Doctoral Education at 40:
Envisioning the Future
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From the Dean

I am pleased to share with you this inaugural edition of GSSW Magazine. In 2008-09, our doctoral program marked its 40th year, making it one of the oldest social work doctorates in the nation. So it seems fitting that we devote the cover story of this first issue to honoring this pioneering program and to describing our efforts to envision and shape its future.

We hope you will take the time to enjoy all the features and sections of our new magazine, which will be published in the fall and spring each year. In addition to the guest lecturers highlighted on the facing page, this issue describes a number of major events that the Graduate School of Social Work hosted during the last academic year, including the first national Pedagogy of Privilege conference co-sponsored in June and two conferences presented this spring by our Institute for Human-Animal Connection. This issue also celebrates the achievements and publications of our faculty, our most recent graduates and award-winners, and our 2008 Alumni Award recipients.

As always, we are grateful to our alumni who shared their personal and professional news in our expanded Class Notes. In turn, I encourage all of our alumni to update their email addresses and other contact information so we can keep you up-to-date on upcoming GSSW activities and events.

We appreciate your interest in our school and thank you for your ongoing support. Please watch for continuous updates and news on our Web site at www.du.edu/socialwork.

Sincerely,

James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW

Prominent Author Visits GSSW

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Ron Suskind visited GSSW last fall to discuss and sign copies of his most recent New York Times bestseller, The Way of the World: A Story of Truth and Hope in an Age of Extremism. Nearly 200 people attended the event. Professor Ann Pettila, GSSW’s Director of Field Education, is prominently featured in the book, which weaves together a variety of personal stories viewed through the lens of controversial Bush administration policies. Pettila and her family hosted a foreign exchange student from war-torn Afghanistan in 2006, and Suskind used their experiences to illustrate cultural divisions between the two nations.

For more news and a list of upcoming events, see “What’s Happening” at www.du.edu/socialwork.
Hundreds Attend Conference on Privilege

More than 300 people attended the first annual Pedagogy of Privilege conference held at GSSW on June 1-2. The event offered scholars, students, faculty, staff, community members, social justice workers and activists the opportunity to discuss various aspects of privilege and the ways it impacts education, social justice work, helping professions and research. Keynote speakers included Dr. Becky Thompson, Director of Professional Psychology, Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning and Dupont; N. Eugene Walls, Conference Organizing Chair; and Frank Coyne, Associate Director, Center for Teaching and Learning; Kristie Seelman (MSW '07), PhD student; Phil Campbell, Tischler, Center for Teaching and Learning; Sarah Nickels, PhD student; Adjunct Speaker; Becky Thompson (Keynote Speaker); Jeanie Edwards, LCSW (MSW '78); and Lisa Ingarfield, Associate Director, The Phoenix Center at Auraria, University of Colorado at Denver.

Conference planners included (L-R) Prof. N. Eugene Walls (Chair); Hank Coyne, Associate Director, Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning; Sarah Nickels, PhD student; Adjunct Prof. Lynn Speagle; Prof. Robert Jensen (Keynote Speaker); steel, Center for Teaching and Learning; Kristie Seelman (MSW '07), PhD student; Phil Campbell, Director of Ministry Studies, Iliff School of Theology; and Lisa Ingarfield, Associate Director, The Phoenix Center at Auraria, University of Colorado at Denver.

GSSW students had a unique opportunity to learn about their future profession from distinguished alumni mentors this spring. The annual Masters Program, sponsored by DU’s Alumni Relations on April 6-7, brought GSSW Master Scholars David Burgess (MSW ’75) and Jana Edwards, LCSW (MSW ’78) back to the classroom to share their professional knowledge and insights with MSW students and faculty. A reception and dinner honored both Scholars the night before.

Burgess and Edwards were among 15 Master Scholars nominated by their respective schools as outstanding alumni, capable of mentoring students in their chosen career paths. Each taught one session of an MSW course, then both spoke on “Exploring Clinical and Community Careers in Social Work” at a luncheon in Craig Hall.

A GSSW adjunct instructor, Burgess has worked for more than 20 years with mental health consumers in empowerment settings, including the community mental health program of the Denver Department of Health and Hospitals and its non-profit successor, the Denver Center for Mental Health Services. He was one of the co-founders of CHARG Resource Center and has been its Executive Director since it opened in 1989 as a legal partnership between adult mental health consumers and professionals.

