

currents

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currents

The newsletter of the Boston University School of Social Work and SSW Alumni Association

Happy New Year!

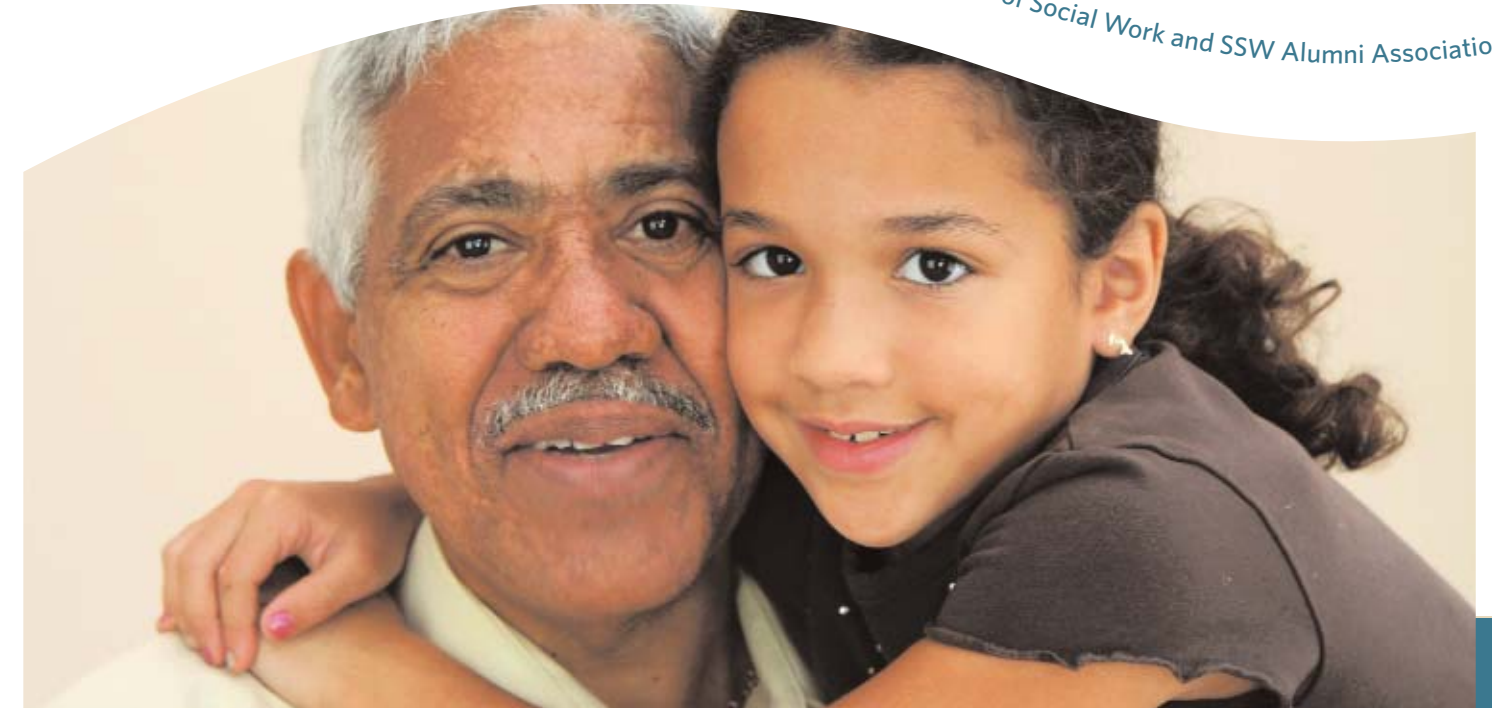
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Boston University School of Social Work



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The new Lowy-GEM Program was created to meet the need for trained health professionals who work with elders.

NEW LOWY-GEM PROGRAM TO LAUNCH

The Lowy-GEM (Geriatric Education Model) Program, an innovative approach to training MSW students to meet the unique needs of older adults, their families, and the agencies that serve them, will be launched by the School in fall of 2009. Reeve Goldhaber is the Project Manager.

This program honors the contributions of the late Professor Emeritus Louis Lowy, who inspired a generation of social work students to enter the field of gerontological social work, and expands the current Boston GEM Consortium Project, a program funded through the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE). When the Boston GEM Consortium Project ends in June 2009,

it will have prepared 52 Boston University MSW students to become practitioners and leaders in the field of gerontological social work.

Comprehensive Training

The new Lowy-GEM Program in Aging will offer a comprehensive training program to Boston University MSW students throughout their years in the MSW program. It will begin with recruiting the best-qualified students from undergraduate courses and programs in aging, professionals working with older adults at the BA/BSW level, and others from the general pool of MSW applicants; students may enter the program in either their first or

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Dean's Column
- 4 Safety Summit
- 6 Exchange from Puerto Rico
- 8 Refugees and Immigrants
- 9 SSW Orientation
- 10 News Briefs
- 13 President's Corner
- 15 Alumni/ae Update
- 16 Donors Honor Roll





Dean Gail Steketee, PhD

NOTES FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Dear Alumni and BUSSW Community,

A very happy New Year!

As we all know, we are faced with tumultuous economic times. What is clear, however, is that social workers are needed now more than ever. This current crisis reaffirms what so many of us have long known: social workers play a critical role in our country and around the world.

Indeed, as we think about the transforming role of social work, we have also been energized by the recent historic presidential election. As a school committed to social justice, we look forward to the new President's agenda, built so effectively on grassroots support and bipartisan goals. We are hopeful that his administration will raise the visibility of our profession and share our vision for the elimination of social disparities and inequities.

