FROM THE DEAN

Among GSSW’s many community partnerships, one of the most enduring is with Denver Family Institute, which offers our students the opportunity to begin work toward the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate a year before they complete the MSW degree. In this issue of GSSW Magazine, we describe the nature and history of that partnership, as well as the many benefits it offers our students, graduates, and the clients and communities they serve.

We also celebrate the opening of our Western Colorado MSW Program this fall in Glenwood Springs. Using an educational model similar to that of our highly successful Four Corners MSW Program in Durango, Colorado, the Western Colorado Program is designed to enhance social service delivery systems and address the special needs of rural and mountain communities.

As the University of Denver commemorates the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2014, GSSW will sponsor one of the Sesquicentennial’s inaugural events on January 29. We hope you will join us for a compelling presentation by Hasan Hasanović, a survivor of the Bosnian genocide and curator of the Srebrenica-Potočari Cemetery and Memorial Centre. Among the topics Mr. Hasanović will address is a university’s role in promoting social justice and human rights.

We also encourage you to attend the GSSW Lecture Series that begins in February, as well as the ongoing series of lectures and workshops sponsored by our Institute for Human-Animal Connection. For details and registration information, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork and click on “Upcoming Events.”

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

We appreciate your interest in our school and, as always, we welcome your communication, ideas, and perspectives.

Sincerely,

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

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

Rechkemmer Appointed American Humane Endowed Chair

GSSW is pleased to announce that Andreas Rechkemmer was appointed American Humane Endowed Chair, effective September 1, 2013. His official installation took place on October 9 in Craig Hall’s Boettcher Foundation Community Room, with about 40 members of the GSSW and DU communities in attendance.

Rechkemmer’s American Humane Lecture was entitled “Sustainable Development and Social-Ecological Justice.” Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams opened the event, and Provost Gregg Kvistad gave the closing remarks. 

“Andreas is the embodiment of interdisciplinary scholarship,” Kvistad said, “and he is an extraordinary addition to our faculty.”

Prior to his appointment at the University of Denver, Dr. Rechkemmer held senior positions with the United Nations, including that of Executive Director of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change at the United Nations University. He also served as Chief Science and Policy Advisor of the Global Risk Forum in Davos, Switzerland. His previous academic appointments and affiliations include the University of Cologne, Free University of Berlin, Beijing Normal University, Colorado State University and the United Nations University.

Rechkemmer’s research interests include global sustainable development and social-ecological justice; holistic and interdisciplinary perspectives on resilience, including human individuals and communities, as well as ecosystems and the broader environment; the emerging “One Health” paradigm connecting the health and wellbeing of humans with that of animals and the environment; and the interface of sustainability, social development and human security.

He was principal investigator of various funded projects and managed grants from major science funders, including the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Research Council of Norway and the Federal Government of Germany. Rechkemmer has authored, co-authored and edited several books as well as numerous articles and chapters. He is the editor of UNICEF—Towards an International Environment Organization (2005) and serves as the chief editor of the United Nations and Global Change book series. He was awarded the Schefel Prize for excellence in writing in 1985.

Click here to watch a video of the American Humane Endowed Chair Installation.
On October 28, GSSW graduate Jennifer Miles (MSW ’94) gave a talk at Craig Hall entitled “What’s Happening in Policy Impacting Social Workers and Their Clients?”. Miles is a lobbyist who represents nonprofit organizations in Colorado, with an emphasis on health and human services. Her presentation focused on 2013 state legislation and resulting policy changes that may impact social workers and their clients.

Click here to read more about Jennifer Miles online in the Fall 2012 issue of GSSW Magazine.

2014 Lecture Series Begins

The 2014 GSSW Lecture Series will begin on Thursday, February 27, with a presentation by Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Social Workers. The lecture is entitled “New Directions: The Power of Social Work.” McClain served for six years as Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, overseeing a budget of $850 million and a workforce of 3,500 employees to address reports of abuse and neglect for the state’s most vulnerable children.

The series continues on April 25 with a lecture by J. Michael Bostwick, MD, Professor of Psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The author of numerous journal articles and other publications, Bostwick will speak on “Sex and Gender in the Olympics and the Real World.”

Both lectures will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Craig Hall’s Boettcher Foundation Community Room.

For additional information, please visit www.du.edu/socialwork.

REGISTER NOW

“Surviving the Srebrenica Genocide”

a first-person account by Hasan Hasanović

Curator and Interpreter of Bosnia’s Srebrenica-Potočari Cemetery and Memorial Centre

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 | 4:30 p.m.
Craig Hall | Boettcher Foundation Community Room

Click here for additional information and registration.

A University of Denver Sesquicentennial Event hosted by

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Western Colorado MSW Program Opens in Glenwood Springs

Clinical Assistant Professor Karen Bensen (left) introduces Clinical Assistant Professor Rachel Forbes, Western Colorado MSW Program Director, at the October 4 grand opening celebration. Bensen is GSSW’s Assistant Dean for Community Academic Programs.

GSSW opened its Western Colorado MSW Program in Glenwood Springs in September. Operated in partnership with Colorado Mountain College (CMC) and supported by numerous local and regional human service programs, the program is designed to increase local workforce development, address community concerns and the special needs of rural communities, and strengthen the professional social work infrastructure of surrounding communities. Forty-five people attended the program’s October 4 grand opening celebration. In addition to Program Director Rachel Forbes and other GSSW faculty and staff, attendees included CMC Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Brad Tyndall, as well as agency representatives and government officials. Other key supporters include the City of Glenwood Springs and Mind Springs Health.

Speaking to the group via a pre-recorded video presentation, Colorado Department of Human Services Executive Director, Reggie Bicha, commended the agencies in the development of the MSW program in western Colorado and emphasized the benefits of educating MSW graduates for residents of the local communities.

Professor Walter LaMendola and Garfield County Department of Human Services Director, Mary Baydarian (MSW ’91), were among those receiving awards from Dean James Herbert Williams for the instrumental role they played in creating the Western Colorado Program. “It’s hard for me to imagine a greater honor than the GSSW Dean’s Award from this esteemed university where I became a social worker,” said Baydarian. “This award, to me, is a symbol of the difference that can be made in our communities through genuine public/private collaboration.”

