

NEW RESEARCH FOCUSES ON NATIVE AMERICANS

By Joseph Halm, TSSW
Communications

TSSW Assistant Professor Dr. Catherine Burnette's passion for helping Native Americans eliminate the violence and mental health disparities many experience, in comparison with non-Native Americans, is highlighted by years of research. Now, she has a chance to take that research to another level.

The United Houma Nation and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians gave Burnette approval to collaborate on bolstering family resilience within the tribes. According to Burnette, who is completing her second year as a professor at the Tulane School of Social Work, this is the first time this culturally grounded research has been



Nikki Comby, left, policy development officer for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Lora Ann Chaisson, center, vice principal chief of the United Houma Nation, review with Catherine Burnette her plans for research to bolster family resilience within the tribes. (Photo Courtesy of TSSW)

undertaken within tribes in the southeastern United States.

This new research builds upon years of work with tribal communities in the Southeast, and

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DEAN'S UPDATE

MOVE DATE SET FOR AUGUST 4

The move date is set – August 4, 2014.

After 56 years in the same home we are preparing for a very significant event in the life of the School. I've gone over many of the details in previous notes. I've mentioned we will more than double our space, we will meet or exceed the University's requirement for being a "green building," (referred to as LEED status) and we will certainly have a first class space for our work to flourish.

Over the last few months I've made regular trips to 127 Elk Place and watched it take shape from the empty, gutted shell several



months ago to the defined space now visible throughout. One of the more exciting moments was watching the construction crew break through an existing wall to expose the new two story glass atrium thus enabling a view from the fourth floor into the third floor garden room with the hanging garden on the wall next to the quiet reading room.

Over these last few months there have been a myriad of details to which we have had to attend – many big ones and plenty of smaller ones. For example, just this week there were decisions about where the new bike racks will go and finalizing the selection

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DEAN'S MESSAGE: BUILDING QUICKLY TAKING SHAPE

of the glass emblazoned photo display depicting some of the history and work of the School for the 4th floor elevator lobby. Office assignments have been made and now faculty and staff are busy meeting the moving deadline when their office computers will be disconnected, book shelves will be boxed and files neatly packed away.

We're excited to welcome our alumni and show off our new space. Stay tuned for plans for an open house in the fall and the School's homecoming event there as well (scheduled for Saturday, November 15). As for saying goodbye to our current home we haven't forgotten that this, too, is an important part of the ritual of change. We are planning a goodbye event at our current building on the last day of the summer classes. Full details are available on page 6 of this newsletter, and the event will be on Thursday, Aug. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us and perhaps even share a story about your time as part of the School.

On other fronts, and there are many, the School will be launching its new doctoral program in clinical social work leading to the DSW degree. Dr. Fred Buttell has been directing this new program. The first cohort will be welcomed in the fall 2014 semester (and can meet in one of our new doctoral seminar rooms in our new space). I've appointed Dr. Charles Figley to chair the School's faculty search committee which is in the process of conducting a national search for a new tenure track faculty member. For the 14th year, I will be conducting the India class. Following on the very successful visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to Tulane last year, our group had a private visit with His Holiness' in his private residence last fall. This year, he will be offering a three-day teaching which our group will be able to attend. Dr. Reggie Ferreira has created a new short study abroad course entitled "South Africa: Community Development and Social Justice Challenges." The inaugural group leaves for South Africa on August 16.

Your alma mater is on the move! I hope to see you as we say goodbye to our old home and welcome you in our new one.

Ronald Marks



Dennis Camardelle with Fisk Electric surveys plans in the new School of Social Work location at 127 Elk Place. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Dean Ron Marks (right) looks out at the top of the garden room, which will give students and faculty a quiet, green space inside the building. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)



TSSW faculty members and the project architects view the progress in the third floor lounge and reception area. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

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 United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) has awarded the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy housed in the Tulane School of Social Work a nearly \$925,000 grant to develop a framework for measuring child resilience and well-being in Mali.

Along with local partners at the University of Mali, the academy will spend the next 18 months delving into the factors that promote the well-being of Malian children in order to generate effective strategies and coping mechanisms for children in risk-prone areas.

