Homecoming 2012 set for Nov. 3, featuring Free CEU, reception

By Joseph Halm, TSSW Marketing

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-hour Ethics CEU event starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3 as part of the 2012 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. “We hope that all of our alumni will take advantage of this CEU event as well as stay to enjoy our annual reception.”

For the CEU event, TSSW Alumnae and Adjunct Professor Lou Irwin, LCSW, will present a workshop entitled, “An Ethics Tune-up for Social Workers” from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The CEU is free of charge and will take place in the Stibbs Conference Room (No. 203) on the second floor of the Lavin-Bernick Center.

Irwin said participants will review the NASW Code of Ethics and the Louisiana Social Work Rules, Standards, and Procedures; learn Gary Schoener’s Ethical Decision Making Table; learn Frederick Reamer’s Steps to Sound Risk Management and Ethical Decision Making; and be able to apply these tools to at least one social work case. Participants are encouraged to begin think-

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DEAN’S UPDATE

New Class highlights growth

Of the many activities in which I engage as Dean, welcoming alumni back to campus for homecoming is among the most pleasant. Leading up to and during homecoming events I have the privilege of learning of the myriad of contributions each of you make to the communities in which you are a part. Your engagements are extraordinary and both individually and collectively they demonstrate the remarkable role you play and the value our profession has in working towards improving the well-being of individuals and communities close to home and around the world. Once again, I very much look forward to welcoming you back to campus on Saturday night, November 3. This year, Lou Irwin, MSW 1979, and a long standing adjunct faculty member at the School will offer a continuing education event titled “An Ethics Tune-up for Social Workers.” Following this will be our annual celebration with music and food and a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones.

By way of an update, our School and our programs continue to thrive. Once again, we admitted a great class this fall with

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Nearly 20 years after the Rwandan genocide, social work is an emerging field in the country. Beata Mukamurenzi and Charles Kalinganire, two social work professors from the National University of Rwanda, shared their stories about the role of social work in a postgenocide society during a presentation at Tulane University.

The duo spoke on July 10 to more than 50 students and faculty as part of an annual study tour sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane. The professors attend classes, work with field agencies and interact with Tulane faculty to learn about best practices.

Rwandans are still processing the trauma from the 1994 genocide, which killed more than one million people. The country created “Gacaca” courts to help judge the individuals responsible for the genocide.

“It would have taken more than 100 years to judge them in normal court,” Kalinganire said. “As of last month, [Gacaca courts] have been closed because they finished all the cases that have been presented. The main objective of Gacaca was not just to punish those who are guilty, but it was a form of unity and reconciliation.”

The National University offers a bachelor’s-level social work degree, and the program is still growing, Kalinganire said.

As social workers continue to redefine their role in Rwanda, there will be plenty of work, Mukamurenzi added.

“We’ve found that there is a kind of collective trauma that is prevailing,” she said. “When we look at people 18 years after, we may think that because of those years that people are recovering, but what you observe is when people remember what happened, it is very hard for the survivors. They show acute trauma. It is a difficult problem.”
Throughout 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.

The Tulane School of Social Work and the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy recently gained the attention of the international community. TSSW was featured in a video discussing the resiliency of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Charles Figley, co-director of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA), and Dean Ron Marks appear in a short film titled “Katrina Seven Years Later: Stories of Resiliency.” It was produced by the Tzu Chi Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on charity, medicine, education and humanitarian culture.

In the video, reporter Ginger Chang interviews Figley about lessons learned from Katrina and why he believes the DRLA is the next step toward being prepared for a disaster of Katrina’s proportions. He explains, “we hope to develop throughout the world the capacity for more effective leadership in humanitarian assistance. It’s as simple as that.”

The video can be viewed here -- http://youtu.be/s3VVlTfYfA.

TSSW is happy to announce the hiring of two new, part-time staff members to support the school’s growing certificate programs this Fall. Both are TSSW graduates.

Melinda Flynn (MSW ’97) was hired as a part-time Program Manager to assist with the Global Social Work Certificate program and the school’s many exciting global initiatives.

Melinda is a Louisiana native, residing in New Orleans since earning her MSW from Tulane in 1997. In addition to eight years providing psychotherapy to a diverse veteran population, Melinda’s practice history includes non-profit administration, program development and management, and other project-based consulting work. For the last 11 years, she has provided consultation in the immigration law arena, advocating for families and individuals from all over the world in the midst of often very challenging circumstances. Melinda said she is thrilled to have the opportunity to expand her global focus to the Tulane School of Social Work community, in which she has already been serving as an adjunct professor and field liaison.

“This is an exciting opportunity for me to combine several of my practice interests: social work with a global, multi-cultural focus, program administration, and working with TSSW graduate students,” Melinda said. “I feel fortunate to be involved in this manner, and I will look forward to being a part of the growth of the Global Social Work Certificate program.”

