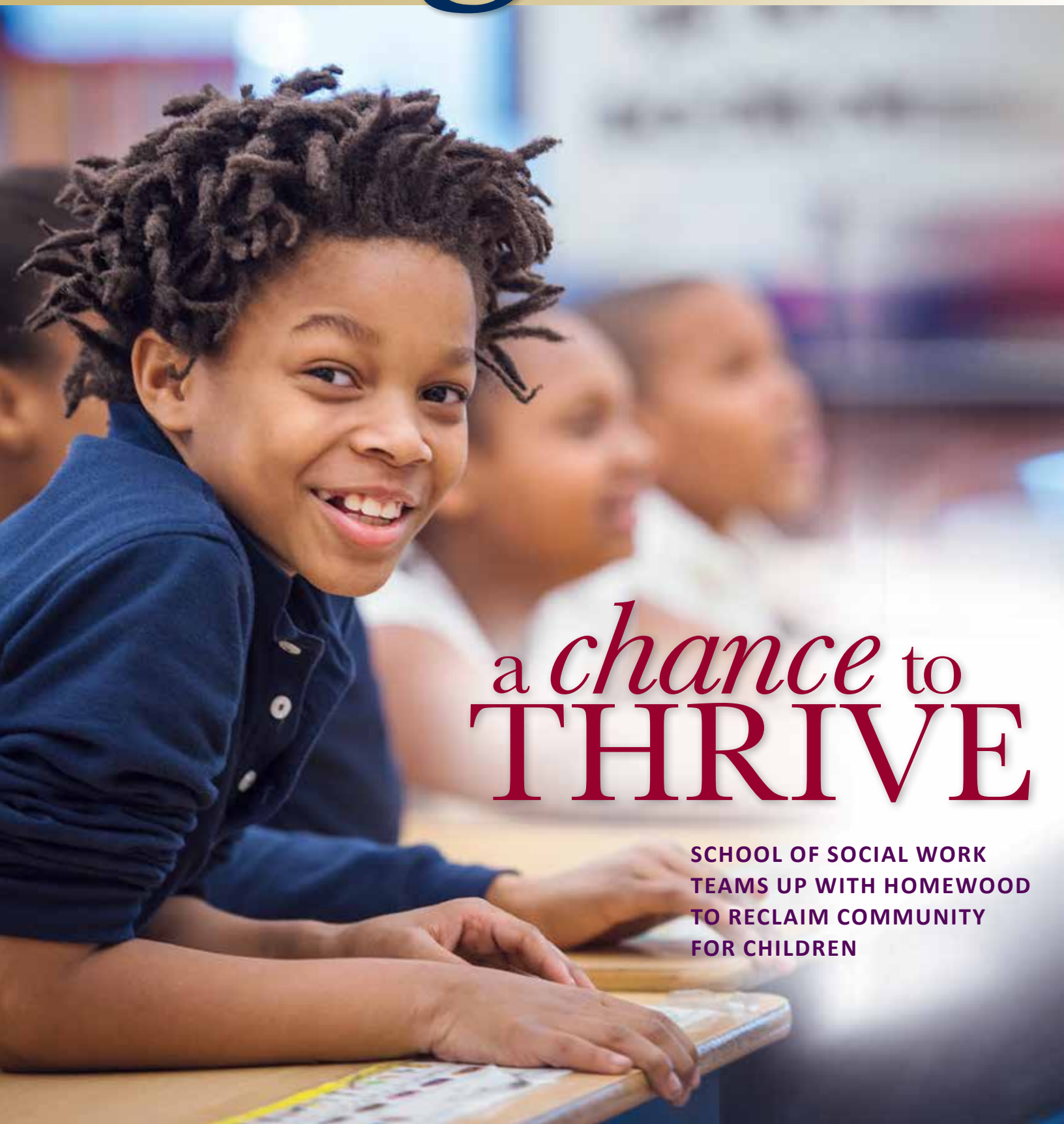
Bridges

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MAGAZINE **SPRING 2013**



a *chance* to THRIVE

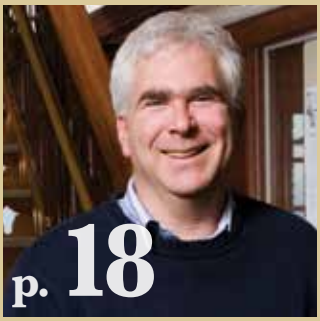
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK TEAMS UP WITH HOMEWOOD TO RECLAIM COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

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. 6


p. 18


p. 20



ON THE COVER
Quaziah Jones is one of the 600 children who benefit from the work of Homewood Children's Village and its partners.
p. 8

TABLE *of* CONTENTS

FEATURES

FEATURE STORY:
History, Glorious History, Part II 7

COVER STORY:
It Takes a Village: School of Social Work Teams Up
With Homewood to Reclaim Community for Children 8

DEPARTMENTS

Dean's Message 3
School News 4
Development and Alumni News 14
In Memoriam 17
Faculty Focus 18
News from the Center on Race and Social Problems 20
Research Update 22
Class Notes 23

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Alumni *and* Friends,

Welcome to the spring issue of *Bridges*. It is always exciting to begin a new year, and this year is no exception. The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is a vibrant place, brimming with eager-to-learn students and highly productive and energetic faculty and staff. I am truly fortunate to be the dean of a school that also is so well connected to the community. And the school itself is fortunate to have the generous support of the University's administration as well as so many philanthropic stakeholders.

As the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech approaches, I am reminded by something he once said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' "

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the commitment of its students, faculty, and staff to the University and surrounding communities. Our footprint is evident in the field work of our students, the volunteer work of our staff, the innovative research by our faculty, and the lives of the members of the larger Pittsburgh region.

Professor John Wallace Jr., whose work is highlighted in this issue, is a shining example of the impact a University can have on the community. His Homewood Children's Village project is committed to transforming the lives of the individuals and families of Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood. Wallace's comprehensive approach to community-based practice, research, and scholarship is bringing us together in the fight against the poverty, violence, and lack of economic opportunities that are plaguing our inner-city communities and threatening the future of so many children.

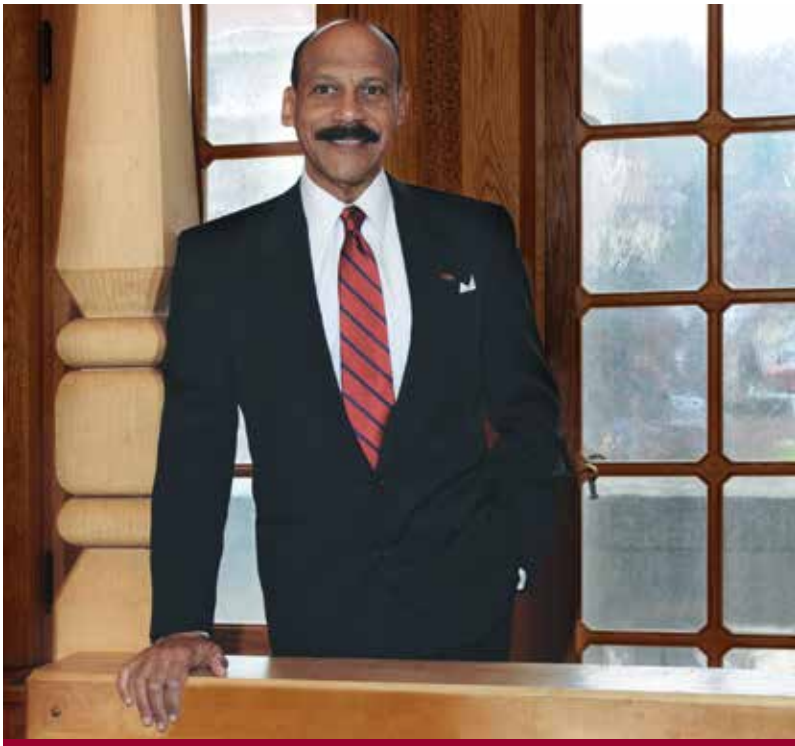
Other faculty members also are engaging in community-based research efforts. Professor Rachel Fusco is confronting the mental health challenges of young child welfare recipients, and Professor Sara Goodkind, in partnership with the University's Women's Studies Program, is studying the effects of single-sex education on low-income students.

