Inside this issue:

- Director's Report 2
- Board of Visitors Report 3
- Practicum News 4
- CWPEP 5
- OU - Tulsa Program News 6 & 7
- Program Updates 8 & 9
- Annual Social Work Day 10

Message from:

- Our Director

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Social Work Day
Director’s Report

By Donald R. Baker, Ph.D., Director

According to a recent journal article, the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work was ranked 39th out of 69 graduate social work programs based on the mean of all professional journal rankings of scholarly productivity published from 1990 to 2003 (Feldman, 2006). Clearly the School is ‘up there’ with many fine programs across the nation in terms of faculty productivity. As Feldman points out, scholarly productivity is only one measure of the quality of a social work education program. Other variables that influence reputation include: the leadership positions of the School’s graduates; the size, stature and relative influence of the School’s alumni; the content, quality and coherence of the School’s educational program; the quality and effectiveness of the School’s teachers; and, perhaps most important, the extent of learning and practice effectiveness of the School’s graduates. There is much to do to bring the School of Social Work to the point of prominence that its alumni, students and faculty desire and deserve. In this brief message, I will focus on a discussion of the things that the School and its faculty are doing and planning to improve the practice effectiveness of the School’s graduates and raise the status of the School within the State, region and Nation.

We are growing our faculty resources. We have recently added Dr. Susy Villegas to our practice faculty at OU-Norman. Dr. Villegas will be teaching in the area of advanced direct practice with a specialty in families. We will be recruiting another Assistant Professor for the direct practice area in the fall of 2007 and with these additions our Direct Practice faculty will become stronger and better able to serve our students in this important area of our curriculum.

We have also added a Clinical Assistant Professor to the OU-Tulsa program. Ms. Lori Franklin, formerly of Tulsa Family and Children’s Services, will be joining the Tulsa faculty this fall and will teach in the area of direct practice. In the fall we will also be recruiting for an Assistant Professor position to replace Dr. Sondra Burman who will be retiring from our faculty in August, 2007. I want to take this opportunity to wish Dr. Burman well in her future endeavors.

We had a very busy academic year with the faculty working hard to reorganize both the program and the curriculum to better address the needs of our students. We have developed an integrative seminar for the second year Direct Practice students to establish a stronger linkage between theory-based course work and the all important block field practicum that students take in their very last semester of the program. We have created more flexibility in our program so as to allow students to extend their educational process if needed. For example, our Advanced Standing students, those who are in our nine month accelerated program, can actually extend their education over an additional year if needed. We are also extending our Administration and Community Planning concentration to OU-Tulsa which will place the complete 2nd year curriculum in Tulsa beginning in the fall of 2007. The faculty thinks that these changes create a more flexible approach to graduate education and a more ‘student friendly’ educational experience.

To guide us in our program and curriculum planning efforts, the School has sponsored two retreats for the last year – one in the spring with the School’s Board of Visitors and one in the fall for the faculty. The second retreat has built on our first effort with the BOV and has allowed the faculty to focus on four areas of concern as we move the program forward: increasing faculty scholarship and productivity; increasing the rigor with which students are taught within the program – particularly in reference to professional writing; seeking ways to better support students financially; and, working to develop stronger public relations with the larger University and the social work professional community.

The School is becoming very future directed – with a number of new forward looking initiatives I would like to mention. The faculty is looking to strengthen our relationship with the OU Health Sciences Center. We have already been working with Allied Health to increase our involvement in the Gerontological Certification program, an effort that we are coordinating with Ms. Sandra Edge-Boyd. We have most recently begun to work with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to enhance our course content in the area of chemical dependency treatment. This semester we have placed our very first student with Ms. Donna Hammond, the social work faculty member in the Department. We are also beginning to work on an infant mental health initiative with Ms. Karen Irey and the Infant Mental Health Association – a project that is also in its infancy, so to speak, but offers real promise to the School’s efforts to strengthen its involvement in mental health more generally and the nexus of child welfare and mental health more specifically.

