National Conference Brings Issue of Race to Forefront
Bridges is the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work magazine. We selected the name Bridges largely because of its symbolism. The term provides an important metaphor for both our profession and our school. Social work is a profession that has, as part of its mission, the goal of building and sustaining bridges among individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods, and communities, and we felt that the title Bridges captured this part of our professional mission. At the same time, the city of Pittsburgh has more than 450 bridges, and Allegheny County has almost 2,000, suggesting an uncompromising desire of the city’s inhabitants to remain connected with one another. In keeping with this heritage, it is the school’s goal to sustain and build bridges among those needing social work services; our students, alumni, faculty, and staff; the community; and corporate and governmental partners. We believe that the information in this magazine is an important way to achieve this goal.

On the Cover (left to right): Provost Emeritus James V. Maher, Race in America keynote speaker Julian Bond, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
Greetings, Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the fall issue of Bridges.

In 1996, then President Bill Clinton composed a presidential Commission on Race. To my surprise and disappointment, it did not include social workers among its members. No group of professionals spends more time and resources addressing the consequences of racial injustice than do social workers. Nor is any group of professionals better positioned to address the issue of race in America than social workers. To use a military expression, social work has more “boots on the ground” than any other profession.

Ironically, however, if one researches the terms “race” or “race relations,” references to social work are rather scant. Social work is more likely to be associated with terms such as “multiculturalism” or “diversity.” Since my youth I have been struck by the bumper sticker that says, “If you want peace, work for justice.” It is my belief that our profession can take a greater leadership role in this country’s efforts to address its racial problems. Such a role would necessitate more attention being given to covering the issues of racial injustice and inequality.

This past June, we at the School of Social Work were fortunate to host one of the most comprehensive conferences on race and social problems ever to take place in America (see cover story, page 4). It was not a social work conference but rather a conference on race and social problems hosted and led by social workers. It was a multiracial, multidisciplined, and solution-focused conference on racial disparities. And it was by all accounts a huge success. Racism in America is not just a problem for social workers, but social workers can take a leading role in working toward its undoing. We encourage all schools of social work to take on a greater leadership role not just in promoting racial harmony but also in addressing the less comfortable dynamics of race in America. Many schools of social work supported us in our effort to do so, and I want to thank them for their encouragement and support.

Meanwhile, the school continues to do well: Enrollment is up across all three degree programs, BASW, MSW, and PhD. Faculty have demonstrated increasing productivity through grants, publications, and initiatives in the community (see Faculty Notes, page 16, and Research Update, page 19). Our assessment of student satisfaction indicates that they are pleased with the solid teaching of the faculty and with the content of their courses. Five doctoral students received their degrees this past spring and continue to make us proud through their journal publications and conference presentations (see Student Spotlight, page 14). And, we have added new staff members: Mia Fuqua, administrative assistant in the Center on Race and Social Problems, and Yvonne Hamm, senior administrative assistant, and Lynda Rose, systems programmer, both in the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs.

This year’s speaker series for both the school and the Center on Race and Social Problems will, I am sure, prove to be both informative and exciting. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these important discussions.

So, along with the larger University, the School of Social Work once again is off to a wonderful start in the new academic year.

Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor
Board of Visitors Meeting

The School of Social Work Board of Visitors meeting, which included dinner and a business meeting, was held May 26–27, 2010. Several students attended the dinner and discussed their field placement experience as well as their plans following graduation.

2010 Community Practice Award Recipients Announced

In 2006, the School of Social Work—with generous support from Professor Emeritus James V. Cunningham and colleagues—established the Community Practice Award Fund, which enables the school to annually administer the Community Practice Award in connection with the Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) concentration. Nominations are accepted from faculty members (full or part time) and full-time staff members of the School of Social Work, social work administrators, field instructors, and members of the Student Executive Council or via self-nomination. The school welcomes contributions to the Community Practice Award Fund at any time. The nomination form and award criteria are available at www.socialwork.pitt.edu/academic-programs/msw/cosa.php.

The 2010 Community Practice Award recipients are MSW students Judy Feldman (MSW ’09), Ivonne Howard, Hyungmin Kim (MSW ’10), Kristina Kline (MSW ’10), Diana Peterson, Maurice Speaks (BASW ’09), and Brandon Trombatt. They were nominated by Sara Bennett of Pittsburgh Hilltop Alliance.

During fall 2009, these students were among a group of community practitioners trained in Everyday Democracy’s Study Circle facilitation model and assigned in small teams to facilitate a Dialogue to Action with residents from the nine neighborhoods and one municipality in Pittsburgh’s South Hilltop area. Pittsburgh Hilltop Alliance, a collaborative organization that supports these communities, sponsored the effort. The process concluded with a forum, which was open to all residents and led to the
establishment of two action teams: (1) Repurposing Vacant Properties and (2) One-Stop Shop for Social Services in the Hilltop. Three students, Howard, Kim, and Speaks, served MSW field placements with the Hilltop Alliance.

