FROM THE DEAN

We at the University of Denver sincerely hope you enjoy this 80th Anniversary Special Commemorative Issue of GSSW Magazine. In it, you’ll learn about the achievements of alumni from every decade in the school’s history, including an astonishing number of personal and professional “firsts.” The enormous impact made by just this small sampling of our graduates has heightened our awareness of the critical difference graduate social work education makes every day in communities across the country and around the world.

Likewise, these alumni stories have renewed our commitment to keeping quality education within the financial reach of students from all socio-economic backgrounds. In support of that goal, I’m pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has stepped forward with a matching gift of $100,000 for scholarship support. This means any gift you make to GSSW through May 2012 will be matched dollar for dollar. I urge you to make the most of this very special opportunity to honor our alumni and support future students with a gift to our newly established 1931 Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in our school and your ongoing support of our goal to be among the finest graduate schools of social work in the country.

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

FROM THE BOARD OF VISITORS CHAIR

It is my privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Visitors at the Graduate School of Social Work. My connection to GSSW began years ago when the Bridge Project was founded and continued when my daughter, Erin, was a student here. The education and experience she received in the program was transformative. When I became involved with the Board of Visitors, I gained an even deeper understanding of the impact GSSW has on our community.

In the 80 years since its founding, GSSW has graduated more than 7,000 social workers who have benefited their communities as human service agency founders, policy analysts, school social workers and mental health therapists. They are, quite literally, helping hundreds of thousands of underserved individuals and families around the world.

GSSW has established partnerships with over 600 nonprofits to provide internships for MSW students. These mutually beneficial partnerships offer students the ability to learn on the job at the same time they’re providing thousands of hours of human services in the community. Last year, students contributed over 650,000 hours during their internships, valued at $3.5 million.

These students and GSSW need your continued support. More than 90 percent of our students qualify for financial assistance. And the ultimate beneficiaries of your contributions to the school are the people who are served by GSSW graduates. I am proud to be a supporter of time and resources to this tremendous asset in our community.

Gary Yourtz
Chair, Board of Visitors
Proud parent of GSSW graduate Erin Yourtz (MSW ’10)

The Board of Visitors is a unique committee charged with assisting GSSW in reaching its goals of expanding its national and international exposure, supporting development efforts and broadening the school’s community network.

Reception Honors

DEAN WILLIAMS

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at Craig Hall on September 14 to honor Dean James Herbert Williams on his appointment as the University of Denver’s first Milton Morris Endowed Chair. The Morris Endowment for Faculty Enhancement carries a five-year term and is given to a faculty member with a record of excellent scholarship and teaching.

Chancellor Robert Coombe (right) named Dean James Herbert Williams (center) as the 1st Milton Morris Endowed Chair, effective July 1, 2010. Joining them at the congratulatory reception are: GRI Provost Gregg Keplar, Williams’ daughter Kimberly Greenley and his sister Rose Smith, MSW.
SYMPOSIUM PROMOTES HEALTHY AGING

GSSW kicked off its year-long 80th Anniversary celebration on September 29 with a symposium entitled “Healthy Aging: National and Local Perspectives.” Featured speakers included Corinne Rieder, EdM, RFD, Executive Director and Treasurer of the John A. Hartford Foundation, who discussed social work’s unique contribution to America’s aging society, and Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, ACTWS, Ralph and Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work at Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work, whose talk was entitled “Maximizing the Productive Engagement of an Aging Society.” Sue Bocinsky, PhD, gave the closing address, “Creating Vibrant Communities for all Ages: Current Realities and Visions of the Future.”

At least 90 community practitioners attended the all-day event, which also included break-out sessions on such diverse topics as ethical issues, spirituality, aging at home and palliative care.

80TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES UNDERWAY

GSSW’s four-part 80th Anniversary Lecture Series began on October 21 with a talk by noted scholar James Garbarino, PhD, Maude C. Clarke Chair in Humanistic Psychology at Loyola University. His lecture was entitled “Pathways from Childhood Trauma to Adolescent Violence.” The author of several books and numerous scholarly publications, Garbarino conducts research on the ways in which they occur, with particular focus on trauma to adolescent violence. "The author of several books and numerous scholarly publications, Garbarino conducts research on the ways in which they occur, with particular focus on trauma to adolescent violence. The author of several books and numerous scholarly publications, Garbarino conducts research on the ways in which they occur, with particular focus on trauma to adolescent violence. "

The October lecture by James Garbarino, PhD, attracted a max capacity audience of students, faculty, staff and community practitioners.

For more information on GSSW’s 80th Anniversary events, please visit www.dupr.edu/adstock and click on the 80th Anniversary logo. You may also view videos of the 80th Anniversary Lectures and other special events online by clicking on “GSSW Videos” in the What’s Happening box.

80th Anniversary Lecture Series continued through April with lectures by Charles Payne, PhD, Frank P. Hinom Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and by Froma Walsh, PhD, Frank P. Hinom Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

The 80th Anniversary Lecture Series continues through April with lectures by Charles Payne, PhD, Frank P. Hinom Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and by Froma Walsh, PhD, Frank P. Hinom Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

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GSSW marked Black History Month on February 18 with a memorable performance by Sankofa, a 25-voice a capella ensemble of the Spirituals Project Choir. The group shared beautiful concertized versions of 13 sacred songs called spirituals, which were created and first sung by enslaved Africans in America in the 18th and 19th centuries. More than 200 people attended the event, part of GSSW’s ongoing 80th Anniversary Celebration, which was co-sponsored by three GSSW student groups: Shades of Brown Alliance (SOBA), Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization (MSJ) and Queer Equality Alliance (QEA). A dessert reception followed the concert.

Founded in 1998 by University of Denver Professors Arthur C. Jones, PhD, the non-profit Spirituals Project seeks to preserve and revitalize the music and teachings of the spirituals through a diverse program of concerts, lectures and workshops. The ensemble, Sankofa, is named for an African adinkra symbol that illustrates the wisdom in learning from the past as we move toward building the future.

Symposium Promotes Healthy Aging

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The Perrys’ Story

Soon after graduation, Wave Perry became the Supervisor of the Boys’ Department at the Colorado Children’s Aid Society in Denver. His subsequent long career with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare took him first to Washington, DC, then to Atlanta where he was Director of HEW’s Southern Region. After the Cuban revolution brought Fidel Castro to power, Wave was in charge of HEW’s Cuban Refugee Program, which provided $1.6 billion in money, food, medical care and social services to nearly a million Cuban exiles between 1961 and 1981.

Just before his death in 1947, Wave revealed to the young man who was his nurse that he’d once visited a Japanese internment camp established during World War II by President Franklin Roosevelt. Wave was so ashamed of the camps, he said, that he’d never mentioned the visit to his family.


Eline Perry (still Eline Jorgensen when she graduated from GSSW) wrote her Master’s thesis about Denver’s Margery Reed Mayo Social Center and Day Nursery, one of the contributors to GSSW’s start-up costs. After graduation, Eline became a supervisor at Denver’s Bureau of Public Welfare. Years later, she worked at the University of Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, another organization that had played a key role in GSSW’s founding.

Kramer recalls how pleased her mother was to attend GSSW’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 1980, ten years before she died. Perhaps it’s not entirely coincidental that Kramer called GSSW when she did, thus making both her pioneering parents a special part of our 80th Anniversary celebration as well!

Collecting More Stories

Bringing to life the stories of the Perrys, whom we’d previously known only through an old photograph, sparked our curiosity about the lives and careers of all the others who’ve studied here over the years. Seeking stories that would span all eight decades of GSSW’s history, while reflecting the profession’s diverse fields of practice, we asked our faculty and staff for suggestions. We also drew heavily upon previous historical research conducted by Professor John Kayser, himself a graduate of both our MSW and PhD programs.

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In addition, we sent postcards to our alumni last fall inviting them to share their stories, and it drew some amazing responses. In addition to this cover story, you’ll find many more alumni stories in this issue’s expanded Class Notes and in our fall magazine feature story about GSSW’s emeritus faculty.

Inspiriting the Next Generation

A surprising number of our graduates questioned whether anyone would find their stories interesting. We’ll leave that for our readers to decide. But, just for starters, consider that the alumni profiled here include not only clinicians, authors, educators, elected officials, program founders and administrators, activists, legal scholars and internationally known researchers, but also one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a former Colorado First Lady and a member of the Order of the British Empire who helped crush a notorious drug ring in Hong Kong.

At a time when many colleges remained racially segregated, GSSW graduated its first African American student in 1933. The first Native Americans to earn an MSW, the first Latina to earn a social work PhD, the first African American woman to be named President of NASW and the first Hispanic/Latina appointed to head a public health agency (SAMHSA) in the 200-year history of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Although we’re able to fit only brief profiles on the following pages, we’re also creating a new “Alumni Stories” section on our Web site (www.du.edu/socialwork) where we can post longer versions. Please continue sending us your stories, so we can use them to inform and inspire the next generation of social work leaders. Eighty years from now, we know their stories will be just as compelling as the ones told here.

Editor’s Note: As GSSW’s Director of Communications and Marketing since 1999, I’ve written frequently about our school’s commitment to diversity and the impact our graduates make on the social work profession. But not until researching and writing these 80 alumni stories did I fully comprehend the extent of either one. In honor of all the graduates profiled in this issue, and in celebration of my daughter Katie’s GSSW graduation this June, I’ve made a donation pledge to our new Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund

Katie’s GSSW graduation this June, I’ve made a donation pledge to our new Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund. As you read the following stories, I hope you’ll be inspired to do the same. Scholarships make careers possible, and social work careers change lives. DMJ
A member of the Sisters of Loreto, Sister Mary Beth "Bufffey" Boessen (MSW '92), MA, has dedicated her life to teaching and social justice. In 1995, she walked across the United States as a participant in Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament. The following year, she joined 600 American and Russian activists in a march from Leningrad to Moscow supporting the same cause. As Supervisor at Denver's Catholic Charities from 1992 to 2000, Boessen developed a coalition to educate the public about the welfare system and Colorado's legislative policy choices. Named Colorado Social Worker of the Year in 1991, she also received the Children's Health and Welfare Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Today, she is President of Loreto Academy in Pitt, Texas.

