The school that community built
Dean Williams Named First Milton Morris Endowed Chair

James Herbert Williams, PhD, Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair

Chancellor Robert Coombe named Dean James Herbert Williams the first Milton Morris Endowed Chair, effective July 1. The Morris Endowment for Faculty Enhancement, which carries a five-year term, is given to a faculty member with a record of excellent scholarship and teaching. “I’m very honored that they chose me,” says Williams. “It is very affirming of my work and will hopefully support me to do more.”

In addition to his administrative duties as dean, Williams recently co-authored a book on protection and prevention of violence. He has also published widely in the area of health promotion and disease prevention among African-American women. His 12-academic performance, youth violence, delinquency prevention, adolescent substance use, race and gender differences, and mental health service needs and utilization patterns in urban schools.

“Dean Williams’ excellent record of scholarship, teaching and service to the social work profession and the University make the appointment as the inaugural holder of the Morris Chair extraordinarily fitting,” Coombe says.

The Morris Endowment is named for Mel Morris (BA ’37, JD ’39), an attorney in the firm of Feder, Morris, Tamblyn & Goldstein. He also taught business law at DU’s Sturm College of Law for 11 years.

Meanwhile, in this issue, we invite you to explore the community connections that were key to our founding in 1931 and remain such a vital part of our program today. I hope you will join with me in celebrating the upcoming 80th year of the Graduate School of Social Work—the school that community built!

Sincerely,

James Herbert Williams, PhD
Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair

FROM THE DEAN

Healthy Aging: National and Local Perspectives - A Symposium for Practitioners
Wednesday, September 29, 2010 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Featured Speakers:
America’s Aging Society: Social Work’s Unique Contribution
Colette Bienol, EdM, EdD
Executive Director and Treasurer
The John A. Hartford Foundation
Panel Discussion with Local Foundation Representatives
Breakout Sessions
$75 fee includes 4 CEUs, continental breakfast and lunch.

80th Anniversary Lecture Series

(All lectures are scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is no charge, but you must register online in advance.)

Thursday, October 21, 2010
Pathways from Childhood Trauma to Adolescent Violence
James Garbarino, PhD, Maude C. Clarke Chair in Humantistic Psychology, Loyola University

Thursday, January 27, 2011
Social Work and the Jewish Community: Renewing the Partnership
Barry Rosenberg, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Mobilizing Urban Communities on the Behalf of Children
Charles Payne, MSW, PhD, Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor. School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. Senior Fellow, Center for Urban School Improvement; Faculty Affiliate. Consortium on Chicago School Research. Faculty Affiliate. The Center for the Study of Race. Politics and Culture

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Strengthening Family Resilience: Healing and Positive Growth
Frona Walsh, MSW, PhD, Co-Director. Chicago Center for Family Health. Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor Emerita. School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago

Learning from the Spirituals: An Evening with Sankofa
Friday, February 18, 2011 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Please join us for a black History Month performance by Sankofa—a 25-voice a cappella ensemble of the Spirituals Project Choir. dedicated to sharing the beautiful concertized versions of the spirituals. Sankofa is an African adinkra symbol that illustrates the wisdom in learning from the past as we move toward building the future. A reception follows the concert.

GSWW Celebrates YOU!!
Friday, May 13, 2011 | 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Don’t miss this festive evening honoring GSSW graduates, friends and community partners since 1931.

Shaping the Next 80 Years Through Research and Practice
Saturday, May 14, 2011 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Mark your calendars now for this informative day-long event highlighting the work of our faculty and local practitioners who are GSSW graduates.

Photographs on the cover and on pages 6 and 7 courtesy of Denver Public Library Western History Collection.
Lecture Series Presents Five Noted Scholars

GSSW’s 2009–10 Lecture Series gave GSSW faculty, staff and students, as well as community practitioners, the opportunity to learn from five researchers and educators in a variety of fields.

Black Racial Pluralism in the Obama Age

Taunya L. Rankes, JD | Jacob A. Friece Professor of Equality Jurisprudence, School of Law, University of Maryland

This lecture described the “transformative moment” at which Dr. Rankes believes we have arrived, when 20th century notions of race, and what to do with race, must be re-evaluated and redefined.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of Households

John Fluke, PhD | Founding Director, American Humana Association Child Protective Services Research Center; GSSW Scholar-in-Residence

Katherine L. Casillas, PhD | Research Project Manager, American Humana Association Child Protective Services Research Center

The two co-presenters from the American Humana Association discussed findings from the Cross-National Child Caregiver Child Discriminatory Practices Surveillance System.

Culturally Grounded Prevention Interventions with Youth & for Youth

Flavio F. Marsiglia, PhD | Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health; Director, Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center; School of Social Work, College of Public Programs, Arizona State University

Dr. Marsiglia discussed “keepin’ it REAL,” a substance-abuse prevention model program for middle school students he developed in partnership with colleagues and several Arizona school districts, and with support of the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health.

New Approaches to Measuring the Economic Racial Divide in America

Mark Robert Rank, PhD | Herbert S. Hadley Professor of Social Welfare, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Rank analyzed America’s economic racial divide from a life course perspective, examining factors such as home ownership, affluence and poverty rates, and the population distribution of children in high poverty neighborhoods.

Master Scholars Mentor Students

GSSW students enjoyed a unique opportunity to connect with two distinguished local professionals this spring. GSSW graduates Marilyn Hellestein (MSW ’71), LCSW, BCD, and Michael Kromrey (MSW ’89) were among fifteen University of Denver Master Scholars to visit the school on April 12–13.

The Masters Program is sponsored each year by DU’s Office of Alumni Relations. Successful alumni professionals, nominated by individual units on campus, are invited to participate in lectures or teach courses. Through these and other, more informal gatherings, students learn about the many ways their education can be applied after graduation.

Hellestein has had a private psychotherapy practice since 1974. At the Colorado Social Work Celebration last March, she received the prestigious Most Distinguished Clinician award from the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work, an organization she co-founded. Hellestein has served for many years as a consultant to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountain Region and many other community groups. In 2007, she was appointed as a volunteer clinical instructor for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She’s also been a part-time instructor at DU and the University of Northern Colorado, and she teaches community workshops and seminars on numerous topics.

Kromrey’s community organizing history spans 29 years, beginning when his GSSW internship at Catholic Community Services led to his employment there in 1980 as an organizer. In 1985, he became Director of Metro Organizations for People (MOP), a position he held for ten years. Between 1995 and 2000, Kromrey left Denver to direct Congregations Building Community, a congregations-based community organization in Northern Colorado. Subsequently, he returned to Denver and to his current position as Director of MOP.

GSSW Welcomes New Visiting Professor

Pennelee K. Trickett, PhD | David Lawrence Stein/Violet Goldeng-Sachs Professor of Mental Health at the University of Southern California School of Social Work; will be a visiting professor at GSSW through Dec. 31, 2010.

Trickett is a professor of social work and psychology as well as a developmental psychologist. Her research focuses on the developmental consequences of child abuse and neglect on children and adolescents, and on the characteristics of families in which such abuse occurs.