Several of the students facilitated additional Dialogue to Action events on issues of public safety in Hilltop communities during spring and summer 2010. As a team, these students made contributions toward planning and implementing a substantial community effort. Further, this effort was carried out with active participation from members of the community, and it demonstrated a solid application of community organizing and facilitation knowledge and skills.

**New Staff and Promotions**

We are pleased to introduce the following new staff members: Mia Fuqua, administrative assistant in the Center on Race and Social Problems; Yvonne Hamm, senior administrative assistant in the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs (CWERP); and Lynda Rose, systems programmer in CWERP.

In addition, Matthew McCullough was promoted to systems administrator, Christie Incorvati to administrator in CWERP, and Michael Schrecengost to chief fiscal officer in CWERP.

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**2010 CRSP Fall Speaker Series**

“Debates on Race and History in Contemporary Cuba”
Alejandro de la Fuente, UCIS Research Professor, History and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh  
*September 17, 2010*

“Race, Racism, and Mental Health in Asian American Communities”
Sumie Okazaki, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology, New York University  
*October 27, 2010*

“Race, Class, and Student Achievement in KIPP Middle Schools”
Philip M. Gleason, Senior Fellow, Mathematica  
*November 9, 2010*

“Columnizing in a Postracial World”
Tony Norman, Columnist, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*  
*December 8, 2010*

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**2010–11 School of Social Work Speaker Series**

“Are We Ready for Tomorrow?”
Ira Colby, Dean, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work  
*September 22, 2010*

*Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture*  
“Confronting our Fears and Finding Hope in Difficult Times: Social Work as a Force for Social Justice”
Dorothy Van Soest, Professor and Dean Emeritus, University of Washington School of Social Work  
*November 10, 2010*

*Sidney A. Teller Lecture*  
“African American Clients and Families in Therapy”
Nancy Boyd-Franklin, Professor, Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology  
*February 18, 2011*

“Convergence and Expectation: Changing Nature of Older Adult Social Services”
Mildred Morrison, Administrator, Area Agency on Aging, Allegheny County Department of Human Services  
*April 13, 2011*
Race in America Conference Offers Strategies, Throws Down Gauntlet

In the pursuit of solutions to what has been described as America’s defining social problem, School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis is not naïve enough to believe there are silver bullets in anyone’s holster.

Racism, like cancer, touches every organ in the body of modern culture: Economics. Child welfare. Criminal justice. Education. Health. Family life. And, like the disease to which it is often compared, there is no single cure. It defies researchers to find neat cause-and-effect relationships; it resists efforts to treat its root causes.

But if anyone is going to succeed in what has historically been an uphill battle against racism, Davis thinks social workers will play an integral role in that success.

“There is no other profession that is designed to address issues of the poor, and that’s really our mission,” says Davis. “Social work is an elevator that goes all the way to the ground. Many professions don’t. Psychologists, sociologists, they study the problem. But they really don’t have boots on the ground, so to speak.”

Initiating Dialogue

To bring social work to the front and center of the problem of racism, Davis championed Race in America: Restructuring Inequality, possibly
the most comprehensive national conference on the topic that has been held to date.

For three days in June, more than 40 internationally recognized experts from across the country met to discuss racism and the way it touches all aspects of society. Speakers each addressed their topics for 45 minutes before moving into a question-and-answer session that lasted for an hour.

By all measures, it was a discussion that people were eager to have. Organizers hoped to attract 500 attendees; they got 700.

“The quality of the presenters was remarkable. It was, without question, the best collection of people in the country, or maybe in North America, on that subject that you could possibly have,” says Jim Roddey, former Allegheny County executive and facilitator for a session on economics. “Every session was full; we had standing room only.”

The conference may well be viewed as a major touchpoint within the national dialogue on race. Davis thinks it’s a conversation that is long overdue.

“Race has become more visible, more salient,” he says, pointing to the election of President Barack Obama and the ongoing debate over changing immigration demographics as two examples of race-related events that have brought the issue into the national psyche. “It’s always sort of been the elephant in the room. Now people are willing to acknowledge the elephant.”

For Mark Roosevelt, departing superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and moderator of a session on achievement gaps in education, the conference offered a curious mix of optimism in the form of constructive dialogue, but pessimism when he thinks about the enormity of the problem.

“We now live in the city that has the poorest African American population in America. You mention that around the country, and nobody knows it. They’re astonished,” he says. “It’s awkward for me as a White superintendent in a predominantly African American school district in which our African American kids are not getting the outcomes they deserve.”

An Uncomfortable Conversation

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expressed doubts that education could offer many solutions unless similar inequities in housing, health care distribution, and other necessities also are addressed.

“It’s dispiriting to educators because you don’t feel empowered,” he says. “It’s easier to act than to talk, and maybe more important. But I think because of the lack of robust, full conversation, the acting is limited in its aspects.”

That’s why the conference was so critical to the success of future efforts, he says: It allows people to talk about racism in a meaningful way.

“It’s hard, it’s so hard. It’s easier to stay on topics that are comfortable,” he continues. “We’re not good at addressing issues of race. People like me get very awkward, because there’s a certain measure of guilt, a certain measure of frustration.”

