

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS TRAILBLAZING PROFESSOR

By Erika Herran, *Development*

A trailblazer for African Americans in social work, the late Jeannette Jennings created a legacy of breaking barriers and advocating for the disenfranchised. Now, a new scholarship spearheaded by Roger and Carol Nooe will honor Jennings' legacy and help the Tulane University School of Social Work further achieve its goal of diversity.

The endowed scholarship was established by a generous gift from the Delta Foundation through the efforts of the Nooes. Recipients will be selected based on need, with preference given to students from underrepresented groups at Tulane.

"The Delta Foundation has always been

about creating opportunity for people who were denied," says Roger Nooe, who received a master of social work degree in 1966 and a doctorate in social work in 1972 from Tulane. The Nooes sit on the foundation's board.



Jeannette Jennings

The Dr. Jeannette Jennings Memorial Scholarship has been in the works for the Nooes since Jennings' death in 2007. "We wanted the gift to be ongoing, that's the beauty of an endowed scholarship," Nooe says.

Roger Nooe met Jennings at Tulane in the late 1960s while she was working on her master's degree in social work. Jennings received an MSW from Tulane in 1969. He later recruited Jennings to join the faculty at the University

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DEAN'S UPDATE

STUDENTS BEGIN TSSW JOURNEY

One of the great privileges of serving as Dean of the School is the opportunity to welcome new people into our growing educational community. Every fall this comes in the form of addressing our new students. This year, we welcome more than 100 new full-time and part-time MSW students and like the last several years, they are a highly diverse group. Just looking at the geography, they come from 27 states of the United States. One new student joins us from China.

They are a bright and enthusiastic group and bring extraordinary skills and interests. They are a racially diverse group – 28% of the incoming students are African American and another 5% are of Asian descent. All bring a desire to develop skills and gain new knowledge to enable them to work on



behalf of our communities, all of them are thrilled to be here and part of our School. It was a great pleasure to welcome them.

When I addressed our new students at orientation, I likened their beginning their MSW studies to a journey. I asked them to immerse themselves in this journey and pointed out that as in any journey they will

receive from it in proportion to what they put into it, no more, no less. I pointed out to them that to be truly on a journey means that we are going somewhere we have not been before. If we know everything about where we're going, what we will see and do and what we will feel and think about it, then it is not really a journey, we aren't going someplace new. Finally, I noted that being on a journey means we need to be open to

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DEAN'S MESSAGE: WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES

"getting lost" along the way from point A to point B. Otherwise, it's not really a journey. That is, perhaps, where the real learning will occur.

This year we also welcome three new full-time faculty to the School. Drs. Jennifer McCleary, Reggie Ferreira and Catherine Burnette join our growing ranks. You can read a full story about each of them in this issue (Page 4) and learn of their extraordinary talents and interests. They add a great deal to our community of scholars and bring knowledge in disasters, trauma, domestic violence, indigenous populations, and other areas that both build on our existing strengths and add to our repertoire.

During the summer, I visited with Dr. Tonya Thurman, our research associate professor based full time in Durban, South Africa. Tonya has been working on a project in South Africa, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for several years in which she is establishing an evidence base to determine best practices in addressing the significant problem associated with the many highly vulnerable children in South Africa effected by the very high infection rate of HIV/AIDS among the population. Her work will inform USAID on their continued funding of projects in this region of the world. As an outgrowth of Tonya's very successful work, a new research center has been established -- "Highly Vulnerable Children

Research Center." A web site has been established -- <http://hvc-tulane.org/> -- where you can access a great variety of resources, publications and other vital information related to this. Tonya's work has just been re-funded by USAID for an additional two years.

This is a great time for the Tulane School of Social Work. Our commitment is evident in our extraordinarily dedicated faculty and staff whose work is local, regional, national and international. The tremendous energy is manifested everywhere I look, in the classrooms and in our communities. It's a thrill to be part of it.



