TSSW to Move Into New Home in August

By Joseph Halm, TSSW Communications

The Tulane School of Social Work is heading to downtown New Orleans, and Dean Ron Marks says the move in August will benefit students, faculty and alumni alike.

The school has been located on the uptown campus for nearly 60 years, but with the move, the school will almost triple its office and classroom space as well as walk into a state-of-the-art facility at 127 Elk Place.

“This is our return to our community roots,” Marks said. “It’s a chance to move into a completely renovated facility that has a long history. We’ll have the space we need to continue to grow while also being embedded in the community that our profession strives to help on a daily basis.”

Located just steps from Canal Street, adjacent to the Joy Theater, the school will be housed on the third and fourth floors, which include 20,000 square feet compared to the current space. Let me explain……

TSSW’s new home will be 127 Elk Place, located just a block off Canal St., near the Joy Theater. The move will nearly triple the school’s space. (Photo by Eskew + Dumez + Ripple architects)

Dean’s Update

Change Can be a Good Thing

We all deal with and adjust to change in our own unique way. Some embrace it, others resist. The School of Social Work faculty, staff, students and alumni will have an extraordinary opportunity to measure their own approach to a major transition in the coming months. In August, 2014 (yes, about four months from the time you received this) The Tulane School of Social Work will be moving out of the building it has occupied for well over 50 years!

I suspect among your first thoughts are “what, no more room 103!,” or perhaps you’re thinking, “but that’s where I met my life long partner, spouse, etc…..”) Others of you may be thinking “it’s about time.” Despite what you think, the reality is that the School will be moving into a completely renovated space which will be a magnificent space and not just compared to the current space. Let me explain……

The School of Social Work building contains 7,000 square feet over three floors. While we’ve kept up with various cosmetic improvements and some structural ones over the years, coming from one who spends a good part of every week here, the building is long overdue for a complete renovation,
Continued from Page 1....

**DEAN’S MESSAGE: TSSW will be returning to its roots**

including the infrastructures of heating, cooling, electric, handicap accessibility, etc. etc…As well, with our extraordinary successes over the last several years, we have, to put it quite simply, outgrown this space. We have, for example, no more vacant offices, and with an ever increasing faculty I loathe to put newly hired faculty in storage closets. So, we need a bigger space and we need space that is befitting our first class operation. Add to this puzzle, the fact that the Uptown campus is completely filled to capacity.

As I write this, architectural plans are complete for the School of Social Work’s new home in a completely renovated space at 127 Elk Place. Our new home will be on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Elk Place building and occupy 20,000 square feet (compared to the 7,000 square feet noted above). 127 Elk Place is one building off of Canal (next to the Joy Theater) and was built in the early 1900’s as the headquarters for the Elk’s lodge. Over the years it has served as the headquarters for Gulf Oil and many other uses. Originally, there was a swimming pool and full gymnasium in the building.

Now, fully owned by Tulane University, the University is investing quite a bit to bring this building back on line as a central presence in downtown medical corridor. The renovation for our School will entail a complete gutting of the floors – now completed. The facility will house state-of-the-art smart classrooms while the two student lounges will provide ample space to study and socialize.

Our new space will include a garden room that will allow students and faculty to enjoy a quiet green space in the middle of downtown New Orleans. (Photo by Eskew + Dumez + Ripple architects)

The architects and interior designers have crafted a first-class space, Marks said. “This facility will not only feel welcoming, but it will provide our faculty and students with a top-notch learning space.

Our updated smart classrooms and interview spaces will enhance our students’ learning while our location will make us more accessible to our community partners.”

As part of the project, the university plans to upgrade the first floor entrance, making it compliant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as adding additional meeting space.

Having seen the final plans I am thrilled to report that the architects and interior designers have crafted a first class space. Some of the highlights include a magnificent student lounge on the third floor with hand built window seating, a second smaller student lounge for quiet study, small reading and study rooms, a student kitchen, a faculty/staff lounge and kitchen, faculty conference room, a two story sun room with a hanging garden adjacent to the contemplative space, offices for faculty and staff, visiting faculty and adjunct faculty, doctoral students, student lockers and even a shower facility for those who brave the August heat and ride their bicycle to School. Of course, there will be classrooms and all of them will be outfitted with audio and video technology. One room will serve as an interview room with closed circuit electronics to broadcast live to the other classrooms.

