

TSSW LAUNCHES DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

By Annemarie Haydel, TSSW Marketing

Disasters are traumatic and unplanned events that take many forms ranging from house fires to hurricanes and floods, and from plane crashes to acts of terrorism. Although these traumas are unexpected, the response to those affected should be directed with organized, research-based and proven methods to ensure the mental health of those individuals involved in the response and recovery efforts.

Under the direction of Associate Dean Jane Parker, the Tulane University Disaster Mental Health Institute will be a dynamic research and training institute to promote higher levels of mental health service delivery during and in the wake of disasters or community trauma. The organization will bring together the best minds, evidence-based research, and outstanding leaders and trainers from multiple disciplines to promote best practices in post-trauma and disaster mental health.

"We recognize that advance preparation, early intervention, and unique follow-up techniques can assist those whose lives are touched by disaster," said Parker. "Disaster mental health demands more immediacy, higher interpersonal skills, and the flexible

use of worker and survivor resources in a faster time frame and in unconventional settings." Most importantly, said Parker, the Tulane University Disaster Mental Health Institute will be proactive and sustainable over time.

"Based on experiences from prior disasters, we will promote general strategies to maintain mental health and resilience," said Parker. "This institute will go beyond Hurricane Katrina, and will be imperative for successful recovery from future disasters."

As with all School initiatives, current students are involved with the institute. Students have the opportunity to receive a certificate in disaster mental health that is earned concurrently with their MSW degree. This year, a professional project group is assisting in background research and pilot training in cognitive behavioral skills for responders and their families to use to mitigate the impact of trauma in their life.

The Disaster Mental Health Institute will hold its first board meeting in October 2007. For more information about the Tulane University Disaster Mental Health Institute, please contact Jane Parker at janep@tulane.edu or 800-631-8234.

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TSSW PARTNERSHIP YIELDS GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

By Annemarie Haydel, TSSW Marketing

It was during a trip to India four years ago that Dean Ron Marks first explored the opportunity for international field placements for TSSW students. After successful contact with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, the School formed a strategic alliance that is also part of initial steps to create the Center for International Community Partnerships at Tulane University. TISS, the foremost training center for graduate professional training of social work in India, will host TSSW students this fall as they complete their field placement requirement in an international setting.

"This partnership serves a number of purposes, including increased visibility on the international scene," said Marks. "It will also help us develop diverse, globally-engaged social work professionals, which will help us understand the challenges facing our world in the 21st century."

In August 2006, Marks and Eileen Ihrig, Director of International Programming for TSSW, traveled to Mumbai to meet with TISS directors and faculty. Marks and Ihrig visited some of the community-based pro-

grams networked with TISS, and knew that the partnership would provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity for TSSW students. TISS, established in 1936, is the first school of social work in India.

"We know our students will have an extraordinary chance to learn social work in the context of Indian society. We expect them to come back with new skill sets that will be applicable for work locally within the United States and abroad," said Marks. "I am thrilled that our students will be based at the Tata Institute."

Ihrig has been meeting with students through the summer semester to prepare them for their work in a cross-cultural environment. In addition to dealing with the logistics of an internship abroad, she commented that the group has also been developing inter-cultural competence so students will feel prepared to work in a culture unfamiliar to them.

"During class sessions, we have discussed different topics such as the social-political-historical context of India," said Ihrig. "Students have also become familiar with

the important cultural "do's and don'ts" as well as the ethical dilemmas of working in a cross-cultural environment."

Internships will be in three settings, including an agency that works with street children, an informal education program, and a family service center. Students will spend one day a week visiting other organizations within the community to learn more about the social issues and support services available in India. TSSW students will be in India for a minimum of 10 weeks.

"I know this will be an incredible learning experience for the students. I expect that the students will make a significant contribution in the communities in which they work, as well as experience professional and personal growth," said Ihrig.

Elizabeth Stickman, (MSW/MPH '07), is excited to be among the first students from TSSW to complete their field placement requirement in India.

