New Connections Programs Joins UT Arlington School of Social Work

Dean Santos Hernández and President James Spaniolo will officially welcome the New Connections Programs to the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work at an open house on December 18th.

The New Connections Programs, a project of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for the last ten years, was transferred to The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work on Sept. 1, 2006.

“We’re very pleased that New Connections is joining the UT Arlington family,” said President James Spaniolo. “This is another great example of collaborations between UT institutions in the metroplex—The University of Texas at Arlington and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. We are joining forces to make sure that affordable drug intervention programs continue to be offered to North Texas residents and taxpayers.”

New Connections provides a model of effective intervention services that is unique within the State of Texas, and possibly the nation. In May 2000, the program received national recognition as an Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Program at award ceremonies in Washington, D.C., one of only 30 programs in the country that year to receive recognition. These awards were sponsored by the Federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors and the National Prevention Network. New Connections’ award-winning program design was developed with the input of client families.

New Connections was a part of the Division of Community Women’s Health Care in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UT Southwestern. Earlier this year, a decision was made by officials at UT Southwestern to relocate the medical and other health care services within the Division of Community Women’s Health Care to Parkland Health and Hospital System. New Connections Programs are not of a medical nature.

After careful consideration, New Connections Programs Director Emily West and UT Arlington School of Social Work Dean Santos Hernández made a decision to relocate the administrative and research functions of New Connections Programs to UT Arlington’s School of Social Work. The Harold Simmons Foundation supported this decision with a gift of $100,000 to the UT Arlington School of Social Work to fund the costs associated with the relocation.

Dr. Hernández is enthusiastic about welcoming New Connections to his school and commented that “Inclusion of this program into the UT Arlington School of Social Work will enhance our school by providing an arena for new research with a vulnerable population, by adding an excellent internship site for students and by giving us a presence in Dallas County. This relocation proves most beneficial to all parties.”

New Connections will continue providing services at their 2300 Butler St., Dallas location to Dallas County residents. West will continue her role as director of the project and will retain her current staff. Dr. Debra Woody, professor in the School of Social Work at UT Arlington, will assume the role of Principal Investigator for research projects.

Emily West (second from left rear row) with New Connections Staff
School Partners with City of Arlington to Address Homelessness

Drs. Emily Spence and Jaimie Page, professors with the School of Social Work, and Ph.D. student James Petrovich have been approved to receive an $18,000 grant from the City of Arlington to address the issue of chronic homelessness. The project will be run through the School's Community Services Center and managed by Petrovich. Spence described the project by saying “Our role is to look at homelessness through the eyes of those experiencing it and relay their needs to community leaders.”

Dr. Charles Mindel Establishes a Graduate Research Scholarship Fund

Dr. Charles H. Mindel retired last spring after thirty years of teaching service with the University of Texas at Arlington.

As a long-time and valued professor of social work he taught, mentored and advised in the area of research design, research methods and statistics. He made a significant contribution to the growth and strength of the School of Social Work's doctoral program. His contribution to the program has been invaluable and has helped ensure its excellent national reputation. His influence will be felt for years as Ph.D. graduates have gone on to the most distinguished universities in the U.S. or returned to their home countries to build social work research capacity.

Dean Santos Hernández Honored During Hispanic Heritage Month

As he began his ninth year as Dean of the School of Social Work, Dr. Santos Hernández was honored in September as UT Arlington's highest-ranked Hispanic academic administrator. The event hosted, by the Multicultural Affairs Office, was a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Dr. Hernandez described his affinity for his work by saying “The thing I enjoy most about being a dean is that it allows me an opportunity to solve problems at an organizational level. We need more people of color in these positions because the students will see them as role models.”

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

This is the list of donors who have contributed to the UT Arlington School of Social Work during the calendar year 2006. If your name has been omitted, or some other error exists, we apologize and ask you to contact Donna Pope at 817.272.0924.

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Dean Hernández Creates Endowed Scholarship

The Carolyn C. and Santos H. Hernández endowed scholarship fund was established by Dean Hernández this fall with the goal of helping at least one struggling social work student each year. Dean Hernández was quoted as saying “This is our way of not only giving back to the university, because they have been so generous, but to the school, which has meant so much to us, and the students who have enriched our careers.”

