



School of Social Work Connections



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2012 Spring Graduation Ceremony

Each year in their field placement, or as part of their coursework, our students bring their creativity and commitment to social change to their work on behalf of individuals, families and the community. See pages 8–9 for exciting examples of that commitment and creativity.

The School of Social Work at a Glance

650 BA/BS, BSW, MSW and PhD Students

75 Faculty and Staff

175 Agency Field Placement Supervisors

9,000 Alumni

Teaching: Faculty-based field model, strong commitment to social justice, cultural competence and evidence-based practice. Concentrations in child and family welfare, mental health, health, aging and disability.

Research: More than \$5 million in state and federal grants supporting faculty/student research in areas such as mental health services, child abuse and neglect, welfare reform and child support, race, social class and gender disparities, family caregiving and end-of-life care.



Connections is the alumni newsletter of the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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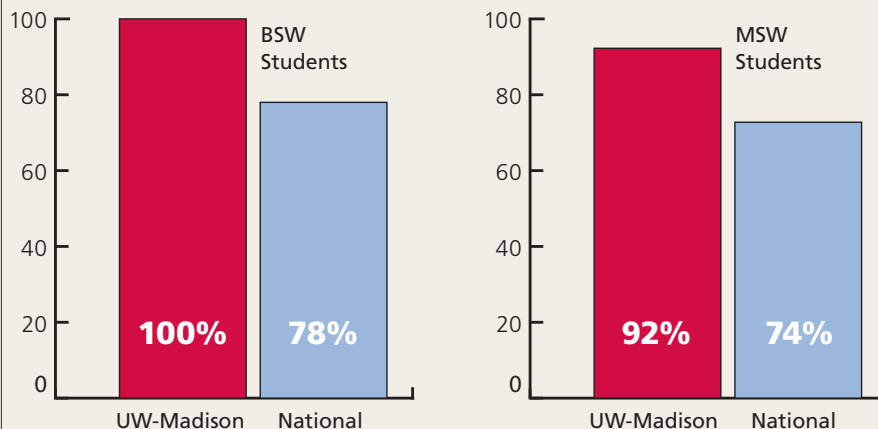
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Design: Wisconsin Alumni Association®

National Social Work Examination 2006–2010 First-Time Pass Rate



School of Social Work Graduates Excel on National Examination

The Association of Social Work Boards annually administers a national social work examination to thousands of BSW and MSW graduates. The results are used by most states as part of their social work license and certification requirements. During the five-year period of 2006 to 2010, our BSW and MSW students had a first-time pass rate that well exceeded the national average of all students taking the exam.

Don Anderson Receives Educator-Teacher Award

At its 62nd annual Community Awards Banquet, ARC-Dane County presented long-time senior lecturer Don Anderson with its 2012 Educator-Teacher Award, noting that among his many accomplishments, Don “has taught and mentored hundreds of students, preparing them for careers serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.” A tireless educator and advocate, Don received similar recognition from the State of Wisconsin’s ARC in the 1990s.



Professors Marsha Mailick Seltzer and Jan Greenberg Awarded Autism Speaks Research Grant

Professors Seltzer and Greenberg and their colleagues received support from Autism Speaks to study the quality of life of adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in early adulthood and midlife. The study will draw on their work following persons with ASD over a 12-year period. Find out more about their autism research at waisman.wisc.edu/family/study_autism.html#purpose.



School of Social Work Director Kristi Slack presents at a recent school lecture.

Director Kristi Slack Receives Prestigious University Award

Professor Kristi Slack received a 2012 Vilas Associate Award from UW-Madison. This highly competitive award provides salary support and flexible funds to support an outstanding faculty member's research.

Kristi will use these funds to work with social work colleague Lonnie Berger to compile and translate existing research on the association between economic hardship and child maltreatment. She will also look at trends in child protection system indicators before, during and following the economic recession, and will identify the economic safety nets that families relied upon during the economic downturn.

A Scholarship, a Commercial and Her Photo on a Dr. Pepper Can: An Exciting Time for BSW Student Lorena Barbosa-Mireles

Walking on campus in the fall, Lorena Barbosa-Mireles and a friend came upon representatives from Dr. Pepper who were encouraging students to make a video about why they should be awarded a scholarship. Lorena was about to say no, but her friend encouraged her to give it a try.

"I signed up thinking that I would make the video on my own later (not really intending on making it at all), and after signing up, the representative said we were going to do the video right then. So I completely winged it!"

The result? She won a \$5,000 scholarship; a video about her interest in social work appeared on Fox Sports Network (youtube.com/watch?v=GiDrps6_H7k); and her picture was placed on Dr. Pepper cans distributed throughout the Midwest. Congrats, Lorena!



Maurice Gattis Receives National Institutes of Health Award



Assistant Professor Maurice Gattis received a \$53,000 award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research project "Psychosocial Problems of Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Their Heterosexual Counterparts." The award is given to "outstanding health professionals who... engage in research that addresses health disparities." Dr. Gattis's research is also supported by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities. The Graduate School at UW-Madison is funding his study on "Homeless Black, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and HIV Prevention in Milwaukee."

The British Journal of SOCIAL WORK



Publications by Our Faculty and Alumni Are among the "100 Most Influential in Social Work"

In July 2011, the *British Journal of Social Work* published a study evaluating the 100 most influential articles written by social work authors during 2000–2009.

Ten of the top 100 articles of the decade were authored by current school faculty **Dan Meyer** and **Maria Cancian**; PhD program alumni **Amy Dworsky**, **Mary Eamon**, **Len Gibbs** and **Paul Smokowsky**; and former school faculty **Mark Courtney**, **Sheldon Danziger** and **Eileen Gambrill**.