Trickett earned an Independent Scientist Award entitled The Developmental Consequences of Child Abuse and Violence from the National Institute of Mental Health. She is conducting two longitudinal studies, one on the psychological impact of familial sexual abuse on female adolescents and young adults, and the other on the impact of neglect and other maltreatment on young adolescent development. Trickett also directs university-wide interdisciplinary violence research at USC.

Learn more about GSSW’s Visiting Professors and Scholar-in-Residence at www.du.edu/socialwork/faculty/directory/visiting.

Master Scholars Mentor Students

Almost 900 people attended TEDxDU in the University of Denver’s Gates Concert Hall on May 13, and more watched a live feed at several campus locations including GSSW’s Craig Hall. TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is an annual event at which some of the world’s leading thinkers and doers are invited to share what they are most passionate about. TED is similar, but self-organized, local event that brings people together to share a TED-like experience.

TEDxDU speakers included two members of the GSSW community—Clinical Associate Professor Philip Tedeschi, Clinical Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, and Regan Linton (MSW ’10), a concentration year student at the time of the event.

Marilyn Hellestein’s talk, “Exploring Man and Woman’s Best Therapy,” focused on the importance of animals as sources of comfort and aid to people suffering from stress, depression, anxiety, trauma and other challenges. View his presentation online at http://www.du.edu/tedxdu/video/tedeschi.html.

In Linton’s talk, “To Thine Own Self Be True,” she noted that her original vision of herself did not include being in a wheelchair. But when an automobile accident during her junior year in college left her with a spinal cord injury, she underwent a new process of self-discovery. Her experiences as an actress enhanced that process, especially the roles she has played as a member of Denver’s Physically Handicapped Actors and Musical Artists League (PHAMALy). View Linton’s TEDxDU presentation online at http://www.du.edu/tedxdu/video/linton.html.
DOCTORAL EDUCATORS CONNECT IN DENVER

It was a time for learning, sharing ideas, networking and socializing when the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE) held its Annual Conference on April 15–17 in Denver.

GADE, a national non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the interests and concerns of social work and social welfare doctoral programs at regionally accredited colleges and universities, also supports its members in developing programs at regionally accredited colleges and universities. The group also supports its members in developing programs at regionally accredited colleges and universities.

GADE Conference keynote speaker George Walker, PhD, challenged the audience to take a fresh look at their goals for the future of doctoral education. Formerly the Senior Scholar and Director of the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Walker also was a featured speaker at GADE’s doctoral seminar in 2005.

In addition to numerous facilitated break-out sessions, GADE Conference attendees participated in a half-day doctoral program assessment workshop, led by Peggy Maki, PhD, a national consultant and former Senior Scholar and Director of Assessment at the American Association for Higher Education.

GADE honored the GADE Conference participants and their guests at a gala reception held on Friday evening at Craig Hall.

This summer, GSSW was pleased to host the two inaugural Summer Quantitative Training Institutes presented by the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

The first session, held July 21–23, was entitled “Social Network Analysis and its Applications to Social Work Research” and was presented by David Knorr, PhD, from the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. The following week, a second institute entitled “Propensity Score Analysis and its Applications to Social Work Research” was presented by Shenyang Guo, PhD. Guo, pictured here, is from the School of Social Work at the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill.

When GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) hosted a conference in April, participants were nearly as excited to see someone who wasn’t there as they were to see those who were. Unable to attend the conference in person due to scheduling conflicts, internationally renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall did the next best thing. She videotaped a welcome message to the group, in which she lauded IHAC’s efforts to promote the ethical treatment of animals.

“Animals Matter: Perspectives in Conservation Social Work and Human-Animal Ethics” fittingly scheduled during Earth Week, attracted nearly 150 participants to GSSW from a variety of professions. The day-long conference was co-sponsored by the Animal Assistance Foundation, one of IHAC’s founding donors, and By Roots & Shoots, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute.

Speakers included author and researcher Dr. Marc Bekoff and wildlife conservationist and educator Dr. Sarah Benell, both of whom are GSSW Scholars-in-Residence. Other speakers included Joseph Ngonyo, Executive Director of the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW); David Gies, Animal Assistance Foundation Executive Director, and Ray Powell, DVM, Regional Director of the Four Corners Roots & Shoots program. Ngonyo, whose trip from Kenya was nearly thwarted when ash from Iceland’s volcanic eruptions temporarily closed European airports, received a standing ovation from the audience when he arrived at the conference mid-day.

For more about GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, visit their Web site at www.humananimalconnection.org.

GSSW co-sponsored the Twenty-Second Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS held in May at the Hyatt Regency Denver’s Colorado Convention Center. Developed and produced by the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, this year’s conference was entitled “Direct Social Work Practice with HIV/AIDS Clients: Current Approaches.” Over 400 educators, researchers, practitioners and students attended the event.

The conference featured more than 125 presentations including general sessions, poster sessions, individual papers and brief oral reports. There was also an in-depth advanced clinical practice institute organized by Diverse Management Solutions, LLC, a Denver-based human services consulting firm.

Other Colorado conference presenters included representatives of Denver Public Health, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (Region VIII), the Legal Center, Rocky Mountain CARES, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, the Denver Office of HIV Resource, the Children’s Hospital Immunodeficiency Program, the Denver STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, the Western Colorado AIDS Project, the Northern Colorado AIDS Project and the Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention.

Five GSSW students volunteered their help during the four-day event and received complimentary conference registration in return.

GOODWALL WELCOME A CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

GSSW Hosts First SSWR Training Institutes

GSSW, whose 41-year-old social work doctoral program is one of the oldest in the nation, was honored to host the conference, which attracted more than twenty doctoral educators from across the country.

GADE is a national non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the interests and concerns of social work and social welfare doctoral programs at regionally accredited colleges and universities. The group also supports its members in developing more effective educational and research efforts; increasing financial support for doctoral education; and exchanging information about curriculum development, educational administration, research and related matters.

GADE Conference keynote speaker George Walker, PhD, challenged the audience to take a fresh look at their goals for the future of doctoral education. Formerly the Senior Scholar and Director of the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Walker also was a featured speaker at GADE’s doctoral seminar in 2005.

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It took ten years to establish a social work program at the University of Denver. Numerous setbacks and a successful outcome far from certain. Yet a sustained partnership among Colorado social workers and agencies, civic and community leaders, and University administrators prevailed. When the Department of Applied Social Science was established in 1931, it was the foundation of the school that community built.

By Professor John Kayser, Ph.D.

Without question, there was a critical need for social work training, not only in Colorado, but in the American West as a whole. Yet between 1908 and 1917, professional training was only available through annual meetings of the Colorado Conference of Social Work. The problem became even more acute when the Conference ceased operations in 1917.

Two years later, the nineteen established schools of social work in the United States joined together to create the profession’s first accrediting organization. Although setting curriculum standards was a major step forward, an unintended consequence resulted—except for two small programs on the West Coast, the country had no accredited social work training programs west of the Mississippi.

