



**Tulane
University**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

POSTSCRIPTS

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

CAMPUS VISIT BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES FOR TSSW ALUMNA

By Joseph Halm, TSSW Marketing

During a recent visit to campus, Libba Morris Adams (MSW '76) recounted the many wonderful and trying aspects about her time at Tulane, and her memories were glowing.

From her classmates to her teachers, Adams said she enjoyed her educational journey. She remembered fondly her year-long internship at the former DePaul Hospital's Community Mental Health Center.

"I loved that so much because we got to see our patients grow," she said. "I think doing social work in New Orleans is different than if you were in any large urban area. I remember being terrified when I started the internship because these people had such

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TSSW alumna Libba Morris Adams (MSW '76) owns her own pottery business as well as a wellness center in North Carolina.

DEAN'S UPDATE

DRLA TO JOIN SCHOOL IN JULY

In the last several "Dean's Messages" it has been a pleasure to report numerous developments at the School. This message is no different and, once again, demonstrates the extraordinary progress the School continues to make in advancing its agenda and developing its programs. Let me jump right in....



Assistance in 2009 that called for establishing a center for excellence in disaster management with special emphasis on leadership toward community resilience and sustainability. Following a research and development program in collaboration with seven major universities and five international humanitarian organizations, the

Effective July 1, 2012, the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA) which has been a unit within the Tulane University Payson Center for International Development, will be moving to the School of Social Work. The Academy was established with a grant from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster

Academy established a set of 50 competencies in disaster resilience leadership as a framework for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This framework was first tested in Haiti in response to the January 2010 earthquake that got the attention of the

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Thurman expands TSSW research to South Africa

Dr. Tonya Thurman, TSSW's newest full-time Research Associate Professor, has more than 10 years of experience working on the design and evaluation of programs for vulnerable children in developing countries.

Based full-time in Durban, South Africa, her current work focuses on exploring effective strategies for the care and support of children affected by HIV and AIDS, which she hopes will have a lasting impact in the country and throughout the world.

"Ultimately, we are trying to contribute to the evidence base on programs for orphans and other children made vulnerable by the disease," she said. "A lot of money is directed toward support of these children. For instance, through the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) the U.S. government provided over \$300 million dollars to the cause in 2010. However, this investment is not matched with the evidence on what care approaches work best to improve their lives."

This is where she comes in. Dr. Thurman was recently awarded a multi-million dollar sole source grant supported through PEPFAR funds of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in South Africa to provide technical assistance and conduct a series of assessments in the country focused on program enhancement for orphans and vulnerable children. The greatest amount of Dr. Thurman's time is spent on impact evaluations, and she is currently wrapping-up a two-year study exploring the efficacy of various intervention services. In 2010, her research involved surveying 1,800 vulnerable children and their caregivers who subsequently received various packages of services from South African humanitarian organizations. This year, a follow-up survey will be conducted to explore the changes over time resulting from receipt of these services.

"This study will be quite pivotal as it is one of the few longitudinal evaluations in this field. It investigates a series of common intervention strategies and will uncover



Dr. Tonya Thurman was hired in November as a full-time Research Associate Professor and is based full-time in Durban, South Africa. Her focus is exploring effective strategies for the care and support of children affected by HIV and AIDS.

the relative effectiveness of various models. With our established relationships with local government and other stakeholders, we have a receptive and eager audience for the results, and we are hoping this information will have some policy implications," she said.

Another study is in its early stages and focuses on HIV prevention in orphaned and highly vulnerable adolescents. About 1,000 vulnerable adolescents across various communities were randomly assigned to receive various service packages designed to mitigate HIV risk and improve their psychological health. Baseline data on their wellbeing recently was collected among these youth and follow-up surveys will be conducted in November and one year later. The follow-up surveys are designed to uncover both the immediate and lasting impacts of the interventions.

"Adolescents are the bulk of orphans due to the time lag of HIV infection to death," she said. "Often, they are the most neglected in terms of programming, and we are hoping that this study will present some promising models for care of this population."

Dr. Thurman said her partnership with the school of social work was an easy deci-

sion.

"Social work is an ideal fit for this type of work. The ultimate goal of this field is to improve the lives of children and families. The Tulane School of Social Work is quickly gaining a unique niche toward a global focus; a niche to be proud of and one I hope to contribute to."

Dr. Thurman earned her doctorate in International Health and Development from Tulane in 2006 and also holds a Masters of Public Health. She indicated that her decision to concentrate on programming for vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa began after an internship in East Africa where she witnessed how HIV and AIDS was devastating community and family support structures.

Personally, Dr. Thurman and her husband, Keith Bowman, have enjoyed the beauty of South Africa. Indeed, they capitalized on the amazing surroundings, having held their marriage ceremony at Cape Point, the southernmost tip of the African continent.

"We also feel very blessed to live so close to the ocean," she said. "My husband has learned to surf and I have learned to relax."

