



The University of Georgia School of Social Work

H I G H L I G H T S 2 0 0 8



Greetings Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,

As 2008 comes to an end, I am once again inspired by the continued and unwavering support of our alumni, colleagues and friends. It has been an incredible year for the School of Social Work. As many of you may know, the University of Georgia's Archway to Excellence campaign officially closed this fall. As part of that campaign, which began in 2001, the University exceeded its campaign goal of \$500 million by receiving a total of more than \$650 million in gifts and commitments. This makes the Archway campaign the most successful fundraising effort in UGA's 223-year history.

As part of the Archway campaign, the School of Social Work set a goal to raise \$1 million. Today, I am thrilled to announce that **the School of Social exceeded that goal by 11 percent raising \$1,114,421!**

During the Archway to Excellence Campaign, our school received some very significant support:

- Dr. Israel Berger established two graduate assistantships in family and child welfare to honor the memory of his late wife and former SSW faculty member, Pauline M. Berger.
- St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital in Savannah helped establish the Tisha Abolt Graduate Assistantship in honor of Tisha Abolt, an SSW graduate student who was killed in an automobile accident in 2000 just one month before being awarded her degree. Abolt, whose passion was working with children and families, was planning to return to her hometown of Savannah following her graduation to work at St. Joseph's Hospital.
- The Donald L. Hollowell Endowment Committee, the Georgia Athletic Association, foundations and corporations helped to establish the Donald L. Hollowell Professorship of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies in honor of Donald L. Hollowell, one of the nation's greatest advocates for social justice and the leading civil rights lawyer in Georgia during the 1950s and 1960s.

While these gifts certainly make noticeable differences in the life of our school, it is very important for me to emphasize that every single gift – whether it was \$10 or \$10,000 – helped us reach and then surpass our overall campaign goal. Every dollar and every person made the difference and will continue to make a difference in the School of Social Work as this funding will help support our student programs, community outreach and research for years to come.

Our School also continued to have a stellar year in terms of student and faculty achievements and community events. In March, the School hosted our annual African-American Families Conference. This event, which featured notable speakers Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, and Judge Glenda Hatchett, star of television show *Judge Hatchett*, drew a record number of attendees from the community. Our annual Policy Day was also a signature event last year and again this year, the 2007 event featuring Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The School welcomed six new faculty members this fall. Dr. Shari Miller and Dr. David Okech joined the School as assistant professors, Dr. Adrian Anderson and Dr. Linda Long Mitchell joined our Title IV-E program, and Mary Zorn Bates and Dr. Rene Searles are leading an initiative funded by the Board of Regents to expand LCSWs in rural areas of the state. We are also pleased to have three Coca-Cola First Generation Scholars as students in our BSW program this year, as well as a UGA Foundation Fellow.

You may have already read about the School's news this year on our new Web site, launched this fall. If you haven't seen the new site, please make sure to visit it soon: www.ssw.uga.edu.

The support our school receives – whether through financial donations, alumni participation or community connections – comes to us because our alumni and friends are committed to our mission and goals. I am encouraged by your continuous support, the outstanding scholarship of our faculty, the excellence of our staff and, of course, the outstanding work of our students. I am truly proud to be a part of the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia, where we continue to prepare leaders to promote the cause of social justice.

Sincerely,

Maurice C. Daniels, Dean



The University of Georgia
School of Social Work

Advocates for Positive Social Change



Social Work

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School of Social Work's 10th Annual African-American Families Conference Draws Prominent Keynote Speakers

With the 2008 event being the 10-year anniversary of the conference, we really needed someone that would engage families and present a clear vehicle for getting people to come out and attend. We certainly achieved that (with Dr. Satcher and Judge Hatchett).

— Karen Baynes,
Associate Director,
Governmental Services
and Research, UGA
Carl Vinson Institute of
Government; former
juvenile court judge
and colleague of
Judge Hatchett

In an election year when universal healthcare has been of key concern, former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher delivered a timely and startling look at the current state of health care in America at the 10th annual African-American Families Conference (AAFC) hosted by the University of Georgia School of Social Work this March.