Changing lives one Tulane degree at a time

By Erika Herran, Development

A Tulane University education shaped Janice Simmons' (NC '77) life even before she was born. Tulane paved the way for her father, Thomas Simmons (SW '53), to embark on a successful career in social work.

"Tulane held a special place in his heart," says Janice Simmons, of North Little Rock, Ark. "His degree enabled him to create a meaningful life and provide for his family."

To honor her father's memory, she established the Thomas H. Simmons Memorial Award Endowed Fund, which will help positively change lives for generations. The scholarship will be awarded annually to deserving students at the School of Social Work.

A journey begins

Thomas Simmons always felt the single most interesting thing about himself was that he grew up on a farm in Arkansas. He never forgot his roots.

Located in a small community outside of Conway, the Simmons' farm has now been in the family for 100 years.

During World War II, at just 18 years old, he joined the United States Navy. Returning home as a war veteran, he was determined to pursue higher education. He enrolled in Arkansas State Teachers College, and in biology class met his future wife, Lois Campbell.

In 1951, the newlyweds packed their belongings, and along with their infant son,

Michael, drove to New Orleans. They were headed for Tulane University.

A Tulane family tradition

Thomas Simmons credited his wife for helping him earn his master's degree in social work at Tulane. He went on to have a successful career, working as chief of social work for Veterans Administration hospitals in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. He served veterans of wars ranging from the Spanish-American War to the Vietnam War.

"He loved going to work every day knowing he was helping military families," says Janice Simmons.



Thomas Simmons and his daughters Jennifer (left) and Janice (center) near the School of Social Work building on the uptown campus in 1984. (Photo submitted)

He instilled the importance of college in his children at a young age. "He believed that education was the best way to improve one's life," says his oldest daughter, Jennifer Simmons (NC '75), of Houston, Texas.

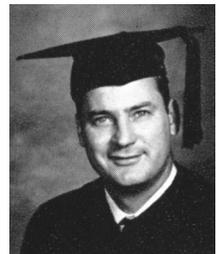
Hearing affectionate stories about Tulane and New Orleans throughout their lives, it's no surprise his daughters chose to follow in his footsteps. In 1975, Jennifer graduated from Newcomb College with a degree in art history and two years later, Janice earned a degree in international relations.

The power of a planned gift

Janice Simmons established the endowed fund in 2011 and sought ways to maximize her personal gift's impact. She secured matching funds from Bank of America, her employer of 20 years, under the Bank of America Charitable Foundation Matching Gifts program, and worked with the Office of Gift Planning at Tulane University to focus the direction of her giving and make it more meaningful, she says.

"My father felt that Tulane was one of the best decisions he ever made," she says. "I know this scholarship award would make him very proud."

Erika Herran is a writer in the Office of Development.



Thomas Simmons' graduation photo in the 1953 Jambalaya. (Photo submitted)

TSSW Notes What's Happening at Your School Today

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

More than 25 first responders from the Loyola and Tulane university communities were honored with a "Just Desserts" reception as students from the Tulane School of Social Work held a special "First Responder Appreciation" event at the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life on the Tulane University uptown campus.

The event was part of the students' professional project, which centers on boosting resilience among the families of first responders. The students — Shannon Barr, Kathleen Benedetto, Ashley Edgar and Jamie Story — created a presentation about resilience and how to enhance family resilience for police officers, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians.

Story, who presented for the group, said first responders can use the "3 Cs" — control, challenge and commitment — to help build resilience in their families.

Jane Parker, director of the Institute for

Psychosocial Health and the disaster mental health certificate, said the students' project is timely and well researched. The institute is building a full curriculum on First Responder Resilience Education and Enhancement to offer in the community.

"Our vision is to make Responder Appreciation Day an annual event for our Tulane and Loyola first responders, involving families of responders in creative ways each year," Parker said.

Participants also heard from Lt. Col. Jerry Sneed, deputy mayor and director of homeland security and public safety for New Orleans.

"Each of you plays such an important part in this community's safety on a daily basis, and I thank you for all that you do," said Sneed.