The Western Colorado Program is modeled after the highly successful Four Corners MSW Program that GSSW has operated in Durango, Colorado, for more than a decade. The 19 Western Colorado students come from five different counties and range in age from 23 to 54. Internships completed by the Western Colorado students will provide some 24,000 hours of service to area communities over the next two years.

“Our students are involved in making a positive contribution in their respective field placements,” noted Baydarian. “Plans for current and future community endeavors have begun. This is what social work is about. We are fortunate to have the University of Denver GSSW as a vital partner in our work in western Colorado.”

Applications are now being accepted from Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) graduates who will join the Western Colorado MSW program with “advanced standing” and complete the MSW program in one calendar year. For additional information, click here to email Program Director Rachel Forbes or call 970-945-1137.

Students enrolled in the new Western Colorado MSW program were on hand for the celebration.

CMC Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Brad Tyndall (left) congratulates Dean’s Award recipients Mary Baydarian and Walter LaMendola.

Dean Williams welcomes guests to the Western Colorado grand opening, as Garfield County Manager Andrew Gorgey (left) and Garfield County Commissioner Tom Jankovsky look on.
Social Work and Family Systems Therapy: A Compatible and Happy Alliance

by Professor Lynn Parker, PhD, LCSW-CO, AAMFT-Approved Supervisor

The relationship between social work and family therapy is long-standing, with social work taking the lead. Social work’s core person-in-environment framework anticipated family therapy’s ecological approach long before system theory was introduced.

An Historical Perspective

In her classic 1917 text, Social Diagnosis, turn-of-the-century caseworker, Mary Richmond, prescribed treatment of the whole family and warned against isolating people from their social and familial contexts. Her approach was decidedly systemic, focusing on reciprocal interactions between the whole family instead of isolating people from their social and familial contexts. She saw families as systems within systems and emphasized family therapy perspectives that would not be fully developed until the 1980s and later.

Unfortunately, this broader view was abandoned by social workers for a time, particularly among social workers, many of whom became enamored with psychiatry. As a result, Freud’s psychoanalysis and, later, Rogers’ client-centered therapy dominated much of psychotherapeutic thought and practice until the 1960s. Although both assumed that psychological problems develop through unhealthy interactions with others, these approaches directed intervention at the individual level. The systemic context was lost in this more microscopic view.

Gradually, however, the more expansive view prevailed, and family therapy re-entered the picture. As before, social workers were among the leaders of this approach, among them Virginia Satir, Peggy Papp, Marianne Walters, Harry Aponte, Braulio Montalvo and GSSW’s own Professor Emeritus Don Krill, who was one of the first to write about family therapy in social work journals. The development of graduate-level marriage and family therapy (MFT) programs followed.

My Personal Journey

Family systems work came into my professional life at just the right time. I was fresh out of social work school in the early 1970s, working as a school social worker. I noticed early on that, if I worked individually with children, little progress was made. However, if I worked with children in the context of their families, classroom environments or peer communities, I observed progress very quickly, not only among the referred children but also within the larger context. The teachers and parents noticed it, too, and fought to keep their social workers.

It was during these early years that I initiated my family therapy training. I learned behavior contracting from Richard Stuart, which rendered me an immediate “miracle worker” as a school social worker! I also trained with Jay Haley, Cloe Madanes, Salvador Minuchin, Carl Whittaker, Harry Aponte, Marianne Walters, Olga Silverstein, Betty Carsen, Peggy Papp, Monica McGoldrick, Steve DeRuzay, Insoo Berg and Bill O’Harlon, among others. This was the personal journey that resulted in my professional identity being firmly planted in two related fields: social work and family therapy.

Comparing the Two Fields

Social work and family therapy share many similarities and compatible perspectives. For example, both embrace a systemic, person-in-environment, strengths-based focus. However, there are also differences.

Social workers complete an MSW curriculum that includes both community and clinical practice courses, and they are able to specialize in a variety of areas. Social work also embraces a perspective decidedly focused on social justice. Students in an MFT program are more solely and deeply focused on family therapy. Most social work students consequently graduate with a breadth of knowledge in a variety of practice venues, whereas MFT graduates gain depth in their primary focus on family therapy.

A Partnership Creates Opportunities

At GSSW, students have a unique opportunity to experience the best of both worlds: the breadth of an MSW education, as well as the depth of a program more intensely focused on family systems therapy. Through GSSW’s long-time partnership with the Denver Family Institute (DFI), MSW students may begin the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate program in their concentration year. The certificate program requires that graduates complete an additional year of coursework in family therapy, plus a couple of years of supervision, to meet eligibility requirements for both the Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist examinations.

The joint GSSW/DFI certificate program offers many benefits. It allows students to gain expertise in two fields in a relatively short amount of time, providing both breadth and depth of knowledge, while offering cutting-edge live supervision. Choosing to enroll in the certificate requires that students commit to postgraduate work, which could be daunting for some. However, as their advisor, I am witness to how happily motivated the certificate students really are. Once they have completed the programs and are practicing in the field, many of them also become highly regarded GSSW adjunct faculty.

The Denver Family Institute

DFI actually had its beginnings within the GSSW curriculum. In 1982, DFI was called the ‘Family Therapy Training Center of Colorado’ and was spearheaded by Professor Emeritus Krill. With GSSW’s support and blessing, the newly named “Denver Family Institute” became a stand-alone post-graduate training institute in 1990 and obtained accreditation from the American Association for Family Therapy. DFI and GSSW continue to enjoy the mutual benefits of this 31-year partnership today.

A Partnership Creates Opportunities

So, at this point do I consider myself a social worker or a family therapist? With much gratitude, I claim to be both. Their combined perspectives and practice modalities are grounded in unifying strengths-based philosophical foundations. And both draw upon a rich multigenerational legacy of brilliant, creative and transformative ancestors.

We social workers family therapists love our work! To learn more about the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy, click here.
The Denver Family Institute: A Leader in Couples and Family Therapy

by Clinical Assistant Professor Dave Blair
MSW '91, LCSW-C, CAC III, AAMFT-Approved Supervisor

For over 30 years, the Denver Family Institute has demonstrated leadership in couples and family therapy, benefiting the community and students alike. DFI faculty and supervisors are the leading practitioners and teachers of family therapy in the region, and our graduates can be found in agencies throughout Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West.

When the program began in 1982, as part of the MSW curriculum, client families were seen in a classroom that was equipped with a one-way mirror for what is called “live-supervision.” That form of supervision remains the backbone of what DFI offers its students today.

