

INTERACTION

Spring 04

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

This issue of our newsletter gives me an opportunity to share with our alumni some of the new challenges and opportunities that the School of Social Work is facing in the next few years. In addition, it gives me an opportunity to discuss some recent activities and projects that the School's faculty, staff, and Board of Visitors have been involved in over the past year. At the writing of this message, the School is searching for a new Coordinator of Field Practicum Programs (OU-Norman Campus) and a Social Work Site Coordinator/Practicum Supervisor (OU-Tulsa Center), as the previous faculty members who held these positions, Mr. Kevin Carter and Mr. William Westmoreland, resigned from the School. The loss of these faculty members poses new challenges for the School. A Search Committee has been constituted to produce a list of candidates for the two positions. We hope to fill these important positions by no later than 1 July 2004. Also, our Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Dwain A. Pellebon, will return to the ranks of the regular fac-

ulty after the spring 2004 semester. I will assume the role of Undergraduate Coordinator and Dr. Don Baker will become the Graduate Coordinator beginning fall 2004.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the School will continue to have an austere and tight budget. We are challenged to do more with fewer resources. In spite of this, however, there are a



Roosevelt Wright, Jr. PhD

number of things in the offing that bode well for the School. The dual Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degree (MSW/MPH) has been approved by the University and the faculty is working hard to put the finishing touches on it. If all goes well (emphasis added), it is anticipated that we will be able to admit our first group of students to the program in the fall of 2004.

The faculty and administration are committed to a doctoral (PhD) program that will increase the School's prominence in the field of social welfare and its prestige in the field of social work education. At the present time, a group of faculty from the School of Social Work and a group of faculty from the Department of Health Promotion Sciences in the College of Public Health at the OU Health Sciences Center are actively discussing the possibility and merits of developing a collaborative (or joint) Ph.D. program in Public Health and Social Work. Although the discussions are in an early stage, the participating faculties are confident that a joint doctoral program is feasible and is on the horizon. As the aforementioned discussions continue, future newsletters will keep alumni informed of the progress.

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Special points of interest

- CWPEP National Conference Information
- NASW Oklahoma Chapter conference information
- Board of Visitors and CWPEP team up on a project
- Meet new faculty members

FROM OUR DIRECTOR (CONT'D...)

The School's Research and Evaluation Center, under the leadership of Dr. David Barney, is very busy maintaining its extraordinarily high level of external funding and grant support activity. Moreover, under the leadership of Ms. Martha Scales, the School's Title 4-E Education and Training Project (i.e., the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program), a collaboration with the State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services, continues to flourish.

Finally, a month or so ago, I received a copy of a book entitled *Celebrating Social Work: Faces and Voices of the Formative Years*, edited by Elizabeth Wichers DuMez and published by the Council on Social Work Education. This magnificent publication (donated to the School by Mrs. Ruth I. Knee) highlights the

stories of "fifty-one [51] elders and exemplars of the social work profession." In oral narrative form, along with visual portraits, the manuscript presents detailed accounts of the professional lives of these individuals and the significant contributions they made to the development of the social work profession and social work education over seven decades. I mention this publication here because it portrays the life and professional career of one of the School's (as well as the College of Arts and Sciences) most distinguished alumni and a current member of the Board of Visitors, Mrs. Ruth Irelan Knee. I encourage all of you to read the fascinating account of Ruth's professional career and the careers of the other fifty pioneers in social work. I am confident that you will enjoy the publication and you will gain a deep

appreciation and respect for the seniors who laid the groundwork for the profession as it is practiced today and for social work education. No alumni should be without the marvelous publication! To order it contact the Council on Social Work Education, 1725 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314-3457; Tele: (703) 683-8080; www.cswe.org.

A LEGACY OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OTHERS...

Dr. Mary Abbott
1931-2004

Dr. Mary Abbott passed away March 6th at the age of seventy two. In those seventy two years Dr. Abbott lived a life dedicated in service to others. She graduated from medical school and became a pediatrician. She continued in helping others and especially children by being actively

involved in many community organizations including Bethesda Alternative Inc., Child Abuse Response and Evaluation, Juvenile Services Inc., Community Service Building, Inc., and many others. Dr. Abbott had many career accomplishments as well. She was the president of the Norman Regional Hospital Medical Staff, she was medical advisor for Head start, and clinical attending and department Pediatrician at OU Medical Center.