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Names Three Alumni as 2011 Distinguished Fellows

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high-impact work that advances social good. In 2011, the AASWSW named 11 new distinguished fellows nationally. Of these, three are alumni of the school: **John Brekke**, **Jeffrey Edelson** and **Steven Schinke**.

A True Advocate for Women's Issues: Long-Time Field Supervisor Wins National VA Social Work Award

Gail Gunter Hunt, a social worker at the VA Hospital in Madison, has provided outstanding supervision to more than 100 field students and tremendous service to the school for more than two decades. Recognizing her leadership and excellence, Gail received the 2012 Award for Excellence in Social Work Practice. Carol Sheets, national director of social work for the Veterans Administration called Gail "a true advocate for women veterans' issues... who inspires staff throughout the organization toward a vision of sensitive and competent care for women veterans."

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award Goes to Professor Steven P. Segal

This May, University of California-Berkeley professor and internationally renowned researcher Steven P. Segal PhD, was invited to campus to receive the school's 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award. Professor Segal is known for his research on the self-help movement in the mental health field, the housing of persons with serious mental illness and the use of outpatient mental health commitments. As part of his visit, Professor Segal delivered our biennial Debra Beebe Memorial Lecture honoring school alumna Debra Beebe, who was tragically killed while working in a group home.

Health and Society Scholars Program Receives New Funding

Congratulations to Professor Steph Robert, co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health and Society Scholars Program at UW-Madison, on receiving renewal funding for the program. This two-year post-doctoral experience prepares scholars to translate new population health knowledge into policy and practice. Find out more about the program and Steph's work at rwjscholars.pophealth.wisc.edu/bios/srobert.htm.



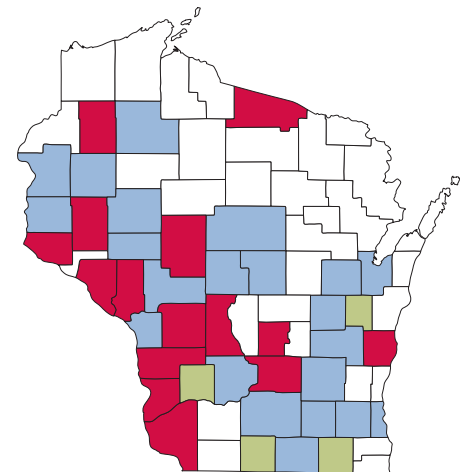
2012 part-time grads — Eau Claire program

Part-Time MSW Program Graduates More Than 40 Students

The school's rapidly growing part-time MSW program graduated its second class this spring. The two- to four-year program, with branches in both Madison and Eau Claire (in cooperation with UW-Eau Claire), helps working students and those in the northern part of the state to complete their MSW degrees. This fall more than 225 students enrolled, and as you can see from the map at right (from 2011), students live in and are placed in a large number of Wisconsin counties.

"We're serving the state better than we were able to serve it before... We are meeting a really important need."

— Tracy Schroeffer,
Part-Time Master of Social Work
Program Director



■ Students ■ Agency Placements ■ Both

**The Statewide Reach
of the Part-Time Program**



Doctoral Students on Ice

Remaining upright while hurling a 42-pound “stone” across a 145-foot slab of ice is no small feat. That was the “assignment” given to doctoral students who took part in a curling class and exhibition this winter. Wanting to build camaraderie and introduce students to a true winter sport, doctoral students and faculty spent an afternoon learning how to curl (and remain upright). As you can see in the picture, a good time was had by all.



Doctoral students from left: Katie Maguire Jack, Mi Youn Yang (standing), Hong-Min Ahn, Hyunjin Noh and Eun Hee Han at SSWR.

Doctoral Students Present at Major National Social Work Conference

The Society for Social Work Research’s (SSWR) annual meeting is the profession’s most prestigious research conference. We are extremely proud that 10 current doctoral students were invited to present papers at the 2012 conference. Examples of their work include:

- “Why Minority Elders Do Not Use Hospice Care: Findings from a Systematic Review,” by Hyunjin Noh
- “Neighborhood Perception and Child Maltreatment,” by Katie Maguire Jack
- “The Longitudinal Relationship between Food Insecurity and Child Behavior Problems among School-Aged Children,” by Jeong-Hee Ryu



Joe Glass and Marah Curtis

New Faculty Join School

We're pleased to introduce two new faculty members who recently joined the School of Social Work.

Marah Curtis

Marah, who holds a PhD from Columbia University and an MSW from Hunter College, joins us after teaching at Boston University's School of Social Work. Her research interests are "a direct outgrowth of my social work practice as a child and family therapist. My deep interest in the effect of public policies on the lives of vulnerable families is grounded in the struggle of these families to house, educate and ensure the life chances of their members." Marah will focus her teaching in the areas of social policy, with a special interest in housing policy.

Joe Glass

While working as a clinical social worker the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Joe became concerned that very few persons with substance use and mental health problems sought help. He took that interest to his doctoral studies at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, focusing his doctoral research on better understanding and addressing the psychological and structural barriers that interfere with efforts to seek help and recover from alcohol use disorders and co-morbid psychiatric conditions. In addition to continuing his addictions research, Joe will teach courses in our BSW, MSW and PhD programs in the area of substance abuse and social work practice.



Sandy Magana with Sesame Street's Grover

Transitions

Sandy Magana

We'll miss Professor Sandy Magana, faculty member at the School of Social Work since 2000 who recently joined the faculty of the University of Illinois Chicago School of Social Work. Sandy, who recently met with the staff of Sesame Street to help them find positive ways to reduce the stigma associated with autism. Sandy is well-known for her research on cultural variation in caregiving experiences and service utilization of families of color who have a member with severe mental illness or a developmental disability.