This vision continues to be alive at the School today, and I am pleased to share some of BUSSW's recent developments over the past few months:

The future of social work and our program is strong. Admissions to our MSW program increased by 29 percent last year. Our student body is more diverse as well: 15 percent of

our total student body is of color. Our interdisciplinary doctoral program in Social Work and Sociology also saw an increase in applications and admitted five new students in September. The current cohort of 30 students includes 11 students of color and international students from Jamaica, China, Belarus, Mexico, Japan, and Korea.

Our dual degree in Social Work and Public Health remains especially strong. New courses in traumatic stress and our new Trauma Certificate Program are oversubscribed. We remain leaders in urban and community-based transdisciplinary social work, especially in health and mental health.

Faculty have been advancing the field through 18 new and continuing grant awards, for a total of \$2.2 million in grant funding for 2007-08. About half of this funding is from federal agencies. Assistant Professor Ellen DeVoe received a new four-year, \$1.6 million Department of Defense grant to develop and test interventions for Iraq veterans returning to families with small children. Associate Professor Scott Geron has just received a five-year renewal of his Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW) from Atlantic Philanthropies to continue IGSW's excellent track record of generating and disseminating clinical gerontology training to social workers across the nation and abroad.

Alumni donations to the School increased by 27 percent, while the participation rate rose to 13 percent. Significant gifts included \$100,000 to establish the Richard B. DeWolfe Scholarship Fund; gifts to the Carolyn Dillon and Wilma Peebles-Wilkins Funds raised both of these to the endowed scholarship level.

Also, in this issue of *Currents*, you will read about exciting directions for the new Lowy-GEM program, as well as our leadership with NASW and Boston-area leaders on the issue of social worker safety. I am delighted that the School has several new programs that further its urban mission to address all vulnerable populations. Our work with refugees and immigrants who bring new issues and perspectives to the field of social work has included a conference on refugee and immigrant challenges and goals, and hosting five social work exchange students from Puerto Rico.

As the new Dean, I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to meet so many of you from around the country over the past few months. I have had the pleasure of hearing your successes, challenges, and shared goals in our noble profession. Your evident knowledge, skill, and commitment to your clients and communities gives me great pride and truly reflects what it means to be a graduate of Boston University School of Social Work.

I thank you for your continued interest and support of the School and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gail Steketee, PhD
Dean and Professor

Currents

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LOWY-GEM PROGRAM

continued from page 1

second year. Those who are selected to participate will receive stipends through the Louis Lowy Fund in Gerontology and Social Welfare and will have the opportunity to earn the Louis Lowy Certificate in Gerontological Social Work.

Collaborative Partnerships

The Lowy-GEM Program will be based on a collaborative partnership between Boston University School of Social Work (BUSSW) and 14 health and social service organizations: Boston Housing Authority (BHA); Boston University Geriatric Services (BUGS); Cambridge Health Alliance Geriatric Psychiatry; Hearth, Inc.; the School's Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW); Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly (JCHE); Kit Clark Senior Services; Sherrill House; Foley Senior Residences; Stonewall Communities; The Brookline Council on Aging; The Cambridge Council on Aging; and Uphams Corner Health Center Elder Service Plan. Participating field instructors will have the opportunity to take complementary online courses in aging through the BUSSW Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW).

Program Structure

Upon entering the Lowy-GEM Program, each participating graduate social work intern will be assigned to a primary field placement in one of the consortium agencies, providing clinical and/or macro services to elderly clients, their families, and caretakers. In addition, each intern will have a concurrent enrichment experience in one of the other consortium agencies for two to four hours a week (a typical example of an enrichment placement would be co-leading a group in a second agency with the student for whom this agency serves as their primary placement).

Students and field instructors will participate in a monthly Integrative Seminar—co-taught by BUSSW faculty, consortium agency field instructors, and other agency personnel—focused on themes of critical importance to geriatric social work practice. The majority of the sessions will take place at the agencies,

allowing the participating students to visit a variety of sites, providing a range of services to older adults and their families. We believe that MSW students trained in this model will develop a sophisticated understanding of the needs of older clients and their families, the services available to meet these needs, and the complexities of providing client-centered care within interactive multiple health and service systems.

Students who choose to enter the Lowy-GEM Program in their first year will continue to attend regular programming on topics related to aging in their second year and will also be encouraged to take "Clinical Practice with Older Adults" and/or "Social Policy and Programs on Aging" as their advanced elective courses. In addition, they will receive post-MSW career guidance and mentorship by alumni and program field instructors as they prepare to enter the job market. Upon graduation, these students will be eligible to receive the Louis Lowy Certificate in Gerontological Social Work.

Funding Initiatives

Experience with the current Boston GEM Consortium Project has demonstrated that adequate student stipends and scholarships are critical to encouraging social work students—many of whom have gone on to make significant contributions to this very important field—to consider careers in gerontological social work. Boston University School of Social Work hopes to increase the Louis Lowy Fund in Gerontology and Social Welfare in order to provide the stipends and scholarships necessary to attract the most qualified students to the Lowy-GEM Program in Aging and to this most important field of practice.

Stay tuned!

A special event is coming this spring remembering Professor Louis Lowy and celebrating BUSSW's groundbreaking programs in social work and aging. Details will be available in January at www.bu.edu/ssw.



SAFETY IN THE FIELD: SOCIAL WORK LEADERS ADDRESS GROWING CONCERNS



Over 100 social workers and human service providers gathered at Boston University to discuss social worker safety.

By Rachel Wasserman ('10)

Responding to growing concern about the safety of social workers in the field, the Boston University School of Social Work and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers sponsored a Leadership Summit on Social Worker Safety on September 12, 2008, at Boston University.

