Dear Colleagues, Alumni and Friends of the School,

I am pleased to share the most recent volume of our newsletter Interaction. Inside you will find stories about our students, faculty, and alumni and the various valuable contributions they make to the profession of social work. We have many new faces in positions of leadership, including me, and have hired several new faculty members and staff. This team is poised to create a culture of learning, inquiry and social change. With two campus sites, 500 students, and 36 faculty and staff, our programs continue to expand and grow. We have increased the number of scholarships and student practicum stipends in the last two years, with 40 now available to students annually. We currently offer many continuing education events in Norman, Tulsa and Northwestern Oklahoma for social workers across the state. Our facilities on both campus sites support innovation in instruction, community gatherings, continuing professional education and interdisciplinary collaboration. An excellent curriculum, educational innovations, certificate programs and a strong commitment to social work education by our faculty are hallmarks of the school. Highlights this year include piloting simulation across our curriculum, an international exchange course in Israel, new faculty research projects, and several faculty member appointments to national boards of the Council on Social Work Education.

As we near our 100th year as a school, I am proud to stand on the shoulders of those who have come before me and am excited and motivated to lead the school into its next phase of impact. Oklahoma surely needs social workers and social change experts to help address some of the serious social problems and suffering among us. Please stay in touch with us via our newly designed website (socialwork.ou.edu), our social media outlets, our special events, and our continuing education. We have added new features that spotlight our faculty, students and alumni, a calendar of events and newly designed student resource pages.

Our faculty are engaged in research that adds to the vibrant academic environment of the school. The faculty publishes across the spectrum of social work practice and research journals as well as interdisciplinary journals. Like no time before, engaged faculty members are working directly with community groups, other disciplines, community agencies and principal health and human service institutions within state government to advance practice knowledge and outcomes. Anne and Henry Zarrow, who together directed their wealth to advance human well-being within the state of Oklahoma endowed the school as a living capacity for carrying on their deep commitment to social betterment. The faculty and staff are honored to continue the important traditions of the school’s past and excited to be a part of its future.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and choose to attend many of our events. Please stay in touch with us and contact us if you have any questions about the school.

Julie Miller-Cribbs
New Leadership

The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work is proudly led by a dynamic group of leaders. Join us in welcoming Julie Miller-Cribbs, Ph.D., MSW, as the new Director (front center). Dr. Miller-Cribbs has been the Assistant Director on the Tulsa campus since 2006, has implemented many new endeavors on the Tulsa campus, and led both the recent accreditation process and transformation of the curriculum. Her appointment as Director represents the first time the school has been led from Tulsa, although she is present at both campuses. Her visionary leadership will continue to provide innovation and growth in the school.

The school also welcomes Anthony Natale, Ph.D., MSW, as the Assistant Director (back center). Dr. Natale will provide leadership on the Norman campus and work closely with Dr. Miller-Cribbs to enact the strategic plan of the school. Steven Wells, Ph.D., MSW, (back left) will begin to serve in the role of Graduate Coordinator on the Norman campus, working closely with Lori Franklin, MSW, Graduate Coordinator in Tulsa. Christina Miller, Ph.D., MSW, (back right) will join the leadership team as the Undergraduate Coordinator. Ann Riley, Ph.D., MSW, remains the Practicum Coordinator in Norman, and Barbara Bramble, LCSW, continues to serve as the Field Education Coordinator in Tulsa.

The leadership team looks forward to working together to create a vibrant and transformative educational experience at the University of Oklahoma. We are confident that this new administrative team will bring experience and energy to enact the vision of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work!

NEW LOOK

We are pleased to announce that along with our new leadership, we have a new look on our website. Please visit us at socialwork.ou.edu. From the website you can link to our social media; keep up with what faculty, students and alumni are doing through the weekly spotlight; find CEU event information; view student videos and more. Thank you for keeping up with us.
FOCUS ON FUNDING

The Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work is proud to announce the establishment of multiple funds that benefit the school’s students by way of scholarships and stipends.