Susan Michaud

Congratulations to **Susan Michaud** on her retirement. Susan has provided leadership to and coordinated our very successful Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program since its inception 11 years ago. This federal/state program provides substantial financial support for BSW and MSW students who are committed to a career in public child welfare. It also ensures that well-trained social workers serve in the critical area of public child welfare. IV-E program alumni are now working in more than 30 Wisconsin counties and tribal agencies.

Faculty's Research Reflects the Breadth and Depth of Social Work and Social Welfare

Our faculty's research and publications reflect the breadth, depth and complexity of the issues facing social work and social policy today. Below are a few examples of recent faculty publications that have appeared in diverse social work and social science journals, as well as book chapters. (Some have non-social work faculty co-authors who are not listed here.)

■ **Lonnie Berger**

"Family Structure and Adolescent Physical Health, Behavior and Emotional Well-Being"

■ **Aaron Brower**

"Learning Communities"

■ **Maria Cancian and Dan Meyer**

"The Regularity of Child Support and Its Contribution to the Regularity of Income"

"The Evolution of Family Complexity from the Perspective of Children"

■ **Marah Curtis**

"Housing Experiences of Former Foster Youth: How Do They Fare in Comparison to Other Youth?"

■ **Maurice Gattis**

"An Ecological Systems Comparison between Homeless Sexual Minority Youths and Homeless Heterosexual Youths"

■ **Joe Glass**

"Concordance between Self-Reports and Archival Records of Physician Visits: A Case-Control Study Comparing Individuals with and without Alcohol Use Disorders in the Community"

■ **Jan Greenberg and Marsha Mailick Seltzer**

"Longitudinal Effects of Adaptability on Behavior Problems and Maternal Depression in Families of Adolescents with Autism"

"Social Support and Well-Being at Mid-Life among Mothers of Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

■ **Anna Haley-Lock**

"The Structural Contexts of Low-Wage Work: Restaurant Employment Practices across Firm Geography, Size and Ownership Status"

■ **Betty Kramer**

"Advancing Theory of Family Conflict at the End of Life: A Hospice Case Study"

■ **Colleen Mahoney**

"Substance Use Issues in Social Work Practice in Health Care"

■ **Sandy Magana**

"Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Quality of Health Care among Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities"

■ **Katherine Magnuson**

"How Is Family Income Related to Investments in Children's Learning?"

■ **Tally Moses**

"Stigma Apprehension among Adolescents Discharged from Brief Psychiatric Hospitalization"

■ **Steph Robert**

"Awareness of Racial and Socioeconomic Health Disparities in the United States: The National Opinion Survey on Health and Health Disparities, 2008-2009"

■ **Tracy Schroeffer**

"Oncology Social Work in Palliative Care"

■ **Kristi Shook Slack and Lonnie Berger**

"Predicting Child Neglect of Young Children: A Comparison of Three Samples"



Faculty to Lead National Evaluation of Programs Serving Disadvantaged Noncustodial Parents

Professors **Dan Meyer** and **Maria Cancian**; together with their co-investigators, Professors **Lonnie Berger** and **Katherine Magnuson**; and IRP researcher and SSW doctoral student **Jennifer Noyes**, will be lead investigators on a five-year grant to evaluate new programs that provide employment services to noncustodial parents in the child support systems of eight states. This project, undertaken with Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families and the Institute for Research on Poverty, will design a "rigorous cross-site evaluation utilizing a random assignment design in which eligible noncustodial parents are assigned to treatment and control groups in each of the demonstration sites." The results of their evaluation have the potential to significantly affect how the federal government and the states design employment, parenting and child support services for disadvantaged noncustodial parents.

Students' Efforts Make a Difference

Every year, as part of their field placements, classes and related activities, our students engage in creative, thoughtful activities that contribute to the agencies they work in, the clients they serve and the community. We're excited to highlight five recent student-led interventions that are particularly innovative and meaningful.

Tess Duchateau Didn't Like What She Saw (or Didn't See) at Her Field Placement

Tess Duchateau sat in the waiting room of Columbia County's Health and Human Services building, where she was doing her field placement, and she didn't like what she saw — or rather, what she didn't see.

There was a bulletin board, a television set tuned to children's programming and a few signs and posters.

But there was nothing on display, Tess said, to convey the message that this is a safe place for people who come to seek help. "It wasn't welcoming, and there was nothing in this room," she said, "to indicate that, if I were a minority or a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person, that I can be safe here."

That experience led to a project that Tess inaugurated, which will continue

even though she completed her field placement in May — a project that connects art with people who visit or work at the Health and Human Services building.

Tess contacted organizations throughout Wisconsin where art is used as part of a therapeutic process and asked for work to display in the waiting room and other places where visitors and clients meet with staff. For example, the Appleton-based Artists for the Humanities program loaned pictures created by veterans to help them work through their struggles. Children dealing with mental health issues created a series called *The Year of the Dragon*, which is also prominently displayed.

HHS support services director Gretchen Halvorsen, who helped with the project, said that in the future she envisions adding work created by students from school districts all over Columbia County, and maybe establishing a rotating art exhibit.



Note: This was based on an article by Lyn Jerde that appeared in the Portage Daily Register. See the full article and photos at wiscnews.com/portagedailyregister/news/article_960298d4-9be9-11e1-8935-001a4bcf887a.html.



