Social Work Notes

In this issue:

Director named, faculty news, alumni spotlights and news, off-campus MSW program feature, student spotlights, graduation wrap-up
**Social Work Notes** Fall 2008

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Director’s Corner........................................... 4
Faculty Publications ......................................... 6
Faculty News, In Memorium ......................... 7-8
May 2008 Graduation......................................... 9
Alumni Notes .................................................... 9-10
Alumni Spotlights
Anne-Marie Rose, MSW ‘81............................. 5
Jim Brady, MSW ‘78 ........................................ 10
Program Spotlight: Southeast MSW.............. 11
Student Spotlights
Eden O’Connor ........................................... 12
Kirsten Havig .............................................. 13
2008 Annual Alumni Awards ......................... 14
MU School of Social Work
Alumni Organization .................................... 15

Above, top: Jane Bierdeman-Fike, MSW (in the white collar), was this year’s HES commencement speaker; see story on page 9. • On the Cover: (Top left photo by Linda Hillemann) Sharaye Grandberry is one of the students in the Southeast MSW Program in southeast Missouri. She is doing her field placement at the Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium in Portageville. See page 11 for more about the off-campus MSW program. • (Top right photo by Kim Anderson) May 2008 MSW graduates Beth Pross and Cathee Wolford. See page 9 for more. • (Bottom right photo by Kim Anderson) The landmark columns in front of Jesse Hall on the Columbia campus. • (Bottom left photo by Kim Anderson) A good-bye reception for two Social Work faculty was well attended by students, staff, faculty and friends. See page 8 for more.
Greetings! I am very pleased to be writing my first message as the director of the School of Social Work. I am excited to accept this position and eager to prepare the next generation of social workers, honoring our School's long-standing commitment to training. We have a wonderful faculty, staff and student body, and I am privileged to serve as director.

Social work practice is experiencing many new challenges in the area of child welfare and family well-being, substance abuse and other mental health and public health issues, particularly in the current economic downturn. Modern social work research is providing us with new insights for meeting these challenges. I want to take advantage of these opportunities to adapt social work practice to today's needs.

This summer we welcomed two new faculty members, Victoria Osborne and ManSoo Yu, and bid farewell to Fran Danis, John Hodges and Debi Word (see page 8). We have a record enrollment of 79 BSW, 201 MSW (including 88 off-campus MSW) and 18 PhD students.

In an effort to stay connected to you, I will be traveling to Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield this fall to host alumni receptions. We hope to combine these with continuing education in the future for our alums, so please let us know what type of CE programs you would like us to provide in your area.

I hope that you will stay in touch by keeping us current on your life and career accomplishments. You can do this by returning the enclosed envelope or by e-mailing us at ssw@missouri.edu. For more information about the School, please visit our website, ssw.missouri.edu.

Marjorie Sable named director of the School of Social Work

College of Human Environmental Sciences' Dean, Stephen Jorgensen, has announced the appointment of Dr. Marjorie Sable as the new director of the School of Social Work. Sable has been professor of Social Work and former associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies. She served as interim director since September 2007, and she has been a faculty member with the school since 1993.

"For 15 years, Dr. Sable has made significant contributions to MU and to the professional field of social work. Her research work in the areas of reproductive health, psychosocial barriers to quality health care access among low income and minority groups, and HIV/AIDS prevention in high-risk groups has brought national and international distinction to her and to the University of Missouri," Jorgensen said. "She has earned the highest level of respect from her peers at MU and across the country."

Sable earned her master's degrees in social work from Washington University and in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as her doctorate in public health from North Carolina.

Director's message

Colleges of Human Environmental Sciences' Dean, Stephen Jorgensen, has announced the appointment of Dr. Marjorie Sable as the new director of the School of Social Work. Sable has been professor of Social Work and former associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies. She served as interim director since September 2007, and she has been a faculty member with the school since 1993.

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Director's message

Marjorie R. Sable
Director
(Photograph by Yolanda Cioli)
New Zealand alum visits friends in Columbia

During a rare trip to the U.S., Anne-Marie Rose, MSW ’81, got a chance to visit Columbia and a few friends from the School. Rose lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, where she is a social services educator.

