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# Connections

## "THE LEGACY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD"

Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard who was beaten to death in an act of anti-gay brutality in 1998, delivered the Annual Jenkins Lecture at Cullen Performance Hall Auditorium on October 19. Judy is driven to raise public awareness and to spearhead educational programs designed to eliminate prejudices and prevent circumstances that foster hate crimes. She emphatically stated, "What we don't understand, we fear," as she set the tone for the evening's presentation.

Shepard's delivery was soft-spoken, but her messages were direct: education is the key to hate crime prevention; being a registered and educated voter is essential; and communication is important to increasing awareness. She cautioned against becoming "SIC" (silent, indifferent and complacent). Her message was clear; "We are who we are" and "You don't tolerate people—you accept people." She encouraged families to "talk, talk, talk" and for all people to "come out and stay out."

Judy travels and speaks to high schools, colleges, communities, and corporate organizations on hate crime prevention and on acceptance of diversity. She states that crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-

gender individuals remain the third highest category of hate crimes, after race and religion.

Shepard urged the audience to vote and to assure that elected officials follow through on their campaign promises. She takes an active role in lobbying for the rights of the gay and lesbian community in Washington, and voices support for full marriage rights rather than civil unions. She has observed scant progress in areas of legislation to secure equal rights for the gay community. She continues to advocate for hate crime legislation that includes sexual orientation, gender, disability, and federal job protection based on sexual orientation.

Shepard urged open communication between parents, children, and community. She talked about her own son's coming out and encouraged others to come out as well. She challenged families to understand diversity without fearing it.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation was formed in 1998, and carries its message through Judy, the foundation's executive director, and her husband, Dennis. The foundation was created to honor Matthew in a manner that was appropriate to his dreams, beliefs, and aspirations. The initial funds came from donations sent by people worldwide in Matt's memory to help the family with medical expenses. In the end, the family decided that dona-



Judy Shepard  
Jenkins Distinguished Lecturer

tions should be used to impact the community in a greater way. The foundation was launched to support educational projects and documentaries that raise awareness of the issues involving discrimination and diversity.

The Fourth Annual Jenkins Distinguished Lecture was hosted by the UH GSSW in support of the school's mission to support social and political justice. The lectures are part of an ongoing effort to present speakers who are nationally and internationally known for their expertise on political and public policy issues.



## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN COLBY

### GSSW Dean's Advisory Council

Carole Ashendorf  
Baylor Geriatric Medicine Associates  
GSSW Alumna '95

Angela Blanchard  
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Ruth Brodsky  
Community Volunteer

Sylvia Brooks  
Houston Area Urban League

Cam Canion  
Community Volunteer

Leonel Castillo  
Office of the Mayor

Felix Fraga  
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Nancy Frees Fountain  
Frees Foundation

Brenda Gallagher  
The Frank and Brenda Gallagher  
Family Foundation

Barbara Henley  
UH-GSSW

Marjorie Jenkins  
GSSW Alumna '76

Cecile Keeper  
GSSW Alumna '78

Ronald Lewis  
Baker Botts LLP.

Barbara Mackey  
GSSW Alumna '92

Linda May  
Simmons Foundation

Rafael Medrano  
Housing Opportunities of  
Houston, Inc.  
GSSW Alumnus '80

Robert L. Navarro  
Retired  
GSSW Alumnus '76

Wayne Norden  
Junior Achievement of  
Southeast Texas

Cindy Reibenstein  
Reibenstein & Associates  
GSSW Alumna '88

Lawrence Root, MD

Monsignor Frank Rossi  
Diocese of Galveston-Houston

Victor Samuels  
Victory Packaging

Donald Sheppard  
Houston Endowment, Inc.

Hinda Simon  
Private Practitioner  
GSSW Alumna '91

Ed Smith  
Foley's

Jerri Workman  
Heights Education Project  
GSSW Alumna '89

This year, the GSSW is celebrating the school's 35th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the construction of the Social Work building. To date, nearly 3,000 individuals have studied here and received their MSW and/or PhD degrees while scores of others have participated in the school's Continuing Education offerings, sponsored lectures and other related activities. Over the years, change has been consistent – faculty, course offerings, specializations, programs, and external initiatives – each has changed in form and character. Even so, there remains one constant that binds us together and provides a specific focus – the pursuit of social justice through professional education.



