

GRADS EARN EXPERIENCE VIA GLOBAL PLACEMENTS

By Joseph Halm, TSSW Communications

As the Office of Global Programs continues to grow at TSSW, two recent graduates completed their semester long international field placements in December.

Keren Tangen and Haley Fenton said the experience was not only rewarding but also life-changing in many ways. Tangen finished her placement in New Delhi, India, at the New Delhi YMCA Social and Human Development Department while Haley was at Future Families in their refugee services office in Pretoria, South Africa.

Tangen created a needs assessment for the members of Self-Help Groups, which are women's microfinance groups. She compiled and evaluated the results of the survey and provided a report with recommendations for the agency.

"Aside from getting hands-on experience creating a survey and analyzing the results, the most important thing I learned was how immensely culture affects every aspect of social work," she said. "Problem identification,



Haley Fenton (left) and Keren Tangen completed semester long international field placements in December. (Photo by Joseph Halm)

engagement, and intervention are expressed differently through different cultural lenses. This experience has made me much more aware of my own cultural lens. It will continue to inform my future practice as a reminder to

Story continues on page 4

DEAN'S UPDATE

BUILDING RECEIVES HIGH MARKS

Homecoming 2014 in November and the Fall '14 semester provided a solid test of our new building's ability to serve our many and varied purposes and I am happy to report that we passed with a resounding and solid "A+."

Our homecoming event was the largest in many years. It was a pleasure to see our many alumni relish the new space and hear their reactions to the new facility as they wandered from the garden room where the bar was set up to the 3rd floor lounge where one could go from one carving station to another for prime rib or smoked salmon



while the trio of musicians played. The Romanowski lecture hall was filled with over 100 attendees for our CEU event which occurred just prior to the start of the reception. By any measure, it was a success and a real pleasure to hear the very positive and complementary comments from our alumni.

Shortly after the homecoming event, we hosted the first (of many to come) open houses to welcome potential applicants to the MSW program. It, too, reinforced the impressiveness of our new space. Several current students provided tours for the potential applicants. I

Story continues on page 2





NEWEST ALUMNI

TSSW welcomed its newest cohort of alumni on Friday, December 12. The School's annual Fall Commencement featured 78 graduating students (left). During the commencement ceremonies, SGA President Tim Craft (bottom left) was recognized with the Leanne Joy Knot Award by Dean Ron Marks. (Below) Jannel Clark, Amanda Thurmon and Lynnette Thurmon sing The Star Spangled Banner to open the ceremonies. Congrats to all of our recent graduates, and best of luck in your future endeavors. (Photos by Ken Redler)



Continued from Page 1...

DEAN'S MESSAGE: NEW FACULTY MEMBER SLATED FOR JULY

happened to overhear one of our tour guides as he was about to take a small group of 10 on a tour...he began with "Welcome to a 21st century facility where you will get a 21st century social work education!"

In other news, I am delighted to announce that Heather Storer has accepted our offer of a tenure track assistant professor position at the School, effective July 1, 2015. After extensive review of applications, the search committee, chaired by Professor Charles Figley along with Professors Catherine Burnette and Qingwen Xu, presented a slate of candidates to me for consideration. All candidates presented a research symposium to the faculty, conducted a class in one of our MSW courses, met with several different configurations of faculty and staff, the search committee, and me in a private meeting. All candidates submitted writing samples of published work. The result of this process and our mutually agreed upon first choice

was Heather Storer.

A full article in the spring issue of Postscripts will feature Heather. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington School of Social Work (UWSSW) (rated as among the top 5 schools of social work nationally). Her emphasis in her current research focuses on vulnerable children and families in the context of preventing teen dating violence, teen parents, LGBTQIQ-identified youth, homeless/runaway youth, and youth in foster care systems. Her MSW at UWSSW, consistent with our own School, focused on Community Practice. Further distinction can be seen in her award of two consecutive NIH fellowships – one from the Institute of Translational Health Sciences (TL1 Pre-doctoral Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Training Fellowship) and the other from NIMH Prevention Training Fellowship. Heather has demonstrated an excellent

trajectory as a rising star in her scholarship with a solid track record of research productivity. We are delighted to welcome Heather to the School.

Finally, there are several national surveys that rank the 234 accredited schools of social work in the United States. You will be pleased to know that on two of these surveys the Tulane School of Social Work was ranked 19th among these 234 schools. You can see the full report of one of these titled "Top 50 Campus-Based MSW Programs" by following the link below: <http://www.bestmswprograms.com/msw-program-ranking/>.

