

FALL 2015



HOMECOMING CEU, TAILGATE SET FOR NOV. 7

By Joseph Halm, TSSW Communications

It's that time of year again – Homecoming 2015.

The school is proud to offer three free events for alumni on Saturday, Nov. 7.

"Homecoming is such a special time of year," TSSW alumni board president Holly McKinney said. "It's a time for the school to say thanks to its amazing alumni for the work that they do in the community every day. I truly cherish every year because I get to reconnect and meet so many people who are a testament to the impact this school has on the community."

This year, TSSW is proud to offer a one-hour CEU event, presented by TSSW Assistant Professor Dr. Heather Storer about "New Directions in Multi-level Approaches to Teen Dating Violence Prevention" from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This one-hour CEU is free of charge and will take place in Room 343 on the third floor of 127 Elk Place.

Dr. Storer is the school's newest assistant



Our annual homecoming reception will begin at 6 p.m. at the school, located at 127 Elk Place. (Photo by Ken Redler)

professor and earned her PhD at the University of Washington School of Social Work. She has worked nationally in the fields of dating and domestic violence

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DEAN'S UPDATE MY OWN HOMECOMING AT PITT

A few weeks ago, I was notified that I had been selected to receive the "distinguished alumnus award for contributions to higher education" from my alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. As part of the award ceremony, I was asked to offer my reflections on one question - "What inspired me to get into social work and what kept me motivated to continue my work in the field?"

Returning to Pittsburgh after so many years of being away was great fun. Carolyn, my wife and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh as well, joined me. As we walked towards the award ceremony she asked me if coming here now and receiving this award



caused me to reflect on my many years of work and my career. It did and there are far too many memories to recount here. I do remember when I was a first semester PhD student at Pitt, and I had just completed part of my work towards the master of public health degree along with several biostatistics courses. My first semester doctoral research class instructor asked if I would provide a presentation on sampling theory. After a week of constant preparation for a one hour presentation, I recall beginning the class and taking out about 25 pages of notes which I soon realized was enough for about 15 hours of lecture. I had only the one hour and got

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CEU, RECEPTION BEGINS AT 5 P.M. AT 127 ELK PLACE

prevention, girl's leadership, and positive youth development. Heather's research agenda focuses on exploring strategies to meaningfully engage youth as partners in the primary prevention of adolescent dating violence, sexual assault, and other high-risk behaviors. She is interested in infusing youth empowerment, cumulative adversity and place-based frameworks into the design and implementation of community-level approaches to dating violence prevention and adolescent health promotion.

Our annual free alumni reception will begin at 6 p.m. featuring food, music and drinks as

well as a raffle benefiting the TSSW Student Scholarship Fund. It will take place on the third and fourth floors of 127 Elk Place and the entire School will be open for alumni to explore. All alumni and their guests are encouraged to attend.

For the second year, the School also will host a free football tailgate for TSSW students and alumni prior to Tulane's football game against UConn. The School has reserved a tent in the university's Tailgate Village, located in the quad next to the Lavin-Bernick Center on Tulane's Uptown Campus. There will be food and drinks at the

tent along with some giveaways. Tailgating will begin four hours prior to kickoff, which will be determined about two weeks prior to the game. Once kickoff has been set, we'll release the exact time/tent location for the tailgate.

To RSVP for the homecoming events, please visit <http://tulane.edu/socialwork/> and click on the homecoming link in the right hand sidebar.

For more information about our homecoming events, contact Kathy Smith at krshiv@tulane.edu or 504-862-3489.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE: IT ALL STARTED IN THE SUMMER OF '71

through the first three pages. I'm sure the 22 other pages were generated out of my inexperience in presenting to a large group and anxiety over wanting to be completely prepared.

As many of you reading this will attend Tulane's homecoming in a few weeks, I wonder if you, too, have often reflected on your early memories of what inspired you to become part of this profession and what has motivated you to continue. It was a good question for a homecoming audience and what follows are a summary of my comments at Pitt.

