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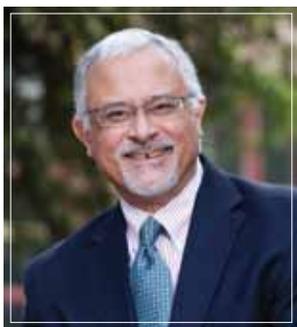


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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

From Dean Luis H. Zayas



This is a historic period for the university and the city of Austin. The creation of the new **Dell Medical School**, scheduled to accept its first class in 2016, has wide-ranging implications for all of us. Young physicians will be trained using the latest approaches to teaching, interprofessional education,

and patient care. Medical research will flourish thanks to the collaboration of faculty, scientists, health practitioners, and students from across the forty acres and beyond. Healthcare for everyone in Central Texas, but particularly for those in most need, will improve thanks to the new teaching hospital and the visionary partnerships with Seton Healthcare Family, Central Health, and an array of community health centers in Austin.

We at the School of Social Work have much to contribute to all these promising developments. Our collective expertise in behavioral health, interdisciplinary research and practice, and community engagement makes us a vital component of the medical school's mission to improving human health through excellence in interprofessional education, research, healthcare and community involvement. We are delighted with the appointment of **Dr. Claiborne "Clay" Johnston** as the Dell Medical School's inaugural dean. In our first meeting, Dr. Johnston impressed me with his attention to the social determinants of health and healthcare, which he emphasized when explaining his vision for the medical school.

This issue of *The Utopian* introduces you to some of the cutting-edge projects and initiatives at the School of Social Work that are directly related to healthcare research, education, and implementation. I am proud of the multiple strengths of our faculty and students. The university's motto, "What starts here changes the world," acquires new meaning as we think about how the medical school will serve as catalyst for our collective work to effectively change health outcomes for the better across Central Texas, our nation, and the world.

The Health Behavior Research and Training institute (HBRT), one of the School's nine research institutes, is already delivering on this promise. Under the expert direction of **Dr. Mary Velasquez**, the HBRT team has developed and tested several brief interventions that target risk behaviors such as alcohol drinking and smoking, and that are delivered in medical settings such as emergency rooms and primary care clinics. One of these interventions, the program CHOICES, is being disseminated by the Centers of Disease Control throughout

the United States and has been implemented in places as far as Russia and South Africa. Most recently, CHOICES has been included in the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, a searchable online database kept by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

With respect to the education of professionals in health-related disciplines—social workers, nurses, physicians, pharmacists—**Dr. Barbara Jones** has been a leader in advocating for interprofessional education here on campus and at the national level. Interprofessional education is a relatively new but exciting area of teaching and research that addresses the need for coordinated healthcare by developing teamwork models for health practitioners with the goal of providing optimal and patient-centered care. In today's complex healthcare world, this "start 'em young" approach is indispensable. On their first day on the job, health practitioners must already understand their different roles and strengths, and how to maximize their respective competences and skills in collaboration with each other for the patient's benefit. Nobody understands this better than Dr. Jones, who learned first hand the value of interprofessional effort as a social worker in a pediatric palliative care team.

We are also making sure that our School of Social Work produces the integrated behavioral health specialists that are so greatly needed in the new healthcare landscape created by the Affordable Care Act. Through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), we are training master's level social work students to deliver culturally competent interventions with a strong evidence-base in medical settings. We are excited about the first cohort of Integrated Behavioral Health Scholars, and are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort next academic year.

As the university enters this new era marked by the establishment of the Dell Medical School, a dean couldn't ask for a more committed and accomplished group of social work faculty and students. I hope you enjoy reading and learning about them, and feel proud of being a friend of our School. Without your support, we would not be where we are today.

Sincerely,

Luis H. Zayas, Ph.D.

Dean and Robert Lee Sutherland Chair

in Mental Health and Social Policy

Restoring Rundberg: One Running Man at a Time

by David Springer



Broderick James, better known as “The Running Man,” can be found at the corner of Rundberg Lane and Lamar Blvd., spreading optimism and hope through the power of

dance. He has been an informal promoter of community engagement for an improved Rundberg area for over seven years, and he dreams of a better Rundberg for the next generation. According to James, “the dream is when we bring this community together.”

That dream is shared by the UT Austin School of Social Work, Austin Police Department (APD), social service providers, and the residents and families that live in Rundberg. Today, the north-Austin Rundberg neighborhood struggles with high crime rates, prostitution, poverty, and exposed drug use. Kids feel pressure to join gangs and too often fall into the school-to-prison pipeline. Criminal activity coupled with poverty, disinvestment, and unemployment within the neighborhood discourage redevelopment and economic growth.

We have partnered with the APD team, led by Commander Donald Baker, and community leaders and stakeholders to *Restore Rundberg*, which aims to “improve the quality of life, health, safety, education, and well-being of individuals living and working in the Rundberg neighborhood.” Sustainable and innovative community engagement is at the core of what we’re trying to do so that we have a multigenerational impact. Initial funding in the form of a 3-year

\$1 million Department of Justice grant—part of the Obama Administration’s Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative—will allow *Restore Rundberg* to address crime and improve public safety, which is a prerequisite for sustainable investment. APD reached out to us to help identify innovative crime interventions that would lead to long-term solutions. I have been working with a team from our School—Drs. Yessenia Castro, Noel Landuyt, Michael Lauderdale, Cal Streeter, Ahmed Whitt, and graduate students—to produce a comprehensive plan. We are recommending strategies that focus on addressing persistent crime, physical and social disorder, and youth issues by increasing community engagement and improving the community’s relationship with police. We hope to see at least a 5% decrease in violent and property crimes by 2016.

The project attempts to be mindful of its existing residents, hoping to identify strategies that do not simply shift crime to other neighborhoods or invite gentrification. Strategies to revitalize Rundberg focus on five overarching areas:

- persistent crime
- physical and social disorder
- community engagement
- the community’s relationship with police
- at-risk youth.

Working with APD and analyzing crime data from the last seven years, we have identified areas where crime is tightly concentrated, or “crime hot spots.” Three of the identified hot spots account for 21% of crime in the area and 12% of crime citywide. This suggests that we can identify

and deal with a large proportion of crime problems by focusing on a very small number of places. The three identified hot spots look and feel unsafe: they are backed by vacant lots and open fields, and there is persistent drug and prostitution activity, gang activity, litter and garbage, oddly placed pay phones, drug paraphernalia, poor parking conditions, graffiti, and loitering.

Restore Rundberg is a community engagement initiative that seeks to transform the north-Austin Rundberg neighborhood into a community of opportunity. Austin Police Department has teamed with UT researchers, led by Professor David Springer, to identify neighborhood revitalization strategies and evidence-based crime solutions.