Colleen “Cec” Carew (MSW '90), LCSCW, is Chair of the Social Work Department at Salish Kootenai College (SKC), a tribally controlled college located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo, Montana, chartered by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Hired to guide the development of the program because of her leadership skills, administrative abilities and extensive knowledge, Carew has worked with the faculty to define program goals and objectives and to develop course materials appropriate to the unique needs and resources of Native Peoples. Her efforts have led to the inclusion of Native American perspectives and cultures as a resource for surviving and transcending trauma, and incorporating culturally sensitive assignments and assessment tools into the SKC curriculum.

Both Richard T. Castro (MSW '72) and his widow, Virginia M. Castro (MSW '73), left an indelible stamp on the social work profession. After graduating from an institution near Denver, the Denver's transformative Chicano movement. He went on to become one of Colorado's most important political figures, serving in Colorado's House of Representatives for ten years, as a member of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) Board of Education and as Executive Director of Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations until his untimely death in 1991. Virginia Castro's career as a DPS social worker began the year after she earned her MSW and continued for the next 28 years. While working at West High School, she created the city's first program for teen mothers, contacting with a nearby day-care center to care for the babies while their mothers attended class. As Manager of DPS Social Work Services until 2001, Virginia founded a successful citywide truancy-reduction program. Subsequently appointed by the Mayor to Denver's Commission on Mental Health and Department of Human Services Advisory Board, Virginia received a DPS Service Award and was honored by the National Association of Social Workers as a School Social Worker of Distinction. Richard 1 Castro Memorial Scholarships, from a GSSW endowed scholarship fund initiated by Virginia Castro, have assisted some 30 MSW students since 1991. A DPS elementary school and the Denver Department of Human Services building are named in Rich Castro's honor.

Like many notable GSSW graduates, Nelva Chavez (PhD '75), had an early and significant impact on the social work profession. Before earning her PhD, Chavez spent 17 years as executive director and chief operating officer of Tucson’s La Frontera Center. The Center was recognized as a national model of outstanding comprehensive, community-based mental health by former First Lady Betty Ford, Assistant Secretary and Hilary Clinton. In 1994, President Bill Clinton named Chavez the first Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the first Hispanic/Latino to head a public health agency—the first Hispanic/Latina to head a public health agency—she was the first Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the first Hispanic/Latino to head a public health agency. Chavez has served as an invited speaker at institutes and conferences throughout the U. S. and her native Korea.

Solving Clarke (MSW '06), LSW, of Farmington, New Mexico, courts herself among the many social workers who enter the field because of their life experiences. Faced with the deaths of both her mother and her husband in just four years, Clarke set aside a 13-year banking career to enter human services. She says earning her MSW through GSSW's Durango-based Four Corners program was among “a most difficult and rewarding experiences” of her life. A medical social worker since 2001 in the Nephology unit of the San Juan Regional Medical Center, Clarke finds personal fulfillment in her work with dialysis patients and their families. She’s also been an active community volunteer at a hospital, with Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico and for the American Red Cross of Northeast New Mexico as a disaster services case worker.

The first profoundly deaf person to receive an MSW, Steven K. Chough (MSW '83), DSW, has been a life-long champion of services for the advancement of deaf persons. His professional positions include Senior Psychiatric Social Worker at the New York Psychiatric Institute, Coordinator of Services to Deaf Clients at the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, Deputy Director of the Mental Health and Housing Services and clinical program director for the Center for Deaf Treatment Services at Michigan’s Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital. Subsequently, Chough held administrative, teaching and advising positions (including Dean of Student Affairs) at Gallaudet University, the world’s only university for deaf students. The recipient of numerous honors, Chough continues to speak at institutes and conferences throughout the U. S. and his native Korea.

When Project WISE co-founders Jean East (MSW '79, PhD '95) and Sue Kenney (MSW '79) were MSW students, they were already engaged in the values and mission of empowering women and families with low incomes. The Denver nonprofit they founded in 1995, and directed for ten years, is an innovative model of service that promotes both personal and social change by combining individual and group counseling with community advocacy and leadership development. Begun as a small grass-roots effort, Project WISE (A Women’s Initiative for Service and Empowerment) now serves more than 300 women each year and is a popular internship site for GSSW students. By helping women develop skills to advocate for themselves and their families, the program also has influenced legislation and public policy related to welfare reform, education opportunities for welfare recipients, and protection and resources for victims of abuse.

In 2000, Project WISE received the El Pomar Foundation's highest award. The Julie and Spencer Penrose Award recognized the program as the Colorado nonprofit that best served the state's residents by enhancing their quality of life. Associate Professor Jean East currently serves as GSSW's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She was named 2003 Social Worker of the Year by NASW’s Colorado Chapter and received the University of Denver’s 2006 Distigished Teaching Award.

Sue Kenney is an active member of GSSW’s Field Team and is the 2010 recipient of the GSSW Service Award. Both East and Kenney received a 2007 “Be Bold” Award from the Women’s Foundation of Colorado.

A graduate of GSSW’s Durango-based Four Corners MSW program, Mark Dickmann (MSW '08), LCSCW, is a clinician in private practice working with the community’s adults, couples and adolescents. He also serves as an Academic Success Advisor at Durango’s Fort Lewis College, helping students overcome test anxiety, cope with cultural differences and learning disabilities, discover their learning styles, and improve their time management and study skills. Tained in EMOT (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), offers a multi-disciplinary approach that addresses experiential components to a wide range of pathologies, Dickmann previously was a group therapist at the city’s profit Alternative Horizon programs from 2008-2010, where he conducted therapy groups for adolescent boys exposed to domestic violence.

Social work graduate education has certainly evolved since 1968, when Richard Enos (MSW '66), DSWM, became the second faculty member hired by the Social Work Program in Colorado State University's Department of Sociology. Seven years later, as the first faculty member at the University of North Texas with a social work doctorate, he recalls few people even knew what a DSWM was. Enos was employed as a social work professor at both universities, his own career evolving over his 25 years at UNF from Director of the Social Work Division in the College at Arts and Sciences, to Chairperson of the Social Work Department and Dean of the Institute for Public Service, to Director of the School of Community and Social Service, and finally to Director of the Center for Public Service, a multi-discipline academic division. Enos retired as full professor in 2000.

William Evans (MSW '73), LCSCW, ACF, LARTF, has held a Diplome of Credential with the National Association of Social Workers since 1967, the same year he was named President of NASW's Montana Chapter. That's not surprising, considering the breadth of his accomplishments. While Director of Helena Community Mental Health Center, Evans was named Montana Social Worker of the Year in 1984 for co-authoring the state’s first social work licensing bill and working with NASW to get it passed. The next year, he played a key role in making Montana the first state to approve Medicaid reimbursement for counseling and therapy provided by licensed social workers. Evans later represented the Montana Chapter at the national NASW delegate assembly in Washington, D.C., was elected to the National Nominations and Leadership Committee, and eventually served as the Committee’s co-chair.
As a child during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Josapha "Jousy" Eyre (MSW '76) faced starvation, terror, and the unceasing threat of losing innocent family members. But, although she was too young to speak openly, the experiences left a profound sense of helplessness, something she recognized among the homeless women she encountered years later as a volunteer at Denver's The Cathedral Pines homeless shelter. "I wonder, could he help these women achieve independence and empowerment?" The answer came in the unexpected form of Beams. The Women's Beam Project, a soup-kitchen assembly nonprofit that Eyre founded in 1984, then employed 150 volunteers to help develop job skills, work habits and personal inner peace through daily meditative readings. The highly successful project has been replicated in cities nationwide.

Anyone who doubts that big dreams and youthful enthusiasm can make a difference should take a lesson from Melodye Feldman (MSW '92), Kerry Stutzman (MSW '92), UMT, and Jacques A. Eisenberg (MSW '10), together and individually, the three have made a lasting impact that spans the globe.

Within a year of their GSSW graduation, Feldman, Stutzman, and Eisenberg co-founded Seeking Common Ground, a Denver-based international nonprofit that inspires young leaders from diverse cultures to become change agents for peace in their communities. Its flagship program, Building Bridge for Peace, develops peace-building skills among American, Israeli, and Palestinian teens through face-to-face interaction. Building Bridge for Peace, a non-profit that encourages American, Israeli and Palestinian teens through face-to-face interaction. Its leadership development program, Building Bridges for Peace, focuses on teaching skills for conflict resolution and peace-building. The program has been replicated in cities across the globe.

While Bruce became a social work field instructor for Florida State University and later directed a five-county mental health board, Helen continued to pioneer new programs and ideas in the state. She was an innovative education program for the “retarded” that long-time staffers initially resisted, she was the only woman among 40 men while working at the country’s first Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, she opened one country’s first Office on Aging, and she helped create an 11-county Area Agency on Aging. Bruce collapsed in 1996. Helen continues, at 85, to ride her bike five miles each day.

Ben was most recently coordinator of GSSW’s field education program in southern Colorado, a task sadly cut short when he died unexpectedly last July. His community memberships included the Mental Health Coalition for Older Adults, the Colorado Institute for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and GSSW’s Minority Advisory Committee.

Colorado’s children and youth have few stronger advocates than The Honorable David M. Furman (MSW ’89), JD, a judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals since 2005. He successfully prosecuted Nixon in the state’s Office of the CIO’s Representative, charged with training and oversight of attorneys representing children in abuse and neglect and family law cases. In 2002, Furman recommended that a Juvenile Law Center be established in the Colorado Legislature; published by The Colorado Bar Association, and then served as the Center’s editor through 2005. In addition to teaching at three universities, including ten years as a GSSW adjunct professor, Furman formerly chaired the Colorado Children’s Trust Fund Board, served on the Lieutenant Governor’s Committee to Promote Adoption and received a Governor’s Citation for his work on the State Task Force on Child Welfare in 1999-2000.

