UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Bridges

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2007



BASW PROGRAM

University and Faculty Team Up to Help Undergrads Excel

Bridges



Welcome to *Bridges*, the magazine of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Chosen for its metaphorical symbolism, the title *Bridges* reflects important aspects of both our profession and our school. As part of its mission, social work builds and sustains bridges among individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods, and communities. At the same time, the city of Pittsburgh boasts more than 450 bridges, while Allegheny County has nearly 2,000 bridges, suggesting an uncompromising desire of the region's inhabitants to remain connected with one another. In keeping with this heritage, the School of Social Work seeks to build and sustain bridges among those needing social work services; our alumni, faculty, and staff; the community; and corporate and governmental partners. The school aims to fulfill this goal in part through the educational and informative contents of *Bridges*.

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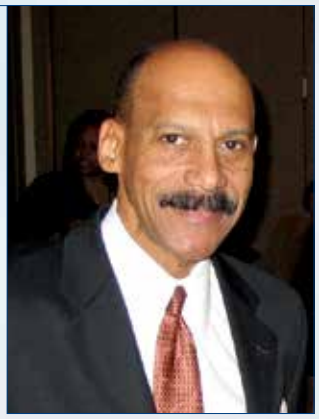
2006 IABC Golden Triangle Award of Honor, publication design
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On the cover: (front row, left to right) Kathy Humphrey, Michael Vaughn, (back row, left to right) Cynthia Bradley-Pugh, Aaron Mann, Helen Petracchi

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University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work

DEAN'S Message



As dean of the School of Social Work, I am pleased to offer you greetings and to welcome in the new year. As has been true in the past, 2007 promises to bring forth exciting opportunities for the school. Indeed, the school continues to grow and benefit from the many contributions of its faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.

The featured story for this issue of *Bridges* highlights our BASW program. The goal of the program is to prepare undergraduates to engage in entry-level generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and/or organizations within a diverse society. The school has offered MSW and PhD programs since the 1940s and added the BASW program in 1973; however, the BASW program has recently experienced an infusion of energy and new initiatives.

Perhaps chief among these initiatives is the program's involvement with the University's civic engagement efforts. The school is sponsoring the Civic Engagement and Community Service Living-Learning Community in one of the University's residence halls. This is proving to be a wonderful and significant opportunity for many students who might not otherwise be exposed to the social issues, values, and perspectives of our profession. Additionally, the BASW program is playing a pivotal role in the residence hall experience by exposing undergraduates to research that focuses on social problems commonly addressed by social workers. These new initiatives serve to introduce greater numbers of undergraduate students to social work practice and research opportunities. Also outlined in the feature is information about how the BASW program is providing a variety of other unique and cutting-edge experiences, not only for our students but for many of our faculty as well.

The school has had the good fortune to bring on board a number of highly dedicated and talented individuals (see School News, page 2). These individuals are true believers. They are committed not only to the letter of social work, but also to its spirit, and they demonstrate at every turn their belief in people and their willingness to help others.

Finally, we would like to applaud the achievements of Christina Newhill, Ralph Bangs, and George McClomb. Dr. Newhill, with her work on client violence toward social workers (see Faculty Focus, page 14), has served to highlight the importance of this issue for our profession. She is a national expert on this topic and is increasingly asked to speak at professional gatherings across the country. Dr. Bangs and his colleague, Audrey Murrell from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, have received funding from the Ford Foundation to study the existence of racial and/or gender discrimination in the awarding of government contracts (see Research Update, page 18). We welcome their efforts to better understand and ameliorate this social problem. Dr. McClomb linked community activism and academic innovation by serving as co-project director of the University, Community, Leaders, and Individuals with Disabilities (UCLID) Center at the University of Pittsburgh from 1995 to 2005. Unfortunately for us, Dr. McClomb will be retiring at the end of this academic year after 34 years at the University (see Faculty Focus, page 16).

As you will no doubt see when you peruse this issue of *Bridges*, these are innovative and exciting times for the school. So when you find yourself in the neighborhood, please stop in for a visit. If possible, please try to attend one of the school's spring lectures. We are sure you will enjoy it.

Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

SCHOOL News



Liz Winter



Cynthia Bradley-Pugh



Jody Bechtold

Fresh Faces

This fall, the school welcomed two new faculty and two new staff members. **Liz Winter** is a clinical assistant professor and academic coordinator for the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program; **Cynthia Bradley-Pugh**, also featured on the cover, is a field assistant professor and academic coordinator of the Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) Program; **Jody Bechtold** is a field coordinator in the Office of Field Education; and **Laura Perry-Thompson** is the new MSW program coordinator at Pitt–Johnstown.

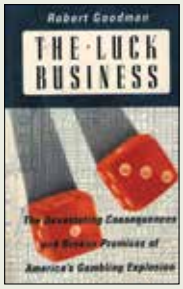
Child Welfare Training Program News

The Children's Bureau invited the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program (PACWTP) to participate in the Child Welfare Training System Symposium in Denver, Colo., in August 2006. PACWTP was one of the three training systems at the symposium providing technical assistance to other state training systems that did not meet the standards of the Child and Family Services Review.

PACWTP is responsible for providing technical assistance and support to the Pennsylvania Youth Independent Living Program (ILP) and, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), coordinating and delivering independent living training for child welfare professionals. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognized ILP and SWAN with a 2006 Adoption Excellence Award in the category of increased adoptions of older children. HHS established the Adoption Excellence Awards program in 1997 to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care.

Grant to Study Gambling Follows Lecture

The school has been working collaboratively with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health and Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services to develop a research agenda to study issues related to the casino gambling coming to Pittsburgh and the surrounding region.



