DEAN’S UPDATE:
Meeting Challenges at Home and Abroad

Dear alumni,

Last spring, Tulane School of Social Work received a very generous gift from the estate of Shirley Goaux of over $1.5 million, which enabled us to secure matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents to create the first distinguished endowed professorship at the School. The endowed chair was intended to be held by an eminent senior scholar with both a national and international record of outstanding publication, prominent leadership roles in professional organizations, and creative ideas for educating both undergraduate and graduate students. I am very excited to report that we have filled the position. Dr. Charles Figley will assume the Tulane University Dr. Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Social Work beginning in the fall semester of 2008.

Dr. Figley is an internationally known trauma expert. He has been a full professor since 1983 (first at Purdue University where he had appointments both in psychology and family therapy), before moving to Florida State University College of Social Work, where he led the Ph.D. Program in Marriage and the Family. He has authored or edited 20 books, 94 refereed journal articles, and is one of most cited scholars among social work professors.

I’m confident that Dr. Figley’s decision to come to Tulane is based on our shared recognition of the unique opportunity in the post Katrina landscape of New Orleans and the region to contribute to the development of scholarship related to disaster mental health issues and to support the growth of programs within this domain. I expect that he will maintain an active leadership role with the School through his teaching and engagement with the student body, and through leadership activities with the faculty and the local and broader community.

On other fronts, if you’ve walked by the School of Social Work building lately, you may be wondering about the scaffolding covering the entire building. Katrina poked some holes in our roof. I know this will come as no surprise, but it took until now to complete the negotiations with FEMA for its repair. A new slate roof covers the entire building and the scaffolding should be gone shortly.

Other building news includes a complete technology transformation of room 103, our large classroom on the first floor. Beginning on May 1, 2008, we’ll see the installation of electronic screens, dual ceiling mounted projectors, new speakers and a smart kiosk with microphone, built-in computer and control panel to operate all the electronics. Structural improvements on the room itself are planned to complement and enhance the technology.

At home and on the international front, our faculty continue their engagement in research and scholarship with our community. Recognizing the many connections and linkages between our work at home and abroad and how one informs the other, the School has launched two new certificate programs, earned in conjunction with the MSW. This fall we began offering a certificate in “Disaster Mental Health” and in “International Social Work” which is part of the programming in international social work.

At the invitation of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the Payson Center for International Development, I traveled to Rwanda in October to explore the interest in developing psycho-social content as part of the offerings of the National University of Rwanda’s newly developed School of Public Health. The need for such content and the interest by representatives of the university and government was extraordinary. Last month, Professor Marva Lewis and Eileen Ihrig, director of international programming, followed up with...
For some reason which often escapes us, we all got along, and we all stayed in touch. We had a “group identity.” Perhaps it had something to do with history, with the culture, with the set up of the school structure at the time which enhanced bonding through intense time spent together. Perhaps the stars were aligned! Our class t-shirt, emblematic of the time, portrayed a Superman-type logo on the front with “TSSW” woven into the design, and on the back, “Social Workers Do It In The Field.”

We always worked hard, and we partied a lot – creatively, of course. So it’s no surprise that we had two parties in 2007, nor is it a surprise that we have had reunions at least every five years.

They came from Mississippi, they came from Idaho, and they came from the Westbank to an elegant and delectable evening chez Charlotte Birdsong Cocchiara. It’s New Orleans, and Charlotte is a classic NOLA hostess, which means we ate and drank extremely well! We spent time talking with one another and tried to fill in names on our 30-year-old photograph while perusing volumes of photos and memorabilia such as our graduation program and list of professors at the time. And, as at every party, we marveled at the fact that we HAD the Neville Brothers play for our final “prom.”

Specially-designed Tulane University Mardi Gras beads and cups created for the occasion were part of our festive nature.

Sitting at the TSSW Homecoming reception on Friday, October 26, we were hardly a solid block of private practitioners as some might think of the graduates from the 70’s and 80’s. The class of 1977 includes an impressive group of alums whose accomplishments make us all proud:

• **Charlotte Birdsong Cocchiara** has maintained a private practice for seven years, specializing in adult sexual assault victims. She has spent the past twenty years as a United States Probation Officer and is currently the Deputy Chief Probation Officer for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

• **Jon Costa** is assistant director with the Etowah County Department of Human Resources in Alabama where he has worked for the past 29 years.

• **Andrew Dwyer** works at the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital and is happily married to Eva.

• **Ray Foley** currently lives and works in Worthing, England where he has been employed by the County of West Sussex for the last 5 years. His primary focus is to provide Social Work Case Management services to adults with learning disabilities.