Edwards has enjoyed a successful private practice in the Denver metropolitan area for 25 years specializing in couples therapy. She also acts as a consultant to other couples therapists. A noted lecturer and trainer, Edwards has been on the State Board of Directors of the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work (CSCSW) for many years and currently serves as its Co-President.

Her professional honors include the 2008 GSSW Alumni Service Award and the 2007 CSCSW Community Service Award.

When GSSW redesigned its Web site in 2008, one of the toughest challenges was the home page. On a page where so many Web visitors begin their online exploration of our school, what photo could we use to convey the variety and diversity of our community? And what single photo could possibly sum up the wide-ranging nature of the social work profession?

Ultimately, the Web Redesign Committee abandoned the photo search and chose to work with nationally renowned artist Steve Dininno to create a customized illustration for our home page instead. “An illustration allows users to better project themselves into the school and the discipline,” explains committee member Profes. N. Eugene Walls. “If I am looking for an image of myself in a photograph, and I don’t find it, I may feel excluded. So I value the diffuseness of a good illustration over the concreteness of most photographs we might have used on this page.”

Visit the redesigned GSSW Web site at www.du.edu/socialwork. You’ll find many new features including expanded resources for alumni, user-friendly admission materials and an ever-changing array of “spotlight” profiles of our students, faculty, alumni and staff.


Home Page Designers Opt for Illustration

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Envisioning the Doctorate’s Future

Annuiversaries are often celebrations of things past, the way we began and how far we have come since then. But when GSSW marked the 40th anniversary of its doctoral program with an academic seminar this spring, all eyes were focused squarely on the future.

What will social work doctoral education look like a decade from now? How will we create a robust, responsible, and purposeful intellectual community dedicated to research, teaching, and practice with teaching? What evidence will we use to determine if we are succeeding? And how will we ensure that our quality is sustainable?

These were among the questions pondered by students, faculty, administration, staff and three nationally renowned speakers at a day-long seminar held on May 2 at GSSW. Entitled “Answering the Carnegie Initiative Call to Action: Rethinking Social Work Doctoral Education,” the gathering was the brainchild of Professor Walter LaMendola, who became Director of the PhD Program the previous fall. The seminar was streamed live on the Web to audiences around the world.

Social work, LaMendola noted, was not among the six academic disciplines included in the Carnegie Foundation’s Initiative on the Doctorate, a five-year national effort to restructure 100 doctoral programs and better prepare their graduates. But in the “Call to Action” issued by the Initiative in its 2000 publication, “The Formation of Scholars,” LaMendola saw much that social work could use to improve its own doctoral education.

“The Carnegie Initiative has brought forward significant concerns and issues in the conduct and performance of doctoral programs,” LaMendola explains. “We cannot continue to grow our program, we must ensure that it reflects multiple perspectives and fosters the development of new social work knowledge by encouraging scholarly debate and intellectual risk-taking.”

Risk taking has been a hallmark of GSSW’s doctoral program right from the start. When the program admitted its first five students in 1968, it was one of the few such programs in a nation where doctoral education was still limited to a relatively small number of the older and larger universities. But Denver was especially ripe for the development of a social work doctoral program for a number of reasons: it was the largest population center between Chicago and the West Coast; it had the largest concentration of federal offices outside Washington, D.C.; and GSSW’s social work program had already existed for an impressive 37 years.

After a national study determined that GSSW had one of five MSW programs in the country whose graduates were most likely to pursue a doctoral degree, the school founded its own PhD program in the fall of 1968. Eleven years later, the program converted to a research-oriented PhD. Since then, up to a third of our doctoral graduates have been international students who returned to their countries at high level administrators in government, non-governmental organizations and universities.

In his keynote address that began the May seminar, Dr. George Walker urged those present to first develop a clear vision of what the PhD program should be, then create a sense of scholarly integration and intellectual community among those acting as stewards of that vision. “Scholarship segregated in scholarship impoverishes,” noted Walker.

Virginia Commonwealth University’s Dr. Ann Nichols-Casebolt delivered a luncheon address on the sustainability of quality in social work doctoral education. Nichols-Casbелоt, who is VCU’s Interim Dean, Professor and Associate Vice President for Research Development, cited the importance of monetary resources, stakeholders interests and abilities, and a school’s social and political climate in creating sustainability. “Social work is sometimes treated as a service unit and a way of meeting its mission,” she explained. “We must also be respected as a center of research and scholarship. Students themselves, the insist, must be fully involved in reviewing and revising a doctoral program.