Last, but certainly not least, the School is collaborating with the department of Modern Languages and literatures within the College of Arts and Sciences to develop an online course in Spanish for Social Workers. Mr. Luis Silve, a faculty member in MLSI, is preparing this course and we will be offering this course in the spring of 2008. We are planning to extend this course offering to the practice community as a continuing education opportunity and will be looking into the possibility of providing continuing education units to social work practitioners taking the course. I would like to thank Dean Paul Bell and Ms. Karen Cozart for their support and help in making this course a reality. I think it fits a present and future need of the social work practice community in Oklahoma.

As a closing note, I would like to remind the reader that the School is coming on its 90th birthday celebration – an event that coincides with the 100th anniversary of the State. This suggests how integral the development of social work within Oklahoma has been to the development of the State. Dr. Julia Norlin, former Director of the School, has graciously consented to be the Chair of the planning committee for our upcoming birthday party. We will be convening social workers, alumni, and friends of the School at the Oklahoma History Museum on the evening of October 26, 2007 for this event. I wish to thank Judy for all the hard work she and her dedicated planning committee have accomplished and all of the hard work they have before them.

Board of Visitors Report

The BOV has continued its busy schedule the past year. One of the highlights was the OU School of Social Work 90th Anniversary Gala held at the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City. Board Officers and members assisted in planning and enjoyed a memorable evening.

Board members attended while other were program presenters during the NASW 32nd Annual State Conference held March 30-31 and April 1, 2008 at the OU College of Continuing Education. NASW Pioneers Ruth Knee and Ina Javellas joined Virginia Olds, Owen Pollard and Eunice McDowell, for a lively discussion and historical review of their social work careers. August 25, 2007 proved to be a significant date when the BOV building Improvement Committee chaired by Mike Fogarty met with OU President David Boren. Committee members Tim O’Connor, Sue Lunsford, Gail Lapidus, Rietta Miller and BOV Chairman were also present when President announced plans for a new building.

Board, faculty and students joined in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Markisha Gates, undergraduate student. The BOV spearheaded efforts to address immediate financial issues faced by Markisha’s family. Supportive contacts and efforts resulted in contributions to the School’s fund in behalf of the Gates family. BOV member, Evelyn Seaton, deserves recognition for her response enabling immediate provision of food in behalf of the Gates extended family.

The BOV is enthusiastically working with Director Don Baker to launch a History of Social Work in Oklahoma Committee; to be chaired by Dr. David Moxley; a curriculum study committee; and a BOV fund raising financial support. Committee to address financial needs of students and the education program mutual efforts are also underway to plan the 2009 Annual Social Work Day.

Ina Javallas, Chairman
Practicum Program News

Notes from the Field

The practicum program continues to grow and expand on both campuses. The Practicum Manual and Practicum webpage have both been revised to reflect our ever growing use of technology in the Practicum program. The Practicum Manual features a new design created by student Shelby J. Kanaly (see picture). Please take some time to visit our new Practicum website http://www.ou.edu/socialwork/practicum/manual.html

Laurie Bradford joined the Practicum program as administrative assistant in September 2007. Her organizational and technical skills will enhance the program as we move toward the use of the new database and tracking systems.

Martha Scales, LSW, the statewide Coordinator of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program for the last seven years has stepped down from this full time position and will now work part time with CWPEP students on the Tulsa campus and assist

Barbara Bramble, OU-Tulsa Practicum Coordinator, with the practicum planning for all OKDHS MSW and CWPEP students. Martha also will oversee and coordinate the specialized CWPEP practicum unit in OKDHS, Tulsa County D; this practicum unit serves CWPEP MSW students and CWPEP BSW students from NSU and ORU. Martha serves as the liaison with OKDHS for the Tulsa Social Work Program. The full time statewide Coordinator for CWPEP is Linda Smith, MSW, who is housed on the Norman campus.

The University of Oklahoma School of Social Work recognized winners of field education awards at a reception for graduates held in May. Two graduating students in Norman and one in Tulsa were honored as recipients of the Nadine J. Roach Memorial Award. Two field instructors in Norman and one in Tulsa were awarded the Heart of Social Work Award. The Nadine Roach Memorial Award recognizes students who demonstrate the creative synthesis of social work theory and practice in their practicum placements. Practicum instructors play a pivotal role in the field experience and professional development of social work students. The Oklahoma Heart of Social Work Award recognizes field instructors who inspire their students with their commitment to the profession and who serve as models of ethical and professional conduct and service.