• **Frank Hughes** reports that he is in good health and still happily married to Barbara Gasdaglis. He is working as a crisis counselor with LA Spirit, and is the proud grandfather of three beautiful grandchildren.

• **Barbara Gasdaglis** retired from New Orleans Public Schools shortly before Hurricane Katrina and accepted a position with the Service Learning Program at The Brown Foundation. She enjoys spending free time with her 90-year-old mother in Ohio and Frank’s grandchildren in North Carolina.

• **Dianne Green-Smith** is an assistant professor at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She teaches in the Human Behavior in the Social Environment Content area as well as the practice content area. She also leads the international study abroad program to Ghana, West Africa. Dianne completed her PhD in Clinical Social Work at Loyola University-Chicago this past fall, and will graduate in May 2008.

• **Deborah Henson** relocated to Austin, Texas after Hurricane Katrina and is rebuilding her private clinical practice as well as providing training to mental health practitioners in ethics issues and clinicians’ involvement in litigation. She is a board approved supervisor in Texas. Deborah is also a lawyer currently practicing in Texas.

• **Steve Heer** is in his 28th year as a school social worker in Dubuque, Iowa. He has also been involved in concurrent work with
“SUPPORTING SOCIAL WORK: OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME” ENCOMPASSES HOMECOMING 2007

By Jerry Smith, MSW ’04

Elegance, entertainment, excitement...all encompassed the opportunity of a lifetime that TSSW alumni enjoyed at Homecoming 2007! Once again, Room 103 transformed from a classroom to an elegant banquet room, with drapes, festive fall garlands, and florals! Delectable hors d'oeuvres and a splendid variety of other delicious New Orleans-flavored delicacies graced the food tables, and the band serenaded alums with musical entertainment of an authentic New Orleans jazz flair.

This homecoming celebration was a milestone event for TSSW’s Class of 1977 (see the article on pages 2 and 3), as class alumni traveled back to New Orleans from near and far to reunite for the fun and festivities.

Dr. Jeannette Jennings (MSW ’69) was honored posthumously as the Tulane School of Social Work Social Worker of the Year. Sadly, Dr. Jennings passed away in October. Her mother and other family members traveled to TSSW from Hattiesburg, Mississippi to receive the award in her honor (see the tribute to Dr. Jennings in this issue on page 4).

The excitement of the evening culminated with an auction of generously-donated raffle prizes, including a pair of New Orleans Saints game tickets. Proceeds from the raffle event benefited the student scholarship fund for current TSSW students. Without a doubt, all enjoyed an evening of elegance, entertainment and excitement!

domestic violence, divorcing parents, critical incident/traumatic stress response for schools and emergency responders, and working in clinical mental health. Steve has been married for 26 years to Sandy and has two sons.

• **Victoria Hippard** completed a PhD in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in depth psychology in February 2007. Her dissertation is entitled “Who Invited Harry? a depth psychological analysis of the Harry Potter phenomenon.” She continues to see clients in her private practice and teaches as an adjunct professor at TSSW.

• **Sid Jacobson, Ph.D.** has been in the fields of training and consulting for over 25 years, which has taken him around the world training and consulting with a variety of professionals. He has published five books. Sid is married to Cindi Lanza Jacobson (LSCW, SAC) who is also a TSSW alum and adjunct faculty. They still live in the New Orleans area and are part of the continuing rebuilding process, as it continues.

• **Sue Josephson** is in full-time practice on the Northshore.

• **Suzanne MacMorris** started teaching social work at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina after graduation. She earned a PhD in Social Work and Social Welfare from Virginia Commonwealth University.

• **Larry Nackerud** returned to Montana after earning his MSW from Tulane and continued working in child welfare. For the last 14 years he has taught public policy courses in the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia.

• **Shelby Price** is retired following a 30-year career in Louisiana state government, which included work for the Office of Mental Health as a social worker, supervisor, program manager and administrator. He served as the Chief Executive Officer for New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) during Hurricane Katrina. Shelby oversaw the evacuation of hospital patients as well as the reopening of the hospital post Katrina.

• **Joella Reed Turner** has been a practicing therapist in the states of Mississippi and Arkansas for the last 30 years. Joella is currently a clinical supervisor for a private mental health practice in the Arkansas Delta. Her daughter Elizabeth, is a freshman pre-med major at Tulane, and loves the school and the city of New Orleans!

• **Lois Smith Luckett** is in private practice in Louisville, Kentucky.

• **Marly L. Sweeney** is in full-time private practice and has served as adjunct faculty at TSSW since 1984. She has published articles and a book chapter, and is involved in numerous community activities including art, music, and travel.

Look for our newly framed and hung class photo on the third floor!