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As a child, Albert “Alf” Gurule (MSW ’56) experienced discrimination because he spoke Spanish and came from poverty. At the age of nine, he worked ten-hour days in the potato fields. Both of these experiences helped turn him into a social worker and political activist. One of his first efforts to correct social injustice occurred soon after Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968. With classmates Stan Marcus (MSW ’57) and Helen Fallert (MSW ’59), Gurule created Colorado’s Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Capitalizing on this momentum, they created a political awareness curriculum for all public schools in the state. As a result, students were able to vote in the 1968 election. As a result, students were able to vote in the 1968 election. As a result, students were able to vote in the 1968 election.

Brothers Abe Pena (MSW ‘73) and Geronimo "Jerry" Francazio (MSW ’78) have each made a substantial impact on Colorado human services and social work education. Through both professional achievements and philanthropy, Dorothy L. Harris (MSW ’64) and Oliver Harris (MSW ’73) have had a tremendous national impact on the field of social work. A native of Panama, Dorothy was a business major in Iowa when volunteering at a community center ignited her passion for helping others. Involved with Head Start since the program’s inception, she assumed leadership of its National Resource Center in 1990. She also oversaw implementation of six national Children’s Bureau cooperative agreements. In 1985, Dorothy became the fourth woman and first African-American elected President of NASW. Her other positions have included Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Expert Advisor on Child Care Issues to the Social Security Administration’s Commissioner, and Director of the Governor’s Office for Children and Youth in Maryland. Today, Dorothy is Senior Vice President at Palmetto, a government consulting and management firm. She received an NASW Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

On May 26, 1983, the Harrises established the Deborah Harris Memorial Fund at Temple University following the tragic murder of Oliver’s daughter. In 1985, Dorothy became the fourth woman and first African-American elected President of NASW. Her other positions have included Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Expert Advisor on Child Care Issues to the Social Security Administration’s Commissioner, and Director of the Governor’s Office for Children and Youth in Maryland. Today, Dorothy is Senior Vice President at Palmetto, a government consulting and management firm. She received an NASW Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. Before his death in 2009 at age 86, Oliver Harris was Professor Emeritus of the University of Maryland at Baltimore and former Associate Dean of the School of Social Work and Community Planning. The author of numerous articles and research studies, his co-authored book, Family Therapy in Social Work Practice: It has been a staple for many years at universities across the country. In 1983, the Harrises established the Deborah Harris Memorial Fund at Temple University following the tragic murder of Oliver’s daughter.
Born into poverty, Robert L. Hawkins (MSW ’67) learned resilience early. Hired at 18 as a janitor at Pueblo’s Colorado State Hospital, he also pushed patients’ “food carts through the hospital’s underground tunnels. It was a job he kept throughout college and graduate school. He rose through the ranks at what became the Colorado Mental Health Institute and, in 1996, became the first social worker appointed as its Superintendent. Under Hawkins’ leadership, the institute became a model psychiatric treatment facility. Until ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) claimed his life in 2002, he achieved local, state and national prominence, chairing Pueblo United Way and Colorado NAACP and NAWS chapters, serving on the state’s Commissioner of Higher Education and for 29 years on its Civil Service Commission, and becoming Member Services/Assistant Vice President for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

When Mary Krane (MSW ’71) became Executive Director of GSSW’s Bridge Program in 1997, she’d already had a long career with the City and County of Denver, beginning as a case worker in 1967 and concluding with eight years as Manager of the Department of Social Services. A member of numerous non-profit boards, Krane also cofounded and served as president of the Colorado Alliance for the Mentally Ill. During her leadership, the Alliance dramatically increased the program’s presence in the lives of children and their families in Denver’s public housing neighborhoods. Bridge expanded from one site to four sites under her leadership. Krane received a 2009 Wall of Fame Award from the Denver Housing Authority for her efforts to bring education resources and encourage the attainment of a higher education.

When her father, “Father of American Indian Social Work,” Ben Lewis (PhD ’74) is among the profession’s true pioneers; a Cherokee, he was the first American Indian to earn a social work doctorate, to become a tenured in the University of Wisconsin system, to attain the rank of Professor and to become a social work Dean in Canada. Lewis developed university curriculum, lectured widely and published extensively on American Indian polities, the social justice, and cultural identity. In 1992, Lewis founded the National Social Work Scholarship aid designed to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. Also a clinician, Lewis developed culturally appropriate mental health programs throughout Oklahoma and served as Director of the Indian Health Service Office at Denver’s Fitzsimons Army Hospital. A committed political activist, Lewis was in 1969 the takeover of Alcatraz Prison and the 1973 Wounded Knee Incident.

Mary Hoyser (MSW ’80) is from the Dine (Navajo) Nation in Arizona and belongs to the Salt Clan. A Native American child welfare expert, she has worked both on and off the reservation to address challenges faced by Native American children and their families. As Strategic Advisor for Casey Family Programs in Phoenix, Hoyser did advocacy work, identified and mobilized resources, and communicated with state and tribal governments to promote effective, culturally appropriate and culturally relevant child welfare policy and practice standards. Hoyser also provides national consultation and training regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act, enacted in 1978 to give tribes the right to self-govern and to work with Indian orphans among the tribes. Her previous positions include Program Manager for Navajo Nation Social Services in Window Rock, Arizona, and social worker at Denver Indian Health Services.

Sheila Keller (MSW ’99), MA (International Studies), takes pride in being among 14 immigration reform advocates arrested during a protest last June in downtown Denver. Keller is part of her committee to social justice that spans more than 15 years of working with, and for, immigrant and refugee populations as a community and union organizer, activist and writer. An organizer at Local 10 of the Service Employees International Union since 2008, Keller played a key role in the Justice for Janitors movement, helping low-wage workers achieve economic justice, respect and access to quality health care. Her advocacy also led to the addition of “gender variance” in the new Denver International Airport janitorial contract, protecting transgender individuals and setting the template for all other Denver janitorial contracts.

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Denver social worker and attorney Evi B. Makovsky (MSW ’78), MA, JD, has taken community service to a whole new level. Having served five years as Assistant Colorado Attorney General and six years as Denver’s Senior City Court Attorney in employment, Makovsky is also an adjunct professor at GSSW and at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in care and ethics. At National Jewish Hospital, the women’s shelter and the school for the hearing impaired, she co-chairs the Board of Directors. Her other board memberships include the Denver Campus for Jewish Education, the Adler Jewish Federation, Metropolitan State College of Denver, the Women’s Bean Project and the Denver Health Foundation, which honored her with its 2008 Leadership Award. Makovsky has been a member of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities Advisory Board since 2003, and she chaired the Advisory Board from 2006 to 2008.

Even while Nola Miguel (MSW ’06) was completing her MSW and earning her Certificate in Social Work with Latinos/as, this former AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and community organizer was making a significant impact on Denver neighborhoods and schools. She served as Research Assistant and MSW Supervisor on two Public Good Grants at GSSW’s Bridge Project, and she began her job as Coordinator of a new school-to-school program in the same neighborhoods. She later served as Curriculum Supervisor and Program Investigator on another Bridge grant enabling the Project to expand into Denver’s Oggy Newton public housing neighborhood. Today, Miguel’s work with Denver Public Schools and Metro-Organizations for People facilitates communication between families and schools in northeast Denver through parent and staff education.

Chi Phoung Thi Phan (MSW ’07), Program Director at the Bridge Project’s Westminster site, had unique preparations for her job; she and her three brothers were all Bridge participants when they were kids. Growing up in the Columbus neighborhood back then, Phan’s family faced challenges common within all four of the public housing sites the Bridge currently serves. Her mom, a single parent who’d emigrated from Vietnam after the war, spoke little English, and the children strapped in school. But things began looking up when Jeanne Orben (MSW ’78), Program Director at Bridge’s newly opened Columbus site, invited Phan and her brothers to join after the after-school tutoring, mentoring and housing programs. For the first time, Phan saw social work in a positive light. Now a social worker herself, Phan’s helping families much like her own break the cycle of poverty. (Read more about Bridge on p. 26.)

The only person in her native Sri Lanka with a doctoral degree in social work, Pamela D. M. Pieris (PhD ’03) returned home in 2005 to a country devastated by a tsunami and still in the throes of a decade-long civil war. Fortunately, she brought with her not only strong social development skills, but also extensive management, teaching and leadership experience acquired in Bolivia, Colombia, India, Nepal, South Africa and the United States. Today she’s an internationally known speaker, a visiting lecturer and researcher at Sri Lanka’s only social work school, and an independent consultant for several NGOs. During a recent project with YWCA Sri Lanka that focused on the country’s conflict areas, Pieris led the strategic planning process and co-authored a primer on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms women’s critical role in maintaining and promoting worldwide peace and security.

Four Corners MSW graduate Travis Morgan (MSW ’10), CAC II, is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Chiricahua Apache. His 20-year career with the tribe includes positions as Adult Counselor, Youth Counselor and Treatment Services, as well as his current position as Deputy Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Demonstrating his firm belief in the “mandate of social work,” Morgan works to coordinate the tribe’s two-year-high school, annual job fair and yearly traditions that include the Bear Dance Run, Bear Dance, Sun Dance, Sweat Lodge Ceremony and a New Year’s Eve gathering. In addition to earning two social work bachelor’s degrees and his MSW while employed full-time, Morgan also has achieved fluency in American Sign Language, taught to him by his brother who is deaf.

