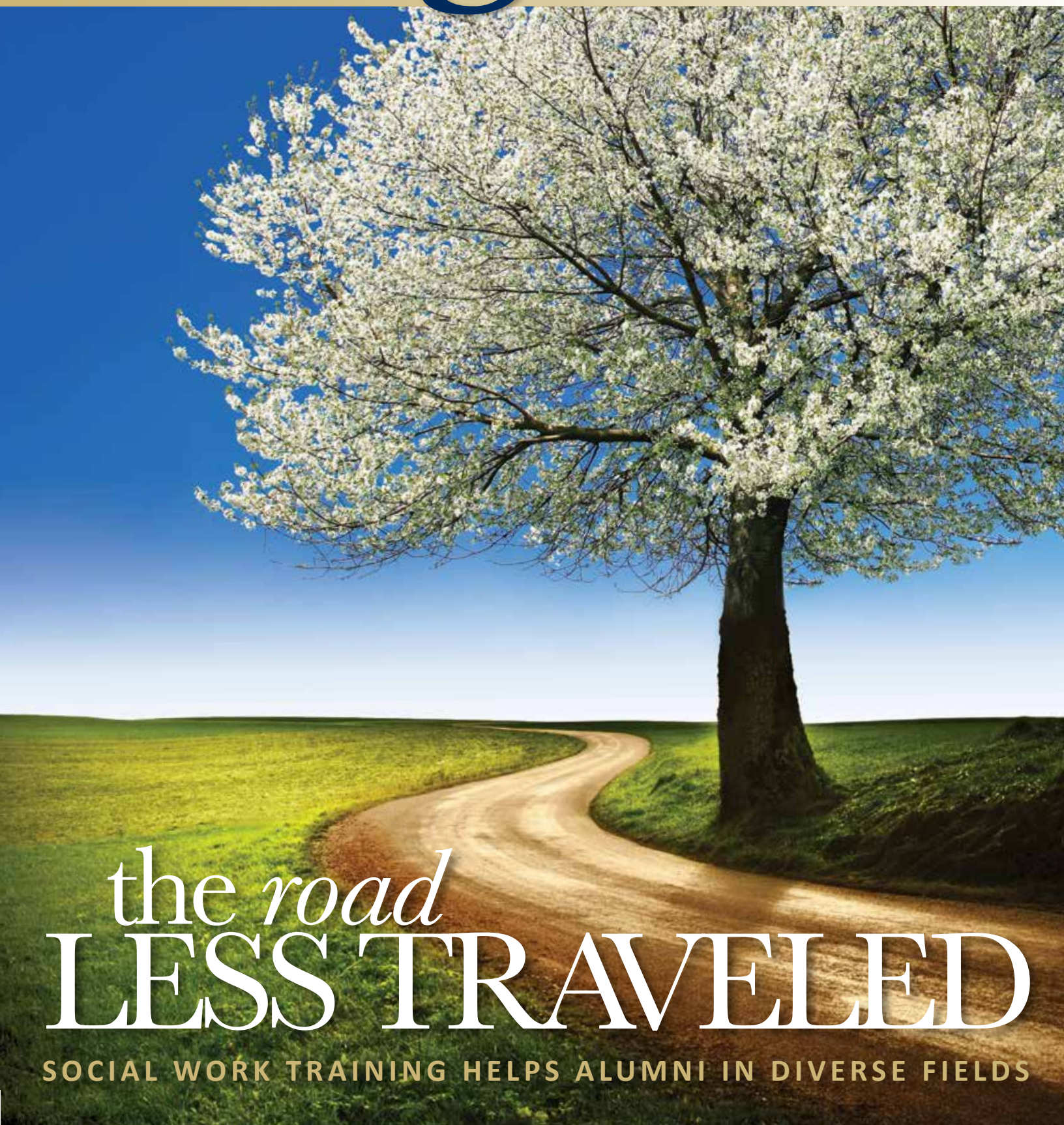
Bridges

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MAGAZINE **SPRING 2012**



the *road* LESS TRAVELED

SOCIAL WORK TRAINING HELPS ALUMNI IN DIVERSE FIELDS

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.


p. 12


p. 16


p. 20



TABLE *of* CONTENTS

FEATURES

COVER STORY:
The Road Less Traveled: Social Work Training Helps Alumni in Diverse Fields 6

From Globetrotters to Classrooms, Alumni Find Their Niches 10

Living and Learning through Community Engagement 20

DEPARTMENTS

Dean's Message 3
School News 4
Development and Alumni News 11
Research Update 15
Faculty Focus 16
News from the Center on Race and Social Problems 18
Class Notes 23

Published by the School of Social Work
Editor . . . . . Larry E. Davis, Dean
Assistant Editor . . . . . Rosemary A. Rinella

Department of University Marketing Communications
Editor . . . . . Stacey Rosleck
Editorial Assistant . . . . . Sarah Jordan Rosenson
Art Director . . . . . Alison Butler
Production Manager . . . . . Chuck Dinsmore
Writer . . . . . Niki Kapsambelis

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6304
www.socialwork.pitt.edu

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

2010 Award of Honor, IABC Golden Triangle Awards, magazine cover design

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. Published in cooperation with the Department of University Marketing Communications. UMC83496-0412

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C106201

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Alumni *and* Friends,

I am again happy to welcome you to the spring issue of *Bridges*.

Our alumni are making a difference in a variety of nontraditional ways. The social work education they received from the school is being felt across many different disciplines and segments of society.

One thing they have in common is that no matter where their career paths have led them, their commitment to the values we hold most dear at the school are evident in their lives.

I believe you will enjoy some of their unique stories—after all, who knew that we had a Harlem Globetrotter among our alumni?

We are proud to have alumni like Jim Browne (MSW '73) bringing the skill of engagement he learned here to the financial sector, Alan Momeyer (MSW '72) leading the way in diversity and acceptance for a Fortune 500 company, Sally Hobart Alexander (MSW '73) writing with sensitivity and honesty to reach out to young adults, Jim McDonald (MSW '82) managing community outreach and giving across the globe, Brian Segal (PhD '71) teaching the value of human capital, Christian Franklin (MSW '98) founding a basketball camp for kids, Letty Wright Maxwell (BASW '93) educating children around the world, and Todd Schachter (MSW '08) educating children right here in Pittsburgh.

Our alumni are valuable and essential members of our communities as well as our school. Kevin Corcoran (MSW '80, PhD '80) and his wife, Vikki Vandiver, made a generous gift to the school that ensures that we will be able to continue to educate a new generation of social workers who will make their marks on the world no matter what livelihood they may chose.

Our speaker series put the spotlight on community organizing this spring, as we invited Michael Eichler and Marie Weil to share their research and expertise with our ever-growing audience.

This year brings with it an important milestone for the School of Social Work—the 10th anniversary of the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). Please see page 22 for more details about the celebration.

The center continues to engage in exciting work. We have added the topic of health to the center's areas of focus, so look for increased attention to this significant field of study. In 2011, we released the Race in America conference reports, all of which are available online. Also available online are the videos from a series of very successful summer institutes that covered issues on a variety of topics touching the lives of Black males. The center's journal, *Race and Social Problems*, released a special issue about mental health among Blacks for its third volume.

I also am pleased to welcome new staff members Frank Puchalski, a systems analyst in our information technology office, and Summer McKnight, a research specialist who will be working with Shaun Eack on the autism and schizophrenia project. They are great new additions to our program.



"One thing [our alumni] have in common is that no matter where their career paths have led them, their commitment to the values we hold most dear at the school are evident in their lives."