A year later, TSSW newest members going strong, planning for bright future

Last summer, TSSW welcomed two new full-time professors along with a new Assistant Dean and Director of Global Programs. A year later, the quartet is helping the school stay on the cutting edge of the social work field.

For Director of Global Programs Elaine Wright, the move to Tulane has been successful and extremely busy. She's witnessed a 40 percent growth in the enrollment in the Global Social Work Certificate program along with significant improvements in international field placement programming and the development of relationships with schools of social work around the world including in Bangladesh, Belize, India, and South Africa.

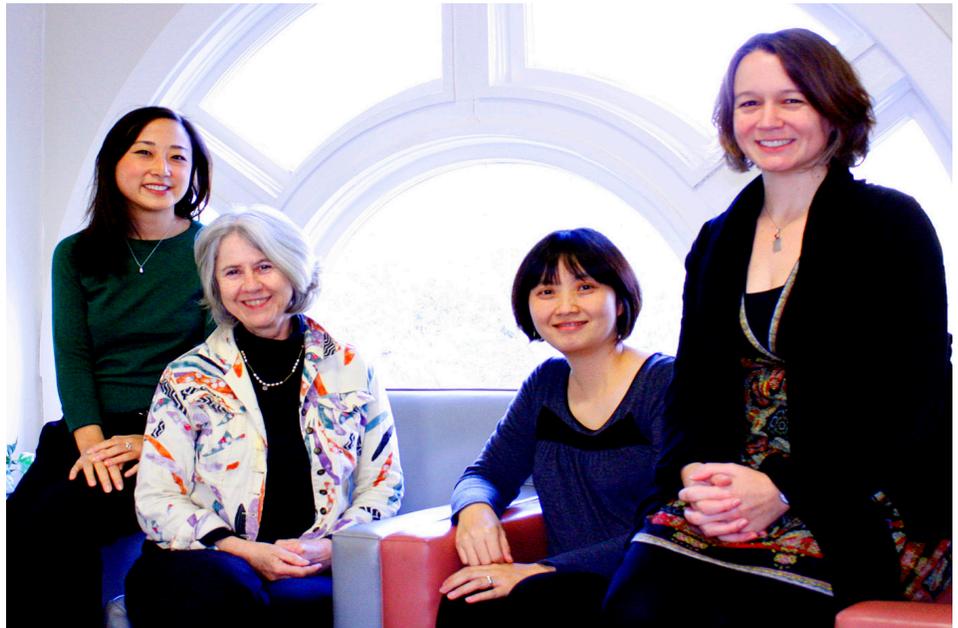
"I feel that we (me, the Office of Global Programs staff, and the School of Social Work) have accomplished a lot this past year in terms of our global initiatives, and I look forward to our future as a leader in global social work education," she said. "I am excited about the opportunity to further develop field placement opportunities for students interested in global issues. This year we developed our first "in-country" international field placement with the YMCA of Greater Houston's International Services Program, which is located in one of the major refugee resettlements areas in the country."

This field placement was initiated by Dr. Ron Rea (PhD '68) and will allow students to have a rich and in-depth experience working with immigrants and refugees in the U.S.

Beyond the office, Elaine said she's looking forward to traveling to Japan to spend Thanksgiving with her younger brother and his family.

When Julianna Padgett took over as Assistant Dean, she knew the school's re-accreditation would be a top priority. On April 1, she sent off the three volume document and now only a November site visit separates the school from its successful re-accreditation.

"Years ago I worked at TSSW, so this new



From left, Assistant Professor Madeline Lee, Assistant Dean Julianna Padgett, Associate Professor Qingwen Xu and Director of Global Programs Elaine Wright have enjoyed a successful first year at TSSW.

position is like coming home to many old friends," she said. "It's been wonderful to have these relationships and memories as I begin to build new ones. Ron's leadership and the great faculty made it especially easy to step into this role, bringing all I learned from my years at Southern University New Orleans. On top of it all, I really like that I can walk to work."

This summer, Padgett is overseeing changes to the part-time program, the web site, and course evaluations — all to maintain and strengthen the quality of the program and better support students.

Assistant Professor Dr. Madeline Lee said her biggest accomplishment in her first year was surviving as well as obtaining funding from the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program.

"It will support my research agenda, Leverage Points and Mechanisms to Improve the Quality of Children's Mental Health Care, for two years," she said. "Aside from research, I feel as though I had my best teaching experience this past fall with my Social Welfare History and Policy course. This particular

group of students was engaged, challenging, and appreciative — they gave me new energy and made me want to work harder to be a better teacher. I'm looking forward to seeing this first cohort of students that I've had the privilege of having in class graduate in December."

Coming from California, Lee said New Orleans' culture has been refreshing.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my first Mardi Gras and my first Jazz Fest, eating the fantastic food and enjoying the great music that NOLA is known for, second lining, and being in a city that is always celebrating life."

