Social Work Notes Spring 2008

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Social Work Notes is published twice yearly by the MU School of Social Work. Its main purpose is to inform alumni and friends about the research, activities and events at the School of Social Work and to publish news about alumni. All rights to reproduction of any material printed in Social Work Notes are reserved for the magazine.

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Table of Contents

Director’s Message ........................................ 4
In the News .................................................... 5
Faculty Publications ...................................... 8
Exciting Changes at the School ..................... 9
Events Review ............................................. 10
Social Workers in the Spotlight
Paul Gemeinhardt, MSW ‘69 ................................. 11
Paula Sydnor Hubbard, MSW ‘84 ......................... 12
Jane Bierdeman-Fike, MSW ................................. 12
Student Spotlights
Karla Washington, MSW ‘00 ................................. 14
In the Field: Sara Shetley ..................................... 14
2007 Annual Alumni Awards
Recipients of the 2007 Outstanding Awards .......... 15
MU School of Social Work
Alumni Organization .................................... 17
Class Notes ................................................... 18

On the Cover: On Oct. 19, 2007 the Mizzou Alumni Association dedicated the Mizzou Legacy Walk. The School of Social Work Alumni Organization donated a brick with the inscription, “In Honor of Social Work Alumni,” to celebrate the incredible work performed by our social work alumni and to pay tribute to future graduates of the school. The walk is located at the north entrance of the Reynolds Alumni Center. Photo by Nicholas Benner/MU Publications
Greetings from the MU School of Social Work! We are pleased to bring you this issue of Social Work Notes. Featured in these pages are spotlights on some of our faculty, alumni, students and friends.

There have been several changes in faculty and staff personnel since our last newsletter. Dr. Colleen Galambos stepped down as director, and I have been serving as the interim director while a national search is underway. We celebrated with Drs. Judith Davenport and Erma Ballenger as they retired from the faculty. With their retirements came some changes in leadership in the BSW, MSW, and PhD program directors as well as the director of field instruction. In addition, Dr. Dianne Orton is assisting in our development efforts.

We added a new site to our off-campus MSW program and welcome Sara Carmer, MSW ’93, as its coordinator. Our off-campus programs in north central, northwest, and southeast Missouri have 95 students enrolled! Our Title IV-E traineeships have been re-directed to these rural areas where MSW level social workers are so greatly needed. We also started a part-time, on-campus MSW program.

The PhD program started in 2001 continues to grow. As you will read in these pages, we have now graduated five PhD students and the program has 19 students enrolled. We are very proud of this program and of our students, many of whom are publishing in peer-reviewed journals and competing successfully for grants.

Faculty and students continue to work with interdisciplinary initiatives and programs on campus such as the Interdisciplinary Center on Aging, the Center on Religion and the Professions, and the Center for Health Policy. We are developing a dual MSW/MPH degree with the new public health program and are close to finalizing a dual MSW/JD degree with the law school. These dual degrees will provide broader perspectives and interdisciplinary training to MSW students.

We are excited about planning for a move to the old Student Health Center, targeted for 2010. Dianne Orton and I are working with our steering committee to kick off our capital campaign in the fall. An architectural studies design class is using the building as a class project to develop architectural plans that we can use in our campaign materials. We are thinking outside the box in designing a building for the education of the next generation of social workers!

As we are all aware, domestic violence is pervasive. One of our southeast Missouri off-campus program alums, Tiffany Raines (McFarland), was tragically killed by her ex-husband. In response, the school sponsored a workshop, “The Social Work Role in Domestic Violence Homicide Risk Reduction”, held in Malden, Mo., conducted by Dr. Fran Danis. Tiffany’s family attended the event. Dr. Danis’ class on domestic violence continues to be a popular class and draws students from across the Mizzou campus.

We hope that you will join us for our Spring Forum in April. Dr. Tonya Edmond from the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University will be our keynote speaker on the topic of evidence-based practice. Plans are underway for our Fall Conference on the theme of ethics in social work practice. For more information about school events, please consult our Web site at ssw.missouri.edu.

Finally, I want to thank all of our loyal alumni who made financial contributions to the School of Social Work in 2007. I encourage everyone to remember the school when making charitable contributions. An envelope is attached to this newsletter for your convenience. Your support is so very much appreciated by all of us here. If you have questions about making a donation or a bequest, please contact Dianne Orton at 573-882-4050 or OrtonD@missouri.edu.

Warm regards and best wishes to all in our Mizzou School of Social Work community.

Marjorie R. Sable
Interim Director
Kim Anderson, assistant professor, received a Fahs-Beck Fellowship in January of 2007. This award will help Kim in her research of adult children of battered women.

Nan Chamberlain, MSW ’07, received the 2008 Missouri Department of Mental Health Mental Health’s Champion Award for the work she has done to reduce the stigma of and promote recovery from mental illness. She is currently employed at Options Unlimited/Arthur Center in Mexico, Mo. as a qualified mental health professional and community support worker.

