FROM THE DEAN

In this issue of GSSW Magazine we honor the accomplishments of our Four Corners MSW Program during its first 10 years, its positive impact on people and communities throughout the Four Corners region, and the many partners and supporters who have made these achievements possible.

At the same time, we are pleased to announce that we are in the process of launching a similar program this fall in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. In partnership with Colorado Mountain College, and with the support and encouragement of the Garfield County Department of Human Services, GSSW has developed the Western Colorado MSW Program. Set to begin operation in September. We will keep you apprised as the program takes shape and our first cohort of students begins their studies.

Additionally, GSSW will implement a new and innovative MSW curriculum when our incoming two-year students begin the on-campus and Western Colorado programs this fall. You’ll find details in the article on the back cover of this magazine or click here for information on our website.

Please note that we have also completely redesigned our website to make information even more accessible to alumni, applicants, students and our many other audiences. Our web address remains the same, but we hope you’ll take a look at the new format and share your feedback with us.

GSSW increasingly relies upon email and our e-newsletters to keep our alumni updated about upcoming events and other information about our school. To ensure that these communications continue to reach you, please click here to provide us with your current email address.

We hope you share our excitement about the many new developments at GSSW and, as always, we welcome your communication, ideas and perspectives.

Sincerely,

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

Click here to read this issue and all past issues of our magazine online. You can also scan this barcode to read GSSW Magazine on your smartphone or tablet computer.

March Lecture Rounds out Annual Series

A near-capacity crowd filled Craig Hall’s Boettcher Foundation Community Room for a March 12 lecture by David Hawkins, PhD, Endowed Professor of Prevention in the University of Washington’s Social Development Research Group. Entitled “Prevention in Schools and Communities: Taking Advances in Prevention Science to Scale,” the presentation was the final lecture in the 2012-2013 GSSW lecture Series. Audience members included not only alumni, students, faculty and staff, but also notable community leaders like former Colorado First Lady, Jeannie Ritter, and William Kilpatrick, Chief of Police in Golden, Colorado.

Hawkins began his lecture by noting that, among the nine experimental tests of delinquency prevention programs conducted in the U.S. before 1980, none were found to be effective. In recent years, however, there have been two major advances in prevention science: identification of predictors of problem behaviors as targets for preventive intervention, and identification of tested and effective preventive policies and programs. Unfortunately, Hawkins noted, practices without evidence of effectiveness are still more widely used than policies and programs that have been shown to be effective.

“Effective prevention at scale is within reach,” Hawkins concluded. “But advocacy and political will are needed to take prevention to scale to improve the well-being of all children and adolescents. This is an opportunity for social work leadership.”

Click here to see videos of this and other lectures in the 2012-2013 series.
The Graduate School of Social Work is pleased to announce the new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Summer Series. Workshops will be held during June and July at Craig Hall, 2148 South High Street, on the University of Denver campus. Courses are geared toward human service professionals seeking to strengthen and enhance their professional knowledge and expertise of skills. Professional Development Hours in approved Professional Development Activities are available, as well as Continuing Education Units (CEUs). For more information, including course descriptions, prices and registration, click here.

Register Now for the CPD Summer Series!

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PROGRESS Program Hosts Spring Events

GSSW’s PROGRESS gerontology program hosted two Alzheimer’s disease discussions for students, faculty, staff and alumni in February. Each discussion was followed by a croquet tournament with seniors from the community. Croquet equipment and instructional guidance were provided by Jiminy Wicket™, a Denver-based international organization that uses the game to improve the lives of people living with dementia.

On March 1, PROGRESS co-sponsored “Estate Your Intentions: A Special Forum on End of Life Issues: Legal Medical, Ethical and Practical Implications.” Featuring Norvell Beach, Esq., an attorney with Bryan Cave HRO Private Client Services Group, the event’s other co-sponsor, panels joining the discussion were Fred Abrams, MD, and Jennifer Ballantine, ED, from the Life Quality Institute, a Denver-based organization that partners with the University of Colorado-Denver School of Medicine to provide palliative care education. More than 70 people attended the event.

PROGRESS (Providing Real Opportunities for Gero-Rich Experience in Social Work Services) is a program for GSSW’s concentration year and advanced standing MSW students who are interested in geriatric social work. Originally funded in part by a John A. Hartford Foundation grant, PROGRESS continues the mission of helping to ensure the well-being of older adults and their family members.

Conference Founder Addresses Diversity and Privilege

Eddie Moore, Jr., PhD, founder and program director of the annual White Privilege Conference, gave a talk at GSSW on February 4. Co-sponsored by GSSW’s PhD program and the 2013 Pedagogy of Privilege Conference, Moore’s lecture was entitled “The Challenges of Diversity, Power/Privilege and Leadership in the Workplace and Community.”

Moore is currently Director of Diversity at Brooklyn Friends School in Brooklyn, NY, and previously served as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Intercultural Life at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The WPC conference he founded features national and international experts on diversity, privilege and leadership. It attracts more than 1,500 attendees from across the United States, as well as Australia, Bermuda, Canada and Germany.

2013 Pedagogy of Privilege Conference

Keynote Speakers

Dean Spade, JD
Seattle University & Founder of Sylvia Rivera Law Project

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, PhD
Brilliance Remastered, Mobile Homecoming Project, & Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind

Eddie Moore, Jr., PhD
Director of Diversity with the Brooklyn Friends School and founder of the White Privilege Conference

Click here for more info and registration or click here to email.

GSSW Co-Sponsors Community Events

On February 27-28 in Durango, Colorado, GSSW’s Four Corners MSW Program joined La Plata County Senior Services and Centura Mercy Regional Medical Center in co-sponsoring “Community Challenge: Meeting the Needs of Seniors, Providers and Caregivers.” One hundred people attended the free event’s first day, and 40 attended the specialized training provided on the second day. Viki Kind, clinical bioethicist, medical educator and author of “Caregiver’s Path to Compassionate Decision Making,” was the keynote speaker and trainer. This was Durango’s third annual caregiver conference, developed in response to the Four Corners MSW Program Advisory Council’s request that GSSW help to address community training needs.

The Denver Indian Center was the scene of RISE UP, an event that GSSW co-sponsored with Denver Indian Health & Family Services, Inc., the Denver HIV Resources Planning Council, Café Cultura and other community partners. Held in honor of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 10) and National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20), the event featured entertainment: music, food and free HIV testing.

