From the Dean

As the new academic year begins, we at the University of Denver want to thank everyone who participated in GSSW’s 80th Anniversary celebration and especially those who have continued to support the school with their time, talents and generous donations.

In this issue of GSSW Magazine, we focus our cover story on the timely topic of social work and the military. We invite you to read the compelling stories of five MSW students who serve, or have served, in the armed forces, and we highlight some of the ways GSSW is addressing the growing need for military-related research and for social workers specifically trained to serve military personnel, veterans and their families.

This issue also honors our most recent MSW and PhD graduates, the GSSW graduates among our emeritus faculty and the students, alumni, donors, faculty and staff who have received special recognition over the past few months.

This summer, we distributed the inaugural issue of GSSW’s e-newsletter to keep our readers updated about recent and upcoming events. If you didn’t receive a copy, please click here to provide your current e-mail address. Thank you, as always, for your interest in our school, and please stay in touch and keep our readers updated about recent and upcoming events. If you didn’t receive a copy, please click here to provide your current e-mail address.

Sincerely,

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

We invite you to read this and all past issues of our magazine online by visiting www.du.edu/socialwork and clicking on “GSSW Magazine.” You can also scan this barcode to read GSSW Magazine on your smartphone or tablet computer.

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Chicago Scholars Conclude Lecture Series

GSSW’s four-part 80th Anniversary Lecture Series concluded this spring with presentations by two nationally renowned scholars from Chicago.

On March 8, Charles Payne, PhD, gave a lecture entitled “Mobility Urban Communities on the Behalf of Children.” Payne is the Frank P. Hillman Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, a Senior Fellow at the Center for Urban School Improvement and a Faculty Affiliate at the Consortium on Chicago School Research and at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture. He currently serves as Chicago’s Interim Chief Education Officer.

Among his key points: A number of urban school systems across the country are making significant strides, but the national debate about school reform places too much emphasis on test scores and not enough on factors like absenteeism and truancy. Sustainable improvement is statistically tied to relationships among people in the community and effective community organizing. Payne noted. “Social workers can bridge the gap between parents who are distrustful of schools and schools that don’t necessarily welcome poor or non-English-speaking parents.” he said.

On April 5, social work researcher Frank R. Ascione delivered the lecture “Strengthening Family Resilience: Healing and Positive Growth from Adversity.” Walsh is Co-Director of the Chicago Center for Family Health, and the Bose and Sylvia Fleishman Professor Emerita at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

Walsh defended family resilience-oriented practices as “facilitating a family’s ability to rebound from crises and master life challenges (while becoming) more resourceful in responding to future challenges.” While no single treatment model fits all families and situations, Walsh promoted a collaborative approach to strengthening family resilience— one that “conveys conviction in the family’s potential to overcome adversity through shared efforts.” She also discussed the roles that belief systems, organizational patterns, and communication and problem-solving skills play in a family’s ability to rebound from crisis and develop proactive coping skills.

Click here to view videos of these lectures.

For updates regarding future lectures and other events click here.
GSSW turned the page on its 80th Anniversary celebration with a gala reception and dinner honoring our alumni, friends and community partners since the school’s founding in 1931. Held on May 13, the event entitled “Celebrating YOU!” brought to a festive conclusion the year-long series of events that included a symposium on aging, four lectures by national scholars, a Black History Month concert and a dance that gave students, faculty, staff, alumni and field instructors a chance to kick up their heels on a cold winter night. Among the student-focused 80th Anniversary events, the voluntary community service day that was added to our new student orientation last fall has now become an annual tradition.

We invite you to share in these special moments of an evening that celebrated graduates, partners, donors and friends like YOU!
Guest Lecturer Describes CTI Successes

Daniel B. Herman, GSWS Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology in Psychiatry at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and Director of Research in the Department of Social Work at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, was a guest lecturer at GSWS on March 22. His talk was entitled “Critical Time Intervention: An Empirically Supported Model for Preventing Homelessness in High Risk Groups.” Developed by Herman and his colleagues, CTI is a time-limited case management approach to preventing adverse outcomes in people with mental illness following their discharge from hospitals, shelters, prisons and other institutions. The model has proven to be effective and adaptable to various populations, settings and transitions, both in the United States and in several countries around the world.

The ongoing evaluation of GSWS’s PhD program, spearheaded by its director Professor Walter LaMendola, brought Professor John Brekke to our school on April 21 for a day-long focus on what he calls “the science of social work.” Brekke, Frances G. Lannon Professor of Social Work Research and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Southern California, raised two important questions in his lecture: Is there a need for a science of social work and, if so, what does that science look like?

“We are comfortable with the idea of social workers doing research,” he explained, “but much more complicated issues arise when we combine social work with science.”

A discussion among GSWS faculty, staff and students followed Brekke’s presentation.

Master Scholars Honored

GSWS graduates David Bernstein (MSW ’75) and Nelba Chavez (PhD ’75) were honored as the school’s 2011 Master Scholars in April. The Masters Program, sponsored annually by DU’s Office of Alumni Relations, brings alumni sponsored annually by DU’s Office of Alumni Relations, brings alumni

Bernstein is Director of the Center for Effective Interventions at Metropolitan State College of Denver, promoting evidence-based services for families, children and youth. He works with communities to implement Multisystemic Therapy (MST) programs, and he developed a Colorado infrastructure that supports MST teams in seven western states. Under Bernstein’s direction, the Center has expanded to support other evidence-based models including Functional Family Therapy and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care.

Bernstein previously had his own training and consulting business and worked in the public sector for 20 years. A GSWS adjunct professor, he directs the international Child and Family Evidence-Based Practices Consortium, and he helped organize the first Global Implementation Conference held this August in Washington, D.C.

When Chavez was appointed by President Clinton as first administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), she’d already been an advocate for the mentally ill and addicted for nearly 30 years and knew that those most affected by government policies must have a voice in their creation. The first Hispanic/Latina to head a public health agency in Health and Human Services’ history, Chavez helped SAMHSA launch a unique collaboration with the Casey Family Program that funded pilot programs for children at risk for developing substance abuse or mental-health problems. Chavez later became Deputy Director of Programs for Arizona’s Department of Economic Security. She’s currently Senior Executive Advisor of Moving Organizations Ahead, a community services consulting company.

In May, the annual Field Appreciation Event honored the Field Instructors. Task Supervisors, Internship Coordinators. Field Liaisons and Field Advisory Board members who partner with GSWS to provide internships for MSW students. Clinical Associate Professor Ann Petrella, Director of Field Education, noted in her introductory remarks that field supervisors provided 27,300 hours of student supervision during the 2010-11 academic year alone. A highlight of the event was the presentation of GSWS’s Field Instructor of the Year Award to Clyde Freeman of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Denver VA Medical Center. Freeman, who was nominated for the award by MSW student Courtney Baurers, was chosen from among 21 Field Instructors nominated by the students they supervised.

Colorado House Bill 09-1086, enacted in 2010, sets Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for certain mental health professionals who apply to renew, reissue or reactivate their license or certificate on or after January 1, 2011. Included are Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Professional Counselors (LPC), Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) and Addiction Counselors, as well as Certified Addiction Counselors (CAC II and CAC III). Once the CPD program is fully implemented by the state’s Department of Regulatory Agencies, licensees will be required to complete a Professional Practice Survey or Rubric and draft a Personal Learning Plan.

