UT Arlington School of Social Work Celebrates 40 Years

Drs. James Callicutt and Peter Gaupp have seen the evolution of the UT Arlington School of Social Work. As inaugural faculty members, they were in the classroom in September 1968 when the first class of 26 students arrived.

Forty years later, they were again present to greet and celebrate with three MSSW graduates from that era—Rosalie Budnoff (1970), Elaine Thieroff (1970) and AnaMaria Goicoecha (1972)—and 140 other guests at the 2009 Night of Excellence.

Upon his retirement in May 2007, Callicutt was commissioned by then Dean Santos Hernández to compile a history of the School of Social Work. The book, titled Commemorating 40 Years of Advancing Social Work Education: The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work, est. 1967 was published in late 2008. It chronicles the development, growth and activities of the School of Social Work from its establishment in 1967 through the 2006-2007 academic year.

The following is an excerpt from the forward of the book written by Dr. Hernández:

The past 40 years have been monumental for social work educators and practitioners. The civil rights and social change movements of the 1960s and ’70s had a defining effect on the profession, much like the New Deal had on social program development three decades earlier. The era proclaimed a renewed commitment to social justice and respect for diverse cultures, a commitment evident in the vision of The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work.

The school admitted its first Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) class in 1968, and the Council on Social Work Education accredited the program two years later. The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree came along in 1979 within the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work and was accredited in 1982. The PhD in social work was initiated in 1983. In 1991 the BSW and MSSW programs merged into the School of Social Work (SSW). In 1997 the school started a dual PhD in comparative social policy with Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico—the first social work doctorate in Mexico. Today, the School of Social Work houses the Judith Granger Birmingham Center for Child Welfare, New Connections Programs and the Community Services Center. It also sponsors the Professional Development Program and a legislative internship. Outside funding exceeds $4.4 million.

Providing innovative responses to pressing needs has always been the school's stamp on society. The SSW addressed child welfare training with its Title XX programs of the ’70s; shifting demographics through participation in the National Institute of Mental Health minority recruitment programs and the Hispanic Center on Aging; underrepresentation of professional social workers in Texas via off-campus programs in Tyler, Abilene, Canyon, Waco, Edinburg and, most recently, Lubbock. The school has also responded to community crises such as organizing a volunteer response to area Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Underpinning these activities are faculty scholars dedicated to good teaching while maintaining robust involvement in research, professional development, practice and consultation. Many of the 31 full-time faculty serve on boards or are otherwise associated with local, state, national or international agencies and professional groups. Through the work of its faculty, the SSW ranks among the top-rated schools of social work in the country and among the largest—more than 800 students, more than 5,000 alumni—in the Southwest.
Texas Exonoree Project Featured in Local, Regional Media

School of Social Work Assistant Professor Jaimie Page and the Texas Exonoree Project were the focus of an article found in The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. The story is available on the Web at http://lubbockonline.com/stories/033109/sta_416593266.shtml.

Dr. Page and social work students also coordinated a workshop, “A Day for Social Justice: The 2009 Exonoree Interfaith Conference” in Dallas May 1 to provide information about the wrongfully convicted. Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins was a keynote speaker. The workshop was featured in the May 5 edition of UT Arlington’s The Shorthorn. The following is a reprint of the story:

Exonerees encouraged to fight for change: The wrongfully convicted were told to use their experience to help improve the court system.

BY SHAMBHU SHARAN
Contributor to The Shorthorn

Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins told exonerees wrongfully convicted of crimes not to forget their experiences. Rather, he said to use the memories of that time—some more than 25 years—to improve their lives and those of others also wrongfully convicted.

Exonerees encouraged to fight for change: The wrongfully convicted were told to use their experience to help improve the court system.

2009 Exonoree Interfaith Conference” at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith in Dallas on Friday. The purpose of the conference was to provide information about the wrongly convicted.

“Be that same person that had to sit in that cell at night not knowing if you would ever be free,” Watkins said. “Continue to fight for an improvement in our justice system, not just in Dallas County, but all over the world.”

The School of Social Work’s Exoneree Project Director Jaimie Page said she is proud to be associated with the project. She said her project provides services, training, support and education.

“I help exonerees get identification, health care if they are eligible, jobs and financial training,” Page said.

Steven Phillips, exonerated late last year after serving 24 years of a 30-year conviction, said it is literally impossible for society to construct a perfect justice system. Every system is capable of making mistakes. In the end, he said, it’s best to own up to the mistakes.

James Giles, who was charged with aggravated rape in 1983 and exonerated in 2007, said God was good to him in tough times.

“God has been good to us while we’ve been incarcerated,” he said.

