UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

# Bridges

MAGAZINE
SPRING 2010

# RACE in AMERICA



## A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RACE:
## Restructuring Inequality



*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.

# Bridges



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Published by the School of Social Work

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*Bridges* magazine is published biannually and is sent to alumni and friends of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. Published in cooperation with the Department of University Marketing Communications.
UMC71655-0410

2006 Award of Honor, IABC Golden Triangle Awards, magazine design
2006 Award of Distinction, Communicator Awards, magazine design


University of Pittsburgh
*School of Social Work*

# DEAN'S Message

## Greetings, Alumni and Friends,

I am happy to say that, at last, winter is over. It sure was a tough one. We here at the School of Social Work managed to remain productive and in fine spirits despite the snow and inclement weather. Our commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the doctoral program was an overwhelming success (see story, page 4). Our faculty have continued to immerse themselves in research and creative projects that hold great promise for the future. In fact, their efforts have brought some new staff to the school. We would like to welcome research staff members Amber Bahorik, Melissa Brusoski, Wendy Flynn, and Rachel Winters. 2010 looks to be an exciting year; indeed, these are fascinating times for our campus, our city, our state, and our nation. The school's speaker series and the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) Speaker Series continue to draw exciting new ideas and people to the school. Once again, I would like to invite you to join us anytime for a free lecture and lunch on the 20th floor of the Cathedral of Learning (see speaker series schedules, page 3 and back cover).

This issue of *Bridges* focuses on the upcoming national conference, Race in America: Restructuring Inequality, being hosted by the school and CRSP, June 3–6, 2010. (See the cover story, page 6.)

Much in America has changed since the 1963 march on Washington, D.C., and other major civil rights milestones. Yet in spite of what have been major steps toward a more racially equitable and just society, much remains to be done. There are glaring racial disparities in rates of poverty, educational opportunities, health and mental health care, rates of incarceration, the well-being and living standards of families and children, and the quality of living for the aged. Regrettably, we continue to hear almost daily about horrendous acts of interracial violence and hatred. And there remain communities, if not regions, of America into which some individuals, depending on the color of their skin, express apprehension about entering. This all is against a backdrop where we as Americans attempt to lead the way in championing equality, justice, and freedom throughout the world.



It also is against this backdrop that we are preparing for what we hope will be the most useful conference ever on race in America. While the planning of this conference has been inspiring, it also has been a major undertaking. It has required months of meetings and discussions with literally hundreds of people. I would like to thank all those individuals who have been involved in the planning of this conference; you are to be commended for your hard work. In addition, we have been fortunate to have the financial and personal support of so many from the University, foundations, innumerable community institutions, and peer schools of social work around the country. Thank you.

This conference has as its goal bringing about greater racial equality for all Americans. It will gather together multiracial scholars, researchers, students, industry leaders, public officials, community leaders, and interested citizenry to create a solution-focused dialogue on making our society a more perfect union.

I personally believe this conference comes at an opportune time. The present-day economic crisis affords us the opportunity to begin to rebuild and restructure our society to promote greater racial equality. We hope many of you will join us in June.

Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

# SCHOOL News

## MSW Students Again Excel in DHS Competition

For the third straight year, the School of Social Work had one of the largest contingents of graduate students participating in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Local Government Case Competition. Thirteen MSW students competed, with three placing on the top four teams: Tara Sherry-Torres (first-place team), Michael Pasternak (second-place team), and Ryan O'Donnell (fourth-place team).

The students were on teams with graduate students from Pitt's School of Law, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, and Graduate Schools of Public and International Affairs and Public Health as well as from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College School of Public Policy and Management and professional schools at Duquesne and Robert Morris universities.

The case used in the competition centered on the Homewood Children's Village initiative, which is being led by John Wallace, associate professor in the School of Social Work. Wallace and the Homewood Children's Village have been featured in previous issues of *Bridges*.

MSW student participants were Josie Bryant, Heath Johnson, Dorothy Marek, Robyn Markowitz, Carly Mathisen, O'Donnell, Katelyn Pace, Pasternak, Diana Peterson, Sherry-Torres, Brandon Trombatt, Sarah Vogel, and Miranda White.




*Pictured at far left holding the first-place team check is social work student Tara Sherry-Torres.*

## Welcome New Staff

We are pleased to announce the addition of the following research staff members: Melissa Brusoski, who is assisting Associate Professor Daniel Rosen; Wendy Flynn and Rachel Winters, with the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs; and Amber Bahorik, who is assisting Assistant Professor Shaun Eack.



*Amber Bahorik*



*Melissa Brusoski*



*Wendy Flynn*



*Rachel Winters*

## Program Highlights

### BASW Program

In response to student interest and community needs, two electives were added to the BASW curriculum: Case Management/Service Coordination and Organizing for Social Change. Another new elective, Addiction and Co-Occurring Disorders, will be offered in the summer. Core courses and electives now are being offered during the day and in the evening.

BASW program staff members are working to review and revise the curriculum in preparation for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education, and members of the BASW program committee continue to discuss ways to better meet the needs of students and the community.

The program's Fall Fiesta recruiting event was extremely well attended, generating interest from about 150 prospective students. In addition, BASW Program Director Gayle Mallinger spoke at several classes at the Community College of Allegheny County and Butler County Community College in fall 2009.

### MSW Program

The MSW program honored 102 graduates in December 2009—60 from the Pittsburgh campus, 29 from the Johnstown campus, and 13 from the Bradford campus. During the fall term, MSW curriculum committees developed advanced competencies for the Community Organization and Social Administration and Direct Practice concentrations and now are in the process of revising all syllabi and field documents to address new accreditation standards.

Each term, the program's Career Development Workshop Series hosts informational seminars for MSW students on such topics as résumés, cover letters, and references; effective interviews; licensure; and evaluating and negotiating employment. The School of Social Work's is one of only a few graduate social work programs in the country to offer this service.

This spring, the program will hold three information sessions for prospective students. During spring break, a select group of MSW students traveled to Cuba with Dean Larry E. Davis and Ralph Bangs, associate director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, to study Cuban social policies and compare them to those of the United States.

### Doctoral Program

Congratulations to doctoral graduates Azadeh Masalehdan Block (MSW '06), Shaun Eack, Jonathan Singer, and Christine Litschge-Sarteschi (BASW '01, MSW '02), who successfully defended their dissertations in 2009. Welcome to the five new students in the PhD program: Melissa Hardoby, Chereese Phillips, Kimberly Snyder, Hyun-a Song, and Kelly Warden.

The Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) developed the *Doctoral Student Survival Manual* for incoming students as well as strategies to enhance the orientation process for new students, and it regularly publishes a newsletter called *Notes from the 23rd Floor*, which provides information on doctoral program activities and updates.

PhD students produced multiple publications and presented at major national conferences, including those of the Council on Social Work Education, Society for Social Work and Research, and Gerontological Society of America.

### Child Welfare Education and Research Programs

The Child Welfare Education and Research Programs (CWERP) continue to advance knowledge of child welfare service, education, and training effectiveness across the commonwealth. In addition, annual visits by the staff to other schools of social work that participate in the Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) and Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) programs have yielded valuable information about the needs of students, agencies, and schools.

CWERP projects include a randomized, controlled study of the effect of technology on the quality of home visitation among children in federally defined foster care; research on the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth in child welfare; research on models of decision making in child welfare and service implementation; and two studies focused on refining measures important to child welfare—the achievement of family group objectives and the Restrictiveness of Living Environment measure for youth.

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program has undertaken a strategically planned reorganization to better meet the needs of child welfare agencies and the children and families served by the child welfare system. In partnership with families, communities, and public and private agencies, the program prepares



and supports exceptional child welfare professionals and systems through education, research, and a commitment to best practice.

Cynthia Bradley-King, academic coordinator of CWEB, has been named Social Worker of the Month by the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

## School of Social Work Speaker Series

Alex Johnson, president of the Community College of Allegheny County, delivered the Sidney A. Teller Lecture on "Diversity as a Condition for Success in a Global Economy" on February 16, 2010.

Alice K. Butterfield, professor in the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will deliver the Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture commemorating World Social Work Day on April 14, 2010, in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch will be provided. For more information, visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu or call 412-624-6304.