One of the first African-American women to earn a college degree, Ellen Moose (MSW ’56) graduated from St. Augustine’s College in North Carolina, and attended Atlanta University’s school of social work before earning her degree at GSSW. In the late 1930s, she worked for the 125th Street YWCA in New York City. Moose provided employment training for young African-American women during World War II through the National Youth Administration in Woburn, Ohio, and later worked for the YWCA in Lynchburg, Virginia, and the YWCA in Colorado Springs. In Denver, she worked at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, the city’s first such organization open to African-Americans. After earning her MSW, Moose worked as a psychiatric social worker at Denver General Hospital and later at the Eastside Clinic. Moose continued to support GSSW until her death in 2008.

The Lites John W. Mosley (MSW ’49) is best known as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black unit whose stunning success in World War II combat missions was a prelude to the 1948 desegregation of the armed services. In fact, Mosley also was a social worker with a long public service career. He was employed as Boys’ Work Director for YMCAs in Denver and Kansas City until 1950, when he returned to active duty with the Air Force. His 20-year career with the tribe includes positions as Adult Counselor, Youth Counselor and Treatment Services, as well as his current position as Deputy Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Demonstrating his firm belief in the “mandate of social work,” Morgan works to coordinate the tribe’s two-year-high school, annual job fair and yearly traditions that include the Bear Dance Run, Bear Dance, Sun Dance, Sweat Lodge Ceremony and a New Year’s Eve gathering. In addition to earning two social work bachelor’s degrees and his MSW while employed full-time, Morgan also has achieved fluency in American Sign Language, taught to him by his brother who is deaf.

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Youlou D. Savage (MSW '64), ASCW, could have seen his life derailed by the discrimination he faced while growing up in the segregated South. Yet he became a respected Colorado leader in the national movement toward community mental health care, a "bold new approach" envisioned by President Kennedy. Savage had a long career as Executive Director of Adams County Mental Health Center, the first facility in the region funded by the 1967 Federal Community Mental Health Centers Act. As Deputy Director of Colorado’s Division of Mental Health from 1973 to 1978, he drafted a bill that expanded community mental health services throughout the state. In 2000, Savage endowed a GSSW scholarship fund that has since assisted 14 MSW students. Currently Chair of Colorado’s Human Services Board, Savage serves on GSSW’s Advisory Council on Racial Diversity and our Board of Visitors.

Richard Schimmel (MSW ’86) once thought social work might be a “back-up” as he pursued his airline pilot's license. However, his living proof that social work skills are applicable to any profession. When he became a Continental Express pilot in 1995, Schimmel helped the commercial airline initiate a peer program to monitor the rehabilitation progress of pilots with self-reported substance abuse problems. He also helped establish “Crew Resource Management,” training pilots in conflict resolution and techniques for reducing human error. Later expanded to include cabin and ground crews, the program also reduces the anonymously found in stressful work settings and helps airline employees deal with increasing instances of “air rage” among passengers. Today, Schimmel plays a leadership role in the Critical Incident Response Program at Continental Airlines, which he joined in 1999.

University of Calgary Social Work Professor Emerita Mary Valentić (PhD ’75) is an internationally known author, researcher and educator who’s devoted her career to the pursuit of gender equality and freedom from social and other forms of discrimination. A true pioneer in her field, she was still a doctoral student when she and Professor Jim Gintrip developed GSSW’s first course on human sexuality and sexual expression in 1975. “At one point in my life, the word ‘homosexuality’ from the DSM II, Mary’s early scholarly focus was particularly resistant in Canada where she received no realizing videos about homosexuality around the border in unwanted embryos to avoid paragraph founders. Rate of the University of Calgary’s 54th Raising Committee, her many honors include the 2008 Order of the University and a 10-year Pioneer Award from the Alberta Society for the Promotion of Sexual Health.

A Denver native and World War II veteran who lived his entire life in Colorado, Eugene H. Vervallin (MSW ’47) had a profound and lasting effect on the both the city and the state. At a time when educational services and the chance to lead a productive life were virtually non-existent for children with disabilities, Vervallin served as Executive Director of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Colorado and served as its Executive Director. Now celebrating its 85th anniversary, the Association provides early education, employment and family support for more than 38,000 Coloradans each year. Vervallin went on to serve 17 years as Metropolitan Director of the Mile High United Fund (now United Way). Eugene Vervallin died in 2006.

The year before they earned their graduate degrees, GSSW classmates Toni Schmid (MSW ’86) and Katharyn Carfrae (MSW ’86) had already founded the Boarding Place, Denver’s first day shelter for homeless women and children. Carfrae stayed on as Program Director for three years, and Schmid served as Executive Director until 1990. Their many accomplishments included growing the program’s budget from the $6,000 they initially raised as seed money for their storefront operation, to over $1 million in grant funding for operations, capital acquisitions and renovation of a 10,000-square-foot building to house the program’s ever-expanding services.

Both Carfrae and Schmid helped a third classmate, Josie Eyre, with the expansion of The Women’s Bean Project, a non-profit Eyre founded in 1989 to serve a similar client population (see related story on p. 8). Carfrae volunteered as a member of the Project’s Board of Directors for five years, and Schmid worked as a consultant to Eyre and her Board for three years. Today, Carfrae is a social worker and family advocate for the grant-funded Community Child Health Foundation at Children’s Medical Center in Denver. Schmid founded another innovative nonprofit in 1997, Work Options for Women, one of Denver’s first “well-to-work” job-training programs for women in low income, where she served as Executive Director through 2009. Among Schmid’s most distinctive professional tributes is The Women’s Bean Project top-selling product that Eyre named in her honor: Toni’s Ten Bean Soup Mix.

Toni Schmid (MSW ’86) was an innovator even before earning her MSW. He developed a safe house for alcoholics into a residential treatment facility and added a youth-to-youth crisis and drug-related hotline. As a medical and social worker program director at a community mental health center, he established new programs with AA, a job program, a deferred prosecution program, a drug street program, a youth group program and services for parents of handicapped children. As State Louisiana Substance Abuse Coordinator, Waddill substantially expanded services and developed creative approaches to issues created by cocaine's boom-tout energy development and population growth. Later, he established the Lakewood Police Department’s Victim Assistance Program, including a mobile unit that became a national model and one of Colorado’s first victim compensation programs.

George Tippin (MSW ’62) began his social work career during the era of “deinstitutionalization,” testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Long Term Care for the Aged and helping elderly policy initiatives in Nebraska’s State Hospital and Purdue’s Colo- rado State Hospital find alternative living arrangements in their own communities. So extensive was his statewide travel that his mileage reimbursement often exceeded his paycheck. After a brief stint as Director at Hawling, Tippin was invited to join the social work faculty at the University of Nebraska, some- thing he found ironic since his application to become an MSW student there had been rejected years earlier! Tippin went on to chair Nebraska’s BA social work program for ten years, help write the state’s social work certification law, serve as president of the state’s NASW chapter and receive the chapter’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

A 40-year-old mother of four when she entered GSSW as a part-time student, Carol Vernon (MSW ’05) was “non-traditional” in many respects. Her political views, more conservative than those of many classmates, landed her in the midst of a statewide controversy over freedom of political expression on college campuses. Encouraged by professors like Joan East (MSW ’73, PhD ’95) and Dottie Lamm (MSW ’77), in 2005, she testified before the Nebraska Senate Committee on Education, saying, “My voice at GSWW” she said at the time. While finishing her MSW, Vernon worked for the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), where her duties included conducting naturalization ceremonies and serving as a Congressional Liaison. In 2007, she was recruited to USC’s headquarters in Washington, where she develops policy on permanent residency and immigration reform.

Tom Waddill (MSW ’47) was a leader all his life. Like his father, a Cherokee Nation Senator and Auditor in the 1980s, Howard C. Walkingstick (MSW ’49) was a leader all his life. Only 16 when he graduated from high school, he took a part-time job at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he was the beginning of a 39-year career dedicated to overcoming racism and helping tribes throughout the country. Walkingstick worked his way through school at George Washington University, where he was a leader in his field. While working for the Indian Health Service at White House with Eleanor Roosevelt each Saturday. He volunteered at Chicago’s Hull House and served with the Army during World War II, then became the first Native American in the country to earn an MSW. (Walkingstick’s BA service earned him a 1967 Distinguished Service Award, the Interior Department’s highest honor.) A year before he died in 2002, he received the Cherokee Nation’s GaDuGi Award.

At a time when many charities and social work schools remained segregated, the University of Denver’s social work department recruited African American students from the start. Herman A. Washington (MA ’33), an African American student in the Social Service department, second cohort, completed the program’s first research study on a multicultural topic: “The Negro Delinquent Child in Denver.” Washington began his professional career as a caseworker for the Citizens’ Committee on Relief and Employment in the South. In 1938, he opened a new career path for her, as the social worker for Durango’s Alpine Hospice. Beginning in April, Youngblood’s previous nonprofit experience includes positions as a case manager and program manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Special Event Coordinator for United Way, Couples Communication Education and Advisor for the LaPlata Family Center, Coalition for Foster Care and Family Influence Specialist for the Tri-County Head Start serving LaPlata’s, Archuleta and Montezuma Counties. In 2005, a graduate of Leadership La Plata, sponsored by the Durango Chamber of Commerce, Youngblood now serves on its Curriculum Committee.

While enrolled in GSSW’s Comer MSW program, Erin Youngblood (MSW ‘10) was a single mom who, like many four Carriers students, continued to work full-time while earning her degree. But she insists the sacrifices were worth it, since her MSW has already opened a new career path for her, as the social worker for Durango’s Alpine Hospice. Beginning in April, Youngblood’s previous nonprofit experience includes positions as a case manager and program manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Special Event Coordinator for United Way, Couples Communication Education and Advisor for the LaPlata Family Center, Coalition for Foster Care and Family Influence Specialist for the Tri-County Head Start serving LaPlata’s, Archuleta and Montezuma Counties. In 2005, a graduate of Leadership La Plata, sponsored by the Durango Chamber of Commerce, Youngblood now serves on its Curriculum Committee.