We know that we can’t arrest our way out of this situation. We are working with APD to adopt a community policing strategy for the area’s crime hot spots, meaning that police will enhance their visibility and community

Focus: Empowering Residents in South Austin

involvement through the use of increased foot and bike patrols. We are also working with APD to deploy officers in a way that builds relationships with the immigrant community. We want residents to get to know Austin police officers and see them as allies toward creating a safer and stronger community. In this spirit, APD is following our recommendation to hire a full-time neighborhood engagement specialist to assist with this critical effort.

As expected, the fastest growing population in the Rundberg area is the Hispanic population, with concentrated growth in young children between the ages of birth to 9 years. Many youth in the area are considered at-risk given their socio-economic status, the presence of criminal and gang activity in the area, poor school performance and high dropout rates. *Restore Rundberg* calls for an overarching focus on youth development to decrease risk factors and enhance protective factors through a range of community- and school-based programs, youth mentoring, and youth gang prevention and intervention programs.

We hope that our efforts can gain some traction in restoring the neighborhood and reducing crime over the next two years. But all of us involved in this initiative recognize that this is a long-term effort. Perhaps the Running Man has captured it best—“I’m gonna sit down on that corner until this community changes.” ♦

David Springer is a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at the School of Social Work.



Neighborhood revitalization initiatives can address various issues affecting underserved communities. We talked with Alba Sereno, MSSW’11, Community Programs Coordinator for Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin (GAVA) in South Austin. GAVA targets communities with higher than average childhood obesity rates, and employs place-based health models to improve the environment that causes the health issue.

What type of work is GAVA coordinating in South Austin?

For GAVA, the end goal is to reduce childhood obesity rates in specific communities throughout the City of Austin utilizing a place-based health model. We’re trying to target the causes of childhood obesity by improving the environment that people live in. The work is coordinated with the residents to form leaders, and leaders with followings. Mainly, this builds the communities’ capacity to advocate for resources and bring those resources to their neighborhoods. When we undertook this initiative, we coordinated a planning process with the residents to understand the types of issues they wanted to address. We then presented them with evidence-based strategies that have worked in other communities throughout the country. In every part of the neighborhood the work might look different, because it really is based on specific problems that are happening right there and that are of interest to the residents.

What have been some of the challenges GAVA has encountered?

I am working at a community in South Austin that is located adjacent to Dove Springs. But this community does not have a specific name or share a long history of organizing to address issues affecting residents. The recent effort of GAVA is truly the first attempt to organize residents in a different way, to build their capacity as advocates. This is really an innovative approach for zip code 78745. Regardless, there are established community partners that form part of our alliance, and GAVA works with them to create services that benefit residents. Another challenge has been that the community has a high rate of rental properties, so people frequently move, which can make organizing difficult. In the recent redistricting work, 78745 was a target zone to parcel out certain areas to neighboring districts, and that has reduced the pressure that residents can apply as a community. Despite all of that, as a community, we are building gardens, working on health in schools, addressing food access, and improving park infrastructure.

How has your time at the School of Social Work influenced your work?

The core values of social work and the knowledge of how to relate and talk to people allow me to do this work. My job involves helping people make change within themselves, whether it’s at the individual level, group level, or at the level of an organization. Ultimately, it’s the capacity to connect with people one-on-one, whether it’s an undocumented person with tenant issues or the director of a non-profit seeking to bring resources to a community and empower residents. All of that starts at the beginning of one’s education at the School of Social Work.

GAVA
GO! AUSTIN/VAMOS! AUSTIN



Changing Health Outcomes, One Person at a Time

by M. Andrea Campetella

Evidence-based interventions developed by the Health Behavior Research and Training Institute help Americans live healthier lives

Lisa* checked into her primary care clinic to get treatment for an injured ankle. While at the clinic, she was also seen by Cassie, a social worker who introduced herself as a behavioral health specialist with the program CHOICES. Cassie asked Lisa a few questions about her drinking habits and whether she used birth control. Lisa explained that she didn't think too much about those issues because she was dealing with larger problems, including financial difficulties and getting back to school. They developed rapport, however, and Lisa returned for a second visit two weeks later. They talked

some more about the risks of drinking while pregnant. At that time, Lisa also talked with her doctor about birth control because, after her initial conversation with Cassie, she wanted to know her options to avoid an alcohol-exposed pregnancy.

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy is a leading cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities in the United States. But every day, women like Lisa choose healthier behaviors that avoid alcohol-exposed pregnancies thanks to CHOICES, a program developed by researchers

*Names have been changed Photo: The HBRT team from left to right: Nanette Stephens, Kirk von Sternberg, and Mary Velasquez



at the Health Behavior Research and Training (HBRT) Institute at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. CHOICES, which is being disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been implemented in more than 30 sites across the United States, in primary care clinics like the one Lisa visited as well as in ob-gyn practices and substance abuse clinics. CHOICES has also been implemented in Canada, Russia, and South Africa.

CHOICES looks deceptively simple: it consists of four 45-minute sessions with a behavioral health specialist and one counseling

visit with a family planning clinician, all done over a twelve- to fourteen-week period. To arrive to this point, however, HBRT researchers Mary Velasquez, Kirk von Sternberg, and Nanette Stephens have been working for the past thirteen years, along with colleagues from two other universities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They developed and evaluated the program's curriculum for acceptability and ease of delivery, and then tested it in a variety of settings to make sure it was really effective in changing people's behavior.

"CHOICES is an evidence-based program," explained Mary Velasquez, HBRT Director and the Centennial Professor in Leadership for Community, Professional and Corporate Excellence at the School of Social Work. "This means that it has been tested through a series of studies where we had two groups of women, one receiving CHOICES and the other receiving basic information about alcohol-exposed pregnancy. We then did 12-month follow-up interviews, and found that the women receiving CHOICES were at significantly lower risk of an alcohol-exposed pregnancy because they had changed their behavior, by either drinking less, using contraception, or both."