Real Problems, Real Solutions
Conference attendee Valerie Thomas-Njie, executive director and senior vice president of the Bidwell Training Center in Pittsburgh, was impressed by the education session as well as a talk about the Harlem Project, an ambitious community service initiative that combines charter schools, social services, early childhood development, and after-school programs into a full-court press on achievement gaps.

“I got more than my money’s worth,” says Thomas-Njie. “It really encouraged me to be involved more, to do what I can do to eliminate the impact that race has. That’s why we do what we do [at Bidwell], to level that playing field.”

Ralph Bangs, associate director of the school’s Center on Race and Social Problems and an organizer of the conference, and Davis are writing a report about each of the seven subject areas to summarize the information and specific solutions recommended in each section.

“One of the impacts of this conference will be to provide specific ideas that local, state, and national leaders can consider as ways of addressing racial problems,” Bangs says. “We were able to attract the top experts in the country because we’ve had most of them as speakers at our center already, and we’ve gotten to know them. They respect the dean and the work that the center is doing.”

Top-down and Bottom-up Approach
Roddey believes the conference’s success reflected the School of Social Work’s status as a leader in the field.

“Several deans of some of the most prestigious schools in the country remarked that they would love to have the same level of support,” he says. “This is necessary not just for the school, but for the whole country. … We’ve created a model, now, of the kinds of subjects that need to be discussed and the level of presenters. And we’ve proven that if you have those ingredients and you organize it properly, you can have a successful conference.”

Continued on page 8
“Our goal was not entertainment. Our goal was to give information to people. Now it’s their turn to go out and use it.”

— Larry E. Davis,
Dean of the School of Social Work and
director, Center on Race and Social Problems
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, who attended the conference, said the event reflected the growing national prominence of the Center on Race and Social Problems.

“The creation [of the center] reflected a strong belief that Pitt was particularly well positioned to contribute to better understandings of some of the most pressing issues facing America today,” he says. “The dean’s commitment, connections, and talent were evident in the visionary thinking, careful planning, inspiring speakers, and broad-based support that made the conference such a success.”

Davis points to the support of University leadership as an example of Pitt’s commitment to combating racism.

“A lot of places would have shied away from this conference; the University community embraced it,” he says. “It was a top-down and bottom-up approach. [Nordenberg’s] presence said a lot for the conference, that it wasn’t just lip service. The commander-in-chief was there. He didn’t just give us a room and say, ‘Go off and meet, good luck.’”

Provost Emeritus James V. Maher, who also attended, said the conference “underscores our mission as an intellectual and cultural resource for Western Pennsylvania and for the nation at large.”

Of the School of Social Work, he said, “they are doing the University proud.”

Despite the universally positive reviews, the conference is, for Davis, a one-time-only event. He believes race-related problems are unlikely to evolve significantly for at least another decade. In the meantime, he knows those who attended now have plenty to think about.

“People left knowing things—how to do things,” says Davis. “I envision this like dropping a pebble in a pond and these waves went out. This information went all over the country; people heard ideas they never thought of before. It was a highly interactive process.

“Our goal was not entertainment,” he continues. “Our goal was to give information to people. Now it’s their turn to go out and use it.”
The Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) program marks its 15th year in 2010, while the Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) program completed its ninth year providing child welfare-focused social work education across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CWEL now is offering a joint MSW degree program at Millersville and Shippensburg universities that relies on a blend of distance and traditional classroom learning, making it more accessible to child welfare workers in the southern and central parts of the state. At time of press, CWEL had admitted about 60 master’s-level students from 27 counties and CWEB had admitted about 50 baccalaureate students for the 2010–11 academic year, with more admissions expected.

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program

The 2010 Independent Living Youth Retreat was held August 9–13, 2010, at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. More than 100 current and former foster care youth, ages 16–21, participated in educational sessions and fun activities all while experiencing life on a college campus. The theme for the 2010 retreat was Confidence, Hope, Achieve, Navigate, Goals, Endurance (CHANGE), and the keynote speaker at the event banquet was George Duvall, an entertaining and inspirational motivational speaker on youth issues who spent more than 14 years in the foster care system. One of many initiatives devoted to providing support, education, skill building, and advocacy for foster care youth, the retreat was organized and planned in collaboration with county children and youth agencies; the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Office of Children, Youth and Families; and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program.

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program is implementing an online curriculum for current and future child welfare professionals called Child Advocacy Studies (CAST). The overarching goal of CAST is to help stop the cycle of child maltreatment by improving the multidisciplinary response and ensuring the safety, well-being, and permanence of children. CAST originated through a partnership between the American Prosecutors Research Institute and Winona State University through its National Child Protection Training Center.

Established in 1995, the Diversity Task Force of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program was formed for the purpose of overseeing the development of diversity training for caseworkers throughout the commonwealth. The 30-member task force has as its mission to create, support, and facilitate the understanding and valuing of human diversity for individuals and organizations affiliated with the Child Welfare Training Program. The task force provides leadership, direction, and accountability for culturally competent child welfare practice through advocacy and education. Membership is composed of county and private child welfare agency staff, resource parents, youth ambassadors, trainers of the Child Welfare Training Program, and representatives from the Department of Public Welfare Office of Children, Youth and Families.