Forty-four years ago I was a junior at Pitt, it was 1971 and I was offered a summer internship to work at a new agency doing something quite bold and interesting. For the previous several decades, countless numbers of people were put in psychiatric institutions and forgotten. Many were there for 20, 30, even 40 years. They were essentially abandoned. Many were placed there before the discovery of antipsychotic drugs and communities needed to hide them, to get them out of the way, perhaps because they didn't know what else to do with them, perhaps because they were inconvenient or they were simply embarrassed by them. Once the drugs began to be used, those there were sedated and languished in these places. It was their home, and they knew nothing different.

Back in 1971, my job was to work side by side with MSW's, go into these institutions and arrange for them to reenter the community. Once there, we were to facilitate their adjustment back into the community. This was the beginning of the era of "deinstitutionalization." We had several levels of supportive environments including group homes, supervised apartments

and independent apartments to ease this readjustment before they were on their own.

It was phenomenal to see so many previously lost souls rediscover a life, and it was phenomenal to have such an intimate engagement with such a wide variety of humanity and pathology and to be part of this at the ripe age of 21. My goal was clear and a few years later I entered the Pitt MSW program. It turned out, I liked being there so much that despite lots of wonderful job opportunities I stayed on to earn an MPH and a PhD at Pitt.

Now, lets jump ahead to just three years ago. Many of you reading this know that I was truly privileged to be able to hand deliver a personal invitation to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at his home in North India to come to Tulane. Largely, this opportunity was earned by over a decade of commitment to this community, to an immersion in it and dedication to work on its behalf.

Shortly after the invitation was delivered, I was ecstatic that His Holiness accepted the invitation. Then, two years ago, I was truly honored and thrilled to host him at Tulane for four days in May 2013. We learned many things from this intimate time with the Dalai Lama.

One of the things I remember him saying was "if you ever think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito!" Long ago, I realized that the profession of social work allows one to enter communities and the lives of people and truly make a difference. We all know the extraordinary variety of and diversity of settings we find as social work practitioners, and it is easy to extrapolate to the incredible differences social workers make everyday.

Another lesson I learned when His Holiness was with us is the many ways we can begin to think about happiness. Of all the many ways happiness is defined, it almost always includes "generosity" as a central element. We all know that there are many ways we can be generous — we can offer money, our time, our things. But in my time with the Dalai Lama, I came to learn that the greatest act of generosity is to help another person find their own good heart.

Again, this is what we do all the time as social workers, and it contributes immensely to our own and other's happiness.

I just returned from my 14th offering of the class - "Journey to India." Over these many years of working with the Tibetan exile community I've learned a few words and it is a wonderfully colorful language. For example, the word for a couple - husband wife, or domestic partners - is TseSung. It means two who eat out of the same nest.

The word for social worker is Chitsok Shabdek. Chitsok means public. Shab is an honorific word for feet and Dek means to lift up. To lift up the community's feet. A social worker is one who lifts up their fellow human beings, one who makes their life's work the betterment of others in however small and humble a way. Frankly, I believe there can be no greater aspiration. So, these are some of the experiences and ideas that inspired me to be part of this profession and motivate me to remain a part of it.

These were, in part, my comments to the University of Pittsburgh. I welcome your own reflections on this.



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.

The Tulane School of Social Work helped host a special two-day "Summit on Positive Development of New Orleans Youth" in early June.

A group of psychology experts, educators, and community leaders met at Tulane to exchange ideas as part of the two-day summit. The purpose of the event was to move beyond existing conceptions of youth as failing to achieve and as purveyors of violence to re-imagine what is possible if they were envisioned as assets to their families and community and as future leaders.

The final day was held at the Tulane School of Social Work and featured a roundtable discussion on finding ways to make existing resources for youth more effective.

"This will involve altering a lens through which the primary issues youth present from one of violence and criminal justice requiring discipline and control to one of human development requiring support, respect and appropriate resources in the face of difficult challenges youth face," Dr. Charles Figley said.