- The Michael W. Brose Scholarship, benefitting students in the mental health field of practice, was established and funded by The Zarrow Families Foundation in celebration of Mike’s contributions to the mental health community in Oklahoma over the past two decades. Mike is also a recent inductee into the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work Hall of Fame (see article below).
- The Chess-Norlin Social Systems & Human Behavior Graduate Scholarship, benefitting students studying human behavior, was established by Dr. Chess and Dr. Norlin.
- The Owen Pollard Courage Memorial Endowed Scholarship, honoring the legacy of Dr. Owen Pollard, was established by friends of Dr. Pollard.
- The Ina J. Javellas Scholarship, benefitting students in the mental health field of practice, was established in honor of Mrs. Ina J. Javellas, 2014 Distinguished Alumna of the College of Arts & Sciences award recipient.
- The Anne & Henry Zarrow Endowed Scholarship, benefitting students demonstrating financial need, was established and funded by funds made available to the President of the University of Oklahoma.
- The International Child Welfare Exchange Program, providing University of Oklahoma students the educational experience of traveling to Israel and focusing on child abuse prevalence, prevention and early intervention, was implemented and funded by the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.
- Additionally, The Zarrow Families Foundation increased funding made available to the school for stipends, benefitting students in the mental health practicum field of practice.

HALL OF FAME

The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work hosted the annual Hall of Fame ceremony on June 20, 2014. Eight outstanding professionals were honored for their work helping populations at risk within their communities. Join us in congratulating these champions of social work values.

- Social Work Practice Professional: Pam Sanford, LCSW
- Special Recognition, Rural: Robinson Tolbert, LCSW
- Social Work Educator: Barbara Bramble, LCSW
- Professional Development Leader: Mary Grissom, MSW
- Special Recognition Educator: Martha Scales, MSW
- Special Recognition Educator: Herman Curiel, PhD
- Social Welfare Leader: Michael W. Brose, MSW
- Political Leader: Doug Cox, MD
In May 2014, a group of social work faculty and students traveled to Israel for a week-long exchange course in International Child Welfare (pictured on opposite page). The home base for the week-long exchange course was Hebrew University and the Haruv Institute, where faculty and student hosts created a transformative learning experience for the Oklahoma visitors. Students visited the Israeli Center for Medical Simulation (MSR), where each was directly involved in simulations related to child abuse and neglect. OU faculty observed, participated and learned about using simulation to develop skills in the assessment of abuse. In an especially powerful experience, students learned to challenge themselves further when assessing abuse and neglect.

Students and faculty visited several different types of social service agencies geared toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. This included Beit Lynn Tel Aviv and Beit Lynn Be’er Sheva, where students met with child abuse assessment teams and learned about the role of social work on these teams. Both Beit Lynn teams work in a complex cultural context, including work with Bedouin cultures. A visit to an ultra-orthodox Jewish community provided students with an opportunity to consider interventions in a closed community and tailoring child abuse interventions to culture. The students learned of the benefits of residential care of severely abused children during a visit to a residential treatment facility in Abu Gosh. Collectively, these experiences motivated the students to plan their careers around improving Oklahoma’s system of care.

Other highlights of the course included a visit to the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, which exposed students to possibilities of the dual role of child abuse intervention practitioner and system change agent. A tour of the Israel Museum provided exposure to important cultural artifacts and preservation of Jewish history as well as culture across the world. One of the most important and moving experiences was Yad Vashem. This Holocaust museum allowed students and faculty to reflect on the sadness and brutality of the Holocaust while also reminding them of the great spirit and risks that many took, their perseverance and resilience and learning from the past.

The historic sites of the Old City and Mount of Olives, the delicious food and the student-to-student exchanges were all part of the cultural and learning experience. The other half of the exchange will occur in October, when Hebrew University faculty and students come to Oklahoma for their international course. Events will be highlighted on our social media sites and a digital display of the students’ work will be in the Schusterman Library beginning October 20th. Of course, all of these experiences would not be possible without the generosity of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. The school, faculty and students are deeply grateful for the experience.