Some of the recent highlights of the Diversity Task Force include the following:

- Development of an Indian Child Welfare Act Screening Form and desk guide;
- Development of a Diversity Task Force Checklist for Curriculum;
- Development and monitoring of an annual training event, Emerging Issues and Changing Demographics in Child Welfare;
- Development and delivery of Valuing Diversity training for more than 5,200 caseworkers;
- Development and delivery of Managing Diversity training for more than 2,200 supervisors;
- Development of a handbook for trainers called *Incorporating Human Diversity into Curriculum and Training*;
- Consultation in the development of specialized training programs, including Engaging Latino Families; African American Families: the Color of Child Welfare; Indian Child Welfare Act; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth; and

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CHILD WELFARE Update
A Message from the Director of Constituent Relations

I want to thank all those who have generously supported the Pitt School of Social Work’s fundraising efforts over the last fiscal year. In fact, 2009–10 was one of the best fundraising years ever for the school. More than $772,500 was raised! The increased number of gifts was in large part due to the support from foundations, corporations, and friends who generously supported the Race in America conference.

As you may already know, every gift to the school becomes part of the University’s $2 billion capital campaign—a campaign to raise funds to support Pitt students and innovative educational and research programs. To date, the University has secured $1.5 billion in gifts and pledges!

The School of Social Work’s top campaign priority continues to be our students. Endowed scholarships help the School of Social Work to recruit and retain qualified and promising students. If you would like to learn more about how you might enrich the lives of students through a scholarship or fellowship, or if you wonder how you could make a difference at the University of Pittsburgh, please call me at 412-624-8239 or e-mail me at elizabeth.cooper@ia.pitt.edu.

You also can visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu and click on “donate” to learn more about the School of Social Work’s fundraising initiatives.

Gratefully,

Elizabeth B. Cooper
Director of Constituent Relations

Alumni Corner: A Look at the Lives and Careers of School of Social Work Alumni

Q & A with Kevin Jenkins

Kevin Jenkins (MSW ’90) has always been passionate about serving vulnerable populations, particularly children and seniors. “I was keenly aware at a very early age—when I was in high school and I had my first psychology class—that there was something appealing about the [helping] profession.” He has turned his passion into a lifelong career, serving more than 20 years in various capacities with Holy Family Institute, where he opened the agency’s first outpatient drug and alcohol mental health clinic and served as executive director. Currently the senior program officer and director of community initiatives at The Pittsburgh Foundation, he continues to work with nonprofit organizations in a grantmaking capacity.

What made you choose the MSW program at Pitt?

“I didn't really choose the program; it chose me. While I was working as a young professional at Holy Family Institute, I had the pleasure of serving on a committee with [then faculty member] Gregory DeSilva. I had written a concept paper on a program that would bring families and children into treatment together, which was considered innovative during the heyday of residential care. He thought the paper was interesting and asked my supervisor where I earned my master’s degree. My boss told him that I didn't have one, so Dr. DeSilva contacted me and invited me down to his office to talk about the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. When I got to his office, not only did he want to talk to me, but he had proposed the [trajectory of the] next two years of my life. ‘You need to enroll,’ he said. ‘Here's your schedule.’ He also put me in touch with [then] Dean David Epperson and [then Associate Professor] Grady Roberts. Those three gentlemen were really instrumental in my being able to attend the University. Without them, I would have never entertained going to the School of Social Work.”
Tell us a little bit about your work today with The Pittsburgh Foundation. “You can’t take a course to prepare yourself for this work. The senior program officer side of my work is that I am responsible for the foundation’s grantmaking for health and human services. The community initiatives work is pretty much just as the title implies. I am the foundation’s link to what is going on in our neighborhoods and in our communities by way of what the community is saying. What are the issues? What are the struggles? What are the critical needs? I serve as the conduit between the program team and the community in terms of how the foundation will respond. Sometimes the response is by way of grantmaking, sometimes by way of informational resources, and sometimes it’s by way of our convening capacity: getting the right people in the room around the table to discuss the issue and hammer out some solutions.”

How does your training as a social worker support what you do today? “Having an undergraduate degree in clinical psychology gave me a foundation for what my heart’s desire was at the time, but upon entering the School of Social Work it opened up a whole new realm of possibilities regarding the helping profession. The school provided me with a more well-rounded perspective of the number of things that social workers can, are, and will be involved in. I had no idea all of the offerings the School of Social Work could provide for me.

“Another professor, Kiernan Stenson, taught the history of social work class. I was working in the field armed with a clinical psych degree and going back to grad school, so I thought I knew some things, but his class gave me such a deep appreciation for the field of social work. He gave us his best."