When the Denver Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers (AASW) was established in 1925, one of its first goals was to form a training committee, with broad representation from social work leaders and community agencies, including the Denver Bureau of Charities and Corrections, Denver Public Schools, Colorado Psychopathic Hospital and the Community Chest. Over the next two years, the committee conferred with Denver’s educators and citizens and formulated a curriculum plan. The effort culminated in a conference where Edith Abbott, then head of the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration, questioned how such an undertaking would be financed. Characterizing it as “a million dollar plan.”

Funding the program, however, was by no means the only daunting challenge. Some Eastern schools of social work opposed starting a program in Denver, arguing that there were no qualified faculty with master’s degrees to serve as teaching faculty or to supervise fieldwork. They recommended that Colorado social workers come to the East for graduate training, then return home to the West.

A further complication occurred when the Ra Klun Klun gained political control of Colorado and Denver government between 1924 and 1926. One of the first acts of Governor Clarence Morely, an ardent Klunman, was to eliminate the Colorado State Board of Charities and Corrections and fire its executive director. Gertrude Vaile. Vaile had been the first professionally trained social worker hired by the Denver Bureau of Charities and Corrections and was the first to call for establishing a social work school in the city.

In fact, many social work leaders left Colorado at this time to “go East” for advanced social work degrees. The early impetus for establishing a Denver school essentially ground to a halt.

Meeting the Challenges Head On

At the same time that community leaders were struggling to establish social work training in Denver, the University of Denver was making substantial academic progress under the leadership of three successive Chancellors: Heber Harper, Frederic Hunter and David Shaw Duncan. In 1929, an advisory panel of three nationally prominent educators recommended that DU establish several new programs, including a graduate social work program.

One final hurdle, however, was yet to be faced. While America’s Great Depression exacerbated the need for professionally trained social workers, it also caused significant enrollment declines at DU between 1929 and 1931, forcing drastic budget cuts. This was hardly an ideal climate for establishing new academic programs. But the challenge was met head on by the social work community.

AASW members lobbied a special dues assessment on themselves to raise money for the school. They also joined forces with the Community Chest. Founded in 1887 as the Charity Organization Society, it was the first successful federation of private charity organizations in the nation. Together, AASW and the Community Chest raised $5,000 to establish DU’s new Department of Applied Social Science in 1931. In support of its first two years of operation.

A variety of other groups donated smaller amounts to the school. The Business and Professional Women’s Club, Social Workers Club, Children’s Hospital, Neighborhood Nursery, Masonic Reed Mayo Day Nursery, Junior League, Denver Tuberculosis Society, Catholic Charities and Big Brother Movement all contributed funds. Several individual donors, including well-known Colorado labor activist Josephine Roche, chipped in as well. In total, half the start-up costs of the program were raised through this collective community effort, a remarkable feat given the severe economic constraints of the times.

Nevertheless, the University of Denver needed proof that the new program would be financially viable before it would agree to its permanent establishment. Florence R. Day, a distinguished teacher of casework at Cleveland’s Western Reserve University, was brought in “on loan” to teach demonstration social work courses. The response from the social work community was overwhelmingly positive. More than 100 agency personnel, along with DU undergraduate students, enrolled in Day’s courses in 1931.

With a Blueprint in Mind

G. Eleanor Kimble, fresh from completing her doctorate in social work at the University of Chicago, was hired as the first director of the new Department of Applied Social Science. Recalling the experience in an article published 20 years later in the Social Work Reporter, Kimble wrote: “Arriving in September, 1931, with a blueprint in my mind of what a professional school of social work should be: I found the AASW had laid a sound foundation; wise Dean Duncan ready to approve the plans; Jean Sinnock, * with her knowledge of the community and human nature, a tower of strength; and the first eight students in a hurry to sift all the woes of the world. I long may the School of Social Work continue to send out graduates equipped not only with knowledge, skills, and techniques, but with the philosophy of social work, caring what happens to folks.”

Kimble’s tenure at DU lasted a scant three years, but she got the program firmly established and the school fully accredited in 1933. Renamed the Department of Social Work in 1935, the program became the Graduate School of Social Work in 1942.

Today, community partnerships like those that built our school continue to enrich our students’ experiences through field internships, the teaching of adjunct faculty and outreach efforts like the GSSW Bridge Project. Read more about these valued partnerships on the following pages.

*Jean Paul Sinnock, a social worker at the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital who headed the AASW’s training committee in the 1920s, was named field work supervisor of the new Department of Applied Social Science in 1932. She remained on the GSSW faculty until 1959.
There's probably no better example of GSSW's community connections than field education. It's been an integral part of our curriculum since our founding in 1931, when our first eight students completed internships in the Social Service Departments of Colorado General Hospital and Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, the Arapahoe County and Denver County Departments of Public Welfare, and the Children's Bureau of Colorado Springs. By contrast, today's GSSW students have a choice of more than 600 MSW internship sites, including public and private agencies, schools, hospitals, mental health clinics and a wide range of other clinical and community practice settings. A growing number of international internships also are available.

How do students sort through their options and make the perfect match? Visit GSSW’s annual Field Fair to see the process in action.

It’s a rite of spring for foundation year MSW students. Nearly 80% of them attend GSSW’s Field Fair annually, hoping to find a concentration year internship tailor-made for their academic and professional interests. Newly 140 agencies also attended the 2010 Field Fair, held March 31 at the University of Denver’s Cable Center, a dramatic increase for an event that typically attracts just over 100 agencies each year.

While foundation year students complete generalist internships, their concentration year placements focus on advanced practice in each student’s chosen area of specialization. Field Fair, the official kick-off to the concentration year internship search, provides an ideal opportunity for numerous informal, face-to-face meetings. “One of the strengths of our field education program is that, rather than simply assigning students to internships, we offer students and agencies the opportunity to interview and choose each other,” explains Clinical Associate Professor Ann Petrla, Director of Field Education.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.ds.edu/socialwork and click on “Field Education.”

How does GSSW’s field education program benefit the community?

Consider this:

In the 2009-10 academic year alone, GSSW students completed 221,440 internship hours in human service agencies and organizations across Colorado and in several other states. That’s a contribution equivalent to 5,596 40-hour workweeks. 111 full-time jobs and more than $4 million in employee compensation.

Clinical Associate Professor Ann Petrla (far right), Director of Field Education, congratulates Elizabeth Davis (left) GSSW’s 2009-10 Field Instructor of the Year. The award was presented at a Field Appreciation Event in May.

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Clinical Associate Professor Ann Petrla (far right), Director of Field Education, congratulates Elizabeth Davis (left) GSSW’s 2009-10 Field Instructor of the Year. Standing between them is MSW student Kacy McDermott, who nominated Davis for the award. At the far left is their Field Liaison Ann Norris (MSW ’96), who also nominated Davis.

Field Instructor of the Year

Elizabeth Davis, Social Work Coordinator for Integrated Services (Special Education) in the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, CO, was named GSSW’s 2009-10 Field Instructor of the Year. The award was presented at a Field Appreciation Event in May.

Davis received dual nominations for the award, one from a student she supervised during the year and another from their Field Liaison, Ann Norris (MSW ’96). The nomination from concentration year MSW student Kacy McDermott noted that Davis “... understands the importance of the position of a social worker and persistently advocates for her interns and for her profession, adding “I would not be who and where I am today if it were not for her guidance and support.”