Memorial Contributions can be sent to:

Mary Abbott Children's House, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Bethesda Alternative Inc., or Norman Regional Hospital Foundation.



CWPEP NEWS FOR 2004

Attention all social work students

The Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program is taking applications until June 1, 2004. Junior and Senior BSW students are eligible as well as MSW students in the full time program, advanced standing program or the part-time program. CWPEP is funded from federal dollars through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Social Work students must be interested in a career in public child welfare in order to be accepted into the program. Stipends are provided that cover the cost of in-state tuition, fees and required textbooks. Exciting, challenging social work jobs in Child Welfare are available upon graduation and CWPEP graduates are given a preferential hiring status. Working in public child welfare provides one of the best social work practitioner foundations available. For more information check out the CWPEP website at <http://www.ou.edu/socialwork/projects/cwpep> or drop by our office at 128 Page (just east of the School of Social Work parking lot). Don't miss this great opportunity! Contact CWPEP for an application packet today at (405) 325-2907.

CWPEP National Conference



CWPEP is hosting a national conference July 12-14, 2004, at the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The conference theme is "Weaving Resources for Better Child Welfare Outcomes." The program will focus on university-state agency partnerships and critical issues facing Child Welfare social workers. Registration is \$75 before June 15, 2004 and \$100 after June 15. If you are interested in receiving a program, please call the CWPEP office at (405) 325-2907 and provide your mailing address.

CWPEP News Continued...

Dr. James Rosenthal and Ms. Elaine Waters, MSW, ABD are involved in two large evaluation projects for the CWPEP. The first study examines predictors of retention and performance for public child welfare workers. Preliminary data findings indicate that child welfare employees from the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program remain with the agency around 40% longer than other employees. The second study examines whether former CWPEP participants who are now child welfare workers have better outcomes for the clients they serve. This study is still in the ear-

ly stages of data collection thus no results are available. The primary outcome variable in this study is the length of time it takes the client to achieve permanency once removed from the home. Dr. Rosenthal and Ms. Waters will present the results of their studies at conferences later this year.

Elaine Waters
 Child Welfare Professional
 Enhancement Program
 405.325.1407



Elaine Waters,
 M.S.W.
 CWPEP Project



James Rosenthal,
 PhD.
 Professor

March for Women's Lives

Dr. Mónica Alzate and Ms. Trina Koonze will be representing NASW-OK during the March for Women's Lives (Pro-Choice) that will take place on April 25 in Washington, DC. NASW is one of the sponsors of this historic event which expects to gather more than one million people in order to support wom-

en's reproductive health and rights in the US and abroad. There will be buses from Norman to DC for \$75 round trip for people under 30 years of age. They will stay at youth hostels in DC. For details on this opportunity contact Samaria Dillon sdi- lon@choiceusa.org For general information on the March for

Women's lives. visit www.naswok.org and follow the link.

Oklahoma Women's Summit

Governor Brad Henry is sponsoring a Women's Summit to discuss the status of women

in OK on April 23. \$10 fee includes lunch. For information, visit

<http://opm.state.ok.us> Click on Commission Announces April Women's Summit.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Monica Alzate

Article in Press: "The quality of life of single-mothers on welfare in Georgia and the 1996 welfare reform." Public Policy Research Series. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The University of Georgia.



Dr. David Barney

Article published in *Journal of Homosexuality* 46 (1/2):137-157 in 2003, "Health risk-factors for gay American Indian and Alaska Native Adolescent males."

Grants: National American and Alaska Native HIV/AIDS Technical Assistance Center & U.S.-Mexico Bor-

Dr. Sondra Burman

Two Articles Published in 2003: "Battered Women: Stages of Change and Other Treatment Models that Instigate and Sustain Leaving," *Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention*, 3, pp. 83-98. "Cognitive Processes: Their Influence on Varying Pathways to Recovery," *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 3, pp. 21-39



Dr. Herman Curiel

Grant: Co-PI Quality Evaluation of HIV/AIDS US/Mexico Border, HRSA, year 4 of 5.



Dr. Wanda W. Priddy

Grant: Indian Child Welfare Supervisors' Training Project, Principal Investigator, Curriculum Development on Supervision in ICWA agencies.



Dr. James Rosenthal

Article Published along with CS Rosenthal and J Jones in *Political Science Quarterly* 56(1): 97-104. "Gendered Discourse in the Political Behavior of Adolescents."