In addition to these public and private spaces, the University has agreed to completely renovate the entrance from the street, making it completely handicap accessible. As well, infrastructure improvements like increasing the water pumping capacity will enable built-in fire sprinkler systems which will permit the use of glass walls to enhance natural light. EDR committed to seeking a minimum of LEED silver in the design of our School. LEED is the national standard and stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.” It is a set of rating systems for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings. So, in addition to having a first class learning environment, we will have a very green one.

So, after 55+ years, our School will be getting a new home. We will triple our space, be completely handicap accessible, and no longer have to put up with noisy window air conditioners and clanking radiators which sound like drummers for the Rebirth Brass Band. We will be centrally located and accessible to the community of which we are a central part. I will be providing regular updates on the construction that began in early February and I very much look forward to introducing you to our new home.

Continued from Page 1....

**NEW FACILITY WILL IMPROVE SCHOOL’S OFFERINGS**

Our new home will be returning to its roots.

**Dean’s Message: TSSW will be returning to its roots**

including the infrastructures of heating, cooling, electric, handicap accessibility, etc. etc…As well, with our extraordinary successes over the last several years, we have, to put it quite simply, outgrown this space. We have, for example, no more vacant offices, and with an ever increasing faculty I loathe to put newly hired faculty in storage closets. So, we need a bigger space and we need space that is befitting our first class operation. Add to this puzzle, the fact that the Uptown campus is completely filled to capacity.

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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 couple projects going on in the community, in the classroom and in our faculty’s research arenas.

Choice, a publication of the American Library Association, has named TSSW professor Charles Figley’s Encyclopedia of Trauma: An Interdisciplinary Guide as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles for the 2013-14 academic year.

Only 10 percent of the 7,000 works reviewed in Choice are selected for the honor, and Figley, an internationally known trauma expert who holds the Dr. Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at TSSW, attributes the book’s success to its interdisciplinary approach.

Choice called the book, published by SAGE Publications, “an excellent standard reference work” and an “important academic summary of the scholarship on trauma.”

Each book named to the list is selected for its excellence in scholarship and presentation, the significance of its contribution to the field and its important value in the treatment of its subject.

Last year, the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, named Figley’s book one of 11 Outstanding Reference Sources. Books on the list are strongly recommended for library collections.

Figley says most books on trauma focus on post-traumatic stress disorder, while his incorporates history, economics, engineering, medicine and neurology. He says it is organized and written in a way that the average person can easily understand.

“My first goal was to provide a roadmap, the first of its kind, for understanding, studying, assessing and treating trauma and teaching about trauma,” Figley says. “My second goal was to make knowledge of trauma accessible to everyone by having experts write about their areas of expertise.”

Figley says he shares the book’s success with Tulane faculty members who served on the editorial board, including Kathy Regan Figley of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy; Kevin Gotham, sociology professor; John McLachlan, environmental studies professor; and Elizabeth Townsend Gard, associate professor of law.

The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library on the Tulane University uptown campus has both a print and electronic copy of Figley’s book. The electronic copy provides Tulane faculty, staff and students with unlimited access.

Thanks to a partnership with TSSW’s Porter-Cason Institute, internationally known couples therapist Harville Hendrix conducted a three-hour workshop on Oct. 29, 2013, about how to build better relationships through Imago Relationship Therapy.

Hendrix and his wife, Helen LaKelly Hunt, co-created Imago Relationship Therapy and developed the concept of “conscious partnership.” Their partnership and collaboration has resulted in nine books on intimate relationships and parenting. Hendrix says there are a few simple tips that can help people begin to improve their relationships.

“You have to learn how to talk in a safe way,” he said. “You have to remove negativity totally, and then do the needed relational care. Some are quiet, like little appreciations, and some are intense like belly laughs. Those small steps will go a long way to improving your connection and your relationship.”