We look forward to seeing you at CRSP's 10th anniversary celebration this summer or sooner at the speaker series. Remember, you can always find our latest news, events, and research online.

Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

SCHOOL NEWS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER GRADUATIONS FOR ALL THREE MSW PROGRAMS

December was a busy and celebratory month for the School of Social Work as it graduated a total of 122 MSW students from the Pittsburgh, Johnstown, and Bradford campuses. Eighty-four students received their MSW degrees at the Pittsburgh campus ceremony on December 3. Approximately 350 people attended the ceremony. These graduates were primarily advanced standing and part-time students. The event was hosted flawlessly by the Student Executive Council and held in the J.W. Connolly Ballroom of Alumni Hall.

On December 10, Lambert Maguire, associate dean of academic affairs, and Lynn Coghill, MSW program director, joined University of Pittsburgh at Bradford President Livingston Alexander and MSW Program Coordinator Stephanie Eckstrom to participate in the Pitt–Bradford recognition of 16 students being awarded their MSW degrees.

On December 17, Dean Larry Davis and Coghill joined University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown President Jem Spectar and MSW Program Coordinator Laura Perry-Thompson at the Johnstown recognition ceremony of 22 MSW graduates. Both Johnstown and Bradford have part-time cohort programs that graduate a class every two years. Bradford's MSW program has a curriculum focus on children, youth, and families, while the Johnstown curriculum has a mental health focus.

Our students commute from the surrounding region or relocate from other states and countries to earn their MSW degrees at the School of Social Work. One graduate came as a Russian immigrant with a few dollars in her pocket and not knowing a word of English. Another had dropped out of high school and eventually returned to complete her education, culminating in her MSW. Many of these graduates are the first in their family to receive a graduate degree. Graduation day represents the pinnacle of achievement for the graduates and their families, who often have overcome overwhelming odds to reach this day. It is an honor to share in the celebration of their personal triumph.



Undergraduate students explored their options at the BASW Fall Fiesta.

BASW FALL FIESTA

Undergraduate students from Pitt and local community colleges gathered to learn more about the School of Social Work's Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) program at the BASW Fall Fiesta, held at the William Pitt Union in October 2011. Current students and faculty members spoke with prospective students about the degree program and job opportunities after graduation.

WELCOME, NEW STAFF

FRANK PUCHALSKI is a new systems analyst in the information technology office.

SUMMER McKNIGHT is a research specialist working with Assistant Professor Shaun Eack on an autism and schizophrenia project.



FRANK PUCHALSKI



SUMMER McKNIGHT

BASW TRIP TO HARRISBURG

Four BASW seniors attended a lobbying event organized by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to discuss pending legislation that seeks to license bachelor's-level social workers in the state. Our students met with their legislators and students from other universities to discuss the implications of licensure and how it would impact state agencies, the nonprofit sector, and those with an undergraduate degree in social work.





Pictured in photo on left are, from left to right, Katherine Symans, Nicole Pilardi, James Tedrow, and Megan Neuf. Photo on right features the same students with Jenna Mehnert (center), executive director of the National Association of Social Work-Pennsylvania Chapter.

HPPAE LAUDS ACAAA FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

In October 2011, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging (ACAAA) was named the 2011 Outstanding Community Partner by the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE). This well-deserved recognition is given annually to an organization that, through HPPAE, partners with a university to provide outstanding aging education.

Since the program was launched in 2005, ACAAA has partnered with Pitt's School of Social Work by mentoring and training its students. ACAAA also was recognized for persuading other aging network providers to train students and provide them with stipends as well as for encouraging the school to expand its HPPAE affiliations to include undergraduate-level students—a feature unique to only a few HPPAE programs nationally.

Currently, our school has MSW and BASW students training to work with older adults and to become leaders in the field. To read about all this year's awardees, please visit **www.socialworkleadership.org**.







BASW students participated in PMADD day.

BASW PITT MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

BASW juniors and seniors participated in the 2011 Pitt Make A Difference Day by volunteering for the day at the Hill House Association. Students worked with Hill House youths to clean up green spaces and make outdoor spaces more accessible for play and exercise.

2011–12 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.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012
"Consensus Organizing: Building Communities of Mutual Self-interest"
MICHAEL EICHLER, director, Consensus Organizing Center, San Diego State University School of Social Work

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012
World Social Work Day Lecture
"Community Practice: From Local to Global Perspectives and Back"
MARIE WEIL, Berg-Beach Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

REED SMITH SPRING 2012 SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
"The Supplemental Poverty Measure: Taking Account of Taxes and Transfers"
KATHLEEN SHORT, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division; U.S. Census Bureau

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
"Inequality and the American City: Implications of the Neighborhood Effect"
ROBERT SAMPSON, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences and director, Social Sciences Program, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

TUESDAY, MARCH 13
"Exploring Racial Residential Segregation with a Telescope and a Microscope"
MARIA KRYSAN, professor of sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago

THURSDAY, APRIL 19
"Addressing Obesity in Black Communities: Is Food Justice the Answer?"
MONICA BASKIN, assistant professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health

COVER STORY



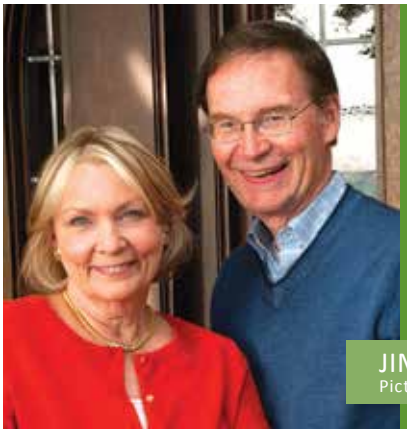
When Jim Browne (MSW '73) left the priesthood in the early 1970s to pursue a master's degree in social work, he thought he would counsel people, just as he had done as the associate pastor of a Catholic parish in Pittsburgh's South Hills.

After graduating, he worked part time in community mental health while he interviewed for a permanent full-time position. A psychiatrist who met with him turned him down, and Browne likes to joke that it was that rejection that was responsible for his future career path.

A year after he graduated, capitalizing on a deepening interest in the financial field, Browne and a friend founded Allegheny Financial Group, a boutique firm that focused more on people's goals and objectives than on a traditional model of transactions and commissions. And thus a four-decade career was born, but Browne says it was not so far afield of his training as it might seem at first glance.

"Truthfully, the most salient point through this whole process of everything I was doing, which the School of Social Work certainly enhanced, was just listening to what people were looking for," he says. "I think that's been the key to success in this business also: being able to listen to people; hear what their goals are, their objectives, their desires; and [ask], 'How do we help them accomplish what they want to accomplish?' "

Browne is a living example of the premise that many educators have quietly known for years: Even if they don't ever practice in a traditional setting, the tools that students acquire in the School of Social Work can foster success in a wide variety of fields.



"I think that's been the key to success in this business also: being able to listen to people; hear what their goals are, their objectives, their desires; and [ask], 'How do we help them accomplish what they want to accomplish?' "

JIM BROWNE (MSW '73)
Pictured with wife, Noel



the *road* LESS TRAVELED

SOCIAL WORK TRAINING HELPS ALUMNI IN DIVERSE FIELDS

Graduates of the School of Social Work often find professional success in nontraditional areas. While their ultimate career destinations may vary, they share a common bond in their desire to help people live better lives and achieve their ultimate goals. Here are the stories of eight alumni—each one impacting the world in his or her own unique way thanks to their inherent values reinforced by their education at the School of Social Work.

The *People* Business

Alan Momeyer (MSW '72) entered the school with the thought that he would follow in the footsteps of his mother, who had been a social worker.