Rivera’s seminar demonstrates GSWS’s commitment to become the leading resource for those seeking to meet Colorado’s new continuing competency requirements for licensed mental health professionals, including social workers.

For updated information about GSWS’s current CPD offerings click here.

To watch a video of the April licensure seminar click here.

Field Team Hosts Annual Event

GSWS’s Field Education Team hosted its annual Field Fair on March 30 at the University of Denver Cable Center. Nearly 80% of our foundation year MSW students attended the fair, where they explored concentration year internship opportunities offered by the more than 140 participating agencies.

An April 20 seminar by Renee Rivera, Executive Director of NASW’s Colorado Chapter, attracted a near-capacity audience at GSWS, while even more community professionals participated online as the event was live-streamed. Sponsored by the Field Education Team, Rivera’s presentation sought to clarify Colorado’s new Continuing Competency requirements for licensed mental health professionals, including social workers.

Seminar Clarifies New Licensure Rules

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Rivera’s seminar demonstrates GSWS’s commitment to become the leading resource for those seeking to meet Colorado’s new licensure requirements. Certain CPD courses and certificates may also help fulfill professional development standards and licensure requirements for professionals in other states.

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To watch a video of the April licensure seminar click here.
An Urgent and Growing Need

by Brigadier General USAF (Ret) Gary Hahn, MS

Much has transpired in our armed forces since I retired from the Air Force in 1994, including two ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other, less publicized, operations. Although I am no longer an active duty officer, I am constantly reminded of the need for better, more focused mental health care in the military services.

The last decade has seen extremely high operational tempos in all branches, particularly the Army and Marine Corps. The nature of asymmetrical combat (violent conflict between a formal military and an informal, but elusive, “insurgency”), repeated deployments to hostile environments, long absences from family and friends, and relatively few times of peace and quiet, have taken a great toll on servicemen and women, and on their loved ones. In addition to severe physical injuries, including the consequences of brain and spinal cord injuries, there has been a substantial rise in depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, suicides and family dysfunction. Although these conditions are becoming better understood by mental health providers, much remains to be done.

Today’s social workers, both in uniform and out, are playing an increasingly important role in prevention and treatment. They are serving those in harm’s way, those who have returned to the United States or their overseas members’ concerns, spousal/partner relationships and family dynamics surrounding deployment, active duty and returning home permanently or between deployments.

New MSW Courses Addresses Need

Associate Professor Julie Anne Laser and Clinical Assistant Professor David Blair have designed a new course to help MSW students understand issues faced by military families and apply that understanding to clinical interventions.

“Social Work with Military Families,” to be offered for the first time in January, investigates individual service considerations faced by military families. It’s an urgent and growing need for dedicated, well-trained social workers in the military departments, the Department of Veterans Affairs, hospitals and other mental health providers throughout the U.S. and overseas.

Hahn is President of the Board at Denver’s Maria Drose Counseling Center. His military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Sergeant Major Pepe Ramirez

retired in 2009 after 20 years of active duty in the Marine Corps. But he still wears three dog tags around his neck: two that belonged to Marines who died while serving alongside him in Iraq, and one for a son whose cause – ultimately fatal – was diagnosed just a week before Ramirez left for his third tour of duty in Iraq. “A lot of us come back from war with survivors’ guilt,” he says. “For me, it’s my son, tax.”

The devastating grief, trauma and stress Ramirez and his family experienced left him determined to devote the rest of his career to helping other combat veterans and their families. Likewise, his swift and often challenging transition from military to civilian life convinced Ramirez of the need to educate social workers about the critical differences between military and non-military culture, as well as the differing subcultures among various branches of the military. Toward that end, he has given lectures at GSSW, at Colorado’s Fort Carson Army base and elsewhere. Ultimately, he’d like to earn a PhD, conduct research on resilience among military families and teach at the college level.

Meanwhile, Ramirez is completing his MSW concentration year internship at Denver’s Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, working primarily with amputees and survivors of strokes and traumatic brain injuries. He’s also teaming up with other combat vets to create what he calls a unique model of comprehensive, family-focused treatment. Once he completes his MSW next June, he intends to pitch the idea to generals, service chiefs, the Secretary of Defense, the VFW and others. Moreover, Ramirez is writing two books, one on how a father deals with the death of his son, and the other a clinician’s guide to understanding military culture.

Sergeant E-5 Sonya Juancho

was born and raised on the Isleta Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico. Left home for the first time at age 19 to enlist in the Army. “It was my way out,” she says. “my way to make something of myself professionally.” In fact, her four years of active duty launched this determined young woman on a career trajectory with almost unlimited potential.

Although she had no prior medical training, Juancho completed a Medical Specialist Course (equivalent to an EMT-B), then earned a Trauma AIMS Certificate and a Basic Trauma Life Support Certificate. As a 91 Bravo combat medic, she was assigned to the 10th Combat Support Hospital EMT section, where she provided care for soldiers. Her service included a six-month tour of duty in Iraq in 2003.

After leaving the military in 2004, Juancho continued to work as a civilian at Colorado’s Fort Carson Soldier Readiness Processing Center, helping prepare active duty reserve and National Guard troops for deployment or redeployment. It was during that time that Juancho made the decision to earn her MSW, inspired by a behavioral health supervisor with a combined passion for military service and social work.

While still in the Army, Juancho already had become the first in her family to attend college, earning not one, but two, Bachelor’s degrees. “As a Native American, I always have to prove myself,” she explains. Now a concentration year MSW student, she commutes two hours to GSSW several days a week from her Colorado Springs home, attending classes that sometimes last until 9:00 p.m. Her long-term goals include earning a PhD and perhaps a degree in law, returning to work at Fort Carson and, ultimately, serving people on her reservation. “I live in two worlds,” Juancho says. “I love my culture, and I want to contribute to it.”
**Captain Julie Benson** enlisted in the Army in 1990, preparing to become a military intelligence officer. During a year of Defense Language Institute classes lasting six hours a day, five days a week, she used an ROTC scholarship to earn a Bachelor’s degree in international relations. Then, she re-entered the Army and spent two years in air defense.

After taking a break to work at a non-profit, Benson re-entered the Army again in 2002 and, over the next five years, was assigned increasing levels of responsibility. She took administrative charge of a 20-member Forward Surgical Team in Korea, then spent a year as Battalion Medical Operations Officer at Colorado’s Fort Carson. Deployed to Iraq in 2005, Benson became the Brigade Medical Operations Officer, responsible for medical operations of a 3,500 member team in Diyala Province.

Frustrated that unused American medical supplies weren’t getting to Iraqi troops who needed them, Benson says she “made some noise [that] caught the ear of someone at a higher level.” The decision was made to have a medical officer on each Division-level Military Transition Team (MiTT), and Benson became the first woman assigned to that post. Her MiTT embedded with the Iraqi military, she helped establish the medical infrastructure in the Fifth Iraqi Army Division.

