Postscripts
School of Social Work
Alumni Association

Dean’s update

We’re settling in Downtown

In the last edition of Postscripts I wrote of the imminent move of the School to the new facility. I talked about the myriad of details related to a project of this size -- moving an entire school that had occupied the same home for 56 years.

On August 4, the move began. Physically, it was quite a sight to see. The movers determined that the best way to get everything out of the building was through a third floor window and they began by removing the entire window, frame and all, and then hoisted everything down utilizing a large crane (I think they referred to this as a cherry picker). Desks, hundreds of boxes of books, miscellaneous furniture, etc., poured out of this window for five days.

Most of August was consumed with the task of unpacking. The goal was to be ready to welcome the new students on September 2 for the beginning of the semester. August came and went, and we were ready. I know the temptation is to compare our old facility to the new one and in so doing find the relative advantages. That part is easy; no more rattling windows, noisy air conditioning in the summer and ineffective

Now that the School is settled into its new home, TSSW hopes that all of its alumni will celebrate Homecoming 2014 at 127 Elk Place on Saturday, Nov. 15.

TSSW will offer an one-hour free CEU, presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival’s Scott Aiges about community interventions in preserving and protecting our culture and cultural economy from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the fourth floor lounge. The annual Alumni Reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the third and fourth floors of 127 Elk Place.

“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 chance to see the new building as well as catch up with friends and classmates.”

The annual free reception will begin at 6 p.m. featuring food, music, drinks and fellowship as well as a raffle benefitting the TSSW Student Scholarship Fund. All alumni and their guests are encouraged to attend.

Participants should park in the Saratoga Garage, located at 111 S. Saratoga St. and access the school via the second floor pedestrian bridge. This is a pay per hour lot.

For more information, contact Kathy Smith at krshiv@tulane.edu or 504-865-5314.

Please RSVP to the event by visiting http://tulane.edu/socialwork and clicking on the homecoming link in the right hand sidebar.
Social Work moves Downtown

After 56 years on Tulane’s Uptown Campus, TSSW moved to 127 Elk Place on August 4. Here are some photos from the journey to our new home.

Join the School on Saturday, Nov. 15 for Homecoming 2014 & a chance to tour the new space!
By Linda P. Campbell, Tulane Law School

Erin Rumsey undertook a dual degree in law and social work at Tulane University believing it would prepare her to better assist crime victims such as those she had encountered while working at a sexual assault crisis center.

But an internship with the Orleans Public Defenders office shifted her thinking. Now, she hopes to help those who’ve been victimized by the criminal justice system. And through a new Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, she’ll spend the next year working with the Office of the Independent Police Monitor to assist residents whose encounters with New Orleans police have resulted in lingering emotional trauma.

The police monitor handles complaints against police officers, and the goal of Rumsey’s project is to develop a method of screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, compile a network of referral agencies that can offer low-cost treatment to complainants who need it and work with the police department to decrease brutality incidents.

The Schweitzer Fellowship program aims to improve the health of populations in underserved communities. The 12 New Orleans fellows for 2014-15 include three students from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and four from the Tulane School of Medicine.

Sofia Curdumi Pendley, the New Orleans program director for the Schweitzer Fellowship, says Rumsey embodies the characteristics of Schweitzer fellows, including passion for service and community involvement. Rumsey is scheduled to complete her Master of Social Work in December and her J.D. in 2016.

Rumsey says her experience with Orleans Public Defenders broadened her perspective of the criminal justice system and showed her there’s much work to be done in dealing with “injustice right under the surface” in the city.

New Orleans, she says, is “just the best place to really make a difference.”
Anthony Arangio (PhD ‘70) currently resides in Arlington, Texas, and he is retired from the Arlington Independent School District. He served 18 years as the Director of Parent Relations and the Director of the District’s Safe and Drug Free School Program. Anthony also spends time on the lecture circuit promoting his new book "I’m Going To The Media and Getting A Lawyer!: The Battle Cry Of Parents Upset With Their Kid’s School." The book combines social work principles throughout this memoir written in a first person, conversational style. The book, which was released in Feb. 2014, is being considered for supplementary text for education students and administrators. For more information about the book, visit www.tonyarangiophd.com.

Jahanna Bailey (MSW ’05) lives in Baton Rouge, La., and she is currently supervising LMSWs for Capital Area Human Services School Based Therapy Program. Additionally, she began the Tulane DSW Program this Fall.

Erin Horgan (MSW ’07) currently resides in Sacramento, Calif., where she serves as a senior policy analyst with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, a non-profit association that represents the human service directors from each of California’s 58 counties. The non-profit’s mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect. Erin has been fortunate to have worked on two significant enhancements to California’s TANF program in the last couple of years: the development of a new assessment tool that will be used statewide to more thoroughly identify clients’ needs and barriers, and the creation of a rapid re-housing program that will be rolled out in a number of counties in the next year.

James Morris (PhD ‘13) currently resides in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he is a tenure-track assistant professor at the Stephen F. Austin School of Social Work. James, who also earned this MSW from Tulane, joined the faculty in the fall of 2014. Prior to coming to SFA, he was a social worker in New Orleans for 12 years, and worked for various nonprofit agencies that provide access to health care, case management services, and/or advocacy for client populations. Beginning in 2006, James was the Director of Social Services for both the New Orleans Musicians Clinic, and Sweet Home New Orleans, and engaged displaced and affected members of the New Orleans cultural community to return to the city in meaningful ways to continue to create and express art representative of their lived experiences. Dr. Morris’ research has focused mainly on the differential impacts of Hurricane Katrina on musicians, with a focus on issues of resiliency and vulnerability, impact of social support networks, community connection, mentoring, and the psychological impact of music for those affected by disaster and/or displacement.

**‘Now I know everyone can have hope’**

en students in the Tulane University Master of Social Work program traveled to South Africa to be exposed to community development and social justice challenges from a South African perspective.

Reggie Ferreira, an assistant professor of social work, and Elaine Wright, director of global programs, led the unique two-week study aboard course in August.

Erin Huggins, a Master of Social Work candidate, says the trip was eye-opening.

“The aspect of the trip that struck the hardest for me was the similarities between the social issues that both New Orleans and South Africa are facing,” she says. “Both places struggle with poverty, class and race issues, but for some reason our society believes that the situation in South Africa is a lot worse. Just because the poverty in South Africa is more visible does not mean it’s worse — which is important to keep in mind when trying to tackle social issues here.”

Among the highlights of the course, students completed a community development project at a child care center with local social work students. They also participated in home visits with caseworkers with the Isibindi project, which responds holistically to the needs of vulnerable and at-risk children, youth and families.

“Many of the techniques and theories I was introduced to in South Africa are extremely applicable to social issues here in the United States,” Huggins says.

The Isibindi project screens, trains and deploys unemployed community members as child and youth care workers servicing families in their own communities under the mentorship of experienced social-service professionals.

During a two-week study abroad trip to South Africa, Chris Russell, a student in the Master of Social Work program, stands in front of a picture of Nelson Mandela made from beads. (Photo by Tulane School of Social Work)

“It was personally humbling to see the children have so much joy despite their circumstances,” student Taylor Hoy says. “This trip has helped my social work practice because now I know everyone can have hope, and sometimes that will be my job, to re-instill hope to people.”
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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