Interdisciplinary Degrees
New Perspectives for Social Workers

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Stephanie Robertson, MSW, MBA
FROM THE DEAN

After months of conversation and planning, I announced to the University of Denver community in May my intention to step down as GSSW’s dean at the end of this academic year. This will be a bittersweet transition for me because I have truly enjoyed serving as dean for what, by then, will be nine years. But I’m pleased to say that I will remain on the GSSW faculty as the Milton Morris Endowed Chair. Meanwhile, I look forward to welcoming our next dean and the new ideas and energy that he or she will bring to our school.

GSSW eagerly anticipates its first opportunity to host the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting here in Denver on Oct. 15–18. I cordially invite my CSWE colleagues from around the country to attend the gala Colorado Welcome Reception, co-hosted by our state’s four MSW programs and the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

These are exciting times at GSSW for other reasons as well. We celebrated the graduation of our first 20 Western Colorado MSW students in Glenwood Springs, welcomed the second cohort of two-year students to the program this fall and are working to make top-quality MSW education even more widely available through the development of our fully online MSW program, set to launch in 2017.

In this issue of GSSW Magazine, I invite you to read about the inspiring experiences and achievements of our dual degree students and alumni, as well as the ever-expanding interdisciplinary collaborations that make the dual degree programs possible.

Thank you, as always, for your support and continued interest in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver.

Sincerely,

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

Launch of Online MSW Program
Set for 2017

Just over a year from now, GSSW's top-ranked MSW education will be even more accessible to prospective students, regardless of where they live. With the launch of the school’s new online MSW program planned for 2017, students will be able to earn their degrees while continuing to fulfill job and family responsibilities in their home communities.

"GSSW is uniquely positioned to build upon our innovative curriculum and offer a fully online MSW program, increasing access to the degree and the diversity of the GSSW community," explains Jae McQueen, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Social Work and newly appointed online MSW program director. "Online social work education offers many opportunities for engaged, intentional integration of professional social work identity, coursework and fieldwork to develop future leaders in our profession. I am thrilled to serve as the director of the online program, and I look forward to sharing updates during the coming year."

Dean James Herbert Williams expresses similar enthusiasm "Since joining the GSSW faculty in 2012, Jae’s work on the foundation curriculum and with advanced standing students has been exemplary," Williams said in June when he appointed McQueen as director. "I look forward to working with her as we prepare to launch our MSW degree in a 100 percent online format."
When the University held its official dedication ceremony on May 6 for the sculpture grouping, “Harvest on the Rio Grande,” rainy weather initially forced the event inside Craig Hall. But the weather cleared just in time for participants to gather around the massive stone figures for a cedar smoke blessing performed by George “Tink” Tinker (wazhazhe, Osage Nation), PhD, MDiv, Clifford Baldridge Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions at the Iliff School of Theology. Tinker blessed the sculpture, then walked among the onlookers, blessing each of them.

“We’re honored to have this sculpture located near our school,” said Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams in his remarks before the blessing. “GSSW has a long history of working with Native populations, not only within our scholarship and curriculum, but also through our Butler Institute for Families and our Four Corners MSW Program in Durango, Colorado.”

Other speakers included Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, sculpture donor Gerri Cohen and Dan Jacobs, Victoria H. Myhren Gallery director and curator of University Art Collections. Cohen donated the sculptures to DU in honor of her late husband, Al Cohen, a longtime Board of Trustees member.

For more about the sculpture and the artist who created it, read “The Last Word” on the back cover.

Sculpture Dedication Includes Native Blessing

On September 15, John Jackson, Jr., presented a lecture entitled “Cultures of Care: Why Social Work Should Continue to Take Differences Seriously.” Jackson is dean and Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. His research focuses on racial and class-based differences in contemporary urban environments, including the ways that residents themselves theorize and use those differences in their everyday interactions. Jackson’s work also examines how contemporary urban religions are being mobilized to improve health knowledge and outcomes in poor and underserved communities near Philadelphia and elsewhere.

The four-part 2015 GSSW Lecture Series that began in March continues through the fall.

On September 24, John Jackson, Jr., presented a lecture entitled “Cultures of Care: Why Social Work Should Continue to Take Differences Seriously.” Jackson is dean and Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. His research focuses on racial and class-based differences in contemporary urban environments, including the ways that residents themselves theorize and use those differences in their everyday interactions. Jackson’s work also examines how contemporary urban religions are being mobilized to improve health knowledge and outcomes in poor and underserved communities near Philadelphia and elsewhere.

The final lecture in the 2015 series will be held on October 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Boettcher Foundation Community Room of Craig Hall. Barry Hughes, Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures and John Evans Professor at DU’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies, will present “The Future of Global Human Development.” Hughes’ academic and research interests include policy analysis, international politics, global issues and megatrends, American foreign policy, political behavior, political risk analysis, and computer simulation models for economic, energy, food, population, environmental and socio-political forecasting.

There is increasing research evidence about how to successfully implement evidence-based treatments for children and youth, Kerns noted in her lecture. However, diverse service settings such as pediatric primary care, behavioral health, public health, child welfare and early education each have unique roles and strategies that support effective implementation. Kerns cited several examples to illustrate these strategies at provider, agency and community levels.

Scholar Discusses Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatments
GSSW Co-Sponsors University Events

GSSW co-sponsored the 5th annual New Beginnings Spring Powwow, presented by the University of Denver’s Native Student Alliance on May 3. This American Indian cultural celebration seeks to build fellowship between the City of Denver and Native Peoples of the north and southwest. Additional support for the powwow was provided by the chancellor’s office, DU programming board and the Center for Multicultural Excellence.

GSSW also co-sponsored the 2015 Black Male Initiative Summit, held on May 8. The program promotes leadership, academic achievement and community involvement among 8th- and 9th-grade Black male students, while developing their Black male identity. School leaders from across the Denver metro area nominate student participants who have demonstrated strong leadership qualities and personal characteristics of excellence. The summit included interactive workshops led by Black males who are committed empowering Black young men to be a change agent in their schools, communities and families.

GSSW Hosts Plenary at GRF One Health Summit in Switzerland

Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair James Herbert Williams chaired a plenary session at the 3rd Global Risk Forum One Health Summit, held October 4-6 in Davos, Switzerland. GSSW co-hosted and organized the plenary, entitled “Social Challenges and Opportunities for Effective One Health Governance.” Panels included Professor and American Humane Endowed Chair Andreas Reckemmer and Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi.

Europe’s leading One Health event, this year’s summit focused on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration for global public and animal health. Among the pressing issues the summit addressed were antibiotic resistance, Ebola and other infectious diseases, and the role of One Health in disaster risk.

CPD Workshops Provide Lifelong Learning Opportunities

GSSW offers an array of continuing professional development opportunities throughout the year for students, faculty, alumni and other community members.

On July 27, Tamara McNay, LPC, and Anne Hellstrom, LPC, presented “Through the Eyes of a Child: Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence.” The half-day workshop provided its participants with increased knowledge and awareness of domestic violence perpetrator characteristics, as seen through their children’s eyes. The speakers focused specifically on traumatic bonds, the impact of interviewing child witnesses and the developmental and neurological impact on children who experience domestic violence. Participants also learned interventions to assist these children, as well as interventions for perpetrators and non-offending parents.

McNay serves as internship coordinator and therapist at the Crisis Center in Castle Rock, Colorado. Co-presenter Hellstrom is the Center’s clinical program manager.

Whether beginning a new career, facing life with an aging parent or learning to live with illness, we all experience transitions in life that challenge our sense of self. In her August 11 seminar at the Institute for Life & Care in Greenwood Village, Colorado, Kate Hoffmann, MRE, MSW, LCSW, introduced participants to a meaning-centered approach to helping clients navigate life transitions in a positive, creative way. Entitled “Making Meaning out of Loss: A Logotherapeutic Approach to Life’s Transitions,” the seminar was based on the Thriving from Within” model.

Social workers and therapists who work with young children often struggle with identifying what play therapy is, understanding how it helps children and connecting with parents to get buy-in for services and support. Speakers Kelly Miller, LCSW, and Erin Bennett, LCSW, addressed those issues in their workshop “The Brain at Play: An Introduction to Play Therapy,” presented at GSSW on September 26.

The speakers reviewed current research on brain development and how this research is shaping trauma-informed interventions and therapeutic techniques. As participants developed an understanding of what happens to children’s brains in the play room, they learned to successfully engage the systems around children so the play therapy process becomes more powerful and connected.

On October 9, Sarah Phillips, LCSW, CDWF-C, will present “During Helpers: Expanding Your Empathy Practice and Understanding Shame,” a highly experiential day-long workshop taken from Dr. Brené Brown’s curriculum, The Daring Way.” Participants will explore their own triggers with shame and, at the same time, learn tools and techniques to pass on to their clients. This workshop is designed for helpers in educational, clinical and organizational settings.

Don’t miss out on seminars and workshops like these! Subscribe to GSSW’s Weekly Events Email at www.du.edu/socialwork for regular updates.
INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES: New Perspectives for Social Workers

Theologically Social-Working
by Neal Burton

The possibility of pursuing dual cooperative degrees at both the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology was one of my main reasons for coming to GSSW.

I did not know until I arrived that I would mostly be studying at the two institutions separately: a year at GSSW, a year at Iliff and so on. While this experience may be less integrated than taking classes at both institutions simultaneously, it does provide for an intense and immersive experience in each discipline over the course of three years. I have spent all of my first year learning about the social work perspective, and now I am spending an intense second year delving into theoology from a pastoral and spiritual care point of view.