In the fall, as part of the School of Social Work Speaker Series, Robert Goodman, professor and researcher at Hampshire College, spoke about his book *The Luck Business*, which focuses on the impact casino gambling has on individuals and communities. This forum helped call attention to the need for research to assess gambling's impact on individuals, families, and communities, as well as the preparedness and capacity of our region's social service providers to address issues related to gambling addiction.

In December 2006, the school received a grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation to study social service providers' preparedness and capacity to respond to the presence of casino gambling in the region. This study will be undertaken during 2007, prior to the arrival of the first casino on Pittsburgh's North Shore. The school is also exploring other research topics and areas to help the region better understand, monitor, and address issues related to gambling.



Lynn Coghill

Coghill Appointed MSW Director

Lynn Coghill (MSW '86) was appointed the new MSW program director, effective October 1, 2006, Dean Larry E. Davis announced. Coghill had been a field liaison in the Office of Field Education for six years. In her new position, she is responsible for coordinating the 500-plus students in the MSW program at the Oakland campus and two regional campuses (Johnstown and Bradford).



John Dalessandro

New Director of Field Education

John Dalessandro (MSW '90) is the school's new director of field education/lecturer, effective November 20, 2006. Dalessandro was MSW program coordinator/instructor at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown from 2002 to 2006. He earned a BASW from Penn State University in 1987.

School of Social Work Speaker Series

Jeanne Marsh, George Herbert Jones Professor and dean of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, presented the lecture "Knowledge Utilization in Social Work Practice" on February 9, 2007, as part of the school's 2006–07 speaker series. Marsh is one of the nation's leading experts on the development and evaluation of social services for children and families.

Larry Gant, associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, will wrap up the 2006–07 series with his lecture "HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Programs for Drug Dependent Persons" on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, in the School of Social Work Conference Center. Lunch will be provided. For additional details, visit www.pitt.edu/~pittssw or call 412-624-6304.



CSRP Reed Smith Spring 2007 Speaker Series

The Problem When Race Matters
Doris Carson Williams, president, African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania
Monday, January 22

Immigration and Racism in Europe: Old Prejudices, New Challenges
Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia, associate senior researcher, Center for the Study of Politics, Sciences Po, Paris
Tuesday, February 13

The Time Tax: Race and Spatial Equity in New York City
Kathryn Neckerman, associate director, Columbia University Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy
Wednesday, March 14

Poor, Young, Black, and Male: A Case for National Action
Elijah Anderson, Charles and William Day Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and professor of sociology, University of Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 5

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch is provided; registration is not required.

The law firm of Reed Smith LLP has generously sponsored this speaker series.



Not Your Average Students:

BASW Program Draws Kaleidoscope of Undergraduate Talent

There are a lot of words that could be used to describe the students who populate the School of Social Work's undergraduate classes. But average isn't one of them.

Dedicated, yes. Diverse, absolutely. Involved, of course. But not average.

"We have the most ethnoculturally diverse student body of any school in this University. I think we've always had that, and we have a commitment to maintaining that," says Helen Petracchi, associate professor and director of the BASW program, through which students earn a bachelor's degree in social work. "We have a student body that is diverse culturally, racially, and ethnically, but also diverse in terms of traditional and nontraditional students."

The school's program is among only a handful of its kind at a major research university; most schools of social work offer only an MSW. To qualify for the BASW program—an upper-division major—students must complete 60 liberal arts credits and enter at the equivalent of their junior year. Some are internal transfers, meaning they studied at Pitt during their earlier undergraduate years and applied to major in social work. Many are community college students who applied after completing an associate's degree. Still others are external transfers who arrived from another four-year college or university.

Their goals are as diverse as their backgrounds. Though about three-quarters do go on to pursue an MSW, others go directly into the field after graduation, into such settings as community agencies; personal care homes; and healthcare, juvenile or criminal justice, and residential treatment facilities. Some become public child welfare workers or community organizers, as did one recent graduate who went to Zambia, Africa, to work for ProjectEducate.

"We have two goals," explains Petracchi. "One is to prepare students for entry-level practice. The other is to prepare students for graduate school."

Some BASW graduates move into entry-level positions helping to manage the caretaking of older adults and other support systems, a need that is expected to grow in direct relation to the aging of the baby boomer population—particularly in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region.

A New Kind of Energy

According to Petracchi, there has never been a more exciting time to be affiliated with the school's bachelor's degree program, which is reaching out to the entire undergraduate community at Pitt.

"There is new energy from the faculty we've brought on board, as well as a commitment from the school and the central administration to the program," she says. Additionally, "the students themselves have asked for certain things and become very active in their education."



Helen Petracchi

Among the new faculty members is Michael Vaughn, an associate professor in his second year with the School of Social Work, who teaches an undergraduate

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"There are a number of students who I think have the potential to be really good analytical social workers and leaders in the field. They're curious, they're bright, hey're eager to learn."

—Michael Vaughn



Panther Hall, the University's newest residence hall, is home to the Civic Engagement and Community Service Living-Learning Community.

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Michael Vaughn

course, Human Behavior and the Social Environment. The course is as challenging as the graduate-level version he teaches, but the BASW students are up to the task.

"There are a number of students who I think have the potential to be really good analytical social workers and leaders in the field," Vaughn says. "They're curious, they're bright, they're eager to learn."

Those who take Vaughn's course as undergraduates can carry those credits over to the MSW program if they meet grade standard requirements, illustrating one advantage to earning an undergraduate degree first: a seamless transition into graduate school.

Vaughn also works with undergraduates from other schools within the University as part of First Experiences in Research, a program linking freshmen and sophomores with faculty to immerse them in research activities early in their academic careers. The interdisciplinary program culminates with a poster presentation in April. One of Vaughn's students chose a project developing a database for adolescent treatment that used meta-analysis to examine outcomes studies; another synthesized intervention research to determine what researchers know about multiproblem youth.