These community-based endeavors have inspired our doctoral students to work on solutions to some of our nation's most pressing social problems, such as public health disparities. Their efforts have been well rewarded. Doctoral candidates Monique Constance-Huggins, Rachel Woodson Goode, and Samantha Teixeira are all Albert Schweitzer fellows, and Lisa Schelbe is a Doris Duke fellow.

Our alumni also are taking their commitment to social work values and putting them to good use, and I applaud alumnus Michelle Sulkowski (MSW '12) for her work on the Hurricane Sandy relief effort.

In addition, undergraduate students continue their community service through voter registration drives and neighborhood cleanups.

We also are very proud to congratulate Professors Shaun Eack and Jeffrey Shook for being awarded the 2013 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award and Distinguished Public Service Award, respectively. These are truly prestigious awards given that the competition is University-wide.



"One of the greatest strengths of our school is the commitment of its students, faculty, and staff to the University and surrounding communities."

At the Center on Race and Social Problems, we are currently working on a directory that will make accessible online nearly all of the center's papers, reports, and lecture videos. We hope to have this directory operational by the summer so that we can share what I believe is the largest collection of race-related lectures in the country. The school's speaker series put the spotlight on child welfare this spring, focusing on issues such as children in developing countries as well as confronting the challenges faced by disadvantaged children.

As always, you are invited to drop by the school for a visit, and when possible, we look forward to seeing you at the school's and the center's speaker series. You can always find our latest news, information on events, and research online.

Larry E. Davis
Dean and
Donald M. Henderson Professor

SCHOOL NEWS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PhD PROGRAM

The current PhD students are upholding our program's tradition of early career scholarship with peer-reviewed publications, national conference presentations, and recognition here at home. We regularly celebrate local and national accolades for their impressive work.

Monique Constance-Huggins, Rachel Woodson Goode, and Samantha Teixeira were named Albert Schweitzer fellows. Annually, the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship program selects and supports more than 250 university graduate students nationally to continue Schweitzer's legacy by improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations through community-based, mentored direct service and multidisciplinary public health outreach projects.

The doctoral program was recognized on three occasions with students' being recipients of competitive national and international awards. Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick received a Dennis Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowship, Lisa Schelbe received a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being, and Andrea Joseph received a Fulbright Postgraduate Student Award to the United Kingdom.

Bishop-Fitzpatrick received a Weatherstone Fellowship, which supports the growth of junior scholars who are devoting their research careers to autism. Her mentored project will examine how stress, as measured by cortisol and heart rate activity, affects the ability of adults with autism to adapt to change in their everyday lives. In addition, Bishop-Fitzpatrick was the first recipient of the newly established Joseph W. and Helen F. Eaton Emerging Scholars Award (see page 17). The scholarship is awarded annually to a first- or second-year doctoral student who presents his or her best individual scholarly work for competitive review by the doctoral program committee.

Schelbe received a Doris Duke Fellowship. Fellows are selected nationally from a range of academic disciplines, including, but not limited to, social work, public health, medicine, public policy, education, economics, psychology, and epidemiology. Schelbe's fellowship is predicated on her dissertation, which is an ethnographic study focusing on aging out of foster care. As a result of this national recognition, the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies selected Schelbe to speak at the 2012 University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation, an annual event that celebrates the accomplishments of the University's faculty and students. The ceremony includes a commendation of graduate/professional students by the vice provost for graduate studies followed by a student representative's response, which last year was given by Schelbe.

The US-UK Fulbright Commission selected second-year doctoral student Joseph for a 2013–14 Fulbright Award at the Institute of Education in London, England. Joseph will enroll in the institute's social justice and education Master of Arts program.

After saying good-bye to our most recent graduates— Terri Friedline (MSW '05, PhD '12), Karen Kolivoski (MSW '06, PhD '12), Yeonjung Lee (PhD '12), IlSung Nam (PhD '12), and Monique Constance-Huggins (MSW '10, PhD '13)—we welcomed Patricia Bamwine, Kimberly Brown-Riley, and Shuangzhou Chen to the program.

MSW PROGRAM

On December 8, 2012, the School of Social Work proudly graduated 55 Master of Social Work (MSW) students from the Pittsburgh campus to take their places in the world of professional social work. The event was hosted by the Student Executive Council at Alumni Hall. For the first time, the graduates chose the keynote speaker: Adrienne Walnoha (MSW '99), CEO of Community Human Services Corporation and a graduate of and adjunct faculty member in the MSW program. Our distinguished graduates were Allison Martin (MSW '12) from the community organization and social administration concentration and Allison Kroll (BASW '07, MSW '12) from the direct practice concentration. The ballroom was packed with our largest group ever of faculty, family, and friends there to witness the celebration of achievement. The December graduates are primarily advanced-standing and part-time students.

Now that we have successfully passed our reaccreditation, curriculum committees have been discussing how we might respond to new trends in the profession. We are looking at courses that may need to be retired or undergo content updates. We also are reviewing what new offerings we might develop. At this date, at least three courses will have their content completely revised. Also, we are piloting a new advocacy and lobbying course that is open to all MSW students during the spring 2013 term. Additionally, we have been actively discussing the best teaching strategies to better integrate the increasing number of international students into the program as well as how to incorporate more global content into our courses.

MSW Students Shine at Local Government Case Competition

Master of Social Work students once again were well represented in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Local Government Case Competition, held November 7–10, 2012, at the DHS headquarters in downtown Pittsburgh. Fourteen MSW competitors came from both the community organization and social administration (COSA) and direct practice concentrations, and three MSW students placed in the four finalist teams. Congratulations to our student finalists in the competition: Stephanie Meyer, second place; Yimeng Shi, third place; and Kelly Paulius, fourth place. For the first time since the competition began, the school did not place a student on the winning team.

(continued on page 6)

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS



BOBBY SIMMONS



YODIT BETRU

BOBBY SIMMONS has been appointed lecturer and director of career services and alumni affairs.

YODIT BETRU has been appointed a clinical assistant professor in the child welfare education and research programs.

NEW STAFF



AMY DeGURIAN



ALISON POTTER

AMY DeGURIAN is a new field education coordinator in the Office of Field Education.

ALISON POTTER is a new administrative assistant for the Center on Race and Social Problems.



DEBORAH ROBINSON



LAURA STEPHANY

DEBORAH ROBINSON is a new field education coordinator in the Office of Field Education.

LAURA STEPHANY is a new senior administrative assistant in the child welfare education and research programs.



CARTER RECEPTION

Dean Larry E. Davis hosted a reception at his home last fall in honor of the new Pitt School of Law Dean, William M. Carter Jr. Pictured left to right are Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Carter, Davis, and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

2012–13 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 13
Sidney A. Teller Lecture
"Improving the Life Chances of Disadvantaged Children"
KATHERINE MAGNUSON
Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin–Madison

MONDAY, MARCH 18
World Social Work Day Lecture
"Evolving Social Policies and Children in Developing Countries"
SHIRLEY GATENIO GABEL
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Social Service, Fordham University

REED SMITH SPRING 2013 SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
"The Future of Affirmative Action"
WILLIAM M. CARTER JR.
Dean and Professor, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22
"Is Black Music Criminal?"
GERALD EARLY
Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
"The Iconic Ghetto: Effects on Everyday Lives of African Americans"
ELIJAH ANDERSON
William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
"Delivering Culturally Competent Care and Addressing Technology: The New Health Care Disparity"
CANDI CASTLEBERRY-SINGLETON
Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, UPMC

SCHOOL NEWS

(MSW Students Shine, continued from page 4)

The 2012 Local Government Case Competition focused on the growing rate of poverty within Allegheny County's suburbs, especially its first-ring suburbs—a surprising fact for many competitors. Poverty in our suburban communities is further complicated by newly poor who lack familiarity with and access to crisis and support services as well as a public transportation system that is primarily a downtown hub-and-spoke system and lacks adequate connections throughout suburban communities. Students were challenged to come up with innovative solutions to address poverty and access issues. The winning team suggested a legal jitney service that would employ those who are unemployed and who would use their vehicles to shuttle those with needs within the suburban communities to connect them with services and other resources. Ideas generated in past competitions have actually been used as templates for current DHS service responses.