Discussion break-out groups led by former doctoral directors followed each lecture. Dr. Virginia Richardson, Professor Emerita and former Chair of Educational Studies at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, delivered a luncheon address on the sustainability of quality. “Programs of Study” and then on “PhD.”

By exploring collective reflection and decision-making, you are creating an environment that is not just about collective research. You are modeling for your students what you want them to do in their academic life,” she said. “I congratulate you for this and hope you will continue.”

To view a video of this seminar and learn more about GSSW’s PhD program, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork, click on “Programs of Study” and then on “PhD.”
Dinner Honors Professor Cox

Celebrates Doctoral Milestone

During the planning for GSSW's Doctoral 40th Anniversary, it quickly became apparent who should be the guest of honor at the reception and dinner set to kick off the May 1-2 celebration. Professor Enid Cox, faculty member since 1981 and PhD Director from 2001 to 2005, has had a profound effect on the growth and development of GSSW doctoral education as a teacher, scholar, researcher and mentor for hundreds of students both here and abroad. As Director of the Institute of Genontology since 1983, Cox has also touched the lives of older adults, their families and caregivers throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

Along with a crystal bowl presented at the dinner by Dean James Howard Williams on behalf of the college, Cox was showered with tributes from colleagues, friends, students and alumni. Those who could not attend the dinner sent messages to be read aloud by Professor Lynn Parker.

“Sometimes I think Enid invented social justice,” said Albert Dooley, PhD ’96, in a tribute read by Parker. “Enid calls forth a social worker.”

Satis Nair, PhD ’94, a native of India, described how Cox made international students feel “safe” in her office. “She is as user-friendly as the word, a social worker.”

To help fund the reception and dinner, GSSW has created a Support Enid Cox Endowed Scholarship with preference given to international students. For information, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Support GSSW.”

Doctoral Student Research

GSSW’s doctoral program has come a long way since the first five students entered the program in 1968. Today’s students represent a rich tapestry of cultural backgrounds and scholarly interests. Here’s a sampling of dissertation research by some of our current PhD students and recent graduates.

Chris Anderson, MSW

**Dissertation Title:** An exploration of the effects of animal assisted therapy on self-efficacy, emotion and peer social skills for 8-16 year old community college students

**Funded by:** American Humane Association Fellowship

**Working Title:** Animal therapy: An app to increase self-efficacy.

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Johnny Augustine, MSW

**Dissertation Title:** The effects of individual, family and cultural factors on adult resilience: A study on the resilience of survivors of 12/26 A native of India, Augustine studied various factors that shaped the post-traumatic growth of adult survivors of the 2004 Asian tsunami.

**Funded by:** National Institute on Aging Research, National Institutes of Health

**Working Title:** Navigating the tsunami

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Lindsey Bratton, MSW

**Dissertation Title:** Adolescent MySpace user: peer social skills risk and protective behaviors: A social network analysis

**Funded by:** National Science Foundation Fellowship, 2008-09

**Working Title:** Surviving Enid: the psychological impact of the 2008-09 study examines the relationships between parental involvement and social skills.

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Hancy Lowen, MSW

**Dissertation Title:** The relationship between family dynamics and social network analysis of MySpace users from 15 Metropolitan Portland Area with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

**Funded by:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging

**Working Title:** The relationship between family dynamics and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

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Nancy Meyette, MSW, PhD

**Dissertation Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

**Funded by:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging

**Working Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

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Ginger Meyeretty, MSW, PhD

**Dissertation Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

**Funded by:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging

**Working Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

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Anne Powell, MSW, PhD

**Dissertation Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

**Funded by:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging

**Working Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

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Susan Roll, MSW

**Dissertation Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

**Funded by:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging

**Working Title:** The relationship between spirituality and social network analysis of MySpace users from Portland, OR with high HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevalence

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1. “To Enid” Professor Jim Moran, then Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, shares a toast with Dean Williams.
2. Dean Emeritus and Professor Jack Jones laughs with the guest of honor at the reception and dinner set to kick off the May 1-2 celebration. Professor Enid Cox, faculty member since 1981 and PhD Director from 2001 to 2005, has had a profound effect on the growth and development of GSSW doctoral education as a teacher, scholar, researcher and mentor for hundreds of students both here and abroad. As Director of the Institute of Genontology since 1983, Cox has also touched the lives of older adults, their families and caregivers throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

GSSW’s new Enid Opal Cox Endowed Scholarship Fund supports students pursuing a social work doctorate, with preference given to international students. For information, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Support GSSW.”
Commencement 2009 by the numbers:

• MSW graduates – 210
• PhD graduates – 6
• Phi Alpha Honor Society members – 63
• Interdisciplinary dual degrees awarded – 9
• Specialized certificates awarded – 73
• Hugs and smiles – countless!

