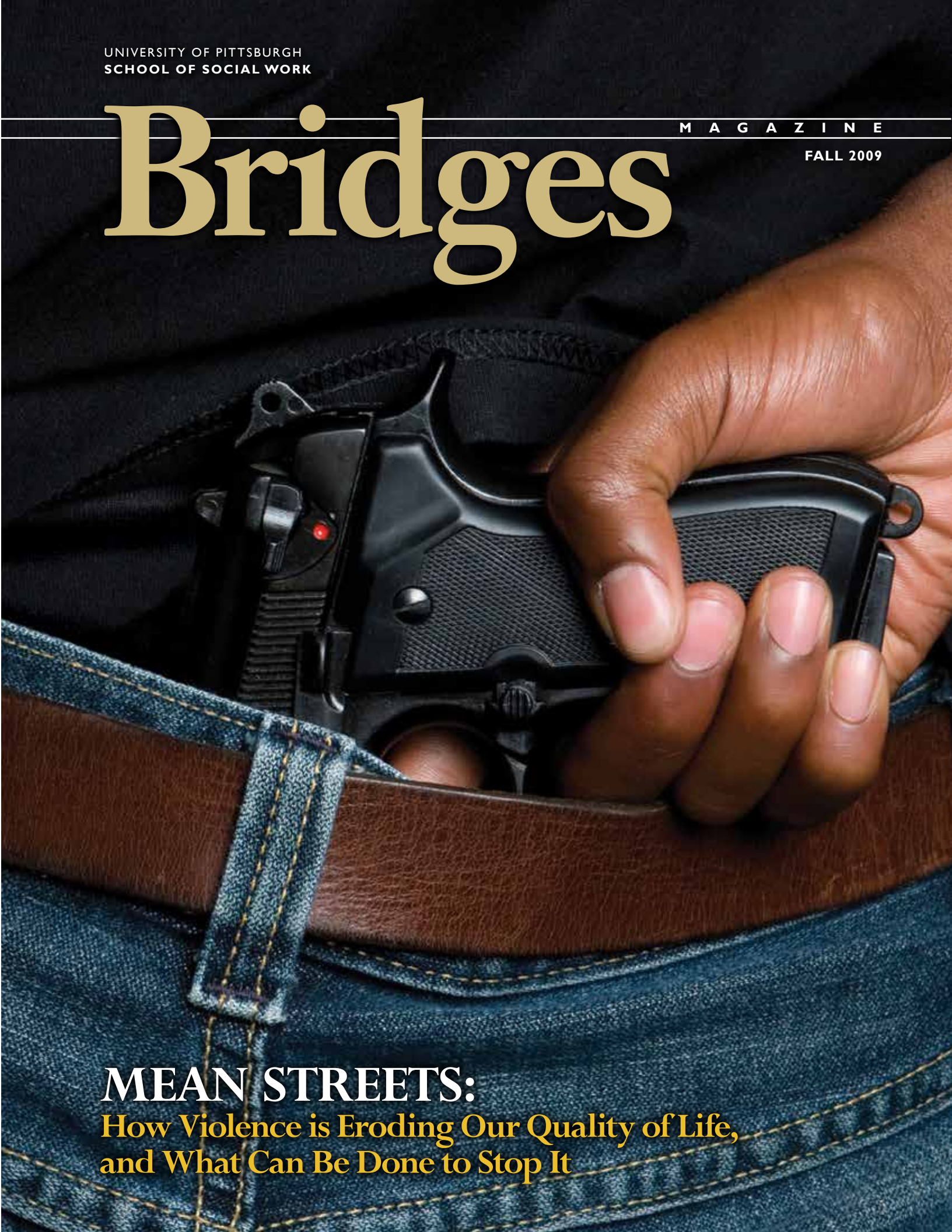
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Bridges

MAGAZINE
FALL 2009



MEAN STREETS:

How Violence is Eroding Our Quality of Life, and What Can Be Done to Stop It

Bridges



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.





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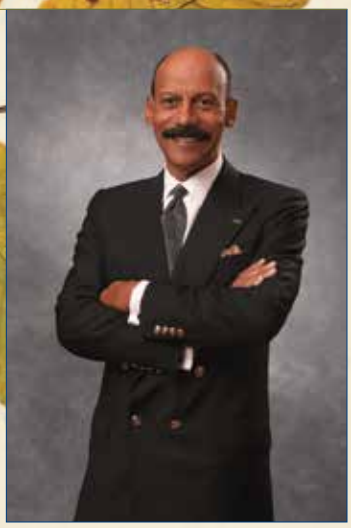
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University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work

DEAN'S Message



Greetings, alumni and friends.

It is once again fall, and the excitement that fall brings to the University of Pittsburgh is in the air. Despite having spent virtually my entire adult life on a university campus, I can think of no more exciting place to be. On behalf of the faculty and staff here at the School of Social Work, I say to our returning BASW, MSW, and PhD students: good to have you back. And to our new students, I say welcome aboard; you are about to begin a most wonderful educational experience.

Although these are demanding economic times for our country as well as for the University, our school remains on solid financial footing. Moreover, we have recruited a bumper crop of new students eager to enter the profession. Not only is this 2009 entering class large, it is geographically, racially, and ethnically diverse. The school's director of admissions and student affairs, Philip Mack, did an outstanding job this year in casting a wide net; our hats are off to him and his staff.

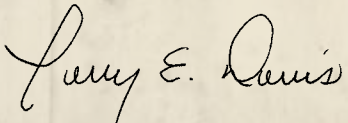
This issue of *Bridges* highlights the ubiquity of violence in our society. Violence is a social problem that knows no gender, economic, racial, cultural, or age boundaries. It can take many forms: homicide, acts of domestic violence, physical assault, rape, and even hate crimes. Millions of Americans are victims of violence each year. Indeed, some segments of our society have experienced and are experiencing magnitudes of violence that should be a cause for national attention. For example, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. And, for more than three decades, our society has witnessed the killing of almost as many African American males each year as were killed in the entire Vietnam conflict.

Daily, we see violence being played out in the families we treat and among the children we see. School violence in the form of shootings and beatings is common, and violence between the police and members of society is a daily event. In fact, even we as professional social workers are sometimes at risk of being the victims of violence at the hands of our own clients (see the cover story, page 4, and Research Update, page 22). Given the pervasiveness of violence in our society, social workers are beginning to take a more strident stand against it. We recognize it as part of our mission to try to do what we can to build protective factors into the lives of our clients and, when and where possible, to engage in intervention strategies of prevention.

We welcome one new faculty member to the school this fall: Shaun Eack. Shaun is not totally new, as he is one of our own: He completed his PhD at the School of Social Work this past spring. He was a highly sought-after doctoral candidate, and the entire University community is pleased that he has elected to join the faculty here.

We also want to welcome four new staff members. Emily Penrose-McLaughlin is the new administrative assistant in the Office of the Dean. She is the first smiling face one now sees upon entering the dean's office. We also would like to welcome Mary Ann Joyce, who is the new administrative assistant in the Office of Field Education; Courtney Colonna-Pydyn, a project coordinator working with Katie Greeno on the Mayview Discharge Study; and Rachel Winters, an evaluation coordinator for the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue of *Bridges* and that you are able to visit campus and attend one of our speaker series or other events this fall.



Larry E. Davis
Dean and
Donald M. Henderson Professor

SCHOOL News

New Faculty

Shaun M. Eack (PhD '09) was appointed assistant professor in the School of Social Work, effective September 1, 2009. His research interests include individuals with schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders. His primary focus in this area is on the development, implementation, and evaluation of psychosocial treatment methodologies for persons with schizophrenia. A predoctoral fellow with support from the National Institute of Mental Health, Eack also is interested in social work education and workforce development as they relate to the provision of care for persons with schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses.

Staff News

Linda Hilinski retired on June 30, 2009, after having served as an administrative assistant in the Office of the Dean for eight and a half years. **Emily Penrose-McLaughlin** was hired as the new administrative assistant, effective July 13, 2009.

Mary Ann Joyce was hired as the new administrative assistant in the Office of Field Education, effective August 17, 2009.

Courtney Colonna-Pydyn is a project coordinator for Catherine Greeno's Mayview Discharge Study, and **Rachel Winters** is an evaluation coordinator for the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs.

BASW Program Update

Throughout the past year, the BASW program has undergone a review and revision of its curriculum in preparation for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

A new course on case management and service coordination has been developed and is scheduled to launch in the spring of 2010. This course is considered to be part of a sequence that the undergraduate program is developing in response to community need. For the past academic year, **Gayle Mallinger**, BASW program director, has participated on the Single Point of Accountability Workforce Committee, a group dedicated to better meeting the needs of people with special mental health concerns and those who work with this population.

In addition, Mallinger has been working closely with William Miller, dean of humanities and social sciences at Butler County Community College. As a result of their collaboration, the college will be offering two sections of Introduction to Social Work during fall semester 2009.

MSW Program Update

The MSW program welcomes a new faculty member, Shaun M. Eack, who will teach in both the BASW and MSW programs. His research and experience in behavioral health will continue to strengthen the direct practice faculty.

MSW faculty are actively engaged in examining the curriculum in preparation for the CSWE reaccreditation.

Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) concentration faculty have reinvented a former course, now called Organizing for Community Change. This corresponds with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the first COSA graduating class in April 2010.

PhD Program Update

The culmination of the PhD program's 60th anniversary reunion celebration is only a short time away, October 16 and 17, 2009, and faculty and staff are excited to reconnect with doctoral alumni who will descend upon the University from all over the country to join in the celebration.

During the past 18 months, the 60th anniversary committee has worked tirelessly to plan the reunion weekend—with something for everyone—to help celebrate this milestone in the School of Social Work's history. A panel of alumni will discuss how doctoral education in social work has evolved during the past 60 years as well as make predictions about the future. Recent graduates and doctoral candidates will display their current research. If you have not received information, please let us know; there is still time to return to the Cathedral of Learning.