To better understand culturally competent practice with the Muslim community, the Tulane School of Social Work's Office of Global Programs held a one-hour presentation on July 30. Two local Muslim social work professionals gave students a chance to learn about working with the Muslim community.

"There is not a 100 percent monolithic experience that all Muslims have at one time, but there are some aspects of Muslim culture that you have to

understand to be able to work with clients," Tulane alumna Taslim van Hattum said. "Pretty much every single decision is based on our religious foundation."

Van Hattum, who received a master's degree in social work in 2006 and master's in public health in 2007 from Tulane, works at the Louisiana Public Health Institute as an organizer, social worker and public health professional. Fellow presenter Jenny Yanez, who also holds a master of social work degree from Southern University at New Orleans, is a community organizer at Puentes New Orleans. Both women serve as field instructors for Tulane master's of social work students.

"I don't think there is a hard and fast rule when working with Muslim clients," Yanez says. "Inclusion is important because when we talk about cultures in America, many Muslims are now second or third generation, so this is our culture too."

Because of the differences in cultures, Van Hattum said clinicians may never receive full disclosure from a Muslim client, but that's OK. Each client is different, but even without full disclosure, positive work can be done.

"Full disclosure takes a very long time, if it ever happens," she said. "Knowing that is OK is important. Gaining the trust of your client is key, and you need to let them guide you where they need to go."

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK

By Eva Marie Dyba, Development

The number of alumni and friends contributing to the annual fund is on the rise, and more individuals are participating in our fundraising efforts, which is something to celebrate. The school's annual fund goal this year is \$70,000, and achieving or even surpassing the goal would tremendously help the school. Annual fund dollars exist to supplement areas of need such as general financial aid, faculty research, computer and technology needs, and program enhancements.

Additionally, we strive to raise restricted dollars that are designated to a specific area such as professorships and scholarships. Speaking of scholarships, I am so excited about the Dr. Jeannette Jennings Memorial Scholarship recently

established by a generous gift from the Delta Foundation through the efforts of Dr. Roger (SW '66) and his wife, Carol, in honor of the late Dr. Jeannette Jennings. Have you ever thought about making a donation to honor the life or memory of that special someone? A tribute gift is both a meaningful way to honor a loved one while ensuring the school's ability to continue providing a superior educational experience for our students.

I encourage you to visit <http://tulane.edu/giving/> to learn more about supporting the School of Social Work. There are many ways to support the school, such as annual contributions, gift planning through your estate, or deferred gifts such as annuities, and you can choose your gift designation. I am happy to work with you to identify areas of need that will match your philanthropic interests.

I love to read and often come across quotes that reinforce my decision as to why I support organizations that I am passionate about. One of my favorites is by Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



Eva Marie Dyba

Help us make a life better by supporting a school that gives so much to students, faculty, staff and members of the New Orleans community and beyond.

Eva Marie is the school's development officer. She may be reached directly at (504) 314-7641 or edyba@tulane.edu.

Professors bring renewed energy to TSSW

September marked an important moment in the School's history as students were settling into their educational journey, and TSSW welcomed a trio of new professors taking their first steps into a long, impactful career in academia.

The school's newest additions – Dr. Jennifer Simmelink McCleary, Dr. Catherine Burnette and Dr. Reggie Ferreira – come from various backgrounds and various addresses, but they all share a common bond of wanting people to live happy, healthy lives in the face of adversity.

Dr. McCleary has a background in mental health research with refugees and survivors of war trauma and torture. She also has worked extensively in drug and alcohol treatment with adults and recently completed her dissertation at the University of Minnesota about alcohol use in communities that have been displaced by political conflict. During her research, she worked extensively with the Karen refugee community from Burma, many of whom are currently living as refugees in Thailand.

McCleary said she chose TSSW because of its connection to the community.

"The faculty at the School of Social Work reflect the city in a lot of ways from how welcoming everybody was to how in touch they are with the city and the culture around them," she said. "It seemed like there was a connection to city that wasn't apparent in other universities."