Fostering Communication: MSW Student Doug Schechter Brings Together Religious Organizations and the LGBT Community

Second-year MSW student Doug Schechter became increasingly interested in religion, spirituality, sexuality and gender while he was a work-study student at the Outreach LGBT Center in Madison. Finding that while there were more than 30 LGBT-friendly religious organizations in Madison, there was little interaction and coordination around LGBT issues among them, so Doug organized a major, half-day event that brought together representatives from area religious organizations and the LGBT community. He secured funding and co-sponsorships from more than 15 organizations.

More than 125 participants gathered in January 2012 to share strategies for building more inclusive religious and spiritual communities. One highlight of the gathering was keynote speaker Scott Anderson, who only six months earlier had become the first openly gay ordained minister in the 2.3 million-member Presbyterian Church of America.

Doug was invited to present his organizational model at UW-Madison's Wisconsin Idea Symposium, Principled Partnerships for the Public Good.

Two Projects with the Salvation Army

Gardening with Residents

Laura Kearney became concerned that the children and families at the Salvation Army's homeless shelter had limited access to fresh vegetables and other nutritious foods. She also knew that gardening has many benefits, including stress reduction and increasing physical activity. Working together with shelter families to plan, develop and maintain a garden, residents now enjoy the fruits of their labor, as their produce is used by kitchen staff in meal preparation. Laura explains that the garden gives "residents a chance to nurture life — to tend it and protect it — and then enjoy the harvest." As good ideas often lead to other good ideas, this year the "garden team" has begun to beautify its building's front entrance by planting perennial flowers.



Renovating the Governor's Mansion: Not So Important to Homeless Shelter Residents

Part-time MSW student Shannon Schaefer was talking with a group of homeless women at her placement at the Salvation Army's homeless shelter in Madison. The conversation turned to news that Governor Walker was seeking donations to renovate the governor's mansion. That conversation motivated Shannon and the residents to organize an educational fundraiser for the shelter, which lacks funds to purchase anything but the most basic necessities. Planned for the week after Valentine's Day, the Open Your Heart event included a soup and bread lunch, speakers, silent auction and the Salvation Army's famous red kettle. Sixty people attended, and while the almost \$1,000 raised wouldn't go far to renovate the mansion, it will go far to support the work of the shelter.

A Mob (Flash Mob,* That Is) for Mental Health Awareness

At her field placement at Disability Rights of Wisconsin, Riki Konikoff became involved with the Children's Mental Health Matters Coalition (CMH) — a group of agencies seeking ways to foster awareness about CMH. Riki played an important role in organizing a group of more than 100 students from six area high schools who came together for a flash mob* dance for mental health awareness on the Capitol Square in Madison. The mob's enthusiasm and excitement can be seen on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=bOs46fHsIPc.

(*For our "less hip" alumni, a flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a place, perform an unusual act for a brief time, then disperse.) The flash mob is pictured at bottom left.



A Growing Problem:

Recent Survey Shows Our Graduating Students Face Significant Student Loan Debt

On a national level, the issue of college student loan debt is generating significant attention and concern. Expected to top \$1 trillion dollars shortly, the long-term ramifications for the lives of graduates and the economy are substantial.

Wanting to get information about our own students, this April the school surveyed all graduating MSW and BSW students, asking, "What is your current student loan debt (state, federal, personal or other loans) that you will be responsible for repaying following graduation?" Because the survey was administered in class, virtually all students responded, giving us an accurate, albeit sobering, look at our students' loan debt.

Main Findings

MSW Graduating Students – Includes our full-time and part-time MSW programs

- Student debt
 - 0 = 17%
 - \$1–19,999 = 13%
 - \$20–39,000 = 17%
 - \$40–59,999 = 37%
 - \$60,000+ = 17%
- 83% have student loans they must repay
- Median debt is approximately \$42,500 (50% of students have more than \$42,500 in debt; 50% have less)
- Of those students who have debt to repay, 19% have debt exceeding \$60,000

BSW Graduating Students

- 88% have student loans they must repay
- Median debt is \$17,500

Implications

Our students face significant student loan debt upon graduation. More than 50% of our graduating MSW students will have debt greater than their anticipated median

starting salaries. Such debt will likely have long-term effects, making achieving a reasonable standard of living challenging, delaying home purchases and likely impacting family formation decisions. In addition, the significant student loan debt needed to finance students' education, coupled with modest salary expectations, have the potential to reduce the number of future students who feel they can pursue social work as a career.

What We (the School, Alumni, Students and Parents) Can Do

■ Donate to The School of Social Work

(see page 19): Your donations give us the flexibility to support special student projects, initiatives and scholarships that allow students to pursue opportunities that they would not otherwise be able to afford. (See our Donor Report on pages 14–15 for examples of how these funds are used.)

- ##### ■ Advocacy:
- Support current, and advocate for future, state/federal programs (see links below) that offer loan forgiveness for social workers working in high-need areas, and tie student debt repayment to income.

- ##### ■ Programmatic:
- The school now has two part-time, weekend MSW programs, one in Madison and one with UW-Eau Claire, making it easier for students to pursue their degrees while continuing to work.

Resources

There are many resources that offer information about student loan debt. A good place to start is the Project on Student Loan Debt at projectonstudentdebt.org, and resources for borrowers at projectonstudentdebt.org/advice.vp.html are also helpful.

The federal government site studentaid.ed.gov has a useful section on repaying loans as well.



Tamara Grigsby MSW '00 Receives Wisconsin Alumni Association Award

Tamara Grigsby, until recently the Wisconsin state legislator representing the 18th District in Milwaukee, received WAA's Forward under 40 Award. The award recognizes alumni who are "making an impact on the world by living the Wisconsin Idea." Long an advocate for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, Tamara explained,

"The debates in graduate school exposed me to the plight of vulnerable populations. I became angry as I learned the full extent of injustice in our world. Thanks to that anger, passion was turned into action [that] led me to my calling as a social worker and a member of the Wisconsin legislature."