The Institute for Psychosocial Health has hired Harpreet Samra, LMSW, as its new half-time Senior Program Coordinator. Preet (MSW ’06) will be assisting with the Disaster Mental Health Certificate program along with community-based research, and grant writing. Since graduation, she has been deeply committed to children and adolescents in New Orleans through her work with Save the Children and New Orleans Outreach as well as other civic venues.

“It’s wonderful to be able to apply everything I learned years ago – at TSSW in 2006 during a post-Katrina New Orleans, as well as through my experience with various organizations since graduation – to my new work here at the Institute for Psychosocial Health,” Preet said. “I look forward to continuing to work on the amazing programs already in existence, as well as assist in possibly creating new, sustainable programs for the Greater New Orleans area and beyond.”

PLANNED GIVING HAS MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE AT TSSW

By Lou Franchina, Development Officer

Longtime readers may recall a previous column entitled, “The Power of the $25 Donation.” More recently, we highlighted the benefits of utilizing our secure online giving site and utilizing the recurring gifts option. For this column, I would like to focus on planned giving.

As you already may know, planned gifts include annuities, trusts, and bequests. While the last is the most common, they each have their advantages, depending on your philanthropic goals. And they all are equally important. Indeed, the vast majority of the largest gifts ever to the Tulane School of Social Work have come through planned giving vehicles like those mentioned above. Of these, the most common are bequests.

While it is a relatively straightforward process to include the school in your estate plans, you still need to make some decisions. The first is to make sure that you designate the school, rather than the university, as the beneficiary (if that is your intent). The second concerns the purpose you would like to support. Do you want the school to have the flexibility to utilize your bequest to meet its most urgent needs, or would you prefer to have it set aside for a particular use, like scholarships, for example? You also may want to think about the impact you want to have. Would you rather have your bequest used in a finite period of time or invest to support the school in virtual perpetuity? (The former generally would be a non-endowed fund, and the latter an endowed fund.)

More details about these various bequest types, including sample bequest language, may be found by visiting http://tulane.edu/giving/ and clicking on the “Planned Giving” tab. You’ll also find additional information, helpful tools like gift planning calculators, and illustrations of how you can provide for both your heirs and your alma mater.

Should you have any questions about any of these options available to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Lou Franchina is the school’s development officer. He may be reached directly at (504) 314-7308 or lfranch1@tulane.edu.
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DEAN’S MESSAGE: SCHOOL ON TRACK FOR RE-ACCREDITATION

students coming from over 30 states and bringing considerable skills and experience to the School. Our two certificate programs, Global Social Work and Disaster Mental Health remain strong attractions for applicants. With the increasing enrollments in these two areas, the School added two staff members to assist in supporting and further developing the programs. After extensive searches, Melinda Flynn, MSW ’97 was hired to work directly with Dr. Elaine Wright in the School’s Global Social Work program and Harpreet Samra, MSW ’06 was hired to assist Dr. Jane Parker with the Disaster Mental Health certificate program and related activities. We welcomed both Melinda and Preet in September.

Our School’s long history includes being among the first group of Schools of Social Work in the United States to achieve accredited status. Once again, we have the opportunity to reaffirm our accredited status with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Our three volume self-study has been submitted and our site visit is scheduled for November 15. Included in this material is a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which we have successfully delivered both our foundation and advanced curriculum. CSWE has moved to a competency based evaluation which required us to identify dozens of practice behaviors in both the foundation and advanced curriculum and then assess the extent to which our students have gained these skills through multiple measures for every competency. As is always the case, engaging in this long and arduous process allows us to better understand what we do, how well we do it and learn how we can continue to develop our programs and processes. I’m fully confident that our site visit will be a great experience and we will be fully accredited once again for the maximum period.

Our faculty continue to demonstrate their extraordinary skills in many areas, including their community engage-


A few weeks ago, I returned from India with 16 of our MSW students. For 11 years, this course has enabled our students to travel to north India, immerse themselves in a community very different from their own and experience firsthand the remarkable resilience of the Tibetan exile community. There are really two objectives of this class: to enable students to understand the challenges, opportunities and rewards of providing social and health programming in resource poor parts of the world as well as, and no less important, to provide opportunities for students to grow personally and professionally and see the linkage between the two. As in the past, we began our preparations over six months prior to departure which included reading several books, understanding the history and culture of the region and preparing emotionally, physically and spiritually for what was a truly transformative educational adventure.