Dean  
Ira C. Colby

This past October, the GSSW hosted Mrs. Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, for the Jenkins Distinguished Lecture. Her son, Matthew, was brutally beaten, tied to a fence and left to die, a victim of gay hate crime. Her strength was and is remarkable – translating such a horrific experience into a proactive change effort speaks to the incredible resiliency of the human spirit.

As compelling as Mrs. Shepard herself, was her passion to promote justice for all people. She spoke from the heart and the audience was able to feel her warm embrace, and, especially her empathy for those who face prejudice. While Mrs. Shepard exemplified a true “profile in courage,” the evening also served as a stark reminder that hate, fear, and brutality toward others remains a common occurrence in our society today.

The GSSW must continue in its work to promote justice by aggressively working to dismantle all vestiges of discrimination and prejudice in our community. From attempts to undermine the US Constitution by amending it to ban gay/lesbian marriage, to the continued lack of full funding of the Child's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by the Texas Legislature – justice is being eroded at the expense of our friends and neighbors.

As we continue our work, the GSSW's mission is necessary and must remain steadfast as our guiding light. All in the GSSW community and the greater social work community should take to heart Dr. Martin Luther King's observation that *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*

Dean Ira C. Colby  
and  
the faculty of the  
University of Houston  
Graduate School of Social Work  
announce the appointment of

**Jody Williams**  
1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

as  
Distinguished Professor of  
Social Work and Global Justice  
September 1, 2004



“We must become the change  
we want to see.”

Mahatma Gandhi

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



The Graduate School of Social Work Building

In 1967, the Texas Legislature authorized the inception of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston, with \$150,000 in initial funding. The school officially opened in the fall of 1968, housed in a temporary residence. Dr. Daniel O'Keefe became the first dean and one of the seven full-time faculty. Dr. Gerson David was one of the "founding faculty" and continues to this day with the school. The program began its first class with 26 students enrolled. The new Social Work Building was dedicated on March 23, 1980.

The GSSW celebrates its 35th anniversary during the 2004-05 year as well as the 25th anniversary of the Social Work Building. As a part of the celebration, events have been planned including our Distinguished Lecturers, PeaceJam weekend, Social Work Awards and numerous receptions.

The mission of the GSSW is to advance social, economic and political justice and to advance knowledge for competent, ethical practice and leadership with diverse populations. The GSSW is committed to excellence and broadening its support and linkages with the greater community, the alumni, and the professional social work and human services communities.

The journey continues as we celebrate the successes of the last 35 years of social work education and 25 years in the Social Work Building on the University of Houston campus. Join us throughout the year in the planned activities of celebration!



## DOCTORAL PROGRAM NEWS

Since 1993, the Graduate School of Social Work Doctoral Program has strived "to develop social work researchers, scholars, teachers, and leaders who can facilitate change through rigorous and contextualized analysis of social problems and social work interventions in a manner respectful of the experiences of all affected." Graduates are expected to advance the knowledge base of the profession, promote a scientific basis for social work practice at all levels of intervention, and actively promote global, social, and economic justice. The program currently has 40 students and is proud to announce a Doctoral Symposium planned for Spring 2005, which will include a full day of student presentations, panel groups, and poster presentations. The third issue of the student doctoral journal, *Perspectives On Social Work*, can be viewed on the GSSW website. Co-editors-in-chief are Manuel Zamora and Peter Kindle, while Amy Russell serves as managing editor.

### Highlights

Dr. Maxine Weinman Epstein, doctoral program director, attended the annual meeting of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE) hosted by New York University's School of Social Work, October 29-30.

The first Fall 2004 Doctoral Program Research Seminar was held November 8, 2004. Dr. Sheara Williams, assistant professor, presented *The Academic Achievement Gap: Linkages Among Behavioral, Social, and Academic Competencies*.

Banghwa Lee Casado, doctoral candidate, has been awarded a Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in Geriatric Social Work. Banghwa is currently working on her dissertation, "The Effects of Appraised Caregiver Burden on the Utilization of Home and Community-Based Formal Care Among Primary Caregivers of Older Americans: Integrating the Health Behavioral and Caregiving Appraisal Models."