“Those were amazing experiences.” Benson recalls, “but I was a social worker at heart.” She resigned her commission in 2007 and took what she thought would be a less stressful job as a teacher. She left after a year. “Going from having people obey my orders to dealing with middle school kids, I thought I might be doing better in Iraq” she recalls. Benson wanted to help veterans with PTSD but knew she had to heal herself first. She backpacked across Asia, volunteered with street kids in Nepal, taught English in Hanoi and spent a year with Worldwise before entering GSFW.

“As both a social worker and a veteran, I believe I have a perspective that’s valuable for people to hear,” she says. “And,” she adds, “I feel like kids, I thought I might be doing better in Iraq!” she recalls.

Benson re-entered the Army and, over the next five years, was assigned to the Office of the Surgeon General as a Panels Consultant and a Panels Orientation Program Coordinator. She then served as a Panels Consultant and Panels Orientation Program Coordinator for the Army Medical Surveillance Activity, working to improve the mental healthcare received by service members who have experienced combat.

That’s when Four Corners Program Director Wanda Ellingson and her GSFW colleagues came up with a creative solution: Gomez completed an Independent Study project while serving in Kosovo, examining the impact that transitioning to active duty, then back home again, has on the mental health of servicemen and women. He also examined combat stress and developed strategies for social workers to use when working with returning veterans. Supervision for his project was provided online and via Skype.

Gomez was attached to the 717th Liaison Monitoring Team, whose mission was to establish a positive working relationship with the citizens of Kosovo. The Team also gathered covert information about the developing infrastructure and efforts to establish a central government during Kosovo’s ongoing quest for independence from Serbia.

“On the return flight, my leader was sending e-mails to his Congressman explaining that the American military was being used to carry out a political agenda.” Gomez says. “I learned a lot about myself and about the people of Eastern Europe during my deployment.”

While continuing with the Army National Guard, Gomez says his long-term goals include entering Officer Candidate School to obtain a commission as an officer in the Army. “Maybe one day, if I have an office in the Department of Defense,” he says, “I’d like to have a chance to be involved with policy making and helping to direct the military’s resources.”

**Specialist E-4 Albert Gomez** has served for 10 years in the New Mexico Army National Guard as a Child’s Assistant and Avenge Crewmember, part of an air defense artillery team providing protection against air and land attacks. He was on track to complete his MSW through the Durango-based Four Corners program when a year-long deployment to Kosovo, two days after Christmas in 2010, threatened to derail his education.

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**Lieutenant Dana Niemela** says that when she tells people her career goal is “to reform the Veterans Administration,” they nearly fall out of their chairs. But spend a few minutes with her and you’ll realize she’s not only serious but quite possibly up to the task.

After eight years of active duty in the Navy, Niemela resigned her commission in 2005 to enter the corporate world. Then she read a newspaper article about an Iraq War veteran whose PTSD-triggered flashback landed him in jail. Believing he was still in Iraq, he had broken down a neighbor’s door in an effort to clear his Colorado Springs neighborhood of “insurgents.” After talking with the young man, Niemela realized how difficult it can be for such vulnerable people to navigate a bureaucratic system to get the services they need.

“I’m very assertive, and I have so many resources at my disposal to fix problems,” she explains. “But does someone do who lacks those resources? They give up! I want to make systems more accessible.” Referred to GSFW at a career fair, she quickly realized that social work community practice would give her the system and policy analysis skills she needs to root out dysfunction and improve service to clients.

No stranger to complex organizations, Niemela spent three years of her military service in Washington as a White House Social Aide and Dining Room General Manager for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hosting events for international dignitaries, high-ranking military and civilian personnel. Previously, she served as Logistics and Services Manager and Director of Food and Hotel Services, for the 500 personnel aboard the USS LaSalle.

Now a concentration year MSW student, Niemela imparts valuable information to classmates curious about military life. She’s also anxious to debunk some people’s negative stereotypes about military personnel. “They’re among the most independent, creative thinkers and problem-solvers I’ve ever met,” she says. A description that certainly applies to Niemela herself. She’s already landed a full-time job as a Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Coordinator for Denver Human Services.

Niemela and Professor Jim Moran, who served with the Air Force during the Vietnam War, are among those working to establish a student veterans’ group on campus. Steaming from the University’s Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence, the group is aimed at addressing the needs of some 250 veterans currently enrolled at DU – a number that has increased five-fold over the past three years.

**GSFW Research Informs Practice**

**Associate Professor Stacey Frendenthal** was appointed earlier this year as an affiliate of the Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC). The Consortium is funded by a three-year grant from the Department of Defense and is aimed at developing multidisciplinary approaches to suicide prevention among military personnel and veterans. Fourth year PhD student James Pease serves as a research assistant with the MSRC, compiling existing research on military suicides, doing literature reviews and monitoring new studies that are completed. “Our goal is to help close the time gap between research and implementation,” he says, “so that policy-makers and other researchers can get faster responses to their intervention questions.”

Click here for more information.

Second year PhD student Erin Boyce is hoping to complete a doctoral dissertation that combines her interests in child welfare and military social work. She’s exploring risk and resilience among adolescents who enter the child welfare system after experiencing trauma in homes where one or both parents have combat-related post-traumatic stress syndrome or traumatic brain injury.

**Tim Russell** (MSW ‘11) and his fellow Excellence Consulting team members placed first in the second annual Inclusive Excellence Business Case Competition sponsored by DU’s Daniels College of Business. The team helped Denver’s Qwest/CenturyLink Communications develop a strategy for recruitment, onboarding and retention of military veterans within the company.

GSFW’s Butler Institute for Families is assisting the Colorado Division of Child Support Enforcement with a three-year project aimed at improving service delivery and educating military personnel about child support at four of the state’s military bases. The project is funded by a grant from the Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. Click here to read more about this project at look for more about the project in the spring 2012 issue of GSFW Magazine.
GSSW’s pre-Commencement Recognition Ceremony and reception was held on June 2, at DU’s Newman Center for the Performing Arts. With families and friends in attendance, it was a time to rejoice, reminisce and recognize exceptional achievements.

MSW graduates receiving awards at the Recognition Ceremony were (L-R): Kaftin Jones – Ruth Marx Stark Award Megan Hope – Edith M. Davee Merit Award Emily Ashton – Tommi Frank Memorial Award Kathryn Shorg – Dean Emil M. Sunley Merit Award Erin O’Sullivan – Ira Mae O’Dermott Award Stacey Schoolfield – Dorothea C. Swolliann Award Badiah Haffejee – Jean Pearl Sinnock Award Renea Nisson – OMNI Research Award

“We have finally accomplished our goal – we’re social workers!” Graduate Student Association President Katie Shorg tells her classmates.

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“Way to go, Dad!” MSW graduate Mia Woodson enjoys the post-ceremony reception with his son.

Jolie NeSmith was among the graduates who voiced their professional “mission statements” during the ceremony. (See their statements at the top of these pages.)

“2011 GSSW Recognition Ceremony

Shades of Brown Alliance received the 2010-11 Outstanding Graduate Student Organization Award from DU’s Center for Multicultural Excellence. Pictured (L-R) are Laura Medina, Heather Tousignant, Cara’l Fellon, Badiah Haffejee, Associate Professor Michelle Anen (faculty advisor), Dame Tran and Professor James Moran, Interim Associate Provost for Multicultural Excellence.