Associate Professor Dr. Qingwen Xu came to Tulane from Boston College and said she felt immediately welcomed and recognized by her students. She added that Tulane's great research resources and opportunities were key factors in her move.

After a full Fall schedule, Xu was on leave in the Spring as she welcomed her baby girl into the year of the dragon. Xu added this Fall she's excited to return to work to start developing research projects and teaching courses that are internationally-related.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE: RECENT ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHT GROWTH

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that led first to a planning grant and then, late last year, to one of the largest disaster grants funded by the Gates Foundation. The Academy was awarded a \$5 million grant from the Gates Foundation to strengthen disaster resilience leadership capacity in or near disaster-prone regions in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia through local universities. The Academy will establish a network of educational and development programs in disaster resilience and leadership. The Academy has recently received funding from the World Bank to expand the Gate's funded program.

The move to the School of Social Work will enable the Academy to continue its work with the Gates Foundation and the World Bank in establishing a platform for research in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Being an institution within the Tulane School of Social Work will enable Academy faculty within and outside the School to collaborate. I believe this is an excellent opportunity to enhance our capacity to assess and assist communities in the wake of disasters toward facilitating a full recovery that will be sustaining. The Academy's work in Haiti in response to the January 2010 earthquake in working with local university leaders and academics is an excellent example of building disaster resilience leadership which culminated in securing funding from one of the world's leading foundations (The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and will enable the Academy to continue its work in building a model of disaster management for the world.

Ky Luu is a founding member of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy and currently serves as its executive director. Before coming to Tulane, Ky was the Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) where he led the U.S. Government office responsible for providing humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters. In his last year at OFDA, Ky led 81 disaster operations that benefited more than 193 million people in 57 countries and oversaw a budget of \$1.2 billion dollars and a worldwide staff of 256 professionals.

Earlier this year we were pleased to welcome Dr. Tonya Thurman who joined the Tulane School of Social Work as a full time Research Associate Professor. Dr. Thurman brings an extraordinary expertise in policy, research, monitoring and evaluation in the areas of highly vulnerable orphans and children and the delivery of services related to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV/AIDS). She received her Ph.D. in international health and development from the Tulane School of Public Health in 2006. For more than 10 years, she has been working primarily in Africa conducting research to examine the impact and effectiveness of programs serving orphans and vulnerable children and PLHIV/AIDS.

Dr. Thurman has been the recipient of several substantial grants that have enabled her to conduct country wide studies related to monitoring, evaluation and programing within the areas of orphans and vulnerable children. In addition to her work in South Africa, she has worked in Albania, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, and Tanzania. With funding from World Vision, she trained World Vision staff within Eastern Europe, Middle East, Latin America and Asia to collect quantitative and qualitative data and utilize this information in the development, monitoring and improvement of their programs for children in difficult circumstances, particularly street children and child prostitutes. She is the author of several peer reviewed publications which have appeared in such journals as Social Sciences and Medicine, Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, and International Mental Health Journal.

She has served as the country director and chief of party in South Africa. Dr. Thurman has just been awarded a sole source United States Agency for International Development grant to carry out a country wide study to establish an evidence base for programing to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. She will be based in Durban, South Africa on a full-time basis.

This spring, Dr. Laura Haas was appointed a Clinical Associate Professor. Recently, she was the full-time country director based in Rwanda and responsible for overseeing

numerous large scale research and capacity building projects in Rwanda. Included in this was our work in developing psychosocial content within the context of the multiyear project funded by PEPFAR/CDC in which Dr. So'Nia Gilkey has been quite active for the last few years.

Laura will serve as the director of the Knowledge Center of the National Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and be in a position to work with and advise the School on issues related to strengthening the capacity of African higher education institutions through the development of partnerships between African and U.S. higher education institutions

In April, the School submitted its three volume self-study to the Counsel of Social Work Education (CSWE). This is a major step in the reaccreditation process. In November 2012, we will host a site visitor to discuss the self-study who will then submit his report to CSWE. This culminates in February 2013 when the commission on accreditation determines the outcome and we are reaccredited for another eight year period. By way of history, the Tulane School of Social Work is among just a few schools who were part of the founding of the accreditation process in 1927 and has been continuously accredited since that time - 85 years!

As this goes to print, the School is adding to its professional staff as well. Searches are underway for three MSW level staff positions – a full time assistant to support the field education program and assistants for both the Certificate in Disaster Mental Health and the Certificate in Global Social Work. All three positions are scheduled to begin on July 1.

Clearly, it's been a busy time at the School. More importantly, it's been a productive time and one in which we have seen the development of our programs and an increasing capacity to engage with our local, national and international partners in work that is meaningful and enhances the capacity of individuals and communities alike.