We had a group identity. Perhaps it had something to do with history, with the culture, with the set up of the school structure at the time which enhanced bonding through intense time spent together.
When I reflect on the life of my colleague and friend, Dr. Jeanette Jennings, I think about “truth-telling and courage,” two qualities that are closely associated with civil rights activists in the Deep South in the 1960s. Perhaps it was because she came of age in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, at a time of segregation and discrimination that was palpable. Perhaps she felt liberated by the warriors from the 60s who fought to open many closed doors. I remember her telling me about her employment as the first African-American social worker with the Mississippi Department of Public Welfare in 1966.

From that experience and many others, Dr. Jennings seemed to embrace and accept the sometimes cumbersome challenges of a pioneer, and true to that spirit always paved the way for others, especially those who were disadvantaged. She was a true advocate who often spoke up when no one else did; she never feared reprisal and often earned the respect from others which to her was of the utmost importance.

Dr. Jennings prepared herself for her long journey by earning a Master’s Degree from the Tulane School of Social Work in 1969, and another Master’s Degree and doctorate degree from the University of Michigan in 1980. After completing her academic work, she was the first African-American faculty member hired at the University of Mississippi and although no one has said so, I would guess the first African-American Associate Dean at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Consistent with her scholarly agenda, Dr. Jennings wrote numerous publications in the NASW press and peer reviewed journals. She authored two book chapters and she was particularly interested in issues related to Race, women, leadership and gerontology.

During her last year at Tulane, Dr. Jennings was involved in the Katrina Project, a joint project between TSSW and the Institute for Family Services out of New Jersey. She continued her work as an active and founding board member of Girls First, a program for disadvantaged African-American girls at Tulane University. She also continued her work in gerontology, as she was awarded a grant from the Hartford Foundation.

Dr. Jennings retired in June 2007, and passed away in October 2007 after a brief illness. She is sorely missed, however lives on in the spirit of her former students, colleagues, and friends both in the region and nationally.

UPDATE continued from page 1…

In this limited space, I can’t do justice to all the exciting developments and accomplishments at the School. I am confident that we are well on the way to not only a full recovery from Hurricane Katrina, but moving forward in exciting directions.

Ronald N. Chiswick
Ten years ago, her personal search for a creative outlet led alumni Anne Winkel Fontaine (MSW ’78) to a unique workshop hosted by Julia Cameron, author of The Artist’s Way. During the “creativity camp,” participants were encouraged to discover and nurture their creativity through writing, painting, and other artistic endeavors.

“One of our assignments was to write a story killing off a monster,” said Fontaine. “As I wrote, I realized that I had been carrying around this negative story since childhood and I had believed it. What a great thing to be able to write about it, and get rid of it!”

After sharing her experience with others, Fontaine discovered that everyone had a “monster.” For example, some had been told during their childhood that they weren’t pretty, or that they couldn’t sing. Others heard comments like “you’re not good at math.”

“I thought it was interesting that women in their forties were still carrying their ‘monsters,’ and believing that they were true,” said Fontaine. “I thought the greatest thing I could do was to help young girls see that even if we have ‘monsters’ or horrible obstacles, we don’t have to believe they are true – we can move on. We have the strength to overcome them.”

Thus was born the Annie Series which was launched in 2007. Combining her love of animals and interest in children, Fontaine created a series to help children develop emotional strength, confidence, and leadership skills. The first book in the series deals with the biggest challenge of all: death. Ocho Loved Flowers is the story of a little girl named Annie who learns about love, responsibility, and loss when her cat, Ocho, becomes sick and isn’t going to get well.

Fontaine said that what children learn about grief and death stays with them for life. “They need to learn that death is a natural process,” said Fontaine. “Annie learns to care for Ocho when he receives a fatal diagnosis, grieve when he dies, and then cherish his memory.”

The rest of the series will take Annie through new challenges which she will face with the help of a furry or feathered friend – challenges that help Annie develop strength and confidence. Fontaine is already at work on storylines for the second and third installments.

A native of Iowa, Fontaine moved to New Orleans in 1975 and worked as a probation officer for the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court. She also worked with Greenhouse, which at the time was a residential program for runaway youth. "My interest in social work grew from my work with children who were leading troubled lives, and trying to help them find advantages or work with them to create advantages in order to be successful,” said Fontaine.

Her social work career has flourished based on sage advice from her academic adviser. “I had planned to go down the clinical path, and he helped me realize that the management path was the one for me,” said Fontaine. “It was a life changing moment, because so many more doors opened for me with his guidance. He listened to me and heard my goals, and helped me figure out what I really wanted to do.”