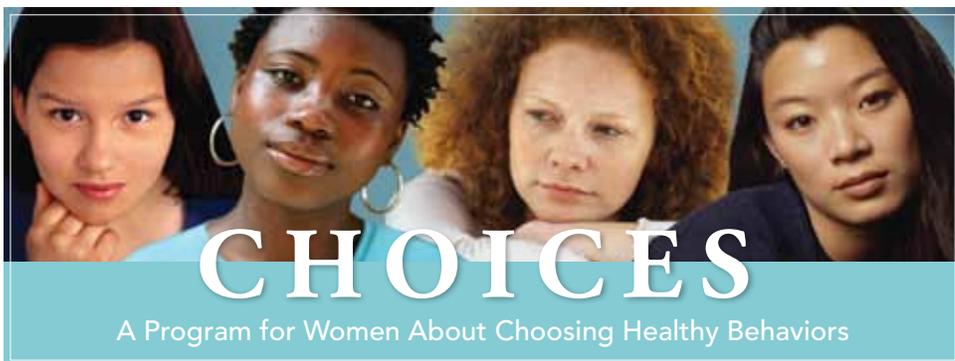
There is much work and training behind each of the CHOICES sessions. To a casual listener, Lisa's conversation with Cassie might sound informal and effortless. But Cassie was actually following the curriculum in the CHOICES manual, and using strategies and techniques she learned during her CHOICES training in Motivational Interviewing (MI), an evidence-based practice in itself that has proven highly successful in helping people change behaviors.

"We train behavioral health specialists in MI through intensive sessions," explained Nanette Stephens, HBRT Training Director. "We also give our trainees the opportunity

to practice their MI skills with trained actors posing as patients. We observe these sessions and provide immediate feedback. Finally, we have also developed a coaching model, in which trainees record their sessions and send them to us. We listen to the recordings and use a coding scheme to measure the extent to which they are really using MI language and techniques during the session. We then use this to provide very specific feedback that helps trainees to enhance their MI skills."

MI is an important component of other programs that the HBRT has developed to help patients choose healthier behaviors. For instance, along with colleagues Richard Spence and Tom Bohman, from the School of Social Work Addiction Research Institute, the HBRT team developed and supervised the delivery of a brief intervention, called InSight, for Harris Health District in Texas, the fourth largest public healthcare system in the country. Patients admitted to Harris Health trauma units, emergency rooms, and primary care clinics were screened for alcohol and drug use. Those who screened positive were referred to an InSight behavioral health specialist, who used MI while further assessing the severity of drug and alcohol use, and recommending possible services. In follow up interviews between 5 and 8 months later, researchers found substantial decreases in drug use and heavy alcohol use.

"The year after InSight was initiated, there was a 4 million dollar reduction in return visits to the emergency room," said Kirk von Sternberg, HBRT Associate Director and a professor at the School of Social Work. "These screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment programs, often identified by the acronym SBIRT, are so successful that they have spread across the country. Every level-1 trauma unit in the United States is now required to do a screening and brief intervention for alcohol use."



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is disseminating CHOICES throughout the country. CHOICES has recently been included in the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices.

Programs like CHOICES and InSight, with their focus on modifiable health behaviors and proven effectiveness, are increasingly important in the changing healthcare landscape of the United States.

“Chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are not only leading causes of death in our country, but also big burdens to our health care system,” von Sternberg explained. “And we know these conditions have a lot to do with our health behaviors: what we eat and drink, whether we smoke, whether we exercise, and so on. In many cases, patients don’t need a costly treatment or a new pill, but someone to help them modify a behavior.”

The current health reform under the Affordable Care Act creates new opportunities for this type of intervention, as it emphasizes the integration of primary care and behavioral health, and requires providers to cover behavioral health treatments at the same level as other types of care. The hope is that a better integration of behavioral health care services into the broader health care continuum will have a positive impact on quality, costs, and outcomes. This trend in healthcare also opens new opportunities for social workers.

“If you look across the country, behavioral health specialist jobs are increasing and becoming very visible,” Velasquez said. “And many of these jobs are held by social workers, along with other professionals like master’s level counselors or psychologists. I think this trend is great for our students and future graduates, but also to show to the wider public that social work goes beyond case managing, that it is actually a clinical degree.”

The HBRT team is now having a direct impact in the education of social workers at the School. Velasquez is one of the co-investigators in a federal grant that the School received to train master’s level social work students as integrated behavioral health specialists to be placed in medical settings. (see pp. 10–11 in this issue).

“The integrated behavioral health program at the School has given us the opportunity to fully integrate our experience in evidence-based interventions research and training into the social work curriculum,” Velasquez said. “Applying for this grant was a true team effort that included Diana DiNitto, Dean Zayas, Carol Lewis, Anita Prewett and many other wonderful colleagues from our School.”

As part of the integrated behavioral health program, social work students receive the

HBRT training in Motivational Interviewing, including practicing with actors posing as patients and going through the coaching sessions. For their field internship, students are placed in primary clinics throughout Austin, where they apply their knowledge with patients, and continue receiving coaching from HBRT.

“Traditionally, the education of social work students has included a focus on the mental health piece, how to work with a client around depression, for instance,” Velasquez explained. “I think it’s equally important to teach them to use evidence-based brief interventions to work with health behaviors like drinking, smoking, diet, exercise... behaviors that have an impact on chronic conditions.”

HBRT team members are enthusiastic about the possibilities of collaboration that the Dell Medical School will bring to the UT Austin campus.

“Being involved in the creation of a medical school from the ground up is a unique opportunity,” Velasquez said. “We are entering a new and exciting time in health care and our School is well poised to meet the growing need for behavioral health programs that are based on sound scientific evidence, and that can be readily implemented in the community settings that our medical school will serve.”

For their next research steps, the HBRT team is building upon the success of CHOICES. They have recently tested with good results a briefer version that includes smoking as a target behavior. And they have now received funding to implement this briefer version of CHOICES, with an added component addressing obesity, in women’s health clinics of the UT Health Science Center-Houston Medical School.

“These are exciting times for us,” Velasquez said. “For the past twenty years, our research has focused on health behavior change, and on how we translate this research into programs that actually have an impact in the community. It’s very satisfying to see this coming to fruition.” ♦



It's All About Teamwork

Professor Barbara Jones leads interprofessional education initiatives to teach students in the health-related professions how to work together for optimal and patient-centered care by M. Andrea Campetella

With much of the nation's healthcare system fragmented and uncoordinated, patients are often left struggling to receive optimum care. Interprofessional education, an emerging field of teaching and research involving social work and other academic disciplines, is addressing the need for coordinated healthcare by developing teamwork models for health practitioners that will provide optimal, safe, and patient-centered care.

At the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Barbara Jones has been working to incorporate interprofessional education and practice in the curriculum of health-related schools and colleges across campus.

Jones, a psychosocial oncology researcher and associate professor at the School of Social Work, is a leader in the development of an Interprofessional Education collaborative (IPE) in Austin that brings together faculty and graduate students in social work, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and psychology. She also serves on the IPE Curriculum Subcommittee of the new Dell Medical School at UT Austin, which is set to start classes in 2016.