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GSSW established the Four Corners MSW Program in Durango, Colorado, in 2002. It serves the Four Corners region, where the borders of Colorado, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico meet. Much has changed since the program began, including an exponential increase in the types and quality of educational technology available to faculty and students. But the objectives of the program have remained constant: to enhance human services infrastructure and delivery systems in the Four Corners area and to effectively address the special needs of its rural and tribal communities.

This is the story of the program’s founding and the ways in which its objectives continue to be met.

First Steps

If, as Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu said centuries ago, “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,” GSSW’s foray into distance learning began with a single course. Taught in the fall quarter of 2000, by then Associate Professor Christian Molidor, “Assessment and Interventions for Adolescents” attracted 16 students in Durango and was, by all accounts, a resounding success.

“This has been the most mind-stretching, heart-challenging, action-motivating class I have taken,” read one student’s enthusiastic evaluation. All but one of the students were human service professionals who earned three credit hours in “special student” status, because they weren’t enrolled in a degree program.

The lack of advanced degree programs was, in fact, one of the reasons GSSW chose to target the Four Corners region, some 400 miles from Denver, with a still experimental teaching approach. Developed in collaboration with the La Plata County Department of Human Services, the GSSW course used the Colorado Interactive Video Cooperative (CIVICS) network and the Web-CT course-authoring software that had facilitated a few other DU distance learning courses.

Interactive video broadcasts gave students the opportunity to communicate with guest speakers, including a female gang member who shared her experiences with the class. Web-CT enabled students to access reading materials and communicate with each other, and with Molidor, via on-line bulletin boards—something brand new in those pre-blog days, five years before Facebook had even been invented. On-site instruction by Molidor in Durango rounded out the beginning and end of the course.

“Tireless Champions

Still, two more years would pass before GSSW launched a full-blown MSW degree program in Durango, and – truth be told – the whole concept might have stayed on the drawing board, but for Alter’s enthusiasm and tenacious spirit. Skeptics wondered whether courses taught partially online, using web-based support modules, could be made accessible to rural and tribal communities that still lacked Internet access. Would there be enough students willing to travel great distances to take Friday evening and Saturday classes, while continuing to work full-time? Would there even be enough jobs available to graduates once they had earned their degrees?

But the dean would have none of that. Buoyed by support from community partners like the La Plata County Department of Human Services, encouraged by Ballantine’s supportive newspaper editorials, and confident in the ability of Professor Walter LaMendola, GSSW’s technology director, to overcome whatever technical challenges there might be, Alter forged ahead.

The Four Corners MSW program began in August of 2000, with 21 students enrolled, nearly twice the number anticipated by the program’s planners. The cohort included one Hispanic student, one South African and five American Indians, representing three different tribes. Some of the students drove up to four hours, over snow-packed mountain passes, to attend the weekend classes.

With leadership and guidance from Associate Professors Jean East and Susan Manning, the program’s local presence in Durango grew

A $750 scholarship from the newspaper. An additional $1,000 donation helped defray the program’s operating expenses.

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exponentially with the hiring of Site Director (now Program Director and title) and Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson. Local adjunct faculty taught courses, as did Denver-based faculty who traveled to Durango or broadcast and simulcast classes from GSSW. Tuition was substantially discounted and did Denver-based faculty who traveled to Durango or broadcast and simulcast classes from GSSW. Tuition was substantially discounted.

Still more students joined that first cohort the following summer—BSW graduates who entered the MSW program with “advanced standing” and completed their degrees in one calendar year. By the time those first students graduated in the summer of 2004, 17 more had signed on for the next two-year cohort set to begin that fall. What had once been viewed as a somewhat risky one-time experiment was now an integral part of GSSW’s MSW program.

A Mission Fulfilled

Fast forward to the Four Corners tenth anniversary celebrations last fall. Ninety-six students have graduated from the program. 40 percent of them students of color, a far higher percentage than at GSSW’s on-campus program. Graduates represent 27 communities across three states and include 27 American Indians from 13 tribes: Acoma, Navajo, Jicarillo Apache, Ute Mountain, Southern Ute, Tlingit-Haida, Cheyenne River, Lakota Sioux, Osage, White Mountain Apache, Otoe-Missouri, Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee, and Chippewa.

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A partnership forged between GSSW and Durango’s Fort Lewis College in 2002 allows Fort Lewis undergraduates matriculating in psychology and sociology to complete both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work in just five years, by spending their senior year in the Four Corners MSW program.

Responsiveness to local community needs is even greater today than when the program was founded: thanks to ongoing input from the Four Corners Advisory Council and the Native Peoples Advisory Council. Council members, among them current students and graduates, recommend community initiatives and professional development programs designed to meet the needs of local community members. Last year, at the urging of both advisory councils, GSSW began offering social work licensure preparation workshops in Durango, similar to those offered on the DU campus.

The Native Peoples Advisory Council has also worked to develop MSW curriculum content related to social work with Native Peoples. “In this day and age, there are Native families in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and all parts of the world. We no longer reside within the confines of tribal lands or reservations,” explains Carolyne Benallyson, MSW, one of the Native Peoples Advisory Council’s original members. “I commend the University of Denver for the development of a program specific to this continent’s indigenous population.” Benallyson is one of 11 members of the Navajo Nation (Dine’ in Navajo) who have earned an MSW through the Four Corners program to date.

Just as the Four Corners program has enhanced local community services over the years, external financial support is helping to advance and expand the program. Last year, a grant from the Jobs and Sophia O’Toole Foundation established a scholarship fund for the program’s Native American students. “This spring, the Denver office of the international law firm, Greenberg Traurig, awarded the Four Corners program a Great Hearts Great Minds grant aimed at strengthening services to Native American children and families.

Leading the Way

With 20 two-year students completing their first year of the MSW program this spring, and another cohort of advanced standing students set to join them soon, the Four Corners program shows no signs of slowing down. And those initial concerns about graduates finding jobs? Completely unfounded.

Just as it set out to do, the Four Corners program has markedly increased human services capacity in the region, particularly in rural and tribal communities where the lack of MSW social workers was most acute. “GSSW’s program has provided a forum for community collaboration and intervention with our neediest populations,” says Todd R. Block, LCSW, a 2002 MSW graduate who now works with the San Juan Boards of Cooperative Educational Services in Durango.

