, Hardes stays busy volunteering for his church: conducting communion services at local nursing homes and helping out at the senior living complex where he moved a year ago. Recently, he signed a bequest intention naming GSSW as a beneficiary. “I got really good preparation for my career at GSSW,” he explains. “It’s my philosophy that when I’ve been given to, I have an obligation to give back.”

GSSW students huddled over their computers in Craig Hall’s Margaret W. Page Library might be surprised to learn that the library is named for a generous, fun-loving 1964 MSW graduate whom a classmate recalls as “a real live wire.” Margaret Williams Page was a long-time social worker for Denver Public Schools, where she touched the lives of hundreds of students and their families. Colleagues and friends alike remember her positive, outgoing personality and her delightful sense of humor.

Page liked to tell her friends she had “three great loves” in her life: Shadmore College (from which she graduated in 1949), the Denver Art Museum (where she was a frequent volunteer) and the Graduate School of Social Work. When Page died in 2000, she left substantial estate gifts to all three. Her gift to GSSW created not only Craig Hall’s technology-enhanced library, a favorite spot for today’s students to study and write papers, but also a loan fund which students can access on an emergency basis.

Recognizing the importance of scholarship aid to GSSW’s efforts to recruit a diverse student body, 1964 alumnus Youlon D. Savage created an endowed scholarship fund a decade ago. Since then, thirteen students have received the Youlon D. Savage Scholarship, based on their academic merit and demonstrated financial need.

Savage, who grew up in the heart of the segregated South, retired several years ago after a long career as Executive Director of Adams Community Mental Health Center (now Community Reach Center). He also chairs Colorado’s State Human Services Board, was a member of The Denver Foundation’s Health Committee and continues to serve on many GSSW committees, including the Advisory Council on Racial Diversity and the Board of Visitors. “I know what it is like to have to prove oneself over and over again because some people choose not to believe you can do what you can do,” he says. “I like the idea of giving back to the institution that made it possible for me to give.”

As our GSSW community continues to benefit from the support of these three generous donors, we have to agree with Richard Hardes’ opinion of the Class of 1964: “We were a rather illustrious class,” he says with pride.

### AND THE WINNER IS . . .

The “DU on the Road” event that the Alumni Relations Office hosted in Colorado Springs last September included a drawing whereby the winning attendees could choose a unit on campus to receive a $1,000 gift. We’d like to thank Tracy Wilson, MSW ’03, for selecting GSSW Way to go, Tracy!
**Challenging Times**

**Creative Solutions**

There are many ways to make a gift to GSSW even in challenging economic times. We can show you how you can make a gift that will benefit you, your family and GSSW without impacting your current cash flow. Here are just a few ideas:

- Non-cash assets such as real estate, securities, collectibles or artwork can be given to GSSW as an alternative to donating cash.
- You can designate GSSW as a beneficiary of an IRA, a life insurance policy, a bank brokerage account or your estate plan.
- Boost your retirement income with a GSSW gift annuity.
- Maximize your impact by combining a smaller gift today with a larger future gift.

These are just a few of the flexible options our experts can help you explore. For more information on creative ways to give, go to:

1.800.488.3238 or 303.871.2739 email gift-planning@du.edu

directly on the Ways of Giving brochure.
Dear Fellow Graduates:

As the GSSW Alumni Association’s Interim President, I am pleased to share our excitement to support and strengthen our Alumni Association and the school from which we are so proud to have graduated.

First, just now while you’re thinking about it, please drop us a quick line at gsswalumni@du.edu and tell us what’s happening in your personal and professional life. We’d love to include your news in our next GSSW Magazine Class Notes. We are also compiling a list of GSSW alumni who have, at any time in their careers, founded an agency or program. So if that list should include you, please let us know that, too.

Next, keep watching the GSSW Web site at www.du.edu/socialwork for updates on our 80th Anniversary plans. I’m pretty sure you’ll find at least one (and probably several) events to interest you.

Finally, please consider using the enclosed envelope to make a donation to GSSW. You can designate your gift for a specific purpose, like supporting a common goal.

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Sincerely,

Jae McQueen (MSW ’00)
Alumni Association Interim President

"60s"

Rexford L. Thompson (MSW ’04) and Joyce M. Thompson (MSW ’01) moved to Key Biscaye, FL, last October to be closer to their youngest daughter and family in Coral Gables. Contact them at Key Colony, 121 Crandon Bl., #440, Key Biscaye. FL 33144 or via e-mail at rexfordlthompson@yahoo.com.

"70s"

Pat Ferullo Halperin (MSW ’70), who has retired from private practice, lived aboard the M/V Reflection for 2½ years with her husband, “Captain Ray.” Their travels took them from Maine to Key West with visits to Washington, DC, and the Chesapeake, then on to the Bahamas last winter. They’ve just traded that lifestyle for “cruising on land” in an RV. The Halperons wish everyone “time for reflection on the road less travelled!” More online at www.patrefrelection.com.

