Dr. Pillai has stepped down as the Ph.D. Director’s at the end of Fall 2009. Our new Ph.D. Director, Dr. Debra Woody, took over as the new director at the start of the new year. Dr. Woody joined the faculty in 1997. Her research interests include: Issues related to substance abuse and the evaluation of school based social work services.

A big welcome to Dr. Woody as the newly assigned Ph.D. Director!

A HEAD OF THE CURVE!
SOCIAL WORKERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY!

STUDENT REVIEW:

The following students have presented or have published the following as:

Stephen Baldridge has a chapter accepted for publication. Baldridge, S.N. (2010). Compliance training according to Skinner's theory of applied behavior. In J Chang, Editor, Clinical Activities in Child Therapy: Creative Applications in Therapeutic Practice. Stephen also accepted a faculty position at Abilene Christian University and started last Fall 2009.

Guillermina Benavides has a book review coming up in the Journal of Latin American Politics and Society.

Guillermina is enrolled in the dual degree program with UTA/UAAN Joint PhD in International Comparative Social Welfare Policy is a unique, three year, highly competitive doctoral degree program that prepares students for a research based social work career.

Ruby Bouie was awarded the Linda Lyons Memorial Scholarship from Tarrant County Mental Health Association.


Nada Elias-Lambert, Dr. Beverly Black and Yasoda Sharma have a manuscript on Dating Violence Prevention Program accepted for publication in the Journal of School Violence. The paper was also presented at the 55th Annual CSWE meeting in San Antonio.


Nada also had an article titled "Middle School Youth: Satisfaction With and Responses to a Dating Violence Prevention Program" accepted for publication in the Journal of School Violence.

(Cont’d on page 2)
Students Cont’d:


UTA SSW PHD Graduates:

SUMMER 2009:

Dheeshana Jayasundara defended her dissertation on: “Reproductive Health of Women in Developing Countries and Human Development: A Test of Sen’s Theory.” Dr. Vijayan Pillai was Dheeshana’s dissertation chair.

FALL 2009:

Linda Benavides defended her dissertation on: “Spirituality as Protective Factor for Adolescents Exposed to Domestic Violence.” Dissertation Chair: Dr. Joan Rycraft. Linda has accepted a teaching job at University of Texas at San Antonio.


BROWN BAG SESSIONS:

September 22, 2009: Dr(s) Basham, Black and Jordan presented interviewing skills. The following items were reviewed at this session: Tips about applying, face to face interviewing, Tips for telephone interviews, and the art of interviewing.

September 20, 2009, presented by Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne, “Roles for Social Work Scholars in Sustainability Initiatives.” Title: Roles for Social Work Scholars in Sustainability Initiatives. Dr. Smith-Osborne provided us with the following to note her presentation: Scientists and other scholars and social activists across disciplines have pointed out that the present globalized economy has been detrimental to social wellbeing, to food safety, and to the environment. Sustainability research suggests there will not be enough fossil fuels, water and food to support the world if patterns of consumption continue at the present rate in both the developed and developing worlds. To address this looming problem, thinkers such as George Ritzer, Bill McKibben, Jared Diamond, and Michael Pollan propose smaller scale, more sustainable economic models of production, consumption, and behavior. This presentation will argue that social work scholars have a particular expertise and an important role to play in planning, “scaffolding”, and leading such endeavors.

On October 6, 2009, the new School of Social Work Dean, Dr. Scott Ryan, met with the doctoral students during this brown bag session to discuss with students about the doctoral program and School of Social Work highlights. Welcome aboard Dean Ryan!

November 3, 2009, Dr. Javier Boyas presented his presentation on “What Social Workers Can Learn from Social Epidemiology.” Dr. Boyas is a new faculty member who joined the School of Social Work this academic school year. Welcome aboard Dr. Boyas!

November 11, 2009, Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne continued her discussion on “Sustainability.”

Dr. Moon also completed the following four presentations along with Dr. Kang and Dr. Basham and student Chloe Corbett; Kang, S-Y., Moon, S.S., & Basham, R. (November, 2009). English language proficiency and depressive symptoms among Chinese American elders in Arizona, The Gerontological Society of America’s 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.


Dr. Moon was also selected as Vice Chair of Dallas Chapter, The National Unification Advisory Council of Republic of Korea.

Dr. Dick Schoech completed the following presentations:


School of Social Work Assistant Professor *Jaimie Page* and Criminology Assistant Professor John Stickels played key roles in Exoneree Advocacy Day in Austin.

Dean Scott Ryan has been named Dean of the School of Social Work and assumed his position on September 1, 2009 after an extensive national search. Welcome Dean Ryan to the School of Social Work and look forward to your assistance in the program!