The roundtable welcomed experts from across the country as well as a group of about 10 students from several New Orleans high schools. The final day's roundtable was devoted to listening to the students to gain opinion about what

programs and guidance would help them.

The students talked about setting and achieving goals, surrounding themselves with positive influences, and exceeding the expectations of people around them. The students told the group that there was "too much apathy in the school system," and that many teenagers felt trapped in stereotypes.

Many of the students stressed the importance of having people in their lives that pushed them and motivated them, whether at home, in school, or in the community. They also requested more opportunities for internships and increased exposure to career possibilities. They talked about the importance of scholarships, and the benefits of volunteering in their communities.

TSSW assistant professor Dr. Reggie Parquet spoke as a "father and grandfather," and "the only one who has run a juvenile correction facility." In working with young people who have been incarcerated, Parquet said that "to a person," what everyone wanted above all else was to be respected, and to be valued as a human being.

The summit hoped to spur the creation of a "multi-pronged" approach, collaboration between groups and agencies, giving increased value to the voices of the youth, and finding ways to better reach the kids most at-risk.

A TSSW alumna and a pair of MSW students recently were awarded Albert Schweitzer Fellowships. The trio was among 14 New Orleans area graduate students who will spend the next year

learning to effectively address the social factors that impact health, and developing lifelong leadership skills.

Schweitzer Fellows develop and implement service projects that address the root causes of health disparities in under-resourced communities, while at the same time fulfilling their academic responsibilities as full time students. Each project is implemented in collaboration with a community-based organization.

Jessica Liddell (MSW '12) is in the Tulane City, Community, Culture PhD Program. She is addressing the needs of injection drug users in New Orleans through her work at the NO/AIDS Task Force Access Program. Liddell will facilitate the safe disposal of biohazard material, distribute clean injection material, provide referrals, HIV/HCV testing, and risk reduction counseling. Liddell will also develop a Narcan-education training program to address overdose risk in injection drug users.

Chenoa Moten and Catherine Patteson Poehling, who will both earn their MSWs this December, will alleviate acculturation stress and trauma experienced by unaccompanied Hispanic minors during their journey to the United States. They will partner with Catholic Charities to provide a psycho-educational training program for the youth and their caregivers.

Since 2007, the New Orleans Schweitzer Fellows Program has supported nearly 80 Schweitzer Fellows in delivering more than 15,000 hours of service. The program is funded entirely through charitable donations and grants.



ABSW CHARTER CEREMONY

The Tulane School of Social Work welcomed its first chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers during a charter ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 1. Dr. Reggie Parquet will serve as the group's advisor. Charter members of the ABSW Chapter include Yahkayle Burney, DeJohnique Carter, Luliana Charles, Jennifer Crawford, Ebony Hampton, Megan Harrison, Lauren R. James, Christi LaMark, Kee Landry, Lielah Leighton, Crystal Matthews, Richard Moncrieffe, BreAnna Moore, Chenoa Moten, Kai Rodney, Christopher Russell, Da'Trice Smith and Shaniqua Wesley. (Photo by Joseph Halm)



Would you like to belong to a TSSW Alumni LinkedIn Group?

We are looking for interested alums to form a group.

Here's what you can do:

- Join LinkedIn and create your page
- IMPORTANT – identify on your page that you are a graduate/affiliate of TSSW

If enough alumni identify with TSSW through LinkedIn, we will be able to form the group to better stay connected to our alumni.

Questions?

Contact Sheila Gold at 504-862-3488 or sgold@tulane.edu



Life experiences fuel alumna's Arizona Thriller Trilogy series

TSSW alumna Sharon Sterling, formerly Sharon Hickey (MSW '97), has always had a passion for writing, and now she has gained the life experience to put that passion on paper.

Sterling just finished her second book, *Fatal Refuge*, the second installment in what she calls her Arizona Thriller Trilogy.