Aaron Mann



Cynthia Bradley-Pugh

Vaughn characterized the posters as "excellent," adding, "They exceeded my expectations."

Complementing the new faculty are the veterans who, like Petracchi, bring years of experience to the undergraduate program. Aaron Mann, who specializes in policy practice, particularly in the fields of drug and alcohol treatment, is a former program director. Rafael Engel, another former director, teaches history, policy, research, and evaluation courses across programs, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. In the spring, Assistant Professor Jeffrey Shook will teach a section on social welfare policy, bringing his perspective as an attorney who has done community and policy work in juvenile justice. Cynthia Bradley-Pugh (the new Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates Program academic coordinator) will bring her experience and research to the Child Welfare Services course.

'Our Own Settlement House'

Participation in First Experiences in Research is one example of how the School of Social Work is reaching out to other disciplines to better inform them of what the field entails. Another is the school-sponsored Civic Engagement and Community Service Living-Learning Community in Panther Hall, the University's brand-new living-learning community residence hall.

Regardless of their major, sophomores who live on the floor enroll in the school's Introduction to Social Work course as well as a seminar course that links what they're learning in the classroom to their service in the community. Residents also have the opportunity to perform 40 hours of community service learning in local agencies; network with knowledgeable business, government, and community leaders to develop and refine their leadership skills; be mentored by faculty, residence hall staff, and community leaders; and work with fellow students

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS/FUNDS FOR BASW STUDENTS

- Dr. Aaron Mann Student Resource Fund
- Lynn Adkins Endowed Resource Fund
- Patricia W. Wright Endowed Fund*
- Henrietta T. Campbell Scholarship
- Mattie B. Addis Scholarship
- Emma W. Locke Scholarship
- Broecker Memorial Fund

For information on contributing to these funds, please contact the director of development.
* provides master's level tuition support for Pitt BASW graduates

interested in social justice and community service in a structured service-learning environment. Interested residents can pursue a minor or major in social work as well as apply to the school's MSW and/or PhD programs.

"This has been phenomenal for us," says Petracchi. "In social work, we talk about settlement houses during Victorian times as being the basis of the emerging profession of social work. So what we've been able to create is our own settlement house."

The specialty housing was the brainchild of Pitt Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey, who had solicited ideas from some of the deans.

She asked, "What kinds of experiences could we provide our students that students at other universities may not be getting?"

When the University decided to move forward with the concept of civic engagement, "the School of Social Work was a natural partner," Humphrey says.

The idea was to introduce an experience that would make the students more competitive in the workplace and in graduate school. Likewise, the concept taps into an issue that is important to many Pitt undergraduates.



Kathy Humphrey

"If you read literature on the millennial generation, they're much more in tune to serving the community," Humphrey says. "They do more volunteerism than past generations. The fact that we would train them to be good service learners during their undergraduate years is an advantage not only for the University, but even for our greater society."

Describing students who are ready to commit to social work as undergraduates, Vaughn adds, "I think these students really do care about the social world in which they live and function. They really do seem to want to be involved in issues that enhance the quality of life of people, particularly those from oppressed and disadvantaged groups."

Crossing Boundaries

As a result of the success of the community service-learning floor, the faculty voted to offer a minor in social work to any Pitt student—the only minor at the University that is offered across school boundaries.

"I think it enriches the education of both sets of students—the social work majors and those in other schools. It exposes social work majors to students who have different knowledge and values. It also indicates to them that you can have a commitment to social welfare in our society or globally and still pursue whatever profession you're interested in," Petracchi says.

"You can be an engineer and still be committed to giving back to your local community. You can be a business major and learn more about the human condition," she says. "It expands any profession beyond the exclusive focus of that profession, and it makes for very lively discussions within our classrooms."

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"In social work, we talk about settlement houses during Victorian times as being the basis of the emerging profession of social work. So what we've been able to create is our own settlement house."

—Helen Petracchi







(Far left) Students outside Panther Hall; (above left, top and bottom) students in common areas of Panther Hall

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"If you read literature on the millennial generation, they're much more in tune to serving the community. They do more volunteerism than past generations."

—Kathy Humphrey

Humphrey agrees that a social work background helps to round out a student in any discipline.

"Even in my profession, I look favorably on someone who has a social work background," she says. "If they have some notion about how societies work, how communities work—if they understand how people develop together and how to help them work together—it's to my advantage."

Petracchi says experiments such as the residence hall, the minor in social work program, and recent initiatives to offer international service learning opportunities to social work undergraduates contribute to the excitement that is building at the school. During the past two years, Pitt has partnered with North Carolina State University to send students to Guatemala for six weeks of service learning in the country's western highlands. In 2007, a one-credit trip will give students the chance to study poverty in Paris.

New faculty member Sara Goodkind is bringing her international expertise (including time she spent as a Peace Corps volunteer in Romania) to the Global Perspectives in Social Work course. She is currently working with Engel and Assistant Professor Daniel Rosen to create a for-credit add-on to the course—an international service-learning trip—in spring 2008.