"Understanding the outcomes and factors that help resilient children succeed is a complex challenge, requiring researchers to consider a wide range of personal, familial, social and environmental outcomes and factors that could contribute to the successful adaptation," said Ky Luu, the academy's executive director and the study's principal investigator.

Since 2011, Mali – one of the poorest countries in the world – has been faced with numerous crises, including political instability, food and nutrition deficiencies and seasonal flooding. In an effort to significantly

help children and families recover from stresses and shocks associated with these crises, UNICEF has adapted its thinking and approach to include resilience as a pillar of planning, programming and policy.

"We see many examples where certain children deal with an adverse event such as conflict, drought and displacement better than others," Luu said. "We want to know why. Understanding these characteristics or capacities that enable some children to be better off or more resilient can allow us to mitigate the impact of future adverse events and improve the well-being of children in Mali."

The DRLA is an interdisciplinary academic center that aims to increase resilience in communities and individuals impacted by disaster. It integrates education, research and application, and includes faculty from the Tulane School of Architecture, A. B. Freeman School of Business, School of Law, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and School of Social Work.

TSSW has announced the establishment of a new dual-degree program that combines graduate studies in social work with training in disaster resilience and global humanitarian leadership.

Beginning in the fall, students seeking a master's degree in social work may also earn a master of science degree in disaster resilience leadership, a program of the Tulane Disaster Resilience Leadership

Academy.

The five-semester program aims to prepare graduate students for careers that focus on planning, managing and delivering services in communities vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters, either overseas or in the United States. Students may also add a social work certificate in disaster mental health or global social work.

"Disasters demand humane assistance coupled with expert logistical skills," says Ron Marks, dean of the Tulane School of Social Work. "The combination of the knowledge and skills associated with both the master's of social work and master's of science in disaster resilience leadership is the perfect combination to assure effective leadership delivered sensitively and humanely."

The program requires the completion of 77 credit hours — 53 in social work and 24 in disaster resilience leadership studies, including such courses as environmental hazards science, leadership analytics and disaster risk management and leadership. Students also are required to do field work and professional projects.

Established in 2009, the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy is the only systematic, academically based disaster resilience leadership development program in the world. It conducts courses and research in disaster resilience leadership through an interdisciplinary program.

RECENT GRANTS AID NEW FACULTY MEMBER

By Lou Franchina, Development

Congratulations are in order for new faculty member Catherine Burnette ("Professors bring renewed energy to TSSW," Postscripts, Fall 2013). She has recently received two prestigious grants to support her vital research.

Firstly, Dr. Burnette was awarded a Faculty Research Grant by the Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation. Burnette will use this grant to conduct research on "bolstering resilience to ameliorate violence and reduce disparities" in American Indian and Alaskan Native populations. Specifically, she will seek to answer, "What are the culture and context of American Indian and Alaskan Native mental health disparities, family violence, and resilience in the Southeast?"

Secondly, the advisory committee of the Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund Faculty Grant Program has selected Burnette as a 2014 grant recipient for her proposal entitled, "Identifying Culturally Relevant Risk and Protective Factors Related to Intimate Partner Violence Among American Indians: The Relevancy of Changing Male Roles." She will receive funding for two years to implement her research.

Burnette has focused her research on this important area for years. Now, the United Houma Nation and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have granted her approval to collaborate on bolstering family resilience within the tribes—the first time this culturally grounded research has been undertaken within tribes in the southeastern United States.

"We want to identify tribal members' visions of healthy and resilient families, culturally specific risk and protective factors related to family violence and mental health," Burnette says. "This will allow us to develop a culturally relevant model of family resilience to prevent and treat family violence and bolster the well-being of community members."



Lou Franchina

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

Aiding New Orleans youth leads to SW degree

When Liz Jones joined the seven other Tulane University School of Social Work graduates on May 17, it marked the end of a long, rewarding journey and the beginning of a new one.

Jones has served as the senior program coordinator at the Tulane Drop-In Center in downtown New Orleans while earning her master's degree part-time. Jones said she became interested in social work shortly after she joined the center in 2004.

"If I could make that kind of impact on people, it would be amazing," she said, about watching the center's social worker, then Isabella Christodoulou, help its clients. "Our clients need someone that they can count on and trust, and I wanted to be that type of person."

Now providing supportive and case management services for the city's disconnected youth, ages 14-23, the center's original focus was strictly on the city's homeless youth population, but it has since expanded.

