The University of Maryland School of Social Work is in the heart of an historic “health campus.” Our research and teaching is a much needed economic engine for Baltimore and Maryland. UMB also gives more than two million hours a year in care to the public—most as a public service. No School contributes as many public service hours as do we.

Although the public conversation is now dominated by economic—especially finance—issues, it is important that we continue to shine a light on the huge personal and financial costs of health care and the role that the School plays in improving it.

This issue of Connections is dedicated to our work in health, an area integral to the success of all our clients and communities of concern. As our population ages, the demands of chronic illnesses deepen—by 2030 one in six Americans will be elderly and have more than one chronic condition. Yet, our work in health is no less relevant to children. Often, as we observe in our work in West Baltimore, children have conditions like asthma and diabetes that parallel those impairing the lives of parents and grandparents.

Whereas the future of health care seems highly technological this is just a visible fraction of the story. One half of all deaths that occurred in the US in 2000 were attributable to a limited number of largely preventable behaviors and exposures. Yet, health education is having limited impact on reducing harm and increasing the quality of life. Individuals are becoming more knowledgeable about genetic influences but are often overly deterministic and fail to grasp the opportunities for health that arise from their own preventive efforts. Social work has a central role in helping to motivate and establish behaviors that protect against disease. Further, social support and evidence-based treatments have often been shown to interact with medications—making social work interventions, in many health and mental health problems—as critical as medication. A substantial portion of the burden of disease can be directly connected to behavioral, social, and environmental issues. Social work students and graduates of the University of Maryland help to strengthen social cohesiveness each day.

Melissa Bellin’s efforts to explore the experience of transition-age individuals with spina bifida were recently awarded a prestigious Young Investigator’s Award from the Spina Bifida Association. The study builds upon research investment dollars generated by prior faculty researchers and with assistance from two nationally known mentors via the School’s new “supported mentoring” program. Mel continues to extend the reach of her superb work on family characteristics and chronic disease (see the story within).

Closely linked to health is our work in aging. The needs of an aging population are great—Hallmark cards will sell nearly 100,000 “Happy 100th Birthday” cards next year, indicative of the exponential growth of this group. UMB SSW has recently entered into two nation-leading initiatives to increase the number of social workers who are competent to care for the elderly. The Geriatric Care Management Certificate Program, under Continuing Professional Education, has recently been launched with a talented team of program designers and instructors and is off to a great start. Another initiative is a new field unit that will operate jointly between Keswick Nursing Center and Union Memorial Hospital. We are the only school of social work in the Mid-Atlantic region with a specialization in health and that will be enriched by this new work.

The School has also recently started a “Serving our Returning Soldiers” workgroup and is strengthening our curriculum and research expertise to benefit those who have health and mental health problems following their tours of military service. We continue to work closely with our VA which has had a substantial expansion of social workers, nationwide and here in Baltimore.

To address the challenges and opportunities in health we must continue to succeed in recruiting terrific new faculty and we have, again, done so, this year. We are buoyed by the knowledge that many of the nation’s leading graduates are again pursuing positions with us. We also continue to have a large and talented national applicant pool for our MSW program. These new faculty and students have arrived at the tail end of the major renovations to the west wing of the School and significant refurbishing of Louis Kaplan Hall. Please visit us soon to see our progress in creating a more gainful learning environment.

We will continue to develop our capacity to conduct research and prepare students in social work and health and to find ways to uplift those living at extraordinarily difficult life junctures. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to strengthen the School and the profession. We cannot achieve our goal to weave a stronger fabric of society without each of you helping to pass the shuttle.

With warm regards,

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW
Dean and Professor
School News
School of Social Work students travel to Texas to help provide relief to those left suffering from Hurricane Ike.

Faculty Profile
There is a new leader of the School’s Health specialization. Meet Melissa “Mel” Bellin.

Student Profile
Elizabeth Eugene thought a career in medicine was her future. A call for social justice in the health care arena has become her mission.

Social Work & Health - Deepening the Connection
The role social work plays in treating individuals suffering from chronic illness and disabilities continues to grow. Read how the School is addressing those changes and preparing for the future of social work health care.

2008 Honor Roll of Donors

Donor Profile
The old story goes that corporations do not support social work. Time to rewrite the story.

Alumni News
A 1966 alumnus helps tackle health care reform.

Class Notes
Who’s doing what and where.

Alumni Profile
His passion for helping people with schizophrenia led to the development of a successful business—and now honors. Read John Herron’s story.
While the plight of Hurricane Ike victims did not receive as much national publicity as did the economy and election, the storm’s survivors continued to struggle with the massive destruction. A delegation from the University of Maryland School of Social Work traveled to Galveston, Texas to assist the American Red Cross by helping Hurricane Ike victims with their emotional and psychological recovery.

Professor Ed Pecukonis was asked by the Red Cross to assist with the final stages of disaster relief and to help close the one remaining shelter located in the heart of Galveston. Pecukonis viewed this as a great learning opportunity for students and put the word out that he could take five students to Galveston. Advanced year Social Work students Malory Wechsler, Caitlin Johnson, Natalie Bowers, Andrea Smid, and Kim Weingarten, volunteered and flew to Texas from Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall Airport on October 21.

The social work students joined an army of volunteers from all over the country providing emotional support to hurricane victims while helping survivors take steps to rebuild their lives. Pecukonis and his students brought both their social work perspective and keen awareness of the needs of the most disadvantaged—those who were without resources, exhausted, and had no ready place to go.

The Red Cross trainer who led the students through a pre-trip informational session assisted students in understanding their therapeutic role within the disaster setting. “We serve two clients: fellow volunteers and survivors.” In addition, understanding the vital yet fragile nature of this helping relationship assists the volunteers to establish appropriate professional boundaries. “Being sensitive to the temporary nature of our work with the residents of Galveston begins upon arrival so that all parties avoid unrealistic expectations. Survivors need not have to suffer through yet another loss when the helping person they’ve become attached to must leave.”

The most moving and important educational experiences occurred at the shelter in Galveston where over 350 residents awaited services. Under Pecukonis’ tutelage and watchful eye, students systematically screened the residents, identified available community resources and coordinated referrals to these resources. At this stage of the disaster those who remained at the shelter were the most in need of resources and support. Those with any amount of social capital had left. Most were without housing, employment, and in need of health care; all of which was in short supply. In addition, many residents were traumatized by the disaster and experiencing problems with sleeping, concentration, relating to others, and finding meaning or hope in their future plans. Hours were spent simply listening empathetically to their stories both tragic and heroic. Disaster relief at this stage of shelter life is quite different from the expressions of panic, disbelief, and anxiety seen in the early stages of the disaster. At this stage of the disaster, the tasks at hand were uniquely suited for social work.

The students wrote about their experiences and posted that information on a blog at http://hurricanehelpers.wordpress.com.
Ruth H. Young Center Wins Federal Funding Center Award

A proposal submitted by the School’s Ruth H. Young Center for Families & Children in collaboration with Innovation’s Institute in the School of Medicine and with ICF International to develop the Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center was one of five applications approved for five-year funding.

The Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC) will support 16 State and 6 Tribal Child Welfare Services (CWS) agencies in Federal Regions III and IV to implement strategies for improving the quality and effectiveness of services for children, youth, and families leading to increased safety, permanency, and well-being for children.

The School of Social Work team includes: Diane DePanfilis (Principal Investigator), Rick Barth and Sarah Kaye (Co-Investigators), Terry Shaw, Mark Lardner, and Crystal Williams (Evaluation team members) and the following faculty consultants: Charlotte Bright, Kathryn Collins, Llewellyn Cornelius, Donna Harrington, R. Anna Hayward, Karen Hopkins, Bethany Lee, Karen Rice, Corey Shdaimah, Laura Ting, and Shelly Wiechelt. Funding from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children’s Bureau for year one is $1,410,000 with a total budget over five years of $8,800,000.

EAP Graduates Gather to Celebrate Silver Anniversary

The University of Maryland School of Social Work and Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems hosted the EAP Silver Anniversary Reception recognizing 25 years of collaborative Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Education. More than 70 people attended, including current students, alumni, field instructors, and supporters of the EAP field.

The event, which was titled, “EAP Education: Commemorating the Past and Shaping the Future,” took place last fall at the Historical Electronics Museum, in Linthicum, MD.

Northrop Grumman’s Jim O’Hair, a former member of the School’s Board of Advisors, was honored for his leadership and years of support toward EAP education and the EAP profession.

Cohen-Callow Honored

Clinical Instructor Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD ’08, has been selected as the recipient of the The Gerontological Society of America’s (GSA), Civic Engagement in an Older America Project Junior Scholar Award for her research titled: “Factors related to older adult volunteer behaviors: Testing a model of volunteer sustainability.”

