Super-star level achievement was the theme for the 6th annual Night of Excellence. The evening started with awards being made to Kathy Gaither for Field Instructor of the Year and to Robert Hawley and Sachi Ando for Adjunct Faculty of the Year. Thomas Rourke ’78, received the first School of Social Work Esteemed Alumni award.

The highlight of the evening was the celebration honoring Dr. Santos Hernández and Dr. Marjie Barrett. Tom Rourke accepts the Esteemed Alumni award from presenter Dr. Rick Hoefer.

Dr. Santos Hernández, Dr. Barbara White, Dr. Ira Colby

Dora and Richard Gonzales

Dr. Marjie Barrett, Quinta Scarborough, Judy O’Donnell

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The highlight of the evening was the celebration honoring Dr. Santos Hernández and Dr. Marjie Barrett on the occasion of their retirement. Dr. Norman Cobb and Judy O’Donnell, sister of Dr. Barrett, described her extensive successes and contributions spanning her tenure with the School.

Dr. Barbara White, Dean for the UT Austin School of Social Work and Dr. Ira Colby, Dean for the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work recalled the collegial relationship each has enjoyed with Dr. Hernández. As Deans for the three Texas state university Social Work programs they fondly referred to themselves as the “Three Musketeers.”

In attendance were 175 faculty, staff and friends of the School of Social Work. Proceeds from the event went to the initiative by the Advisory Council to establish an endowed professorship in Family Violence. This groundbreaking initiative was described by Bob Gladney, Chairman of the Advisory Council in the opening remarks.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that, "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." In our School of Social Work, our faculty, staff and students work towards such excellence every day in the classroom and field in order to better understand and bring relief to many vulnerable groups: children suffering from abuse, families experiencing homelessness, veterans returning from service abroad, elders, refugees and others needing access to affordable health care - to name a few.

As we look back over the last year at the work we have accomplished together in fulfillment of our mission, the School of Social Work is doing well by almost any measure. We are the largest school of social work in the state with close to a thousand students, and over 7000 alumni - and this year marks the 40th anniversary of our first graduating class! At any given time, we partner with approximately 300 social service agencies in the community to place our students for their field experiences. These students provide over 200,000 hours of community service annually; totaling over $4 million of work to help vulnerable populations within our community!

Our faculty excel in their roles as instructors, and always hold their students to the highest standards of the social work profession. Instructors expect nothing less than their students’ best in the class, but also recognize that learning is not limited to just the classroom and work to ensure that each student has as much assistance outside of class as needed. For their outstanding teaching abilities, several faculty have been recognized over the previous academic year:

Dr. Doreen Elliott - BSW Teaching Award
Dr. Regina Aguirre - Torgerson Award
Dr. Donald Granvold - Academy of Distinguished Teachers

Our faculty have also been exceedingly productive scholars this year; conducting research and publishing in the areas of substance abuse, child welfare, aging, health disparities, human rights and many other topics. Our faculty productivity in publishing in peer-reviewed journals exceeded three of the top ten schools of social work as reported by Academic Analytics’ Top Research Universities’ Social Work Faculty Productivity Index. This year our faculty published 16 book chapters and 9 books (which also put us in the midst of the top ten most productive faculty). Faculty presented 42 papers at national or international conferences, and 12 at state or regional conferences, with 14 faculty serving on journal editorial boards, and our School of Social Work home to three scholarly journals. Our School of Social Work faculty are clearly leading the field in knowledge generation to illuminate and solve important social issues!

The receipt of external funding is also an increasingly important indicator of the well-being and reputation of a school. In this area, the faculty have made great progress. We have 13 sponsors this year who have awarded 29 grants/contracts for a total of $3,485,704. Many students are working alongside faculty on these important projects.

Recently, I asked faculty, staff and students to think of what we do in the School of Social Work, and how we strive for excellence in teaching, research and service. I asked them to summarize it in exactly four words.

Here are a select few I think capture the tone of achievement over this past year:

1. Empowerment focused, evidence based
2. Empowering Students Empowering Others
3. Today’s learner, Tomorrow’s leader
4. Teamed together, moving forward
5. Today’s minds, tomorrow’s service
6. Our history, our future (Nuestra historia, nuestro futuro)
8. Inspiring minds, producing success
9. Changing lives, building communities
10. Mavericks for Social Justice

Through your excellence, you all change lives every day!