"Traditional medical education has not prepared doctors and other healthcare professionals to develop many of the skills that are essential for care, although fortunately this is changing as the value

Photo: Students in Dr. Jones IPE course at Dell Children's Medical Center

of communication, humility and empathy is better understood,” said Jones. “Providing high-quality healthcare requires an interprofessional team that can address the myriad physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of the patient and the family.”

In the IPE courses that Jones teaches, graduate students from UT Austin, The University of Texas Medical Branch, and UT Southwestern are placed in interprofessional teams based upon their areas of interest to work on projects designed to teach communication, ethics, collaboration, and teamwork in healthcare practice settings.

In Fall 2012, Jones and Dr. John Luk, assistant dean for regional medical education at The University of Texas Medical Branch, co-created the first IPE graduate elective for medicine and social work. Their course, “Transformative Teams in Health Care: Dialogues in Interprofessional Practice,” has since expanded to include nursing, educational psychology and pharmacy students.

Jones also designed and teaches “Interdisciplinary Seminar in Psychosocial Oncology Practice and Research.” One of the first academic courses of its kind in the United States, this seminar prepares graduate students in social work, nursing, medicine, psychology, public health, health kinesiology, human ecology, nutrition and pharmacy to provide clinical services and conduct research in psychosocial oncology—the care of people with cancer, including assessment, integrated behavioral health counseling and support of patients and their families during treatment and beyond.

“We have to instruct medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy students and others in interprofessional practice *before* they become professionals in their own disciplines,” Jones said. “They need to learn about their own and other professions’ scope of practice, principles, ethics, and values so that when they

begin their careers, the doors to interprofessional collaboration are already open.”

Jones learned the value of interprofessional collaboration early in her career, when she was a pediatric oncology social worker at Albany Medical

Center in New York. At this hospital, she worked alongside doctors and nurses to provide care for children with cancer and their families.

“When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family is diagnosed with cancer,” Jones explained. “Social workers are engaging right away with the child and the family, and helping the medical team understand family dynamics, and what the illness means for this particular family within their larger social and cultural context. That’s why practitioners in this field had to develop models of interprofessional collaboration early on.”



“My passion is psychosocial oncology, and over the years this passion has pushed me to take leadership in advocating for interprofessional education. The delivery of good oncology care, and of any integrated health care for that matter, is all about teamwork. We have to get better at teaching this essential aspect to students in all of the health-related disciplines.”

—Barbara Jones

supported the patient and family, facilitated patient-centered decision-making, and advocated for families to make sure that their unique cultural and contextual values and perspectives were respected.

Pediatric oncology frequently poses difficult dilemmas. Children cannot legally consent to their own treatment, and therefore parents are the legal decision makers. Yet, children and adolescents have rights

to understand what is happening to their bodies and to be integrally involved in decision-making. One of the roles for social workers is to facilitate this communication within the family and with the interprofessional team.

“Cancer affects everyone in some fashion, whether it be someone’s mother, father, child, partner or friend,” said School of Social Work alumna Kathryn Burgin, and a former student in the Psychosocial Oncology course. “Social workers should understand the implications of the disease. And in turn, social workers help other health professionals understand the importance of focusing on the patient’s life outside of the medical setting.”

Today, as a School of Social Work researcher and teacher, Jones works to improve the care of pediatric and young adult oncology patients, including better understanding the long-term needs of children and adults who survive. She recently received the 2014 Outstanding Education and Training Award from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society for her work in a federally funded grant designed

to train over 500 oncology social workers in evidence-based and patient-centered care.

“My passion is psychosocial oncology, and over the years this passion has pushed me to take leadership in advocating for interprofessional education,” Jones said. “The delivery of good oncology care, and of any integrated health care for that matter, is all about teamwork. We have to get better at teaching this essential aspect to students in all of the health-related disciplines.”

As an interprofessional educator, Jones is also passionate about the role of social workers.

“I teach my social work students: If you want to be a valued member of the team, then be of value,” she said. “Assert your skills and competencies as a social worker, and demonstrate that these skills and competencies are essential to the team’s efforts. And always keep the patient and family at the center of care” ♦



Dr. John Luk, MSSW intern Lauren Lieb, pediatric oncology social worker Caren Heilman,* Dr. Barbara Jones, pediatric pain and palliative medicine social worker Rachel Carnahan.* Picture taken at Dell Children’s Medical Center. *School of Social Work alumna



IBH Scholars

Meet the outstanding master's students in the Integrated Behavioral Health program

by Miguel Gutierrez, Jr.

Last fall, master's student **Griselda Onofre** was interning at a homeless clinic in downtown Austin. As part of her internship, she participated in "team huddles," where doctors, nurses, and behavioral health specialists got together to discuss patient cases.

"It was very eye-opening to see this interaction," Onofre said. "One time there was this patient, and the doctor thought she was bipolar. But the patient had also seen the behavioral health specialist, and I had sat down with them during the consultation. At the team huddle, the specialist was able to bring up the other issues that were affecting this patient, and to show that she was not bipolar but just very distressed. It was also interesting to see how patients can open up to someone who is there to listen, rather than to just tell you what is wrong with you."

Onofre is a member of the first cohort of Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) Scholars at the School of Social Work. IBH Scholars are outstanding master's students in the clinical concentration who demonstrate commitment to work in interprofessional teams in health care settings.

"A grant from the federal government is funding this program," explained **Robin Smith**, Coordinator of the IBH Program. "It allows us to train our students in the way of the future for health care:

teams of doctors, nurses, and social workers collaborating to integrate behavioral health with other forms of health care, and have the best outcomes for patients."

The School has partnered with Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) and the federally qualified health center CommUnity Care to secure field placements in integrated health care settings, like the clinic where Onofre was placed.

"Through this valuable relationship with the School of Social Work, we at ATCIC will come to a better understanding of emerging best practices, and will be building the future workforce of integrated behavioral health specialists," said **David Evans**, ATCIC Chief Executive Officer.

IBH scholar **Eva Jane Watkins** was also placed in the ATCIC homeless clinic last fall.

"Being homeless is probably one of the most traumatic things you can go through. So it's really great to have mental health services at the homeless clinic," Watkins said. "This semester I will be at a CommUnity Care clinic, where I will be shadowing two behavioral health counselors, and also start seeing patients in supervised one-on-one counseling sessions."

Photo: Griselda Onofre



Eva Jane Watkins

As part of the IBH program, students must take an inter-professional education (IPE) course, where they work in teams with students from nursing, medicine, pharmacy, and psychology.

“The IPE course was very useful to learn the vocabulary of the other professions,” said **Sonia Alvarez**, another member of the IBH Scholars first cohort. “It was also interesting to see the misconceptions about social work; many students in the other disciplines didn’t know that it is a counseling degree. Or in my case, I didn’t know much about pharmacy as a profession. I think it was a great learning opportunity for everyone. And it taught me how to advocate for social work.”