It’s good to be home and I look forward to seeing you at our homecoming.
Alumna’s Passion, Commitment to Teaching, Sexual Violence Issues Helps Drive Annual Event

TSSW alumnus Brooks Zitzmann can’t contain her smile when she speaks of her work at Loyola University New Orleans. Whether it is working in a clinical setting at the counseling center or planning the annual Take Back The Night event, that occurred Oct. 23, she’s visibly thankful to be right where she is.

“I certainly love doing clinical work,” she said. “I think I’ve grown a tremendous amount as a person and a professional, so I’m really very grateful for the opportunity to work with the students that I have. I’m really grateful for working at a Jesuit institution, and it’s just been a very good experience. Certainly my values align closely with many of the school’s values of being with and for others, and I’m just grateful for the opportunities that I’ve had here.”

Others have taken notice of her work. Brooks, a staff counselor at Loyola University’s counseling center, was awarded the Ignatian Medal for Outstanding New Professional in Jesuit Student Affairs. The award, given at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference, is conferred on individuals who have distinguished themselves in the early years of their careers. Established in spring 1997, the award is given annually.

“Whether coordinating Loyola’s annual Take Back the Night event, meeting with students struggling with mental health issues, researching the resiliency of a New Orleans-based Vietnamese community in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina or attending an Ignatian silent retreat, she embodies our mission in both words and action,” said M.L. “Cissy” Petty, Ph.D., vice president for student affairs and associate provost at Loyola.

Of particular note is Brooks’ cutting edge work on Loyola’s ADVOCACY Initiative. The AJ program serves as a resource for victims of sexual assault and reaches out to train Loyola students, staff and faculty for emotional support, referral information and options for reporting.

As for her work with Take Back the Night, this year’s event will mark her third year as the event chair. In that time, she’s helped add Dillard University to the event to expand its reach in the community. The event raised more than $3,000 in the past, and all proceeds go to local service agencies including Metropolitan Service for Women and Children, SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) program and Crescent House.

“Some of the social problems that we look at in social work like sexual violence seem so big, and it’s difficult to know how to address them,” she said. “But Take Back The Night is really a concrete way for people to feel like they’re actively engaging in this topic. It’s one of my favorite things about it because there’s so much energy around it. People really find it to be very valuable.”

Brooks said although it requires extra work, the event, which includes a candle-light march, open mic speak out and a closing ceremony, has a rewarding and positive effect on the participants.

“It’s a really powerful healing ritual for students who have been through sexual violence, so it’s also a chance for them to speak out,” she said. “It’s a really great event, and Take Back The Night has a special affiliation with TSSW. We honor several TSSW students, who have been victims of sexual violence including Kimberly Kelly.”

Beyond her Take Back The Night responsibilities, Brooks works with students to help develop leadership and advocacy skills. As a staff counselor, she primarily provides individual counseling to Loyola Community members, but she also co-facilitates a group.

She’s still actively involved with TSSW by serving on the Alumni Board. She is also a field instructor as TSSW provides a social work intern to Loyola’s counseling department, where Brooks also completed her field placement.

“I have a little over a year left before I can sit for my LCSW license, so I’m pretty excited about that,” she said. “It’s a major professional goal on the horizon.”

Despite her full schedule, Brooks also finds time for non work-related fun. She’s a JazzFest volunteer and serves as a float captain in the Krewe of Tucks. She added that she tries to get in as much reading and exercising as possible. She’s also a pretty good baker.

“I love the art culture in New Orleans, so I try to get down to Royal Street to look around,” she said.

Brooks lives in Mid-City with her cat, Mistletoe, and is an Ex-officio Alumni Development Committee Member on the TSSW Alumni Board.
Hair brushing focus of Early Connections Project

Dr. Marva Lewis has always had an eye toward how hair brushing can be used as a tool to connect mothers and daughters, and now, her Early Connections Project is teaming up with the Tulane Medical Center to teach its hair brushing program to the community.

The Early Connections Project, housed at the Tulane School of Social Work, held a special pilot of its newest program entitled “Gentle Hair Brushing Time for Hospitalized Children” at Tulane Medical Center in mid-August.

The project works with parents and patients in the pediatric unit as well as the pediatric intensive care unit. According to Lewis, the idea originally focused on infants.

“For the past two years, we’ve been working on an intervention that involves the hair combing task with small, fragile babies,” she said. “Pediatrics is an older population and a less fragile child than the NICU, but it is still in the same realm of a medically ill and hospitalized child.”

The team, which consisted of several School of Social Work and Public Health students, developed a 10-minute intervention to teach parents how to incorporate hair brushing into their child’s daily routine. The program believes the intervention will help parents develop a healthy attachment with their child and feel more connected to their child while also increasing positive moments with their child and building confidence in caring for their hospitalized child.

Dana Crawford, project coordinator, said the intervention focused on parents learning to communicate better with their children.