In her nomination of Davis, Norris said she has been “so impressed with [Davis’s] ability to supervise, inspire and guide her MSW students. She has the ability to meet them where they are, and incrementally influence exactly what they need for the next steps in their journey of becoming a social worker, while recognizing and encouraging what they already possess.”

1. Agency representation; many of them GSSW graduates and current concentration year interns, manned Field Fair booths that included the DU Cable Center’s Two Brains, Seeking 2010-11 interns for the Children’s Division of the American Humane Association were (L-R) Amy Rohm (MSW ’07), child welfare program specialist, and Hope Carvile, their foundation year student intern.

2. Field Fair offers students many internship opportunities in medical settings. Representing Children’s Hospital were (L-R) Marisa Varela (MSW ’06), Stacey Roux (MSW ’10) and Jenna Wallace, their foundation year student intern.

3. Besides connecting students with internships, Field Fair also offers networking opportunities for practitioners. Pictured (L-R) are Amanda Van Andel (MSW ’10) representing Denver Options and Carol Babbs (MSW ’91) from Denver Public Schools.

4. Students attended Field Fair armed with agency lots and resumes. Here, foundation year students (L-R) Jeff Luchtman, Shaina Gonzales and Matt Glowikey plot their internship search strategy.

5. Sometimes internships lead to job offers even before graduation. Seated at left, Grace Colleen (MSW ’04) congratulated Rebecca Lane-Ramsay, a 2009-10 intern at Affinity Hospice of Life who recently accepted a full-time position on their staff.

6. Anna Peddon (MSW ’07) and Sarah Jorgensen (MSW ’10) manned a booth for Adoption Options, a private, non-profit adoption agency.

7. Jeanie Hansen (MSW ’96) discusses a potential internship with a GSSW student. Hansen represented the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Denver’s Exempla St. Joseph Hospital.

8. The Lakewood Police Department’s innovative Victim Assistance Program was founded by Tom Waddell (MSW ’87) the same year he earned his GSSW degree. Their radio-equipped mobile response unit, one of the first in the country at the time, became a national model, as did the unique system they developed to track habitual offenders and identify signs of escalating violence for the courts. Here, J. J. Beutler (left) describes the program, which she joined soon after her own MSW graduation in 2000.

9. Specialized internships are a part of GSSW’s four MSW certificate programs. Here, “Samatha” (from Canon Companies, a placement option for students in the Certificate in Animal-Assisted Social Work, gets a hug from MSW student Rebecca Kurz. Kurz completed her 2009-10 internship at the Bell Policy Center, a Denver-based research and advocacy organization.

10. Lisa Brewer (left) enjoyed her 2009-10 community track internship with Denver’s Warren Village, which provides subsidized housing, child care and other services to previously homeless single parent families living in public assistance to personal and economic self-sufficiency. Pictured with Brewer are (L-R) Elyse Montgomery (MSW ’08), LCSW, Lynn Hallmann (MSW ’98) and Angela Nishman (MSW ’98).

11. Many types of social work practice are represented at Field Fair. Pictured (L-R) are Geri Glazer (MSW ’87) of Creative Adoptions, who shared a table with Donna Hart (MSW ’90), LCSW, representing Davita, a provider of treatments and support services for patients living with chronic kidney failure.
Community practitioners have played a key role in educating students since our founding. Back then, DU’s social work program had four part-time faculty: a doctor from the Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, a pediatrician, the executive director of the Denver Tuberculosis Society and an attorney. Today’s MSW students take courses from dozens of adjunct faculty representing a wide range of practice fields.

“Adjunct faculty members are an integral part of our program,” notes Associate Professor Jean East. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “They bring a wealth of experience, expertise and, most especially a commitment to our students and to the profession. We could not offer the breadth of our curriculum without them.”

On these pages, meet seven GSSW adjunct faculty members who share diverse professional perspectives with our students.

During the past two years, Adjunct Professor Jordan Fox-Kemper, MSW, LCSPW, has taught a variety of courses at GSSW: the Social Work Skills Lab, Clinical Theories and Practice, and the Foundation Seminar. Her aim, she says, is to create an environment in which students draw meaningful connections between their clinical experiences and their academic work.

“The teaching at GSSW is a pleasure,” she says. “My students are intellectually engaged and bring a sense of humor and social activism to class. It is a privilege to play a role in their development as social workers.”

Fox-Kemper draws upon years of prior clinical experience when she teaches. Before coming to Colorado, she held several positions serving girls and women at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center in Cambridge, MA, including Clinical Supervisor, Medical Advocacy Coordinator and Volunteer Program Manager. Her other professional positions have included Consulting Clinical Supervisor at Boston’s Northeastern University and counselor at Hillborough, NJ, Resource Center for Women and Their Families. She’s currently a Coordinator at the Area Rape Crisis Center in Cambridge, MA.

Adjunct Professor Ralph Kennedy, MSW ’02, CCHP followed an unusual path to his social work career: he retired after 17 years in the U.S. Air Force, spent another year as an Aviation Production Controller for the Saudi Arabian Defense Ministry, then worked as a Security Officer for both Fitzsimmons Army Garrison and the Colorado Department of Corrections. The experiences left him with some strong opinions about the ways people should, and shouldn’t, be treated.

“I try to build people up and model the generosity that’s been shown to me,” says Kennedy, who has taught GSSW’s Skills Lab and Community Theories and Practice since 2007. Director of Research and Evaluation at the Center for African American Health since 2006, Kennedy wants to ensure that his students bring one particular trait to their professional practice: courage.

“This is a tough, tough field, with so many hurting people who are determined to mask the hurt they’re experiencing,” he explains. “I try to help my students focus on our social work values and ethics and have the courage to treat people accordingly.”

After 34 years with the Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, Adjunct Professor Tom Leverserse MSW ’93, LCSW, brings a wealth of experience to the courses he’s taught since 2008. He held clinical and administrative positions at Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center and, most recently, served as Coordinator of Sex Offense Specific Services. He’s also maintained a private practice that includes consultation, training and clinical services.

Leverserse served on the National Task Force on Juvenile Sexual Offending that produced its preliminary report in 1988 and a revised report in 1993. His recent publications include a chapter in Handbook of Sex Offender Treatment and a book, Juvenile Sexual Offense: Causes, Consequences, and Corrections, 3rd edition, co-edited with Gail Ryan and Sandy Lane.

“Referencing actual case examples brings theory to life for my students.” Leverserse says. He’s also adjusted his teaching methods over time. “Initially, I was too content-driven,” he explains. “but then I realized the importance of understanding where my students are and setting up an appropriate learning environment for them. Now I’m much more focused on building depth of understanding.”

Adjunct Professor Michael Lopez-Jensen, MSW ’99, LCSPW, has taught at GSSW since 2007 and at the Denver Family Institute (DFI) since 2004. But, he insists, he’s never given a lecture in his life. In fact, his goal is never to teach a class the same way twice.