## Center on Race and Social Problems Reed Smith Spring 2010 Speaker Series

**"Diversity and Its Discontents: Lessons from Higher Education"**
Marta Tienda, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University
Thursday, January 21

**"Wedge Politics: The Structure and Function of Racial Group Cues in American Politics"**
Vincent Hutchings, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan
Monday, February 15

**" 'There Is More to Me than White': Moving from Whiteness Studies to Privilege Studies"**
Abby L. Ferber, Associate Professor of Women's and Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Tuesday, March 16

**"Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites"**
Jonathan M. Hurwitz, Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
Wednesday, April 7

# Glimpses of the Past, Glimmers of the Future:

## Highlights from the Doctoral Program's 60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend

A genuine spirit of warmth, renewed friendships, intellectual challenge, political activism, recognition of achievement, gratitude for profound gifts, laughter, fellowship, and optimism about the future welcomed attendees of the doctoral program's 60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, held October 16–17, 2009. Marking the 60th anniversary of the awarding of the school's first two doctorates in social work were 114 participants from across the country.



Graduates from as early as 1970 (Michael Austin) and as recently as 2008 (Kyaien O. Conner) filled the events. Two of the school's three married doctoral alumni couples were present: Leonard (MSW '68, PhD '84) and Carole (MSW '71, PhD '88) Faulk and Jack (PhD '97) and Helen (MSW '79, PhD '96) Cahalane.

The weekend opened with an evening reception at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association hosted by Brian Segal (PhD '71). The room sparkled with enthusiastic story telling, the discovery of news from friends not seen in years, conversation with former faculty mentors, and laughter over many people's changed appearances.



*(Left to right) Barbara Shore and Sylvia Barksdale*



*Janice Vaughn and Michael Patchner*



*Larry E. Davis and David E. Epperson*

The Saturday venue was the Concordia Club, where the agenda kept the attention of graduates, faculty, and guests throughout the day. After breakfast, current Doctoral Program Director Valire Carr Copeland (MSW '78, PhD '89) and former directors Barbara Shore (MSW '44, PhD '71), Esther Sales, and Gary Koeske greeted the group. A panel of graduates discussed the major developments in doctoral social work education during the past 60 years and their impact on social work education and practice. Ed Saunders (PhD '85) moderated the panel, which consisted of Marvin Feit (PhD '75), Helen Land (BASW '74, PhD '83), and Sharon Milligan (PhD '82).

During Saturday's lunch hour, nine doctoral students presented their research in a poster session. Animated discussions between alums and current students brought several generations of social work scholars together, and the result was a healthy exchange.

Former Doctoral Program Director Joseph Eaton opened the afternoon session with a greeting. The afternoon panel, moderated by Michael Lindsey (PhD '02), also included David Miller (PhD '93), Michael Patchner (PhD '80), and Nan Van Den Bergh (PhD '81). They led a discussion on what the next 60 years might hold for doctoral social work education.

The culmination of the weekend was a banquet Saturday evening in the newly renovated University Club, with Michael Holosko (PhD '79) serving as master of ceremonies. Good food, a rousing challenge from keynote speaker Frances Fox Piven, and an atmosphere of profound human community contributed to the high experienced by all. It was an evening and a weekend no one wanted to end, and attendees urged the school to host such reunions more frequently.

The mix of great fellowship, serious discussions of controversial issues led by the panels, insights and challenges brought by Piven, the opportunity to learn what fellow graduates have accomplished, and the chance once again to experience autumn on Pitt's campus created a most memorable weekend. The celebration ended on these high notes of a moment in history ripe for progressive change; a recognition that professional social workers have the knowledge, skills, and experience to contribute constructively to this change; and a challenge not to let this fleeting moment pass personally or professionally.

*View photos from the festivities at www.socialwork.pitt.edu/sixtieth.*

# Efforts to 'Save'

International relocation of children is a complex legal and professional matter under the best of circumstances. The twin goals of keeping children in their own families and cultures and preventing such travesties as human trafficking of children are paramount. In times of crisis and catastrophe such as the January earthquake in Haiti, competing interests surface. For everyone, the heartfelt goal is saving children. Some seek to "save" children from disease, starvation, or even death by whisking them away to loving families in other lands. Others seek to reunite children with their biological families when possible and provide the resources and supports for them not only to survive but also to thrive.

On January 18, 2010, Edward Sites, professor emeritus and the School of Social Work's nationally recognized child welfare expert, found himself in the middle of this struggle over 54 children then at the BRESMA Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Sites had participated in the planning and was on a plane bound for Haiti to take these children to Pittsburgh. On board were Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell; Representative Jason Altmire; Marjorie Rendell, judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and wife of the governor; a medical and child care team; a translator; the family of the two young women who had been caring for the children; other officials; and more than two tons of medical supplies.

The effort eventually resulted in all 54 children returning to Pittsburgh for adoption, but the process was fraught with legal, political, military, and diplomatic problems—many of them occurring en route to Haiti and on the ground at the Port-au-Prince airport. These included obtaining permission to land, a dangerous and difficult night-time landing without the benefit of a functioning control tower, loading and unloading tons of medical supplies by hand, the initial refusal of Haitian and U.S. authorities to approve departure of some of the children from the orphanage, the forced departure of the team's aircraft without the children or the team, more than five hours on the tarmac amid the deafening roar of military aircraft and clouds of blowing dust and debris, temporarily losing one of the children, a military evacuation, and eventually caring for more than 50 children with various medical needs who had never been on an airplane before.

All of this took place in darkness as the Pittsburgh team engaged in nail-biting negotiations involving the U.S. Department of State, the White House, the National Security Council, the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, the Haitian government, the U.S. military, the United Nations, and others. Many times the outcome was in doubt, even though nearly all of the children had been officially approved for adoption in the United States by both governments and the necessary professionals before the earthquake.

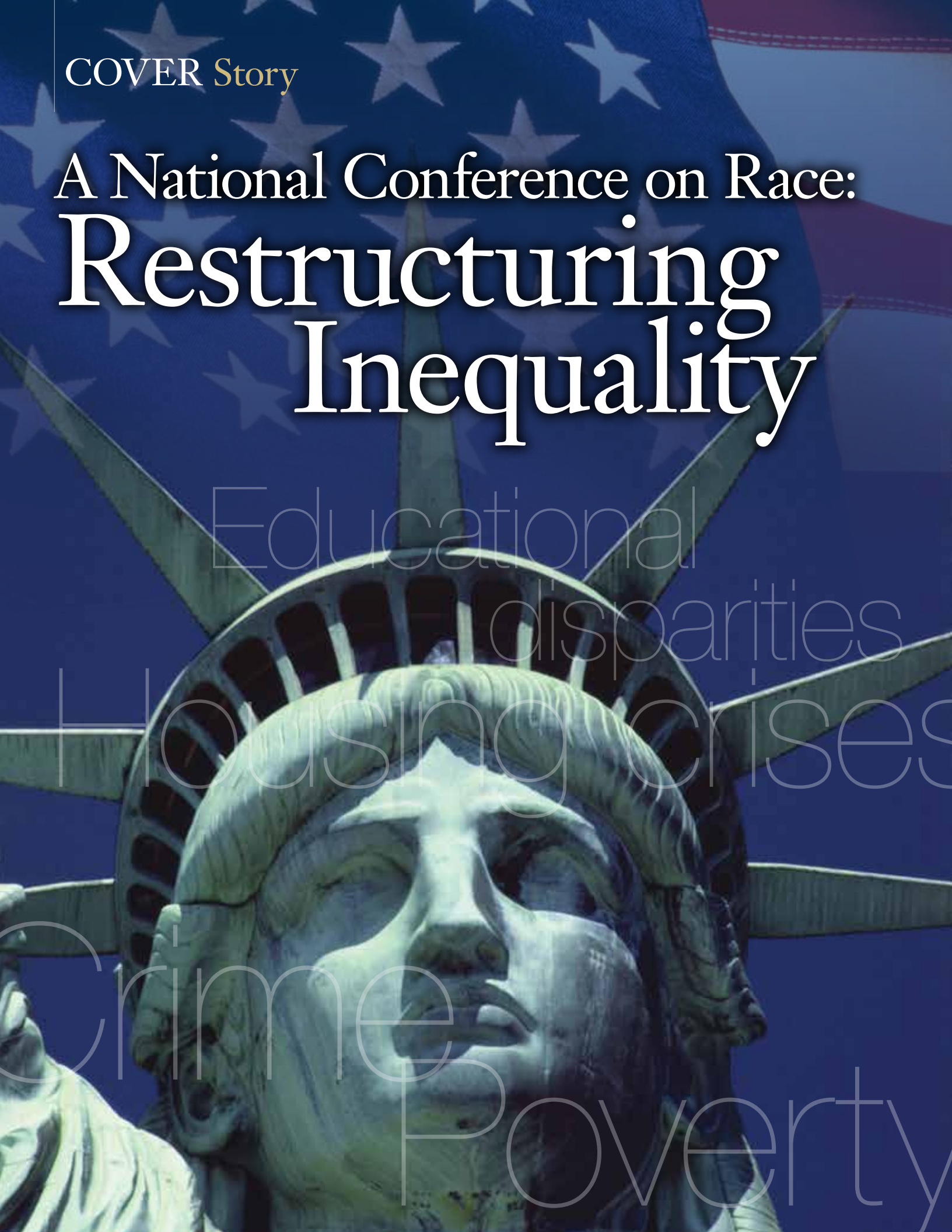
*Bridges* magazine was close to going to press when these events occurred, limiting space for additional coverage. Those who are interested in communicating further with Sites may contact him at esites@pitt.edu.