Kay Conklin, MSW ’80, instructor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at MU’s School of Medicine, was appointed in the summer of 2006 to a three-year term of office on the board of directors for Citizens for Missouri’s Children. In addition to her faculty appointment, Conklin also served as the director of Interdisciplinary Training, TIPS for Kids Training Grant, a federally funded grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Citizens for Missouri’s Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest organization that advocates for public policy that puts children first. Priorities are child protection, early care and education, health and mental health care and youth development.

Fran Danis, associate professor, and Linda Hillemann, clinical instructor, provided a daylong workshop on Dec. 7, 2007 in Malden, Mo. that focused on enhancing the knowledge and skills of social workers to effectively screen, assess and intervene in relationships marked by domestic violence. The workshop was a memorial for MSW alumna Tiffany Raines (McFarland).

In August 2007, Associate Professor Fran Danis was appointed to a three-year term as the chairperson for the Council of Social Work Educators’ Commission on Professional Development. As chair of the commission, Fran is also an ex-officio member of the CSWE Board of Directors.

MSW student, Meredith Evans, was awarded one of five nationally competitive internships at the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Beginning January 2007, Colleen Galambos, professor, is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Social Work Education. JSWE is the leading journal for social work education in the US and most of the world.

Dan Hanneken, MSW student in the policy, planning & administration concentration, won first place in the third annual Trulaske College of Business New Venture Idea Competition. His innovative program, In2Action, is designed to strategically increase employment opportunities for ex-offenders. Hanneken’s idea was awarded a $400 prize in the graduate nonprofit category.

Sara Harrier, MSW ’07, was one of only seven selected internationally for a Congressional Fellow on Women and Public Policy from the Women’s Research and Education Institute in Washington, D.C.

Mike Kelly, professor, was named the co-editor of Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education in August 2007.

Malinda Lamb, PhD ’05, MSW ’00, BSW ’98, accepted a position in May 2007 with the 6th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services as the clinical services manager. She oversees a new 26-bed correctional residential facility for individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

In October 2006, Gov. Matt Blunt appointed Laura M. Neal, BSW ’98, director of oncology social work and patient support at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, to the State Committee for Social Workers. Neal holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Missouri and a masters of social work and public health from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor. Neal’s appointment is subject to Senate confirmation for a term ending Oct. 23, 2009.

In May 2007, Laura Pingry became our second PhD graduate and Andrew Muriuki our third and first international graduate! Jinman Kyonne became the fourth graduate in June and Lia Willis the fifth in December. Thanks to Drs. Martha Markward, Marjorie Sable, Mike Kelly and John Hodges for their leadership!
Moving Up

United Way of Greater St. Louis recently announced the advancement of Orvin Kimbrough, MSW '00, BSW '98, vice president of major gifts, to his new position as Senior Vice President of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. The new position is effective January 1, 2008. Kimbrough began with United Way in January 2007 and made great strides in his first year. As Vice President of Major Gifts, Kimbrough was responsible for supervising a team of major gifts staff, training volunteers to support campaign efforts, providing strategic direction and relationship building.

Lynette Renner, assistant professor, and Paul Sundet, professor emeritus, are co-investigators on performance-based contracting with the Missouri Department of Social Services.


Doctoral student Seema Sehrawat was awarded an $8,000 Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) International Peace Scholarship (IPS). The PEO-IPS Fund was established in 1949 to provide scholarships for international female students to pursue graduate study in the United States and Canada. She was also awarded $2,000 from the Interdisciplinary Center on Aging to examine the relationship between personal and facility determinants and level of involvement in formal and informal activities among older adults. Seema received the Jane Bierdeman Fike Doctoral Fellowship in Social Work, University of Missouri, in 2007–08.

Nathan Stephens, MSW '05, assumed the responsibility of director of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center in May 2006. Nathan previously worked within the community mentoring teens.

Doctoral student Denise Swenson, MSW '01, is a John A. Hartford Pre-Dissertation Awardee. Denise's proposal was entitled “Social Work and End of Life Care.” This award is her area of interest and consistent with her research agenda as a doctoral student.

In February 2007, Wilson J. Watt, associate professor, was appointed to the Community Services Advisory Commission for the City of Columbia. The commission advises the mayor and city council on needed expansion of community social services and reviews all requests for city funding from social/community service agencies in Columbia.