“I’d be remiss if I didn’t call to mind two other professors who I now consider friends and mentors professionally, [Professor Emeritus] Morton Coleman and [Professor Emeritus] Ed Sites. Both of those gentlemen taught me so much about how communities should be viewed and how, as a social worker, you enter into a community. Oftentimes when you’re armed with that degree, you think, ‘I know what’s best for you and if you just listen to me things will get better.’ I quickly found that was absolutely the wrong approach to take if I was going to be committed to this work, to community work, to child and family work. You have to be invited into people’s lives, you have to be invited into people’s communities, and both of those gentlemen taught me some very valuable lessons about how you go about doing that.

“I am a social worker and I will always be a social worker. I don’t know how else to work and I think I bring all of those lessons and those values and ethics that I learned at the School of Social Work to my grantmaking role today.”

Why was the Race in America conference something that The Pittsburgh Foundation wanted to get behind? “When Dean [Larry] Davis came to me with the idea, I thought, ‘Wow. For the first time that I can remember, here is an institution that is willing to take on the huge task of putting in the forefront a critical conversation as race.’ That was very much consistent with the foundation’s position around social justice issues. The thing that Dean Davis and I agreed upon very quickly was that we wanted actionable information as a result of the conference. At the end of the day, I wanted people to have some information about the issue defined nationally, regionally, and locally; learn what is being done on a national level, regional level, and local level; and learn what they too can do back in their home community or agency.

“I knew it was something special when I saw the number of schools and colleges that were supporting the event, and I was completely convinced that it was the right time, and the right place, to have this conference. I think it was a defining moment for the University and the Pittsburgh region as a whole to be willing to embrace such a difficult conversation. If we’re going to progress and grow as a city, we can’t just say that we don’t have a race problem here. It is okay to say that we’ve come a long way and we’ve still got a long way to go.

“I think it is incumbent upon community leaders to not shy away from the dialogue. Oftentimes it takes people out of their comfort zone, but let’s have a meaningful dialogue that there are still some racist attitudes in this city. Let us, as Pittsburghers, not be afraid or shy away from calling those to the fore and sitting down collectively and asking, ‘How can we address the issue?’ If nothing else, I hope that it would at least inspire folks to think that it may have always been that way but it doesn’t have to continue down this path.”

Continued on next page
Do you see the Race in America conference starting to trickle into some of The Pittsburgh Foundation’s activities and initiatives?

“For the first time, there are a number of foundation heads at the table taking a look at our grantmaking practices as they potentially relate to race and as a funding community in concert with nonprofit organizations asking, ‘What might a different funding model look like?’ For the first time, folks aren’t shying away from those types of dialogues or conversations.

“I’m a board member for the national organization Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, so I get to interact with my grantmaking colleagues across the country. What I believe is unique to our city—the reason we have such an opportunity and it’s such an exciting time here—is that Pittsburgh is a big little city. It feels very comfortable. We have those professional relationships that possibly a larger city doesn’t lend itself to. That’s why I hold out great hope that if any place can solve some of the issues and get some of the things done, it’s our city. I think we’re in the midst of some very exciting times.”

What are the most notable memories you have from your time at the School of Social Work?

“I adored the Cathedral and the time I spent there, the camaraderie, and the network of folks that I was able to connect with during my two years at the University, not only students but also the staff. Even now, when I drive around and the Cathedral comes into view, I recall very fond memories of my time there. At that time the School of Social Work curriculum provided me with everything (and more) that I could have asked for as a young professional. It really served to enhance my values and beliefs, what I do to this day, and how I go about doing it. I know that to this day I can pick up the phone and ask a former classmate a question or to meet for a cup of coffee, and I know they’ll be willing to do that. That’s the network of social workers that I wouldn’t trade for the world, which is invaluable to me.”

ALUMNI SOCIETY NEWS

2010 School of Social Work Alumni Society Committees

Your help is needed! If you are interested in serving on a committee, or learning more about upcoming alumni activities, please contact Keith Caldwell at kjc45@pitt.edu or 412-648-9441.

- Development Committee
- Banner Program Committee
- Career Development Committee
- Alumni Recognition Committee

Career Services

Did you know that the Office of Career Services is open to alumni as well as students of the School of Social Work? The office’s specialization in social work careers will provide you with the information and connections you need to empower people, lead organizations, and grow communities. The Office of Career Services hosts student and alumni networking events and career development workshops throughout the year, and free job posting services provide employers a direct connection to the region’s top talent. Visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services.php for complete details on upcoming events or to schedule an appointment.

Are You Connected?: The Pitt Career Network

Register to serve as a mentor to a current student or to network with fellow alumni. The Pitt Career Network is an online networking service for Pitt alumni and students, providing the opportunity to discuss careers and job prospects, learn about your field in new places, have a positive impact on someone’s future, and make valuable connections with other alumni. For more information and to sign up, visit www.alumni.pitt.edu/networking.

Keep us Updated!