It would be difficult to overstate the impact that Colorado State University Professor Bradford W. Sheehan (PhD ’75) has had on social work education. He’s held numerous administrative positions since being tenured, and Director of CSU’s social work program in 1974, including ten years as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Applied Human Sciences and five years as Co-Director of the Family and Youth Institute. Nationally, Sheehan has served on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky where she’s an Associate Professor in the College of Social Work and a Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies. A member of the University’s International Committee on International Students and International Taskforce, Sheehan also chairs the International Students Recruitment Sub-committee. Her many scholarly publications include a 2006 book on gender inequality in Ghana.

The First Latina in America to earn a social work doctorate, Marta Sotomayor (PhD ’73) served for many years as President and CEO of the National Hispanic Council on Aging, the premier national organization working to improve the lives of Hispanic older adults, their families and caregivers. Previously, she held positions with the National Institute of Mental Health, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, and the National Institute of Health where she was Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary’s Task-force on Minority Health. An international consultant, Sotomayor also held teaching positions at several schools including the California State University School of Social Work, Bayler School of Medicine, Howard University School of Social Work and the University of Maryland Community Development Department. She was named the inaugural GSSW Notable Scholar in 2009.

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Faculty Highlights

Professor Frank R. Ascione, at left, American Humane Endowed Chair and Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, was named recipient of the George T. Angelell Humanitarian Award from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSCPCA) Angelell Animal Medical Center. Ascione received the award at the MSCPCA annual dinner on October 21 at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston.

The award, presented annually for the past 25 years, is named in honor of MSCPCA founder George T. Angelell, a key leader of the humane movement in the late 1800s. The award recognizes exceptional dedication, caring and commitment to animals, their welfare and their quality of life. The recipient is someone whose work supports the basic philosophy of the MSCPCA, who is recognized as having a profound influence on the public’s attitudes toward animals, and whose humanitarianism is evident in all aspects of his or her life. Past award winners have come from around the world and include Henry Spira, John Hoyt, Roger Caras, Mary Tyler Moore, R.K. Anderson, Sam Ross, Temple Grandin and Cleveland Amory.

Ascione has also received a $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to conduct a four-year study that follows children who have been exposed to animal abuse at home. The project continues Ascione’s groundbreaking research into the dynamics of domestic violence and animal maltreatment.


Associate Professor Stacey Freedenthal has been appointed as an affiliate of the Military Suicide Research Consortium, which includes suicidologists from across the country and around the world. Freedenthal has also been appointed to the University of Colorado Depression Center, where she’s been a member of the Suicide Prevention Work Group for some time and gave the Grand Rounds lecture for the Psychiatry Department in February.

Clinical Assistant Professor Julianne Mitchell (MSW ’09), LCSW was appointed to her position as Co-Coordinator of Field Education in January. She also teaches several MSW clinical practice courses. Prior to her faculty appointment, Mitchell was a GSSW Field Liaison and adjunct member of the field team.

Clinical Associate Professor Philip Tedeschi. Clinical Director of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, is discussing with the Denver Zoo a potential collaboration to explore conservation and field internship opportunities for our MSW students. Tedeschi also reviewed a proposal addressing lion conservation in northern Kenya submitted by one of the zoo’s conservation biologists to National Geographic.

Kate Trujillo (PhD ’10) has joined GSSW as a Volunteer Research Faculty through November 30, 2011. During this time, she is working to secure external funding for her research, after which she will be appointed as a Research Assistant Professor. Trujillo’s research addresses the relationship between people and animals, particularly developing and testing the effects of animal-assisted interventions on youth who are exposed to the child welfare system. She recently submitted an R03 proposal to the National Institute of Child and Human Development to assess the effects of a humane education program on empathy skills of elementary school children.

Clinical Assistant Professor Stephen von Mears (MSW ’09) was appointed to the GSSW faculty in January and serves as faculty liaison for the Social Work with Latinx Certificate.

Assistant Professor Eugene Walls received the 2010 Ernest A. Lynard Award for Outstanding Contributions to Early Career Faculty from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) and the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities. The annual award, which recognizes pre-tenure faculty who conduct teaching, research and service to community engagement, was presented at the Annual Conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities on October 25 in Portland, OR.

Lorraine Gutermuth, Professor of Social Work and Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan, completed her Master of Arts Degree in Religious Studies in 1999 and currently serves as a half-time Receptionist. She is also responsible for preparation and update of the online GSSW calendar and for updating the GSSW website on a regular basis. Bishop currently completed his Master of Arts Degree in Religious Studies at DU and was an editor and writer for the weekly Religious Studies Department newsletter. He also held a temporary position with the University’s Facilities Department.

David Rossi joined the GSSW staff in January as Outreach Coordinator. He manages our continuing education program offerings, coordinates special events and provides support for the Director of Development and the Director of Communications and Marketing. Most recently, Rossi was the Assistant Director of The Autism Center for Excellence, a partnership of Sacramento State University, United Cerebral Palsy and the ALTA Regional Center of California. Previously, he served as Program Manager for the Denver-based John Lynch Foundation, where he successfully planned and executed numerous program projects. He also served as Program Manager at Adam’s Camp.

GSSW is pleased to welcome these two new staff members to our team!

New Staff Appointments

Richard Bishop has been appointed as a microaggressions. He defines microaggressions as “everyday insults, indignities and demeaning messages sent to people of color by well-intentioned white people who are unaware of the hidden messages they are sending.” Sue illustrated his talk with numerous anecdotes and focused particularly on classroom situations where microaggressions may come into play.

Scholar Provides Microaggression Training

Noted multicultural scholar Donald Wang Sue, PhD, conducted a workshop on microaggressions for GSSW faculty and staff on November 10. Sue is Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and author of the book, Microaggressions: Every Day Conversations That Undermine Racial Equality.

Sue’s workshop was presented in conjunction with the Office of International to develop international social work content for concentration year Four Corners students. In August, Ellingson visited four sites in Nicaragua, including Casa Esperanza, an important children’s home that Ellingson helped found and provides teachers and international volunteers to the poorest areas of Nicaragua. Philippines with Ellingson is an Experience scholarship student who provided a tour of Granada’s San Ignacio School.
Concentration year MSW student Megan Hope has received a Consuelo W. Gonzell Memorial Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year from the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. The awards are made to students who have demonstrated a commitment to working with American Indian, Alaskan Native or Hispanic and Latino populations, and who also plan to work with public or voluntary nonprofit agencies or local grassroots organizations in the future.

Fourth-year doctoral student Laurie Walker has received a Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Walker’s dissertation is entitled Public Housing Resident Engagement and Transition. Her research is taking place in Denver public housing neighborhoods facing redevelopment pressure because of their location adjacent to light rail stops.

In February GSSW’s Queer Equality Alliance sponsored two lunchtime discussions entitled “Civil Unions: Strategic Move or Second Class Citizenship?” featuring Shannon Masden (MSW ’08). Field Manager for One Colorado. One Colorado is a new non-profit organization dedicated to securing and protecting equality and opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Coloradans.

GSSW’s recently founded student organization ECO Conscious (Environment + Conservation + Opportunity) has already launched a busy agenda of activities and presentations. In February, they sponsored two “lunch pail” discussions, more environmentally friendly versions of “brown bags.” On February 25, ECO Conscious joined GSSW’s Graduate Student Association (GSA) in co-sponsoring a presentation by foundation year MSW student, Kristi Roybal, entitled “Reconstructing Persons-in-Environment: Social Work Practice and Environmental Justice.”

Dean James Herbert Williams named doctoral students Sarah Nickels and Granger Petersen as the inaugural Emil D. Cox Pre-Doctoral Scholars. The award provides funding for their third year of study toward the PhD degree.

Shannon Brown, a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe (South Dakota), was awarded a federal Indian Health Service scholarship for the current academic year. He is the second Native student in GSSW’s Durango-based Four Corners MSW program to receive this very competitive scholarship. Brown also received an American Indian College Fund scholarship.

Fourth-year doctoral student W. Gosnell Memorial Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year from the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. The awards are made to students who have demonstrated a commitment to working with American Indian, Alaskan Native or Hispanic and Latino populations, and who also plan to work with public or voluntary nonprofit agencies or local grassroots organizations in the future.

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GSSW News

Digging into Community Service

For the first time this fall, GSSW’s advanced standing and incoming foundation year students were invited to participate in an optional community service day. “Dig and Dine with the Dean” provided the opportunity to help Denver’s Department of Parks and Recreation spruce up Barnum Park or to serve lunch to the residents of Sunset Towers Retirement Community operated by Volunteers of America. Concentration year student leaders, faculty and staff also participated in the community service event, part of GSSW’s 80th Anniversary celebration. The day ended with a picnic lunch and lawn games.

“This was the first time we’ve organized this type of event,” explains Clinical Assistant Professor Karen Bensen, GSSW’s Director of Student Services. “but it was so successful that we plan to open it up to all of our students next fall.”

Dancin’ With The Dean

The weather outside may have been frightfully cold, but that didn’t stop 150 students, faculty, staff and field supervisors from dancing the night away at Craig Hall. “Dancin’ with the Dean,” an 80th Anniversary event co-sponsored by GSSW, the Graduate Student Association and the Xi Delta Chapter of Phi Alpha honor society was held January 22. The evening featured a professional DJ, taco bar, door prizes and line-dancing lessons by Kelly Cornello at right in plain shirt. YEE HAW!

Workshop Focused on Seniors

Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingson (right), Four Corners MSW Program Site Director, celebrates the success of the Community Challenge workshop with representatives of the event’s other co-sponsoring agencies. Pictured with Ellingson, left to right, are GSSW Field Liaison Patti Ellis, La Plata County Senior Services Director Sheila Casey and Mercy Regional Medical Center’s Director of Mission, Spiritual Care and Social Work Dina Mckenna.