After years working in the fields of mental health and substance abuse and, most recently, doing public health education in the Peace Corps in West Africa, I have developed an interest in the role spirituality and religion play in the human experience. I believe that by adding this knowledge and training to my course of study, I will be better equipped to help clients encountering complex life situations.

I’ve tried not to limit myself in my plans or vision of what I want to do, but I can definitely see myself in more of a hybrid role as a social worker where I can incorporate both clinical and organizational skills. This goal is reflected in my current work as a program coordinator for a youth development program at the African Community Center, a refugee resettlement agency in Denver. In this position, I am frequently asked to play many roles including crisis management, program planning, community outreach, and more. As a cooperative degree student, I believe I am building on my own versatility and flexibility, which is important to me as part of my graduate school experience.

Burton is earning his MSW in combination with a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from the Iliff School of Theology. He is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Togo from 2012 to 2014.
INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES: New Perspectives for Social Workers

Pura Vida!
by Dana Underwood

I am in the process of earning dual masters degrees at the Graduate School of Social Work and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Additionally, I have decided to take advantage of the certificate programs from both schools. I will earn the Social Work with Latinas/Latinos Certificate from GSSW and the Global Health Affairs Certificate at Korbel. This will help me achieve my goal of working in the Latino health field, internationally or domestically. This process has been somewhat of a winding road, but I would not alter the course of it. The experience has provided me with the enriching opportunity of engaging in social work from a wide range of perspectives.

I chose to apply to the University of Denver in 2012 because it offered this dual degree combination. After an exhaustive search, I concluded that DU was the only school in the entire country to offer any type of bridge between Latinas Certificate from GSSW and the Global Health Affairs Certificate at Korbel.

I spent this summer in San José, the capital of Costa Rica, working toward attending both GSSW and Korbel. Social work and international populations! That solidified my decision to pursue a second year GSSW internship. I worked at a large organization within the field, internationally or domestically. This process has been somewhat of a winding road, but I would not alter the course of it. The experience has provided me with the enriching opportunity of engaging in social work from a wide range of perspectives.

I spent my second year at GSSW and enjoyed how different it was from my first. I spent my first year law classes. Yet I grew to appreciate the different styles of teaching and found that the programs balanced one another.

By the time I met Tomás, I had been a paralegal for several years. I knew the information that we needed from him and the process we needed to go through to help him gain legal status, but I wanted to be able to do more. I wanted the ability to complete the cases without having to rely on an attorney, and I wanted to learn the skills I would need to help children during what can be a difficult process. My hope is that these degrees and experiences will continue to bind me to the clients I work with, who despite their circumstances make the choice to be happy. Pura vida!

Underwood is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Dominica from 2010 to 2012. She is in the process of completing her MSW and MA in international development in 2016.

One Goal, One Dream, One Purpose: Two Degrees
by Laura Rheinheimer

A boy I’ll call Tomás Pérez (not his real name) is the person who prompted me to complete dual degrees in law and social work. Prior to attending graduate school, I worked in an immigration legal aid office in Texas, providing legal services to children who were detained in immigration facilities. Tomás was one of those children. He was 15 and, like many of the youth I worked with, had been the victim of physical, verbal and emotional abuse.

That experience led me to come to Denver and enroll in the JD/MSW dual degree program. I was a bit unsure about my decision during my first semester at the Sturm College of Law. I spent all of my time reading and none of my time actually doing anything! But after that first semester, I was able to enjoy the program and participate in the law school’s public interest volunteer groups, which do some amazing things. For example, our group organized an alternative spring break program at an immigration nonprofit organization in El Paso—an activity I truly loved.

There is a popular Costa Rican saying, pura vida, which tugs at my heart when working with individuals who regularly experience deep-rooted oppression. While the literal translation is “pure life,” for me the phrase has come to mean that, if we all strive to live simply and with gratitude, our lives will be filled with purpose and compassion. This is something I continually re-learn when observing the bravery and the pure goodness of the youth I work with, who despite their circumstances make the choice to be happy. Pura vida!

Rheinheimer completed her GSSW courses in June and will graduate with both her MSW and Juris Doctor (JD) degrees in December. She met her husband, Guatemalan attorney, Pedro de Leon Cifuentes during Sturm’s study abroad program in Guatemala. The couple will make their home in Guatemala City.

Underwood (right) pictured with her social work supervisor, Dayane Calvo (left), at Sor María Romero in San José.

When I began my dual degree program at DU, my career goal was to become the director of a nonprofit organization helping children, youth and their families. In my experience, many nonprofit directors have a background in social work or another helping profession, but they often lack the strong business skills necessary to effectively run an agency. I thought that combining my MSW with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Daniels College of Business would best prepare me to become an effective agent of change.

I successfully petitioned to do this flexible dual degree, which is not among the University’s formalized dual degree programs. I also customized my MBA to concentrate in nonprofit management. This unique combination subsequently opened doors for me, distinguished me from other job candidates and helped me rise through the ranks at the nonprofit where I have worked since 2009.

I was hired as a director of youth and family development at Mi Casa Resource Center, a Denver nonprofit agency that works to advance the economic success of Latino and working families by expanding opportunities for educational, professional and entrepreneurial advancement. A little over 4 and a half years later, I was promoted to my current position, vice president of programs and integration.

Within a year, I was hired as director of youth and family development at Mi Casa Resource Center, a Denver nonprofit agency that works to advance the economic success of Latino and working families by expanding opportunities for educational, professional and entrepreneurial advancement. A little over 4 and a half years later, I was promoted to my current position, vice president of programs and integration.

Meanwhile, my MSW provided a strong foundation in social justice, community organizing and working with disadvantaged communities, and I learned a lot about Denver’s nonprofit community through my two internships.

In combination, my dual degrees enabled me to become the effective change agent I set out to be.

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The experience of being a social worker in the business school was a tremendous learning experience in and of itself. Additionally, the MBA prepared me well for nonprofit management by introducing me to financial statements, human resources, marketing, management and business strategy. Daniels also gave me an understanding of corporate social responsibility, which comes in handy when I talk with corporate funders and partners.

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Finding Purpose and Confidence through a Customized Graduate Education
by Peter Ferrarone

The dual degree program between GSSW and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver has meant everything to me. Combining those two degrees has given me the purpose in life that I’ve always wanted and the confidence to believe that my future hopes and dreams are achievable.

Of all the terrific characteristics of the dual degree program, the one that has meant the most to me is the flexibility that it offers. My advisors at GSSW worked tirelessly with me to craft a program that fit my needs. They understood that my goals and interests were different from traditional single-degree students. For example, I was not interested in the internships that GSSW was offering for the concentration year. I envisioned a global health research internship, and I could not find anything like that. So my advisors at GSSW worked tirelessly with me to craft a dual degree program at GSSW that Korbel funded my trip to Bangladesh, where I hoped to do in Bangladesh. The result was that Korbel worked with me to craft an internship that my goals and interests were different from traditional single-degree students.

Another example of the flexibility inherent in the dual program is the research component. My interest is in global health research, so I was not particularly interested in taking research courses at GSSW. Fortunately, my GSSW advisors allowed me to take these courses at Korbel instead. During my two research courses at Korbel, I wrote nearly 80 pages about research that I hoped to do in Bangladesh. The result was that Korbel funded my trip to Bangladesh, where I actually conducted the research project that I had worked on over the past year.

When I got a prized position as a program assistant for Korbel’s Global Health Programs program, GSSW allowed me to count that experience toward the remaining MSW internship hours that I was not able to complete over the summer.

I will forever be grateful for the way that the dual degree program allowed me to shape my academic career at DU. The two schools never resisted the direction I wanted to go with my degrees, and offered only support. These are the kinds of opportunities that the dual degree can provide.

My dual master degrees have given me the confidence to pursue further study, and my academic journey is far from over. I plan to apply to a doctoral program in population health, where I can continue to study health systems and the socioeconomic factors that determine health outcomes in developing countries.

This summer, I completed my concentration year internship in Bangladesh while doing my own 10-week qualitative feasibility study, testing an intervention to improve current methods for pregnancy tracking in rural Bangladesh villages. The flexibility of the dual degree program allowed for Korbel to fully fund this experience, while also allowing me to count the hours toward my GSSW concentration year internship.

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Following my Heart, Finding my Passions
by Brooke Harland

After graduating with a BA in international studies from the University of California, San Diego, I was unsure how to translate my passion for international affairs with my desire to be a social worker. I found the solution at the University of Denver in a dual degree program combining international studies and social work. When I learned that the Graduate School of Social Work offers the Sustainable Development and Global Practice concentration and the Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW) Certificate, I knew I had found the perfect fit!

In June, I completed my MSW courses in my chosen concentration, as well as the AASW Certificate. I will continue working toward my MA [at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies] and graduate with both degrees in 2016.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to complete an internship in Bosnia and learn about the society that is still recovering from war and genocide. In October, I will begin a 10-week internship through the U.S. State Department at the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Milan, Italy. Choosing DU has been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made, and the opportunities the school and its programs have offered are beyond what I hoped.

Although I don’t know yet what my specific career will be, I believe I will need both the clinical skills that I have gained, as well as my global focus and understanding of sustainability. Sustainability is integral for success financially, environmentally, culturally, and in human and animal health. It recognizes that all of these aspects are a priority and necessary for a healthy future. In the MSW program, we learned how to promote best practices in all organizations and businesses, and in our personal lives. I’m very passionate about One Health—the recognition that human health is intrinsically connected with culture, all living creatures and our environment. As a global citizen, I plan to incorporate the One Health framework into my personal and professional practices.