As they took the stage to receive their diplomas on June 3, GSSW’s Class of 2011 made history. Numbering 227, they were the largest MSW class in the history of the school. Among them were:

- 100 Phi Alpha Honor Society members
- 95 who earned specialized certificates
- 6 who earned interdisciplinary dual degrees
- 4 who earned dual undergraduate/graduate degrees

Dean Williams waits onstage to greet the graduates.

Congratulations to all!

Click here to view the commencement video.

“6 I will help children and families become their own best advocates.”
“I will help connect people and communities to the natural environment to foster sustainable habits and practices.”
“I will strive to strengthen relationships to help children and adolescents avoid out-of-home placements.”

June Commencement

“I will teach children and adolescents how to find the strengths in themselves.”
“I will help communities organize to bring about social change.”
“I will assist at-risk youth and families through animal-assisted social work.”
Students Honored

This spring, the GSSW Research Committee selected PhD students Kristie Seelman and Shandra Forrest-Bank to receive Dissertation Support Awards. These awards are made annually to one or more students whose dissertation proposal and overall record of study are deemed meritorious by members of the committee. Seelman’s dissertation is entitled A Mixed Methods Look at Structural Bigenderism and the Consequences for Transgender and Gender Variant People; Forrest-Bank’s dissertation is entitled The Relationship Between Risk and Resilience, Racial Microaggression, Ethnic Identity and Well-Being in Young Adulthood.

First-year PhD student Shelby McDonald (MSW ’11) has received a Graduate Research Assistantship from the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development for her ongoing work as project coordinator for the NICHD-funded research collaboration between the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence and GSSW.

Concentration year MSW student Angela Whitenhill was selected as a 2011-2012 U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Regional Education Office Graduate Fellow. The fellowship is awarded to MSW students who demonstrate interest or experience in health or mental health practice and a commitment to working in the African American community. The scholarship is named for a social worker and NASW national staff member who committed his life to increasing awareness of pernicious health concerns affecting African Americans.

PhD student Ashley-Marie Hanna Michel (left) was awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship by DU’s Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship (DULCES). Michel’s research focuses on Latino families living in America under threat of deportation, or who have experienced actual deportation of unauthorized family members. Congratulating Michel are Associate Professor and DULCES Director Debra Ortega and Professor Walter LaMendola, Director of the PhD Program.

In mid-April, GSSW’s Queer Equality Alliance (QEA) enlisted student, faculty and staff support for the National Day of Silence, during which hundreds of thousands of people nationwide take a vow of silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in their schools. Observances were held on Tuesday, April 12, and Friday, April 15, to allow the participation of both foundation and concentration year students. Participants were asked to wear buttons symbolizing their pledge not to speak.

Students, faculty and staff joined members of the ECO Conscious student organization in celebrating Earth Week in April. A two-day event on Craig Hall’s sunny Shramm Foundation Plaza offered custom-blended smoothies and the opportunity to express eco-friendly messages with sidewalk chalk. The following weekend, ECO Conscious participated in Denver’s Fifth Annual South Platte River Clean-Up, an event that also featured rafting, kayaking, biking and walking six miles of the river and adjacent bike path. The service day concluded with a party that included a raffle and product giveaways. Click here to read more about ECO Conscious.

Students Honored

James Herbert Williams named PhD students Jie Feng (left) and Jennifer Dickman Posta (right) as the Enid O. Cox Pre-Doctoral Fellows for the coming academic year. The award provides funding for their third year of doctoral study. Professor Estimates Cox Pre-Doctoral Fellowships are named in honor of the Fellows are named, presented the awards at the doctoral reception on September 14.

On March 29, the Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization sponsored the showing of the film, “We, too, Are the Face of Islam: Muslim Women in a Post-9/11 United States,” that explores women’s perspectives on Islam in America during a time of transformation in the Arab world. A group discussion followed, facilitated by Carema Cook-Masaud, a counselor, educator and founder of the Center for Compassion.

A number of GSSW students participated in The Clothes Line Project, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week, sponsored in April by the University’s Gender Violence Education and Support Service. The project sought to raise awareness of sexual assault by displaying T-shirts, created by the students, at several campus locations including Craig Hall.
Student Events

Social Work and Spirituality
More than 60 people attended “Faith, Religion, Spirituality and Social Work,” sponsored by GSSW’s Graduate Student Association (GSA) on April 13. Ministério Chaplain Gary Brower acted as moderator for a “fishbowl” discussion by GSSW students and faculty, while audience members observed the discussion focused on the ways faith or spirituality had influenced the participants’ social work practice and vice versa. Audience members then continued the conversation in small groups, while individual “fishbowl” participants were placed in a group. Featured here are members of the planning committee for the event (L-R) MSW students: Rebecca Meyers, Kristi Roybal and Rachel Benson, associate professor Marian Baronyi and Clinical Assistant Professor Karen Bensen. Brower also helped facilitate the event.

Four Corners Program

On May 10, four GSSW student organizations co-sponsored “How to Be an Ally,” an evening panel discussion that included community leaders and other speakers chosen by the four sponsoring groups: Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization, Queer Equity Alliance, Shades of Brown Alliance and Graduate Student Association. The event explored the roles, challenges and meaning of being an ally to various marginalized communities. Included at the table are panelists (L-R) Shuki Mauwadi (MSW ’13), Renata Heberton (MSW ’10), documentary filmmaker Nick McCarr, Director of Rainbow Ally and Youth Services Gay Barrett, Colorado for Immigrant Rights member Pete Peterson and American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Ally organizing Director Jordan Garcia. Standing behind them are associate professor Michelle Hanna (MSW ‘09), Field Education Program Administrator Andy Downing (4th from right), Clinical Assistant Professor Karen Bensen (3rd from right) and leaders of the four student organizations.

Kicking it for Kenya
GSSW helped sponsor the Kick it for Kenya 5K Run/Walk on June 26, at Denver’s Cheesman Park. MSW students (L-R) Chelsea Geraghty and Julie Jones helped organize the event, which benefited the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy (KGSA), located in East Africa’s largest slum. Also pictured are (L-R) Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi and KGSA Foundation Director Ryan Szarko.

Four Corners Program a National Model

When the Four Corners MSW program was founded in Durango, Colorado, nine years ago, one of its primary goals was improving outreach to rural and underserved populations. Now the program is fast becoming a national model for other schools with similar missions.

Fordham University’s Dale Lindquist, LCSW, DMin, and Vincenza Corcoran, MSW, visited Durango this summer seeking ways to enhance services for rural populations in the upstate and western regions of New York. Lindquist, coordinator of Fordham’s online MSW option, also serves as Associate Director of the Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty. Corcoran is Associate Director of Field Instruction in the Graduate School of Social Service.

“The innovative and extensive work you are doing with your ITV program and with the Native American population has left a deep impression on us,” Lindquist wrote in a follow-up letter to Four Corners Site Director Wanda Ellingson. “You have shown us what is possible when dedicated to a unique and specific mission. And you have provided us with a model to emulate.”