Cornelius Earns Appointment

School of Social Work Professor Dr. Lee Cornelius has been appointed to the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics by the Secretary for U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.
CPE’s Summer Seminar Looks at Ethical Decision-Making when Working with Geriatric Clients and their Caregivers

School of Social Work’s Continuing Professional Education Office's Summer Seminar 2009: Friday, July 17, 2009

Strategies for Ethical Decision-Making when Working with Geriatric Clients and their Caregivers

Professionals who work with older adults and their caregivers often face difficult ethical dilemmas. This seminar presents an ethical decision making framework for use in professional practice with older adults and their caregivers. Case vignettes that highlight aging issues such as chronic illness, institutionalization, home-based care, and end of life treatment will be examined using this ethical decision making framework. Finally, key ethical principles (e.g., autonomy, protection of life, doing the least harm, and equality) will also be addressed for their application to professional practice.

In addition to the lecture, seminar attendees will be engaged to actively participate through a variety of opportunities including case presentation and small group discussions to allow a deeper look into the special dynamics of working with this population. These groups will be facilitated by renowned national and local scholars and practitioners to advance our knowledge and practice base concerning older adults.

Terry Koenig, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas. Her areas of research and scholarship examine ethical decision making from the older adult and caregivers’ viewpoint and in relationship to social work practice (e.g., professional self-reflection, tensions between personal values and professional ethics, and woman-centered ethics). Currently, Dr. Koenig teaches conceptual thinking and human behavior theories across all levels of the curriculum.

Friday, July 17, 2009 8:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Baltimore, $135, CEUs: 6

For more information, please visit ssw.umaryland.edu/cpe.

Did You Know?

For over 20 years, the School of Social Work’s Family Welfare Research and Training Group, led by Catherine Born, PhD ’82, MSW ’72 has partnered with the Maryland Department of Human Resources and with local agencies in welfare and child support research, training, and policy development. The Group has provided important information on welfare, child support, and food stamps, often reaching a national audience with studies about such topics as families that have left welfare and about the recent rise in food stamps use among those who have never been on food stamps before.
School Begins Promise Heights Initiative

By Rosalia Scalia

As in other major cities, Baltimore’s children and their families face a broad and deep array of troubles; they are plagued by delayed language and social developments, poverty, maltreatment, high crime rates, educational deficiencies, and early involvement with the juvenile justice system. Emerging research from Harlem, NY shows that preventive interventions beginning before birth reduce developmental and educational risk factors, markedly improving outcomes for children and families. Now the University of Maryland, Baltimore, led by the School of Social Work, and together with Enterprise Community Partners, the Mayor’s Office of Community and Human Development, Baltimore City Public Schools, and other community partners, plans to do exactly that: focus a concentrated effort organized around activities of common interest—the cognitive and physical development of children—to reverse the most devastating conditions and cultures to support the well-being of West Baltimore’s children.

Following the model of the Harlem Children’s Zone in New York and informed by research and the needs of the Baltimore community, the partners are planning a West Baltimore Children’s Initiative—called Promise Heights—which will provide continuous, comprehensive services to help support the healthy development and positive achievement for children and families.

“We believe that we can find the ideal intervention for each age of a child’s life and then connect those interventions into an unbroken chain of support that stretches across key developmental periods,” said Dr. Richard Barth, dean of the School of Social Work. The process will begin engaging and working with pregnant women and expectant fathers to teach them about child development, effective parenting, and home safety topics that will give them the greatest chance of becoming successful parents.

“We have not yet located a single program that engages parents in the West Baltimore communities in activities that adequately emphasize the important of the first years of life and gives them sufficient advice and modeling on how to guide their children in the critical periods of the first years of life,” said Bronwyn Mayden, MSW ’77, director of the School’s Continuing Professional Education Office and Promise Heights effort. By filling in the gaps in existing services, children and families will be able to benefit from continuous and comprehensive supports. “Over time, Promise Heights will expand services, adding them to meet the evolving needs of these children and families,” she added.

The Initiative will include seven neighborhoods: Poppleton, Harlem Park, Sandtown-Winchester, Druid Heights, Upton, Heritage Crossing, and State Center.

The first phase of Promise Heights will be to work on the goal with families of children ages 0 to 6 years-old to “ensure that babies are born healthy, that children are healthy, and that children enter school ready to learn,” Mayden said. As the Initiative grows, other goals will be added to include school success, graduation from school, and job training.

The School of Social Work is committed to the development of the Initiative. Working with community partners, the School wants to launch the Initiative with a three-pronged service approach tackling issues related to family and child well-being, childcare and education, and community and housing development. “By addressing issues related to all three components, we will be able to better confront a number of pressing challenges at once,” said Mayden.

For instance, under the family and child well-being service component, the initiative will reach out to women of child bearing age, pregnant women, parents, grandparents, and other caregivers of children and adolescents from ages 0 – 18 to educate them about the existing supports available, to enroll them in parenting education classes, and to link families with services they need or want. Promise Heights efforts will first identify and train community workers to serve as “block captains” who will then be responsible for the outreach. The parenting education is for pregnant woman and all primary childcare providers. The goal is to impart information on child development, to strengthen their parenting skills, and to connect families to resources that would support them. Other service tasks under the family and child well-being component includes home visiting; referrals to health care providers and some on-site services; and nutrition information to promote health and prevent children’s health problems.

At the same time that services address family and child well-being, overlapping is the service component that embraces the childcare and education issues. Through the Initiative, efforts would include infant care that would be available from birth through 18 months-old and developmentally appropriate daycare. Existing programs such as Head Start would be expanded and increased so that it can serve children ages 18 months to 3 years and launched in neighborhoods where it doesn’t exist. “In the early assessments for the Initiative, we found only two Head Starts operating in that entire area, and no Early Head Start programs” Mayden said.

In addition, the Initiative would either expand or reinforce the Home Instruction Program for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY) Program that works with parents to educate children ages 3–5 as well as follow children with a K-5 program for those completing early Head Start with a Preschool component. It would also help establish and support after school and summer enrichment programs.

While two prongs of the Initiative would focus on children and families from an educational, health and social perspective, the third prong is aimed at community and housing development. As part of the Initiative, neighborhood stabilization and a physical master plan would be developed for each area in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office.

“To help families and children in the stressed West Baltimore neighborhoods, we want to create and maintain an effective network of service providers, community partners who will give continuous support to the effort,” Mayden said.
Faculty Honors

Melissa Bellin, PhD, an assistant professor at the School of Social Work, was recently awarded the 2008 Spina Bifida Association Young Investigator Award that provides financial support to a newly-independent investigator in an established research program. Dr. Bellin’s project, The Trajectory of Transition in Adolescents and Young Adults with Spina Bifida, is a multi-center, prospective longitudinal study of the experiences, needs, and factors associated with transition outcomes in adolescents and young adults with spina bifida. Her research specifically explores four domains of functioning: (1) self-management; (2) bowel and bladder continence; (3) psychological health; and, (4) quality of life. Dr. Bellin’s research is one of the first social science projects to be funded by the Young Investigator program.

Assistant Professor Bellin also received the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Young Professional Award. Dr. Bellin was honored for her integrated program of research in spina bifida and family-centered care. The AUCD Young Professional award is presented to professionals in the disabilities field who have demonstrated dedication and commitment to people with developmental disabilities and their families through their work as a bridge between the academic sector and the community.

Professor Geoffrey Greif, PhD has been appointed by Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley to the Board of Social Work Examiners.

Dale A. Masi, PhD, a pioneer in the field of employee assistance programs and professor emeritus at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, was selected for a Fulbright Specialists project in England at the Oxford Brookes University/Personal Performance Consultants Global.

Recent Publications


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**In the Headlines**

For many thousands of America’s foster children, prospects for a permanent home and stronger support will be brighter under a new law that bridged Washington’s partisan divide and is touted as the most significant child-welfare reform in decades. Under the bill, financial assistance could be available through age 21, provided the young person is working or in school. Richard P. Barth, PhD, dean of the School of Social Work, questioned this provision in an *Associated Press* article, suggesting that youths not meeting these criteria might be in even greater need of help.

Barth also discussed child adoption deaths with *WJZ.com, WJZ-TV, WBFF-TV,* and *WMAR-TV.* The stories stemmed from police in Southern Maryland investigating child-size remains found in a basement freezer in Southern Maryland.

It’s a rough road to manhood for young guys, who more than ever are finding themselves confounded and conflicted about what “masculinity” means. Peers play a critical role in validating gender identity for young men exploring their masculinity, experts say. And even as this generation has more mixed-gender friendships, guy bonding, largely through shared activities, is important, says Geoffrey Greif, DSW, MSW, a professor in the School of Social Work who interviewed 400 men of all ages for his book *Buddy System: Understanding Male Friendships.* Late teens and 20s is one of “two peak times” in life when friends play a key role, Greif adds. Greif’s comments appeared in USA Today.

Stories on Greif’s book have appeared in numerous other media outlets, including *Men’s Health Magazine* and *Psychology Today*.

**Research efforts** undertaken at the School of Social Work that looked at foster care funding rates continue to make news across the country. The latest news being an article in *The Oregonian* newspaper. Oregon’s base foster care rate is $399 a month for infants and children to age 5; $414 for children ages 6 to 12; $512 for teens 13 to 18—a range of $13 to $17 per day. The rate is adjusted higher for children who have been identified as having special needs. A 2007 study by Children’s Rights, the National Foster Parent Association, and the School of Social Work found Oregon’s rates below the national average. But the study also said that nearly every state paid foster parents far below what it actually costs to care for a foster child—$642 to $806 a month in Oregon.