"It was the field that best represented what I thought my values and ideals were," he says. He questioned the country's values, the basic fairness of life, and the dysfunction of the juvenile justice system.

While in school, he was working on a group project that brought counseling to youthful offenders in their communities when he met Saul Pilnick, a consultant who taught the group a course in organizational change. That was what Momeyer saw himself doing after graduation, consulting for places like parole boards and local probation departments.

Momeyer did work for Pilnick for eight years, but during that time, the consulting work evolved to become more focused on business.



ALAN MOMEYER (MSW '72)

"I do see the thread, and it's mostly in terms of the values that I thought defined me and were reinforced by what I was learning in graduate school. It was the best educational experience of my life, by far."

Essentially, he applied what he'd learned in graduate school to a private, for-profit setting.

"Businesses began to think, 'Our most important product is our people. And we don't spend enough in developing our people,' " says Momeyer.

When he grew tired of the extensive travel associated with consulting, he went to work for Loews Corporation, a conglomerate whose interests include hotels and movie theaters, as its director of manpower planning and development. He later moved into positions dealing with issues such as affirmative action and human resources development; today, he is the vice president of human resources, and he has been with the company for 32 years.

"To tell you the truth, I dreaded the idea of working in a corporation. I loved the idea of being a consultant. I loved the self-image of it," Momeyer says. "I was stunned, really, to find when I took this job that it was within a culture where people's feet were on the ground."

(continued on next page)

COVER STORY, continued from page 7

As it turned out, all the social work ideals he had embraced were just as applicable in a corporate setting.

"The belief system that I had learned in graduate school was being sought after, and I was finding a way to apply it in a private business world," he says. "I do see the thread, and it's mostly in terms of the values that I thought defined me and were reinforced by what I was learning in graduate school. It was the best educational experience of my life, by far."

The *Seeing* Eye

Sally Hobart Alexander (MSW '73) was walking on a beach in California on a beautiful November day when a random wave splashed her, and she was inspired to dive into the water fully clothed. As she floated on her back and gazed up at the sky, she saw a black line. Thinking it was a problem with her contact lens, she went back to shore and pulled it out. The line was still there.

It was at that point that Alexander first began losing her sight as part of a rare condition that doctors still, 40 years later, do not fully understand. Two years later, she began to lose her hearing, too.

As she confronted these losses, Alexander decided to give up her career as a third-grade teacher. Like most adults, she was slow to learn braille, and as she puts it, "I had used my vision so much to catch kids just at the beginning of their mischief."

A state-funded residential program that trained newly blind adults brought her to Pittsburgh. For 15 weeks, she learned braille, used a cane, and regained the confidence that she could live independently. She went back to school at the University of Pittsburgh in the English department, thinking she might wind up teaching in a junior college someday. But in those days before modern technology, she had to hire people to read for her and use fragile reel-to-reel tapes and typewriters to complete her assignments.

An undergraduate friend who came to visit Alexander talked about her job as a social worker. Slowly, a career change took shape.

"It really seemed like a good connection to go from teaching into social work," she recalls. "That way, I could still work with kids."

Alexander enrolled in the School of Social Work and earned her MSW with an emphasis on group therapy. She was a children's therapist for three years at Pittsburgh's former St. Francis Hospital, where she helped parents with effectiveness training and worked with teens. But when her son was born, she realized that she did not want to leave him with a sighted babysitter while she went back to work—she wanted to be his primary caretaker, allowing them to form the means of communication the two would need.



SALLY HOBART ALEXANDER (MSW '73)

"I realized how much all those group skills were coming into play. You have all those group dynamics—even if people are not telling you their problems and their angst, they're sharing something very personal: their writing."

She resigned from her job, but as her son and then, later, her daughter grew, she started telling them stories to compensate for the fact that there was a dearth of braille picture books to read to them. Alexander took a writing workshop at a bookstore in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood, and a third career was born.

Today, Alexander is the author of eight children's books, some of which address the experience of blindness from both her and her children's perspectives, as well as the recently published *She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer*. She also teaches at Chatham University and in writing groups. She organizes a young adult literature class focusing on psychosocial issues like separation, body image, sexuality, and teens' confronting their own mortality.

"The books can be really controversial, and I've had some incredible discussions that are wonderful, but they can get to be pretty ferocious," she says.

One young adult book that the class studies, *Inexcusable*, is written from the point of view of a date rapist. In discussing the book, Alexander says that students will occasionally disclose to her that they are victims of date rape. "The discussion is really important to them, how it's handled," she says.

In one particular class, a male student with a strong personality sided with the book's narrator, and Alexander drew on her social work training to lead the subsequent discussion.

"I knew I had to restrain him at times. I think my social work background comes in handy all the time but especially that night," she says.

Later, two women in the group wrote to her to say how important the session had been to them.

"I realized how much all those group skills were coming into play," she explains. "You have all those group dynamics—even if people are not telling you their problems and their angst, they're sharing something very personal: their writing."

Toward a *Better Workplace*

Jim McDonald (MSW '82) entered graduate school specifically to learn how to apply the principles of social work to employee programs. A former standards compliance analyst with New York's state department addressing developmental disabilities, he counseled state workers—something he hoped his master's degree would help him to do more effectively.

"One of the things that I saw was that all too often, employees found themselves in

particularly difficult situations in their work environment because of personal problems. So I was looking for a program that would afford me the opportunity to learn how to create solutions," McDonald says.

An internship at what was then known as Mellon Bank showed him how his training might apply to a less-familiar setting. McDonald drafted an employee counseling program that the company wanted to implement, so he was hired after graduation.

Classes in community organizing, evaluation, and administration proved useful, as did some classes he added from outside the school. Though he was the first social worker the company hired, he wouldn't be the last. In the 30 years he has spent with the bank, now known as the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, McDonald has seen several other School of Social Work alumni leave their mark.

"Most companies are concerned with broader social issues that are going to impact their employees and the communities they live in," he says. "It's using the employees' skills to really enhance the communities where they live and work. That's community organizing, but at the same time, it's one of the basic tenets of social work."

Whether it's a neighborhood, a school district, a specific population, or a workplace, the ideas are the same, he says.

"We all look at social work as a profession that not only helps individuals but also really helps communities and groups develop their collective well-being," McDonald notes. "It's that whole knowledge of human development that allows them to work well in institutions and [to understand] systems and how systems work. A company is a system. If you think about a company as a community, we have close to 7,000 employees. That's a community."

Adds McDonald: "Look at the president of the United States. He was a community organizer. Last time I checked, that was social work."



Photo courtesy Trib Total Media

JIM McDONALD (MSW '82)

"It's using the employees' skills to really enhance the communities where they live and work. That's community organizing, but at the same time, it's one of the basic tenets of social work."

Now BNY Mellon's managing director of global philanthropy and employee programs in 36 countries, McDonald views his role as helping people to function better holistically so they can be more effective employees—whether he's coordinating community volunteer opportunities, developing programs for employee counseling, or managing charitable giving programs.

"People spend so much time at work. They want to feel good about the organization they're working for. Part of their identification is not only in who they are but [in] what it is they do and who is it they do it for," he says.

"Follow Your *Passion*"

Brian Segal earned his PhD in social work in 1971 and practiced for some time before realizing that his passion was elsewhere. He taught at the collegiate level and became more interested in social and public policy, so he returned to his native Canada to work for what is now known as Canadian Heritage, where he worked on youth, citizenship, and immigration policy programs.

