

Connections

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends of the School of Social Work

SUMMER 2008



SWCOS:
A Bold Experiment Turns 15



The University of Maryland School of Social Work

is strengthening the fabric of society—one thread at a time. These threads are strengthened every time a student learns something new, a field instructor models exemplary practice, a faculty member writes a paper that offers clearer evidence about what we can do better, and when we successfully engage others in community or policy change.

This issue of *Connections* has many examples of our success, most notably the unique 15-year story of the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) and the opening of what might become another long-standing element—the Family-Informed Trauma Treatment Center, co-hosted by the School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and the Kennedy Krieger Family Center, and linked to the School's Family Connections program.

SWCOS is also developing new initiatives and raising support for its endowment and scholarships. Its 15th-anniversary event brought together alumni from all five of our decades, and the American Visionary Art Museum, which hosted the event, was abuzz with the chatter of old friends reunited. Former Dean Jesse Harris' visionary leadership in initiating SWCOS was honored, reminding us all of how critical every day and every decision is in creating a long-term impact on our School and community.

We continue to make progress on our capital campaign efforts and have passed the threshold of \$4 million in gifts and private grants. About one-quarter of that was raised to support the Thursz professorship, named in honor of former Dean Daniel Thursz and now occupied by Michael Reisch, who comes back to the School after productive stops at other leading schools of social work. Michael will be a great asset to the School and community. He offers the kind of talent that can only be attracted with the status and resources that a professorship or chair provides.

We are in the middle of recruiting more terrific new faculty and are buoyed by the knowledge that so many of the nation's leading graduates are pursuing positions with us. We have also had the largest student applicant pool in decades—with a substantial and growing proportion applying from outside of Maryland. By the time these new faculty and students arrive, we also will have completed major renovations to the west wing of the School and significant refurbishing of Louis Kaplan Hall and its lobby.

As we continue to improve ourselves, we will see that change reflected in the community around us and in the support we receive. Every day we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before, and those who have given their time, talents, and treasure to strengthen the School.

We were recently given a wonderful volume of commentaries from our first students: *Tales From the Warehouse*, *The Class of '65 Remembers*. Professor Emeritus Harry Chaiklin is also hard at work constructing a broader history of the School in preparation for our 50th anniversary in 2011. These documents underscore the way individual acts and collective efforts have shaped the present position of the School, community, and profession.

From our illustrative past to our bright social work future, the increasing openness of our society grows in the shadow of the specter of a recession and local, state, and national budget deficits. Social workers have responded to these times with substantial efforts to help neighborhoods protect the hard-won gains of the last decade of growing homeownership and community revitalization. New financial social work methods developed by alumni are extending our usual repertoire of helping methods. This is a time when the idea-generating capacity of the University will be most vital as we endeavor to respond proactively to changing economic and international circumstances.

A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report indicates the expectation of substantial growth for social work jobs—projecting a 22 percent increase during the next decade. That's good news for our School and for our society.

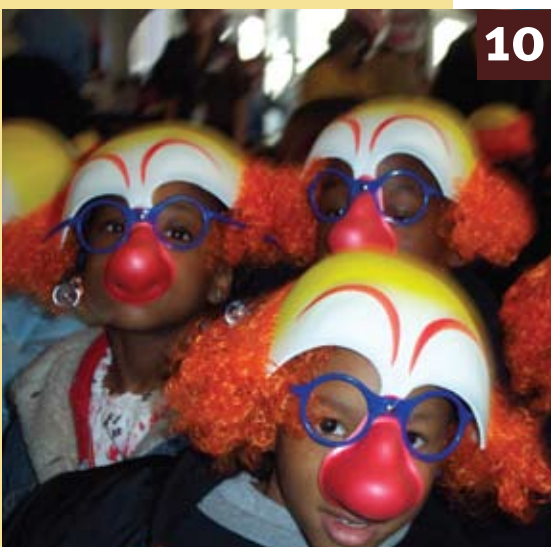
We have an outstanding opportunity now, through a powerful and purposeful educational program, to shape the lives of those who join our profession. We also will continue to shape the progress of society toward one that uplifts those living at extraordinarily difficult life junctures. Thanks to everyone for your contributions to the School and for strengthening the fabric of society.

With warm regards,

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW
Dean and Professor

Inside Connections

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends of the School of Social Work



Connections is published twice each year by the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Send comments to:

**University of Maryland
School of Social Work**

Alumni Affairs Office
525 W. Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

E-mail us at:
alumni@ssw.umaryland.edu

Editor:
Matthew O. Conn

Associate Editors:
Ronald Hube
Chris Zang

Assistant:
Rennette Cowan

Contributing Writer:
Rosalia Scalia, MA

Graphic Designer:
Laura Kozak, MA

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For 15 years now, the Social Work Community Outreach Service—the first program of its kind in the nation—has been helping people in need while helping to bolster the School of Social Work's visibility in communities. Those who got it off the ground and those who have kept it going look back on what SWCOS has accomplished so far, and they look ahead to the program's future.
- page **14** **Donor and Giving Profiles**
Sandy Hess, Barbara Brody, and Ed Brody are each giving much of themselves, in many ways, to help the School of Social Work. They hope you can give a little, too.
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The White House is not a place that many social work students see themselves working one day, but it's where '05 alumna Melissa Anne Kline finds herself—and happily so.

Connections

School News

School Collaborates on Family Trauma Treatment Center

The University has been awarded a \$2.4 million grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to create a Family-Informed Trauma Treatment (FITT) Center—the only national trauma treatment center specifically geared toward families.

A virtual center, it is housed in the offices of its collaborators—the schools of social work and medicine, the Kennedy Krieger Family Center, and the Baltimore Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Kathryn Collins, PhD, MSW, associate professor at the School of Social Work; Laurel Kiser, PhD, MBA, associate professor at School of Medicine; and Harolyn Belcher, MD, MHS, director of research at the Kennedy Krieger Family Center, are the co-principal investigators on the project. Along with Frederick Strieder, PhD, MSSA, clinical associate professor at the School of Social Work and director of the School's Family Connections outreach program in West Baltimore, the group provides leadership for the center,

which serves vulnerable children and their families who have been exposed to or are recovering from trauma.

“The primary goal of the FITT Center is to develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate family-based interventions and strategies aimed to promote health and well-being and ameliorate the destructive impact of violence, traumatic events, and victimization on family members,” says Collins.

The multidisciplinary, multi-institutional leadership of the center enables it to implement and evaluate family-based interventions for urban and military populations—both of which often hail from underserved areas.

There was stiff competition for the grant, which makes it possible for the center to join the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), a collaboration of more than 70 academic, clinical, and community service centers that each have a mission to improve the quality, effectiveness, and availability of services for children and families who have experienced a range of traumas from abuse and neglect to treatment for life-threatening illnesses.

Says Kiser: “The network’s efforts have raised awareness of the emotional impact of trauma on children and increased access to effective treatments for children and adolescents. Its understanding of the role of families in the lives of children impacted by trauma is reinforced by its desire to fund a national center to further define family trauma treatments, and we are honored to serve that role.”

“We have families who never go out at night and seldom feel safe in their communities,” adds Strieder. “Families demonstrate tremendous resilience as they manage the daily stresses of their communities, while they are burdened by the impact of a history of violence and abuse.”

The grant marks the first time that a School of Social Work is part of such a center, note School officials.

To access FITT Center services, or for more information, contact Kay Connors, program coordinator, at kconnors@psych.umaryland.edu or 410-328-6680.

Deal Receives Teaching Scholar’s Award

Kathleen Deal, PhD, MSW, has been presented the School of Social Work’s first Teaching Scholar’s Award for her research proposal “A Developmental-Relational Approach to Field Supervision.”

Deal is an associate professor and co-chair of the School’s clinical concentration. Her study is part of a collaborative effort between the School of Social Work and The Catholic University of America National Catholic School of Social Service to help train new field instructors.



Kathleen Deal

SWCOS, Library Spread the Word About Online Health Information

The Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) at the School of Social Work has joined forces with the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) to help educate the public about health information that is available online.

Armed with a \$40,000 award from the Regional Medical Library for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region, the partnership is a vehicle to train community-service providers—and community members themselves—on how to use Maryland Health→Go Local, a Web-based statewide resource for locating local health services and programs, and MedlinePlus, the National Library of Medicine's consumer health Web site.

HS/HSL and SWCOS staff have provided training at public events such as festivals and health fairs. They have also provided instruction for agencies and organizations such as Head Start, the Baltimore City Public School

System, and the Latino Providers Network in Baltimore.