New Certificate Program

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work will begin a new certificate program in Solution-Focused Brief Therapy in January. It is a 60 hour/10 seminar module designed to teach solution-focused skills at a specialist level. This certificate program is for professionals in the human service fields and is offered through the school's Professional Development Program.

For further information, wcontact Joanne Fein at 817-272-3921.
Overcoming Grief to Reach Out to Others

This reprint of an article in The Dallas Morning News profiles Sherry Williams, a first year MSSW student.

Plano: Trauma survivor helps youth deal with death in support groups
12:00 AM CDT on Monday, September 11, 2006
By LAUREN D’AVOLIO / The Dallas Morning News

One of Sherry Williams’ formative memories is of sterile swinging doors in the burn unit at Parkland Hospital, rhythmically opening and closing.

“I've just had a lot of grief. That's why I want to give back. I want to say, ‘You can rebuild your life,'” says Sherry Williams, who works at the Journey of Hope Grief Support Center.

She was about 7 when her grandfather was electrocuted by a fallen power line at his farm on the outskirts of Sherman. The jolt severed both his arms and singed 95 percent of his body. He lay in the hospital for four months until he died.

Two years later, Ms. Williams’ aunt was home alone and answered a knock on her door in Sherman. It was a man asking to use her phone. She consented.

Once inside, the man attacked and killed her, Ms. Williams said.

He left without stealing anything, but in the struggle, he dropped his wallet. He was arrested and sent to prison.

Nearly 30 years down the road, the intrepid Ms. Williams is 36, living in Plano with her husband, Dick, and their French bulldog, Buster.

“I think for me at that age, I couldn't conceptualize all this,” Ms. Williams said. “Now, I'm through my grief.”

She carries no visible scars from a childhood marred by tumult. Now, she's the community outreach coordinator for Plano's Journey of Hope Grief Support Center – the only nonprofit organization in Collin County offering free services to youth grappling with the death of a loved one. The agency gets funding from community organizations.

“I've just had a lot of grief. That's why I want to give back. I want to say, 'You can rebuild your life,'” Ms. Williams said.

There wasn't a Journey of Hope when she was a kid, and no outside help to come to terms with a family in shambles. So they muddled through.

Journey – which doesn’t offer counseling, but organizes support groups – has helped Ms. Williams to grieve and understand death.

Often, Ms. Williams said, children who lose a close relative are made to feel like lepers at school.

Some classmates are supportive. Others ask tactless questions or even tease a mourning child for being different. But at Journey, kids are surrounded by support groups of peers in the same pain.

“It's amazing what they say. It's amazing how they process grief,” Ms. Williams said of the young people Journey serves. “But children need to talk about grief. They need to understand dad has died, and this is what death means.”

Ms. Williams received a psychology degree from the University of Texas at Dallas several months ago. Now, she's working on a master's degree in social work from UT-Arlington. Ultimately, she'd like to be a social worker and work in hospice care. Death is a natural part of life, she said, and someone needs to be there for the critically ill.

NASW-TX Reception

UT Arlington School of Social Work Alumni, Faculty and Friends enjoyed visiting at a reception held in conjunction with the NASW Texas 30th Annual Conference in Arlington on October 26-28, 2006.

Social Work News
is a bi-annual publication of the UT Arlington School of Social Work.

Editor
Donna Pope

Staff Photographer
Don Capps
Faculty Publications, Presentations and Awards

Dr. Maria Scannapieco

Book Reviewed—Dr. Maria Scannapieco and Dr. Kelli Connell-Carrick’s book, Understanding Child Maltreatment published by Oxford University Press was reviewed in the November volume of Child Maltreatment Journal.

Dr. Ski Hunter

Presented at the Family Preservation meeting in September on religion and lesbian and gay persons.

Presented at NASW/TX in October on what fundamentalist religion does to lesbian and gay persons and how to help them.

Dr. Randall Basham


Awarded with the B.S.W. Award for Teaching Excellence 2006: by the outgoing class of Social Work undergraduate students for the year. School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Sung Seek Moon

Awarded, in conjunction with Dr. Uma Rao at UT Southwest, a $215,317 NIDA Minority Research Supplement for his research application, “Stress and Risk for Substance Abuse in Adolescents”.