In fall 2007, Elizabeth Wilson, MSW '95, BSW '92, left the school to become the director of the William Woods University social work program.
Social Policy class learning experiences

Students in associate professor Fran Danis’ new MSW advanced social policy class, Community Organizing for Social Change, spent a day at the Missouri Capitol learning about the legislative process. In addition to touring the Capitol they met with MSW graduates Lori Strong-Goeke, MSW ’90, BSW ’88, and Bill Boies, MSW ’03, of the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning and Nancie McAnaugha, MSW ’97, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The students heard presentations on social work skills necessary for influencing state policy, legislative bill drafting and career opportunities. The focus of this new course is on social work macro practice with emphasis on planning, organizing and developing communities, engaging diverse populations in social change, and participative political advocacy. The trip to the Capitol helped prepare students for a written assignment requiring them to propose new legislation for Missouri that can create new programs, suggest new policies, or fix policies that serve as structural barriers to social and economic justice. *

Pregnancy Intention and HIV Prevention in South Africa

Human Environmental Sciences Associate Dean and School of Social Work Interim Director Marjorie Sable and Professor Kay Libbus of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing traveled to South Africa in June 2007 to study the role of pregnancy intention on HIV prevention. They worked with researchers from the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town.

HIV transmission from mother to child during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding is one of the driving forces of the AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in South Africa rose from less than 1 percent in 1990 to 29 percent in 2006, varying by region. It is important to understand pregnancy intention among people who are HIV positive to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the disease.

Many people infected with HIV continue to be sexually active and are faced with difficult decisions regarding reproduction. Sable’s research team conducted focus groups to determine attitudes about becoming pregnant and having children, social influences on these decisions and people’s perceived control over pregnancy. The focus groups involved women and men in rural KwaZulu Natal Province, where the HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women is 39 percent.

The research team found social, health and other factors contribute to reproductive decisions, including widespread poverty, gender violence, religious beliefs, racial mistrust, cultural taboos and social stigma attached to the diagnosis of HIV. Results of the study are being compiled, and Sable and Libbus are seeking funding from NIH for follow-up research. *

Social Work Notes | 7


Exciting Changes at the School of Social Work

The School of Social Work is working toward creating two dual degree options for our masters of social work students. The details are not yet finalized, but the process is moving forward and we hope to be able to offer them by next year. One of the dual degrees would be created in cooperation with the University of Missouri’s Master in Public Health (MPH) program. The MPH program trains practitioners, teachers, researchers and administrators to plan, implement and evaluate programs aimed at enhancing health in human populations through organized effort on the local, state and national levels. The other dual degree collaboration would be with the University of Missouri’s School of Law. The degree would be an MSW-JD. The MU Law School offers its students a broad and balanced perspective on the law and legal institutions to prepare students for a wide range of career options in law, as well as alternative careers anywhere in the country.

Two new MSW program options have been added in 2007. The first is a formal part-time program for the Columbia campus and the second is an off-campus program for north central Missouri.

The part-time master of social work program on the Columbia campus was developed in response to the needs of working adults who live in the mid-Missouri area and desire advanced social work education opportunities. The part-time MSW Program provides CSWE-accredited MSW courses during the evening (Monday-Thursday) and some weekend hours to the Columbia campus.

The north central Missouri MSW off-campus program is offered in collaboration with Truman State University in Kirksville and University of Missouri Extension Telecommunication Centers in Kirksville and Palmyra, the Brookfield Area Career Center in Macon and the Moberly Area Community College. Although the MU School of Social Work has offered off-campus programs in north central and southeast Missouri since 1999, the first north central cohort began its studies in January 2007. The off-campus programs offer rural Missouri communities the opportunity to attend MU without driving several hours to Columbia. Courses utilize both on-site instruction and instructional technology such as online courses and an ITV system (interactive television).

Colleen Galambos resigned as director of the school but remains on the faculty. Marjorie Sable is the interim director while a national search for a new director is under way. Dianne Orton assumed the director of undergraduate studies position after serving as director of field for 16 years. Marty Markward replaced Debbie Oliver as director of the PhD program. Carol Snively continues this year as director of the MSW program and director of off-campus programs.

Suzanne Cary is our new director of field instruction. She earned her MSW at MU in 1993 and worked in pediatrics at University Hospital for 14 years. She joined the MU SSW faculty in July 2007 and is eager to develop new practicum sites across the state. Her areas of interest are bereavement, field education and SIDS.

Sara Carmer joined the faculty in June 2007 as the program coordinator/clinical instructor for the north central Missouri off-campus program. She earned her MSW from the University of Missouri in 1993. Most of her 22 years of experience has been in the mental health field. Her areas of interest are rural social work, mental health and social work practice in geriatrics.

Angela Curl joined us in August of 2007 as an assistant professor. She earned her PhD from Case Western Reserve University in 2007 and her MSW from the University of Alabama in 1999. Her teaching interests include gerontology, international social work and social work administration. Angela’s areas of research include retirement, health of married couples, international gerontology and social work and technology.
After 27 years of service with the school, Erma Ballenger retired in May of 2007. She is currently the director of field education at Baylor University School of Social Work. Judith Davenport also retired last May after serving as the former Director of the School, Director of the Graduate and Off-Campus Programs.

All School Picnic - Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007
A welcome back to school picnic was held in the courtyard between Lewis and Clark halls. Around 85 students, faculty and staff enjoyed a Buckingham's catered picnic.