"We have further expanded the impact of Maryland Health→Go Local to the people who need it," says Ramona Harrison, an advanced-placement graduate student at the School of Social Work who coordinated the training program. "We provide basic instruction on how to find the site, how to log in, and how to use it to access health resource information. The site is easy to use."

The training has paid off. At a Baltimore event, Harrison instructed a woman with an autistic son how to find local treatment options. At the Baltimore African-American Heritage Festival, a woman who had suffered a heart attack found a cardiac rehabilitation program close to her home, and someone who recently lost her sight located services for the newly blind.

Training materials are available at www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/golocal.

Grants to Ruth H. Young Center Fund Social Services Evaluation

The School's Ruth H. Young Center (RYC) for Families and Children has received two grants totaling nearly \$900,000 to evaluate and improve services to families and children. One grant looks at services provided in Alabama while the other seeks to address housing needs for grandparent-led families in Baltimore.

Under a five-year, \$745,125 contract, the center will evaluate Alabama's implementation of a family-centered comprehensive assessment process for children, youth, and families. A quasi-experimental nonequivalent comparison group design will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Protective Capacity Family Assessments as implemented in three pilot counties compared to three matched sites where standard family assessment and service plan practices are implemented.

Diane DePanfilis, PhD '96, MSW, associate dean for research and co-director of the RYC, is the principal investigator for the project. ACTION for Child Protection, under contract with the Alabama Department of Human

Resources, Family Services Division, by cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, is the funding agency.

Grandparent Family Connections (GFC), an RYC program, has been awarded a \$140,000 planning grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund, and the Helena Foundation for the Baltimore City Intergenerational Housing and Service Initiative. Frederick Strieder, PhD, MSSA, director of the GFC, will lead the project.

Strieder, along with Marla Oros, RN, of the Mosaic Group, and former White House fellow Wes Moore, MLitt, will investigate existing housing/service models that have been developed for caregivers of grandchildren and for caregivers of other relatives. The grant is intended to lead to the design of a plan for housing in Baltimore for such families that would include specialized services, and the development of services for caregivers throughout the city.

Assistant Dean Honored

Lucia Rusty, MSW, ACSW, assistant dean for student affairs, has received an Appreciation Award from the Black and Latino Student Association of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The group honored Rusty for her 21 years of service and dedication to the academic and personal development of Stony Brook's underrepresented student population while she was assistant vice provost for special programs there from 1974 to 1995.

Students Talk, Then Take Action on Silent Epidemic

This year's interprofessional minimester course on health care issues, pioneered by the School of Social Work as part of its Maternal and Child Health Social Work program, focused on oral health and included a talk by Rep. Elijah Cummings.

The two-day event, held at the School of Social Work, was attended by dental, law, medical, nursing, pharmacy, and social work students. The annual minimester course is designed to tackle major health care issues from a variety of professional perspectives and to develop solutions.

This year's focus—the oral health care crisis—is considered a silent epidemic among impoverished children and their families due to barriers in accessing dental care. After the minimester, students worked on developing an interdisciplinary community service project to address health disparities and respond to the needs of a specific Baltimore community.

"It's not enough to have empathy and compassion, to express sorrow or sympathy, if you sit around and do nothing about changing the situation," Cummings told the students taking the minimester course.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rates Inadequate, Study Says

The “rates of support for children in foster care are far below what is needed to provide basic care for these children in nearly every state in the nation,” according to a study released by the School of Social Work’s Family Connections program—part of the Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children (RYC)—together with Children’s Rights and the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA).

The study is the first-ever calculation of the real expenses of caring for a foster child in the United States.

According to the report, “On average, across the U.S., current foster care rates must be raised by 36 percent in order to reach the Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for Children [the Foster Care MARC] calculated through this project. In some states, rates are less than half of what it actually costs to care for a child in foster care.”

The report says the range in the difference of foster care rates is far wider than the difference in the cost of living in various parts of the country. Further, the report notes, “a number of states report using no particular methodology to determine their rates. Low among myriad state and local budget priorities, foster care rates in many states do not appear to be based on a real assessment of children’s basic needs.”

The report includes tables that detail the current foster care rates, the minimum adequate rate, and the percentage that rates must increase for each state. The rates are divided into averages for 2-year-olds, 9-year-olds, and 16-year-olds.

News stories on the groundbreaking study appeared in hundreds of newspapers and on Web pages across the country, prompting several states to take immediate action on reimbursement.

The project is directed by Julie Farber, MSW, director of policy at Children’s Rights, in collaboration with School of Social Work alumna Diane DePanfilis, PhD ’96, MSW, associate dean for research and director of the RYC at the School, and Karen Jorgenson, MA, executive director of the NFPA.

The report’s primary authors were



DePanfilis and School of Social Work alumna Clara Daining, PhD ’05, MSW, of the RYC; Kevin Frick, PhD, MA, of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department

of Health Policy and Management; and Farber and Lisa Levinthal, JD, MPA, of Children’s Rights.

To view the entire report, visit www.family.umaryland.edu/ryc_news_and_events.

Two Students Earn Schaefer Scholarships

Two students from the School of Social Work have been awarded William Donald Schaefer Scholarships by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Kwame Alleyne of Columbia and Rosa Alvayero of College Park were among 11 chosen to receive the scholarships. Named in honor of Maryland’s former governor, the awards provide funding to full-time and part-time students who are preparing for careers in public service.

The scholarship amount ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000 annually.

A recipient of a William Donald Schaefer Scholarship is required after graduation to be employed in Maryland full time in public service one year for each year he or she received the scholarship.

Also, Karen Parker, a PhD student at the School, has received a \$20,000 award from the American Cancer Society for social workers and smoking cessation counseling.

Ephross, Palley, Lucco Among Faculty Retirees



Paul Ephross



Howard Palley



Alfred Lucco

With 115 years of service to the School of Social Work among them, faculty members Paul Ephross, Howard Palley, and Alfred Lucco have retired from the School after making a difference to generations of today's social workers.

Ephross, PhD, MSW, joined the School in 1968. His 40 years of service and dedication to social work have earned him many honors, including being named a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. Ephross earned his MSW from Boston University and his PhD from the University of Chicago. His research on intergroup relations and human sexual behavior is highly regarded and is used in classrooms and practices nationwide.

Palley, PhD, MS, began teaching at the School in 1970 and has been a dedicated and respected member of the faculty ever since. Palley earned his MS degree from Yeshiva University and his PhD from Syracuse University. Chair of the School's health specialization for many years, Palley is an active and leading researcher in health care-related issues around the globe. He has earned a Fulbright research award and several Fulbright grants, and was a World Health Organization fellow.

Lucco, PhD, MA, started his teaching career at the School in 1971 and leaves with high regard from the many students he has influenced and inspired. Lucco earned his MA and PhD degrees from the University of

Chicago, and his many research and teaching interests have included psychotherapy issues and topics related to children whose parents have separated or divorced.

Joining Ephross, Palley, and Lucco in retirement are Harriet Douglas, MSW, who started teaching part time at the School in 1986, and Ann-Marie Bond, assistant director of the School's Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS). Douglas specialized in issues related to domestic violence and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Bond joined the School in 1994 and has been a vital component of SWCOS' many success stories.



Sherry Parrish

Instructor Takes to the Road on National TV

Sherry Parrish, a seasoned field instructor at the School of Social Work, is host of the new reality makeover television series *What's Next?* The show airs on Retirement Living TV (RLTV). She is also a frequent guest on the RLTV show *Daily Café*.

Parrish, who earned a post-master's certificate in social work administration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore in 1982, is a longtime director of residential life at Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville. Based on traveling the nation in a modified RV, *What's Next?* finds people over the age of 55 who are challenged by the transition from work to retirement and gives them a new lease on life.

With an extensive background in geriatric social work and more than 13 years at Charlestown, Parrish brings a wealth of real-life experiences to her role as host and motivator.

"It is my job to unleash the power that is within all of us to change for the better," she says. "By bringing in real experts, we provide our guests with the tools they need to travel down a new personal path to success."

Parrish's enthusiasm for the makeovers comes across every time she gets behind the wheel of the Retirement Living RV. The term "reality series" is more than justified, she says.

"What you see on TV is all real, most notably the hard work, self-discovery, tears, and joy of our guests," she says. "We deal with real challenges involving family, finances, and career that all of us will face and that can seem overwhelming, to the point of losing zest for life."