During their visit, Lindquist and Corcoran met with Steve Brittain, Director of the Southern Ute Division of Social Services, and Four Corners student Michelle Olguin, a member of the Southern Ute Tribe whose MSW internship Brittain supervises. “If Michelle is an example of the quality of education you are providing your students, you are clearly doing a superb job!” Lindquist told Ellingson.

Course Teaches Animal-Assisted Interventions
GSSW is quickly developing an international reputation for its unique specialization in animal-assisted social work. This summer, Four Corners MSW students had their first opportunity to learn these cutting-edge skills in a course entitled “Integration of Animals into Therapeutic Settings.” Taught by Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi, Clinical Director of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, the course focused on facilitating many types of animal-assisted activities with clients. Clinical Assistant Professor David Blair and Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson discussed integrating animals into family therapy sessions. Additional classes featured guest speakers from the Durango community; Trish Lemke, Programs Director at Medicine Horse Center, and Jenni Berkman, from Axis Health System discussed canine-assisted interventions.

Student Present Symposia

Students completing the concentration year elective course, “Disrupting Privilege,” presented their group projects to the GSSW community on May 23. Symposia titles included “Understanding White Privilege: the Tools We Use to Resist.” When Did You Choose to Be Straight?” and “Living Within the Safety Net.”
Jeff Jenson, Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk and GSSW’s Associate Dean for Research, was named a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. His induction took place on May 6 in Washington, D.C.

AASWSW is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare. Jenson is a fellow of the Academy’s second class, the first group to have undergone the strict selection procedures created last year by the board and nominations committee.

“I am truly honored,” Jenson says. “The selection process is quite rigorous, and my induction validates the scholarship and work I have been engaged in during my career.”

In addition to recognizing outstanding research, scholarship and practice, AASWSW infuses social policy by providing information for the social work profession, Congress, other government agencies and non-government entities charged with advancing the public good.

“The board of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare is more dedicated than ever to preparing social work students to aid communities facing environmental changes. I am looking forward to working with other members of the board of the Academy to promote social work practice, education and research.”

Jeff Jenson

Jenson Named AASWSW Fellow
GSSW congratulates the following faculty members whose promotions took effect in June:

- Daniel Brisson – Associate Professor with Tenure
- Michele Hanna – Associate Professor with Tenure
- Michele Siemkiewicz – Clinical Associate Professor
- Philip Tedeschi – Clinical Professor
- Eugene Walls – Associate Professor with Tenure

Clinical Associate Professor Michele Siemkiewicz was named Associate Director for Field Education effective July 1.

Kim Yuskis, LCSW, received a one-year appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Office of Field Education beginning on July 1. Yuskis is the coordinator of GSSW’s PROGRESS gerontology program, whose rotational field internship model gives students experience in multiple agencies serving older adults.

Assistant Professor Leslie Hasche joined the GSSW faculty on September 1. Her academic and research interests include gerontology, mental health practice, community-based aging services and organizational issues regarding implementation of evidence-based practices. Hasche comes to us from the University of Kansas where she was an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare.

Associate Professor Stacey Freedenthal is serving as Interim Associate Dean for Research while Jeff Jenson, Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk, is on sabbatical during the 2011-12 academic year. Freedenthal began her duties on September 1.

In August, GSSW welcomed Nicholas “Nick” Ota-Wang as our new Admission Assistant. He replaces Brent Stewart, MA, who resigned from the position in June to become an undergraduate admission counselor at Bridgewater College in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Ota-Wang holds a BA in History from Colorado State University and has a Social Studies Secondary Education License. He was previously a Visitor Services Coordinator at the Denver Firefighters Museum and has held customer service positions at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Zoo. His higher education experience includes Texas A&M University, Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado.
HONORING EMERITUS FACULTY

GSSW’s emeritus faculty are distinguished retirees who have been honored by the University for their long and valuable service to our school. Following nomination by the school, the Dean and the Provost, the emeritus designation requires approval by DU’s Board of Trustees. As a follow-up to the profiles of 80 GSSW alumni in the 80th Anniversary commemorative issue of GSSW Magazine last spring, we honor these 15 faculty emeriti/ae who are also GSSW graduates.

Have fond memories of your former professors, dean or classmates? Click here to make a donation to GSSW in their honor.

Thank you!

Kathryn Bolte
Professor Emerita Kathryn Bolte (MSW ’53) served in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps during World War II, enlisting in the Women’s Army Corps and later becoming an MSW pupil after earning her MSW. She served as Executive Director of Catholic Charities in Susie City, Iowa, for three years, then returned to Denver where she became a school social worker. Initially hired as part of a field instructor, Bolte joined the GSSW faculty in 1962. She was an active member of many local and national organizations, served as an NAASW consultant to school systems establishing school social work programs and was a regional consultant for Project Head Start. Bolte retired in 1981 after 20 years at GSSW. She died in 1994.

Connie Calkin
Before entering Connie Calkin (MSW ’58, PhD ’62) joined the GSSW faculty in 1962. A native of Oklahoma City, she was a co-founder of GSSW’s School of Social Work with her husband and three children. She was later appointed as executive director after Calkin’s death in 1980. Calkin’s early experiences in child welfare and with juvenile delinquents provided the foundation for her career in group practice. She also served as the Dean of GSSW from 1994-2000, until 2014, 10 years after joining the GSSW faculty. In the interim, she served as the Director of GSSW’s Emergency Relief Administration and Colorado’s Department of Public Welfare, then served four years as an Army Sergeant and chaplain’s assistant in Europe during World War II. On the faculty for 28 years, Korn taught MSW and doctoral courses, served as GSSW’s Alumni Association and served as an agency consultant. Korn continued to teach doctoral courses for three years after his 1968 retirement, and co-founded the School’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 1981. He died in 1982.

Ruth Clark
Associate Professor Emerita Ruth V. Clark (MSW ’50) began her career in her home state of Kansas, where she held several child welfare positions between 1938 and 1949. After graduating from GSSW, Clark returned to the Kansas Division of Child Welfare and also taught social work and sociology at the University of Kansas. For three years, she held leadership positions with Wichita’s Community Planning Council. GSSW hired Clark in 1959 as an Associate Professor. She served as secretary to the faculty committee for admissions and taught at GSSW until retiring in 1975. Clark died in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1996.

Enid Opal Cox
Two years after joining the faculty in 1981, Professor Emerita Enid Opal Cox (MSW ’68), DSW, became director of GSSW’s Institute of Gerontology. Under her leadership until she retired in 2009, the institute became a respected source of research, training and community service, especially in the area of caring for the elderly and self-care by the elderly. Cox directed the PhD Program from 2001 to 2005, and a new pre-doctoral fellowship for PhD students was named in her honor when she retired. Cox also was instrumental in GSSW’s ongoing effort to support China’s social work profession through faculty and student exchanges.

Barbara Maxie
The granddaughter of a slave, Professor Emerita Barbara Maxie (MSW ’50) attended segregated schools and graduated from a traditionally black college. She took graduate courses at the University of Chicago, but went on to finish her MSW until her family moved to Denver and her sons were in school. Prior to becoming a GSSW lecturer in 1969, Maxie was a YWCA Branch Director, Florence Crittenton Home facilitator and Auraria Community Center Executive Director. “I worked very hard at being a minority,” she later said. “I’m not only a woman and black, but I’m left-handed and a group worker. So I don’t know how to behave in the majority.” Appointed to the faculty in 1975, Maxie retired in 1981.