1 Graduate Student Association staff award winner Araceli Repp.
2 Graduate Student Association faculty award winners Associate Prof. Jean East and Adjunct Prof. Katharine Hobart.
3 We did it! MSW grads Ashlea-Ann Thornton and Amy Salinas celebrate.
4 Candi Cdebaca, first graduate of DU’s Dual Undergraduate/Graduate Degree program, earned both her BA and MSW in just five years.
5 A feather in his cap, Four Corners MSW grad Leland Becenti joins the Commencement procession.
6 Students receiving awards at the June, 2009, Recognition Ceremony include (front row, L-R) Wendy Bragga—Ruth Marx Stark Award, Danica Hemmann—Queer Equality Alliance Award, Lynne Nero—Ina Mae Denham Award, runner-up/honorable mention, Rohini Gupta—Edith M. Davis Award, Jean Peart Sinnock Award, Nora Helmus—Dorothea C. Spellman Award, Stephanie Bell—Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization Award, Jason Sonnenschein—Tommy Frank Memorial Award, (back row, L-R) Rebecca Cline—Ina Mae Denham Award, Krishna Hibbom and Shahn Nowakker—Shades of Brown Alliance Awards, Jennifer Rogge—OMNI Research Award.

Outstanding in the Field

GSSW’s Field Team congratulates Donna Sims, MA, Director of Programs at Gateway Battered Women’s Services, and Patrick Byrne MSW ’06, MMN, and Amanda Brown, MSW ’06, LSW, Executive Director and Program Director, respectively of Byrne Urban Scholars, as the 2008-09 Field Instructors of the Year. Nominated for the awards by the MSW students they supervised during the year, the three instructors were acknowledged at a Field Appreciation Event in May.

Student nominations were based on their field instructors’ demonstration of social work values, supervision style and way the instructor served as a role model. “Being a believer in social justice, Donna treats everyone with dignity and values the worth of every individual,” noted Robin Ennis, MSW ’09, in her nomination of Sims. “Throughout supervision, I [felt] comfortable in fully disclosing my thoughts and concerns without any fear of judgment.” “Patrick and Amanda always treated me as an equal within the organization, and their supervision styles reflected a mutual partnership,” said Diane Ulmer, MSW ’06, of Byrne and Brown. “I have learned more [from them] than I could have imagined.”

Faculty, Staff & Field

Among the GSSW faculty promotions approved by the University of Denver in June, Stacey Freedenthal, Julie Laser and Nicole Nicotera were promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure. Additionally, Wanda Ellington was promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor, and American Humane Endowed Chair Frank Ascione was awarded tenure at the rank of Professor.

Associate Professor Cathryn Potter (right) has been appointed as DU’s new Associate Provost for Research. She also will remain on the GSSW faculty, dividing her time equally between the two appointments. Congratulations to all!
Dean Williams Conducts Research, Creates New Course in Kenya

Dean and Professor James Herbert Williams (left) have made three visits to Nairobi during the past year for his research project “Human security in Nairobi’s Kibera. Assessment, capacity-building and operational tools promote peacebuilding and conflict management.” Funded by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the project’s overall goal is to investigate and document experiences of human security in large marginalized urban communities. In Kibera, co-taught by Gies and Clinical Associate Professor Phil Tedeschi, Clinical Director of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, with Duke and the Bishop Tuttle School of Social Work for African American Church Social Scientists. For more information about this project, please visit gssw.gwu.edu.

Dean and Professor James Herbert Williams

In March, Associate Professor Debra Ortega presented information from “The State of Latinas 2008: Defining an Agenda for the Future” at the 2008 Census. Hosted by Fundación América Latina and America in Washington, D.C., this research was for GSSW faculty appointment. Ortega serves as Director of DU’s Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship, who also directed the University’s research and education for Latina and Latino students. She also presented information at a southwest regional forum on the same topic held in April at Hodges University in Fort Myers, Florida.