Dr. Richard Schoech


Donors continued from page 2

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Dr. Barbara B. Gissett
Jonah D. Givelber
Dr. Patricia E. Gleason-Wynn
Belinda Glenn
Welcome To Our New Faculty

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ashleigh Farris, Sr. Office Asst., Professional Development
Rita Hay, Senior Program Office Asst., PHD Program
Ginger Jackson, Sr. Office Asst., Dean’s Office
Nelda Lawson, Asst. to the Dean, Dean’s Office
Jeff Neal, Computer User Service Asst., Computer Services
Leslie Trillo, Admissions Counselor, Admissions

NEW CONNECTIONS PROGRAMS

Emily West, Director
Dr. Toosje VanBeveren, Psychological Assoc III
JoAnn Bailey, Social Work Supervisor
Sheniqua Daniels, Senior Admin. Asst.
Mary Edwards, Case Aide
Stephanie Elliott, Sr. Case Aide
Renee Frazier, Social Worker I
Jaquita Johnson, Health Education Coo.
Begonia King, Case Aide
Cadina Lopez, Case Aide
Denice Murray, Sr. Case Aide
Penny Prather, Sr. Case Aide
Joy Rhodes, Driver II
Catherine Wright-McCarty, Social Work Asst.
Candy Yeung, Social Worker I

STAFF/FACULTY CHANGES

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Larry Watson, MSSW Program Director (Interim)
Catherine Edgell, MSSW Program Secretary
Deserah McClothin, Sr. Receptionist Community Services Center

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Eileen E. Klem
Al and Judy Kline

Title?

Dr. Catheleen Jordan was elected President-Elect of the State National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in July, 2006. She will serve a two-year term as President of the social work professional organization from July 2007 through 2009. Dr. Jordan is Professor of Social Work at UTA and has been on the faculty for 22 years during which time she has been involved with NASW at many levels—local, state and national. Additionally, Dr. Jordan is currently the faculty advisor for the UTA Student NASW organization which won the award for outstanding UTA student organization in 2005. Dr. Jordan received her MSSW from UTA in 1979 and her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley in 1986. She is recognized for her work in family assessment and treatment, as well as clinical research. She has published numerous articles and book chapters and is co-author of recent books on clinical assessment, evidence-based family practice with special populations, and family social work. She is currently chair of the Curriculum Committee and co-chair of the Direct Practice Sequence at the School of Social Work. She is past PhD Program Director and past Community Service Clinic Director at the SSW.
Rosalie Budnoff began her social work career in Maine after graduating from Harvard University in 1949 and completing a year of graduate social work studies at Boston University. After time off to raise a family, she enrolled in the School of Social Work at UT Arlington, receiving her M.S.S.W. with the first graduating class in 1970. She spent 13 years with the Dallas City Dental Health Program, writing grants to expand dental services for low-income Dallas residents and creating innovative community dental health education/disease prevention activities. Later she became a consultant to several public health programs and an investigator for Child Protective Services. Since retiring in 2002, she volunteers for a nursing home, an inner-city school and a senior affairs advocacy group and works to strengthen alumni ties to the School of Social Work.

Mrs. Budnoff received this award at the annual Distinguished Alumni Award Gala on October 14, 2006. Accompanying her was her granddaughter Dr. Deanna Meyler, friend Dr. Israel Berger and Dr. and Mrs. Peter Gaupp. Dr. Gaupp, a retired professor for the School of Social Work, was a mentor to Mrs. Budnoff during her graduate student years and made the introductory remarks.
Currently, I am working as the Program Manager for Special Projects within World Vision International-Georgia. WVI is currently one of the largest development NGOs in Georgia, with around 220 nationally-based employees. I am basically overseeing two projects related to the economic growth and income development of at-risk/vulnerable population (ethnic minority beneficiaries live in some of the most remote parts of the country with severely eroded infrastructure and little access to the market). Most do not speak the national language—which rules out higher education in Georgia, live under the national poverty line, and are actively discriminated against in employment markets. Our youth in orphanages have a much tougher lot, as the State barely provides enough funding for food; all the children’s other belongings (clothes, toys, books) are the product of charitable donations. In a country where nepotism and clan-based thinking dominates the business sector, finding a job with no family and no social networks is practically impossible. At the age of 18, these children are sent out of institutions and into the street—WV programs aim to provide marketable skills training, employment counseling, and micro-loans to these children for starting small businesses so that they can start their adult lives with hope.