Board of Visitors Meeting

The Board of Visitors meeting, which included both a dinner and a business meeting, was held May 4 and 5, 2009. Several students attended the dinner and discussed their experiences in the school and their plans for after graduation with members of the board.



Board of Visitors members (front row, left to right): Estelle Comay, Joy Starzl (MSW '97), and Paula Allen-Meares; (back row, left to right): Alan Momeyer (MSW '72), Eric Springer, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Andrew Blair, and Dean Larry E. Davis

Executive Council Meeting



A meeting of the Executive Council was held on April 2, 2009. The Executive Council is cochaired by Dean **Larry E. Davis** and Donald Goughler, president and CEO of Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, and is composed of agency executives throughout the city and region.

News from the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs

The Child Welfare Education and Research Programs anticipate approximately 300 participants in the undergraduate and graduate education programs for the 2009–10 year. The Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) and Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) programs are administered by the University of Pittsburgh and offer degree programs with a child welfare focus at 16 schools of social work throughout Pennsylvania. To date, 721 students have graduated from CWEL, and 657 students have graduated from CWEB. In addition, the Child Welfare Training Program provides training, technical assistance, program evaluation, and support for best practices in child welfare to the staff and administrators of the 67 county children and youth agencies throughout Pennsylvania.

The annual Pennsylvania Independent Living Youth Retreat was held July 13–17, 2009, at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The theme for the 2009 retreat was Determine, Realize, Educate, Achieve, Motivate (DREAM), and the major objectives were to provide youth leadership development and enhanced transition skills for youths who are or who have been in substitute care or who were adopted after age 16. Nearly 140 youths and 90 staff members from every region in the state were in attendance. Large group sessions and small group classes encouraged youths to set goals and find a way to achieve them by developing a plan for their future, to explore educational and career options, to make connections to others, and to find a philosophy to guide their lives. DREAM was cosponsored by the Office of Children, Youth and Families of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and the School of Social Work.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

"Reintegrating Social Justice Activism into Practice and Education"
September 23, 2009
David G. Gil, professor of social policy, Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management

"Uniting the Social Work Profession"
November 17, 2009
Jenna Mehnert, executive director, National Association of Social Workers-Pennsylvania Chapter

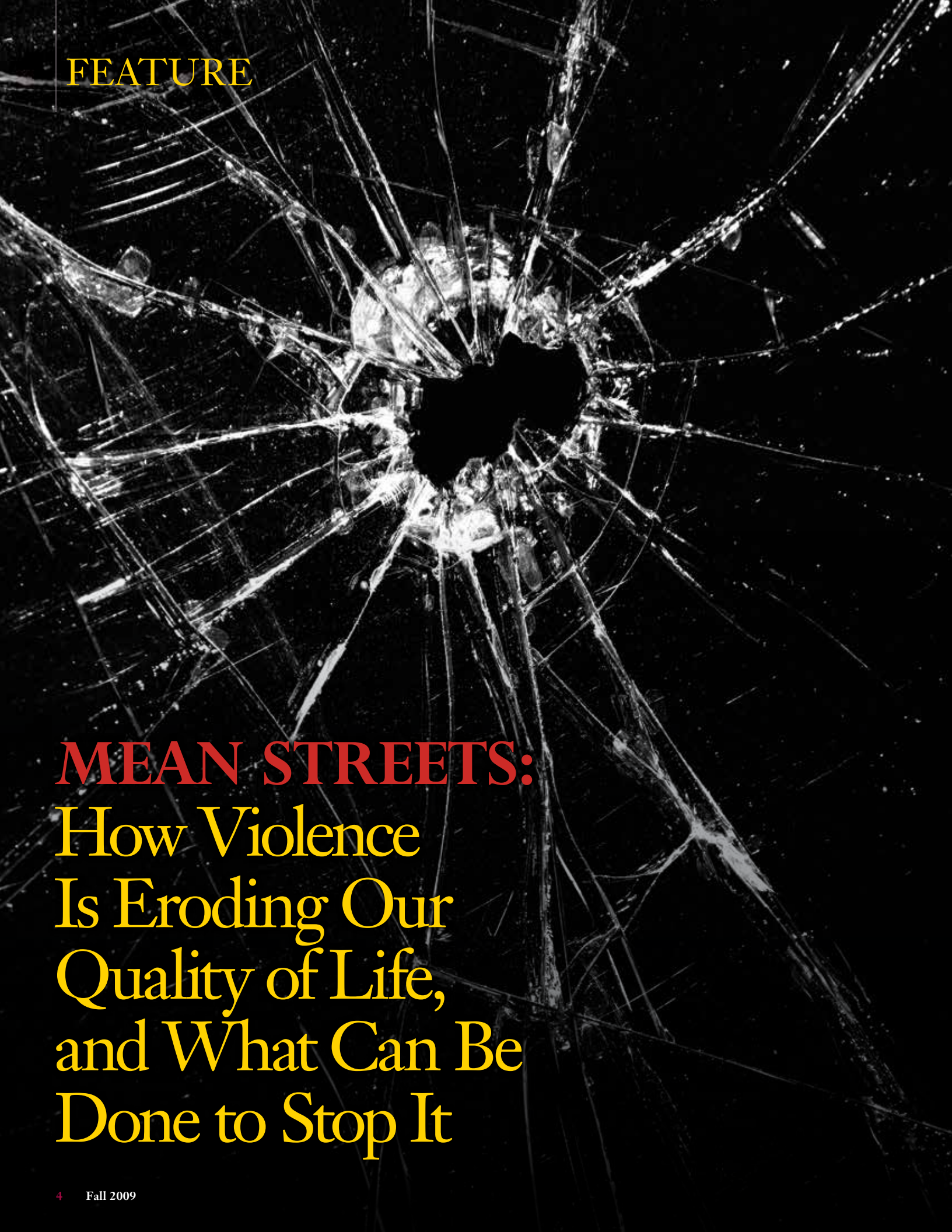
CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FALL 2009 SPEAKER SERIES

"Examining Five Prominent Explanations for the Black/White School Achievement Gap"
Wednesday, September 30
Gary L. St. C. Oates, associate professor of sociology, Bowling Green State University

"The Youth Gang Problem: A Comprehensive Community-wide Approach"
Thursday, October 29
Irving A. Spergel, professor emeritus, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

"Despite the Best Intentions: Why Racial Inequality Persists in Good Schools"
Thursday, November 19
Amanda E. Lewis, associate professor of sociology, Emory University

"Race, Ethnicity, and College Student Development: From Theory to Practice"
Monday, December 7
Kathy W. Humphrey, vice provost and dean of students, University of Pittsburgh



MEAN STREETS: How Violence Is Eroding Our Quality of Life, and What Can Be Done to Stop It

The body count in a summer blockbuster movie piles up in the hundreds. On the video game screen, points accumulate when characters kill and maim. In the headlines are stories about soldiers dying in the Middle East, while back at home, even celebrities are not immune to murder-suicide.

Could it then be just a coincidence that on the streets of America, levels of violence are creeping to an all-time high?

T. Rashad Byrdsong doesn't think so.

He needs only to walk the streets of a depressed Pittsburgh neighborhood to find deteriorating houses. Where no grocery stores will open, liquor stores and bars stand in their place. Urban blight is the norm, not the exception.

"That's violence, too," says Byrdsong, founder and executive director of Pittsburgh's Community Empowerment Association, Inc. "People internalize this, because there are no healthy social, cultural, or educational outlets. Do we really respect humanity? Do we really respect nature? You have to begin to look at that."

More than a simple collection of homicide statistics, violence is a complex problem that touches virtually every aspect of American culture, from the school yard bully to global public policy. For the social worker, it is a very real—and increasingly troublesome—issue. Social workers often are the people who handle the aftermath of violence—in shelters for battered women, foster homes for children, or the emergency rooms of hospitals. In some cases, they become victims themselves.

"Social work has a very important role [to play in reducing violence]. We are best trained in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation, more so than a clinical psychologist or somebody in the health areas," explains Hide Yamatani, associate dean for research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and an expert in violence prevention strategies. "Social work is one of the few professions that works directly with destitute families, afflicted communities, and all racial groups."



"I tell the guys I work with, 'You've been responsible for tearing down the community. Now you can build it back up.' "

— Richard Garland (MSW '96)
Founder, One Vision One Life

A Public Health Approach

The problem, according to Yamatani and other sources, is that social work—while having a proven impact on reducing violence in communities—frequently lacks the resources to do so. Rather, most public funding is spent on increasing law enforcement, an approach that does not result in decreased violence, contrary to popular belief.

"What works is prevention," says Yamatani. "We know, based on research since the 1970s, that the aggressive criminal justice plan never works. In fact, if you look at the rate of violence against individuals today, especially against minority members, it's higher than ever."

Yamatani is concerned that policymakers are loath to spend more money on the "public health approach"—which includes attention to social services—because voters perceive it as being too soft.

" 'Human service' sounds like you're being kind to people the public thinks are not deserving [through] things like after-school programs or truancy prevention services and so forth," says Yamatani. The public "would rather see violent kids just locked up in jail forever, and that's why politicians are in a very difficult place."

For their part, Byrdsong and Yamatani are working to change the status quo through a policy recommendation advocating the social services approach. In the summer of 2009, the two presented a paper to City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County leaders in an effort to demonstrate solutions that they say approach the problem of violence holistically and, therefore, with greater chance of success.

Among their recommendations were the development of a think tank to discuss best practices for youth leadership; intensive case management for conflict resolution; more focused efforts toward drug rehabilitation, because drug use and trafficking escalate violence; laws that promote development of social support networks, particularly for ex-criminals; better family support systems; improved mental health services; and a process that includes town hall-style meetings to encourage neighborhood reinvestment and revitalization.