The school has been active in this Case competition since it began in 2007 as part of the DHS 20th anniversary; it now has become an annual event. MSW participants for 2012 were Aarika Anderson, Matthew Arch, Jennifer Caldararo, Dan'Talisha Deans, Liz Gordon, Jessica Hayes, Gabriella Jones-Casey, Meyer, Paulius, Erica Payne, Shi, Danielle Wilson, Yiwei Zhang, and Junyun Zhu.

This year's competition was coordinated by MSW COSA alumnus Katie Meehan, who was assisted by two DHS scholars in local government who also are MSW COSA alumni, Lindsay Lege (MSW '11) and Kelly Wilkinson (MSW '12), and current DHS student intern Laura Ellen Ashcraft. Participating as a judge in this year's competition was last year's first-place MSW competitor, Samantha Mangino (MSW '12). Many social work alumni, faculty members, and adjunct faculty members also participated as judges.

It is helpful for our students participating in this case competition to see how alumni who have worked with and participated in past DHS programs have now stepped into important roles at DHS. The DHS Local Government Case Competition has proved to be an excellent portfolio builder for students by enabling them to demonstrate their knowledge, values, and skills in solving real-world problems. It also recognizes our MSW program as one that is a significant contributor to the new young professional workforce and to the leadership of this region's human services sector.

BASW PROGRAM

BASW Club Adopt a Block

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) Club continues to contribute to the Pittsburgh community. Club members meet every Saturday to "redd up" Frazier Street in South Oakland.





Empowering People

Students from the BASW program spent much of October and November 2012 working to mobilize voters throughout the Pittsburgh region. From collecting voter registrations on Pitt's campus and in surrounding neighborhoods to serving as poll watchers in partnership with the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, our students continue to strengthen their advocacy efforts and outreach skills through community projects.







FEATURE STORY

history, GLORIOUS *history*

Part 2 in the Hathway Update

TO NAME A FEW

Edith Abbott, Sophonisba Breckinridge, Grace Abbott, Gordon Hamilton, Karl de Schweinitz, Frances Perkins, James Weldon Johnson, Charlotte Towle, Bertha Reynolds, Ruth Benedict, Norman Thomas, Margaret Rich, Arthur Dunham, Porter Lee, Harry Hopkins, Mary Wolcott, Sidney Teller, Emma Guffey Miller, Paul Kellogg, Virginia Robinson, Mary Denman, Wilbur I. Newstetter, Margaret Leal, Katherine Hardwick, Kenneth L.M. Prey, Edgar J. Kaufmann, Kate Turabian, Frank Bruno. These are but a few of the people who appear throughout the correspondence and files of Marion Hathway. No one having even a passing acquaintance with the history of social work and social work education will fail to recognize at least some of the notables on this list.

As readers of *Bridges* magazine will recall, in March 2012, several custodians discovered an extensive collection of files and papers belonging to Hathway, the first director of the Division of Social Work in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh (see *Bridges*, fall 2012, p. 7). The files were discovered in a tiny, dark, windowless, secret cubbyhole where they had been hidden for about 70 years.

Review of the files was entrusted to me, and I have just completed the first examination. This process involved cleaning the 216 files, cataloging the files, creating a table of contents for each file, and replacing the ancient file folders with archival acid-free covers. Even in this first review, a few insights have emerged. Elegant, formal language and equally graceful penmanship abound. One cannot help but be struck by the grace and meter of correspondence and reports, even on the most mundane subjects. Telegrams were the e-mail of the day. Given Hathway's career, it was not surprising to find hundreds of items relating to public welfare, emergency relief, social security, child welfare, the Federal Emergency Relief Act, the Mothers' Assistance Fund, the Family Welfare and Relief Division, public assistance, and more. Hathway maintained a constant stream of correspondence with public officials; frequently requested copies of research reports and public documents from throughout the country; served on scores of social service agency, government, and university boards and commissions; and was a member of such organizations as the League of Women Shoppers, New America, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was a tireless advocate for the poor, the homeless, and the migrant worker and actively participated in the efforts to build social safety nets during the Great Depression. As an academic, she was deeply involved in the professionalization of social work and social work education and was in great demand for consultation and leadership. She was devoted to her students and extensively involved in the community. Hathway also was active in programs at American University and the University of Washington at the same time she was at Pitt.

Interest continues to grow as the review progresses. Still unopened is a large stash of card files. Still unread are the individual contents of many of the files. However, enough of the review has been completed to construct a good timeline of the development of the School of Social Work and to document a number of important events and trends. Stay tuned. ■

Edward W. Sites, PhD
Emeritus Professor
January 22, 2013

As readers of *Bridges* magazine will recall, in March 2012, several custodians discovered an extensive collection of files and papers belonging to Marion Hathway, the first director of the Division of Social Work in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, in a secret cubbyhole where they had been hidden for about 70 years.



COVER STORY

Pictured from left to right: Quaziah Jones, Eareeiona Powell–Harris, Xavier Taylor, Jaheim Coley, and Jomari Peterson



"Having the [Pitt] students be exposed to this stuff in real time, with all the messiness that goes with it—that's part of what they'll do if they want to pursue this line of work."

JOHN WALLACE JR.





it takes a VILLAGE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK TEAMS UP WITH HOMEWOOD TO RECLAIM COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

When **John Wallace Jr.** was growing up in the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh, he could safely walk wherever he needed to go: the swimming pool; Willie Stargell Field, where he played baseball; and Westinghouse Park, where he once broke his wrist. He grew up attending Bible Center Church, where his grandfather was pastor, and fondly recalls his favorite haunts: Isaly's, G.C. Murphy's five-and-10, a music store, and the Dairy Queen.

"You still had all of the things that made communities communities," says Wallace, now the Philip Hallen Professor in Community Health and Justice at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. And while the Homewood of his 1970s childhood had changed somewhat from what it was a couple of decades earlier, "there was still life, there was still a business district," he recalls.

But today, the vibrancy that Wallace experienced during his childhood has largely vanished from the neighborhood. In its place are poverty, unemployment, and crime—hardly the type of environment that could be expected to nurture future generations of scholars.

Enter the Homewood Children's Village, a concept so bold it borders on audacious: a comprehensive community initiative that seeks, according to its mission statement, to "simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood's children and to reweave the fabric of the community in which they live."

Inspired by New York's acclaimed Harlem Children's Zone, the Homewood Children's Village partners with residents, government, schools, philanthropic foundations, and faith- and community-based organizations to revitalize the neighborhood in hopes of making it once again a place where children can thrive.

(continued on next page)

COVER STORY, continued from page 9

Going *Big*

The idea for the village began in 2007, three years after Wallace, a sociologist, returned to Pittsburgh to accept a faculty position at the School of Social Work. He also assumed the pastor's job once held by his grandfather, and he was hoping to find a way to marry his academic and personal interests in a way that would benefit not only a community in need but also the University.

Another social work faculty member, **Tracy Soska**, introduced Wallace to **Aliya Durham** (MSW '02), who was then the executive director of Homewood's Operation Better Block, Inc. Within two years, Wallace had become president of the organization's Board of Directors, and under his leadership, it began to examine ways to better fulfill its core mission.

"Our mantra at that time was 'go big or go home,' " he recalls.

The Harlem Children's Zone seemed to offer just what the group was looking for: a focus on children. But it also was a multimillion-dollar operation that serviced 10,000 children a year in New York City's Harlem; for the program to function in Homewood, organizers were going to have to adapt and scale down the model.

A grant from the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., allowed various stakeholders, including Wallace, to attend a practitioners' institute offered by the Children's Zone.