Pamela Metz
Associate Professor Emerita Pamela K. Metz (MSW ’66), DSW, focused her scholarship on administrative and educational practice, and on adult learning theory and practice. Widely published, she has written on such topics as social work with elders, hospice services, and issues of loss and grief. She also has published several collections of writings and expressions of Tao, including The Creative Tao, The Tao of Learning and The Tao of Women. At GSSW from 1986 to 2002, Metz taught a wide range of courses, including human behavior in small groups and social work with the chronically and terminally ill. She also served two years as associate dean for academic and student affairs.

Jean Sullivan
Associate Professor Emerita Jean Sullivan (MSW ’59) brought a wide range of clinical skill and knowledge to the GSSW faculty when she was hired in 1964 as a field instructor. A Catholic Family Services caseworker until 1942, she became a medical social worker for the American Red Cross after World War II, treating wounded soldiers and prisoners of war, as well as Navy and Marine personnel with respiratory diseases. She also worked with veterans at Fort Dix, New Jersey. In Colorado, Sullivan became a school social worker in 1959 and later served on the Jefferson County Mental Health Association Board. Sullivan attained an EdD in 1985 and retired four years later. She is deceased.

Jules Mondshein
As America’s urban racial tensions peaked in the 1960s, Professor Emerita Jules Mondshein (MSW ’59), DSW, demonstrated his commitment to racial diversity by moving his family from then all-white southeast Denver to an increasingly mixed neighborhood that other whites were fleeing. Appointed as a social worker for the Catholic Social Service Center in Community Relations in 1967, he also served as a regional consultant for several anti-poverty programs created by Lyndon Johnson’s Economic Opportunity Act. At GSSW from 1964 to 1989, Mondshein was a field instructor and agency liaison, as well as teaching courses across the curriculum. His prior experience included eight years at Denver’s Jewish Community Center.

Katharine Vail
After 17 years with the Girl Scouts, Professor Emerita Katharine V. Dail (MSW ’55) became Coordinator of Special Services for Denver’s Metropolitan Council for Community Services in 1960. She joined GSSW, faculty ride rest late last year teaching a wide range of courses including group work, her own MSW specialization. She coordinated GSSW’s continuing education efforts and established the Satellite Education Program in Pueblo, extending MSW education to an underserved area of Colorado. As Associate Dean (1983-85) and then Acting Dean (1985-87), Vail led a major curriculum revision and developed GSSW’s Information Technology Center, bringing the school into the computer age. Retired since 1989, Vail died in 1996.
IHAC Conference Examines Role of Shelter Dogs

For the third year in a row, GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) sponsored a major conference in the spring. Held on the evening of May 3, “The Role of Shelter Dogs in Human Health: The Colorado Connection” brought together a wide range of students, researchers, authors and animal advocates to explore the ways human-animal interactions impact our lives.

Keynote speaker Hal Herzog discussed his book, Some We Love. Some We Eat, which draws upon Herzog’s more than 20 years of research in the emerging field of anthrozoology. Leslie Irvine, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado in Boulder, also discussed the book she authored; If You Tame Me argues that companion animals have a sense of self, which requires that we reconsider our rights and obligations regarding them.

The program also included a presentation by Leslie Rockey, AAS, Director of Colorado Animal Rescue (CARE), an animal shelter in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Since opening its doors in 2000, CARE has taken in and placed over 7,900 dogs, cats and other animals.

A pre-conference reception gave participants the opportunity to meet Freedom Service Dog teams made up of MSW students and the service dogs they were training while earning GSSW’s Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate.

Additionally, the Butler Institute’s National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) received the prestigious 2011 Quality Award from the National Staff Development and Training Association for its outstanding performance in training for human services employees. The award recognizes the successful development and implementation of NCWWI’s Leadership Academy for Middle Managers and Leadership Academy for Supervisors as cutting-edge, innovative approaches resulting in demonstrated quality improvements in participants’ learning, behavior and accomplishments.

In addition to Britain, the NCWWI curriculum development team includes Butler Program Administrator Nancy McDaniels (at top right), who leads the project’s knowledge assessment and management efforts; and Professor CATHY PETER, Executive Director of the Butler Institute and NCWWI’s Associate Provost for Research. Research Manager Rob Leake (purchased with McDaniels) leads the ongoing evaluation for NCWWI.

Click here to stay informed about the Butler Institute’s many research, training and consulting projects on their redesigned and more user-friendly website. The Butler Broadcast e-newsletter made its debut this spring. If you didn’t receive a copy, click here to read the Butler Broadcast on the Institute’s website.

LINK Conference Promotes Best Practices

GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) hosted an Advanced LINK Screening and Evaluation Workshop in April. Based on the well-documented link between animal abuse and violence toward people, the two-day workshop promoted best screening, risk assessment and intervention practices during animal cruelty investigations, as well as the most current research on correlations between animal abuse and domestic violence like child sexual abuse and intimate partner rape.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the Animal Assistance Foundation, one of IHAC’s founding donors.
**Bridge Project**

**New Bridge Programs Promote Early Literacy**

As GSSW’s non-profit Bridge Project marks its 20th Anniversary in 2011, it’s making a positive difference for more at-risk kids than ever before:

- **This fall, 20 Bridge Scholarship students entered Denver area colleges and trade schools, the largest Bridge freshman class to date.**
- **Last spring, the largest group of Bridge Scholarship students in the project’s history graduated from a number of colleges, including the University of Denver.**

In Denver Public Schools (DPS), Colorado’s largest urban school district, fewer than half of all fourth grade students can read at grade level.* According to the Colorado Department of Education, the 2009 DPS high school graduation rate was 52%, well below the 75% rate for the state as a whole. Now two new Bridge Project early literacy programs, implemented this summer, are working to change those dismal statistics for children and youth in the four public housing communities Bridge serves.

**Preventing “Summer Slide”**

The Gr8 Readers program is designed to help Bridge participants avoid what two University of Tennessee researchers call “summer slide,” the reading achievement gap that typically occurs among children who lack access to reading materials during their summer vacations. Using a modified version of the model developed by UT Knoxville’s Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen, Bridge partnered with Denver’s Tattered Cover bookstore to provide 250 children and youth with 1,058 books to read over the summer.

Recent GSSW graduate Matthew Hwata (MSW ’10) generously underwrote the cost of the program and played a key role in establishing it.

The Gr8 Readers elementary program allowed children in Kindergarten through fifth grade to select eight books apiece. After reading the books with staff and volunteers, the children read them aloud to visiting preschoolers. Two book distribution celebrations provided the opportunity for the children to decorate storage bins for their new personal libraries.

Middle and high school Bridge students visited the Tattered Cover to make their summer reading selections. Preliminary results indicate that 86% of the Bridge Gr8 Readers participants increased their Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA-2) scores over the summer, and another 12% maintained their reading level. The program is continuing this fall.

**Building Reading Comprehension**

Supported by Mile High United Way, Bridge also implemented a new year-round early literacy curriculum this summer. Called Read Well®, the research-based curriculum focuses on developing phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. It includes a beginning reading program for children in Kindergarten through first grade, and another program for second and third graders who need extra instruction or intervention.