GSSW’s Four Corners MSW program, based in Durango, CO, co-sponsored an all-day workshop entitled “Community Challenge: Meeting the Needs of Seniors, Providers and Caregivers” at the LaPlata County Fairgrounds on January 25. Nearly 130 people attended the workshop, which was offered at no charge to seniors, families, caregivers and senior care providers. Other co-sponsors of the workshop included La Plata County Senior Services and Mercy Regional Medical Center. The Four Corners Advisory Council originated the idea for this community continuing education event.

Students Establish Lecture Series

Four Corners Graduate Student Association (GSA) representatives have set up a monthly guest lecture series for current students and alumni in the Durango, CO, community where the Four Corners MSW program is based. The first lecture, held on January 4, featured Spc. Tony Lagouranis, a U. S. Army interrogator from 2001 to 2005, who served a one-year tour of duty in Iraq in 2005. First stationed in Abu Ghraib, he joined a special intelligence gathering task force that moved among detention facilities around the country. The book he subsequently authored, Four Corners: The Story of a Time of War, offers perceptive and provocative insight into life inside the Abu Ghraib prison complex. The book has been read by thousands of U.S. military personnel, and the story of the prisoner abuse that took place there continues to be the subject of intense study and debate throughout the world.

Four Corners MSW representatives (L-R) Abbie Bremer, Shannon Brown and Cara Schmidt established the program’s first monthly guest lecture series.

Bremer welcomes Spc. Tony Lagouranis, first speaker in the lecture series.
**GUEST LECTURER SHARES KNOWLEDGE**

Guest lecturer Gen Kato, DVM, presented “Human Animal Bond Education and Bond-Centered Practice” on October 14. Founder and Director of the Daitkari Animal Hospital in Tokyo, Kato is also President and Founder of the Japan Human Animal Bond Society, an Adjunct Professor at Beijing Agriculture University’s Veterinary College and an Affiliate Faculty Member of the Department of the Clinical Science College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University.

**IHAC HOSTS NETWORKING RECEPTION**

On November 2, IHAC co-sponsored a networking reception with the Board of Directors of the Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) focusing on the need for research supporting equine-assisted activities. Speakers included American Humane Endowed Chair Frank R. Ancilone and Clinical Associate Professor Phil Tedeschi. IHAC Executive Director and Clinical Director respectively. Guests at the reception had the opportunity to meet colleagues from the field and learn more about both IHAC programs and HHRF activities.

**AUTISM RESEARCHER PRESENTS STUDY RESULTS**

On January 4, IHAC hosted a presentation by autism researcher Maggie O’Haire, a PhD candidate in Psychology and Fulbright Post-graduate Scholar at The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. O’Haire has evaluated the therapeutic use of guinea pigs as classroom pets for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their typically developing peers in inclusive classrooms. Her analysis of parent- and teacher-reported child behavior before and after the intervention indicated positive changes in the social functioning of children with ASD, including significant increases in social approach behaviors, decreases in social withdrawal behaviors and increases in social skills. For typically developing children, her results indicated significant increases in social skills and a trend toward increased academic competence.

**FOR BY CONTRACTS WITH THE STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE CHILD WELFARE WORKERS**

These early efforts proved so successful that, within five years, GSSW became the largest provider of training for child welfare professionals in the Rocky Mountain West. Today, the 26-member staff of the Butler Institute (renamed in 2005 to reflect a generous gift from the Butler Family Fund) manages projects totaling approximately $2.9 million, among the highest volume of research, training and technical assistance for any group at the University of Denver.

The Institute’s initial success in Colorado quickly caught the attention of other states struggling to meet their own child welfare needs. As the need increased, the Butler Institute continued to grow, expanding its services to other states and regions.

**THE ROLE OF SHELTER DOGS IN HUMAN HEALTH: THE COLORADO CONNECTION**

May 3, 2011 | 5-8 p.m.
Boettcher Foundation Community Room
Details at www.humananimalconnection.org or www.du.edu/socialwork
**BRIDGE PROJECT**

**Women’s Foundation Grant to Help Bridge Girls**

The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) announced in February that GSSW’s Bridge Project is one of seven organizations across the state to receive a grant to help prevent girls from dropping out of school. The funding is part of a three-year, $700,000 grant from the Embrey Family Foundation of Dallas, Texas. Bridge, selected through a request-for-proposals process conducted last year, will use the grant to enhance existing mentoring programs and increase the number of middle school girls who receive mentoring. Funds will also be used to increase content about the developmental phase of early adolescence among the girls in the Project’s current mentor-training curriculum. “Our goal is to use funds from the Women’s Foundation to offer weekly, academic-focused mentoring to an initial cohort of 30 sixth grade girls,” says Bridge Executive Director Molly Calhoun (MSW ’05). “We are so grateful for this generous support of our mission to increase academic performance and reduce the number of school drop-outs.”

**Roots & Shoots Honors Bridge Girls**

A successful fundraising effort by five girls at the Westwood Bridge site, “Building Global Community—The Bridge Project and the Ribera Girls Soccer Academy,” was chosen as the Roots & Shoots Project of the Week on October 26. Roots & Shoots, an international program of the Jane Goodall Institute, continues to feature the program in the News and Events section of its Web site. www.rootsandshoots.org

By any measure, last November’s annual Bridge Gala was a smashing success. “A Starry Night” celebrated the Bridge Project’s 19 years of success and honored the courageous achievements of the students who have enhanced their skills and furtheared their education through participation in the program. The Gala featured a cocktail hour, dinner, silent and live auctions, and live entertainment. Denise Plante, host of Colorado & Company on Denver’s Channel 9 KUSA-TV, was the event’s Mistress of Ceremonies. In particular, we invite you to make a donation to the newly established 1931 Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of graduates whose stories appear in this magazine. Other GSSW graduates, or faculty, or any social worker who has made an impact on your life. We will notify the honoree(s) of your generosity; your gift will be doubled by the matching grant. And your doubled gift will be invested in an endowment to make a permanent impact on the school and the students who come here to pursue their dreams. What a wonderful opportunity to commemorate the proud 80-year heritage of our school!
50s

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Don Feiner (MSW '54) earned his Bachelor’s Degree at DU, while also working as a housepainter at the Jewish National Home for Aged Children. The latter experience and work at various summer camps, convinced him to earn his MSW. Fifty-six years later, he’s still a social worker, as are his wife and older daughter. Feiner’s professional positions have included Director of Napa State Hospital Children’s Center in Napa, CA, and Director of Mental Health of Solano County in northern CA. He’s maintained a small private practice since the 1950s, and he also provides consultation to Solano County’s Catholic Social Services and the Peer Support Program at Napa’s Vintage High School.

George P. Hypes (MSW ’50), ACSW, LCSW, APJA, FYSA, certainly fulfilled his grandmother’s wish that he “get letters behind his name!” His 40-year career in mental health included 28 years at the Weld County (CO) Mental Health Center, where he organized and administered the first emergency service, provided expert testimony in court, supervised interns from 5 universities, developed a unique board game that helped children overcome incontinence and drew upon his high school Spanish to communicate with the Center’s many Hispanic clients. He’s published 8 books, with another in the works. Yet he’s equally proud of his photographic expertise that, in 1988, resulted in his being named a Fellow in the Photographic Society of America, an honor accorded only about 450 people in the world. Ansel Adams among them. Hypes’ lifetime achievements are all the more amazing, considering his rough start in life: he and several siblings were all hospitalized for malnutrition while growing up during America’s Great Depression.

Pictured here with his family, Verne Kelley (MSW ’52) writes “If you want to hear from a really old graduate, here I am! My advisers were Professors Jean Sinnock and Harold Nitzberg, and the school director was Emil Sulzer.” Kelley and his wife, Pat, earned PhDs from the University of Iowa. Pat gradually was promoted to full professor and director of the School of Social Work, and Verne became director of the community health center. Now both are retired, “living happily ever after” and volunteering with visual and performing arts programs at the U. of I. They’ve also been honored as Pioneer Democrats by the local group. Kelley says he’s president of two activities during his career: helping to establish some new social agencies in the 1970’s that are still going strong, and working with his wife and other social workers to help establish a school of social work near the Ural mountains in Russia. The international friendships that developed during the process have endured through the years, and their Russian friends visit the Kelley in Iowa City.

Elsein Markell (MSW ’53) graduated with her husband, Bill MBA ’59, and 4 months later their first child was born. Bill entered the academic world, and after a stint in Crete, IL, the family moved to Newark, DE, where they’ve lived ever since. After staying home with 5 children, Markell worked for Jewish Family Service; then the Division of Public Health where she served clients and trained speech therapists and public health nurses. She also headed the SIDS program, participated in a left palate program and was the social worker anchor for the first high school wellness clinic in DE. The state’s NASW chapter named her Social Worker of the Year in 1982. Markell was one of the first social workers in DE to open a private practice, which she continued until 2 years ago. “probably the oldest practicing social worker in the state.” A self-described “snowbird” for 2+ months in FL each year, Markell still plays tennis, walks the beaches and loves bridge. Her son is a chaired professor of environmental health at Florida State University; her daughter is a health advisor; and her youngest son, Jack Markell, is the Governor of DE. Bill Markell died two years ago. Contact Elsein at markell@gmail.com, 302-757-5473 or by mail at 222 Huliff Dr., Newark, DE 19711.

Richard L. Bingham (MSW ’62), MA, MDiv, has high praise for “the excellent MSW education” he received at GSSW. For 7 years after graduation, he served on the staff of the West River Mental Health Center in Rapid City, SD, then moved to VT in 1969 to work in the University of VT College of Medicine, training psychiatry and internal medicine residents in family and community systems perspectives. He retired in 1996 as Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work in the Dept. of Psychiatry. His wife, Anne Alexander Bingham, has also retired after a career in multi-age primary education. Today, they live in South Hero, VT, in a house that they built as general contractor and carpenters.