Byrdsong also suggests development of an interdisciplinary commission for the prevention of violence—created in partnership with community-based organizations—that can discuss intervention strategies that work.

"Violence is preventable," explains Byrdsong. "It's a learned behavior. We have to get young people to unlearn the behavior."

Continued on next page

Back to the Streets

To Richard Garland, or "the dude with the dreads," as he's known to those he serves, lack of dialogue with communities affected by violence is a key reason why prior initiatives have failed.

Garland is the founder of One Vision One Life, which works under the auspices of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to reduce or eliminate violence.

He was late in realizing his calling. Garland was a gang leader in Philadelphia, serving a total of 23 years in jail for his crimes. At the end of his last 12½-year stint, a condition of his parole was that he leave Philadelphia. He arrived in Pittsburgh in 1991 and told his life story to kids in the public schools.

"I always had a thing for kids," recalls Garland, whose job in jail was taking pictures in the visiting room of children who were there to see incarcerated parents.

He attended the School of Social Work, earning his MSW in 1996, and was hired by a drug and alcohol agency to go into the city's neighborhoods. Instinctively, people trusted him, because they knew he understood their situation: He'd been there himself. "The kids would say, 'Go get the dude with the dreads,' " Garland recalls.

They also listened to what he had to say. He managed to broker a citywide gang truce in 1994 and went on to become director of YouthWorks Inc. three years later.

"I've been able to go to the people who are part of the problem and make them part of the solution," says Garland. "I tell the guys I work with, 'You've been responsible for tearing down the community. Now you can build it back up.' "

What's often missing from violence prevention tactics, he says, is outreach to the community in a way that inspires people to contribute.

"[These tactics are] not engaging people who are the participants. And we haven't engaged parents in the way that they really want to come to the table," says Garland. "The community has to come together—not just one segment of the community, the whole community. It takes a whole community to raise a child. Everybody has to really embrace that."

'If I Grow Up'

Just as Byrdsong is not shy about pointing out ways in which society has failed blighted neighborhoods, Garland is willing to hold people affected by violence accountable for their behavior. For example, he points to parents who do not discipline children who are caught breaking the law, but rather go on the attack against the accuser.

Garland has trouble getting parents to meet with him so their children can attend basketball camp, and he cites teachers who have difficulty enticing parents to come to school conferences.

"I can get a parent when their kid is killed, or the kid goes to jail, or they need somebody to talk to a judge or a probation officer," he says. "I say we have to live our prayer. Everybody wants to cut corners; everyone wants a quick fix. But it didn't get this way overnight."

He also believes politicians tread too lightly in addressing issues of violence for fear of being perceived as racist.

"If you're talking about what's right, and you're telling the truth, I don't look at you as a racist," he says. "Folks don't keep it real. This isn't just an African American problem. It's going on in the suburbs."

Domestic violence is another driver, he says: Children will imitate what they see.

Rachel Fusco, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, backs up with her research what Garland knows intuitively.

"It's very recently that we've acknowledged that children are exposed to violence in the home," she says. "For so long, it seemed that professionals—even parents—were willing to accept that children had no idea this was going on."

> **"We need to work with children to help them to feel safe, to feel like they have some power in their lives."**
>
> **— Rachel Fusco**
> Assistant professor,
> School of Social Work

Nothing could be further from the truth, she says. The violence doesn't even have to be physical to have an effect.

"Children are learning how to be adults, and how to be in relationships, from their caregivers—from their parents," she says. "Growing up in a home where there is a lot of name-calling or things that don't get to the point of physical harm but create an atmosphere that feels very frightening and repressive … affects them socially, emotionally, cognitively."

As with other forms of violence, social workers have an important role to play in addressing the problem, Fusco says. The biggest challenge is identifying children from violent homes, as no agency is really charged with the task "and police aren't necessarily trained to assess what the children might be experiencing," she says.

Fusco recommends routine screenings in places such as pediatricians' offices or even dentists' offices—nonthreatening settings where a lot of children are seen by health care professionals.

"We need to work with children to help them feel safe, to feel like they have some power in their lives," says Fusco.

Continued on page 9





She recalls how, while working in a battered women's shelter in Austin, Texas, a child told her, "If I grow up, I want to be a fireman."

The child had seen gang warfare and people dying, explains Fusco.

"To hear a 7-year-old say, 'If I get to be an adult'—that should not happen."

Violence on the Job

For social workers, systemic red tape and lack of community involvement aren't the only obstacles in fighting violence. For an alarming number of practitioners, the most pressing problem is the violence they personally face on the job.

"The risks are significant, and I think the biggest problem has been denial, the unwillingness of many agencies to recognize the risk," says Christina Newhill, an associate professor in the School of Social Work who has published a book about violence against social workers. "It's a huge issue, but it's like the white elephant in the room."

Newhill thinks some of that reluctance on the part of social service agencies stems from the misconception that if violence against social workers is discussed, it will discourage people from entering the profession.

"That's not true," she says. "We talk about how to prevent violence and how to keep yourself safe."

Moreover, precautions help clients, both by providing a safe environment in which they receive much-needed assistance and by preventing volatile clients from being labeled as violent, which results in many services being closed to them.

Several preventive measures are free or inexpensive to implement, such as code words for staff that signal a receptionist to call for security or better assessments that capture social and environmental factors that could help to identify clients who are at risk for violent behavior.

If that potential is identified, the clinician or agency can construct services that track and pick up on triggers, helping to defuse them before an incident occurs.

That kind of training already is available to MSW students at the University of Pittsburgh who do not have advanced academic standing, meaning a bachelor's degree in social work. Good clinical skills are crucial in working with angry or aggressive clients, notes Newhill. Social workers need to know how to calm them down, talk about what's upsetting them, and resolve the situation.

'Get On With It'

The holistic public health approach that Yamatani and Byrdsong propose is daunting, but they do not believe it is impossible.

Yamatani identifies community leaders like Byrdsong as critical to the success of any strategy. And for his part, Byrdsong is convinced that improving people's lives will have a positive effect on violent crime.

"The social conditions that a lot of young people live in oftentimes perpetuate and incubate the type of behavior we see in our community today," Byrdsong says.

Increasing a tax base, creating better-functioning schools, and other systemic solutions will help to get to the root of the problem, he says.

"The communities are ready; they're waiting," says Yamatani. "Violence is killing more African Americans than [there are people being killed in the conflicts in] Iraq and Afghanistan. It's the biggest killer of African American young people. We've been ignoring this issue for too long. We have to get on with it."



How Violent Are We?

The following statistics for violent crime in Pittsburgh were provided by One Vision One Life *(rate per 100,000 people):*

Homicides

2003: 20.6
2004: 13.4
2005: 18.2

Aggravated Assaults with a Gun *(Deaths)*

2003: 173.1
2004: 199.4
2005: 185

Aggravated Assaults with a Gun *(Injuries)*

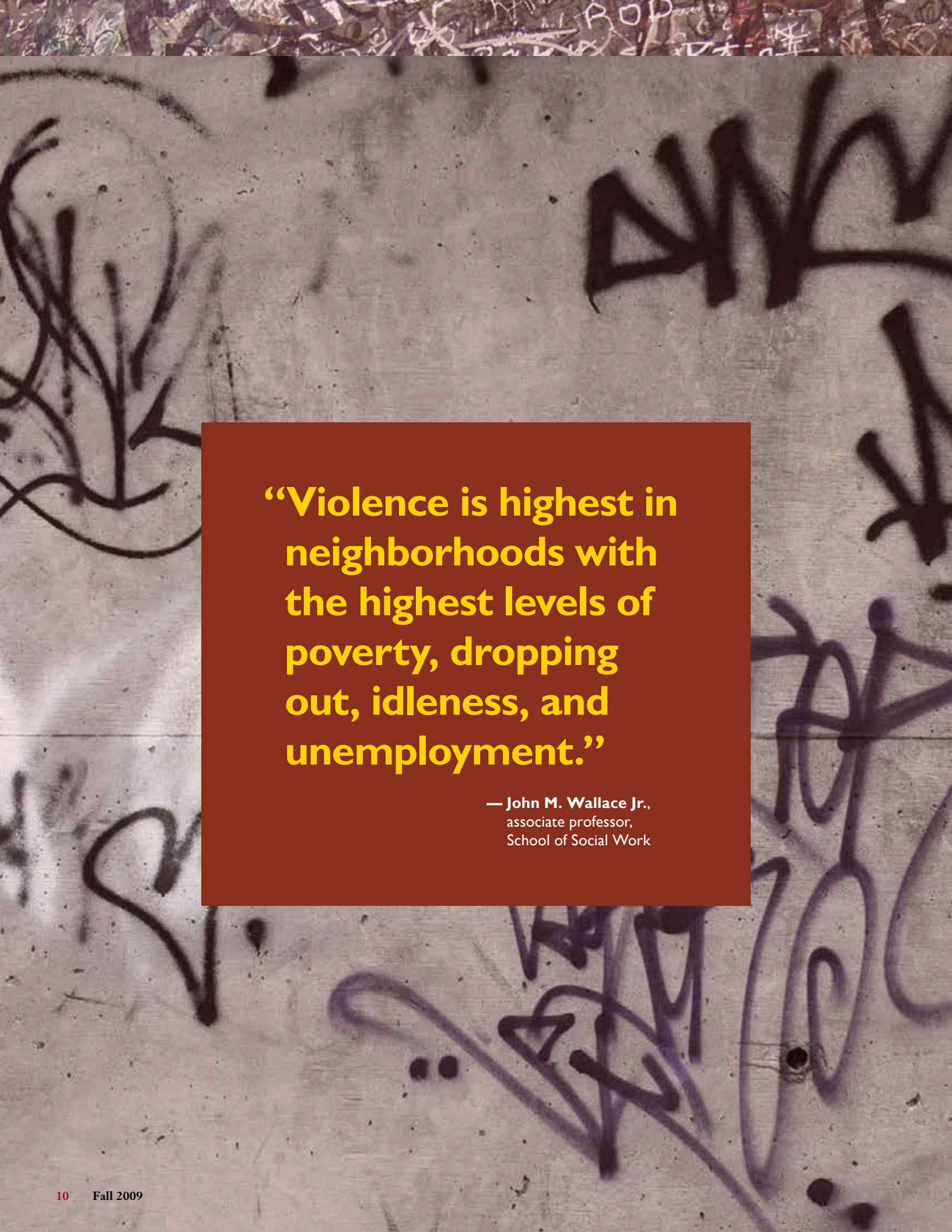
2003: 64.9
2004: 65.2
2005: 75.6

Drive-by Shootings

2003: 11.1
2004: 16.7
2005: 17.3

Totals

2003: 193.7
2004: 212.2
2005: 202.7



"Violence is highest in neighborhoods with the highest levels of poverty, dropping out, idleness, and unemployment."