Other stints in academia and policymaking followed before he was persuaded to become the president of Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and later the University of Guelph. He was recruited by Maclean Hunter Publishing, then stayed on through a hostile takeover by Rogers Communications in the mid-1990s, becoming president of Rogers Publishing Limited for more than a dozen years. He retired in August 2011 but remains active at Ryerson, where he created the Ted Rogers Leadership Centre at the Ted Rogers School of Management—named for Segal's dear friend, the late founder of Rogers Communications.

Throughout his career path, Segal—like Browne, Momeyer, Alexander, and McDonald—credits his social work training with enhancing his ability to work with people—a key component of his success.

"[In] organizations that run on information and knowledge, when the people walk out at night, you've lost your assets. People are really important," Segal says.

He strove to hire people who could do things better than he could, then helped them to achieve by encouraging them to think creatively.

"I believe all of that came from my social work training," he says. "When you make tough decisions, you've got to look in the mirror and ask yourself, 'Does this fit with my values? ' "

Segal says that if he were speaking to a group of social work students today and some of them were unsure about how they would use their degree, he would keep his advice simple.

"I would not want to discourage them," he says. "It's not original to me, but follow your passion. Take the risk of change if you want to change; follow the passion to accomplish what you want to do." ■

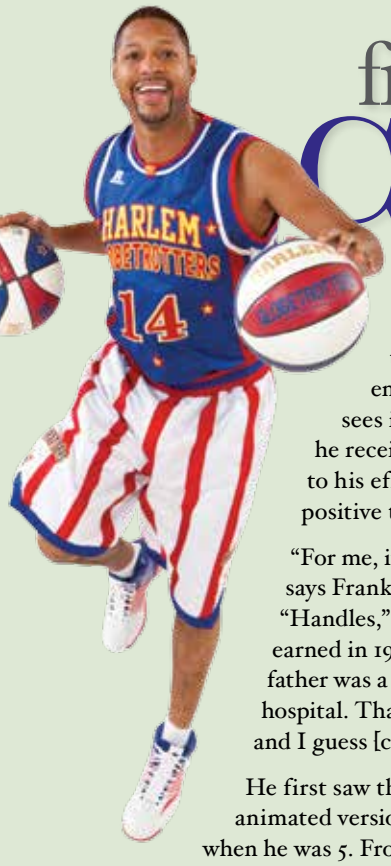


BRIAN SEGAL (PhD '71)

"It's not original to me, but follow your passion. Take the risk of change if you want to change; follow the passion to accomplish what you want to do."

from *Globetrotters* to CLASSROOMS

ALUMNI FIND THEIR NICHES



As a member of the Harlem Globetrotters, **Christian Franklin** travels the world playing basketball and entertaining audiences. But the way he sees it, he's also applying the training he received at the School of Social Work to his efforts to promote good will and positive thinking.

"For me, it was something that was natural," says Franklin, whose Globetrotters nickname is "Handles," of the Master of Social Work degree he earned in 1998. "I come from a caring family. My father was a police officer; my mother worked in a hospital. That's the type of family that I grew up in, and I guess [concern for others] was passed on to me."

He first saw the Globetrotters—or at least an animated version of them—on a Scooby-Doo cartoon when he was 5. From then on, making the team was his greatest aspiration.

"I never took my eyes off that prize, but I wanted to get an education, too," he says. While at Pitt, he concentrated on community organization, but he also played minor-league basketball on the weekends for the Harrisburg Horizon of the Eastern Basketball Alliance—a job that paid for his degree.

"It's great to create your own field, whatever you're passionate about. I was passionate about social work and basketball, and I merged the two," he says. "You don't have to stay traditional. You learn core principles, but you can merge that degree with whatever you want to do in life."

After he made the Globetrotters team, he traveled to 60 countries, studying the cultural differences of the people he met and the similarities that allow the team's brand of entertainment to cross generational, ethnic, and gender boundaries.

"You touch the lives of people, and you're bringing families together," he says. "You're always counseling. You never know what kind of kid you'll run into or what kind of day they'll be having."

Nine years ago, Franklin founded the Ultimate Spin Basketball Camp in his hometown of Harrisburg, Pa., named not only for his trademark basketball move but also for the spin he wants children to put on life. He talks to them about their problems.

"You play counselor to these kids year-round," he says. "I'm in their lives not only for the week that I'm in camp; I stay in their lives."

Letty Wright Maxwell, who earned her bachelor's degree at the School of Social Work in 1993, also is a world traveler. As president and chief executive officer of the Intersect Consulting Group, she is currently assigned to the United Arab Emirates, where she uses a newly developed standards-based curriculum to teach third- and fourth-grade Emirati children science, English, and math.

As part of her business, Maxwell has developed partnerships with education teams in South Africa, Uganda, and Canada.

"My social work experience always is at the forefront of what I do," says Maxwell, who also earned a master's degree at Pitt's School of Education. "Each student is a caseload with an educational goal. I am very clear that in order for students to meet those goals, it is vital that educators be able to help them through the social, emotional, and sometimes physical roadblocks they face in classrooms."



Social work has helped her to build a strong rapport with students and parents as well as to prepare welcoming classroom spaces that reflect students' cultures. A onetime family therapist with the Neighborhood Centers Association on Pittsburgh's North Side, she began focusing on education as a means of creating a safe haven for abused and neglected children.

"Social work has been the foundation and mechanism for success throughout my career path," she says. "It has helped me respect people from all walks of life—their culture, religion, and languages."

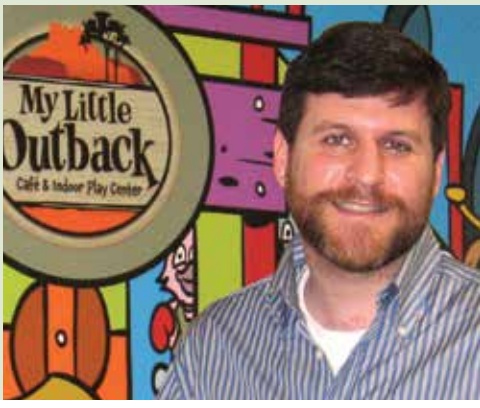
The respect and appreciation for others contributed to her recently being chosen to lead a new professional development initiative where she teaches. Maxwell reports that the school's leader said, "If all teachers were like Ms. Letty, schools wouldn't have a lot of discipline problems."

Todd Schachter worked as a social worker on a medical/surgical unit at a UPMC facility after earning his MSW in 2008. The experience convinced him that he did not want to continue pursuing a career in direct practice, so he started thinking about a business plan.

Working from scratch, Schachter and his wife designed a children's gym and entertainment center, My Little Outback, that they opened in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood in 2010. Serving children from 6 months to 8 years old, the facility is open seven days a week.

To obtain proper zoning and parking, Schachter had to develop some good will with other community stakeholders, a task for which he drew on his graduate school training.

"When we were opening up, I had to go to the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition and surrounding businesses and get them on board with what we wanted to do," he says. "I can see myself going back to community organizing if a need arose because I'm still connected to a lot of sources." ■



DEVELOPMENT *and* ALUMNI NEWS



A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICES OF DEVELOPMENT *and* ALUMNI RELATIONS

The School of Social Work Alumni Society has once again achieved Gold Banner status in 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 that 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 almost 10,000 alumni. The recognition also includes a $500 contribution to the School of Social Work Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Gratefully,

Elizabeth B. Cooper

Elizabeth B. Cooper
Senior Director of Constituent Relations

EDWARD W. SITES *named a* 2011 LEGACY LAUREATE



Because of Sites' expertise and impact, former Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell asked Sites to accompany him to Haiti after its devastating 2010 earthquake to aid in the rescue effort of 54 orphans.