With a BA from Vassar, Lopez-Jensen’s teaching often reflects his liberal arts background: he uses such unconventional tools as music, role-playing, movie clips and short stories as the basis for classroom discussions about couples and family dynamics. Many of his students are earning the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy offered through a long-standing GSSW-DFI partnership, just as Lopez-Jensen himself did when he was an MSW student.

In addition to teaching, Lopez-Jensen serves as an Internship Coordinator at DFI and has had his own private practice since 2002. Between 1999 and 2007, he was a Multisystemic Therapy Family Therapist at Denver’s Youth Outpatient Services. He later served as a supervisor during his last two years there. He was featured in the 2007 HBO documentary Addiction.

Students in the Skills Lab taught by Adjunct Professor Sunit Miller, MSW, LCSPW, this fall will benefit from her many years of practice experience. A one-time social worker in the Denver Public Schools, Miller developed and implemented the Denver County court school program, in conjunction with the District Attorney’s Office, for child victims and witnesses required to testify in criminal court proceedings. She later served as a clinical child and family therapist and supervisor at the Denver Children’s Advocacy Center.

Miller has over 19 years of practice experience in a variety of agency settings working primarily with children, adolescents and families that have been victims of trauma. Currently she has a private practice in Denver and has provided expert witness testimony in child sexual assault cases in multiple jurisdictions statewide.

Miller says she’s excited about adding the Skills Lab to the many courses she’s taught at GSSW since 2004. “I love bringing real world practice to my students and, in turn, bringing elements of my teaching back to my practice,” she says. “The balance keeps me in touch with the fundamental principles that underlie our profession.”

Since 2008, Adjunct Professor Denise Pearson, PhD, has shared her considerable community practice knowledge with GSSW students in the conflict resolution course she teaches. She also serves as Associate Academic Dean at DU’s University College, where she says she “experiences and observes conflict as an inherent byproduct of human interaction and organizational change that presents opportunity for personal and organizational growth if managed effectively.”

Pearson is passionate about teaching the GSSW course because it explores the intersection of so many topics fundamental to social work: culture, communication, trust and power. “I want students to understand that conflict is both ubiquitous and necessary,” she explains. “Rather than being universally destructive, conflict can actually yield constructive outcomes. Accordingly, I want my students to be able to assess and leverage all types of conflict as they become effective, culturally responsive and ethical social workers in both clinical and community settings.”

A certified mediator, Pearson has provided consulting services for numerous area organizations. Her recent publications include an article in the international journal Regional Development Dialogue and a chapter in Developing Your Conflict Competence by C. E. Runde and T. A. Flanagan.

Affiliated with GSSW for more than thirty years, Adjunct Professor June Tivnan, MSW, has taught a wide variety of practice and policy courses. She’s also helped develop curricula, and she’s been a field supervisor in several community practice settings.

“To support another person’s professional development is both a privilege and a responsibility,” Tivnan says. “It’s a responsibility she doesn’t take lightly and she’s earned a reputation for being one tough cookie in the classroom.”

No matter what side you take on an issue, she’ll argue the opposite and make you defend your position,” says a former student.

Tivnan has extensive non-profit and healthcare executive experience, as well as substantial experience as an independent consultant. J. H. Tivnan and Associates, founded in 1981, provides organizational development services across sectors to Fortune 500 companies, as well as small entrepreneurial start-ups.

“My teaching informs my practice, and my practice informs my teaching,” says Tivnan. “Teaching is a way to fulfill my commitment to the profession and help future social workers fulfill the promise of our profession in addressing issues of social justice.”

For a complete list of GSSW adjunct faculty, visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Faculty Directory.”
Rewriting the Rules for Child Welfare Training

Seeking to stem an alarming increase in abuse-related child deaths, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed an executive order in 2008 creating the Child Welfare Action Committee, charged with making recommendations for improving the state’s child welfare system. Senate Bill 09-164, signed into law last January, implemented one of the committee’s recommendations by establishing the Child Welfare Training Academy within the Department of Human Services. GSSW’s Butler Institute for Families developed much of the new Academy’s curriculum and provides training to all workers and supervisors within the state’s child welfare system.

“This changes the rules for how new child welfare workers are trained,” explains Linda Metsger, Butler’s Training and Program Administrator. Previously, new workers were typically assigned a caseload immediately upon being hired. Although they were required to complete four training modules, they had a full year in which to do so.

“I was a trainer for about six years prior to the Academy and I would see new workers struggling to make life-changing decisions for families on their caseloads at the same time they were going through training,” says Lori Oswald (MSW ’94), a member of the Action Committee’s training subcommittee. “People would burn out very quickly.”

Under the new law, however, new child welfare workers must complete seven training modules over a two-month period before they can carry a caseload, and they must demonstrate certain competencies in order to receive a certificate from the Training Academy. Classroom training at the Academy is reinforced by on-the-job training back in the workers’ home counties.

The new legislation also changed the requirements for ongoing child welfare training. Both child welfare workers and their supervisors now must complete forty hours of training per year. Five Regional Training Specialists act as liaisons between the Training Academy and Colorado counties to ensure that all such training requirements are met.

“The ultimate aim,” notes Butler Institute Director Sandra Spears, “is to improve safety and permanency for kids in Colorado.”

Improving Protection for People & Animals

It sometimes can be difficult to understand why victims of domestic violence are reluctant to leave home and seek safety in a shelter. Research conducted by American Humane Endowed Chair Frank R. Ascione highlights one reason that is frequently overlooked: fear that the victim’s pets will also be harmed. Ascione's expert testimony was key to the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 80 in April, allowing victims’ pets to be protected under restraining orders.

“In more than 50 percent of homes where there is domestic violence and there are animals, the abuser also threatens or harms the animals,” says Ascione, Executive Director of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection. Since must shelters are not equipped to accept pets, battered victims frequently risk their own safety to protect their companion animals.

State Representative Jerry Frangas (MSW ’01) of Denver co-sponsored the legislation along with Senator Linda Neville of Littleton. “It's important to address this facet of domestic violence and animal abuse, but without Dr. Ascione's research and testimony this bill would never have passed,” says Frangas. “Now Colorado has a good law on the books.”

On April 13, the Erna and Brad Butler Institute for Families honored the first Butler Scholars, PhD student Jennifer Middleton, MSW LGSW with a gala reception. The event also paid tribute to Erna Butler and the Butler Family Fund for their ongoing support of the Institute, including funding for the new Butler Scholars program.

Butler Scholars receive financial support during their third and fourth years of doctoral study, including support for their dissertation work. The Butler Institute provides intensive mentoring and research experience during all four years.

Middleton, who is completing her PhD in forensic social work, joined the Butler Institute last year as a Senior Research Assistant. Her projects include minority over-representation in the juvenile court system, prevention of re-victimization among adolescent foster care girls, a comprehensive organization health assessment of child welfare agencies, and the impact of traumatic stress on forensic interviewing professionals.

As a former forensic interviewing specialist, Middleton interviewed over 2,500 children regarding allegations of sexual abuse and other maltreatment. She developed training protocols for law enforcement investigators and social services, provided case consultation and trial preparation support for county and district attorneys, and supervised lead caseworkers and forensic interviewers throughout Colorado. An adjunct professor in child welfare, Middleton also has experience as a child protection worker, team leader and institutional investigator.
In June, Dean Williams traveled to Taiwan, where he met with National Taiwan University President Chen Hsi-Chin and Professor Hsi-Sheng Wei from the Department of Social Work.