Summit organizers explained that "Recent and ongoing events related to safety of social workers highlight this critical concern for social work practitioners, administrators, and educators. In an effort to bring together representatives of the professional practice and education communities, BUSSW and the Massachusetts chapter of NASW co-

sponsored this summit to enhance understanding of the current state of our knowledge and efforts to maximize worker safety and to ensure continuing and new efforts to address this concern."

One of the event organizers, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Ruth Freedman, noted that "the recent murder of a social worker during a home visit in northeastern Massachusetts heightened concerns and awareness, especially because this was not an inexperienced social worker and the home visit was in a suburban area. It was recognized that there is need for broader concern and action regarding social worker safety. As an academic institution, we wanted to think about this issue in a systematic way as part

of a larger context. Therefore, our School decided to take the lead by organizing a summit on how much is known about the problem and what can be done to address it."

The summit began with a welcome by BUSSW Dean Gail Steketee and Carol Trust, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of NASW. The morning's moderator was Marilyn Anderson Chase, Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth and Families at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Jennifer Zelnick, an Assistant Professor at Salem State College School of Social Work, reported on the current state of knowledge on workplace health and safety issues, risk factors, and state of evidence regarding social worker safety. Eva Skolnick-Acker, the Chair of the NASW Massachusetts Committee for the Study and Prevention of Violence Against Social Workers, presented on social workers' experiences regarding workplace violence, safety policies and procedures, trainings, and professional responsibilities. Respondent Angelo McClain, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, discussed state agency perspectives and challenges and Earl "Skip" Stuck, Executive Director of Family Continuity Programs, Inc., addressed the issue from a human services agency perspective.

Participants came from a diverse constituency of those responsible for social worker safety. Representatives from four of the Massachusetts health and human services departments attended, including senior leadership from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Youth Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Health. Representatives from eleven Massachusetts schools of social work and eight human services agencies also attended.

Following the presentation, participants split into small focus groups for more in-depth conversation exploring topics including training for workers and interns; developing agency policies and procedures; resources necessary to implement and improve safety practices; the importance of sharing information and resources among agencies and schools; and



Social Worker Safety Summit participants listened to panelists and formed small groups to discuss key topics. Eleven schools of social work, four state and eight human service agencies participated in the event.

the need for more accurate data on the incidence of violence against social workers.

Trust said that "infusing safety policies, procedures and techniques into the curriculum, as well as in the agency policy and procedures" is essential. The value of building alliances with public safety officials was also addressed, as well as the importance of being aware of other resources that social workers can turn to the moment they are feeling threatened by violence. New technology—

such as phones with GPS tracking devices—was noted as a way to increase safety, and the importance of having a good support network or partner during home visits was highlighted.

"The social work community is concerned about creating safe work places for the profession," Trust said. "It is a major issue. We consider this summit a first step toward addressing the problem and recognizing the need for action."



Carol Trust, Executive Director of NASW-Massachusetts Chapter, welcomed attendees.



Angelo McClain, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, responded to panel questions.

The summit resulted in a number of recommendations:

- Collect more data about incidence and characteristics of violence against social workers;
- Establish a central clearinghouse for resources that can be accessed by schools and agencies;
- Advocate at the state level to develop and implement policies and procedures in agencies to maximize social worker safety;
- Create a task force consisting of representatives from the schools of social work, agencies, and NASW to implement these and other proposals.

Freedman felt the conference was successful in bringing together educators, administrators, and practitioners to collaborate and commit to the next steps necessary to maximize the safety of social workers: "The summit was an opportunity for leaders to congregate and discuss a topic that is so immensely important in the field of social work today."

The planning team, co-chaired by Freedman and Trust, also included BUSSW's Trudy Zimmerman, Assistant Dean for Field Education; Judith Perlstein, Associate Director of Field Education; Betty J. Ruth, Director of Professional Education Programs; and Eva Skolnick-Acker from NASW.

INTERESTED IN A PhD?

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INTERCAMBIO DE AMIGOS! AN EXCHANGE OF FRIENDS



Visiting social work students and Professor Luz Lopez (far left) sang *Plena*, a popular folk music from Puerto Rico. *Plena* songs often tell the stories of working class people or 'jibaros.' The visiting students from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico came to BUSSW for a cultural immersion and study program trip in early October.

By Rachel Wasserman ('10)

The Boston University School of Social Work hosted a one-week cultural immersion and study program for MSW students from October 18 to 25 in collaboration with the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

The program offered an overview of the School's urban mission and curriculum with an emphasis on social work practice with diverse groups, especially Latinos in the United States. The event's focus was on best social work micro and macro practices and social justice issues. Participants attended classes and lectures and field site visits to social work service agencies specializing in substance abuse, HIV/AIDS prevention, homelessness, mental health, community outreach and revitalization programs. The primary focus was on the Puerto Rican and Dominican communities: giving students the opportunity to contrast social work clinical practice, macro, and community organizing approaches in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico is one of the program's goals.

In Boston, the group was introduced to students and faculty and given tours of Boston University and Boston's historical sites. Over the next few days, professors and deans presented them with an overview of the many academic programs at BUSSW. They also visited agencies including Casa Esperanza, Children's Hospital, and The Chelsea Collaborative.

At the end of the week, the five students from Puerto Rico presented on their area of studies and practice and what they learned during their week at BUSSW. The students work in diverse areas that are similar to the agencies at which BUSSW students are placed.

Paul J. Fericelle Castillo spoke of work at PROSPERA, an elderly support program that works toward alimony support, sustainment, and mediation. He mentioned that in Puerto Rico, by law children have to take care of their parents and discussed the lack of similar legislation in the United States. PROSPERA provides crisis management to respond to emergency family situations by using

strengths-perspectives, crisis models and interview techniques with all family members. The challenges at his agency are similar to those we face here—limited resources, materials, and funding to hire new workers.

