DEAN’S UPDATE

NEW Hires HIGHLIGHT SUMMER

As the School’s way of saying “Thank You” for all that you do in the community, TSSW is offering our alumni a free, one- and-a-half-hour CEU event starting at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 as part of the 2011 Homecoming festivities.

The annual Alumni Reception will follow from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Qatar Ballroom, located on the second floor of the Lavin-Bernick student center just steps from the CEU event.

“This is our way of saying “thank you” for all the important work that you do for the community,” Dean Ron Marks said.

For the CEU event, Dr. Manuel Carballo, Executive Director of the International Centre for Migration Health and Development, will present about “Migration, Health, and the Future of Global Society. The CEU event, made possible by a generous gift from TSSW alumna Holley Pavy, will take place in the Stibbs Conference Room (No. 203) on the second floor of the Lavin-Bernick Center.

Our annual free reception will begin at 6 p.m. featuring food, music, drinks and fellowship as well as a raffle benefiting the TSSW Student Scholarship Fund. It will take place in the Qatar Ballroom, located on the second floor of the Lavin-Bernick Center just steps away from the CEU event. All

Story continues on page 4

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Story continues on page 4
Dean's Message: New Faculty, Staff Mark TSSW Growth

of Global Programs and comes to us from Avila University in Missouri where she was the chair of the department of social work. Elaine brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this growing area of our school; having worked in many countries including a stint on peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Dr. Qingwen Xu comes to us from Boston College School of Social Work and joins the faculty as an associate professor. Qingwen brings a wealth of knowledge in issues related to migration and immigrant health issues. She is a widely published scholar in these areas and has been engaged in the policy arena locally and internationally. Adding to her expertise in this area is her training in law with law degrees from both Beijing University and New York University. She brings to Tulane many strong collaborations and partnerships with institutions all over the world.

Dr. Madeline Lee joins us our School as a new assistant professor. Her expertise in child welfare with a special focus on mental health issues has been informed on her clinical experience. Madeline’s training at Washington University in St. Louis as a doctoral student and, most recently, as an NIMH post-doc make her especially well prepared to join the professoriate.

Taken together, these hires represent significant expertise, knowledge and skills that will support our already very strong and growing programs. It has been a true delight for me to welcome these four very accomplished individuals to our School.

Of course, if you were to ask me what makes a great organization, I would respond that it is the people. In addition to our excellent faculty and staff, there are the students. This year we welcome a stellar group of students to our full and part time programs. Our students this year, like last year, come from more than 30 states in the US and two foreign countries. They bring a wealth of enthusiasm and previous experience with them and share one critically important characteristic; they are all committed to working on behalf of our communities, whether it is locally in New Orleans, our region, our country or our neighbors overseas, and improving the conditions of these communities and the individuals who live in them.

There is one more aspect to what makes a School like ours great and that is the alumni. Did you know there are more than 5,000 alumni of the Tulane School of Social Work and you are located in every state in the United States and more 25 foreign countries? Every day I hear stories of the work of our alumni and their incredible contributions. At the president’s convocation earlier this month, a proud mother of a new freshman at Tulane tracked me down in the crowd to tell me that she is a social worker from California, working as the director of the United Way, and they have hired several of our MSW graduates over the years. She went on to tell me how wonderful these social workers have been, and she will always look to hire a Tulane MSW. Don’t forget our homecoming in October (you can read more about it in this issue). If you are there, I will get to say thanks for making us proud.

Study Tour Enlightens Rwandan Scholars

To learn best practices in social work, a trio of professors from the National University of Rwanda School of Social Work spent the month of July at the Tulane School of Social Work on a study tour. In Rwanda, social work is a new profession formed in 1999 in response to the country’s mental health needs following the 1994 genocide.

“Although they had psychologists and counselors trained, the knowledge needed to attend to the psychosocial care needs of the population was very limited,” says So’Nia Gilkey, an assistant professor of social work at Tulane and study tour coordinator. “Social work seemed to be the best fit to get people trained to meet those needs.”

During their visit, professors Consolée Uwihangana, Charles Rutikanga and Jeannette Bayisenge attended classes at Tulane and Southern University at New Orleans and worked at three different field agencies — NO/AIDS Taskforce, Healthy Start New Orleans and Total Community Action.

Dr. So’Nia Gilkey, an assistant professor of social work at Tulane University, discusses best practices in social work in Rwanda.

Jeannette Bayisenge, a faculty member from the National University of Rwanda, discusses best practices in social work in Rwanda.

In learning about community organizing, Uwihangana says, “We’ve seen why it is important to have the community participating in all of the activities, but first, we need to do an assessment so that we can create programs that really address the needs of the community.”

Rutikanga says he was impressed by the level of student participation in classes here, and he also learned how field placements are supervised by social work professionals who guide students in their development.