"You can see us expanding into the University in ways we haven't before," Petracchi says. "It's an incredibly exciting time in the school, really the most exciting time in the 15 years I've been here." •

BASW CLUB UPDATE

The BASW Club has been especially busy the past few months. During the fall, students attended the Pennsylvania Association of Undergraduate Social Work Educators (PAUSWE) Conference in State College, Pa., where they sat on the student panel to discuss misconceptions about the field of social work, development of practice skills, and the importance of students getting involved at the macro level. They also coordinated a tailgating bake sale at a Pittsburgh Steelers game and continue to use bake sales to raise funds. In November, two juniors designed a BASW Club T-shirt and members participated in a playground build at the Human Services Center Corp. in Turtle Creek, Pa. BASW students also volunteered at the Shop to Stop Domestic Violence Event to benefit the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh and organized a holiday toy drive for children who are clients of the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families. This spring, students plan to raise money for a local drop-in shelter for youths who live on the streets in Pittsburgh. •

ONE BASW STUDENT'S STORY



Justin Perles is a junior in the BASW program. He has a personal commitment to global issues and advocacy for children and hopes to eventually complete MSW and law degrees. To that end, Perles is a volunteer at the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and is also the first BASW student to successfully compete for the Jack Wilson Fund scholarship from the Pittsburgh Foundation. Wilson, the fund's namesake, died tragically in a bus accident in India while with the study abroad program Semester at Sea. This scholarship was created to provide financial assistance for international opportunities that foster better understanding among cultures and promote peaceful community development. Thanks to support from this scholarship, as well as from the Show Them the World Scholarship, which he received from Pitt's Study Abroad Office, Perles will be able to participate in an international service learning and Spanish immersion course of study in Guatemala this summer. For six weeks, Perles will live with a host family, studying Spanish in the mornings and spending the afternoons volunteering at a local community agency that serves women and their families. "I am thankful for this opportunity to study social work in Guatemala," Perles said. "This opportunity would not be possible without the education I have received at Pitt, the stellar efforts of all those involved at the School of Social Work, or the generosity of the Pittsburgh Foundation." •



Mary Pat Elhattab with BASW student Jonathan Waters

STUDENT SERVICES ASSISTANT GUIDES UNDERGRADUATES THROUGH BASW MAZE

For many of the students who enter the School of Social Work as wide-eyed undergraduates, Mary Pat Elhattab is a surrogate mother.

Long before they even arrive, Elhattab, the school's student services assistant, is processing their evaluations, talking to their advisors, and evaluating their transcripts. When they do come to the school, she meets with them and tries to put them at ease, particularly transfer students who are not accustomed to Pitt's large urban campus.

"The Pitt students [who transfer in] are at least more familiar with the campus and how Pitt's system generally works," Elhattab explains. "Students coming from other schools are a little more intimidated."

Elhattab has been with the University since 1980, when she started as a temporary employee, a position she held for two years. She became a full-timer in 1982 and assumed her current role in 1989.

It's a jack-of-all-trades kind of job, one that Elhattab has embraced wholeheartedly. If students need help connecting with specific assistance, such as disability resources, or want to know who they should contact about study abroad programs, it's Elhattab they see.

"I always say they're all my kids, whether they're older or younger," she says. "I just love working with the students. Several of them have kept in touch over the years, and a lot of them will continue on into the master's program, so they're here for a little bit longer."

Much has changed during her tenure: "I've seen a lot of people retire, staff coming and going. Of course, the dean retired, and we have the new dean," Elhattab says, referring to Larry Davis, who was appointed dean in 2001. "I still think of him as the new dean, even though he has been here for several years."

What many of her students may not know is that Elhattab also brings the perspective of a fellow student. Since she first started at Pitt, she has taken courses, and she is now closing in on her undergraduate degree in legal studies from the College of General Studies. If all goes according to plan, she will graduate in August 2007.

"I see [how the system works] as a student, and I can also see it from working as an administrator," she says.

If a student is frustrated over efforts to get a signature or is seeking special permission for a class that isn't in the School of Social Work, Elhattab can help.

"I know how that is," she laughs.

In general, Elhattab estimates that most students start feeling fairly confident about navigating the Pitt system about halfway through their first terms. If she had to offer her charges one piece of advice, it would be simple, yet unmistakably maternal:

"Hang in there—you can do it!" •



DEVELOPMENT News

Endowed Fund Honors Legacy of Raymond R. Webb Jr.

Mimi Priselac; Mel Haber (MSW '61); and Jim Gavin, president of Community Care Behavioral Health Organization, have partnered with the School of Social Work to create the Raymond R. Webb Jr. Endowed Fund. Webb (MSW '63) passed away last spring at the age of 68.

"What better way to memorialize Ray than with an enduring recognition of his contribution to our field by supporting students who seek to enter the profession?" Gavin said.

Webb directed the Allegheny East Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, the first community mental health center in the Pittsburgh area, from 1969 until he left in 1989 to take the helm of the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA), a statewide advocacy organization he helped found. His work and leadership were recognized in 1980, when the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Southwestern Pennsylvania chapter recognized him as its Social Worker of the Year. The School of Social Work also selected him as its Distinguished Alumni Practitioner, and he chaired the school's alumni society.

Webb's passion led to many policy shifts and new initiatives at PCPA, including such notable accomplishments as licensure for social workers and the founding of the Community Behavioral Health Network of Pennsylvania (CBHNP). Perhaps what Webb would have considered to be his greatest professional "accomplishments" are the people he mentored throughout his career. Today, it is difficult to find a social service organization in Pennsylvania where a protégé of Webb's is not in a leadership position.

Elizabeth J. Clark (BASW '72, MSW '74), executive director of NASW, recalled the impact Webb's service to his local chapter had on the entire organization. "In addition to Ray's substantial contribution to the field of mental health and mental retardation, he also worked tirelessly to advance the social work profession in Pennsylvania," Clark said. "Ray understood the essential connection between direct practice and policy. He will be greatly missed by NASW."

This fund will provide financial support for graduate students in the School of Social Work who are pursuing careers in the public welfare system. The fund will support an annual public welfare lecture and reception at the School of Social Work—to be known as the Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture—for those who knew Ray and for those who did not to celebrate his life and legacy.