*Click here for more information.

For a complete list of giving opportunities click [here](#).

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI GIVING**

Dear Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, Board of Visitors and Alumni Association, I want to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who have contributed to the Graduate School of Social Work during the past fiscal year. Thanks to your spirit of philanthropy and your commitment to GSSW, our tradition of excellence will continue for generations to come.

At the heart of every outstanding educational program are talented, highly motivated students drawn together by the promise of an academic experience that will develop their full potential and help them mature as professionals. For many students and applicants, however, the cost of attending GSSW is a primary concern and a significant obstacle to realizing their aspirations to serve the most vulnerable members of our society.

Providing scholarship support plays a major role in our ability to enroll the most promising students and prepare them to meet the ever-increasing demand for highly trained social workers. In fact, some 90% of our students require financial assistance to meet the cost of completing the MSW program. Simply put, we couldn’t meet this level of student need without the enduring support of donors like you.

Thank you!

Best regards,

Lynda Ricketson
Director of Development and Alumni Giving

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**The Challenges of the World are Great, but Great GSSW Students are Changing the World.**

We live in a world filled with challenges. To flourish, our society depends on the creativity and optimism of a rising generation of social work leaders.

The Graduate School of Social Work depends on your support to help prepare our students to meet the challenges of the next hundred years.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** A simple provision in your will or trust can change the lives of future generations. Help GSSW shape the leaders and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

Right now, DU will match your current gift or bequest to establish an endowed scholarship. Call Lynda Ricketson, Director of Development and Alumni Giving, at 303.871.2739 for details.

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**Office of Gift Planning**

1.800.448.3238 or 303.871.2739 **Click here to email.**
The Graduate School of Social Work salutes the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado,whose generous event sponsorship has enabled the University of Denver to bring vital information about privilege to students, activists, community members, educators and scholars. The Fund works with numerous organizations and institutions to achieve its mission: fostering an organizational culture where all people are treated fairly, valued for their differences and given equal opportunities to maximize their success.

In addition to providing event sponsorship grants, the Fund supports public, broadcasting and makes impact sponsorship grants, the Fund supports equal opportunities to maximize institutions to achieve its mission: community members, educators and scholars. The Fund works about privilege to students, activists, of Denver to bring vital information to the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, other off-campus co-sponsors of the Denver Foundation. The Denver Foundation 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 Bicketson. Director of Development and Alumni Giving, at 303.871.7599 or click here to email.

Please note that the “1931 Circle” Annual Giving Society has been renamed the “Founders’ Circle” to avoid confusion with a similarly named scholarship fund.

Dean’s Circle
Gifts totaling $2,500 or more July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

Founders’ Circle
Gifts totaling $1,000–2,499 July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

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FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Graduates:

I hope this issue of GSSW Magazine finds you enjoying fall. I must admit I love this season. The start of a new school year always reminds me of the joys of lifelong learning. In fact, long before the development of the iPad, I was one of those students who lived for new pens, pencils, organizers and binders in preparation for my new classes!

Social workers love learning. We constantly seek out knowledge so we can practice with competence and skill. To support our alumni in this quest, GSSW offers a number of exciting continuing professional development opportunities and even more will be added during the months ahead.

Please be sure to read on page 5 of this magazine about the new Continuing Competency Requirements for Colorado's licensed mental health professionals. Social workers. Although these requirements directly impact only Colorado's licensed social workers, the GSSW Alumni Association is committed to providing interesting courses, informative lectures and other learning opportunities tailored to the needs of everyone within our diverse profession. Click here to download the Association's alumni newsletter and to learn more about upcoming Alumni Association events.

All the best to you as you continue your journey of professional development!

Sincerely,

Jim McQuirer
Alumni Association President

GSSW Service Award

This award is presented to an alumna/alumnus who has contributed to, or served, in a leadership or professional capacity in a social work agency, organization, or program; or by reaching a level of prominence in the business world, political sphere, or other relevant field, that directly impacts only Colorado's licensed social workers. The award recognizes the contributions of an alumna/alumnus who is not a current student at GSSW.

Norma Aguilar-Dave
MSW '96, LCSSW, CAC III

Dave has led the merging of Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy into the Day Treatment and Residential Treatment Programs to reduce placement. Improve the clients' success and sustainability in the community and increase the cost-effectiveness of programming.

Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care, one of the most difficult programs to implement, has been a major challenge for Savio. And it is through Aguilar-Dave’s efforts that the organization is making great strides in the development of this program. Moreover, young people who have multiple services and placement failures are thriving in this program.

Community Service Award

This award is presented to an alumna/alumnus who has demonstrated significant and continuous volunteer involvement in major community activities and/or charitable causes. Above and beyond his/her employed position.

Since 2007, Hope Wisneski has served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of Colorado. She also serves as a national and statewide leader offering consulting and training to GLBT cultural competency and youth-adult partnership models for groups such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Conference on Tobacco and Health, the Colorado Foundation for Child Welfare, and the Division of Youth Corrections at the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Wisneski’s volunteer work includes serving on the boards of the Colorado Anti-Violence Program, the Colorado Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committee; the Colorado AIDS Project and Resource Center, and Colorado VOICE, as well as the GSSW Field Advisory Board. Wisneski’s talents have contributed to a number of working committees in Colorado, including Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS, the Denver Alliance on Tobacco and Health, the Rocky Mountain Equal Care Coalition, the Johnson and Wales University GLBT Advisory Committee and the Komen Foundation’s Diversity Outreach Advisory Committee.

Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award

This award is presented to an alumna/alumnus who has demonstrated professional achievement by being named executive director, executive director, manager, chairperson, board of the...
Sister Mary Alice Murphy (MSW ’71) chose her 60th birthday as August 7 to time her retirement nearly 30 years working to eradicate homelessness and help the less fortunate in Fort Collins. CO. C. A. B. At birth, Murphy joined Our Lady of Victory Ministry Sisters in Huntington. W. At age 17. Before attending GSSW, she ministered to people in several states and earned her MSW from Michigan’s Siena Heights College. After earning her MSW, Murphy served for 10 years at Denver’s Catholic Charities. In 1985, she became executive director of Catholic Community Services in Northern Colorado (now Catholic Charities Northern) in Fort Collins, where she set out to address hunger and poverty in the community. Under her leadership, the organization opened a soup kitchen and created multiple outreach programs including CARE Housing, the Lifehope Project, Homeless Prevention Initiative and Homeward. In 2005, in the city’s Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope opened as a collaborative effort to help the homeless and near-homeless in Northern Colorado.

Mary Overington (MSW ’80), left, celebrates the success of Clothes to Kids of Denver. The non-profit she co-founded in 2008 that has since served more than 6,000 children. CTK provides school-aged children from low-income families with clothing, donated by stores and individuals, to encourage students to be proud of going to school and self-esteem. Families “shop” for the finest clothing in a store that looks as cheerful and welcoming as one might find at the mall. Pictured with Overington is Katlin Jones (MSW ’11), the student intern whom Overington supervised during 2011-12 and who was hired in June as the organization’s first Program Director.