IBH Scholars must also take a course on Motivational Interviewing (MI), a brief behavioral intervention that has a strong evidence-base for effective use in medical settings.

“One advantage of being an IBH scholar is that we have priority to get into the MI class, which is very competitive,” Alvarez said. “MI is all about working with clients who are ambivalent about changing a behavior, without telling them what to do or push them to do something that they are not ready for. The neat thing about MI is that it’s a brief technique, so if you only have fifteen minutes it makes a real difference.”

David Dunkin found MI extremely valuable when working with clients at the CommUnity Care clinic where he was placed as part of the IBH Scholars program.

“MI is great to help clients self-determine where to go in their treatment needs,” said Dunkin. “For example, one of my clients has had several days of sobriety, but he has been in a restricted environment. MI interventions will be essential to help him as he moves into a more open environment.”

In addition to preparing students to work in integrated health care settings, the IBH program emphasizes the provision of culturally competent services to Latinos and military personnel, two high-demand and high-need populations in Central Texas. Onofre, Watkins, and Alvarez are all fluent in Spanish, which they are finding valuable at their field placements. Dunkin is a veteran, and Onofre is a member of the National Guard, attending The University of Texas under the ROTC program.

“I think my National Guard background, things like respect for the chain of command, has actually helped me to work in the inter-professional environment of the clinic,” Onofre said. “When I graduate, I would like to work with Spanish-speaking women and children, as well as with veterans.”

The current health care reform, with its focus on integrated and preventive care, makes the role of behavioral health specialists more important than ever.

“Health care reform has brought a clear recognition that mental health is essential to good health,” said ATCIC CEO David Evans. “Psychiatric illnesses and substance-use disorders need to be treated and integrated into primary care with parity to any other diagnosis. Behavioral health specialists are essential to perform screening, treatment and consultation in primary outpatient clinic service, with the final goal of achieving patient-centered care.” ♦



Left to right: Sonia Alvarez, IBH Program Coordinator Robin Smith, David Dunkin

Child Welfare Lectureship



Left to right: Dr. Monica Faulkner, Dr. William Bell, Dean Luis Zayas, the Honorable Pat Shelton and his daughter Elizabeth, and Dr. James Schwab

The Child and Family Research Institute (CFRI) hosted the first annual Dean's Lectureship on October 28, 2013. Over 175 child welfare workers, administrators, advocates as well as foster parents

attended the event, entitled *Creating a New Narrative for Child Welfare*. The lectureship was underwritten by **The Honorable Pat Shelton**, a UT alumnus and supporter of the School of Social Work. Along with Judge Shelton, attendees included **Judge Specia** and **Audrey Deckinga**, respectively the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services. **Drs. Monica Faulkner** and **James Schwab**, from the CFRI, hosted the event.

The full day event featured **Dr. William Bell**, CEO of Casey Family Programs as its keynote speaker. Dr. Bell, a social worker and nationally known policy advocate, spoke to the need of building communities to support children and families. Following Dr. Bell, a panel of former foster youth addressed best practices for working with foster youth and inspired attendees with their stories of success. Breakout sessions addressed several hot button issues in child welfare such as the use of psychotropic medications among foster youth, trauma-informed sex education, educational issues of foster youth, and trauma-informed care.

Public Meeting of the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel



Dr. Busch-Armendariz at the panel

The School welcomed the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel to campus for a public meeting on December 11 and 12, 2013. This independent panel of civilian and retired military representatives is conducting an independent review and assessment of the systems used to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes involving adult sexual assault and related offenses, for the purpose of developing recommendations on how to improve these systems' effectiveness.

This public meeting was the first the panel has held outside of Washington, D.C. **Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz** was one of the witnesses giving testimony. She presented a framework that her team at the Institute of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) has developed and implemented to identify preferred outcomes or best practice models in the field.

"I offer this to you as perhaps a model for the military," Busch-Armendariz told the panel. "The framework of preferred outcomes serves as a guide for future directions and as a mechanism to achieve exemplary services. Recommendations can not be one-size-fits-all, but preferred outcomes are a way to initiate an open, honest, and useful dialog that will strive toward exemplary responses to this crime."

Field Instructor Workshop



Dr. Reamer speaking

The spring 2014 Field Instructor Workshop was a great success, with approximately 170 field instructors in attendance. The featured speaker, **Dr. Frederic Reamer**, received rave reviews from attendees. Dr. Reamer is a professor in the graduate program of the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College, with expertise in a wide range of human service issues, including mental health, criminal justice, public welfare, and professional ethics.

IPE Panel

The School of Social Work hosted “Assessing Student Outcomes in the Health Professions: An Inter-professional Public Responsibility,” on January 7, 2014. This faculty development workshop brought together about 90 representatives from the Dell Medical School, the School of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy and the School of Social Work to address the assessment of student outcomes within the different health professional schools and colleges.

Another key objective was to inspire an ongoing conversation regarding ways programs can support one another, especially through interprofessional education. Interprofessional education, or IPE, is gaining popularity in the education of health care professionals across the country. The goal is to develop teamwork models for health practitioners—including physicians, nurses, social workers and pharmacists among others—to provide optimal, safe, and patient-centered care.



Speakers from the Dell Medical School, UT Medical Branch, College of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, and School of Social Work



Clockwise: Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs Vicki Packheiser, philanthropist Richard Astor, Dean Luis Zayas, Dr. Mark Smaller, and Sue Fairbanks

Fairbanks Lecture

“We must bring psychoanalysis fully into the world, into our communities.” —*Mark Smaller*

The School’s 2013 Fairbanks Lecture in Psychoanalytic Knowledge, held October 18, 2013, featured **Dr. Mark D. Smaller**, President-elect of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and faculty member of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Institute for Clinical Social Work.

Smaller’s presentation focused on Project Realize, an in-school psychoanalytic treatment and research program in an alternative high school in Cicero, Illinois. Project Realize provides individual and group treatment for at-risk students, and has been highly successful in reducing anxiety, depression, and violent behavior. Smaller emphasized that the integration of psychoanalytic knowledge with social work principles and values not only enriches both disciplines but also offers possible solutions for reducing community violence.

This annual lecture is made possible by the Sue Fairbanks Endowment for Excellence in the Application of Psychoanalytic Knowledge in Social Work, established in 2007.

Faculty News



Marilyn Armour received The University of Texas at Austin Co-op Research Excellence Award for Best Research

Paper. Armour received this university-wide award for her paper, "Assessing the impact of the ultimate penal sanction on homicide survivors: A two-state comparison" published in the *Marquette Law Review*.