“Research does show that medical outcomes are better when the parent is present,” she said. “The child connects more. They have less psychological symptoms such as fear and anxiety. Communication happens in a lot of different ways, so this program is really about how a parent is attending to their child’s verbal and nonverbal cues.”

The project has gathered support from the New Orleans Gulf South Booksellers Association. The group donated 25 copies of each of the following books: “I Love My Hair” by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley; “I Like Myself!” by Karen Beaumont; “Chocolate Me!” by Taye Diggs; and “Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children” by Sandra L. Pinkney.

The donated books will help the project foster parent-child attachment relationships while simultaneously promoting the literacy behaviors of the mothers and strengthening community connections. By using humor, experiential exercises, and children’s books focused on topics such as skin color and hair texture, the Early Connection project touches on vital topics such as normal child development, racial and family legacies, active listening, trauma, attachment, values, and emotions.

Amy Loewy of the New Orleans Gulf South Booksellers Association said the project was easy to support due to its unique structure while also promoting reading between children and adults.

Newest Alumni

TSSW welcomed two new alumni to its ranks this August as Maleeka Jihad (right) and John McKinney (left) completed their degrees. The two transfer students presented their Capstone Professional Project entitled “Family Resiliency Education Using a Web-Based Program” on August 16. The duo created an extensive web site -- www.TSSWproject.com -- that specializes in providing visitors with a unique approach to helping them reach their specific mental health goals. The site’s online tools help people recognize the problems and take action to decrease or eliminate potential impacts to their mental health. (Photo by Joseph Halm)
Chauncy Collins (MSW ’09) currently resides in Baton Rouge, La., and is a clinician at Medical Management Option. He was named “Employee of the Month” in October 2011 and May 2012. Collins said he enjoys being an advocate for his clients and the entire mental health population.

Laurie Smith Lawson (MSW ’08) currently lives in Raymond, Miss., and is the executive director of the Clinton Community Christian Corporation in Clinton, Miss. She also became the Program Director of the Social Work Program at Mississippi College in January 2012.

Michael R. McNeil (MSW ’80) currently resides in New Orleans, La., and is the CEO of The Guidance Center, Inc.

Samuel Odom (PhD ’98) currently lives in New Orleans, La., and is teaching at Southern University New Orleans and practicing psychotherapy. He was published in the Journal of Military and Governmental Counseling. He is also married with two daughters.

Shannon Kilpack Weber (MSW ’93) currently resides in San Francisco, and is working as a coordinator for the National Perinatal HIV Hotline at the University of California, San Francisco. Shannon also was published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Family Physician, AIDS, Fertility and Sterility and Pediatrics. Her latest project hopes to change the world one love note at a time -- www.loveyou2.org.

In Memoriam

Carolyn Louis Shultz (MSW ’70) of Tucson, Ariz., passed away on Sept. 14, 2012. She grew up in Oklahoma City and was a graduate of Mills College in Oakland, Calif., prior to earning her MSW at Tulane. After graduation, she worked at Charity Hospital as a social worker, where she met her husband, Dr. M. Lee Shultz, who was an urology resident. The couple moved back to Tucson in 1970. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Lee; daughters, Juliana and Carrie; her brother, Roger (Dagmer) Louis and her nieces and nephews.

Global synergy links disaster academy with TSSW

By Carol J. Schluter, Tulane Publications

Part of Tulane since 1927, the School of Social Work is more globally focused than ever before. Now it can expand its international ties, as the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy joined social work on July 1.

Social Work Dean Ron Marks is happy to embrace the new relationship with DRLA and its executive director, Ky Luu, who came to Tulane in 2009 to develop the academy and train global leaders in disaster risk management.

“We felt DRLA would be truly embraced by our school,” Marks says, “that there would be a synergy, and that there could be shared curriculum moving forward.”

Luu has a $5 million grant to develop a network of leaders trained as disaster specialists in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. He also is leading a master’s program at Tulane in disaster resilience leadership studies that begins its second year this fall and will remain an interdisciplinary program.

DRLA had been part of the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane Law School, but it already had natural ties to social work.

Charles Figley, social work professor and director of the Tulane Traumatology Institute, is director of academic programming for DRLA.

Luu sees “great positive impact” in the collaboration because DRLA works to strengthen leadership in communities “to address root causes of vulnerability, such as chronic poverty, gender and social inequality. That lines up extremely well with the School of Social Work goal to teach students about human diversity and promote social and economic justice.”

Marks adds, “The partner base DRLA brings could really assist us greatly” in expanding internship sites for the growing global social work master’s program, which requires a three-month internship.

On behalf of both his group and social work, Luu says, “There are great synergies in what we’re doing at Tulane, and what we’re doing globally.”
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:
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