Dean and Professor James Herbert Williams

Debra Ortega was the featured speaker at the 2009 Spring Quarter Provost’s Lecture and Launchcheon, presenting a lecture entitled “How to Beat Address the Needs of African American Children as the ‘Achievement Gap’ Continues to Widen.” The lecture addressed the way by urban educators to identify the right combination of interventions to achieve success with African American children.

Professor James Herbert Williams, James Parker and Jean Petritis received 2009-2010 Internationalization Grants. Lauer used her Individual Grant to develop a research site in Kenya and collect resilience data there. Parker used her Individual Grant to further her qualitative research on alcohol use and abuse among American Indian youth and families.

For a complete list of GSSW faculty research and scholarship, please visit www.gssw.gwu.edu/research and click on “Faculty and Research.”

R E C E N T  F A C U L T Y  H I G H L I G H T S

Books

F A C U L T Y

Professor Jenson Honored at Three National Events

**Faculty**

**Highlights**

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R E C E N T  F A C U L T Y  H I G H L I G H T S

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F A C U L T Y
A center of research and training for 30 years, GSSW’s Institute of Gerontology recently completed a two-year project to increase evidence-based practices among Denver area providers of services to older adults. Funded by a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, the Capacity Building Project began with a survey of 37 non-profit organizations, gauging their knowledge of the use of scientific information in geriatric social work practice. Once gaps were identified, the Institute held a training session in May 2008, providing agency participants with basic knowledge about accessing and evaluating empirical information, drawing conclusions from it and using those findings to improve their client services.

“Organizational leaders certainly had an appreciation for the need for service improvement,” says Professor Colleen Reed, the Institute’s Co-director and Primary Investigator of the project. “but we learned that a very broad and varied continuum exists from the least to the most scientifically sound evaluation practices.”

Based on need, readiness and staff capacity to undertake a time-consuming project, the Institute selected four of the agencies for more intensive step-by-step training during the project’s second year. The goal was for each agency to create its own intervention with an evaluation component embedded within it. Agencies were also encouraged to seek funding for additional evaluation projects in the future.

“This was an exciting process,” says Project Coordinator Jessica Haxton, LCSW, a PhD candidate and adjunct faculty member at GSSW. “Each agency took its own journey through the research process, but the four agencies also built cohesion with one another.”

Representatives of each agency presented their results at a capstone session held at GSSW last April. The Denver Hospice used pre-and post-intervention surveys to prove services to veterans, who are among the most psycho-socially vulnerable clients they serve. The Colorado Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association used research and collaboration to enhance services for their younger-onset clients. The Johnson Adult Day Program provided a research opportunity to enhance services for older adults diagnosed with depression and living alone.

“Before participating in this project, we weren’t thinking about outcomes and how they would influence what we’d do in the future,” says Caroline Tyneseland, RN, Director of the Johnson Adult Day Program. “This experience has been transformational for us.”

Butler’s evaluation provides for comprehensive family assessments to be conducted at baseline, when findings indicate a high level of stress, particularly related to economic hardship. Further assessments, conducted at six-month intervals and at closure, determine the relative effectiveness of the program components. Assessments examine family perceptions of social support, family resources, parenting views, parental stress, perceived stress, employment outcomes and job satisfaction. In addition, caseworker reports of family functioning are gathered using the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale examining home environment, parental capabilities, family interactions, family safety, social/community life, family health, mental health, and self-sufficiency.

Butler also collects data from child welfare and TANF surveys, interviews and focus groups to measure outcomes, and participants are surveyed about their satisfaction with program services using the Colorado Works Satisfaction Survey and the Measuring Integrity of Systems of Care Scale. The evaluation also utilizes propensity score matching to simulate a no-intervention control group.

“Assessing the impact of the services we provide to families is helping Jefco Family Services increase its commitment to providing integrated services and an inclusive environment for our customers,” says Natalie Williams, JCC Program Manager.
Fall 09  Four Corners & Bridge

Saunders Construction Takes GSSW’s Bridge Project to Heart

Since GSSW’s Bridge Project was founded in 1991, volunteer tutors and mentors have played a vital role in the educational opportunities Bridge offers to children and youth in four of Denver’s public housing neighborhoods. This year, Saunders Construction Inc., a full-service general contractor and construction manager based in Centennial, Colorado, has taken that volunteerism to a whole new level.

Beginning last March, Saunders is devoting the first year of its “Building Confidence in Kids” community giving program to enhancing Bridge facilities and services. Their commitment includes $50,000 in financial contributions and an estimated $50,000 in in-kind donations, as well as volunteer opportunities for Saunders employees.

