

interaction

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Message from the Director

Since we last talked, much has happened at the School. The three most significant happenings were: reaffirmation of accreditation, building renovation, and hiring a new faculty person. We received the full seven year accreditation cycle but were asked to do an interim report (focused mostly on resources). Prior to the funding crises for higher education, we had been targeted by the College to receive additional resources, i.e., four or five new faculty positions over the next five years, a new secretary, and increased maintenance and operations budget. With current funding levels, we are unsure what will happen. We remain optimistic and Dean Rufus Fears of the College of Arts and Sciences is very supportive of the School.

Rhyme Hall has been renovated and an elevator has been added. This summer, some classrooms and faculty offices are scheduled to be added to the University's central heat and air system. This is a major addition since window air conditioning units are noisy and the noise is difficult to teach over. Also in the winter, rooms with window units are difficult to heat. The building really looks good—new paint, refinished walls and baseboards, and the basement leak may be fixed. We encourage you to come by and visit. We are most pleased.

In the past four years we have added six new faculty: Don Baker, Martha Wilson, Steve Wells, Jay Memmott, Gloria Aguilar, and this fall we will add June Allen Pegues. The additions were the result of filling open positions and we are now up to full complement. This means that we can begin to settle into long-term teaching assignments (longer than one year) and new leadership arrangements and assignments. Faculty have anticipated this situation for a long time and the coming year should be relaxed, routine and a time when we can focus on research and teaching. We will have two faculty members on sabbatical leave in the spring, Dr. Ho and Dr. Tolliver, and Dr. Anderson has taken a year's leave of absence to complete some responsibilities in Botswana. The spring semester will leave us a little short handed. Elsewhere, we will introduce you to June Allen Pegues.

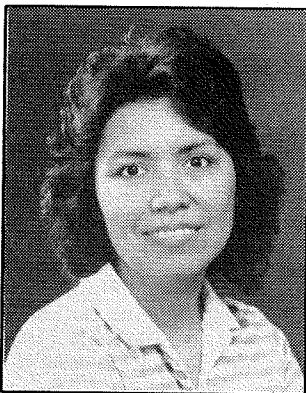
A good deal of faculty research is being proposed and is being done at the School. Our next edition of *Interaction* will describe faculty's research and scholarship efforts.

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Introduction of New Faculty

Since the last publication of *Interaction*, two members have joined the OU School of Social Work faculty, Dr. Gloria Aguilar and Dr. Jay Memmott.

In the short time that Dr. Aguilar has been here, she has managed to make significant contributions. For example, Dr. Aguilar is an assistant professor with teaching responsibilities for the undergraduate students in: Integrative Field Seminar, Social Welfare Policies, Women and Violence, and Cultural Diversity. In addition to the teaching load, Dr. Aguilar is also the Undergraduate Program Coordinator, pre-advising all new and prospective majors.



Dr. Gloria Aguilar

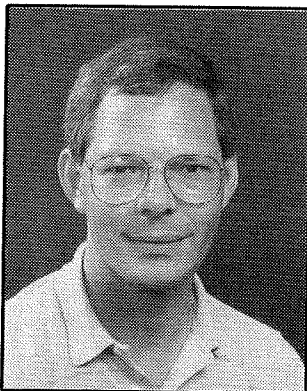
Dr. Aguilar was most recently Assistant Professor and Director of the Social Work Program at East Texas State University where she managed all aspects of the Social Work Program in addition to teaching both undergraduate and graduate level courses. Prior to the Director's post, Dr. Aguilar served as the Field Coordinator which required her to select and evaluate social service agencies for potential field placements and act as liaison between the agencies and the school.

Dr. Aguilar's academic experience includes: a BA in Sociology from the University of Texas, Austin, a BS in Psychology from the University of Houston, a MSSW from the University of Texas, and her DSW from the University of California, Berkeley. Throughout her academic career, Dr. Aguilar has participated in research and publishing in areas concerning, but not limited to: developmental disabilities, child welfare, case management and teaching in the social work curriculum. Dr. Aguilar's article, "Jane—A Victim of Prader Willi Syndrome and the System" in the May '90 issue of *Social Work* is an example of her latest work.