Noël Busch-Armendariz received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research for her project

"Assessing the needs of Congolese refugee mothers." Doctoral students Karin Wachter and Laurie Cook-Heffron will be contributing to this project, as well as Dr. Susie Snyder. Bush-Armendariz also gave the keynote address to the inaugural International Conference on Women and Millennium Development Goals: A Social Work Response, in Gujarat, India.



Yessenia Castro is co-investigator in the grant "Culturally adapted brief motivational intervention for heavy

drinking Latinos," funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute. She has also been selected to serve as co-chair of the Early Career Leadership Committee of the national Hispanic Science Network.



Namkee Choi was inducted to the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. Choi also received

funding from the UT Office of the Vice President for Research for her project, "A pilot study to develop outcome measures of dementia care facilities that are meaningful to persons with dementia and their family members."



Catherine Cubbin has been appointed as Assistant Editor for the international journal *Health & Place*.



Susan De Luca has been selected fellow by the university's Center for Women's and Gender

Studies Faculty Development Program for 2013–2014. As faculty fellow, she received funding for a study on Latina adolescents and suicide prevention. De Luca has also been invited to an international expert panel to develop guidelines to respond to immigrants of refugee background at risk for suicide.



Diana DiNitto received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research to conduct "An exploratory

study of activity/program needs and preferences among racial/ethnic minority senior center participants: Association with actual and felt ages."



Rowena Fong was inducted to the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, and has been

selected as inaugural Fellow of the Society for Social Work Research. Fong has also been appointed to the Council on Social Work Education Commission on Educational Policy, and has been invited to join the Board of Directors of the North American Council on Adoptable Children.



Cynthia Franklin's book, *Solution-Focused Therapy: A Handbook of Evidence-Based Practice*, has been released in

Japan by Kongo Shuppan press. The online *Encyclopedia of Social Work*, of which

Franklin is the Editor in Chief, received the 2013 PROSE Award for Best in Social Sciences/eProduct.



Dorie Gilbert is one of the 5 co-Principal Investigators of the interdisciplinary team UT-TRANSFORM, a

\$750,000 project funded by UT System that aims to create a transformational entrepreneurial environment across UT campuses. In Fall 2014, Gilbert will be teaching a new signature course, *Social Entrepreneurship: Creating a business for social change*. Gilbert has also been selected a Fellow of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. As a fellow, she will research the impact of service learning projects and community engagement on students and communities.



Lori Holleran-Steiker is one of the winners of the 2013–2014 President's Associates Teaching Excel-

lence Award. She has also been appointed as inaugural Provost's Teaching Fellow. Lori also received funding from the UT Office of Vice President for Research for her project, "Development of evaluative tools for Austin's first recovery high school."



Yuri Jang received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research for her project "Mental health

literacy education for religious leaders in ethnic minority communities: a preliminary study."



Barbara Jones received the 2014 Outstanding Education and Training Award from the American Psychosocial

Oncology Society (APOS) for her work in a federally funded grant designed to train

over 500 oncology social workers in evidence-based and patient-centered care. Jones was also selected as one of the 2014 Texas 10 by the Alcalde. Nominated by alumni, the Texas 10 are among the best and most inspiring professors on the UT Austin campus.



Molly Lopez is overseeing three new substantial projects with potential to transform the delivery of mental

health care services throughout Texas. With combined first year funding of \$2.6 million, these new projects bring 17 new employees to the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, along with numerous consultants and community partners.



Jane Maxwell received funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

for her project, "Drinking, driving and drugs: Trajectories of DWI recidivism and how to intervene." She also gave expert testimony before the Subcommittee on Research and Technology of the U.S. House of Representatives, at the hearing entitled "Meth Addiction: Using Science to Explore Solutions."



Ruth McRoy is one of the nine winners of the Children's Bureau 2013 Adoption Excellence Award.

This award honors local agencies, private organizations, courts, businesses, individuals, and families for their work in increasing adoptions from foster care.



Angela Nonaka received a Special Research Grant from the Office of Vice-President for Research for her project

titled "Deaf perspectives, inclusion, and social work education."



Yolanda Padilla has been inducted to the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. She has

also been elected Vice-President-Elect of the Society for Social Work and Research.



Beth Pomeroy received funding from the UT Office of Vice President for Research for her project "DSM-5 and the clinical assessment workbook."



Michele Rountree has been appointed to the newly created Council on the Status of Women Faculty at The University of Texas at Austin.



Christopher Salas-Wright received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research for his project

"The feasibility of bio-behavioral research on substance abuse in San Salvador, El Salvador." He has also received a St. David's CHPR Pilot Research Grant for a study on adolescent alcohol use and health-risk behavior. A LLILAS Mellon Faculty Research Grant will allow Salas-Wright to carry a cross-national version of this later study in El Salvador.



James Schwab and the team at the Child and Family Research Institute received a contract with the Texas

Department of Assistive Rehabilitative Services to produce a statewide needs assessment to understand the rehabilitation needs of individual with disabilities.



Susie Snyder received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research for her project "Faith detained: Exploring the faith-based support of immigration detainees."



David Springer received a grant from the Department of Justice to work with the Austin Police Department

and other key stakeholders in the community to restore the Rundberg area. This grant is part of the Obama administration's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. Springer has also been funded through the Austin Police Department to conduct research on youth gangs.



Sanna Thompson has been selected as inaugural Fellow of the Society for Social Work Research. This fellowship

honors SSWR members for their accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to SSWR as a scientific society.



Mary Velasquez has been appointed to the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Nominations Committee.

CHOICES, a program developed by a research team that Velasquez directs, has been included in SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. CHOICES is a brief intervention that can lower the risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies.



Ahmed Whitt received funding from UT Office of Vice President for Research for his project "Developing

a built environment measure for use in urban adolescent health research."

Class Notes

What's new? If you have personal or professional news to share with other alumni and the SSW community, please send us an email to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

'70s

Karen Stromberger Miller, MSSW '76, Retired from the Army Substance Abuse Program in December 2012. Karen is currently working as a PRN for St. Davis North in the ER and the Women's Center. She also volunteers with the Micah 6 Food pantry and Uplift programs at her University Presbyterian Church.

'90s

Mariah Boone, MSSW '94, has joined the Social Work Program at Texas A&M University—Kingsville as an Assistant Professor of Practice and Social Work Field Education Coordinator.

Susan Krantz, MSSW '96, retired from the Frank Tejada VA Clinic in 2009 as a Primary Care Social Worker. She recently married a Vietnam War retired Air Force Veteran, Warren Clare, and happily resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Tonya Edmond, Ph.D. '97, MSW '87, is an Associate Professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis. Tonya is conducting research to support the adoption of evidence-based practices in rape crisis centers. She legally married her life partner on their 25th anniversary.

