

## 127 ELK PLACE IS THE SITE OF HOMECOMING 2014

**N**ow that the School is settled into its new home, TSSW hopes that all of its alumni will celebrate Homecoming 2014 at 127 Elk Place on Saturday, Nov. 15.

TSSW will offer an one-hour free CEU, presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival's Scott Aiges about community interventions in preserving and protecting our culture and cultural economy from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the fourth floor lounge. The annual Alumni Reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the third and fourth floors of 127 Elk Place.

"This is our way of saying 'thank you' for all the important work that you do for the community," Dean Ron Marks said. "We hope that all of our alumni will take advantage of this chance to see the new building as well as catch up with friends and classmates."

The annual free reception will begin at 6 p.m. featuring food, music, drinks and fellowship as well as a raffle benefitting the TSSW Student Scholarship Fund. All alumni and their guests are encouraged to attend.

Participants should park in the Saratoga



*127 Elk Place*

Garage, located at 111 S. Saratoga St. and access the school via the second floor pedestrian bridge. This is a pay per hour lot.

For more information, contact Kathy Smith at [krshiv@tulane.edu](mailto:krshiv@tulane.edu) or 504-865-5314.

**Please RSVP to the event by visiting <http://tulane.edu/socialwork> and clicking on the homecoming link in the right hand sidebar.**

### DEAN'S UPDATE

## WE'RE SETTLING IN DOWNTOWN

**I**n the last edition of *Postscripts* I wrote of the imminent move of the School to the new facility. I talked about the myriad of details related to a project of this size -- moving an entire school that had occupied the same home for 56 years.

On August 4, the move began. Physically, it was quite a sight to see. The movers determined that the best way to get everything out of the building was through a third floor window and they began by removing the entire window, frame and all, and then hoisted everything down utilizing a large crane (I think they referred to this



as a cherry picker). Desks, hundreds of boxes of books, miscellaneous furniture, etc., poured out of this window for five days.

Most of August was consumed with the task of unpacking. The goal was to be ready to welcome the new students on September 2 for the beginning of the semester. August came

and went, and we were ready. I know the temptation is to compare our old facility to the new one and in so doing find the relative advantages. That part is easy; no more rattling windows, noisy air conditioning in the summer and ineffective

*Story continues inside*



# Social Work moves Downtown



*(Above) A load of office furniture leaves from a third floor window of the Social Work Building as the move downtown began on August 4.*

*(Right) Movers carry a desk into 127 Elk Place, where the School currently resides.*

*(Below) TSSW staff member and alumna Parker Sternbergh sets up her new office.*

*(Photos by Ryan Rivet and Paula Burch-Celentano)*

*After 56 years on Tulane's Uptown Campus, TSSW moved to 127 Elk Place on August 4. Here are some photos from the journey to our new home.*

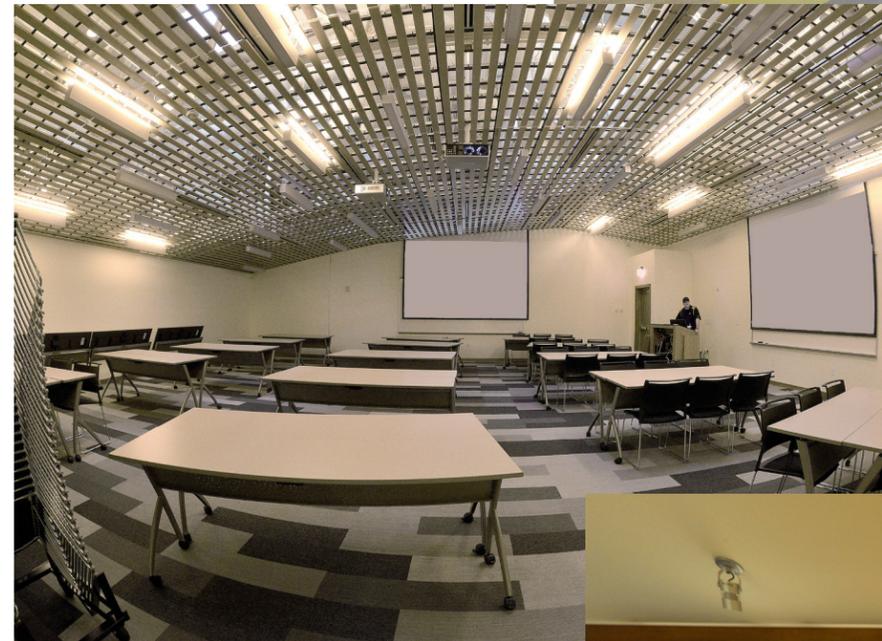


*(Above) The third floor lounge features built-in window seating that is a popular spot for current students to socialize.*

*(Left) Room 343 seats 120 people and features two projection screens, serving as the new "Room 103."*

*(Below) The third floor elevator lobby features a welcoming display for the school's visitors.*

*(Photos by Ken Redler)*



*Join the School on Saturday, Nov. 15 for Homecoming 2014 & a chance to tour the new space!*



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## DEAN'S MESSAGE: NEW DSW PROGRAM GROWING QUICKLY, EXPANDING INTO MISSISSIPPI THIS SPRING

heat in the winter for starters. This is all true.