Current director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and of the Center of Excellence on Health Disparities at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Satcher set forth a comprehensive look at the causes and effects that disproportionate health care policies have on the African-American community and offered real solutions on how to address the problem and what the consequences would be if, we as a society, did not.

According to Satcher, if the United States had removed the barriers to healthcare and the disparities in lifestyle that result in illness, there would have been over 83,000 fewer deaths among African-Americans in the year 2000. To eliminate health disparities, he said we must care enough, know enough, be willing to do enough, and persist in our efforts. As the former doctor to the nation, Satcher is concerned about the imbalances in our health care system for all Americans and believes policies must change so that universal coverage and universal healthcare are a reality for all Americans.

Satcher was joined on March 27 by fellow keynote speaker and esteemed, Atlanta judge-turned-TV-personality, Glenda Hatchett. Hatchett, who presides over the syndicated television show, "Judge Hatchett," riveted an audience that included over 650 area youths, with her wisdom, advice and mandate to expect greatness and reach beyond their wildest dreams.

"When the young people in the community found out Judge Hatchett would be speaking there was no challenge in getting them excited about coming out to the event," said community organizer Melvin Hayes, the father of six daughters and founder of Stonehenge Youth Association. "This is someone that they know of from television who was speaking directly to them and had the same story and challenges that they face every day."

Athens mom Tammy Grier's two young daughters, Khadijah, 10, and Tamera, 9, summed up their experience at AAFC with one word: "Awesome!" The two aspiring dancers and Whitehead Elementary School students said they both felt like Judge Hatchett was speaking directly to them and encouraging them to set high goals. The girls are still speaking about the event months later their mother says.

Athens Area Housing Authority employee and community advocate Danny Davenport also brought youth to the event.

"They've lived here their whole lives and never participated in an event that wasn't sports-related," Davenport said. "I felt proud as a University of Georgia graduate that my



Dr. David Satcher



Judge Glenda Hatchett

school was reaching out to my community and providing a life-changing experience for these kids.”

Conference participants also heard from Andrew Billingsley, a professor in the department of Sociology, African-American Studies and the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina, and Robert B. Hill, senior researcher at Westat, a research firm in Maryland that provides research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, businesses, foundations, and state and local governments. Both Billingsley and Hill have written numerous books on African-American families and challenges to the African-American community. Hill and Billingsley, who delivered keynote presentations at previous AAFCs, shared their concerns for the state of the African-American family, the resiliency of the African-American family and their vision for improving health, finance and education.

Geraldine Jackson-White, retired social work practitioner with Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services and retired assistant professor for the School of Social Work, provided the luncheon presentation, sharing her social work practice and life experiences with the audience and used these experiences to assist the audience with understanding what social work practitioners could do to make their clients feel welcomed and empowered.

The community-focused conference was created 10 years ago by the School of Social Work and evolved into a collaborative effort with the UGA Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Office of Institutional Diversity, Institute for African-American Studies, and the Clark-Atlanta University Whitney M. Young School of Social Work to educate practitioners, educators, students, researchers, agency administrators and policy makers who work with African-American families.

The 2008 A AFC was supported by major external donors including Athens Regional Hospital, Affordable Equity Partners, and St. Mary’s Hospital.

In its 10-year history, the A AFC has explored many issues that face the African-American community and the community at-large. Topics that past conferences have explored have ranged from African-American Parenting and Empowerment to The Politics of Race and Persistent Poverty and have included such notable speakers as Jocelyn Elders, former U.S. Surgeon General; Warren W. Hewitt, AIDS and Infectious Diseases Coordinator for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; and Louis W. Sullivan, President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine.

Juanita Blount Clark, of the Carl Vinson Institute and development consultant to the Department of Health and Human resources has seen the conference grow in scope and stature in the three years that she has been involved. As a director for Georgia’s DFACS for four years, Blount Clark sees the vital need for such an event to exist and is excited about its future.