Dr. Kim Stauss

Dr. Stauss successfully defended her dissertation and received her PhD in March, 2004.



Dr. Kenneth Wedel

Book Chapter published along with Fran Butler, *MSW Transportation to Work: Policy Implications for Welfare Reform in Rural Areas*. n T. Laine Scales and Calvin Streeter (Eds.). *Rural Social Work: Building and Sustaining Community Assets*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole (2004).

New Faculty Members

LISA BYERS, M.S.W.

Lisa Byers is receiving her doctorate from George Warren Brown School of Social Work. She is Cherokee from Oklahoma. Her research interests are in disparities in health and mental health for American Indians with a focus on depression and discrimination. She was a National Institute of

Mental Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow and a Council on Social Work Education Minority Research Fellow. Currently, she is working on a National Institute of Mental Health funded multi-site research project involving stress and coping within American Indian populations. She is a member of the newly formed

OU-Tulsa Cultural Diversity Coalition. Her teaching interests are within human diversity and oppression across all areas of social work.

ANDREW CHERRY, PHD



Dr. Andrew Cherry has been working in the helping professions since he received his BS from Troy State University, Troy, AL in 1969. He received his Masters of Social

Work degree from the University of Alabama in 1974. He worked as a psychiatric social worker at Bryce State Hospital, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for five years before starting his doctoral studies. He received his Doctorate from the Columbia University School of Social Work, in New York City in 1986. After receiving his Doctorate, he taught at Salisbury State University Department of Social Work, Maryland College School of Social Work, and Barry University School of Social Work before coming to the

University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 2003. He currently holds the position as the Oklahoma Medicaid Endowed Professor of Mental Health in the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work—Tulsa,

When not teaching, Professor Cherry conducts research in the areas of mental health, addiction, homelessness, social services to children and families, the biopsychosocial response to trauma, and the influence of Social Bond on human behavior.

In addition to publishing numerous professional journal articles about his research and presenting his research at national and international professional conferences, he has authored and co-authored several books: *The socialization instinct: Individual, family and social bonds*, (1994), Praeger Press; *A research primer for the helping professions:*

Methods statistics and writing, (2000), Brooks/Cole Pub.; co-editor of, *Social bonds and teen pregnancy*, (1992), Praeger Press; and has two co-authored books in press: *A global view of teenage pregnancy* (October, 2001); and *A global view of substance abuse* (January, 2002), both published by Greenwood Press. He was the series advisor for a set books published by Greenwood Press called: *A World View of Social Issues*. His last book was *Examining Global Social Welfare Issues Using MicroCase* (January, 2003), published by Brooks/Cole, a second edition was published in 2004.

Social Work Graduation Reception

Who: Graduates and guests, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited!

dine Roach Memorial and other awards will be given.

When: Saturday, May 8 from 6:30-8:30, after convocation.

Why: To honor our students by celebrating their success.

Where: Sam Noble Museum of Natural History (or commonly called "dinosaur museum") 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, Norman, OK.

Please RSVP with the School of Social Work if you are planning to attend so a food and drink count can be made.

What: There will be snack food, drinks, and seating. Also, The Na-

Please call Diane Freeman 405-325-2822 to RSVP.

Special Thanks to the Board of Visitors for
hosting this event!



Congratulations Social Work
Class of 2004!

ALUMNI UPDATES...

Robert Lee was named Executive Director of Oklahoma Youth Center in September 2003. Lee has been successful throughout his post grad years. Before becoming Executive Director of OYC, he was director of the Central Oklahoma Community Health Center for nine years. Lee's knowledge and practice

Just Two examples of the many successful Alumni advancing their careers in Social Work. . .

areas range from being actively involved in developing and promoting programs aimed at reducing school violence to being involved with OU Heath Science Center's Geriatric Education Program. Another Successful Alumna is

Priya Koshy (Phillips) who graduated May 2003 and obtained the program manager position for

DAYA Inc. in Houston Texas. DAYA is an organization aimed at empowering women and promoting healthy and harmonious family relationships in the South Asian community.

LINDA EDMONDSON, M.S.W. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES 2004 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Linda Edmondson is a 1985 Graduate of the OU School of Social work Masters program. She is the former Executive Director and founder of the Oklahoma Association for Healthcare Ethics, OKC. In addition to this she managed the Oklahoma Alliance for Better Care for the Dying. Ed-

mondson was recognized and Spoke at the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished alumni forums in February on "Ethical Issues at the End of Life: What Do You Need to know." Edmondson is widely respected for her expertise in this area.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

28th Annual State Conference

The **Power** of Social Work.