Fontaine has worked in healthcare marketing, consulting, coaching, and leadership development, as well as with children in social service organizations. She lives and works in Seattle with her husband, with whom she co-owns The Fontaine Group, a leadership consulting firm.

To order Ocho Loved Flowers, visit www.annieseries.com. Indicate your affiliation as a TSSW alumni, and Fontaine will sign the book.
As part of Tulane University’s plan to improve its Web site and marketing efforts, Tulane School of Social Work will launch a new and improved Web site this spring.

In 2007, the university’s communications office surveyed various campus audiences about the existing Web site. Survey participants commented on the lack of consistency between schools and departments, as well as outdated information that was posted on the Web site. Based on the survey results, the university’s web communications team created a Web site template to unify the entire campus under a consistent Tulane identity. To ensure current Web site content, the university purchased a content management system which allows users with little or no technical expertise to maintain Web site content.

TSSW is the first school on campus to participate in the Web site redesign process.

After assessing the current Web site and soliciting new content from faculty, TSSW’s marketing team created a new framework for the Web site to include the vast amount of information in a way that can be easily navigated.

The new TSSW home page will be an easy one-stop shop for current and prospective students as well as alumni. The reorganized navigation bar will include a current list of school events and news as well as an updated alumni link. This link will include a database where alumni can instantly update their contact information and post information about their activities. Future plans include student blogs, including postings from TSSW students in overseas field placements. The TSSW marketing staff is currently training to master the content management software.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard announcing the new TSSW Web site!
Lillie Iris Andrews, (MSW ’90), is a gambling counselor for Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. She is employed by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Monique Bradberry, (MSW ’06), is a project manager for SBIRT a program which screens and intervenes with pregnant women for domestic violence, depression, and substance abuse. She lives in Mandeville, Louisiana.

Michelle Capps Allen, (MSW ’92), is in a group private practice in Gulfport, Mississippi which she joined after Hurricane Katrina. She also maintains a private practice in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Morris Wade Cooper, (MSW ’93), works in an outpatient substance abuse treatment clinic at a VA hospital in Houston, Texas. In 2006 the VA named him the outstanding mental health clinician of the year.

Kimberly Eid, (MSW ’07), is director of social services at an area nursing home. She lives in Avondale, Louisiana.

Ellen Estevens, (MSW ’74), is Director of Adult Protective Services in the Department of Health and Hospital’s Office of Aging and Adult Services in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Tyra Farrow, (MSW ’04), is an LCSW at a VA Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. Recently engaged, she will be married in June 2008.

Rebecca Gibson, (MSW ’06), is attending Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio.

Laurie French Haas, (MSW ’90), is on the faculty of the University of South Alabama School of Social Work.

Patricia Godfrey, (MSW ’63), is in private practice in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Bill Knecht, (MSW ’72), is the program coordinator for the Touro Chronic Pain Program in New Orleans. He serves on the ERACE/ERACISM Board of Directors, and is a field instructor for TSSW, and Southern University School of Social Work.

Allison LaChute Smith, (MSW ’06), is a mental health provider for the St. Tammany Parish School System. She resides in Ponchatoula with her new husband.

Kate Lufkin, (MSW ’05), is the only social worker at a 14,000 patient health center in South Boston. She is in charge of all prenatal intakes, all crisis mediation, and all general medical social work needs for the health center. Kate was one of 15 recipients of a $30,000 award from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to be applied to her student loans. Congratulations!

Jean Elizabeth Maguire, (MSW ’03), works in hospice services with Covenant Hospice in Mobile, Alabama.

Steve Matthews, (MSW ’97), works in group, family, and individual therapy at a psychiatric hospital in Louisiana. He took his refuse vows to be a Buddhist in May 2007.

Jennifer Meyer, (MSW ’07), is a social worker at Ochsner in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mark Morris, (MSW ’05), has been a primary counselor at Bridge House in New Orleans since October 2006.

Carmel Price, (MSW ’03), is pursuing a PhD in Sociology and working as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Leah Steele, (MSW ’99), is a social worker for addiction and substance abuse treatment for the State of Louisiana under the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority.

Stephanie Subervielle, (MSW ’02), is currently a nursing student at the LSU School of Nursing in New Orleans. She will graduate with her BSN in May 2008.

Mattie Thompson Murphy, (MSW ’69), works in the insurance industry in Troy, Alabama.

L. Jeromy Williams, (MSW ’99), is a social worker in the PTSD Outpatient Clinic at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System-American Lake Division in Tacoma, Washington.

If you have news to share with your fellow alumni, please fill in and return the form on the back page, or visit the web site at http://www.tulane.edu/~tssw/New_TSSW/Alumni/wayn.html
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/wayne.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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