Several organizations are in high gear to make sure as few people as possible fall by the wayside during the financial crisis. “Rather than worry and react emotionally, I think it’s a call to get involved,” said Lane Victorson, MSW ’99, director of the Neighborhood and Peace Corps Fellows programs at School of Social Work’s Community Outreach Service, to WBAL-TV in Baltimore.

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SWCOS Director Dick Cook, MSW ’72, spoke with The Dan Rodricks Show on how financial social workers help people make the most of their money in tough economic times. Rodricks, whose radio show broadcasts on Baltimore’s WYPR discussed this emerging field with not only Dick Cook but also School of Social Work graduate Robin McKinney, MSW ’01, an alumna who is director of the Maryland CASH Campaign.

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The death of a child is always devastating. Its impact is profound and can last a lifetime. It is not only surviving family members who grieve, but sometimes, a special someone who knew the child carries the torch of that child’s memory and makes it a lifetime passion.

Dr. Melissa “Mel” Bellin, an assistant professor and chair of the health specialization at the School of Social Work, is such a person. While in high school, the Virginia native spent time mentoring a young child. This child struggled with rhabdomyosarcoma (a malignant tumor) and eventually lost his battle with cancer. The impact of his death on the child’s family deeply affected the high school student.

Bellin graduated from high school and went off to Stanford University to pursue an education in medicine. “I majored in human biology. I took all of those chemistry, biology, and physics classes but my experience with that young boy who died and his family continued to deeply resonate with me,” said Bellin. Eventually, she added, “I came to an awareness that I really was more passionate about exploring the psycho-social impact of chronic illness and disability on the affected individual and surrounding family. That was where I was meant to be.” Bellin needed to become a social worker.

Having little background in social work, Bellin applied to graduate schools of social work and eventually moved from California to Richmond, Virginia to study social work at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). “I immediately linked up with wonderful professors who embraced my passion and helped me grow into a social worker,” she explained. After earning her MSW degree, Bellin traveled to Charlottesville, Virginia to work as a clinical social worker at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center.

Bellin worked at the hospital for several years but the position was not fueling the torch burning inside her. The memory of that child and his family continued to inspire her to do more. It was time to take those memories and her passion and really do more. In 2001, Bellin returned to VCU to earn her doctorate degree in social work.

In the first few weeks of her studies at VCU, Bellin was provided a mentor who would help her put all the pieces together. Dr. Kathy Sawin was from VCU’s School of Nursing and her research centered on spina bifida, a congenital birth defect that involves the incomplete closure of the spinal cord. Bellin’s work with Sawin informed her dissertation research exploring the impact of spina bifida on sibling adjustment, the largest spina bifida sibling study to date. Bellin’s collaboration with Sawin continues to this day and has resulted in a number of peer-reviewed publications and national presentations. “I have been incredibly fortunate to be part of her research team and am immensely grateful for her mentorship.”

Nearly three years ago, Bellin came to the University of Maryland School of Social Work where she continued her interdisciplinary program of research examining the psychosocial impact of spina bifida on affected adolescents and their family members. Since August of 2007, Bellin has been part of a Centers for Disease Control and Health Promotion (CDC) team looking at ways to incorporate her, and other’s, spina bifida research to support individual and family resilience in the context of this chronic health condition. But that is not all, Bellin and colleagues from across the country are tracking the psychological health, self-management, and quality of life in a cohort of adolescents and young adults with spina bifida. Bellin is presenting her research in March 2009 at the First Annual World Congress on Spina Bifida in Orlando, Florida.

Her work has also earned her national honors, including the 2008 Spina Bifida Association Young Investigator Award and the 2008 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Young Professional Award. She finds the personal accolades humbling and it is the research and classroom opportunities that mean most to her.

Bellin chairs the School’s Health specialization. “I aspire to fill the big shoes left behind by Professor Emeritus Howard Palley,” Bellin emphasized. In her first year as chair, Bellin has worked to increase the emphasis on family centered interventions and to raise awareness among students of the many ethical dilemmas health care social workers can find themselves in.

It is Bellin’s mission that students leave UMB with the confidence that “they possess the skills and specialized knowledge needed to play an integral and vital role on interdisciplinary health care teams.” Bellin also hopes that graduates never forget the impact illness can have—not only on the patient but also on the family and the community’s in which they reside.

Creating good from the death of a young child you mentored is hard, and often painful, but Mel Bellin has done just that. Not just for herself, but for families and communities caring for youths with chronic illness.
Elizabeth Eugene is one of those students that make a strong impression on those who not only meet her, but teach her.

Eugene is a Baltimore, Maryland native who traveled to New York to pursue a degree in Psychology and complete pre-med coursework at Cornell University. At Cornell she made a strong impression and earned honors for excellence in research and clinical work in the community, earned membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and became a Dean’s List Scholar. Despite all this, Eugene still was unsure where her future would take her. “When I looked ahead and considered my skill set in light of these different occupational possibilities (in health care),” explained Eugene, “I saw that I really cared about the individual and the environment they find themselves in when faced with illness.”

After earning her degree from Cornell, she worked for one year at the National Institutes of Health’s Pediatric Neuropsychiatry Lab. While there, Eugene stated, “I found the research very interesting, but I felt that the fields of psychology and medicine did not adequately address issues of social justice.” The role social justice plays in health care was becoming increasingly important to this young scholar.

For the next two years, Eugene went to work at Kennedy-Krieger’s High School working with children with disabilities and communicating frequently with students’ families. “It was a really good experience,” said Eugene. “I thought I might pursue a special education teaching certificate at that point. However, though I cared about the individual children, I also wanted to address structural barriers to care.” By now, it was clear—more education was necessary if she wanted to lift barriers to health care. “I enrolled at the School and found out about the dual masters of social work (MSW) and masters of public health (MPH) degrees. I decided that it was a great opportunity. I believe public health is a critical part of health-related social work. The MSW/MPH would really help me explore policies that can open or close doors for patients seeking care.”

Now in her final year in the dual degree program, Eugene keeps her research interests well cultivated by serving as one of the School’s Research Assistant Scholars. In this highly competitive scholarship program, Eugene works with Assistant Professor Melissa Bellin on several research projects, including Bellin’s work developing curriculum modules for social work education on developmental disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome. These modules are made available to social work professors across the county who teach health courses. According to Bellin, Eugene is the type of student who is “exceptionally strong and has been a central player and partner in the development of these modules.”

Eugene has also been very active on the policy front. In a class taken at the School, she was encouraged by a faculty member to become involved in legislative activity in Annapolis. She got involved, specifically with a bill that created a task force to study the human papilloma virus vaccine and its possible use in Maryland. The HPV vaccine has been shown in clinical trials to be 100% effective in preventing infection with HPV strains 16 and 18, which together cause about 70% of cervical cancer cases. “As a young female I was particularly interested in this legislation,” expressed Eugene. “I was the only young female to testify and as a result I received more attention than I had anticipated. After the bill passed, I was invited to be a member of the task force and contribute to discussions of future state policy regarding the new availability of the HPV vaccine. For the past year I have served in this capacity and have recently helped draft the task force’s final policy recommendation report. Eugene also does policy work on the state and federal levels for the United Way of Central Maryland as part of her field placement.

The mixture of research, policy, classroom, and real-life experience has contributed greatly to Eugene’s dual-degree experience. “It has been a lot of work,” she said, but added “the opportunity to learn in so many different settings, with so many different people is stimulating.”

Eugene expects to graduate in May and she is giving serious thought to her future plans. “I envision myself working in health policy. I will apply for positions at both the federal and state level to pursue work in public policy development. However, issues of poverty and social justice really drive me so ultimately I hope to serve as an advocate. There are a lot of different possibilities.”
Social Work & Health
Deepening the Connection
The world is a fast moving place. Close your eyes for one minute and the world can be an entirely different place when you reopen them. Each generation in one way or another has marveled and struggled with the change it experiences. 100 years ago, those suffering from chronic illness had a grim, and often short, future. Today’s technology can help ease the pain or even cure those suffering from what, in the past, could have been a death sentence. But technology does not lift the emotional, social, or even financial burdens that often accompany a chronic illness or disease. That’s where social workers come in. Specifically, social workers trained to deal with important and often complex health issues.

At the University of Maryland School of Social Work, students can focus their social work degree on health issues. The School’s Health specialization is led by Assistant Professor Melissa Bellin who is in her third year of teaching at the School. Bellin assumed her role following the recent retirement of Professor Emeritus Dr. Howard Palley. Palley is credited with leading the Health specialization to its level of national prominence. Prominence that continues to grow to this day.

Bellin gives credit to Palley and his predecessors for the “wisdom and foresight to develop a phenomenal and unique specialization.” She added, “At most schools you would be fortunate to encounter a health policy course and one other integrated health related course. Here, we have an entire specialization with a mission focused on producing social workers capable of working in a broad continuum of health-oriented clinical and macro placements.”