*Professor Emeritus Edward Sites traveled to Haiti in January to assist in the relocation of 54 Haitian orphans to Pittsburgh.*

COVER Story

# A National Conference on Race: Restructuring Inequality



To initiate a national dialogue on racial inequality, Larry Davis can't think of a better time to act than now nor a better place to begin the conversation than Pittsburgh.

Though relatively small compared to other metropolitan centers, Pittsburgh serves as a microcosm of larger American society, offering a snapshot of what race relations look like in the early 21st century.

"It's a city that has been hit very hard by the loss of manufacturing," Davis explains. "It has all the social perils: a school system with difficulties, the poverty rates are high. It has a sizable Black population that does noticeably less well than its White counterpart. It has all the things that need to be addressed."

So when Davis, dean of the School of Social Work and director of its Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), first envisioned a national conference on race a few years ago, he knew he was in the right place; he just had to pick his moment.

In late 2008, he saw that the moment had arrived. The election of Barack Obama to the presidency and the collapse of the U.S. economy combined to bring new awareness to issues that are inextricably intertwined with race: Poverty. Housing crises. Educational disparities. Crime. All were magnified through the lens of economic uncertainty, and the role of race—so often ignored or removed from the context of other social problems—once again became part of the national discourse.



## A Wicked Problem

That's when Davis began planning in earnest a conference that likely will form a significant part of his legacy at the helm of the School of Social Work. Titled Race in America: Restructuring Inequality, the conference will draw experts in race relations from across the country to Pittsburgh for three days in June 2010, sparking a dialogue that seeks not only to analyze the burden of racism but also to develop strategies to overcome it.

The idea, according to Davis, is to create a blueprint for the future. And as he sees it, what better time than when the country is rethinking so many aspects of its society?

"It seems while things are at a lull economically, while the country is trying to restructure itself, it makes sense that we rebuild the country not as it was but as it might be. And that's really the difference," says Davis.

The conference will focus on seven subject areas critical to the problem of racial inequality: criminal justice; economics; families, youth, and the aged; health care; mental health; intergroup relations; and education. There will be 20 sessions, each featuring two keynote speakers of national renown, followed by breakout sessions for conference participants. Public sessions will be held at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial. The conference is expected to attract more than 1,500 participants.



"This is not an intellectual enterprise. It's really about restructuring inequality. It's action items we want to create."

**— Larry E. Davis,**
*Dean of the School of Social Work, and director, Center on Race and Social Problems*

## Established Credibility

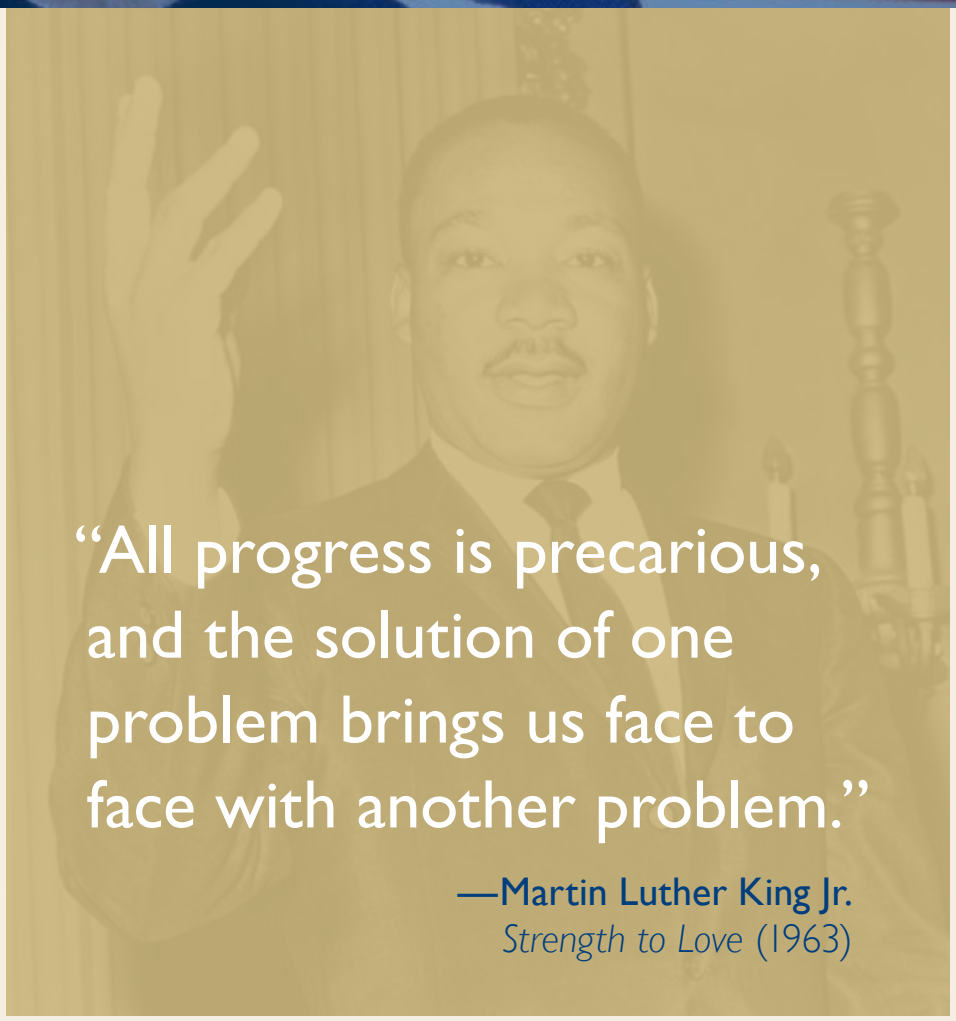
In selecting the speakers, the school had a significant advantage thanks to CRSP, home to a lecture series, journal, and summer institutes that have attracted many experts in the past. Thanks to those relationships, the response from invited speakers has been overwhelmingly positive, says Ralph Bangs, the center's associate director.

"This will be one of the best conferences on race ever held in America," says Bangs. "This is a chance for these national experts to summarize what they've learned in their careers."

Like the center itself, Davis stresses that the conference is multiracial, not solely an event aimed at African Americans or Whites.

"We've had a fair amount of success with the center. But I would credit much of that success to the fact that it is a multiracial center," notes Davis. "This is America's problem. It affects all of us."

## Deconstructing Racism




Across the seven topic areas, conference participants will seek to accomplish several goals, says Davis. The first is to define the state of the world: What are the problems? The second is to find out why the problems exist—in other words, what causes such a major inequity? For example, if the subject is criminal justice, conference participants will seek to explain whether disparities are caused by differences in parole, sentencing, referral of minority children into the criminal justice system, or other factors.

Thirdly, conference participants will try to reach a consensus about what sustains each social problem. And finally, they will strategize local, state, and national efforts to address each problem.

The final goal is a critical component of the conference, according to Davis. The idea is not to create an academic exercise on race relations but rather to discover hands-on methods for addressing very real systemic problems.

"This will be a very practical conference," says Davis. "I have asked our speakers to leave their academic posturing at home and come prepared to work with us to determine things we can do now to improve our society."

That overarching goal of practicality was a key factor in selecting speakers, he says.

"We wanted the best minds in the country, people who have thought about these seven areas as part of their lives' work," says Davis. "The goal is not to come here and intellectualize. It's a culmination of a scholarly process. Where do we go from here? Each of these speakers is a major contributor to solving a specific race-related social problem."

Once the conference is completed, CRSP will prepare a report on each of its seven subject areas, summarizing the knowledge generated by the conference workshops.

Those summaries will be published and disseminated widely throughout the country, says Bangs. Any updating will come in the form of publications or lectures that faculty give after the conference, such as the center's lecture series, summer institutes, and other forums.