The BSW Student/Field Instructor Breakfast was held December 7. This was the culmination of the semester and the students’ field experience. More than 60 people attended the breakfast and enjoyed networking with students and social workers from multiple community agencies. Jerome Anderson, MSW ’01, (far left photo on right) from Boys and Girls Club of the Capital City, was named BSW Field Instructor of the Year. The School of Social Work is very fortunate to have access to such skilled and dedicated field instructors as we work together to educate future generations of social workers.
Social Work Notes

Paul Gemeinhardt, MSW ’69

Paul Gemeinhardt recalls that when he was a graduate student on the MU campus in the late 1960s, he experienced many of the revolutionary changes that were occurring across the country. The social and political events that happened around the civil rights movement, Vietnam and pop culture made for interesting discussion in his social work classes. Mental health funding initiatives at the federal level provided many students, including Paul, the opportunity to attend school on National Institute of Mental Health grants.

The Gemeinhardt family has many roots at Mizzou. Paul met his future wife, Louise, while they were both graduate students at the school. Louise finished her MSW in 1970 and works as a social worker in the medical area. Their daughter, Stacy, BSW ’01, is the head women’s softball coach at Iowa State University. Their son, Todd, is also an alumnus of the University of Missouri.

Upon graduation, Paul and Louise moved to the Kansas City area where they raised their family and pursued careers in social work. Paul began working as a clinician for Ozanam, a residential treatment program for boys, in 1969. Paul moved up in administration becoming Ozanam’s program director in 1973. In 1990, Paul became president of the Ozanam Foundation and in 1997 became president and CEO of Cornerstones of Care until his retirement in 2007.

Cornerstone of Care is the parent corporation for five primary youth care agencies that came together in partnership to create efficiencies so Cornerstone could respond more efficiently to clients’ needs while maintaining a high quality of care in the metro Kansas City area. The agencies Gillis, Ozanam, Marillac, Spofford and Health Families Counseling and Support are all located in Missouri and Kansas. At-risk children and youth, families, homeless and elders benefit from this collaborative effort.

In a time of limited resources, the success of Cornerstone is the ability for each of the participating agencies to retain their identity while offering diversified services to meet the changing needs of Cornerstone’s clients. Services offered by the agencies include substance abuse and mental health care on an inpatient and outpatient basis, transitional living, respite care, at-risk newborn intervention, foster care, adoption case management and therapeutic day camp.

The need for evidence-based practice and measurable outcomes are needed now more than ever before to compete for funding and to justify the need for programs. One misperception of small agencies — that they aren’t run like a business — just isn’t true Paul says, “because many agencies don’t have a profit margin, it is important that there is good management.”

Paul saw the need for COC to automate agency information to meet the complex needs of the agency that is spread across a network of more than 20 sites. Computer technology has provided the efficiency of caseworkers by having information available at their fingertips. In addition, software has also improved documentation that is scrutinized more than in the past.

Paul’s contributions to the profession are numerous. His leadership, vision and ability to conceptualize and implement treatment programs, capital campaigns and mergers reflect his many talents as a professional social worker.
For 50 years, Jane Bierdeman-Fike has touched many lives during her remarkable career as a professional social worker. Colleagues, former employees, civic leaders, politicians, students and patients who have had the opportunity to work with Jane can attest to her passion, commitment and dedication to social and economic justice issues, especially as they relate to chronically mentally ill offenders.

As director of psychiatric social work at Fulton State Hospital (FSH) for 38 years, Jane was a mentor, role model, leader, educator and friend to many employees and students. Jane became a state and national leader in developing forensic social work practice and was committed to providing culturally competent training to the staff. She estimates that FSH trained several hundred MU social work field instruction students. Since her retirement in 2000, Jane serves as a consultant for the FSH Cultural Competence Council that continues her work in this area.

Jane received her MSW degree from St. Louis University; however she has been a loyal supporter and friend of MU’s School of Social Work for many years in a number of capacities. She was an adjunct faculty member teaching social policy in the late 1960s and 1970s and was given the title of honorary instructor emerita upon her retirement from FSH. Jane has served on numerous committees and boards at the school and most recently became a member of the steering committee that is creating a capital campaign to help the school raise funds for renovation of the former Student Health Center located on Francis Quadrangle. Jane has been generous in her financial support of the school by establishing the Jane Bierdeman-Fike Doctoral Fellowship Fund in Social Work in support of the PhD program as well as being a member of two donor recognition societies.

Paula’s former classmates might be surprised to find out the diminutive social work student who took a domestic violence shelter internship wound up in a top position at one of the world’s largest oil companies.

But Paula, MSW ’84, vice president of human resources for British Petroleum Inc. in Chicago, says she uses her social work training every day. Whether handling emergency employee assistance or corporate downsizing in the top levels of management, Paula says the key is her ability to handle difficult people.