Current MSW students Jennifer Turner (left) and Emily Campbell participate in an experiential day at the Medicine Horse Center in Medicine Horse, a nonprofit agency providing equine-assisted therapies and experiential education services. Turner, an MSW intern at La Plata Youth Services this spring, recently gave a presentation entitled “The Social Construction of ‘Emotional Disturbance’ and the Oppressive Consequences of the Special Education System,” at the 5th Annual Greensville Family Symposium, sponsored by Greensville University, Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life and the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Seven members of the Native Peoples Advisory Council enjoy the Four Corners Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Breakfast and Lecture on October 17.

Jeanne Hooper (left) and Dr. Henry Hooper, President of the John and Sophia Ottens Foundation, receive a GSSW Certificate of Appreciation from Four Corners Director Wanda Ellingson. The foundation established a scholarship fund in 2012 for Native American students enrolled in the Four Corners program.

GSSW graduates have moved into service and leadership roles throughout the area. Further spending social work values and ideas, attitudes and skills,” adds Rock’s fellow Advisory Council member Bob Bob. GSSW a former Four Corners field supervisor.

Four Corners graduates have gone on to build key positions in a wide variety of settings across the region: The Mountain Counseling and Treatment Services. La Plata Combined Courts, the San Juan Regional Medical Center, the Counseling Center at Fort Lewis College. Centura Home Health and Hospice, and the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico. Other graduates have private practices with services tasked to meet the needs of their communities.

The program’s impact is also being felt well beyond the Four Corners region. Classmates Lucas O’Laughlin and Cassie Dutly, both MSW ’10, are clinical social workers at La Plata in the Southern Ute Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska, and Duty with the U. S. Navy in Hawaii. O’Laughlin is among the graduates who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees through the Fort Lewis College partnership.

Joy Truscott, among the first Four Corners graduates in 2004, works as a trauma counselor, trainer and life coach in her native South Africa. She also created Soul Awakening SA, an online platform through which individuals from around the world share reflections about their life journeys. “My experience with the MSW program has been a spring board to a world that might not otherwise have opened up so delightfully,” Truscott says. “I believe that the program has enriched the lives of so very many people, and then of course, through the ripple-effect, many thousands more.”
Events, Awards Mark Tenth Anniversary

GSSW marked the tenth anniversary of its Four Corners MSW program with a gala dinner at the Durango Doubletree Hotel on October 17, the Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Breakfast at Fort Lewis College the following morning, and the presentation of awards to many of the program’s key partners and supporters.

Barbara Morris (2nd from left), Fort Lewis College Provost, chats with Dean Williams, Program Director Wanda Ellingson and Wanda’s husband, John.

2010 MSW graduates Dakona Clayton and Abhishek John share a hug.

La Plata County Human Services Directors Leslie Meyers Card (from left), and Assistant Director Marta Johnson (right), chat with Dean Williams and Ellingson.

Greenberg Traurig attorney, Amy Kramer (right), presented a check from the Four Corners Great Hearts Great Minds grant at the tenth anniversary dinner. Pictured with her are (L-R) Janelle Doughty, MSW ’04, one of the first Four Corners graduates, and Ellingson.

A highlight of the Four Corners Tenth Anniversary Breakfast was a lecture by Susan Stone, PhD, entitled “Building Knowledge for School Social Work Practice: Current Evidence and Opportunities.” Stone is Associate Professor and Catherine Mary and Eileen Clare Hutto Chair for Social Services in Public Education at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare.

Durango Herald Publisher Richard Ballantine (left) and his wife, Mary Lyn, accept a Dean’s Award on behalf of the Ballantine family.

Four Corners Administrative Assistant, Angela Carpenter, enjoys the dinner with her daughter.

Ellingson welcomes (L-R) Dusty Pierce and Bob Browning of the Browning Ranch in Farmington, New Mexico. Four Corners MSW students visit the ranch as part of their course in animal-assisted social work.

Ellingson greets Native Peoples Advisory Council Member Louise Wilson (right), MSW ’06, and her son.

Eddie and Betty Box of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe give the blessing as the October 16 Four Corners Tenth Anniversary Dinner begins.

Dean Emerita Catherine Alter received a Dean’s Award for her leadership in establishing the Four Corners program in Durango.

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Dancin’ with the Dean 3.0

Craig Hall’s Boettcher Foundation Community Room was the scene of GSSW’s third annual “Dancin’ with the Dean” event on Saturday evening, March 2. In addition to music, food, drinks and a photo booth, the event included line dancing and Samba Reggae lessons. Dance instruction was also provided on weekends prior to the event, with participants charged a “fee” for each lesson of a canned or non-perishable food item donation to GSSW’s food drive.

ECO Conscious Highlights

Crunchy Crafts

“Crunchy Crafts,” hosted last fall by GSSW’s ECO Conscious student organization, offered students the opportunity to make eco-friendly gifts for themselves and others. Crafts included scented bath salts, felted soaps, coconut body butter and bags made from T-shirts.

Game Night Kicks Off Spring Quarter

It was (literally) a night of fun and games when the Graduate Student Association hosted GSSW Game Night on the first Friday of spring quarter in March. Students, faculty and staff were invited to bring their families and their favorite board games, card games, lawn games or art activities to share. Various student groups sponsored individual games, while also providing information to students who might be interested in joining the organizations.

Students Host Speed Networking Event

GSSW’s Shades of Brown Alliance student organization took the lead in sponsoring the school’s first speed networking event at Craig Hall on February 13. The evening provided an opportunity for student job-seekers to interact with social work professionals from the community.

Co-sponsors for the event included the school’s other student organizations: ECO-Conscious, Graduate Student Association, Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization, Phi Alpha honor society and Queer Equality Alliance.

Click here to learn more about GSSW’s student organizations online.

GSA Happy Hour Offers a Study Break

Snarf’s Sandwich Shop, located just down the street from Craig Hall, offered the perfect spot for students to take a study break and share some fun. The February 22 happy hour was hosted by GSSW’s Graduate Student Association.

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Concentration student Holly Schar serves as Co-Leader of the Graduate Student Association, which sponsored the Game Night event.