Hendrix told the group of social work students that Imago is an effective way to create stronger relationships because it helps people become more aware of the way they are all deeply interconnected. It offers insights into the unconscious agenda individuals bring to their relationships. Knowing this information, people can begin to cooperate with this hidden agenda, and as a result can choose to grow together in a creative, non-controlling and healing way that promotes understanding and connection.

By Eva Marie Dyba, Development Officer. I hope that your year is off to a great start. I am happy to report that, to date, the Annual Fund has raised $33,385 toward its goal of $70,000. The fiscal year ends on June 30, and with your participation, we can reach or even surpass this goal. As you may know, annual fund dollars exist to supplement areas of need such as general financial aid, faculty research, computer and technology needs, and program enhancements.

If you prefer not to give to unrestricted support through the annual fund, there are many other fundraising priorities available, allowing you to specifically designate how you would like your money allocated. For instance, scholarships can be a deciding factor for many students when they are choosing whether or not to attend Tulane. By designating your donation toward a scholarship, you are helping these students make a decision that will, ultimately, provide them with a Tulane degree.

Another important priority for TSSW is our building campaign. Later this summer, the school will occupy the third and fourth floors of 127 Elk Place. This state-of-the-art facility will not only bolster the school’s excellent programs, but will also shape the school’s identity as being in the “heart of the city.” Donation and naming opportunities are available, including several classrooms, two student lounges, a conference room and a reading room among others. Your support can help equip these spaces with the latest high-end technology, as well as other furnishings to finish off the room. We are currently working on a plan for how we will recognize donors in the building. If you are interested in more details, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 504-314-7641 or edyba@tulane.edu.

Remember, you can make a gift on-line by visiting http://giving.tulane.edu. I am also happy to assist with a donation or answer questions about giving opportunities at TSSW. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and participation in our fundraising efforts. Cheers!

Eva Marie Dyba is the school’s development officer. She may be reached directly at (504) 314-7641 or edyba@tulane.edu.
Dr. Lynn Pearlmutter’s farewell party is May 30

After more than 25 academic years as an integral part of the TSSW faculty, Associate Professor Dr. Lynn Pearlmutter is hitting the road – literally.

Dr. Pearlmutter will retire at the end of the Spring semester, and then she and her partner, William F. Stewart (MSW ’71), will hit the road to tour the country in their 40-foot motor home. But before she motors out of town, she hopes that everyone will be able to celebrate her career.

The School will host a special Farewell Party on Friday, May 30 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 103. The event is open to all alumni and community members and will include food and refreshments.

“It’s going to be here at the School in Room 103 at my request,” Pearlmutter said. “I’ve taught a lot in Room 103, and that’s where I feel that it happened. Especially since the school is moving, it seems particularly apropos that we should do here one more time. I want people to come and celebrate with me.”

Dr. Pearlmutter (PhD ’90) became a part of the school in the early 1980s as a field instructor. She later became a doctoral student, earning her Ph.D. in 1990. She joined the full-time faculty in 1989 and has been teaching ever since specializing in family, couples and group therapy. She also taught HBSE, later renamed Theory, as well as Capstone Seminar among other courses.

Other contributions she has made include serving as Director of the Wisner Center as well as on the boards of the Center for Life Long Learning and the Porter-Cason Institute. She also chaired several dissertation committees along with beaucoup committee work and served on the field team for over 20 years.

“I had not planned to be an academic,” she said. “Once in the doctoral program teaching called to me, and it’s been something that I’ve really enjoyed over the years. I will miss the students and colleagues.”

TSSW alumni named Social Work Pioneers

A pair of TSSW alumni have been honored by the National Association of Social Workers as Social Work Pioneers for their tireless work over the years.

The Social Work Pioneer Program was created to honor members of the social work profession who have contributed to the evolution and enrichment of the profession. The Pioneer Program identifies and recognizes individuals whose unique dedication, commitment and determination have improved social and human conditions.