In thinking ahead to the next 10 years, Blount Clark notes that the A AFC “should be a catalyst or the culmination of a series of year-long events that engage and impact the community. I would like to see it evolve into a must-attend event for policy makers and practitioners from around Georgia and beyond – a place where they know they can tune in and learn about the latest social policies that will help them develop new programs for their communities.”

Community support for the African-American Families Conference includes a wide spectrum of community partners:

Sponsors:

The UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
The Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
The UGA Office of Institutional Diversity
The UGA Institute for African-American Studies
Athens Regional Medical Center
St. Mary’s Hospital
Affordable Equity Partners
Arch Society of the University of Georgia

Partners:

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Clarke County School District
Clarke Central High School
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Parham Policy Initiative continues to initiate critical policy discussions

For six years, the School of Social Work has initiated a day of discussion between social work and social science students, faculty, staff, community leaders, practicing social workers, social advocates and clients. This day, known inside the School as Policy Day, facilitates open discussion on public policies while also allowing students the opportunity to showcase their policy related research projects.

The School was honored last October when Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, took questions from social work students about public policy and growing up Roosevelt as part of the school's fifth annual Policy Day.

Almost 200 people attended the discussion, which was held in the M. Smith Griffith Auditorium in the Georgia Museum of Art. Roosevelt, current vice president of Global Corporate Citizenship for the Boeing Company, fielded questions from students on topics ranging from her memories of her grandmother, to what her grandparents would have thought about current social issues such as healthcare, immigration, housing, education, gay marriage and single-parent families.

"The 2007 event was an historic event for the School of Social Work and for our university to have Anna Roosevelt, the granddaughter of two of the world's greatest leaders, speaking directly to our students," said Dr. June Gary Hopps, the Parham Professor of Family and Children Studies in the School of Social Work and the founder of Policy Day. "President Roosevelt put into place the continuing major safety net for our society, which has stood the test of time even while under continual assault."

Roosevelt also viewed students' posters on social policy issues that were on display in Tucker Hall, and she listened to students give reports on FDR's three election wins and on equal rights for people of color and for women in the 1920s and 1930s. In honor of Roosevelt's visit, Social Work students donated time, money and clothes to the Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia.

Roosevelt, the daughter of the late James Roosevelt, eldest son of President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt, is a graduate of Stanford University where she earned a bachelor's degree in art and art history, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she received a master's degree in library science. A Chicago resident since 1983, she moved to the city as a freelance collection consultant following eight years teaching museum studies at Western Kentucky University. Following in her grandparent's political footsteps, Roosevelt became active in the Democratic National Committee and worked for Sen. Paul Simon and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. She was also executive director of the Brain Research Foundation, an affiliate of the University of Chicago, prior to



Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, pictured here with former School of Social Work professor Vanessa Robinson-Dooley, was the guest speaker for the School of Social Work's 2007 Policy Day.

her work for the Boeing Company, which provides philosophical and strategic direction to a network of U.S. and international community investors.

Roosevelt’s current work at the Boeing Company continues her grandparents’ commitment to social reform by helping the company and its employees realize the collective potential as a positive influence on the world. She ensures that the corporation is actively engaged in the community through domestic and global initiatives.

According to Boeing’s annual reports, last year alone the company contributed over \$48 million in corporate donations and a matched \$48 million in employee donations for domestic projects alone under her watch.

“Ms. Roosevelt gave me great advice about finishing my dissertation and entering the job market which so far has served me very well,” said PhD Candidate, Kareem Gray. “She believes in the goodness of people and helped to remind me that we can affect real change in our society. We have to – if we do not, who will? The task is not as daunting if we follow the footsteps of the Roosevelts and tackle it one person, one life at a time.”

This year marked the sixth anniversary of the event which was designed to reflect the late Professor Jim Parham’s interest in and stellar contributions to social policy in Georgia and the nation, in his role of domestic policy advisor to President Jimmy Carter.