"80s"

Melanie (Livengood) Tem (MSW ’75) is director of the Waiting Child Program at Adoption Alliance, a non-profit child placement agency in Denver. She also has a second career as a writer. The short story collection In Concert (written in collaboration with her husband, Steve Ruani Tem) will be published in the spring of 2010, and her play “Comfort Me with Peaches” will be produced this May at the Academy Theater in Meadville, PA. She is also a professional storyteller. The Tems have 4 adult children and 4 granddaughters.

Diane Keller (MSW ’82) was promoted to senior campaign manager of the Steier Group, a national fundraising and development firm based in Omaha, NE, and specializing in feasibility studies and capital campaigns. Keller works out of the Steier Group’s Denver office and has managed numerous successful projects including church, high school and community projects. Before joining the Steier Group in 2005, Keller served as a medic in the U.S. Army and spent 16 years working in development with Catholic churches in Denver.

Lori Bohn Klaub (MSW ’82), MPA, has been named Manager of Volunteer Services at Denver’s PS!Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. At the invitation of Ginny Cruz, PhD, director of the Social Work Dept. at Metropolitan State College of Denver, Klaub also serves on the planning committee for the school’s new MSW program, slated to begin in fall, 2011. The program will have a macro focus. Klaub’s practice area for 30+ years. Klaub served on the GSSW staff from 1997 to 2000, most recently as Director of Outreach.

"90s"

Shari Lipton Mowry (MSW ’97) was named President of Planned Giving at Denver’s Jewish Community Foundation. She continues to play a leadership role in Jewish philanthropy.

Nancy Sachet (MSW ’84) of CO plans to retire in May after 25 years working in public education. A past president of her school board, she also served on the Executive Committee of the CO Association of School Boards. She recently passed her social work licensure exam and says she’s excited to do something with her MSW degree outside of public education.

Class Notes

Got News? Please email your personal and professional updates to gsswalumni@du.edu.

Be sure to include the degree(s) you earned at GSSW and the year(s) you graduated. Feel free to attach a digital photo if you’d like. Class Notes may be edited or held for a future issue due to space limitations.
Since 1900, Steve Allred (MSW '90), LCSW, has been serving nom. women and their families in the U.S. Air Force. With Holly, his wife of 25+ years, and their 4 children, he's been stationed in Japan, OK, WA, and TX. Guan and TX. Now in the Colorado Springs area, he's a Licensed Clinical Social Worker serving as Flight Commander (Director) of the Mental Health Clinic at Peterson Air Force Base. The clinic provides services for military members assigned to Peterson, Schriever Air Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and it supports Thule Air Base in Greenland. Previously Allred has served as program director for domestic violence programs, director of mental health clinics, director of drug and alcohol abuse programs, deputy director of a college counseling center at the Air Force Academy, director of a county support center and executive officer for a General Officer. But the biggest challenge of the past 19 years was beating the odds of surviving two rounds of surgery to remove a brain tumor in 2004 and then learning daily life all over. Allred will officially retire from the Air Force this October 1st and says he's not sure where his social work journey will take him next.

Amelia Daniel Caudle (MSW ‘97) of Dalton-Salem, NC, is the mother of 2 boys, Eliua and Bailey, ages 7 and 4. She is a PRN therapist for Behavioral Health Resources at Forsyth Medical Center and works in the outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment facility. She is also a contract social worker for Carolina Adoption Services.

Jennie L. Winters Creasy (MSW ’97), LCSW, is thrilled to be celebrating her 10th anniversary with the Senior Solutions/Care Connection department of Jewish Family Service of CO, where she had her foundation year placement. She enjoys the community she experiences with all the clients and the variety of her responsibilities. Creasy provides counseling and care management services and supervises Community Connections. A field instructor for DU and Metropolitan State College of Denver’s she’s now instructing her 22nd, 23rd and 24th students. She also serves on several advisory boards at DU, Metro and with Denver’s Senior Companion Program.

Sue Eilertsen (MSW ‘91) of Louisville and Boulder, CO, with a special interest in children, she’s been stationed in Japan, CO, WA, and TX, and she served as director of the County Mental Health Center in Riverton, WY for several years. Her most recent position was with Catholic Social Services in Mount Vernon. Eilertsen is survived by a daughter, 2 sons and 4 grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother, 2 brothers, 2 sisters and several nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be made to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, or to your local Habitat for Humanity.

Michelle McCandless (MSW ’95) has been promoted to Chief of Staff of the University of Denver Disability Services Program and just celebrated her ninth year with the program. She calls her colleagues, “a great group of professionals, all working together to improve the lives of students.” Learn more at www.mccandless Sterling.org.