The honorees are Patricia Wood Davis (DSW ’80) of Bay St. Louis, Miss., and the late Betty McCullough Spencer (MSW ’50).

“Those who have been fortunate enough to know Dr. Patricia Wood Davis throughout her 40-year career have praised her capacity to wed warmth and enthusiasm with a working knowledge of policy, practice and methodology,” said her Pioneers bio on the NASW web site.

“From start to finish ‘Dr. Pat,’ as she is fondly known, has been a leader in the community and an advocate for the disenfranchised. This was true early in her career when she was elected the first female to the school board of Grosse Ile (Detroit Area), and it remained true when she served as Director of Medical Social Services for the Louisiana State Office of Public Health and of the Department of Health and Hospitals for close to a decade.”

Davis has been a strong advocate for the plight of women, campaigning against such injustices as domestic violence, poor access to healthcare, and inequality in the workforce. She served as an educator at five different institutions of higher education including Tulane where she was an Associate Professor for 17 years.

Davis retired from the University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work in 2009. In retirement, Patricia still remains civically involved as a board member for the Gulf Coast Women’s Center in Biloxi, Miss.; the Open Doors Continuum of Care for the Homeless; IDEA; and the Gulf Coast Program Unit of the MS Chapter of NASW.

Fellow honoree Spencer passed way on June 25, 2010, but she left her mark on the Gulf Coast in many ways. Throughout the years, Spencer served as a champion of the unheard and visibly challenged, both within the mental health service delivery arena and the community at large.

First in the state of Louisiana and then in Mississippi, Betty served as a private practitioner and provided counseling and psychotherapy to children, adults, couples, and families. She maintained her private practice for a span of over 50 years.

Ms. Spencer began her lifelong legacy of service in the field of mental health practice at Tulane University’s Department of Psychiatry as a Child Psychiatry Research Investigator and Clinician. She went on to serve as the Supervisor of the Social Work Section in the Psychiatry and Neurology Clinics at Charity Hospital of New Orleans and Chatres Mental Health Centers. From 1973 to 1984, she held the position of Coordinator of Outpatient Services with Pontchartrain Mental Health Center.

After moving across the state line to Mississippi, Ms. Spencer was employed by the Gulf Coast Mental Health Center as Coordinator of Children and Adolescent Services. Simultaneously, Ms. Spencer served as a field instructor for the Tulane University School of Social Work and the Louisiana State University School of Public Health. She then served as a field instructor for the University of Southern Mississippi from 1990-1999.

Ms. Spencer is remembered for her commitment and tenacity in furthering the tenants and purposes of NASW’s Mississippi Chapter’s PACE Committee, for which she served for many years as its chairperson.
“When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But... that is not what great ships are built for.” – Clarissa Pinkola Estes in Letter to a Young Activist During Troubled Times

TSSW alumna and adjunct professor Victoria Hippard picks a favorite quote for each class that she teaches at Tulane, and the 27 words above, which served as her quote from her Fall 2013 class, encapsulates how she feels about teaching.

“We help the students become bigger ships,” she said. “They come in, and they just get bigger from there. We’re really preparing them to go out in deeper waters where it’s rougher, and that’s what they’re prepared for when they leave. We can stay close to shore, and that’s always the temptation. Even if you have this education and experience in your field placement, the temptation is to hang around the shore, but most social workers don’t. I think you come into social work wanting to go out in the deeper waters. I think getting prepared for that is a real joy. I’ve enjoyed it.”

Victoria spoke in the past tense because after 20-plus years of teaching at TSSW, she’s moving on to a new adventure. A 1977 MSW graduate, Victoria started teaching in the 1980s.

“It was just real exciting, and it was something that I was very grateful for,” she said, about being hired for the first time by Dean Margaret Campbell for $1,200 to teach Theory I, which was known as the Hippsy course at the time.

Since that first class, Victoria has taught mainly Theory I while also teaching Theory II during the past eight to 10 years. She’s also taught Methods II and Advanced Methods as well.