Opening a New World of Opportunity
by Stephanie Robertson, MSW ‘11, MBA ‘11

Before I came to the University of Denver, I worked in Philadelphia, providing direct supervision and case management services to children in residential treatment. Those children faced seemingly insurmountable challenges, and I was frustrated because systems were inefficient, inflexible, and ultimately ineffective. Fortunately, I had a wonderful mentor in my organization who told me I needed to pursue additional education to position myself to change those systems.

I will forever be grateful for the way that the dual degree program allowed me to shape my academic career at DU. The two schools never resisted the direction I wanted to go with my degrees, and offered only support. These are the kinds of opportunities that the dual degree can provide.

My mission was twofold: I learned to have the clinical knowledge that would help me better the situations of marginalized families; I also learned to ensure that human service organizations would make fiscally responsible decisions that would allow them to continue providing life-changing, community-building services for years and generations to come.

At the Daniels College of Business, I took courses in accounting, statistics, ethics, finance, IT, strategy, marketing, law, public policy, cost management, strategic management, and human resources. I spent a lot of time thinking about how management of various forms of social, financial, natural, human and produced capital could help drive the success or failure of an organization.

The impact of my dual degrees on my career is something I have only just begun to explore. But they have already given me a common language with virtually any audience, and they allow me to view issues and opportunities for change through a variety of lenses. I have the ability to be flexible in my thinking, to avoid getting stuck looking at the world from a single perspective.

At the same time human service organizations are driven toward greater accountability via evidence-based practice and measurable outcomes, the corporate world is taking on more social responsibility. As the lines between doing good and producing goods become increasingly blurred, a whole new world of opportunity opens for someone who is conversant in both.

Robertson is the Compliance Manager and PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Coordinator for The Haven, part of Addictions Treatment and Research Services. The Haven provides safe and empowering environments where women can recover from addictions and co-occurring disorders and become self-sufficient, confident and productive members of the community.
IHAC Launches Equine-Assisted Mental Health Practitioner Certificate

GSWS’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) has launched the Equine-Assisted Mental Health Practitioner Certificate, and registration is now open for the 2015 and 2016 cohorts. The certificate is an internationally accessible, post-master's program for mental health professionals who wish to add equine-assisted work as a treatment strategy in their psychotherapy or counseling practice. It includes social workers, clinical psychologists, counselors and psychiatric nurse practitioners. Graduate students in mental health-related master's or doctoral programs also may enroll in the certificate program.

The certificate program balances theory with hands-on client work and emphasizes competency in three core areas: delivery of equine-assisted treatment; theory, ethics, research and knowledge of the field and profession; and equine care and welfare. The first 2015 cohort begins in October.

Delivered through a mix of distance learning, on-site workshops and supervised client work, the certificate program can be completed in one academic year. Continuing Education Units will be verified on a University of Denver transcript, and the program meets the educational requirements for national board certification through the U.S. Certification Board for Equine Interaction Professionals.

For additional information on the certificate, please contact Nina Ekholm Fry, director of IHAC’s equine programs, at nina.ekholm-fry@du.edu, or visit the IHAC website at www.du.edu/humananimalconnection.

IHAC Speakers Inform Diverse Audiences at Home and Abroad

On March 2, Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi, executive director of GSWS’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection, was interviewed during a live broadcast on CJOB radio in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The interview focused on recent research that suggests dogs can identify human moods.

In July, Tedeschi was the keynote speaker at the Fourth International Conference on Animal Care in Kobe, Japan. The conference, commemorating 20 years since the city’s Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, focused on improving the welfare of animals around the world.

Tedeschi’s IHAC colleague, Research Associate Professor Sarah Bexell, traveled to San Diego in mid-April for an interview with Tristan Quinn, producer of “Horizon,” the flagship science television series of the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC). The interview will be part of a BBC documentary examining the science behind keeping animals in captivity, breeding programs, reintroductions into the wild and other conservation approaches. Bexell, who serves as director of conservation education at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China’s Sichuan Province, discussed wildlife conservation in the face of human overpopulation and mass consumption, as well as implications for human health as biodiversity declines.


Therapy Dogs Focus of Televised Interview

Telemond Denver KDEN TV, a Spanish-language NBC affiliate, interviewed Clinical Professor Philip Tedeschi, at Craig Hall on September 3 regarding animal-assisted social work and interventions. Also interviewed were Kate Trujillo, PhD ’10, LCSW, Assistant Professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Maura Yetka, director of marketing and communications at Denver Pet Partners. The video segment, which aired at both 5 and 10 p.m. that evening, was entitled “Animals or Caretakers on Trepeculas para Personas” (“Animals Become Therapists for People”). Trujillo’s interview was conducted in Spanish, Tedeschi and Yetka spoke in English, with Spanish voice-over translation.

AASW Certificate Students Play Active Role in National Conference

GSWS’s Institute for Human-Animal Connection cosponsored the 2015 Green Chimneys Human-Animal Interaction Conference held April 24-25 in Brewster, New York. Entitled “Growing Together: Children, Animals and Sowing the Seeds of Resiliency,” the conference brought together human-animal interaction professionals from around the globe. Among the speakers was Adam Clark, MSW ’14, whose presentation was entitled “Building Children’s Resiliency Through Their First Pet Loss.”

Thirty-four MSW students from GSWS’s Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW) certificate program attended in the conference, and the group planned and conducted a debriefing session for participants at the conclusion of the event. Eighteen of the students also trained up to write a 27-page conference summary report. The debriefing and conference summary were part of a unique GSWS special topics course aimed at developing the students’ planning, presentation and networking skills.

Faculty Members Receive National Appointments

Ann Petrila, Professor of the Practice of Social Work and Assistant Dean for Field Education, was reappointed to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Council on Field Education for a three-year term beginning on July 1. The Council on Field Education collaborates with the professional community to improve the quality of field programs, as well as providing support for field directors and educators, and producing and disseminating relevant information. “We believe your knowledge, experience and talent will further the goals of this council,” said CSWE Board Chair Barbara Shank in making the appointment.

Karen Benson, Associate Professor of the Practice of Social Work and Assistant Dean for Community Academic Programs, has been selected to serve on the CSWE Council on External Relations. Her three-year appointment begins at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting, to be held in Denver this October.

Wanda Ellingson, Associate Professor of the Practice of Social Work and Four Corners MSW Program director, was appointed to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) National Program Plan Committee as the Region XII board of directors representative. The committee reviews, approves and evaluates NASW with regard to program integration and coordination among leadership units, and it is responsible for recommending the annual program plan to the board. Ellingson also was appointed to the NASW Executive Committee.

For more information on the IHAC certificate program, visit www.du.edu/humananimalconnection.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Julie Anne Lasser-Moore, who received Marissa Wnis on July 24. The ceremony took place at Denver’s Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

For more information on the CSWE Council on Field Education, visit www.cswecommentary.org.

For more information on the CSWE Council on External Relations, visit www.cswecommentary.org.

For more information on the NASW National Program Plan Committee, visit www.nasw.org.

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Gerontology Scholars Receive National Recognition

Associate Professor Leslie Hasche is the recipient of the 2015 Faculty Achievement Award from the Association for Gerontological Education in Social Work (AGESW). The award honors a faculty member who is in the early stages of career development and is based on the individual’s contributions and potential as indicated by their research, scholarship, teaching and participation in local, state and national organizations focused on aging-related issues.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Greenfield, a member of the AGESW board, will present the award to Hasche in November during the organization’s reception at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.

Greenfield participated in the 2015 Hartford Change AGEnts Policy Institute, held in Washington, D.C., on June 7–9. She was one of only 18 scholars in the nation selected to participate in this event. Participants worked in a collaborative environment to analyze policy issues and develop a strategy to leverage stakeholder support through grassroots, grasstops and coalitions. Institute topics ranged from federal policy and regulatory change to state and local policy work.

During the policy institute, Greenfield met with members of Colorado’s congressional delegation, including Rep. Diana DeGette and Sen. Michael Bennet, to discuss the need for a national, job-protected paid leave program, a proposal recently introduced in Congress as the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act of 2015.

The policy institute is one of many opportunities offered by the interprofessional Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation. The Hartford Change AGEnts Grant, administered by the Gerontological Society of America, supports scholars and grantees in their efforts to improve practice and service delivery that improves the health of older Americans and their families.

Professor Jenson and Colleagues Unleash the Power of Prevention

A national coalition of prevention experts chaired by Jeff Jenson, Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk, has initiated a plan to prevent a variety of behavioral health problems among children and youth. Jenson and other members of the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health recently published a paper called Unleashing the Power of Prevention on the National Academy of Medicine website.

Associate Professor Kim Bender is among the paper’s 19 authors. The paper outlines an action agenda aimed at reducing youth problems such as aggression, substance use and school dropout by 20 percent in the next decade.

“The ideas put forward by the coalition are consistent with evidence for preventing violent and other disruptive behaviors in children and youth,” says Jenson. “We now have a body of research indicating that the promotion of social development and is working with researchers, policy professionals, and practitioners from social work, public health, medical, and other disciplines to implement the strategies identified in the paper.”

Unleashing the Power of Prevention also is part of the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative developed by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. The Academy invited proposals and subsequently identified 12 issues that focus on a range of individual and social problems.

“The Grand Challenges initiative has served as a critical organizing mechanism for our work,” says Jenson. “I am delighted to see GSSW and the field of social work involved in cutting-edge strategies to prevent child and adolescent problems and promote positive development in all young people.”

Dean James Herbert Williams is a member of the Grand Challenges Executive Committee.