Dick Enos (MSW ’66), profiled in our cover story, says he and his wife. Ann would like to hear from classmates at noenar@verizon.net.

Norma (Sampson) Herzog-Mals (MSW ’69), ACSW says that a generous Federal Mental Health Grant allowed her to obtain my graduate degree as long as I gave back to the field a couple of years. Well, I stayed on for 40+ years!” Calling her experiences at GSSW “priceless,” she adds, “I have always felt fortunate to have a degree that carried me a lifetime, but held a body of knowledge that could take me into several different professional experiences.” For Herzog-Mals, that often meant starting a new mental health component in an established host setting: the Mt. Sinai Hospital social Work Dept., a vocational workshop in Orange County, NY, and a new community hospital, where she set up not only a mental health unit but also a hospital-wide social work and discharge planning department. Later, she joined the full clinical faculty at New York Medical College, then established a private practice in 1990 that she continues today. Her fond memories of GSSW include the small classes, individualized attention, friendships, exposure to Western culture and special people like Ethelrose Spellmann.

Dear Fellow Graduates:

It’s a great honor to join with all of you in celebrating the first 80 years of the Graduate School of Social Work. What an exciting year this is at our school!

We are especially pleased to have reconnected with so many of our alumni who responded to our “Tell Us Your Story” postcard last fall. Many thanks to all of the graduates, families and colleagues who helped us gather the inspiring stories and wonderful photos presented in this magazine and on GSSW’s new “Alumni Stories” Web page. Please continue to send us your news, via email at gsswalumni@du.edu, or by mail using the address on the back of this magazine.

We also hope you’ll take an active role in our ongoing effort to develop a more vibrant, inclusive Alumni Association by sharing your thoughts about our future direction, as well as your professional development needs. I’ve met with many of our alumni during the past year, and I hope to connect with many more of you during the coming months.

Meanwhile, please be sure to join us on Friday night, May 13, for “GSSW Celebrates YOU!” a festive reception and dinner honoring our graduates, friends and community partners through the years. And the next day, don’t miss “Shaping the Next 80 Years Through Research and Practice,” a day-long series of informative workshops pairing GSSW faculty members with community practitioners to address such wide-ranging topics as human-animal partnerships, family therapy, evidence-based advocacy, food security in low-income neighborhoods and the latest clinical and research perspectives on suicide prevention. This promises to be an incredible learning opportunity for us all.

Sincerely,

Jae McQueen
Alumni Association President

A GREAT EDUCATION DRIVES GREAT DREAMS

A GSSW Gift Annuity is a great way to help make dreams come true.

Beloved GSSW social work Professor Eleanor Barnett devoted her life to helping others. She set up a number of gift annuities that supplemented her income and upon her passing created a lasting legacy at GSSW. Through her generosity, more than 70 students have been able to pursue their dream of becoming a social worker.

Office of Gift Planning
1-800-186-3238 or 303-871-2739
E-mail: giftplanning@du.edu
www.giftplanning.du.edu
Jerry B. Matthews (MSW ’66), PhD, returned to TX after graduation and worked at the Department of Public Welfare as a Child Welfare Supervisor for 5 years. Then, as a training specialist covering a 40-county region. He helped to develop the BA SW program at Texas Tech University. Joseph in 1971 and continued teaching there for the next 35 years. “I taught some wonderful students who became exceptional entry level social workers,” he says. Others went on to earn MSW at prestigious schools including GSSW. “In the 35 years of my social work practice, things changed tremendously,” Matthews writes. “Our clients and their situations became more complex and more challenging. Our skills and knowledge had to grow and expand beyond most anything we imagined in 1966.” Matthews wishes “the best to all future GSSW graduates in their practice of social work.”

Burt L. Riskefeldt (MSW ’64) retired from the NJ judiciary after 26½ years as a trial court judge. He is presently working ‘very part-time’ as a mediator in family law cases and serving as a member of the NJ State Board of Medical Examiners.

David Silburn (MSW ’64) and Elaine, his wife of 53 years, have moved to Charlotteville, VA, to be closer to their daughter and her family. He keeps in touch with family, friends and clients by phone and through the Internet using Skype as a primary means of communication. Contact him at silburn75@virgin.com or 434-202-2491.

Carol Williams (MSW ’60) has served people all ages during her long social work career. beginning at the YWCA in Oakland, CA. where she coordinated activities for special needs youth. then as a social worker at the Solano County Children’s Shelter for 2 years. Returning to school at UC Berkeley in 1975. she earned an MSPH through a joint program in School of Social Work and the School of Public Health. She later supervised Solano County Children’s Protective Services for many years. started the county’s independent living program for teens in foster care, and did a pilot program that placed 4 teenagers in their own apartments—a ‘radical idea’ in CA at this time, she says. After 20 years in child welfare, Williams moved to adult services to start a new program providing additional services to in-home caregivers and recipients for the In-Home Supportive Services program.

Throughout her career, she supervised many MSW and other student internships in both child welfare and adult services. Since returning in 1998. Williams has continued to work part-time. First for the Area Agency on Aging where she started two new programs, then helping to implement CA’s major reforms in Adult Protective Services during the late 1990s. Today, she continues working part-time for Older and Disabled Adult Services. doing various administrative tasks. Most recently. she’s been instrumental in the implementation of the new fraud investigations functions for the In-Home Supportive Services program.

Billie Lillie (MSW ’77). LCSW. was a single parent when she earned her MSW as a part-time student in order to work. Subsequently, she had a ‘wonderful and varied career’ working in outpatient, inpatient and residential centers, and at later as a private practitioner specializing in PTSD and couples counseling. Retired for the past 5 years, she and her husband, David Lillie, (MSW ’60) rent a 5-months in their motor home. They volunteer at state parks in HI, during the winter and for the U.S. Forest Service during summers at the Marcom Bells near Aspen. CO. “We love our lifestyle and continuing to be active,” she writes. ‘Social work was, and is. a huge and important part of my life.’

John McColl (M ’74) is the owner/Founder of Le Concierge International in Denver. Prior to attending GSSW. he discovered his passion for helping people while serving in the inactive Coast Guard. he became the Boulder County Social Services Volunteer. After graduation, he worked for several years in the Children’s Services Division (Protective Services) of the Denver Dept. of Social Services. he later attended the Graduate School of Education at Wright State University (OH) to obtain certification to become a special education/reading teacher, and the University of Dayton Graduate School of Education to become a secondary school counselor. Retired since 2006, after a 22-year career as a teacher/counselor for Springfield (OH) City Schools. Denver Public Schools and the Cherry Creek School District, he’s been building the concierge businesses that he started while a GSSW student.

Rosalie J. Angues (MSW ’84). LCSW, ACSW, AHIP consultant, CCNE, CMT. of Loveland, CO. graduated as an advanced standing student and has worked in long-term care facilities as a counselor, in private practice and as a clinical supervisor in a local domestic violence agency. Her practice is broad-based with specialties in PTSD, trauma-related care and medical issues that impact emotional regulation. She’s also starting a support group for the survivors of traumatic brain injuries and for their families. “Because it is the signature injury of the Iraq vets, there will be an overwhelming need for community resources for the families,” she writes. She also supervises MSW students and graduates working toward licensure. “My role as mentor/supervisor/teacher is my joy and delight,” she says.

Martha Jane (Marty) Marsh (MSW ’83) was hired immediately following her graduation from the Denver VA Medical Center, where she completed her second-year internship. Six years later, she moved back to Knoxville, TN. to take a position with the Geriatrics-Psych Unit at Baptist Hospital. then spent 8 years as Director of Social Work at St. Mary’s Medical Center. She became the Director of Social Work Services for Baptist Healthcare Services: 18 years and 2 corporate buy-outs later. Marsh still works for the same company (more Amesley’s, the second largest health company in America) as Supervisor of Social Work Services for the East TN Region. Erin Kender writes that, although his mother, Sherny Schafer (MSW ’88), has become severely disabled with progressive neurological disease, she made great differences in people’s lives during the years she was a practicing social worker. In fact, he says, there are quite a few former clients who still occasionally keep in touch with him because of the positive impact his mom helped them realise.

Susan Eilertsen (MSW ’90). LCSW began her career as a Caseworker III in an ongoing child protection unit at the IF Pan Co. Dept. of Human Services in Colorado Springs. CO. She later transferred into the kinship unit for 2 years. then took the adoption unit for 9 years. during which she became an LCSW and was promoted to Caseworker IV. She served as a supervisor in the adoption unit for 2 years, then as a Social Services Intern at the Denver Public Schools for 4 years. She’s been a field instructor for 3 Bachelor’s degree interns and has a thriving private practice that includes clients of all ages. She also manages a program for seniors for Boulder Community Hospital. Additionally, Norris serves as a GSSW Field Liaison. providing a link between GSSW students and their internship agency. “I absolutely love doing this,” Norris says. “It is a pleasure to be affiliated with GSSW and help students on their journey of becoming social workers.”

Ann Marie Norris (MSW ’90) lives and works in Boulder. CO. where she has a thriving private practice that includes clients of all ages. she also manages a program for seniors for Boulder Community Hospital. Additionally, Norris serves as a GSSW Field Liaison. providing a link between GSSW students and their internship agency. “I absolutely love doing this,” Norris says. “It is a pleasure to be affiliated with GSSW and help students on their journey of becoming social workers.”

Always Ray (MSW ’97). LCSW, LMTF, also attended the Family Therapy Training Center of CO. She’s worked for the Jefferson County (CO) Dept. of Human Services in the Family Intervention Services Unit for 15 years. serving as a supervisor. She’s also the therapist for a program that sends children to children and families dealing with issues such as abuse. neglect. domestic violence and substance abuse. “It is truly remarkable,” Ray says, “to help families make the changes necessary to better parent. better relate to their children and manage traumatic experiences that impact their parenting.”