Professor Emeritus **Edward Sites** holds the record as the longest-serving faculty member in the history of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and is known as one of its most successful principal investigators. He developed a comprehensive child welfare training program now used in every Pennsylvania county—one of the nation's largest child welfare training systems and a model program for other states. Sites earned his Master of Social Work degree, summa cum laude, from the Pitt School of Social Work and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Pitt School of Education in 1964 and 1976, respectively.

Throughout his career, Sites has promoted ecumenical understanding, tolerance, cooperation, and education, most notably through his 38-year leadership of the joint Master of Divinity/ Master of Social Work degree offered by Pitt and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is the only social worker who was appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Board of Psychologist Examiners, and he has served on other governing bodies that hear charges of unethical conduct brought against social workers. Because of Sites' expertise and impact, former Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell asked Sites to accompany him to Haiti after its devastating 2010 earthquake to aid in the rescue effort of 54 orphans.

Lauded for his many contributions to his profession, Sites has been honored as the Social Worker of the Year in Pennsylvania by the National Association of Social Workers, and he has received the Bertha Paulssen Award from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award and School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh.

Reprinted, in part, with permission from the *Pitt Chronicle*, October 17, 2011



providing an OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Kevin Corcoran (MSW '80, PhD '80) and his wife, Vikki Vandiver, want to be in the driver's seat when it comes to determining how their assets will be used and by whom. That is why they have included the charitable organizations they value the most, including the School of Social Work, with a gift of $1,000,002.50 in their will. Their extraordinary generosity will positively impact the students of tomorrow.

"The University of Pittsburgh made me everything I am, and since I'll never forgive them, what better way to get even then to give some money?" Corcoran says with a smile and a wink. "Plus, it is fun to give away money, and we only get to do it once or twice in our life. Everyone should do it. It's a hoot!"

The couple's contributions to social work are significant. Corcoran is a professor at Portland State University's School of Social Work and has been involved with social work and social work education for more than 30 years. He was previously a faculty member in the MSW program at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work and worked with individual and family patients on an independent basis. Vandiver also is a professor at Portland State's School of Social Work and is an affiliated faculty member in Oregon Health & Science University's Department of Psychiatry.

"The University of Pittsburgh made me everything I am, and since I'll never forgive them, what better way to get even then to give them some money," says Kevin Corcoran with a smile and a wink.

Both Corcoran and Vandiver believe in the power of education to promote the next generation of providers, clinicians, researchers, and educators. "Each of us was mentored by professors who cared about our future and dreams. We want to provide that same opportunity for future generations of students through a program of planned giving," says Vandiver. She references a quote from Winston Churchill as summing it up best: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." "We intend to leave a big footprint," she adds.

Additionally, Corcoran is the author of 15 books and about 130 articles and chapter reviews. His books include social work textbooks as well as cookbooks, including 2011's *Food for Thought: A Social Work Student Survival Guide to the Kitchen*. He also is the cofounder of two soon-to-be-launched Internet companies offering clinical services, Do_I_Need_Therapy.com and Evaluate_My_Therapy.com. Lastly, in 2000 and 2004, Corcoran filed a form with the Federal Election Commission and was an official candidate for U.S. president.

Like Corcoran and Vandiver, please consider making a bequest to the School of Social Work. Simply add a codicil to your will that indicates that 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 that we can help ensure that your future gift will be used in accordance with your wishes? Contact Liz Cooper, senior director of constituent relations, at **cliz@pitt.edu** or **412-624-8239**. ■

social work *alumni* PROUDLY HONORED

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION HONORS ALUMNI

The alumni society proudly honored several alumni at the 2011 School of Social Work Alumni Recognition Event and Continuing Education Forum.

The event, held during the 2011 Homecoming weekend, brought School of Social Work alumni from across the country together to interact, network, and honor their own. More than 60 social work professionals, including faculty, staff, alumni, students, and community leaders, attended the event. This type of dedication exemplifies why Pitt alumni continue to maintain strong relationships despite their geographic distance.

The event also provided us with the opportunity to present 2011 Legacy Laureate and Professor Emeritus **Edward W. Sites** (MSW '64) with recognition directly from the School of Social Work. Being named a Legacy Laureate is the highest alumni honor bestowed by the University of Pittsburgh and recognizes outstanding personal and professional accomplishments.

The 2011 honorees include:

OUTSTANDING FIELD INSTRUCTOR
SHERRY ANDERSON (MSW '87)
Program Director, Family Connections,
Three Rivers Adoption Council

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
KEVIN JENKINS (MSW '90)
Director of Community Initiatives and Senior Program Officer, the Pittsburgh Foundation

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
TERRY SINGER (MSW '72)
Dean, University of Louisville Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD
ADRIENNE WALNOHA (MSW '99)
Chief Executive Officer, Community Human Services Corporation, Inc.







Pictured from left to right are Terry Singer with Lambert Maguire, Kevin Jenkins with David Coplan, Adrienne Walnoha with Doug Clewett, Sherry Anderson with Lynn Coghill, and Edward W. Sites with Maguire.

SOCIAL WORK ALUMNUS AMONG PITTSBURGH'S 40 UNDER 40

An alumnus of the School of Social Work has again been named among Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40. Sponsored by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project, the 40 Under 40 list recognizes 40 talented individuals under the age of 40 who are making a positive impact on the region's development.

Gina M. Jones (MSW '06), instructor and coordinator at the Center for Experiential Education at Penn State Fayette, the Eberly Campus, and a recognized community leader in Uniontown, Pa., was selected from a nomination pool of more than 200 candidates by an independent panel of judges composed of former winners, business professionals, and civic leaders. Honorees were chosen based on their passion, commitment, visibility, diversity, and overall impact on the region.

SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI NAMED AMONG FAB 40

Three School of Social Work alumni recently were named among the *New Pittsburgh Courier*'s Fab 40. The program honors the outstanding accomplishments of 40 of Pittsburgh's top African American men and women under 40, with honorees selected by *Courier* readers.

The honorees included DE'NETTA BENJAMIN (MSW '01), clinical director, Bethlehem Haven; TIFFANY LUMPKIN (BASW '04, MSW '05), program director, Small Seeds Development, Inc.; and MICHELLE MCMURRAY (MSW '07), president and CEO, Mental Health America Allegheny County.

"Once again, the *New Pittsburgh Courier* is pleased to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of 40 of Pittsburgh's talented and aspiring leaders who are a counterpoint to the negative stereotypes that tarnish the community's image," said Rod Doss, editor and publisher of the *Courier*. "These Fab 40 are the embodiment of determination and dedication to succeed in their field of endeavor. They are today's promise of a brighter tomorrow."

DEVELOPMENT *and* ALUMNI NEWS

Did you know that the Office of Career Services is open to alumni as well as students from the School of Social Work?

Our specialization in social work careers will provide you with the information and connections necessary to empower people, lead organizations, and grow communities. The Office of Career Services hosts student and alumni networking events and career development workshops throughout the year.

Our free job posting service provides employers with a direct connection to the region's top talent. Visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services.php** for full details on upcoming events or to schedule an appointment.

ARE YOU CONNECTED?



Pitt Career Network

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

KEEP US UPDATED!

Have you become a member of the Pitt Alumni Association's online alumni community? This online service exists to help alumni connect with each other and with the University. Here you can locate and reach out to other Pitt alumni. If you have been out of touch with your alma mater, you also can update your contact information to begin receiving Pitt news and other materials. Check out the Pitt Alumni Association online community at **www.alumni.pitt.edu/connect**.