During 2008 event, students heard lectures from Dr. Terri Lewinson, assistant professor, School of Social Work at Georgia State University, on “The Meaning of Home.” Students also heard from Carol Lewis Osborne, director of the Division of Program Initiatives for the Department of Health and Human Services (“From Policy Initiatives to Operations”). In addition, SSW faculty member Dr. Tony Lowe and MSW students gave a presentation on their study abroad trip to Ghana; Dr. Stacey Kolomer discussed specialized curriculum relating to Burn Camp; and Dr. Adrian Anderson discussed policy relating to the death penalty. Students also had the opportunity to display their research projects relating to various policy initiatives.

Dean Maurice Daniels welcomed students and guests and reviewed the poster displays. Interim Dean Dr. Nancy Williams introduced the School’s Global Curriculum and MSW chair Dr. Brian Bride discussed the School’s initiative in Ireland.



Anna Eleanor Roosevelt is the granddaughter of the late President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, pictured above.



Students taking part in 2008 Policy Day sing the Policy Day song, “What’s Policy Got to Do With It?,” to the tune of Tina Turner’s “What’s Love Got to Do With It?”



Dr. Terri Lewinson, assistant professor at Georgia State University’s School of Social Work presents at the 2008 Policy Day on, “The Meaning of Home.”

Gift from St. Joseph's allows school, family to endow assistantship

Tisha Abolt Graduate Assistantship honors memory of Savannah native

"Tisha was just
a wonderful,
wonderful young
lady. ... She was
truly committed
to social work. She
loved Athens and
the University.
She loved working
with children and
planned to return to
coastal Georgia. ...
We miss her so."

— Russ Abolt,
Tisha's father

Tisha Abolt Steering Committee Members

Diane and Russ Abolt
Dr. Julius (Boo) Hornstein
Larry Dane-Kellogg Sr.
M. Jude Walsh
Mary Hill

Tisha Abolt longed to make a difference in the world.

After graduating from St. Vincent's Academy in Savannah in 1993, Tisha received her bachelor's in psychology from the University of Georgia in 1997. Realizing she wanted to work directly with people, Tisha entered the Social Work Graduate program. Drawn to children, she completed her field placement at the Counseling Center in Athens where she worked with families. Her goal was to return to the Savannah area to work with children and their families.

Tisha was two weeks away from graduating with her fellow students when she died April 8, 2000, as the result of an Oconee County automobile accident. Based on her extraordinary achievements in the program, including a 4.0 average, Tisha was awarded the Master's in Social Work posthumously May 13, 2000.

To continue Tisha's legacy, the School of Social Work, in collaboration with her parents, Russ and Diane Abolt of Savannah and the Tisha Abolt Steering Committee (many of whom are members of the Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah) established the Tisha Abolt Graduate Assistantship Fund. This fund assists students from the Georgia Coastal area in the School of Social Work Master's of Social Work program (MSW) who are fueled by the same passions that inspired Tisha. The student receives free tuition and a stipend while participating in a field placement with a Chatham County public service agency focused on community development.

Upon graduation, Tisha's plans were to return to the Savannah area and work at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital with children and their families.

That's why, earlier this year, St. Joseph's and Candler Hospitals in Savannah decided to memorialize Tisha's legacy by contributing a sizeable gift to the School of Social Work that allowed the School to complete the endowment of the assistantship.

"The generosity of St. Joseph's/Candler has touched us beyond words," said Tisha's father, Russ Abolt, county manager for Chatham County. "There's so much emotion, so much appreciation that my wife and I wrap into this very generous gift. We can't describe the significance of it through words."

St. Joseph's/Candler made the contribution as a way of providing an avenue for a student to get a clinical experience in social work and to get exposure to the Savannah area with hopes that they would choose to return there upon completion of their degree, said Paul P. Hinchey, president and CEO of St. Joseph's/Candler.

"There are many disenfranchised people who, through no fault of their own, could use an advocate or navigator in assisting them with getting direction and resources," Hinchey said. "The health system views this as an investment in the community because we feel this program can help some people be elevated out of difficult situations which impact their overall health and wellbeing."

Hinchey personally interviewed Tisha weeks before her death and was excited about the opportunity to bring her on board as part of his team at St. Joseph's.