Just as the world of health care has and continues to dramatically change, seemingly overnight, so does the School’s program. However, the School’s Health specialization has three core principals that form its foundation. The three, according to Bellin, are, “An advanced human behavior course in which students learn about the social, political, economic, and cultural contributors to health and illness and the meanings that individuals, families, and communities attribute to health and illness. A second requirement is a health policy course that focuses on contemporary legislation impacting either the delivery of health care or access to health care who have chronic health conditions. I think having exposure to some key content is invaluable for students, whether they land in school settings or land in child welfare, they are going to work with individuals who have chronic illness and disability.”

Nationwide, curriculum at schools of social work have not yet caught up with one major change in the health care arena. Children with pronounced disabilities are now living longer due to advances in medical treatment and rehabilitative technology. Engaging these individuals and their families as they transition into adulthood is a critical area where social work research and teaching can be enhanced. According to Bellin, “It is rare to see a course, for example, that is specifically dedicated to developmental disabilities. UMB, however, is taking a lead role in addressing this gap through the development of curriculum modules on developmental disabilities. Given how jam-packed a curriculum can be, it would be difficult for schools to support an entire course on development disabilities. That is why I think these modules can be a really helpful tool.” These modules are part of the School’s Center for Maternal and Child Health Social Work Education. The Center, led by School of Social Work Associate Professor Dr. Ed Pecukonis, offers leadership development in maternal and child health social work; provides scholarships for selected students who have leadership potential and are committed to promoting the health of children, youth, and families, especially mothers; develops and implements continuing education regarding child, youth, and maternal health practice for social workers in the Mid-Atlantic region and nationally; and awards a Graduate Assistantship of over $10,000; and full in-state tuition to a Child, Youth and Maternal Health student in exchange for 20 hours of work per week during the academic year.

The Center’s curriculum modules are being used by other social work faculty around the country to help infuse health related content into social work practice classes or human behavior courses. Examples of these modules can be found at cmch-cmsw.umaryland.edu/health_course_modules. The Maternal and Child Health Center also provides yearly interdisciplinary forums where students from across the UMB campus, including medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and law students, come together to strategize and address a variety of health issues. In the past, these forums have explored issues related to childhood obesity, asthma, dental care, and HIV/AIDS among women. These forums also help to put research into the hands of students from a wide spectrum of disciplines.

Other examples of where the School of Social Work helps lead the way in advancing social work health education is through the development of partnerships with others in the health care field. “We want to broaden the lens of best practices in health care delivery,” said Bellin. While physicians, nurses, and therapists play a vital role in the care of individuals with chronic health conditions, Bellin emphasizes the importance of cross-disciplinary work inclusive of social workers.

“Regardless of your field of practice in social work, you are bound to encounter individuals who have chronic health conditions.”

— Melissa Bellin
“I see a positive trend towards interdisciplinary collaboration,” explained Bellin. The School has many examples of faculty members working with medical professionals to help broaden the impact social work has, not only on the health care profession, but also on patients.

Professor Dr. Julianne Oktay has formed partnerships with the University of Maryland School of Nursing and Mercy Hospital in the area of oncology.

Oktay’s work with the School of Nursing looks at how social workers and nurses work together to meet the unique and complex needs of individuals with cancer and also the needs of their family members.

Associate Professor Bruce DeForge is collaborating with UMB’s School of Medicine on a variety of topics from breast cancer to diabetes, all of which are anchored on a chronic-care model.

Professor Lee Cornelius is recognized as a national leader in social work health research. He has explored such important research topics as access to medical care for the disadvantaged and health policy to name a few.

The School of Social Work’s impact on social work health care issues has been broad and deep. The School continues to work on efforts designed to help get the message out about the importance of social work in all health care settings.

The School’s efforts are not just limited to its outstanding and growing collaborations and research efforts, but efforts continue in the classroom to underscore its importance.

As chair of the School’s Health Specialization, Bellin hopes the School will see continued growth of the dual degree program that combines the Master’s of Social Work degree with a Master’s of Public Health.

Led at the School of Social Work by Assistant Professor Michael Lindsey, the MSW/MPH dual degree program is designed to prepare graduates for practice in health-related agencies and settings in which a combined expertise in social work and public health would enable them to assume leadership positions. Students typically complete their first year in the MSW program, their second year in the MPH program and then return to the MSW program for the third year.

Students can earn the MPH portion of their dual degree either at the University of Maryland School of Medicine’s Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine or at Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health.

In addition to the dual degree program, Bellin hopes to continue the School’s long history of a strong classroom experience.

“I think that we instill in our students an understanding of the complexity of needs that
individuals with chronic health conditions present with--an understanding that other allied health professionals are not necessarily schooled in," said Bellin. “That really sets us apart. Our health specializing students appreciate the rapidly changing workplace they find themselves in. They leave our program with more than just a practice skill set. They also carry forward a critical consciousness that enables them to explore the social, emotional, environmental, political, and cultural contributions to the development of a chronic illness, as well as how these factors perpetuate the illness.”

From the classroom experience and the Centers of excellence, to important and cutting-edge research and learning experiences, the School of Social Work and its students are being well prepared by the Health specialization faculty to successfully take on the demanding and always changing world of health care social work.

Professor Palley Just as Busy Since His Retirement

Professor Emeritus Howard Palley, who can be seen in the School of Social Work hallways almost as often as we did when he wasn’t retired, provides this update on what he has been doing since “retiring.”

“I have been involved in a number of international activities in the health area during the past year. I have been involved in a Canadian/US collaboration regarding pain management in nursing homes in these two countries. The results of this collaboration will be published in Pain Management under the title ‘Transforming Long-Term Care Pain Management in North America: The Policy-Clinical Interface.’ I have delivered papers coauthored by Canadian colleagues on the topic of ‘The Development of Public/Private Sector Relationships in the Canadian Federal/Provincial Health Care Systems’ during the past academic year in Washington, DC, The Hague, The Netherlands and I will be presenting a paper on this topic to the International Political Science Association Meeting this summer in Santiago, Chile. In addition, this past October, I presented a paper entitled, ‘International Trends in Long-Term Care Policy for the Elderly,’ to the Korea Development Institute, Seoul, Korea. This has been recently published in International Area Review.”
The following pages recognize the many philanthropic gifts of alumni, parents, friends, foundations, and organizations that supported the people and programs of the University of Maryland School of Social Work with new pledges and gifts received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

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Ms. Cynthia Brown Friant, MSW ’87
Mr. Vernon A. Krause, Jr., MSW ’87
Ms. Joan K. Lieber, MSW ’87
Ms. Susan S. Rosenzweig, MSW ’87^\a
Mrs. Kathleen J. Sirota, MSW ’87
Mr. Allan J. Spiegler, MSW ’87
Ms. Carol S. Suker, MSW ’87

Ms. Louise R. Wright, MSW ’85
Ms. Julia S. Pierson, MSW ’85
Ms. Ellen Schaefer-Salins, MSW ’85
1988
NUMBER OF DONORS: 18
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 7%
$250 to $499
Ms. Anne Dobbin Bailliere, MSW '88
Ms. Barbara E. Maury, MSW '89*
Ms. Alison Campbell Kinnahan, MSW '89
Up to $99
Ms. Nicole Raddu Ferry, MSW '88^
$100 to $249
Ms. Sarah H. Shapiro, MSW '88
Ms. Wanda J. Bair, MSW '89*
Ms. Patricia A. Young, MSW '89
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 6%
$500 to $999
Ms. Robin L. Semas, MSW '90
Mr. Michael J. Bucierka, MSW '89
Ms. Vera M. Boardley, MSW '89
Ms. David Agger, MSW '88\^\
Ms. Maureen A. McKinley-Gutowski, MSW '88^\
Ms. Janet P. Caughlan, MSW '89^\
Ms. Janet M. Reinsel, MSW '89
Ms. Jean Payne Rogers, MSW '89^\
Ms. Diana L. Tracey, MSW '89
Ms. Joanne C. Lindsay, MSW '91
Ms. Wanda M. Hadley, MSW '91
Ms. Michael W. Marshall, MSW '91\^\
Ms. Vineeta L. Porter, MSW '91^*
Mrs. Kelly C. Ransom, MSW '91^*
Mrs. Iris S. Sochol, MSW '91^*
Mr. Hugh G. Ward, MSW '91
$250 to $499
Ms. Paula Klepper, MSW '90
Mr. R. Kirk, MSW '90\^\
Mrs. Karen J. Koch, MSW '90
Peter F. Luongo, PhD '90
Mr. Dale G. Schacherer, MSW '90^*
Ms. Barbara L. Byrne, MSW '90^\
Ms. Cynthia L. Cook, MSW '90
Ms. Christine A. Cronin, MSW '90
Mr. John C. Galzerano, MSW '90^*
Ms. Nancy B. Lohman, MSW '90
Ms. Sandra E. Patterson, MSW '90
Ms. Leslie O. Persse, MSW '90
Ms. Michele W. Richtsmeier, MSW '90^*
Mrs. Martha H. Sanger, MSW '90^*
Ms. Ann W. Saunders, MSW '90^*
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Mr. James J. Flaherty, MSW '92\^\
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Mrs. Cheryl A. Johnson, MSW '92^*
Ms. Cathy Latham, MSW '92
Elaina Lynn Mackenzie, MSW '92^*
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Ms. Crystal Y. Patterson, MSW '94^*
Rob Scuka, PhD, MSW '94^*
Ms. Joy S. Paul, MSW '94
Up to $99
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Ms. Melanie L. Martin, MSW '94^*
John C. Mc Millen, PhD '94^*
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Ms. Christine F. Crabbill, MSW '94
Ms. Loretta Miller, MSW '94^*
Mr. Bryan D. Miller, MSW '94^*
Ms. Elaine L. Shennan, MSW '94^*
Ms. Roger G. Messick, MSW '94
Ms. Laurie S. Frank, MSW '94
Ms. Darlene E. Sampson, MSW '94
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Ms. Lauren B. Merrill, MSW '94
Mr. Bryan D. Miller, MSW '94^*
Ms. Lynne L. Hays, MSW '94^*
Ms. Angela Miller, MSW '94^*
Joan E. Saltman, PhD '94^*
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Ms. Curtisha L. Wilson, MSW '94
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Ms. Laurie S. Frank, MSW '93
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Patricia P. Plaskon, PhD '93
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Ms. Madeleine T. Rooney, MSW '93
Ms. Kristin K. Sheffler, MSW '93
Ms. Elizabeth E. Ward, MSW '93^*
Classes with the Highest Percentage of Donors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>22%</td>
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$100 to $249
Ms. Nina Glasner, MSW '95
Mrs. Seska Ramberg, MSW '95