Professor Emerita Wise Receives 2015 Mayborn Fellowship in Biography

The Graduate Institute of Journalism at the University of North Texas presented GSSW Professor Emerita Judith Bula Wise with the 2015 Mayborn Fellowship in Biography at its Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference on July 18. Wise, who served GSSW’s faculty for 17 years before retiring in 2004, is writing a biography of Edna Baldwin, an early 20th-century playwright, director and producer.

The Mayborn Fellowship is awarded annually to an emerging biographer who has begun researching or writing a manuscript. The fellowship includes a two- to three-week residency in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a residency stipend and mentorship from noted biographer James McGrath Morris.

Wise learned about Baldwin from Dr. DeWitt C. Baldwin Jr., Edna’s son and Wise’s longtime colleague and friend. Edna’s husband, DeWitt C. Baldwin Sr., was a Methodist minister and missionary, and the family lived in Rangoon, Burma, in the 1920s, during the younger DeWitt’s childhood. After both of his parents had died, DeWitt Baldwin Jr. and his wife found a suitcase full of his mother’s correspondence with family and friends, and another suitcase of 14 notebooks comprising an autobiography written by Edna’s father, also a Methodist minister. The couple gave the suitcases to Wise, who was inspired to research and write the biography.

During her years at GSSW, Wise directed the Family Therapy Training Center and the doctoral program, and she coordinated the Trauma Responder Certificate Program.

GSSW welcomes the opportunity to recognize the achievements of its emeritus faculty. Emeritus faculty members are invited to share news of their accomplishments with the editor of GSSW Magazine at deborah.jones@du.edu.

Assistant Professor Ramona Beltrán, appointed Assistant Professor Ramona Beltrán as a member of a new task force that will address Native American inclusivity at the University of Denver. The task force evolved from the events and conversations in which the University participated last year, the 150th anniversary of Colorado’s Sand Creek Massacre. The task force is charged with determining how the University can support its Native students, fulfill its mission to serve the public good relative to Native communities and expand education efforts that encourage students to make ethical decisions, respect those who are different from themselves, remember the past and shape a future in which healing is experienced and atrocities do not recur.

Faculty Members Recognized for University Leadership

Associate Professor Kim Bender has received the 2015 University of Denver Distinguished Scholar Award. The award recognizes unusually significant and meritorious achievement in professional scholarship, as evidenced by publications and their enhancing effect on classroom teaching.

“This is a wonderful acknowledgement of Kim’s work” noted Dean James Herbert Williams when the announcement was made in June. Bender’s award was presented at the University Convocation and chancellor’s inauguration on September 18.

Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, along with Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Gregg Kristal, appointed Assistant Professor Ramona Beltrán as a member of a new task force that will address Native American inclusivity at the University of Denver. The task force evolved from the events and conversations in which the University participated last year, the 150th anniversary of Colorado’s Sand Creek Massacre. The task force is charged with determining how the University can support its Native students, fulfill its mission to serve the public good relative to Native communities and expand education efforts that encourage students to make ethical decisions, respect those who are different from themselves, remember the past and shape a future in which healing is experienced and atrocities do not recur.

Associate Professor Michele Hanna, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was one of five speakers at a March 3 networking event co-hosted by the University of Denver’s Graduate Women’s Council and Women’s Leadership Council. Entitled “Looking Up: DU’s Eminent Women,” the event provided the opportunity for the speakers to share stories about their professional journeys, including barriers they faced and successes they experienced along the way.
FACULTY AND DOCTORAL RESEARCH HAS FAR-REACHING IMPACT

Assistant Professor Yuli Anyou is part of a collaborative effort, begun last year, to reduce racial disparities in discipline in Denver Public Schools (DPS). The group, whose other members include DPS Denver nonprofit Padres y Jovenes Unidos and the local teacher's union, issued a report in May offering specific recommendations for improvement. Proposed changes include providing additional training in discrimination management, fostering a positive culture in schools, improving restorative practices and tracking progress by closely monitoring data.

The report notes that, while the use of suspensions and expulsions has decreased overall, they have decreased much faster for the district’s white students than for students of color, who are more likely to be suspended or expelled for similar infractions.

According to an article that appeared in the May 12, 2015, Denver Post, DPS officials say they’ve made progress, but they admit there’s still much to be done. In particular, the district did not dispute the report’s findings that some racial disparities are increasing and that individual schools are making uneven progress toward implementing recommended practices.

Dr. Anyou, an Associate Professor of Social Work in the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work, has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce racial disparities in discipline in Denver Public Schools. His work has focused on developing and implementing restorative practices in schools, as well as on conducting research to understand the factors that contribute to racial disparities in discipline.

In May, Ann Petralia, Professor of the Practice of Social Work, Assistant Dean for Field Education and director of Global Practice Bosnia, was awarded a University of Denver Internationalization Grant to be used in completing her project related to the 1995 Bosnian genocide. In July of that year, more than 8,000 men and boys were killed around the United Nations Safe Zone of Srebrenica. Of the 10 men who survived, some have testified as protected witnesses at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, but none has ever told his story from start to finish.

“In the climate of genocide denial that exists in this region, their stories need to be told,” Petralia says, “especially as we have begun to appreciate the power of narratives in such situations.”

Assisted by her Bosnian colleague Hasan Hasaovnic, curator at the Srebrenica-Potocari Cemetery and Memorial Center, Petralia is interviewing these men and other survivors and compiling their stories into a book. The book will also include a chronology of the events of July 1995, documentation that does not currently exist. The book will also include a chronology of the events of July 1995, documentation that does not currently exist.

The interviews began in March and will be completed in December, using funds from the Internationalization Grant. Among those who have been interviewed to date are five survivors of the execution site, a woman whose husband and sons were killed, a woman who was one of five physicians at the Srebrenica hospital that served 60,000 people during the siege, and a man who was chosen to negotiate with Ratko Mladic as the genocide began. Mladic is the former Bosnian Serb military leader currently on trial at the ICTY for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk Jeff Jenson has partnered with Denver’s OMNI Research Institute on a grant funded by the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The Evidence-Based Practice and Policy Mapping and Implementation Project aims to develop a statewide process to help local jurisdictions assess, select and implement evidence-based interventions for children and youth receiving juvenile justice services. The investigation involves accessing secondary data sources and then developing a data-driven template for decision-making about interventions and services.
On February 2nd, my wife Becky Albright, my son Micah and I embarked on the adventure of a lifetime. It culminated with a climb of Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro, the largest free-standing mountain in the world.

Along with a number of other climbers, our family participated in a fundraiser for Kenya’s KGSA Foundation, which provides financial and technical assistance to support the Kibera Girls’ Soccer Academy. KGSA is a community center that offers free secondary education to more than 130 girls each year in the Kibera slums of Nairobi. The funds raised by the climbers support construction of an academic commons and boarding facility designed to house the school’s most at-risk students.

Educating girls is one of the few proven methods of ameliorating deep poverty. For example, statistics indicate that providing an education to a girl in Kibera means she will earn more money, invest as much as 90 percent of her earnings in her family, be three times less likely to contract HIV and have fewer, but healthier, children who are more likely to attend school.

KGSA also offers artistic and athletic programming to its students, as well as microfinance opportunities to help families create a stronger, more resilient community.

The day before we began our climb, we were invited to the school to celebrate its 9th anniversary and the achievements of its students. It was a wonderful day, with empowered youth showcasing their activities and experiences before a celebratory group of visitors, community members and other students. The following morning, we headed to Tanzania.

Over the next week, our group acclimated and summited the 19,341-foot peak with the support of experienced Tanzanian mountain guides and staff. The climb reminded me that we all need the personal determination, resilience and support of others to achieve special opportunities—like experiencing the sunrise at 17,000 feet or reaching the summit of a mountain.

Elevating young women above the risks posed by Kibera’s slums is its own daunting climb, and my family is honored to have supported that effort.

The following faculty appointments were made in March:

- Associate Professor Inna Aitchoch is appointed Assistant Dean for Program Assessment and Evaluation.
- Associate Professor Eugene Walls is appointed Associate Dean for Doctoral Education.
- Assistant Professor Shannon Silva, MLSW, joined the GSSW faculty in September. A PhD graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, Silva conducts national and local research on the impacts of criminal justice policy, with an emphasis on innovative justice alternatives. Her most recent work focuses on the predictors of state-level retributive justice legislation across the U.S.
- Silva teaches macro practice, policy and restorative justice courses at GSSW. Additionally, Silva is partnering with Colorado practitioners, policymakers and advocates to track the impacts of leading-edge restorative justice laws in the state and to develop recommendations for policy transfer.
- Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor Brian Gonzales, MSW, LCSW, is joining the GSSW faculty for the 2015–2016 academic year. He will teach courses related to families, mental health, trauma and diversity, clinical skills, and social work practice. Gonzales has been a GSSW adjunct professor since 2012 and has served on the MSW Curriculum Committee. His practice experience includes positions at Behavioral Treatment Services & Center for Change, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners and the Denver Colorado AIDS Project.
- Visiting Scholar Sarah Bexell has been appointed Research Associate Professor. Bexell works closely with GSSW’s Center for Human-Animal Connection and serves as director of conservation education at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan, China.
- Zhou Jin will take courses in GSSW’s Sustainable Development and Global Practice MSW concentration and also will study social science research methods. Her aim is to gather as much information as possible about our MSW and PhD program to take back to her colleagues in Sichuan University’s new social work department. Zhou Jin’s research interests include community-supported sustainable agriculture and connecting children with nature. She will be a guest speaker in GSSW classes on topics that include environmental education, community-supported organic agriculture and women’s issues in China.
- This fall, Zhou Jin is traveling to the University of Minnesota for the Nature Heals Public Forum, Symposium and Research Roundtable. Accompanying her are Erica Elvove, assistant director for the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, and Katie Garlick, a Four Corners MSW student.
- Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor Scott R. Petersen, MSW, joined the GSSW faculty in September. A PhD candidate (ABD) in environmental studies, she has a master’s degree in sociology and is a professor in the School of Architecture and the Environment at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China.
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RECENT FACULTY & DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Books

Book Chapters

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Book Reviews and Editorials

Recent Faculty & Doctoral Scholarship
The GSSW community welcomes Jan Dean, who was hired last spring as administrative assistant for the Western Colorado MSW Program, based in Glenwood Springs.