— **John M. Wallace Jr.**, associate professor, School of Social Work

Safer Streets:

Wallace Lends Expertise to Help Reduce Violence in Pittsburgh



John M. Wallace Jr.

On July 24, 2008, the School of Social Work's Center on Race and Social Problems hosted the last of its four Summer Institutes, funded by The Pittsburgh Foundation and aimed at educators, community leaders, social workers, and others. The Race and Youth Violence Summer Institute brought to campus national expert David Kennedy, professor and director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York; representing the city of Pittsburgh, Frederick Thieman, president of the Buhl Foundation and cochair of the Pittsburgh Youth Futures Commission; and, on behalf of the University, John M. Wallace Jr., associate professor in the School of Social Work, and Michael A. Yonas, assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine. The partnerships that emerged from this daylong discussion of youth violence were relevant to Wallace and Yonas' recent research project, An Environmental Scan of Youth Violence Prevention Programs in Selected Allegheny County Communities, and served as a catalyst for their new project, the evaluation of the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC).

With funding from the United Way of Allegheny County, and as directed by the Youth Futures Commission, the purpose of the environmental scan was to assess the presence, content, and capacity of programs that address youth violence in two City of Pittsburgh and two Allegheny County neighborhoods. These four neighborhoods—Homewood and the North Side in Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg and Braddock/Rankin in Allegheny County—were identified as being at high risk for youth violence but also well positioned to initiate a community mobilization strategy to address the problem.

The scan identified 62 programs in the four communities that offered programs related to youth, violence, and/or prevention. Of the 62 programs, half (31) were after-school programs. Eleven (18 percent) of the 62 programs explicitly focused on violence as their primary mission, and only three (5 percent) of the programs used a specific evidence-based model.

"Violence is highest in neighborhoods with the highest levels of poverty, dropping out, idleness, and unemployment," Wallace says. "That being the case, efforts to prevent violence are going to have to mobilize the entire community, not just to address violence, but to meet the social, educational, health, and mental health needs of young people and their families."

Modeled after Kennedy's initiative, which has significantly reduced gun violence in Boston, Mass.; Chicago, Ill.; and other major cities, PIRC is a citywide violence intervention strategy sponsored by Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and City Council Member Ricky V. Burgess. Rather than focusing on individuals, PIRC will target the groups of individuals who are known to be responsible for much of the violence in Pittsburgh. The initiative will coordinate law enforcement, social services, and community members to send the message that violence will not be tolerated and that offenders and their networks have a choice to stop the violence and receive help to leave the life of crime or suffer the consequences of their behaviors. These consequences include guaranteed prosecution for the individuals who perpetrate acts of violence and prosecution for violent and nonviolent crimes committed by members of their social networks.

Wallace and Yonas will evaluate the implementation and outcomes of PIRC. If successful, Wallace says, "PIRC could have a significant impact on the well-being of people who live in the city's most violent communities and on Pittsburgh as a whole."

DEVELOPMENT and ALUMNI News

Distinguished Alumni Awards

The School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Awards Selection Committee is pleased to announce the honorees for 2009:



Michael J. Holosko and Kenneth S. Ramsey

Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Social Work Education

Michael J. Holosko (PhD '79)

Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to/Career in Social Work Practice

Kenneth S. Ramsey (PhD '84)

Holosko and Ramsey received their awards at the School of Social Work Afternoon of Recognition on April 26, 2009.

Biographies



Michael J. Holosko

Michael J. Holosko (PhD '79) is the Pauline M. Berger Professor of Family and Child Welfare at the University of Georgia School of Social Work and an adjunct instructor at Norfolk State University. He has taught in schools of social work (primarily), nursing, public administration, and applied social science in Canada, the United States, Hong Kong, Australia, Sweden, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He currently is the external examiner to the applied social studies at City University of Hong Kong. He has published mumerous monographs, chapters, articles, and texts in the areas of evaluation, health care, gerontology, social policy, research methods, music intervention, and spirituality. For the past 30 years, he has been a consultant to a variety of large and small health and human service organizations in the areas of program evaluation, outcomes, accreditation, organizational development, communication, leadership, visioning, organizational alignment, and stress management. He serves on the editorial boards of *Research on Social Work Practice*; *Social Work in Public Health*; *Stress, Trauma, and Crisis: An International Journal*; the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*; the *Hong Kong Journal of Social Work*; the *Journal of Social Service Research*; and the *Journal of Evidence-based Social Work*. For many years, he has had both radio and television shows advocating for vulnerable populations and social justice in North America.



Kenneth S. Ramsey

Kenneth S. Ramsey (PhD '84) has been employed by organizations that provide alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services for the past 41 years. During this period, he has directed hospital-based and freestanding chemical dependency and behavioral health programs. He currently is president and chief executive officer of Gateway Rehabilitation Center near Pittsburgh. Under his leadership, Gateway has grown from a single-site 28-day program with 39 staff members to an internationally known drug and alcohol treatment facility, currently with 600 staff members in 25 locations throughout Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Gateway system of services treats nearly 1,700 people per day. Ramsey is a member of a number of Pittsburgh-area community Boards of Directors, including the United Way of Beaver County and the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce. He is active with his church, where he recently helped to develop a biblically based 12-step ministry. In addition, he is active on the boards of a number of professional state and national organizations, including the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association and the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP). He recently was appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Drug and Alcohol Advisory Council. Ramsey was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Wheeling Jesuit University, has been named Administrator of the Year by NAATP, and received a Health Care Hero Executive Award from the *Pittsburgh Business Times* in 2005. He has published articles on addiction and management and presented papers on such topics as ethics, administration, management, planning, fundraising, change, and the dual integration of chemical dependency and mental health services.

For more information on nominating an alumnus for a Distinguished Alumni Award, please contact Keith Caldwell, director of career services and alumni affairs, at 412-648-9441 or kjc45@pitt.edu.

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

Q&A with Stephanie L. Walsh

Stephanie Walsh (MSW '77) has worked in social services and nonprofit management for more than 30 years, having dedicated her career to helping those impacted by abuse and violence. She has served as clinical and operational director for a variety of programs, including emergency shelter and community-based residential care for adolescents, in-home family therapy, and family-based mental health services. She has been with the Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (CVVC) since 1997, first as associate director and then, since December 2001, as executive director. She also is a past president of the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations; is a current board member of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape; and has served on numerous local and statewide coalitions, committees, and projects.

Please tell us a little about the work you do with the Center for Victims of Violence and Crime.

"We stress the importance of early intervention in working with victims. Currently, our utilization is up significantly. Are there more incidents? [Are there] more incidents being reported? Do more people know we are here to help? The answer is a combination of all three of those factors. We see the issue of violence as a public health issue, and the research supports this. Unresolved trauma robs people of their full potential and of positive options. This is where we see the cycle of abuse, the cycle of violence, where a person is at a higher risk of exposure to violence either as a victim again or an offender. We see this often in the juvenile courts, where a 12-year-old victim is connected with a 14- or 15-year-old offender. A few years later, you may see that victim back at the age of 15, in court now as the offender. We focus strongly on this area of recovery work, healing work, of secondary prevention."



Stephanie L. Walsh (MSW '77)

What made you choose the MSW program at the University of Pittsburgh?

"I completed my undergraduate studies at West Virginia Wesleyan [College] and came back to Pittsburgh to work at the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. It was a real eye opener. The first time I saw a physical fight was during my time there. I started to make connections between these kids' backgrounds and understanding that these things didn't happen in a vacuum; these were not 'defective' kids. I was there for two years and then enrolled in the MSW program. I chose social work specifically for the social justice component. I was raised in a family where the rights of working men and women were championed, where no group was better than another group. The message I got was 'everyone deserves equal rights.' My instructors at Pitt really reinforced this as well; I remember Grady Roberts [Jr.] (MSW '65), George McClomb (MSW '65), and Barbara Shore (MSW '44, PhD '69, PhD '71) bringing a great deal to my time in the MSW program. Dr. Shore was also instrumental in the development of CVVC, serving on the early board. I did my first field placement at the Mon Yough Community Services base service unit, where I received superb training as a child therapist from two fellow alumni, Stanley Barbrow (MSW '74) and Richard Norwood (MSW '64). I completed my second placement at Auberle as a group worker and also maintained a part-time job at the forensic unit at Mayview State Hospital. I then began my post-MSW work with [what was then] Allegheny County's Office of Children and Youth Services and then spent 13 years with Alternative Program Associates."

"The work we do as social workers, healing and helping, peacemaking and community building, provides for a better world for all."

How does your training as a social worker support what you do today?

"The thing I love about victims' services is that we are not far from our social work roots and yet we utilize the sophistication of current brain research and trauma-informed care. It is a wonderful snapshot of all the modern strategies, techniques, and technology with the core social work values. It is a wonderful combination of 'high touch and high tech.' My training as a social worker and experience on the front lines serve me well as executive director [of CVVC]. I could not do it any other way. The work we do as social workers, healing and helping, peacemaking and community building, provides for a better world for all. Social workers can play a critical role in changing the perceptions of society and creating conditions that help us all to reach our full potential."