"She personified all of the qualities and attributes of the emerging new health professional. Frankly, her enthusiasm was infectious. It is that type of dedication, enthusiasm, passion and social compass that, in my opinion, needs to be promulgated in this arising generation," Hinchey said. "St. Joseph's/Candler wants to continue Tisha's legacy of caring and support likeminded bright, high energy committed professionals who are sensitive to cultural competency norms, in what is becoming a rapidly changing population."

The initial idea for the assistantship came from social workers in Chatham County, according to Russ Abolt.

"They felt there was this need to perpetuate the profession of social work in coastal Georgia and to use this tragedy to help create a focus on the profession and get young men and women from UGA to come here as soon as they are out of school," Russ said.

The Tisha Abolt Graduate Assistantship will serve as a constant reminder to MSW students of the love Tisha had for the profession, according to School of Social Work Dean Maurice Daniels.



"Tisha was a beloved student and was on track to be an outstanding contributor to the field of social work and the lives of children in the Savannah area and beyond," Daniels said. "Through the endowment of this assistantship, her memory will be honored for years to come as other MSW students are able to gain experience in family and community development in the Savannah area. This truly establishes a legacy in Tisha's name that will live on at the University of Georgia."

Tisha Abolt celebrates St. Patrick's Day with her parents, Russ and Diane Abolt, in Savannah on March 17, 2000. Tisha was killed in an automobile accident less than a month later, two weeks before she was to graduate with her MSW from the University of Georgia School of Social Work.

School of Social Work Donor Honor Roll

On behalf of the faculty,
staff and students at the
School of Social Work,
I would like to thank all
of our donors for their
generosity and support.
Support from individuals,
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and serve as advocates for
social justice.

—Jennifer Abbott
Director of Development
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Visitation Day a Success for Students, School

Joshua Lewis is considering pursuing a master’s degree in social work from either Temple University, the University of Texas, the University of Alabama or the University of Georgia. After taking part in the UGA School of Social Work’s 2008 Visitation Day on November 14, however, Lewis is leaning toward UGA.

“It just seems like a real good social work school,” said Lewis who plans to be a social worker in the public school system. “I learned a lot about the school and the MSW program that I didn’t know before. It seems like a good fit for me. ... Plus the cafeteria food here is the best of any other school I’ve visited.”

Lewis, a student at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, joined nearly 50 other African-American undergraduate students from colleges and universities in the Southeast at SSW’s Visitation Day, organized by the School of Social Work’s Office of MSW Admissions. In addition to Johnson C. Smith, students came from Fort Valley State University (Fort Valley, Ga.), Thomas University (Thomasville, Ga.), Augusta State University (Augusta, Ga.), Paine College (Augusta, Ga.) and North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, N.C.).

“The purpose of Visitation Day is to encourage prospective students from historically under-represented groups and students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to visit and consider the University of Georgia School of Social Work for their graduate social work education,” said Dr. Thomas Artelt, MSW admission director. “The School of Social Work’s Visitation Day also supports the University of Georgia’s goal of admitting a diverse student body.”

The 2008 itinerary included an orientation to UGA, to the MSW application process, the MSW program curriculum; introductions to the School’s administrators, faculty and students; a discussion of academic and social support programs for our MSW students; and a campus tour and lunch at East Campus Village.

“One of the biggest issues many of these students expressed is that we welcomed and encouraged them to accept the challenge of earning their MSW at a highly respected university,” Artelt said, adding that the School has hosted Visitation Day for at least 10 years. “Many of our student participants had never been to such a large university, and they were somewhat intimidated by the prospect of attending such a rigorous academic program. By introducing these students to our faculty, staff, and students, they realized that UGA is a big school with many resources that will help them achieve their professional goals in academic and social settings they might enjoy.”

“The purpose of Visitation Day is to encourage prospective students from historically under-represented groups and students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to visit and consider the University of Georgia School of Social Work for their graduate social work education”
—Dr. Thomas Artelt
MSW admission director



Nearly 50 students from a half dozen colleges and universities in the Southeast attended the School of Social Work’s Visitation Day organized by the School’s Office of MSW Admissions.