Have you become a member of the Pitt Alumni Association Online Alumni Connection yet? The Pitt Online Alumni Connection exists to help alumni to connect with each other and with the University. Here you can locate and reach out to other Pitt alumni, and if you have been out of touch with your alma mater, you also can update your current contact information to begin receiving Pitt news, Bridges (the School of Social Work alumni magazine), and other materials. Check out the Pitt Alumni Association Online Community at www.alumni.pitt.edu/connect.
Orientation for the School of Social Work, held August 26–27, 2010, provided two opportunities for new social work students to get involved and become informed as part of their introduction to Pittsburgh, its neighborhoods, and its needs. After completing orientation activities, they joined other Pitt students, faculty, and staff volunteers aboard a bus and headed to the monthly Fourth Thursday Mass Food Distribution at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. For the past year, the University has been providing the lion’s share of the 50–60 volunteers who work this mass food distribution for the approximately 400–700 households who come to the food bank’s headquarters in Duquesne, Pa. The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has initiated these monthly mass food distributions at seven sites around Allegheny County.

Some of the students worked in teams to hand out commodities while others helped many elderly and disabled citizens. Students learned about the scope of hunger in the Pittsburgh region, as well as resources like the food bank and its network of neighborhood food pantries. Joyce Rothermel, the food bank’s executive director, stopped by with James and Suzanne Broadhurst of Eat’n Park Hospitality Group, who presented a substantial check to the food bank for its new local farmers’ initiatives. The University is committed to staffing the Fourth Thursday distribution with faculty, staff, and student volunteers as well as maintaining year-round support of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

New students again “got on the bus” for the annual Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) tour of Pittsburgh and its neighborhoods. Student leaders from the COSA concentration along with Tracy Soska, COSA chair, and Keith Caldwell, career services and alumni affairs director, introduced them to Pittsburgh’s diverse neighborhoods and their rich histories and discussed the important work of COSA alumni and students in revitalizing the city.

Students had the opportunity to visit the Strip District, the city’s open-air marketplace, and the North Shore’s Andy Warhol Museum, riverfront trails, ballparks, science center, and casino. Most importantly, they learned about how Pitt’s social work faculty, alumni, and students are working for and leading many city neighborhood initiatives, from the Hill House Association and Hill District Consensus Group, to East Liberty Development Inc. and South Side Local Development Company, to the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative and HOPE VI housing revitalization projects, to the Pitt faculty study on the human services sector’s readiness to address the impact of casino gambling in Pittsburgh.

These orientation bus tours, as well as others conducted as part of the Human Behavior and Urban Environment courses for COSA students, underscore the School of Social Work’s legacy of service to Pittsburgh and its neighborhoods.
STUDENT Spotlight

Student Accomplishments

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Hanae Kanno (MSW ’06, PhD ’10), with Amy Ai, received the Best Abstract Award for “Increasing Diversity of Americans’ Faiths Alongside Baby Boomers’ Aging: Implications for the End-of-Life Practice” at the 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda, held in Hong Kong, China, in June 2010.

Yeonjung Lee won a poster award and a travel award from the Emerging Scholars and Professionals Organization at the 62nd Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., in November 2009.

PUBLICATIONS


MSW Student Accomplishments

Heath Johnson (MSW ’10) and Samantha Teixeira (MSW ’10) were accepted into the school’s PhD program and started in fall 2010.

Rachel Margolies (MSW ’10) received the 2010 Patient Safety Fellowship from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Health Careers Futures. The goal of the fellowship is to expose students to various centers of excellence in Pittsburgh’s health care network and to retain qualified leaders in health care.

Abigayle Koller (MSW ’10) completed a student intern survey while in practicum at the VA Butler Healthcare
IN MEMORIAM: Anne Marie “Annie” Baumgarten

Anne Marie Baumgarten (BASW ’08, MSW ’10) was killed in a motorcycle accident in Wyoming on June 27, 2010, at the age of 26. “Annie,” as most knew her, had moved to Utah to work with the Native American population, and she was preparing to follow her dreams and start her career in social work when her life tragically was cut short. Faculty, staff, and students who knew Baumgarten share in the loss of this spirited social worker, whose energy and spark enlivened all her activities at the school. She was dedicated to improving youth safety and education in her hometown of Bridgeville, Pa., and was a passionate BASW and MSW student, specializing in community organizing in the school’s Community Organization and Social Administration concentration. Baumgarten interned at the Collegiate YMCA and Just Harvest, where she pursued her interests in youth, community service, and social justice.

One longtime staff member considered Baumgarten a favorite student “not only because of her infectious enthusiasm and desire to change the world, but because Annie was Annie—always questioning, always debating, always ‘doing’ something. She always entered my office with a smile on her face and a big hug. She was like a daughter; I miss her terribly and will never forget her.”

The school and alumni communities mourn the loss of their young colleague. For anyone who wishes to make a memorial donation, the family suggests contributions to the Annie Baumgarten Children’s Safety Fund c/o Northwest Savings & Loan, 430 Washington Ave, Bridgeville, PA, 15017, which will allow her in some way to continue her social work in her hometown.

MSW student and Pitt Panther football linebacker Steve Dell attended the National Football League combines over the summer.