This spring, more than 90 Saunders employees volunteered on the South Lincoln Bridge site, including doubling the size of the technology lab where Bridge students hone their computer skills in after-school and summer programs. Other Saunders employees spent their evenings and weekends landscaping the Columbine Bridge site, while others helped kids at all four Bridge locations make framed photos to give as Mother’s Day gifts.

“It’s not just the happy faces at the Bridge Project that are any indication, but the positive impact is being felt by Bridge families and volunteers alike,” says Saunders Chairman Dick Saunders. If those happy faces at the Bridge Project are any indication, that positive impact is being felt by Bridge families and volunteers alike!

GSSW sincerely appreciates the generous support of Saunders Construction Inc., and of all Bridge Project donors and volunteers.

Read more about the Bridge Project at www.du.edu/bridgeproject under “Programs of Study.”

Dear Alumni & Friends

At a time when job opportunities are shrinking in many fields, the demand for social workers is actually expected to rise 22% nationwide over the coming decade. This includes marked increases in the areas of mental health, substance abuse treatment, medicine, public health, gerontology, children and families, education and rural social work.

The Graduate School of Social Work is poised to meet this burgeoning need, but we need your help to do it. For many potential applicants, the cost of a quality graduate social work education can present a major obstacle. To ensure that our future graduates are not only the best-prepared academically, but also reflect the diversity of the communities they will serve, we must increase our endowment and the financial aid we offer our students.

With these priorities in mind, we’ve undertaken the Endowed Clinical Chair Campaign described on the following page. We also encourage you to support our endowed scholarship funds, like the new one named in honor of Professor Enid Opal Cox (see page 6). Your support of the Campaign and of our endowed scholarship funds will not only ensure that GSSW’s education is the best it can be, but also make that education financially accessible to those who share your professional ideals and commitment.

As always, we deeply appreciate your generosity, and we welcome your questions, comments and suggestions.

Regards, Lynda Rickerton
Director of Development and Alumni Giving

For a complete list of scholarship funds and other giving opportunities, please visit www.du.edu/endowed and click on “Support GSSW.”
Our graduates continue to be amazed by the variety of career options open to social workers. Yet, whatever their chosen field, the majority opt to enter some type of clinical practice. Last year, for example, 84% of GSSW’s concentration year students selected one of our clinical practice tracks: child welfare, families, high-risk youth, or adulthood and late life challenges.

With Jana Edwards, MSW ’78, LCSW, at the helm, a committee of alumni and friends is hard at work raising funds to create a new academic position at GSSW, the Endowed Clinical Chair. This elite faculty position will offer the opportunity to attract a nationally acclaimed teacher and scholar who will build one of the best clinical social work programs in the country. In turn, this will attract the best and brightest students from across the nation and around the world.

By creating additional clinical elective classes and helping to integrate students’ classroom learning with their field internships, the Endowed Clinical Chair will ensure that future GSSW students will be competitive in the job market and are prepared to work in the rapidly growing number of multidisciplinary settings. Because the Chair is “endowed,” the funds we raise will be invested rather than spent.

The funds we raise will be invested rather than spent, because the Chair is “endowed.” The investments will provide the income necessary to fund the Chair’s activities and the distinguished professor’s salary will be paid from the annual investment income. That means you will have a lasting impact on the ultimate beneficiaries of the Endowed Clinical Chair: the individuals, families, groups and communities our graduates will serve during their careers.

Other members of the Endowed Clinical Chair Campaign Committee are Libby Bortz, MSW ’67, LCSW, Marilyn Hellestuen, MSW ’71, Mickey Mabey, and Julie MacFarlane.
2008 Alumni Awards

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, chairpersons 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.

Mary Carrahar has devoted her entire career to social work. She has been Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency in New Jersey since 1985. In 2002, Mary was selected as a Top Ten Community Foundation Professional in the United States. For the past 20 years, this non-profit organization serves low-income single parents in its efforts to build strong, healthy families. She achieves economic independence and becomes free from community and government assistance. Under her capable leadership, Project Self-Sufficiency has more than doubled the number of families it serves.

Diann Beryl (MSW ’77) continues to enjoy her private practice in Denver, treating couples and family issues in her office. She plays tennis league, tennis and runs often to keep her 2 children and 4 grandchildren healthy.