Unfortunately, due to a major illness, in April 2012 Tamara retired from the legislature to concentrate on her health.



Class Notes

1960s and earlier

Darlene Wellner BS '62 received the 2011 Meg McLane Award from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, recognizing her "advocacy for the rights of people who are incarcerated or reintegrating into society following prison."

Connie Ahrons MSSW '67, PhD in counseling and guidance '73 is a professor emerita in sociology at the University of Southern California. Prior to joining USC, Connie was a faculty member at our School of Social Work. Internationally known for her work in divorce and child custody, Connie writes from San Diego that she's working hard against those forces that would like to "dump joint custody and no-fault divorce."

Harry Morgan MSSW '67, ED University of Massachusetts, is a professor of education at the University of West Georgia. At 85, Harry is still teaching, and the second edition of his book, *Early Childhood Education History, Theory and Practice* (Rowman Littlefield College Publishing), was recently published.

Nan Cnare BS '68, vice president of Community Initiatives at United Way of Dane County and a former deputy director of Dane County Human Services, was honored as a 2012 Woman of Distinction by the YWCA of Dane County, recognizing

"her leadership in reducing family homelessness, which shifted the conversation in our community from providing shelter to permanent housing solutions for families."

1970s

Tim Musty MSSW '70 received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from NASW-Arizona. During his social work career, Tim has been honored several times for his work with students as a school social worker, field instructor at ASU and child fellow at the University of Arizona's Department of Psychiatry.

Patricia Ann (Ticiang) Diangson MSSW '72 retired after 30 years with the city of Seattle. She was director of environmental justice and service equity at Seattle's public utility, and in December 2011, Ticiang received the Management in Race and Social Justice Award from the Seattle Management Association.

Steve Steiner MSSW '73 recently retired after 25 years as manager of Fairfax, Virginia's Adult Mental Health Supervised Supportive Services. Steve continues his part-time private practice in Herndon, Virginia.

Jane Redfield Yank BS '73, MSSW '75 recently received her PhD in kinesiology. Jane is an oncology social worker in Minneapolis and teaches social work research at the College of St. Scholastica. She writes, "I was sorry to see that Sheldon Rose had died. A few years ago, I con-

sulted him on some group development I was attempting at my workplace. He was as informative and animated as ever."

Barbara Nichols MSSW '74 retired after 37 years working for the Department of Children and Families in New Jersey. Most recently, Barbara developed curriculum and "trained the trainers" in the area of child sexual abuse.

Stanley Witkin MSSW '74, PhD '76, a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Vermont, recently wrote *Social Construction and Social Work Practice: Innovations and Interpretations*, published by Columbia University Press.

Anita Gerber MSSW '75 continues her work as a psychotherapist at the Family Service Center in Wilmette, Illinois. She writes, "It is hard to believe that it was 36 years since I got my MSSW. I am always grateful to the School of Social Work for giving me a scholarship/out-of-state tuition waiver that made it possible for me to get a social work education. Such an important/meaningful part of my life."

1980s

Gary Cohen MSSW '80 shared his experiences in developing and managing his business — which provides a range of mental health, substance abuse and work/life services to businesses and labor unions — with our students when he visited campus in the fall.



Washington, D.C. Area Alumni Gather

In November, 20 school alumni — spanning more than 40 years since graduation — gathered at the home of host Marion Usher MSSW '65 to reminisce, talk about their current endeavors and hear school director Kristi Shook Slack discuss the school's accomplishments and challenges. Faculty member Dan Meyer PhD '90, director of alumni relations and

development Mel Morgenbesser MSSW '72 and L&S Dean Gary Sandefur also joined the conversation.

Highlighting the networking ability of our alumni, attendee Jan Gordon MSSW '80 began talking with Marion's husband, Michael, about her work at Chess Challenge in D.C., which promotes academic, social and leadership development of

youth in D.C. Michael, a chess player, was intrigued. Since then he has been happily volunteering at a local school twice a week.

Pictured above: Shayna Hadley, Kristi Slack, Kate Nast and Rachel Svodoba; plus Marion Usher, Martha Rees, Anne Gonzalez and Jane Pettit.

Rita Lovington MSSW '80 sent a gift to the Sheldon Rose Scholarship Fund. She wrote, "Sheldon was a great person and great professor," and "I'm still learning at age 80."

Andrew Getzfeld MSSW '83 is a professor of psychology at New Jersey City University and an adjunct professor at NYU. He writes that "I'm working on my third book and hoping to start a fourth one this coming spring. All of the writing I did at 425 Henry Mall (social work building in the 1980s) really helped prepare me well for my career."

Andrea Reubin MSSW '84 has combined her social work values with her love of baking to develop Just Sweets, an online bakery that sells high-quality desserts (justsweetsdesserts.com/about). Using only Fair Trade Certified ingredients that are produced in developing countries, Andrea supports living wages that provide food, shelter, clean water, good health and education.

Tom Corbett PhD '88, a retired faculty member, is the co-author (with Karen Bogenschneider) of *Evidence-Based Policymaking: Insights from Policy-Minded Researchers and Research-Minded Policymakers* (Routledge 2010).

1990s

Charles Degeneffe MSSW '91, PhD in rehabilitation psychology (social work minor) '02 is an associate professor at San Diego State University. In 2011 he received the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association's Research Award for his co-authored article, "Quality of Life after Traumatic Brain Injury: Perspectives of Adult Siblings."