The idea is to create a living dialogue on the issue of racial inequality so experts can continue to generate solutions.

However, the conference itself is meant to be a one-time event, stresses Davis.

"It has much more of an applied focus and an applied feel," he says. "This is not an intellectual enterprise. It's really about restructuring inequality. It's action items we want to create."

"It is our hope that organizations, leaders, and the public will be able to take new actions with the information gained from the conference," says Bangs.

## Convincing the Doubters

Keeping the focus of researchers, policy makers, and the public on race is critical, especially now, when many issues are more difficult to recognize, says Bangs.

"Underlying causes of racial disparities tend to be more subtle today and more hidden than they were in the past," he explains. "So we need more research and analysis than ever to help the public and the decision makers figure out what are our serious problems and what are the best solutions."

In fact, a portion of the population believes there is no serious problem, says Bangs.

Davis believes that is partially because

people have lived with disparities for so long that they start to view inequality as normal. And many, particularly Whites, can be put off by the suggestion that change is needed.

"They can see that progress has been made," says Davis. For example, the election of Obama or the achievement of Black people who are prominent professionals and community leaders may lead people to believe that America has achieved equality.

"But still, we have this legacy that is difficult to overcome," says Davis. "Some of what's going on isn't a function so much of intentional bias as it is of residual racism. This is the way things were structured in the past, and as a result, we sort of live with them in the present, because it becomes self-sustaining."

Housing segregation is one example, he says, as are differences in employment and education.

Bangs says solid research is the way to combat these misconceptions and prove the existence and pervasiveness of inequality.

"Researchers help to document problems and prove that they are real. Researchers, along with community leaders and policy makers, help figure out the solutions," he says.

## The Larger Struggle

In assembling the conference agenda, Davis and Bangs were pleased with the level of enthusiasm demonstrated by the greater Pittsburgh community.

"There is institutional support and community support for an effort of this type in Pittsburgh," says Davis, citing the financial contributions of several nonprofit foundations. "I think they really put their shoulders to the wheel with

*Continued on the next page*

# RACE in AMERICA

## Conference Program of Events

**The following sessions are scheduled for Race in America: Restructuring Inequality, held at the University of Pittsburgh June 3–6, 2010.**

### Thursday, June 3



Keynote address: **The Road to Freedom: From Alabama to Obama***

**Julian Bond**, *chairman emeritus, NAACP; social activist; leader in the American Civil Rights Movement; politician; professor; and writer*

### Friday, June 4

The Minority Majority: Imbalance in the Criminal Justice System
The Color of Money: Economic Disparities among the Races
Family Matters: Strengthening the Fabric of Minority Families
Sick and Tired: The Quality of Health Services for Minorities
In the Mix: Multiracial Demographics and Social Definitions of Race
Community Relations: How Police Interact with Minorities
Help Wanted: Creating Equal Opportunities for Minorities
Suspended Reality: Reducing Serious Discipline Problems
Minority Health: The Social Factors that Determine Health Disparities
Coming Together: Promoting Harmony among Racial Groups



Keynote address: **What is Economic Justice and How Do We Attain It?***

**Julianne Malveaux**, *president, Bennett College for Women; economist; author; and commentator*

### Saturday, June 5

Is Justice Blind?: Raising Awareness of Racial Bias in Policing
Causes, Consequences, and Cures: Ending the Spiral of Poverty
Basic Training: Confronting the Achievement Gap in Schools
Growing Old: The Unique Challenges Faced by Elderly Minorities
Mental Health: Finding Solutions to the Problems Minorities Face
Refocus and Reform: Changing Direction in Urban Schools
In the System: The Disproportionality of Race in Child Welfare
The Bigger Issue: Obesity in Minority Communities
The White Way?: Discussing Racial Privilege and White Advantage
From the Start: Identifying Disparities in Children's and Adults' Mental Health

Panel Discussion: **Post-racial America—Does It and Should It Exist?***

Moderator: **Alex Castellanos**, *partner, National Media Inc.; guest commentator, CNN*

Panelists: **Abigail Thernstrom**, *adjunct scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy; vice chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*
**Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**, *professor of sociology, Duke University*
**Ben Jealous**, *president and chief executive officer, NAACP*
**Tony Norman**, *columnist,* Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**These events are free and open to the general public.*

**Race in America: Restructuring Inequality Conference Planning Committee**

Larry E. Davis, *chair*
Ralph Bangs
Elizabeth Cooper
Christine Cornely
Robert Hill
Constance Horton
Matthew McCullough
Michael Newman
Megan O'Donnell
Emily Penrose-McLaughlin
Rosemary Rinella
Ronnie Savion
Megan Soltesz
Jinx Walton
Monica Watt
Phillip White

"Underlying causes of racial disparities tend to be more subtle today and more hidden than they were in the past."



— **Ralph Bangs**, *Associate director, CRSP*

this race conference. To my knowledge, no city has put on a conference of the magnitude and scope that this one has."

Though he is quick to acknowledge that quantifying the success of the conference will be difficult, Davis says he is aiming for an event that will become part of a cumulative effort that helps to create change, just as a march on Washington, D.C., ultimately brought about change that contributed to Obama's election.

"This conference is part of a larger struggle to make America a more equitable place. It's a process; it's not an off/on switch," he says. "I sincerely believe this conference will help us make progress toward making America a better place."




## Conference Speakers

**Oscar A. Barbarin III**, *L. Richardson and Emily Preyer Bicentennial Distinguished Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

**Monica Baskin**, *Associate Professor, Division of Preventative Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

**William Bell**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Casey Family Programs*

**Alfred Blumstein**, *J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, Carnegie Mellon University*

**Lawrence Bobo**, *W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of Social Sciences, Harvard University*

**Julian Bond**, *Chairman Emeritus, NAACP; social activist; leader in the American Civil Rights Movement; politician; professor; and writer*

**Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**, *Professor of Sociology, Duke University*

**Alex Castellanos**, *Partner, National Media Inc. and Guest Commentator, CNN*

**Dalton Conley**, *Dean of Social Sciences, New York University*

**Sheldon Danziger**, *Henry J. Meyer Distinguished University Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan*

**King Davis**, *Professor and Robert Lee Sutherland Chair in Mental Health and Social Policy, University of Texas at Austin*

**Robin Engel**, *Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati and Director, University of Cincinnati Policing Institute*

**Joe Feagin**, *Ella C. McFadden Professor in Sociology, Texas A&M University*

**Ron Ferguson**, *Senior Lecturer in Education and Public Policy, Harvard University*

**Charles Gallagher**, *Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, La Salle University*

**Sarah Gehlert**, *E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis*

**Patricia Gurin**, *Nancy Cantor Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Psychology and Women's Studies, University of Michigan*

**David Harris**, *Professor of Law, University of Pittsburgh*

**Howard Hogan**, *Associate Director for Demographic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau, or* **Karen Humes**, *Assistant Division Chief for Special Population Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau*

**Harry Holzer**, *Professor of Public Policy, Georgetown University*

**DJ Ida**, *Executive Director, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association*

**James Jackson**, *Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan*

**Ben Jealous**, *President and CEO, NAACP*

**David Kennedy**, *Director, Center for Crime Prevention and Control, City University of New York*

**Thomas A. LaVeist**, *William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy and Director, Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Johns Hopkins University*

**Taeku Lee**, *Professor of Political Science and Law, University of California, Berkeley*

**Julianne Malveaux**, *President, Bennett College for Women; economist; author; and commentator*

**Kokos Markides**, *Professor and Director, Division of Sociomedical Sciences, University of Texas Medical Branch*

**Marc Mauer**, *Executive Director, Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C.*

**Ruth McRoy**, *Donahue and DiFelice Professor, School of Social Work, Boston College*

**Pedro Noguera**, *Professor of Teaching and Learning, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University*

**Tony Norman**, *Columnist,* Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Gary Orfield**, *Professor, Graduate School of Education and Director, Civil Rights Project, University of California, Los Angeles*

**John Powell**, *Gregory H. Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Executive Director, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University*

**Mark Rank**, *Herbert S. Hadley Professor of Social Welfare, Washington University*

**Goutham Rao**, *Associate Professor, Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh*

**Steven Raphael**, *Professor of Public Policy, Richard & Rhoda Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley*

**Thomas Shapiro**, *Professor of Law and Social Policy, Brandeis University*

**Russell Skiba**, *Professor in Counseling and Educational Psychology, Indiana University*

**Jeanette South-Paul**, *Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh*

**David Takeuchi**, *Professor and Associate Dean for Research, School of Social Work, University of Washington*

**Abigail Thernstrom**, *Adjunct Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy and Vice-chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*

**Marta Tienda**, *Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University*

**John Wallace**, *Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh*

**David Williams**, *Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University*

**Oliver Williams**, *Professor and Director, Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, University of Minnesota*

# My Field Placement in Transylvania, Romania

*By Heather Conroy, MSW Student*



"Why Romania?" This question, which had been posed countless times while I prepared for my trip to Eastern Europe over the summer, echoed in my head as my plane traveled down the runway. My well-thought-out decision to be the first student in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Pittsburgh to earn field education credits abroad—as well as the first person in my family to obtain a passport and leave the East Coast—kept thoughts of this question from getting me down.