The three discussed the possible development of partnerships between GSSW and NTU.

Nicole Nicolera was chosen as OUS’s Public Good Faculty of the Year.
Marian Bussey has been appointed as GSSW’s new President of GSSW’s Alumni Association. Also honored at the GSSW Recognition Ceremony were staff members Ethan Crawford (L), Digital Instruction Specialist, and Ryan Garrett (R), Manager of Technology Operations, who received the Excellence in Service to Students Award. This award honors GSSW staff members who have provided exemplary service to students during the past academic year.

Two faculty members were married recently. Assistant Professor Colleen Reed married Jennifer Prinz on May 29 in Vancouver, BC. Assistant Professor Kimberly Bender married Tae Tashiro on June 18 in Frisco, CO. Best wishes to both happy couples!

GSSW congratulates Stephanie Panion (BA ’02), who earned her MA in Higher Education from DU’s Morgridge College of Education in June. Her concentration was on Leadership and Organizational Change for Professionals. A member of our staff since 2002, Panion currently serves as Development, Outreach and Communications Coordinator. GSSW welcomed two new staff members this summer: Shadia Ali holds a halftime position as our Receptionist and Events Coordinator. Previously, she was an administrative assistant at the Women’s College. Having earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from DU, Ali teaches piano as a private instructor and performs at weddings and community events. Her volunteer activities include serving as a team leader for “Miracles on Teton,” a holiday event held each December for low-income families in Colorado Springs, CO. Mandy Jameson joined our staff as MSW and PhD Program Support. Another DU graduate, Jameson holds an MA in Higher Education Administration and has been a University employee for nearly nine years. Her prior DU experience includes Consultant in the Office of Admission, Assistant Director at the Institute for Public Policy Studies, and Research Analyst in the Office of Institutional Research. Jameson also worked as a Research Assistant to Jim Davis, now the Dean of the Women’s College, while he was writing a book on higher education management.

Earlier in the summer, GSSW bid a fond farewell to staff member Araceli Repp when she moved to Arizona where husband Derek is in basic training at the U. S. Army’s Fort Huachuca. Earlier in the summer, GSSW bid a fond farewell to staff member Araceli Repp when she moved to Arizona where husband Derek is in basic training at the U. S. Army’s Fort Huachuca. Earlier in the summer, GSSW bid a fond farewell to staff member Araceli Repp when she moved to Arizona where husband Derek is in basic training at the U. S. Army’s Fort Huachuca. Earlier in the summer, GSSW bid a fond farewell to staff member Araceli Repp when she moved to Arizona where husband Derek is in basic training at the U. S. Army’s Fort Huachuca.

When her friends and family gathered at GSSW in May to celebrate the long careers of Clinical Associate Professor Carole Fee Ivanoff (PhD ’90), it was a group as diverse as the careers itself. Students, graduates, staff, faculty colleagues and community practitioners shared stories of the many ways Ivanoff had touched their lives. Ivanoff’s GSSW retirement caps a 49-year social work career that included case work, family therapy, private practice, consulting, and appointed and adjunct faculty positions at colleges and universities in Illinois and Colorado. Ivanoff’s research focused on mentoring for women in social work academia. Early in her career, Ivanoff also served in the Peace Corps in Mexico, Nigeria and Ethiopia, where she co-founded the Addis Ababa Job Training Center. Ivanoff’s GSSW retirement caps a 49-year social work career that included case work, family therapy, private practice, consulting, and appointed and adjunct faculty positions at colleges and universities in Illinois and Colorado. Ivanoff’s research focused on mentoring for women in social work academia. Early in her career, Ivanoff also served in the Peace Corps in Mexico, Nigeria and Ethiopia, where she co-founded the Addis Ababa Job Training Center.

During her 20 years at GSSW, Ivanoff taught foundation year courses, served as a field liaison and was faculty advisor to the Graduate Student Association. As Student Services Director from 2001 to 2009, she was responsible for academic advising, accommodations for students with disabilities, referrals for students with personal problems, and oversight of the writing support program. Chosen by GSSW students as keynote speaker for this year’s pre-Commencement Recognition Ceremony in June, Ivanoff shared the wisdom her long career has provided. “You are a beginner with every new position, every new client, every new neighborhood, every new challenge,” she told the students. “Only as a beginner can you really hear, really see, really imagine what is most needed. You can be of the most help and give the best service.”

For the full text of Ivanoff’s Recognition Ceremony speech, visit the GSSW Web site at www.du.edu/socialwork and click on the link in the What’s Happening box.

Mandy Jameson

GSSW News

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At the Graduate School of Social Work, teaching and learning opportunities extend well beyond the classroom. Here’s a sampling of student-generated activities over the past few months.

RPCVs Share Experience

In March, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) including MSW student Liz Covarrubias (2nd from right), shared their experiences and photos at a student information session aimed at recruiting more volunteers. Covarrubias served with the Peace Corps in Paraguay from 2005 to 2008.

In recognition of their commitment to service, GSSW provides extra financial assistance and other benefits for RPCVs and Teach for America alumni who pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. For more information, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork/admission/msw/peacecorps.html.

Allies Workshop Promotes Dialogue

GSSW’s Queer Equality Alliance (QEA) hosted a workshop entitled “How to be an Ally” in mid-May. Participants explored the roles, challenges and meaning of being an ally to various marginalized communities. Guest speakers included Carol Workman, MD, MPH; Executive Director of the Greater Denver Interfaith Alliance; and Cory Barrett, Director of Rainbow Alley and Youth Services. Their talks sparked lively discussions among the many students, alumni, faculty and staff in attendance. Breakout groups examined case scenarios and sought to develop action-oriented strategies.

Organizers of the workshop included MSW student Devon McClure (far left), QEA president in 2009-10. For information on Queer Equality Alliance and other GSSW student organizations, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork/about/aboutgssw/.

Disrupting Privilege Symposium

Memorial Day weekend may be the first official holiday of summer, but for MSW students enrolled in the spring quarter symposium “Disrupting Privilege Through Anti-Oppressive Practice,” it was a time to share multiple perspectives on the topic at a two-day symposium that was open to the community. Group presentations addressed wide-ranging topics including “Heterosexuals in a Homophobic Society,” “Thoughts on White Privilege,” “Liberty and Justice for Some” and “Have You Used Your Able-Bodied Privilege Today?”

Assistant Professor Eugene Walls, PhD, developed the “Disrupting Privilege” course in 2007. Read more at www.du.edu/socialwork/spotlights/walls.html.

Walking the Walk

Concentration year MSW student Kaitlin Jones (L) completed her second consecutive 39-mile Rocky Mountain Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on June 26-27. Pictured with her is proud mom Debbie Jones. GSSW’s Director of Communications and Marketing, a breast cancer survivor who also completed this year’s Walk. Together, the two raised nearly $3,400 for breast cancer research and treatment for underserved populations throughout Colorado.