Contributions can be made to the Raymond R. Webb Jr. Endowed Fund at the School of Social Work by mail at University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Linda Hilinski, 2117 Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, or by phone (412-624-6300) or e-mail (lrh19@pitt.edu). •

Former Students Honor Joseph W. Eaton

Students of Joseph W. Eaton, the original architect of the School of Social Work PhD program, presented him with a bound edition of his publications at a reception during the 2007 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif. Dean Larry E. Davis hosted the reception, which was attended by faculty, students, alumni, and some of Eaton's former students: Michael Austin (PhD '70), Neil Gilbert (MSW '65, PhD '68), Peter Gaupp (PhD '69), Aytan Stromberg (PhD '78), Marvin Feit (PhD '75), and Brian Segal (PhD '71). •



(Left to right) Dean Larry E. Davis, Michael Austin, Marvin Feit, Peter Gaupp, Aytan Stromberg, Joseph Eaton, Neil Gilbert, and Brian Segal

Highmark Foundation Awards $50,000 Grant for Community Improvement

The Highmark Foundation has awarded the school $50,000 to support MSW students working in the communities of Hazelwood, Oakland, and Johnstown in keeping with its commitment to improving both individual wellness and local communities. The School of Social Work expresses its deep appreciation for this gift, which will be used to foster student development and improve these communities as well as the lives of their residents.

The following is a partial list of student activities.

In Hazelwood, MSW students support community health education by targeting neighborhood health concerns and health disparities. They provide community organizing for neighborhood watch groups to address environmental and public safety issues. They work with the Hazelwood YMCA to implement youth and family health, nutrition, and social support programs in the neighborhoods.



(Above, center) Rachelle Das and Jenny Weinstein, Highmark Community Fellows in Hazelwood, with COPC interns and Pittsburgh Health Corps/AmeriCorps members in front of the Hazelwood Initiative Healthy Outreach Promoting Empowerment (HI HOPE) office.

(Below) Das and Weinstein sit down with COSA COPC intern Mouhammed Ngegba (far right) and Hazelwood Initiative Executive Director James Richter to plan community service and health outreach activities.

In Oakland, MSW student goals include working with local leaders to create pedestrian safety maps and foster wider collaboration among Oakland groups for pedestrian safety. They have increased partnership activities with the University, and they have assisted the Healthy Oakland People community health partnership and the Oakland Community Council with lobbying for and educating people about increased code enforcement and healthy living.



In Johnstown, MSW students assist in grant writing for programs that screen middle school students for exercise-induced asthma, provide additional social service staff in schools to prevent suicides and violence, and assist with behavioral disorders. Students organized, analyzed, and disseminated the results of the Cambria County Youth Survey and surveyed children on issues of health and safety to determine



additional programs needed in Cambria County, Pa. Students helped teach Riskwatch, a program for children in grades one to three to prevent injury through bicycle safety, motor vehicle safety, water safety, fire prevention, gun safety, falls prevention, and poison prevention. Students also conducted car seat clinics in the area. •



Meyer Schwartz

Meyer Schwartz Endowed Fund Created

Meyer Schwartz started the first and longest-running community organizing program in the country. Along with then Dean Albert Newstetter, Schwartz founded the Community Organizing Program in the School of Social Work in 1958. It continues today as part of Pitt's Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) concentration.

To honor Schwartz's legacy, his wife, Anne Schwartz (MSW '47), has purchased a $20,000 charitable gift annuity to create the Meyer Schwartz Endowed Fund. The annuity provides a substantial tax deduction and income throughout Anne Schwartz's life and will provide for the endowed fund at the school in perpetuity. •

To learn more about planning a gift to the School of Social Work, contact Tom O'Toole at 412-624-8604 or tom.otoole@ia.pitt.edu.

Nan Van Den Bergh Includes the School of Social Work in Her Will

"I believe that education is a means to a better life. My gift is to enable those lacking funds to gain access to higher education at the School of Social Work at Pitt."

—Nan Van Den Bergh (PhD '81)

In 1977, Nan Van Den Bergh left Rochester, N.Y., where she had founded the Rape Crisis Center. She expected Pittsburgh to be a city of industrial blight; however, the opportunity to work on a National Institutes of Health-funded grant researching sexual assault on women drove her decision to enroll in the doctoral program at the School of Social Work.



Nan Van Den Bergh

Once in Pittsburgh, Van Den Bergh was pleasantly surprised. She was impressed by how invested the city was in the arts. She lived on Mt. Washington, which

Meet the Director of the Alumni Society

Keith J. Caldwell (MSW '02) is director for advancement at North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO), an interfaith nonprofit organization that addresses the spiritual, emotional, physical, and material needs of people in crisis, hardship, and poverty. In this role, Caldwell has primary responsibility over Compassion Allegheny, a federally funded project that provides capacity-building technical assistance to faith-based and community-based organizations throughout Allegheny County.

Prior to joining NHCO, Caldwell served as community development coordinator for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health's System of Care Initiative. This federal demonstration



Keith J. Caldwell

project worked to provide families with community-based, family-driven, culturally competent service coordination. Caldwell also has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and is currently serving on the Pitt Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Caldwell received a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Niagara University.

overlooked the city and whose homes, terraced yards, small brick streets, and ethnic neighborhoods reminded her of Europe.

Van Den Bergh recalled her academic environment from 1977 to 1981 as another pleasant surprise. Her doctoral class was composed of 12 racially diverse students. At the time, there was a strong feminist movement within the school and community, and Van Den Bergh and Barbara Shore (MSW '44, PhD '69)—then director of the program—furthered that movement. Van Den Bergh said she received excellent mentoring and described Shore as her role model in the field of social work.