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April 18, 19, 20, 2004

To Be Held at:

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NEW NASW Committee...



Dr. Mónica Alzate is the chair of the newly formed Women's Committee of the NASW-OK that will be officially launched during the state-wide conference in April. Ms. Trina Koonze, MSW from OKC is actively involved in the

development of this committee. Some NASW chapters have a women's committee, but OK was not one of them. Considering the status of women in OK, NASW Executive Director Martha Kendall Holmes promoted the creation of this committee and is helping both Dr. Alzate and Ms. Koonze in

this endeavor. For more information on this committee and to sign as a member of it, please visit the Women's Committee booth at the 2004 NASW-OK conference in Norman, OK.

BOARD OF VISITORS PROJECT RECEIVES BOOST FROM CWPEP

A project spearheaded by the School of Social Work Board of Visitors recently received a huge boost with notification of a challenge grant. The "Endowed Chairs" program – a fund-raising campaign to put new furniture in three classrooms in Rhyne Hall – will benefit from a challenge grant of \$15,000 from the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

The Endowed Chairs program is slated to place new study tables and chairs in classrooms 108, 109 and 115. Room 115 was upgraded in 2003 with new teaching technology and fresh paint and carpet, while rooms 108 and 109 received a facelift with new paint. Funds at that time, did not allow for the addition of new furniture, prompting the Board of Visitors to call on alumni and friends to provide adequate funds to offer students a pleasant learning environment.

The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$35,000. Individual donors may help "endow" the furniture with a minimum gift of \$300. Donors who give at that level or above will be recognized with a plaque in the classrooms, honoring the donor or someone else

they choose.

In announcing the challenge grant, Martha Scales, MSW, LSW, program coordinator for CWPEP, felt the partnership between the state and the school is worthy of assistance, especially given that students benefit directly from the gift. She also pointed to the fact that the challenge grant may motivate other alumni and friends to participate and support the school.

There are three important stipulations to the challenge grant, including the requirements that all three classrooms receive new furnishings, that an additional \$10,000 must be raised by August 1, 2004, and that the remaining \$10,000 must be raised by January 1, 2005.

"We are so appreciative of this gift for our endowed chairs program," said Ina Javellas, MSW, LCSW, OU '56 and '58, chair of the Board of Visitors. "We recognize, however, the work that must be done to earn the challenge grant. This project will require the assistance of all of us who support the school, and we invite everyone to participate in the project."

The Development Committee of the Board of Visitors, including chair Sue

Lunsford, MSW, LCSW, OU '61 and '63, has been working to spread the message about the project and identify alumni and friends who might help.

"We will be contacting our alumni in the coming months about the project, but we need people to join us now to meet the first deadline of August 1," said Lunsford. To assist with the gift processing, a form (Endowed Chair Contribution form) is located on the back page of this newsletter, and updates on the project may be found at www.ou.edu/socialwork.

The grant is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division through Title IV-E, of the Social Security Act.



STUDENTS AND FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL



On March 24th, NASW organized "Social Work legislative day at the capitol." An estimated 250 students, faculty, and social workers from all over the state participated in this event. Participants were provided with information on current bills and issues related to social work.

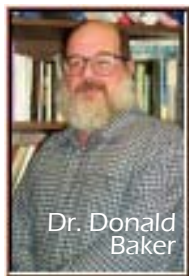
Keith Smith, NASW's social work lobbyist, presented an open discussion forum on how to advocate for clients in the legis-

lative and policy making process.

There was also time allowed for social workers to visit with lawmakers about current concerns and issues pertaining to bills that effect the social work profession and the people it serves.

Social workers attended a legislative session and were acknowledged and given a standing ovation for their presence at the capitol.

UPDATE FROM DR. BAKER...



Dr. Donald Baker

It has been a very busy year. The fourth year of the State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) evaluation, a drug prevention effort operated by the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is underway. Between writing reports, collecting data, and doing technical assistance workshops for sub-recipient staff, the SICA evaluation has been very time consuming but will soon come to an end.