Last May, Rose got together with Barbara Brockman, MSW ’75; Kathleen Cain, MSW ’79; and her field instruction mentor, Joanne Fulton, MSW ’76, who all live in Columbia. She also visited with Judith Burke, who was one of her main lecturers at Mizzou, and Marjorie Sable, who was her Interaction Skills instructor.

Rose first came to Columbia from New Zealand in 1978. She worked at Ellis Library and later began work on her MSW in fall 1979. While a student in the SSW, Rose did her first-year placement at Boone County Division of Family Services and her block placement at Adoption Resource Center (ARC).

Fulton was her field instructor at ARC. “The women who worked at ARC were dynamic and fun to work with,” Rose said. She conducted workshops with Fulton, who she described as a wonderful mentor. “It was a strong feminist stage in my life,” she says. “The women who worked there were strong women and set examples of how I wanted to be.”

After graduation, Rose worked at Missouri Girls Town and volunteered at Reproductive Health Services and the MU Women’s Center. She learned to facilitate groups on assertiveness training at the MU Women’s Center and continued doing so when she returned to New Zealand in fall 1982 and for years afterward.

For the past 21 years, Rose has worked at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) in New Zealand. “My current work is teaching on a social services, youth work and disability support program, and I also have a social work supervision private practice,” Rose says.

She explained that cultural diversity in New Zealand is beginning to embrace the Maori customs, language and culture that for years had not been honored. “There is a real push to honor the 1840 treaty and to repay the Maori for stolen land,” she says. “The push is rejuvenating the language and culture on radio and TV. In addition, the recent movie Whale Rider has helped mainstream the Maori culture.”

Rose’s memories of her graduate education at Mizzou are positive. She especially remembers “enjoying the skills classes where I learned hands-on skills that I use in my work, teaching social service work skills in the Aged Care Issues course and the Addictions course. I use my assessment skills all the time, assessing students for field placements and assessing agencies in terms of placing students. I felt very well prepared by my education at the School of Social Work.”


Presentations


Osborne, V.A. Poster presentation, College on Problems of Drug Dependence, San Juan, PR, June 2008. Title: “Adult women’s alcohol abuse: barriers to detection in healthcare settings.”


During the 2008 HES Week, Kim Anderson and Fran Danis presented their poster, “Adult Daughters of Battered Women: Resiliency & Resistance.” (Photo by Gene Royer)
In memorium ...

Janette L. “Jan” Faulkner, MSW ’67, passed away on June 19, 2008, from thyroid cancer. She had been a psychiatric social worker, collector of black memorabilia, educator and activist.

Jan worked as a child welfare worker assigned to the St. Louis projects for several years. In 1971, she moved to California for post-graduate work in psychiatry at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco. Jan later became the clinical director of the Pacific Psychotherapy Institute. Jan was an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California. Jan also served as the director of social work training and continuing education for Alameda County Mental Health Services.

Donations can be made to sfopenhouse, 870 Market Street, Suite 458, San Francisco, CA 94102; The Heritage Retirement Home, 3400 Laguna Street, San Francisco, CA 94123; and/or The United Negro College Fund. (See the Kansas City Star, 7/27/08, for full obit.)

Faculty member receives prestigious Hartford grant

Angela Curl, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, was notified in April that she was chosen as one of 10 Hartford Scholars for 2008. The funding agency is The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Washington, D.C.

As a result of the grant, beginning in September 2008, the University will receive up to $50,000 a year for two years in support of salary and benefits, as well as support for Curl’s attendance at several national professional meetings and for research and statistical consultation. The first national conference activity is an orientation/research institute in Washington, D.C., in mid-October.

“I am honored to be selected for the Hartford Faculty Scholars program,” Curl said. “This funding will help support my research about the link between retirement and physical health, as well as provide important training about how to become a better teacher and researcher.”

Grantwriter Elizabeth Miller, who worked with Curl on the grant proposal, says, “Part of the secret of Angela’s success was talking to program officers while she was developing her proposal. She did an excellent job of getting inside information and addressing it in the text. For example, she learned that they generally don’t give this grant to first-year faculty because they don’t know their institutional sponsors well enough. However, Angela has known her sponsor, Dr. Colleen Galambos, since 2002, so we incorporated that into the text and letters of support.”

The Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program is supported by a grant to The Gerontological Society of America from The John A. Hartford Foundation.

2008 Mizzou Inclusive Excellence Award

At the conclusion to the two-day Diversity Summit in May, nine individuals and one group were honored with Mizzou Inclusive Excellence Awards, presented by Chancellor Brady Deaton. Carol Snively, Social Work’s MSW director and assistant professor, was one of the recipients.

This inaugural award was given to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to any area of diversity as part of the Mizzou community, including but not limited to issues of gender, racial-ethnic background, language, religious belief, sexual orientation, abilities and disabilities, national and geographical origin, economic strata and political views.

Snively was recognized for her outstanding contributions to inclusive excellence at the University of Missouri over a prolonged period of time, including, but not limited to the following:

- Spearheading an effort to have sexual orientation included in the nondiscrimination policy for the University of Missouri System;
- Helping to develop and teach a course in the School of Social Work titled Foundations of Social Justice: Values, Diversity, Power and Oppression;
- Serving on the MU Campus Climate and Training Task Force, Women’s History Month Planning Committee, and Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative Advisory Council;
- Dedication as the faculty adviser of the Mizzou Students for Gay and Lesbian Equality; and
- Participation in the MU Difficult Dialogues Program.
Two new faculty members join MU’s School of Social Work

**ManSoo Yu**, MSW, PhD, and **Victoria Osborne**, MSW, PhD, began work at MU in August. Yu is from South Korea by way of St. Louis and will teach research and a new class on health disparities that he is developing. His dissertation topic at Washington University in St. Louis was “Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use Problems in American Indian Youth: Multiple, Interactive and Joint Determinants and Their Implications.” His MSW is from Wash U.

Yu was a research assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before joining the MU faculty. His research interests include mental disorders and substance use disorders; ethnic and racial disparities in mental health and health; high-risk children, adolescents and their families; and psychosocial and contextual influences on problem behaviors.

Vickie Osborne also comes to Mizzou from St. Louis, where she was a teaching fellow at Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work. At MU, she will teach research in the BSW program and evaluative research in the MSW program.

Her dissertation title was “Typologies of Alcohol-Dependent, Cocaine-Using Women Enrolled in a Community-Based HIV Intervention.” Her MSW and PhD are from Washington University in St. Louis.

Her research experience includes papers and grants on alcohol misuse, cultural diversity, strengthening families, thought disorder and instrument reliability. Her teaching interests include research methods, mental health, substance use disorders/addictions and human behavior.

Drs. Yu and Osborne will also be teaching in the Master’s of Public Health program.

Welcome to MU, Vickie and ManSoo!

Faculty transitions and promotions

**TRANSITIONS:**
**Fran Danis** recently moved to Texas, where she assumed the position of associate dean at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work. Danis joined the MU Social Work faculty in fall semester 2000 as assistant professor, earning tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2006.

**John Hodges** has bid farewell to MU to become department head of Social Work at Western Carolina University, located in the beautiful Smoky Mountains. Hodges came to MU in January 2001 as assistant professor, and he received tenure and promotion to associate professor in September 2007.

**Debi Word**, clinical instructor, accepted a tenure-track position in Lincoln University’s new Department of Social Work. Debi was a faculty member with the Title IV-E training grant for 10 years at Mizzou.

**PROMOTIONS:**
**Kim Anderson** was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure, and **Marjorie Sable** was promoted to the rank of professor.

Assist the School of Social Work in making an even greater impact!
Sponsorship opportunities are available that will help cover the costs of printing *Social Work Notes*.

**For more information, contact:**
Nancy Schultz, Director of Development
College of Human Environmental Sciences and School of Social Work
14 Gwynn Hall, (573) 882-5142 or schultzn@missouri.edu
For the 2008 HES graduation on May 17, 42 students received BSW degrees and 53 graduates received MSW degrees. Three students received their PhD degrees this year.

Jane Bierdeman-Fike, MSW, was the graduation speaker. She touched on the strengths and challenges for graduates of the six units in the College of Human Environmental Sciences: Human Development and Family Studies, Social Work, Nutritional Sciences, Architectural Studies, Personal Financial Planning, and Textile and Apparel Management.