Zulmarie Hernandez Bello works for a community action center called CAUCE—Centro de Accion Urbana Comunitaria y Empresarial—that serves the community of Capetillo, which is mostly populated by Dominican families who immigrated to Puerto Rico. Through this program, youth action groups are organized to provide alternatives to young people who might otherwise be engaged in activities of concern to the community. This agency promotes participation from all members of the community, especially in the betterment of a park that has been abandoned by the university that owns it. Other activities include creating a community garden and experimenting with graffiti, theater, and music.

Geritza Oivella Santana is employed by Asamblea Familiar Virgilio Davila, an agency that works with children in Virgilio Davila, a public housing unit, engaging them in group work in areas such as self-esteem, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, and anger management. The agency also works with a federal housing unit called Las Americas Apartments, where staff members organize a teen group and a community council and serve as school social workers.



Professor Melvin Delgado shared insights on community organizing among Puerto Rican and Latino communities in the United States.



Dean Gail Steketee waves the Puerto Rican flag at the conclusion of the program while Dean Elizabeth Miranda of the Inter American University looks on.

Alex Casiano Pagan is a medical social worker at Hospital La Concepcion, which is owned by the Catholic Church. There are numerous community programs, including free health clinics, outside of the hospital and staff members donate to the community. The hospital is staffed with over 200 doctors and another 600 employees, but Alex is the only social worker and very busy, with approximately 100 to 150 cases per week. The challenges to social work at this hospital are the lack of other social workers and dealing with the traditional rules and models of intervention.

Emmanuel Arroyo Girona reported on his work for Plaza Corazón in San Juan, a non-profit agency that serves the homeless or at-risk populations in downtown Rio Piedras with services including orientation and counseling, coordinating government documents, providing a referral system, and advocating for them. The program includes five phases of development: outreach work; daily care system and stabilization; case management and psychological stabilization; independence and autonomy along with emotional and economic stability; and community development. The program's focus is education, and staff members work hard to develop integration and compromise among homeless individuals.

Professor and co-organizer of the program Luz Lopez commented, "It was a wonderful week of information exchange, culture, music, and history. Clearly, they have a lot to learn from us and we from them."

2,000 MILES APART AND A WORLD OF SIMILARITIES



Both the weeklong program and the final student presentations were moving to participant Abby Ross (near left). As a 2007-08 Puerto Rican Experience exchange trip member, she and other BUSSW students were inspired and wanted to make the same opportunity available to their Puerto Rican counterparts.

They raised funds to help bring the five Puerto Rican students to Boston. Said Ross, "We were inspired to make the program a true cultural exchange. Social work has its roots in collaboration and in community-based participation. It was great to have the Puerto Rican students participate in the same way we were able to do."



Photos, clockwise from top: Kalina Black ('09) shares a poem; students listen to several presentations throughout the week about BUSSW and community work with Latinos in the area; Melissa Sparks ('07) visits during the week; Exchange student Emmanuel Arroyo shares his experiences with Plaza Corazón; Professor Luz Lopez and Abby Ross ('08) listen to a discussion on community organizing.

BU HOSTS CONFERENCE ON REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS



On October 23 and 24, social workers, activists, and educators converged at the Boston University Charles River Campus for a two-day Institute on Immigrants and Refugees: Addressing Dislocation, Racism, Trauma, and Resilience. Recognizing the crucial connection social workers and other clinicians have with refugees and immigrants, Boston University Schools of Social Work (SSW) and Education (SED) co-sponsored the two-day Institute, designed to raise awareness about these unique but frequently marginalized populations through interdisciplinary collaboration.

The Institute's first program, "Working with Refugees and Immigrants in Our Schools," featured a kick-off wine reception on Thursday, October 23. **SSW Dean Gail Steketee** and **SED Dean Hardin Coleman** opened a panel discussion featuring Dr. Glenn Saxe, Associate Chief of Psychiatry for Research and Development at Children's Hospital Boston; Heidi Ellis, PhD, Department of

Psychiatry, Children's Hospital Boston; and **MSW student Saida Abdi**, a Somali refugee and intern at Caring Across Communities. In addition to the educational issues that immigrant children and their parents encounter in school systems, panelists also discussed Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), a model that has shown to be effective when working with immigrant populations. The TST model originated at Boston Medical Center to assist the growing population of Somali refugees.

The program of the second day, "Working with Refugees and Immigrants in Community and Agency Settings," focused on the macro-level and clinical social work needs of this population. This event featured two panels from international experts, including Dean/Director Elizabeth Miranda (Inter American University of Puerto Rico), Dr. Aaron Ramos (University of Puerto Rico), and Alejandro Cotté (Enlace Project, Caño Martin Peña), as well as **BUSW professors Deanne Bonnar, Melvin Delgado, Luz Lopez, Lorna McKenzie-Pollock ('85), Ruth Paris, Humberto Reynoso, Mojdeh Rohani ('99), and Lee Staples.**

WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS!



September kicked off to a great start with 175 new students from a wide array of backgrounds and geographic regions. Organized by the Student Services Office, the New Student Orientation featured presentations by faculty, staff, and current students in order to introduce new students to life at 264 Bay State Road and the profession of social work. Presentations included urban social work practice and macro perspectives, as well as a poster fair. Said one new student, "Orientation was extremely helpful. Everyone was very nice and approachable and willing to offer advice about how to be successful."

NEWS BRIEFS

Active Year Ahead for Field Education

A number of field education activities are under way for the 2008/2009 academic year, highlighting the Field Education Department's continued commitment to innovative and high-quality educational experiences for students and support for field instructors.

New Collaborative Clinical Placements

The Field Education Department has developed a number of new placement opportunities which represent collaborations between the School of Social Work and other Boston University schools and programs.