ALUMNI SOCIETY

Your help is needed!

2012 School of Social Work Alumni Society

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



WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

The School of Social Work is seeking alumni who might 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 and gives 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** for more information.

ROOTS of HISTORY

Downsizing? Need more space?

Want help to save your collectibles for the future?

Help to 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, memorabilia, 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.

RESEARCH UPDATE

The school's research project per faculty member ranking is fifth among the top 10 nationally ranked schools of social work.



Compiled by Hide Yamatani, associate dean for research

The School of Social Work currently is operating 29 projects (19 research and 10 educational training projects) totaling approximately $28.2 million. The school has increased externally funded research projects by more than 50 percent since the baseline year of fiscal year 2008. Leading faculty members operating various externally supported projects include Helen Cahalane, Valire Carr Copeland, Shaun M. Eack, Rachel Fusco, Catherine Greeno, Daniel Rosen, Fengyan Tang, and John Wallace.

The school's research project per faculty member ranking is fifth among the top 10 nationally ranked schools of social work. Currently, the school's research projects cover all major funding sources, including local foundations, national foundations, and federal support. The school also is a national leader in administering comprehensive statewide child welfare training, education, and research projects; more than $200 million was received during the past nine years through a cooperative effort between the federal Administration for Children and Families and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

The faculty publication rate based on Social Work Abstracts and Web of Science, two leading publication indexes, places the school third among the top 10 nationally ranked schools.

Only the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Chicago lead Pitt's School of Social Work.

Among nontenure-track faculty members, the school also ranks third behind the University of Washington and Washington University in St. Louis. It should be noted that although not all of the school's faculty publications are cited on Social Work Abstracts and Web of Science, most of the major refereed journals are included in their listings.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The School of Social Work had a strong presence at national conferences in late 2011 and early 2012.

Presenters at the October 2011 Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting:

FACULTY
Azadeh Masalehdan Block
Helen Cahalane
Valire Carr Copeland
Rachel Fusco
Aaron Mann
Helen Petracchi
Tracy M. Soska

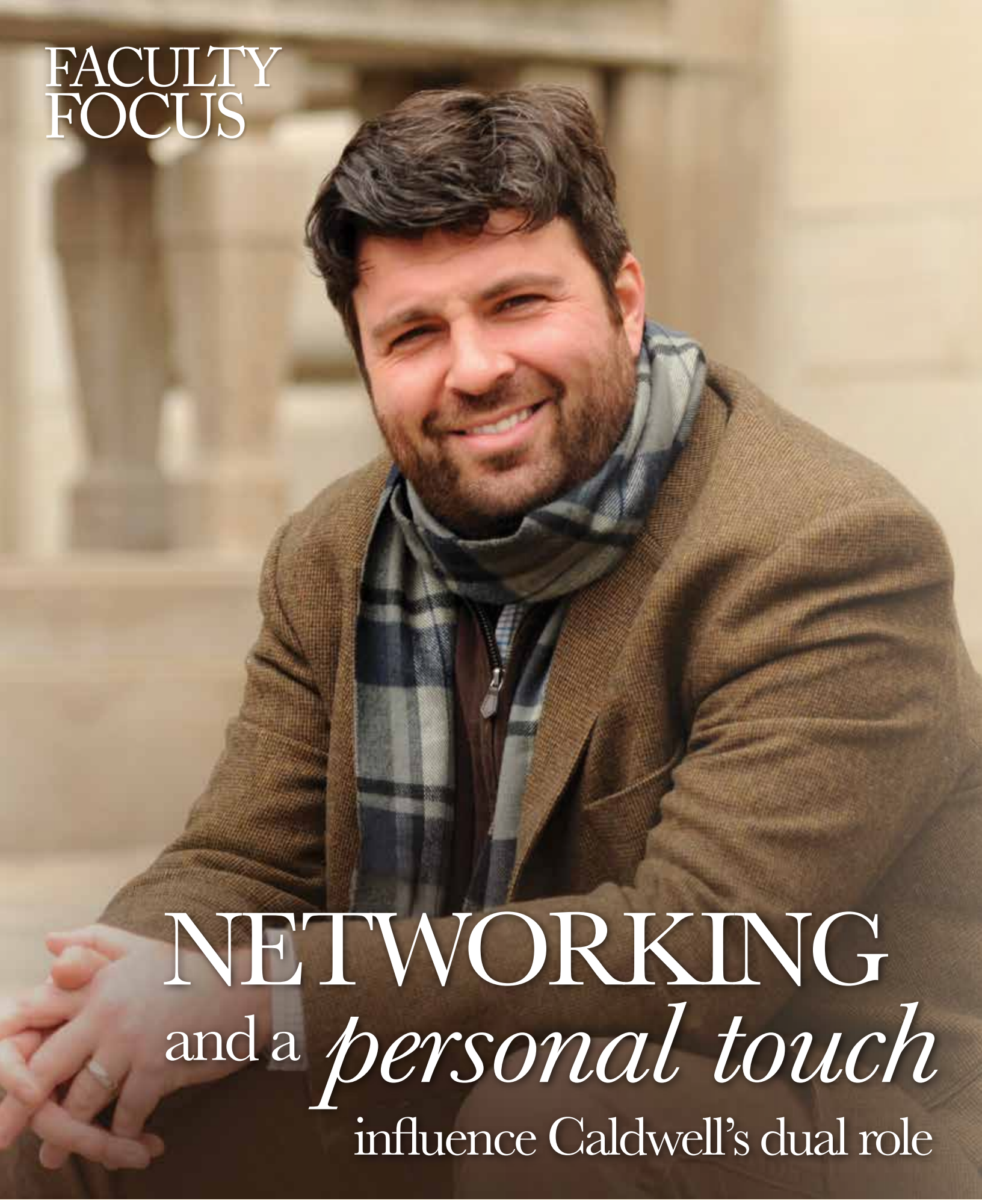
DOCTORAL STUDENTS
Monique Constance-Huggins
Lauren Bishop Fitzpatrick
Terri Friedline
Karen Kolivoski
Lisa Schelbe

Presenters at the January 2012 Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference:

FACULTY
Helen Cahalane
Shaun Eack
Rachel Fusco
Jeffrey Shook
John M. Wallace Jr.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS
Amber Bahorik
Nahri Jung
Yoonmi Kim
Lisa Schelbe
Samantha Teixeira

DOCTORAL ALUMNUS
Hanae Kanno, assistant professor, Valdosta State University



NETWORKING and a *personal touch* influence Caldwell's dual role

From his earliest days as a social worker, Keith Caldwell has striven to find a confluence.

While he was still an undergraduate attending college near Buffalo, N.Y., he met a girl whom he eventually followed to Pittsburgh. There, he applied to graduate school so he could merge his personal and professional aspirations.

As an MSW student at the School of Social Work, he chose the Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) concentration so that he could marry his enjoyment of direct service with his interest in macro practice and the policies that make direct service more effective.

And in his current role as the school's director of career services and alumni affairs as well as a lecturer, Caldwell spends a lot of time teaching students and alumni alike how to create better networks and forge the kind of symbiotic relationships that drive early and midstage career development.

"Between [the advisor] and the girl of my dreams, there was only one grad school application that went out," he says.

When he got in, he decided to pursue the COSA concentration in the belief that it would help him to learn how policies influence the way individuals and families are able to realize their full potential. He was not disappointed.

"The COSA program still only makes up about 20 percent of our student body," but it was a close-knit group of students who would become touchstones later, as the group advanced his career. COSA Chair Tracy Soska was an extremely influential mentor, too.