Risks and *Rewards*

For School of Social Work Dean **Larry E. Davis**, the Homewood Children's Village represents a unique opportunity to simultaneously fulfill the three components of the school's mission: research, teaching, and practice.

In the project's early phases, Pitt interns helped to research evidence-based best practices for various components—the best early childhood initiatives, for example, or the best after-school programming. Ideas were pilot tested, including Check & Connect, which put adults in school buildings to monitor attendance and behavior around checkpoints associated with the Pittsburgh Promise, a college funding program for children who graduate from the Pittsburgh Public Schools and meet certain academic, attendance, and residency requirements.

Wallace teaches a class in Homewood, and fellows at Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems work with him. Now that the village is up and running, field placements in Homewood nonprofits are supported by the School of Social Work.



"It's a wonderful opportunity for the University to be involved in a project of this type, particularly the School of Social Work, where we actually have a chance to put our thinking and ideas into place," says Davis.

While Wallace credits Davis with embracing such an unconventional concept and with allowing him time to write fundraising proposals, Davis in turn praises the broad support of the larger University administration.



> Children are nested in four systems: family, community, peer networks, and school. Even if schools are providing a quality education, "if the other three are dysfunctional, children will not grow and develop."
>
> DERRICK LOPEZ

"Rarely do researchers have an opportunity in their lifetimes to have feet on the ground to the extent that John does," Davis says. "They may have great ideas, but they rarely have the chance to implement them."

So far, two cohorts' worth of MSW students have gone through field placements associated with the formation of the Homewood Children's Village, and now several graduates are employed with village partner organizations full time.

"Having the students be exposed to this stuff in real time, with all the messiness that goes with it—that's part of what they'll do if they want to pursue this line of work," Wallace says, adding that it also keeps Pitt grounded in the community, "which in many ways is a hallmark in the legacy and history of the School of Social Work."

Even so, the school's involvement is not without potential pitfalls, Davis notes.

"Schools of social work are not social service agencies. And I think this is the other side of the coin; it's the risk we run a little bit," he says. "Our job is to train people to deliver services," not to take the place of philanthropic foundations or community organizations, he adds.

Like most people associated with the Homewood Children's Village, Davis is mindful of the scope of the work; a community that has been in decline for 45 years can't be turned around in five. Observers hoping for a quick fix are almost sure to be disappointed.

"It's our mission, our purpose, to try and improve conditions, but it takes time," Davis says, adding, "Homewood is really just one of

many communities in the Pittsburgh region that could benefit from such a project."

Davis also isn't worried about failing.

"I'm probably more worried that people don't try than I am fearful of failure," he says.

"*Do* for Our Own"

Derrick Lopez was working as the assistant superintendent for high schools in the Pittsburgh Public Schools when he first heard about Wallace's proposal. Lopez was part of the group that made the trip to Harlem, and while he knew that the Children's Zone model would have to be modified significantly if it was to work in Homewood, he was intrigued by the idea of finding new ways to leverage and move systems so children could grow. Children, he explains, are nested in four systems: family, community, peer networks, and school. Even if schools are providing a quality education, "if the other three are dysfunctional, children will not grow and develop," he says.

At the time, he was planning to leave Pittsburgh for another job. It's what large-city school administrators do; they work for a few years, then move to a different metropolitan area, perhaps to a larger district, perhaps for greater responsibility.

The culture of schools is such that educators come to believe that "we control the world," explains Lopez. "But, in truth, kids learn more in those other three systems than they do in school. So if those systems are challenged like they are in Homewood, then children don't thrive."

As the Homewood Children's Village began to take shape, he realized what Wallace was trying to tell him: This is mission work. This could, in fact, improve children's lives.

So he stayed.

Today, as the first president and chief executive officer of the Homewood Children's Village—a role he assumed in 2011—Lopez oversees an operation that strives to fill gaps in all aspects of children's lives. If they are preschoolers, one program helps them to become kindergarten ready—learning ABCs, colors, and numbers. If they are within a two-mile radius of their school—too close to qualify for a school bus under Pittsburgh Public Schools policy—the village provides them with a ride on a private bus, ensuring they



don't have to walk in the dark of an early winter morning to make it to the building in time for breakfast.

"We don't think of these children as other people's kids. We think of them as our own," says Lopez. "What would we do for our own children?"

Mentors keep track of high school graduates, visiting them at college and helping them navigate what for many is a first-generation experience in higher education. Schoolchildren who do not ride a bus are given safe walking routes to follow, and the village worked with the mayor and Pittsburgh City Council to tear down or secure dangerous vacant buildings near Pittsburgh Westinghouse high school.

In the year and a half since its formal inception, the Homewood Children's Village has partnered with 29 different organizations, both short and long term and, adds Wallace, has received strong and consistent support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation in particular. Of the 1,300 children between the ages of 6 and 18 who live in the neighborhood, the village touches more than 600 each day with its programs and services.

Changing outcomes in a community that has undergone decades of decline and decay is no small feat. Lopez figures he's working on at least a 25-year plan, and while the work often is challenging, the commitment of his colleagues helps him soldier on.

"The affinity I have for John and Larry really becomes the link that keeps you moving and the support that you have in order to move this work every day," he says.

Jewels and Assets

Durham, who cofounded the Homewood Children's Village while she was still with Operation Better Block, is now vice president for development at the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh. But she continues to work with the partnership on the evolution of the village, which has become, for her, a labor of love.

(continued on next page)



"... that commitment we have made not only to those children but to each other ... is what makes implementing the model that much more challenging but also that much more rewarding."

ALIYA DURHAM

COVER STORY, continued from page 11

"We who were around the table realized that our agenda has to be set for the well-being of children in Homewood. It's bigger than our organizational survival," Durham says. "When times get tough—because the work is hard—that commitment we have made not only to those children but to each other … is what makes implementing the model that much more challenging but also that much more rewarding."

The village has benefited significantly from the fresh ideas and passion of the social work graduate students who have flooded the partner organizations that make up the children's village, she says. Pitt's presence "gives our work some credibility," she adds. Moreover, "the intellectual capital that Dr. Wallace [brings] … has been, without a doubt, invaluable."

Thinking about Homewood, where her parents grew up and where she spent a significant portion of her childhood, gives Durham pause. "When I think about 20 years from now and being able to look back on Homewood and the work that we are doing—" she stops, tearing up. "I want to be able to take such great pride in being used by God to impact this neighborhood that so many people had counted out and thought nothing could be done to impact this community. People saw it as hopeless, they saw it as being half-empty, and turned their backs."

In 20 years, she hopes that Homewood will again be a stable, viable community of choice for the middle class; the people who live there deserve that.

"They have been resilient, and they're overcoming those day-to-day battles," Durham says. "I hope those jewels and assets—the things we see every day in the faces of the people of Homewood—that other people will be able to see and value that." ■



Kerri Landes Clauser and her husband, Casey, in front of the Ministry House in Homewood

ALUM IMMERSES HERSELF IN HOMEWOOD COMMUNITY

When **Kerri Landes Clauser** was earning her MSW at the School of Social Work, she took a class in community-based participatory research as part of the community organization and social administration track. Little did she know how dramatically it would impact her future.

The class, taught by John Wallace Jr., Philip Hallen Professor in Community Health and Justice, piqued her interest in part because it was held at the YMCA in Pittsburgh's Homewood section.

"I just thought it was great that there was a class that was held in the community," says Clauser (MSW '10). "Of course, I had heard many good things about Dr. Wallace and wanted to be able to take [the course] from a researcher in the community."

Wallace, who was raised in Homewood, is a pastor at Bible Center Church there and an architect of the Homewood Children's Village, which offers research and practice opportunities for social work students. He told the class that young people can have a tremendous impact on the revitalization of poor communities, particularly by living in them and becoming engaged in the life of the community. Intrigued by the idea, Clauser talked to Wallace about the concept.