Exchange course participants meet with Lynn Schusterman.
Faculty members **Chloe Noyori-Corbett** and **David Moxley** presented on the topic of Transnational Advocacy and human trafficking at the Asian Conference on the Social Sciences in Osaka, Japan. **Noyori-Corbett** was also accepted for the prestigious International Summer School in Forced Migration at Oxford University in England and awarded an Ed Cline Faculty Development Award and a Presidential International Travel Fellowship to support this highly competitive opportunity. The International Child Welfare Exchange was launched in summer 2014 when 10 MSW students traveled to Israel in May with **Julie Miller-Cribbs** and a group of interdisciplinary faculty from OU Tulsa. This October, the school will welcome social work faculty and students from Israel for a week-long exchange of ideas and scholarship. Additionally, **Ann Riley** and **Jeanette Davidson** will offer two Social Justice and Social Welfare study abroad courses for the Journey to Africa Tanzania program through the College of International Studies and Education Abroad in Summer 2015. **Susy Villegas** recently published a chapter on teen pregnancy in Costa Rica and will present at the IV International and VIII National Symposium on Children and Adolescents’ Rights at the University of Costa Rica on the role of ethnicity and the impact of services on the educational achievement of youth with maltreatment experiences.

**ADVANCING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION & KNOWLEDGE**

International, national and child human trafficking have been the subject of recent faculty work. **Kirsten Havig** and **Noyori-Corbett** will both present on the topic of human trafficking at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in Tampa, and **Anthony Natale** and **Noyori-Corbett** will publish on the topic of transnational human trafficking. **Havig** presented a report and policy recommendations to the Public Safety Committee of the Oklahoma Legislature for the interim study on child trafficking. **Havig** also works with the child sex trafficking task force of the Tulsa County child protection coalition and presented a CEU workshop on the topic in October of 2014.

**Christina Miller** has published about community based action projects and campus community collaborations, and **Miller-Cribbs** published on interprofessional education in community health. **Noyori-Corbett** and **Moxley** also presented at CSWE on the topic of violent behavior among female youth. **Havig** published on the topics of adult survivors of interpersonal violence and a case study of Missouri’s deferred retirement incentive for state employees. **Ken Wedel** authored an article in Advances in Social Work about Ruth Irelan Knee and her role in advancing the field of mental health and co-authored a publication in Social Work and Public Health.

Several faculty members will also present on a myriad of social work education topics at CSWE and other conferences including enhancing social justice competency in field education (Havig), using art and multimodal learning to enhance student processing of client experiences (David McLeod), using social media to develop ethical student engagement guidelines (McLeod & Shane Brady), re-conceptualizing teaching on social justice (Brady), interprofessional education in health (Miller & Terrie Fritz), articulation agreements, transfer students and emerging issues in accreditation (Natale), and anti-racist practices (Havig & Lisa Byers).

In addition, several faculty will present at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) conference in New Orleans. **Brady** will be part of a round table of national social work researchers who will engage in dialogue around incorporating economic justice and labor issues into social work research, as well as discuss the process and outcomes related to the development of a mentorship program for new social work instructors. **Ric Munoz** will present a poster entitled “The Executive Control of Attention: The Thread That Links Mindfulness and Hope,” and **Byers** will present her work on American Indian Grandparents and Stress.

The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work is proud of our faculty’s accomplishments as their contributions to the development and dissemination of knowledge on the local, state, national, and international levels continue to enhance the field of social work.
KNEE CENTER FOR STRONG FAMILIES

The Knee Center for Strong Families was founded in 2009 through a bequest of Ruth Irelan Knee. Ruth was an alumna of the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work and a pioneer in the advancement of social work as a profession. The Knee Center is devoted to building theory, knowledge, practice and education for the development of strong families in their diverse forms.