GSSW also welcomes Daniel Hanna, technology operations specialist.

Erica Elvove, MSW ‘08, was promoted to the full-time position of Assistant Director for the Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC), effective on July 1. The appointment follows seven years of part-time service to IHAC and GSSW. Elvove continues to manage the Animals and Human Health online professional development certificate program, and she will develop additional professional development opportunities. She also will support experiential learning opportunities for MSW students completing the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate.

Dillon Miskimins, formerly the Director of Budget and Finance, was appointed Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance in March.

Lynda Ricketson, GSSW’s Director of Development and Alumni Giving since 2008, resigned her position in July to become the Vice President for Philanthropy at the Women’s Foundation of Colorado. Ricketson previously served as the nonprofit’s development director from 1991 to 1997.

Ricketson was responsible for all aspects of GSSW fundraising, including research, planning and implementation of annual giving, special projects, major gifts and planned giving. She also managed donor recognition and stewardship programs, as well as the Board of Visitors, a high-level volunteer leadership group assembled to maximize fundraising.

“Under Lynda’s leadership, GSSW has made tremendous strides in increasing financial support for our students,” says Dean James Herbert Williams. “We congratulate Lynda on her new position and thank her for her work at GSSW over the past seven years.”

Butler Institute Staffer Shares Photographic Skills

GSSW has long benefited from the talents of University of Denver photographer, Wayne Armstrong, whose stunning images can be found throughout GSSW Magazine and the GSSW website. But the school’s ever-increasing number of professional development offerings, student activities and special events has created the need for an additional and readily available “in-house” photographer.

Enter Salvador Armendariz, MSW ‘11, a GSSW graduate and research assistant at the Butler Institute for Families, whose work appears both in this magazine and online. In addition to shooting event and activity photos, Armendariz creates exceptional portraits of our new faculty members, as well as updated portraits for those who request them. You’ll find examples of his portrait photos on p. 19 of this issue.

Armendariz also operates “Portraits for a Purpose,” an independent photography project whose proceeds are donated to a school and orphanage in southern India. Armendariz previously spent a year working at the home, assisting the administrator. Armendariz’s photography project also has supported efforts to stop human trafficking, reflecting his prior work with nonprofit organizations that serve the homeless, immigrants and people in human trafficking situations.

Doctoral student Samantha Brown received the American Psychological Association (APA) Section on Child Maltreatment Dissertation Award. The prize includes a cash award and a one-year membership in the APA’s Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice Division 37. Brown received the award at the APA Annual Convention, held August 6–9 in Toronto, Ontario.

Doctoral student Shanna Kattari has been appointed to serve a three- year term on the Council on Social Work Education’s Council on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression. The council promotes the development of social work curriculum materials and faculty growth opportunities related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, as well as the experiences of individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or two-spirit. The council’s activities include the LGBT Caucus/GSOGIE Networking Reception, the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Scholarship Award and the Doctoral Student Mentoring Breakfast.

Susanne Klawetter is one of five doctoral students in the nation to be selected as inaugural recipients of the CSWE/NASW Foundation Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) Doctoral Fellowship. The 2015-16 fellowship supports Klawetter’s dissertation study that explores maternal engagement in the neonatal intensive care unit across race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status and maternal mental health.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) worked in collaboration with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to develop and implement the HEALS program, which is creating a cohort of health care social work leaders at every professional level, including BSW, MSW and PhD/DSW students, as well as post-doctoral graduates. Together with practice, research and policy mentors, the cohort is tasked with leading efforts to address system-level changes, heighten awareness of prevention and wellness, and address the issues of structural racism embedded in social institutions. The Social Work HEALS program is funded by a five-year grant from the New York Community Trust Robert and Ellen Pepper Scholarship Fund.


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Faculty award recipients included (L-R) Clinical Assistant Professor Stephen von Merz, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Social Work Jae McQueen, PhD candidate Christopher Knoepke, Assistant Professor Jennifer Greenfield and Ann Petrila, Professor of the Practice of Social Work and Assistant Dean for Field Education. Von Merz and Petrila received Kay M. Stevenson Faculty Citizenship Awards. McQueen and Greenfield received Awards for Excellence in Teaching (Appointed Faculty), and Knoepke received the Award for Excellence in Teaching (Adjunct Faculty). Not pictured are Associate Professor Kim Bender, recipient of the Award for Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students, and Kevin Bert, who received the Award for Excellence in Field Instruction.

Staff Appreciation Awards went to (L-R) Lisa Ingarfield, Director of Student and Career Development, and Lynda Ricketson, Director of Development and Alumni Giving.

Student award recipients were (L-R) Jessica Hathaway (Dean Emil M. Sunley Award), Lindsey Tapp (Dorothea C. Spellman Award), Ruth O’Gara (Ina Mae Denham Award), Anne Olson (Tommi Frank Memorial Award), Courtney Bouwer (Ruth Marx Stark Award), Kelly Anderson (the Anne DeLauer Award), Samantha Karlin (Edith M. Davis Award), Adam Tannenbaum (Jean Pearl Siminovitch Award) and Eden Abraham (OMNI Research Award).

Western Colorado graduate Barbra Corcoran (left) receives the Catherine F. Alter Merit Award from Program Director Rachel Forbes, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Social Work. The award is presented annually to a graduating student from GSSW’s off-campus MSW programs who most closely epitomizes the best of professional social work.

GSSW’s Western Colorado MSW program graduated its first cohort of 20 students in June. Here, Dean James Herbert Williams and Western Colorado Program Director Rachel Forbes (standing by the podium) prepare to acknowledge the graduates’ achievements at the Student Recognition Ceremony held on June 6 in Glenwood Springs.

Assistant Professor Stephen von Meiz (right) is pictured at the Open House with 10 of the 12 graduates who earned the Social Work with Latinx/Latinas Certificate. Sixty-four MSW graduates earned the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate, five completed the PROGRESS gerontology program, and six are continuing with the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate at the Denver Family Institute.

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Students Organize to End Homelessness

Eight MSW students founded the Collaborative Communities to End Homelessness last spring in collaboration with GSSW Scholar-in-Residence Donald Burnes. The groups mission is to “raise awareness about homelessness and develop collaborative approaches to eradicate this blight on the American social consciousness.”

Consuelo W. Gosnell Memorial Scholarship Recipients

GSSW offered its first Career Connections Networking Luncheon on April 22, designed to bring social work employers together with soon-to-be graduating students for conversations about current and future job openings. Students brought resumes and business cards to the luncheon, which was held just prior to the University of Denver’s Nonprofit and Government Career Fair. The well-attended luncheon was a cooperative effort of GSSW Career Development Office, Alumni Engagement and Field Education.

GSSW Students Make Career Connections

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On May 20, the Institute for Human-Animal Connection hosted a poster session highlighting the work of Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate students during the 2014-15 academic year. “These poster sessions provide students an opportunity to present their unique animal-assisted program protocols and experience an in-house peer review.”

GSA Leaders Plan for the Coming Year

The leadership team of GSSW’s Graduate Student Association (GSA) worked throughout the summer, planning events for the upcoming academic year and developing strategies to increase student engagement. GSA acts as the liaison between the student body and GSSW administration, and it uses student fees to support student organizations, provide conference reimbursements and plan, promote and host events of interest to students. GSA also facilitates student meetings to obtain feedback, connect with other students and make positive change at the school.

AASW Poster Session 2015

On May 20, the Institute for Human-Animal Connection hosted a poster session highlighting the work of Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate students during the 2014-15 academic year. “These poster sessions provide students an opportunity to present their unique animal-assisted program protocols and experience an in-house peer review.”
As the Western Colorado MSW Program saw its first student cohort graduate in June, both graduates and their communities reaped immediate benefits. Just ask Matt McGaugh (MSW ’15), who has been promoted from child welfare case manager to child welfare supervisor at Pitkin County Health and Human Services.

“My internship experiences while participating in the Western MSW program were truly beneficial in advancing my career,” says McGaugh (pictured above left). “I was able to complete both years’ internships at my place of employment. I had MSW supervisors who were engaged in my professional growth... in program development and leadership, positioning me to move into my new role with confidence.”

McGaugh received a federal Title IV-E child welfare stipend during each of his two years in the program. The stipends, administered by GSSW’s Butler Institute for Families, require that recipients work in Colorado public child welfare one year for each year they receive the stipend.

For Sally Ryman (MSW ’15), career advancement came even before she completed her degree. “Thanks to my education in program development and evaluation, as well as the leadership and supervision skills learned in the program, I was promoted from program coordinator to program director at the Grand County Rural Health Network,” explains Ryman (pictured above right). “I started as a program assistant, was program coordinator when I began my MSW, and was promoted to program director after the fall quarter of my concentration year. Prior to the promotion, I also had the opportunity to do more policy advocacy work on the state level, given my expanded skills and knowledge.”

Located in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, the Grand County Rural Health Network seeks to provide local access to sustainable health care for communities throughout the predominantly rural Western slope county. Ryman is the growing organization’s first program director and says she appreciates that the network promoted her “from within,” rather than having to conduct an outside search.