Dale Decker BA '93, MSSW '94 received the 2011 NASW-Wisconsin Distinguished Social Worker Award in recognition of his outstanding advocacy for clinical social work practice. Dale is a psychotherapist at Moontree Psychotherapy Center in Madison.

Nina Miller MSSW '94 is the managing director at Breast Cancer Recovery in Madison.

Ron Burian BA '95, MSSW '98 is senior research study coordinator at Northwestern University's School of Medicine, where he is working on a project investigating "the effects of incarceration on HIV risk among detained minorities."

George Betancourt MSSW '96 is a therapist at Journey Mental Health Center

in Madison and a foster parent to four children. George told us that he wished he had the money to fund a new building for the school because it did so much for him. Thanks, George! (We do, too.)

Chris Foreman BA '98, MSW '99 received the 2012 Distinguished Social Worker Award from the NASW-Wisconsin South Central Chapter. A social worker/trainer at Dane County Human Services, Chris is also a lecturer at the school, teaching courses in the area of children, youth and family interventions.

2000s

Shanika Renfro-Wilson MSW '06 is a counselor and alcohol & other drug specialist at the North Carolina Central University Counseling Center. She is beginning the DSW program in clinical practice and leadership at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Kristina Mueller BSW '07 has had quite an experience working for the Obama campaigns. She was responsible for arranging a number of his campaign trips and flew with Obama on Air Force One on several occasions. Kristina is starting the MSW program this fall.

Anita Rose Arenson BSW '09, MSW '10 did an international field placement with a women's rights organization in Mumbai, India. She is now working with Cornerstone, a domestic-abuse agency in Minneapolis.

Keith Green MSW '09 is a founding member of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and director of federal affairs at the AIDS Foundation in Chicago.

2010s

Caroline Gomez BSW '10, MSW '11 is an outreach specialist for Covering Kids and Families, a program of the UW-Extension and School of Human Ecology that's dedicated to maximizing participation in public health insurance programs.

Rebecca Verville MSW '11 is a social worker at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan, Michigan.

In Memoriam

K. Beryl Sutton BS '36, MSSW '49 died in July 2011. She established and ran the Dane County Family Court Counseling Program in Madison until her retirement in 1981.

Eugene P. Schwartz MSSW '48 died in May 2011 in Missouri. In 1970, he founded the criminology department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. An activist until the end, Eugene wrote hundreds of letters to politicians and newspaper editors to champion progressive issues.

Louise (Schleicher) Bakke MSSW '52 passed away in June 2012. A long-time leader in the area of disability, Louise retired in 1999 as the deputy director of Social Security disability for the state of Wisconsin.

Anita Lenz MSSW '58 died in November 2011 in Stoddard, Wisconsin. Anita had a long social work career focusing on advocacy and counseling for children and their families. Anita's husband, Peter Lenz MSSW '63, passed away in 2005.

Anita Burr MSSW '63 died in August 2011. From 1965 to 1976, she was a clinical professor at UW-Madison's School of Social Work who specialized in working with the elderly. Following her retirement to San Diego, she became an accomplished watercolor artist.

Jerry Vigdal MSSW '69 died in December 2011 in Madison. Jerry was a leader in developing and instituting alcohol and other drug treatment programs for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Jerry Rous MSSW '80 died in October 2011 in Junction City, Wisconsin. He taught sociology at UW-Stevens Point, where he was the manager of continuing education.

Julaine Allen BA '89, MSSW '90 passed away in January 2012. Julaine was a psychotherapist in Sauk County, Wisconsin.

Jeanne Kinney MSSW '93 passed away in May 2012. For 20 years, Jeanne worked with adolescents at the Newstart Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Program at Meriter Hospital in Madison.

Laurel Rae (Carmen) Constantinides MSSW '98 died in July 2011 in Wyoming following a tragic accident. She was an adoption social worker specializing in international adoptions.

Michael David Niles PhD '04 passed away in May 2011. He was a professor of social work at Missouri Western University in St. Joseph, Missouri. Much of his work and teaching centered around Native American life, and he personally created the Keepers of the Fire Scholarship, an annual scholarship that supported American Indian (Indigenous) students attending a college or university.

Doleta Chapru passed away in April 2012 in Madison. Doleta, who was at one time the administrative assistant for our PhD program, worked for social justice causes throughout her life.

In Memoriam: Dean Schneck



Clinical Professor Emeritus Dean Schneck passed away on February 4, 2012, in Homer, Alaska, at age 71. Dean was

a member of our faculty from 1971 until his retirement in 2000. For much of that time, he served as our director of field education, playing a major role in developing and sustaining the UW-Madison School of Social Work's nationally known model of field education.

A national leader in field work education and social work, Dean was instrumental in founding the North American Network of Field Educators and Directors. Under his leadership and advocacy, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), recognizing the centrality and importance of field education in the social work profession, established the Commission on Field Education. With his colleagues Bart Grossman and Urania Glassman, he co-edited the volume *Field Education in Social Work: Contemporary Issues and Trends*, published by Kendall Hunt Publishing Company in 1991.

Dean will be remembered fondly by the many hundreds of social work students whom he advised and assisted throughout his career, and by his colleagues and others in the social work community with whom he worked closely. He was a warm, caring, generous man. He is survived by his wife, Gerri; children Chris and Veronica; and his grandchildren.