Recent center-funded research include projects related to: American Indian grand families, elder abuse, Latina teens, and advocacy programs for women. The center recently became an affiliate of the Family Impact Seminars program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. As part of this program, the Knee Center will annually sponsor a seminar for legislators and state agencies covering topics that affect families in Oklahoma.

HOT TESTING

The school partnered with OKDHS Child Welfare Services in a research project designed to develop a standardized and reliable process and measure of the comprehensive skills [Hands On Testing (HOT)] of new child welfare workers. Successful completion of the HOT test is a requirement of the Oklahoma Pinnacle Plan. In collaboration with the OU School of Community Medicine, the team also piloted the use of “standardized patients” (trained actors) for the HOT testing. The initial field test of this process also provided an opportunity to train and develop BSW and MSW practicum students. Faculty and staff participants include Julie Miller-Cribbs, Kirsten Havig, Natalie O’Reilly, Mary Grissom, David McLeod, Elaine Waters and Linda Smith. The team thanks colleagues from the simulation center in Tulsa, John Gaudet and Julie Robeck, without whom this project could not have been done.

TANDY EDUCATION CENTER - STUDENT SIMULATION

Ground was recently broken on the new Tandy Education Center. This training facility will house an expanded simulation center including an ER, exam rooms, an intensive care unit and an apartment model. Dr. Miller-Cribbs participated in the groundbreaking ceremony alongside OU President Boren and OU-Tulsa President Clancy.
NEW FACULTY

Tina L. Peterson, Ph.D., MSW, CSW is a native of Alabama. She earned her Ph.D. ('10) and Master’s ('97) in Social Work from The University of Alabama. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work ('94) from Talladega College. Additionally, she has completed graduate coursework at Western Kentucky University (WKU) toward the Master of Public Health. Dr. Peterson is an alumnus of the Southern Regional Educational Board’s Doctoral Scholars Program (SREB) and the Council on Social Work Education’s Minority Fellowship Program. Recently, she served on the faculty at Western Kentucky University.

Her primary research focuses on aging and mental health with emphasis on intergenerational caregiving, rural custodial grandparenting and the family experience of mental illness. Primarily, she has taught graduate courses in social welfare policy, research methods, human behavior in the social environment, and gerontology. In her leisure time, she enjoys outdoor activities with her family.

Shane Brady, Ph.D., MSW, is a first generation college student from the metropolitan Detroit, Michigan, area. Dr. Brady received his Ph.D. in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2012 and holds an MSW degree from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, as well as a BSW from Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Brady’s major research areas include racial justice, community organizing, community based participatory research, homelessness, critical pedagogy, digital activism and social movements.

Dr. Brady has over 10 years of experience as a community organizer and activist in civil rights, organized labor, violence against women, and LGBTQ movements and efforts. Additionally, Dr. Brady has worked in the areas of community outreach, community mental health, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, substance abuse and positive youth development as a practitioner, supervisor and policy advocate. Dr. Brady has six years of teaching experience in higher education, where he characterizes his teaching philosophy as grounded in critical pedagogy and popular education.

SERVICE

Social Work faculty continue to contribute valuable services at all levels. Social Work faculty actively enrich the university, school and professional community with their services on many boards and committees. In the last year alone, social work faculty have served on 32 university committees such as CAS scholarship committee, OU Speakers’ Service, Recruitment and Outreach Committee in Women and Gender Studies, Faculty Senate and the Student Conduct and Sexual Misconduct Hearing Panel. They also represented the school by serving on 58 committees such as Title VII Owasso Indian Education, Social Welfare Action Alliance, OK Children of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee, RAIN Executive Committee, CSWE Board of Directors, Oklahoma Human Trafficking Solutions Initiative, and Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. They also contribute to and maintain the work of the school through school committees such as curriculum committee, undergraduate committee, graduate committee and field education committee. Notably, this year Dr. Anthony Natale was elected to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Board of Directors as the graduate program representative. He will serve a three-year term. Natale was also appointed by President Boren to the OU Athletics Council. Ric Munoz was invited by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association (SAMSHA) to participate in a twelve person panel of experts on improving services to homeless youth. Terrie Fritz, Director of the Center for Social Work and Health Care, has been appointed to the NASW Standards for Practice in Health Care Settings professional review and revision team. Three faculty members were appointed by the Council on Social Work Education to serve on specific councils for three year terms: Karen Gray, appointed to the CSWE Council on Conferences and Faculty Development (CCFD); Christina Miller, Council on Disability and Persons with Disabilities; and Julie Miller-Cribbs, Council on the CSWE Council on Leadership Development.
JANA EMERSON