“That kind of workforce development in the state’s rural and mountain communities is “key to the mission of the Western Colorado MSW Program,” says Rachel Forbes, program director and assistant professor of the practice of social work. Ryman agrees. “The program has made a huge difference not only in my career, but also in the ability of our network to serve our community,” she says.

The second cohort of Western Colorado students began the two-year MSW program this fall, and applications are being accepted from BSW graduates for the advanced standing program that begins next June.

Center for Effective Interventions

CEI Enhances Both Academic and Clinical Outcomes by David Bernstein, MSW ’73, Program Director

Since the Center for Effective Interventions (CEI) moved to GSSW from Metropolitan State University of Denver last January, we have conducted several class presentations related to our mission of promoting evidence-based models in human services and program implementation science. We also played a major role in producing a three-part webinar series on enhancing this type of content in MSW curricula. Our hope is that students will graduate with better awareness of both aspects of social work practice, giving them a competitive advantage as they enter the workforce.

CEI also continues to oversee the implementation of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) programs in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Our clinical experts offer ongoing assistance to provider agencies across the Rocky Mountain region to ensure MST is delivered with fidelity to the model.

In June, CEI issued a report on the positive clinical and cost savings achieved for at least 12 months after discharge. A cost analysis demonstrated significant savings of almost $12 million as a result of reduced utilization of Medicaid-covered behavioral health services two years after youth completed standard MST services.

• Youth who completed standard MST were found to be 68 percent less likely to recidivate one year after completing treatment.

Although our sample size was limited, our initial examination of outcomes for the seven youth who completed MST-PSB also showed improvement in key areas including out-of-home placement, legal, educational and vocational areas, youth and family functioning, and potential to fulfills adult roles in society. Notably, none of the MST-PSB youth had received a new petition for a new crime during the two years following their completion of treatment.

These findings demonstrate noteworthy success across 23 counties representing New Mexico’s geographic, ethnic and economic diversity, and are consistent with other positive findings of outcomes of MST treatment with youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

To read the New Mexico MST Outcomes Tracking Project report and learn more about CEI, visit www.du.edu/socialwork, and click on Research & Institutes.

Butler Institute Joins New Community Initiative to Prevent Child Abuse

Anne Comstock, executive director of GSSW’s Butler Institute for Families, has been appointed to the Denver Child Safety Net Impact Team, convened this summer by Mayor Michael Hancock. The team is charged with identifying coordinated practice, process and policy improvements to better protect Denver’s most vulnerable children.

“This is a call to action,” said Hancock in a news release announcing the Impact Team’s creation in July. “As a community, we must do better when it comes to protecting our children, and that starts by being better informed and better coordinated as a city. By convening a broad range of community partners and city agencies, this Impact Team will look at short-term actions and long-term improvements that will best protect our children.” At the end of August, the Impact Team announced initial recommendations to improve the system.

In addition to the Butler Institute and the Mayor’s Office, Impact Team members include the Denver Housing Authority, Denver District Attorney’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, Denver Human Rights and Community Partnerships, Denver Public Schools, Denver Health, Denver Police Department, Denver Parks and Recreation, Office of Children’s Affairs, Denver Public Library, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Colorado’s Child Protection Ombudsman, Kempe Foundation, Mile High United Way, Boys & Girls Clubs and other community representatives.

Butler Institute for Families

Western Colorado Program Builds Careers, Workforce

GSSW’s Durango, Colorado, based Four Corners MSW program has experienced exciting transitions over the past few months. Six new students entered the program with admittance this summer, joining the two-year MSW students who began their studies in 2014. When they graduate together next June, they’ll be the seventh student cohort to complete the program since it began in 2011. Recruitment efforts for 2016 are already in high gear, with two information sessions for prospective students scheduled in October.

Meanwhile, the four current students who are participating in the Four Corners Cooperative Undergraduate/Graduate MSW Program with Durango’s Fort Lewis College completed their bachelor’s degrees this spring and are on their way to completing their master’s degree by June. The cooperative degree program is open to Fort Lewis undergraduates majoring in anthropology, psychology or sociology. Participants save time and money by earning both degrees in a total of five years.

“We’re also receiving great community feedback about our interns and graduates,” says Program Director Wanda Ellison, Associate Professor of the Practice of Social Work. “Durango School District 9R has opened four new school social work positions, and they’re so pleased that six of the seven applicants are Four Corners graduates. We also continue to have agencies call to request interns from our program because they know the level of field supervision and support the interns receive.”

The Four Corners Program joined other community agencies in co-sponsoring the 5th Annual Community Conference on June 4 in Durango. Program director Wanda Ellison welcomed and introduced keynote speaker Viki Kind, a clinical bioethicist and medical educator; Sheila Casey, director of Evenings Porch Assisted Living Community; Four Corners graduate Ron Youngblood (MSW ’10); director of business development for Four Corners graduate Ben Youngblood (MSW ’09); and GSSW Adjunct Professor Laurel Chisholm-Cordua (MSW ’07).

Four Corners cooperative degree students from the BA/MSW program include businessmen in Durango, as well as the Western Slope. Sean White, Margaret Hawkins, Kate Orlovich and Jessica Colby. Colby completed a United Nations internship in Bonn, Germany, this summer, under the supervision of Professors Andreas Riechelmann, GSSW’s American Humidor endowed Chair.
Bridge Project executive director Molly Calloum (MSW '05), Clinical Assistant Professor, resigned her position in early August to enter the PhD program at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, ending a Bridge affiliation that began when Calloum was a GSSW student.

"I am so grateful to have been part of such an amazing organization for the past 12 years," Calloum wrote in her farewell message to the GSSW community. "When I entered the doors of the Bridge Project as an intern, I never guessed that I would one day have the opportunity to lead the organization. I am so proud to have been part of such a passionate, talented and dedicated group of volunteers, staff members, board members and community partners. But, above all else, it has been my utmost privilege to witness the potential of our children. I have watched so many of them grow into strong, caring and successful young adults, and I feel lucky to be able to walk alongside them. I will miss the Bridge Project family and community, but I know the organization will continue to grow and thrive."

Calloum says it’s her intention to continue researching comprehensive programs like the Bridge Project and their potential for larger community impact.

Jesse Burns, MSW, assumed the executive director position on July 1. He also was appointed to the GSSW faculty as Assistant Professor of the Practice of Social Work. Burns previously served as the regional manager for Denver Kids Inc./Denver Public Schools and was the executive director of Minds Matter in New York City.

"I’m very excited to be part of a program that has such a strong reputation for transforming the lives of students," says Burns. "As a first-generation college student myself, I share in the passion of the Bridge Project, and I have committed my career to helping youth overcome obstacles to their success. Likewise, I admire the staff—some of them former Bridge participants—who have been with the organization for years. I’d also like to thank Molly Calloum for her indefatigable leadership and support of the program, which has impacted so many students and staff."

Noting Colorado Lt. Gov. Josephine Garcia’s recent assertion that, by 2025, some 75 percent of the state’s jobs will require a bachelor’s degree, Burns says his goal is to ensure that Bridge reaches its full potential in helping Denver students finish high school, attend college or trade school, and thrive.

"In the next few months, I plan to talk with staff, students, board members and other Bridge stakeholders to gather insights on how we can put our best foot forward," Burns explains. "I invite everyone to share ideas and support Bridge on its continued journey of success."

**FOSTERING HEALTHY FUTURES**

**Fostering Healthy Futures Program Expanding its Reach**

When Professor Heather Taussig joined the GSSW faculty as Associate Dean for Research in the spring of 2014, she brought several projects to the school. Among them is the Fostering Healthy Futures® (FHF) program, a preventive intervention for maltreated children, ages 9–11, in out-of-home care. Taussig developed and tested FHF at Denver’s Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect between 2000 and 2014, when she served as the center’s associate director of clinical research.

A nine-month mentoring and skills-group program, Fostering Healthy Futures provides field internships for MSW students who serve as mentors. FHF has been designated as an evidence-based program by a number of agencies, and Taussig’s team supported a pilot implementation of the program at the Aurora Mental Health Center (AuMHC) through a contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Over the past year, the FHF team began receiving more frequent inquiries about program dissemination. Big Lottery in Wales, funded a feasibility study, and the Chicago branch of Children’s Home + Aid (CH+A) expressed interest in implementing the program this fall. CH+A is a leading child and family service agency with offices throughout Illinois.

After months of planning and consultation, the FHF team conducted a three-day implementation training at GSSW on July 21–23. Ophira Fireman and Robyn Wertheimer, co-directors of FHF program development and dissemination, developed and led the sessions. There were eight participants, including three each from AuMHC and CH+A, and two from Wales. Both AuMHC and CH+A are implementing FHF this fall, with ongoing training provided by the FHF team.

**FROM THE BOARD OF VISITORS’ CHAIR**

**Dear Alumni and Friends**

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the donors who support the Graduate School of Social Work, including the GSSW alumni, faculty and staff who know firsthand the critical difference that scholarship aid makes for more than 95 percent of our students.

This June, I was particularly impressed to learn that the Class of 2015 designated its class gift to fund what they hope will become an endowed scholarship for students participating in global practice courses and internships. Even before they themselves had graduated, these students recognized how valuable cross-cultural awareness has become for social workers in our increasingly global world, whether they work internationally or simply want to enhance their abilities to work with diverse individuals and communities here at home. This unique class gift was our 2015 graduates’ way of “paying it forward” to help future students; I hope many of you will be inspired to do the same.

Please watch your mail for GSSW’s fall appeal letter and join me in responding as generously as you can. Even small gifts, when combined together, make an enormous difference for our students.