BSW Student Presents at United Nations Day in NYC

By any measure, BSW student Kyaw Sit Naing is already an accomplished young man. He spent the summer of 2011 in Thailand working with the Burmese Human Rights Association and recently completed his field placement working with refugees in Milwaukee. As part of Social Work Day at the UN in NYC, drawing on his personal and professional experiences, Kyaw was invited to present a workshop titled Social Work Practice during Times of Military and Political Turmoil. Thanks to donor support, we were able to provide funds to help him with his travel and lodging costs.



A Special Opportunity for MSW Student LaToya Atkins

When LaToya Atkins was offered a summer internship with the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Services in Washington, D.C., she knew it would be a great opportunity. She would be working with organizations, communities and law-enforcement agencies about racial tension and restoring stability within communities using mediation and conflict resolution. Thanks to donor funds, we were able to help offset some of her educational expenses in D.C.

Friends of the School Send Students to Racial Justice Summit

While most donations to the school come from our alumni, Terry Marshall and Lesley Johnson have long supported the school's field program. As the former director of ATTIC Correctional Services, Terry helped the agency to establish the Richard Schwert Scholarship, which provides support for students interested in criminal justice. This year, Terry and Lesley (a current employee of ATTIC) personally made a generous contribution that allowed our students to attend a major workshop on racial justice.

Scholarship Supports Students in the Mental Health Concentration

James Bolek MSSW '71 and his wife, Bernice G. Straub-Bolek MSSW '68, both passionate and dedicated social workers, worked at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute for many years. Sadly, Bernie passed away in 1997. Wanting to help the next generation of social workers committed to working with those affected by mental illness, Jim established the Bernice G. Straug-Bolek and James Bolek Scholarship. It will be awarded annually, in perpetuity, to a graduate student in the mental health concentration.



Corporate Donors Match Alumni Contributions

Many businesses and corporations have programs that match employee (and sometimes retiree) donations to nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the generosity of alumna Deb Rose and her husband, Curtis, both of whom work for Hewlett-Packard, over the past two years the school has received more than \$5,000 in computer equipment from HP's matching program.

This year other alumni also used corporate match programs, including those offered by Argo Insurance, ExxonMobil, Fox News and GE. If you work for an organization that matches charitable gifts, please let your human resources department know about any donations that you make to the school.



The UW-Madison
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK invites you to a
Macro Series '12 Event:

**“Radical” Social Work’s
History and Future:
Our Field, Our State, Our Year**

Thursday, February 9, 6:30-8:00pm
Biochemistry Building (420 Henry Mall), Room 1120
→ 2 blocks due west of SSW, near intersections of Campus and Balchout Drive ←
→ paid parking available in Lot 20 (at 1350 University Ave., 2 blocks away) ←

Featuring the following speakers (& ample audience discussion):

Mark Courtney, Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration: expert in child welfare policy and services, ties between child welfare services and other institutions serving vulnerable populations, and the professionalization of social work; author, with Harry Specht, of *Unfaithful Angels: How Social Work Has Abandoned Its Mission* (1996), and honored by NASW as the 2000 Outstanding Social Worker for the State of Wisconsin.

Ron Chance, Community Programs Manager, Dane Co. Dept. of Human Services & Co-Director, Dane Co.’s Early Childhood Initiative: oversees the Joining Forces for Families initiative, one of the largest health and human services collaborations in the US that follows a neighborhood-based teaming approach; and honored by NASW as the 2007 Outstanding Social Worker for the State of Wisconsin.

This event is free and open to the public. Please contact Alicia Karmaly at 262-3561 or karmaly@wisc.edu with any questions about event logistics.

Radical Social Work Kicks off Second Annual Macro Practice Series

Professor Mark Courtney, co-author of *Unfaithful Angels: How Social Work Has Abandoned Its Mission*, was the initial speaker at our alumni-sponsored macro practice workshop series. Mark, a former member of our faculty who is now at the University of Chicago, was joined by social worker Ron Chance in discussing Radical Social Work’s History and Future. More than 150 students, faculty and community members attended their talk.

Scholarships and Awards Funded by Alumni and Friends of the School

We are fortunate that a number of our alumni and friends have provided support for student scholarships and awards. Many have endowed these scholarships, meaning that they will be awarded every year in perpetuity. Several are memorial scholarships, honoring an alumnus/na or faculty member who has passed away, and others have been established by living alumni who want to provide financial assistance to students.

The following are recent recipients:

- Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship — Andrew Bethke, Jacob Hanifl
- Debra Beebe Scholarship — Lisa Courchane, Michelle Skaar, Lindsay West
- Katherine Prichard Benz Scholarship — Nichole Carlisle, Allissa Schwartz
- Lila and Robert Dibble Scholarship — Andrew Bethke
- Arthur Miles Scholarship — Linsay Brekke
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- Irving Piliavin Scholarship — Hilary Shager
- Mary Ann Test Award — Lynette Studer
- Richard Schwert Award — Rachel Bocek, Sarah Rosencrans
- Joseph and Elaine Wojtowicz Scholarship — Rachel Ackeret
- Lillian Aked Yatvin Scholarship — Bonnie Baskett-Harvey
- Helen I. Clarke and Louise Palmer Shimpa — Not awarded this year, but will be awarded in 2012–2013.



Lynette Studer with Professor Maurice Gattis

First Sheldon Rose Scholarship Awarded

Following the death of long-time faculty member and internationally known researcher Sheldon Rose in 2010, donations from former students, alumni, friends and Sheldon’s family established the Sheldon Rose Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student who is committed to research in group work, a focus of Sheldon’s teaching and scholarship.

We are pleased to announce that PhD student Lynette Studer was chosen to receive the first Rose award. Lynette is investigating how leadership groups in assertive community treatment programs help to improve the outcomes for persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

If you’d like to donate to the Sheldon Rose Scholarship, go to socwork.wisc.edu/ donate, follow the links and indicate that your gift is for the Sheldon Rose Scholarship.