Richard B. Pellicone (MSW ’66) is President of Superior Qualities, Inc., a Community Mental Health Center in 2001. Subsequently he retired from service on the Board of Directors of Social Work and the Dept. of Family and Marriage Therapy at the University of Colorado Denver. A seasoned therapist and supervisor, he is an invaluable asset in dealing with clients and the law. He recalls his time at GSSW and the years since as great and fun.

Sara Jones Cook (MSW ’72) also enjoys her private practice in Denver, treating couples and family issues in her office. She is an expert in juvenal delinquency and protocols. Information online at http://www.jungalowcounseling.com.

Beverly Halvorsen (MSW ’75) retired after 40 years in the behavioral health field. Most recently she was President and CEO of Denver Behavioral Health Inc., a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. She is currently the Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services of Indiana, a national position as Director of Behavioral Health Services for AmeriHealth Rancho, based in Hartford, CT. In 2004 she is a banana leaf for 40 years in her family's home. Her sons, two, gained two more years. She has served two daughters, one, gained two more years. She has served two daughters.

Bob Lee (MSW ’60) worked in a variety of settings (Veterans' Hospital, staff therapist there. His professional involvements include Vice President and Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services of Indiana, a national position as Director of Behavioral Health Services for AmeriHealth Rancho, based in Hartford, CT. In 2004 she is a banana leaf for 40 years in her family's home. Her sons, two, gained two more years. She has served two daughters, one, gained two more years. She has served two daughters.

Daryl Kudesko (MSW ’80) retired after 40 years in the behavioral health field. Most recently he was President and CEO of Denver Behavioral Health Inc., a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. He presently serves in the executive director of Behavioral Health Services of Indiana, a national position as Director of Behavioral Health Services for AmeriHealth Rancho, based in Hartford, CT. In 2004 she is a banana leaf for 40 years in his family's home. His wife, Renee, on his last, where he enjoys working in his truck and farm machinery. His hobbies include fixing their riding lawn mowers. Daily says this motto is “The desert is lost, but life is found.”

Using skills she learned at GSSW in leadership with Breakthrough’s National Center for Volunteerism, Ben Dammer (MSW ’70) has a national volunteer program for retired youth for the Virginia Department of Youth Services, supervising over 500 volunteers and taking over $500 annually in cash and in-kind contributions. Services were provided in connections, counseling and education in juvenile detention homes and learning centers. After that he earned a graduate degree in Information Technology and the management of the network of the Department of Social Services, a network with over 6,000 volunteers. Says Dammer, “My experience at 20 was his changing, and I still have some of my best friends from the class of ’75.”

Donna Finicle (MSW ’72), LICSW, BCD, was recognized at the 2008 Outstanding social worker award of CU’s Blue Book Edition. Not only has she a small norm operation. Welcome Home Warrior, and conducts a4 military family volunteer sessions at Goldie Bell Camp and Center for Care. The ceremony served in front family, offering family and providing information and support for coping with the effects of war and multiple deployments. Trayle also established a network in Woodland Park to provide resources, counseling and support groups for veterans, service members and families. She has a group of long-time volunteers available to sit with soldiers and families.


Philip D. Tracy (MSW ’70) retired to his native NM after 40 years as a State Police Investigator, and took up his second career as a full-time faculty member at the School of Social Work and the Dept. of Marriage and Family Therapy at the University/Las Vegas. Grandparents of 3, Berman and his wife Rosemary enjoy RVing and fishing in Texas.

Anna Dincazzi (MSW ’71), LICSW, BCD, was recognized as the 2008 Outstanding social worker award of CU’s Blue Book Edition. Not only has she a small norm operation. Welcome Home Warrior, and conducts a4 military family volunteer sessions at Goldie Bell Camp and Center for Care. The ceremony served in front family, offering family and providing information and support for coping with the effects of war and multiple deployments. Trayle also established a network in Woodland Park to provide resources, counseling and support groups for veterans, service members and families. She has a group of long-time volunteers available to sit with soldiers and families.

Robert C. Warden (MSW ’70) has been retired for 40 years with 30 of which spent in addiction and now is currently in motion therapy and has 6 grandchildren, attending 2 classes at 121 and piloting bridge and golf with friends. He keeps busy in 3 or 4 days.

In 1994, Sara Briggs (MSW ’80) helped found Denver YouthCorps, a Colorado Springs youth placement agency, where he currently serves as Executive Director and Secretary. Information online at http://www.youthcorps.org. Sara Briggs also enjoys rock climbing and bike riding.