Happy New Year to all of you from the Tulane School of Social Work.

Ronald Marks

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.

Why do kids join gangs? What do they get out of gangs? These are questions best answered by those who have lived it. That's the approach that Reginald Parquet takes in his undergraduate course, *Guns and Gangs*.

Parquet, a clinical assistant professor in the Tulane School of Social Work, has had a long-term interest in the juvenile justice system. In fact, he once ran all of Louisiana's juvenile correction facilities. Since 2005, Parquet has taught the course to hundreds of students while bringing some welcome realness to the classroom.

The class looks at a number of issues such as sociopolitical, sociocultural and socioeconomic variables that contribute to crime and delinquency in the city and the nation. But instead of reading about those variables in a textbook, the students hear from those who have lived the gang lifestyle.

"We bring in former hard core gang members," Parquet said. "Our students hear firsthand from the people that we talk about theoretically, about what their experiences were. Those who come to speak have turned their lives around for the most part,

but they have lived those experiences."

The range of speakers includes those who were gang members 30 years ago to those who left a gang just over a year ago.

"We give these students something that they would not normally get at Tulane," Parquet said. "They're able to share those experiences with the speakers, and we look at theories that explain gang activity."

In the latter part of the semester, students examine effective intervention strategies to stop gang violence, which is guided by the speakers' experiences.

"That experience helps to make the course not just theoretical but real," said Parquet. "We talk about matters that are real and practical, that you can't find in a textbook. It's been really interesting for me, and I think for the students as well."

The Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA) along with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were invited by the H.E. President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami at the country's National Safety Day.

The undersea mega-thrust earthquake that unleashed the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami left nearly a quarter of a million people dead and devastated 14 counties. Sri Lanka was especially hard hit as it suffered more than 35,000 confirmed deaths and 21,000

injuries; half a million people were left homeless, and the fishing, rice, mango and banana industries were devastated, causing great economic and psychological hardship.

For the past three years, the DRLA with support from the Gates Foundation has implemented its *Strengthening Disaster Resilience Leadership Program* (SLDRP) in Sri Lanka. The SLDRP aims to reduce disaster risk in vulnerable communities throughout South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean through executive leadership training programs to build existing capacity, interdisciplinary graduate programs to support future leaders, and the creation of a global network of professional and academic leaders in disaster risk management.

During the December commemoration, DRLA's Executive Director Ky Luu along with others presented 10 National Leadership Awards for Disaster Resilience to individuals from public, non-profit, academic and civil society sectors for their "exemplary leadership and remarkable individual contributions" promoting disaster resilience since the tsunami.

Pointing to Sri Lanka's successful record of building more-resilient communities, Luu said "significant progress has been achieved in disaster recovery, reconstruction, preparedness and risk mitigation by the government, private sector, academes, civil society organizations and other factors to enhance community resilience."

'We just have to learn to adapt and overcome'

Retired Lt. Gen. Russell Honoré has been hailed as a celebrated civic leader and U.S. Army veteran who became the face of law and order when he returned to New Orleans in the wake of Katrina in 2005.

On Monday, Nov. 10, Honoré gave the Tulane University community a peek into how he's been shaped by his experiences, and how he was able to process his own trauma and still help others.

"There are some things you can't control," he said about growing up in the segregated South. "The quicker you learn that things aren't fair, the quicker you'll get over that. We just have to learn to adapt and overcome."

Honoré took part in a 40-minute one-on-one interview with Charles Figley, who holds the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health, as part of the



"I'm of the belief that we need to invest in human capital," said retired Lt. Gen. Russell Honoré. (Photo by Ryan Rivet)

undergraduate course Social Work 1000: Trauma!. A video of the interview will be used for future online offerings.

Honoré's experience with trauma began at a young age as he recounted spending a month at Charity Hospital after getting hit

in the head at the age of 9. Fast forwarding to his service in Desert Storm, he said suicides and troop deaths were tough hurdles, including the traumatic death of a female sergeant with two children.

"It's different when you know somebody," he said. "It's all the difference in the world. I still think of her today sometimes; her kids are probably in college now."

He called upon all those experiences after Hurricane Katrina, and today, he's an advocate for teaching youth how to read, write and even swim.