"When I was younger, I didn't feel that I had that much to write about," she said. "My life experience didn't seem interesting or important enough to actually write about. But after being in social work for about 15 years, I had such a wealth of experience and met so many interesting people that thinking of the plot and creating the characters was not hard at all."

Those experiences have run the gamut from her first job as a crisis counselor at a community mental health center to her work with the National Health Service Corps in Yuma, Arizona, where she was the only social worker in an 18-bed inpatient psychiatric unit.

Now she's semi-retired, working part-time at a retirement community of about 700 residents while honing her writing.

"My focus is not only to entertain but also to educate my readers about mental illness," she said. "In the first book, one of the characters was a woman who had borderline personality disorder and who had been sexually abused. The book was all about a plot for revenge against the abuser."

That first book, *The Well*, was set in Sedona, Arizona, and follows social worker Allie Davis along with a beautiful young Apache woman, in a murder mystery saga.

Fatal Refuge, to be released this month, is set in Yuma, Arizona, and features a

woman who has schizophrenia. Sterling said her third book will be set in either Flagstaff or Prescott.

"So the question is how do you write an entertaining mystery thriller and educate people and get them to drop some of their preconceptions about people with mental illness? That's my challenge," she said. "I discovered that writing fiction is not easy, and a person needs support. A lot of my support comes from 'Sisters in Crime' which is a national organization of women who write crime fiction."

Sterling said it takes six months of dedicated work to write a good fiction novel. As part of her novels, she weaves in the Arizona landscape and scenery as well as flawed and realistic characters.



"It's very rewarding," she said. "Of course, after the first book I sent copies to all my family and friends to say 'Look, look what I did!'. I think the biggest reward is just to have people say that they learned something about Arizona or about a mental illness. To know someone learned and gained a different perspective from one of my books is very rewarding."

Sterling, who is an avid hiker and reader, said her time at Tulane was very special.

"It was definitely a life-changing experience," she said. "I met some of the sweetest, friendliest and most loving people. Tulane was really a very wonderful experience. I just love social workers, and I love to get people interested in social work. Unfortunately, the average age of social workers is going up at an alarming rate. We need to start recruiting and training younger social workers, so I guess I'm a woman on several missions."

For more information about her books, visit <http://sharonsterling.net/>.

FLEXIBILITY HAS LED TSSW ALUMNA ON DUAL CAREER IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK REGULATION

Flexibility.

It's a simple word, and one that proves useful in social work every day especially for TSSW alumna Dorinda Noble (MSW '71).

"I do think of myself as flexible and adaptable," she said. "I'm a big picture thinker, so I'm really not afraid of changing the details, and sometimes I don't tend to the details as much as I should, but that's why we have different kinds of people in organizations. I really think that it has been very helpful to be open to change."

Noble recently stepped down after 13 years as the Director of the Texas State University School of Social Work, which educates about 650 BSW and MSW students both on campus and online.

"I'm looking toward to retiring and doing more online and face-to-face continuing education," she said. "I do a lot of adult education particularly around supervision of staff and agencies. My next step is not entirely planned out, but I believe I'll be doing a lot of continuing education with adult professionals."

Noble, who will continue to serve as the Board President of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), said she wants to develop more ways to be mobile as well as work on transferring licensing easier. She currently heads a task force with ASWB on licensing mobility, and she will definitely spend more time with her grandchildren.

Noble's career has run the gamut. She did some child welfare work after graduating from Tulane, but higher education was where she ended up.

"I didn't really know that I would end up in education," said Noble, whose father was a college professor. "When I went and got my master's at Tulane, I thought I would have a career in child welfare, but I got kind of diverted. Once I got into higher education, I just loved it so much. I loved working with college students and helping them see how interesting and diverse social work is. I really liked helping students see the big picture."



TSSW alumna Dorinda Noble (MSW '71) serves as the Board President of the Association of Social Work Boards.

She taught at LSU and was the Director of the MSW Program there for about a decade before moving to Texas State University.