The OU-Tulsa field program has been exploring collaborative relationships with agencies in an attempt to create stipends for students in practicum placements. The most recent stipend created is in the field of Children’s Mental Health at Family and Children’s Services in Tulsa. This program provides a wide range of services for children and families, including school-based case management and therapy, home based services, after school programs and group psycho educational programs throughout the community. For more information please visit http://familyandchildrensservices.org/ (check “Children’s Mental Health”).

Page 4
Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program

By Linda Smith, MSW, CWPEP Program Coordinator

Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program....you’ll never have to wonder if you are making a difference.

The mission of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) is to enhance and support Oklahoma’s public Child Welfare workforce by recruiting MSW and BSW graduates into the field and providing educational opportunities and support to current Child Welfare staff. The CWPEP is a partnership between the OU School of Social Work, 5 BSW programs at universities across the state, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and the federal Department of Health & Human Services. A key component of the program is the significant financial support provided to participating students who make a contractual commitment to work in public Child Welfare in Oklahoma.

In Fall 2006, OKDHS Child Welfare staff embarked on an effort to clearly articulate the standards that would guide the State’s public child welfare social work practice. Staff from across the State came together for complicated in-depth discussions to explore beliefs and values about the work. While there was no conscious effort to tie the standards to the Social Work Code of Ethics, the similarities are striking. The Child Welfare Practice Standards that resulted are as follows:

- We Continually Examine our Use (Misuse) of Power, Use of Self and Personal Biases
- We Respect and Honor The Families We Serve
- We Listen to the Voice of Children
- We Actively and Continuously Seek to Learn Who Families Are and What They Need
- We Believe in the Value of “Nothing About Us Without Us”
- We Maintain A Childs’ Permanent Connection to their Kin, Culture and Community
- We Conduct Our Work With Integrity At All Levels Of The Agency

Most people get into social work in order to make a difference in the lives of others. Public Child Welfare is one of the hardest and most challenging areas of social work practice, but by doing it you will never have to wonder if you are making a difference.

If you are interested in a career in public Child Welfare, please contact CWPEP at (405) 325-2907 or see our website: www.ou.edu/socialwork/projects. The deadline for applications is June 1.

OU-Tulsa Student Awards & Accomplishments

Linda Bell
Recipient of the LVD Charitable Trust Scholarship, OU-Tulsa

Nancy Bigheart
Recipient of the Cherokee Nation Scholarship

Jennifer Davidow
2008 NASW Graduate Student of the Year
1st Place award for poster at Oklahoma Public Health Conference (2008, March)
3rd Place for oral presentation at OU-Tulsa Graduate Research Day (2008, April)
COMMUNITY CLASSROOMS: ENGAGED LEARNING ON THE TULSA CAMPUS

OU Social Work students’ presence in Turley has been the best thing that has happened here in over a hundred years. – Third Generation Turley Resident

Faculty on the Tulsa campus have been involved in creating innovative educational experiences for students. These experiences offer students opportunities to directly impact the communities in which they work and live. The OU School of Social Work and the Master of Social Work Student Association has been in collaboration with the community of Turley since 2006. Students enrolled in the Groups, Communities, and Organizations course with Dr. Lisa Byers have participated in a service-learning project designed to identify assets to address disparities. Students have offered a demographic profile of the community, proposed potential projects tailored to the area, identified agricultural, architectural, and organizational assets. The MSWSA has selected Turley as a site for the Big Event Day of Volunteering for two years. This past spring this involved the donation of over 1000 trees to the community and the MSWSA helped distribute and plant the trees to replace the ones that had been devastated during the ice storm. The partnership with the Third Place Community Foundation in Turley and its Director, Ron Robinson has resulted in the establishment of an OU-Bedlam Mobile Health Clinic and a social work practicum placement. Most recently, the MSWSA and students enrolled in Dr. Byers’ and Moxley’s Community Asset Assessment offered to co-host a celebration on August 23, 2008 to commemorate the Third Place Community Centers Grand Opening a year ago.