"I'm of the belief that we need to invest in human capital," Honoré said. "Many have died so we can sit here today, so my advice to you is to give back. Teach a young person how to read, how to swim and how to be successful. I think we can make a difference."

Scholarships prove that giving is receiving

By Kirby Messinger, Development

Students choose social work for a variety of reasons, but a common theme is giving back to the community.

“My focus is helping kids,” says Todd Cirillo, a first-year graduate student with plans to graduate in 2015. “With social work you can build a relationship with a client and see progress. When you work with children you see the reward immediately.”

This year Dean Ron Marks is aiding students who work so diligently to give back. Annual gifts in support of the School of Social Work will directly support student scholarships.

“Supporting our students is an important priority within the school,” says Dean Marks. “Your gift, of any size, is an investment in the next generation of social workers and the lives they touch.”



MSW student Todd Cirillo said his scholarship made it possible to attend Tulane. (Photo by Joseph Halm)

Cirillo says his scholarship allows him to attend Tulane when it might not otherwise be possible. Attending school full-time was a difficult decision but having a scholarship

made the choice to attend Tulane easier.

“Since I had to quit my full-time employment in order to attend graduate school, my scholarship relieves some of the financial burden,” says Cirillo. “But it also helps me, psychologically, to know that people believe in me and the program.”

Cirillo says he is proud to attend Tulane and knows that the program will help him with future employment goals.

“My work will be a reflection of the people that invested in me.”

If you are interested in making an annual gift or want to learn more about the School of Social Work annual fund, contact Tatine Frater at tmfrater@tulane.edu 504-314-7331 or go to giving.tulane.edu.

Every gift, no matter the size, aids students as they work to give back to the community.



CLASSIC LOOK DOWNTOWN

It's easy to miss the small details along the outside of 127 Elk Place, where TSSW is now located, but the former Elks Lodge is a model of classic architectural detail. Picture is a detailed view of the building's classic outside design including the building's rounded windows that shine into the fourth-floor lounge. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Continued from Page 1....

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ADDED TO DEGREE

always do my best to meet the client where they are in their culture, nationality, ethnicity, and other identities.”

Tangen, who now lives in Seattle, said her hope is to find a job working with resettled refugees.

In South Africa, Fenton's focus was to design and create a program manual for refugee survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

“This experience will inform my social work practice in the future in many ways, but especially with regards of striving for clarity

when explaining policies and processes to clients,” she said. “When there is total clarity and transparency, the delivery and acceptance of help is much more positive. I found this to be very important in South Africa. A greeting is a simple gesture of recognition and respect; it can influence the course of a relationship and the cohesion of a group.”

Fenton's favorite memory from her placement came through the use of her French language skills when helping a client from the Congo, who had been robbed after leaving their office.

“I translated for him, investigated his case, spoke with an attorney at Lawyers for Human Rights on his behalf, obtained food vouchers for him and his family, and instructed him on what to do at the police station,” she said. “Upon giving him final instructions before passing his case on to another social worker, he asked if I would be his lawyer. It was a humbling experience.”

Fenton said she plans to spend some time in her hometown after graduation but is open to a wide range of future jobs, cities, and countries.

TRAUMA RESPONSE TEAM WILL HELP SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AID STUDENTS DURING TRAUMATIC EVENTS

School social workers in New Orleans have one of the toughest jobs in America, so it's nearly impossible to spotlight all the work they do.

But there's a group of Tulane graduates, who along with the Tulane Institute for Psychosocial Health, are teaming up to help those who help students every day. Dr. Jane Parker is creating a "Trauma Response Team" after having responded to multiple homicides and tragic accidents across many schools in the Orleans Parish area for the past three years. The team will provide a structure and training for credentialed social workers to address grief reactions of teachers, staff, and administrators as well as work in conjunction with existing organizations who respond to students, promoting as much congruence of effort as possible.

Three TSSW alumnae are taking an active role in the creation of this team including Leah Krandel (MSW '11), who serves as Director of Mental Health Services at Carver Collegiate Academy.

Krandel said her day ranges from providing individual and group counseling to whole school programming to bringing in mental health services and creating the new in-school suspension program called the "Ram Restorative Center." Her students face many challenges as the school has 18 percent with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), which is higher than average, along with 99 percent on free or reduced lunch.