- Two foundation-year students are placed at the **Boston Housing Authority**, where they are working with families in the South End Cathedral and Torre Unidad buildings. Both locations are sites for an Integrated Pest Management Project, a Boston Housing Authority, BU School of Public Health, and Boston Public Health Commission collaboration. The social work interns will provide case management and counseling services and will be supervised by Shannon McCarthy, LICSW, a 1991 BUSSW alumna and SSW faculty advisor.

- Two foundation-year students are placed in a joint program through **South End Headstart** and the **Boston Medical Center**. At the medical center, the interns are working with Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Dr. Michael Silverstein, who has been conducting research on an evidence-based intervention with mothers of babies hospitalized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. At the Headstart Program, where Silverstein and his research staff are consultants, the interns will provide counseling and case management services to children and families.

- Two first-year students are placed at **Samaritans, Inc.**, where they will be involved

in a range of prevention and intervention activities including outreach and education for at-risk populations and working with teen volunteers on the agency's hotlines.

- The Field Education Department continues to explore participating in the **Step UP** program initiated two years ago by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; Boston University is matched up with Boston English High School and the Trotter Elementary School. A BUSSW intern was placed at English High in 2008 and plans are under way to develop an internship at the Trotter in the 2009-2010 academic year.

- Two second-year BUSSW interns are working at the **BUSSW Hoarding Project/Boston University Center for Anxiety & Related Disorders** under the supervision of Boston University social work and psychology faculty. They conduct assessments and individual and group treatment, and are involved in research on a variety of treatment protocols.

Boston GEM Consortium

The Boston GEM Consortium is in its eighth year as a placement model and its third and final year with funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation. The project's history and present focus are described in the article on page 1 of this issue of *Currents*.

New Macro Practice Placements

Thirty-one Macro Practice students are completing their field placements in 27 different settings that offer an array of impressive interventions at the neighborhood, citywide, metro-regional, statewide, and global levels. Many of the students are being supervised by BUSSW alumni who are involved in community development and organizing, planning, program development, social policy analysis and implementation, advocacy, evaluation research, and human service management. Some of these new initiatives include:

- Cambridge Community Television (CCTV)**, in which a student and his supervisor are endeavoring to bridge the digital divide by securing onsite internet access for residents of Cambridge public housing developments. The project grew out of concerns expressed

by public school students living in public housing who are unable to access and complete online school assignments because their families cannot afford internet access at home.

- Stonewall Communities** in Boston engages a student in a citywide effort to build strong community links among older lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgenders, and their friends by creating residential, educational, social, and support opportunities.

- At the metro-regional level, Macro Practice students are working with two **Massachusetts Regional Centers for Healthy Communities**, one at the Northeast Center based in Lawrence and one at the Southeast Center based in Brockton. In both settings, students are involved in building coalitions among regional and local public health leaders and community groups (including youth) to identify and address critical public health issues like substance abuse and violence prevention.

- Several first- and second-year students have placements with top executives in Governor Deval Patrick's administration, including the **Massachusetts Departments of Public Health and Youth Services**, the **Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund**, the **Interagency Council on Homelessness**, and the **Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance**. All the students are engaged in legislative advocacy, grant administration, policy analysis and program development, implementation, and evaluation.

- At the **Global Health Delivery Project** based at Harvard School of Public Health, a student and her supervisor are working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to evaluate the impact that WHO grants have on communities' ability to retain their local public health leaders. The evaluation is a multicontinent, multicountry initiative.

Alumni, students, and field instructors are invited to visit the Field Education Department web page at www.bu.edu/ssw/fielded for information on the field education program, staff, and upcoming events.

Three New Cohorts Begin Off-Campus Programs

Three new cohorts of students have begun their graduate social work education at the School's Off-Campus Program sites in Cape Cod, Fall River, and Tyngsboro. They join continuing students at these sites.

"It was a successful recruitment year for us," comments Mena daSilva-Clark, Assistant Dean for Off-Campus Programs (OCP). "We know that our satisfied and well-prepared alumni are our best recruiters and we would like to thank you for assisting us in recruiting for our programs."

In addition to welcoming new students, last September Sue Landers assumed the position of Coordinator for the Cape Cod campus. Landers earned an MSW degree in 1982 from Salem State College and an MS from Goddard-Cambridge. She lives on the Cape and has many years of clinical, administrative

and higher education experience. "We are excited and pleased to have her join the OCP team," said daSilva-Clark.

In other Off-Campus Program news:

- Though the Boston University Tyngsboro facility was sold to Innovation Academy Charter School, SSW's Tyngsboro campus continues to be housed at the facility. The SSW Office/Library are now located on the fourth floor in room 442.

- Thomas Dunse, a 1986 alumnus of the Southeastern Massachusetts Program, received the 2008 BUSSW Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Career in Social Work. He is a longstanding, valuable training partner with the School's field education program and is currently the Vice President of Clinical Services at the Old Colony YMCA.

- In field education-related work, staff members are busy teaching seminars for new

field instructors at each site, revising the integrative seminar model with the goal of increasing online content, meeting with OCP advisory boards, and continuing to develop additional field placement affiliations.

International Reach

International activities increased with two visiting professors from Israel and Korea in residence last year and Eun Jin Chang from Korea this year. Assistant Professor Luz Lopez led her third travel-study program to Puerto Rico and Associate Professor Scott Geron took a group of MSW and doctoral students to Mali, West Africa. Through a generous alumni donation, SSW was able to support a second Somali student entering our MSW program this fall. Professor Lee Staples worked closely with Adjunct Assistant Professor Mojdeh Rohani ('99) to develop our innovative BRIDGE program, which encourages qualified refugees and immigrants to apply to our MSW program.

continued on page 12

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded special BUSSW named scholarships, stipends, and prizes for 2008/09:

All are MSW students unless otherwise noted.