School of Social Work home to University of Georgia Foundation Fellow

Jaime Ayers may have grown up in Gator country but she has always been a Bulldog at heart.

A graduate of Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Fla., Ayers knew when she stepped foot on the University of Georgia campus that she was home.

“When I visited UGA, I immediately fell in love with the campus and the environment,” Ayers said. “I was also very impressed by the great academics, programs, and opportunities offered here.”

The University was impressed with Ayers, as well.

Based on her outstanding high school academic record and student leadership, Ayers was selected to be Foundation Fellow. The Foundation Fellows Program was established in 1972 by trustees of the University of Georgia Foundation to create an enhanced educational experience for superior undergraduate students. Foundation Fellows – who must have a minimum 3.5 GPA – receive a significant scholarship in addition to travel-study grants and a post-freshman summer study abroad program.

Ayers selected her two majors – Social Work and Child and Family Development – because of her passion for helping others.

“I have been on several mission trips, both domestic and international, to help people in need,” Ayers said. “On these trips I found that helping people, especially children of low-income families, is something I would like to continue to do.”

For more information on the University of Georgia Foundation Fellows program, visit: https://asg.citp.uga.edu/fellows_uga/index.html

Coca-Cola Scholars Pursue Social Work Degrees

Choosing to attend the University of Georgia was a complete leap of faith for **Kay-Leigh Crook**.

A graduate of Loganville High School, Crook was offered a full academic scholarship to attend Young Harris College. However, when she got accepted to UGA – her first choice – her parents encouraged her to make her decision with faith.

“They told me to go (to UGA) and not worry about the money issue because God would provide for my family and myself,” said Crook.

Little did Crook know that she would soon be named by UGA as a Coca-Cola First Generation Scholar. This scholarship, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, supports academically outstanding students who are the first in their families to attend college. The award provides \$5,000 per year to recipients who demonstrate financial need in addition to the HOPE Scholarship and is renewable for an additional three years of undergraduate study if certain academic standards are maintained.

“My scholarship is significant to me because it is the way that God chose to provide for me,” said Crook, who plans to work with abused children. “Not only did Coca-Cola take a huge financial burden off of my family, but my scholarship has provided many opportunities for me to succeed and has put me in contact with amazing mentors and University faculty, such as my adviser, Jeff Skinner.”

Twelve University of Georgia freshmen have been awarded Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year, three of which have chosen to work toward a Bachelor’s of Social Work degree. In addition to Crook, BSW students **Tiffany Reed** and **Juliette Collins** are also Coca-Cola Scholars.

Reed, a graduate of Mount Zion High School in Jonesboro, Ga., said the Coca-Cola Scholarship is helping her achieve her goal of earning a college degree.

“Being a first-generation college student is very important to me and my family and this scholarship has helped me tremendously financially,” Reed said. “I chose UGA because of the diversity and the level of education I knew I was going to receive from the institution. I chose to enter the School of Social Work because I truly believe I have a heart for people and I want to be able to help others in any way possible.”

A graduate of Creekside High School in Fairburn, Ga., Juliette Collins chose to attend UGA because she felt she could reach her highest potential here.

“There are so many opportunities, and so much diversity that there is no way – provided I stay focused – that I could go wrong with a University of Georgia education,” Collins said. “My scholarship is significant to me because it is helping to put my academic goals within my reach by means of financial and social support. I chose to pursue a degree in social work because I would like to be able to directly help others in a close setting.”



Kay-Leigh Crook



Tiffany Reed



Juliette Collins

For more information on the Coca-Cola First Generation Scholars program, visit http://www.uga.edu/news/artman/publish/080707_Coca_Cola.shtml

SSW *new faculty & staff*

FACULTY



Adrian Anderson attained his PhD at Tulane University School of Social Work in 2007. He has practiced as a social worker in a variety of settings for several years providing direct services to children and adolescents, families, geriatrics and couples. He has also engaged in private practice, workshops and consultation. In Dr. Anderson's current role as a faculty member supported by UGA's School

of Social Work's Title IV-E Program, he teaches courses that range from research methods and policy analysis to characteristics of abusing and neglecting families. He is presently conducting research on the influence of supportive and protective parental behaviors in reducing symptoms, and preventing the onset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in school-aged children.