Wallace's grandmother had left her Homewood house to the church in her will. Together, Wallace and Clauser envisioned a model in which Clauser and her husband would move into the two-story, four-bedroom house and live with other young people while serving the community. Planning took about a year; Clauser graduated in May; got married; and, by August, had moved with her husband, Casey, into the house, which would be named the Ralph and Bernice Groce Ministry House after Wallace's grandparents. The mission of the house also was established: residents strengthening their faith and purpose for life while developing skills in community outreach and ministry.

"We're completely immersed," Clauser says, adding that she has found Homewood to be a welcoming place. Typically, the young couple lives in the Ministry House with four other people—students or recently graduated young adults who spend about a year there. They live in what Clauser describes as a "Christian living environment" and share the kitchen, living room, and dining room. They commit to 10 hours a week of community volunteer work and ministry. Among their projects are an after-school program; tutoring and mentoring students; and a home visitation program through which the volunteers visit with children and their families.

Annually, the residents of the house log more than 2,000 hours of community service, and to date, more than 250 children have participated in the elementary after-school program over five school terms.

"My background in social work gave me the confidence to do the work that we do and put my faith into action," she says. "Homewood is the place we call home; it's the place we love."

For more information about the Ministry House, contact Clauser at BCKerriLC@gmail.com. ■



Pictured from left to right: Duane Segars, Lydia Pillsbury, Brianna Barnes, Angela Terenzio, and Debralyn Woodberry-Shaw

FIELDWORK GIVES CRSP FELLOWS REAL-WORLD EXPOSURE

Five fellows from Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems are performing fieldwork at the Homewood Children's Village, giving them an in-depth look at how children's academic and behavioral issues are related to poverty and crime in their neighborhoods as well as to problems in their families and homes. Each of the students spends two full days a week from October through April at either Pittsburgh Westinghouse or Pittsburgh Faison K–5, meeting one on one with students who need extra support. Their weekly meetings give the fellows—all of whom are first-year graduate students in the School of Social Work—the opportunity to track students' progress over the course of an academic year and sometimes provide referrals to additional services through the Homewood Children's Village.

The experience is giving the fellows real-world exposure and helping them to refine their career goals.

"I'm helping them talk through their frustrations," says **Brianna Barnes**. "The students appreciate having someone check in on them every week. They don't get that a lot." The fellowship has sparked her interest in working with students who have developmental disabilities.

Angela Terenzio gave one of her students a reading technique that helped him to focus in class and improve his grades, but some students are harder to reach. "Others have outside issues that are difficult to overcome," she says. As a result, she hopes to work with families to provide broader support.

Duane Segars works with some of the most troubled youths—delinquent males who are assigned to probation officers. "I try to develop a therapeutic relationship," he says. "Some of these kids are very guarded." Despite the difficulties, Segars, who graduated from Pittsburgh Westinghouse in the 1980s, wants to continue working with teens on probation.

Lydia Pillsbury is helping girls improve their self-esteem through a group that meets weekly. "Sometimes I see them using each other as a sounding board. These are almost familial relationships; there's a comfort level. They're great together."

The middle school students assigned to **Debralyn Woodberry-Shaw** need help focusing in class and controlling their anger, among other issues. She is developing curricula to address these situations and works with students' families to confront problems that spill over from home into school. She hopes to work in an after-school program that offers necessary support, supervision, and homework assistance to lower income students. "It's just as important as in-school time," she says. ■

> "The students appreciate having someone check in on them every week. They don't get that a lot."
>
> BRIANNA BARNES

DEVELOPMENT *and* ALUMNI NEWS



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

The School of Social Work is so grateful for the generosity of alumni, corporate and foundation supporters, and friends whose steadfast loyalty and commitment to its mission help make the School of Social Work an outstanding school. The Office of Development helps our devoted constituencies consider how they might enrich the lives of students over the course of the next year and in the future with a tax-deductible gift.

Please visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/ways-give** to learn more about the School of Social Work's fundraising initiatives.

Gratefully,

Elizabeth B. Cooper

Elizabeth B. Cooper, Senior Director of Constituent Relations

Finding a *New Purpose* in DISASTER WORK



"Research and statistics came to be a reality in determining where services were delivered and where they were needed. Every skill I learned about working with people was put to the test."

MICHELLE SULKOWSKI (MSW '12)

SOCIAL WORK ALUM FINDS NEW PURPOSE IN DISASTER WORK



In September 2012, **Michelle Sulkowski** (MSW '12) lost her job due to the Pennsylvania social services budget cuts. What seemed like a nightmare ended up opening a door to a whole new world for her as a social worker: disaster relief work.

Due to the massive impact of Hurricane Sandy, the American Red Cross recruited mental health professionals from all over the United States to assist in relief efforts. "I was one of the lucky ones who was chosen to go," Sulkowski says. "My experience [at] the School of Social Work was beneficial for this new adventure. All of the classes that exposed me to cultural differences proved to be helpful, as I met people from many places and many different backgrounds. Research and statistics came to be a reality in determining where services were delivered and where they were needed. Every skill I learned about working with people was put to the test."

While she was lucky not to be physically stationed where the storm hit, she was able to be part of the organizational structure that was crucial in moving forward with the disaster relief efforts. It offered her the opportunity to learn a great deal about the many levels of disaster relief and how it can be a fulfilling career choice for social workers.

To learn how you can help your local Red Cross chapter, please visit **www.redcross.org**.

welcome to the *New* DIRECTOR of CAREER SERVICES and ALUMNI AFFAIRS



Bobby Simmons (MSW '85) assumed the role of director of career services and alumni affairs in January 2013. In this role, Simmons will assist social work students in preparing for the job market by providing a wide range of career services.

These services also are open to alumni, so if you need assistance with your career transitions, do not hesitate to contact him. He looks forward to providing opportunities that will promote strong relationships among our alumni, students, and faculty and the University.

"I am excited about my new role," Simmons says. "After 16 years at the school in field education, I am eager to reach out to fellow alumni. The alumni have an extremely important role to play in influencing the next generation of social workers from Pitt. It is fulfilling to be in a position that allows me access to the past, present, and future of Pitt's School of Social Work. Drop me a line. Send me suggestions, comments, or a hello. Hail to Pitt!"

"I am excited about my new role. After 16 years at the school in field education, I am eager to reach out to fellow alumni. The alumni have an extremely important role to play in influencing the next generation of social workers from Pitt."

social work *alumni* PROUDLY HONORED

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION HONORS ALUMNI

The school's alumni society proudly honored several individuals at the 2012 School of Social Work Alumni Recognition Event and Continuing Education Forum.

The event, held during Pitt's homecoming weekend, brought School of Social Work alumni from across the country together to interact, network, and honor their own. More than 65 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 regardless of their geographic locations.

Pictured in photos from left to right: Dean Larry E. Davis, James Andrews, and Lynn Coghill; Davis, Carol Coles Henry, and Tracy Soska; Davis, Darrell Wheeler, and Esther Sales; and Davis, Charles Chapman, and Helen Petracchi

The 2012 honorees:

OUTSTANDING FIELD INSTRUCTOR
JAMES ANDREWS
Risk Manager/Compliance Officer, Mon Yough Community Services

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
CAROL COLES HENRY (MSW '80)
Former Director, City of Phoenix, Ariz., Equal Opportunity Department

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
DARRELL WHEELER (PhD '92)
Dean, School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD
CHARLES CHAPMAN (BASW '06)
Executive Director, L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry






Did you *know?*

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 that provides 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 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!

2013 School of Social Work Alumni Society

If you are interested in serving on a committee or learning more about upcoming alumni activities, please contact Bobby Simmons at bobby@pitt.edu or 412-624-6354.



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.

in MEMORIAM



"Dr. Eaton was a supportive and caring mentor. He supported students' ideas that weren't always traditional in nature."