Robert Kelsall and I formed the private nonprofit entity called the Family Therapy Training Center of Colorado and served as its co-directors from 1980 to 1995. At our clinic in northwest Denver, MSW student interns earned credits toward their degrees by providing family therapy services to the community. Once it was accredited by the American Association for Marital and Family Therapists, the FTCCC became the only accredited post-graduate family therapy training program between St. Louis and Los Angeles.

Steve Litt, who served as the director from 1995 to 2005, led the organization into its adulthood. The name was changed to the Denver Family Institute: an active board was developed, and the clinic and classrooms were moved to southeast Denver, while a satellite office continued to operate in northwest Denver.

Jim Thomas assumed the directorship between 2005 and 2012. A past president of the Colorado Association of Marital and Family Therapy, Thomas positioned DFI to increase its stability by creating connections with not only GSSW, but with other Colorado universities and programs as well.

Bill Bishop became DFI’s director January, 2012. He has led DFI through a successful self-study and moved the classrooms and clinic to a larger and much-improved space. The facility now has five one-way mirrors in its therapy rooms, allowing supervisors to watch as many as four therapy sessions simultaneously.

Blair and Robert Kelsall (MSW ’75, LCSW, AAMFT Approved Supervisor) are both DFI faculty members and supervisors. They are also co-owners and co-directors of the Denver Family Therapy Center, Inc., which provides mental health and substance abuse services from a systemic, family-based and strengths-based perspective to individuals, groups and families. Blair was named “Therapist of the Year” in 2003 by the Colorado Association for Marital and Family Therapy.
Rain Can’t Dampen Spirit of Service! The heavy rain that eventually brought the 2011 Rock ’N’ Roll Marathon to a halt also affected Denver’s Front Range, bringing unusual destruction and loss. But another contingent of GSSW volunteers pitched in at Denver’s Food Bank of the Rockies, helping to make a difference at one of the largest hunger relief organizations in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Student Organizations Sponsor Fall Events
On October 17, the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate Program, the Graduate Student Association and the Multicultural Social Justice Student Group joined to cosponsor a screening and discussion of Harvest of Shame: The Untold Story of Latinos in America and the Multicultural Social Justice Student Group joined to cosponsor a screening and discussion of Harvest of Shame: The Untold Story of Latinos in America. The documentary, based on Democracy Now! co-host Juan Gonzalez’s groundbreaking book, Harvest of Empire: using rarely seen archival material to examine how U.S. economic and military interests helped trigger an unprecedented wave of migration.

Shades of Brown Alliance (SOBA) hosted a community awareness event entitled “Out of the Darkness: Shining a Light on Human Trafficking.” Held at Craig Hall on September 19, the event was co-sponsored by DU’s Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Prax(us), a Denver-based nonprofit dedicated to ending domestic human trafficking, particularly among homeless youth.

On November 17, SOBA sponsored a series of dialogues entitled “Surviving Power. Privilege and Oppression Class at GSSW.”

Innovative New Program Benefits Families and Students
The Graduate School of Social Work and its Denver Institute for Families are working in partnership with Cuibao’s Judicial Branch and DU’s Department of Psychology, Graduate School of Professional Psychology and Sturm College of Law on a new program developed by the University’s Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS).

The Resource Center for Separating and Divorcing Families (RCSDF) opened in September in an annex building just south of Craig Hall. The first program of its kind in the United States, RCSDF provides mediation and conflict-resolution for separating and/or divorcing couples with children. Participating families are pre-screened and referred to RCSDF by a judge. In addition to mediation, families can also receive education, therapeutic services, assistance with financial planning and legal drafting. All services are offered on a sliding-fee scale. Once families complete the program, they need not return to the court system.

Three MSW students are completing their internships at the center this year. Two are in the two-year program, and the other is earning an MSW through the advanced standing program. As members of RCSDF’s introductory student team, they undergo extensive training prior to meeting with clients. Once the students complete their internships, they will be certified mediators.

“The University is very proud to be the home of this innovative center,” says DU Chancellor Robert F. Coombe. “It serves the university’s goals of providing a rich, multidisciplinary educational experience for our students, while simultaneously serving the needs of separating and divorcing parents in the Denver community. We hope that it will eventually serve as a national model.”

The Gates Family Foundation is providing initial funding for RCSDF. Dean James Herbert Williams is a member of the program’s Executive Committee, along with the deans of the other two schools and Rebecca Crolla, executive director of IAALS. The program also has a national executive board.

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Tousignant- Stanton’s relational therapy at the agency’s transitional housing facility aims to teach residents a healthier alternative—beauty in the families among themselves. “You can make a family of choice,” she tells them. And, she says, it appears to be working. “They’re beginning to see that the other residents are human beings, just like themselves, instead of just reacting to each other in anger.”

A relational “family of choice” is just one of many variations on a concept that was once commonly defined as two parents raising children. In fact, GSSW’s Family Systems MSW concentration defines “family” broadly to include biological, kinship, affilational families and communities. Clients are viewed as being part of a larger context, situated in multiple social locations that include race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability and citizenship status. Students apply assessment and intervention within that larger context, with a goal of strengthening families and other systems, as well as the individuals within those systems.

GSSW and DFI graduates apply their family systems knowledge and skills in a wide variety of settings, from mental health and family service agencies to schools, treatment centers and other community agencies.

GSSW Adjunct Professor Janelle Washburne, LCSW, CST, earned her MSW in 2009 and completed the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate at DFI in 2010. Three years later, she earned certification as a Certified Sex Therapist from the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. In addition to practicing her own private psychotherapy practice, where she works primarily with couples and families, Washburne serves as a DFI faculty member and clinical supervisor. She also provides pre-bono clinical supervision at Denver’s Gender Identity Center, a nonprofit that offers support to anyone who is gender variant in their gender identity and expression.

“The partnership between the University of Denver and the Denver Family Institute has allowed me to jump-start my career in the social work field,” says Washburne. “I have not only returned to my roots at DFI, but also to GSSW, where I teach a course on human sexuality—another passion of mine that grew during my time at DFI. I look forward to going to work every day, whether it’s supervising students, teaching, seeing clients or volunteering at an agency, I feel that I can make a positive difference in people’s lives, and it’s because of the joint program between GSSW and the Denver Family Institute.”
MSW Student Receives AAUW Grant

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) awarded a 2013–14 Career Development Grant to MSW student Jill Eickema. The grant is intended to assist women who are preparing to advance or change careers, or to re-enter the workforce.