Last fall, Bierdeman-Fike was nominated by her peers as one of the most influential social workers in Missouri and was featured in Social Work Today. The interview on the 85-year-old is available at http://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/septoct2007p44.shtml.

Dean Stephen R. Jorgensen addressed the graduates and conferred degrees. The presentations of SSW candidates were made by professors Dianne Orton and Carol Snively.

Bierdeman-Fike concluded with a poem she’d written, “Bureaucratic Survival Skills:”

A rule or two I wish to leave, Tricks to harbor up your sleeve. Avoid all wars you cannot win, Watch your rear and save your skin.

Avoid all schemes that get you stuck Right in the middle of all that muck! Watch for potholes along the trail, Step around where you might fail.

Some out there weigh more than you— Don’t get caught between the two. Let them take each other on— Keep your cool and plug along.

Among your friends, gain strength and power. Let your talents slowly flower. Hold your standards day by day. Avoid the glib that lead astray.

When the bandwagon comes along With glitter, hype and tempting song, Don’t jump and jive with all the rest— Older ways may still be best!

Knowledge builds the power base Compassion tempers—gives the grace Shrinks the problems into range, Even makes some systems change!

Have some fun along the way, Enjoy both work and time to play. This is how to keep your cool, And swim the bureaucratic pool.

Michele Day, PhD ’08, successfully defended her dissertation in July. Day is teaching in the School of Social Work at Missouri State University in Springfield this fall. Her doctoral work was supported through dissertation grants from the John A. Hartford Foundation and the American Cancer Society.

Jerrie Jacobs-Kenner, MSW ’96, PhD ’08, completed her dissertation on the reasons for changes in foster care placement. This is the only known study of its type in child welfare, and the data is now being used to inform the program improvement planning process of the Children’s Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services. Jerrie was the director of the SSW Program at William Woods University until moving last year to Central Mexico with her husband, Nelson, to teach English in elementary schools. Jerrie and Nelson returned to the U.S. in fall 2008.

Marlys R. Peck, BSW ’92, MSW ’93, completed her doctoral work at Mizzou in 2008 and is finishing her second year as assistant professor of social work at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

Stephanie Wilson Williams, MSW ’00, continues to work at Youth Villages in Jackson, Tenn., where she completed her master level internship. She is the adoption clinical supervisor for Youth Villages for all of Tennessee. “It’s great. I get to work with individual clients, families and staff from a clinical point of view, and really collaborate with other agencies and the court system. You can’t imagine the personal rewards and job satisfaction in seeing a teenager find permanency through adoption,” she said.

Carla Peters Johnson, LMSW-AP, BSW ’87, was promoted to program supervisor of the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Customer Service Center for the Office of Attorney General of Texas. The center handles phone calls from customers who have child support cases.
Robin R. Wingo, MSW ’89, joined the Department of Social Work at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 2001 and was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2007. Her teaching includes child and family welfare services, an international social work course, and co-ordination of the undergraduate field education program.

In 2006, Wingo was named director of field education for a new MSW program, CSWE Candidacy, and is working to develop MSW field sites and supervisors in rural southern Minnesota. During 1995-2001, she taught various undergraduate and graduate courses as a clinical instructor at the University of Missouri.

She and her husband enjoy spending time with friends and family at their lake house and traveling to 15-plus countries, including China this summer.

Lisa Rothstein, BSW 2002, has lived in Baltimore since graduation. She earned her MSW from the University of Maryland-Baltimore in 2003 and an MA in Jewish Communal Service from Baltimore Hebrew University in 2004.

Rothstein is a family and youth educator at Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia, Md., midway between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. She will begin her fourth year as a sociology instructor at Villa Julie College, a small liberal arts school just north of Baltimore.

In October 2006, Rothstein married Matthew Goldberg, who is a worker’s compensation attorney.

Elizabeth Stallone-Lowder, BSW ’99, earned her MSW at Saint Louis University in 2004 and her LCSW in 2006. She is a therapist in clinical social work at Safe Connections (formerly Women’s Support and Community Services), where she assists female survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She is married to Michael Lowder and has a two-year-old daughter, Claire.