MICHAEL J. AUSTIN (PhD '70)

Joseph W. Eaton was noted throughout the University of Pittsburgh and the nation as a champion of modern research and statistical methods for social science research and of the importance of research to the development of social work as a profession.

the *Legacy of* JOSEPH W. EATON

The School of Social Work was deeply saddened to learn that Joseph Eaton, founder of the school's doctoral program, passed away on October 15, 2012, at age 93. Eaton was a celebrated professor, and his incredible dedication to the school and enduring legacy continue to positively impact the school's doctoral students. Eaton was chair of the doctoral program from 1962 to 1966. He was noted throughout the University of Pittsburgh and the nation as a champion of modern research and statistical methods for social science research and of the importance of research to the development of social work as a profession. He also was responsible for the creation at Pitt of a research major at the master's level. Many students used the Master of Social Work research major as a stepping stone to doctoral studies, often gaining advanced standing. Eaton made his first major contribution to social science research with his seminal study on and subsequent publications describing the Hutterites in Canada and the United States. He taught internationally and was listed in *Who's Who in the World*. He earned his doctorate in sociology at Columbia University, where he studied with such luminaries as Robert K. Merton, Paul Lazarsfeld, and Edmund Brunner. Eaton published widely up to his 90th birthday. His publications are noted in the fields of social work, sociology, public health, and public and international affairs.

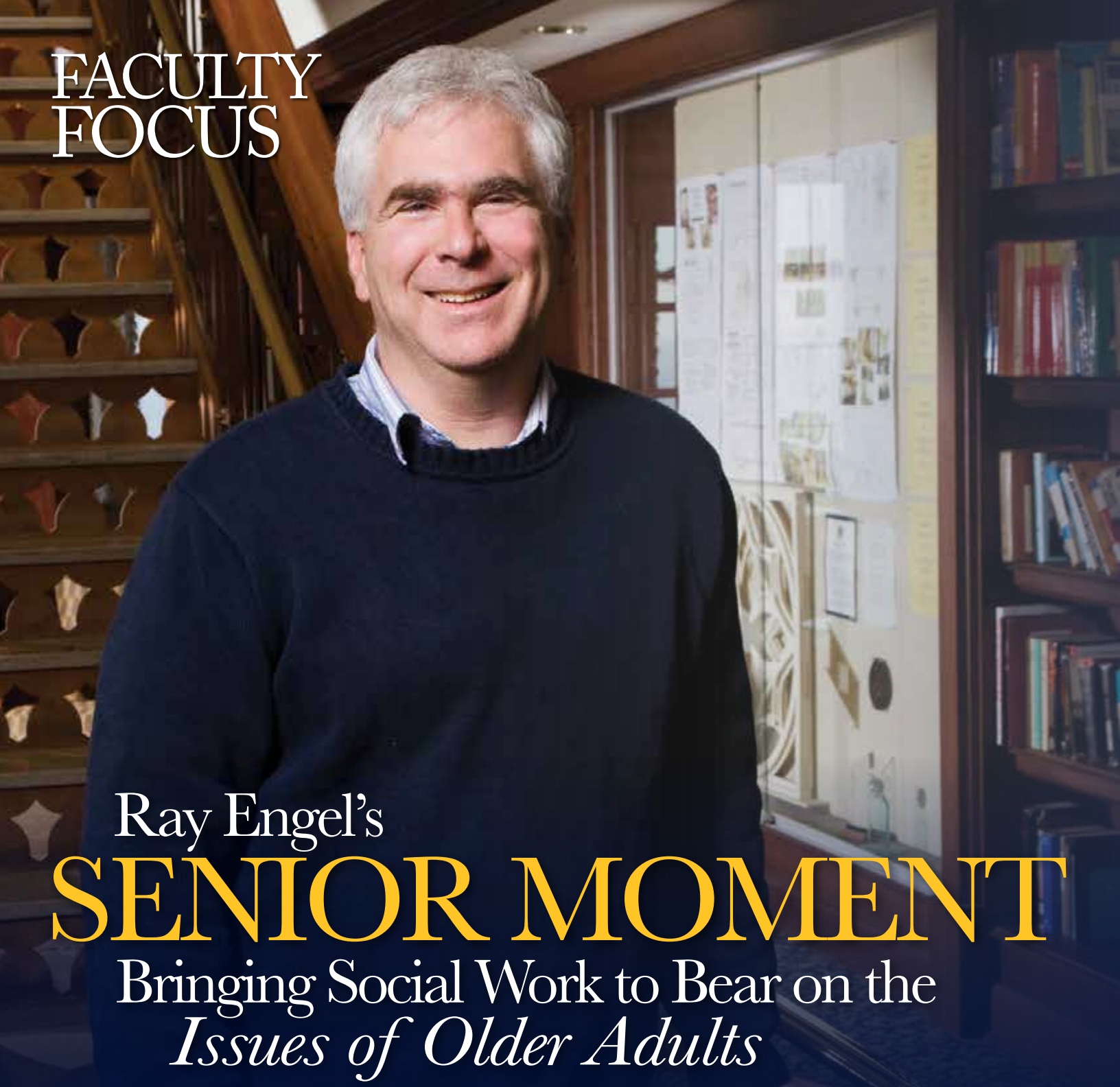
THE EATON AWARD

"Dr. Eaton was a supportive and caring mentor," says **Michael J. Austin** (PhD '70). "He was an intellectual and he cared a lot about social work issues, but what I remember the most is Dr. Eaton's ability to encourage students to think outside of the box. He supported students' ideas that weren't always traditional in nature."

Marvin D. Feit (PhD '75) also recalls Eaton's support. "I appreciated Dr. Eaton's straightforward advice," says Feit. "He told me to pick a dissertation topic that wasn't too complicated. He advised me to research and write it well so that I could graduate and help others. I give that same advice to doctoral students that I mentor."

As a testament to their admiration for Eaton and their commitment to the school, Austin, Feit, and a dedicated group of doctoral alumni established the **Joseph W. and Helen F. Eaton Emerging Scholars Award Fund** to honor Joseph Eaton's incredible legacy. This special award allows the School of Social Work to recognize an outstanding scholarly work completed by a first- or second-year doctoral student through a cash award to further his or her academic and professional development.

To make a special gift and join others in honoring the memory of Eaton, please contact Liz Cooper at 412-624-8239 or cliz@pitt.edu. Online giving also is available. Visit www.giveto.pitt.edu and allocate your gift to the Eaton Emerging Scholars Award.



Ray Engel's SENIOR MOMENT

Bringing Social Work to Bear on the *Issues of Older Adults*

Back in the late 1980s, Ray Engel and his wife, Sandy Budd, arrived in Pittsburgh for his job interview with the School of Social Work.

The young professor had several offers in hand, but none seemed like the right fit; in fact, he'd already turned down a few positions during some of his interviews.

It was April 1988, to be precise—a balmy spring day. The Engels had just flown in from Madison, Wis., where it was still freezing cold.

As their car emerged from the Fort Pitt Tunnel, with Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle" spread out panoramically before them, Engel's wife turned to him and said, "Don't screw this up."

A quarter century later, Engel can breathe a sigh of relief. As a professor, researcher, and onetime associate dean for academic affairs, his impact on the school—particularly as it trains social workers to study and deal with the problems of aging people—is indelible.

A *Graying* Population

Social work and the elderly have a paradoxical relationship. On one hand, a large slice of the U.S. population is entering retirement age. They're living longer, and they're less frail than their predecessors. They face issues that would have been unheard of in great-grandpa's day: addiction; independent living; isolation from scattered families, perhaps now more than ever.

On the other hand, the number of students who pursue careers in social work is proportionally tiny compared to this population. So at the very time when people need their services most, social workers who specialize in recognizing and addressing the problems of the elderly are hard to find.

That's where Engel comes in. Throughout his career, the needs of the aging have been foremost in his research, and while he has worked on unrelated projects from time to time, it's seniors who continue to capture his attention.

In some ways, the work is in his blood. Engel's mother, a geriatric social worker at Jewish Family Services (now Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia) in Philadelphia, Pa., taught him cues and questions to ask when he volunteered to drive clients on errands during his teen years.

"She would sort of train me to be a pseudo nursing home investigator," he recalls. The training included what was, quite literally, a sniff test for nursing homes: "If it smells urine-y, it's probably not a place you want your relative to go."

If they argued, his mother would say, "Someday you'll get old, too."