Eickema is specializing in social work with older adults, specifically those in rural areas. Once she earns her MSW, she hopes to work as a senior advocate, helping families and communities learn about available resources, helping them navigate systems like Medicare and Medicaid, and providing counseling to caregivers.

“Growing up and spending most of my working life in rural areas, it seems natural to advocate for rural older adults,” says Eickema. “I was fortunate to have mentors who gave me the opportunity to learn about various government programs; grant-writing, outreach and program development. The population of older adults in rural areas is growing faster than in cities. I want to support families as they navigate options for long-term care in a way that protects a person’s dignity and independence.”

Pedagogy of Privilege Conference 
Highlights Student Scholarship

In July, PhD student Eric Boyce (above, right) co-presented two papers with Associate Professor Michele Hanna at the Fourth International Conference on Adoption Research in Bilbao, Spain. The papers were entitled Residential treatment and adoption: The adoptive parent perspective and Trauma and adoption: Telling the adoptive parents’ story.

Doctoral student Jennifer Pearson presented her paper, Animal use in animal-assisted interventions: A roadmap to ethical practice, on July 21 at the 13th Triennial Conference of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAWH) in Chicago, IL.

Doctoral candidate Lindsey Breslin has accepted a position as Senior Research Associate with the Denver Epidemiology Working Group at the Denver Office of Drug Strategy.

Doctoral students Badiah Haffejee and Ashley-Marie Hanna Michel, presented their paper, Identities from mixed immigration with immigration destinations and their family members, co-authored with Associate Professor Debra Ortega, at the 7th Global Conference: Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging, held September 1-3 in Oxford, UK.

Doctoral student Darren Whitfield presented his paper, ‘What are you into?: ‘The role of social networking platforms in HIV risk behavior, co-authored with Associate Professor Eugene Walls and others, at the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association’s annual conference on September 18-21 in Denver.

Doctoral student Shelby McDonald served on a panel, Current Intimate Partner Research in Colorado, along with adjunct faculty member, Edward Garrido, on September 18. The panel was sponsored by the Domestic Violence Research and Action Coalition in Denver.

Doctoral candidate Helen Lin Jiang received the Social Research, Policy and Practice Award at the 66th Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting on November 22.

Four Corners Interim Director and Assistant Appointed This Fall

Patti Ellison has been serving as interim director of the Durango-based Four Corners MSW Program during fall quarter, while Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellingon is on sabbatical. Ellison will return to her post as director in January.

Ellison joined the Four Corners program in 2009 as a field instructor and liaison. She has served as assistant to the director since 2012. A specialist in mental and behavioral health services in residential and community treatment programs, Ellison earned her MSW from San Diego State University.

Lillian Ramsey also joined the staff in Durango this fall as Ellison’s assistant. Ramsey has worked with the Four Corners Program for several years as an adjunct faculty member, field liaison and field instructor.

Spears’ Butler Leadership Spanned 17 Years

Sandra Spears, director of GSSW’s Butler Institute for Families, recently resigned from the position she has held since 1990. Under the leadership of Spears and former executive director, Professor Cathryn Potter, the Institute grew exponentially in terms of both staff and programs. Today, Butler enjoys a national reputation for outstanding contributions to child welfare and the social work profession as a whole.

Spears came to the Butler Institute with 20 years of experience in child welfare and community intervention. At Butler, she administered child welfare contracts providing Colorado’s mandated new worker training and much of their program evaluation, consultation and technical assistance projects targeting multi-state collaborations, and the published in the areas of child welfare and teen pregnancy.

Read about the Butler Institute’s new director, Anne Comstock, on page 20.
GSSW held its annual pre-Commencement Recognition Ceremony on June 6, 2013, at DU’s Newman Center for the Performing Arts. A gala reception followed. DU’s Graduate Commencement Ceremony took place on June 7 in Magness Arena at the Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports and Wellness.

1 GSSW’s five June doctoral graduates joined Associate Professor Eugene Walls (2nd from left), Director of the PhD Program, just prior to the Recognition Ceremony. Pictured (l-r) are Jamie Pease, Jamie Yoder, Jennifer Dickman-Portz, Darin Wallis and Kristie Seelman.

2 “All of you deserve a serious pat on the back,” Catherine Helen Connor told her fellow MSW graduates, while Connor herself got a pat on the back from Dean Williams.

3 The 2013 Class Gift was presented by (l-r) Allegra Marie Bell and Holly-Marie Schor. The class chose to promote environmental sustainability by providing additional water-bottle filling stations at Craig Hall’s drinking fountains.

4 Clinical Assistant Professor David Blair gave the faculty remarks. “As a family therapist, I’m going to get through this by pretending the audience is one big family,” Blair joked. “And if I hear any hecklers, I’ll make you come up on stage and do a role play!”

5 The family of MSW graduate, Gabriella Mohr, watched the ceremony.

6 Soon-to-be MSW graduates enjoyed GSSW’s Recognition Ceremony, which honored the outstanding achievements of classmates, faculty and staff.

7 Dean Williams presented the Award for Excellence in Field Education to Brooke DeGroat, MSW, LCSW.

8 Dean James Herbert Williams (center) presented the faculty and staff awards that were based on student nominations. Pictured (l-r) are Assistant Professor Kimberly Bender – Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students; Mandy Jameson – Excellence in Service to Students; Scott Petersen – Excellence in Teaching (Adjunct Faculty); Assistant Professor Leslie Hasche.

9 You’re never too young to celebrate GSSW graduates! Angie Applegate’s husband, Travis, entertained daughter Alisha outside the auditorium.

10 Student award recipients included (front row, l-r) Hidey Okuyama “Zena” Toure – Tommi Frank Memorial Award; Jocelyn Oukay – Jean Pearl Simcock Award and OMNI Research Award; Sara Karcich – OMNI Research Award; Mira Roeke – OMNI Research Award; Lani Pickard – Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Cassandra Murray – Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Aimee Tazukawa – Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Morgen Warner – Jean Pearl Simcock Award and Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Dean Emil M. Sunley Merit Award; Gabriela Mohr – Edith M. Davis Award; Megham Lang – Honorable Mention for Ina Mae Denham Award; Julia McKeen – Ina Mae Denham Award and OMNI Research Award; Christine Whicker – Ruth Marx Stark Award; Jennifer Tilden – Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Ellen Weber – Dorothea C. Spellmann Award; Timothy J. Ridley – OMNI Research Award.