However, in absolute terms, our new facility is truly an inspired and outstanding space to work, study and learn, and I am very excited to showcase it when we host our homecoming event on Saturday, November 15. It has more than doubled our space and offers a light filled modern facility with extraordinary features: a two-story garden atrium with skylight and garden reading room, two student lounges with built in window seating and a full modern kitchen, a faculty conference room that easily seats 26, a faculty/staff lounge, small study rooms, an interviewing room that is video wired to the classrooms, a space for contemplation, and much more. I hope to see you at homecoming in our new home.

This fall also saw the launching of our new doctor of social work program (DSW), one of only a few in the United States. We enrolled our first cohort in Sept. 2014 and will begin to offer classes for a second cohort in Biloxi, Mississippi, in January 2015. Beginning in Fall 2015, we will begin a third cohort in Madison, Miss. (a suburb of Jackson). This degree is an advanced

practice degree and, under the leadership of Professor Fred Buttell, has been very enthusiastically received in New Orleans and Mississippi. Faculty teaching in this program will be both from within our School and supplemented by nationally known and respected faculty. The program is intended for advanced MSW practitioners who will be able to complete the program while remaining fully employed. Class sizes will be kept small to provide intense and personal instruction in small seminar classes. While at the recent meeting of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, I participated in numerous discussions with my fellow deans and learned that we are indeed on the cutting edge of delivering this instruction and degree and are only one of just a very few schools of social work nationally that are providing this degree. I learned that many schools aspire to this but have not at this time begun to do so.

On other fronts, our research portfolio and collaborations continue to grow with the incorporation of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA) now in the third year as part of the School. DRLA through the School of Social Work is

working with 20 universities in sub-saharan Africa to establish resilience labs to enable the local communities to be more effective in preparing for disasters and the aftermath. Additionally, the School launched a new joint degree program this fall which enables one to earn the MSW along with the MS degree in disaster leadership. This is a valuable relationship and has been quite well received.

Our full time faculty continues to grow. Building on the great success from our recent faculty search, we are currently in a national search for another full time tenure track faculty member. The search committee, chaired by Professor Charles Figley, has been working diligently since mid summer and will soon make a recommendation to me from among the 60 plus applications which we have received.

With our new facility, our outstanding faculty, staff and students, our School continues to be great place to do work that matters. I hope you can join us on November 15 for Homecoming 2014.



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## DUAL DEGREE STUDENT AIDS BRUTALITY VICTIMS

By Linda P. Campbell, Tulane Law School

Erin Rumsey undertook a dual degree in law and social work at Tulane University believing it would prepare her to better assist crime victims such as those she had encountered while working at a sexual assault crisis center.

But an internship with the Orleans Public Defenders office shifted her thinking. Now, she hopes to help those who've been victimized by the criminal justice system. And through a new Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, she'll spend the next year working with the Office of the Independent Police Monitor to assist residents whose encounters with New Orleans police have resulted in lingering emotional trauma.

The police monitor handles complaints against police officers, and the goal of Rumsey's project is to develop a method of screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, compile a network of referral agencies that



*Erin Rumsey, who is pursuing dual degrees in law and social work at Tulane, is working as a Schweitzer fellow with the Office of the Independent Police Monitor in New Orleans. (Photo from the Schweitzer Fellowship)*

can offer low-cost treatment to complainants who need it and work with the police department to decrease brutality incidents.

The Schweitzer Fellowship program aims

to improve the health of populations in underserved communities. The 12 New Orleans fellows for 2014-15 include three students from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and four from the Tulane School of Medicine.

Sofia Curdumi Pendley, the New Orleans program director for the Schweitzer Fellowship, says Rumsey embodies the characteristics of Schweitzer fellows, including passion for service and community involvement. Rumsey is scheduled to complete her Master of Social Work in December and her J.D. in 2016.