When he arrived at Pitt, Engel found himself in the midst of a living laboratory in Allegheny County, home to one of the country's highest concentrations of older adults. Combined with the fact that other Pitt researchers also were involved in research on the elderly—particularly Richard Schulz at the University Center for Social and Urban Research—it turned out that the University was ripe for his line of work.

Engel started his career studying poverty and aging, then later segued into evaluation research. He looked at programming and whether it was worthwhile for the elderly, collaborating with Sally Newman (formerly of the Pitt School of Education) on a study of the effectiveness and utility of training programs for older adults who wanted to return to the workforce.

Doubling *Down*

In recent years, Engel has turned his research focus to the effects of gambling on elderly people. His interest was piqued when Pittsburgh was debating locations for its new casino, which opened in 2009. Engel noticed that all the media coverage seemed to focus on issues such as the casino's location and its impact on parking, traffic patterns, and sports franchises.

"No one ever actually discussed whether we were prepared in any rhyme or fashion to deal with the other consequences of gambling," he says. And because the casino initially opened with just slot machines—adding table games later—it appeared to dovetail nicely with his interest in the elderly.

"Slot machines and older adults go together," explains Engel. "It's really kind of remarkable."

With funding provided by the Staunton Farm Foundation, Engel partnered with fellow faculty members Tracy Soska and Danny Rosen on a study that asked the question: Are social services in Pittsburgh prepared to deal with pathological gambling?

When he arrived at Pitt, Engel found himself in the midst of a living laboratory in Allegheny County, home to one of the country's highest concentrations of older adults. Combined with the fact that other Pitt researchers also were involved in research on the elderly ... it turned out that the University was ripe for his line of work.

Not surprisingly, the answer was no. So the School of Social Work began working on the issue and to date has trained 120 people in the field to identify and treat gambling problems. Beth Mulvaney, a lecturer at the school, and Jody Bechtold, formerly a field education office staff member, subsequently have become interested in the idea of training older adults to gamble responsibly as well as training people who work with the elderly to recognize problem gambling.

Rosen, who studies the issues of older addicts at a methadone clinic that is located near the casino on Pittsburgh's North Side, has included the gambling issue on a questionnaire, opening up other research possibilities.

"When you're dealing with people who have addictive personalities to begin with, that's something you need to have in mind," Engel says.

The Hartford Foundation Partnership

Since the early 2000s, a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation has allowed the school to infuse its curriculum with material that applies to older adults. In the summer of 2005, the foundation helped to finance a model that allowed social work students to rotate through different programs, giving them exposure to the spectrum of services older people might use, not just those that helped ill or frail people.

Originally known as the Practicum Partnership Program, the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education partnered the school with local agencies to place students in the field for two years of direct practice with the elderly. The program has expanded from six partners to 20, and a parallel initiative for undergraduates began in 2008.

By the end of the 2013 spring term, the program will have graduated 41 MSW students, six advanced standing students, and 15 undergraduates. Students must make a significant commitment, putting in an extra 120 hours in field placement—the equivalent of two field credits—in May and attending a monthly seminar for which they do not receive any classroom credit. Both the graduate and undergraduate cohorts must complete a project and present their work at an April meeting for the community.

In terms of better preparing the social worker for meeting the needs of the elderly, the program has succeeded: 85 percent of its graduates are working directly with that population, not just in Pennsylvania but also in other parts of the country. It's a need that won't disappear.

Asked what he sees in his future, Engel offers a two-word answer: "Getting old." He is updating textbooks he has authored and continuing his work on gambling and the elderly.

"We have in America an ethos about the beauty of the young," says Engel, but, he adds, "aging is not a problem. It's something we all hope [for] and aspire to."

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





CRSP Celebrates Year of Achievements

This year, the 11th year of the existence of the University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP), was filled with numerous accomplishments. On June 7, 2012, the center commemorated its first decade of race-related research with a special address by NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. Videos of remarks by Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, CRSP director and School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis, and Jealous are available online on the center's Web site, www.crsp.pitt.edu.

Once again, CRSP held summer institutes in 2012, which were generously funded by the Highmark Foundation, UPMC, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Falk Foundation. The institutes offered policymakers and stakeholders from throughout the region an opportunity to hear the latest research findings on health disparities in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. In addition to an overview of health disparities, the presentations provided detailed information on health disparities among adolescents and the elderly, in organ and tissue donation and transplantation, and in the treatment of diabetes and cancer. All of the institutes emphasized actions that can be taken to address health disparities in the region. Videos of the institutes are available online at www.crsp.pitt.edu.

The center's speaker series continues to be an enormous success. It continues to attract a very diverse audience of loyal attendees. Not only does it have a racially diverse following but a following that is diverse with respect to students, faculty, community members, and alumni. It is clearly providing the University and the Pittsburgh community with a much-needed opportunity to discuss race-related topics in a welcoming and collegial environment. By any measure, it continues to exceed any expectations held when the speaker series was first established. But center leadership is forever mindful that the spring speaker series would not be possible were it not for the eight consecutive years of funding that the center has received from the law firm of Reed Smith LLP.

The center's quarterly journal, *Race and Social Problems*, now in its fifth year, has enjoyed great success thanks to its first-rate contributors and editors. Each year, a special issue is dedicated to one topic; this year's focus will be on race-related health disparities, and serving as guest editor will be Sarah Gehlert, E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. In 2013, it is the center's intent to dedicate a special issue to the social problems facing Asian Americans. Journal articles are available online at http://link.springer.com/journal/12552.

The center's research advisory panels (RAPs) continue to play an important role within both the center and the University as a whole. The RAP groups serve as a place where faculty members can share ideas and possibly collaborate on a variety of race-related topics. The chairs in 2012–13 were David Harris, School of Law; Lara Putnam, Department of History; Randall Walsh, Department of Economics; Mary Beth Rauktis, Shaun Eack, and Danny Rosen from the School of Social Work; and Ralph Bangs from the CRSP.

Funded Projects

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.

In February 2013, the center awarded funding for the following pilot studies for new faculty research on race:

Palliative and End-of-Life Needs of Patients with Advanced Cancer: The Influence of Race, Economic Distress, and Literacy

Valire Carr Copeland (School of Social Work) and **Margaret Quinn Rosenzweig** (School of Nursing)



Pitt Distinguished Professor of History Marcus Rediker presented as part of the fall 2012 Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC speaker series.





Student paper awardees Gabriella Jones-Casey, Ervin Dyer, and Martin Saavedra

Students traveled to Cuba in March 2013 as part of a graduate course in Cuban social policy issues.

Investigating the Impact of African American Experiences of Racial Discrimination on Ambulatory Blood Pressure and Health Risk Behaviors Using Ecological Momentary Assessment

Nataria Joseph (Department of Psychiatry) and **Laurel Peterson** (Department of Psychiatry)

Do Barriers to Health Care Access Explain Racial and Geographic Disparities in Surgical Intervention for Hepatocellular Carcinoma?

Allan Tsung (School of Medicine) and **Cindy Bryce** (Graduate School of Public Health)

The Genesis of Racial Segregation in American Cities

Randall Walsh (Department of Economics) and **Allison Shertzer** (Department of Economics)

The Research Experience

This year, through a program called the Research Experience, eight undergraduate students were paired with center faculty associates to work on race-related research projects. This program has proven to be a unique opportunity for students to gain research experience and also has encouraged the expansion of race-related research across the University.

Studying Social Policy Issues in Cuba

As they have done in previous years, this spring, Dean Larry Davis and Ralph Bangs, associate director of the center, took nine Master of Social Work students to Cuba for 10 days to study social policy issues. The group heard lectures by experts on Cuba's history; racial and ethnic relations; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. They also visited community centers for mental health and substance abuse services, health care, education, boys' and girls' support, disadvantaged children, seniors, race relations, and urban farming.