Dr. Aguilar is a popular speaker and presenter at conferences and workshops where she relates material on a variety of topics to audiences. Within the last few years, Dr. Aguilar has participated in no fewer than six refereed presentations and numerous workshops. Her topics for last year alone included: "Writing Across the Curriculum: Its Application to Social Work Education", "Family Violence" and "Family Assessment". Dr. Aguilar's community service is not limited to conferences and symposia; in addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for three organizations—The Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors, the Oklahoma Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse and OK PACE. Dr. Aguilar's interest in training students for the child welfare field prompted her to write a grant which resulted in stipends for two undergraduate and three graduate students with interests in that population.

Dr. Aguilar and her husband, Obert Fittji, a psychologist at the Goddard Health Center, have one son, six year old Benjamin. Dr. Aguilar spends time each week at Benjamin's school, Truman Elementary, tutoring first and second graders in math and reading. After school, Dr. Aguilar serves as a Cub Scout Coach for Benjamin's troop, the Tigers. Weekends will find the family at the movies if there are no ballet performances scheduled around town.

At the moment, Dr. Aguilar has turned her considerable energies toward a short-term goal of bringing the concept of political action into the classroom through her contacts with OK PACE. What does she have planned for the future?... Dr. Gloria Aguilar, Dean, As-Yet-To-Be-Named School of Social Work.



Dr. Jay Memmott

Dr. Jay Memmott serves two primary functions at the University; teaching Social Group Work, Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Psychosocial Aspects of Alcohol and Drug Abuse to both undergraduates and graduate level students; and secondly, as Acting Coordinator of the Practicum Program, Dr. Memmott is responsible for placing each student in a setting advantageous for both the student and the agency. The Practicum Coordinator is also responsible for selecting and evaluating each practicum agency, acting as a liaison between the agency and the school, and providing training for practicum instructors. As a part of Dr. Memmott's professional obligations, he maintains a consultant position (Director of Professional Services) to Integrated HealthCare Services, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, and a small private practice at The Family Center, Norman where he also supervises practicum students.

Dr. Memmott came to OU from the University of Kansas where he was an instructor in the area of Human Behavior

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Good News, Bad News



Dr. Stephen Anderson in Botswana.

THE GOOD NEWS IS: Dr. Steve Anderson, OU School of Social Work faculty member, is spending this year in Botswana as a Fulbright Fellow lecturing at the University of Botswana in Gaborone. Dr. Anderson is in a unique position for a social worker; is there another position which would allow a social worker to develop policy/standards/accreditation/curriculum, present it to educators/legislators/government agencies, receive feedback/input/recommendations within a matter of weeks before putting your best work into place in an ideal situation? There are those rumors about social workers heaven, of course, but they remain unsubstantiated whereas we have proof concerning Dr. Anderson's experiences. Dr. Anderson explains that the first 13

years following Botswana's independence were primarily a time of stabilization. Now, it seems, this South African nation has turned its attention to social welfare and policy. The nation is looking toward the University and its faculty for guidance and *viola!*... there is our own Dr. Anderson providing expertise and an excellent basis for good social work practice.

Correspondence from Dr. Anderson indicates that the criteria adopted by Botswana for standards in social work closely follow those from the Council on Social Work Education here in North America. It is exciting to realize that Dr. Anderson is having a hand in training the first graduating class of social workers in Botswana. In his affiliation with ruling party officials, Dr. Anderson has also worked to re-write government job descriptions to reflect social work variability. In addition, Dr. Anderson is establishing contacts and ties not only to the University of Botswana, but he has worked and socialized with Deans, Directors, Administrators and powers-that-be from other nations in South Africa.

On a more personal level, Dr. Anderson has travelled to Johannesburg to attend national cultural events. During the Christmas break, he toured the "pan", the large dry lake beds covered with soda ash. Before leaving, Dr. Anderson has an itinerary which includes Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park, and Zimbabwe. Descriptions of Maseru, Lesotho, the mountain kingdom and Namibia-Windhoek, home of the most spectacular and largest sand dunes in the world fill Dr. Anderson's letters. We have clearly visualized the herd of 15 elephants Dr. Anderson watched walk down to the river in single file to drink. The five-day excursion on the river in a wooden canoe was potentially hazardous due to the hippos and crocs; otherwise, the presence of warthogs, springbok, impalas, kudus, and water buffalo are exciting and breathtaking.