Up to $99
Mr. Joshua E. Brenner, MSW '95
Ms. Sara J. Cartmill, MSW '95
Ms. Michelle L. Farr, MSW '95
Mr. Stephen H. Levitt, MSW '95
Ms. Carole L. Menetrej, MSW '95
Ms. Jennifer L. Pettis, MSW '95
Ms. Eloise T. Plank, MSW '95
Ms. Diane Douglas Quinn, MSW '95
Ms. Sandra K. Saville, MSW '95
Ms. Jennifer M. Vauk, MSW '95

1996
NUMBER OF DONORS: 11
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 2%

$1,000 to $4,999
Diane E. DePanfilis, PhD '96

$100 to $249
Ms. Dawn Boffman Chism, MSW '96
Michal N. Merritt, PhD '96, MSW '75
Mr. David H. Stebbing, MSW '96

Up to $99
Ms. Jane S. Fick, MSW '96
Mrs. Erica Siegel Hobby, MSW '96
Ms. Katherine C. Watkins, MSW '96
Ms. Lisa Monfred Wilentz, MSW '96
Ms. Janice Willis, MSW '96

1997
NUMBER OF DONORS: 15
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

$1,000 to $4,999
Ms. Mary G. Piper, MSW '97

$100 to $249
>>Mr. Michael D. Demidenko, MSW '97
>>Ms. Sondra E. Willner, MSW '97

Up to $99
Ms. Deborah A. Ahern, MSW '97
Ms. Carol M. Asch, MSW '97
Ms. Rebecca Russel Brenner, MSW '97
Ms. Sara C. Latrobe, MSW '97

1998
NUMBER OF DONORS: 18
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

$500 to $999
Mrs. Susan Lum Shewchuk, MSW '98
Mr. Daniel Smeragliuolo, MSW '98

$100 to $249
Ms. Jan K. Coleman, MSW '98
Joanne M. Hessmiller, PhD '98
Ms. Andrea E. Morris, MSW '98
Joan L. Zlotnik, PhD '98
Up to $99
Ms. Keryl R. Ball, MSW '98
Ms. Julia L. Bills, MSW '98
Mrs. Jennifer L. Bova, MSW '98
Ms. Rosemary F. Bronzert, MSW '98
Mr. Darin M. Diner, MSW '98
Ms. Kimberly A. Gado, MSW '98
Ms. Sara K. Kalt, MSW '98
>>Mr. Brian W. Nelson, MSW '98
Ms. Marjorie S. Perrier, MSW '98
Ms. Helena C. Santos-Collins, MSW '98
Mrs. Yolanta M. Stawski, MSW '98
Ms. Irene V. West-Dixon, MSW '98

$100 to $249
Ms. Amy L. Holtz, MSW '99
Mr. Emmanuel O. Iroanya, MSW '99
Ms. Sheri G. Laigle, MSW '99

Ms. Katharine H. MacDonald, MSW '99
Ms. Deborah K. Meyer, MSW '99
Ms. Kathryn K. Rushing, MSW '99
Ms. Francene C. Sigai, MSW '99
Mrs. Kara S. Weinstein, MSW '99
Ms. Patricia M. Haggerty-Veitch, MSW '99

$100 to $249
Ms. Karen Michon Weaver-Powell, MSW '00

2000
NUMBER OF DONORS: 10
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 3%

$100 to $249
Ms. Alethea M. Schmall, MSW '00
Ms. Lesley A. Smith, MSW '00
Mr. Brian C. Sturdivant, MSW '00
Ms. Karen Michon Weaver-Powell, MSW '00

Ms. Pamela A. College, MSW '00
Ms. Tamara M. Farmer, MSW '00
Ms. Rachael B. Glick, MSW '00
Ms. Jodi P. Green, MSW '00
Mr. Stephen D. Hein, MSW '00
Ms. Allison L West, MSW '00

2001
NUMBER OF DONORS: 9
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 2%

$1,000 to $4,999
Ms. Joan M. Dolina, MSW '01

$100 to $249
>>Ms. Robin M. Mc Kinney, MSW '01
Ms. Stacey A. Van Horn, MSW '01

Up to $99
Mr. Philip G. Bellios, MSW '01
Mr. George I. Kidwiler, Jr., MSW '01
Ms. Meredith M. Myers, MSW '01
>>Ms. Meredith L. Phillips-Woodard, MSW '01
Ms. Claudia C. Reynolds, MSW '01
Ms. Margaret E. Terry, MSW '01

2002
NUMBER OF DONORS: 15
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

$100 to $249
>>Mr. Mark S. Acosta, MSW '02
>>Ms. Bootheng Inversin, MSW '02
>>Ms. Lavonzell T. Nicholson, MSW '02
Ms. Brenda Wagner-Emmons, MSW '02
Ms. Elizabeth J. White, MSW '02

Up to $99
Ms. Laura C. Beck, MSW '02
Ms. Linda R. Bergofsky, MSW '02
>>Ms. Anne-Marie Cox, MSW '02
Ms. Claudia J. Denton, MSW '02
Ms. Tequilla M. Mc Arthur-Jones, MSW '02
>>Ms. Rosalind H. McDaniel, MSW '02
Mr. John P. O'Brien, MSW '02
>>Ms. Elizabeth L. Saylor, MSW '02
Ms. Lisa M. Thomas, MSW '02
Ms. Nancy E. Vance, MSW '02
Ms. Heidi M. Johnson, MSW '05
Ms. Suzanne L. Heifetz, MSW '05
Ms. Lisa T. Haas, MSW '05
Ms. Penny J. Graf, MSW '05
Ms. Candace M. Cotton, MSW '05
Donna L. Bliss, PhD '05, MSW '91*
Laura Ting, PhD '05

$250 to $499

Ms. Beth A. Slepian, MSW '03
Ms. Sandra S. Harrington, MSW '03
Ms. Sonia L. Hoffman, MSW '03
Ms. Kathi L. Holmes, MSW '03
Ms. Omayra Hunt, MSW '03
Ms. Deborah E. Jackson, MSW '03
Ms. Sachiko Kanatsugu, MSW '03
Ms. Penny E. Reynolds-Boyce, MSW '03

$100 to $249

Ms. Leslie B. Pope, MSW '05
Ms. Niagia Williams, MSW '04
Ms. Edna M. Swann, MSW '04
Ms. Kira L. Stoltenberg, MSW '04
Ms. Tamara A. Simmons, MSW '04
Ms. Hilary A. Schneider, MSW '04
Ms. Ashley C. Klapper, MSW '04
Ms. Paulette Ellerbe-Jones, MSW '04

2003
NUMBER OF DONORS: 14
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

Up to $99

Ms. Johanna G. Walter, MSW '03
Mr. James O. Sofolahan, MSW '03
Ms. Cynthia J. Shinaberry, MSW '03
Ms. Penny E. Reynolds-Boyce, MSW '03
Ms. Deborah E. Jackson, MSW '03
Ms. Omayra Hunt, MSW '03
Ms. Sandra S. Harrington, MSW '03
Ms. Kathi L. Holmes, MSW '03
Ms. Sonia L. Hoffman, MSW '03
Ms. Omayra Hunt, MSW '03
Ms. Deborah E. Jackson, MSW '03
Ms. Sachiko Kanatsugu, MSW '03
Ms. Penny E. Reynolds-Boyce, MSW '03