Paula recalls a former boss who asked her, “How is it that you can work with these difficult clients and nobody else can?” I said to him, ‘It’s all about the social work basics. It’s starting with where the client is.’ That’s exactly what I got in the School of Social Work.”

She remembers how nervous she was during her first role-playing exercise in a social work class at Mizzou. Despite some initial butterflies, Paula discovered she had a knack for helping clients identify the heart of a problem.

This gift led her from the domestic violence shelter to her current role, where she is often tapped as a confidante to top executives. She sometimes consults with managers who were promoted because they excel at their work, “but they don’t necessarily have a clue about how to manage people.” Business success, she says, is “less about knowing how to get the job done than being able to manage a team.”

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Jane was recently recognized as one of the most influential social workers in the United States by *Social Work Today* magazine. Her achievements are noteworthy and include:

- National Association of Social Worker’s Lifetime Achievement Award (2004)
- Social Worker for the Year Award, Missouri Chapter NASW (1995)
- University of Missouri Honorary Alumni Award for contributions to the School of Social Work (1991)
- Saint Louis University Social Services Alumni Merit Award (1991)
- William Woods University Plaque of Appreciation from the Social Work Program (1990)
- William Woods University Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters (2001)
- University of Missouri School of Social Work Executive of the Year Award (1988)
- Maryville College Recipient of Alumni Professional Achievement Award (1971)
- Maryville University Dean’s Award from the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Programs (2005).

Jane leads an active life filled with family, friends, travel and participation in a variety of community and professional organizations and associations. At 85 years, Jane continues to be a formidable force in her commitment in serving her community and academic social work programs across the state.
The Gerontological Society of America recently selected MU School of Social Work doctoral student Karla Washington as one of the newest recipients of the prestigious Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in geriatric social work. The program, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, is a component of the nationwide Geriatric Social Work Initiative, which seeks to expand the training of social workers in order to improve the health and well-being of older persons and their families. Each of the Hartford Doctoral Fellows receives a $50,000 dissertation grant plus $20,000 in matching support from their home institutions, which enables them to more fully concentrate on their dissertation research projects. Fellows also receive supplemental academic career guidance and mentoring, as well as professional development enabling them to more successfully launch an academic career in gerontology and social work.

Washington’s dissertation will explore the experiences of family caregivers of home hospice patients. Specifically, she will learn how individuals with non-medical backgrounds learn to manage their loved ones’ pain and how they address problems that arise in the pain management process. “Through my work as a research assistant for Dr. Debra Parker Oliver, I have learned that family caregivers of hospice patients are expected to assess pain, follow a prescribed pain management protocol, and administer medications that they may have been told throughout their lives are dangerous,” explains Washington. “Because of our unique education and training, social workers are ideally equipped to help family caregivers explore how their unique values, beliefs, culture and personal histories impact the strategies that they use to manage their loved ones’ pain.”

Washington’s accomplishment is the latest in a growing history of honors bestowed upon MU School of Social Work faculty and students by the John A. Hartford Foundation in recognition of the school’s strong commitment to preparing social workers to practice effectively in an ever-aging society. Previous Hartford honorees include doctoral students Michele Day (Pre-Dissertation Awardee - Cohort I, Doctoral Fellow – Cohort VI), Denise Swenson (Pre-Dissertation Awardee – Cohort III), and Washington, who was a Cohort II Pre-Dissertation Awardee prior to being selected as a Doctoral Fellow. Associate Professor Debra Parker Oliver was selected as a Hartford Faculty Scholar in 2004, and the newest member of the MU School of Social Work faculty, Assistant Professor Angela Curl, completed her dissertation research at Case Western Reserve University with funding from the Hartford Doctoral Fellowship program.

In the Field: Sara Shetley

Hundreds of superhero and fantasy character costumes hung in the kitchen of the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City. Sarah Shetley brought in parents one by one to select which costumes would suit their children’s size and interests for this Halloween.

Shetley, a social work major at University of Missouri, said this service to the needy in the mid-Missouri community falls in with other worthwhile projects the center takes on, such as the medical and dental clinic, the clothing room and legal or tax assistance.

“It’s great for kids in schools so they don’t feel left out,” Shetley said.

The extras from month-to-month like Halloween costumes or a Thanksgiving meal can be costly, said mother Christy Muir. She and her grandmother, Virginia Bowman, picked out a Batman, a cheerleader and a furry bear costume for her three children — Robert, 8; Kaylee, 4; and Cayden, 22 months.

“We don’t have a lot of extra money for Halloween,” Muir said. “Putting three in costumes would be very costly.”

Yet without the Samaritan Center’s help, Muir said she would have had to make the money work somehow or get creative to budget things at home.

“This is pretty important to them, to be able to dress up and go out and have fun,” said Muir, who generally takes her children to the church festivals and door-to-door trick-or-treating.

The Samaritan Center benefits from a couple of benefactors who dedicate a donation specifically to this project, and also from costume donations from the community, said Ben DeFeo, community outreach specialist.