"Our students are coming in with so many different challenges that it makes it hard sometimes to see the progress, but these are really drastic steps that we're taking," she said. "We've coordinated housing for students who are homeless and provided families with Thanksgiving baskets. I think a lot of the work is invisible because we want to respect the privacy of the students we are working with."

Krandel said gun violence is an epidemic issue, but she added that schools are taking an active role in addressing it.

"I think the culture of my school and the



TSSW Alumnae Karaline Zeigler (MSW '12), Rochelle Gauthier (MSW '11) and Leah Krandel (MSW '11) will be a part of the Trauma Response Team.

larger charter organization is intensely positive and supportive, and those things really appeal to me," she said. "When I got the job, I anticipated having to spend a lot more time explaining how social work relates to the other work that we do in schools, and I found that was not the case. It just makes my job so much easier and rewarding."

Rochelle Gauthier (MSW '11) serves as the School Social Worker at Coker College Prep but previously worked for Children's Bureau, where she spent time in schools doing grief and trauma groups as well as crisis interventions and seeing clients.

"Part of the reason that I wanted to be in schools is just the holistic impact because children are in schools nearly 60 hours a week from the bus to the after school program," she said. "I also wanted to be able to work with the families and teachers more."

Gauthier said she enjoys the problem-solving aspect of working in schools.

"I wanted to have a more widespread impact on a child's life than just going to individual counseling once a week," she said. "I also saw that some of my clients were very successful with individual counseling because they had a really supportive adult in their life. But those that didn't have that, it felt like one hour a week was not enough, so that's what interested me in moving to a more involved school setting."

Karaline Zeigler (MSW '12) has always wanted to be a school social worker. She's with Community in Schools and is now in her second year at Schaumburg Elementary in New Orleans East.

"My biggest focus when I began working at Schaumburg was to get outside providers to come into the school," she said. "We are working with Children's Bureau, Kingsley House, Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools, Institute of Women and Ethnic Students and many more. I help coordinate all that."

Zeigler said creating a safe environment for the kids to figure some things out is an important role that social workers play and bleeds over into their actions and choices outside of school.

"I think school social work is a really interesting profession because sometimes we're one of the only people in the school, who is bound to social work ethics," she said. "That's different from the teachers, so I think being that person who is behind the scenes to support kids and families and teachers is impactful. Sometimes people don't even know that is happening."

Dr. Parker met with more social workers at the American Council for School Social Work Annual Conference held at Tulane in late January to discuss intervention protocols and training requirements for the team. TSSW alumni in schools across the country are everyday heroes working to mitigate the daily disaster of gun violence, family problems, and other traumas that plague children and those who care for them.

HOMECOMING 2014



Thanks to all the alumni, who came out for our 2014 CEU event and reception at our new home. More than 100 of our former students attended both events and enjoyed an evening of music, food and good times at our new home -- 127 Elk Place.

Hope to see everyone again this Fall!



Leroy Haverlah Jr. (MSW '67) currently resides in Austin, Texas, and is retired from the Texas Elks State Project. Leroy shared his thoughts on the school's recent move into the once proud headquarters of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Leroy served as the Project Manager of the statewide Texas Elks State Project, serving children with disabilities with a million dollar annual budget, until he retired. Leroy's granddaughter, Alexa Haverlah, a Dean's List sophomore at Tulane, may see the school's new home before he does, but he said he is very eager to visit.

Fred Oskin (MSW '64) lives in Skokie, Ill., and is currently serving as an adjunct professor at the Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work as well as at the University of Phoenix.

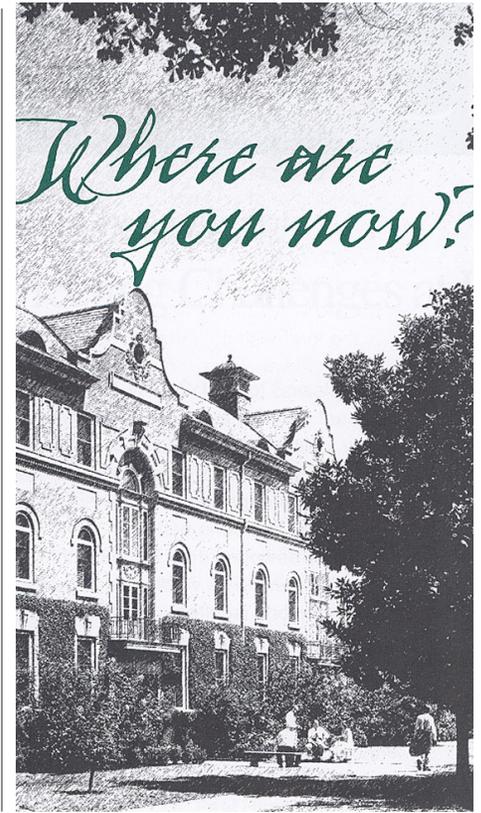
Leslie Sullivan-Barré (MSW '87) lives in River Ridge, and is currently on the hunt for part-time employment after taking off a couple of years to help with her grandchildren. Leslie was recognized by Who's Who Young Professionals in 1990 as well as Who's Who in Health Care in 2005. She is a former field supervisor while working for Catholic Charities from 1990