"Texas State is one of these universities that is growing like wild fire," she said. "When I came here, the School of Social Work had about 200 students and 11 faculty, now we have 24 full-time and any number of part-time faculty members. And the student body has tripled. In a short period of time, it has really taken off."

Noble credits Texas State's growth to its creation of several online MSW programs including its original offering for rural child welfare programs.

"We were the first of that kind of program in the nation," she said. "The interesting thing was that none of us knew anything about online education. I don't think any of us had even taken an online course, let alone taught it. It was a leap of faith, and it has just taken off."

Now, it is nationally ranked in the Top 10 of such programs, and the online teaching has really enhanced the school's face-to-face classes as well, she said.

Texas State also is developing a virtual reality lab for social workers, which will be

one of six in the nation.

"This has such enormous possibilities for not only teaching but for training as well," she said. "We have several virtual realities that we've built, so we can train policemen and service people and social workers on how to handle themselves in a compact, hostile situation where there is a lot of anxiety. They can play out those situations without having any of the danger of it."

"We're also working with the university to provide these virtual reality options for someone who might be in trouble for DUI instead of pursuing legal options. We feel like we can help them deal with these issues."

To help with that process, one online environment is a bar so someone who has substance abuse issues can practice what to do if they go into the bar for a burger and someone offers them a drink or something else.

Noble also has been active in social work regulation for almost 20 years. She has served on both the Louisiana and Mississippi Board of Social Work Examiners.

"It has been a life-changing experience to be involved in licensure and regulation," she said. "I've heard hundreds of cases about social workers who violated the licensing law, so it has been so interesting to work in that area. It has really taught me a new vision of what it means to practice ethically."

And that journey in higher education and social work regulation began at Tulane in the classroom and at her field placement in a Central City housing development 35 years ago.

"I love Tulane, but I was a little country girl from the high plains of Texas when I came to New Orleans," she said. "You talk about a mind-bending experience that was my time at Tulane. I loved it, but it was like a whole other world for me. It was very eye opening, and I made many friends there. I got my start on my professional journey at Tulane, which still holds a special place in my heart."

Legacy of compassion lives on

By Kirby Messinger, Development

From 1940-1952, Erna Deiglmayr risked her own life to save the most vulnerable victims of Nazi Germany. Now her dedication and compassion will live on through her legacy at the TSSW.

Deiglmayr used her skills as a social worker to aid the citizens of Belgium during World War II. She transported children across the border to safety, secured food for starving citizens, and hid Jews and Belgian Resistance members in her home. Following the war, Deiglmayr focused her attention on displaced children, as a child welfare officer with the International Refugee Organization.

"I can't say enough about her commitment to social justice, and that is evident in her work in Europe," says Ron Marks, dean of the School of Social Work. "She was truly an extraordinary woman."

In 1952, Deiglmayr moved to New Orleans and continued her education in social work at Tulane. In 1954, she earned a second masters degree in social work and also



Erna Deiglmayr

received a graduate certificate in political science.

"Ms. Deiglmayr was truly committed to the School of Social Work," says Marks. "She always wanted to enhance the school."

When she passed away in 2014 Deiglmayr left a generous gift that will enable the school to renovate the fifth floor at 127 Elk Place.

"This gift has given us an incredible opportunity," says Marks. "We will now be able to renovate the fifth floor in the same fashion that we did the third and fourth floors."

Marks says the floor will house office space for new faculty and staff members.

"It is very exciting how quickly we are growing," says Marks. "Even though we doubled our space with the move to Elks Place, we quickly realized that we would need more office space for future growth. This gift has come at the absolutely perfect time."

Marks hopes the renovation will be complete by late 2016.

"Ms. Deiglmayr's legacy will live on at the School of Social Work," says Marks. "We plan to dedicate the floor in her memory so that generations of social workers can know of her compassion and dedication to social justice."

If you wish to receive information on including TSSW in your estate plans, please contact Tatine Frater at tmfrater@tulane.edu or at 504-314-7331.