Like many high school graduates, “When first beginning college, I wasn’t sure what discipline I wanted to pursue,” she says. “I knew I wanted to be involved in advocacy work, public speaking, teaching, therapy and many other endeavors. Social work was a perfect fit. It allows me to do a little bit of everything.

“The life lessons I learned during my practicum at the Boone Country Prosecutor’s Office as a crime victim advocate intern were invaluable,” Stallone-Lowder says. “As I’ve grown professionally, I’ve come to realize the immense responsibility I experienced as an intern. The School of Social Work also helped shape who I am personally. I have learned to be a strong advocate for others and for myself.”

Betty Marver, MSW ’71, is chief program officer at Grace Hill Settlement House in St. Louis. She was recently selected by the St. Louis Sentinel Journal Newspaper as the Social Service Worker of the Year. Betty welcomes the opportunity to reconnect with other alumni; her e-mail is bmarver@gracehill.org.

Jim Brady, MSW ’78, has been the director of the Missouri Lawyers Assistance Program since April 2005. He works for The Missouri Bar, headquartered in Jefferson City, Mo.

Brady provides employee-assistance services to lawyers, judges, law students and their families regarding problems that interfere with their personal or professional success. Brady provides assessment, in-person and telephone counseling, referral and connection to lawyer volunteers around the state.

His cases include substance dependence, depression, marital and family issues, burnout, stress and a wide variety of other problems. “Lawyers struggling with personal impairments face not only their own misery, but risk mistakes and complications that threaten their clients’ outcomes and their professional reputations. It’s important to deal assertively with these situations for the well-being both of the lawyers and their clients,” notes Brady.

Brady credits both his social work training and experience in preparing him for this position. “I still use models and theories I learned in school all the time,” he says. “Family systems theories, grief work, and problem-solving models get trotted out all the time.”

“My work experience in a wide variety of settings has been so helpful, because the issues my clients bring to me are so wide ranging. My Social Work degree has made it possible for me to have that breadth of experience.”

Roughly a third of MoLAP cases involve alcohol problems. “I can make an excellent case that all social work is addiction work,” insists Brady. “Think of the high percentages of social work clients in all settings who have, or are deeply wounded by, addiction. All social workers need to be very knowledgeable about addiction treatment.”

The Lawyer Assistance Program maintains an 800 number, which brings most new cases to the program. Brady also receives referrals from the Board of Law
Off-campus MSW program

Southeast Missouri and beyond

In response to the needs of rural communities for advanced social work education opportunities, MU offers off-campus MSW programs in three areas of the state within the area of Clinical Practice. The southeast Missouri program was the first of three off-campus MSW programs.

All of the off-campus programs use a cohort model of education, where students take most of the coursework together.

Linda Hillemann has coordinated the Southeast Off-Campus MSW Program since it began in 1998. “We have graduated approximately 130 people in the first three cohorts and we have 44 in the current cohort, which is the fourth,” she says. “We are accepting applications now for our fifth one,” which will begin in January 2009.

Typically, two courses are offered each semester, either in person, online, through ITV or a combination of any of these instructional technologies.

The southeast program works with Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and University of Missouri Extension Telecommunication Centers sites at Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Mineral Area Community College in Park Hills, Mo.; and the MO Delta Center in Portageville.

Instructors include faculty from the Columbia campus and local faculty members. Local program coordinators are onsite during ITV broadcasts to answer questions, provide support and address program issues. Classrooms, library and computer resources are provided by the local institutions. Students must have access to independent computer resources in order to complete a significant amount of required online coursework.

Stephanie Williams, MSW ’00, who graduated from southeast’s first cohort, says, “I really liked how the program worked around our schedules for setting up the class time. Thursday nights and Saturday mornings allowed me to continue to work full-time in the field. It was also great in the sense that I was able to apply what I was learning—almost like having a lab with your classes.”

She continues, “In hindsight, I think the greatest benefit I have seen is taking Paul Sundet’s class on supervising and management. I refer to it all the time. It’s great to have a teacher who not only teaches the book/techniques, but is also able to be realistic and prepare you for what may come in the work force, while working within the Social Worker’s Code of Ethics. I also greatly enjoyed the friendships and fun we had!”