Dorothy Pearson with Rabbi Morris Allen, who delivered the inaugural Dorothy Pearson Lecture in Equity and Social Justice.

"I Wanted to Give Back to the School that Provided Me with an Excellent Education"

Social Work Leader and Alumna Dorothy Pearson Endows an Annual Lecture Series on Equity and Social Justice

In addition to funding the lecture series, Dorothy has included a bequest in her will to provide fellowships for African-American graduate students, explaining, "When I was young, somebody took my calls here, gave me an interview, gave me support. I thought, 'Maybe I could be that for some other little girl coming up who is trying to break into that other world that has been held back from her.' "

After growing up in the heat of Mississippi and Louisiana, Dorothy Pearson MSSW '60, PhD '73 felt the cool breeze off Lake Michigan in June and sensed it was the wind of change.

The year was 1958, and Dorothy had just graduated from Southern University. She was on vacation in Milwaukee,

visiting a brother who had moved north in search of a better life.

She intended to start graduate school at Atlanta or Fisk University in the fall. And then she experienced that cool lake air. "I don't know if you can imagine what the weather was in Louisiana when I left in June: hot, humid, muggy and damp." This was so different," she said. "Then I looked around. I saw different people. I was born and reared in the legally segregated South. It became interesting to me to see what was going on in this part of the world. ... So I thought, 'Maybe there's a school of social work here.' "

Although admissions were closed at what was then the UW-Madison School of Social Work's satellite campus in Milwaukee, Dorothy did what she often has done when faced with an obstacle in life: she worked around it. She asked the school to look at her references and application. Fortunately, recognizing Dorothy's intelligence and potential, the school admitted

her. Dorothy went on to earn her MSSW degree, become the first African-American to earn a PhD at the UW-Madison School of Social Work and establish the doctoral program in social work at Howard University.

Dorothy was back on campus in mid-April to hear social work alumnus Rabbi Morris Allen BA '76, MSSW '77 deliver the inaugural Dorothy Pearson Lecture in Equity and Social Justice. Rabbi Allen spoke on "Food, Religion and Workers' Rights" — specifically, about his campaign on behalf of workers, many of them Latino immigrants, laboring in the kosher food industry — and his advocacy to add a "justice certification" to Kosher foods, ensuring that fair worker and sound environmental practices are followed.

Rabbi Allen's lecture confirmed her decision to fund the series, Pearson said. "I never would have thought about a rabbi giving the inaugural lecture. When I heard him, I said, 'This is what I'm talking about.'

I learned so much from what he's doing. I thought it was great, and he's such a delightful person and a person of passion."

Passion has been a constant throughout Pearson's life. "I'm used to challenges," she said. "It's because of being raised in the South with segregation. You were barred from white institutions based on color. I wondered, 'What do they have over there that they do not want us to know?' Or, 'Maybe I'm not as good as I think I am.' There's another world out there; maybe I'd better go see."

When she came to Madison at the turn of the '70s for the PhD program, she was elated. "I was thrilled to work with the famous professors: Alfred Kadushin, Martin Loeb, E.E. LeMasters, Vivian Wood. It was very exciting."

Not long after receiving her doctorate, Dorothy worked on a retreat with the dean of Howard University's School of Social Work. "In that process, he said to me, 'You have to come home,' if you know what that means," she said. Dorothy joined the Howard faculty and eventually crafted its doctoral program, the first social work doctoral program in the world that focused primarily on African-American students.

In addition to funding the lecture series, Dorothy has included a bequest in her will to provide fellowships for African-American graduate students.

"After retiring in 1999, I was thinking back over my life, and at what point in my life where I contributed or where people may have contributed to me," she said. "In those developing years, it was the UW that allowed me to move into the higher education area, develop a point of view and encounter all the wonderful people whom I learned from. The idea of giving back became the prominent road that I wanted to travel, rather than just receiving for what I had done."

Note: Chris DuPre, senior editor at the UW Foundation, interviewed Dorothy, and much of this article is based on his work.

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You may receive a phone call from the UW Foundation during its annual pledge drive. Please remember to designate your gift to the School of Social Work.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about your philanthropic interests and share with you the school's greatest needs. Please contact Mel Morgenbesser, Alumni Relations and Development, at mmorgenb@wisc.edu or (608) 233-4260, or Jennifer Karlson, UW Foundation, at Jennifer.Karlson@supportuw.org or (608) 262-7225.

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If you valued your education, want your school to remain a leader in social work education and social work research, and believe that increasing opportunities for students who want to pursue a career in social work is worthwhile, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We know that you know that securing funding for social work and social work students is very challenging. Currently only 5 percent of our alumni make a donation to the school each year. Please help us to increase the number of our alumni donors:

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 Please send any news that we can include in future newsletters, or any changes in your address, phone, employment or email to alumni@socialwork.wisc.edu or to UW-Madison School of Social Work, 1350 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706, Attn: Alumni Relations and Development.



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*"I wanted to give back to
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— Dorothy Pearson
MSSW '60, PhD '73

Read Dorothy's story
on page 16.

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Three Alumnae Named 2011 People of the Year by Madison Magazine

Hooyung Young MSW '08, former director of community impact at the United Way of Dane County; **Brenda Nelson MSSW '99**, who recently retired as the director of Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center; and **Crystal Anders MSSW '83**, director of Community Shares of Wisconsin, were among those recognized as 35 Madisonians Who Have Made 2011 Better in the November 2011 issue of *Madison* magazine.