In addition, the students in the summer class “Perspectives on Poverty” recently facilitated a poverty simulation for a group of more than 50 people representing more than 15 different agencies and service providers in the Tulsa area. This project was the finale of this summer course that focused on the roles of social workers in working directly with low income families, as advocates with policy makers, and as community educators. The simulation involved asking participants to play the role of a member of a low income family. Some families were newly unemployed, some were recently deserted by a “breadwinner”, some were homeless and others received TANF. Still others were senior citizens living on retirement income, grandparents raising grandchildren with special needs, or adult children raising their siblings. The tasks of all the families were to provide for their basic necessities and shelter during four 15 minute “weeks” that symbolized a month in poverty. The simulation was written originally by a group of women receiving welfare benefits themselves. They later sold the copyright to the simulation to the Missouri Association for Community Action, who expanded the roles and now markets the simulation nationwide. This same simulation was facilitated in Norman for social work students this past spring. Lori Franklin, a clinical assistant professor in the OU School of Social Work in Tulsa, and the instructor of the “Perspectives on Poverty” class, attended training in Missouri to become a facilitator of the simulation. She will continue to offer the simulation to area businesses and agencies in order to further enhance the community of Tulsa’s response to people living in poverty.

Students Save the Tomatoes at Neighbors Along the Line.

The “Perspectives on Poverty” class this summer was on the lookout for a service project that would help populations in poverty right here in Tulsa. They found a great one: the community garden at an agency called Neighbors along the Line. The agency serves the west side of Tulsa, and has a food pantry, GED / literacy classes, NA and AA meetings, and is a community recreation center. The agency started the garden in order to provide fresh produce to supplement their food pantry stock, as often times folks who utilize food pantries receive only canned or processed foods. While the agency provided the space for the garden, it is maintained by the residents of the community who come work at any time and help themselves to the produce. Social work students certainly got a chance to enhance their skills in organic gardening, as they weeded, mulched, and watered the garden. But students also learned a great deal about community gardens as a creative approach to increasing nutrition among food insecure populations, and also what to consider when organizing a community project like this one. The garden had tremendous support originally from the community of west Tulsa, but as it got hot and the garden got overgrown, some support dwindled. The agency hoped that with our help in getting the garden back to a manageable amount of work, residents could again maintain it. While we worked, many residents of the community came and helped, and the word is that now, a few weeks later, there are plenty of residents maintaining the garden and enjoying their tomatoes.
In the last two years the Tulsa faculty has grown by three. These new faculty members include Lori Franklin, LCSW Gena Massey, LCSW and Dr. Karen Gray. All three come to Tulsa with social work experience, talents and skills that add to the growing excitement on the Tulsa campus.

Lori Franklin has lived in Tulsa for 12 years and is a graduate of the OU Tulsa MSW program and is a clinical assistant professor. She has worked in the Tulsa community as a case manager and as a clinical social worker, mostly in the area of adult mental health. Most recently, she worked at Family and Children’s Services for 7 years as a clinical social worker with adults with mental illnesses, as a clinical supervisor, and as the Director of Training. She started teaching at OU in July of 2007, and has taught HBSE I, Advanced SW Practice with Groups, the Integrative Seminar, and an elective entitled Perspectives on Poverty. In her first year at OU Tulsa, Lori was voted the MSW Educator of the Year 2007-2008, facilitated an innovative poverty simulation in her class and recently for the Tulsa United Way, and was just elected as the Tulsa Branch Chair of NASW. Lori notes that “it is an honor for me to be a part of the faculty at the school where I learned to be a social worker. I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the education of the social workers who will go forth and work in the community that I am a part of, and it is rewarding to realize that I can help make a difference in the lives of Tulsans through the training of new social workers.

Gena Massey is a Native Texan but has lived in Oklahoma for almost 20 years, and she notes “I love Green Country!” She joins OU-Tulsa with 15 years at Hillcrest Medical Center working with burn survivors and their families, and women and children. She spent 1 ½ years at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and general pediatrics unit as well as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Gena joins us in a unique position that is jointly funded by the School of Social Work and the Health Sciences. She has both clinical duties with the OU-Tulsa clinics and teaching and field responsibilities for the School of Social Work. Gena will be charged with the development of medical sites, collaborating with the allied health disciplines in the newly created School of Community Medicine, and the development of social work services in the OU-Tulsa clinics. She will also teach social work and health courses and supervise all field students in medical placements. In her short tenure here, she has already impressed many with her energy and innovative ideas.