More than 7,000 children in the center’s database meet the eligibility requirements for the Halloween costumes and Christmas Adopt-a-family program.

In 2006, more than 180 costumes were distributed in the first three days.

Web link: www.midmosamaritan.org

Reprinted with permission of the Jefferson City New Tribune.
Andrew Muriuki has been an excellent student and leader in the School of Social Work PhD community. He was the first international PhD student and has assisted the others who have followed. During his first year at MU, he volunteered at the International Center to help organize the international student orientation for new students. The following year he participated on the university’s International Education Week Committee to help educate the local community about the cultures and traditions of students at MU. Andrew worked with the International Center to create an online international student survey to capture some of the problems and unmet needs of these students while at MU. In response to the concerns of isolation and lack of communication, he collaborated with the International Center and Thitinun Boonseng to create the Online International Community bulletin board to encourage reaching out among the international student community. In addition, Andrew assisted Dr. Debra Oliver in creating a virtual community Web site to facilitate and maintain connections with PhD students living outside Columbia. Andrew’s dissertation research was on adolescent health and its interaction with household environment and the impact of HIV/AIDS on adolescent-headed households in Africa. After working on a research project investigating disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system, his interest has increased to include at-risk minority youth population in the U.S. household and communities influences. Andrew is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee School of Social Work.

Outstanding MSW Student

Kristin Baker has maintained an outstanding academic record and was recently inducted into the Chi Delta chapter of the Phi Alpha honor society.

Outstanding BSW Student

Gayle Ervin is the Outstanding BSW Student of the year because of her academic excellence and community involvement. She has participated in volunteer activities ranging from being a crisis volunteer for the Mid-Missouri Crisis Line to being a mentor with Women of Worth. She also served as the vice president of the Council of Student Social Workers for the School of Social Work. Gayle completed a field placement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Columbia and made a lasting impression on both the children and the staff. During her internship, Gayle was organized, hard working and willing to take on any task given to her. She planned a highly successful Halloween party for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and even recruited her fellow CSSW members to help with the event. Gayle plans to continue her education and pursue an MSW.

Outstanding PhD Student

Andrew Muriuki has been an excellent student and leader in the School of Social Work PhD community. He was the first international PhD student and has assisted the others who have followed. During his first year at MU, he volunteered at the International Center to help organize the international student orientation for new students. The following year he participated on the university's International Education Week Committee to help educate the local community about the cultures and traditions of students at MU. Andrew worked with the International Center to create an online international student survey to capture some of the problems and unmet needs of these students while at MU. In response to the concerns of isolation and lack of communication, he collaborated with the International Center and Thitinun Boonseng to create the Online International Community bulletin board to encourage reaching out among the international student community. In addition, Andrew assisted Dr. Debra Oliver in creating a virtual community Web site to facilitate and maintain connections with PhD students living outside Columbia. Andrew’s dissertation research was on adolescent health and its interaction with household environment and the impact of HIV/AIDS on adolescent-headed households in Africa. After working on a research project investigating disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system, his interest has increased to include at-risk minority youth population in the U.S. household and communities influences. Andrew is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee School of Social Work.
Outstanding Faculty

Elizabeth Wilson has served as a clinical instructor in both the BSW and MSW programs and assisted with the field supervision of students for the School of Social Work. As a clinical instructor, Elizabeth has shared her passion for victim’s advocacy and was responsible for bringing the Missouri Victim’s Assistance Academy to the University of Missouri in 2004. Students were able to attend this academy alongside working professionals to receive graduate level credit. She also demonstrated this passion by collaborating with students on a toy drive for victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Elizabeth’s commitment to and support of her students extends beyond the classroom and does not end when they graduate. She exemplifies the belief that social workers share by giving back to their communities. Elizabeth is one of Mizzou’s own. She earned her BS, MSW, and is currently working on her PhD at the MU School of Social Work. Elizabeth’s commitment to the school, college and university has also been honored by the Division of Student Affairs Excellence in Education Award and the College of Human Environmental Science’s Outstanding Faculty Service Award.

Outstanding Alumni

Paula Richards received a bachelor of arts in psychology and sociology from the University of Missouri and then went on to earn her MSW work in 1982. Since then, Paula has had a distinguished career of social work service in health care and hospice settings. She is a member of the National Hospice Organization Council of Hospice Professionals and has served on the social work steering committee and the social work competency evaluation committee for this organization. She served on the Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association Board of Directors, Education Committee, and Subcommittee on Social Work Education. She is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Association of Oncology Social Workers. Paula has provided training for hospice professionals, volunteers, nursing home staff and the public; participated as a team member on many agency and community-wide interdisciplinary teams; and developed and coordinated fundraising projects for hospice programs. She has focused not only on her own career development through service to many professional organizations, but has also supported her fellow social workers by supervising social work students in placement and other social workers for licensure. Paula’s support of the social work profession is also evident in her commitment to the MU School of Social Work. She has been a member of the Alumni Organization since 1990. She took a very active role in the association by serving on the School of Social Work Alumni Organization board of directors for the last 10 years and served as president of this board from 2002 to 2004.