Chereese Phillips received a 2010 Outstanding Young Leader award from FosterClub, a national support network for foster youth. A foster child since birth, Phillips plans to become a professor and teach child welfare related courses. As a senate appointee to Washington’s Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee, member of the Foster Care Alumni Scholarship Benchmarking Network, guest columnist for Mockingbird Times, board member for the National Foster Care Coalition, and member of the Alumni Leadership Advisory Committee through the Pew Commission, she has advocated tirelessly for foster youth.

Congratulations Doctoral Graduates

The following are the 2010 graduates of the PhD program and their dissertation titles:

Azadeh Masalehdan Block, “Exploring Barriers to Outpatient Adolescent Therapeutic Interventions”

Jeongim Grace Heo, “The Role of Religious Coping in Alzheimer’s Disease Caregiving”


Mary Lindsey Smith, “Just One More: An Examination of the Prevalence, Correlates, and Consequences of Concurrent Alcohol and Medication Use in Older Adults”

Center in Butler, Pa. As a result of the positive feedback she gave regarding her field placement, the center was given a second funded student intern position.

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FACULTY Notes

PUBLICATIONS


Ai, “Positive Psychology, Well-being, and Cultural Issues? (For the symposium Well-being and Dignity of Chinese People from a Psychological Point of View, organized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Psychology and Beijing University Department of Psychology),” Advances in Psychological Science, 18(7), 1037–39, 2010.


Visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu for a complete list of faculty publications.
OP-EDs


GRANTS

Amy Ai is coprincipal investigator of Chronic Disease and Mental Health Comorbidity among Latino and Asian Americans, funded by the Center on Race and Social Problems for 2010–11.

Ai is principal investigator of Improving the Well-being of Hypertensive African Americans: A Pilot Trial on an Integrative Intervention with Mechanisms to Demonstrate Social Workers’ Leadership in the Health Care Industry, funded by the Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund Faculty Grant Program, Center on Race and Social Problems, and Pitt’s Ultrasound Research Laboratory for 2009–11.

Shaun Eack received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for 2010–12 for Cognitive Rehabilitation Effects on Social-Cognitive Brain Function in Schizophrenia.

Eack is coprincipal investigator of Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenic Episode and Adapting Cognitive Enhancement Therapy for ASD, both funded by the National Institute of Mental Health for 2009–14.

Eack is coprincipal investigator of Evidence-based Cognitive Rehabilitation to Improve Functional Outcomes for Young Adults with Autism-Spectrum Disorders, funded by Autism Speaks for 2010–13.

William Elliott received a grant for summer 2010 from Pittsburgh Youth Study for School Dropout Rates: A Longitudinal Analysis Based on the Pittsburgh Youth Study.

Rachel Fusco is principal investigator and Helen Cahalane and Mary E. Rauktis are coinvestigators of Evaluation of Pennsylvania’s Initiative to Screen Young Children for Developmental and Mental Health Concerns Following Contact with Child Welfare, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Office of Children, Youth and Families for 2008–11.

Fusco and Cahalane are coprincipal investigators of The Use of Mobile Technology in Caseworker Visits to Children in Federally Defined Foster Care, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Office of Children, Youth and Families for 2010–11.

Visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu for a complete list of faculty publications.
As of August 2010, the School of Social Work was conducting 42 externally funded projects totaling $25.6 million (25 research and 11 educational training projects). During the 2010 fiscal year, faculty in the School of Social Work submitted 18 research grant proposals, of which two were rejected, six were accepted, and 10 are awaiting final decisions. Such a rate of research-related production from a total of 27 full-time faculty members is impressive. Based on the total amounts of all externally funded projects, the School of Social Work is generating close to $1 million per full-time faculty member.

Assistant Professor Shaun Eack received a notable new research award: a KL2 grant funded by the National Institutes of Health through the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. The award recognizes the need for multidisciplinary and translational clinical scholars across many areas of biomedical and social research by providing funding to young investigators who are conducting translational research that is likely to have a significant clinical impact. Eack is the first from the School of Social Work and first investigator outside of the health sciences to receive funding through the KL2 Clinical Research Scholars Program.

A 2010 benchmark Council on Social Work Education report reaffirms the School of Social Work’s significantly high faculty scholarship production rate compared to those of the nation’s top 10 schools of social work. As noted in previous publications, Pitt’s School of Social Work ranks fourth among the top 10 schools in scholarship production. More specifically, the school’s 2009 scholarship production rate includes 67 unduplicated refereed journal articles—including 30 articles published and 37 manuscripts in press—and 15 book chapters and seven books published or in press. Based on historical comparison of the refereed journal articles, the school has improved its production rate by 378 percent since 2001 (see chart below).
Emily A. Galbreth (MSW ’06) joined the Pittsburgh Public Schools in November 2009 as a strategic communications coordinator. In this position, she is responsible for aligning and sequencing communications priorities articulated in the Empowering Effective Teachers plan, a grant awarded to Pittsburgh Public Schools by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to advance the teaching profession in a way that is aligned with improving student achievement. Galbreth develops and implements all communications and marketing project management support to ensure consistency between Empowering Effective Teachers communications and other district initiatives.