Our newest faculty member is Karen Gray, PhD who joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor. Prior to entering the PhD program at the University of Texas at Austin, Karen had more than 15 years practice experience at both the macro and micro level. She earned her BSW, MSW, and PHD in social work and has practiced as both a BSW and MSW level social worker. Her experience reflects a rich and extensive history of social work practice experience including pediatric and medical social work, medical education, substance abuse treatment and supervision. She taught MSW students for 9 years prior to arriving at OU-Tulsa. She has also been very involved with the National Association for Community Organization and Social Administration and has been awarded for her contributions to a state level community and policy advocacy organization in South Carolina. Her research focuses on poverty and interventions to combat poverty. She notes, “I am very excited about the new ACP concentration here in Tulsa and the research opportunities that OU-Tulsa has to offer! And Tulsa is proving to be a wonderful place to live.”


Therapeutic Game.


Pellebon , D. A. Analysis of culture: Developing a scale to measure Asante's culture of Afrocentricity. (Manuscript accepted for conference presentation).

Pellebon , D. A. Exploring social work faculty’s use, knowledge, and support of Asante’s Afrocentric theory. (In data analysis phase)

Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Session Title: "Analysis of culture: Developing a scale to measure Asante’s culture of Afrocentricity.." October 31, 2008

Dr. Steve Wells, Oklahoma LEND Core Faculty in Social Work, was given one of six Champions of Children Awards from the Foster Care Association of Oklahoma at their breakfast held at the Oklahoma Pathways to Adulthood Conference “Together We Can” 2008 Conference. He presented there on Friday and Saturday.
We want to fill you in on some of the new things that have been happening with the Graduate Program. Some of these are: a “bridging” course for Advanced Standing, the launch of a full-time program at OU - Tulsa, social work’s growth at OU - Tulsa, greater program flexibility, and, finally, a new capstone course in Direct Practice.

A big change, one that the social work faculty has just approved and that is heading through University channels is the development of a bridging course Advanced Standing students. The bridging course, “Advanced Standing Seminar” will be the first course taken by Advanced Standing students. It will be offered in the summer and students take (and pass) this course prior to moving into their Concentration in either Administration and Community Practice or Direct Practice. With the addition of the bridging course, Advanced Standing becomes a 33-credit hour program rather than a 30- hour one. The bridging course seeks to orient Advanced Standing students to graduate school and to provide common preparation for the Concentration work.

Plans are to offer it as an elective this coming summer (2009). Presuming that University channels are successfully navigated, the bridging course becomes part of a 33-credit hour Advanced Standing MSW in summer 2010.

The MSW program at OU - Tulsa continues to grow and change. This fall, the MSW programs on both campuses will be identical with the last implementation piece in Tulsa – the Full Time MSW program. In spring 2009, OU - Tulsa anticipates graduating around 100 students, including 50 Advanced Standing students. In Norman, we anticipate graduating about 65 MSWs including about 25 in Advanced Standing. Tulsa’s 2009 MSW graduating class comprises about 90 Direct Practice (DP) concentration students and 10 in Administration and Community Practice (ACP). Norman will graduate about 45 DP students and 20 ACP students.

Many may be aware of greater MSW program flexibility, introduced last year. One change is that the final 30 hours of the MSW (for current Advanced Standing students, the only 30 hours) may now be completed on a part-time basis (two years). (Previously, it had only been available full-time, one year.) Approximately two Norman students and 10 Tulsa students have chosen this route.

And, there is more flexibility in practicum. Students may now elect to do their first-year practicum (the Foundation practicum) either full-time (36-40 hours per week) during the summer or half-time (18-20 hours per week) concurrent with their classes. The Concentration practicum may now be taken either full-time (36 hours per week) during the students’ final spring or half-time (18 hours per week) during spring and extended through summer.

A new course in the Direct Practice Concentration is the Advanced Integrative Seminar for Direct Social Work Practice course taken in the MSW’s final spring semester. As its title suggests, it integrates content from multiple courses and serves, in essence, as a capstone experience. In both DP and ACP, the Comprehensive Exam (required of non-thesis students) is integrated into a spring capstone course.

A newly created curriculum committee will be examining the MSW and BSW curriculum and improving the courses and program options that we will offer into the future. Certainly, exciting times for OU SSW.