Jones' responsibilities also have grown, but the mother of two said she has always remained focused.

"I just do what needs to be done," she said. "The support of my family and the Drop-In Center staff has made it easier for me to be that type of person."

Jones, who originally wanted to become a lawyer, completed her field placement at the Orleans Public Defenders Office. While there, she often encountered the same clients from the Drop-In Center and was able to use those relationships to help her clients better their situations and lives.

"Professionally, I felt like the most that I learned from working in either field came



Liz Jones' drive to help others leads to her master's degree in social work. She has served as the senior program coordinator at the Tulane Drop-In Center while earning her master's degree part-time. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

from working with the social workers," she said.

"I loved my field internship at the public defender's office because it helped me put what I learned in the classroom into perspective. Now, I'd like to provide social work services more in the legal field but also through direct services."



NEWEST ALUMNI

On Saturday, May 17, TSSW welcomed its newest cohort of alumni as the school took part in the unified commencement ceremonies and held a private diploma ceremony. Congrats to the Class of 2014 and best of luck in your future endeavors. (Photo by Ken Redler)

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RESEARCH FIRST OF ITS KIND WITH POPULATION

her dissertation at the University of Iowa focused on intimate partner violence within these tribal communities. That work has resulted in several publications along with several federal research proposals for the current research.

"We want to identify tribal members' visions of healthy and resilient families, culturally specific risk and protective factors related to family violence and mental health," Burnette said "This will allow us to develop

a culturally relevant model of family resilience to prevent and treat family violence and bolster the well-being of community members."

This research will include focus groups, individual and family interviews, participant observation and survey research. Burnette said the end result, which she expects in a few years, will be a culturally relevant model of family resilience. Burnette also has received a Global South Fellowship to

support her research.

"This project is only possible because of the collaborative efforts and deep respect I have for Native Americans," she said. "This project is important because it provides a culturally relevant model of family resilience — which can inform and be adapted for tribal communities across the nation — improving their quality of life and reducing violence and mental health disparities."

ALUMNUS AND FORMER OLYMPIAN KIM BLACK IS CO-CAPTAIN OF LOUISIANA'S TEAM AT THE TRANSPLANT GAMES

One could say that Kim Black (MSW '09) was a natural fit to become the co-captain of the 24-member Louisiana team at the 2014 Transplant Games of America, being held in Houston, Texas this month.

Black, a heart transplant social worker at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, was a 2000 Olympic Gold Medalist in the 4x200 freestyle relay. While at the University of Georgia, Black helped bring home three SEC and NCAA Championship swimming titles, and she was named NCAA Woman of the Year in 2001. So she knows a little something about athletic competition as well as about a very specialized field of social work.

Black said preparing the team's athletes, who range in age from five to 68, has been very rewarding.

"As a former swimmer, I know what it's like to be an underdog," she said. "When I started swimming, I never thought I would make the Olympic team. As a social worker, some of my patients were so sick prior to transplant that they thought they are going to die, and now post-transplant, they're strong enough to be able to compete in an athletic event. It's really miraculous."

Black also works with liver, lung, kidney and pancreas transplant patients at Ochsner, and her passion for helping transplant patients and their families is clear. Currently, about 120,000 people are waiting on the national donor list, and 18 of those die every day.

"I've been at the bedside of patients who died waiting for an organ, because there just wasn't one available," she said. "I'm passionate about spreading awareness - one organ, tissue and eye donor can save nine lives and affect the quality of life of up to 50 people."

The Louisiana team boasts heart, kidney, liver and pancreas recipients,



TSSW Alumna Kim Black co-captained Louisiana's team at the 2014 Transplant Games of America in Houston this month.

two donor families and two living donors. The competition includes sports such as swimming, track and field, basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis along with other events like darts, bowling and trivia. The purpose of the games is not only to celebrate the Gift of Life, but also to honor the donor families and encourage people to become registered donors.

"It's been a great experience preparing for the Transplant Games" Black said. "It's been really encouraging to see the athletes become more confident and get in better physical shape. All of them recognize that their second chance in life is a gift, and to see them taking care of their bodies is awesome."

Black said both she and co-captain Debi Dumas-Hicks are encouraged to see their patients recognize the importance of exercise for both their physical and mental well-being. Black said she takes a more holistic approach to wellness and her academic records show it.