NEWEST ALUMNI

TSSW welcomed two new cohorts of alumni into its ranks during the last seven months. In December, the school held its annual Fall Commencement for its 85 graduating students (left). Then in May, the school graduated 10 part-time students as well as three PhD candidates (bottom right) as part of its Spring Commencement Ceremonies. During the Spring Unified Ceremonies at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, TSSW students also got the chance to participate in a second line celebration (bottom left). Congrats to all of our recent graduates, and best of luck in your future endeavors. (Photos by Paula Burch-Celentano & Ken Redler)



TATA students enjoy TSSW community, learning

Tulane's student exchange program with the TATA Institute of Social Sciences in India wrote another chapter as four TATA students spent a month at TSSW this Spring.

"I learned something new every day," Smiti Gahrotra said. "It was a great experience. I don't even have words to describe how much we learned."

Smiti and her cohort attended TSSW classes as well as completed a community field placement. The group also took time to bond and learn from current MSW students and experience New Orleans and south Louisiana.

Smiti's internship was at LSU DePaul Behavioral Health where she said she enjoyed learning about how different agencies work together to help individuals. She also enjoyed New Orleans' culture.

"New Orleans is all about parties every weekend," she said. "The students were

great. They helped us so much, and we got to meet all the students outside of class."

Panchalee Tamuli worked with NO/AIDS Taskforce.

"I have seen HIV testing from a very different angle," she said. "The blood method is used in India, but here it is the oral swab. The shadowing part of my placement was very elaborate and different from anything I experienced in India.

"Every weekend I've been to different gatherings at different places, and that's really helped me to make lots and lots of friends. I had a great stay here."

Muthu Vizhi was placed at James W. Johnson Elementary School and also did work with Urban Strategies. She said she wants to conduct a comparative study of the caste system in India and racism in America, and the placements enabled just that.

"It was a good experience to compare the caste system and racism," she said. "Most of the things are similar. People are in a position of coming out the struggle and gaining their rights. Overall, it was a very good experience because it increased my theoretical understanding and will allow me to use it in my practice."

Akshaya Panda was the only male student in the group. His placement at Lighthouse for the Blind was important because he is visually impaired. He said his experience allowed him to become more independent.

He added he was impressed with Lighthouse's home visits to ensure a safer home for visually-impaired individuals by coloring steps or improving lighting.

"They provide mobility training to allow people to be more independent," he said. "They also provide support groups to be able to share what they can do to be more independent. It was important to see their methods and how they worked."

Children's Book to help Haiti's shaken youth

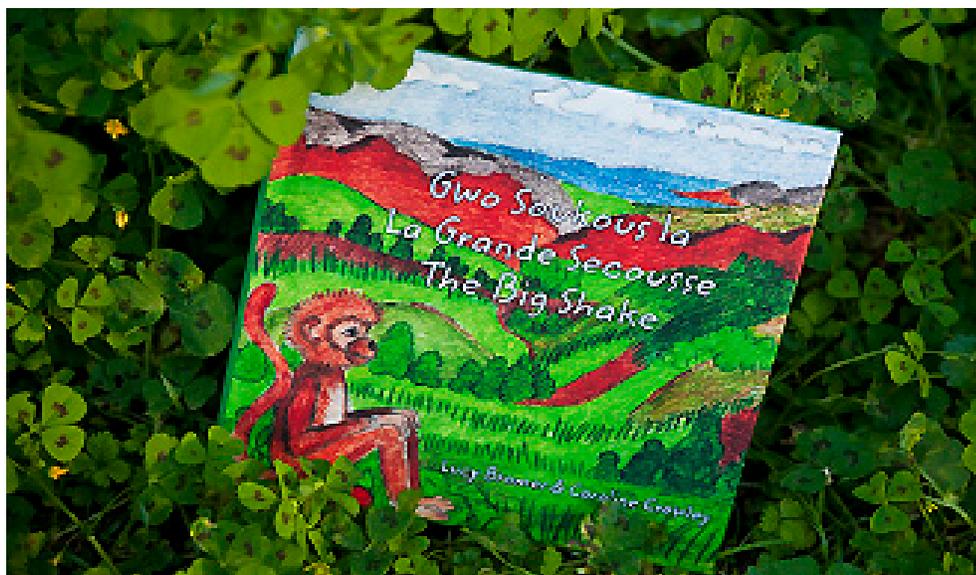
When December 2011 social work graduates Lucy Bromer and Caroline Crowley saw the ongoing mental health struggles of children in Haiti due to the 2010 earthquake, they decided to offer a solution — in three languages.

The duo wrote and illustrated a 52-page children's book *The Big Shake* in Haiti's three main languages — Haitian Creole, French, and English — as their professional project, which is a key graduation requirement in the Tulane School of Social Work. The book is intended to help children process the trauma they experienced.

Bromer and Crowley presented their research in March at the National Association of Social Workers – Louisiana conference.