India adventure highlights global offerings

By Dr. Elaine Wright, Global Programs

As Director of Global Programs, two of the greatest rewards of my job are being able to go around the world to talk about Tulane's exciting programs and also having the opportunity to hear the stories of the amazing people I meet across the globe. My latest adventure in India did not disappoint.

Much of my work is relationship building, and this India trip began as an exploration of a potential partnership with the Central University of Rajasthan (CUR) that started a social work program in 2012. After I presented on the history and many activities of TSSW, I quickly learned that, while we may be 100 years older and may have much to offer in terms of experience, this team of faculty, research fellows and students were creating a legacy that any social work department could admire. Already flush with students in their MSW and doctoral programs, they have their own publication (the *Indian Journal of Sustainable Development*), faculty and students both representing the diverse states of India, as well as a genuine sense of purpose and activism that was refreshing, inspiring, and in the true spirit of social work. I also had the honor of participating in the tradition of planting a

tree as a symbol of a budding relationship. At the university and in each of the villages I visited, I dug in the dirt, placed a ball of roots into the ground, and then showered it with water in respect to their communities and our time together.

While the relationship with CUR may be in the early stages of growth, past associations played a significant role in this trip. TSSW was invited to CUR at the request of a former Indian exchange student (now faculty member at the Delhi School of Social Work). The next site of my travels, Chennai, was also to see a student from the same exchange program who had started Neelam, a nonprofit to end oppression through education. As I was leaving that city for yet another destination, she was departing for the USA to speak on behalf of indigenous rights at the United Nations. Both of these "alumni" spoke of how the experience at Tulane greatly impacted their professional development. I told them how proud we were of them and their journey to make the world a better place.

My travels concluded with a trip to the southern town of Pondicherry to conduct a site visit with one of our MSW students in an international field placement there this fall and then back to the northern city of



Dr. Elaine Wright (center) at a tree planting ceremony in India.

Delhi to lecture on global/local practice to a graduate psychology program.

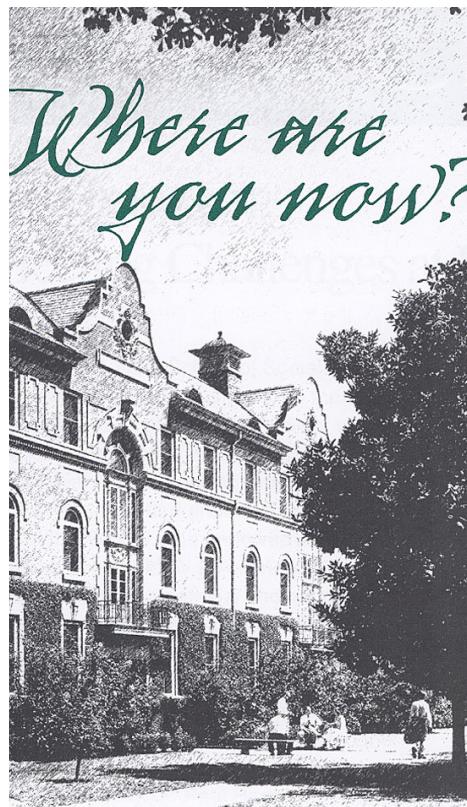
From witnessing our student apply her learning from the classroom to address the needs of the street children in India to hearing the psychology students express their anxieties as they prepare for their first cross-cultural interactions with clients, these final days of the trip really brought home how we, as citizens of this planet, are all interconnected through our fears, our hopes and our desire to "do work that matters".

Mindy Appel (MSW '79) resides in Del Ray Beach, Fla., and is the Director of Clinical Services at the The Orchid Recovery Center. The Orchid is a drug and alcohol rehab facility located in South Florida that is specifically geared to the needs of women afflicted with addiction and unresolved trauma. Mindy, who has been with Orchid since 2006, said she would love to connect with other TSSW alumni in South Florida. Her passion and specialty is in women's issues including treating addiction, mental health issues, trauma/PTSD, anxiety, depression as well as eating disorders.