Another interest area includes how community and families are responding to displacement, and she said she hopes to develop collaborative networks at Tulane.

Dr. Burnette's area of focus is working with indigenous communities on the relationships between historical oppression, family violence, and mental health disparities. Burnette completed her dissertation, which focused on the experiences of family violence in the



From left, Dr. Catherine Burnette, Dr. Reggie Ferreira and Dr. Jennifer S. McCleary share a laugh on campus. The trio joined TSSW's faculty this summer and began teaching this Fall. (Photo by Joseph Halm)

Mississippi band of Choctaw Indians, at the University of Iowa.

She currently is working on projects that critically examine these relationships along with re-envisioning healthy families and bolstering individual, family, and community resilience.

She said teaching has always been in her blood.

"Being a professor has been a long-term goal, but I also have a deep love for social work practice," she said. "When one of my professors explained the potential effect professors could have on positive social change through teaching, which I have always enjoyed, along with exciting and meaningful research there was no turning back."

Dr. Ferreira joins the TSSW faculty from the University of Louisville, where he completed his dissertation focusing on Louisiana's disaster resilience pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina. He earned his BSW and masters degrees (cum laude) from the University of the Free State in

Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Ferreira said the decision to come to Tulane was an easy one.

"The City of New Orleans, Tulane and the School of Social Work just felt like the right fit for me," he said. "New Orleans has always fascinated me. Thus, I did my dissertation investigating community disaster resilience in Louisiana from 2004-2010. It was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to settle in the Gulf Coast upon graduation, so when the Tulane opportunity came up, I jumped for it."

Ferreira has worked on several international research projects related to disaster risk reduction in Africa, Europe and the United States. His main research focus is on disasters, focusing on social vulnerability and disaster resilience. His other research interests include international social work, evidence-based practice research and pet loss. Dr. Ferreira, is a third generation social worker, and a second generation Ph.D. from South Africa.

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FUNDS WILL AID UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS

of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he worked for 30 years. Jennings was an associate professor in the Tulane School of Social Work from 1998 until her death.

"She always stood out as someone who was very strong and very thoughtful," Nooe says.

In 1970, Jennings became the first black

faculty member at the University of Mississippi and was also the first black female social worker at the Mississippi Department of Public Welfare.

At Tulane, Jennings' research involved poverty and gerontology. A beloved mentor, she taught social work students the history of the profession and demonstrated how to do meaningful work in the community, says

Marva Lewis, associate professor at the School of Social Work.

"The scholarship will support students who, like Jennings, have an interest in helping the larger society achieve social justice," says Lewis.

Erika Herran is a writer in the Office of Development.

A SOCIAL WORKER WITH A LAW DEGREE: JEFF YUNGMAN EARNS THIRD DEGREE TO HELP HOMELESS IN CHARLESTON, S.C.

TSSW alumnus Jeff Yungman's road to becoming a social worker wasn't a straight one, but now, he's the Director of the Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project in Charleston, S.C., and has loved every moment of the journey.

"It's been an unusual trip," he said, with a chuckle.

Yungman (MSW '79) moved from Columbus, Ohio, to New Orleans in the 1970s and worked as a police officer with the New Orleans Police Department. Living in a shotgun on Joseph Street, Yungman was fast friends with a young married couple nearby, and it turned out the wife had just started at TSSW. Yungman, surrounded by social workers, soon sought a new career path and began classes as a MSW/MPH dual degree student in 1978.

"My first job after graduating from Tulane was with Child Protective Services so I had a lot of interaction with the court system," he said. "From 1995 to 2005, I worked with defense attorneys in death penalty cases doing mitigation to get folks life sentences instead of the death penalty."

He met his wife, Julie (a fellow social worker), while working in New Orleans and the couple relocated to Julie's native South Carolina in 1990.

He became a mental health case manager at Crisis Ministries and was promoted a month after being hired to clinical director. In 1999, Crisis Ministries decided to expand from a soup kitchen and shelter to a program to end homelessness by adding more health clinic, job clinic and mental health services.