Since graduation. Amy J. (Moe) Russell (MSW ’97). LCSW has been a school social worker for Jefferson County (CO) Public Schools. where she’s assigned to 14 preschools. “It’s a perfect place for me,” she says. “I’ll be 43 in March and I feel fortunate for the influence I can have on so many staff. young children. parents. families and communities.”

Among those who provided mental health support after the Columbine high school tragedy. Russell notes that “we still continue to heal from that day and focus on evidence-based school programs and policies of prevention.” Russell is grateful to several people who inspired her social work career: the late Professor Emerita Connie Caulkin (GSSW’s former Field Education Director), former GSSW faculty member Jeff Bostheim (who. before he died in 2006. mentored Russell during her GSSW preparation) and even her young clients themselves. But. says Russell. “my biggest inspiration and support for entering and persisting in the field of social work is my mother, Barbara A. Moe” who graduated from GSSW in 1940 while he was in high school. She had been a nurse. a newspaper columnist, a children’s book author and raised 7 children.” Russell adds. a varied background she believes informed her mom’s decision to become a social worker later in life. “Social work is hard work, not without set-backs and discouragement.” Russell explains. “It is broad in scope, as there will always be the need for a variety of types of social work in every corner of
The world. It is rewarding and gratifying to know I have made a difference in my corner of the world, in my area, in my way and on my level.' Married, with a 4-year-old son, Russell is also a musician.

**'00s**

Jon Marie Broz (MSW '07), AASW. GSSW "CGSW says she started GSSW at age 55 and never looked back, except to thank the ever wonderful GSSW family." Diving her time between Denver and Europe, she has dual careers as a poet/author and as a social worker in private practice specializing in adolescent, anxiety and divorce support. She published Off-tier—The Burnt Offerings (poetry) in 2008 and Avow—The Poetry of a Love that Died of the Dark, an animal-assisted social work therapy tool, in 2010. Currently she’s supervising former GSSW students working toward the LCSW and co-authoring (with Susan Rutherford, PsyD) Dancing with the Skeletons—A Primer for Beginning Therapists, due out in late 2011.

Kelly Carroll (MSW '07). LCSW moved back to WA after graduation to work for Volunteers of America WA and MT as a Substance Abuse Clinician, serving women and their children in a long-term residential treatment program. Subsequently, she was promoted to Clinical Director of the facility then to Director of Outpatient Services in conjunction with the residential program, where she supervises the Transitional Drug Free Housing and a small Outpatient Program in the Community Re-Entry Center. “I feel that the education I received at GSSW prepared me for this endeavor,” she says.

Sue Fabeck (MSW '05) lives in Kalamares, IL, and works at the V.A. in Battle Creek as a social worker in the Suicide Prevention Program. She also works at a community hospital doing crisis screening in the Emergency Room.

Keni Hakim (MSW '00) first worked as a Sexual Abuse Ongoing Careworker for El Paso County (CO) Dept. of Human Services to fulfill the obligations of her child welfare stipend. “I would not trade that time in my life for anything.” She writes, “I was able to get a great breadth of experience in working within a government agency and in managing high caseloads/crises on an ongoing basis. I learned that after you have demonstrated that you can manage a caseload as a child welfare caseworker while maintaining a commitment to ethics, professionalism and empathetic interactions with your clients, you can do just about anything.” Since 2005, Hakim has worked at Whistlepipe (a non-profit foster case agency serving the entire state of CO), first as a contractor to complete home studies, then as a Regional Director/Placement Supervisor. and, since June of 2008, as Executive Director, overseeing a staff of 10. At any given time, Whistlepipe provides foster care for 180-100 children, aged birth through 18. “I interface with many other child placement agencies, work closely with several County Departments of Human Services, and work with 3 Native American Tribes in the Four Corners region. I love the work that I do and I would not change anything about my professional life,” says Hakim. “I am grateful to DU for giving me the education and degree that I needed to reach my current position. My MSW has been an essential component of upward mobility. I would not be here without it.”


**'10s**

Zahib Abukari (PhD '10) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA. He is particularly excited about this appointment since the University has an ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion and places value on student engagement. "The University is known for its commitment to teaching, research, and service,” says Abukari. He will be teaching courses in social work and psychology.

Megan (Yoder) Richert (MSW '10) moved to San Luis Obispo, CA, got married last August and now works as a Medical Social Worker at Lompoc Veterans of the Central Coast (HPCO). She provides case management, bereavement counseling and community outreach for patients with a terminal illness or dying in a variety of clinical settings (in-home, hospital, skilled nursing facility, etc.). She enjoys the work and the interdisciplinary approach HPCO provides through weekly clinical meetings with doctors, nurses, medical social workers, home health aides, dietarians, spiritual counselors and volunteers. She’s also working towards her LCSW, which she hopes to obtain by 2013. “I am very proud to be a GSSW alumna and feel it gave me the tools, knowledge and experience I needed to obtain a desirable entry-level social work position in a highly competitive job market.” She writes, “I look forward to a fulfilling and rewarding career in social work for years to come!”

In Memoriam

LuVerne S. Murray (MSW '48) died on April 7, 2010, her 88th birthday. Her husband, retired U.S. Col. Edward A. Murray (MSW '48), preceded her in death (see Obituary in Spring 2010 issue of Alumni News). She was born in Bismarck, ND, the second of three children, and graduated from Bismarck High School in 1940.

After receiving her BSW in social work in 1944, she moved to San Luis Lake City, UT, where she earned her MSW, then moved to Denver, CO, in 1952. For 40 years, she worked for the Denver Department of Human Services, and retired in 1984. After her retirement, she went on to work for the Denver Department of Social Services, where she was the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Mayor’s Award of Honor that was presented by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper upon her retirement in 2005. She is survived by her two children, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Professor Emerita Laverne T. Pitchett, MSW, passed away on October 10, 2010, at the age of 89. After earning her MSW from Boston College in 1949, Pitchett was a caseworker for Catholic Charities in New York, then worked as a Child Welfare Supervisor in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1954, she was the first African American appointed to the United Nations Fellowship for a year of study at London University. She was awarded a B.A. in Classics at the Anna Freud Child Guidance and Therapy Clinic as a visiting student. When she returned to the U.S., Pitchett moved to Denver and worked as a social worker at the University of Colorado Medical Center. She later became a Field Instructor for MSW students at the Denver Department of Welfare and later the Colorado Department of Social Services.

Keith D. Paulson (MSW '89) was devoted to the LDS Church and had many leadership opportunities, but particularly enjoyed working with children. At age 55, he returned to school to earn his MSW with an emphasis in child abuse and child protection services. Preceded in death by her husband, her parents and 2 grandchildren, Paulson is survived by her 6 children, 2 brothers, a sister, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-grandchild. Donations in her honor may be made to the Huntman Cancer Institute and the Salt Lake City County Deputy Sheriff’s Fund.

Sheree C. Paulson (MSW '10) died at her home April 21, 2010, from a courageous battle with end stage cancer. She was 73, born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT. She received a BA in journalism from the University of Utah. She married her husband, Richard, a natural resources attorney, in 1959. While raising their 4 children, they lived in Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Denver (3 times), and Tulsa and Bartlesville, OK.

Paulson was devoted to the LDS Church and had many leadership opportunities, but particularly enjoyed working with children. At age 55, he returned to school to earn his MSW with an emphasis in child abuse and child protection services. Preceded in death by her husband, her parents and 2 grandchildren, Paulson is survived by her 6 children, 2 brothers, a sister, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-grandchild. Donations in her honor may be made to the Huntman Cancer Institute and the Salt Lake City County Deputy Sheriff’s Fund.

Patricia Ruh (MSW '80) died on June 7, 2010, 11 days before her 84th birthday. After raising her family, Ruh earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology. While she was earning her MSW, her focus turned to grief and loss programming and support. She was passionate about social activism and politics, she was active in League of Women Voters and the Older Women’s League, and she was a Co-Member of the Sisters of Loreto. Ruh is survived by her children, Kathleen (David), Rodrahd (Wendy), Stephanie (Rick), Maureen (Tim), Mary (Bill) and Michael (Natascha) and 5 grandchildren, 2 brothers and a sister. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Richard Ruh. Donations are suggested in Ruh’s honor to a charity of your choice.

Barbara J. Saltisberg (MSW ’66) died on November 2, 2010. She was 72. During her more than 43 years as a social case worker supervisor with the Denver Department of Social Services, she was the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Mayor’s Award of Honor that was presented by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper upon her retirement in 2005. She is survived by her three children, a nephew and a niece. Donations in Saltisberg’s memory may be made to Friends of Kids in Crisis, 191 University Blvd., #882, Denver, CO, 80206.

William A. Slater (MSW ’60) of Overland Park, KS, died on September 5, 2010. He was 77. Born in Nantung, China, to medical missionaries, Slater earned a BA from Victoria State University before attending GSSW. He held a number of social work positions in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, MN, then was named Executive Director of Gillis Center in Kansas City, MO, in 1970. He subsequently served as Executive Director at the Women’s Christian Association, carrying on his parents’ tradition of helping others by devoting his life to service until he retired in 1999. Slater also was an active volunteer with the United Way of the U.S. People’s Friendship Association, the Child Welfare League, the Missouri Child Welfare Association and numerous other organizations. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and 2 children. Memorial donations are suggested to Gillis Center 8150 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64114.1

Jason E. Sommerschein (MSW ’09) died in August, 2010, in Denver. He was 40. A pro-bono therapist and volunteer intake counselor at the MSW Counseling Center, Sommerschein also completed his concentration year internship at MDS. He grew up in Michigan and worked for the University of Michigan for many years, after moving to Denver to attend GSSW. He was the 2009 recipient of GSSW’s Elizabeth Freling Memorial Award, honoring the creativity and imagination he demonstrated in a paper he submitted while he was an MSW student. Sommerschein’s survivors include his parents, who reside in Talent, OR.