“Our goal was to create a story that all children of Haiti could connect to, no matter how severe of an impact the earthquake had in their lives,” Bromer said. “We want volunteers, educators, parents and mental health professionals to have access to a culturally appropriate bibliotherapy tool that will help them to meet the children where they are and aid the children on their path to recovery.”

The project was an offshoot of the arts-



*For their professional project, social work alumnae Lucy Bromer (MSW '11) and Caroline Crowley (MSW '11) created *The Big Shake*, a book to help children in Haiti process trauma from the 2010 earthquake. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)*

based HeARTs With Haiti program, which included children's books, but the duo felt the books would be more effective if written in local languages. Working with a local Haitian, they evaluated the experiences of the children, the culture and the environment, and the story began to flow fairly easily.

“It was fun taking a break from research papers to unleash our creativity,” Bromer said. “We included experiences and themes

of fear, loss of home, separation from loved ones and adaptation to a new way of life. We also included themes of safety, calm and hope, which are tenets of psychological first aid.”

Crowley says the major obstacle was obtaining a Creole translation, but after the book's successful testing in Haiti, they have discussed possibly translating it into more languages.

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WELLNESS CENTER, POTTERY ARE ADAMS' PASSIONS

complicated problems, but I think it was a great place to learn to hone your skills.”

Adams' first client was a woman with paranoid schizophrenia, which could have been overwhelming for the young social worker, but she said it was a great learning experience.

“It turned out that we developed a very sweet relationship, where she tried to put her feelings into words,” she said. “She blossomed.”

“I remember that we were working on ourselves intensely at the same time we were working with clients. It was like this walking, living laboratory. There comes a point when you feel more comfortable.”

Adams is still in private practice in Pittsboro, N.C., and has three children including two

step-children, the youngest is 25. Her career has been as varied and fulfilling as her time at Tulane. She started working with children, moved to adolescents, and now as she has gotten older so has her population. She still works with some adolescents, but her client base is mainly adults and older adults, including working with families dealing with dementia.

Adams is the partner/owner of Chatham Wellness Center, a collective of independent, fully-licensed practitioners specializing in psychotherapy and holistic care, e.g. massage therapy and acupuncture.

In 2007, she opened River Road Pottery, which produces a range of pieces, from tableware to table lamps, decorative pieces, raku and horsehair pottery, and wall-hang-

ings. Surrounded by hardwood trees, and close to the Haw River, they fire their pots in backyard kilns, in a peaceful environment that is also home to owls, deer, rabbits and many birds.

Adams, who recounted her memories in the School's third-floor lounge, said she was excited to see the school's expanded global offerings and also happy to see the student's year-long internship is still a key part of the curriculum.

“There is a way in which social workers think about things that I don't think is necessarily taught in my colleagues' experiences,” she said. “I think in New Orleans that it was a rich experience because there is such cultural diversity. To have the opportunity to work with someone for a year was unique.”

ALUMNA DISCOVERS HER LOVE OF CHILDREN IN NEW ORLEANS, CONTINUES WORK AT NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE PREP

The halls of New Orleans College Prep are lined with pennants of four-year universities as a reminder of what its students are aiming for every day, and for Carissa Kolakauskas (MSW '07), it's a reminder of why her work matters.

A Connecticut native, Kolakauskas came to New Orleans 11 years ago to earn her undergraduate degree at Tulane, completing her MSW at TSSW in 2007, and she stayed. Since 2008, Carissa has worked as the middle school social worker for the 2007 start-up charter school, which features grades K-10 while it continues to add a grade each year to become a full K-12 institution.

Carissa's experience with the youth of New Orleans stems from her extensive volunteer work with programs such as For the Children, America Reads, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters in a number of New Orleans Public Schools pre-Katrina.

"Getting that firsthand experience of the education system in New Orleans, I became very passionate about the children of New Orleans and their needs," she said.

While at TSSW, her internship was with juvenile court in Jefferson Parish, where she saw how older students, who didn't receive a proper education, could become victims of the system.

"Witnessing how (a lack of an education) often led to involvement in the court system and criminal activity, made me realize that I needed to work with these kids to change this path and also to make a change for New Orleans," she said. "I decided that being in a school was the best way for me to make an impact and stick with these kids for as long as possible, instead of being in an agency where the turnover of cases is so high."

That's when Carissa joined New Orleans College Prep. She said the challenges are large, but the results have been very rewarding.



TSSW alumna Carissa Kolakauskas (MSW '07) works as a middle school social worker at New Orleans College Prep.

"For a lot of these students, it's just the fact that they have never had solid instruction," she said. "Most don't have any specific learning disabilities, but have never been taught properly so they're missing the most basic skills. Almost all of our students are at or below the national poverty level."

"But the growth has been remarkable, especially seeing some of my kids come in as sixth-graders, who were non-readers, and who had been expelled from every one of their past schools. Now they're really talking about going to college and believing it. Before, school wasn't even something that they were invested in. It has been pretty incredible to see the change in their mentality."