Our third project was a large community development and mobilization initiative engaging 46 villages/communities in identification and action plan development to implement infrastructure development—rehabilitating schools, hospitals, roads, and water/gas/electricity supply systems through funding from World Bank. The populations we are serving are isolated and impoverished in many different ways. Our ethnic minority beneficiaries live in some of the most remote parts of the country with severely eroded infrastructure and little access to the market. Most do not speak the national language—which rules out higher education in Georgia, live under the national poverty line, and are actively discriminated against in employment markets. Our youth in orphanages have a much tougher lot, as the State barely provides enough funding for food; all the children’s other belongings (clothes, toys, books) are the product of charitable donations. In a country where nepotism and clan-based thinking dominates the business sector, finding a job with no family and no social networks is practically impossible. At the age of 18, these children are sent out of institutions and into the street—WV programs aim to provide marketable skills training, employment counseling, and micro-loans to these children for starting small businesses so that they can start their adult lives with hope.

Members of the ICY Center in the village of Marneuli, an ethnic Azerbaijani village in South Georgia. These girls are members of the volleyball team World Vision created—the idea being to create opportunities for young women in Muslim communities and, in both cases, to encourage active participation and understanding among ethnic minorities in Georgian society. Matt Stephens is shown top row, second from the right.
Alumni in the News

Dr. Nathan Keller (2004), a Major in the U.S. Army, was deployed to Iraq in June. He is responsible for the clinical treatment of soldiers in need of mental health assistance.

Dr. Kristin Ferguson (2003), Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work, was recently selected as the inaugural winner of the Frank Turner Award for best article in International Social Work.

Diana Stedman (1997 & 1999) was accepted into The Fall 2006 Washington Center’s Postgraduate Professional Development Program.

Susan Etheridge (1993) was profiled in the Dallas Morning News in November. Susan is the executive director for the Collin County Children’s Advocacy Center in Plano.

SSW Alumni Update Form Now On-Line

If you are a SSW Alum, please take a few moments to update your information on our new alumni update form found at www.uta.edu/ssw/alumni. While you are there, go to the main webpage for current pictures and notices of upcoming events.

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Make checks to the UT-Arlington SSW, complete the section below and mail to:

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Attach sheet for additional space

ssw students & alums:

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Please fill out and return this form, and, if possible, include a photo. (Sorry, photos cannot be returned). Mail the form (and photo) to:

SSW News Editor
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Arlington
Box 19129
Arlington, Texas 76019-0129

or go to www.uta.edu/ssw/alumni for an on-line form.

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Other (List responsibilities, special projects or interests)
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_________________________________________________________________

Attatch sheet for additional space
Student Prepares to Apply Therapeutic Riding as a Social Work Intervention with At-Risk Youth

Alison Selby, an experienced jockey and certified advanced therapeutic horsemanship instructor, entered the UTA School of Social Work this Fall with the intention to prepare herself to enter the profession of social work, out of an interest in at-risk youth in foster care and other child welfare settings. She also has an interest in advancing therapeutic horsemanship as an intervention modality with vulnerable populations served by social workers.

Field Day is a Success!

On September 19th, more than 65 agencies were represented at the UT Arlington School of Social Work Field Day. The event is held annually to provide SSW students an opportunity to explore potential sites for their field placements. The students enjoy learning about the various organizations from representative staff.

Faculty and Students Enjoy Annual Cookout

The weather was perfect for the annual SSW Faculty Flipper. More than 200 students and faculty enjoyed the perfect fall weather and relaxed atmosphere in the SSW courtyard. Dean Santos Hernández initiated the event when he assumed his position as Dean in 1998.
Fall Reception Celebrates New Academic Year

Sixty-five guests attended the annual Fall Reception at Shady Oaks Country Club on September 9th to celebrate the beginning of the 2006-07 academic year. Attendees included university administrators, faculty, adjunct faculty, staff, advisory council members and their guests. Those new to the School were warmly welcomed and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Save These Dates

2nd Annual LGBT Symposium
Friday, April 13, 2007 9am-4pm
UTA School of Social Work Auditorium

3rd Annual Night of Excellence
Saturday, April 14, 2007 6pm
UTA Bluebonnet Ballroom