Caren Mell, MSW ’00, also speaks highly of the program. “The off-campus program has allowed many doors to open for me that would not have been possible otherwise. When I entered the program I had a husband, teenage son and full-time job at a school. Before the end of the first semester, I learned that I was pregnant with our second child.

“With the support of a great group of carpool friends, not only was I able to graduate, but also with honors! After graduation and completion of my licensure, I began quite a journey. I was able to do contract therapy while still working at the school full-time. This added income more than paid my school loan. Then I decided to leave my full-time job in order to have a more flexible schedule by just doing contract therapy with the Children’s Home. This opened another door for me—I am now the director of Farmington Children’s Home, a job that I thoroughly enjoy.

“If not for the off-campus program and the inspiration of Dr. Joanne Mermelstein, whom I grew to have much adoration for, I do not know if I would have ever reached such fulfillment in my career.”

Jennifer Beard, MSW 2007, says, “One of the things I liked best about the off-campus program is that it allowed me to continue to work full time and go to school. With the classes in the evening and on Saturdays, it didn’t interfere with my normal work day. I also liked the fact that we were taught by instructors from both Mizzou and SEMO. I was able to do my practicum where I currently work, and this helped me to transition smoothly into the job that I currently have as a case manager.

“I think the off-campus program is unique in that we never actually set foot onto the Mizzou campus, but we had access to almost everything that a student on campus would have access to. I felt a lot of support from the staff at Mizzou and the instructors.”
Eden O'Connor’s MSW block placement was an international experience, as well as an educational one. She was placed in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from January to May 2008, as an intern in the Women’s Support Network (WSN).

She found out about the opportunity through casual research in the library. “About a year and a half ago, I happened by chance to discover the Women’s Support Network. I was in the women’s studies section of the library looking for a book when I came across The Space Between Us. This book discussed organizations, including WSN, that work with women from different communities. This introduction to WSN sparked an interest that eventually led to my internship with the organization.”

Suzanne Cary, director of field education at Mizzou SSW, explained that approval for this overseas practicum was similar to a local practicum. “After Eden had identified where she wanted to complete her practicum, it was just a matter of making sure the agency and the supports met CSWE (Council for Social Work Education) and MU SSW field guidelines,” Cary says. “In addition, after speaking with WSN staff, it was obvious that Eden would be exposed to many new social work experiences and would have excellent opportunities to further her professional growth. We also knew that Kristy McManus would make a great field instructor for Eden.”

The last piece of the puzzle was locating an appropriate faculty liaison to oversee O’Connor’s practicum. Judith Simpson at Queen’s University in Belfast agreed to become Eden’s faculty liaison. After speaking with Ms. Simpson, it was determined that our criteria, paperwork and goals for field practicum are very similar,” Cary says. “That was all we needed to solidify the plan. Information about our program was sent to all parties and I followed Eden’s progress throughout the semester.”

O’Connor says, “WSN is an umbrella organization of more than 40 community-based women’s groups and organizations in Northern Ireland. We work at the local, regional and national levels to advocate for members, which in turn benefits the greater women’s sector and women throughout the area. The network’s mission is to support the development of women’s organizations, enable collective action and positively impact policy and decision-making processes.”

The placement in Belfast exceeded O’Connor’s expectations. “Everyone at WSN has been great,” she says. “I am fortunate to be included in many events and meetings. The staff often works with other agencies and government representatives, which has led to many learning opportunities for me. It has been a rewarding experience to see the women’s sector in action. We have worked with politicians, collaborated with a number of different organizations and coordinated events in order to affect change in Northern Ireland.

“In addition, they are invite my opinion on many issues. I appreciate that. I think this placement is a great op-
O'Connor says working at WSN has given her a new perspective on issues affecting women, as well as different ways in which those issues are being addressed. “While visiting centers and learning about their projects, I came to recognize the potential of such activities in communities in the U.S.,” she says. “The network and all its members are really an extraordinary example for other women’s sectors.”