Scott D. Ryan, MSW, MBA, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor
Bill Russell, Advisory Council Member for the UT Arlington School of Social Work, was recognized as Public Citizen of the Year by the NASW North Central Texas Fort Worth Area Branch at its annual awards dinner on April 11th. Bill was honored for his many years of service to the community both as an officer and Commander in the Arlington Police Department and in his current position as the Community Outreach Coordinator for Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay.

Criteria to be met for a person to receive the recognition stipulate that the individual must make a significant contribution to an area or population of concern to the social work profession such as: at-risk or vulnerable populations, quality of life in communities or social issues; the individual must act with courage; demonstrate outstanding leadership and exemplify social work values and ethics.

Congratulations, Bill!

(Excerpt from the Tarrant County Precinct 2 Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 2)

Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne, a UT Arlington social work assistant professor who conducts research on resiliency among troops and veterans, gave credit to the Army for attempting to give soldiers the tools to rebound psychologically from difficulties, even if the science behind the psychology is still emerging, in a story about such programs published by the Bellingham (Wash.) Herald. But, she said: “The Army needs to spend just as much energy on solving the problems of not having enough combat troops, of over committing them, of repeated cycles of deployment. They also need to make sure they don’t appear to be blaming the victim for not being ‘hardy enough,’ particularly within a culture that prizes stoicism and toughness and courage.”

(Excerpt from Star Telegram May 4, 2010 and UT Arlington In The News May 10, 2010.)

Who’s Who

Penny Acrey, Assistant Dean for Student Success, (MSSW ’04) was the guest speaker at the Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges luncheon in the Bluebonnet Ballroom on April 21, 2010. Holli Slater and Diana Opollo, SSW PhD students, received awards. Ms. Acrey was an undergrad recipient of the award in 2002 and graduate recipient in 2004.

Students who were recognized, but did not attend were Ashley Douglas (undergrad), and graduate students Sacha Ando, Nada Elias-Lambert, and Ysoda Sharma.

All students honored survived a highly competitive process and are outstanding representatives of the UT Arlington School of Social Work.

Social Workers Donate Blood

On Wednesday, March 3rd the School of Social Work hosted a blood drive with Carter BloodCare. Carter staff members were on hand to accept donations from students, staff and faculty throughout the day. All donations collected went into the community blood supply to be used by patients in North Texas and “every donation means someone gets a second chance at life.”

Marlene Waage, BSW Program Advisor, rolled up her sleeve to “Be a Part of Something Great” at the blood drive on March 3rd.

Dean Ryan Announces New Faculty Appointments

On March 3, 2010, Dean Scott Ryan announced the appointment of new Assistant Professors Joan Blakey and Elissa Madden and new Associate Dean for Research & Community Outreach John Bricout. Additionally, Heather Edwards has accepted a one-year appointment as the Roy E. Dulak Post Doctoral Fellow in Community Practice Research. A warm welcome to all our new SSW faculty!
Dean Hosts Open House for Year-End Celebration

On Friday, May 14, 2010, Dean Scott Ryan and his family opened their home to faculty, staff and PhD students for a year-end celebration.
Dr. Regina T.P. Aguirre

PRESENTATIONS:


AWARDS & HONORS:
Torgerson award for teaching excellence

Dr. Beverly Black

PUBLICATIONS:

Dr. Wayne Duehn (Professor Emeritus)

PRESENTATIONS:
“Child Sexual Abuse: Identification, Investigation, Interviewing and Initial Intervention,” Invited workshop presented January 20 & 21, 2010, for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, San Antonio, TX.

“Balancing the Use of Power and Authority in CPS: Minimizing the Negative Knee-Jerk Reactions,” Invited presentation given February 10, 2010, at the CPS Leadership Conference, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, South Padre Island, TX.

“Compassion Fatigue — The High Cost of Caring: Self-Care Issues for Those who Assist Others in Crisis,” Invited presentation given February 10, 2010, at the CPS Leadership Conference, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, South Padre Island, TX.

“Ongoing Assessment and Treatment Issues of Children in Care,” Invited workshop presented February 24, 2010, for the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, LA.


“Creating Sexual Safety and Promoting Healing (Recovery) in Foster Care and Adoption,” Invited workshop presented February 22, 2010, at the 34th Annual Louisiana State Foster Parent Conference, Hammond, LA.