Donor Spotlight: Nan Van Den Bergh

Nan Van Den Bergh (PhD '81) wants to be in the driver's seat when it comes to determining how her assets will be used and by whom. This is why she has included an organization she values highly, the School of Social Work, in her will. Her generosity will positively impact the students of tomorrow.

"This kind of gift just made sense," says Van Den Bergh. "I want to assist individuals who may not have the financial resources to earn a social work degree. Alumni should think about including the school in their wills even if they have children, because we are all members of the Pitt family. The 'we are family' connection endures beyond graduation. I attend a lot of social work education conferences, and the Pitt School of Social Work is always there, warmly welcoming me as an alumna."

"The 'we are family' connection endures beyond graduation."

Van Den Bergh's contributions to social work are significant. An associate professor at Florida International University's Robert Stempel School of Public Health and Social Work, she has been involved with social work education for more than 28 years, having served on the faculty of BASW and MSW programs as well as director of MSW and PhD programs. She has won several teaching excellence awards, including being selected as the 1997 Pitt School of Social Work Outstanding Alumna in Education.

In addition to her career in social work education, Van Den Bergh has more than 28 years of experience in the field of mental health working with clients in a diverse range of settings, including inpatient psychiatric hospitals, outpatient clinics, and employee assistance programs, and as a private practitioner. Van Den Bergh's choice of occupational social work as a practice specialty—with its forward-looking emphasis on social services in the workplace—is a direct result of her time at Pitt. Her experiences within this field of practice have ranged from assisting farmers and farm workers to administering the employee assistance program at the University of California, Los Angeles, that served 16,000 faculty and staff members. Most recently, Van Den Bergh's community-oriented practice has focused on the development of innovative breast cancer prevention education programs for high-risk females.

In her career as an educator/practitioner, Van Den Bergh has exercised the range of social work practice roles as a community organizer, administrator, researcher, and licensed clinical social worker. She learned about wearing many hats and the value of giving back from the social work doctoral faculty at Pitt.



Nan Van Den Bergh

Like Van Den Bergh, please consider including a bequest for the School of Social Work. Simply add a codicil to your will that indicates you want to bequeath the residue of, a percentage of, a specific dollar amount of, or a piece of property from your estate. Will you please let us know of your plans so we can help to ensure your future gift will be used in accordance with your wishes? Contact Liz Cooper, director of constituent relations, at elizabeth.cooper@ia.pitt.edu or 412-624-8239.

Note from the Director of Alumni Affairs

This has been an exciting time for the School of Social Work Alumni Society. We have grown during the past year, having coordinated activities around homecoming, commencement, and professional networking. The coming year promises an even larger presence, featuring opportunities for alumni to reconnect with classmates, favorite professors, and current students.



The society's Executive Committee saw a change in leadership, as Bob Schachter (MSW '66) completed his term as president and was succeeded by Petrina Sichak (MSW '07). Under Bob's leadership, the alumni society went through a critical restructuring phase, enabling it to engage more alumni through volunteer activities and events. His dedication to the school is greatly appreciated.

We are excited to roll out two new initiatives: the Alumni Recruitment Committee and the Social Committee.

The Alumni Recruitment Committee will call upon alumni leaders from across the nation to support the recruitment of the best and brightest to the School of Social Work. Our school boasts a top-ranked program—the Gourman Report recently ranked us eighth in the nation and *U.S. News & World Report* ranked us 14th among graduate schools of social work in 2008—and alumni will have the chance to share this news with prospective students at graduate school fairs and other events.

The Social Committee will be working to strengthen the connections among our more than 9,000 alumni through casual social activities to help social workers to network and enjoy time with their colleagues and fellow alumni.

Keep an eye out for e-mail blasts, mailings, and updates to the Web site. We hope to see you at future alumni society events; in the meantime, keep us updated on all of your accomplishments by submitting a class note.

Hail to Pitt!

Keith J. Caldwell (MSW '02)
Lecturer and Director of Career Services and Alumni Affairs

Message from the Director of Constituent Relations

Thank you for your support of the School of Social Work. The fact that our country is in the midst of the worst economic downturn in years did not deter the 628 donors who gave to the school this past fiscal year. This is a testament to the dedication of our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends and their commitment to our educational objectives.

As you know, every gift to the school goes toward 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 $1.383 billion in gifts and pledges. As we move into the 2009–10 school year, I hope you will consider making a gift to the School of Social Work and in support of the University's campaign.

Now making a gift to the school is even easier. Just visit the School of Social Work Web site, www.socialwork.pitt.edu, and click on the "Donate" button at the top. You can designate your gift to a specific fund or area within the School of Social Work or for unrestricted support.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please call me at 412-624-8239 or e-mail me at elizabeth.cooper@ia.pitt.edu.

Gratefully,

Elizabeth B. Cooper

Elizabeth B. Cooper
Director of Constituent Relations

ROOTS of HISTORY

Downsizing?

Need more space?

Want help to save your collectables for the future?

Help preserve the history of the School of Social Work!

The School of Social Work and the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center are seeking contributions to help document the school's history.

You can "liberate history" from your attic; closets; file cabinets; dresser drawers; bookshelves; garage; basement; or wherever you store keepsakes, memories, souvenirs, and treasures.

Of value to the collection are correspondence, meeting minutes, brochures, event programs, faculty papers, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs of identified persons and events, and any other items associated with the school's history.

For more information or to arrange a donation, please contact Professor Emeritus Edward W. Sites at 412-731-5298 or esites@pitt.edu.



We want you!

The School of Social Work is seeking alumni who may be interested in becoming field instructors for our students. BASW and MSW interns provide more than 300,000 hours of service to agencies and organizations like yours every year. Being a mentor is a very rewarding experience, giving you a hand in educating and preparing the next generation of social workers for service.

If you are interested in becoming a field instructor, please visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu/academic-programs/field-education.

Student Accomplishments

Doctoral Student Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS

Amanda E. Hunsaker, with J.H. Lingler, R. Schulz, L. Martire, M.A. Dew, and M. Greene, "Feasibility of a Patient-driven Approach to Recruiting Older Adults, Caregivers, and Clinicians for Provider-Patient Communication Research," *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners* (in press).

Hunsaker, with V.L. Phillips and D.Y. Roberts, "Certified Nursing Aides' and Care Assistants' Views on Falls: Insight for Creation and Implementation of Fall Prevention Programs," *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 9(3), 168–72, 2008.

Hanae Kanno, with C.E. Newhill, "Social Workers and Battered Women: The Need to Study Client Violence in the Domestic Violence Field," *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 18(1), 46–63, 2009.

Kanno, "Predictive Factors of Secondary Traumatic Stress for Social Workers," *Perspectives on Social Work*, 7(1), 25–9, 2008.

Karen Kolivoski, with J.J. Shook, M.G. Vaughn, C. Litschge, and L. Schelbe, "The Importance of Friends among Foster Youth Aging Out of Care: Cluster Profiles of Deviant Peer Affiliations," *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31(2), 284–91, 2009.

Kolivoski, with J.J. Shook and R.C. Sarri, "How Much Time? Punishing Young Offenders in Adult Prisons," *Crime & Delinquency* (in press).

Tammy Thomas, with C.L. McAllister, P.C. Wilson, and B.L. Green, "Root Shock Revisited: Perspectives of Early Head Start Mothers on Community and Policy Environments and Their Effects on Child Health, Development, and School Readiness," *American Journal of Public Health*, 99(2), 205–10, 2009.

Thomas, with S.C. Quinn and S. Kumar, "The Anthrax Vaccine and Research: Reactions from Postal Workers and Public Health Professionals," *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science*, 6(4), 321–34, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

Eun Hee Choi, with F. Tang, "Turnover among Older Volunteers," Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Choi, "The Effect of the Senior Citizen Employment Program in Korea on Well-being," Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Md., November 2008.

Choi, "Introduction of the Senior Employment Program in Korea," University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging Annual Research Day, Pittsburgh, Pa., December 2008.

Amanda E. Hunsaker, with K.L. Schmidt, J.H. Lingler, and R. Schulz, "Verbal Participation by Physicians, Patients with Alzheimer's Disease, and Their Caregivers during Primary Care Visits," GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Md., November 2008.

Hyunzee Jung, "An Examination of the Validity of the Traditional Egalitarian Sex Role (TESR) Scale: Confirmatory Factor Analyses"; with H. Yamatani, "Recidivism, Race, and Reentry Services among Local Jail Inmates"; and, with H. Kanno, "Racial Differences on Psychological Well-being of Never-Married and Divorced/Separated Women: Is Self-Esteem a Key Psychosocial Resource?" SSWR Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Jung, "Two Essentials in Reentry Services for Offenders' Successful Reintegration into Communities," Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008.

Hanae Kanno, "The Need for National Training on Elder Abuse," Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging and National Council on Aging, Las Vegas, Nev., March 2009.

Kanno, "MSW Students' Satisfaction with Their Field Placement: A Model Testing the Role of Preparedness, Supervision Quality, Perceived Efficacy, and Emotional Strain," CSWE Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008, and Alabama/Mississippi Social Work Education Conference at Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., October 2008.

Kanno, "National Elder Abuse Prevention Program in Japan: Social Cultural Factors of the Program Foundation," CSWE Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008.

Kanno, "Socio-Cultural Factors in Japanese Elder Abuse and Empirical Study Results on Elder Abuse Training Programs in Japan," GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Md., November 2008.