"I had a group of colleagues who got really excited about what we were going to do when we graduated," Caldwell recalls. "There was just a ton of camaraderie."

After graduating, Caldwell went to work for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, organizing community advisory boards in towns such as McKeesport, Wilkinsburg, and McKees Rocks and Pittsburgh's East Liberty and Hill District neighborhoods. He moved in 2005 to work for North Hills Community Outreach, building capacity in grassroots organizations, both faith based and secular, with the help of a federal grant from the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

Meanwhile, Caldwell worked as an adjunct faculty member at the School of Social Work and was active in alumni affairs, serving as the chair of a networking project. So when the school created his position in 2008, it seemed like a perfect fit.

He teaches social administration, including governance and fundraising, as well as grant writing, in the MSW program. In the undergraduate program, he teaches a practicum-related course that includes a weekly seminar that allows students to integrate their knowledge, values, and skills into their field work. It culminates in a research project during the spring term and also includes a case analysis of a community or family with whom students are working.

On the career services and alumni affairs side, Caldwell is charged with providing nearly 600 students and thousands of alumni with career development that is carefully aligned with the profession of social work. Toward that end, he spends a lot of time in one-on-one meetings with students and alumni as well as runs workshops and job fairs. To Caldwell, the two populations are integral to each other's success.

"Alumni are one of our greatest assets in career development for students," he says, adding that he hopes to continue to grow the role alumni play in current students' lives. "These relationships that are built through professional networks open doors."

> "Alumni are one of our greatest assets in career development for students. These relationships that are built through professional networks open doors."
>
> **KEITH CALDWELL**
> lecturer and director of career services and alumni affairs



"I couldn't ask for a better fit," says Caldwell, who—paraphrasing Professor Emeritus Edward Sites—describes himself as a social worker practicing in a higher education setting. "It certainly resonates with me."

Originally from Saco, Maine, Caldwell majored in social work as an undergraduate and worked in direct service with children with disabilities in his home state for about eight months before arriving in Pittsburgh for graduate school in August 2001. Though he followed Nicole, the woman who would later become his wife, he also fell in love with Pitt after hearing about the School of Social Work from an undergraduate advisor who was an alumnus.

Now the father of a 4-year-old daughter, Isabella, Caldwell spends his free time rooting from afar for the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots and playing bass guitar in a band that specializes in instrumental surf music. Thinking back to his decision to attend Pitt, he says, "It's been a fantastic move, especially for a small-town guy. It was the right move professionally; it was the right move personally."

Of his new hometown, he simply says, "You can have an impact here." ■

NEWS *from the* CENTER *on* RACE *and* SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Center on Race and Social Problems

10th ANNIVERSARY

In 2012, the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. There is much to celebrate, as 2011 was yet another year filled with numerous accomplishments, including the addition of a seventh focus area: health.

The issue of health has become a crucial topic of study because of the multifaceted nature of its effects on people of color and their quality of life. The center looks forward to contributing to ongoing research in this critical field.

Once again, the summer institutes, which are generously funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation, were a resounding success. The summer institutes offered policymakers and stakeholders from throughout the region an opportunity to hear the latest research about African American males and the topics of gun violence, economics, health, mental health, and education. This year's sessions were in such demand that a second day on the topic of gun violence was added in order to accommodate attendees. The institutes also received more positive media attention than ever before.

All 2011 summer institute videos are available online at **www.crsp.pitt.edu**.



Pictured from left to right are Mary Beth Rauktis, Ralph Bangs, Valire Carr Copeland, and David Harris.

RESEARCH

The center's research advisory panels (RAPs) really came into their own this year, playing an increasingly important role both within the center and at the University as a whole. Chairs include David Harris from Pitt's School of Law; Ralph Bangs, Shaun Eack, Valire Carr Copeland, and Mary Beth Rauktis from CRSP; Lara Putnam from the Department of History; and Randy Walsh from the Department of Economics. The RAPs have continued to serve as a place where faculty can share and collaborate on a variety of race-related topics.

The center maintains a robust number of internally and externally funded projects. The projects extend support to existing researchers and lead the way for educating future scholars.



SHAUN EACK



LARA PUTNAM



RANDY WALSH

MENTORING

For the last few years, the center also has sponsored an undergraduate Living Learning Community called the Research Experience.

Eight undergraduate students were paired with a center faculty associate to work on race-related research projects. This has proven to be a unique opportunity for students to gain research experience and also has encouraged the expansion of race-related research within the University.



Students traveled to Cuba in March 2012 as part of a study graduate course in Cuban social policy issues.



Maria Krysan presented as part of the spring 2012 speaker series.



RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The center's journal, *Race and Social Problems*, now in its fourth year, published a special issue in 2011 dedicated to the topic of African American mental health. The first-rate contributors and editors have added greatly to the success of the journal. The special issue was helmed by James Jackson, Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and director of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

To view articles online, please visit **www.crsp.pitt.edu**.



RACE IN AMERICA

In addition to the journal, the Race in America conference reports were released. Reports on all seven subject areas discussed at the conference—education; economics; criminal justice; race relations; health; mental health; and families, youth, and the elderly—are available online at **www.crsp.pitt.edu**.

2011 FALL SPEAKER SERIES

The 2011 fall speaker series, which has for six consecutive years been supported by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, was a big success. The topics and speakers were as follows:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
"Disparities in Health Care for Minorities: Institutional or Personal?"
JEANNETTE SOUTH-PAUL, Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
"When Affirmative Action Was White: Further Reflections"
IRA KATZNELSON, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, Columbia University

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
"Equity Is Not an Office"
LINDA LANE, superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
"The Imperative of Integration: Race and Education"
ELIZABETH ANDERSON, John Rawls Collegiate Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan

As always, our loyal audience continues to engage with some of the foremost experts in the country on the issues of race and society. The series remains a one-of-a-kind opportunity to share the latest in race-related research and scholarship.

Living and LEARNING

THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



For five years, the School of Social Work has been excited to be part of the University of Pittsburgh Living Learning Community (LLC) initiative, a unique residence hall experience that provides a competitive edge for sophomores exploring interests and careers. Offered through the Division of Student Affairs' Office of Residence Life and cosponsored by several schools and academic units, Living Learning Communities have immersed groups of students in learning settings focused on areas such as languages, cultural diversity, entrepreneurship, leadership, health sciences, engineering, and law in several of the new residence halls on Pitt's upper campus.

"Students who reside in this community [CELLC] consistently report having an amazing experience. In fact, several students have been so inspired by the experience that they have changed career direction. This Living Learning Community serves as an example to all of our residential communities of the power of partnership between academic and student affairs."

- SHAWN BROOKS,
Assistant Dean of Students
and Director of Residence Life

The School of Social Work sponsors the Civic Engagement and Community Service Living Learning Community (known as CELLC), which is located in Panther Hall and annually involves 16–25 students who live on a coed floor of suites, attend a service learning seminar that meets over two terms, and participate in monthly group and weekly individual community service activities that are tied to the seminar. The knowledge and skills gained from academic course work and cocurricular activities enable students to actively engage in positive community change.



While this LLC is guided by the school's BASW program, it is open to students of any academic and career interest in order to foster student civic engagement and community service in keeping with the University and school's common mission. Social work knowledge, values, and skills guide the learning experience, and the floor has attracted a number of sophomores to major and minor in social work. It also has helped students to build their engagement, communication, leadership, and problem-solving capacities while also exploring career interests and skills through volunteer community service.

"The Civic Engagement LLC was one of the best choices I have made in my time at Pitt. I made connections that have helped me while applying for medical school, and more importantly, [I] was able to give back to the community of Pittsburgh."