"I can't wait to make an international connection that will spur future social action," said Stickman. "This is the first stepping stone to international social work for myself personally and the School. We're the first group from TSSW to go, and I can't wait to encourage more students to engage in global social work."

Stickman will be working with children during her international field placement. After completing her undergraduate education at Louisiana State University, Stickman moved to California where she began classes at University of California, Berkeley. She was working at a crisis intervention center when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast.

"Katrina definitely brought me back to Louisiana – I never thought I'd be back to go to graduate school here," said Stickman. "After Katrina, I knew I wanted to work in New Orleans and by going to India, I will learn how India deals with social action and social justice on a global level."

Alumni can read updates from TSSW students in India on the school's Web site, www.tulane.edu/~tssw. Updates should be posted regularly after the students get settled. For more information on the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, please visit www.tiss.edu

GULF COAST NATIVE JOINS TSSW FACULTY

By Jerry Smith (MSW '04)



It was Tulane School of Social Work's commitment to academic excellence that attracted Dr. So'Nia Gilkey to the oldest school of social work in the south. A native of Gulfport, Mississippi, Gilkey is excited to be living back in the Gulf Coast region.

Dr. Gilkey joins TSSW from the University of Pittsburgh, where she conducted an extensive research study on the experience of homelessness. This study was the basis of her dissertation, which was titled "Sheltering A Sanctuary: A Narrative of the Experience of Homelessness."

Gilkey will be teaching "Tools for Learning and Practice" at TSSW this fall. She possesses experience in crisis intervention, disaster aid, and mental health. Gilkey serves as a mental health responder during critical incidents, and has compiled extensive research related to social work practice during the aftermath of a crisis. She also serves as a mental health consultant for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"My practice philosophy evolves from my strong desire and commitment to empowering individuals to impact positive change within their life experiences," said Gilkey.

Gilkey earned a PhD in social work (2007) from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MSW (1997) from the Clark University in Atlanta. She received her BA (1990) from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi.

DEAN'S UPDATE: *Strength, Vitality and Partnerships*

By Ron Marks, PhD

Just before Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, I sent a comprehensive report to Tulane University president Scott Cowen, which concluded with the following summary: "Over the last four years, the School has sustained an upward trajectory in its fiscal health, stature and engagement with the local, national and international community, and management of its programs and people. TSSW is well positioned to capitalize on these positive developments and move forward with strength and vitality."

Two years later, on July 15, 2007, I wrote: "Now, after so many losses sustained by our community and the University as a result of the disaster which befell New Orleans and efforts to retrieve this momentum, it is safe to conclude that the School of Social Work is poised once again to enter a period of growth." I am proud to share the same update with our alumni.

As reported in the Spring 2007 issue of *Postscripts*, TSSW received a significant gift this year from the estate of Shirley K. Gouaux in honor of her brother. Ms. Gouaux's gift of \$1.5 million will enable us to establish the first endowed chair at the School, the Dr. Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Social Work. A search committee will be convened this fall, and a national search will begin to fill this position for the 2008-2009 academic year.

I am especially pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. So'Nia Gilkey (read more about Dr. Gilkey on page 2). She brings wide-ranging expertise to the School with skills in mental health, populations at risk, family therapy, child welfare, and child welfare policy.

Our faculty continue to distinguish themselves through their research, teaching, and engagement with the local, national and international community. Our successes are evidenced through the numerous partnerships listed below:

The American Red Cross – for training students and faculty to respond to future disasters;

UNICEF – to monitor and evaluate programs in the Gulf South funded by UNICEF to respond to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina;

Save the Children – to develop children's mental health assessment tools and address the well-being of children in trailer parks;

Catholic Charities – to train staff in case management;

Mercy Corps – to assess factors which support successful neighborhood coalitions and development of a strengths based, "Youth Well-being Index;"

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies – to fund the grant entitled, "Beyond Courageous Conversation: Race, Class, Gender, Age and Social Justice in New Orleans;"

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – which funded the School's Porter-Cason Institute to work on a project focusing on a jail diversion program in Lafayette, LA.