“Sexual Safety in Placement,” Invited workshop presented March 11 & 12, 2010, at the Hillsborough 2nd Annual Community Based Care Conference, Tampa, FL.

“Identification, Investigation and Response to Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities,” Invited workshop presented March 18, 2010, for the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Center for Disabilities, Sanford School of Medicine, The University of South Dakota, Chamberlain, SD.


“Creating Sexual Safety and Promoting Healing (Recovery) in Foster Care,” Invited workshop presented March 22 & 23, 2010, for Neighbor To Family, Greensboro, NC.

“The Effects of Trauma on the Neurobiology of the Developing Brain: Assessment and Intervention Implications,” Invited faculty colloquium, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN.

“Out-of-Home Placement: Attachment, Trauma and Brain-Based Science,” Invited workshop presented April 8 – 10, 2010, for the Stars for Children's Mental Health, St. Cloud, MN.

“Creating Sexual Safety in Foster Care and Adoption,” Invited workshop presented April 17, 2010, for Pressley Ridge of Texas, Fort Worth, TX.

“Creating Sexual Safety Plans for Children in Foster and Residential Care,” Keynote address given April 30, 2010, at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Residential and Child Placing Agency Licensing Conference, the National Center for Employee Development, Norman, OK.

“Innovations in Adoption,” Invited workshop presented May 13 – 15, 2010, for Florida’s Adoption Information Center, Clearwater Beach, FL.

“Creating Sexual Safety and Promoting Healing (Recovery) in Foster Care and Adoption,” Invited workshop presented May 21, 2010, at the Heartland for Children Annual Conference, Lakeland, FL.


“Crisis Anticipation, Prevention, De-escalation and Behavior Management: How to do it,” Invited workshop presented May 28, 2010, for the Office of Community Services, Lake Charles, LA.

“Reassessment: Putting Development Back into Foster Care,” Invited workshop presented June 8 & 9, 2010, for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Children and Family Services Division, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, OK, respectively.

“Child Sexual Abuse: Identification, Investigation, Interviewing and Initial Intervention,” Invited workshop presented June 17 & 18, 2010, for the Office of Community Services, Covington, LA.


AWARDS & HONORS:
Lifetime Achievement Award – National Association of Social Workers/Texas Fort Worth Area Branch, 2010.

Dr. Donald K. Granvold

PUBLICATIONS:

AWARDS & HONORS:
Academy of Distinguished Teachers (Spring 2010)

...continued on next page
Heather R. Edwards

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:

Writing circles: Empowering students to support and improve their own writing and research. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (Peer reviewed). (February 5-7, 2010).

AWARDS & HONORS:
- Roy E. Dulak Post Doctoral Fellow in Community Practice Research (starting in fall 2010)

Dr. Doreen Elliott

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:

2009 United States Immigration. Invitational presentation as a panelist for the plenary session, presented on behalf of KAKI and CSWE at the Biannual International Symposium of the International Consortium for Social Development. (Monterrey, Mexico, July 27 – 31, 2009), with Uma A. Segal.

Dr. Suk-Young Kang

PUBLICATIONS:

Dr. Philip R. Popple

PUBLICATIONS:

Dr. Catheleen Jordan

PUBLICATIONS:


Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne

AWARDS & HONORS:
- Hogg Foundation for Mental Health research grant to assist military veterans returning to college.

Dr. Thomas D. Watts

PUBLICATIONS:
Major Dean Sinclair Returns from Iraq

Major Dean Sinclair, PhD 2009, is home from deployment to Iraq! He is currently attending the Command and General Staff School at Fort Lee, Virginia and will report to Fort Wainwright, Alaska in September to assume the position of Chief of Social Work. His dissertation, entitled *Homosexuality and the U.S. military: A study of homosexual identity and choice of military service* is in the process of being published and should be released later this summer.

Congratulations Dr. Sinclair and welcome home!

Scott Finnell (PhD ’93) is the president and chief executive officer of Pressley Ridge, a nonprofit headquartered in Pittsburgh that provides foster care, residential and education services to 6,900 troubled and developmentally challenged children in Pennsylvania and six other states.

In July, Scott plans to run 135 miles through the desert to raise money for troubled children in the Badwater Ultramarathon. For more information, or to support Dr. Finnell’s cause, go to http://www.pressleyridge.org/badwater/.

David Cory (MS ’78) was awarded Social Worker of the Year by the NASW West Central Texas branch.