Child Welfare Supervisors Benefit from Training

Maria Scannapieco, director of the School of Social Work Judith Birmingham Center for Child Welfare, and Kelli Connell-Carrick (MSSW 1998 and PhD 2002), professor in the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work, recently collaborated with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to produce a training curriculum for supervisors in child protective services (CPS) across Texas. The intent of the project is to reinforce the abilities of youth in foster care who are about to transition to an independent life and enhance their chances of success.

PAL-STEP staff and youth trained 154 child welfare supervisors during the three-year project. Evaluation revealed the training was well received, and participants experienced a significant increase in knowledge. Interviews with supervisors after they returned to their workplaces indicated that they were using both formal and informal means to share their knowledge with workers, although they were challenged by high caseloads and excessive work demands.

The curriculum will become a part of the state’s CPS Supervisory Certification Program.

Faculty Help with Exoneree Advocacy Day

School of Social Work Assistant Professor Jaimie Page and Criminology Assistant Professor John Stickels played key roles in Exoneree Advocacy Day in Austin Feb. 5 and 6.
School of Social Work Friends Celebrate 40 Years at 2009 Night of Excellence

The 1960s theme for the 2009 Night of Excellence was in honor of the School of Social Work’s 40 years in existence. The school was established in 1967, with the first class arriving in 1968. Many attendees dressed in clothing from that decade and enjoyed music of the Lou Carfa Band and pre-dinner dancing. Entertainment included the songs of the ’60s performed by Dr. Don Granvold and his Cooper Street Quartet.

The program included a video walk down memory lane, produced by Char Duncan, highlighting people and events from 1967 to 2009. Emcee Donna Darovich added laughter to the evening with her own comical video depicting the school and faculty.

The event was attended by 142 alumni—including members of the first graduating class—School faculty and staff, students and friends. Proceeds benefit the SSW Alumni Scholarship Fund.
**Student Starts Organization for Vets at UT Arlington**

Veteran Bruce Findlay (BSW 2007) created a student interest organization for veterans attending the university with the help of Social Work Assistant Professor Alexa Smith-Osborne and the UT Arlington Student Veteran Advisory Council. Findlay, now an MSSW student, is founding president of the group called the Veterans Alliance of UT Arlington. MSSW student veteran Warren Ponder is the first vice president and incoming president while undergraduate education student Donald Worthy is secretary-treasurer. Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne and computer science faculty member Tom Rethard are the faculty advisors.

**Annual Faculty Flipper Enjoyed by All**

The School of Social Work held its Annual Faculty Flipper April 16. The event features faculty and staff flipping burgers for students in the courtyard of the Social Work complex and was well attended by students, faculty and staff.

**New Advising Team Completes First Phase of Training**

Members of the School of Social Work Advising team received certificates of completion for Maverick Advisors Reaching for Knowledge Tier I training. The advising team was established in fall 2008 to better serve students and to increase retention and successful graduation.

**Smith-Osborne Leads Busy Student Veteran Program**

Andrea Ewing recently received the first Student Veteran Program field award and will be doing her field placement with the program this summer. The new field stipend/scholarship, made possible by private donations to the Student Veteran Program, is available for one advanced DPMH field intern per semester. Applicants must have already completed SOCW 6336 (DPMH), 6350 (CBT, can be taken concurrently) and SOCW 5304 (Generalist Micro). Stipends for more than one field intern may become available in future semesters if additional donations are received.

**Presentations and Publications**

**Dr. Regina T. P. Aguirre**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**Dr. Randy Basham**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**PRESENTATION:**
“The Graying of Civilization – Service Need, Technology and Social Values Conflict.” Presented at the 25th National Technology and Social Science Conference, of the National Social Science Association (NSSA), Las Vegas, NV.

**Dr. Beverly Black**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**Dr. Fran S. Danis**

**PRESENTATION:**

**Dr. Wayne Duehn**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**PRESENTATIONS:**
“Building Trusting and Respectful Relationships: Working with Court Personnel, Other Disciplines, Community Professionals and our OCS Colleagues.” Invited workshop presented February 10, 2009, for the Office of Community Services, Alexandria, LA.


“Crisis Anticipation, Prevention, De-Escalation and Behavior Management: How To Do It.” Invited workshop presented February 11, 2009, for the Office of Community Services, Alexandria, LA.

“Innovations and Unaddressed Issues in Adoption Practices (And Foster Care Practices Also!)” Invited workshop presented February 19, 2009, for the Georgia Association of Licensed Adoption Agencies, Lake Lanier Islands, GA.

“Child Sexual Abuse: Identification, Investigation, Interviewing, and Initial Intervention.” Invited workshop presented March 10-11 and March 12-13, 2009, for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Corpus Christi and Weslaco, TX, respectively.

“Client Engagement, Case Planning, and Writing Family Plans of Service in Home-Based Services.” Workshop presented March 17-18, 2009, for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, San Antonio, TX.