During that time, it became apparent that providing legal services, especially for veterans, would be an important part of helping people to get back on their feet.

Yungman, a young 52-year-old at the time, decided to attend classes in 2003 to earn his law degree, which his family



Jeff Yungman (MSW '79) earned his law degree while working full-time and is believed to be the only full-time attorney working at a homeless shelter in the country. (Photo by Wade Spees/The Post and Courier) thought was "crazy."

Three years of long hours and near sleepless nights later, Yungman earned his law degree, but he said his law training is just another tool in his social work tool box.

"To this day, people ask me if I'm a lawyer or a social worker, and I always say that I'm social worker with a law degree," he said. "We certainly have a holistic approach to the law here. I don't just deal with their legal issues but also whatever other issues are impeding their ability to get permanent housing, so it goes way beyond the law."

Yungman said he was very fortunate to have the support of his family and his employer while in school.

"I was very fortunate that my administration was willing to let me go to school and work full-time at the same time," he said. "The law school was great to get things started with the clinic. We

had a monthly clinic with the students and some firms in town and that evolved to the 'Homeless Justice Project'."

About 1,600 clients stay at the shelter each year due to a myriad of reasons, but often law issues -- such as waiting for disability benefits -- are identified as a major reason for their homelessness. Clients' homelessness also was caused by family law, tenant/landlord, child support or immigration issues that they couldn't afford to hire a lawyer to remedy.

The Homeless Justice Project hopes to remedy those issues by providing free civil legal assistance to homeless Charleston area residents. Last year, the project served 635 people with 824 legal issues.

Yungman's efforts to help others has garnered numerous public service awards, and he was honored by the American Bar Association's Commission on Poverty and Homelessness on which he now serves. He's also an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina College of Social Work and the Charleston School of Law.

Crisis Ministries has begun construction on a new, larger building. Yungman said it will increase the number of beds for veterans from 14 to 42. The Homeless Justice Project also recently received a grant from the Veterans Administration that will allow it to hire a second attorney, so that the group will be able to help even more veterans.

Despite the sacrifices of time and effort he's made over the years, Yungman said he's not going to slow down any time soon.

"I love my job," he said. "I've been here for 14 years at Crisis Ministries, and I'm shooting for at least 11 more. I truly love what I do."

Jeff lives in Charleston, S.C., with his wife of 29 years, Julie. They have three children, Tasha, 29; Matthew, 22; and Nate, 17.

HOMECOMING 2013



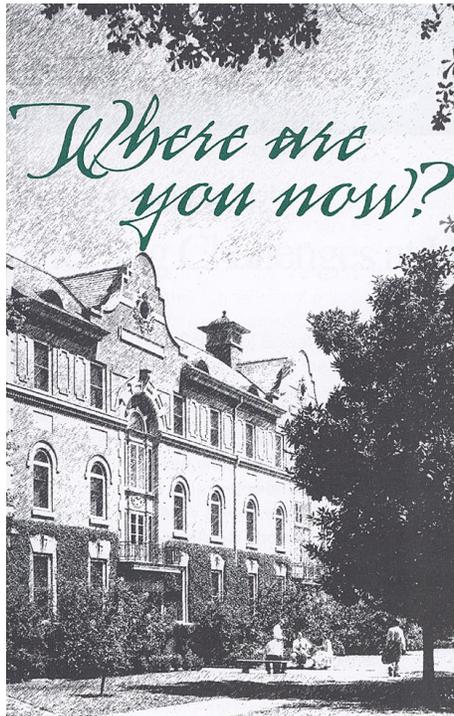
Homecoming 2013 featured a special tribute to the late Dr. Luis Martorell (top middle) that included his artwork and works from family and friends. After our annual CEU, the alumni reception provided lots of food, fun and memories.

Hope to see everyone again next year!