Michael R. Hoskins (MS ‘89) works as Special Assistant, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) in Washington, D.C. In his current assignment, Mr. Hoskins directs the Military and Family Life Consultant program and the counseling component of Military OneSource. These critical war-time programs provide world-wide counseling support to members of Active and Reserve component, and their families.

Mr. Hoskins’ awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Department of the Navy Social Worker of the Year, Civilian of the Quarter and letters of commendation.

Laurie Chance Smith (MS ’00) was featured in the Azle News last November 19th. After having twins, she had a poem about trains published in a children’s magazine. Soon she was writing short fiction and nonfiction and even taking photographs to illustrate her work. Today she writes for audiences of all ages and genres and has been published nationally and internationally.

Ken Bennett ( MSSW ’06) and Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County are partnering with Tarrant County Police Departments on a very successful Law Liaison Project. The goal is to slow down the “reinstitutionalization” of people with mental illness in prison by diverting them to services appropriate to their needs. View a five minute video about the Law Liaison Project at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiHyrySt9BNI
Libby Kay (MS ’82) received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the NASW/ TX North Central TX Dallas Branch Awards Luncheon Honoring Outstanding Social Workers on March 26th in Desoto.

Catherine Simmons (PhD ’06) is Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, Memphis Campus. She just had her 20th article accepted (which includes one book and one in the works). Her research interests focus on forensic social work as related to gender, trauma, and violence. (Photo from University of Tennessee website.)

Ken Cauthern (MS ’78) (left) and David Cory (MS ’78) (right) attended the Bat Mitzvah celebration for Jack Nowicki’s (MS ’79) daughter in Austin Texas on November 28, 2009.

Vivian Walker was selected to participate in President Obama’s White House Internship program from August 26, 2009 to December 22, 2009 in Washington. Interns attended a healthcare reform rally with the President, received tours of the White House Press Office and West Wing, attended a Speaker Series, and attended a State Arrival Dinner for the Prime Minister of India. Interns also performed other tasks at the Capitol and were encouraged to have coffee with their Senators.

In Memoriam

Cheryl Moore, MSSW student, died April 13, 2010. Her passion in life was to give of herself unconditionally, and she left an indelible impression on people from all walks of life. Memorial services were held at Shearith Israel Synagogue in Dallas on April 21st.

Herman Newman, husband of Phyllis (Marshalian) Newman (PhD ’87) lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in February after recovering from a successful lung cancer surgery last November. Phyllis and Herman were married 40 years and had recently moved to Maine to be near family.

Vivian Walker, BSW student, was recognized at the Spring Leadership Ceremony. Vivian received the Kauth-Carter Emerging Student Leader Award. The Leadership Recognition Program honors the University’s outstanding student leaders who have made significant contributions to their organization or the University.

Penny Acrey, Assistant Dean for Student Success, BSW Student Wendy Curtis, and Dean Karl Petruso at the Honors College Spring Reception in the Bluebonnet Ballroom at the E.H. Hereford University Center.

BSW Student Wendy Curtis was recognized as Highest Honor Freshman at the Honors College Spring Reception on April 22, 2010. The Honors College is committed to extending opportunities for achievement in undergraduate education to the best students across the University. The College works toward this goal by promoting a supportive and academically and culturally diverse environment in which students can pursue excellence in research, creative work, community service, and personal and professional development. Wendy represents the best of our Maverick Spirit – congratulations go out to her!

Joel Chaverri, SSW graduate student, was featured in an article about “Helping student soldiers adjust” in the Winter 2009 issue of College Town, UTA. Chaverri is also a member of the Veterans Affairs Office staff at UTA. (Photo by Beth McHenry)

Kwinetta Simien, BSW student, was recognized at the Spring Leadership Ceremony. Kwinetta received the Kauth-Carter Emerging Student Leader Award. The Leadership Recognition Program honors the University’s outstanding student leaders who have made significant contributions to their organization or the University.

Penny Acrey, Assistant Dean for Student Success (left) and Dr. Fran Danis, Associate Dean (right) were on hand at the award ceremony to congratulate Kwinetta Simien (center) on her honor.
Thank you to our generous donors

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Team-building through Drumming


Seminar participants were given drums and encouraged to participate in interactive drumming circles. The drum is an ancient tool of communication and community building, enhancing togetherness and improving group dynamics.

The seminar also consisted of break-out and brainstorming sessions with leadership.