Outstanding Social Service Agency

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center has a long history of the involvement of highly-skilled oncology social workers to enhance the care of cancer patients and their families, and more importantly, to serve as the system navigator and partner to the patient and family in their greatest time of need. Ellis Fischel currently employs two outstanding social workers that function within the Patient and Family Services Department. Due to their dedication and high skill level, they are able to meet the myriad of needs on a daily basis of cancer patients and their families. Over the past year, this department began to include more comprehensive services such as the addition of lymphedema rehabilitation, the development and implementation of the only lung cancer support group in Missouri, the implementation of individual counseling services for patients and their families, the continuation of supportive programs such as ongoing support groups and community educational forums, and the advancement of community partnerships and relationships for education and prevention. Between 150 and 200 patients per day go to Ellis Fischel, and the Patient and Family Services Department is responsible for each and every patient and their social needs at any given time throughout the entire cancer journey. In addition to their client services, the Patient and Family Services Department has a strong commitment to the social work profession as well as the education of social workers. Laura Neal, the coordinator of Patient and Family Services, consistently mentors one or two students each semester and actively involves students in the care of patients. The department creates a challenging experience for the students, nurturing them and preparing them for the realities of the present-day health care environment.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

On Oct. 19, 2007, the Mizzou Alumni Association dedicated the Legacy Walk and YOU were there. A brick with the inscription, “In Honor of Social Work Alumni” has been placed there to celebrate the incredible work performed by our alumni and to pay tribute to future graduates of the school. This project was presented to our board last year, and we are excited to have made it happen. Many thanks to the Alumni Association members and those who made private contributions to make this possible!

On behalf of our board members, it is also an honor to thank the new and renewed members of our Alumni Association. As of the end of January 2008, we have gained 31 new or renewed members since August 2007. This is an increase of 71 percent from fiscal year 2007! The board has been given a great challenge this year from the Mizzou Alumni Association, and we are tackling that challenge! By exceeding 60, new or renewed memberships prior to June 1, 2008, our School of Social Work Alumni Organization would be a contender for a $1,000 prize to be used for Social Work students. I am very excited about this challenge, and if you have not joined or renewed your membership please consider making this important contribution today!

Also, I would like to mention that is has been my honor to serve as the Alumni Association President for the past two years. I am proud of the work our board has accomplished — they are a group who is truly, truly dedicated to our cause of supporting the School of Social Work and alumni. Brenda Sites will “take the reins” in June, and I am very pleased to have her in this position. She is passionate about our field and Mizzou — a perfect combination for being a successful Alumni Board President.

I look forward to seeing and hearing from our alumni and friends at the upcoming Social Work Spring Forum. Yet again, it will be my pleasure to honor our outstanding alumni. Please contact me or any of our board members if you have any questions about the board or membership. We would be glad to help.

With Tiger Pride,

Kathryn Oberg Roberts, MSW ’02

SSWAO President, 2006-08

Alumni Board
President
Kathryn Oberg Roberts, MSW ’02
President-Elect
Brenda Sites, MSW ’98
Past-President
Jerome Anderson, BS HES ’99, MSW ’01
Secretary
Angela Greer, MSW ’05
Faculty Representative
Kalea Benner, MSW
Field Representative
Suzanne Cary, MSW
BSW Student Representative
Mary Jo Ryan
MSW Student Representative
Christopher Robinson

Board Members:
Carrie Bolm, MSW ’98
Jim Brady, MSW ’85
Angela Caraway, MSW ’98
Donna Clithero, MSW ’88
Robert Dieckhoff, MSW ’69
Julie Ditmars, BSW ’03
Pat Graber, MSW ’85
Vicki Keller, MSW ’99
Terri Marty, MSW ’98
Ann Woody, BASW ’68, MSW ’71
Marjorie Sable, DrPH, MSW
Interim Director
MU School of Social Work
Carrie Lanham
Director of Alumni Relations
MU Alumni Association

School of Social Work Alumni Board
Back row, from left: Robert Dieckhoff, Carrie Lanham, Brenda Sites, Carrie Bolm, Donna Clithero, Christopher Robinson, Angela Caraway.