The group plans to enhance their university’s field placement program using what they learned at Tulane.

Gilkey says the goal of the study tour is to have the visiting lecturers take what they’re learned here back to their colleagues in Rwanda to develop contextually relevant training for fellow instructors, practitioners and paraprofessionals doing social work.

The study tour was a collaborative effort between the Tulane School of Social Work and the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane Law School, and should continue on an annual basis.
TSSW Notes ..... What’s Happening at Your School Today

Although our alumni are no longer roaming our halls in search of knowledge, our students are just as hungry as those more experienced hands who are reading this. Here are just a few projects going on in the community, in the classroom and in our faculty’s research arenas at the School.

Takashi Fujioka, a visiting scholar from Japan who specializes in social work burnout prevention, has designed a new method for monitoring mental health professionals working in a disaster zone. Fujioka spent several months in New Orleans working with the Tulane Traumatology Institute at the Tulane School of Social Work to help mental health professionals in Japan after the recent earthquake and tsunami.

A professor of social work at the Japan College of Social Work, Fujioka survived the March 11 earthquake disaster. “It was like a slow-moving horror show,” he says.

“Trauma is not only a primary experience for those who suffer through it,” he says. “It also affects those who help the trauma victims. It is something that everyone experiences.”

TSSW Professor Dr. Charles Figley has worked with Fujioka on compassion fatigue and child trauma since 2005, but this time, Fujioka tried something never done before.

Fujioka surveyed 50 Japanese mental health professionals about their experiences prior to, during and for six months following their deployment to the disaster zone. A summary of the findings was sent to the participants who were asked to respond to the results and to indicate levels of resilience and explain what helped and did not help.

To date, Fujioka has found that the mental health professionals who reported moderate levels of trauma while dispensing mental health services received the best service rating from their clients.

“If you’re hurting a little bit, that’s good,” says Figley. “Fujioka has found evidence that challenge the assertion that those who are not traumatized at all do the best work.”

The data suggest that practitioners working with traumatized people may perform more effectively when they experience similar stress and discomfort as their clients and they are able to nurture themselves as well as their clients.

Less than a month after the 2010 Haitian earthquake, two Tulane students listened intently as a pair of earthquake survivors told their story and implored the New Orleans community to help in any way it could. They answered the call with their professional project.

Before their December 2010 graduation from the School of Social Work, Tuyl Fletchinger and Jordan Matevich created a culturally specific, arts-based HeARTs curriculum created in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, they created self-contained arts kits that teachers can use to administer the curriculum to an entire class.

Designed for elementary children, the kits have supplies for painting and drawing, and materials for making drums for a drum circle. Matevich says the kits will need to be modified and added to, and she hopes a new group of students will take on that challenge for their professional project.

“The RaRa was a big learning experience,” Matevich says. “Fundraising is such a necessary part of creating these kits. This entire project was a great learning experience for the kind of work that we want to do in the future.”

Fletchinger and Matevich presented their work and research data during the Louisiana National Association of Social Workers annual conference last March.

Alumni Scholarship Fund Serves Important Purpose

By Lou Franchina, Development

Each of our students is required to complete 990 hours of field placement work in order to earn an MSW degree. In the 2010 calendar year, our students collectively provided services valued at more than $2 million. Even before graduating, they clearly are doing work that matters. They also are graduating with a great deal of debt.

While our tuition remains competitive and our financial aid and scholarships are generous, we are still faced with the reality that the demand for support simply outweighs the supply. Because of this, scholarship support has been at the top of the school’s philanthropic priorities for a number of years. Because of this, I am asking for your help.

Please make a contribution to the “School of Social Work Alumni Scholarship Fund” today.

By including this notation on the memo line of your check, your donation will be set aside to offset the financial burden that our students face. Similarly, you may visit the school’s web site, click on the “donate now” button, and select the scholarship fund from the drop down menu. However — and whatever — you choose to give, please know that you will be making a difference in the lives of our students. And should you be in a position to contribute $25,000 or more (payable over a three-to-five-year period), you may endow a scholarship that would assist our students in virtual perpetuity. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

On behalf of our students, thank you.

Lou Franchina is the school’s development officer. He may be reached directly at (504) 314-7308 or lfranch1@tulane.edu.
A total of 10 students graduated from TSSW during the Spring Graduation Ceremonies in May. Our newest alumnae include (left to right) Tonia Tillman, Mary Elizabeth Wilkes, Angelique Davillier, Susan Mickey, Aleyda Diaz, Mary Levy, Ragain Gray, Dolores Powers and Sarah McAllister. Not pictured is Dana George. Congrats to all of our recent graduates and best of luck in your future endeavors.

**Homecoming 2011 set for Saturday, October 22**

alumni and their guests are encouraged to attend.

Parking will be free on Tulane’s campus in all spots NOT marked “reserved.”