For additional information on the Doctoral Program, please visit our website at [www.sw.uh.edu/prospectivestu/prospstu.htm](http://www.sw.uh.edu/prospectivestu/prospstu.htm) or call (713)743-8080.

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Brené Brown**, Assistant Professor of Social Work Research, recently gave lectures on her research on women and shame at the University of Maryland, the University of Pittsburgh and Case Western Reserve University. Her article, "Shame Resilience Theory: A Grounded Theory Study on Women and Shame," was accepted for publication in *Families in Society*. Dr. Brown was the invited guest speaker at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the GSSW Alumni Association. On August 24, she spoke on "Finding Our Voices. Speaking Our Truths" to a captive audience.

**Monit Cheung**, Professor, received the 2004 *Golden Harvest Award* at the Annual Gala of the Asian American Family Counseling Center on September 30. Dr. Cheung continues to provide monthly parenting publications for two Chinese magazines, *Parents* and *OURS*, and provides weekly written replies on child sexual abuse issues for *Sing Tao Daily*, a major newspaper in Hong Kong.

Journal Publications:  
Cheung, M. "My Experience As A Sponsored Child: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty," *Journal of Poverty* (2004). (Accepted.)

Presentations:  
Cheung, M. "Vietnamese Parental Attitude Scale: Three Major Factors," Juried paper presented at the *50th Annual Program Meeting*, Council on Social Work Education, Anaheim, (2004).

Leung, P., & Cheung, M. "A Prevalence Study on Partner Abuse in Six Asian American Ethnic Groups," Juried paper presented at the *50th Annual Program Meeting*, Council on Social Work Education, Anaheim, (2004).

Leung, P., & Cheung, M. "Cross-Cultural Learning: Working With Asian Americans," *Shell Diversity Brown Bag Series*, Houston, (2004).

**Gerson David**, Professor, is the recipient of *The National Certificate of Honor* awarded by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. He is recognized for having promoted the ideals of responsible citizenship and having endeavored to protect the dignity and freedom of the individual. The awards program of Freedoms Foundation was established in 1948 by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower to recognize the exceptional efforts of individuals and organizations whose positive words or deeds promote our country's great heritage. Dr. David was also awarded the *Outstanding Faculty Award* given by the Houston Alumni Association at its "You Make the Difference" jazz reception on November 6.

**Barbara Henley**, Clinical Instructor and Special Assistant to the Dean, addressed the Texas Chapter of the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care on September

20. She spoke on "Twenty Years of Research on Successful Children and the Role of Private Philanthropy in Forging Social Policy."

**Howard Karger**, Professor, has two books due out in 2005: Karger, H.J. "America's Fringe Economy: Not Only for the Poor," San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.

Karger, H.J. and Stoesz, D. "American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach," Boston: Allyn & Bacon, (5th ed.) This will be Allyn & Bacon's first four-color social work textbook.

Journal Publications:  
Karger, H.J. and Hernandez, M.T. "The Decline of the Public Intellectual in Social Work," *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (31)3, (September 2004).

Karger, H.J. "Scamming the Poor: The Modern Fringe Economy." *The Social Policy Journal* (3)1, (2004).

Karger, H. and Hernandez, T. "No Deals on Wheels: How and Why the Poor Pay More for Basic Transportation," *Journal of Poverty* (7)4 (2003).

Karger, H.J. and Stoesz, D. "The Growth of Social Work Education Programs, 1985-1999: Its Impact on Economic and Educational Factors Related to the Profession of Social Work," *Journal of Social Work Education* (39)2 (Spring/Summer 2003).

Karger, H.J. "Ending Public Assistance: The Transformation of US Public Assistance Policy into Labour Policy,"

*Journal of Social Policy* (32)3 (July 2003).

Presentation:  
"Religion and Politics," Christ Church Cathedral, Houston (October 2004).

**Sandra Lopez**, Clinical Assistant Professor, presented, as part of an independent study course she led, "A Model for Promoting Self-Care Through a Support Group Experience with Social Work Graduate Students" at the NASW/ Texas 28th Annual State Conference in Austin (October 2004). The other presenters included students and recent alumni, Debra Reyna, Dora Cisneros, Roberta Leal, Cathy Foster, Betty Rich, and San Ta.