2004
NUMBER OF DONORS: 8
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 2%

Up to $99

Ms. Rebecca J. Davis, MSW '04
Ms. Paulette Ellerbe-Jones, MSW '04
Ms. Ashley C. Klapper, MSW '04
Ms. Hilary A. Schneider, MSW '04
Ms. Tamara A. Simmons, MSW '04
Ms. Kira L. Stoltenberg, MSW '04
Ms. Edna M. Swann, MSW '04
Ms. Niagia Williams, MSW '04

2005
NUMBER OF DONORS: 16
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

$100 to $249

Ms. Leslie B. Pope, MSW '05

Up to $99

Donna L. Bliss, PhD '05, MSW '05
Ms. Penny J. Graf, MSW '05
Ms. Lisa T. Haas, MSW '05
Ms. Suzanne L. Heifetz, MSW '05
Ms. Caroline A. Hoesch, MSW '05
Ms. Heidi M. Johnson, MSW '05

2006
NUMBER OF DONORS: 15
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

Ms. Rhonda A. Lieberman-Lapan, MSW '05
Ms. Amanda L. Linehan, MSW '05
Ms. Deborah L. Pinkney, MSW '05
Mr. Nicolas W. Seldes, MSW '05
Ms. Jennifer L. Sells, MSW '05
Ms. Tiffany R. Smith, MSW '05
Ms. Mary J. Young, MSW '05
Ms. Diari M. Banigo, MSW '05

2007
NUMBER OF DONORS: 21
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 6%

Ms. Margaret O. Woodside, MSW '07
Ms. Megan Tracy Benson, MSW '07
Ms. Jean L. Conner, MSW '07
Ms. April E. Corley, MSW '07
Ms. Adriana DePalma, MSW '07
Ms. Elizabeth A. Fisher, PhD '07, MSW '07
Ms. Catlin P. Goodale, MSW '07
Ms. Michelle LeFurge, MSW '07

2008
NUMBER OF DONORS: 64
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 23%

Ms. Rebecca Donahue, MSW '07
Ms. Leah S. Goldfine, MSW '07
Ms. Evelyn Goldstein, MSW '07
Mr. Gregory L. Harden, MSW '07
Ms. Mary T. Hodorowicz, MSW '07
Ms. Krista A. Mahler, MSW '07
Ms. Mary C. Nemec, MSW '07
Ms. Melissa M. Nestor, MSW '07
Ms. Amy C. Pearce, MSW '07
Ms. Brandi L. Stockdale, MSW '07
Ms. Faith E. Weidler, MSW '07

2009
NUMBER OF DONORS: 14
PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATION: 4%

Up to $99

Ms. Rebekah J. Levy, MSW '09
Ms. Christa A. Lee, MSW '09
Ms. Emily B. Laun, MSW '09
Ms. Rachel L. Kraus, MSW '09
Ms. Adrienne L. Johnson, MSW '09
Ms. Kelly C. Ingham, MSW '09
Ms. Deborah C. Imhof, MSW '09
Ms. Cynthia A. Hum, MSW '09
Ms. Julia J. Hong, MSW '09
Ms. Cathy A. Hanson, MSW '09
Ms. Nancy R. Grace, MSW '09
Ms. Andrea S. Rackowski, MSW '09
Ms. Lauren J. Stephenson, MSW '09
Ms. Joann S. Stern, MSW '09
Ms. Nancy J. Sushinsky, MSW '09
Ms. Betty J. Sutherland Zara, MSW '09
Ms. Melissa R. Warsetsky, MSW '09
Ms. Rachel M. Wetherby, MSW '09
Ms. Ahmun R. Williams, MSW '09
Ms. Michelle L. Wright, MSW '09

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Annie E. Casey Foundation, Inc. ^$8

$100,000 to $199,999

Associated Jewish Community Federation ^$8

Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation ^$8
Dr. James A. Earl ^$8
Mrs. Sylvia T. Earl ^$8
Helena Foundation, Inc. ^$8

The Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds ^$8

$50,000 to $99,999

David & Barbara Hirschhorn Foundation ^$8

Family League of Baltimore City ^$8
Goldseker Foundation ^$8

MedStar Health ^$8

Richman Family Foundation, Inc. ^$8
Classes with the Highest Number of Donors:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SCHOLARSHIPS

Gwendolyn C. Lee Scholar Fund
Dr. Harris Chaiklin

General Scholarship Fund
(Annual Fund)

Estela Aboisch, MSW ’86
Ms. Deborah A. Ahern, MSW ’97
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Rosemary A. Dehn, MSW ’85
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Mrs. Marsha Edell, MSW ’74
Ms. Lynne A. Farbmam, MSW ’69
Ms. Michelle L. Farr, MSW ’95
Lisa R. Ferentz, MSW ’85
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Dr. Claire Gilbert, MSW ’79
Ms. Paula E. Gish, MSW ’83
Nailiah A. Gobert, MSW ’07
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Ms. Amy Kaufman Goot, MSW ’77
Mr. William P. Granger, MSW ’66
Dr. Rosalind E. Griffin, MSW ’66
Ms. Jo Ann Staples, MSW ’86
Mrs. Gladys R. Weiland, MSW ’69
Mr. Sidney Hollander, Jr.

Dean Young Scholarship
Mr. Sidney Hollander, Jr.

Maglady Scholarship
Ms. Shirley S. Barry

Mark Battle Scholarship
Mr. Mark Battle
Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Mrs. Evelyn Kays-Battle
Ms. Pearl Moulton
Aber D. Unger Foundation Inc

Paul Ephross Scholarship
Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Aber D. Unger Foundation Inc

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Mr. Gary J. Felser
Fund for Change, Inc.
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Mr. Martin Karlin
Dr. Nancy Taylor Kemp
Ms. Lucy B. Kerewsky, MSW ’78
Ms. Rebecca Kerewsky
Dr. Shoshana Kerewsky
Ms. Yin K. Leung, MSW ’06
Ms. Pearl Moulton
Mr. Richard E. Ullrich
Mr. Eric H. Wenocur
Dr. Stanley Wenocur

Susan Wolman Scholarship
Ms Dorah M Brager
Mrs. Lois Blum Feinblatt
Ms. Yin K. Leung, MSW ’06
Lois & Irving Blum Foundation, Inc.
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Mrs. Alison L. Richman, MSW ’84
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Mrs. Miriam S. Zadek
Dr. Robert E. Zadek

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Black Family Development, Inc.
Mr. Enrique Codas
Diane E. DePanfilis, PhD ’96
Nancy S. Dickinson, PhD
Dr. James A. Earl
Mrs. Sylvia T. Earl
Mr. Richard C. Hacker, MSW ’70
Jesse J. Harris, PhD ’75, MSW ’71
Helena Foundation, Inc.
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Ms. Beth M. Katz, MSW ’94
Mr. Keith S. Massey, MSW ’78
Mr. Robert Miler
Josephine K. Olsen, MSW ’72
Mr. David W. Pitts
Ms. Lucia Rusty
Ms. Camille B. Wheeler, MSW ’68
Mrs. Louise R. Wright, MSW ’87
Dr. Ruth H. Young

Deans Gold & Harris Scholarship
Richard P. Barth, PhD
Mrs. Ursula Cain-Jordan, MSW ’72
Community College of Baltimore
County Dundalk
Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Ms. Lily Gold
Mr. Nicholas Gold
Jesse J. Harris, PhD ’76, MSW ’71

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1979 $101,408
1976 $18,212
1971 $6,425
1972 $5,258
1983 $2,540

Ms. Sondra E. Willner, MSW ’97
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Associated Jewish Community Federation
Richman Family Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Alison L. Richman, MSW ’84
Mr. Arnold I. Richman

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Associated Jewish Community Federation
Mrs. Betty E. Golombek, MSW ’65
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Mr. Edward J. Brody

Ms. Suzanne B. Greenberg
Ms. Anne W. Miller

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Mrs. Karin Batterton, MSW ’71
Ms. Candace Claster
Mr. Steven M. Eidelman
Mr. Enrique Codas
Ms. Candace Claster

MedStar Health Scholarship
MedStar Health

SWCOS 15TH Anniversary
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NASW Foundation
National Association of Social Workers
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Mrs. Carolyn G. Billingsley, MSW ’78
Ms. Patricia Boland
Dr. Harris Chaiklin
Mr. Joseph Paul Chappelle
Ms. Oliveira Codas
Mr. Joseph J. Coffey, MSW ’79

Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Kathleen Deal, PhD
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Sarah Fink-Youngbar
Ms. Jean L. Gnip
Ms. Pat Gorman, MSW ’93
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Mr. LeRoy E. Hoffberger
Karen Hopkins, PhD
Mr. David A. Kandel, MSW ’83
Clementine L. Kaufman, PhD ’79,
MSW ’73
Dr. David A. Knapp
Dr. Deanne E. Knapp
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Ms. Nancy R. Kutler, MSW ’84

Mr. Richard C. Hacker, MSW ’70
Mrs. Sylvia T. Earl
Dr. Harris Chaiklin
Mr. Mark Battle

In Honor Of Dr. Stanley Wenocur
Mrs. Estelle Karlin
Ms. Rebecca Kerewsky
Dr. Shoshana Kerewsky
In Honor Of Dr. Susan J. Zuravin
Richard P. Barth, PhD
John C. Mc Millen, PhD ’94

In Honor Of Ernest M. Kahn, PhD
Ms. Lily Gold

In Honor Of Mr. Edward J. Brody
Mrs. Suzanne B. Greenberg

In Honor Of Mr. John Magladery
Ms. Shirley S. Barry

In Honor Of Mr. Mark Battle
Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Aber D. Unger Foundation Inc

In Honor Of Mrs. Barbara Brody
Mrs. Suzanne B. Greenberg

In Honor Of Ms. Deborah C. Imhof
Ms. Tamika Lee

In Honor Of Ms. Mary T. Hodorowicz
Richard P. Barth, PhD

In Honor Of Ms. Susan A. Wolman
Ms. Barbara L. Himmelrich, MSW ’81
TRP Program for Charitable Giving

In Honor Of Paul H. Ephross, PhD
Mr. Richard V. Cook, MSW ’72
Aber D. Unger Foundation Inc

In Honor Of The Honorable Verna L. Jones
Friends of Senator Verna L. Jones

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Associated Jewish Community Federation
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative
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Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation
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MedStar Health Establishes Scholarship

MedStar Health, a $3.5 billion non-profit health care organization and a community-based network of eight hospitals and other health care services in the Baltimore/Washington region, has established the MedStar Health Scholarship Endowment at the School of Social Work.