Today, Van Den Bergh is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Florida International University. She has designated a percentage of her estate to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work to create a scholarship fund to help students who are lacking resources gain access to higher education. •



(Left to right) Margaret Berry (MSW '03), Barton Schachter (MSW '66), Pitt Alumni Association President Brian Generalovich, and Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Al Novak



Letter from the Director

Greetings Alumni and Friends,

The School of Social Work Alumni Society has grown by leaps and bounds during the past year. We are excited about our recent receipt of a blue banner from the Pitt Alumni Association—recognition of our accomplishments in connecting alums not only to the School of Social Work, but also to the future alumni currently gracing the halls of the Cathedral. These accomplishments are the result of a great partnership between the society, the faculty and staff from the School of Social Work, and current student leaders.

We have several projects upcoming with which we need your help. Please keep an eye out for contacts from the alumni society, and visit the School of Social Work Web site regularly to keep up with the exciting happenings.

I look forward to joining you as we work to strengthen the School of Social Work, support our future alumni, and effect change in our communities.

Hail to Pitt!

Keith J. Caldwell

Alumni Association Awards Banner Status to the School of Social Work

During the fall homecoming activities, the Pitt Alumni Association awarded blue banner status to the School of Social Work Alumni Society. The award recognizes the society's involvement in activities that support the Pitt Alumni Association, including participating in the Pitt Career Network; producing *Bridges* magazine, which reaches more than 8,000 alumni; and establishing the Raymond R. Webb Jr. Endowed Fund.

The School of Social Work Alumni Society serves as a bridge between the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the social work community by recognizing alumni excellence, promoting professional networking and development opportunities, and ensuring the continued distinction of the school.

Newhill's Research Still Impacting Mental Health Field



Christina Newhill

Associate Professor **Christina Newhill**'s focus is on developing MSW students into highly competent beginning social work practitioners who have a firm grasp of the core knowledge, values, and skills necessary for success in the social work profession. She accomplishes this by creating an interactive learning environment and encouraging students to be active participants. Newhill promotes a safe, inclusive atmosphere in which students can respond to challenges and learn from them, and her teaching is reflective of the knowledge and skills students will need when they graduate and enter the "real world" of professional social work.

Throughout Newhill's career as a social worker, she has focused on the issue of violent behavior in individuals who are suffering from mental illness. This is a serious problem, not only for the individuals and their families, but also for mental health service providers, the criminal justice system, and the general public.

After earning an undergraduate degree in sociology from Binghamton University, State University of New York, Newhill became coordinator of psychiatric emergency services for the Armstrong-Indiana Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program, a public mental health agency in rural Pennsylvania. This position exposed her to the problems inherent in dealing with clients at risk for violence and launched her interest in developing more effective treatments for such clients.

To gain the clinical training necessary to work effectively in this area, Newhill enrolled in the MSW program at Syracuse University, where she completed two internships in psychiatric inpatient settings and developed advanced clinical expertise in working with clients with severe mental illness. After graduating, she worked for eight years as a clinical social worker in a variety of public mental health settings. She completed her doctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1990, Newhill accepted a position as an assistant professor in Pitt's School of Social Work and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1996. One of her first research efforts involved investigating the issue of client violence toward social workers—a problem well recognized in the field; however, very little research had been done to guide the development of safety protocols.

Newhill practiced in a racially diverse community in California for many years. She has always been interested in the impact of race, gender, ethnicity, and culture on the experience and expression of problems related to mental health and illness. In 2001, the School of Social Work



received funding from the provost's office to establish the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). The mission of the center is to conduct applied social science research on race, culture, and ethnicity and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans. For five years, Newhill has chaired the center's Mental Health Research Advisory Panel, which brings together researchers from across the University interested in the areas of race and mental health in order to encourage research development.

Recently, the center faculty combined to author 16 research articles, 10 of which are slated to be published as a group in the *Journal of Health & Social Policy* under the theme Race Still Matters. Newhill contributed findings from a study she and coauthor Daniel Harris conducted using focus group methodology to explore how African American mental health consumers perceive and experience the impact of racial disparities in accessing and using mental health services.

Newhill and Harris found that consumers voiced similar concerns to those identified by former Surgeon General David Satcher in his landmark 2001 report *Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity—A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Consumers also identified difficulties communicating with service providers—particularly their doctors—as a major obstacle to engaging in treatment. They suggested a number of ways to improve services in their communities. These findings will be used to guide a future investigation of help-seeking patterns among African Americans with severe mental illness.

For the past 20 years, Newhill has followed a consistent, integrated path of investigating issues related to social work practice in mental health, with a particular focus on the clinical challenges



of working with clients with violent and aggressive behaviors and severe mental illness. Newhill has made significant contributions to the field—particularly through her work on client violence and social worker safety—by influencing agencies and practitioners to increase their commitment and competence regarding violence risk assessment and management along with developing protocols to promote safety.

Newhill is looking to make further contributions by developing a violence-reduction intervention for repetitively violent individuals who have borderline personalities and who may use drugs or alcohol. This is a challenging population that is in great need of care, but for whom there are no effective treatments. •

Faculty Focus continued on next page

McClomb Retirement Caps Off Career in Community and Academia

George McClomb (MSW '64) will retire in June 2007 after 34 years as a University of Pittsburgh faculty member and a career that stretched from the antipoverty era of the 1960s to the present. McClomb's focus has been on the dynamics of politics and public policy in the human services. His work with community-based institutions—particularly those owned and administered by underrepresented groups—has spanned the fields of primary care, long-term care, and developmental disabilities.

After serving as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force—which included a tour of duty in Southeast Asia and status as a Vietnam veteran, a distinction of which he is extremely proud—McClomb was recruited to come to Pittsburgh. He became the founding project director of what is now the Alma Illery Medical Center in the Homewood-Brushton section of Pittsburgh. At the time, McClomb was the only social worker in the country functioning as chief executive of a multimillion dollar, Office of Economic Opportunity-funded neighborhood health center. Thanks to solid leadership, the center has expanded and diversified and has been providing care to families and individuals throughout Western Pennsylvania for more than 30 years.