Julie Miller-Cribbs, Assistant Director
Jim Rosenthal, Graduate Coordinator, Norman
Welcome to the Undergraduate Program: As We Are – Fall 2008

Forty students graduated in May 2008 with the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree. We express congratulations to them along with a wish for a bright beginning to their career. For the School Year 2008-09, we have 69 active students in the undergraduate social work major, divided into 32 seniors and 37 juniors. This group is composed of 59 females and 10 males, and 19% report minority racial status. “Non-traditional” students (over 25 years of age) account for 28% of our majors.

Several social work students have earned financial support through scholarships and grant awards for 2008-09. Jennifer Foster received the Leo S. and Virginia Kerley Cade Scholarship, the Oklahoma Memorial Union Scholarship, and the Ruby Brackbill Scholarship. She also received the Jean Lehi Koziara Scholarship and the Gertrude Hacker Kennedy Scholarship through her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. Rachel Dorsett received the Alvin Terrell Dixon Memorial Scholarship, and Megan Schaefer participates in the University of Oklahoma Tuition Waiver Program. Our Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program supports 6 students with stipends and tuition assistance. Congratulations to all these students on their awards.

Our Vision: Nourishing the Undergraduate Program

I’ve been reading Creating Campus Community: In Search of Ernest Boyer’s Legacy, (thanks to the gentle mentorship of Drs. Miller-Cribbs and Moxley). Parker J. Palmer states that Boyer envisioned a university engaged in “soul work” and reflecting:

| An educationally purposeful place where learning is the focus. |
| A disciplined place where group obligations guide behavior. |
| An open place where civility is affirmed. |
| A caring place where individuals are supported/service is encouraged. |
| A just place where person are honored and diversity pursued. |
| A celebrative place where traditions are shared. |

Our vision is to create a “community” where these values flourish, and we have launched efforts to realize this. For two years, we have held orientations for incoming juniors with a social event at the end to meet the senior class. Last April, our Undergraduate Social Work Association sponsored a grand reception for the graduating seniors. Professor Terri Fritz graced the event as keynote speaker, and awards were given to student and faculty. The evening was capped by an exquisite reception. Last, our faculty teaching undergraduate courses have begun an examination of our academic advisement process with the hope of enrich its impact on students.

Our Vision: Growing the Undergraduate Program

How could we grow? First, we might increase the number of applicants to the Program, aiming for 2 applicants for each of the 40 positions now available. Second, we might increase the actual number of undergraduate students in our program by 50%, giving us three practice cohorts (a practice cohort defined as 20). To do so, we must increase the effectiveness of our recruitment efforts.

On campus, we have begun assertive outreach to other major academic programs on the Norman campus to inform students about careers in social work. Away from campus, we are engaged in collaborative efforts with people like Dr. John Carl of Rose State, Professor Jerry Ludlow of Oklahoma City Community College, and Sharolyn Wallace of Tulsa Community College. Each professor has allowed us to speak in their Introduction to Social Work courses. We accept each course for our program and use the visits to assist students with questions about transfer to the university.

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know—the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

We begin orientation each year with this statement. The faculty have the privilege of greeting Oklahoma’s future service providers, a grand and rewarding role, and we are grateful for our own chance to serve. Thank you for the support you give us in this endeavor.
Graduate Social Work Association News

By Summer Welcher

With the holidays approaching, it is time to think about finals and a winter break from lectures, but more importantly, it is also a time to think about those in need. This year, GSWA is trying to tackle both while keeping our sanity. We realize the importance of keeping our head in the books so we can end the semester with good "report cards", but we also have high hopes of organizing donation drives and activities for local shelters, social service agencies, and individuals and families in need. We’re looking forward to a busy season and we hope to see you there!

Since the change of leadership last fall, we’ve followed in the footsteps of our past officers and members (and also created some footsteps of our own) by participating in events like The Big Event, the graduate reception, the Practicum Fair, and the AIDS Walk. This holiday season, we plan to put together “goodie bags” full of necessities for individuals at the City Rescue Mission. We also plan to do at least one large donation drive for a local agency serving adolescents. Please keep an eye out for upcoming donation boxes at Rhynal Hall!