Along with her MSW, she also earned a masters of public health with a focus on international health from Tulane.

She is an ordained minister through the United Church of Christ, thanks to a Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary. Black provides counseling, support, education and resources to patients and families facing health crises and end-of-life situations.

"I've always had an interest in health in general," she said. "Transplant teams work as multi-disciplinary teams, and that's part of the reason our patients are successful."

Black credited Ochsner, the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and the Legacy Foundation for helping fund the team as well as providing the athletes with support.

"When I started swimming when I was eight, I never thought that I would make the Olympic team," she said. "I know what it is to defy the odds and persevere when people think that something is impossible. To be able to walk my patients through that and empower them to believe in themselves and also help their families believe in them, is awesome."

As for the future, Black said she enjoys her work at Ochsner but could see herself one day working internationally.

"I'd really like to work with a multi-disciplinary medical team internationally, doing disaster-response type work," she said. "I'd like to work with an organization that looks at health holistically. That would be one of my dreams."

For more information about the 2014 Transplant Games of America, please visit <http://www.transplantgamesofamerica.org/>.

To register to be an organ donor go to: www.donatelifela.org.

TSSW bids happy trails to long-time professor

May 30 event featured laughter, memories and over 100 guests



DR. LYNN PEARLMUTTER FAREWELL

After 25 years at TSSW, Dr. Lynn Pearlmutter bid the school a fond farewell on May 30. Pearlmutter is retiring to tour the country in her 40-foot motor home, but before she hit the road, friends and colleagues said goodbye during a reception in Room 103. The event featured several speakers from various points in Dr. Pearlmutter's career along with plenty of food and laughs. (Photos by Joseph Halm)



Building send-off set for Thurs., Aug. 14 at 5

As TSSW welcomes its new home at 127 Elk Place, the School will be wishing a fond farewell to the building that has housed us for 56 years with a special event on Thursday, Aug. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Social Work Building.

The casual event will give alumni and friends a chance to drop in and share their memories of the building and community that has shaped many of our lives. There will also be a student ceremony from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. following the final day of summer classes.

At the alumni event, there will be refreshments and food. Alumni will have a chance to write their memories about



the building, and those memories will be brought to the new building. Photos with the building will also be available to all alumni and friends free of charge.

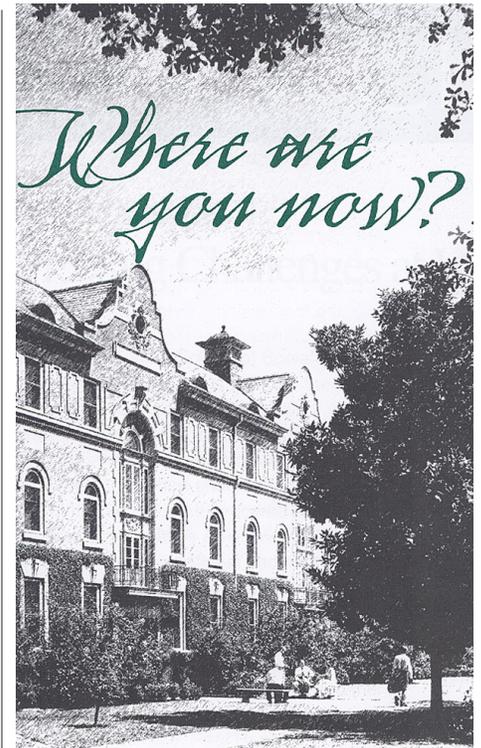
In other exciting news, the School has learned that once the building is renovated it will bear a plaque noting that TSSW was a former resident.

Marjorie P. Kolman (MSW '50) lives in Abilene, Texas, and she is retired but still very active. She turned 90 years of age on May 28 and lives in University Place, an independent senior retirement facility. She also volunteers weekly at Breakfast on Beach St., which is a homeless food service.

Shirley Olivieri-Mathies (MSW '94) resides in Shreveport, La., and has worked for the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals for the past 11 years. She currently serves as the Program Monitor for the Office of Behavioral Health, certifying MH/SA providers for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership. Her daughter, Brittny earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Auburn University and currently works as a Director for Volunteers of America in New Orleans. After seven and a half years as a Army officer, her son Dustin, earned a Master's degree in Management/Leadership from Webster University, and he is working on a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He will

begin working for the U.S. Secret Service this fall.