In closing, I want to pay special tribute to Lynda Ricketson, until recently GSSW’s director of development and alumni giving—with whom I’ve had the pleasure of working since 2008. Her work with the Board of Visitors, our alumni, donors and friends of the school has been key to our successful fundraising efforts and marked increases in scholarship funds for our students. We wish her well in her new position, but will miss the skill and enthusiasm she demonstrated in her work at GSSW.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Touritz
Chair, Board of Visitors

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

Jeff Jenson, GSSW’s Phillip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Professor for Children and Youth at Risk, and his wife, Mary, are consistent and longtime supporters of GSSW programs and activities. Jeff, who previously served as Associate Dean for Research and director of the PhD Program, views their contributions as an important way to help MSW and doctoral students benefit from the school’s many curricular and research opportunities.

"GSSW is a vibrant school that affords a rich array of educational and research activities for students," Jeff says. "It has been exciting to be part of our GSSW programs’ consistent rise in the national rankings in recent years. Contributions to the school from our own faculty and staff send an important message and provide avenues for new and exciting initiatives and activities."

GSSW’s Bridge Project is a special focus for the Jensens. Jeff oversees research and evaluation at Bridge, and their son Niia, a 2009 graduate of the University of Denver, was a tutor at the Lincoln Park Bridge Project site while he was an undergraduate student.

"The Bridge Project has a positive effect on the lives of so many young people," says Mary. "We take great pride in supporting the programs and staff at Bridge. It is special to have a program like Bridge located in a school of social work. The stories and accomplishments of children and youth attending the program are remarkable."

Both Jeff and Mary agree that "GSSW is an important part of our lives. We have been greatly enriched by our involvement in the school, and we are honorary to give back in ways that benefit students and the greater GSSW community."

Read more about the Bridge Project on opposite page.
Dear Fellow Graduates:

As the new school year begins, we’re reminded of how varied our students’ interests are and how many career options their social work degrees will offer them when they graduate. Some students enter the program with a clear set of professional goals in mind; others know they want to make a positive impact on the world but are still deciding how best to make that impact.

A select group of highly committed students, like those featured in our cover story, choose to pursue two master’s degrees simultaneously—a seemingly daunting task, but one that creates even more opportunities for professional achievement.

I want to remind you that your University of Denver education doesn’t have to end at graduation. GSSW offers an array of lectures, workshops, webinars, online certificates and other continuing professional development options for our alumni and human service professionals throughout the community. The University’s new Center for Professional Development multiplies those options still further, offering programs that illustrate the intersection of social work, psychology, education and other professions. I hope to see you at some of these upcoming events, as we continue along the path of lifelong learning.

Finally, I want to say that I have been an honor to work alongside Lynda Ricketson on some of these important events and outreach these past few years. Her presence at GSSW was evident in her commitment to promoting alumni engagement, as well as increasing student scholarship funds. Please join me in wishing her all the best as she moves on to new professional challenges and growth. Learn more about the Center for Professional Development and find a list of upcoming events at www.du.edu/professional. GSSW events are also listed on our website at www.du.edu/socialwork.

Sincerely,

Hope Errico Wimseski, MSW ’00
Alumni Association President

Got News? Please email your personal and professional updates to gsswnews@du.edu.

Be sure to include the degree(s) you earned at GSSW and the year(s) you graduated. Feel free to attach a digital photo if you’d like. Class Notes may be edited or held for a future issue due to space limitations.

1970s

Richard Berman (PhD ’73) has retired from social work administration and college teaching. He served as Director of the Lapeer County Community Mental Health Center in Lapeer, MI, from 1977 to 2001, and he was an assistant professor at the University of Nevada/Las Vegas (UNLV). Berman now volunteers his time teaching mental health-related courses at the Other Lifelong Learning Center at UNLV and serves on the Health and Fitness Committee at Sun City Anthem, a community of more than 7,000. His daughter, Kelly, is a 2008 graduate of Denver. Berman proudly reports that he spends over an hour every day working out in the gym and helps with his wife care for their 3-year-old grandson twice a day each week.

1980s

The late Rosemarie Florence Freeney Harding (MSW ’83) was a devoted mother, social worker, teacher and civil rights leader. Now her daughter, Rachel Harding, has published a memoir entitled Reforming Activism, and Mothering, a collection of stories that mother and daughter gathered together while Rosemarie was still alive. Rachel is an assistant professor of indigenous spiritual traditions at the University of Colorado Denver. Her book, published by Duke Press in 2013, was the subject of a recent live interview on Colorado Public Radio.

Along with her husband, Vincent G. Harding, Rosemarie moved to the South in 1981 to take an active role in the civil rights movement. As a member of the Monroe County, she was a police for civil rights activists to meet and organize. Vincent Harding became a noted civil rights scholar who wrote several titles for Martin Luther King, Jr., and he taught at Denver's Iliff School of Theology for many years. Rosemarie Harding died in 2004 at age 74, following complications from diabetes. Vincent Harding died in 2014.

1990s

Jean McAllister (MSW ’93) joined the University of Denver as Title IX coordinator, effective on June 1. She serves as a central resource for all University constituencies on all issues related to Title IX and is the designated agent of the University responsible for coordinating and overseeing compliance with Title IX statutory and regulatory requirement efforts. She plays a key role in DG’s efforts to build and sustain a safe, gender-equitable campus climate for all members of the University community.

McAllister has more than 30 years of experience working to address trauma and interpersonal violence on many levels and within several multifaceted environments. Her work has focused on sexual assault, child abuse and sexual abuse, domestic violence, trauma and victimization, offender dynamics, trauma intervention and policy development. She serves as an expert witness in U.S., state, military, county and municipal courts, and she provides case consultation regarding sexual assault, child abuse and sexual abuse, domestic violence, trauma reactions and offender motivation. Her work in these areas has included consultation and testimony on Title IX issues.

Within higher education, McAllister has served as adjunct faculty for the University of Denver and the University of Colorado, teaching courses on domestic abuse and domestic violence. Most recently, she ran an independent consulting and training business, working with clients including the Ending Violence Against Women Project with the Colorado District Attorneys Council, the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General School and the Fox Valley Training Center for the U.S. Department of Justice.

A well-known expert in Colorado, McAllister has taught on many boards and worked with several agencies in the field of sexual assault and victim advocacy. These include the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Domestic Abuse Assistance Program within the Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Public Safety and Gateway to Change, Battered Women's Shelter. She also has served as a consultant for the Columbine Connection Victim Advocates.

At the end of August, Linda E. McKinzie (MSW ’94) retired as CEO of Denver’s Maria Droste Counseling Center. She says she’s been “truly blessed” to have held that position for the past 18 years. After working with the new CEO to ensure a smooth transition, McKinzie plans to take a sabbatical of about three months, and then return to Maria Droste as a therapist in The Therapist Group. She hopes to build a practice working with clients and providing clinical supervision for interns and novice therapists. Maria Droste has been a GSSW internship site for many years, one of the university training and supervision partnerships that McKinzie says she’s “especially loved” while serving as CEO.

Jeanne Skehan Wypyski (MSW ’91) recently accepted a CEO position with Universal Health Services at TMC Behavioral Health Center/Community Health. She leaves Acadia Hospital in Bangor, ME, after more than 20 years of service there. Wypyski has two daughters, Kate (22) and Molly (20).

2000s

When and Pamela Hancock Bowers (MSW ’06), PhD, and Amanda Bowers (MSW ’08) of Anchorage, AK, welcomed daughter Ellie Lou on May 13, Ellie’s birth certificate helped break new legal ground in the state. The couple has been legally married since 2008, but Alaska state law initially prohibited listing both of their names on the baby’s birth certificate. Recently, the statute was revised to permit listing both the name of the “spouse” (rather than the “father”) on birth certificates, a change that gives both Pam and Amanda legal parental rights and eliminates the need for costly second-parent adoption procedures.

This fall Pam entered her second year as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Alaska as she teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate social work programs. She earned her PhD from the University of Colorado, Bowers legal parental rights and is currently a PhD candidate at Regis University.

Amanda currently is staying home with Ellie but eventually will return to work as an emergency room nurse, a job in which she says she uses her social work skills daily. After earning her MSW, she pursued a BA in nursing from Denver's Regis University.

“We both love Alaska and could not be happier that we are both recognized on Ellie Lou’s birth certificate,” says Pam, (at left in photo). “It was a long hard battle, but with the [June 2015 Supreme Court] ruling [legalizing same-sex marriage], everything changed in a heartbeat.”

Andy Frey (PhD ’00), professor at the University of Louisville’s Kent School of Social Work, has received that University’s 2015 Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity Award in Social Sciences. The award was presented on September 15 at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence. “He is a great teacher, researcher and leader, and the Kent School is elevated by all that he brings to the proverbial table,” said Dean Terry L. Singer in announcing Frey’s award.

Frey, who is among the PhD graduates featured in GSSW’s new PhD program brochure, also was honored as a University of Denver Master Scholar in May. He presented a lecture at the school entitled “Motivational Interviewing to Improve School-Based Practice and Research.”

Ginger Meyette (MSW ’90, MDiv, PhD ’99) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the social work program at Luther College in Decorah, IA, last spring. Meyette joined the faculty there in 2009.
Andrew Steward (MSW '14) received the 2014 VOYAGE Award in Educational Achievement from the National Council for Behavioral Health, including a $10,000 grant. He donated the grant to Bring Change 2 Mind, a national nonprofit started by actress Glenn Close that seeks to end the stigma surrounding mental illness. He gave the donation in memory of his brother, specifying that the funds support the organization’s College Toolkit Pilot Project that is developing a methodology for tracking how student attitudes around brain disorders and stigma change over time. Once the four-year project is completed, the College Toolkit will be used as the basis of a national, grassroots and student-driven campaign to create safe and stigma-free campuses across the country. Steward also is making a positive difference for memory-impaired residents of the Clermont Park Retirement Community through an innovative program called “Music and Memory.” Clermont Park became the first organization to offer the program in July. Music and Memory is a national program, developed by a social worker, that helps facilitate communication with dementia patients by having them listen to music of their choice for several hours each day.