11 (l-r) Steve Blackstock, Tiffany Pallas, Jill Burton, Carin Marlin relaxed before Commencement.

12 (l-r) Maggie Crank and Allegra Bell celebrated their upcoming graduation.

13 New graduates (l-r) Alexa Eubank and Ashley Davis enjoyed the sunny Craig Hall courtyard.

14 DU registrar, Dennis Bedert, helped Lisa Brockmeier with her hood.

15 (l-r) Ashlee Morris, Kate Leak and Kaya Colin were all smiles as they prepared to graduate.

16 (l-r) Bill Phelps and Tim Ridley had a pre-Commencement chat.

17 Heidi Verdegna kept in touch.

18 (l-r) Lani Pickard and Rachel Weber shared a hug with Aimee Tsunekawa, whose mother and aunt made the ribbon leis.

Peers in Review:


Social work research, improving the human condition. Social Work Research. 37, 87-84.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations


Beltran, R. (June 2013). My truth will stand: Results from the Antarasus digital storytelling as indigenous media project. Columbia Center for Oral History Institute. New York, NY.


Institute, New York, NY. The case of Somali refugees in northeastern Kenya.

Associate Professor Kim served as a GSSW Research Associate Professor from July 1 through August 31. His research and teaching focus on school social work practice with at-risk youth, solution-focused brief therapy, meta-analysis and systematic reviews, Asian American youth development, child development accounts, clinical intervention research and evidence-based practice. He serves on NASW’s Children, Adolescence, and Young Adults Section Committee. Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Association’s Research Committee and the Encyclopedia of Social Work Online editorial board. Kim is principal investigator of a five-year research project funded through a Regional Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. At GSSW, Kim teaches courses in clinical social work practice and solution-focused brief therapy.

Clinical Associate Professor Michael Talamantes

In 2013, Talamantes joined the GSSW faculty as an assistant professor in August 2008.

Jennifer Greenfield and Johnny Kim

LSGW was appointed to the GSSW faculty in early August. She is in program planning for the next Western Colorado MSW Program at Glenwood Springs. Forbes previously served as an adjunct professor of Sustainability Studies at the Colorado Mountain College Beekenkamp and Dillon campuses. Teaching courses on global poverty solutions, environmental justice issues and community development practice. Prior to her GSSW faculty appointment, Forbes was a full-time clinician at Colorado West, a nonprofit regional mental health center in Frisco (see related article on page 3).

Kim Bender was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure effective on September 1. She joined the GSSW faculty as an assistant professor in August 2008.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Scott Petersen

LSGW, CAC-II, joined the GSSW faculty as a half-time Clinical Assistant Professor in July 2013. As a member of our adjunct faculty for the past two years, Petersen has taught courses in human development, social policy and social work practice. His teaching experience includes working with children and families to enhance the professional social work workforce throughout the hospital.

Recent Faculty & Doctoral Scholarship


Book Chapters


Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Professor Ohman to Retire After 25 Years at GSSW

A member of the GSSW faculty since 1988, Professor Kathleen Ohman will retire at the end of 2013.

"The time has come for me to allow a place at GSSW for new faculty who will add enthusiasm and different perspectives to guide social work education here and elsewhere in the future," says Ohman, reflecting on a career in social work education that began in 1976 at her alma mater, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ohman’s teaching and research have focused on child welfare policy and services, and on the legal aspects of social work practice. She taught in the MSW policy and research sequences, as well as a course on law for social workers. The author and co-author of numerous articles, books and training curricula in child welfare, Ohman was principal investigator of projects evaluating service for homeless youth, a statewide home visitation program for infants in Colorado, and a national effort to recruit adoptive families. She also served as a consultant in a number of efforts related to child welfare policy and services.

Ohman, a generous financial supporter of GSSW over the years, co-chaired the faculty portion of the capital campaign that led to the construction of Craig Hall. In 2012, she created an endowed scholarship fund to benefit incoming GSSW students whose volunteer work prior to admission demonstrates their commitment to community service and social justice. The Ohman Endowed Scholarship Fund honors her parents, Clarence and David Ohman, and the many ways they supported her in her educational and career pursuits.

"During Kathy’s career at the University of Denver, she has impacted the professional careers of many social work practitioners in Denver and the State of Colorado," says Dean James Herbert Williams. "We will miss her leadership and scholarly contributions. We are very appreciative of her intellectual and financial support of GSSW, and we wish her the best of luck in her next opportunity. She will always be a part of our GSSW/DU family."

More Faculty News

Assistant Professor Ramona Beltran received a Renewal Award for 2013-2014 from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program.

On August 21, Scholar-in-Residence Sarah Belli appeared in a nationally televised CBS Evening News report about endangered pandas. Reports Seth Doane conducted the interview at the Chengdu Research Base at Giant Panda Breeding, where Belli serves as Director of Conservation Education and Communications.

Clinical Associate Professor Wanda Ellington has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Social Workers. Ellington is Program Director of the Four Corners MSW Program, based in Durango, Colorado.

Associate Professor Stacey Freedenthal launched a new website in June, www.speakingforsuicide.com. Freedenthal, whose research and academic interests include suicide prevention and help-seeking, developed the website as a resource for suicidal individuals and their loved ones. Mental health professionals, suicide survivors and individuals with an interest in the field of suicidology.

Assistant Professor Leslie Hasche and Department of Psychology Associate Professor Anne DePrato have received a National Institute Of Justice grant to fund their project, “The Impact of a Forensic Collaborative for Older Adults on Criminal Justice and Victim Outcomes: A Randomized-Control, Longitudinal Design.” Set to begin in the spring of 2014, the project will evaluate the Denver Forensic Collaborative—a victim-focused, forensic, multi-agency collaborative team—over a nine-month period. By assessing outcomes of physical health, mental health and criminal justice, the study will compare the effectiveness of the forensic collaborative versus more traditional care. Results can inform the policy and developing practice of forensic collaboratives for older adults across the United States.

Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams (pictured at right) was a featured speaker at the University of Denver’s Summer Commencement Ceremony in August. (See the Class Note on page 27 that Gene Towne, MSW ’75, was inspired to write after hearing Williams’ speech.)

Events Honor Distinguished Professors

A retirement luncheon on June 5 honored Professor Walter LaMendola, a member of GSSW’s faculty from 1984 to 1987, and again from 1990 to 2013. LaMendola’s long professional career focused primarily on the impact of communication and information technology and their use in social work. A pioneer in this field, he authored four books, many articles and numerous technical reports over the past 30 years.

LaMendola was the driving force behind GSSW’s first distance-learning classes, which eventually led to the creation of the Durango-based Four Corners MSW Program in 2002 and the Western Colorado MSW Program that opened in Glenwood Springs this fall (see related article on page 3). LaMendola served as the director of GSSW’s PhD program from 2008 to 2012. His many honors include GSSW’s 2012 Kay M. Stevenson Faculty Citizenship Award.

"GSSW has benefitted greatly from Walter’s contributions during his tenure," said Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams. "He had a tremendous impact on our doctoral program and was instrumental in moving GSSW forward in the use of technology in teaching and learning. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues for his wit and wonderful demeanor."

Human Service Information Technology Applications: a global network LaMendola co-founded in 1987, gave technology experts from around the world a platform to discuss the use of technology in support of social equality and human empowerment, health and welfare. Prior to returning to GSSW in 1999, LaMendola served as Vice President of Research at The Colorado Trust, Chief Executive Officer of Cyberdine Systems Corporation and President of Active Guide, LLC.

Another longtime GSSW faculty member, Professor Cathryn Potter (PhD ’90), assumed the position of dean of the School of Social Work at Rutgers. The State University of New Jersey, effective on August 1. Potter returned to GSSW to attend a reception in her honor, held on October 24 in Craig Hall’s Bectier Foundation Community Room.

Potter joined the GSSW faculty as an adjunct instructor in 1991, rising through the ranks until her promotion to full professor in 2010. She earned her PhD in 1993.

"Cathy’s contributions to GSSW and the University of Denver over the last two decades have been tremendous," said Williams. "Her leadership and scholarship in child welfare have brought local, national and international recognition to our school."

Potter’s academic and research interests focus on children and families at risk, especially those served in the child welfare, children’s mental health and juvenile justice systems. GSSW’s Butler Institute for Families has flourished under Potter’s leadership as Executive Director and Principal Investigator for all of its funded projects. The Institute administers more than 10 externally funded child welfare grants and contracts at any given time with tribal, local, state, federal and international entities.

The author of numerous scholarly publications and one of DU’s most notable researchers, Potter was GSSW’s Director of Research from 2002 to 2008 and served as DU’s Faculty Senate President from 2004 to 2006. She was appointed Associate Provost for Research in 2009.

Alumni Symposium Highlights Faculty Scholarship

Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi and Assistant Professor Ramona Beltran were among the faculty presenters at the University of Denver’s seventh annual Alumni Symposium, held October 25-26 on the DU campus. Tedeschi’s talk, “Our Kinship with Animals and What It ‘Teaches Us About Being Human,’” focused on the many benefits of human-animal interaction. This is the third year in which Tedeschi has been featured at the symposium. Tedeschi’s presentation was entitled "‘My Truth Will Stand’: Using Digital Storytelling to Support Healing in Indigenous Communities.” The interactive workshop explored the role of storytelling in everyday life and included a discussion on the ways that new creative technologies may serve as tools to support healing processes in Indigenous communities.

More details about Tedeschi’s presentation will be available in the Fall issue of The Scholar. Tedeschi will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Faculty Newsletter, and his presentation will be posted on GSSW’s website.
IHAC Launches 2013-2014 Speaker Series

Events Continue in 2014

The IHAC series will continue in 2014 with a February 5 lecture by Michael Kaufmann and Miyako Kinoshita from the Green Chimneys Farm and Wildlife Center in Brewster, New York. Kaufmann serves as the center’s Farm and Wildlife Director, and Kinoshita is its Farm Education Program Manager. Their lecture, entitled “Therapeutic Farm Models,” will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Boettcher Foundation Community Room of Craig Hall.

On May 7 and 8, 2014, the Institute will round out its series with the inaugural IHAC Practitioners Conference, held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Boettcher Foundation Community Room of Craig Hall.

Certificate Student Presents at National Conference

GSSW’s Teresa Koch has a passion for cats. A concentration year MSW student pursuing the Animal-Assisted Social Work certificate, she has extensive experience in feral cat management.

This September, Koch represented GSSW at the American Humane Association’s inaugural “Be Humane Summit” in Orlando, Florida. The conference marked the kickoff of a new humane program platform AHA has adopted that includes a focus on increasing the adoption and retention of pet cats. This is the first time AHA has devoted time specifically to felines.

Koch’s presentation at the Cat Health and Welfare Forum was entitled “Human Psychology and Attitudes Towards Cats.” She discussed human development from a social work perspective and how attitudes toward cats shift throughout people’s lifespans. Other presenters and attendees represented the veterinary field, marketing departments for national pet product companies, cat behaviorists, academic professionals, and private, municipal and humane society shelterers.

“One of the goals of the forum was to find ways to appeal to groups who have not been considering cat adoption in the past,” said Koch. “From a social work perspective, we need to recognize this component, that different life stages bring shifted priorities in adding cats to the household.”

Other topics presented at the conference included cat health and welfare, humane research, Humane Heartland, and Humane Hollywood. The closing keynote speaker was cat behaviorist and star of Animal Planet’s “My Cat from Hell,” Jackson Galaxy.

AHA is the oldest humane social movement organization in the United States, recently celebrating its 140th anniversary.

For more information about the Animal-Assisted Social Work certificate, please email Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi. a or visit the Institute online.

Tedeschi Informs Online, National and Local Audiences

Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi, Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, has addressed a variety of audiences during the past few months, both online and in person.

Tedeschi conducted a webinar on August 22 for the National District Attorneys Association and the National Center for the Prosecution of Animal Abuse. The webinar was entitled “Pin the Tail on the Donkey: A Protocol for the Evaluation of Risk and Prosecution of Animal Abuse.” Click here to view the webinar online.

On September 5, Tedeschi recorded a podcast interview with WILDFIREFARDO focusing on the “Making the Link Study” currently being conducted in Romania and Bulgaria. Click here to hear the interview. Click here to hear the interview.