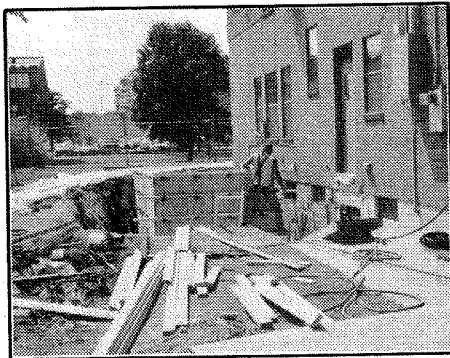
According to Dr. Anderson, the migrating zebra and wildebeest herds travel the plains in their journey to seasonal feeding grounds.

Dr. Anderson also reports on the insights he has developed while in Botswana. For example, living in a South African country with the recent moves to end apartheid has prompted Dr. Anderson to consider the state of race relations in the United States, especially the large urban areas.

Dr. Anderson also writes about his conscious effort to replace the word "black" with "African"; in South Africa, there is a distinction and a preference. Dr. Anderson relates the difficulties that some African-Americans from the United States experience when the Africans native to South Africa refer to them as Americans—the conceptualization being that only

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At What Price, Beauty?

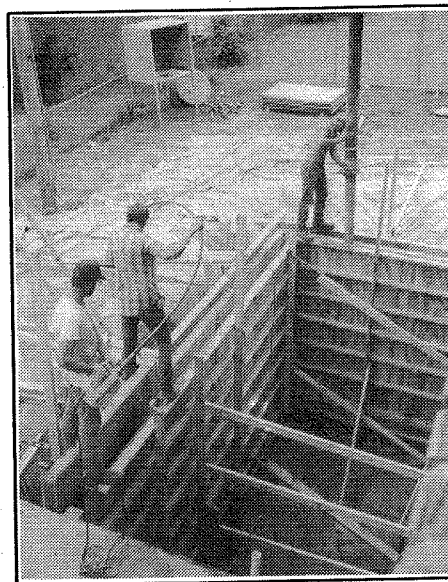


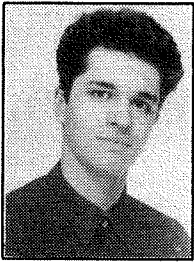
They're gone now...the sounds of saws and hammers, sanders, the obligatory country and western music (the absence of which appears to cause the cessation of work by union and non-union painters alike). The cowboy cadillacs have left the parking lot, straining to hear instructors over the band saw in the next room is just a memory, and gone are the *smells* that were so much a part of our lives for over eight months—paint, dust, turpentine, mold, fresh-poured concrete, mildew and ozone (when tempers flared and sparks shot). Desks and office equipment can be found where they were last left for days at a time now and file cabinets, bookshelves, and desk drawers fill the gaping holes where stacked and empty shells once loomed ominously. **WE'VE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED!**... (and no wonder the Old South is still bitter about it!)

It's true...we now have the elevator we needed for access to all four floors complete with the specially constructed doors and sidewalks to enhance movement of all students including the physically challenged. The computer lab is more spacious and better arranged and naturally,

a fresh coat of paint in all the offices is appreciated. The new carpet in the entry stairwell and the relocated student lounge look fresh and untouched (for the moment); even the unfinished doors to Room 115 have not-one-but-two coats of paint, rails and walkways are color coordinated with carpet and baseboards. And yes, the basement flooding problem has been rectified, disinfected and painted over.

Was it worth it, you ask?...like a lot of life's more complex, enigmatic questions, the answer is: it depends, it's all still pretty fresh to those of us who lived through it but, in an effort to be fair, we're willing to listen to an outside perspective. Next time you're on campus, look us over and see what *you* think; we're eager to show off a little now.





Olivier Mauret

How 'Ya Gonna Keep Him Away From Paree After He's Seen OU?

Hello! My name is Olivier Mauret. I am a 21 year old French student. I live in the center of France, in a town of 160,000 inhabitants called Clermont-Ferrand

(including the suburbs it is about 300,000 inhabitants).

Educational Background:

Last year I passed the "Licence es Sciences Economiques", that is the equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Now I am taking an advanced degree in European Management. It is a two-year course with a four-month internship spent abroad each year.

Oklahoma, Here I Am!

So, I just arrived on March 25th, 1991. I came here as an exchange student. As a matter of fact, a strong relationship exists between the University of Clermont-Fd and the University of Oklahoma, through the Office of International Programs at OU. There are 22 French Business/Management students living on the Norman campus. Next month, 27 students of the College of Business Administration (OU) will be going to Clermont to study there.