The TSSW Alumni Association invites all TSSW alumni and guests to come enjoy an evening of fellowship, memories and good times on Tulane’s campus.

For more information, contact Kathy Smith at krshiv@tulane.edu or 504-826-3489.

Please RSVP prior to the event by visiting http://tulane.edu/socialwork and clicking on the link in the right hand sidebar.

**About the Presenter**

Dr. Carballo currently serves as the Executive Director of the International Centre for Migration Health and Development. The Center works with governments, UN agencies, NGOs and all other parties interested in improving the health and welfare of people affected by migration, be it economically or politically motivated. The Center also organizes training courses for humanitarian relief workers, UN personnel, health practitioners, public health professionals, policy makers/planners and military and peacekeeping forces. Dr. Carballo is a specialist on health issues of migrants and refugees (particularly reproductive health, but also diabetes) and, as a founding member of the UNAIDS Uniformed Services Task Force, has worked extensively on HIV prevention programs with uniformed services and peacekeeping forces. He is the former WHO Chief of Social and Behavioral Research for the Global Program on AIDS as well as the former Public Health Advisor to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dr. Carballo is also an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Public Health at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

**Scenes around Campus**

As the temperatures start to dip and the days grow shorter, Tulane’s campus is alive with new students. TSSW welcomed 85 full-time students and 12 part-time students to its ranks this fall. Next time you’re on campus, stop by the building! We would love to hear from you!
Loren Buckner (MSW ’76) currently resides in Tampa, Fla., and has authored her first book, “ParentWise: The Emotional Challenges of Family Life and How to Deal with Them.” Loren is currently in private practice as a psychotherapist. She is the mother of two grown children and has been married for more than 30 years. A sought-after speaker and presenter, Loren has addressed local, national and international groups about the emotional challenges of raising children. Loren frequently serves as a guest columnist and her article discussing the Casey Anthony trial from a ParentWise perspective was recently published in the Orlando Sentinel.

Tina Cole (MSW ’00) currently resides in Columbus, Ohio, where she is a clinical social worker at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. She works with the Heart Center and the Heart Transplant Team. Tina is also the proud mother of her 18-month-old son, Landon.

Lisa Harvey (MSW ’03) currently resides in Sai Kung, Hong Kong. She works as an editor of the mental health blog — www.bandbacktogether.com. It’s a community-driven blog that accepts submissions from the public. The blog links the posts to resource pages, spreading awareness about various mental and physical health issues. Since graduating in 2003, she has lived in Venezuela, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, Florida and Hong Kong. She is the mother of two gorgeous kids and is enjoying working as a freelance writer and editor for mental health publications.

Signe Whitson (MSW ’97) is a licensed social worker, writer, and Chief Operating Officer of the Life Space Crisis Intervention Institute. She released the book “How to Be Angry: An Assertive Anger Expression Group Guide for Kids and Teens,” which is a 15-session group curriculum designed to help social workers, educators, counselors, parents, and other helping adults teach kids ages 5-18 how to use assertive communication to express anger effectively. Signe presents training workshops across the U.S. for parents and professionals on topics related to child and adolescent mental and behavioral health.

Social Work Graduate Fulfills Dream

When social work student Tonia Tillman graduated with her nine fellow part-time students in May, it was the end of a journey she calls one of the most important of her life.

Tillman commuted two nights a week for three years from Plaquemine, La., to attend night classes while working a full-time job as a paraprofessional with Ascension Parish. She also competed a field internship on Monday evenings and Saturdays, in pursuit of a master’s degree in social work. So what would inspire a person to create such a schedule?

“It has been a lifelong dream of mine to become a social worker,” she says. “I needed to do something that at the end of the day I felt truly satisfied that I had helped somebody along the way.”

Before attending Tulane, Tillman was a security officer for the Louisiana Department of Corrections, but she says she felt devalued at that job. So she switched to the more flexible hours of a paraprofessional and enrolled at Tulane.

“Choosing to come to Tulane has been one of the best things I’ve done in my life,” she says. “It has given me a different perspective on what social work should and can be. It’s given me a sense of pride.”

Tillman now is employed with Spectrum Rehabilitation Services in Denham Springs, La., where she performs mental health consulting with children ages six to 17. Spectrum offers an intensive outpatient program in each client’s school and home to teach coping and anger management skills, to identify signs of mental illness and to recognize a crisis from a non-crisis. Tillman also teaches parents how to recognize the different types of mental illnesses a child may have.

“It has been a long, enduring experience because of my travel distance, but it gave me the drive to keep going until I completed the program,” Tillman says. “It was worth it.”
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://tulane.edu/socialwork and click on the alumni tab to complete this form or for additional alumni updates.

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:
Postscripts / Alumni Updates • Tulane School of Social Work, 6823 St. Charles Ave., Building 9 • New Orleans, LA 70118