On a different front, TSSW is now offering undergraduate electives, having recognized that our teachers and content was worth sharing outside the context of the MSW program. We offered the first course in the fall 2003 semester, and twenty-one undergraduates enrolled. The popularity of undergraduate course offerings has skyrocketed - during the academic year which just ended, eleven electives were offered with a combined enrollment of 795 students! Two of these courses, taught by Professor Reginald Parquet, have become so popular that the classes have been moved every semester to larger and larger classrooms. Another course, "Civic Engagement and Leadership" taught by Professor Loretta Pyles, has been identified as a required course for students choosing leadership positions with the University's new Center for Public Service.

Building on this success, TSSW developed a new undergraduate coordinate major which is a vital part of Tulane University's renewal plan following the storm. Curriculum for "Social Policy and Practice" was created by a multidisciplinary team chaired by Professor Fred Buttell, and initial course offerings will begin this fall.

There has also been a lot of activity on the international front. This fall, we will officially launch the new International Social Work certificate program. Earned concurrently with an MSW, students will be prepared for social work practice on a global basis.

TSSW has also formed a partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, India. The preeminent graduate program in India, TISS is hosting the first group of TSSW students who are fulfilling their field placement requirement (see story on page 2).

I am especially excited to report that a memorandum of cooperation has been finalized and signed with the Peace Corps. This agreement will enable returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs) to matriculate in TSSW, and receive credit for their required field internship through participation in an international field placement through Crisis Corps (a Peace Corps program).

There are exciting new developments with the social work course which has taken place in north India each fall for the last five years. As I write this, we're preparing for the next trip which will include a three-day teaching by the Dalai Lama at his main temple in Dharamsala. With the assistance of Professor Stephanie Baus, I will be examining personal growth and its relationship to professional development through the lens of transformative learning. Finally, we will be making a documentary film with the goal of capturing this growth.

These are just some of the highlights which leads to my conclusion; namely, this is truly an exciting time for the Tulane School of Social Work. I'm excited to be part of it, to be part of the rebuilding of New Orleans and preparing the next generation of social work practitioners. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



From Our Alumni

TSSW often receives correspondence from our alumni and recently, a special letter caught our attention:

April 9, 2007

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the recent edition of *Postscripts*. I have been following the Katrina recovery efforts of Tulane and I commend you for your heroic efforts.

I am enclosing a small photo which was taken in 1948 when the four of us were in our final year at Tulane School of Social Work. We all finished in January 1949. Stanley Hirsch, Owen Shulman, and Marshall Mason all passed away several years ago. Stanley retired from the U.S. Public Health Commission Corps; Owen retired as the executive director of Family Services in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and Marshall retired from the Army Social Work Department as a Lt. Colonel. I retired from the faculty of the University of Texas School of Social Work in 1987 as a professor emeritus. I have been active in continuing education for seniors since retirement in programs here at the University of Texas.

The enclosed check is a memorial to my three classmates: Stanley Hirsch, Owen Shulman, and Marshall Mason.

Best wishes,

Louis F. DeMoll, Jr.
MSW, Class of 1949

Mr. DeMoll included a photograph with his letter (see below). Standing from left to right are Stanley Hirsch and Owen Shulman. Seated from left to right are Louis DeMoll holding Susie Shulman and Marshall Mason. The photograph was taken at a Tulane campus apartment in 1949.