"Our team designs individual interventions that inspire our guests and get them back on the highway of happiness. I am proud to share my life experiences in this endeavor that I know will inspire our viewers."

Recent Publications

“Coming of Age: The World Over,” an article by **Howard Altstein, PhD, MSW**, was published in *Gender Issues*, December 2007, Vol. 24, No. 4.

“Outcomes for Youth Receiving Intensive In-Home Therapy or Residential Care: A Comparison Using Propensity Scores,” an article co-authored by Dean **Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW**, was published by the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77, 497-505. The other authors were the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill’s Johanna Greeson, Shenyang Guo, and Rebecca Green, and Sarah Hurley and Jocelyn Sisson from Youth Villages in Memphis, Tenn. Also, the article “Adopted Foster Youths’ Psychosocial Functioning: A Longitudinal Perspective,” co-authored by Barth, Cassandra Simmel, and Devon Brooks, was published in *Child and Family Social Work*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 336-348.

The article “Do Welfare Avoidance Grants Prevent Cash Assistance?” by alumna **Catherine Born, PhD, MSW ’72**, director of the School’s Family Welfare and Research Training Group (FWRTG); **Pamela Ovwigho**, research director with FWRTG; and Andrea Hetling from Rutgers University was published in *Social Service Review*, Vol. 81, No. 4, 609-631.

Kathryn Collins, PhD, MSW, co-authored an article published in the special section The Status of Women in Social Work Education in the *Journal of Social Work Education*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Winter 2008). The article, “What About Women? Historical Perspectives on the CSWE Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education (Women’s Council),” was also written by Ann Alvarez, Helen Graber, and Marcie Lazzari.

Kathleen Deal, PhD, MSW, **Karen Hopkins, PhD, MSW**, alumna **Liz Fisher, PhD ’06**, and **John Hartin, MSW**, assistant director for field education, co-authored “Field Practicum Experiences of Macro-Oriented Graduate Students: Are We Doing Them Justice?” The article appeared in the 2007 edition of *Administration in Social Work*.

Alumnae **Diane DePanfilis, PhD ’96, MSW**, associate dean for research, and **Clara Daining, PhD ’05, MSW**, data manager, co-authored the article “Predicting Program Completion Among Families Enrolled in a Child Neglect Preventive Intervention,” published in *Research on Social Work Practice*, Vol. 17, 674-685.

“Christ-like Love and Forgiveness: A Biblical Foundation for Counseling Practice,” an article co-authored by **Frederick DiBlasio, PhD, MSW**, was published in the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, Vol. 26, 14-25. The co-author was R.K. Cheong. DiBlasio also appears in the documentary *The Power of Forgiveness*, which has been airing on PBS television stations nationwide.

The *Encyclopedia of Social Work*, of which alumnus and former Dean **Jesse J. Harris, PhD ’76, MSW, MA**, is a co-editor, includes a biography by **Paul Ephross, PhD, MSW**, professor, of a distinguished former faculty member, **William Bechill**, who died in the spring of 2007. In the biography, Ephross notes that Bechill was the founder of the social work administration program, now part of the School’s management and community organization concentration. Ephross also reviews “Group Communication Pitfalls: Overcoming Barriers to an Effective Group Experience” by John Burtis and Paul Turman for the *Journal of Social Work With Groups*.



Michael Lindsey

Michael Lindsey, PhD, MPH, MSW, co-authored “Perceived Parental Behavior and Peer Affiliations Among Urban African Amer-

ican Adolescents,” an article which appeared in *Social Work Research*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 163-169. Lindsey also has been selected as a 2008 African-American Mental Health Research Scientist Scholar by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The prestigious program’s goal is to increase the number of African-American scholars who receive NIMH funding. Lindsey will be partnered with an experienced NIMH- or National Institutes of Health-funded research scientist who will collaborate with him throughout his grant-writing experience. The program has an exceptional track record of faculty members going on to receive important research funding.



Corey Shdaimah

“Revisiting the Benefits Debate: Does Qualitative Social Work Research Produce Salubrious Effects?” was published in *Social Work*, Vol. 52, No. 4, 340-349. The article was co-authored by **Corey Shdaimah, PhD, LLM, LLB** at the School of Social Work and Judith McCoyd of Rutgers University.

Howard Palley, PhD, MS, edited “Community-Based Programs and Policies: Contributions to Social Policy Development,” a special issue of *Social Work in Public Health* (formerly the *Journal of Health and Social Policy*), Vol. 23, No. 4, 2007. The issue includes “Examining Fiscal Federalism, Regionalization and Community-Based Initiatives in Canada’s Health Delivery System,” an article co-authored by Pierre-Gerlier Forest of Laval University in Quebec and president of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Palley’s review of Constance A. Nathanson’s “Disease Preven-

tion as Social Change: The State, Society and Public Health in the United States, France, Great Britain, and Canada” appears in the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 32 (December 2007), 1046-1051.

An article by **Shoshana Ringel, PhD, MSW**—“Using the Classroom to Examine Unconscious Communication Between Student and Client: A Supervisor’s Perspective”—was published in *The Clinical Supervisor*, Vol. 26 (1/2), 2007.

Recent Grants and Contracts



John Belcher

John Belcher, PhD, MSW, MDiv, has received a two-year grant to explore how faith communities understand their theology in regard to social work and the stewardship of their organizations. The grant, totaling \$40,702, was from the University of Baltimore and was given by the Lily Foundation.

The **Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children** has been awarded a five-year, \$745,125 contract to evaluate Alabama’s implementation of a Family-Centered Comprehensive Assessment Process for Children, Youth, and Families. (See story on page 3.)

Baltimore’s Woodbourne Center has provided a \$25,000 grant to the School of Social Work, with **Bethany Lee, PhD, MSW**, as principal investigator, to evaluate its programs and services. The Woodbourne Center is one of the

country’s oldest child welfare organizations. Lee and two doctoral students will conduct several small studies, including an assessment of the population served, a study of trends in youth needs over time, and a study of the research evidence for the program’s treatment model of restorative practices, trauma-focused interventions, and aggression replacement training. Alumnus **Stan Weinstein, PhD ’68**, is CEO of the Woodbourne Center and president of the advisory board for the School of Social Work.

Alumna and assistant professor **Jodi Jacobson, PhD ’03, MSW**, has received a \$19,851 award from the U.S. Department of Energy for an employee assistance program implementation plan. Jacobson’s research focus is employee assistance programs, work/life, workplace crises intervention, traumatic stress, and suicide.

In the Headlines

In a story in *Money Magazine* on single fathers, **Geoffrey Greif, DSW, MSW**, stated, “Society is allowing men and women more flexibility in their roles and the laws governing divorce have given fathers a better chance of winning custody.” Greif is the author of *The Daddy Track and the Single Father*.

Arguing that convicted killer Brandon Morris should be spared the death penalty because of his difficult childhood, defense attorneys presented experts who testified that children growing up neglected and abused are more prone to violence when they become adults. **Caroline Long Burry, PhD, MSW**, based her testimony on a federal study that listed childhood risk factors for predicting violent behavior, including poor family bonding, poverty, and the availability of drugs and firearms. A story on the testimony appeared in *The (Baltimore) Sun*.

Alumna **Bronwyn Mayden, MSW ’77**, director of continuing professional education at the School of Social Work and a 20-year veteran of program and policy development and implementation for adolescent reproductive health, appeared on Baltimore television

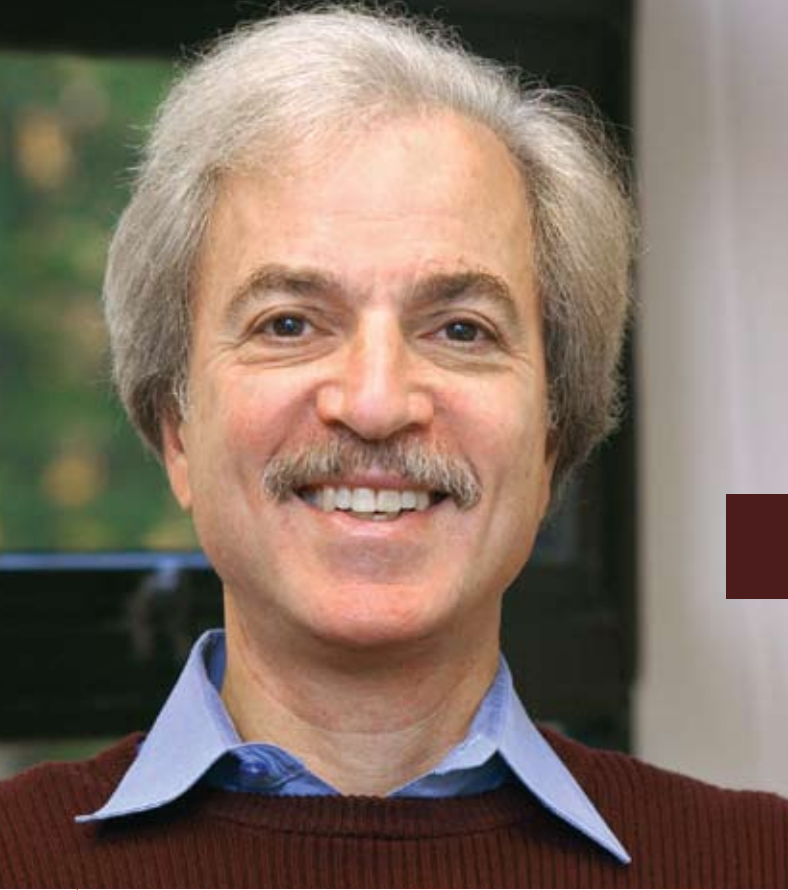
station WJZ to discuss issues related to a 14-year-old Baltimore girl whose baby was abandoned in Queens, N.Y.