Carissa's and New Orleans College Prep's work seems to be paying off as the school continues to expand. The high school now shares a building with the Recovery School District's (RSD) program

at Walter L. Cohen High School, and the middle school will move to Cohen beginning in the fall. The RSD is phasing out its high school program, operating 11th-12th grades next year and gradually transitioning the operation of the entire building to NOCP's 6-12 grade programs. New Orleans College Prep will be renamed Cohen College Prep Middle School and Cohen College Prep High School.

Carissa said it also has been a learning process for her as she refines programs and policies that work and cut those that do not.

"When I started, the school didn't have a social worker or any sort of policy or procedures around mental health," she said. "The administration just knew that they had a lot of children with a lot of needs, and they needed someone who knew what to do to help them improve."

Although her day often begins before 7 a.m. and ends closer to 7 p.m., Carissa said she has enjoyed all aspects of her daily schedule from staff meetings to early morning wake-up calls for students who might need a little boost to get to school. She added that she spends a few hours each day in scheduled therapy appointments with students along with another couple hours working on crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and family outreach.

"The planning piece is so important because now when we first meet families, we have a family needs assessment, which helps me determine all of the factors in the child's life that might affect their ability to be successful in school," she said. "It is just so dynamic because every day is a new struggle with a new kid. It can get overwhelming sometimes, but it is very rewarding."

Carissa is an Ex-officio Alumni Development Committee Member on the TSSW Alumni Board, as well as a TSSW Field Instructor and lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Catrina proves an MSW is never out of reach

Catrina Pullum isn't your average Tulane student.

The 37-year-old commutes from Baton Rouge to attend classes and has more than 10 years' experience in program management, working with victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and at risk youth. She specializes in conducting criminal and civil investigations, testifying in court on the behalf of federal, state, and local law enforcement. Her maturity and drive shines through when she talks about her plans for the future while balancing the responsibilities of today.

"I've been in Texas since 1998 working in the field, and all of my credentials, certificates and degrees were acceptable in Texas," she said. "When I moved back to Louisiana, I needed a degree in social work in order to continue in my profession. I got tired of people telling me that I couldn't work in my field. Additionally, I have received training and experience from minds all over the country, but it didn't matter because I needed a degree in social work. That's how I became a student at here."

While working toward her MSW with a certificate in Disaster Mental Health, Katrina has worked on a number of community-based projects including one that just wrapped up May 5.

She was the lead organizer of the 2012 Peace Walk for Child Abuse Prevention held at the Louisiana State Capitol and hosted by Center of Empowerment and the FACT Project. The event drew more than 150 Louisiana individuals, families, businesses and organizations to help raise awareness about child abuse and its costly toll on today's youth. Katrina along with her colleague received a resolution from the State House of Representatives recognizing their work with the Peace Walk.

"It's a dark side of humanity that we



Catrina Pullum, a 2012 MSW candidate, took an unusual path before deciding to get an MSW. Katrina has more than 10 years experience working with children and victims of child abuse, and now, she's using her field placement to generate even more social awareness.

don't like to think about, much less talk about," she said. "It's a cancer that destroys families, scars lives, and weakens our communities. But, child abuse simply can't be ignored, that's why we held the walk to call attention to how to prevent, recognize, and report child abuse."

Catrina sits on the Board of Directors for the Center for Empowerment and is the Founder and President of RARE, Inc., an organization committed to the personal development of young women. She is a Certified Child Abuse Forensic Investigator, Anger Resolution Therapist, and a Family Mediator. She even holds an Executive M.B.A. in Healthcare Management as well as a Master Certification in Forensic Psychology and Nonprofit Management.

Even with all of the non-school related responsibilities, she makes time to pursue a Certificate in Disaster Mental Health along with her MSW. As for why she chose Tulane, she stated that was simple.

"I had friends that graduated from Tulane University, and I wanted to attend an influential school," she said. "Although LSU is in Baton Rouge and is a good school, my peers, and the TSSW staff inspired my decision to apply. Tulane School of Social Work gives you that more personal feeling. It's more hands-on especially when it comes to doing your internship because you're at your placement for a year. You're able to get settled and gain the work experience needed. It has been a great experience."

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 few projects going on in the community, in the classroom and in our faculty's research arenas at the School.

Parker Sternbergh (MSW '05) was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners in December.

"It is an honor to serve on the Louisiana Board of Social Work examiners," Parker said.

The regulatory board was established by the legislature in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of Louisiana against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work.

"It is critical that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for. Our board presides over registration, licensure, and complaints against social workers. Individual licensee issues are confidential, but I am able to bring general current practice issues and trends in Louisiana social work and throughout North America back to the Tulane School of

Social Work community."

Parker will serve a three-year term that ends in December 2014.