Eva Klemens (MSW ’05), LCSW, is thrilled to be celebrating her 5 year since her graduation working in Children’s Aid Society in Ontario. She’s spent the past 5 years living in San Diego, Mexico, believing that the warm sun and clear blue ocean waters would help heal her cancer. After 10 years of living with cancer, she died peacefully near her family in Dickinson, ND. Marks is survived by her daughter, Heather, and her grandsons, Jack, a brother and three nephews. Memorial gifts may be made to Heartland Hospice in Dickinson.

H. Pearce Konold, MSW ’65, of Mount Vernon, IL, died August 6, 2009, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 72. Before graduation from GSSW, Konold received his BA in social work from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. He worked at various children’s homes and mental health centers in IL, WI and IA. He served as director of the County Mental Health Center in Riverton, WY for several years.

Vicki Rae Marks, MSW ’85, died September 23, 2009, after a long illness. She was 59. Born in Winnet, South Dakota, she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from Black Hills State College in 1979. During her career she worked with children, then later with the terminally ill as a home health worker. She spent the past five years living in San Diego, Mexico, believing that the warm sun and clear blue ocean waters would help heal her cancer. After 10 years of living with cancer, she died peacefully near her family in Dickinson, ND. Marks is survived by her daughter, Heather, and her grandsons, Jack, a brother and three nephews. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Mark’s Lutheran Foundation, 111 Old Mar Ced, Aurora, CO 80011 or to the St. Luke Indian School, Ashland, MT, 59003.

Beth Wilson Llovett (MSW ’07), LCSW is a clinician in an adult unit at the CO Mental Health Institute at Ft. Logan.

Amy Bishop (MSW ’04) is the SB44 Education Advocate for Colorado’s 17th Judicial District. Currently she’s the state’s only Education Advocate.

Sarah Moore Curry (MSW ’08) is a Youth Advocate/Case Manager for New Horizons Ministries, she calls her work with the organization, helping homeless and street-involved young people get off the streets, “a true blessing.” Salimis sees the fun at COSS and says he’ll always remember it.

Amy Salins (MSW ’00) lives in Seattle, WA, and works as a Youth Advocate/Case Manager for New Horizons Ministries. She calls her work with the organization, helping homeless and street-involved young people get off the streets, “a true blessing.” Salimis sees the fun at COSS and says he’ll always remember it.

Aaron J. Shipman (MSW ’07) is a training specialist at the Denver STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, providing behavioral training on evidence-based interventions to local and state health departments, CB&Os and ASOs throughout a 16-state region to reduce the acquisition and transmission of HIV and STDS. He co-authored two abstracts that were accepted for oral presentation at the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference, one on translating behavioral theory into effective behavioral interventions, and the other on integrating HIV/STD/HCV/TB screening into the intake process at the methadone clinic at Denver Health Medical Center. He has just been accepted in a new course, “Using Focus Groups for Adapting Effective Behavioral Interventions,” for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use by the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers.

Athena Terry (MSW ’07) is a clinical social worker in the Emergency Department at Children’s Hospital. Terry has spent the 5 years since her graduation working in Children’s Services.

Eva Klemens (MSW ’05), LCSW, is a mental health therapist with Imaginest Behavioral Health Services in Lafayette, CO.

Lori Swetz (MSW ’92), LCSW, is married to Jeff Swetz, with their son, Jason and daughter, Kathleen. She is a clinician at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Aurora, CO.
mo-tif
mó-tif noun:
Craig Hall’s tiniest work of art

Visitors to Craig Hall can’t help but notice the magnificent stained-glass window crowning the building’s east side. But look more closely and you’ll find the window’s fanciful tree design echoed along every hallway in a signature motif once sketched on a napkin by a GSSW staff member.

By the time Spruce Hall—a former student apartment building—was being transformed into Craig Hall, it had become a DU tradition to include a signature window in each new campus building. The Newman Center has its rose, the Chambers Center its nautilus. For the Craig Hall window, a group of faculty and staff chose a tree as a metaphor for human growth and change. A design by nationally renowned stained-glass artist Larry Zgoda was selected, and he set to work on his colorful creation.

Meanwhile, architects and builders huddled with GSSW staff to prepare for the building’s August, 2009, opening. At one such meeting, the discussion turned to signage. What sort of small motif, reflecting the tree theme, should be used on the name plates beside each office and conference room door? A leaf? A branch?

Then Jennie Ratico, GSSW Office Manager and self-described “artist at heart,” spied Zgoda’s window sketch lying on the conference table alongside a sheet of letterhead bearing the DU logo. Why not combine the logo’s capital D with a section of the tree, she suggested. Quickly sketching her idea in marker on a paper napkin, the “bubbly D,” as it came to be known, was born. Look for it the next time you visit Craig Hall.