Mary Zorn Bates earned her BA in Sociology from Valdosta State University and her MSW from the University of Georgia School of Social Work with an emphasis in mental health. An academic professional associate instructor with the School of Social Work, Bates has years of experience in marriage and family therapy, psychiatric clinical social work, supervisions and residential treatment work with adolescents and has worked in hospital private and nonprofit sectors. Her research interests are in clinical work, couples and mind-body therapeutic interventions. Bates is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and a licensed family and marriage therapist.

Rene Searles McClatchey graduated from the University of Lund in Sweden, with a degree in Business Administration and Foreign Languages. A temporary assistant professor, Dr. McClatchey received her Master's and PhD degrees in Social Work from the University of Georgia and holds a clinical license in social work (LCSW). Dr. McClatchey has worked extensively with children in mental health centers, Department of Family and Children Services, private practice and hospice. She is the founder of Camp MAGIK, a healing camp for bereaved children. Her research interests center on grief and loss, especially childhood traumatic grief.



Shari Miller joined the University of Georgia School of Social Work as an Assistant Professor in 2008. Prior to receiving her PhD from the University of Maryland in 2008, Dr. Miller practiced as a social worker in New York City in a variety of settings, with a primary focus on the delivery of individual, family, and group mental health services to a diverse population of children, adolescents, and adults.

Dr. Miller teaches courses in both the BSW and MSW programs with a particular focus on theory, social work practice, and introduction to social work and social welfare history. Dr. Miller's research interests include the professional socialization of social workers, social work education, field education and supervisor training, the culture of the profession, ethical decision-making, critical thinking, and ecological issues.



Linda A. Long-Mitchell earned her PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Georgia's College of Education in 2002 and her MSW from the University of Georgia's School of Social Work in 1994. She served as Coordinator of the BSW Program in the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia at Gwinnett between 2006-2008. In Dr. Long-Mitchell's

current position as a faculty member supported by UGA's School of Social Work's Title IV-E Program, she teaches BSW and MSW students courses in cultural diversity in social work practice, Child Welfare, social work clinical practice with individuals, couples, families, and groups, family dynamics, and field education. Dr. Long-Mitchell has previously taught courses at the University of South Florida and at East Carolina University. She has practiced social work for 15 years focusing on mental health services for children, individual, marriage, and family therapy, school social work, administration, community practice, and consultation in child welfare. Dr. Long-Mitchell's research interests include Culturally Diverse children and families, their school and peer experiences, and their social-emotional development.

David Okech joined the University of Georgia School of Social Work as an Assistant Professor in 2008. Dr. Okech received his PhD from the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare in 2008 and MSW from the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Okech received his BA (Social Work) from the University of Nairobi and has had work experience with community-based, national and international social welfare agencies. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of asset development, community development, social work administration, social welfare policy, social work research, and international relief and development. Dr. Okech is currently involved in research on asset development as a tool for long-term development for families and children.



STAFF



Janet Jones Kendall While earning her master's degree in print journalism from the University of Georgia, Kendall worked full time as a copy editor and then reporter for the Athens Banner-Herald. Upon completion of her degree, Kendall joined the University as director of a state-wide high school journalism program. Prior to joining the School of Social Work, Kendall was a development officer in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences where her work on the college's planned giving campaign earned a CASE Award for Excellence.

Social Work Professionals Learn How to Better Serve Military Families

Social work professionals, faculty, staff and students gathered at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education on Friday, Nov. 7, for the 2008 Continuing Education event hosted by the University of Georgia School of Social Work.

Participants heard from field experts Kathryn Basham and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Yarvis on emotional issues surrounding military families both during and post-deployment.