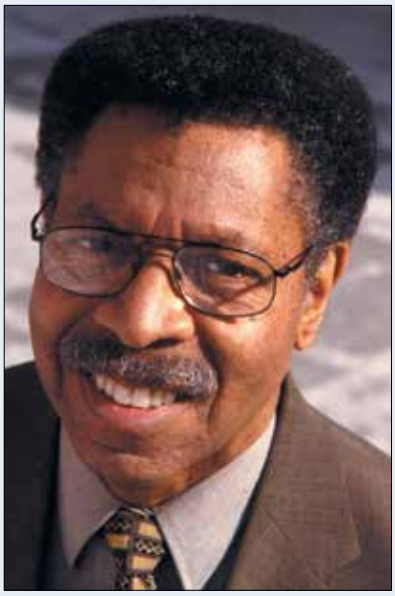


McClomb worked with Dane Boggs, then at the Pitt School of Medicine, and Nathaniel Murray, a community resident, to help create the Sickle Cell Program in Western Pennsylvania, and he directed research management plan efforts to regionalize it in Johnstown, Uniontown, New Castle, and Erie, Pa.

After moving from adjunct to full-time status in the School of Social Work, McClomb became chair of what would become the Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) concentration.

Throughout his academic career, McClomb has sought to link community activism with academic innovation. Accordingly, he has developed courses in executive leadership, financial management, social agency administration, public policy, and developmental disabilities, as well as collaborating on courses in fundraising and race and social welfare.

McClomb also invested 12 years of leadership in the area of long-term care. He was selected as a congressional delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging, and in 1983, he was the founding board chair and led the development and construction of Lemington Center, a state-of-the-art, $6 million long-term care complex and mid-rise residential facility. Lemington Center was the only African American-owned and administered comprehensive long-term care complex in Western Pennsylvania at the time.



George McClomb

An advocate of interdisciplinary education for those with developmental disabilities, McClomb was co-project director of the University, Community, Leaders, and Individuals with Disabilities (UCLID) Center at Pitt from 1995 to 2005, and he directed the community evaluation of the Early Childhood Initiative of Allegheny County.



McClomb's focus has been on the dynamics of politics and public policy in the human services.

His work with community-based institutions—particularly those owned and administered by underrepresented groups—has spanned the fields of primary care, long-term care, and developmental disabilities.

For his contributions to these and other endeavors during his tenure at Pitt, McClomb was awarded the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award in 2000. A graduate of Colgate University, McClomb earned a master's degree in social work and a master's and PhD in political science from Pitt.

Retirement will give McClomb more time to spend with his family and pursue his primary recreational interest—fishing. He plans to spend many hours on the water in his new Boston Whaler. •

Bangs and Murrell Conduct National Study

on Government Contracts with Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses





In 2006, **Ralph Bangs**, associate director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, and **Audrey Murrell**, associate professor in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, received $200,000 from the Fulfilling the Dream Fund for a two-year national study on local government contracts with minority business enterprises (MBEs) and women business enterprises (WBEs). The Ford Foundation, the Falk Foundation, and other foundations created the Fulfilling the Dream Fund to help fulfill Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of ending discrimination and injustice.

The purpose of the project is to help local governments increase prime contracts with MBEs and WBEs in Boston, Mass., and Chicago, Ill. Researchers will study the central city, housing authority, and city school district in Boston and the city, county, and school district in Chicago.

For each local government, the first task will be to determine what share of total prime contracts during the past year went to MBEs and WBEs. In general, local governments have awarded very small shares of total prime contract spending to these firms. Different measures of MBE and WBE participation in prime contracts will be used, depending on the availability of data. For example, if contract approvals are publicly available, percent of new prime contract awards of $25,000 or more will be used. If not, the percent of contracts approved will be based on records at the controller's office for each local government. Depending on access to data, the project will also examine the impact of contract amendments, change orders, and extensions on MBE and WBE shares of prime contract awards.

The second task will be to determine why qualified MBEs and WBEs that are interested in local government contracts do not receive these contracts. Researchers will interview 20 strong MBEs and 20 strong WBEs in each of the two cities to find out what barriers within local governments prevent these firms from obtaining prime contracts. These barriers often include contract packages that are too large for most MBEs and WBEs, giving late notice or not notifying MBEs and WBEs about contract opportunities, allowing sizeable change orders and contract amendments for majority firms that submit unusually low bids to win contracts, declaring MBEs and WBEs to be not qualified when they actually are, and unfairly claiming that MBEs and WBEs with contracts are not performing the work in order to take away contracts.

Researchers will look to build relationships with local governments to increase understanding of discriminatory barriers as well as to encourage adoption of affirmative action programs. Working with local community and legal activists, researchers hope to develop political and legal strategies aimed at persuading local governments to change their policies and practices.

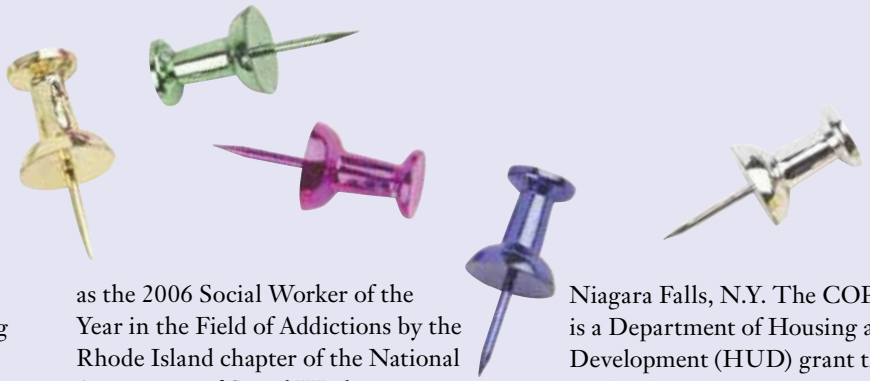
Bangs and Murrell developed this project from studies done in Pittsburgh in 2004 and 2005 in which they (1) documented low minority shares of local government contract awards and the lack of bidding by minority firms, (2) identified discriminatory practices in a particular local government, and (3) recommended changes in policies and practices. They also built partnerships with three minority- and women-owned business assistance offices in the local government.