Karen Kolivoski, with L. Schelbe, M.G. Vaughn, A. Weaver, and J.J. Shook, "A Finite Mixture Analysis of the Validity of the MAYSI-2 among Serious Juvenile Offenders," and, with H.E. Petracchi, A. Weaver, R.M. Das, R.J. Engel, and T. Soska, "Service Learning in University Living-Learning Communities: Educational and Community Implications," SSWR Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Kolivoski, with H.E. Petracchi and A. Weaver, "Service Learning in a Living-Learning Community: Returning to Our Settlement House Roots?" CSWE Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008.

Tammy Thomas, with A. Bodea, "Home Visiting for Families with Young Children: The Benefits and the Challenges"; with B. Henry, "An Innovative Public Health Social Work Education Training Model"; and, with K. Jones, C. Falvo, and C. Keane, "My Garden Vegetables: A Pilot Study of a Gardening, Art, and Nutrition Education Program," American Public Health Association 136th Annual Meeting & Exposition, San Diego, Calif., October 2008.

Thomas, with A. Bodea, "An Apprenticeship Approach to Community Participatory Qualitative Research," European Sociological Association Fourth Mid-term Conference on Teaching Qualitative Methods, Lodz, Poland, September 2008.

Thomas, with T. Elias and A. Bodea, "Family Support: A Foundation for Life Success," Family Support Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa., June 2008.

Thomas, "Advocacy and Health Literacy," Healthy Start Conference: Health Literacy Awareness and Sensitivity, Pittsburgh, Pa., May 2008.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

Addie Weaver has been selected as a Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program fellow for 2009–10. The Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program is a service learning program that fosters leadership and professional development.



MSW Student Accomplishments

The Child Advocacy Center of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC recognized MSW student **Stacy Johnson** as a recipient of the Champion of Hope and Healing Award at the Fourth Annual Conference on Hope and Healing, which was held in Pittsburgh April 23 and 24, 2009.

Brittany Littlejohn, an MSW/Master of Public Health student, was chosen to participate in the Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship Program in Atlanta, Ga., over the summer. The Ferguson Fellowship, formerly the Summer Research Fellowship Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is an eight-week program designed to provide educational and experimental opportunities for racially and ethnically underrepresented graduate students in a broad array of public health activities. With collaboration from the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc., and the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (NCPDCID)/ CDC, fellows are exposed to public health and prevention activities through practical research experiences and receive training and guidance from public health professionals at CDC on various projects throughout NCPDCID.

One of 18 graduate students chosen from member institutions of the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools and/or schools with programs in public health, Littlejohn primarily is interested in minority health disparities. As part of her Ferguson Fellowship, she researched the facilitators and barriers to HIV testing at historically Black colleges and universities.

BASW Student Accomplishments

Bridget Bailey (BPhil '09) was the first graduate with a Bachelor of Philosophy in social work with honors, which was jointly awarded by the School of Social Work and the University Honors College. Her honors thesis was titled "Acute Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Major Depressive Disorder: Predictors of Treatment Quality." Bailey's achievement was acknowledged during the Afternoon of Recognition, held on April 26, 2009.

Throughout the spring, the BASW Club continued its fundraising efforts to benefit the Community Human Services Youth Program. The members raised a total of $1,250, all of which was donated to the organization. The BASW Club ended the academic year with a potluck luncheon and officer elections.

The School of Social Work held its annual BASW Field Research Poster Session on April 6, 2009. BASW seniors displayed the results of their capstone research projects, which they proposed during their research classes and completed during the spring semester. The poster session was well attended by BASW students, family and friends, field instructors, and faculty.





BASW students Elise LaRocca-Thompson (top, with Director of Career Services and Alumni Affairs Keith Caldwell) and Jasmine Sullivan (bottom) present their posters.

One BASW Student's Story



Rachele McFarland

Rachele McFarland, a junior in the BASW program, has been appointed a resident assistant for the Civic Engagement and Community Service Living Learning Community, a joint effort between the Office of Residence Life and the School of Social Work. The community promotes opportunities to engage in service projects that benefit the students and the surrounding community. A recipient of a prestigious Chancellor's Scholarship, McFarland has a long history of service. At age 8, she took on the responsibility of financially sponsoring and befriending a young girl from the Dominican Republic. Throughout high school and college, she has continued her international volunteerism, including making three trips to a special-needs orphanage in Russia and, recently, one to Mexico. She also volunteers with Keep It Real, a University organization that provides English tutoring for children of refugees from Somalia, Myanmar, and other countries.

Commencement 2009

The School of Social Work held its annual Afternoon of Recognition on April 26, 2009, at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial. There were 259 graduates this year from the BASW, MSW, and PhD programs.



Distinguished Alumni Award honorees Michael J. Holosko (left) and Kenneth S. Ramsey with Terry Miller, director of the Institute of Politics at Pitt



Terry Miller, director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Pittsburgh, gave the keynote address at the recognition ceremony for graduating students and Distinguished Alumni Award recipients.

The following students were recognized as Dean's Scholars:

BASW Program
Catherine J. Balsamo (BASW '09)

MSW Program
Rachelle M. Das (MSW '08)
Stacey E. Lentz (BASW '07, MSW '08)
Sharon Ann McCarthy (MSW '09)
Ashley L. O'Hara (MSW '09)
Alexis G. Szymanski (MSW '09)
Samantha N. Teixeira (MSW '09)
Colleen P. Young (MSW '09)



CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTORAL GRADUATES!

Shaun M. Eack (PhD '09)
Jonathan B. Singer (PhD '09)

The School of Social Work wishes them all the best as they embark on the next phase of their careers.



Speaker Series, Summer Institutes Highlight CRSP Agenda

Amid the context of the struggling economy, the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) at the School of Social Work is addressing the human fallout through its fall speaker series and its Summer Institutes.

Thanks to the sponsorship of The Pittsburgh Foundation, this summer the center's institutes covered a variety of topics related to racial and ethnic disparities. The one-day sessions featured presentations, question-and-answer periods, breakout groups, and panel discussions with local and national experts. Free of charge, they were aimed at researchers, educators, administrators, community leaders, policymakers, and practitioners.

Topics for the 2009 Summer Institutes were:

- African American parental involvement in public education;
- Strategies and outcomes for children aging out of the child welfare system;
- Race, hunger, and food insecurity; and
- Racial diversity management in corporate America.

In the fall, the center will play host to a speaker series sponsored by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, a Pittsburgh law firm. Speakers and topics are as follows:

- **Gary L. St. C. Oates**, Bowling Green State University: "Examining Five Prominent Explanations for the Black/White School Achievement Gap"
- **Irving A. Spergel**, University of Chicago, "The Youth Gang Problem: A Comprehensive Community-wide Approach"
- **Amanda E. Lewis**, Emory University, "Despite the Best Intentions: Why Racial Inequality Persists in Good Schools"



CRSP held its Summer Institute "Aging Out of the Child Welfare System: Experiences, Outcomes, and Interventions for Youth of Color" on July 10, 2009. Above, Paul Toro, professor of clinical psychology at Wayne State University, addresses attendees.

- **Kathy W. Humphrey**, University of Pittsburgh, "Race, Ethnicity, and College Student Development: From Theory to Practice"

"The lectures are well attended," says School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis. "We've been impressed with the commitment from the law firm to sponsor our speaker series."

In June 2010, the center will be home to a national conference titled Race in America: Restructuring Inequality. According to Davis, the four-day conference will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers, panel discussions, debates, and 40 workshops designed to create knowledge-based solutions to address racial problems in the United States.

"While the country is struggling with economics and trying to rebuild itself, our argument is if we're going to rebuild it, let's build it back better than it was," says Davis. "What we're trying to do is get ahead of the curve."



(Left to right:) Sara Goodkind, assistant professor, School of Social Work; Marian Harris, associate professor of social work, University of Washington at Tacoma; School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis; Paul Toro, professor of clinical psychology, Wayne State University; David Sanders, executive vice president of systems improvement, Casey Family Programs; and Jeffrey Shook, assistant professor, School of Social Work

FACULTY Notes

PUBLICATIONS

Valire Copeland, with R.S. Hebert, R. Schulz, and R.M. Arnold, "Preparing Family Caregivers for Death and Bereavement: Insights from Caregivers of Terminally Ill Patients," *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 37(1), 3–12, 2009.

Copeland, with R.S. Hebert, R. Schulz, and R.M. Arnold, "What Questions do Family Caregivers Want to Discuss with Health Care Providers in Order to Prepare for the Death of a Loved One? An Ethnographic Study of Caregivers of Patients at End of Life," *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 11(3), 476–83, 2008.

Copeland, with R.S. Hebert, R. Schulz, and R.M. Arnold, "Pilot Testing of a Question Prompt Sheet to Encourage Family Caregivers of Cancer Patients and Physicians to Discuss End-of-Life Issues," *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine*, 26(1), 24–32, 2009.

Copeland, with M. Vaughn, J. Wallace, B. Perron, and M. Howard, "Does Marijuana Use Serve as a Gateway to Cigarette Use for High-Risk African American Youth?" *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 34(6), 782–91, 2008.

Rafael J. Engel, with R.K. Schutt, *The Practice of Research in Social Work*, second edition, Thousand Oaks, Calif., SAGE Publications, 2008.

Engel, with R.K. Schutt, *Fundamentals of Social Work Research*, Thousand Oaks, Calif., SAGE Publications, 2009.

Julie S. McCrae, "Emotional and Behavioral Problems Reported in Child Welfare Over 3 Years," *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 17(1), 17–28, 2009.

Christina E. Newhill, with H. Kanno, "Social Workers and Battered Women: The Need to Study Client Violence in the Domestic Violence Field," *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 18(1), 46–63, 2009.

Newhill, with J. Mohanty, "A Theoretical Framework for Understanding Ethnic Socialization among International Adoptees," *Families in Society*, 89(4), 543–50, 2008.

Newhill, with S. Eack, "An Investigation of the Relations between Student Knowledge, Personal Contact, and Attitudes toward Individuals with Schizophrenia," *Journal of Social Work Education*, 44, 77–95, 2008.