“While at WSN, I have been involved in a number of projects. One of particular interest to me is the workplace violence policy that specifically addresses domestic violence. Adopting a policy like this not only recognizes the importance of supporting those who have been victimized, but also the pervasiveness of the problem.

“The WSN policy outlines a number of ways that the network can support survivors of domestic violence. These include developing a workplace safety plan, relocating workspace, and a flexible schedule, among other means of support. In addition, the policy also holds accountable those employees who use the workplace—or its resources—to threaten or commit acts of domestic violence.

Hopefully, this is one of many policies of this kind that will be adopted by employers to strengthen the rights of survivors of domestic violence.”

Transportation was something of a challenge when O’Connor arrived in Ireland. “I have figured out how to get around town without getting terribly lost. I just had to remember to wait for the bus on the right side of the street (which seems wrong to me!).”

This placement in Ireland was not O’Connor’s first trip abroad. She studied in Venezuela as an undergraduate and traveled in Europe.

In May 2008, O’Connor received her MSW. She plans to return to Iowa where she’ll spend time with family and search for a job where she can apply her social work training.

Social Work doctoral student Kirsten Havig presented a research poster titled “What the Body Remembers, We Cannot Forget” at MU’s interdisciplinary Body Project conference in April in Columbia. The poster represented information from her recently published article in the Journal of Trauma, Violence, and Abuse. She has completed her doctoral coursework and looks forward to the dissertation process. During the 2007-08 year, Kirsten worked as an MU research assistant in the School of Social Work and as a graduate teaching assistant for Women’s and Gender Studies. In fall 2009, she will be an MU research assistant in the School of Social Work. Her two bachelor’s degrees are from MU, and her MSW is from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

(Photograph by Stefanie Wortman)
Outstanding BSW Student

Alisha Waller is described as creative, intuitive and assertive—all valuable traits for a professional social worker. She received her BSW in December 2007 and is now translating her classroom skills into real-world practice while working for Second Nature wilderness therapy camp in Utah, where she works with youth campers who struggle with issues such as drug abuse, eating disorders and abuse recovery. After her wedding, Waller plans to enter the Peace Corps with her husband and attend graduate school to become a therapist.

Outstanding MSW Student

Karen A. Enyard has worked in health care as a nurse and a social worker for 20 years with specialized experience in geriatrics and dementia. She is now working toward her master’s degree and plans to graduate in 2009. Enyard has worked with diverse populations in her career, but her focus and her heart lies with the elderly. From here, Enyard would like to pursue opportunities to advocate for changes in laws that could enhance the lives of the elderly population.

Outstanding PhD Student

Michele L. Day’s commitment to the provision of quality social work services began in practice settings, where she devoted nearly two decades. Day values social work education, as demonstrated by her previous work as an instructor and supervisor of clinical experience for the Title IV-E program. Perhaps most noteworthy are Day’s accomplishments as a researcher and author. She has received numerous honors recognizing her research, including the John A. Hartford awards.

Outstanding Faculty

Martha Markward, PhD, has been on the MU School of Social Work faculty since 2000. She has taught in the MSW program and currently serves as director of doctoral studies. Markward was the faculty mentor and dissertation chair for the first two PhD graduates of the school. Perhaps most important, Markward’s “extra mile” attitude is reflected by her consistently high ratings on student evaluations.

Outstanding Social Service Agency

Boys & Girls Town of Missouri has been a leader in providing specialized treatment programs and services for troubled girls and boys from birth to age 21. Boys & Girls Town is one of the largest children’s agencies in the state, making a difference for more than 5,200 children and family members each year. Beyond the children they serve directly, Boys & Girls Town continues to advocate for public policy that benefits all children in residential services.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Since 1979, Dasi Schlup has been a social worker at University Hospital, where she has advanced the issue of pediatric palliative care to new levels in the facility and the community. For the past 15 years, her work has been dedicated to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and high-risk obstetrics. She is a cofounder of the local Ronald McDonald House, an agency that provides services to countless patients and families for all Columbia health care facilities. She is also a hospital representative of the International Breast Feeding project that sends breast milk to orphans in Africa living with HIV/AIDS.

Nominations for 2009 awards are being accepted until Dec. 1. (See pg. 15.)