I was off to Sighisoara, Romania, (or "Sighi" as the townspeople called it) in the Transylvania region to work with the faith-based organization Veritas. Headed by Dorothy Tarrant, Veritas—which means "truth"—serves many groups of people in the area and is well known for both its service and religious affiliation with the Church of the Nazarene. My work involved attending regular group meetings and assisting Roma (gypsy) teenagers and community members suffering from disabilities, all while learning the language through the organization's classes and a personal translator. To further my knowledge of Romanian and my assimilation to the culture, Dorothy suggested I stay with a host family.

Throughout my trip, my host family was a constant source of support. Everyone in the family spoke at least some English, and my host sisters were fluent in English, German, Romanian, and Hungarian. Dorothy was also very supportive. She was open to my suggestions and proactive in making things happen so that I left the experience feeling like I truly made an impact on those with whom I worked for such a short, yet intensive, period of time.

With help from Dorothy and other members of the organization, I was able to directly impact the life of a 21-year-old man by providing him with a wheelchair. I met with him two to three times each week at the Impreuna, or "Together," Group for people with disabilities, and I visited him at his home. He was so full of life and humor in spite of his severe physical impairments from birth complications. I noticed the deteriorating physical condition of his device and the limitations it caused him; within minutes, Dorothy was on the phone to find a donated upright wheelchair.

My position with the Together Group led me to take on another unlikely role: working with a 25-year-old man with severe autism who had had no consistent schooling. My experience working in the field of autism had been with children up to this point, but, after meeting with him and seeing his severe state, I was intrigued. I worked with him to help him gain some communication skills in the form of more functional vocal noises and signing. His mother told me near the end of my work that she noticed him trying to make words, something he had not done since he was 3 years old. Although I was sad to leave knowing that he would likely receive little or no additional help, my experience working with this young man as well as presenting on working with Romanian children diagnosed with autism showed me that I am destined to remain in the field.

It was during home visits with Roma children and their families that I experienced the most emotional times of my trip. Some neighborhoods were better than others, but nearly all of the homes were infested with flies and lacked indoor bathrooms. Those who had running water were considered lucky. From what I could see, some of the Roma were making an effort to work and bring money in for their families, but those stigmas that had led them to receive a poor education also led to less-than-equal job opportunities when compared to the ethnic Romanian population.

After seeing their homes, I was proud that the youth were still so vibrant and happy. They showed so much promise despite their backgrounds, which is a testament to the work that Veritas is doing. Most of these children expected to continue living as their parents had, but some will break free of this cycle thanks to the opportunities and support this organization provides them.

For those who wonder whether my trip was worth the efforts in planning and funding; leaving the security of my friends, family, and Western Pennsylvania home; and taking a chance on an agency I knew little about, it was. My Romanian experience was unforgettable, and I hope it is only the beginning of more world adventures to come that will allow me to explore different cultures and utilize the social work training I have received at the University of Pittsburgh.




*(Left to right)*
*Loţi, Heather Conroy, and Vladuţ*

## Scholarship Creates 'Launching Pad' for MSW Student

For Stanley F. Battle (PhD '80), the key to improving diversity within social work is simple: Provide opportunities for high-achieving underrepresented students to attend graduate school, and they will attend and flourish.

What's not as simple is funding the means for those opportunities.

"We don't give enough. Collectively, we need to give more," says Battle, a 2005 University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate and former chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University. "Benevolence starts at home—you can't take it with you when you're gone."

He knows whereof he speaks. Both Battle and his wife, Judith L. Rozie-Battle, hail from modest backgrounds and received assistance when they were in graduate school. But many of the funding sources that were available for them have since evaporated, leaving a gap that they intend to help fill.



*Sammie Dow (standing) with Stanley F. Battle and Judith L. Rozie-Battle*

In 2008, they established the Stanley F. Battle and Judith L. Rozie-Battle Endowed Fund at the School of Social Work. The fund aims to recruit and retain students who help to contribute to the school's diversity, and preference is given to students graduating from historically Black colleges and universities.

"The reason we do what we do is we truly believe we are in a position to help," says Rozie-Battle. "It was really an easy decision to make."

In the fall of 2009, the scholarship's first recipient, Sammie Dow, began working toward his MSW. Currently, he is working in a field placement at YouthWorks, Inc., and his hope is to pursue a career in the creation of diversity and outreach programs, helping business, government, and education to find ways to become more inclusive and accessible.

Dow was well known to his benefactors, having graduated from North Carolina A&T in the spring of 2009. Though his undergraduate degree is in journalism, he knew by his senior year that it wasn't a field in which he wanted to work, and he was worried about his future.

As chief of staff for the student government, he became acquainted with Battle and talked about his dilemma. It was then that Battle began thinking Dow was the right person for the scholarship he and his wife had just established.

> "For me, this was more than a scholarship. This has become a launching pad for literally everything I want to do."
>
> **— Sammie Dow,** *MSW student and scholarship recipient*

"Sammie was an outstanding student at A&T," says Battle. "When I met him, I thought he'd be an excellent candidate. He had to compete. He had discipline."

So much did Dow trust Battle's opinion that he accepted a spot at Pitt before he ever set foot on campus. Now that his first year is well under way, he's certain he made the right decision.

"Everything that I need to be a leader, to help people, I am learning in my MSW," he says. "For me, this was more than a scholarship. This has become a launching pad for literally everything I want to do."

Eventually, Dow hopes to pursue a PhD in social policy and possibly go into higher education.

"Sammie just got a pass to enter a different stage and a different level," says Battle. "This is a great environment. I wouldn't stop at a master's degree—are you kidding?"

Dow believes that the scholarship is about much more than tuition; for him, it's the beginning of a lifelong relationship.

"I told Dr. Battle: 'You're never going to be able to get rid of me,' " he says. "And he just smiled and said, 'OK.' "

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

## Q&A with Constance F. Horton

Constance F. Horton (MSW '05) has served for the past four years as executive director of the Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education (FAME), a nonprofit organization committed to providing scholarships to bright and talented underrepresented students with financial need so that they can attend high-quality independent schools. Under her leadership, FAME has dramatically increased the number of students it supports, the amount of programming it has offered to scholars and alumni, and its endowment and fundraising efforts. Prior to her tenure at FAME, Horton led a robust state-recognized family recruitment program for the Three Rivers Adoption Council as well as school-based services and summer programs for Hosanna House, Inc. While at Hosanna House, she developed and facilitated a student empowerment program within Wilkinsburg, Pa., public elementary schools that was honored by the governor as a best-practice model in youth programming.

In addition to her MSW, Horton earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh in Africana studies and sociology. She currently serves as an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work, on the Board of Directors of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, on the advisory board of the National Partnership for Educational Access, on the UPMC Educational Partnership Committee, and on the selection committee for the YWCA Racial Justice Awards. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Urban Christian School for five years and recently was named one of the *New Pittsburgh Courier*'s Fab 40.

**Please tell us a little about the work you do with FAME.**

"I have been FAME's executive director for the last four and a half of the organization's 15-year existence. FAME was designed to ensure that African American students would have access to high-quality educational institutions and be better represented in the corporate community. FAME's founders had an amazing vision and realized that focusing on educational access would address both of the issues at hand. You cannot solve problems in the workforce without properly educating young people. Our goal is to take really bright, talented, and charismatic students who have a lot to offer, but very limited financial resources, and help their dreams to come to fruition. We are intentional about empowering students to achieve their educational goals and become the leaders of the next generation.

"I was fortunate enough to walk into a program that was doing good work when I began as executive director. So I was in a position to ask the question, 'How do we make FAME great?' It was a very small program, staffed with just me and an administrator. We have gone on to increase the staff size; increase funds raised each year; grow our endowment; and, most importantly, increase the number of students that FAME supports. As the leader of a small organization, I am able to participate in all aspects of the work we do to help to ensure the success of our students by any means necessary."

