Sheila B. Johnson, secretary of the Amon G. Carter Foundation Board of Directors, says her family’s foundation is “focused on community investment and views the UT Arlington Social Work Innovative Community Academic Partnership (iCAP) project as a perfect fit for that mission.” The foundation recently made a $420,000 gift to the School (the largest private gift in the School's 42-year history) to fund the planning and first year implementation of this project. The foundation's investment goes far beyond this gift, however. Ms. Johnson is also making a large investment of her time, influence and expertise to ensure that this project will improve the standard of living for Tarrant County’s most vulnerable families. Ms. Johnson is a well-known advocate for the well-being of children and families in Tarrant County.

The Innovative Community Academic Partnership is headed by Dr. John Bricout, Associate Dean for Research and Community Outreach and Stefan Ateek, Project Director. The project conducts research with community partners focused on developing solutions to Tarrant County problems. “Collaborating with our community partners to address pressing community challenges is essential to producing tangible social impacts that change lives in Tarrant County and also further national dialogue,” says Dr. Bricout.

Dr. Scott Ryan, Dean of the School of Social Work, presented opening remarks at the November 5th iCAP kickoff held in the university center’s Carlisle Suite. Dr. Ryan described the goals of this project as two-fold; “We want to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of social service programs in Tarrant County and we want to conduct research that produces results of national interest.”

Seven proposals from UT Arlington faculty and community organization partners were received following the kick-off. The proposals went to a team of national reviewers in mid-December and five awards were made in January.

The Amon G. Carter Foundation and Ms. Johnson’s investment of finances and time are remarkable and they are to be commended for establishing this ground-breaking project with national implications.
Fall Reception

Dean Scott Ryan hosted the annual School of Social Work Fall Reception at his home in Mansfield in August. Faculty, Staff and Advisory Council members gathered to enjoy time together, welcome new faculty and kick off the fall semester.

OneBook Event: Student Veteran Panel

Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne was invited to organize a student veteran panel as one of this year’s OneBook events. The OneBook for 2010-2011 is *Journal for Jordan* by the Pulitzer Prize winning reporter from the *New York Times*, Dana Canedy. The OneBook theme for 2010-2011 is “Remembrance.” The panel occurred on October 11, 2010 and consisted of social work student veterans from every program level within the School of Social Work and was moderated by Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne, a scholar and teacher whose expertise includes resiliency, military/veteran's affairs, and health. Panelists addressed the topics of challenges and adjustments that are required to transition from military service to civilian life, including veterans' experiences in the All Volunteer Force and their role in overseas conflicts, their return to American communities and civilian life, and their experiences as college students.

Piolanie Benavente Stewart, B.S.W. student and Air Force veteran; Joel Chaverri, BSW alumnus, MSSW student, and Marine veteran; Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne, faculty and principal investigator, The Student Veteran Project; Warren Ponder, MSSW alumnus, PhD student, and Army veteran; Nancy Herren, MSSW student and Air Force Reserves (active duty) (photo by Beth McHenry)
Fall Faculty Flipper

The Faculty Flipper was held on Monday, November 22nd at lunchtime in the SSW courtyard. Students, faculty and staff visited and enjoyed burgers served by SSW professors. Blaze made a personal appearance.

Dr. Ryan featured speaker at Focus on Faculty

By Edna Horton, The Shorthorn Staff

Adoption among gay and lesbian couples and the discrimination they face was the subject of Dean Scott Ryan’s presentation at Focus on Faculty. The series is co-sponsored by the Central Library and Phi Kappa Phi and provides a forum for outstanding faculty to share their research and achievements with students, faculty and staff of this campus and with the citizens of Arlington.

Dr. Ryan’s presentation, “Coming Out of the Closet: Gay Men and Lesbian Parents — Who are they?” focused on whether the sexual orientation of prospective adoptive parents should be considered when placing children in adoptive homes.

Ryan said one reason many same-sex couples have a hard time adopting is a result of common myths people have about them, such as mental instability and child molestation.

Ryan said another reason is state laws that are designed to prevent same-sex couples from adopting.

In Texas it’s legal for same-sex couples to adopt children. In other states, however, couples must be legally married in order to adopt a child. Since same-sex marriage is not legal in many states, only one parent can adopt.

Dr. Ryan worked in adoption and children welfare agencies in Washington when same-sex relationship adoptive parents came to him and told him they weren’t being treated the same as traditional families.

He said his training in social work and the ethics of the practice spurred his interest and he began to research what they were going through.

"I was trying to make sure that persons are equally and equitably considered, and children are placed in the most appropriate place possible," he said.
Dean Hosts Reception at SSWR Conference

Dean Scott Ryan hosted a special reception for alumni and friends at the Society for Social Work and Research 15th annual conference in Tampa, FL on Friday, January 14, 2011.

David Cory Honored as NASW/TX Social Worker of the Year at Annual Conference

The 2010 annual conference for the Texas Chapter of NASW was held in Houston in October. Friends and colleagues joined our Dean and Faculty in congratulating David Cory (MSSW ’78) who was honored as NASW/TX Social Worker of the Year.

Dean Announces New Appointments at the SSW

John Bricout joined the UT Arlington School of Social Work in September. Dr. Bricout came from the University of Central Florida to assume the new position of Associate Dean for Research and Community Outreach.