Jana Emerson received her Master’s in Social Work from OU-Tulsa in 2011. She is currently employed as Lead Counselor at Street School, an alternative high school in the Tulsa Public Schools district. Early in her college career, Jana aspired to return to school for her MSW and enrolled in the program in 2008.

Prior to her enrollment in the MSW program, the majority of her professional experience was in direct practice, so she decided that the ideal career choice for her would be Administration and Community Practice (ACP). She chose this track to emotionally and professionally challenge herself. Although a bit nervous about the choice at the time, she is now pleased with her decision and feels well prepared for her current position.

She notes that the professors and coursework were vital to her current success and she recommends that students consider the ACP option.

LEAH GATLIN

Leah Gatlin is a 2011 graduate of the Norman MSW program. Although she anticipated the direct practice concentration, she changed her mind after an interaction with one of her professors. After she learned that many MSWs are promoted to supervisory positions within a few years of graduating, she felt the ACP concentration would provide her with the skills needed. As she moved through the coursework in the program, she realized she had a natural affinity for thinking in ‘macro’ terms and wanted to learn how to think broadly and implement large scale change.

Currently a Coordinator for Program and Contract Services for a private, for-profit mental health agency in Norman, she is also working on her Ph.D. in social work at Baylor University. Her current position includes reviewing documentation to make sure it meets legal, ethical, and programmatic standards. Her research in the doctoral program is focused on interorganizational collaboration between non- and religiously-affiliated groups. She believes her ACP coursework helped prepare her for both her job and the Ph.D. program by developing her broad perspective, organizational theory, policy knowledge and grant writing.

While obtaining her MSW, Leah was selected to speak during the Zarrow Hall ribbon cutting and is pictured below addressing the crowd alongside the late Henry Zarrow and President Boren.
Virginia began her social work career at Deaconess Hospital. In 1963, she accepted a position at the OU Health Science Center as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in a joint venture with the Department of Rehabilitative Services. She transferred to the OU School of Social Work in 1967 as a practicum instructor at the Department of Rehabilitative Services. She remained with the School of Social Work until December 1987, serving in many capacities including Practicum Coordinator.

During her tenure with the school, she helped to implement the Practicum Liaison model and worked to facilitate training programs for agency instructors. She and Nadine Roach developed the first pre-practicum lab. She assisted in the development of the first Practicum Manual and taught several social work courses throughout her career.

Virginia has a distinguished service career, active in local and state NASW with a variety of responsibilities. She served as the chairperson of the OK NASW Committee on Inquiry for many years and was a consultant to the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. She has served on several committees and boards in metropolitan and small rural communities. She was a member of the first Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Association for Health Care Ethics. As a member of the Oklahoma State Hospice Association, she was invited to assist in the development of the Ethics Committee. She was actively involved with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army in times of crises.

Since retirement, Virginia remains active in professional activities. She initiated an independent practice focusing on medical and mental health concerns of the aging population. She has received several awards including the State Professional Development award by the OU School of Social Work in 1998 and the Lifetime Achievement Award by NASW in 1996.

Cindy Howard

As a young girl, Cindy read several books which mentioned a caseworker going to homes to visit children. Although she did not fully understand what a caseworker was, she liked the idea of visiting children. She decided she wanted to grow up to be a caseworker, and, so the journey to social work began.