Newhill, with S.M. Eack, "What Influences Social Workers' Attitudes toward Working with Clients with Severe Mental Illness?" *Families in Society*, 89(3), 418–27, 2008.

Newhill, with M.G. Vaughn, C.M. Litschge, and M.O. Howard, "Cluster Profiles of Residentially Incarcerated Adolescent Females: Violence and Clinical Mental Health Characteristics," *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, 24(1/2), 35–53, 2008.

Newhill, with M.G. Vaughn, M. DeLisi, K.M. Beaver, and M.O. Howard, "An Investigation of Psychopathic Features among Delinquent Girls: Violence, Theft, and Drug Abuse," *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 6(3), 240–55, 2008.

Fengyan Tang, with N. Morrow-Howell and S. Hong, "Who Benefits from Volunteering? Variations in Perceived Benefits," *The Gerontologist*, 49(1), 91–102, 2009.

Tang, with J.G. Pickard, "Aging in Place or Relocation: Awareness of Community-based Long-term Care and Services," *Journal of Housing for the Elderly*, 22(4), 404–22, 2008.



Valire Copeland



Hide Yamatani

Tang, with N. Morrow-Howell, "Involvement in Voluntary Organizations: How Older Adults Access Volunteer Roles?" *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 51(3/4), 210–27, 2008.

Tang, with M. Putnam, "Long-term Care Planning and Preparation among Persons with Multiple Sclerosis," *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, 27(2), 143–65, 2008.

Hidenori Yamatani, "Overview Report of Allegheny County Jail Collaborative Evaluation Findings," National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

Larry E. Davis, guest speaker, Amachi Pittsburgh Martin Luther King Jr. Day program, Pittsburgh, Pa., January 2009.

Davis, "Rising Inequality: Implications for Human Rights," Global Problems, Global Solutions Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., February 2009.

Davis, "Inclusive Voices," event for Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 2009.

Rafael J. Engel, "Evaluator as Pilot: Presentation and Discussion of a Case Study in Dashboard Indicators," 10th Annual Conference of the Israeli Association for Program Evaluation, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel, February 2009.

Julie S. McCrae, with R.P. Barth, B. Lee, and M.E. Rauktis, "Outcomes of Group Care and Foster Care: A Five-year Propensity Score Matched Comparison," Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Christina E. Newhill, "De-escalating Violent and Aggressive Clients and Using GPS Devices to Enhance Social Worker Safety," 7th Annual Community Forum, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Department of Social Work, Kutztown, Pa., March 2009.

Newhill, with M.G. Vaughn, "Refining Evidence-based Treatment for Borderline Personality Disorder: An Empirical Examination," and, with S.M. Eack, "Emotion Dysregulation and Violence in Borderline Personality Disorder: A Growth Curve Analysis," SSWR Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Newhill, with A.J. Rotondi, G.L. Haas, C.E. Anderson, S.M. Eack, et al, "Improving Outcomes for Schizophrenia via a Web-based Family Psychoeducation Intervention Designed for Those with Cognitive Impairments," International Congress on Schizophrenia Research, San Diego, Calif., March–April 2009.

Newhill, with J. Mohanty, "Constructing a Model Examining Ethnic/Racial Socialization and Psychological Well-being among Asian Adoptees," and, with S.M. Eack, "Does Knowledge Relate to Social Work Students' Attitudes toward Individuals with Schizophrenia?" Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008.

Mary Beth Rauktis, "Fidelity to Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania: Do Practices Mirror Principles?" American Humane Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pa., June 2009, and CSWE Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., October–November 2008.

Rauktis, "Measuring Restriction of Living Environments for Children and Youth," 22nd Annual Research Conference, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla., March 2009, and SSWR Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Rauktis, "Aprender a Re-educar," Foundação Luso-Americana, Lisbon, Portugal, May 2008.

Fengyan Tang, with E. H. Choi, "Turnover among Older Volunteers," SSWR Thirteenth Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., January 2009.

Tang, with N. Morrow-Howell and S. Hong, "Institutional Facilitation in Sustained Volunteering among Older Volunteers," Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Md., November 2008.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Larry E. Davis was invited by the Israel Studies Institute to make an academic visit to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel, in June 2009.

Davis was selected as one of 50 Men of Excellence by the *New Pittsburgh Courier* in 2009.

Davis was the honorary chair of Just Harvest's 20th Annual Harvest Celebration Dinner in October 2008.

Christina E. Newhill was appointed chair of the Mental Health Specialty Practice Section Committee of the National Association of Social Workers for 2008–10.

GRANTS

Valire Copeland, coinvestigator, and Kenneth Jaros, principal investigator, received a Maternal and Child Health Public Health Social Work Leadership Training Grant for 2008–13.



Assistant professor and MSW program director Lynn Coghill with Hilda Akanyo, BSW student at Makerere University in Uganda

Copeland, coinvestigator, and Jeannette South-Paul, principal investigator, received a Pennsylvania Department of Health Cultural Competency Training Grant.

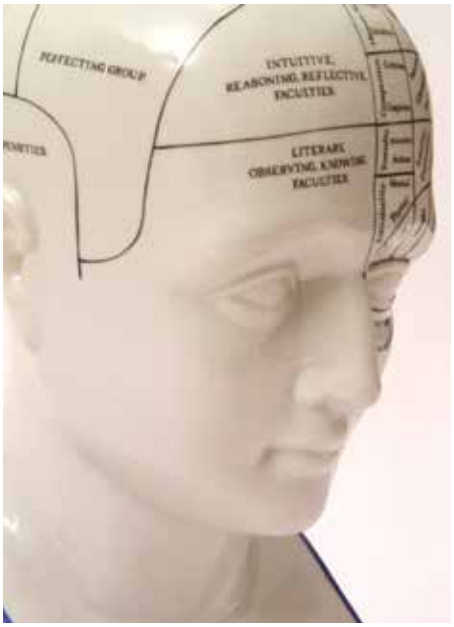
Fengyan Tang, principal investigator, received a Silberman Fund Faculty Grant for 2009–10 for the study Productive Engagement and Retirement.

NOTABLES

Christina E. Newhill was quoted in "Working in Mental Health, the Prospect of Violence Is a Part of the Job," by James Barron, *The New York Times*, February 14, 2008.

Helen E. Petracchi has been selected by the Office of Residence Life to be a faculty associate. Petracchi was nominated because of "her ability to positively engage and challenge our students."

Mental Disorder and Violence: Three Studies



During the 2008–09 academic year, **Christina Newhill**, associate professor, conducted three studies examining various aspects of violence, emotion dysregulation, and psychopathy in borderline personality disorder. With her coauthors, Newhill examined these issues using data from the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study of mental disorder and violence. The overarching goals of the MacArthur study were to conduct the best science on violence risk assessment possible and to produce an actuarial violence risk assessment tool that clinicians could actually use. Out of the total sample of subjects in the study, more than 200 met criteria for borderline personality disorder, and the following studies all used this subsample. The paper derived from the first study currently is in press with the *Journal of Personality Disorders*, the paper derived from the second study was presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference in January and will be submitted to the *Archives of General Psychiatry* shortly, and the paper derived from the third study was presented at the SSWR conference in January and currently is under review with *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*.

STUDY ONE:

Nature and Prevalence of Violent Behavior in Individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder

Investigators: Christina E. Newhill, Shaun M. Eack, and Edward P. Mulvey

The treatment and management of individuals with severe personality disorders, particularly borderline personality disorder (BPD), continue to be significant challenges for the mental/behavioral health care system. Despite the fact that self-harm; interpersonal problems; and dysregulated behaviors, including aggression, are all considered hallmark characteristics of BPD, little is known about the nature and prevalence of interpersonal violence among such individuals. This is important because it has implications for the development of strategies to treat such individuals in the context of community-based services.

Employing a longitudinal, multisite sample of 801 individuals recruited from inpatient services (220 of whom met diagnostic criteria for BPD), this study examined (1) the extent to which having BPD elevates risk for violence in the community in the context of other well-established risk markers for violence over time, (2) the clinical and demographic characteristics of individuals with BPD who report involvement in violence, and (3) the nature and targets of the violent acts involving such individuals in the community. Reliable and valid instruments measuring the presence of BPD, psychopathy, criminal history, and substance abuse were administered along with collection of standard demographic data. Violence data were collected and triangulated every 10 weeks from arrest records, collateral informants, and patient self-report over a one-year period.

The researchers found that 73 percent of BPD patients engaged in violence during the one-year study period, and a series of logistic regressions showed that BPD was a significant predictor of future violence. Reported violence was mostly characterized by disputes with acquaintances or significant others and involved hitting, pushing, grabbing, or shoving. Violent persons with BPD also frequently exhibited comorbid antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) and elevated levels of psychopathy, and the predictive power of BPD was diminished when the presence of ASPD and psychopathy were taken into account. A series of path analyses, however, suggested that it was the substantial shared variance among BPD, ASPD, and psychopathy, not the lack of predictive power of BPD, that was responsible for diminishing the effect of BPD on violence.

The findings show a majority of people with BPD engage in interpersonal violence, particularly toward family, friends, and acquaintances, and commonly evidence comorbidity with ASPD and elevated levels of psychopathy. Individuals with BPD who engage in repetitive violence may not receive adequate psychiatric care for their symptoms of BPD and, instead, may end up involved in the criminal justice system, where their mental health needs are even less likely to be met and their problems become an increasing burden to their families and communities. Future research efforts must begin to identify the mechanisms that elevate risk for violence in such individuals to inform the development of appropriate targeted treatment strategies aimed at reducing the frequency of violence in this population. Existing evidence-based treatments addressing reduction of self-harm in BPD could be tailored to focus on reducing interpersonal violence as well as self-harming behavior and thus more comprehensively serve to improve the lives of individuals who suffer from BPD.