Laura Haymes, BSW '97, now works as a Disability Specialist with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in Austin.

Juli Cioffi-Smith, MSSW '99, has taken a new position as Program Manager for Outpatient Services at the Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven, Connecticut. Starting in fall 2014, Juli also hopes to continue her involvement as a field instructor with many local and not so local schools. Over the past 13 years, she has worked with over 10 universities and colleges in the CT/NYC area. Juli and her family have recently moved to a new home that allows her 6 year-old twins to run wild!

'00s

Kimberly Durham, MSSW '00, lives in San Antonio and is the proud mother of Chloe (2) and Carlos (8 months). Kimberly and former Lady Longhorn (#43) Annissa Hastings have built a new program for low income girls in San Antonio, Camp Summer Dreams. This is a unique program with a focus on promoting a "camp to college" approach. Kimberly has always believed in the power of education and has now added her passion for nature and a camp environment

to foster the development of young ladies. Camp Summer Dreams is currently awaiting non-profit status.

Susan Schoppelrey, Ph.D. '01, is Associate Professor and Associate Director at Radford University's School of Social Work in Radford, Virginia. Susan's most recent publications address community mental health, racial disparities, and substance use disorders.

Laura Elmore Sovine (formerly Smith), MSSW '01, has taken a new position as Case Management Coordinator for Travis County Health and Human Services Family Support Services Division in Austin, Texas. She received her AP license designation two years ago. Laura serves as adjunct faculty for the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. She also is a contracted social historian for the Office of Capital Writs, where she works on the legal team for post-conviction death penalty cases. She recently got married, and traveled to Spain. Her 7-year old son is almost as excited about reading as he is about Legos.

Mary Hancock, BSW '03, is Deputy Chief Executive at Somerset Community Foundation in Bath, United Kingdom

Darcie DeShazo, MSSW '04, was recently promoted to Executive Director of The Settlement Home for Children in Austin, Texas. Darcie has been a part of The Settlement Home for 13 years and recently served as the Associate Director.

Jason Alemán, MSSW '05, recently attained his Ph.D. in Education with a focus in Social Justice. He has also been appointed as Director for Education and Workforce for the Family Service Association of San Antonio. He is in charge of overseeing a \$4 million annual budget and all youth programming for the San Antonio area.

Michele Hanna, Ph.D. '05, is an Associate Professor at The University of Denver.

Laura Hopson, Ph.D. '06, is an Assistant Professor at The University of Alabama.

Michael A. Costanzo, MSSW '07, is now a Supreme Court of Virginia Qualified Guardian Ad Litem for Children.

Andrea Marquez, MSSW '07, has been recognized by Austin AVANCE as an outstanding social worker supervisor.

Octavious Bishop, MSSW '08, BSW '01, gave the keynote address at one of the ENCORE Family Conferences hosted by the Austin Independent School District in fall 2013.

Sunju Sohn, Ph.D. '08, MSW '03, is an Assistant Professor at Cheongu University in South Korea. Sunju has now been teaching for three years, and has adopted two more dogs.

Meredith Bagwell, MSW '09, is a doctoral student at Arizona State University. She is in her third year of the PhD program, and most recently successfully completed her comprehensive exam. She is designing her dissertation and is excited to begin conducting her own research. Hook 'em!

Lisa M. Pokorny, MSSW '09, has recently started to work as the Victim Advocate with the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Before moving to West Point with her active duty husband and three-year old daughter, Lisa worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. While research continues to be an area of interest, Lisa looks forward to serving military families in a different capacity during her time at West Point.

'10s

Amanda Barczyk, Ph.D. '11, is a Research Scientist at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Trauma Services, in Austin. Amanda is also teaching Research Methods at The University of Texas at Austin.

Michael McCarthy, PhD '11, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Michael is the Mental Health Flight Commander in the 82nd Medical Operations Squadron at the Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.

Lisiane Shuler, MSSW '11, works as a PRN at the assessment and referral office of Seton Mind Institute-Behavioral Health Services.

Amanda Baker, MSSW '12, received the St. David's Medical Center September 2013 ICARE Award. Amanda is a social worker in Case Management at St. David's Medical Center in Austin.

Announcements

Celebrate Social Work Month 2014!



William Lyons, MSSW '12, Kathryn Gallardo, MSSW '12, Elizabeth Hawkins, LMSW, '12, Kara Kai S. Kirton, MSSW '12

Tiffany Burd, MSSW/MPH '12, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Scholarship to South Africa in Public Health. Tiffany did her final field internship in South Africa, and is thrilled to be able to go back through the Fulbright program.

Kathryn Gallardo, MSSW '12, is the Grant Compliance and Program Manager for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program at The Salvation Army in Houston, Texas. In the future, Kathryn plans to obtain her PhD in public health and study health disparities among at-risk populations.

Elizabeth Hawkins, LMSW, '12, is a housing case manager with The Salvation Army Social Services in Houston, Texas. Elizabeth is also volunteering as a group facilitator at Bo's Place and as a therapist at the Houston-Galveston Institute Walk-In Center. Elizabeth hopes to enroll in Spanish classes and reach fluency to become a bilingual social worker by 2016.

Kara Kai S. Kirton, MSSW '12, is currently a Housing Case Manager at Salvation Army Social Services Office in Houston, Texas. Kara Kai currently works with young adults 18–25 helping them explore their goals, overcome barriers and exit the experience of homelessness.

William Lyons, MSSW '12, is currently working as a Housing Case Manager at The Salvation Army Social Services Office in Houston, Texas. He is saving and hopes to purchase a new home in the fall of 2014.

Jeff Moe, MSSW '13, is the Veterans affairs outreach coordinator and mental health counselor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Make a minimum donation of \$10 and the Social Work Alumni Network (SWAN) will send a personalized card to a person of your choice, stating that you have made a gift in his/her honor. Cards may also be sent to friends or family in memory of someone special. All contributions go to the SWAN Scholarship fund. A SWAN scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving social work student.



Happy recipients of Tribute Cards at Communities In Schools

The 2014 Tribute Card design will honor Barbara Jordan's legacy as an advocate for civil rights and social justice by featuring her statue at The University of Texas at Austin campus.

Gifts can be made online **until March 31** at this address: <http://links.utexas.edu/crhmgom>

If you have any questions, call the Development Office at 512-475-6840.

Annual Alumni Reception

MAY 8, 2014 • 5:00–7:00 PM

Reconnect with alumni, network with social work professionals, visit with faculty and staff and celebrate the 2014 Charles I. Wright alumna of the year.