Current GSWA officers include: Summer Welcher-Duke, President, Bill Hart, Vice-President of Administration and Community Practice, Coley Fipps, Vice-President of Direct Practice, Rebecca Bundy, Treasurer, and Tanna Thompson, Secretary. In December, we will be electing new officers for these positions. We look forward to meeting next year’s leadership and hope all current and future members and friends will turn out for our holiday events! Good luck on finals and Happy Holidays!

Undergraduate Social Work Association News

By Cynthia Schmitt, 2007-2008 USWA President

Hi Social Workers and welcome juniors! It’s that time again so let me get straight to the point! Last year was a fantastic time! We as USWA members made a difference in our community. When a fellow Social Work student died in a fire related death (Markisha Gates), we were able to pull together a garage sale to raise money for the family left behind. We rose over a 1000$ for the Gates family. Members from the NASW-OK stepped in and volunteered and donated items. Special thanks to goes out the School of Social Work and President Boren for allowing USWA to sponsor this event and help the Gates family in their time of need.

Next, USWA was able to sponsor a Senior Reception & Awards Ceremony Heart & Soles Raffle where we presented several outstanding students and professors with awards. We also ask them to bring one pair of shoes for a special drawing. The shoes were donated to the Foster Care Association.

USWA Mission Statement

In keeping with the harmony and spirit of social work, and in pursuit of our mission:

pursuing a social work profession, and we who believe we must be the change we wish to see in the world”, the undergraduate students of the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work hereby express their desire to form the undergraduate social work association.

Food galore at the reception in which Anna Yeom catered. Thanks Anna! It was great!

Shoes donated to the Foster Care Association at the State Capitol Steps
The University of Oklahoma School of Social Work is preparing for the 100th anniversary. They are encouraging participation from students, staff, and alumni.

Audrey Haldaman was shipped off to Germany earlier this year. Before she left, she arranged for an undergraduate student to help with the 100th Anniversary Quilt. The quilt will hang in the new social work building.

Each block can be purchased for $5. Diane Freeman will be handling the block purchases. Each block will need to be signed with a fabric pen. A 3 x 5 index card will be filled out with some of the history and specifies for each organization or social worker participating in this grand event.

On the 90th Anniversary Audrey and finished a quilt. It is located in Diane Freeman’s office waiting for a special event in which it can be viewed. It is a part of our history. We want to make the 100th Anniversary quilt an even more special event.

Audrey donated $100 dollars to start a scholarship account for the 100th Anniversary. We hope that everyone will participate and make this a historical event.

Ruth Knee was a social work pioneer. Even though she has passed away, she made sure she had signed a block. Her block was sent to Audrey a few weeks before her passing. She will be missed, and she will be remembered.

The undergraduate student that will be helping with this event is Cynthia Schmitt. She has caused a lot of interest in the 100th Anniversary quilt. She has challenged the graduates and alumni to come up with some creative designs for their block. She said she would like to see her tie-dyed and big PEACE on it accompanying her signature. Cynthia said she is taking hers to a tailor so she can make sure the ¼” seem allowance is taken into consideration. She has also encouraged and gained the Undergraduate Social Work Association donations of fabric pens and craft equipment for the project.

For more information or if you wish to be a part of history please call Diane Freeman at 405-325-2822 or mail $5 to:

The University of Oklahoma
School of Social Work
100th Anniversary
1005 S Jenkins Norman Ok 73019

Above is a sample of a quilt made by military families. It is similar to the one we will be making.

Staff Spotlight:
Donna Vaughn
Pioneers In Social Work

By Dan Baker & Ken Wedel

Back row: (left to right) Ina Javellas, LCSW, Ruth Knee
Seated in Front Row: Virginia Olds, Eunice McDowell, Owen Pollard, Ina Javellas
Annual Social Work Day

Mark your Calendars

Theme
“Aging in America”
6 Hours CEU’s- 3 Hours Ethics

Oklahoma Memorial Union
January 30, 2009
8:00—5:00

Phi Alpha Honor Society

By Dr. Anthony Natale, PhD

For one hour in February, 60 students in the School of Social Work experienced a taste of what it feels like not to be able to provide for all the needs of their families and how it feels to navigate the systems in place to help those who live below the poverty level.