Carmen Crow Sheehan (MSW '04) currently lives in Washington, D.C., and International Women's Day (March 8) marked the official launch of *Chasing Misery*, an anthology of 21 essays and 26 photographs contributed by women who have worked in humanitarian responses during the last decade. All of the essays are first person accounts of specific experiences women had which challenged or inspired them. It has been her honor to contribute – both as an editor and author/photographer – to this work, which provides a deeper insight into the complex world of humanitarian responses through the eyes of those on the front lines. Her essay – “No Place” – is about Darfur. The themes explored within this book will surely resonate with the dominant forces of dignity, honesty, and concern for others that governed her time at TSSW. To read more about the project, visit the Chasing Misery web site -- www.chasingmisery.com.



Swan pens guide to self-help psychotherapy

Tulane alumnus Dr. Raymond Swan (MSW '63) taught at the School of Social work for 26 years, retiring as professor emeritus in social work.

His specialties include psychotherapy, sex and marital therapy, and parent education, and now he can add author to that list.

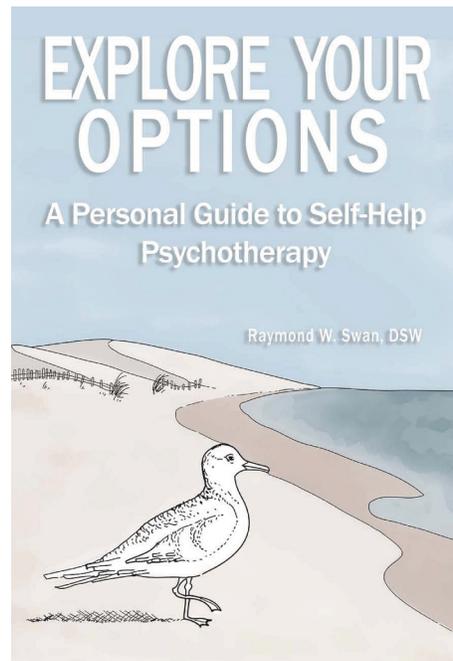
Swan recently wrote and published “Explore Your Options: A Personal Guide to Self-Help Psychotherapy,” which he wrote in just six months.

“I’ve focused on how to help people think differently and how to use anti-anxiety states to relieve tension,” he said. “I’ve also tried to help people get unstuck from unhealthy routines and how to create alternatives.”

The book was released in Aug. 2013, and since then, Swan said he’s enjoyed his time speaking about his work. He was compelled to write the book after working in private practice in Metairie for 30 years.

“I came to realize that there are many people that for a number of reasons can’t afford to go to psychotherapy or take time out of their busy schedule, so I wrote this guide to help people do it themselves,” he said. “That was the motivation for me to do this. I wanted to share my knowledge and experience on the topic.”

This was his first publication written for



the general public although he has written numerous scholarly articles and manuals over the years. The goal of his most recent publication was to put the book in common language and use a light-hearted style to make it easier to digest.

The work touches on numerous issues including how to relax under pressure. Dr. Swan has a web site – www.rayswan.com -- where one can visit and listen to or download a 15-minute audio message on

how to relax.

“Relaxation is one of many anti-anxiety states along with exercise, laughter, prayer and a whole bunch of other things,” he said. “After practice, it will be memorized and can be used whenever one chooses without the structure of the audio message.”

Another section is about how to deal with fears while he also touches on how to deal with worrying about what other people say. Other topics include learning to respect ourselves and how to appreciate solitude; how someone becomes an impulse thinker and how to sensitize yourself with others; how to help your children; and how to improve your marriage.

Swan said another big theme is learning from failure, and how to look at it as a way to succeed and learn from that failure.

“It was really fun to put together,” he said. “It only took me about six months to do it. I worked on it every day so that was helpful.”

The former director of TSSW's doctoral program and former head of the Wisner Center for the Study of Families and Children now lives in Pass Christian, Miss., and has a simple goal outside of writing. He has just planted 30 fruit trees on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and hopes he will live to see them bear fruit.



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Name: _____ Year of graduation: _____

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- 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?

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