The Butler Institute’s Karen Nixon, 08, with two prior Avon Walks to her credit, volunteered on the tent and gear crew for this year’s event, which drew more than 1,250 participants from 45 states and raised $2.6 million.

Starting college and preparing for a career are challenging rites of passage for almost any high school graduate. But they can be especially intimidating for kids who’ve grown up in public housing neighborhoods like the four communities served by GSSW’s Bridge Project.

High school juniors and seniors from all four Bridge sites had the opportunity to address those challenges head-on at a Career Day event held last February at GSSW. Sixteen students took part in workshops on interview skills, resume writing, college and scholarship essay writing, and business attire. They also toured the University of Denver campus and ate lunch with 100 students in Nelson Hall to get a taste of what college life is all about.

“For many of these young men and women, this was their first visit to a college campus during the school year,” says Paul Gibbs, Pre-Collegiate Educator at Bridge. “Now they have a better idea of what life has in store for them after graduation from high school.”

The Bridge Project thanks Daniels College of Business MBA students So Richardson, Darcy Leaverton and David Davenport for organizing and presenting the Career Day workshops. Read more about the Bridge Project online at www.du.edu/bridgeproject.

For information on Queer Equality Alliance and other GSSW student organizations, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork/about/aboutgssw/.
**JUNE COMMENCEMENT 2010 BY THE NUMBERS:**

- MSW graduates — 203
- PhD graduates — 4
- Phi Alpha Honor Society members — 85
- Dual Undergraduate/Graduate degrees awarded — 5
- Interdisciplinary dual degrees awarded — 3
- Specialized certificates awarded — 72

Graduating MSW student Teri Wilke, a member of the Chinahuan Apache tribe, fashioned a medicine wheel on her cap as a symbol of her spirituality. “My prayer is that I’m going to do good medicine work,” says Wilke, whose concentration year internship at the Denver Indian Family Resource Center led to her current position as the organization’s Resource and Referral Specialist.

GSSW’s pre-Commencement Recognition Ceremony is a family affair for graduating MSW student Sarah Hill, as her brother John Hamilton (holding daughter Marley) and her husband George Hill watch from the sidelines.

**Honorary Doctorate for Bridge Project Founder**

Chancellor Robert Coombe (left) congratulates Ambassador Philip D. Winn, who helped found GSSW’s Bridge Project in 1991. Winn served under President Ronald Reagan as U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland in 1988-89. Previously, Winn was Chairman of the Board of Philips Development Corporation and of Philip D. Winn Associates, Inc.

Serving children, youth and families in Denver’s public housing neighborhoods, Bridge seeks to break the cycle of poverty by providing tutoring, mentoring and scholarships. The Winn’s steadfast support of Bridge and GSSW included endowment of the Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professorship for Children and Youth at Risk in 2007.

Read more about GSSW’s Bridge Project on page 19.

Since the 2002 opening of the Four Corners MSW program in Durango, Colorado, its graduates have substantially increased social work services in surrounding rural and tribal communities. So it’s little wonder that nearly 100 family members, friends and community partners turned out for a gathering celebrating the impending graduation of 16 additional Four Corners students. Speakers included Dean James Herbert Williams; Professor Jean East, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson, Four Corners Site Director; and Mindy Meiering, Field Liaison. Members of the Four Corners Advisory Council were also in attendance.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of pottery jars hand-crafted by local artist Milt Been for each of the graduating students.
If you attended GSSW between 1976 and 2004, you’ll probably recall the winding ramp that led upward to the front door of Spruce Hall. During the ensuing renovation that transformed the building into Craig Hall, the basement became the new ground floor, a spacious community room was added to it, and the land outside was excavated, replacing the entry ramp with an inviting plaza. Today, the Schramm Foundation Plaza, named for the generous foundation that funded it, is a sun-splashed mecca for students, faculty, and staff alike.

“I was originally introduced to GSSW and the social work profession through my client, Margaret Page,” says Shramm Foundation President Gary Kring. Page, a 1964 MSW graduate and herself a generous supporter of GSSW, was profiled in the spring 2010 issue of GSSW Magazine. King’s favorable impression of the school grew even stronger as he got to know Dean Emerita Catherine Alter, who oversaw the Craig Hall renovation, and Alter’s successor James Herbert Williams.

In addition to funding the plaza, the Schramm Foundation has also provided financial support over the years for student scholarships and technological improvements, including upgrades to Craig Hall’s ITV program and the Margaret W. Page Library.

When former GSSW field education director Professor Emerita Connie Calkin (GS’54, PhD ’82) lost her courageous battle with cancer in 2006, she already helped thousands of young people, both within the school and throughout the state of Colorado. Through his ongoing financial support of the Constance L. and William S. Calakin Endowed Scholarship Fund, Bill Calkin is ensuring that his wife’s legacy of student assistance will continue for many years to come.

“She was the love of my life,” Calkin says of the woman he married nearly fifty years before her untimely death. “GSSW was really important to her, and I’ll carry on her spirit of philanthropy and commitment. GSSW’s tradition of excellence will continue for generations to come.”

Cordially,
Lynda Rickerson
Director of Development and Alumni Giving

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI GIVING

Dear Alumni and Friends:
The Graduate School of Social Work is pleased to announce two Annual Giving Societies created to honor exceptional support by our alumni and friends during the previous fiscal year. The 1991 Fund celebrates the year of GSSW’s founding by acknowledging donors whose annual contributions are between $1,000 and $2,499. Donors with annual contributions totaling $2,500 or more are named to the Dean’s Circle. Members of these two Annual Giving Societies receive invitations to special programs and events.

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, Board of Visitors and Alumni Association, we express our deepest gratitude to all of the individuals and organizations who have contributed to GSSW in any amount during the past fiscal year. Thanks to your spirit of philanthropy and commitment, GSSW’s tradition of excellence will continue for generations to come.

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GSSW Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the donors listed here whose support during these challenging financial times represents a commitment to GSSW: the Bridge Project and the success of our students. Thank you!

We strive to make this list as accurate as possible, but if your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly please accept our apologies and let us know so we can correct our records. Please notify Lynda Rickerson, Director of Development and Alumni Giving, at 303.871.7590 or linda.rickerson@du.edu.

DEAN’S CIRCLE
Gifts totaling $2,500 or more July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

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Lynne P.
Robert L. Hawkins
Social Work Achievement Award

This award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has demonstrated professional achievement by being named executive director, manager, chairperson of the board, etc., of a social work agency or organization; or by reaching a level of prominence in education, practice or politics, etc.; or by receiving national recognition in the field of social work.

A social worker for Denver Public Schools since 2001, Joseph Waldon is responsible for all aspects of service delivery to the District’s middle schools. His previous positions include Director of Clinical Services at The Larikia Baraka School in Nairobi, Kenya, and Clinical Director of Floattrack, Inc. in Littleton, CO, where he provided clinical staff supervision to nine residential treatment centers and two secure programs serving clients of the Colorado Department of Youth Corrections and Department of Human Services.