In the short term, researchers hope this project helps certain local governments dismantle discriminatory systems, adopt strong affirmative action programs, and substantially increase contracts with MBEs and WBEs. The long-term goals will be to increase the number, size, and capacity of MBE and WBE firms and for these firms to hire more minority and female workers. •



Ralph Bangs and Audrey Murrell

CLASS Notes



Lisa (Figurski) Anderson (BASW '85) has worked for Brevillier Village Housing & Healthcare in Erie, Pa., for the past 21 years. She recently was honored with the 2006 Member of the Year award at the Independent Council on Aging annual recognition luncheon. Brevillier Village is a multiphase retirement community dedicated to serving the continuing care needs of older adults.

Stanley F. Battle (PhD '80) recently was elected the 11th chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, N.C. From 2003 to the present, Battle has served as president of Coppin State University in Baltimore, Md., where he has engineered Coppin State's transition from a college to a university. Battle also has been instrumental in advancing initiatives for K–12 students, including the Coppin/Rosemont Initiative, which involved managing a public elementary school, and the Presidential Scholars/ Leadership Program. For his outstanding accomplishments, Battle was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate in 2005.

Sarah E. "Betsy" Bledsoe (MSW '01) has been named an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Much of Bledsoe's research during the past six years has focused on disparities experienced by low-income and minority women in accessing quality culturally relevant services. She plans to continue this research and develop a pilot project at UNC. Bledsoe earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tennessee and completed her PhD at Columbia University this past fall.

Thomas E. Broffman (BASW '73, MSW '74), assistant professor in the social work program at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, Conn., was honored as the 2006 Social Worker of the Year in the Field of Addictions by the Rhode Island chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Kevin Caridad (BASW '06) is a legislative assistant for Congressman Jason Altmire (D-Pa.). Altmire represents the fourth district of Pennsylvania, which includes suburbs of Pittsburgh as well as Beaver and Lawrence Counties.

Anna Cooper (MSW '58) is retired, is a member of the 1787 Society, and lives in Los Angeles, Calif., where she made a cameo appearance as a guardian angel on the hit television show *7th Heaven*!

Nelson Henning (PhD '86) is director of the Social Work Program at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, where he has been a faculty member since 1994. His interests are in the fields of chemical dependency, grief work, and family issues.

Barbara (Kramer) Shore (MSW '44, PhD '69) received the Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award at the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Pittsburgh 14th annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner in October 2006. The annual award is given to an individual or organization in recognition of an outstanding record of enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. It was founded in 1987 in honor of UCP Board Charter Member Gertrude Labowitz and her lifelong commitment to human services. Shore, who recently celebrated her 86th birthday, is professor emerita of social work. She has been a strong advocate for the disabled and a crusader for social justice in the community and within the University for nearly four decades.

Jill A. Shuey (MSW '00) was named executive director of the Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) initiative at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The COPC grant is a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant that will fund a three-year program called ReNU Niagara, a joint university/community partnership to enhance the quality of life of residents of Niagara Falls by improving the livability of distressed neighborhoods.

James Thompson III (MSW '02) has been appointed executive director of the Parental Stress Center, a Pittsburgh nonprofit that works to prevent child abuse by providing counseling, education programs, and support services to more than 2,000 families annually. A 20-year veteran of the social services sector in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Thompson most recently was vice president of program services at A Second Chance, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that provides kinship care services.

Nan Van Den Bergh (PhD '81), associate professor in the School of Social Work at Florida International University (FIU), has received a 2006–07 FIU Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. This university-wide award is based on the evaluation of more than 1,000 faculty members.

Karen Zandi (BASW '82) has been appointed executive director of Hillside Children's Center (HCC) in Rochester, N.Y. She is responsible for the management and administration of staff, services, and facilities. Since coming to HCC in 1987, Zandi has held a variety of direct care and leadership roles, including senior social worker for social work staff and interns and director of emergency services.

IN MEMORIAM

Martin Adler (MSW '56), former faculty member
Margaret Berney Mack (MSW '54)
Alexandra Manolakis Osial (MSW '91)
Harold Weissman (MSW '54)

It's Sociable



Barbara Shore
(MSW '44, PhD '69)

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

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News

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School of Social Work Speaker Series
Spring 2007



Jeanne Marsh

Knowledge Utilization in Social Work Practice
Friday, February 9
Jeanne Marsh
Dean and George Herbert Jones Professor,
University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration



Larry Gant

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Programs for Drug Dependent Persons
Wednesday, April 11
Larry Gant
Associate Professor, University of Michigan
School of Social Work

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch is provided. For more information, visit www.pitt.edu/~pittssw or call 412-624-6304.

CRSP Reed Smith
Spring 2007 Speaker Series

The Problem When Race Matters
Doris Carson Williams, African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania
Monday, January 22

Immigration and Racism in Europe: Old Prejudices, New Challenges
Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia, Center for the Study of Politics, Sciences Po, Paris
Tuesday, February 13

The Time Tax: Race and Spatial Equity in New York City
Kathryn Neckerman, Columbia University Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy
Wednesday, March 14

Poor, Young, Black, and Male: A Case for National Action
Elijah Anderson, University of Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 5

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch is provided; registration is not required.

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