to 1999. She has been married to Clyde Barré for the past 10 years. *They have two grandchildren -- Sila, 5, and Sawyer, 1.*

In Memoriam

John Howard Marlin (MSW '76) passed away on Nov. 13, 2014, at Beacon Place Hospice House in Greensboro, N.C., after battling Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) for almost 26 months. He was born September 24, 1953, to John and Frances Marlin. After graduating from Statesville High School and Catawba College, he obtained a master's degree in social work from Tulane University. He was disability retired from Guilford County Department of Social Services.

John leaves behind his partner Harry Philpott and his two sisters, Linda (John) Marshall and Ginny (Tom) Mohler. A large extended family of aunts, uncle, nieces and nephews, and 16 cousins will remember him. During his healthy years and never ceasing during his cancer battle, he was surrounded and supported by loving friends: David Angel, Joanie Baites, Gail Turpin, Don Hanner, Peg Parham, Mark Rizzolo, Roger, and Carolyn.



Mother, daughter earn MSWs in tandem

When the mother and daughter duo of Lynnette and Amanda Thurmon walked across the stage on Friday, Dec. 12 at Devlin Fieldhouse, it was the culmination of a rewarding journey. The pair, along with 76 other social work students, received their master's degrees from the Tulane University School of Social Work after 16 months of hard work.

Lynnette Thurmon said the journey was only possible because of their close friendship.

"We're really best friends. We have boundaries and respect each other. She respects me as her mother, and I respect her as an adult ... most of the time," she said, laughing.

The Chicago natives chose New Orleans because of its unique culture and temperate climate. Amanda was originally slated to attend Rutgers, but a snowstorm led to her change of heart.

"It was interesting because when we first got here, we'd registered for all of the same classes together," Amanda Thurmon said. "But we were encouraged not to, so a couple of days before school started, we registered for separate classes. This was a great idea! It was interesting because where I thrived, she had issues and vice



Amanda Thurmon, left, and her mother, Lynnette Thurmon, earned their Master of Social Work degrees together on Friday, Dec. 12. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

versa."

They have overcome challenges together especially when Lynnette Thurmon's father died during the first week of the program.

"It was a blessing that we traveled this path together because I probably wouldn't be sitting here without her," she said.

The two also worked through being on different continents for the first time when

Amanda Thurmon took part in the school's two-week South Africa course, and now they want to continue to help those in need.

"I've always felt that my destiny was to serve," Lynnette Thurmon said. "Coming into social work, it just always felt right. I get so much personal pleasure when I know that I have made a difference in someone's life, no matter how small or large the task."



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

POSTSCRIPTS

TULANE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK #8906
127 ELK PLACE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112-2627

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Holly McKenney (MSW '96)
President

Glener Sylvester (MSW '76)
Secretary/Treasurer

Vicki Grieshaber (MSW '83)
Chair, Nominations and Leadership Committee

Linda Osborne (MSW '81)
Chair, Communications Committee

Katie Callan Borne (MSW '06)
Chair, Alumni Development Committee

Anita Landry Obenschain (MSW '00)
Vice Chair, Alumni Development Committee

Carissa Kolakauskas (MSW '07)
Ex-officio Alumni Development Committee Member

Mark Drake (MSW '03)
Member-at-large

William "Bill" Knecht (MSW '73)
Member-at-large

Jennifer Wellborn (MSW '95)
Member-at-large

Jerry Lewis-Smith (MSW '04)
Member-at-large, Past President

Ron Marks
Dean

Joseph Halm
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Kathy R. Smith
Executive Secretary

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:

Postscripts / Alumni Updates • Tulane School of Social Work #8906 • 127 Elk Place • New Orleans, LA 70112-2627