Wendy Carol Byers Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Weeks

Richard B. DeWolfe Scholarship
Jessica Goldberg

Carolyn Dillon Scholarship
Kerrie Greene

Mary Louise Dillon Scholarship
Erika Vargas

Annette Schaffer Eskind Scholarship
Emily Blonder, Elana Klein

Louise and Anna B. Frye Multicultural Education Scholarship
Helena Almeida

Frances H. Gelber Scholarship
Evonne Yang

Carolyn Jacobs Prize
Ashley Diefendorf

Hubie Jones Urban Service Scholarship
Laura Beal, Kara Walsh

Margaret D. Lakis Scholarship
Lisa LoFaso

Josephine Lambert Scholarship
Stephanie Chang, Winifred Finley

Barbara Locke Memorial Scholarship
Sadie Faber, Elana Klein

Louis Lowy Scholarship
Kalina Black, Alyssa Brigham, Makayla Cunningham, Emily Geis, Noa Gur, Chelsea Halbmaier, Andrew Hare, Elizabeth Kalfras, Rebecca Lavine, Rebecca Porter, Heather Valente

Thomas D. Mackey III Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Theriault

Ina L. Morgan Scholarship
Lauren Abraham, Shari Jessie, Danielle Latimore

Rosemary Pazol Mundell Memorial Scholarship
Laura Beal

Naomi Osterman Scholarship
Jaclyn Sector

Wilma Peebles-Wilkins Scholarship
James McConchie

Angelina Aliberti Ruggie Scholarship
Robert Mello

Sybil M. Shapiro Scholarship
Yaminette Diaz Linhart

Singer Family Foundation Prize
Kristy Hardy

Jane Stewart Memorial Prize
Daniela Dragisic

Holly Margolin Zwerling Scholarship
Evonne Yang

In addition, four prizes were awarded at Commencement in May 2008:

Saul and David Bernstein Prize
Sera Grantz and Brian Johnston

Herbert S. Strean Memorial Prize
Mya Fonarov

Carl D'Ettore Memorial Prize
Abigail Ross

Sarah Lange Prize for Social Change
Rebekah Gowler and Amanda Horowitz

NEWS BRIEFS

continued from page 11

Changing Faces, Changing Places

SSW has made considerable progress in fulfilling the goals of our 2006 strategic plan. We've enhanced our marketing and communications with many new print materials and an expanded and colorful website that launched in fall 2007.

Amy Dunaway has been named Marketing and Communications Specialist, a newly created position within the School. Amy previously worked as staff assistant with the School's Professional Education Programs (PEP) office. **Erin Grundman** is the new PEP staff assistant. **Jennifer Schroder** is the new administrative assistant in the Field Education Department.

After 18 years at the School of Social Work, **Jyothi Nandakumar** has left the position of Assistant Dean of Finance and Personnel. The position has been filled by **Meredith Enish**, who previously worked as the Director of Faculty/Staff Administration at the College of Engineering. After eight years as the SSW Registration Administrator, **Heidi Maitland** has retired.

In faculty news, **Associate Professor Sally Bachman** has been granted tenure. **Professor Lena Lundgren** has assumed the role of the School of Social Work's Director of Research in addition to her other responsibilities. **Professor Cassandra Clay** retired in May and is greatly missed. We are confident that we will find ourselves closely connected to her and her work as she charts the next phase of her remarkable career as a social work educator and practitioner.

PEP Workshops, Certificates Highlight Busy Summer, Fall

The School's Professional Education Programs (PEP) had an extremely busy summer and fall as the 2006-2008 Massachusetts licensing cycle came to a close. PEP's fall series was tremendously successful and included three new evening certificate programs and many

workshops that have been popular over the last few years, as well as several new ones.

Returning lecturers for the fall series included **Dr. Janice Funk**, who taught her workshop, "Dr. Funk's Tour of the Brain," in both Boston and Bradford, Massachusetts. **Dr. Mimi Thein** also returned to offer her well-attended program, "Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology," and **Dr. Rebecca Hanson-Richardson** again directed her two-day institute on "Dialectical Behavior Therapy: A Clinical Introduction."

PEP also was very pleased to offer several new courses taught by alumni: "Introduction to Human Service Management," taught by **Sarah Lange ('83)**; "When Work Is Not Working: Essential Skills for Employee Assistance Social Work," **Ina Bachman-Sapirstein ('88)**; "Essentials of Health Promotion for Social Workers," **Gina Baral Abrams ('99)**; and "Talking about Sex and Drugs with Our Clients: Risk Assessment and Communication for Practitioners," **Deborah Milbauer ('94)**.

Additionally, PEP launched three new certificate programs in Clinical Practice with Adolescents, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Interventions, and the Assessment and Treatment of Psychological Trauma. At the completion of each program, participants earn 30 continuing education credits and have acquired a variety of skills to use in the field.

PEP was also pleased to sponsor the 26th annual **Miriam Hurwitz Memorial Lecture** on Saturday, October 25 at the Photonics Building. Over 150 social workers, family therapists, and community workers attended the lecture on "Family Bereavement After Suicide: Walking the Journey with Survivors," presented by John R. Jordan, PhD. Dr. Jordan is a clinician in private practice in Wellesley, MA, and Pawtucket, RI. He is also the co-author of *After Suicide Loss: Coping with Your Grief*, and



John R. Jordan delivers the 26th annual Miriam Hurwitz Memorial Lecture.

the former Director of the Family Loss Project (FLP), a research and clinical group providing services for bereaved families. His presentation focused on the impact of suicide on family survivors, and the clinical and support responses needed by family and friends in the aftermath of suicide.