“Crisis Anticipation, Prevention, De-Escalation and Behavior Management: How To Do It.” Invited workshop presented March 26, 2009, for the Office of Community Services, Covington, LA.

“Preparing and Presenting Testimony in Child Abuse and Neglect Litigation.” Invited workshop presented March 27, 2009, for the Office of Community Services, Covington, LA.

“Recent Innovations in Multi-level/Multisystem Family Assessment: Interfunctional, Behavioral, and Structured Approaches.” Invited workshop presented April 17, 2009, at the 12th Annual Region Five Foster & Adoptive Training Conference, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX.

“Child Sexual Abuse: An Advanced Workshop.” Invited workshop presented May 1, 2009, for the Oklahoma University Health Science Center, Norman, OK.


**Dr. Donald K. Granvold**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**PRESENTATION:**
Granvold, D.K. “Keep the fire burning: Keys to long-term sexual passion.” Paper presented January 2009 at the 35th Annual Conference of the Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Fort Worth, TX.

**Dr. Rebecca Hegar**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**PRESENTATIONS:**


**Dr. Ski Hunter**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

“Making Disclosures of One’s Sexual Orientation.” Presented in November 2008 for NASW/TX in Galveston, TX.
Dr. Catheleen Jordan
PUBLICATIONS:


It's Been Fun. *Farewell, Goodbye, Auf Wiedersehen, So Long!*

PRESENTATIONS:
Belmont, CA: Cengage.

Dr. Richard Schoech
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne
PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

“Evidence on resiliency factors relevant to U.S. Reserve Forces.” January 2009 Briefing for Commanding Officer and Staff, 2nd Battalion, 14 Marine Reserves, Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, TX.

“The Student Veteran Program: An investigation of best practices in social work for veterans and their families.” February 2009 Briefing for Commanding General and Staff, 4th Marine Division, Grand Prairie, TX.

“Health Status and Health-Seeking Behaviors of a National Sample of Gulf War Veterans: Implications for OIF/OEF Veterans.” Presented March 2009 at the Biomedical Day/UT Metroplex, Arlington, TX.

“Why social work policy analysis, single system design studies, and other scholarships are critical in times of economic downturn and how honor students need to be involved.” April 2009 Keynote Speech at the UT Arlington Alpha Honor Society Induction.

Dr. Thomas D. Watts
PUBLICATION:

PRESENTATIONS:

“Three Perspectives on Economics and Faith.” April 17, 2009, Baylor University, Waco, TX.


Dr. Fran Danis
was appointed as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Community Practice*.

Dr. Suk-Young Kang
received notification from the Hogg Foundation in March 2009 that he will receive a mental health junior faculty research grant for his project “The Current Financial/Economic Crisis and Its Impact on the Prevalence of Depression Among Korean Immigrant Elders in Dallas-Fort Worth Area.”

Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne
along with graduating MSSW student Bruce Findlay, organized the first student veterans interest organization at UTA as requested by student veterans at last year’s UTA Veterans Day Fair.

Dr. Thomas D. Watts
was nominated for the UT Arlington award for distinguished record of research or creative activity from the School of Social Work, 2008-2009.

Dr. Vijayan Pillai
has been given the honorary position of adjunct professor at Amrita University in Tamil Nadu, India. This honorary position is offered to those who have made significant contributions in their chosen field.

ProvoST Recognizes Professors
David Cory (MSSW 1978), left with fellow honorees, was honored for service to the community by the Mental Health Association of Abilene (MHA). He is a social worker for New Horizons and volunteers with the Teen Addiction Prevention Coalition, Champion for Children’s conference, Abilene United Government and other organizations. The mission of MHA is to promote good mental health by providing resources and programs through educational services and to advocate for improved care and treatment of people with mental illnesses.

Erin Granvold (MSSW 1988) was recognized at the YWCA Tribute to Women in Business luncheon March 30 in Fort Worth. Granvold earned two master’s degrees at UT Arlington in social work and business. She is the director of the orthopedic-neuroscience program at Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth. YWCA Fort Worth and Tarrant County honored the county’s most outstanding businesswomen and their companies and organizations.

Gail Atwater (MSSW 2001) is a group facilitator at Gilda’s Club of North Texas. She was recently noted in the Dallas Morning News about the work she has done on the Saving Munger Place United Methodist Church project.

In Memoriam

Eddie Steven Cashion, 52, died Feb. 15 in Temple, Texas. Cashion received his MSSW from UT Arlington in 2000. He was a field supervisor for Tarleton State University and a member of the National Association of Social Workers. Cashion is survived by his wife of 24 years, Janna, his mother, three children, one grandson and four siblings.

Dr. Linda Morales, 66, died peacefully in her sleep Feb. 11. Dr. Morales received her MSSW from UT Arlington in 1972 and her PhD in 1996. She served as director of the School of Social Work at Stephen F. Austin State University from 2002 until her retirement in September 2007. She had served as a faculty member at SFA since 1988.