Basham, PhD, LCSW, is professor and co-director of the PhD program at the Smith College School for Social Work in North Hampton, Mass. As the only clinical social worker participating in a congressionally mandated committee sponsored by the Institute of Medicine, she has co-authored two texts titled *Physiologic, Psychological and Psychosocial Effects of Deployment-Related Stress* (2007) and *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Diagnosis and Treatment*. More recent publications and consultations have focused on research informed practice approaches with troops and their families following deployment, presented at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and several Veterans Administration Medical Centers.

In her presentation, *Homecoming as Safe Haven or the New Front: Attachment and Detachment in Military Couples*, Basham addressed the trials and stressors that troops and their families face as they reunite following tours of duty in a combat zone.

"In identifying factors that contribute to combat trauma, separation from family and community was at the top of the list of what's most distressing to deployed soldiers," Basham said, adding that, "Not only do we need to facilitate the recovery for a traumatized service member, careful attention must also be paid to all family members who may be synergistically affected by the hurtful effects of secondary trauma."

Basham identified risk factors with troops and their families who are coping with each phase of the deployment cycle and assessed the utility of various therapeutic and community-based methods aimed to assist troops and their families transition back to their new lives.

Yarvis, who earned his PhD from the School of Social Work in 2004, was able to show first-hand examples of Basham's research during his keynote lunch presentation. Currently serving as assistant professor of family medicine



School of Social Work alumni gather at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education for the 2008 Continuing Education event hosted by the School of Social Work.

and director of social work at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., Yarvis is a veteran soldier of 22 years who has worked with troops as a clinical social worker. Prior to his arrival at USUHS in July 2007, he was the Senior Medical Civil-Military Operations Officer for the Multinational Corps in Iraq and the Assistant Chief of Staff/G-5 and Brigade Social Work Officer for Task Force 30th Medical Brigade at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, where he was responsible for developing the medical engagement strategy for Iraq.

Yarvis' research on post-traumatic stress disorder was recently published and he has presented at over 30 national and international conferences. His efforts have been recognized as he has been named Social Worker of the Year by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Department of

Defense. His military decorations are many, including the Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge and Order of Military Medical Merit.

"It's easy when you're physically injured in combat to identify that injury and to get help for that," Yarvis said. "But when your marbles get rattled, it's harder to identify exactly what's wrong and to get the help you need for that sometimes."

However, soldiers today with emotional issues are treated with more concern than in years past, Yarvis said, illustrating his point with a video clip from the 1970 movie "Patton" in which Gen. George S. Patton (played by actor George C. Scott) berates and physically abuses a soldier who says his nerves are so shattered he can no longer be in battle. Yarvis then showed a clip of an actual unit in Iraq as they were notified by their commanding officer that one of the members of their unit was killed in combat earlier that day. In that clip, the commanding officer still encouraged the unit to continue their tasks but he also shed tears, offered his condolences and told each of them to come talk with him or the unit chaplain if they needed additional counseling.

"Kathryn Basham and Jeff Yarvis were phenomenal in presenting on a challenging topic," said School of Social Work Dean Maurice Daniels. "Their presentations included cogent research on the challenges that soldiers and their families face and the harsh realities of war. They were most effective in relating the urgency of preparing our students and professionals to serve the needs of returning soldiers and their families."

School of Social Work Online



Next time you're online, take a look at the School of Social Work's new Web site. Among the many new site enhancements, you'll notice top news items rotating on the home page, features on faculty research and students' service learning projects and updated information on all of our programs.

Take a look at the new site today at www.ssw.uga.edu

SSW Fall Festival 2008

Students, faculty and staff of the School of Social Work enjoyed a cookout, program displays, live music and, yes, a pie-throwing contest at the 2008 Fall Festival on Oct. 14 outside Tucker Hall.



Alumni Sightings



Carol Collard (MSW '01, PhD '07) and Laura Ciucevich.



Alum Kelly Reath (MSW '79).



Laura and David Boyle (MSW '76, PhD '94).



Laura and former faculty member Marty Markward.



Laura and Denise Dedman (MSW '81).



Former faculty member, Dr. Stanley Gellineau (DPA '81) and Laura.



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