TSSW was able to locate Susan Shulman (now Polit) living in Massachusetts. She was thrilled to hear from TSSW, and shared with us the following information:

"As you know, my father was a social worker and was very committed to his career. When my mother returned to work after caring for me full time, she went back to school and also got an MSW. I became a social worker partially because it was a career which my parents enjoyed, and spoke about with passionate engagement. I was in college during the 1960s, and social work seemed to offer the best opportunity to make a difference in changing the world positively. (Shulman received an MSW at Simmons School of Social Work in 1971, and a PhD from Smith College School for Social Work in 1988). Over the years, I have worked as a clinician for both in- and out-patient services in hospitals, in community mental health centers, and university health centers. I am currently maintaining a private practice. I am very appreciative that my parents introduced me to their profession. Thanks for your interest." — Susan Shulman Polit



THE POWER OF \$25

By Joey Moss (MSW '88)

Operating in a "post Katrina" environment has proven to be a huge financial challenge for the School of Social Work and Tulane University. However, our University has made significant progress in tackling this issue head on! Faculty, staff, and students have come together in the past two years to reinvent ways to decrease costs and raise revenues while continuing to achieve impressive academic performance.

Recently I started thinking about just how far a \$25 donation to Tulane would go. I spoke with Lou Franchina, the Social Work liaison with Tulane University's Development office, to explore this idea. You see, Tulane doesn't subsist on individual donations alone. In fact, much of Tulane's support comes from corporate and private foundation grants. Those grants are precisely where the value of your donation comes into play.

Let's say you send Tulane \$25. If you work for an employer who matches your donations (as more and more organizations are doing), your \$25 instantly becomes \$50. Tulane can now add that \$50 donation with other donations. Many large corporate donors and foundations have programs to match donations received from alumni. That \$25 has now become \$100 through the power of matching dollars. In fact, we have one such match available right now. Alumni who have never given to Tulane may now contribute up to \$10,000 to the Tulane University Rebuilding Fund and have their gifts matched dollar-for-dollar to benefit the School of Social Work.

But wait – the impact of your gift isn't over yet!

Some philanthropic organizations will determine where their dollars go based on the percentage of alumni who support their school. Therefore, in this case, \$1 and \$1,000 count the same! My point is simply this: whether you can afford \$1 or \$10,000, your support for Tulane School of Social Work makes a huge difference. Please consider the power of every dollar you give. I have, and am investing my dollars in our School of Social Work!

If you have questions about contributing to the School of Social Work or would like to make a gift, please contact Lou Franchina at 504-314-7308 or lfranch1@tulane.edu

Where are you now?

Due to overwhelming response from our successful alumni, we ran out room to publish alumni updates! Please visit our web site to read additional alumni updates.

Dianne Brinker, (PhD '72), is in private practice in the Virgin Islands.

Barbara Brothers, (MSW '65), is in private practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Jennifer Buras, (MSW '00), works at EXCELth as a therapist in Algiers, Louisiana. She also maintains a private practice in forensic social work.

Caroline Dager, (MSW '72), is retired and living in New Port Richie, Florida.

Joseph Edwin Fogle, (PhD '70), is engaged in private practice in psychology in Dallas, Texas. In addition to providing psychotherapy services, he engages in critical incident stress debriefings.

Nancy Getten, (MSW '92), recently closed her private practice in New Orleans and relocated to Houston, Texas. She is looking for opportunities to practice in Houston.

Toni Glassman, (MSW '96), has worked in hospice care for the last six years. She lives in Houston, Texas.

Maurya Glaude, (MSW '04), works at Catholic Charities in Luling, Louisiana, where she provides clinical social work services, case management, and grant writing services. She is also a field instructor for TSSW interns.

Stacey Griffin, (MSW '95), was named one of New Orleans Magazine's "Top 10 Female Achievers" of 2007. Griffin is founder and administrator of Milestones Mental Health Agency in New Orleans, the first mental health organization to re-open after Katrina. In addition, she created Esgee Enterprises which produced AQUA2GO, a "juice box" of 100% pure water, providing a health drink option for families.

Erin Hartsock Beattie, (MSW '05), lives in Houma, Louisiana and works for a local hospice agency.

Amy Hereford, (MSW '97), is a health and medical writer living in Washington, D.C.

Wendell Horton, (MSW '67), retired from a career in mental health in 2001. He lives in Ridgeland, South Carolina.

Sarah Hudspeth, (MSW '47), is retired and living in Montgomery, Alabama.