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is a bi-annual publication of the UT Arlington School of Social Work.
Editor
Donna Pope
Staff Photographer
Jaime Palma

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Celebrating Academic Excellence: Students Honored at Convocation

Faculty, students and their families celebrated student achievements at the School of Social Work Academic Excellence Convocation held April 21 in the Rio Grande Ballroom. Presenters for this well-attended event included Kay Smith, executive director for Texas ReEntry Services and a graduate of the School of Social Work. Also presenting were Assistant Professor Dr. Emily Spence-Almaguer and PhD student and Phi Alpha Honor Society President Holli Slater.

Sachi Ando, University Scholar, Who’s Who
Ando is a PhD student and a member of several honor societies including Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. She was accepted to attend Oxford University’s prestigious program on forced migration during summer 2008 and was recently recognized in the Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges program.

Friederike Bowman, University Scholar
Bowman is a graduating senior and a member of several honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Delta Mu. She was recognized as an outstanding baccalaureate student through the University and also as a student of excellence in Social Work for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Bowman participates in the Amicus International Student Exchange Program and is a volunteer with the Global Connections Partnership Network.

Stacey Marie Johnson, University Scholar
Johnson is a graduating senior and a member of several honor societies, including Phi Alpha, Alpha Chi and Alpha Lambda Delta. She was recognized as an outstanding baccalaureate student through the University and also as a student of excellence in Social Work for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Johnson serves as a volunteer ombudsman for Tarrant County nursing homes.

James Petrovich, University Scholar, Who’s Who
Petrovich is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and was recently recognized in the Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges program. His research interests include homelessness, the criminalization of homelessness and globalization. Petrovich received a pre-doctoral fellowship through the Veteran’s Administration in 2008 and successfully defended his dissertation, “Hardiness and Homelessness: A Strengths-Based Perspective of Service Use by Veterans who are Homeless,” March 12, 2009.

Elizabeth Mitchell, University Scholar
Mitchell is a second-year MSSW student, where she was recognized for outstanding academic performance and maintained a 4.0 GPA. She co-authored two manuscripts, which are under review for peer-reviewed journals, and completed a research internship with the Dallas Suicide and Crisis Center.

Afton Rutherford, University Scholar
Rutherford is a second-year MSSW student, where she was recognized for outstanding academic performance and maintained a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Golden Key International Honour Society. She works full time as a supervisor for Child Protective Services.

Hollie Slater, University Scholar
Slater graduated with her MSSW in December 2008 and is currently studying for her PhD As an MSSW student, Slater maintained a 4.0 GPA and was recognized for outstanding academic performance. Her thesis was titled “First Responders: Coping with Community Traumatic Events.” Slater is president of Phi Alpha Honor Society and serves as student vice president for Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

She was recently selected to attend a national student leadership conference in New Orleans through Phi Kappa Phi and recently co-authored “Suicide Postvention as Suicide Prevention: Improvement and Expansion in the United States,” which has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal Death Studies.

Jody Van Drimmelen, University Scholar
Van Drimmelen is a graduating senior and a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society. She was recognized as an outstanding baccalaureate student through the University and also as a student of excellence in Social Work for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Van Drimmelen volunteers at Cook Children’s Hospital, where she is a member of the CARE team. She is a volunteer for Texas 211 and LDS Family Services and teaches parenting and marriage classes for her church.

Robert Veigel, University Scholar
Veigel is a second-year MSSW student, where he was recognized for outstanding academic performance and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society and Golden Key International Honour Society and is conducting research related to community perceptions of social workers for his master’s thesis.

Danielle Lakshie Wilcher, Who’s Who
Wilcher is a junior in the BSW program and a member of several organizations. She serves as financial secretary for the Lambda Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Secretary for the National Pan-Hellenic Council; and Maverick Orientation leader. She is a recent initiate into the Order of Omega Greek Honorary Society and host of various other organizations and awards. Wilcher recently served as a mentor for two young women living at the Methodist Children’s Home.
STUDENT NEWS

Social Work Students Attend Legislative Day in Austin

Forty School of Social Work Students participated in Social Work Day at the Legislature. The students were accompanied to Austin by Assistant Professors Diane Mitschke, Emily Spence-Almaguer and Jaimie Page and Associate Professor Joan Rycraft.

FACULTY NOTES

Page Receives Teaching Awards at May Commencement

UT Arlington School of Social Work students vote on two teaching awards annually and announce the recipients’ names at the May commencement. The Fernando G. Torgerson Award was established by graduate students to honor a professor for teaching excellence in the graduate program. The BSW Teaching Excellence award goes to a professor in the undergraduate program.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Jaimie Page is this years’ recipient of both awards.