“Teaching teaches me a lot too,” she said. “It keeps you honest, and I don’t mean that in a moral sense, but you really have to question what you’re saying to people. And you have to go look it up and research it, and see if that’s really what you mean.

“I’m working more hours now than I have in a really long time,” she said. “It’s a different kind of working, but I think for the next couple of years, I’ll continue to do what I’m doing. I’m still open to the possibilities. I’ve never thought of total retirement. I never thought that I would not work in social work because it’s so easy to do something, whether it is paid or not paid.”

Although she’s returning to working in the community, Hippard, who earned her Ph.D. from a program in California in 2007, said working in academia has been very rewarding.

“I didn’t know it, but I’m probably more of an academic than I realized when I started teaching,” she said. “I didn’t know that I liked doing the research. When we had to develop a course to do a lot of reading, all of that was not something that I was not especially fond of as a student.

“Teaching really does keep you honest about social work values because there are some very difficult questions that we all wrestle with. Teaching also shows me that, but when you’re teaching, it can bubble up. There’s a lot that comes up that you can look at in clinical terms.”

Hippard said aside from her group home work, she also has a son at Baylor University, who will continue his studies in graduate school.

“I’m happier than I thought I would be with my move to Mississippi,” she said. “I’ve been able to come into New Orleans every week and sometimes twice a week, so I’m not missing New Orleans yet because I’m really not gone.

“It’s interesting to be in a situation in another state dealing with services for children, who are in need of care. I’ve always worked with kids. I could see myself perhaps doing more supervision, perhaps moving to a middle management position. I hate to say that because it’s not something that I’ve ever aspired to, but I can see that may be something I could do.”
TSSW welcomed its newest cohort of alumni on Friday, December 13. The School’s annual Fall Commencement featured 95 graduating students (left). During the commencement ceremonies, Dr. Reggie Parquet (bottom left) was recognized as Faculty Member of the Year by Student Government President Elaine Looney. (Below) Graduate Jocelyn Pinkerton joins New Orleans recording artist Charmaine Neville on stage for a special performance. Congrats to all of our recent graduates, and best of luck in your future endeavors. (Photos by Ken Redler)

Newest Alumni

As Bethany Van Kampen joined her 94 classmates on Friday, Dec. 13 for the Tulane School of Social Work winter commencement, the march marked the culmination of three years of hard work. Van Kampen, a dual degree student who also completed a Global Social Work Certificate and is currently in her third year at Tulane Law School, says the choice to pursue both degrees was simple.

“I think the nexus of law and social work is good policy making, and … the social work perspective gives a face and a human element to make policy real,” she says. “It’s easy to make policy removed from the people, but it’s not going to be informed or effective. Social work is what bridges that gap.”

Van Kampen was instrumental in the development of Tulane Law Students for Reproductive Justice as one of the original founders and the chapter’s first president. The group has been recognized nationally with the Cari Sietstra Excellence in Organizing Award and the Center for Reproductive Rights Student Policy and Advocacy Award.

“[I] definitely feel like my campus organizing effort has been very much informed by what I learned from group work in social work,” she says.

Van Kampen’s commitment to domestic violence advocacy is shown by her work as a student attorney in the Tulane Domestic Violence Law Clinic. She also completed an internship with Metropolitan Center for Women and Children.

“I think what social work gave me is the perspective and reminder of why I was doing this,” she says. “When I started law school, it was so different that it was a struggle at first, but I’m glad that I stuck with it. I want to make policy, and really practice a therapeutic jurisprudence, which is really connected with my social work values.”

Policy, reproductive rights are grad’s passion

Bethany Van Kampen graduated from TSSW on Dec. 13, 2013, but she will continue her studies toward a law degree from the Tulane Law School. (Photo by Joseph Halm)
Anne Elizabeth “Beth” Denton-Lesser (MSW ’94) currently lives in River Ridge and is a full-time mother, investor and artist. Anne worked in forensic social work from 1996 to 2000. In 2000, she was a practice manager of a large medical practice until 2006, when she became a full-time mother. She has been married to Dr. Robert Lesser since 1999, and they have two children, ages 9 and 12. She also raised three step-children, who are now 20, 23 and 26. The couple moved to Austin, Texas, after Hurricane Katrina but returned to New Orleans in 2011. Ann says she loves being a mother, business mentor and artist, who specializes in large collages, mosaics and portraits. She also enjoys creative writing and has been published in several small literary journals over the years.