Tedeschi gave a luncheon keynote address at the Leo K. Bustad Human-Animal Interaction Symposium, sponsored in mid-October by the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Education at Washington State University. Tedeschi’s address was entitled “Time Well Spent—The Human-Animal Connection.”

Tedeschi’s local speaking engagements have included a presentation at the Denver Dumb Friends League volunteer program on October 16.
The Gala’s live and silent auctions raised nearly $200,000 for the Bridge Project, providing funds for children, youth and families in four Denver public housing neighborhoods.

**Butler Institute**

**Butler Institute Launches Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Initiative**

by Lisa Bruce, NSW Program Specialist, Ena and Rod Butler Institute for Families

It happens all the time. We see a stressed parent or caregiver struggling with a child in a public place. We feel uncomfortable and want to do something to help, but we don’t know what to do. Or we suspect a child we know may be experiencing abuse or neglect, but we don’t know how to intervene.

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen families and the communities and systems that support them, the Butler Institute for Families is pleased to announce the launch of Communities NOW—Connecting for Kids. Communities NOW (formerly known as the Front Porch Project) is an innovative, research-supported and community-based initiative built on the belief that all people who are concerned about the wellbeing and safety of children can be encouraged and taught how to make a difference. The initiative’s unique focus is educating and empowering concerned citizens about the role they can play in protecting children and supporting families.

Research conducted by Prevent Child Abuse America, a national nonprofit organization, shows that a majority of Americans—more than one-half of the general public and two-thirds of all parents—are willing to become involved in helping prevent child abuse and neglect. However, those individuals feel uncomfortable because they lack the knowledge and skills to intervene safely and effectively. They also believe that, without community support, they are powerless to make a difference.

In numerous locations across the country, Communities NOW is proving to be an effective means of reinforcing the necessity of personal responsibility and the belief in the power of one person to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Whether their community is a suburban neighborhood, a city or a rural area, Communities NOW provides a vehicle for participants to connect with those around them, network with concerned friends and create support systems to help each other through difficult times.

To learn more about Communities NOW, please click here to visit our website or call me at 303-871-4509 or click here to send an email.

Please share this information with individuals and organizations that may find it interesting and relevant to the work they do. We look forward to hearing from you!

**New Director for Butler Institute**

The Butler Institute for Families is pleased to welcome Anne Comstock as its new director, effective November 25. Comstock replaces Sandra Spears, who has served as the Institute’s director since 1990 (see article on page 11).

With more than 30 years of local and national experience, including a previous position as a project manager and trainer at Butler, Comstock has established a national reputation as an energetic and visionary leader. Her work in Colorado child welfare began with the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. Since that time, Comstock has worked extensively at Butler, Comstock has established a national reputation as an energetic and visionary leader. Her work in Colorado child welfare began with the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. Since that time, Comstock has worked extensively at Butler, and has served in senior leadership roles in the field.

In her most recent role, Comstock was a consultant for the Environmental Defense Fund. She also served as a consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Children’s Health. Comstock was selected as one of the first class of Fellows for the National Center for Child Welfare Policy and Practice, and has served on the board of directors for the National Resource Center on Organizational Improvement.

In her current role, Comstock is responsible for the overall direction and management of the Butler Institute for Families, including directing the Institute’s programs and services, managing the Institute’s budget and financial operations, and representing the Institute to external stakeholders and partners.

**Bridge Project**

Former Bridge Project board member, Don Friedman, died on August 11 in Englewood, Colorado. He was 83. Friedman served seven terms as a Colorado State Representative (1962-1976), representing Denver and serving as Chair of the Joint Budget Committee. A Republican with a reputation for fiscal conservatism, Friedman was a moderate on social issues. He sponsored the nation’s first clean air legislation, and he was a constant advocate for women’s right to choose. In 1976, he lost a run for the U.S. Congress by a narrow margin.

A successful real estate developer, Friedman was also a talk radio host on Denver radio stations KOA, KKMM and KTLM. After his legislative service, he served on the Denver Water Board and was a consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. An active community leader, Friedman was a founding member and past president of Temple Micah. In addition to serving on the Bridge Project board, Friedman was a former board president of B’nai B’rith Lodge and board member of the Anti-Defamation League and the Hemophilia Foundation.

Friedman is survived by his wife, Jeanne Bahne Friedman, a daughter, two sons and seven grandchildren. Memorial donations in Friedman’s honor may be made to The Bridge Project, 2148 S. High Street, Denver, CO 80208-7100.
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Through your generosity, the Graduate School of Social Work raised $1,768,180 in the last fiscal year! It is because of your investment that we are able to:

• provide scholarship support to students who require it to pursue their dream of becoming a social worker;
• develop new ideas, take advantage of unexpected opportunities and acquire technology that is key to effective education today;
• respond to the needs of western Colorado’s underserved rural and mountain communities by launching a new Master of Social Work program in Glenwood Springs;
• give students opportunities to explore the therapeutic and educational benefits of the bond between humans and animals; and
• provide educational opportunities—one child at a time—through the Bridge Project.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, I would like to thank you for your generous support.

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

Director of Development and Alumni Giving

For a complete list of giving opportunities, please [click here].

Chuck & Don’s Pet Food Outlet

GSSW gratefully honors Chuck & Don’s Pet Food Outlet, a corporate supporter making a difference in the lives of students and community members alike. Founded in 1990, the Minnesota-based company now has five stores in Colorado as well. The company strives to improve the quality of life for pets and their owners, but its commitment to animals goes much deeper. Since 2012, the company’s many community initiatives have included financial support for students and events at GSSW.

“Our core values and mission line up very well with those of GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection,” explains Christine Stanton, District Manager for Chuck & Don’s in Colorado. “Our approach is from the retail side, and GSSW’s approach is academic, but we’re both committed to building the human-animal bond. Our partnership creates the whole package.”

Chuck & Don’s provides scholarship support for two MSW students who are completing GSSW’s Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate. Additionally, the company co-sponsors a number of IHAC lectures and special events each year. In 2013, these included the February 20 workshop “Animal-Assisted Therapy and Childhood Cancer,” as well as a recent lecture by Ken Howie, LICSW-ACSW, entitled “In Special Company—The Intricate Bond Between People and Dogs.”