Jeanette Adonian (PhD '01) currently lives in Portland, Maine, where she's an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern Maine. She also is the coordinator of the MSW program there and Chair of MSW Admissions. She primarily teaches courses in social work practice and human behavior. In the Spring of 2012, she was awarded the USM faculty senate service award for outstanding service to the school, university and community. She is working with a diverse interdisciplinary team at USM, which was just awarded a grant to research and develop an online extension of a summer camp, Camp Susan Curtis, that serves economically disadvantaged kids in Maine. The camp changes lives by fostering the protective factors that are known to constitute resiliency. The aim of the online camp is to keep the kids and counselors connected all year long to help maintain the important relationships, emotional support systems, and skills acquired at camp. Personally, she is married to Bryan, whom she met in New Orleans, and their son Jake, who was born in New Orleans, is now 15-years-old.

Susan Dollar (PhD '98) currently resides in Springfield, Mo., where she is a professor at the School of Social Work at Missouri State University. She was recently awarded the Fulbright Scholar's Teaching Award for the Spring of 2014 in Russia. Dr. Dollar has taught classes



on Social Work Policy, Research and Services and Rural Health and Health Literacy for Human Services. Her research and professional interests include rural health disparities among at-risk groups, grant work involving health literacy skill building among active seniors, and she serves on the editorial board for the "Journal of Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation."

Ken Disselkoen (MSW '74) currently lives in Alexandria, Va., and retired after 35 years of public service from Fairfax County Government. He has been married for 30 years to Fran Hicks (MSW '74). They have two children, Bailey (25) and Paul (23).

Caroline Jhingory (MSW '05) currently resides in the Washington, D.C. area and published "Half My Size: How I Ate to Lose 150 Pounds" in January. Caroline said the inspiration for her book came through her ability to lose weight and keep it off by adjusting to a healthier lifestyle. She also attributes the skills she's developed as a motivator to her training as a social worker. Since the release of her book in January, Jhingory has made several television appearances including "Good Morning America," "Access Hollywood" and "Inside Edition." She also has appeared in People magazine (January 2013) and Fitness magazine (February 2013). At her heaviest weight of 307 pounds in the eighth grade, Jhingory recalls all too well the "painful experiences that came with being the fat kid." It wasn't until age 22 when she learned she was pre-diabetic that things changed. Through healthy eating, consistent exercise and food addiction therapy, she soon gained control of her size. Jhingory says her experiences with therapy inspired her to attend Tulane. Fast forward to age 32 and she's a full-time healthy-lifestyle coach, motivational speaker and workout fanatic.

Taming disruptive behavior focus of book

Tulane University alumnus and social work adjunct professor Philip Hemphill has earned national attention with the recent publication of his first book, "Taming Disruptive Behavior."

The book discusses ways healthcare industry managers, organizational leaders and physicians can identify and eliminate disruptive behavior in the workplace. This behavior, including harassment, threatening treatment of co-workers and other inappropriate actions, can have a major impact on patient care and outcomes.

"To be able to generate this resource that is responsive to the needs of the healthcare community and gain national attention by some of the leaders in the field has been exciting," says Hemphill, who holds a master's degree and a PhD in social work from Tulane. "There is a real need for this kind of work, so I'm happy to provide this resource."

The issue has gained prominence in the



Dr. Philip Hemphill recently co-published a book -- "Taming Disruptive Behavior" -- with psychologist Dr. Marty Martin. (Photo by Joseph Halm)

industry in recent years as disruptive behavior has been linked to negative impacts on both staff members and

patients. A 2008 survey of hospitals nationwide showed that this behavior is shockingly pervasive — 77 percent of respondents reported seeing this behavior by physicians and 65 percent by nurses. Importantly, two-thirds linked these actions to adverse patient care outcomes such as medical errors or patient mortality.

The book was co-authored by clinical psychologist William "Marty" Martin, and its focus was formed after the two researched topics that were missing in current literature. Hemphill says they have begun planning for their next book, which will focus on sex in the workplace.

"We were intensely focused on writing so it required finding time because both of us have careers," he says. "One of the more challenging aspects of writing this was being able to respect the confidentiality of my patients while communicating the severe impact this behavior can have on individuals and organizations."



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