- LAUREN HARTWELL



CELLC cocoordinators and coinstructors Keith Caldwell and Tracy Soska—faculty members with strong community service and nonprofit leadership backgrounds—help students to connect their personal and professional development with community service opportunities and to reflect on the deeper civic and social work perspectives that underscore their service work. Soska, who also directs the school's Community Organization and Social Administration concentration in the MSW program, worked with then BASW program director Helen Petracchi and Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Shawn Brooks to develop the initial concept and experience for this LLC in keeping with social work principles and perspectives.

Later, Soska and then BASW program director Gayle Mallinger infused a stronger social work core into the seminar, which now is wrapped around the undergraduate Introduction to Social Work course that is taught for three credits but over two terms instead of





"We are thrilled with our School of Social Work partnership on this Living Learning Community and are especially excited about the participants' outcomes and the opportunities that students have had for civic learning."

- KATHY HUMPHREY,
Vice Provost and Dean of Students





"CELLC didn't just open me up to new experiences, it led me to new career goals. Through what I learned about social work, I developed a love of activism, and my volunteer experience led to an internship, which I someday hope to turn into a career in activism in social movements and lobbying for nonprofit organizations."

- ALYSSA PASCAROSA

one. Caldwell, director of career services and alumni affairs, who joined the CELLC team two years ago, has strengthened the career development aspects of the LLC experience and mentored the recent CELLC resident assistants. Soska and Caldwell now are working with BASW Program Director Azadeh Block to fine-tune CELLC in keeping with the new competency base of social work education.

Community service activities—generally 30 volunteer hours each term—vary as widely as students' academic and career interests and include tutoring in school or after-school settings, working in hospitals or health care centers, helping those with disabilities, working at youth and senior centers, and staffing food pantry or shelter programs. Through their community service, students also build their personal skills and even explore career pathways. Many students have found professional mentors and develop their competitive edge for eventual graduate or professional study.

The monthly group service projects help to build camaraderie and teamwork and allow faculty to work side by side with the students and model social work practice outside the classroom. CELLC participation in the University's annual United Way Day of Caring has involved building a playground, preparing a community garden, painting playground murals and signage, cleaning and painting community and child care centers, and clearing and setting up a neighborhood parklet. CELLC students also participate as a team in the annual Pitt Make A Difference Day—in which close to 3,000 students clean up city neighborhoods and conduct other large community service projects—and in group service projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Other CELLC service project traditions include the following:

- Nearly 500 Halloween treat bags are prepared each year for distribution at events in communities where trick-or-treating might be unsafe.
- Each Easter season, students collect donations and stuff plastic eggs for distribution at Oakland and Hill District neighborhood holiday celebrations.
- During the Christmas holiday season, students raise money and collect donations to buy, wrap, and distribute holiday gifts for at least 100 children at Head Start, child care, and community centers. In 2011, CELLC also provided kids gifts for the Pitt dinner for homeless families on Christmas Day, which this year served nearly 1,500 family members.

Through CELLC, the school has again demonstrated its leadership in community engagement within the University. The LLC experience has extended the reach of social work education and perspectives into the mainstream of student life and broadened the student perception of the campus into the larger Pittsburgh region and its neighborhoods, communities, and networks of human service organizations and institutions.

By extending learning beyond the walls of the traditional classroom, CELLC has deepened and enriched student learning and enhanced personal and professional growth. ■

"I think often of my time in the LLC as I realize how many opportunities it has opened for me. Because of my time volunteering, I have met so many amazing children and staff who have helped me grow as a future speech-language pathologist. Through our other service projects, I experienced the joy it gives to others and myself to volunteer and give back."

- LINDSAY McMENAMIN



SAVE the DATE!



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Center on Race & Social Problems

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 7, 2012 • 5:30–8 p.m.

Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Benjamin Jealous,
president, NAACP

FOR MORE DETAILS,
please visit **www.crsp.pitt.edu.**

CLASS NOTES

ELANA DEVORA CLAVNER (BASW '88) received a Safe and Drug Free Schools [Sustainability/Dissemination of Information] Grant from the Ohio Department of Education. Through this grant, Clavner will be able to focus on antibullying and antiharassment programs for the Richmond Heights Local Schools. She also has collaborated with Partners for Success and Innovation of Twinsburg, Ohio, a group that facilitated the programming for grades three through eight. In addition, she brought to the school *The Bully Show!*—a play put on by the Magical Theatre Company of Barberton, Ohio.

TIMOTHY FETTER (MSW '05) recently completed his Doctor of Chiropractic degree at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. He started his own practice, Trifecta Chiropractic and Wellness Center, LLC, in Greensburg which opened on January 23, 2012. He also is practicing social work at Family Behavioral Resources in Greensburg as an outpatient therapist for adults, adolescents, and children. After graduating from the MSW program, he worked as an adjunct instructor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg teaching social psychology and as a family-based therapist at Familylinks in Pittsburgh.

TERRENCE "TERRY" ONDERICK (MSW '83) retired in May 2010 from the Arlington County (Va.) Department of Human Services Aging and Disability Services Division, after providing 26 years of service to older and disabled adults. After six months, he began a second career as a senior social worker at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' flagship medical center in Washington, D.C. He is happily married and living in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

LUCY SALEM RAIZMAN (MSW '83) contributed to two chapters in *Transcending Trauma: Survival, Resilience, and Clinical Implications in Survivor Families*, part of the Routledge Psychosocial Stress Series, by Bea Hollander-Goldfein, Nancy Isserman, and Jennifer Goldenberg and published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

ANDREW L. WEBER (MSW '08) was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister on July 17, 2011, in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he currently works in youth ministry.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT T. AARONS (MSW '60)
MICHAEL GUALTIERI (MSW '64)

KEEP *us* POSTED!

The School of Social Work wants to know what's new with you.

Tell us about career advancements, papers, honors, and achievements and we'll include this information in our Class Notes section. Simply visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/alumniupdates.php** and submit your name, degree and graduation year, and the information you'd like to highlight (be sure to include location and dates). If you wish to include a photo, please make sure it's at least 1 megabyte to ensure proper print quality. We accept TIF, EPS, and JPEG files.

FIND *us* ONLINE!

Find us on **Facebook** by searching for PittSSW

Follow us on **Twitter**: @PittSocialwork

University of Pittsburgh

School of Social Work
2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 511

225 YEARS
OF BUILDING BETTER LIVES
1787-2012

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF
Social Work

Empower People
Lead Organizations
Grow Communities

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. For more information, visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu or call 412-624-6304.





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
"Consensus Organizing: Building Communities of Mutual Self-interest"
MICHAEL EICHLER, director, Consensus Organizing Center, San Diego State University School of Social Work

TUESDAY, MARCH 20
"Community Practice: From Local to Global Perspectives and Back"
MARIE WEIL, Berg-Beach Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
"The Supplemental Poverty Measure: Taking Account of Taxes and Transfers"
KATHLEEN SHORT,
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division; U.S. Census Bureau



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
"Inequality and the American City: Implications of the Neighborhood Effect"
ROBERT SAMPSON,
Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences and director, Social Sciences Program, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

REED SMITH SPRING 2012 SPEAKER SERIES



TUESDAY, MARCH 13
"Exploring Racial Residential Segregation with a Telescope and a Microscope"
MARIA KRYSAN,
professor of sociology,
University of Illinois at Chicago



THURSDAY, APRIL 19
"Addressing Obesity in Black Communities: Is Food Justice the Answer?"
MONICA BASKIN,
assistant professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health