Chuck & Don’s is also supporting the Colorado LINK Project, a state-wide initiative “In Special Company—The Intricate Bond Between People and Dogs.”

Research indicates that, when domestic abuse or neglect occurs, animals often become victims themselves. Additionally, many human victims will not leave a situation unless they can also provide safety for their animals. Yet few domestic violence shelters are equipped to house pets, a situation the Colorado LINK Project seeks to remedy.

Through Chuck & Don’s “Paw Print” campaign, customers who make donations can fill out a paw print that honors special pets by name. The prints are displayed in store windows, and donations from the Colorado stores support Colorado LINK.

Click here to visit the Chuck & Don’s Pet Food Outlet website. Learn more about programs, events and research at GSSW’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection by [clicking here].

TAX-WISE IRA ROLLOVER FOR GSSW

If you’re age 70 ½ or older during 2013, consider making a charitable gift straight from your IRA to GSSW before year end. The gift counts toward the required minimum distribution ($100,000 maximum) from your IRA, but you pay no federal income taxes on the transfer.

Contact us for details, and ask about DU matching funds to endow your named scholarship.

Gary L. Yourtz
Chair, Board of Visitors

FROM THE BOARD OF VISITORS CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends:

My wife, Teresa, and I are honored to continue to support students at the Graduate School of Social Work through the Gary and Teresa Yourtz Endowed Scholarship Fund. Knowing that our scholarship fund is helping to give students access to top-quality social work education is tremendously rewarding. We know that social workers meet the needs of vulnerable populations across the lifespan, and investing in GSSW scholarships is one way we try to make the world a better place.

As Chair of GSSW’s Board of Visitors, I’m pleased to announce that, in the past fiscal year, donors who share Teresa’s and my belief in the future of social work have established three new endowed scholarship funds!

Teresa and I extend our heartfelt thank you to all of you who have given so generously to support the Graduate School of Social Work.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Yourtz
Chair, Board of Visitors
Dear Fellow Graduates:

We are excited to welcome the incoming class of MSW and PhD students, including 19 students who are enrolled in the newly launched Western Colorado MSW Program in Glenwood Springs. Full of information and enthusiasm, and with their eyes on developing skilled social workers in the social work, the entering MSW students are the first to experience GSSW’s new MSW curriculum that includes eight different concentrations.

There are now over 7,500 Graduate School of Social Work alumni, and we love hearing from you! Please let us know what you are doing in your life—career news, professional achievements and awards, and any personal news you would like to share. Alumni news is posted in the Class Notes section of each issue of GSSW Magazine. Please send us your news via email, and attach a photo if you like. If you don’t have computer access, feel free to drop us a line at the address on the back of this magazine.

Meanwhile, don’t forget to check out the Upcoming Events section of GSSW’s website for details about informative lectures and other exciting events in the months ahead. You can include one of the inaugural events of DU’s Sesquicentennial: “Surviving the Srebrenica Genocide,” a first-person account by Hasan Hasanovic. Curator and interpreter of Bosnia’s Srebrenica-Potočari Cemetery and Memorial Centre. The program will be held on January 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the Boettcher Foundation Community Room of Craig Hall, and we’ll be taking RSVPs soon. Click here to be sure to keep your address and email information up-to-date, so we can send you additional information in the weeks prior to this and other upcoming events.

I look forward to reconnecting with you soon!

Sincerely,

From the Alumni Association President
Got News?

Jon Marie Brea (MSW '18), LCSW, BCD, was appointed to the Board of Social Work Examiners for the State of Colorado effective July 1. Part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, the Board regulates the state’s licensed Social Workers and Clinical Social Workers. Board activities include review of license applications, complaint and enforcement of disciplinary actions against those found to have violated the Mental Health Practice Act or a Board Rule. The Board is made up of seven members, who serve six times per year. Brea says she’s “delighted to have received her LCSW, BCD and the Board appointment; all within five years of her MSW graduation.

It was a busy and rewarding summer for Anthony Natale (PhD ’95). On June 30, he and Bruce Poret (at left in photo) were married in Maryland. Effective July 1, Natale was appointed the Interim Assistant Director of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma, where he’ll be a faculty member since graduation. In his new position, he’ll oversee the Norman Campus programs including 250 students, 10 faculty and 10 staff.

Natale, who calls himself “a proud DU alumnus” also was elected to a three-year term as the Graduate Program Representative on the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Board of Directors. That position also began on July 1. The Board of Directors oversees officers and must approve all CSWE programs, plans and budgets and is responsible for the activities and accountability of all governance and program units and commissions. In addition, the Board reviews proposals associated with annual program meeting, shapes the affirmative action plan, establishes membership dues, conducts the president’s annual performance evaluations and is responsible for reporting to the membership on its activities.

Nyianeze Kayoke (MSW ‘16) pictured at her son Habib’s wedding with her grandson on her back. (Photo: Leon Williams III) (Trey) is her daughter Lydia’s son.

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Legacy

(leg’əsi) noun – a grandfather’s inspiring commitment to civil rights

Assistant Professor Yoli Anyon couldn’t believe her eyes. During a 2012 house-hunting trip to Denver, where she would begin her GSSW faculty appointment in September, Anyon and her partner checked out a History Colorado Center display about the city’s history of racial segregation. The subject was of special interest to Anyon because of her research on racial disparities in education and social services. There on the museum’s wall, in a Rocky Mountain News front page story from 1932, was a photo of her grandfather, Jay Anyon, being led off to jail by Denver police. Above his image, the headline blared “Police Battle Race Rioters in Washington Park,” and the photo caption identified him as an “alleged Communist, who was among [150] Negroes . . . [who] . . . invaded the bathing beach and went swimming over the protest of city and police officials.”

“I was stunned,” says Anyon. “My grandfather died before I was born, and I never even knew he had lived in Denver.” Yet there he was, leading the first reported protest against racial segregation in the city his granddaughter, 80 years later, would make her home. The protest was not without peril; the newspaper recounts how an “army” of white bathers, armed with clubs and rocks, chased the protesters out of the water and across the park before police arrived.

“This was a ‘meant to be’ moment for me,” says Anyon, who keeps a framed copy of the newspaper article on her office wall. “It was a huge decision to uproot ourselves and move here from California, but the risks my grandfather took were so much greater. Knowing his story reassures me that I’m supposed to be right here in Denver and inspires me to continue the fight for social justice.”