Leanne Clark (MSW ’08) was named Social Worker of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of NASW. A medical social worker, Clark was honored for her work on Colorado’s new social work licensure statute.

Megan (Boyle) Gage (MSW ’06) recently launched a line of naturally based hairstyling products for babies and children. Her company Hot Tots employs sustainable business practices and donates a portion of its proceeds to several charities that benefit children. Megan says she’s found a “fun and unique way to make the world a better place.” Click here to visit her company online.

Nancy Lazero (MSW ’00, PhD ’09), LCSW, has been appointed Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland--University of Baltimore. She’s maintaining her association with GSSW by continuing to teach the Lavine Preparation professional development course and collaborating with the Butler Institute for Families on research and evaluation involving tribal child welfare. Lazero also was interviewed for an upcoming PBS documentary on American Indian urbanization. Both about her work on urban American Indian cultural identity and cultural connectedness, and about her experiences as a Native person. The not-yet-unified documentary by Lisa Olken, an award-winning documentary filmmaker from Rocky Mountain PBS, is expected to air nationally in 2012.

In Memoriam

Mary Cecelia Duggan (MSW ’70) died on July 28, 2011, at age 84. Formerly a nurse at Denver’s St. Anthony Hospital, Duggan was a social worker for Jefferson County and for Adams County, where she specialized in finding foster and adoptive homes for children with special needs. Many of her cases were featured on the “Worthless Child” adoption segment on Denver’s KCVR-TV. In 1984, Duggan and her husband, Larry, adopted Penny, a child with special needs. Penced in death by her daughter, Kathy, and sons, Stephen, Duggan was survived by her husband, seven children, 13 grandchildren and one brother. Memorial donations may be made to The Adoption Exchange, the Mile High Down Syndrome Association or the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Gail K. Reader (MSW ’60) of Fort Collins, CO, passed away on July 27, 2011. She was 76. Her career as a social worker in the Jefferson County School District spanned 40 years. Her husband, Paul, two daughters, Catherine and Stephanie, a son, Stephen, a grandson and a granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to Medical Center of the Rockies, Intermountain Cancer Care Unit in case of Mortal Affliction, Fort Collins, CO.

Rosanne B. Shenton (MSW ’85), LCDC, of Whitaker Ridge, CO, died on February 16, 2011. J. '69, was a General Social Worker and Volunteer at the Denver area for more than 40 years. Shenton bequested to the National Coalition for Literacy (NCLC). A portion of her estate to fund advocacy work on behalf of adult learners. Memorial contributions may be made to the NCLC or to the National Resource Defense Council.

Joseph "Al" Tennes (MSW ’53) of Walnut Creek, CA, died on February 9, 2011. A 1953 graduate of GSSW, Tennes worked as a personnel director in the Department of Welfare, then served as an administrator in the CO Department of Social Services for 25 years. An avid sailor, windsurfer, skier and birdwatcher, he swam regularly until shortly before his death. Tennes is survived by his wife, Katherine; one daughter; two sons-in-law; and a step-granddaughter.

Patricia居 (MSW ’51) of Denver, CO, passed away on October 26, 2010. A 1951 graduate of GSSW, Murphy was appointed Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Colorado--University of Denver. She’s maintaining her association with GSSW by continuing to teach the Lavine Preparation professional development course and collaborating with the Butler Institute for Families on research and evaluation involving tribal child welfare. Lazero also was interviewed for an upcoming PBS documentary on American Indian urbanization. Both about her work on urban American Indian cultural identity and cultural connectedness, and about her experiences as a Native person. The not-yet-unified documentary by Lisa Olken, an award-winning documentary filmmaker from Rocky Mountain PBS, is expected to air nationally in 2012. 

Ginger Meyette (MSW ’90, PhD ’05) married Linda (Ericksen) Satherfield on June 11 in Decorah, IA, where Meyette is Assistant Professor of social work at Luther College. "It was a small open house and reception held for the couple’s Colorado friends and family on June 26 at Denver’s First Universalist Church. Meyette is at the right in the photo.

Anthony R. Natalie (PhD ’05) has been on the faculty at the University of Oklahoma’s Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work since graduation. His Coordinator of the MSW Program, was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and was named Graduate Educator of the Year. Natalie says he’s looking forward to moving the program into a new 82,500 square-foot state-of-the-art school whose community room and clinical suites were modeled after those in GSSW’s Craig Hall.

I have fond memories of my days at DU, which prepared me well for my career since,” he writes.

Anne Willeford (MSW ’69, Assistant Professor provided social work at the University of Kansas in part of an interdisciplinary team of researchers working to bring the highly successful K12 state test to the state. Developed in Finland in 2007, K12 may be implemented in selected Laos. KS. classrooms as early as the 2012-2013 academic year. If it proves to be successful there, the model could expand nationally.

Amstutz Gerry (MSW ’61, LCSW, CAC II, MFT, is a functional family therapist at North Range Behavioral Health in Greeley, CO. She serves as a delegate to the House (national council) of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. in Houston, TX, and recently published an article in Race, Class, Gender entitled “Motivation Factors for African American Women’s Involvement in the Environmental Justice Movement.” Of her volunteer work at Collected’s Challenge Foundation, Girms writes "I continue to feel that higher education is critical for African American women and girls. I became a mentor at the Challenge Foundation when alumna Meredith Birdsell (MSW ’09) asked GSSW’s Alpha members to mentor youth.”

Aimee Garcia (MSW ’11), who earned the Certificate in Animal-Assisted Social Work, is the new Therapeutic Programs Coordinator at Heartland Farm Sanctuary in Madison, WI, and also works for Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin as a Peer Court Program Counselor. She’s pictured here during GSSW’s final week with Koby, the therapy dog she trained while earning the AASW Certificate.
House Band

(hous bánd) *noun* – GSSW’s “noted” faculty

Working at Adams County Human Services back in 1982, Jim Pyle overheard a conversation in the adjoining cubicle. “We need to find a drummer,” Pyle’s colleague Dave Blair was saying. Pyle leapt to his feet. “How about me?” he asked, and the pair’s musical collaboration was born. Several bands later, the drummer (Adjunct Professor Pyle) and the guitarist/vocalist/harmonica-player (Clinical Assistant Professor Blair) are once again professional colleagues, this time at GSSW. They’re also part of a five-member rock band, Clusterfunk, whose gigs include everything from benefit concerts to the 2011 end-of-year party at Spanky’s Roadhouse last June.

Professor Jim Moran, until recently DU’s Interim Associate Provost for Multicultural Excellence, played in several bands during high school, then set aside his bass guitar, giving it little thought until two years ago when he met a couple of like-minded guitarists at Denver’s Swallow Hill Music Association. Together they formed a blues band – unnamed until Moran recounted their meeting to their recently added drummer. “Why that’s a twist of fate!” exclaimed the new band member. “Twist of Fate” now plays at venues around the city.

Whose performances inspired Moran to return to his musical roots? None other than folk-rocker Jeff Jenson, GSSW’s Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk and Associate Dean for Research. The multi-talented Jenson not only sings and plays guitar and harmonica, but also composes original works. He’s entertained at numerous GSSW events over the years and is about to break onto the national scene, putting together a band with colleagues from across the country to play at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference in January.

Rock on!