Brittaney Baskin Brackett (MSW '12) currently lives in Houston and is a social worker at M.D. Anderson Hospital in the Pediatric Unit. Brittaney married Thomas Brackett on May 2, 2015.

Suzanne Loeb (MSW '94) currently resides in New Orleans and is working in private practice as a private adoption and certified suicide specialist. Suzanne is nationally certified by the National Center for Crisis Management and American Association of Suicidology. She also is the mother of two girls, ages 13 and 16.

Elliot Pinsly, LCSW, (MSW '07) currently



resides in Nashville, Tenn., and is Director of Marketing & Business Development at

Centerstone, one of the nation's largest not for profit behavioral healthcare organizations. Since joining Centerstone in February 2009 as a clinician on the Intensive In-Home Treatment team, Elliot has served in numerous roles including Referral & Outreach Coordinator, Authorizations Team Manager, and Intensive In-Home Therapist. His wife, Jessica Pinsly, recently gave birth to the couple's second child, Matthew Parker Pinsly, weighing in at 7 lbs., 11oz. He joins his older brother, Aidan Bailey Pinsly, who is now 3 years old. Elliot also serves as the President and Chairman of the Davidson County Community Advisory Board, a 501c3 public charity organization that provides advocacy and resource support for the Department of Children's Services.

Barbara Madej Roos (MSW '72) currently lives in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, which is outside of Chicago. Barbara is a clinical social worker on the inpatient psychiatric unit of Edward Hinds Jr. VA Hospital. She co-authored the article "Working with Girls Experiencing Loss" in the book *Social Work with Groups* in 1982. She has one granddaughter, Matilda, 14 months, who she greatly enjoys.

DSW program expands into Mississippi

TSSW's Doctorate of Social Work program has expanded into Mississippi.

This fall, the DSW program welcomed its first cohort from Biloxi, Mississippi, and Dr. Jane Parker said this class is among the best students she has ever seen.

"Personally, teaching with these high caliber individuals has been reinvigorating," she said. "These students are among the most engaged that I have ever taught. They have already done so much good in their careers, and are strong leaders in their communities. It is very exciting to see these working professionals go after their dreams and want to continue to grow. Some members are driving from Cleveland and Summit, Mississippi, and even Montgomery, Alabama."

The Biloxi cohort has 12 students while the DSW program in New Orleans is entering its second year and boasts 24 students.

"Our expansion into Mississippi just shows there is a deep desire for this program," DSW Program Director Fred Buttell said. "Everyone at the Mississippi campus has worked hard to make this program a reality. It's been a real pleasure and privilege to watch this come together so quickly."

The first Biloxi cohort has already selected a class name for themselves – GulfWAVE1

– and their reasons for starting the program are inspiring.

Derrius Miller said it was a social work professor at Jackson State, who earned her PhD from TSSW, that spurred him into the DSW program.

"Her ambition and passion for teaching and her knowledge of social work practice inspired me to follow her path. In the spring of 2008, I made attending Tulane a goal. Now, I'm working to successfully complete that goal," Miller said. "Social work education and research are very important. As a practicing social worker, I have faced too many dilemmas in practice. The dilemmas made me want to do more to understand the problem. In order to accomplish more, I needed to further my education. Internally, I struggled with feelings of now or never. I chose now because the Tulane School of Social Work presented an opportunity I couldn't refuse."



Virginia Adolph, Past President of Mississippi NASW, and Michael Hall, Clinical Supervisor for Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at Gulfport Memorial Hospital, discuss an assignment for their Social Policy doctoral course. (Photo by Jane Parker)

Student Patricia Williams said she wanted to learn more about how to help "the unique culture and values of the Gulf Coast communities that can only be served by those who truly understand this way of life."

Angela Savage, Director of Field Education at Mississippi State University Meridian, speaks eloquently to the class about what a privilege it is to have a Tulane DSW in Mississippi, saying "We have waited so long."



POSTSCRIPTS

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WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Please share your thoughts, ideas, and information to be used in Postscripts. You can 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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