Our stay here is divided into two parts:

- First, a two-month internship. Mine is in the School of Social Work.
- Second, I will be enrolled for the Summer School as a student of the College of Business Administration, where I will take two Business courses.

Social Work and Me:

My internship in the School of Social Work (SSW) is eight weeks long. In the beginning, I had some trouble defining what social work was. But now I understand what it means. Being a social worker is based on a personal choice, being the one you have made for life. In fact, it is more than a choice, it is a profession... To help people in need requires a lot of courage, energy, and heart also. Perhaps the most challenging part is to help without becoming overly involved.

Working in the SSW is a very enriching experience for me. I am expected to do a report about my internship here. I think it will be about a brochure I have been asked to do. This recruitment brochure is designed to help people better understand what Social Work is, and it provides a description of what a social worker does.

A Frenchman in Oklahoma:

Oklahoma is really different from France. I live in a beautiful region with a chain of volcanos, lots of lakes, places to see... So very different! But that does not mean that I don't like Oklahoma. People from here are very friendly, so open. "Welcome" does mean something real in your country...

The campus is very nice, and I really enjoy living here. I will go back to France in August but hope to come back in one or two years to teach as a French Assistant for a year, why not?

All the best,

Olivier Mauret.

When You Care Enough To Send The Very Best...

To school that is; you will be interested in a newly-developed scholarship plan now in place at the School of Social Work. This is how it works: you make a minimum contribution of \$200 to the scholarship fund—a minimum of \$150 goes directly to the student to help with education costs; the final fourth (no less than \$50) is held in escrow as investment capital to perpetuate the Eloise Reynolds Student Loan Fund.

During the award year, the recipient would make at least two personal contacts with the donor or donor designate giving the donor an opportunity to see his/her contribution at work and to keep the donor abreast of School activities.

We feel this is an excellent way to recognize a graduate's efforts. Too, you might consider this a lasting tribute for a special family member or colleague. Perhaps an office could consider honoring an associate upon his/her retirement.

For further information, please contact Dr. Judy Norlin at the School of Social Work, (405) 325-2821.

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We are also discussing the development of a research center and a doctoral program. Many of you may have seen the Spring *Journal on Social Work Education* in which schools of social work were ranked based upon research and publication activities. The School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma was tied with the University of Texas-Austin for the fourteenth ranking (out of 93 schools). The Schools were ranked by research productivity adjusted for faculty size (per capita). Of the thirteen schools ranked above us (and including the University of Texas-Austin), all the schools have doctoral programs. In order of their rankings, the schools are: University of California-Berkley, Washington University, New York-Albany, Georgia, Kansas, Illinois-Urbana, Chicago, University of Washington, Columbia, Wisconsin-Madison, Michigan, Florida State, Minnesota-Minneapolis. As you can see, we are in excellent company—and delighted to be there. As you can imagine, we plan to be number one! As President George L. Cross once said, "We are trying to build a university that the football team can be proud of."

Again, things are going well at the School. The number of applications for admission continue to be high; the quality of students increases every year; faculty are very busy with research activities; the building looks better than it has in years; and we have more tenure-track faculty than ever. Please come by the School to visit us!

Judy M. Norlin

Two University of Oklahoma (Social Work) Students Receive Scholarships From The Eloise D. Reynolds Scholarship Fund

Two students from the School of Social Work were awarded scholarships from the Eloise D. Reynolds Scholarship Fund. The students were selected from applicants for financial assistance and were awarded by the Scholarship Committee of the School. The recipients were Gina Chorost and Suzanne Ethridge.

Ethridge is a graduate of the undergraduate social work program at the University of Oklahoma. Her primary field of interest is geriatrics and she did her spring practicum with the School of Social Work's Energy & Aging Project.

Chorost is a graduate of the undergraduate social work program at Oral Roberts University. Her primary field of interest is mental health and she did her spring practicum at Griffin Memorial Hospital. Both students were in the second year of the graduate social work program

and received their Master's Degrees in May.

Dr. Julia M. Norlin, Director of the School of Social Work, said this fund is the only one the School has for individual scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded on the basis of need and academic standing.

This is the second year scholarships have been awarded from this fund which was established in 1987 in honor of Ms. Reynolds when she retired after 24 years as a secretary at the School.

The fund is supported by contributions from friends and alumni of the School. Contributions may be made by writing a check to the OU Foundation and asking that it be included in this fund. Checks may be mailed to the School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019.