Front row, from left: Terri Marty, Julie Ditmars, Jim Brady, Jerome Anderson, Kathryn Oberg Roberts.
**Class Notes**

**1970s**

**Wallace “Wally” Bloss MSSW ’71.** In January 2005, Wally had moved from St. Joseph, Mo, to Logan, Utah, to become the executive director of the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, after 10 years as executive director of the Allied Arts Council in St. Joseph. [http://www.wallybloss.com](http://www.wallybloss.com)

**1980s**

**Sara R. (Becky) Hartley (Brauer), MSW ’81, has been employed since 2002 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Knoxville, Tenn., as a victim specialist working with victims of federal crimes investigated by the FBI including white collar crime, terrorism, and violent crime.** She and her family (husband Phil; daughter Katee; and son Daniel) currently live near the Great Smoky Mountains. They enjoy seeing beautiful mountains and valleys all around. She has always been so glad she completed her MSW degree early in her career. It has been an extremely versatile degree that has allowed her to work in professional positions in health and mental health, the Federal prison system, and Federal law enforcement in many types of settings ranging from community to institutional. Masters level social workers can work in countless fields with this degree. The sky’s the limit; lack of imagination in how to apply your skills is your only hindrance.

**William Hickey, BSW ’82,** went on a few years later to earn his Masters at Ohio State University. Currently, he lives in Shoreline, Wash. Most of his experience over the years has been in the medical field, but he’s currently working as an inpatient psychiatric social worker at Stevens Hospital in Edmonds, Wash. For a number of years now he has been a member of the Executive Board of 1199NW/SEIU. He has been working on unionizing the healthcare industry in his area with some success. He would be interested in hearing from any other Mizzou social workers who have also worked to help unionize the field and hear their stories.

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**Keep in Touch**

Help us, and your former classmates, keep track of where you are and what you’ve been up to since graduation. Send us updates on yourself, your work, your family and your honors. Send your Class Notes via e-mail to ssw@missouri.edu or postal service to Editor, *Social Work Notes*, 731 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211-4470.

Degree: ___________________________ Date of Graduation: _________________

Name (including maiden): ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Business address: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Preferred e-mail: ____________________________

Notes (please include personal or professional activities and achievements):

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__________________________________________________________________________
1990s
Linda Richards (Durbin), MSW ’98, has been a clinical social worker at GLWACH for the past four years, working specifically with military children, adolescents, and their families. She is a certified eating disorders specialist and has conducted a number of workshops on the topic around the state. She and her husband are the proud parents of a little boy. Last year, they purchased a farm which is now their home as well as home to two dogs, three goats, two horses, and a pony with plans for having more animals in the near future.

Elizabeth Lowder (Stallone), BSW ’99, married Michael Lowder on March 20, 2004. She, her husband and their dog, Brody, live in South St. Louis City. Elizabeth earned her master of social work from Saint Louis University in May 2004 and is currently employed as a case manager at Saint Louis Effort for AIDS. On April 8, 2006, they welcomed their first child, Claire Michaella Lowder.

2000s
Rachel Schmitz (Nie mieier), BSW ’97, MSW ’01, received her ACSW in February 2005. She is a member of NASW. In May 2006, she was made an honored member of Manchester Who’s Who of executives and professionals. She was employed for three years with Brookfield Counseling Center conducting private practice mental health services until April 2006. In August 2006, she joined into private practice with a former MSW graduate, Amy Jackson, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, and created CARE Counseling & Mediation Center. Her practice includes individual, family, couple and play therapy. They are qualified mediators. They also do training for the Children’s Division and are scheduled to conduct training for NASW. She married Robert Schmitt in March 2000. They have two children, Addyson and Jazon, as well as having two stepchildren that reside with them, Ashley and Cody.

Rachel Lasley, MSW ’06, is currently working as a contracted state worker at the Cole County Health Department as Adult Head Injury Service Coordinator. She assists clients and their families in 18 central Missouri counties adjust to life after a traumatic brain injury.

Laura Pingry, PhD ’07, BSW ’99, moved to St. Peters, Mo., and is currently employed at a Community Health Center affiliated with Washington University. She serves on an interdisciplinary medical team to assess children with neuro-developmental disabilities and emotional disturbances. Additionally, Laura continues to serve on the advisory council for the Wolfner State Library for Persons with Visual Impairments and Physical Disabilities.

Tiffany Raines (McFarland)

Tiffany Raines (McFarland), MSW ’03, passed away June 6, 2007.

Tiffany was a 2003 graduate of the University of Missouri southeast Missouri Master of Social Work off-campus program. Tiffany was from Kennett, Mo., and received a BSW from Arkansas State University in Jonesborough in 2000.

She began her career in mental health social work as a targeted case manager for adults with the Family Counseling Center in Kennett and later in Poplar Bluff. She joined MU School of Social Work’s off-campus program as an advanced standing student in 2002.

After graduating in 2003, she assumed the social work position at the psychiatric unit of the Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center in Kennett and later in Poplar Bluff. She joined MU School of Social Work’s off-campus program as an advanced standing student in 2002.

More recently, Tiffany joined the staff of Mid-South Health Systems in Arkansas where she joined other alumni, Pedro Palomino, Tim Pennington, Sam Duer and Vicki White.

Tiffany is survived by her 2-year-old son and her parents.
Join the MU School of Social Work Alumni Organization!

Send your registration to Alumni Coordinator, SSWAO Membership, 729 Clark Hall, MU School of Social Work, Columbia, MO 65211.

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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:

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