Samuel “Barry” Launder (MSW ’15) researched the Music and Memory programs outcomes during a concentration internship he completed under Steward’s supervision. The internship was one of several Launder experienced on a rotational basis while enrolled in GSSW’s PROGRESS gerontology program.

Launder found statistically significant improvement in cognition among the 16 Music and Memory participants during the time he tracked their progress. Because of its success at Clermont Park, the program will be replicated at several of Clermont’s sister retirement communities in the Denver metropolitan area.

Jennifer Martin (PhD ‘15) accepted a position as visiting professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Women’s College and Florence State University, and she was a professor at Catholic University of America, the University of Alabama and the University of Houston, primarily teaching social policy courses. Prior to joining GSSW, she completed a post-graduate level. Launder also serves as a visiting professor at GSSW.

IN MEMORIAM

Yvonne Cassely (MSW ’58) of Minnetonka, MN, died on Dec. 20, 2014, at the age of 80. Proceeded in death by her husband, Murray Cassely, she is survived by her brother, her son, daughter and two grandchildren. Memorials donations may be made to Twin Cities Public Television in Saint Paul, MN.

Toko Felter (MSW ’89), LCSW, CAC III, unexpectedly died on July 31, 2015. Lt. Felter was the director and owner of the Dry Creek Treatment Center, a Denver-based outpatient alcohol treatment facility that serves court-ordered DUl offenders and underinsured clients. His community service included board memberships with the Colorado Association of Addiction Counselors, the Treatment Providers Alliance of Colorado, the Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado and the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He served as president of the Asian Pacific Center for Human Development Board of Directors and received the Outstanding Board Member Award at the end of her term. She also was a pro bono counselor at the Gathering Place, a homeless women’s shelter in Denver.

In 1995, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer appointed Felter to the Social Work Augmentation Panel of the State Mental Health Grievance Board, where she served two terms. She also served on the Colorado Supreme Court Multi-Cultural Commission from 1995 to 1997. In 2009, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter appointed Felter to the State Board of Social Work Examiners, where she served for three years.

Despite her busy professional schedule, Felter provided countless hours of service to GSSW. She was a member of the school’s Advisory Council on Racial Diversity and Alumni Council, and she served on the board of the Denver International Program, a nonprofit agency housed at GSSW. For many years in the spring of 2014, the school honored Felter with its GSSW Service Award. Felter is survived by her husband, Senior Administrative Law Judge Edwin L. Felter, Jr.

Cathy Grinn (MSW ’93), LCSW, of Denver, passed away on March 18, 2015, following a sudden illness. She was 65. Grinn joined the Jewish Family Service (JFS) staff in 1994 as director of the lay and Rose Phillips Senior Solutions Center in 2005. She was a passionate advocate for older adults in our community, especially those in underserved communities, and she established JFS as a senior services innovator. She is credited with establishing the first “naturally occurring retirement community” in Colorado, which brings vital services to older adults in their communities. This model of care is frequently cited as the model for future programs to help keep seniors active, healthy and engaged.

To honor Grinn, her commitment to JFS and the community, and her passion and advocacy for older adults, JFS has established “Cathy’s Fund” to benefit the Phillips Senior Solutions Center. For information, visit http://jewishfamilyservice.org.

Patricia Jensen (MSW ’76) of Denver passed away on April 20 after a year-long battle with cancer. She was 86. Jensen worked in private practice and volunteered for the Grief Education Institute for 20 years. She loved to travel and experience other cultures, and she organized trips to more than 40 countries, including travels to Ghana and South Africa. Jensen is survived by her husband Joseph Jensen, her sister, a son, a daughter and four grandchildren. Her other son passed away in December. Memorial contributions may be made to Denver’s Mennonite Presbyterian Church, the Clermont Park retirement community or a charity of your choice.

Mary Ruth Lewis (MSW ’61), PhD, LCSW, passed away on March 28, 2015, at the age of 84. She had a long and distinguished career as an educator. She was an inspiring Hopkins, Platte and Denver College, Colorado, Colorado Women’s College and Florence State University, and she was a professor at Catholic University of America, the University of Alabama and the University of Houston, primarily teaching social policy courses. Prior to joining GSSW, she completed a post-graduate level. Lewis also served in the United States Army Reserve. She was named Professor Emerita in 1980. She subsequently served as director of the University’s Children’s Health Access and Management Program until 1992. She was among 80 notable GSSW alumni profiled in the spring 2011 issue of GSSW Magazine, during the school’s 80th anniversary celebration.

Lewis is survived by her sister, her niece, her nephews, and many cousins and friends. Memorial donations may be made to The Christ Church Cathedral Choir, 1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002-3183, or to the MD Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, TX 77210-4486 (www.mdanderson.org/gifts).

Lt. Col. John W. Mosley (MSW ’49) of Denver passed away on May 22, 2015, at the age of 93. Mosley was 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 forces. Mosley also was a social worker with a long public service career. He was employed as Boys’ Work Director for YMCA’s in Denver and Kansas City, MO, until 1950, when he returned to active duty with the Air Force. He served as a operations officer in Thailand when U.S. pilots were flying bombing missions in North Vietnam.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1970, Mosley continued to serve his country with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as an equal opportunity specialist, staff director of the Mountain Plains Federal Regional Council and special assistant to the assistant secretary of administration. In recent years, Mosley remained active in the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation, Mile High United Way, Denver Sister Cities International, YMCA and Goodwill Industries. He was one of 80 notable GSSW alumni profiled in the spring 2011 80th anniversary special issue of GSSW Magazine.

Mosley was preceded in death by his wife, Edna Mosley, the first African American to serve on the Aurora City Council. He is survived by the couple’s daughter and two sons. Memorial donations may be made to the John and Edna Mosley Scholarship Fund at the Denver Foundation or to Denver’s Mile High Flight Program operated by the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

David Silburn (MSW ’64), ACSW-RCD, formerly of Denver, died on February 21, 2015, in Charlotteville, VA, where he had resided for the past five years. He was 80. Silburn was on staff at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Denver for 20 years, while simultaneously establishing a private practice specializing in marriage and family therapy, as well as individual and group therapy. He also served as a GSSW adjunct professor. A Board Certified Diplomate of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, Silburn chaired the Colorado Governor’s Commission on Mental Health for two years and was instrumental in being the key person for social workers in Colorado. In Charlotteville, Silburn served as a volunteer ombudsman for the Jefferson Area Board for Aging.

Silburn is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elaine Seay Silburn, a daughter, a son and seven grandchildren, as well as a brother, sister and numerous nieces and nephews. Condolences to the family may be sent to www.hillandwood.com.

Memorial donations may be made to GSSW by enclosing a check in the reply envelope from this announcement or online by visiting www.du.edu/socialwork and clicking on “Support GSSW.”

Accident Claims Life of Dean’s Award Recipient

William (Bill) Callan, recipient of a 2014 GSSW Death Award, died on July 10 from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash on Del Norte, Colo. He was 82. A retired geologist who worked for Exxon and served as an adjunct faculty member at the Colorado School of Mines, Callan made his home in Golden. He established the Constance E. and William S. Callan Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of his late wife, Connie Callan, former director of GSSW’s field education program. Bill Callan is survived by the couple’s three children and his wife, Susan Tiftollon. Memorial donations may be made to the Callan Endowed Scholarship Fund by enclosing a check in the reply envelope from this magazine, or online by visiting www.du.edu/memorial and clicking on “Support GSSW,” then selecting “Graduate School of Social Work Scholarship Fund” on the online giving form.

CLASS NOTES
Harvest

Onlookers watched in awe as a forklift truck hoisted the four huge sculptures above the lawn just east of Craig Hall, while teams of workers guided each piece to its designated spot on prepared beds of river rock. Once installed, the six individual figures appeared to be walking slowly toward one another to share their bountiful harvest of fruits, vegetables and grains. The sculpture, relocated from its original location in Colorado’s Summit County, is a gift to the University of Denver from Gerri Cohen in honor of her late husband, Al Cohen, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees.

Carved from a single enormous block of Indiana limestone in 1983, “Harvest on the Rio Grande” was the first monumental work by Doug Hyde, now a recognized leader among artists of Native American descent. The piece, which was awarded first place in sculpture at the Santa Fe Indian market later that year, is described by the artist as representing the continuity of community and family traditions that bind the 19 ancient Northern Pueblo Indian tribes together. During a visit to DU in 2013, Hyde expressed his desire to have the sculpture placed in a landscape that invites participation, so viewers might feel included within the group of figures. Indeed, despite weighing up to six tons, the figures appear more welcoming than imposing to the students, faculty, staff and community members who pass them each day.

Both Chancellors Emeriti Dan Ritchie and Robert Coombe played key roles in bringing the sculpture to campus. University Art Collections Curator Dan Jacobs, University Architect Mark Rodgers and GSSW Dean James Herbert Williams worked with Hyde to identify where the piece should be located. At Williams’ urging, the group chose the site near Craig Hall because the sculpture’s themes of family, community and respect for Native culture are closely aligned with social work values and figure prominently in GSSW’s curriculum.

Read about the sculpture’s dedication ceremony on page 2.