I have also been involved in evaluating a mentoring program for at-risk youth in Dustin, Oklahoma – a project operated by the John Crow IV Memorial Foundation (JCIVMF) and funded by the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program at the Oklahoma State Department of Education. They currently have ninety young people enrolled in the program with mentoring being provided by thirteen community persons, many drawn from the teaching staff of the four rural schools they work with: Dustin, Hanna, Graham and Ryal. They have incorporated case-management and counseling services into the mentoring program to provide a 'wrap-around' approach to addressing the needs of the young people they work with. On a similar note I am in the process of writing a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for school based mentoring funding. This program will be implemented by the JCIVMF and will allow them to extend the current mentoring program to more youth in the schools that are currently served as well as adding several schools to the effort.

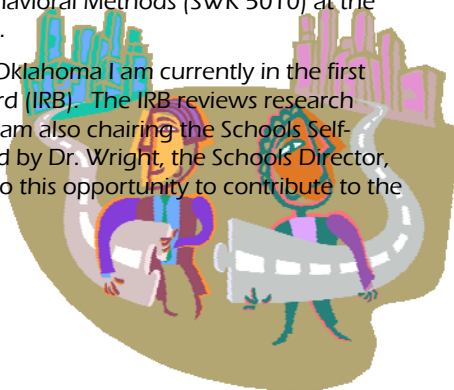
Along with the mentoring program, I am working with the JCIVMF to implement a series of community and school based needs assessment surveys. We had a very well attended community meeting on March 29, 2004 to present the second round of needs assessment data, inform the community about the services that the JCIVMF and state agencies are providing in the area, and to engage the community members in a visioning and brain-storming effort. After the needs assessment and community meetings have been held we will assist the community in developing a plan to improve community law enforcement and drug prevention efforts. This needs assessment and community planning effort is funded by a Drug Free Community Support Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

On a similar note I have been working with the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic to implement a broad based community needs assessment focused on the American Indian youth population of Oklahoma City. We are doing a series of focus groups, key informant interviews, and community surveys to identify the issues and concerns of the youth population and to begin planning community interventions to reach out to this population. I have also had the opportunity to present some of this data in a workshop in Weatherford Oklahoma on March 23 2004 focused on community needs assessment methodology. This workshop was sponsored by Safe Schools Oklahoma and is part of a series of workshops sponsored by this organization throughout the state

Last, but certainly not least, the JCIVMF has have finished a pilot program in abstinence focused sex education in the four schools they serve and I had the opportunity to serve as evaluator. This program was funded by 'seed money' from the Institute for Youth Development in Sterling, Virginia. We have used the experiences gained in this implementation and evaluation to prepare a grant application to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS). We have requested 1.2 million dollars over three years and plan on working with thirty-six school districts in Hughes, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Seminole, and McIntosh counties in east-central Oklahoma. If funded, this project will bring essential resources to an underserved area of the state.

With funding from the JCIVMF I also had the opportunity to attend the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Phoenix, Arizona in February. I found this to be a very productive meeting and brought back a great deal of information about funding opportunities in seven federal cabinet level agencies. I plan on incorporating this information in my grant writing course that will be offered this Fall (SWK 5633). In my unrelenting effort to promote myself I would like to mention that I will also be teaching my summer course in Cognitive Behavioral Methods (SWK 5010) at the Oklahoma College of Continuing Education beginning June 17 and ending June 27.

In relation to my efforts on behalf of the School of Social Work and the University of Oklahoma I am currently in the first year of a four year service commitment with the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews research applications involving human participants and I am honored to serve on Board #1. I am also chairing the Schools Self-Steering Study Committee as we move toward reaccreditation and I have been asked by Dr. Wright, the Schools Director, to begin coordinating the Graduate Social Work program in August. I look forward to this opportunity to contribute to the School's mission in a substantial way. Whew!!!



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
School of Social Work
1005 S. Jenkins, Rhyne Hall
Norman, OK 73019-1060



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you do not need to complete it below!**

ENDOWED CHAIRS CONTRIBUTION FORM

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Preferred Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW

Home Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Year Graduated OU ____ Employer _____

Yes, I want to endow a chair! \$300 Other \$ _____

Individual to be honored or memorialized _____

Title or accomplishments of individual _____

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Upon completion, please mail entire page to:

Director of Development, The College of Arts and Sciences, 633 Elm Avenue, Ellison Hall 323,
Norman, OK 73019

405-325-3724 www.ou.edu/socialwork