The $50,000 gift to the School provides much needed endowed scholarship support to our students. The gift is special according to the School of Social Work Dean Richard Barth, “MedStar has shown great leadership in giving financial expression to their grasp of the need to increase the pool of social workers with expertise in health care. This endowed gift will forever link MedStar and the School of Social Work.”

The School’s Director of Development David Flinchbaugh agrees, “This unique gift shows all of our alumni and friends that they can assist the School in wonderful ways, working with their employer or their own group of colleagues who can advocate on behalf of the School.”

“Establishing a scholarship fund at the University of Maryland School of Social Work demonstrates our commitment to being the trusted leader in caring for people and advancing health,” said MedStar Health President and CEO Kenneth A. Samet. “Social workers play a critical role in the overall health and well-being of our community.”

As the area’s largest health system, MedStar is one of its largest employers, with more than 25,000 employees and 5,000 affiliated physicians. MedStar Health’s areas of clinical excellence include cardiology, cardiac surgery, oncology services, rehabilitation, neurosciences, orthopedic surgery, women’s services, and emergency and trauma services. They have comprehensive services including primary, urgent and subacute care, medical education and research. Their other health-related services include assisted living, home health, and long-term care. They also operate nursing homes, senior housing, adult day care, rehabilitation, and ambulatory centers, as well as maintain MedStar Physician Partners, a comprehensive physician network in the Baltimore/Washington area.
Stephen M. Davidson is a 1966 graduate of the School, one of the “warehouse gang,” who, after working in the war on poverty in both Annapolis, MD, and New Haven, CT, went to the University of Chicago where he earned a PhD from the School of Social Service Administration (SSA). At Chicago, he began to study health care and, with two colleagues, started a program in health policy and planning at SSA. He has been on faculties at the University of Chicago, Northwestern, and since 1985, Boston University, which recruited him to direct its health care management program. He was one of the first scholars to study Medicaid both as a social welfare program and as a venue for examining key health sector issues. Among other studies, in the early 1980s, he designed and evaluated a prepaid managed care demonstration program in the Suffolk County (NY) in which participating physicians were randomly assigned to experimental and control groups.

Steve's latest project is a book, his sixth, called “Saving the U.S. Health Care System,” which will be published by Stanford University Press. Building on more than 30 years in the field, he hopes the book will be useful in the effort to improve our declining health care system.

The book has three parts. Part I defines the problems with U.S. health care today, going beyond the large and growing numbers of Americans without health insurance and the high and rising costs that put health insurance beyond the reach of many businesses and citizens. In addition, he presents evidence that the health care delivery subsystem itself is eroding, which makes it less and less certain that people will get the care they need even if they continue to have insurance coverage. Thus, the case for reform is based not simply on altruism for the less fortunate, but also on the self-interest of all Americans. In the second part of the book, he identifies the dynamics in the system that caused these problems because we can truly solve them only if reforms address their causes. Then, he proposes a six-point reform plan intended to provide coverage and financial access to everyone, contain expenditures, and restore the delivery subsystem to a level that will ensure reliable quality care for all. In addition, Part II presents the case for each of the provisions, also considering and rejecting the most common arguments that are likely to be raised against them.

In a departure from most books on health system reform, the final section presents an extensive discussion of politics. It hones in on political lessons learned from previous, usually unsuccessful, reform efforts and outlines a general strategy for passage. That strategy includes creating a popular demand for reform that cannot be ignored by policymakers, reframing the issues to achieve widespread support and resist likely opposing arguments, and creating opportunities for some interest groups to negotiate implementation details in order to reduce the degree of short-term “harm” they might suffer. The six non-negotiable provisions laid out in section two must remain intact, however, if problems are truly to be solved. A concluding chapter considers the reality of compromise – if the entire plan cannot be adopted, which types of compromises should be embraced as substantial progress and which ones should be rejected. Others have made a case for reform—often reflecting their professional roles in the system—but few spend much time on the political dimension of reform, and Steve makes a serious effort in this regard.
class of 1970

Stuart R. Fishelman, MSW
Stuart R. Fishelman, LCSW-C, BCD, has been appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the Sexual Offender Advisory Board. This Board was established via legislation in Maryland in June 2006. Among the Board’s numerous tasks are developing standards for sexual offender treatment, certifying state sexual offender treatment programs, and reviewing the effectiveness of the state's laws concerning sexual offenders.

Stuart reports being very honored, pleased, and excited about the tasks given to this board, and about this appointment.

Celeste Nader, MSW
I worked at the Baltimore City Department of Social Services from 1965 to 2003. I advanced from clinical social worker to Assistant Director of Business Management. I was responsible for Administrative Services: automation, audits, budget, collections, contracts, fiscal, payroll, procurement, and various other significant support services.

Today, I am employed at the Maryland SPCA as an adoptions counselor. My social work background has been useful when assessing families to adopt their perfect pet. Child welfare laws were enacted years after animal rights policy. The shelter is quite advanced in placement, enrichment, and humane care of animals.

class of 1971

Patricia Payne, MSW
Pat Payne has started her “encore” career after many years in the public sector working on affordable housing and community revitalization. Having received a Master’s of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pat is now Pastor of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Dover, DE. She is still doing a lot of community organizing!

class of 1972

Eugene Bartell, MSW
Gene Bartell recently retired from Neighborhood Houses in St. Louis, MO. He served as Executive Director of that organization for 12 years. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of the Community Services Administration with the Maryland Department of Human Resources. Gene and his wife Karen have bought a home in Bolton Hill.

class of 1973

Carolyn Batrick-Ericson, MSW, PhD 1998
Dr. Carolyn Batrick-Erickson is associate professor and Chair of the Department of Community Engagement and Social Work at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. She is also on the faculty of the Contemporary Psychoanalytic Couple and Family Therapy Training Program of the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis.

class of 1980

Carol Ann Wasileski Varley, MSW
I am employed by Union Memorial Hospital as a medical social worker. I am certified by the Board of Social Work Examiners as a supervisor and I provide supervision to both LSWA and LGSW staff in the hospital; in addition, I coordinate educational activities to promote their continued professional development. I am a member of NASW and my commitment to human welfare has broadened of late to include animal welfare. The inhumane treatment of food animals in factory farming and at time of slaughter combined with the exploitation of undocumented workers in agriculture and meatpacking is a pressing concern.
class of 1982
Karen Strauss, MSW
I manage a $700,000 program under Florida Kid Care for children with major mental health problems and help coordinate Utilization Services for children with Medicaid. I have lived in Florida for 15 years and work at the largest provider of Mental Health Services in Fort Lauderdale.

class of 1988
Sharon Donor, MSW
Sharon Doner (formerly Rosenfield) recently married Izzy Feldman and will now be Sharon Doner-Feldman. She also is retiring after 20 years of being the founder and director of the Jewish Information and Referral Service of Greater Washington. She has formed her own company, Training for You, which will specialize in customer service and community information and referral training.

class of 1990
Karen Koch, MSW
I have been living in Greenville, NC for the past twelve years with my husband Bill and our two dogs. For the past four years, I have worked for the Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC) as the Assistant Director of Mental Health Education. I assess, plan, and coordinate mental health continuing education programs for professionals in a 23-county region of Eastern NC.

I have served on the NASW-NC board of directors for the past six years as a district representative, Vice President, and President.

I have been the chair of the NASW-NC Greenville Local Program Unit for the past four years and serve on the NASW-NC finance and continuing education committees. I was awarded the NASW-NC Coastal District Social Worker of the Year in 2007 and was named an Outstanding Friend of the East Carolina University (ECU) School of Social Work in February 2008. I serve on the ECU School of Social Work advisory board and have been a field instructor at the school as well.