Mary Andrus-Overley (MSW ’77) currently resides in Atlanta. At age 70, Mary is serving with the Peace Corps with the Community HIV/AIDS Outreach Program in South Africa. She will serve from January 2014 to May 2016.

Kellie Rush Johnson (MSW ’95) and Laura D. Miller (MSW ’95) currently live in Durham, N.C. Kellie is a patient resource manager at Duke University Hospital, where she has worked in the Emergency and Psychiatry departments since 2002. Laura has been a social work supervisor at C.A. Dillon, a juvenile justice facility, since 2002. The pair has enjoyed being in the Triangle Area of North Carolina and are enjoying restoring their mid-century modern home.

William “Ed” Stover (MSW ’69) currently lives in Villa Hills, Ky., and he retired from private practice in 2011. He is the father of three children -- Kim, who is a teacher; Jason, a paddock manager; and Emily, an emergency room doctor. In his spare time, Ed loves woodwork and carving, and he also serves as a volunteer K-9 handler for an area search and rescue.

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 news would you like to share with your fellow alumni?
Postscripts
School of Social Work Alumni Association
6823 St. Charles Avenue, Building 9
New Orleans, LA 70118-5698

Alumni Association Board
Holly McKenney (MSW ‘96)
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Brooks Zitzmann (MSW ’09)
Ex-officio Alumni Development Committee Member
Carissa Kolakauskas (MSW ’07)
Ex-officio Alumni Development Committee Member
Mark Drake (MSW ’03)
Member-at-large
William “Bill” Knecht (MSW ’73)
Member-at-large
Jennifer Wellborn (MSW ’95)
Member-at-large
Jerry Lewis-Smith (MSW ’04)
Member-at-large, Past President
Ron Marks
Dean
Joseph Halm
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

DSW program to accept first class in Fall ’14
Application deadline is July 1 for working professionals

SSW Professor Fred Buttell saw a pressing need in the social work community for an advanced practice credential, and now Tulane is filling that need, beginning this Fall.

The Tulane Doctorate in Social Work is ideally suited for working professionals seeking training in advanced clinical practice and advanced practice leadership. It is the only program of its kind in the Gulf South, and one of only a small number of advanced professional practice degrees in clinical social work nationwide.

“We saw the need for an advanced practice credential, and we’re trying to fill it,” Buttell said. “The DSW addresses the limitations of the research-based Ph.D. programs and provides an option for those people who want to teach clinical courses, lead clinical programs or non-profits, or engage in program evaluation but do not want the exclusive research focus of a Ph.D. program.”

With its intensive, accelerated curriculum, students can satisfy all degree requirements in three years, without career disruption.

“The idea is that we do not want to side track individuals from their full-time jobs because the curriculum is dependent on these real world experiences to augment the in-class experience,” he said. “We’ve structured it so students do not have to quit their jobs to attend school, which is one of the obstacles to Ph.D. study.”

In March, the DSW program received full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, making it the only accredited DSW program in the region. The program will develop scholars who create and disseminate knowledge on social work with diverse populations. Included are those populations most vulnerable to social injustice, discrimination, and poverty – conditions that deprive people of access to economic, social, and psychological resources.

Buttell said the program’s smaller cohorts will ensure focused faculty attention and support, which will benefit students.

“Our students can expect to have a very enriching educational experience where their clinical skills are advanced as well as their administration and management skills (e.g., leadership of non-profits),” he said.

There will be a Meet & Greet for interested DSW applicants at the School of Social Work on Saturday May 10. To register for the event, please contact Program Assistant Jocelyn Horner at jhorner4@tulane.edu.

For more information about the program, please contact Program Director Fred Buttell at buttell@tulane.edu or 504-862-3486.