Peg (Shaw) Haley (MSW ’90), LICSW, appreciates the many social work opportunities she’s had to work in a wide range of treatment areas – private practice, counseling, social work, addiction treatment, child and family promotion social services, hospice and home health, and she serves as an adjunct faculty for Colorado State University and for GSSW’s Denver Center for Volunteerism.

Treva (Pearson) O’Neill (MSW ’67) is a State Police Investigator, and took up his second career as a full-time faculty member at the School of Social Work and the Dept. of Marriage and Family Therapy at the University/Las Vegas. Grandparents of 3, Berman and his wife Rosemary enjoy RVing and fishing in Texas.

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Class Notes

Got News? Please email your personal and professional updates to gsswalumni@du.edu. Be sure to include the degree(s) you earned at GSSW and the year(s) you graduated. Feel free to attach a digital photo if you like. Class Notes may be edited or held for a future issue due to space limitations.
was recently promoted to full professor and gained tenure at Stanford University in CA. He is currently the Chair of the MSW program and remains an active scholar in adventure therapy. Contact him at cmkirt@yahoo.com.

Ginna Celia McGinn (MSW '06) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009 from the University of Colorado at Denver Metropolitan State College. The award recognized her pursuit of advanced education and her volunteerism in the world of VITAS, Global Visions, Colorado AHEAD, and with FEMA, the Red Cross and the Disabled American Veterans through the National Guard. At the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Billilou Collins (LSW ’70) is assigned to the Older Youth Adoption Program. She has been a licensed social worker for more than 25 years, has first contact with family members and has found hope even in the most desperate of cases. She says she “hates the Government” but this takes this wonderful opportunity for youth along with many other state social service programs that serve the newly abolished. Typically treated for 25 years. Ginna says that her daughter is graduating from high school with honors and is off to Stanford University to be a special education teacher. Ginna says hello to all her buddies from the class of ’79. Contact her at mcbillilou@earthlink.net.

Muriel Manzetti (MSW ’07) works in Collaborative Family Therapy in Boulder, CO on resolving issues that lead to more positive parent-child relationships. She is also a parent-teacher consultant, plan collaborator, interventionist and transitional coordinator in various cases with a focus on parenting, conflict resolution and personal growth. She is also a Marie-Engelbert pianist, guitarist, mountain-dweller and African historian and is working on her first novel. The Not is available through Cocoa. Muriel’s mom’s “Don’t Mess With Mama’s” was recently featured on Denver’s Channel 4 website detailing the 5th anniversary of a bulldozer case won by Namaste. Namaste’s tune “Don’t Mess With Marv” was recently featured on In 2008-2009 from the Psychology Department at Metropolitan State College to aid with clients with Aspergers/Autism Spectrum at an outpatient mental health clinic in Denver. Nancy Barraclough-Southcott (MSW ’00) is a volunteer management among other local and regional efforts. "I am proud of the work we do in the needs of children or adults," says Golden, adding that she’d “return to that work if I get the opportunity.”

Hayley Swern (MSW ’06) is a volunteer specialist and volunteer manager for CO’s Weld County Department of Human Services. She says: “It’s a lot of fun working with people.”

Mary Boyack (MSW ’89) is the Program Coordinator of the Human Rights Program at GSSW. She is married, has a 2-year-old named Charlotte and is employed by the City of Aurora Office of Emergency Management. Sara Garrington (MA, MSW ’06) is a professional in adventure therapy. Contact her at sara_garrington@uco.edu.

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When a student hurtles across campus on two wheels this fall, he might have GSSW graduates to thank for getting him to class on time. Following the Graduate Student Association’s recommendation, GSSW’s Class of 2009 donated its $1,000 Class Gift to the new DU Bike Share program that will place two automated bike-lending stations on campus. Their gift pays the cost of one specialized bike on which GSSW’s logo will be prominently displayed.

The DU program, begun this year by the All Undergraduate Student Association (AUSA) Sustainability Committee, is a preliminary test of Denver’s planned citywide Bike Share program aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions and providing a healthy alternative to driving.

In fact, studies have shown that cycling not only makes the air cleaner and reduces motor vehicle crashes, but also lowers rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes...some pleasant thoughts to ponder when you’ve got a class on the other side of campus and just five minutes to get there.

Photo above: GSA officers and 2009 MSW graduates Elizabeth Immel, Diane Ulmer and Jennifer Viens guided the 2009 Class Gift donation process.