Foundation student Khlood Helmi enjoys Game Night with her children.
**Bake Sale Highlights Pay Inequities**

The bake sale held in the Craig Hall lobby for two days in early March offered more than an opportunity to buy brownies. Organized by MSW students Amanda Matthews, Emily Monciew and Rachel Schoonover, the sale featured items sold to customers at varied prices reflecting typical gender and ethnicity wage inequities for social workers doing the same job. Various types of baked goods represented various fields of practice.

In other words, the students explained, if brownies represented hospital social workers, a white woman paid only 87 cents for a brownie, while a Hispanic male paid $1.11. The price differential reflected one of the many gender and ethnic wage disparities the students discovered during their research. The students also presented their findings on charts that bake sale customers were invited to review.

“Soon we will all be entering the work force as employees and eventually employers . . . [in a field that focuses on the values of equal opportunity and fair access],” the organizers noted in publicizing the event. “Since we are the future of this profession, it is time examine how the pay scale is upholding our own values!”

Proceeds from the bake sale were donated to 9to5 Colorado, a membership organization dedicated to improving the workplace for women throughout the state.

**PhD Student News**

This year’s “GSSW PhD Program Presents” series included the following student dissertation research presentations:

- **Kristie Seelman** (October 18)—“At Least People Aren’t Throwing Rocks at Me: Transphobia in Social Welfare and Higher Education Settings”
- **Jennifer Dickman-Portz** (October 22)—“Aging and Technology Perspectives in the Self-Management of Chronic Disease”
- **Jamie Yoder** (October 30)—“Enhancing Treatment for Sexually Abusive Youth: A Transformational Research Plan”
- **Amy Lopes** (March 5)—“The Role of Technology in the Therapeutic Environment”

**GSSW Supports Students During Job Search**

In addition to hiring Lisa Ingulfeld as the school’s first Director of Career and Student Development (see article, p. 10), GSSW sponsors a number of events aimed at facilitating the efforts of graduating MSW students as they enter the job market.

Carly Einstein (pictured at left), DU’s Assistant Director of Graduate Career Services, advises students on job interview skills.

Other discussions held during student lunch hours this spring focused on a variety of topics including professional networking strategies and tips for successful job interviews. NASW Colorado Chapter Executive Director Renée Rivers, MSW LCSW and Education Coordinator Julie Buncher, MSW LCSW, presented information about Colorado’s social work licensure process. DU’s Jennifer Quinn, Assistant Director of Graduate Financial Aid, and Sarah Pingel, Senior Graduate Advisor, spoke with the students about loan repayment and forgiveness options.


The following papers, workshops and posters were presented in November 2012 at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in Washington, DC.

McDonald S. S., & Ascione, F. Animal abuse and family violence: Implications for social work education.


Karen Bensen

Explain the role of childhood neighborhood on crime and safety through an intersectional lens;


Collaborating with community-based agencies to reduce disparity for urban Indian child welfare.


McDonald S. S. & Ascione, F. Animal abuse and family violence: Implications for social work education.

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Faculty Highlights

Faculty Travel Expands GSSW’s International Focus

Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson, Professor Lynn Parker, Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi and Digital Instruction Specialist Edwin Crawford have received internationalization grants from the University of Denver’s Office of Internationalization. The grant funding period is from May 1, 2013, through the end of the calendar year.

Ellingson, director of GSSW’s Four Corners MSW Program, will use her grant to travel to Australia, where she will study the similarities and differences between the Four Corners Native Peoples curriculum and that of the Australian Catholic University Centre for Indigenous Education and Research in Brisbane.

By studying the colonization and assimilation of Australia’s Aboriginal peoples, and contrasting these experiences with those of Native Americans of the Southwestern tribes, Ellingson hopes to develop a native peoples immersion course that would be taught in both our Four Corners and on-campus MSW programs.

Parker will use her grant for her ongoing research project in Mexico. She is working on a book that will feature the stories of people she has come to know through the MSW course she teaches, titled "Global Relations and Poverty in Mexico.” The people, who live in or near Cuernavaca, have in common a personal quest to alter social justice issues through the sharing of their lives and professional journeys. Parker’s intent is to explore the pathways that led these peoples, and contrasting these experiences with those of Native Americans of the Southwestern tribes, Ellingson hopes to develop a native peoples immersion course that would be taught in both our Four Corners and on-campus MSW programs.

Tedeschi and Crawford will use their grant to bring the experiential learning of international field internships to the classrooms of GSSW’s on-campus and Four Corners MSW programs, allowing students to benefit from these experiences even if they do not themselves take courses overseas. Tedeschi, executive director of GSSW’s Institute for Human Animal Connections (IHAC), will partner with Crawford to develop a series of video documentaries assembled from on-site footage from two of GSSW’s current international course and internship sites in Nairobi, Kenya and Chengdu, China. The project is also aimed at deepening GSSW’s and IHAC’s relationships with our partner organizations abroad.

Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams has received the Day-Garet Award from the Smith College School for Social Work, where he earned his MSW. The award, established in 1967, is presented annually to individuals who have been “outstanding contributors to professional social work and . . . significant members of the Smith College School for Social Work educational community.”

Williams, who will receive the award at a July 19 dinner in his honor, was selected by a committee consisting of two members of Smith’s Board of Trustees, two alumni, six faculty members and two field faculty representatives.

Williams received the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Social Work at the University of Washington, where he earned his PhD. The award, which was presented at the June 13 UW graduation, recognizes Williams’ exceptional service, social innovation and professional leadership, both nationally and internationally.

“I am very humbled by these honors,” Williams says. “I really cherished my time at Smith College and at the University of Washington.”

In February, Williams was named editor-in-chief of Social Work Research, one of the top four journals in the social work discipline. His appointment is for a four-year term through 2017.

Jeff Jensen. Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk and Associate Dean for Research, appeared as a panelist on an April 10 live broadcast on Colorado Public Television that addressed bullying and victimization. Click here to watch the broadcast.

Dean Williams Honored as Distinguished Graduate and Journal Editor

FacultY’s Public Good Grants to Benefit Schools

Associate Professors Inna Altschul and Nicole Nicotera and Assistant Professor Yolanda (Yoli) Anyon have been awarded public good grants from the University of Denver. Altschul’s funded project is titled “Increasing College Enrollment, Persistence, and Graduation Among DPS [Denver Public Schools] Students.”