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

"I always had an interest in social work; even after completing my undergraduate degree at Pitt in Africana studies and sociology, it was something I always wanted to do. I was very interested in the intersection of history—particularly that of African American people—and social service and how large-scale community issues could be addressed through service.



I have always been a problem solver and saw social work as a way to do just that. While I was completing my bachelor's degree, I was working with Hosanna House running school-based services and really loved it. Shortly thereafter, I went on to work for Three Rivers Adoption Council, running a program working to recruit families for African American children and older children who are overrepresented in the foster care system. The program was recognized not only statewide but also nationally for the high volume of families we recruited.

"During that time, and all the way until I entered the MSW program at Pitt, I was a foster parent as well. I also spent time working with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and began the MSW with the full intention of staying within the public school system. I focused on the [Direct Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups Concentration] and completed the Home and School Visitor Certificate Program. As soon as I graduated, I received a call from a local nonprofit executive search firm that recruited me to apply for the executive director position with FAME. While the position was not how I had planned on utilizing my MSW, I realized that coming in as executive director would allow me to influence the type of change I may not have been able to do elsewhere. It was an opportunity I had to take advantage of.

*Continued on the next page*

## Alumni Corner *(continued)*

I have been rather lucky in that I have never had to search for a job, which I attribute to the fact that I always stayed in the field working both during my time as a student and between my degree programs.

"As an adjunct instructor in the MSW program, I have a connection that provides me with an ongoing opportunity to mentor and inspire students; to work with issues of diversity and marginalized populations; and to ensure that professionals are honest and aware of the role that race, class, and gender play in our communities. We have to know the history of that and why disparities exist."

to do some of the things that I've wanted to do, a framework for teaching social justice in communities through social service and acting on thoughts and theories. I went to school full time and worked full time while receiving both my undergraduate and graduate degrees, so it was an intense experience but one that I've grown to appreciate. I remember [Associate Professor Helen] Petracchi noting in one of my classes that the work would be challenging as a graduate-level student. I've always loved a challenge, so it was great to see that spirit in someone else. She demanded a lot, but it helped students to get the most out of the program. My approach to teaching and leadership is similar. I believe in working hard and have found that it pays off.

"I feel honored to maintain a relationship with the school and to give back by working on the planning committee for the upcoming Race in America conference. Dean [Larry E.] Davis has also been extremely supportive and helpful in my effort to remain connected to the School of Social Work."

> "I read the autobiography of Malcolm X when I was 13, and from that point on, I wanted to change the world."
>
> **— Constance F. Horton** *(MSW '05)*
> *Executive director, FAME, and adjunct professor, School of Social Work*

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

"Since I was a young girl, I had an interest in and commitment to social justice issues. I read the autobiography of Malcolm X when I was 13, and from that point on, I wanted to change the world. The School of Social Work gave me the framework

### What are some of your thoughts about the upcoming Race in America conference?

"It has been great to work with the planning committee. The conference will focus on seven distinct areas, such as health, criminal justice, economics, and education. I am looking forward to the education track in particular, as it is so important to the conversation on race. I'm interested in hearing more about how we can address the academic achievement gap from an evidence-based research perspective, where we often focus too little attention. I collaborate with many organizations that are addressing this issue successfully, much in the same way FAME is. I appreciate opportunities to analyze what makes our programs successful in helping students graduate from high school and college and enter the workforce uniquely prepared. Conferences like this one allow some of the best and brightest minds in America to have a candid dialogue about these issues and leave with a renewed sense of urgency and a plan of action."

## Alum Receives Frieda Shapira Medal

**Al Condeluci** (MSW '75), executive director of United Cerebral Palsy/ Community Living and Support Services (UCP/CLASS) in Pittsburgh, has been awarded the Frieda Shapira Medal for 2009. The Forbes Funds introduced the medal in 2003 to honor Shapira, a community leader who served numerous organizations, including The Pittsburgh Foundation, United Way of Allegheny County, United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and the Forbes Funds. It is presented annually to a local nonprofit executive for demonstrating (1) distinctive and exceptional leadership for one's organization, (2) accomplishments that advance the field, and (3) a commitment to service beyond one's own organization.

Condeluci has served the Pittsburgh human service community for nearly four decades. He has dedicated his life's work to providing community support to individuals with disabilities as well as educating others about the importance of creating a culture of acceptance. In addition to serving as UCP/CLASS executive director, Condeluci is on



the faculty of Pitt's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and participates in a variety of civic volunteer roles. He is on the board of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging, serves on the advisory committee of Hattie Larlham, and is the immediate past chair of the Pennsylvania Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board.

## Alumni Again Recognized

For the fourth consecutive year, School of Social Work alumni have been recognized among the 40 Under 40. *Pittsburgh Magazine* and the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) sponsor the 40 Under 40 program with the goal of recognizing 40 people younger than 40 who are committed to shaping our region and making it a better place for everyone. Congratulations to Khalif Ali (MSW '08) and Dana Davis (MSW '98) for their great contributions to the region. Since 2004, 10 School of Social Work alumni have been awarded this honor.

Ali is a community organizer with Operation Better Block (OBB). Through grassroots organizing, OBB is committed to improving the quality of life for those who live, work, play, and are educated in the Homewood-Brushton section of Pittsburgh. "Organizing and training stakeholders in Homewood enables us not only to identify quality-of-life issues but also to work together to resolve these issues," Ali says. In addition, he serves as a mentor with Amachi Pittsburgh, a group that provides mentors to children and youths aged 4–18 who have one or both parents incarcerated. Ali also is a member of the mayor's Safe Neighborhoods Cabinet, which comprises community stakeholders and people with experience confronting and deterring crime who share their thoughts and ideas on improving public safety.

Davis currently is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Work and is founder and president of The Open Door Inc. Started by a group of volunteers, The Open Door is a supportive housing program that improves the health of members of a forgotten population: high-risk, chronically homeless people living with HIV. "All of the individuals we serve are achieving optimal health care outcomes, despite the problems in their lives. This is thanks to our staff who are peers to the program, meaning they are also living with HIV and have had similar problems in their past as the residents do," Davis says.

***Congratulations to both honorees!***

## Joni Rabinowitz Steps Down at Just Harvest

After coleading Just Harvest for more than 25 years, tireless antihunger advocate Joni Rabinowitz (MSW '74) has retired. Because of her work, thousands of children now receive school breakfasts and lunches, food pantries and community organizations are aided through the city-supported Hunger Fund, and hundreds of citizens in need have received welfare and food stamp assistance that might otherwise have been denied them. In honor of her outstanding work on behalf of the poor, disenfranchised, and hungry in the Pittsburgh region, Just Harvest is establishing the Joni Rabinowitz Fund for New Community Organizers as a fitting tribute to her leadership and legacy.

In 2008, Just Harvest awarded the School of Social Work its Advocate Award in recognition of the many student interns who have aided and organized through Just Harvest to address hunger and poverty in the region. As a social worker and community organizer, Rabinowitz mentored and nurtured these students to make a difference in the world.

The School of Social Work joins the greater Pittsburgh community in thanking Rabinowitz for her tireless efforts for social and economic justice as well as for enriching the social work educations of many of the school's students.

## Alumni Society News

The School of Social Work Alumni Society again has achieved Gold Banner status as awarded by the Pitt Alumni Association Banner Program.

The Pitt Alumni Association works to support the University of Pittsburgh and to enrich the lives of alumni worldwide. The banner program is a way for the association to recognize the services alumni societies provide through activities that support its four strategic initiatives: financial strength, communications, student involvement, and partnerships.

In achieving Gold Banner status, the School of Social Work Alumni Society exceeded the requirements for all four initiatives, thanks to the hard work of more than 9,000 alumni. The recognition also includes a $500 contribution to the School of Social Work Scholarship Fund.