Race and Social Problems Course

During the spring term, the center offered the course Race and Social Problems. The course, taught by Ralph Bangs, provided an exciting set of readings, documentaries, guest speakers, and class discussions. Students learned about race-related social problems and their causes, consequences, and solutions. Some of the books assigned for the course were:

- Joe R. Feagin, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, and Future Reparations,* second edition, 2010
- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,* 2010
- Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-century America*, 2005
- Beverly Daniel Tatum, *Can We Talk about Race? Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation,* 2007

Student Awardees

The center gave three awards for the best student papers on race in 2012–13:

Martin Saavedra, a PhD student studying economics at Pitt, received the first-place PhD award for his paper, "*Early Childhood Conditions and Life Expectancy: Evidence from Japanese American Internment.*" His faculty sponsor was Randall Walsh.

Ervin Dyer, a PhD student studying sociology at Pitt, received the second-place PhD award for his paper, "*Somali Bantu in Northview Heights: Social Isolation, Race, and Social Capital.*" His faculty sponsor was Waverly Duck.

Gabriella Jones-Casey, an MSW student, received the master's award for her paper, "*When Laws Are Not Enough: Race and Gender Inequality.*" Her faculty sponsors were Larry E. Davis and Ralph Bangs.

Please feel free to join us here at the center at any one of our lectures or to view our activities online. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

RESEARCH UPDATE

spotlight on TRAUMA and YOUTH EDUCATION

This edition of *Bridges* features research updates from two of our faculty members, **Rachel Fusco** and **Sara Goodkind**, who are working in different areas of practice that are both of great interest to our local and national social work community.



Rachel Fusco's recent work places a spotlight on trauma in very young members of families receiving child welfare services and highlights the potential need to develop culturally competent mental health care for this very young group. In her study, interviews were conducted with 195 mothers of 3–5-year-olds receiving child welfare services. Fusco's study used rigorous research methods, including the use of the best techniques for choosing a representative sample and a high-quality, well-validated screening instrument, the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children.

Her study reports that 27 percent of mothers of 3–5-year-olds receiving child welfare services reported that their children had significant trauma symptomatology, such as sleep disturbances, excessive separation anxiety, or repetitive play enacting the trauma.

Fusco's study also revealed two important and unexpected predictors of trauma with meaningful clinical implications. Biracial children were three times more likely to display trauma symptoms than Black or White children. However, children whose mothers had themselves received services as children were less likely to have trauma symptoms, suggesting that mothers with this experience may be better equipped to help their children.

These findings strongly suggest the need for culturally sensitive approaches to families receiving child welfare services. As Fusco reports, "There are few mental health services for preschool-aged children, and this work shows the importance of sensitivity to this age group and their families—particularly their mothers."



Supported by the School of Social Work and the Pitt Women's Studies Program, **Sara Goodkind** is examining youth experiences with the Pittsburgh Public Schools' efforts to provide single-sex education at Pittsburgh Westinghouse high school. She is conducting this work with a team composed of the School of Social Work's bachelor's, master's, and PhD students: Andrea Joseph, Lisa Schelbe, Daphne Beers, and Stephanie Pinsky. Schools are showing a growing interest in offering single-sex education, made possible by policy changes stemming from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Some view this as a way to attempt to offer public school students and their parents the same options that are available to families who choose private education. Providing these options to low-income students of color as a way to close the gap in educational achievement could have especially important implications, but there is very little research in this area. In 2002, only 12 U.S. public schools offered single-sex options, while in 2012, this number was estimated to be between 500 and 1,000—a truly astonishing growth in the availability of this option in 10 years.

Goodkind partnered with Pittsburgh Public Schools students to complete the work. Students used their participation to complete their required graduation projects as well as to effect community change. Data collected include in-depth interviews with students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders. Researchers also took detailed ethnographic field notes throughout the school year. Interviews were transcribed verbatim, and data were analyzed through an iterative process of coding and discussion among the members of the research team.

The team now is engaged in analyzing the wealth of complex data collected, and interesting and surprising findings are emerging. Although some students appreciated the safe and focused atmosphere of single-sex schools, this was far from the view of the majority of youths interviewed. Proponents of single-sex education believe that it offers low-income students of color opportunities similar to those afforded to privileged White students in single-sex private schools. Yet this was not the association made by most students at this school, who instead associated it with "alternative" schools for expelled students and juvenile justice institutions. Thus, some students felt that they were being punished for their failing schools, as students at other local schools were not being separated by sex.

Goodkind notes, "Social work researchers, because of our expertise in community-based work and extensive work with low-income youth, are ideally suited to continue to address the lack of research in this area and to ensure that youths' experiences remain central to the discussion."

it's SOCIABLE

CLASS NOTES

BENJAMIN P. BISHOP (BASW '10, MSW '11) published the article "Nature for Mental Health and Social Inclusion" in *Disability Studies Quarterly*.

EMMA LUCAS-DARBY (MSW '77, PhD '86) of Pittsburgh has been elected a member of the 2013 Nominating Committee of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). Elections were held at the association's fall business meeting, held in November in Springfield, Ill. ASWB is the nonprofit association of social work regulatory boards in the United States and Canada. The association owns and maintains the licensing examinations used in most member jurisdictions and is a central resource for information on the legal regulation of social work.

Lucas-Darby is professor emerita in the Department of Social Work at Carlow University and an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Additionally, she is a former member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors.

KENNETH S. RAMSEY (PhD '84) who will retire as president and CEO of Gateway Rehabilitation Center in July 2013, is being honored with the naming of the center's research institute for him. The announcement of the Kenneth S. Ramsey, PhD, Institute for Research and Training was made at the organization's gala event by its immediate past board chair, James Rogal, and Gateway Rehab's founder, Abraham Twerski.

According to a news release distributed by Gateway Rehab, Ramsey initiated addiction treatment research at Gateway Rehab more than 30 years ago by building and maintaining relationships with, among others, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Washington & Jefferson College.

"Ken's dream for Gateway Rehab was to establish a self-standing research department that would have the potential to increase our understanding of the disease of addiction. So, nearly 10 years ago, he hired Cara Renzelli to build a program that would explore best practices and, ultimately, improve the rate of recovery for those struggling with chemical addiction," Rogal said in the release.

The release also stated, "Ramsey's enthusiasm and passion for this enterprise has empowered Gateway Rehab to publish in national magazines [and] scholarly journals and present findings at national conferences."

Ramsey has served 36 years as the organization's president and CEO.

CHARLES SMALL (BASW '06, MSW '07) recently accepted a position as assistant athletic director for student-athlete enrichment at the University of New Orleans.

ALUMNUS TAKES THE PLUNGE



On February 2, 2013, **NATHANIEL MORLEY (MSW '03)** jumped into the frigid waters of the Monongahela River—but for a good cause. Morley has taken the plunge for the past six years as part of the Pitts-burrrrgh Drowned Hogs. This fundraising event has given Morley the opportunity to raise money for Circle C Youth and Family Services. His motto is, "I'll take the plunge so you don't have to."

Morley, who is dedicated to helping children and families, has worked for KidsVoice for the past eight years in the roles of child advocacy specialist and staff development coordinator. As someone who is passionate about the social work profession, he also has served on the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for the past six years and in the capacity of southwest division chair for five years. Most recently, he served the chapter as treasurer-elect.

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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Sidney A. Teller Lecture
"Improving the Life Chances of Disadvantaged Children"
KATHERINE MAGNUSON, Associate Professor,
School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin–Madison

MONDAY, MARCH 18
World Social Work Day Lecture
"Evolving Social Policies and Children in Developing Countries"
SHIRLEY GATENIO GABEL, Associate Professor,
Graduate School of Social Service, Fordham University

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
"The Future of Affirmative Action"
WILLIAM M. CARTER JR.
Dean and Professor, School of Law,
University of Pittsburgh



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22
"Is Black Music Criminal?"
GERALD EARLY
Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters,
Department of English, Washington University
in St. Louis

REED SMITH SPRING 2013 SPEAKER SERIES



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
"The Iconic Ghetto: Effects on Everyday Lives of African Americans"
ELIJAH ANDERSON
William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Sociology,
Yale University



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
"Delivering Culturally Competent Care and Addressing Technology: The New Health Care Disparity"
CANDI CASTLEBERRY-SINGLETON
Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, UPMC