Anyon and Nicotera will use their award for their joint project: “Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in the Classroom: An Interdisciplinary Intervention to Build the Capacity of School Personnel.”

Since 2001, DU’s Provost has provided an annual fund of $100,000 to promote and increase public good research and outreach at the University. The fund is aimed at helping DU achieve its vision to become “a great private university dedicated to the public good.”
Clinical Assistant Professor Michael Cortés has received a two-year fellowship from the Colorado Latino Age Wave Initiative. One of three fellowship recipients, Cortés will use the funds to help Denver community-based nonprofit organizations become more effective advocates for public policies benefiting older Latinos. The fellowship also supports his independent research on strategies for building nonprofit capacity for public policy advocacy.

“The Latino Age Wave Initiative helps generate attention and resources for the Denver metro area’s rapidly growing low-income population of older Latinos,” says Cortés. “This is a group that tends not to be served by publicly funded programs and agencies focusing on older Americans.”

The initiative is supported by the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, in partnership with the Rose Community Foundation and Hispanics in Philanthropy, a national organization that Cortés helped start in 1981. Generous additional support is being provided by the Colorado Health Foundation and the Community First Foundation.

Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi, IHAC Executive Director, participated in a live radio interview on May 2 on Australia’s QLD statewide radio network program, “Mornings with Greg Cary.” The broadcast focused on a controversial legal decision that set a 19-year-old Australian youth free after he allegedly tortured and killed two alpacas. Tedeschi also discussed the relationship between animal abuse and violence toward people. Click here to listen to the interview.

At the Colorado Social Work Month Celebration in March, Adjunct Professor Andrea Philleo, MSW, MSW, received the 2013 Social Worker of the Year Award from the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The award honored Philleo’s work as founder of the Colorado Wellness Center for Girls, a nonprofit comprehensive day treatment center whose mission is to provide highly effective wellness-based programming that helps adolescent girls improve their total well-being.

Professor receives 2013 Social Worker Of The Year Award

Professor’s fellowship supports services for older Latinos

Colorado Wellness Center for Girls.

Lea Norcross was appointed as assistant to the registrar and field education in February. Norcross holds a BA with distinction in art history and history from Colorado College, and an MA in art history and museum studies from the University of Denver. She currently is employed half-time at the Denver Art Museum, and she also has experience as a special collections assistant in DU’s Penrose Library.

Lisa Ingarfield was appointed as assistant to the registrar and field education in May. In this newly created staff position, Ingarfield will provide student support services, serve as the liaison to GSSW’s Alumni Association and coordinate career service opportunities for MSW students and alumni. Ingarfield holds an MA in American History and Politics from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom and an MS in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University. She anticipates receiving her PhD in Communication Studies, Culture and Communication in June of 2014. Ingarfield previously served as Associate Director of The Phoenix Center at Auraria, serving the University of Colorado at Denver, Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Adare Discher holds a temporary part-time position as GSSW’s receptionist through the end of June. Discher provides front desk reception in the mornings and assists in scheduling and supervising student employees who cover the desk in the afternoons. Discher earned a BA in English (creative writing) from Colorado Christian University and a Certificate in Publishing from the University of Denver. She was previously employed as an editorial intern at WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group and editor of Paragon, a literary and arts magazine at Colorado Christian University.
Animal Assisted Social Work Students Attend Human-Animal Interaction Conference
by Mac Q. Simon, MSW ’13

Sixteen GSSW students and six faculty members attended the Human-Animal Interaction Conference in Brewster, New York on April 26 and 27. Hosted by the nationally renowned nonprofit organization, Green Chimneys, “People, Animals and Nature: Modeling a New Paradigm” gave students the opportunity to connect with nearly 200 mental health professionals, educators, researchers and animal-assisted therapy practitioners from across the United States, Canada and Europe.

Human-animal bond consultant Susan Cohen of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) spoke with our group, encouraging us to think creatively about how our knowledge and passion can meet the needs of humans and animals alike. The ASPCA’s Cruelty Intervention Advocacy team also presented information about their innovative work to help animals at risk for abuse while in the care of hoarders.

The following day, our GSSW group met with Green Chimneys’ founder, Dr. Samuel “Rollo” Ross, Jr., as well as their farm and wildlife director, Michael Kaufmann. We received a comprehensive tour of Green Chimneys, including their residential treatment center, school and therapeutic programs.

Green Chimneys was buzzing with enthusiasm when the conference began, and the sounds of animals baaing, mooing and neighing their welcomes filled the air. GSSW Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi gave the opening address, speaking about “consilience,” defined as the linking together of principles from different disciplines, especially when forming a comprehensive theory. He encouraged conference attendees to have an open mind about cross-collaboration, and a sense of intellectual adventure filled the room.

GSSW Scholar-in-Residence Sarah Bexell gave a moving speech about our relationship with the natural world, bringing the audience to a standing ovation. Afternoon workshops gave us an opportunity to learn about topics such as designing an animal-assisted therapy research project, nature-based vocational programs for urban teens and animals as facilitators in learning and therapy.

The second day of the conference was an opportunity for GSSW students to shine. Led by Tedeschi and Adjunct Professor Anna Howie, we co-facilitated a workshop called “What We Look for Is What We Find!” At six different “sense” stations, we guided attendees to experience what it might be like to be an animal in therapeutic settings — suspended in the air by a harness, for example, and wearing a mask simulating a horse’s vision.

“The conference for me was a reminder of the power that the natural world offers us in terms of healing and growth,” reflected MSW student Schyler Lindekugel. “It also helped me remember why I am in this field and why I will always advocate for animal- and horticulture-based therapy modalities.”

GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection hosted three events this spring.

On February 20, “Animal-Assisted Therapy and Childhood Cancer” highlighted American Humane Association research on the effectiveness of animal-assisted activities with children undergoing cancer treatment. The event also featured a presentation by Anne Gillespie, president of the Youth and Pet Survivors (YAPS) program that pairs children and animals both suffering from cancer, as pen pals. Based at Children’s Hospital Colorado, YAPS has paired more than 100 children and pets since 2001. IHAC financial supporter Chuck & Don’s Pet Food Outlet also co-sponsored the event.