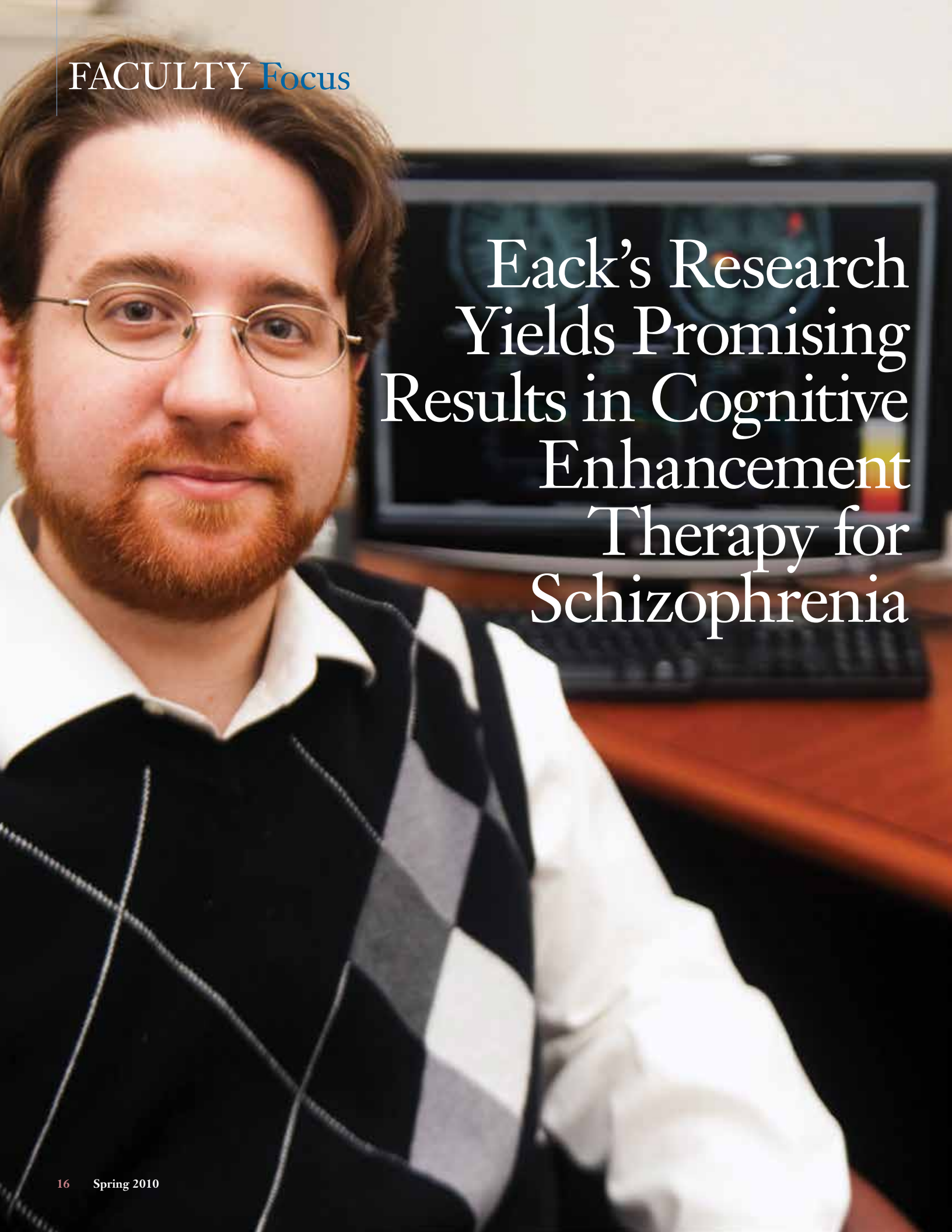

*(Left to right) Director of Career Services and Alumni Affairs Keith Caldwell (MSW '02), School of Social Work Alumni Society President Petrina Sichak (MSW '07), and Executive Committee Member James A. Cox Jr. (MSW '90) accept the Gold Banner at the annual Pitt Alumni Association Banner Luncheon.*

# 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.





# Eack's Research Yields Promising Results in Cognitive Enhancement Therapy for Schizophrenia

When Shaun Eack started out in social work, he planned to become a clinician, so he took a job as a case manager in a group home for people with schizophrenia.

With little protocol to follow except to monitor medication and keep the residents out of trouble, Eack was convinced there had to be a better way. After all, he was a social worker—in fact, he hailed from a long line of social workers—and was cultured to help.

"These guys weren't getting anything, and they were pretty sick," he says of the group home residents. "They mostly just got medicine and very little help. That was the thing that upset me the most, I think. As soon as people weren't fighting anymore, the staff were free to play solitaire, and the [residents] were free to stare at the wall. They had a pretty meager existence."

Eack was convinced that social workers could help the residents to have more meaningful lives if only they took an interest and had the right tools.

So he went back to school, determined that through his research, he could improve not only the lives of the 12 people living in the group home but all patients with schizophrenia, many of whom rely on social workers for assistance.

Eack, who earned his PhD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work in 2009, accepted a post as an assistant professor at the school immediately after graduation. His research focuses on improving cognition for schizophrenia patients. He initially was drawn to Pitt because of the late Gerard Hogarty, a pioneer in the field.

The idea behind Hogarty's research was that even with schizophrenia, people take medication to help to control the symptoms of their illness, but they still have trouble processing information, paying attention to tasks, and picking up on social cues.

**"Not only did Cognitive Enhancement Therapy improve cognition, but people were starting to go back to work at a pretty high rate," says Eack. "And it was real work, too—real jobs for real pay."**

That leads to problems making friends and interacting with others.

Hogarty applied Cognitive Enhancement Therapy to treat those issues. He agreed to mentor Eack for a project that they hoped to fund through the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). But just a few weeks after they submitted the grant application, Hogarty died.

"It was a big loss on a personal and professional level for all of us," says Eack, who ultimately received funding from NIMH to carry on and extend Hogarty's work. "He certainly has been the biggest and most influential person in my career, without a doubt."

Eack and his colleagues completed a study to see how the treatment worked as an early intervention strategy for young adults at the onset of illness that yielded promising results. Patients and clinicians used computer-based cognitive exercises to practice attention, memory, and problem solving. Patients then participated in small group therapy sessions to better understand their illness and work on picking up on social cues and taking perspective of other people.

"Not only did Cognitive Enhancement Therapy improve cognition, but people were starting to go back to work at a pretty high rate," says Eack. "And it was real work, too—real jobs for real pay. That was very exciting for us."

Recently, NIMH funded a $20 million project across 40 sites to try to implement even broader early intervention strategies. Eack leads the project at the Pittsburgh site.

Eack's group also has completed some research characterizing physical changes in the brain that result from Cognitive Enhancement Therapy. Cognitive Enhancement Therapy helps to protect the brain from losses traditionally associated with schizophrenia, and illustrating that neuroprotection is an important step, he notes.

Additionally, Eack's group received funding from NIMH to break out and apply the therapy to adults with autism, whose social-cognitive impairments are similar to those of adults with schizophrenia.

Though Eack acknowledges he was offered jobs in many other cities, he chose to remain at Pitt because "it's hands down the number-one place to be for doing this kind of work," he says. "No place could offer me the level of resources the school has given me, and the University has given me, to keep this going."



# RESEARCH Update



*Compiled by Hide Yamatani, Associate Dean for Research*

**Nationally, the School of Social Work is ranked 14th (top 8 percent) among 168 graduate schools of social work (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2007). However, the school's national ranking does not accurately reflect its faculty scholarship productivity compared to the national top 10 schools. In reference to the average number of scholarly journal publications, the school improved its ranking to fourth in 2009 (from sixth) among the top 10 benchmark schools. The school also improved its average number of national conference (e.g., Council on Social Work Education and Society for Social Work and Research) presentations per faculty member to first among the top 10 schools.**

As of January 2010, the School of Social Work is operating 33 externally funded projects totaling $25.5 million (22 research and 11 educational training projects). Since publication of the fall 2009 issue of *Bridges*, the school has received 11 research funding awards, including three pilot projects.

A notable new research award is Associate Professor **Catherine Greeno**'s collaborative funding for her study, "Reforming the System of Case Management/Service Coordination for People with Severe Mental Illness: Evaluating the SPA Initiative."

Assistant Professor **Fengyan Tang** has received funding support from the Silberman Foundation for her research project related to senior citizens, titled "Productive Engagement and Health in the Retirement Transition Process."

Associate Professor and Doctoral Program Director **Valire Carr Copeland**—along with coinvestigator Jeanette South-Paul, Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine in the School of Medicine—has been awarded research support for "Establishment of Cultural Competency Training at the Schools of Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh."

Professor **Amy Ai** has attained funding for her project examining hypertension in African Americans that measures ties between health and social work.

Assistant Professor **Rachel Fusco** received an award for "A Vulnerable Population within a Vulnerable Population: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth in Child Welfare" and—with coprincipal investigator Helen Cahalane of the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs—for "Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Caseworker Visitation Project Research and Evaluation."



*Catherine Greeno*



*Valire Carr Copeland*



*Fengyan Tang*



*Amy Ai*



*John Wallace*



*Ralph Bangs*

**John Wallace**, associate professor and Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, is making significant progress in the community-based participatory research he is conducting with **Ralph Bangs**, associate director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, related to Wallace's crime control grant and continued efforts in Homewood.