David Johnson, (MSW '71), is president of New Horizons Counseling Center in Farmingham, New Mexico. He was named Social Worker of the Year 2007 by the National Association of Social Workers, New Mexico Chapter.

Stephanie Jones, (MSW '03), is working as a therapist at a community service board in Roanoke, Virginia. She is in a training program for Dialectical Behavior Therapy, a program for working with consumers diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder.

Pennye Lewis, (MSW '68), is retired and living in Fort Worth, Texas.

Diana Mayo Vodrey, (MSW '78), works in mediation and evaluation of child custody issues. She lives in Davis, California.

Whitney McCray, MSW ('04), is living in Houston, Texas. She is director of social services for a 120-bed skilled nursing facility treating patients with dementia.

Carmel Netzhammer Brown, (MSW '50), is retired and living in Birmingham, Alabama after evacuating for Hurricane Katrina.

Joan Pickup, (MSW '97), is in private practice in Gretna, Louisiana. She is also a guidance counselor and teacher at Believer's Life Christian Academy.

William Rose, (MSW '89), is director of social services for Chowan County in North Carolina. He is currently chairing the Medical Support Committee for the statewide Journey to Excellence in Child Support for the state of North Carolina. This committee looks to develop means of

insuring children in the North Carolina Child Support program, lowering the reliance on public insurance companies.

Karen Sanders Crawford, (MSW '87), is a therapist on the psychiatric ward of a local hospital in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mindy Schwartz, (MSW '05), is a medical social worker for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Cecile Tebo, (MSW '84), is a crisis unit coordinator with the New Orleans Police Department. She co-hosts local radio and television programs focusing on mental health.

Barbara Underwood-Given, (PhD '70), is retired and living in South Setauket, New York.

Annette Williams Madison, (MSW '97), is a psychotherapist and pastoral counselor who is currently a doctoral student at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois.

Steve Yeschek, (MSW '81), co-owns Cornerstone Counseling Center and lives in Cary, Illinois.

Jeff Yungman, (MSW '79, MPH '80), is Director of the Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project in Charleston, South Carolina. In May 2007, he was a member of the first graduating class of the Charleston School of Law.

CLASS OF 1977 TO CELEBRATE 30 YEAR REUNION

Social Work Homecoming Reception at the School of Social Work

Friday, October 26, 2007 • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Refreshments & raffle
\$25.00 admission (for student scholarship fund)

Class of 1977 Private Reunion Party

At the home of Charlotte Birdsong Cocchiara
1529 Leda Court • New Orleans, Louisiana 70119
Saturday, October 27, 2007 • 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Drinks and Dinner for '77 alums and their guests

- All TSSW alumni are invited to visit <http://homecoming.tulane.edu> for more information about volunteering during Homecoming 2007. A special volunteer opportunity will be available on Friday, October 26.
- On Sunday, October 28, 2007 the Shades of Praise Interracial Gospel Choir will be performing a special concert produced by the Smithsonian (recorded) – 3:00 p.m. at the St. Louis Cathedral (Marly Sweeney and other alums are in the choir)
- Please submit your information on the "Where Are You Now?" portion of Postscripts for a special contribution on the occasion of our 30th reunion. You may also access this form on the Tulane School of Social Work Web site at www.tulane.edu/~tssw

CLASS OF 1977
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WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Please share your thoughts, ideas, and information to be used in Postscripts. You may also visit our Web site at http://www.tulane.edu/~tssw/New_TSSW/Alumni/wayn.html to complete this form.

Name: _____ Year of graduation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone number: _____

Degrees/certificates earned: _____

- 1) What are you currently doing professionally?
- 2) Have you received any special awards or honors, or have you been published? Please specify.
- 3) Have you been involved with Tulane School of Social Work since graduation? If not, what events or special services would draw you to become involved?
- 4) Do you have special news that you would like to share with other alumni (marriage, children, relocation, hobbies, new projects)?
- 5) Is there anything you would like to start seeing in Postscripts? Is there anything you think should be omitted from the newsletter?

Please complete and return to:

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