Dr. Charles Figley, the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health, has been appointed as the new Associate Dean for Research at the School of Social Work.

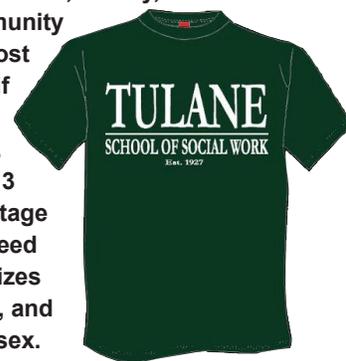
For almost 100 years, the Tulane School of Social Work has contributed to the development of social work knowledge through the scholarly and research efforts of its faculty. This aspect of its work is central to the School's mission. As a unit within a Carnegie I, Research Extensive University, the creation and exchange of responsive, community-based knowledge and research for relevant contemporary and innovative social work practice occupies an essential component of its work.

With the appointment of Charles as the first Associate Dean for Research, his role will be to develop and support the research enterprise and scholarship of the School. Charles will continue in his role as co-principal investigator in the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, teaching in the new Cities, Communities and Culture Ph.D. program, and with his own research and

scholarship agenda.

Among the first-year goals, Dr. Figley will complete and report on a thorough inventory of all research and scholarship production among faculty during the last five years with special attention to quantification. The purpose of this project is to carefully assess the School's current status regarding defining and measuring scholarly productivity, especially regarding refereed articles in the most influential journals and grant application success.

The SGA is selling special TSSW T-shirts to all students, faculty, staff and TSSW community members. The cost is \$8 per T-shirt if they are picked up at the school. The shirts are \$13 (includes \$5 postage charge) if they need to be shipped. Sizes range from S-XL, and all shirts are unisex. All shirts are also green with white lettering.



To order, please contact Sarah Tenneyson at stennyso@tulane.edu.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Homecoming 2012
set for
Saturday, Nov. 3.**

Details in the next edition of Postscripts.



Elective, CEU focuses on military social work

Recently retired Air Force social worker Lisa Sayegh has more than 25 years of experience with active duty military and veterans, and she is bringing that experience to the Tulane School of Social Work with a new military social work elective.

The elective, “Clinical-Community Approaches to Working With Military Populations,” is a first-time offering in social work at Tulane that contributes to a rapidly growing field of study and practice.

“I decided to develop it to teach social workers to better serve the military and veteran population,” Sayegh said. “When you consider that less than 1 percent of the U.S. population serves in the military, most people have no clue about it. My goal is to diminish that ‘deer in the headlights look’ so that the client will feel like they’re understood. There is a huge need for mental health services with returning vets.”

Sayegh, who also taught at Colorado State and the Air Force Academy, said the course is based on her own experiences as a social worker helping not only military personnel, but also other social workers. The class starts by defining what the military is and the unique



Lisa Sayegh, left, a retired Air Force social worker, welcomes students in a new elective course that examines issues of concern to veterans when they visit a social worker. Sayegh also recently held a CEU event on the same topic. (Photo by Guillermo Cabrera-Rojo)

stresses and challenges facing military members, veterans, and their family members. The course also introduces post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans and some of the treatment approaches that have been approved by the military.

“My goal is do what we can to prepare the civilian therapeutic population to help as much as possible,” she said. “We talk about the culture of the military, both good and bad. We also talk about the is-

sues a veteran might be concerned about when they come to visit a social worker.”

Sayegh says she hopes to offer more classes in the future and possibly expand to include a certificate or concentration program in military social work.

In June, Sayegh held a CEU workshop on the same topic sponsored by TSSW that drew more than 20 social workers looking to learn more about military populations.

“DONATE NOW” — IT’S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

By Lou Franchina, Development

In the development office, we keep track of myriad facts and figures, but two of the most important are dollars and donors. I am pleased to report that at the School of Social Work we have increased both categories compared to this time last year.

If you have already given this fiscal year (which ends June 30), thank you for being in that number. If you are now considering making your gift, I would like to encourage you to do so via our secure online giving site.

Tulane Alumni Association Board member Bill Knecht (MSW’73) has found this

method of giving particularly helpful.

“I wanted to donate directly to the school every year to help with current students’ book fees, etc., but I couldn’t always come up with the funds because of cash flow issues,” says Knecht. “Now I donate a smaller amount each month by direct withdrawal from my debit card. It’s so much easier.”

To join Bill and the many other alumni who choose to give online, simply visit the school’s web page (tulane.edu/socialwork) and click on the “Donate Now” button. Should you prefer to donate via check, simply make the check out to the Tulane University School of Social Work and mail

it to my attention at 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.

If you’d like your donation to be allocated to a specific purpose or program within the school, please note that on the memo line of your check or in the comments field online.