Tanya Sharpe

In a story on Baltimore TV station WBFF about a Cockeysville shooting, **Tanya Sharpe, PhD, MSW**, discussed the shock factor of family violence and the easy access to firearms.

Steven Soifer, PhD, MSW, has been featured in coverage in *The (Baltimore) Sun*, on local television news programs, and in news media around the world of issues related to public restroom design and safety. Soifer is a co-founder of the Baltimore-based American Restroom Association, an advocacy group for more and better communal bathrooms.



“The pursuit of social justice is an ethical imperative of all social workers.”

— Michael Reisch

Michael Reisch

Reisch Named First Daniel Thursz Professor of Social Justice

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA, has been appointed the first Daniel Thursz Professor of Social Justice. Thursz was a dean of the School of Social Work who dedicated his career to social justice.

Reisch, who has become one of the leading and most respected social work educators and researchers in America, is a name familiar to many in Maryland. He taught at the School from 1979 to 1986, was very involved with Baltimore and Maryland advocacy organizations, and three times was recognized by the Maryland General Assembly for his outstanding work here. He later obtained academic positions at Stony Brook University, San Francisco State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan. Reisch has promoted awareness of social justice issues in a variety of ways ranging from demonstration projects in Philadelphia and Detroit to a forthcoming book, *U.S. Social Policy in an Era of Change*.

The highly acclaimed scholar says leaving Michigan and returning to Maryland was an easy decision. “I was honored to be offered the Daniel Thursz Professorship of Social Justice,” he says. “Because of the School’s location and its historical commitment to serving the community, I believe the Thursz professorship provides me with a unique opportunity to combine my scholarly interests with my desire to use research, education, and community service as means to create progressive social change.”

“The pursuit of social justice is an ethical imperative of all social workers,” Reisch says. “We must, therefore, find innovative ways to integrate social justice goals and processes into all aspects of our work and lives, including education.”

“This becomes more complicated when we acknowledge that social justice has different and sometimes conflicting meanings for different groups in our society and throughout the world,” he adds. “In the decades ahead, a central challenge for social workers is to find a way to reconcile the conflicts between universal concepts of social justice and those which are culturally specific. I hope to make a modest contribution to this intellectual and political debate—within the social welfare field and the broader society—in my role as the Thursz professor.”

The Thursz professorship is the first named professorship at the School of Social Work, and appropriately so given Thursz’s legacy of leadership. He joined the faculty in 1963 and served as dean from 1977 to 1987. His passion and vision drew to the School students such as Barbara Mikulski, who would go on to become a U.S. senator. “Had I not studied under Dan Thursz,” Mikulski once said, “I honestly do not believe I would have entered politics.”

At a memorial service for Thursz in the spring of 2000, the idea was born to honor his legacy with a faculty position at the School that would be dedicated to social justice. Eight years later, that idea has been realized with the appointment to the professorship of a national leader in the scholarship and practice of achieving social justice.

“The competition for this coveted professorship was intense, but Michael deeply impressed the faculty and administration with his mastery of a range of methods for achieving social justice,” says Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School of Social Work.

Barth adds: “Michael has a deep record of accomplishment as a community practitioner, conceptualizer and author, researcher, and administrator. He has not only taught in many areas of the curriculum, but excelled in the work that underlies his excellent teaching and scholarship.”



Kwajera Snead

PHOTO CREDIT: JAY BAKER

Snead and Mark Battle

Baltimore-born Student Has Always Wanted to Advocate for Others

Success can often be measured by the amount of planning that went into it. Kwajera Snead, an advanced-standing social work student from Baltimore, has planned for success most of her life. Today, she is starting to see the fruits of that effort.

A 2007 *summa cum laude* graduate of Tuskegee University, she once had a long conversation with a social worker that changed the direction this then aspiring lawyer would take.

"I always knew that I wanted to pursue a career that would be based on serving vulnerable populations and advocating for others," says Snead. The social worker "enlightened" her, Snead says, about the broad field of social work and its various employment and career options.

While finishing her undergraduate work at Tuskegee, Snead was planning ahead and researching graduate schools that would help in reaching her new goal of managing or directing a nonprofit organization. Her research quickly led her to the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

The School's top 20 ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* is one reason she chose the University of Maryland. But more so, Snead

says, "the option to pursue management and community organization as a concentration attracted me." The School's program offered the training and experience needed to make her "more marketable as a professional social worker," she says. Snead's academic specialization is mental health with a subspecialization in substance abuse.

Snead performs her fieldwork at My Brother's Keeper, a small nonprofit/grass-roots ministry in the Irvington community of Southwest Baltimore. She says her experience there has been very beneficial.

"I am specifically learning about management and program development," she says. "I work closely with the executive director and the board of directors to address the challenges in the program's management systems and to make recommendations for improvement."

The financial burden of Snead's education has been eased by a Mark Battle Scholarship in Non-Profit Management from the School's Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS). The award is named in honor of a former SWCOS director and nationally known social work educator and leader. Battle was executive director of the National Associa-

tion of Social Workers from 1984 to 1992.

Snead met Battle, now in his 80s, at SWCOS' 15th anniversary gala in March. It was a special moment for her.

"It became evident to me very early in my conversation that he was full of wisdom," Snead says. "It was almost as if I was sitting at his feet in admiration for his commitment to nonprofit organizations. As a recipient of the Mark Battle Scholarship, I am committed to continuing Mr. Battle's legacy of service."

Snead's plan for success after graduation, she says, goes like this:

"My goal is to gain employment with a faith-based, nonprofit organization to learn the basics of managing grass-roots organizations. Over the next five years, I will commit to maintaining employment with a nonprofit organization to gain experience related to the prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment of individuals with severe and persistent mental disorders and/or substance abuse.

"With this knowledge and training, I will be able within the next 10 years to develop and manage a faith-based recovery and rehabilitation treatment program for populations who experience mental and substance abuse disorders."



‘Bold Experiment’ Continues to Serve Students and Communities After 15 Years

by Rosalia Scalia



For 15 years now, SWCOS—the Social Work Community Outreach Service—has helped the Baltimore area’s underserved families, individuals, groups, and communities. The School of Social Work program celebrated its anniversary on March 6 at the American Visionary Art Museum—an apt place to honor its founder, School of Social Work alumnus and former Dean Jesse J. Harris, PhD, MSW ’75.

Harris first scribbled his idea of an outreach agency within the School on a dinner napkin.

“We had been accused of not being visible in the community,” Harris recalls of the School. “Social Work faculty had been doing pro bono work in the field before, but no one connected them in a concrete way to the School.”

“We wanted to serve the community in innovative ways,” Harris says of SWCOS, “ways that were unique and different and which still helped people solve their problems.” And, Harris says, SWCOS was to be “a symbol of the School in the community.”



In a bright room at the Maree Farring Elementary School, Valerie Bouchard Davlin, a first-year intern from the School of Social Work who is working with SWCOS, counsels students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, both individually and in groups. A master’s-level graduate student specializing in mental health, Davlin is fluent in Spanish, which helps her serve as a liaison between Hispanic parents and the school staff.

“An hour before school ends, the parents and I meet, and often I will have guest speakers come to talk to them,” Davlin says. “For instance, a few weeks ago, someone came and spoke about health issues. Last week, a lawyer came to speak about immigration issues.” Davlin says this first experience in the field is teaching her “everything from how to approach people to how to organize paperwork.”