On March 27, IHAC hosted a presentation by Jill Robinson, M.B.E. Dr. med. vet. h.c., with an introduction by Marc Bekoff, PhD. Entitled “Bear Ambassadors Leading the Journey of a Thousand Miles: Bringing Moon Bear to Life and Ending Bear Farming in Asia,” the lecture exposed the plight of endangered Asiatic black bears (known as moon bears) cruelly farmed and milked for bile that is traditionally used in many products. Robinson also covered other animal welfare topics such as dog meat markets, spay and neuter practices and the illegal wildlife trade. The event was co-sponsored by Animals Asia, an organization Robinson founded in China.

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IHAC third spring event featured lectures by Jophat Ngoyo, Founder and CEO of the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), and Ambassador Nehemiah Rotich, ANAW Board Chair. The presentation focused on animal welfare issues in Kenya, including poaching that could lead to the rapid extinction of animals like elephants and rhinoceroses.

Click here to learn about upcoming IHAC events.
Stipends Help to Build Colorado’s Child Welfare Workforce

For MSW students with an interest in public child welfare, Title IV-E child welfare stipends can make a GSSW education considerably more affordable, as well as giving graduates a significant edge when they enter the workforce. “The stipend helped me realize my goal of earning my MSW at DU and was instrumental in helping me get hired before graduation,” says recent GSSW graduate Tyler Baldes, MSW ‘13.

The stipend program also helps to build Colorado’s child welfare workforce, especially in underserved areas of the state. Administered through a partnership between the Butler Institute for Families and the Colorado Department of Human Services, the stipend program uses federal dollars to provide partial tuition support to MSW students. For each year they receive the stipend, students commit to at least one year of employment in Colorado public child welfare after graduation. Urban, rural and distance education stipends are available, thus helping to build the child welfare workforce in all areas of the state.

Selected through an application and interview process, child welfare stipend recipients take the child welfare concentration during their second year of MSW study and complete their internships in a wide variety of public child welfare programs. They also complete the required Colorado Child Welfare Academy, making them attractive new hires for Colorado’s county child welfare agencies.

“The combination of the child welfare stipend, completing the Colorado Child Welfare Academy, and my internship at Denver Human Services over the past year has prepared me for a lifelong career in public child welfare,” says Emily Schmitz, MSW ‘13, another recent graduate.

The stipend program has an especially significant impact on underserved rural areas of the state, including the Four Corners region where GSSW has offered on-site MSW education in Durango since 2002 [see cover story on page 4].

“For GSSW, our department has added four highly trained, motivated graduates to our child welfare staff,” says Leslie Mayer, Director of La Plata County Human Services and a member of the Four Corners MSW Program’s Advisory Council. “They have been great contributors to our agency!”

Among those staff members is Four Corners graduate Charmaine Summers, MSW ‘08, who completed her second year internship at La Plata County’s child welfare program and was hired immediately after earning her degree. Now, as foster care coordinator and adoption specialist, Summers says the stipend helped her afford a graduate education that makes her shine in the workplace. “I love translating my classroom and experiential learning into hands-on work that allows me to show my skills and abilities,” she says. For Summers’ classmate, Char Lundberg, MSW ‘08, the child welfare stipend and the Four Corners weekend class schedule combined to make a lifelong dream come true. “I was a late bloomer,” chuckles Lundberg, who earned her BSW degree when she was 41, then took a 17-year break from school to raise three adopted daughters as a single parent. “It was my personal goal to get my MSW, but I couldn’t stop working to go back to school and accrue student loans,” she explains. “I didn’t know if I’d ever be able to accomplish that goal, but the stipend and the Four Corners program made it possible.” Now 59, Lundberg is continuing her 17-year child welfare career as a supervisor at Colorado’s Montezuma County Department of Social Services.

Speed Mentoring Sparks Career Aspirations

Finance, marketing, law, philanthropy—these were just a few of the careers that girls from GSSW’s Bridge Project learned about at the program’s first speed mentoring event this spring. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the Bridge Project and the Empowerment Council of the Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO), teamed up to host a networking luncheon for the Bridge girls.

WFCO’s Empowerment Council is a philanthropic community of young professional women seeking to effect change and contribute to the empowerment of Colorado’s girls and women through economic self-sufficiency. Ten of the council’s representatives acted as mentors whom the girls interviewed during the luncheon about their professional lives.

“We wanted girls to see women from a variety of professions to make their future more real,” says Nora Herrera, the Bridge Project’s mentor coordinator.

Two years ago, WFCO chose the Bridge Project as one of seven organizations across the state to receive funding to help prevent girls from dropping out of school. The funding is being used to enhance Bridge mentoring programs and increase the number of middle school girls who receive mentoring.

“We truly appreciate the ongoing support that the Women’s Foundation of Colorado provides for our program,” says Bridge executive director Molly Calhoun. “The speed mentoring event allowed our students to question successful women in a variety of fields and help the girls realize that they themselves are capable of great things.”

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for the Bridge Project’s 2013 Annual Gala

When: Saturday, September 21, 2013
5:30 p.m. – Cocktails & Silent Auction
7:15 p.m. – Dinner, Entertainment & Live Auction

Where: The Hyatt Convention Center

Honorees: Charles Jordy, Jr. and Brian Fun
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As the cost of providing top-quality graduate education continues to skyrocket, rising tuition costs threaten to make GSSW all but unaffordable for some of the social work profession’s most promising future leaders. As chair of GSSW’s Board of Visitors and the father of a 2010 MSW graduate, I am determined to see that this does not happen, and I ask your help at this critical time for our school, our nation and the often troubled world in which we live.

When my wife and I established the Gary and Teresa Yourtz Foundation Endowed Scholarship, we did so knowing that more than 90% of GSSW’s students require financial assistance to access the school’s top-quality education and outstanding preparation to help and empower the most vulnerable among us. Your support for GSSW’s scholarship funds impacts not only its current students, but also the thousands of individuals, families and communities they will serve for decades to come.

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for the support you provide to the Graduate School of Social Work. The legacy you create through scholarship support will help to keep GSSW within the financial reach of the very best and brightest future individuals, families and communities they will serve for decades to come.

Your gifts to the Annual Fund ensure that a quality GSSW education remains affordable for promising students just like these. And today there are more ways to give than ever before!

For example, important provisions of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 mean you can provide financial assistance for GSSW students by using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you own an IRA and have reached the age of 70½, you can make an IRA charitable rollover gift to GSSW anytime between now and December 31, 2013—and avoid the taxes you would otherwise pay on the IRA distribution.