I completed the Duke University certificate in Nonprofit Management earlier this year. In my free time I enjoy shopping, reading, photography, crossword puzzles, and crafts.

class of 1991
Donna Milgram, MSW
It's 14 years since I founded the national nonprofit I head -- creating institutional change on a big picture level in the education system and with employers -- Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Science. Visit our homepage www.iwitts.com. Our major project at the moment is CalWomenTech -- funded by the National Science Foundation and working with community colleges to increase the number of women in technology. We also have an online community www.womentechworld.org and a store www.womentechstore.com.

I have been living in the San Francisco Bay area for almost 9 year now on an island - Alameda - which I love and I was recently appointed to the Economic Development Commission here.

On a personal note, I enjoy international travel and most recently was in Senegal this summer visiting a friend and while there visited a nonprofit organization "10,000 Girls" that teaches microenterprise and helps girls stay in school. The picture is of me in the former colonial capital of St. Louie, Senegal. I would love to hear from friends I've lost touch with, email me on my personal email at divadonnam@yahoo.com.

class of 1993
Karen Wiseman Walling, MSW
Relocated to Maryland after living in Europe for 8-1/2 years working with military families and their children. Currently, taking a break to be a stay-at-home mom with daughters, Caitlin (5 y/o) and Samantha (1 y/o) and husband of 11 years, Brian.
Carol Sisco, PhD
Carol B. Sisco has been elected Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Children of Alcoholics (NACoa). Dr. Sisco has published and lectured nationally in the fields of female addiction and issues facing children of alcoholic and addictive parents. Her master’s research, “Investigation of Self-concept in the Female Alcoholic,” was published in Resources in Education (1981). Her doctoral research, “The Prevalence of Substance Abuse Among AFDC Recipients in Project Independence,” was published in Health & Social Work (1994) and has been widely cited in public welfare literature, as well as incorporated in welfare reform initiatives throughout the US.

Leslie Allen, MSW
Leslie Allen has taken responsibility as Regional Director for the Children’s Choice offices in Harrisburg and Lewisburg, PA. Children’s Choice is a private, not-for-profit child welfare agency that operates under contract with county and state Departments of Human Services’ child welfare divisions to provide foster and kinship services to children who are neglected, abandoned, or abused. Service sites in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington D.C. recruit and train foster families to care for 1,150 children.

Isabel Ellis, MSW
Isabel joined the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (NIAAA), NIH, in 2000 to oversee the development of the first comprehensive web-based international teaching curriculum on alcohol use disorders. The curriculum was developed for faculty at schools of social work in order to prepare students to address the many aspects of alcohol screening, intervention, and prevention. The curriculum also covers alcohol use in special populations (see pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Social/main.html). The curriculum is made up of 20 lecture-ready modules and PowerPoint® presentations developed by top-named experts in alcoholism and social work research.

Kim Cook, MSW
After UMB, I attended Southwestern Seminary to obtain a Masters in Church and Community Ministry. I am now working for a pastoral counseling agency as a therapist and clinical director. It is a great combination of both of my degrees and a very fulfilling place to work. We are developing a special emphasis to work with children that have been abused and to educate congregations about preventing abuse.

In Memoriam
Donald J. Carroll, PhD, former School of Social Work faculty member. Carroll served on the School’s faculty from 1969 through 1989 and subsequently served as an adjunct faculty member until 2004. In addition to teaching, Carroll was employed as a social work administrator at Patuxent Institution. He was 70.

Helen E. O’Neill, MSW ’75, a retired social worker, died November 1. She was 85. In 1968, Mrs. O’Neill earned a degree in psychology and in 1970 went to work at the Rosewood Center in Maryland as director of social services. She earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland in 1975 and continued working at Rosewood until retiring in 1996.

Albert R. Roberts, PhD ’78, Rutgers professor and author, died June 23 following a valiant 18-month battle against pancreatic cancer. He was 64. Dr. Roberts was a college professor for 35 years. For the past 19 years Roberts taught criminal justice and social work courses at Rutgers University. Roberts had more than 250 scholarly publications, including 38 books.

Brother Cyprian L. Rowe, PhD, former faculty member and Assistant Dean for Student Services and Minority Affairs died November 25 after a lengthy illness. During his time at the School, Rowe served as Assistant Dean for Student Services and Minority Affairs for two years then returned to teaching.

Ruth H. Young, DSW, former Dean of the School of Social Work, died February 15 as this issue of Connections was being finalized. More information will be included in the next issue.
Social worker John Herron has dedicated his career to helping people suffering from schizophrenia. In 1985, he started a psychiatric rehabilitation program called Harbor City Unlimited, and two years later he created Harbor City Services, a self-sustaining enterprise that provides jobs for people recovering from mental illness or substance abuse.

He also worked with the Social Security Administration in 1993 to create a program that would allow mentally ill homeless people access to Social Security more quickly and efficiently than in the past.

Under the previous system, the Social Security Administration took 18 months to certify homeless disabled people for disability insurance. Under Herron's program, a clinician in an emergency room could make the determination of eligibility within 25 days, with justifying evidence delivered within 45. This allowed much earlier receipt of benefits and treatment, Herron noted.

Harbor City Services, now a self-supporting nonprofit corporation, began as a vocational program employing clients of Harbor City Unlimited, the psychiatric rehabilitation program that Herron had started two years earlier at the University of Maryland Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland Medical System Corp.

Harbor City Unlimited, Herron explained, "provided a place for a person to feel comfortable and confident, where they could learn skills of managing their illness, of dealing with the loneliness of mental illness."

And that also meant finding work for people through Harbor City Services. At first, Herron said, jobs focused on "the four F's — food, flowers, filth and filing." But those projects "were never self sufficient," he said. "We just couldn't design a program that wasn't massively subsidized."

Finally, Herron was able to take over a records subcontractor group, and from there he began a property management business and created a moving company. "Most recently, we've added a shredding business," he said. Harbor City Services also stores documents and has a general warehouse operation.

In 1995, Harbor City Services became an independent, self-supporting business, and today it has more than 180 clients and gross revenue in excess of $600,000. "Since 1995, we've been profitable in seven out of the last 12 years," Herron said with pride.

The key reason for success, according to Herron, is the attention paid to the possibility of relapse. Historically, companies have been reluctant to hire people with mental illness or a history of substance abuse because they fear relapse. And if a person is hired and does relapse, the company doesn't know how to handle it and the person is typically fired, Herron said.

"Our approach at Harbor City is to embrace relapse instead of hoping it won't happen," Herron said. "We talk all the time about how to manage your illness on the job."

Patients can get treatment and then return to work, a scenario that works for everybody but isn't possible in most business models. "We don't try to carry somebody who can't perform," Herron says. "We say get treatment and come back."

It's a supportive environment, but employees are still expected to do excellent work. "There's no lapse of expectation or demand," Herron said.

Employer and employee both benefit, and Herron gets the satisfaction of creating a new and successful way of helping people. "I've proven that I can run a business as a social enterprise with a social mission and be profitable," he said.

- Karen Nitkin

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Share Your News with Us and Other Alumni!

The School of Social Work wants you to share your news, not only with us, but with your fellow alumni. This news could include a new job or promotion, a birth or marriage announcement, new grandchildren to brag about, or almost any other news you care to share. Please fill out the form and return it to us, and it will be published in a “Class Notes” section of a future edition of Connections. We also encourage you to send pictures!*

If you have moved, changed jobs, or changed your name, help us keep our records up to date. Please fill out the form with your new information and send it to us. You may send the form to:

University of Maryland School of Social Work
Office of Development & Alumni Relations
525 West Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-1777

You can also e-mail your “Class Note” to us at alumni@ssw.umaryland.edu or submit it online at ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni_and_development.

*Photos may be sent to the address above or if sending by E-mail, we prefer photos be saved in a tif format at 300 dpi. Images sent below that resolution may not be printed. Please include your name and mailing address on all photos sent. All photos will be returned.

Name _______________________________ Home Phone ______________
Maiden Name ___________________ Concentration/Specialization ___________________________
Class Year ___________ Home Address ___________________________________________________

E-mail Address ____________________________
Employer ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Employer Address ___________________________________________________

Class Note (please write clearly)

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Gone are the infamous burnt orange floor tiles, the dim lighting, the grey concrete pillars, even the roofs were not overlooked in a recent flurry of improvements to the building's appearance.

Years of careful planning and saving has allowed the School to move forward with many efforts to improve the look and learning environment at the School.

The first things to go where the burnt orange floor tiles that greeted everyone as they walked into the building. They have been replaced with large, light grey fabricated concrete tiles that resemble stone. These tiles make the School's lobby a much brighter place to be.

Also in the lobby you will find new lighting, new carpet, furniture, tables, and chairs all designed to work well together and make a significant change to the area.

New carpet and furniture have been installed in most areas along with new paint colors on the walls and concrete pillars, even upgraded water fountains. Nothing was overlooked in our efforts to improve the School—including our roofs.

What we like to call “The Bridge” that connects the School’s older west side with the main classroom building has been given a green roof full of plants.

In addition, new building signage has been added, elevators will soon be replaced, and environmentally friendly bulletin boards have been installed.

It has been a busy year for changes. So many changes that you just may not recognize the place on your next visit.