OTHER NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE SSW INCLUDE:

Stefan Ateek, LMSW-AP, LMFT, LCDC
Director and Adjunct Professor
Innovative Community Academic Partnership (iCAP)

Jessica Reneau, Admissions Assistant

Susan Terry, BSW Program Secretary

Dr. Beth Amey, Clinical Assistant Professor/Director of Student Success

Dr. Janet Finch, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Jane Hickerson, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Pat Gleason-Wynn, Clinical Assistant Professor

Katherine Sanchez, Assistant Professor

Dr. Gail Adorno, Assistant Professor

Eusebius Small, Assistant Professor

Dr. Courtney Cronley, Assistant Professor

GOOD-BYES:

Gilda Williams, Student Development Specialist for the Field Office, has accepted a position as Administrative Assistant in the office of Student Affairs.

Dr. Jaime Page, Assistant Professor, has been appointed to the faculty of Commerce A&M.

Dr. Peter Lehmann, associate professor of social work, was mentioned in a Fort Worth Business Press article on August 25, 2010, which highlights UT Arlington’s Center for Healthy Living and Longevity, and Dr. Lehmann’s contributions to the Center’s collaborative approach.
Kelli Rod Commencement Speaker

Kelli Rod, Vice President of community relations for TXU Energy and SSW Advisory Council member, was the commencement speaker at the December 17th ceremony in Texas Hall.

Field Instruction Job Fair

On Thursday, September 16, 2010, the Department of Field Instruction hosted its Field Day/Job Fair. Forty agencies from across the metroplex had booths with job availability information from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Friends and Alumni Join Dean Ryan at CSWE Conference

Alumni and friends of the SSW gathered in Portland at the Council on Social Work Education conference to network and catch up with old friends at the Dean’s Reception on Friday, October 15, 2010.
Dr. Beverly Black

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Javier Boyas

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. John Bricout

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Wayne D. Duehn

PRESENTATIONS:


John Gallagher, MSW, LCDC, LSW

PUBLICATION:

Dr. Donald K. Granvold

PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Ski Hunter

PUBLICATIONS:

Dr. Catheleen Jordan

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS


Dr. Suk-Young Kang

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

Kang, S. Y., Basham, R., & Kim, Y.J. (2010, November). English language proficiency and depressive symptoms among Korean American elders. Poster presentation at Gerontological Society of America 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA.


Dr. Sung Seek Moon

PUBLICATION:

Dr. Shing Pang

PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Vijayan Pillai

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:


Pillai, V. (2010, July). South Asian Aging Issues. Presented at the Political Awareness Event sponsored by the Network of Indian Professionals of Dallas in Addison, TX.


HONORS & AWARDS
Dr. Pillai was recently appointed as Editor for Social Development Issues, sponsored by the International Consortium on Social Development.

Dr. Joan Rycraft

HONORS & AWARDS:
Dr. Rycraft was selected by The McNair Scholars Program as the 2009-2010 recipient of the annual McNair Service Recognition award. This honor recognizes Dr. Rycraft’s lengthy history of service to the program as mentor and long-time member of the McNair Selection Committee.

Dr. Maria Spannapieco

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Richard Schoech

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:


Smith-Osborne, A. (2010, August). Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention: Evidence-based School and Community Mental Health Program and Services Models. Paper presented at the Trinity Valley School Faculty Convocation, Fort Worth, TX.


AWARDS & HONORS

Smith-Osborne, A. (2010-2011). A randomized clinical trial of supported education for veterans. $15,000. Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Faculty Grant.

Dr. Emily Spence-Almague

PUBLICATION:


Dr. Larry Watson

PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Thomas D. Watts

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATION:

MSSW student Eliza-beth Lepe was the recipient of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Scholarship. The Hogg Foundation awards $5,000 scholarships annually to graduate social work students who plan to provide mental health services after graduation.

Shukairo Townsend (on left) was recently named as the recipient of the second Student Veteran Program field award, and is shown receiving the award from Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne, SVP Principal Investigator.

David Cory (MSSW ’78) was selected as the state wide awardee for the National Association of Social Workers/TX Social Worker of the Year award. This award honors NASW workers who exemplify the best of the profession’s values and achievements through specific accomplishments.

Victoria Ellis Donnell (MSSW ’07) and Matthew Ryan Federle announced their engagement in December 2010.

Patricia Lux (MSSW ’06) recently opened private practice in Arlington. www.patricialux.com

Lesley Phelan (MSSW ’08) provides counseling at Craig Hospital in Englewood, CO to patients and families who have brain injuries and/or spinal cord injuries.

Jill Cumnock (MSSW ’91) was named as chief executive officer for The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas in October 2010.

Curtis Mooney (PhD ’90) has served as CEO of DePelchin Children’s Center in Houston, TX, for the past 14 years. DePelchin Children’s Center is committed to meeting the needs of Houston's children as the largest, most comprehensive provider of mental health, prevention and early intervention, and foster care and adoption services.

Jordan/Cory wedding
After more than 30 years of friendship and five years of courtship, David Cory (MSSW ’78) and Dr. Catheleen Jordan (MSSW ’79) formalized their vows at The Rose Chapel in Fort Worth on 1-1-11. The Reverend Dr. Lamar Smith presided. The ceremony featured contemporary music; the bride and groom left the chapel to John Lennon's Grow Old with Me, the Best is Yet to Be.

SSW STUDENTS & ALUMS:
LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU’RE DOING
Visit www.uta.edu/ssw/alumni-friends/update-form.php for an online form.

Save the Date!
Night of Excellence
Friday, April 29, 2011
Arlington Hilton

MSSW student Guadalupe Arvizo, Damaris Mosharaf, Yajaira Villeda and Christopher Winton were awarded the Hogg Foundation Bilingual Scholarship in the Fall 2010 semester. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health awards scholarships to bilingual graduate social work students to increase cultural and linguistic diversity in the Texas mental health workforce.
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 academic year 2009-2010. If your name has been omitted, or some other error exists, we apologize and ask that you contact Donna Pope at 817-272-0924.

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