An IRA rollover is just one of the many ways you can make an IRA charitable rollover gift to GSSW and support GSSW education remains affordable for promising students just like these. And today there are more ways to give than ever before!

Each year at this time, there’s a palpable sense of excitement at GSSW as our graduating students anticipate the June Commencement ceremony—and, to an even greater degree, the commencement of their professional social work careers. Those new graduates are poised to join our more than 7,500 alumni in providing outstanding service and leadership in communities across the country and around the world.

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An IRA rollover is just one of the many ways you can support the Annual Fund. To learn more, please contact me by email at Lynda.Ricketson@gssw.edu or phone 303.871.7599. Your gift, in any amount, helps to ensure that a quality GSSW education remains affordable for promising students just like these. And today there are more ways to give than ever before!

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Joe Barfoot, MSW ’88, LCSW has been a GSSW field instructor for nearly 20 years at Denver’s Kaiser Permanente Highline Mental Health Center, the largest mental health center in the Rocky Mountain Region. As Clinical and Administrative Supervisor from 1996 to 2004, Barfoot’s responsibilities included numerous administrative duties, as well as supervision of a multidisciplinary team providing outpatient mental health services. In recent years, Barfoot has been a member of Kaiser’s Child and Adolescent Team, providing evaluation and treatment of children, adolescents and families. Throughout his time at Kaiser, he’s received outstanding reviews from the students he has supervised, many of whom note his dedication not only to improving their clinical skills, but also to ensuring that they become committed and compassionate social workers.

Community Service Award

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

Betty Proctor, MSW ’74, is retired after a 49-year career, 20 of those years in business and the other 29 with Colorado’s Jefferson County Human Services. But hers isn’t your typical retirement, since Proctor remains as busy as ever! A true social work entrepreneur who has participated in the start-up and operation of 27 nonprofits, Proctor has volunteered since 1997 as founder and director of Helping Hearts, which provides emergency financial and in-kind support to those who might otherwise “fall through the cracks” of the human services system. Proctor also works with the Colorado Legislature on issues impacting older adults, and she serves as the board representative from St. Peter’s and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on a collaborative effort to feed the homeless.

Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award

This award is presented to an alumni/alumna who has demonstrated professional achievement by being named executive director, manager, chairperson of the board, etc. of a social work agency or organization, or by reaching a level of prominence in education, practice or politics, etc. or by receiving national recognition in the field of social work. This award is named in honor of Robert L. Hawkins, MSW ’07, who rose through the ranks at Colorado Psychiatric Institute in Pueblo, eventually becoming the first social worker appointed as its Superintendent. Under Hawkins’ leadership, the Institute became a model psychiatric treatment facility.

Professor Emerita Susan Manning, MSW ’83, PhD ’90, LCSW retired last spring after a 28-year affiliation with GSSW—beginning as an adjunct instructor and field instructor, then as an appointed professor. In addition to her stellar academic career, Manning worked for many years with the Denver-based nonprofit CHARG Resource Center. Using a unique empowerment model that includes a partnership among clients, staff and community members, CHARG seeks to improve the lives of individuals with chronic and persistent mental illness. In addition to serving on the program’s community board from 1996 through 2006, Manning also served for seven years as the organization’s president or vice president. In April of 2012, Manning was inducted into CHARG Resource Center’s new Honorary Council in recognition of her “long and active history of service” to the program.

Eyre (MSA ’86) was on campus as part of the Masters Program, which invites successful alumni back to campus as “master scholars” who participate in lectures or teach courses during a regular day in the academic schedule of their department. Speaking to Michael Talamantes’ Social Work Intervention Strategies in Health Care class in Craig Hall, she started by talking about her childhood in the Netherlands during World War II, where she lost a sister and brother during a bombing raid.

“In the 1940s, there was not much to help me deal with the grief,” she said. “I buried the feelings, and they stayed with me a long time. After the war, Eyre came to New York City with her parents and surviving siblings. She earned her BA from St. Joseph’s College in Brooklyn before enrolling in Columbia University, which granted her a BS in nursing in 1962. Eyre embarked on a career in public health nursing, which brought her to Denver in the late 1960s. The work started her thinking about the need for intervention and the role of social work.

It was not until the 1980s, after her children were grown, that she returned to school at the Graduate School of Social Work. She found her voice and finally began to process what had happened to her so long ago.

“My passion was there, and my professors were able to channel that into better focus,” she said.

Long interested in helping the homeless and impoverished, Eyre began volunteering at the Gathering Place, a drop-in women’s shelter. There she recognized the same hopelessness that had shackled her. “In the 1940s, there was not much to help me deal with the grief,” she said. “I buried the feelings, and they stayed with me a long time. After the war, Eyre came to New York City with her parents and surviving siblings. She earned her BA from St. Joseph’s College in Brooklyn before enrolling in Columbia University, which granted her a BS in nursing in 1962. Eyre embarked on a career in public health nursing, which brought her to Denver in the late 1960s. The work started her thinking about the need for intervention and the role of social work.

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Long interested in helping the homeless and impoverished, Eyre began volunteering at the Gathering Place, a drop-in women’s shelter. There she recognized the same hopelessness that had shackled her. How, she wondered, could she empower these women and help them achieve independence?

The answer came in the unexpected form of beans. In 1989, Eyre founded the Women’s Bean Project, a soup-kit assembly nonprofit to help women develop job skills, work habits and even inner peace through meditation.

“We had a very caring atmosphere — people working together, people learning together, people being supported together and trying to help them to ease their way into the mainstream,” she said. “One of the ways we did that was to take them along when we had opportunities to sell the products. At first, they didn’t like the idea at all, but when they found out that the products of their hands had monetary value, they started to believe in themselves a little bit more.”

Eyre left the Women’s Bean Project 14 years ago but still is involved in its mission. She now volunteers for the Ignatian Spirituality Project, which works with homeless women struggling with addiction.

Through all her work, Eyre has emphasized serving people over promoting a cause. “When a student in the social work class asked Eyre what advice she had for students going into the health care field, Eyre replied, “There’s a living being behind the symptoms. We need to support that person and make them feel safe.”