(Left) Cindy Burks of Boys & Girls Town, Outstanding Social Service Agency.

(Right) Spring Forum panel: Kecia Nelson, MSW, LCSW, University of Missouri Healthcare; Terry Mackey, MSW, LCSW, President of the Arthur Center; Terri Marty, MSW, LCSW, Fulton State Hospital; keynote speaker Tonya Edmond, PhD, Washington University, who spoke on Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work.

Photos by Fresa Jacobs
Greetings from Board of Directors!

The School of Social Work Alumni Organization (SSWAO) was proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of our award recipients at the 2008 Spring Forum. In addition to the distinguished awardees, the Board of Directors would also like to acknowledge the entire SSWAO membership who contributed to a record-setting year for the organization. More new members joined the SSWAO during the 2007-2008 activity year than any other previous year. The Board extends its gratitude to Past-President Kathryn Oberg Roberts, MSW ’02, for her dynamic and inspirational leadership over the last two years. She was the driving force behind our numerous activities and membership recruitment. The Board is also pleased to announce that the SSWAO achieved HONORS status from the Mizzou Alumni Association (MAA) for meeting goals in six guidepost areas. This is the tenth year in a row that we have earned this distinction. Achieving HONORS status increases the budget allocation our organization receives for services and sponsorship of events for school advancement, student support, alumni outreach and advocacy.

We hope these accomplishments will give you more reasons to be proud of your connection with the MU School of Social Work. We also hope you’ll be encouraged to engage with the School, the students, and the alumni in a new and meaningful way in the coming year. Let me provide you with a few suggestions. If you are not already a member, please consider supporting the School through membership in the SSWAO. A membership application is provided on page 16, or you can join online at www.mizzou.com. Please include referral code “USA” on your application. This identifies you with the School of Social Work and not only ensures that a portion of your dues goes to the SSWAO, but also that you’ll be included on our list of contacts for future events and outreach. For one price, you will be a member of the SSWAO and the MAA, which provides you with special discounts, school updates and notices, the annual wall calendar and connection with 37,000 other Mizzou grads. Your tax-deductible dues make it possible for us to help sponsor the SSW Annual Fall Conference, the Spring Forum, the printing and postage of this publication, Student/Family Weekend Pancake Breakfast, Winter Faculty Breakfast and a Founders’ Day celebration. Most of all, we welcome your personal participation in these events and other alumni activities.

Another opportunity for involvement is to submit nominations for the Annual Alumni Awards. Since 1995, these awards are the highest honor bestowed upon the school’s alumni, faculty, and students each year by the SSWAO. Consider nominating your field student, a coworker, a colleague or your agency. Submission deadline for the 2009 award program is Dec. 1, 2008. Awards will be presented at the Spring Forum. Download forms from the school’s website at ssw.missouri.edu/awards.shtml.

If you have any questions about the SSWAO or how you can be involved, please contact Deborah Simmons, SSW executive staff assistant, at 573-882-4447 or simmonsd@missouri.edu.

With pride and gratitude,

Brenda Sites, MSW ’98, SSWAO President

SSW Alumni Association: Front row, from left: Kathryn Oberg Roberts, Suzanne Cary, Dr. Margie Sable, Vicki Keller, Brenda Sites. Back row, from left: Angela Greer, Bob Dieckhoff, Jim Brady, Stephen Hick, Carrie Lanham. (Photo by Brenda Sites)
Join the MU School of Social Work Alumni Organization!

Send your registration to SSWAO Staff Liaison, 729 Clark Hall, MU School of Social Work, Columbia, MO 65211.

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<td>True Tiger (current MU student)</td>
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Full name: __________________________________________ Maiden/former name(s): _______________________

Student number: ____________________ Degree(s) and years(s) received: __________________________

Mailing address: __________________________________________

Preferred e-mail address: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Make checks payable to: Mizzou Alumni Association

Or charge: (circle one) Visa MasterCard Discover

Card number: __________________ Expiration: ___________ Signature: __________________________

Send us your alumni update: ________________________________________________________________

Membership in the SSWAO also gives you full membership in the Mizzou Alumni Association, and a portion of the membership dues goes directly to the School of Social Work.