STUDY TWO:

Emotion Dysregulation and Violence in Borderline Personality Disorder: A Growth Curve Analysis

Investigators: Christina E. Newhill, Shaun M. Eack, and Edward P. Mulvey

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a complex and disabling disorder that presents considerable challenges for the mental health treatment system. One of the most problematic features of BPD

is dysregulation of emotion, particularly negative affect. Studies have recently shown that persons with BPD commonly engage in significant interpersonal violence, and, given that emotion dysregulation is associated with self-harm, the researchers hypothesize that it may be one of the core processes producing the increased risk for interpersonal violence among this population. This is important because such violence can result in repeated hospitalization, incarceration, injury, or death, exacting considerable costs in human suffering. Determining the role of emotion dysregulation in incidents of violence among individuals with BPD also has important implications for the development of strategies to successfully treat such individuals in the context of community-based services.

As part of the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study, 220 individuals with BPD and 581 individuals with other severe mental illnesses were followed in the community for 30 weeks after discharge from psychiatric hospitals in three major metropolitan areas. Detailed measures of violence, emotion dysregulation, and antisocial characteristics were collected at study baseline and every 10 weeks post-discharge. Violence data were collected from self-reports and triangulated with collateral informants and arrest records. A series of latent growth curve analyses were constructed to examine individual differences in rates of change in emotion dysregulation and antisocial characteristics throughout the course of the study and the degree to which such changes mediated the documented risk-enhancing effect of BPD on subsequent interpersonal violence.

Latent growth curve analyses indicated that BPD was associated with greater initial levels of emotion dysregulation at study entry and less-favorable trajectories of change in the construct over time, as evidenced by comparatively little post-hospitalization improvement in emotion dysregulation. Mediator analyses indicated that the greater initial levels of and lack of reduction in emotion dysregulation over time experienced by those with BPD significantly and completely mediated the relationship between BPD and subsequent violence, with initial level and growth parameters in emotion dysregulation both making a unique contribution to this effect. These results remained even after adjusting for antisocial characteristics, and estimates of model fit indicated that this growth model provided an adequate representation of the observed data.

Findings show that emotion dysregulation is a significant longitudinal mediator of violent behavior among individuals with BPD and may serve as the primary mechanism that enhances risk for violence among this population. Existing evidence-based treatments, such as dialectical behavior therapy, that teach emotion regulation skills have been successful in reducing self-harming behavior in individuals with BPD. Future efforts toward developing treatments to reduce interpersonal violence in this population might begin with examining possible modifications of these existing treatment protocols that would aim to reduce frequency of violence by teaching skills in managing dysregulated emotions.

STUDY THREE:

Psychopathy and Borderline Personality Disorder: Evidence of Subtypes

Investigators: Christina E. Newhill, Michael G. Vaughn, and Matthew DeLisi

The psychosocial treatment of individuals with borderline personality disorder (BPD) can be exceptionally challenging, with such treatment often provided by clinical social workers. Clinically, BPD is heterogeneous in terms of the range of emotional and behavioral difficulties, including self-harming behavior, impulsivity, emotion dysregulation, and violence. A better understanding of BPD subgroups could assist in developing modifications of existing therapies to better target differential client needs. The researchers' previous work has shown significant comorbidity of BPD with psychopathy, a condition characterized by lack of empathy, manipulativeness, impulsivity and antisocial behavior. As such, the current study systematically examines the underlying heterogeneity in BPD vis-à-vis psychopathy in an attempt to provide guidance for refining existing evidence-based treatment approaches.

Participants consisted of a sample of 220 psychiatric patients meeting criteria for BPD recruited from inpatient units in three large urban areas. A well-established measure of psychopathy, the 12-item Hare Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version (PCL:SV), was administered to subjects, and these data were used to identify qualitatively distinct classes of participants. The PCL:SV items are rated on a three-point scale that assesses interpersonal, emotional, and behavioral dimensions reflecting psychopathy. Finite mixture modeling was employed to identify subgroups. The empirical fit of statistical models was based on the Bayesian information criterion and conditional bootstrapping procedures. A validation analysis of the final model was conducted by testing associations of class characteristics with demographic and clinical measures.

Researchers found that, overall, the four-class model provided the best statistical and conceptual fit for the data. Classes consisted of (1) impulsive/antisocial, (2) low psychopathic, (3) interpersonally exploitive/narcissistic, and (4) psychopathic/antisocial. Classes did differ by gender, with females constituting a significantly greater proportion of class 2 and males a greater proportion of class 4. One-way analysis of variance with post hoc comparisons revealed significant differences, with strong effect sizes on external measures of agreeableness, planning, motor skills, and verbal skills. Classes also differed with respect to an interval measure of socioeconomic status.

These findings possess significant implications for practice and evidence-based treatment development. Identified classes shows distinctive characteristics that suggest specific needs that should be reflected in the treatment provided. For example, one of the most commonly provided treatments for BPD is dialectical behavioral therapy, which focuses on teaching patients skills for managing symptoms. Patients in class 1 might benefit from an increased emphasis on learning impulse control skills and planning, while, in contrast, class 3 patients might benefit from learning how to be more empathic toward others to achieve self-beneficial results. Individuals in class 4 are most likely to be encountered in the criminal justice system; thus, modifying existing treatments for provision in this environment is important. This study sheds light on how existing treatments may be refined to better meet the differential needs of the clients served.

CLASS Notes

Shauna (Prendergast) Aquavita (MSW '97) graduated with a PhD in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, in May 2009. She currently is a postdoctoral trainee in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Deborah A. (Moses) Houston (MSW '77) is an assessment specialist with the Georgia Department of Education, where, since 2002, she has managed the state's assessment programs for students with significant cognitive disabilities and English Language Learners.

Kimberly Justice (MSW '07) has been hired to direct the mental retardation/developmental disability program she created and developed for a community-based agency in West Virginia. She also obtained her Licensed Graduate Social Worker licensure.

Sandra Momper (MSW '91, PhD '05) is an assistant professor of social work at the University of Michigan. Her research interests include gambling, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health, and health disparities among rural and urban American Indians. Momper has 20 years of direct practice experience as well as extensive experience in community organizing. Her goal is to extend her present research to further understand the impact of ecological stressors on the risk of gambling, substance abuse, and long-term mental and physical health among American Indians.

Jembe "Jem" Mabonga Nakhaima (MSW '86, PhD '87) has founded the Uganda University of Rural Farming and Rural Health in Nakhupa, Mbale, Uganda. The university, which has satellite campuses in Bududa and Sironko, is outdoors and offers course work in food production, animal/dairy farming, and rural health. Its mission is to reduce hunger, poverty, and illiteracy and to train roving health professionals to serve the rural villages of southeastern Uganda.

Nan Van Den Bergh (PhD '81) has been chosen as Social Worker of the Year in the state of Florida by the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care. See page 14 for a Donor Spotlight featuring Van Den Bergh.

IN MEMORIAM

Eric Mendlow (MSW '07)
Samuel R. Saccamango (BASW '98, MSW '99)
George E. Pivetz (MSW '95, PhD '07)

Community Practice Award

In 2006, the School of Social Work—with generous support from Professor Emeritus James V. Cunningham—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.

Any student or team of students enrolled in a degree program in the School of Social Work that fulfills the following criteria is eligible to be nominated.

- Has made/is making a significant community practice contribution to the planning and implementation of a community-related effort of substance
- Contribution was conceived and carried out with the participation of clients, a community group, or a constituency
- Contribution was/is a significant community organizing and/or social administration endeavor that addresses appropriate knowledge and skills areas
- Contribution was/is a community effort that has helped to stimulate, maintain, and enrich the tradition for developing innovative, effective community organizers and human service administrators

2009 Community Practice Award

Recipients

Shannon Plush (MSW '09)
A recent COSA graduate, Shannon Plush has worked extensively with the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, including on advocacy campaigns for policies and legislation. Her concern for female students in abusive relationships led her to organize a campuswide conference that coordinated diverse groups and resources both on and off campus to address important issues affecting women. Plush looks to continue her social work practice in policy and issue advocacy now that she has graduated.

Dina M. Ciabattoni (MSW Class of 2010)
A first-year COSA student, Dina Ciabattoni was recognized for her continued work with the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County. Working to ease and eradicate homelessness requires the capacity to bring together elected officials, government agencies, human services and community-based organizations, housing agencies, and those affected by homelessness. Ciabattoni's nominators noted her work involving diverse constituencies, especially clients/consumers in the coalition's critical efforts. Ciabattoni plans to continue her work with the coalition while she completes her MSW.

Visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu/academic-programs/msw/cosa.php for more information about the Community Practice Award or to nominate a deserving recipient.

It's Sociable



Susan Uhazie Camele (MSW '90)

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.

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Fall 2009 School of Social Work Speaker Series

"Reintegrating Social Justice Activism into Practice and Education"
September 23
David G. Gil, professor of social policy, Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management

"Uniting the Social Work Profession"
November 17
Jenna Mehnert, executive director, National Association of Social Workers-Pennsylvania Chapter


David G. Gil


Jenna Mehnert

Lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch will be provided; registration is not required. For more information, visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu or call 412-624-6304.

Center on Race and Social Problems Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC Fall 2009 Speaker Series

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

"Examining Five Prominent Explanations for the Black/White School Achievement Gap"
Wednesday, September 30
Gary L. St. C. Oates
Associate Professor of Sociology, Bowling Green State University

"The Youth Gang Problem: A Comprehensive Community-wide Approach"
Thursday, October 29
Irving A. Spergel
Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

"Despite the Best Intentions: Why Racial Inequality Persists in Good Schools"
Thursday, November 19
Amanda E. Lewis
Associate Professor of Sociology, Emory University

"Race, Ethnicity, and College Student Development: From Theory to Practice"
Monday, December 7
Kathy W. Humphrey
Vice Provost and Dean of Students, University of Pittsburgh

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