This article first appeared on the University of Denver website, DU’s Masters Program, sponsored annually by the Office of Alumni Relations, brings distinguished graduates back to classrooms across the campus to share their professional knowledge and insights with students and faculty.
In Memoriam

Megan (Royall) Gage (MSW ’00) presented her company, Hot Tip, at ABC’s “Shark Tank” on January 4, 2010. Hot Tip produces professional hair products for babies and children without the use of harsh or harmful chemicals. “Shark Tank” is a popular business-themed reality TV program that provides opportunities for hopeful entrepreneurs to pitch their concepts to very successful business men and women known as “sharks” in hopes of obtaining a powerful partner. The program averages seven-million weekly viewers. “This was a wonderful opportunity to grow my brand,” says Gage. “Fewer than three percent of hopeful business owners are invited to the show, and the selection is made by a volunteer committee. My company was invited to the show because of the innovation of our product line and its dedication to not using harsh or harmful chemicals. “Shark Tank” was on Amazon.com. Learn more at the website: www.thehottip.com or by Facebook or Twitter.

Katheryn Badlin (MSW ’04) has published her first book, Ghost Mothers: Healing from the Pain of a Mother Who Won’t Really Die. The book is a fiction, self-help guide to understanding and healing from a mother who was emotionally disconnected. Check here to purchase the book on Amazon.com. Learn more at the website: www.thehottip.com or by Facebook or Twitter.

Regina Richards (MSW ’09) received an Outstanding Staff Award from the Office of Inclusion and Outreach at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Where she serves as Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Richards also serves as Programs Coordinator for the BADB Program, a combined pipeline program for diverse Colorado high school students to enter medical school. The award was presented at the annual Chancellor’s Diversity Recognition Celebration on May 1. Find details, photos and videos in the “newsroom” section at www.ucdenver.edu.

Antonette Gomez (MSW ’10), LCSW CAC III, is owner of Harmony Counseling, LLC, a Denver-based private practice specializing in family and couples, and serving adults and children affected by trauma, military deployment, grief, loss, adjustment, attachment and other stressful situations. A Child and Family Investigator (CFI), Gomez conducts investigations and writes a report for the court regarding children’s best interests in divorces where parents do not agree on child custody.

Gomez, who also works as a social worker at Annunciation Catholic School, recently presented a paper at the Race Gender and Class Annual Meeting at the University of New Orleans. Entitled “Motivations of African American women environmental justice activists in Southeast Atlantic, Georgia,” the paper was also published in UO’s journal, Race Gender & Class (volume 18, number 1 ISSN: 1082-8546). Gomez also serves as a panelist on a panel discussing black youth, children and mental health at a conference held by Denver-based Brother Jeff Health Collaborative. Gomez also serves on the organizing committee for an August Black mental health professionals’ retreat.

Contact Harmony Counseling Services at 303-806-5797.

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Drawing upon his extensive international experience and research on these continents, Jones proposed a forum for Denver’s social development, transitional economies, and human security in Asia and Africa that was a keynote speaker. The project was a collaborative effort of the United Nations, GSSW and the University of Nairobi. At the invitation of the University of Nairobi, the project recently expanded to Botswana.

Justice served on numerous boards and committees, including the American Humane Association/Volunteer of America, the Governor’s Business Commission on Child Care, Financing and Welfare and several others. Following his retirement from the GSSW faculty, he worked in the private sector at Dean83 Entertainment and as a professor of GSSW’s dual Community Organization and Social Casework at the Arizona State University.

She served as GSSW dean from 1987 through 1996, and was the founding dean of the School of Social Work and Development at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (1971-1976). He also held academic appointments at the University of Wisconsin and Case-Western Reserve University.

At the annual LGBTIQQA Celebration Gala on April 4, the Center for Multicultural Excellence presented the “Bill Struthers’ You Stuff Award” for alumni to Les Kattari (MSW ’99) “for his contributions to furthering inclusive excellence and at least at the University of Denver.” Nominations for this award are invited each year from Denver’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and Ally LGBTIQQA communities, and the selection is made by a volunteer committee. Kattari is Training and Education Manager at Colorado Youth Matters, a Denver-based nonprofit organization. Pictured with Kattari is his partner Shana. who will be starting GSSW’s PhD program this fall.

Paul Force-Kenyon Mackie (PhD ’90) was promoted to the rank of full tenured Professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato. effective June 1, 2013. Dr. Mackie previously held the positions of GSSW program director and assessment coordinator in the social work department, and led the RWP program through a successful reaffirmation of accreditation in 2011. His research is focused on rural mental health and social service delivery issues, rural community organizing and development, and assessment. Currently Mackie is serving as the University’s Assessment Coordinator.

At the Colorado Social Work Month Celebration in March, the Social Work Department of Metropolitan State University of Denver presented its BSW graduate, Cynthia Marette (MSW ’00), LCSW, with the Distinguished Alumna Award. Also at the event, the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work named Kerry Ham (MSW ’01), LCSW, as its Most Distinguished Clinician.
Choices
(choí-es) pl. noun – what MSW students will have even more of next fall

Back in the day (i.e., the 1990s) choosing your path through the MSW program was a fairly simple matter of either/or: direct practice or indirect practice—broad choices that prepared you for the type of social work you preferred. Then came a complete curriculum overhaul in 2002 that offered additional choices, dividing two newly named “clinical” and “community” concentrations into five practice tracks focused on specific populations or fields of practice.

Beginning this fall, incoming GSSW students will embark on a new and even more innovative MSW curriculum that is both streamlined and more varied than ever before. The revisioned curriculum comes after months of hard work by dedicated faculty and staff, led by Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Jean East, with alumni, students, field agencies and others providing input along the way.

Gone are the tracks, replaced by eight concentrations that increasingly blur the lines between clinical and community practice. Two-year students will now begin their concentration studies during spring quarter of their first year, thanks to careful weeding out of redundancies in foundation curriculum courses.

To be sure, the most familiar and popular specialties are still available: Child Welfare, Family Systems, Organizational Leadership and Policy Practice, Children and Youth: Risks and Positive Development. But there are brand new concentration choices, too: Health and Wellness, Mental Health, Aging Services and Policy, and Sustainable Development and Global Practice, the latter yet another indication of GSSW’s increasingly international focus.

In an already diverse profession, today’s social workers have more practice options than ever before. Now our MSW students can make academic choices that provide even more intensive preparation for the varied careers that lie ahead.

Click here to learn more about GSSW’s new MSW curriculum online.