Before entering the School of Social Work, Davlin traveled the world and worked as a translator. But she has always wanted to help people, and at the University—through her work at the elementary school—her long-held desire to help others is being realized.



Across town, community organizer Frank Pantinella, a SWCOS alumnus from 2002, wields a shovel, working with residents of Reservoir Hill in a greening project. He began his association with Reservoir Hill during his field placement as a student, using greening projects to first involve residents with each other and then in civic activities.

“Reservoir Hill is an underserved neighborhood. If you look at the census, you’ll see it has all the earmarks for a low-income neighborhood—lots of female-headed households, lots of children, a lack of jobs,” says Pantinella, who bought a house there. “My goal is to get [residents] to become politically active.”

Interns such as Pantinella who work through SWCOS’ Neighborhood Fellows program help transform undervalued neighborhoods into ones of choice. These students, working with various community-based groups funded by organizations such as the Goldseker Foundation, Healthy Neighborhoods Inc., the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative, and the Baltimore Community Foundation, help identify and develop resident leaders. And they assist with block improvement, green space, and cleanup initiatives, and help residents avoid mortgage foreclosure and predatory lending practices. Trained as community partners and organizers, the students teach residents how to maintain revitalization efforts by organizing improvement projects, writing grant proposals, and advocating for decent rental housing.

Mary Mayzck, executive director of the Mutual Housing Association of Baltimore, Inc., says her organization’s collaboration with SWCOS

and its student interns has brought about “positive improvements” in the two housing developments the organization oversees.

“Andrea Smid, a community organizer student from SWCOS, has worked cohesively with residents to increase their involvement, improve neighborhood conditions, grow in self-sufficiency, and develop leadership skills,” Mayzck says. “We are privileged to have obtained the services of Bob Kirk, the field instructor, and of Andrea, and we hope to continue the partnership with SWCOS into the future.”

“Through Andrea’s work,” Mayzck adds, “our residents have not only come to know each other as neighbors, but she assisted in connecting them to the greater community and other nearby community organizations, so that they learn that others may have similar problems and how they are resolving those problems.”



The idea of an outreach agency within the School of Social Work has proved to be an innovation. But when it was proposed 15 years ago, it met with extensive faculty debate. There was concern that the entity would drain money from existing programs and projects.

But aided by a \$500,000 matching grant from the Meyerhoff Foundation as seed money for the outreach, SWCOS was established in a converted classroom on the School’s first floor. It had the distinction of being the nation’s first organization to combine cutting-edge social work education and practice with innovative community-centered field placements and faculty research opportunities under one roof.

“Jesse Harris’ vision 15 years ago ignited a firestorm of new energy, enthusiasm, and resources from Baltimore’s neighborhoods, community-based organizations, and the philanthropic community, all directed to connecting the knowledge and talent in the School of Social Work with the opportunities, needs, and talents in the local community,” says alumnus Richard Cook, MSW ’72, current SWCOS director.

“SWCOS began as a bold experiment and with the idea that social work students could learn and grow from the experience of providing services to the most marginalized citizens and at the same time communities would benefit from the combined efforts of graduate-level social workers and faculty,” says Cook.

From SWCOS’ inception, a community advisory board and a faculty advisory committee have worked together to ensure that neighborhoods’ needs are understood. And faculty make sure that the work being done by social work students meets educational requirements.

In the early years, Professor Paul Ephross, PhD, SWCOS’ first executive director, met with Alvin Collins, then director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

“I told him what we were trying to do with SWCOS, wondering if he would think we were trying to take his clients, and he laughed and simply said, ‘So many people need help,’” says Ephross, now professor emeritus. “He promised to send referrals when we were ready for them. As it turned out, the students worked directly in the community, and we never asked for nor received any referrals.”



In Fells Point, Adelante Familia, a community support center in an area with a large Hispanic population, can now adequately respond to women with language barriers who need assistance with domestic violence issues—thanks to SWCOS.

Lisa Knickmeyer, who recently left as director of the center, had been a SWCOS intern at another agency focused on Spanish-speaking immigrants. While running Adelante Familia (with support from Baltimore's Saint Vincent de Paul Society), Knickmeyer was able to make numerous connections to community groups and experts, SWCOS interns, and others who helped her find a focus for the center.

Baltimore, a veritable headquarters for nonprofit organizations, has seen a number of agencies close due to financial and organizational problems. "They are so focused on doing their work they forget about taking care of their organizational needs," says Ted Busch, MSW, director of the Resource Mentoring Project, a SWCOS program launched in 2003. Since its inception, nine students have worked in the program, students such as Helen Diane Johnson and Emily Lee, who are interested in helping nonprofit organizations build their capacity, stability, and sustainability. The students and Busch assist agencies with board development, strategic planning, and identification of growth areas.



"I really wanted to teach," says Ephross, who divided his time while SWCOS executive director between teaching and running the nascent agency. "I wanted to be a professor. I didn't want to run an agency, so after a while I resigned, and it's a good thing too

because Mark Battle took over as executive director, and he had the skills and experience to better run an agency. Mark Battle is one of the great men of SWCOS, moving it in the direction it needed to go."

Battle, MSW, who first joined the School as a visiting professor, brought to SWCOS a deep knowledge of and practical experience in running an outreach agency.

"My primary contribution to SWCOS," says Battle, now retired, "was developing an infrastructure and management system so that it could operate as an entity. There were a lot of things that needed

"We are bringing the best that the University has to offer to the struggles that communities engage in to solve critical problems. And in the process we are producing highly competent professionals who will continue that struggle for decades to come."

— Richard Cook

to be worked through. Initially, SWCOS was an idea, but basic things had to be spelled out—things like budget, like standard procedures for students being in the community, and other specifics. And there were obstacles."

One of SWCOS' major hurdles was gaining community trust. "Community members just found it hard to believe that the University was there to help them as a true partner," Battle says, adding that community leaders were reluctant to "accept the social work students' work without suspicion that the University was going to use them as guinea pigs or take something from them."

"Community acceptance became total by the end of the third year," Battle says.

After a while, SWCOS began working on projects that extended

beyond the communities and neighborhoods surrounding the campus. Battle credits an alumna, the late Julee Kryder-Coe, MSW '79, who worked on a major grant proposal to serve AIDS patients statewide, with getting SWCOS to first extend its reach.

"Started on an idea and a thin shoestring," Harris says, SWCOS came a long way under the direction of Ephross and Battle. SWCOS "surpassed all my expectations," says Battle, and he found the job as its executive director "fun and satisfying." But eventually, he too retired from the job.

Then it was time for the next step. Enter Richard Cook, SWCOS' third executive director.

"Dick had been a Peace Corps volunteer who had done a brilliant study on the decision-making process for community groups," Ephross recalls of his former student.

Armed with his research, his Peace Corps experience, and his master's degree from the School, Cook took over SWCOS and its small budget in 1995 and grew it into an agency that—according to Anirban Basu, a nationally known economist currently working on an economic report for SWCOS—has a \$3 million impact on the Baltimore area. SWCOS' annual budget has been roughly \$830,000 over the past three years.

"SWCOS is beautifully positioned to provide leadership in campuswide efforts to direct the

benefits of excellent graduate training to strengthen the fabric of Baltimore and the state," says School of Social Work Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW.



Baltimore might be drop-dead hot in July, but that doesn't stop SWCOS interns such as Ramona Harrison from staffing booths at festivals and community fairs to teach people how to obtain better information about health issues and local services.

Using wireless technology, Harrison demonstrates the Maryland Health→Go Local Web site, an Internet-based information system developed by the University's Health Sciences and Human Services Library in partnership with the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine. The site identifies information resources and local health care providers—it's a tool that is especially helpful for the medically underserved. Through Harrison's efforts, a recent heart attack survivor found a cardiac rehabilitation center near her home, a middle-aged man concerned about prostate health located a free program near his home, and a newly blind woman identified low-cost resources to help her retain her independence.

Fairs and festivals are not Harrison's only stops. She also performs Maryland Health→Go Local demonstrations for groups including Head Start and the Latino Providers Network.



Before Cook arrived as executive director, SWCOS operated under the social work practice model that called for clients to come to social workers, rather than for social workers to go into the

community and work at a grassroots level.

“When I first got here, there were about 30 students working in the cramped SWCOS offices,” says Cook. “My first objective was to get them out into the community, into the field.”