Named in honor of Miriam Hurwitz, a faculty member of BUSSW, the annual Hurwitz Lecture Fund was established by her husband, Herbert, and their children, and has grown through many additional gifts from her colleagues and friends.

In 2009, **Professor Rick Cresta** will lead a study/travel trip to Costa Rica in March, where students will have the opportunity to experience a new culture through family homestay, sightseeing, and trips to local agencies in and around San Pedro. They will also take intensive Spanish courses during their two-week stay.

In spring 2009, the next workshop series will kick off with three certificate programs focusing on mind/body techniques, working with refugees and immigrants, and cognitive-behavioral therapy. Also, PEP's classroom will change from using Room 201 at the General Classroom Building to the larger Room 202. This move will provide more space and allow for greater flexibility of classroom set-up in a comfortable learning environment.

If you would like more information about the Hurwitz Lecture or PEP's other programs, please visit our website at www.bu.edu/ssw/pep.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Nanci Ginty Butler ('01), President BUSSW Alumni Association Board

Greetings, fellow alumni and friends of the School of Social Work,

As we welcome in 2009, I hope this edition of *Currents* finds you happy and well!

As I'm sure you can glean from reading this edition of *Currents*, the School has kicked off another productive and successful academic year. First, we are thrilled that Dr. Gail Steketee has officially accepted the role of Dean after three years of service as Dean *ad interim*. Dean Steketee has successfully demonstrated effective leadership in her temporary role and we are confident that she will lead SSW to even greater heights.

With a new Dean in place, it seems that the energy surrounding SSW these days is contagious—the School opened the year by welcoming a whopping 165 new students. SSW faculty, students, and staff are receiving national attention through presentations on topics ranging from hoarding to HIV/AIDS in over 20 conferences across the country. On the research front, Professors Lena Lundgren and Maryann Amodeo have secured a \$400,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the adoption of evidence-based substance abuse treatment practices in community organizations. In October, SSW co-hosted a conference with the School of Education on working with immigrants and refugees. And, social work students from Puerto Rico visited the School in October as well.

The Alumni Association held its annual board meeting during BU's Alumni Weekend October 24 to 26. On October 24, we hon-

ored Dean Steketee and celebrated 90 years of social work education at Boston University with a reception. That night, we honored our 2008 Alumni Association Award recipients.

Finally, in this exciting time of new promise, SSW is brimming with opportunities for you to remain involved and connected to the School, from simply introducing yourself as an alumna/us among colleagues, to assisting with student recruitment, nominating a fellow graduate for an Alumni Association Award, serving as a career information resource for new graduates, attending a local event, or supporting fundraising efforts.

We know that BUSSW is already a fantastic place to gain a social work education. With your participation and support, our Alma Mater is poised to become better than ever. I encourage you to consider giving back to the School in any way that you can.

I wish you all the best in 2009!

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SIMPLY OUTSTANDING



OUTSTANDING SSW ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED

On October 24, nearly 60 distinguished guests gathered at the Back Court at BU's George Sherman Union to honor alumni and staff who have made outstanding contributions to the field of social work and the School.

Those honored were (above right from left to right): Thomas W. Dunse ('86), Outstanding Career in Social Work; Reva Stein ('82), Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work; Abigail Ortiz ('02), Hubie Jones Urban Service Award; and Heidi Maitland, Outstanding Contributions to the School of Social Work.

To read more about the awards and view a list of the honorees, visit: www.bu.edu/ssw/about/news_events/index.shtml.



ALUMNI/AE UPDATE

Muriel Bloch Kolner Sieh ('47), of Carlsbad, California, has retired. She was previously the Executive Director of Family Service in Swampscott, Massachusetts, and Director of Psychiatric Social Work at Child Guidance in Phoenix, Arizona. She also established the Arizona Adult Foster Home Agency, obtaining half a million dollars in funding per year. Every state replicated the model of this program.

Alice W. Dorn ('51), of Central, South Carolina, is enjoying her retirement of 25 years and taking "Lifelong Learning" courses on her "days off." **Paul H. Ephross** ('57), of Rockville, Maryland, was awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus on June 4, 2008, by the University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore. Ephross had been a School faculty member since 1968 and a professor since 1974 as well as holding various other appointments. He continues to maintain his private practice of social work and consulting.

Sara A. Kramer ('93), of Greensboro, North Carolina, is the Dean of Student Life at American Hebrew Academy. She lives on campus with her husband, Scott, and her two kids, Dani, 9, and Josh, 5. **Sithembile (Stem) Mahlatini** ('95), of Lynn, Massachusetts, recently relocated back to Massachusetts after spending 12 years in Florida, where she also earned her doctoral degree at Nova Southeastern University. She recently started a private practice in the Swampscott area. **Christopher R. Delulio** ('97) recently relocated to Landstuhl in Southwest Germany and began working at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre providing clinical services to uniformed military service members and their dependents. **Betty Bernier** ('97), of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, is now a social worker with the Boston Public Health Commission. She works with public school students who have attendance issues and provides clinical support at one of the assigned schools. **Nadia Chamblin-Foster** ('97), of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her husband Kevin Foster are pleased to announce the birth of Kenneth Alexander Foster on June 4, 2008. **Barbara**



IN MEMORIAM

Elliot H. Drisko ('41), Yonkers, New York

Marina C. McCarthy ('47), Milton, Massachusetts

Theodore D. Carty ('61), Warwick, Rhode Island

John R. Griffith ('82), Gray, Maine

Priscilla Smart ('88), Brockton, Massachusetts

Richard L. Hull ('93), South Hamilton, Massachusetts

Kondilis-Petropoulos ('98) and her husband Phoebus Petropoulos, of Themidos, Greece, are pleased to announce the birth of Ioannis on May 27, 2008. **Lysandra Brown** ('99), of Atlanta, Georgia, recently accepted a position as a social worker at Emory Hospital. **Ricardo Neal** ('99), of Roxbury, Massachusetts, has left his position as Executive Director of Freedom House in order to engage in educational policy work. He has served in this post since 2003 and was Director of Development for two years before that. **David Ward** ('99), of Yarmouth, Maine, maintains a private practice providing individual, group, and couples therapy for adults. In 2007/2008 he completed a yearlong postgraduate training program in group psychotherapy as well as a group psychotherapy observation course.