The hour-long Poverty Simulation was sponsored by Phi Alpha, the social work honor society, and the Graduate Social Work Association. Bob Brandenberg, with the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies, facilitated. Sixty participants were divided into families, and approximately 17 faculty and students staffed the “agency” or “resource tables,” representing employers, banks, loan sharks, pawn shops, school, the county jail, and social service agencies.

"Because a fundamental objective of the social work profession is to oppose poverty and injustice, it is crucial that social work students understand some of the obstacles faced by people living in poverty," said Lea Ray, Phi Alpha member. “Many students in the simulation found that they kept their teenage children out of school to help earn money, or left their young children home alone because the daycare was closed and the parent could not afford to miss work. In the ensuing discussion, participants realized that prevailing assumptions about poor people's values — for example, that they do not value education or that they willfully neglect their children — actually stem from the no-win scenarios that many poor people face.”

Karen Williams, a mother in real life and in the simulation, was surprised by how she responded to the stressors of poverty. She encouraged her 16-year-old daughter to “Go get a job. It didn’t even occur to me she was missing school.” By the end of the simulation, she was allowing her young son to steal.

"It was really eye-opening," said Sarah Pimsler, English senior. "It was a shock to see how frantic you can get when trying to secure resources for your family. An hour seemed to last forever — I can’t imagine having to do this every day.”
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

has a number of endowed scholarship funds that have been created in the past, but many of them are not able to generate scholarship awards to keep up with the rising costs of attending OU. Your pooled gift to our scholarship fund will allow the School to add funds to these scholarship programs so that the awards are financially meaningful to the students who receive them.

Your tax-deductible gift to the University of Oklahoma Foundation will help ensure that our awards properly honor those for whom the scholarships are named and significantly help our students financially.

Our current scholarship funds, and the money they typically generate each year, are showcased below. Our goal is to award scholarships of no less than $1,500 per year. Thank you for your help!

Deborah Grace Toops Memorial Scholarship — $500
George Rogers Scholarship — $50
Julia M. Norlin, Ph.D. Social Work Scholarship — $75
Rev. Key and Anna Ketcher Scholarship — $100
Eloise Reynolds Scholarship — $600
Heritage Scholarship — $120
Man Keung Ho Minority Scholarship — $220
Wayne and Nancy Chess Scholarship — $500

☐ YES, I want to help TOP 'EM OFF by providing a scholarship gift that the School of Social Work can use to supplement the interest earned from an existing endowed scholarship fund.

☐ My gift is in the amount of: ☐ $1,500 ☐ $500 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $____________
☐ I would like to discuss using a portion of my estate to benefit the OU School of Social Work.
☐ I would like to discuss adding funds to the principal of one of these accounts so it generates more annual income.

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

☐ Check enclosed $____________ (Payable to OU Foundation)
☐ Please charge my credit card $____________ ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Name on Card ____________________________
Account Number ____________________________ Expiration Date ____________________________

Please complete your contact information below (please print). Thank you.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ State: _________ ZIP: ____________
City: ____________________________ Home Phone: (______) _______ ________
E-Mail: ____________________________

Office Use Only: $__________ 33061 980 C

PLEASE RETURN TO:
University of Oklahoma, Office of Development, 339 West Boyd, Norman, OK 73019-5141
For additional information, contact David Quirk, (405) 325-3724 or dquirk@ou.edu

Fall 2008
ALUMNI NEWS

At the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work our alumni are important to us. We hope you will take the time to complete this form to update your information, make a change of address, or simply tell us about your family, career moves, community involvement, awards and honors. Fill out this form and return it to, The University of Oklahoma School of Social Work, 1005 S. Jenkins Ave., Rhyne Hall, Norman, OK 73019-0475. We appreciate your involvement in the School of Social Work! Boomer Sooner!

☐ Change of address

Name: ___________________________ BSW _____ MSW _____ Graduation Year(s): ________________

Home Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ State: ____ Zip: ____________

Telephone: ___________________________ E-mail: ____________________________

ALUMNI NEWS (☐ check here to have this information printed in the next issue of INTERACTION):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

INTERACTION is a publication of the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work. For questions or comments you may contact the School at:

1005 S. Jenkins Avenue, Rhyne Hall, Norman, OK 73019-0475 Phone: 405-325-2821. Fax: 405-325-7072. Website: www.ou.edu/socialwork

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
University of Oklahoma