Under Cook’s leadership and the watchful eyes of the advisory board, the agency expanded its services into a greater number of communities, increased the number of students participating, added new programs such as the Peace Corps Fellows, and—almost inadvertently—fostered a sense of entrepreneurship among its interns. After graduation, many continued the type of work they performed with SWCOS by forming their own nonprofit organizations, including a charter school—the Baltimore Freedom Academy—and the Maryland CASH Campaign, an organization that helps people on low incomes with their cash flow and tax returns. And SWCOS-trained social-work leaders across the nation rely on connections to each other forged during their SWCOS internships.

Currently, the agency has more than 70 student interns. During the 2007-08 academic year, SWCOS interns logged about 37,000 hours of services to the Baltimore area.

Now an integrated and integral part of the School of Social Work, SWCOS demonstrates the critical interrelationships among practice, education, and training for social work professionals.

“When SWCOS began, community-university partnerships were seen as something new and innovative,” Cook says. “Today, most universities have some form of community-university partnership. In some cases, it is service learning. In some cases, it is participatory research invited by



JAY BAKER

From left to right: Richard Cook, Sue Wolman, and Jesse Harris celebrate 15 years of success at the SWCOS gala in March.

the community.”

“There were 13 students the first year, and then it grew from there,” says Sue Wolman, who became chair of the SWCOS community advisory board in 1996 and has remained in that position since. “From the beginning I was greatly impressed by how dynamic and high quality the students were that SWCOS was attracting. Over the years I have seen the work of the highly dedicated staff as equally inspiring, and I have remained involved all this time as I deeply believe in this program and its widespread impact.”

During its 15 years, SWCOS has helped educate more than 800 students—including a growing cadre of returning Peace Corps volunteers. “But we are not just exposing students to community issues,” Cook says. “And we are not just involving faculty in community research. We are bringing the best that the University has to offer to the struggles that communities engage in to solve critical problems. And in the process we are producing highly competent professionals who will continue that struggle for decades to come.”

Cook notes that much of the funding for SWCOS comes from sources external to the University in the form of grants, contracts, and contributions.

“After its most recent tough

economic times when there were a lot of cuts, the advisory board took on the role of fundraisers,” says Wolman. “Over the years we have also hosted tours of SWCOS sites and held celebration events every five years as ways of making SWCOS known to the wider community.”

Harris says the credit for SWCOS’ success belongs to the executive directors, the student interns, and all who contributed to its growth.

“I came up with the idea, but that’s it. If it had been left to me to run, it would have died a long time ago as my job as dean encompassed many other things,” says Harris. “Other people did all of the work.”

Fifteen years after graduating, Harris returned to the School of Social Work as a faculty member. With a highly decorated military career behind him, he was a recognized pioneer in military social work. Only a year after joining the faculty, Harris became dean of the School, and during his tenure in that position he led the School to national prominence and launched a number of innovative efforts—SWCOS among them.



The March 6 gala that celebrated SWCOS’ anniversary and honored

Harris was sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation; Legg Mason Investment Counsel; P.W. Feats Inc.; Geoffrey Greif, DSW, MSW, professor at the School of Social Work and Maureen Lefton-Greif, PhD, associate clinical professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; the Baltimore Community Foundation; the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Maryland chapter and the NASW Foundation; and Joan Dolina and friends.

SWCOS can boast of concrete positive outcomes during its first 15 years. According to Cook, due to the presence of social work students in public elementary and middle schools, school libraries and playgrounds now exist where they did not before. Neighborhood residents—particularly Spanish speakers—have become more involved in their communities, more active in creating a bright future for their children. And not only has the number of community-based organizations grown, but the existing ones have become stronger.

SWCOS has created an array of community partners, empowering residents and SWCOS students alike. It also has partnered with other schools on campus to tackle pressing issues such as homelessness and the lack of affordable housing.

“Now we need to move SWCOS past its startup mind-set and begin thinking of more stability and permanence,” says Cook, whose goals include finding ways to grow the service’s endowment.

“SWCOS is in its adolescent years,” says Harris. But though SWCOS has some growing to do, its founder is pleased that an idea scribbled on a cocktail napkin 15 years ago has been embraced by so many and continues to pioneer innovative ways to practice social work.



Sandy Hess

PHOTO CREDIT: JAY BAKER

'78 Alumna Says Giving to the School Helps the School Give Too

It was the 1970s and America was changing. The war in Vietnam was slowly ending, gas shortages were growing, and scandal in Washington was rocking the world. Many Americans wanted to move beyond these global issues and focus more and more on improving life in the communities in which they lived. Sandy Hess, MSW, was one of those special people.

Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Hess graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., with a degree in government. Marriage brought her to Baltimore, where she assumed the then traditional mother role of staying at home to raise her four children. By the mid-1970s, however, Hess was “ready for a career move from car pools and kitchen to something different,” she says. A career in social work was calling.

Hess did some research and found a description of the School of Social Work’s social strategy concentration. “The focus on strengthening communities, planning, and systemic improvement appealed to me,” she says. Hess became a part-time student at the School and had field placements at the Health and Welfare Council (which is now defunct) and the United Way of Central Maryland, where she ended up working after her graduation in 1978.

The death of one of her children pulled Hess from social work for a while. But she returned to become director of the Baltimore Institute for Jewish Communal Service, which was teamed with the

School in offering a dual-degree program in social work and Jewish communal service. “I wasn’t happy with the School at that time,” Hess says. “It was difficult to have the School accept field placements appropriate for the students.”

That was not her only frustration. “I was able to recognize areas where the School was deficient, particularly in fundraising courses and providing individuals with a community organizing experience with administration and budgeting,” she says.

Then, in 1993, the School created the Social Work Community Outreach Service, and Hess learned of its “impact on underserved populations” and its “ability to create innovative approaches to societal problems.” Today, Hess has gone from an alumna feeling distant and disconnected from her alma mater to one of its greatest supporters—both financially and as a lead volunteer.

The School is in the beginning stages of a \$10 million capital campaign, part of the University’s five-year, \$650 million fundraising effort. Hess strongly believes that as government funding continues to decline and community needs continue to grow, “by supporting the School of Social Work we can help ensure and even expand our influence.

“All contributions, large or small, will help the School become a greater force for change and for improvement in the quality of life for all.”



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK TESKE

Barbara and Ed Brody

“The Brodys are the perfect choice to head the School of Social Work’s capital campaign.”

—Richard P. Barth

Making the World a Better Place Is Important to Capital Campaign Chairs By Ronald Hube

Barbara and Ed Brody have been involved with strengthening Baltimore communities and schools for their entire adult lives.

In the early 1990s, for instance, they created a support group for parents of service members in the Persian Gulf War—two of the Baltimore couple’s three sons served in the gulf during the war. Jesse J. Harris, then a professor and soon to be the dean of the School of Social Work, was told about the group, and he and other faculty members lent their support. Harris had a military career as a social worker and substantial expertise with military families.

“We got to know Jesse,” Ed Brody says, “and we became friends.”

So began the Brodys’ long affiliation with the School of Social Work—Barbara Brody as an adjunct clinical instructor (she had been a social worker for Baltimore public schools), and Ed Brody as chair of the School of Social Work’s Board of Advisors (he had earlier been vice chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners). In 2003, Ed received the Dean’s Medal from the School of Social Work

for his service on the Board of Advisors.

Now the Brodys are co-chairs of the School of Social Work’s capital campaign. Leading a \$10 million capital campaign is a challenge, but the Brodys have a history of making things work.

“The Brodys are the perfect choice to head the School of Social Work’s capital campaign,” says Richard P. Barth, dean of the School. “They exemplify the School’s intention and history of a deep commitment to Baltimore and the advancement of the profession,” Barth says. “They have lived the School’s campaign theme: ‘Strengthening the fabric of society—one thread at a time.’”

Among the Brodys’ accomplishments as capital campaign co-chairs has been expansion of a scholarship they earlier established to attract new students who otherwise would not be able to attend the School.

Along with actively serving as co-chairs of the campaign, the Brodys have many other current community responsibilities. Ed serves on the University of Maryland,

Baltimore Foundation, Inc.’s Board of Trustees, chairs the Lyric Opera House’s board of directors, and is vice chair of MedStar Health, a nonprofit community-based health care organization. Barbara is an advisory board member for the House of Ruth and the Keswick Multi-Care Center. They have both assisted in the development of the SEED School of Maryland for disadvantaged students, due to open this fall.

The Brodys say they were happy to take on the task of being capital campaign chairs for the School of Social Work.