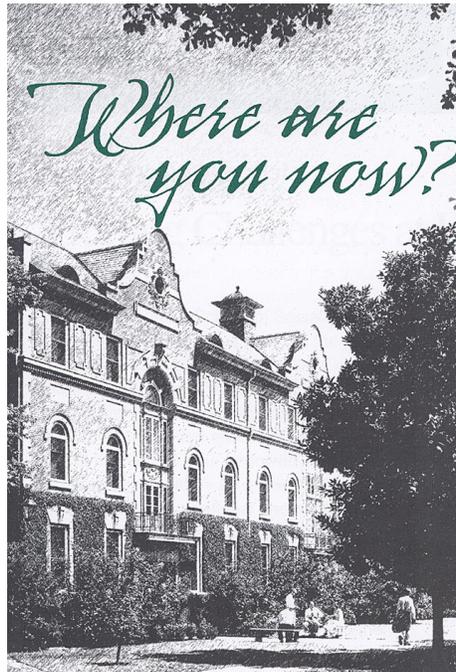
Remember that the fact that you give is more important than how much you give, since alumni giving rates impact such items as grant applications and U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Lou Franchina is the school’s development officer. He may be reached directly at (504) 314-7308 or lfranch1@tulane.edu.

Salvatore A. "Sam" Caruso (MSW '71) currently is a part-time private practice clinical social worker and member of the Slidell City Council. Sam returned to the city council after serving as mayor for 17 years. He also has served on the Louisiana State Lottery Board for several years. He currently lives in Slidell, Louisiana.

Jaclynn Faffer (MSW '72) currently resides in Naples, Florida, and is the Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Collier County. Jaclynn received her DSW from Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University in 1983 and was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. She was published twice in 2007 including "In the Eye of the Storm: Responding to Senior Needs Before, During and After" in the Journal of Jewish Communal Service as well as "Addressing the Professional Leadership Crisis in the Jewish Family Service Field" with Seymour J. Friedland, Ph.D., in the Journal of Jewish Communal Service.

Samuel Goldstein, (MSW '51) currently resides in Bellmore, New York, and teaches at Adelphi University in New York. He also served as the co-chair of the 2012 International Symposium for the Association for



Advancement of Social Work with Groups.

Peter J. McNelis (MSW '72) is currently living in Kennebunk, Maine, and is a retired but still involved with church-related volunteer work. The U.S. Army Colonel was once the director of the University of New England School of Social Work and also served as the director of the Military Family Institute

at Marywood University. He has been published numerous times over the years, and is a recipient of the Legion of Merit Medal.

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

Maxine S. Rushing (MSW '49) of Meadowlakes, Texas, passed away on Oct. 1, 2010. She is survived by her daughter, Pat Roper.

Sally Anne Smith (MSW '60) of Kernersville, North Carolina, passed away on January 31, 2011. She is survived by her sister, Lucille Ashburn. Smith was a generous donor to Tulane University, which her sister said she loved dearly.

ALUMNUS REMEMBERS LESSON LEARNED AT TSSW

In the Spring 2011 issue of *Postscripts*, Dean Marks said one of his favorite parts of being Dean was that it gives him an opportunity to visit with our alumni.

Below Donald Loving (MSW '68) took the time to write a wonderful letter recounting a learning experience that happen outside of the classroom that brought the painful details of racism in New Orleans to life for Donald and his classmates. Thanks so much for your story, and if any other alumni have stories to share about their time at TSSW, please write or e-mail. We'd love to hear from you!

Dear Dean Marks,

I am responding to your comment in a recent Postscripts about how much you enjoy hearing from alumni. Here is an event that happened while I was a student at TSSW and helped mold me into the social worker I am today.

When I was a second year student at

TSSW (1967), a group of us went to a performance in McAlister Auditorium by Dick Gregory, a black comedian known for his cutting edge social commentary on race relations in America. His comments made what we were learning about racism in class and from books seem academic and sterile. While still reeling from his excoriating monologue, we went to a local bar just off campus to talk about his performance and process what we'd just experienced.

One member of our group was a black man who worked at an agency where one of our classmates had his field placement. After we sat down in the bar, an employee told the black man he had to leave because they did not serve "coloreds." For most of us, it was our first blatant exposure to racism, and it was a shock and highly disturbing. We left the bar with our friend who tried to assure us that black folks got used to that kind of treatment. The rest of us wanted to do something.

I was president of the social work student body, so I called for a boycott of the establishment. I have no idea if it was effective.

This event did, however, dramatically illustrate how powerful heuristic learning can be. (Most of us had only learned the definition of "heuristic" from TSSW's dean, Dr. Walter Kindelsperger, the previous year.) Racism forever ceased to be an academic ideal and became a painful reality.

The knowledge, skills, and values I learned from TSSW guided my practice over the course of my career. That included founding one of the country's first runaway shelters in New Orleans in 1971 to being the CEO of a school social work agency in Austin, Texas, from which I retired in 2005.

Warm regards,
Donald M. Loving, MSW '68
Palacios, TX



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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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