Where: Thompson Conference Center –

Under the Oaks Cafe, The University of Texas at Austin

2405 Robert Dedman Drive (Southwest Corner of Dean Keaton and Red River)

FREE Parking in Lot 40 – enter from Red River St.

Tickets: Alumni and Friends – \$10, Students – \$5 (Includes: one drink and heavy appetizers)

RSVP: order ticket with credit card: (512) 232–7362

Sponsored by the Social Work Alumni Network (SWAN)



School of Social Work Annual Tailgate 2013

Social work students, alumni, faculty and staff had a great time at the 4th Annual Tailgate on September 21st, 2013 for the Longhorns vs. Kansas State game. Hear it from **Alex Huffman, MSSW '05**:

“While I have stayed active in local UTSSW alumni events since graduating from the program, I had not ventured back to campus until the Tailgate last football season. It was so fun to reconnect with faculty, staff, and students and rally in our burnt orange for our team and our school! The sense of community that I first felt when joining the program years ago was there to greet me when I returned! Thanks, UTSSW!”

We look forward to seeing you at the tailgate this coming fall!



Events



From Top to Bottom: 1) Dr. Pomeroy's workshop, "The Changes and Challenges of DSM 5," Dallas, 2) CSWE Reception, Dallas, 3) SSWR Reception, San Antonio, 4) SSWR Reception, San Antonio



THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

This campaign, launched in 2007, is working to raise \$3 billion to help The University of Texas at Austin become the best public university in the nation. Every school and college set its own goals. See how far we at the School of Social Work have come. Thank you!



SCHOOL GOAL
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AMOUNT RAISED
10 MILLION



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OF ALUMNI
HAVE
CONTRIBUTED



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Visit <http://links.utexas.edu/vipniu> or call 512-475-6840.

New Endowments

Dr. Kathryn G. Wambach Excellence Fund



Dr. Kathryn G. Wambach

Thanks to a rekindled campaign effort by alumna **Pam Lawrence** and generous support from many, the Dr. Kathryn G. Wambach Excellence Fund has reached the minimum endowment level of \$25,000. This initiative was launched in 2001 to honor the associate professor shortly before her untimely death from brain cancer.

“She enriched our lives and our community immeasurably, and her challenge to us to become better social workers, better citizens and better people still reverberates through time,” said Lawrence.

It was Wambach’s idea to establish a fund to promote the professional development of faculty and students, especially in her areas of expertise, mental health and substance abuse.

Sheral Trousdale Skinner Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Social Work

In 2013, three classmates launched a letter-writing campaign to create a fellowship honoring the memory of their friend **Sheral Trousdale Skinner, MSSW ’82**. “We think she would be pleased to help others follow their dreams, just like she did,” they said.

Trousdale Skinner persevered as a single mother returning to the educational field. Her goal was to make a better life for herself and her son. But she also pursued the equally important goal of making a difference in others’ lives in any way she could. Donors honored Sheral’s legacy by celebrating her generosity and social work values through supporting students who will follow in her footsteps.

Interested in learning more about how to establish an endowed scholarship? Visit <http://giving.utexas.edu/how-to-give/endowments/> or call the development office at (512) 475-6840.

Leon and Julie Stone Payne Family Endowed Scholarship in Social Work

Julie Stone Payne, BSW ’82 and her husband, **Leon Mather Payne, MBA ’89**, have recently joined the School’s Advisory Council. When they learned that \$25,000 could permanently endow an undergraduate scholarship, they jumped at the opportunity to give back to a school that has shaped their lives. Both have been actively involved with social service agencies and education efforts in their hometown of Houston, TX, and are excited to make this contribution to the School of Social Work.

“The world needs more social workers and we truly believe that what starts here can change the world,” they said. “We are honored to be a very small part of the School of Social Work’s distinguished legacy of excellence and opportunity.”

Erin Koechel and Jeff Duchin Endowed Scholarship in Social Work



Erin Koechel and **Jeff Duchin** met as undergraduates at the McCombs School of Business while working at the Annual Giving call center. Since graduating in 1998, and later marrying in 2004, they have been avid supporters of UT. They have recently extended that support to the School of Social Work.

“We believe that social workers do some of the most important work in our society and wanted to provide financial assistance to someone who has committed their life to the hard work that comes with that job. We are happy to know there are people with the social conscience to take on these challenges and want them to know there are others out there that support them.”

Initiatives

Ruth McRoy Scholarship



Dr. Ruth McCoy

Professor Emeritus, **Ruth McRoy** is inviting all former students, friends and colleagues to help her establish a new endowment that will support students interested in working in the area of adoption and foster care. She has personally donated and pledged the majority of the \$25,000 required for an endowed scholarship. She is now encouraging others to join her in this effort to raise an

additional \$25,000, which will enable the fund to support both undergraduate and graduate social work students.

If Dr. McRoy played an instrumental role in your educational or professional experience, we invite you to honor her by contributing to this scholarship fund. You will be celebrating the more than 30 years she spent sharing her intellect, time, expertise and passion with the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin.

Sponsor a Social Work Student!

Today, many donors want to see first-hand how their gifts makes a direct impact. In response to this trend and the growing concern of student debt, the development office is launching the Sponsor a Social Work Student program. Donors who make a gift of \$1000 through this program will be assigned a social work student exhibiting high merit and professional potential. These students will receive a \$1000 scholarship and will write a personal note of thanks and biography to the assigned donor. Donors and students will also have the opportunity to be introduced at the Celebration Luncheon held each year in the spring.

Said one long-time scholarship donor, “Meeting the students I support brings to life my love of the School and the profession. Each one has been amazing and I’m proud to know I helped them how I could.”

To learn more about how to sponsor a student, go to <http://links.utexas.edu/cpiwmrh>

Appreciations

Memorial

The School of Social Work mourned the passing of longtime friend **Robert George William Girling, III (“Bob”)**. Bob met his wife, **Bettie**, at the School when both were graduate students. They later served as field instructors, participated in the advisory council, helped establish an endowment, and supported the School in myriad ways. Bob and Bettie were the founders of Girling Health Care, Inc., a company that changed the face of patient care at home. He is survived by Bettie, their three children and their families. One of their children, Kathy, is also a social work graduate.

Why I Give



Some may remember **Bob Teague** from the MSSW class of 1993 ...Others as their MSSW Coordinator from 1993–1997. But did you know he is also a long-time donor? Bob not only elected to be a sustaining donor—making a monthly pledge though his credit card—but he and his husband Dan have also included a gift to the School in their estate plan.

“UT Austin and the School of Social Work really did change my life both personally and professionally. Becoming a donor is a way to both give back and also support the growth of my profession.”

Thank you Bob!



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