Committed to a continual process of professional development, Waldon has attended numerous specialized training sessions and conferences over the years. He received the 2005 Ruth Marx Stark Award in recognition of his excellent performance and outstanding contributions as a GSSW field instructor.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Graduates,

I hope you share my excitement about all the events GSSW will be hosting over the next nine months as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our school’s founding. Please be sure to check the full schedule on page 1 of this magazine and mark your calendars now, so you don’t miss anything. You’ll find updates and registration information at GSSW’s website (www.du.edu/socialwork) by clicking on the 60th Anniversary button just underneath the school’s name.

With all of these special events coming up, it’s especially important for us to be able to reach you by email. If DU doesn’t already have your current email address, please visit alumni@du.edu; select “First Time Login,” and update your alumni contact information. If you prefer, you can send your email address directly to GSSW at gswalumni@du.edu. In your message, please also tell us what’s happening in your personal and professional life, and we’ll include your news in our spring GSSW Magazine Class Notes.

Thanks for keeping in touch and continuing to support GSSW.

Sincerely,

Jae McQueen
Alumni Association President
Elizabeth S. Kelchner (PhD ’02) has moved to the New England Center for Rational Emotive and Cognitive Behavior Therapy, a training center affiliated with the Albert Ellis Institute. She is enjoying myself and feel this is where I want to be. In the words of her dear friend and classmate, Fred Garcia (MSW ’75), “Nicoly was a visionary, always trying to figure out how she could be a better therapist, a stronger professional, the consummate social worker.” Garcia’s other survivors include her son, Nicholas Baron, of San Diego, and three granddaughters.

Suzan Younger Homo Davis (MSW ’14) died on May 6, 2010, from complications related to a liver transplant. She was 59. Over the past 20 years, Davis completed her course work for her PhD at GSSW and was involved in various projects both at GSSW and in the community. She was a great contributor to Denver’s Indian community, where she championed Indian child welfare issues. Davis is survived by her husband, Grant Davis, a son, a daughter, many grandchildren, and her sister, former GSSW faculty member Marsha Younger. She was at work at the Denver Indian Center in May. Condolences may be sent to Grant Davis, P.O. Box 264901, Lakewood, CO 80226.

James Burton, “Bart” Dean (MSW ’54), LCSW, died on April 11, 2009, at the Denver Hospice Center in Denver after a two-year battle with esophageal cancer. He was 90. A graduate of Williams College in Bristol, RI, Dean majored in social work and was honored with the Social Work Award in 1992. After earning his MSW, he became a licensed clinical social worker specializing in youth anti-drug work. Dean was a founding member of Therapeutic Alliance in which he was a family therapist. For the past five years he was a counselor at Regis University in Denver where he posthumously received the President’s Award for service to the university. He is survived by his son, James Burton, his parents, his sister Penelope (Oliffe) and her family. He was a counselor at Regis University in Denver where he posthumously received the President’s Award for service to the university. She was 59.

On April 10, Andrew Frey (PhD ’00), an Associate Professor at the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work, received the prestigious Gary Lee Shaffer Award for Academic Contributions to the Field of Social Work from the Social Work School of America annual conference in St. Louis, MO. The award recognizes Frey’s leadership in the field of school social work through service and research. Established as a tribute to a senior faculty member at the University of North Carolina, the Shaffer Award was presented to Frey by Dr. Shaffer’s widow, Denise Shaffer.

Leland Becenti (MSW ’09) has been named the new housing director for the Ysahkah Management Office under Navajo Housing Authority in Shiprock, NM. This program provides housing assistance to low-income families, in the form of either public rental or home ownership. “Having an MSW does provide more opportunities,” says Becenti, who earned his degree through the Durango-based Four Corners MSW program. “I’m enjoying myself and feel this is where I want to be until I retire.”

Brenda Brown (MSW ’01) welcomed daughter Grace Gabriella in July. Big brother Michael is now 3½. Brown is an outpatient therapist working with children and families in central MA.

On October 12, Stephen Carleton (MSW ’08) died on April 24, 2010, in his home in Denver. He was 56. A social activist and strong advocate of the civil rights movement, his passion was an advocate for children, the elderly, and anyone who needed a helping hand. His career in public service and private agencies included case work and leadership in gerontology and child welfare. In 2009, he continued his career in higher education at the University of Denver, where he posthumously received the university’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. Condolences may be sent to Rex Thompson at rexfordthompson@yahoo.com.

Joyce Mamiko Honda Thompson (MSW ’61), died on April 10, 2010, in her home in Denver. She was 75. The youngest of 7 children, she was a survivor of the 1942 deportation of Japanese-Americans from CA, spending her World War II childhood on a fruit and vegetable ranch. She was a graduate of the University of Colorado, where she worked in public service and child welfare before and after retiring from GSSW. She was survived by her husband, Richard (“Rick”) Thompson (MSW ’58) whom she met when both were GSSW students.

Joyce Thompson’s career also included employment in a psychiatric facility and as a social worker in Stockton, CA, followed by 7 years as a school social worker in Cherokee, OK. She retired in 1987, when the couple moved to San Diego. The Thompsons moved to Florida in the summer of 2009. Other survivors include daughters Edana and Adrienne, their families, 4 sisters, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends in the U. S. and abroad. Memorial services were held in CA in April and in CO in July. Another service is planned at the First Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA, in November (619-234-6149). Memorial contributions may be sent to the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, 1420 Third Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101-3783. The organization provides meals, medical, dental, legal, social work, accounting and outreach services. Condolences may be sent to Rick Thompson at paezholmithompson@yahoo.com or to Key Coling, 121 Cranston Rd # 449, Key Biscayne, FL 33149.

Condolences may be sent to Francis’s family at P.O. Box 11882, Palibus, CO 80101. For information on making a donation to GSSW in Francis’s honor, please contact Linda Hickman, Director of Development and Alumni Giving, at lhickman@ssw.edu or 303-871-7599.
Once upon a time, in a faraway land, author "Robin Bell" set out to help children learn to read. He filled his storybooks with magic, science fiction, modern technology, vocabulary words and questions for elementary school teachers to discuss with their students.

You probably know Robin Bell better by his other name: GSSW Dean Emeritus Jack Jones. As Director and Chair Professor of the social work program at Hong Kong’s Chinese University from 1976 to 1988, Jones wrote scholarly books and taught classes in both English and Cantonese. Reading bedtime stories to his young son and daughter each evening offered a pleasant escape from the rigors of academia.

Eventually, Jones tried his own hand at writing children’s fiction, working long into the night on an early computer he fondly recalls as “the rotten Apple.”

Beginning with The Magician’s House in May 1984, Witman English Readers published six of Jones’s Robin Bell stories in Hong Kong and China, where they sold well for more than two decades. Early stories recounted the spaceship and “magic computer” adventures of characters named David and Diana. Later books featured local landmarks like Kai Tak Airport and characters with Chinese names like Chan Mei-ling and Chi-tung. Earthquake, published in October 1984, lets young readers imagine the impact of a fictional disaster on the city of Kowloon.

“The scholarly books I was writing and editing back then were boring,” laughs Jones, “and they never sold as well either!”

Today, Jones uses a much improved Apple to keep in touch with his former students overseas — computer magic even Robin Bell couldn’t have envisioned back in 1984.