Finally, we especially would like to recognize our newest faculty member, Assistant Professor **Shaun Eack** (see Faculty Focus, page 16), who has three new awards: "Deciphering Altered Brain Connectivity in ASD to Improve Intervention, "Adapting Cognitive Enhancement Therapy for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders," and "Recovery After the Initial Schizophrenia Episode."

# 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.**



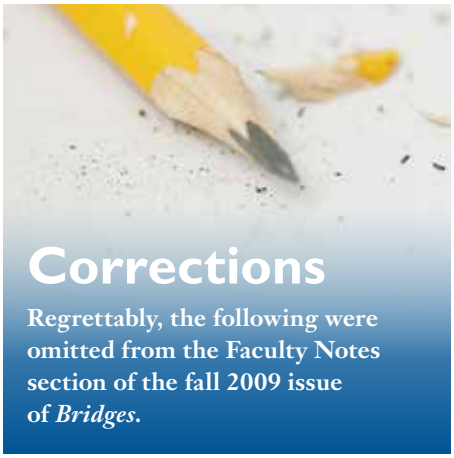


## Make a Charitable Bequest to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

**Now is your opportunity to be counted in the largest campaign in University of Pittsburgh history.** By including the **School of Social Work** in your will or estate plans, you can help Pitt to reach the goals of its Building Our Future Together fundraising campaign.

A charitable bequest allows you to make a commitment that will cost you nothing right now.

For more information about charitable bequests, please contact Liz Cooper at **412-624-8239** or visit the Office of Planned Giving Web site at **www.pitt.planyourlegacy.org**.



## Corrections

**Regrettably, the following were omitted from the Faculty Notes section of the fall 2009 issue of *Bridges*.**

## Publications

**Sara Goodkind**, " 'You Can Be Anything You Want, But You Have to Believe It': Commercialized Feminism in Gender-Specific Programs for Girls," *Signs*, 34(2), 397–422, 2009.

Goodkind, with M. Ruffolo, D. Bybee, and R.C. Sarri, "Coping as a Mediator of the Effects of Stressors and Supports on Depression among Girls in Juvenile Justice," *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 7(2), 100–18, 2009.

Goodkind, with J.M. Wallace, C. Wallace, and J. Bachman, "Racial/Ethnic and Gender Differences in School Discipline among American High School Students: 1991–2005," *The Negro Educational Review*, 59(1/2), 47–62, 2008.

## Chapters and Reports

**Sara Goodkind**, " 'You May Even Be President of the United States One Day': Challenging Commercialized Feminism in Programming for Girls in Juvenile Justice," In *Childhood, Youth, and Social Work in Transformation*, L. Nybell, J. Shook, and J. Finn (eds.), Columbia University Press, 2009.

## Awards and Recognition

**Sara Goodkind** received an award from the Women's Studies Faculty Course Development Fund to develop a course titled Feminist Social Work.

# CLASS Notes

**Hilary Brown** (MSW '07) is community affairs coordinator at Massaro Corporation, a construction services company based in Pittsburgh. Brown developed a relationship with the company during its renovation of the Union Project, where she served as program manager, and five years later, Massaro has created a position for her. Massaro Serves, which Brown manages, encompasses pro bono service, donations, skilled and unskilled volunteerism, mentoring, professional days for urban youth, diversity and sustainability programs, and corporate matching.

**Dorothy C. (Howze) Browne** (MSW '72) was appointed dean of the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University in 2009. Also a professor, Browne has more than 30 years of academic and administrative experience, including serving as director of the Public Health Institute at North Carolina A&T State University; professor, codirector of the Morgan-Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, and director of the Drug Abuse Research Program at Morgan State University; and professor and codirector of the public health and social work dual-degree program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Marla L. Caplan** (BASW '91) is chief operating officer of Global Business Development Company, LLC, a consulting company offering business development, strategic planning, marketing, sales, legal, and financial expertise to small and midsize companies. In addition, Caplan is a health care ethics consultant with UPMC Presbyterian and Montefiore hospitals; a member of the UPMC Ethics Committee, UPMC Committee for Oversight of Research Involving the Dead, and Board of Directors for the American College of Healthcare Executives of Western Pennsylvania; and a fellow of the American Psychotherapy Association.

**Mark A. Knight** (MSW '83) has been named director of lending for NeighborWorks Capital, a community development financial institution that makes flexible early stage loans to a national network of nonprofit developers engaged in creating or preserving affordable or special needs housing or community revitalization initiatives. Prior to entering the "opportunity finance" field in 2001, Knight spent 20 years in community mental health training and advocacy at the national level. Now based out of Silver Spring, Md., he credits his MSW with preparing him for a "varied career in making social change."

**Carol Riedel Lopinski** (MSW '84) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Arizona chapter, in September 2009. Since 1986, Lopinski has served as director of family support at the Child Crisis Center in Mesa, Ariz., where her passion has been to support and educate parents so they can raise healthy families. Thanks to Lopinski's direction and creativity, more than 19,000 individuals in the Phoenix area have received services. During the past 18 months, she has developed and implemented Operation Family Support, a program for military families and service providers.

**Georgeann Miller** (MSW '09) has joined an agency that assists families—specifically, children who are at risk for out-of-home placement—in a rural area in southeastern Arizona. The agency emphasizes empirical practices, individualized services, and a strengths-based perspective. Miller credits her course work and internships at Pitt with preparing her for this exciting opportunity.

**Sonnya Nieves** (MSW '98), currently a school social worker at Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pa., has served school-aged children in public, private, and special education, as well as outpatient and home-based therapeutic settings, for 11 years. She has participated in the lobbying efforts of the Pennsylvania chapter of NASW (NASW-PA) to establish a statewide certification for school social workers, including speaking at Lobby Day at the state capitol in spring 2009. In October 2009, the Pennsylvania Association of School Social Work Personnel named Nieves School Social Worker of the Year.

**Cecily D. Randolph** (MSW '09) has relocated to Harrisburg, Pa., as director of membership and outreach for NASW-PA. Working closely with NASW-PA's nine division chairs, Randolph will ensure not only that each division is able to offer a combination of networking and continuing education events but also that members continue to feel the presence of NASW-PA in their communities. She is committed to interacting with members, educating the community, and growing the strength of NASW-PA's collective voice.

**Christopher Robinson** (MSW '07), program manager for Heritage Community Initiatives, Inc. and 21st Century Community Learning Centers Propel After School Support (PASS) program, has been recognized as one of the Fab 40 by the *New Pittsburgh Courier*. The award honors "40 African Americans under 40 who are making strides to uplift the community." Robinson was selected in part for his "ability, determination, focus, and fortitude." PASS offers a safe, high-quality afterschool program for youth and families, providing strong academic, cultural, and recreational enrichment opportunities through community and school partnerships.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Irene J. Britton** (MSW '45)
**Michael P. Cline** (MSW '78)

# It's Sociable



*Mark A. Knight (MSW '83)*

## Keep in Touch!

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

Name

Degree(s) and Year(s) of Graduation

Home Address

Home Telephone E-mail

Business Address

Business Telephone E-mail

Position(s)

News

### Complete and mail or fax to:

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Attn: Emily Penrose-McLaughlin

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# RACE IN AMERICA: Restructuring Inequality

## June 3–6, 2010

Hosted by the School of Social Work
and Center on Race and Social Problems

*See cover story, page 6, for more information.*

www.race.pitt.edu

## Spring 2010 School of Social Work Speaker Series

*Sidney A. Teller Lecture*
**"Diversity as a Condition for Success in a Global Economy"**
February 16
Alex Johnson, president, Community College of Allegheny County


*Alex Johnson*

*Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture to commemorate World Social Work Day*
**"International Higher Education Parnerships for Place-Based Community Development: Lessons from a Social Work Eductation Partnership in Ethiopia"**
April 14
Alice K. Butterfield, professor, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago
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.


*Alice Butterfield*

## Center on Race and Social Problems Reed Smith Spring 2010 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.

**"Diversity and Its Discontents: Lessons from Higher Education"**
Marta Tienda, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University
Thursday, January 21

**"Wedge Politics: The Structure and Function of Racial Group Cues in American Politics"**
Vincent Hutchings, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan
Monday, February 15

**" 'There Is More to Me than White': Moving from Whiteness Studies to Privilege Studies"**
Abby L. Ferber, Associate Professor of Women's and Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Tuesday, March 16

**"Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites"**
Jonathan M. Hurwitz, Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
Wednesday, April 7

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