She received her BSW from Bethel College, a Mennonite College in Kansas. During her teen years she was personally touched and influenced by the events of the world: the Vietnam War, assassinations of President Kennedy & Dr. King, the Civil Rights movement, poverty and drugs. She began her social work career with the Kansas Head Start Program, became a certified probation and parole officer and trainer with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, and then a child welfare worker with Oklahoma Department of Human Services in a largely rural county. She returned to school in the mid-1990’s and completed her MSW degree at OU.

After 28 years with OKDHS, she found herself moving into administrative positions and missed those “caseworker” visits. She retired and began to contract with the federal governments as a reviewer of child welfare programs and trainer for new Oklahoma child welfare workers. Cindy continues as a trainer for OKDHS staff in the SWIFTAdoptions program and performs other activities with the adoptions unit.

One of her favorite employment activities involves serving as a Practicum Liaison/Instructor for MSW students. She co-facilitates the Child Welfare Family and Youth Development Field Unit (pictured below). Cindy is grateful for the many mentors and influences during her career and hopes to continue to pass on her enthusiasm and caring to further generations of social workers.
SUE DURRETT

Sue Durrett has lived in Cleveland County most of her life, growing up in Moore and moving to Norman as an adult. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science and began her career at OKDHS in Cleveland County Child Welfare the same year. Although she’d never considered Social Work as a career, she soon fell in love with it and in 2007 received her Master’s in Social Work. Most of her career at OKDHS involved working with families who were in the system due to abuse and neglect. She says that working with people who were facing extreme trials and challenges in life was one of the most rewarding experiences of her life. She learned about strength, determination and commitment from the children and families she worked with, finding that for her, there is no greater feeling than watching a family mend and reunite. During her career at OKDHS she had the opportunity to be at the beginning of the implementation of the Citizens Advisory Board for Cleveland County Child Welfare. This community partnership was started to address Christmas needs for the children in foster care within that county. That was in 1989—today the program serves not only Christmas needs but special needs throughout the year in order to assist and support foster parents and help children and teens feel the “normalcy” every child should feel. In 1995, she began working closely with the University of Oklahoma School Of Social Work in the implementation of a practicum unit of social work students in the Cleveland County Child Welfare Services. In 2007, she also became involved in working with the Crosspointe Church in Norman in developing a Royal Families Kids Camp for children ages 7-11 in foster care ages. She states, “In every career, you have highs and lows. I can honestly say, the community work and partnerships fueled me through the lows. Not only seeing the relief and joy from children and parents who received assistance from the community partnerships, but seeing a group of volunteers work so hard in ensuring the funding is there to meet the needs of our children not only validated but rejuvenated my commitment.” In 2009, she received the Hearts and Soul Lifetime Achievement Award from the Norman Chamber of Commerce, and in 2012, she received the Freda Mosely Award from OKDHS for her community work. Sue retired from OKDHS in 2012 after 30 years of service and a new door opened for her. She began teaching at the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work and Rose State College. “Seeing students committed to working with individuals and families has reenergized me. I sincerely have been blessed and know that people in my life are what is important, beginning with my family, who have always been there pushing me forward when I needed it, to the volunteers, students, children and families I’ve worked with.”

KEN MOORE

Kenneth Moore, LCSW, was appointed to the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work faculty in 2008. As a Tulsa-based community faculty member, Ken has taught Advanced Social Work Practice with Families each fall, and he has also taught Advanced Integrative Seminar and Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families, and Treatment Groups. He was awarded Community Faculty of the Year in 2010 and 2011.

Ken has worked as Director of Operations for the Laureate Eating Disorders Program since 2003. Previously, he served Laureate as Research Diagnostic Lab Manager (including work on the NIMH Genetics of Anorexia Nervosa study) and Clinical Assessment Department Manager. Before going to Laureate in 1997, Ken held clinical and administrative positions at Red Rock Comprehensive Mental Health Center in Shawnee and Shadow Mountain Institute in Tulsa.

Ken is a proud Oklahoma native and graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work. His wife, Whitney, is also a social worker, and they have three children, Andrew, John, and Alexandra.