Danielle Minelli ('00) was honored by NASW-NYC Chapter with an Emerging Leader Award for her work at NYC Department of Homeless Services. **Nanci Ginty Butler** ('01) and her husband Ethan Butler, of Waban, Massachusetts, welcomed Owen Francis on June 8, 2008. **Aishia Grevenberg** ('02), of Las Vegas, Nevada, is Program Director with the Assistance League of Southern California, directing the Las Vegas office. **Rebecca Mulhern** ('02), of Brooklyn, New York, is now working at Bellevue Hospital as the mental health care coor-

ordinator on the mental health team for Virology Services (the outpatient HIV clinic). **Katherine Britton** ('03), of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, works at the Mayor's Office in Boston on a new early childhood initiative called "Thrive in 5." **Catherine Ehrhardt** ('03), of Boston, Massachusetts, is now Assistant Director of Counseling at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Among her responsibilities is overseeing the social work intern training program. **Andrea Bengtson** ('04), of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is Clinical Coordinator of Services with Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. **Christina Weeter** ('04), of Alexandria, Virginia, is a policy associate at the National Youth Employment Coalition. **Lawrie Donovan** ('08), of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, is an adjustment counselor/social worker with Randolph High School.



STAY IN THE LOOP!

Update your information, share news, and give us your e-mail address at www.bu.edu/ssw/alumni.

DONORS HONOR ROLL: 2007/2008

Numerous individual, corporate, and foundation gifts and grants were made to the School between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008; this support was gratefully received from SSW alumni, faculty, staff, students, and other friends. A number of donations were matched by employers. We are very pleased to acknowledge each donor publicly and have listed all contributors unless anonymity was requested. Italicized names are those who made a gift of \$500 or more. Names with an asterisk (*) are current and former BUSSW Alumni Association Board members; those listed in bold are Dean's Advisory Board members.

If we have inadvertently omitted a donor, misspelled a name, or listed an incorrect class year, please accept our apologies and let us know by contacting Rilda Kissel at 617-353-9675 or 800-735-ALUM (both voice/TTY) or rilda@bu.edu or Ken Schulman at 617-353-3765 or 800-735-ALUM or kschul@bu.edu.

Many thanks to all our contributors!

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Calling All Authors!

Are you a BUSSW alumnus who has written a book in the past five years? Want other social workers to read your work? Let us know! We are featuring alumni and faculty books in our new Professional Education Program PEP2GO series, a home education initiative that gets social workers reading books by social workers. If you would like more information or want your book to be considered, please contact us at pepssw@bu.edu.

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 Mary Gill
 Reeve Goldhaber
 Judith & Gary Gonyea
 Edward M. Greene, Jr.
 ('92)
Hubert E. Jones ('57)
 Judith Kneen
 Lois Levinsky ('74)
 Luz Lopez
 Doris McFarlin
 Jordana Muroff
 Judith Perlstein
 Margaret D. Philbrick
 Betty J. Ruth ('84)
 Ken Schulman
 Jackie Jenkins-Scott ('73)
 Lee Staples
Gail Steketee
Wilma Peebles-Wilkins
 Constance Williams ('70)
 Trudy Zimmerman ('75)

Friends
 Anonymous (4)
 Michael Achey
Maki Amano
 Margareta Breuer
 Cynthia Slate Burris
 Happie Byers
 Peter Byers

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carter
 William Cowin
 Mary Louise Dillon
 Irrevocable Trust
 Patrick Egan
 Diane Engel
 Robert Frank
 Linda Hickson
 Kristine Hodlin
 Alfreda Hunt
 Manuel Kaplan
 Peter Lowy
 Laura Morris
 Bianca Cody Murphy
 Maurice Pechet
 Sonia Pinnock
 Linda Rapciak
 Faye Sampson Russell
 Perry Russell
 Arch K. Schoch IV
 James Seger
 Daniel Shannon
 Paul Singer
 Judith Stout
 Lauren Wilmer
 Bashie Young
 Linda Zeckendorf-Lowy

Corporations & Foundations

Alliance Consulting
 American International
 Group, Inc.
 The Atlantic
 Philanthropies (USA),
 Inc.
 The Bank of New York
 Mellon
 The Morris S. and
 Florence H. Bender
 Foundation
 Combined Jewish
 Philanthropies
 Fidelity Foundation
 Fidelity Investments
 Elizabeth M. Frendo Trust
 The Fund for Charitable
 Giving
 William T. Grant
 Foundation
 Headlands Farm
 Hospice Association of
 Cape Cod, Inc.
 Kaitz & Siegel Geriatric
 Care
 Harris & Eliza Kempner
 Fund
 Legacy Consulting, Inc.
 Lynnfield Psychological
 Associates, PC
 National Kidney
 Foundation
 Maryann L. Nowak
 Revocable Trust
 Obsessive Compulsive
 Foundation
 Philips Electronics North
 America Corporation
 Carl & Ruth Shapiro
 Family Foundation
 Sisters of Mercy, Inc.
 State Street Foundation
 The Textron Foundation
 Wells Fargo Foundation

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