“The School, with its innovative dean, a strong faculty, and perhaps most importantly, students who care deeply about the mission of social work, is an institution well worth the time and effort,” Barbara says.

“The students want to make this a better world,” she adds. “They are very devoted to that cause.”

The same is certainly true of the Brodys.

Connections

Alumni News

Message From the Alumni Association President



Hello and welcome all alumni!

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kate Barron Genut, LCSW-C, MSW. I graduated from the School of Social Work in 1970. Some 38 years later, I am excited and eager to return to the School as president of your alumni association.

I look forward to a rebirth and revitalization of our association. In order for my vision to become a reality, I desperately need your help. I need help from all of you. The School of Social Work Alumni Association is 11,000 strong and growing, yet we have contact with only a handful of you.

I would like to connect with as many of you as possible and involve you in the School with our students and faculty. I need you to act as mentors, guest speakers, and role models for our students as well as ambassadors on behalf of our School.

I believe that each and every one of the School's 11,000 alumni can contribute by sharing their knowledge, experience, skills, and wisdom with our students as well as with each other. The students need to be connected to their alumni. The School wants to be connected with you.

I anticipate that under the leadership of our vibrant dean, Dr. Richard P. Barth (who would love to have more alumni involved), our School will have increased visibility and broader recognition as a prominent training facility for new and developing social workers. In this past year, we have moved up one spot to No. 18 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the top schools of social work in the country. In order to move ahead we need a strong and committed alumni association. Only you can make this happen!

As I begin my job as your president with lots of exciting ideas and visions, I invite each of you to join me in reinvigorating and reinventing our alumni association. It is time for us to move forward together. I welcome hearing from you at kgenut@gmail.com with your ideas (you must have many), your willingness to help, and, most importantly, where you are and what you are doing.

Let me know what we can do for you. Let me know if you are interested in being on committees, in volunteering to be a mentor, or serving as a guest speaker. If you want to help find alumni we have lost contact with, let me know that, too. If you have any questions or issues you want to discuss, please feel free to contact me.

Together we can work to forge a new and exciting School of Social Work Alumni Association.

Sincerely,

Kate



Paul Maiden

'95 Alumnus Is Vice Dean at USC School of Social Work

Paul Maiden, PhD '95, MSSW, has been named the University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work's vice dean of faculty and student affairs. He brings to the post 27 years of expertise in the field of workplace human services, most recently with the University of Central Florida's School of Social Work.

In his role at USC, Maiden serves as the chief operating officer of the School of Social Work, assuming a leadership and development role in a range of domestic and international programs. He also oversees the development of the school's distance learning and Web-based instruction initiatives.

Maiden, who is editor of the *Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*, the only peer-reviewed journal in this field, has published extensively in the areas of employee assistance programs, substance abuse, and workplace legislation, as well as evaluation of work-based human services, AIDS in the workplace, alcohol abuse and domestic violence, and managed behavioral health care.

Maiden also has extensive international experience, and has twice received Senior Fulbright Scholar awards to Russia and South Africa with a focus on workplace substance abuse and workplace violence.



Class of 1967

Time to Tell Our Story

The School of Social Work will be 50 years old in 2011. The School has grown from its infancy in a warehouse to one of America's largest and most respected schools of social work with a rich history to tell.

One person is trying to put our history together so future generations can see just how far we have come since our "warehouse days." Professor Emeritus Harris Chaiklin, PhD, MS, is collecting information about the School, and your assistance is greatly needed.

School of Social Work alumni

are encouraged to visit the School's alumni Web site (ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni) and complete a short history survey. Your memories will help tell the story of the University of Maryland School of Social Work—Chaiklin plans to use information from the survey to create a historical archive. Assisting him on the project is Erin Penniston, a School of Social Work student and research assistant scholar.

In a related history project, a group of dedicated alumni have put their memories to paper in a book about the Class of 1965:

Tales From the Warehouse, The Class of '65 Remembers. The book includes information on what members of the class went on to achieve and where the graduates are now.

One of the first copies of the book was presented earlier this year to Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School of Social Work. "With our blessing, we hope through these words you will laugh with us and cry with us and enjoy," said 1965 alumna Gerry Aronin, MSW. "Some of our remembrances are happy,

some sad. But as a class, we feel privileged to be graduates of the University of Maryland School of Social Work."

For more information about the book, or to submit information or photos for Chaiklin's history project, visit the Web site of the School's Office of Alumni Relations at www.ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni. Items can also be mailed to the University of Maryland School of Social Work, Alumni Office—History Project, 525 W. Redwood St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

New Alumni Directory Project Under Way

In an effort to bring alumni from around the globe back together, we are proud to announce the publication of *University of Maryland School of Social Work Alumni: Today*, an exciting new book that combines the memories of yesterday with insights of alumni today.

Scheduled for release in the spring of 2009, our alumni publication will be the most up-to-date and complete reference of more than 11,000 University of Maryland School of Social Work graduates ever compiled. With an array of photographs and messages submitted by alumni, as well as detailed biographical profiles, the book will be an extraordinarily rich and entertaining record of our School.

This comprehensive volume will include not only graduates' current and maiden names, class year(s), and degree(s), but also their home address and phone number, names of spouse and children, detailed professional information, and a short note about what they've been doing since graduation.

Harris Connect, Inc., which has been chosen to produce this special publication, will soon begin researching and compiling data by sending a questionnaire to alumni. Please be sure to complete and return it promptly. If your mailing address has changed, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-706-0006 or www.ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni.

With your participation, the 2009 edition of the *University of Maryland, School of Social Work Alumni: Today* is sure to be a great success. Look for more details on the project in future issues of *Connections*.

class of **1973**

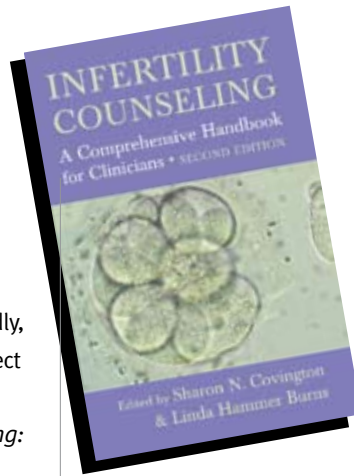
Sharon Covington, MSW

The field of assisted reproductive technologies is growing rapidly, and helping to gather and share important research on the subject is Sharon Covington. Her work as co-editor, along with Linda Hammer Burns, PhD, on the highly acclaimed *Infertility Counseling: A Comprehensive Handbook for Clinicians* is now in its second edition. In the March 2008 edition of the journal *Fertility and Sterility*, Elizabeth West, RNC, BSN, NPG, writes that the handbook—rich in evidence-based research—“reminds us that the mission of every infertility practice should be not merely to achieve a pregnancy with every patient, but rather to utilize the collaborative model described throughout these chapters to help each patient leave our care having reached a satisfactory resolution to their quest for family building. *Infertility Counseling* not only reinforces the importance of the mental health professional in this endeavor, it highlights the fact that it takes the commitment of the entire team to achieve this goal.” Covington is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She is also director of psychological support services at Shady Grove Fertility Reproductive Science Center in Rockville, Md. A psychotherapist for more than 30 years, she practices individual, couple, and group psychotherapy as well as the highly specialized area of infertility counseling. Her book is available at numerous online stores.

class of **1991**

Barb Elgin, MSW

“I reside in North Central Florida with my 17-year-old healthy and hardy miniature pinscher, Ruby (I call her my most precious antique). The fall and winter seasons here are incredible! You will frequently find me entertaining my family and friends from the North. I’ve become one of those who says, ‘My other car is a golf cart.’ Professionally, I continue to grow Coach Sappho®, the relationship coaching firm for lesbian women I founded several years ago. I’ve created several of my own Web sites and blogs. I’m currently writing a book that will be published sometime next year! Coach Sappho® offers numerous programs for lesbians who are creating deeply satisfying and lasting life partnerships. You can catch up with me on the Web at www.barbelgin.com. Be sure to drop me a line and, I’m just north of Mickey Mouse, so the next time you visit Disney World—stop



Barb Elgin



Roya Fahmy-Swartz and family

on by! Lastly, I just have to say that the education I received at the School and the various experiences in social work practice that followed have prepared me perfectly for what I’ve chosen to do today. I live my work and Coach Sappho® is my legacy.”