Susan Weber Graefe (MSW ’69) was the 2009 winner of the Betty Marcus Women’s Health Endowment Fund Award, which goes to a researcher or clinician who best epitomizes excellence in research or clinical services for women. Graefe, a clinical social worker in private practice in Warwick, R.I., has been involved in providing outreach and care to older women and their caregivers for many years. In her practice, she focuses on women’s and caregiver issues, and she has served on the boards of directors of several organizations that provide for the needs of older women. Graefe spoke at the Miriam Hospital’s Women’s Wellness Workshop in September 2009 and received a cash award.

Robert L. Hewitt (PhD ’86), professor emeritus of social work at Shippensburg University, has retired after 21 years of service. Shippensburg’s BSW director of field education for 17 years, Hewitt was lauded by the university for his dedication to teaching and mentoring of social work students and faculty and for instilling social work values, ethics, and skills in hundreds of social work students throughout Central Pennsylvania and beyond. Currently, he serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Inter-Agency Task Force on Civil Tension and is a certified trainer/instructor with the Family Development Training and Credential Program and Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program.

John B. Mattingly (MSW ’72), commissioner of New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), was named commissioner of the city’s Department of Juvenile Justice, which the city is merging with ACS in an attempt to provide more therapeutic approaches to keeping teenagers out of jail. ACS was established in January 1996 as the first agency in New York City’s history solely devoted to serving children and is responsible for child protective, foster care, adoption, childcare, and Head Start services. Prior to joining ACS, Mattingly served as director of human service reforms at the Annie Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Md.

Janice L. McCarthy (MSW ’04) has launched a new organization called Peace of Work. Based in Pittsburgh, it provides education, support, and hope for dealing with grief in the workplace through on-site sessions and program design, consultation, and guest speaker services. As a therapist, educator, and consultant in grief and loss, McCarthy has been addressing the needs of grieving people for more than 12 years. She also serves as a grief educator at the UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

Todd Walker (BASW ’85, MSW ’86) is a behavioral therapist for the East Orange School District in East Orange, N.J. He helps to set up and maintain educational programs for students who have demonstrated inappropriate behaviors in the school setting and runs the Joseph Walker Memorial Fund, which raises money to provide college scholarships and computers for students in the city of East Orange. In his spare time, he works as an NCAA softball and baseball umpire.

Patricia Washington (MSW ’80, PhD ’81) was awarded professor emeritus status upon her retirement in December 2009 from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla. Washington’s higher education career spanned nearly three decades.

Anna M. Williams (MSW ’81) is director of student life at the SEED School of Maryland, a statewide public college preparatory boarding school in Baltimore, Md., modeled after the SEED School in Washington, D.C. In addition, Williams served on Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake’s transition team and was assigned to review education and youth services.

Genevieve Howard Wilson (MSW ‘46) is enjoying her retirement in Florida following a career that spanned several decades and included stints with the Girl Scouts of Allegheny County; the American Red Cross in Rochester, N.Y.; as an assistant professor at the State University of New York in Brockport, N.Y.; and as a school social worker.

IN MEMORIAM
Anne Marie Baumgarten (BASW ’08, MSW ’10)
Jane E. Ford (MSW ’63)
Keep in Touch!

The School of Social Work wants to know the most recent information on your career advancements, papers, honors, and achievements. This information will be posted in our Class Notes section. Include name, dates, and locations. Photos are welcome. Please write legibly.

Name

Degree(s) and Year(s) of Graduation

Home Address

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Home Telephone    E-mail

Business Address

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Business Telephone    E-mail

Position(s)

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Complete and mail or fax to:
University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Fax: 412-624-6323

Attn: Emily Penrose-McLaughlin
2010–11 School of Social Work Speaker Series

“Are We Ready for Tomorrow?”
Ira Colby, Dean, University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work
September 22, 2010

Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture
“Confronting our Fears and Finding Hope in Difficult Times: Social Work as a Force for Social Justice”
Dorothy Van Soest, Professor and Dean Emeritus, University of Washington School of Social Work
November 10, 2010

Sidney A. Teller Lecture
“African American Clients and Families in Therapy”
Nancy Boyd-Franklin, Professor, Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
February 18, 2011

“Convergence and Expectation: Changing Nature of Older Adult Social Services”
Mildred Morrison, Administrator, Area Agency on Aging, Allegheny County Department of Human Services
April 13, 2011

Center on Race and Social Problems Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall 2010 Speaker Series

“Debates on Race and History in Contemporary Cuba”
Alejandro de la Fuente, UCIS Research Professor, History and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh
September 17, 2010

“Race, Class, and Student Achievement in KIPP Middle Schools”
Philip M. Gleason, Senior Fellow, Mathematica
November 9, 2010

“Race, Racism, and Mental Health in Asian American Communities”
Sumie Okazaki, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology, New York University
October 27, 2010

“Columnizing in a Postracial World”
Tony Norman, Columnist, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
December 8, 2010