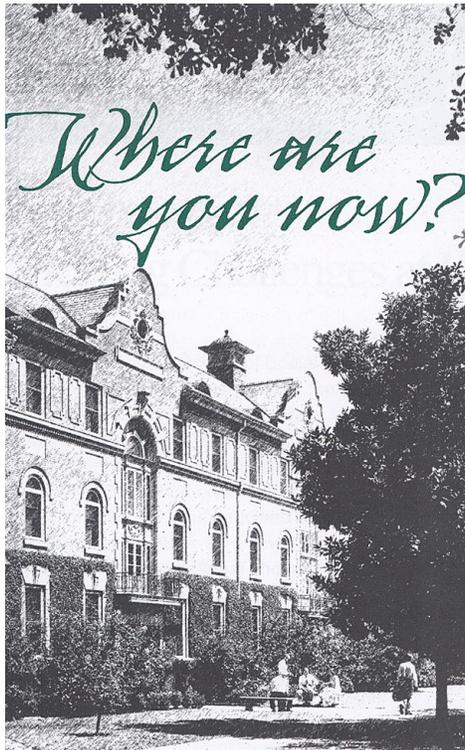
Rumsey says her experience with Orleans Public Defenders broadened her perspective of the criminal justice system and showed her there's much work to be done in dealing with "injustice right under the surface" in the city.

New Orleans, she says, is "just the best place to really make a difference."

**Anthony Arangio (PhD '70)** currently resides in Arlington, Texas, and he is retired from the Arlington Independent School District. He served 18 years as the Director of Parent Relations and the Director of the District's Safe and Drug Free School Program. Anthony also spends time on the lecture circuit promoting his new book "I'm Going To The Media and Getting A Lawyer!: The Battle Cry Of Parents Upset With Their Kid's School." The book combines social work principles throughout this memoir written in a first person, conversational style. The book, which was released in Feb. 2014, is being considered for supplementary text for education students and administrators. For more information about the book, visit [www.tonyarangio.phd.com](http://www.tonyarangio.phd.com).

**Jahanna Bailey (MSW '05)** lives in Baton Rouge, La., and she is currently supervising LMSWs for Capital Area Human Services School Based Therapy Program. Additionally, she began the Tulane DSW Program this Fall.

**Erin Horgan (MSW '07)** currently resides in Sacramento, Calif., where she serves as a senior policy analyst with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, a non-profit association that represents the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The non-profit's mission is to promote a



human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect. Erin has been fortunate to have worked on two significant enhancements to California's TANF program in the last couple of years: the development of a new assessment tool that

will be used statewide to more thoroughly identify clients' needs and barriers, and the creation of a rapid re-housing program that will be rolled out in a number of counties in the next year.

**James Morris (PhD '13)** currently resides in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he is a tenure-track assistant professor at the Stephen F. Austin School of Social Work. James, who also earned this MSW from Tulane, joined the faculty in the fall of 2014. Prior to coming to SFA, he was a social worker in New Orleans for 12 years, and worked for various nonprofit agencies that provide access to health care, case management services, and/or advocacy for client populations. Beginning in 2006, James was the Director of Social Services for both the New Orleans Musicians Clinic, and Sweet Home New Orleans, and engaged displaced and affected members of the New Orleans cultural community to return to the city in meaningful ways to continue to create and express art representative of their lived experiences. Dr. Morris' research has focused mainly on the differential impacts of Hurricane Katrina on musicians, with a focus on issues of resiliency and vulnerability, impact of social support networks, community connection, mentoring, and the psychological impact of music for those affected by disaster and/or displacement.

## 'Now I know everyone can have hope'

en students in the Tulane University Master of Social Work program traveled to South Africa to be exposed to community development and social justice challenges from a South African perspective.

Reggie Ferreira, an assistant professor of social work, and Elaine Wright, director of global programs, led the unique two-week study abroad course in August.

Erin Huggins, a Master of Social Work candidate, says the trip was eye-opening.

"The aspect of the trip that struck the hardest for me was the similarities between the social issues that both New Orleans and South Africa are facing," she says. "Both places struggle with poverty, class and race issues, but for some reason our society believes that the situation in South Africa is a lot worse. Just because the poverty in South Africa is more visible does not mean it's worse — which is important to keep in mind when trying to tackle social issues here."

Among the highlights of the course, students completed a community

development project at a child care center with local social work students. They also participated in home visits with caseworkers with the Isibindi project, which responds holistically to the needs of vulnerable and at-risk children, youth and families.

"Many of the techniques and theories I was introduced to in South Africa are extremely applicable to social issues here in the United States," Huggins says.

The Isibindi project screens, trains and deploys unemployed community members as child and youth care workers servicing families in their own communities under the mentorship of experienced social-service professionals.



*During a two-week study abroad trip to South Africa, Chris Russell, a student in the Master of Social Work program, stands in front of a picture of Nelson Mandela made from beads. (Photo by Tulane School of Social Work)*

"It was personally humbling to see the children have so much joy despite their circumstances," student Taylor Hoy says. "This trip has helped my social work practice because now I know everyone can have hope, and sometimes that will be my job, to re-instill hope to people."



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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*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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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?

*Please complete and return to:*

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