Daniel Kavanaugh, MSW

The National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (NAEMSP) presented Capt. Daniel Kavanaugh with its 2008 Friends of EMS Award at its annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. This award recognizes contributions to NAEMSP’s mission of fostering excellence in out-of-hospital health care through influencing or implementing public policy. The award is typically given to a governmental individual or organization, EMS organization or congressional leader. Recent recipients have included Dr. Richard Carmona (former U.S. surgeon general), Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, Dr. Jeff Runge (chief medical officer, Department of Homeland Security), and Drew Dawson (EMS chief, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Kavanaugh is a commissioned officer of the U.S. Public Health Service and is the senior program manager for the Federal Emergency Medical Services for Children Program within the Department of Health and Human Services.

class of **1992**

Nona Green Bowers, MSW

"I was married on May 19, 2007, at the Manor Tavern in Monkton. Ray and I met while swing dancing. We dance together on a competitive swing team called Capital Swing. Ray is a "computer geek" and works in the field of data warehousing. We are living in Alexandria, Va. Life is sweet!"

class of **1993**

James Black, MSW

"I have been the clinical director and utilization review manager of the Cedar Street Family Clinic, Inc., in Worcester, Mass., since May 2007. Prior to that, I was director of forensic mental health at the Worcester County House of Corrections. I also provided emergency mental health services at multiple sites in Worcester County, and I continue to maintain a small consulting and therapy practice. I am also the proud father of 7-year-old triplets and their 10-year-old brother!"

class of **1994**

Karena Cooper, MSW

"After five years in the Compliance Division at the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Human Research Protection, I took a legal position in February 2008 as regulatory counsel at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Office of Compliance."

class of **1998**

Roya Fahmy-Swartz, MSW

"It has been 10 years and I am so glad to be back in touch! I am currently living in Pennsylvania with my husband of 20 years and my 8-year-old daughter adopted from Southern India, and I am working in my own practice. My company/practice is called Visions of Tolerance. It was started seven years ago and focuses on using the creative and performing arts to promote peace and multicultural exchange, domestically and internationally. I have worked and continue to work in the academic, business, government, NGO, and nonprofit worlds. I strongly believe that working with youth and adults on this vital issue can counterbalance the

strong focus on violence in today's world. I am grateful to the School of Social Work for giving me an excellent foundation with which to do my work. I am looking to be in touch with friends—classmates from the Class of 1998 and surrounding classes: Mia, Paul, Michael, Ajay, Sally, and others. Please e-mail me at royasvision@comcast.net."

class of **2005**, class of **2006**

James Coles II, MSW Katie Helton Coles, MSW

James Coles II, '06, and Katie Helton, '05, were married in October 2007. Katie is a treatment specialist at the Arrow Center for Education in Bel Air, Md., and James is an electronic medical records administrator for Baltimore Behavioral Health.

class of **2006**

Michelle Young, MSW

"My husband and I had a baby boy in March 2007, and I was able to make a career change that allows me to stay at home mostly full time with Ryan. I am seeing clients two days a week in a group psychotherapy practice in the Columbia area. I see children, adolescents, and adults with a variety of presenting problems. About a third of my caseload is from my specialty of eating disorders. I love the variety of being in private practice, but love more the flexibility that allows me to stay home with my son!"

In Memoriam

Marre F. Fanning, MSW '67, Lutherville, Md.
Mary C. Maffezzoli, MSW '73, Baltimore, Md.
Dennis J. O'Meara, MSW '92, Laurel, Md.
George C. Poff Jr., MSW '68, Fallston, Md.
Mary T. Rowe, MSW '73, Waterville, Maine
Ralph M. Schley, MSW '64, Norfolk, Va.



Melissa Anne Kline

Kline and Jim Nussle, director of the federal Office of Management and Budget

Social Work Education Serves Her Well in White House

It was just a few short years ago that Melissa Anne Kline, MSW '05, was a student at the School of Social Work. Today, she is working at the White House in the Budget Office—for the president of the United States.

Kline has gone from learning about program, human resource, and financial management issues in social work to putting that knowledge into practice by helping to oversee the management and implementation of the country's \$2.9 trillion budget. It is a challenge the Silver Spring resident never envisioned.

"If you had asked me when I was a student if I would ever end up at the Executive Office of the President working on evaluations of the government's programs, I would have laughed," Kline says.

But the link between her education and her current duties isn't that big a stretch. In fact, obtaining her job was made possible by attending the School of Social Work, where Kline had a management and community organization (MACO)/clinical double concentration. She specialized in health, with a subspecialty in child, adolescent, and family health. "The MACO classes really set me apart as a social worker," Kline explains, "because I obtained a broader set of skills that was attractive to future employers."

Kline's road to the White House began at the School when she was accepted into the

national Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Program. The purpose of the PMF Program is to attract to federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest in—and commitment to—excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs.

During Kline's two years in the program, she had five different jobs that allowed her to "gain a more comprehensive understanding of how the federal government works," she says, while seeing "the many opportunities for an enriching and rewarding career."

Kline is a program examiner in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)—the largest office in the Executive Office of the President. She assists the president by analyzing issues and presenting options for national policy in the areas of budget, legislation, regulation, financial management, and human capital management.

"It is a fast-paced and intellectually stimulating place to be," she says. "I am the lead for government-wide human capital management policy at OMB. Recently, our team helped to architect an executive order that institutionalizes program improvement and accountability in federal departments and agencies."

"We also are conscientious stewards of taxpayers' dollars by overseeing the management

and implementation of the budget," she adds.

Through her job, Kline is able to educate others that social workers are more than just people working with at-risk children. "We each have a responsibility to educate professionals in other disciplines about social work practice," she says.

Kline also makes use of her abilities that are more commonly associated with social work.

"I've been able to draw on my community organization skills to develop a collaborative network between my office, good government groups, agencies, and even the private sector on evidence-based human capital resources," she says. "It reminds me of everything I studied in school about spanning boundaries."

As for her future, Kline is looking forward to the November presidential election. "It will have a real and immediate impact on my life," she says. "I definitely see myself staying at OMB in the near future."

She wants to create stronger ties between the School of Social Work and her office.

"I hope to open up a field placement opportunity within my office for students interested in policy and program evaluation," she says. "I think it would be a great opportunity to expose the Executive Office of the President to more social workers and give students a chance to apply their policy, research, and evaluation skills."

Connections is a publication of the University of Maryland School of Social Work. It is produced by the School's Office of Communications with assistance from the University's Office of External Affairs. Articles and news items should be sent to the Office of Communications at the School.

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AlumniNews

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STUDENTS HAVE FIELD PLACEMENTS IN INDIA

One of the most important components of a student's learning experience at the School of Social Work is their field placement. Several students traveled to India for a field placement experience like few others. [Read More »](#)



CAPTURING THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

In just a few short years the School will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Retired Professor Harris Chaiklin is working on capturing our rich history and is seeking your memories and more. Also, the Class of 1965 puts their memories to paper. [Read More »](#)



MEET YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The School and several dedicated individuals have worked hard to re-establish an Alumni Association at the School of Social Work. Spend some time getting to know one of its members, Kate Genut, LCSW-C, MSW '70. [Read More »](#)



STUDENTS ARE NOT OUR ONLY GRADUATES

The School of Social Work's Grandparent Family Connections project works with local grandparents who find themselves raising their grandchildren. A graduation ceremony for some of the grandparents in the program was recently held. [Read More »](#)

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[10 Events You Need To Know About](#)

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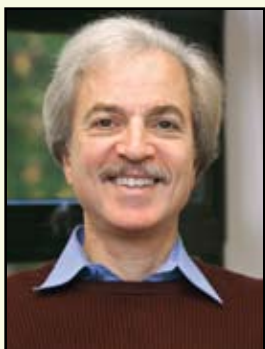
Find out about all the latest news plus events, career development, and much more by reading the School of Social Work's new alumni newsletter *AlumniNews*.

Delivered free right to your e-mail inbox every month of the school year, *AlumniNews* keeps you up to date on all the happenings at your alma mater.

If you are not receiving *AlumniNews*, it is easy to sign up. Visit www.ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni and click the link for the alumni newsletter.

Homecoming 2008

The School of Social Work celebrates Homecoming 2008 on Friday, Oct. 24. Come back to your alma mater and reunite with old classmates, see what is new, network or attend a lecture and earn free CEUs!



Michael Reisch

The School's new Daniel Thursz Professor of Social Justice, **Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA**—one of the nation's foremost experts on social justice issues—is the featured lecturer.

For more information or to register, visit www.ssw.umaryland.edu/homecoming.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2008!

Friday, Oct. 24th *Save the Date*



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525 West Redwood Street
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