**Susan Robbins**, Associate Professor, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Family Preservation Journal*. Dr. Robbins provided expert witness testimony in a federal criminal case in Washington D.C. in June, 2004 and has been retained as a case consultant and expert witness in another criminal case by the Public Defender Service of Washington D.C.

Presentation:  
"Effective Practice with Substance Abuse in Families," *15th Annual Family Preservation Conference*, San Antonio (September 2004).

**Ellen Stevens-Roseman**, Associate Professor, has been granted funding to pursue her research on "Later Life Satisfaction" with older volunteers, family members, and workers-for-pay.

## RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

The Office for Drug and Social Policy Research (ODSPR), under the direction of Dr. Avelardo Valdez, has just completed a three year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) project, "Drug Treatment for Gang Affiliated Adolescents." The goal of the project was to provide drug treatment services to reduce substance abuse behavior and attitudes among gang-affiliated Mexican American adolescents and their families. In collaboration with a community-based treatment center in San Antonio, the study adopted the Brief Strategic Family Therapy Model (BSFT) with these adolescents and their families.

Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) is a brief intervention that was developed based on the risk-resiliency framework that suggests there are a number of environmental factors that may increase or decrease the risk for substance abuse among adolescents. This intervention is used to treat adolescent drug use that occurs with other problem behaviors. The goal of BSFT is to improve the youth's behavior problems by improving family interactions that are presumably related to the child's symptoms, which in turn will reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors for adolescent drug abuse as well as other conduct problems.

A total of 200 adolescents and their families were recruited into the project. Of the 200, 96 were randomly assigned into the treatment group and 104 into the control group. Treatment subjects received 8–16 weeks of family therapy in addition to several enhancements to the BSFT. The comparison group received a minimal contact condition. Using a mixed factorial experimental design, data was collected in order to compare the treatment and comparison groups, as well as within each group, as subjects were assessed at pre, post, and six-month follow-up.

### Adolescents

Below is a brief overview of the outcome findings for the adolescent treatment group. As seen from the T-test result table, there were a number of significant outcomes related to the BSFT intervention. Adolescent treatment participants of the BSFT displayed many positive improvements over the course of the treatment intervention. These youth displayed improved conflict resolution skills and knowledge ( $p < .01$ ), improved self concept and sense of personal resources ( $p < .01$ ), and reduced gang identification ( $p < .01$ ). In terms of actual drug using behaviors, youth who received BSFT intervention services were also found to have reductions in the frequency of past Marijuana use ( $p < .01$ ), other illicit drugs ( $p < .01$ ), and reduction in a composite illicit drug use index ( $p < .01$ ). Overall, the BSFT intervention had positive and robust program effects across a number of youth and parent attitudes, knowledge, and actual drug using behaviors. Although not shown here, control group youth were found to have demonstrated no changes in important risk related factors.

As a result, the ODSPR was awarded a five year targeted treatment capacity expansion grant (Proyecto SAFE) from SAMHSA. Proyecto SAFE, through the creation of a substance abuse treatment network with three community based agencies in San Antonio, is providing treatment services to 150 youth and their parents. The GSSW's Office of Community Projects (OCP) is working with Proyecto SAFE by providing continuous training of project network substance abuse counselors located at the three community agencies. These projects operationalize the research to practice objective that is the goal of the ODSPR.

### OUTCOME MATRIX

#### Adolescent Treatment Group Pre-test vs. Post-test Comparison (N=70)

Domain	Instrument	Pre-Test Mean Score	Post-Test Mean Score	Dispersion (SD)	Statistic (t)	P
Days Use Alcohol	CSAT GPRA	3.96	2.29	7.39	1.890	.063
Days Use Marijuana/Hashish	CSAT GPRA	9.80	5.03	12.630	3.161	.002
Days Use Other Illegal Drugs	CSAT GPRA	9.19	5.07	12.02	2.863	.006
Prevalence of Drug Use (30 days)	CSAT GPRA	1.30	.585	1.425	4.191	.000
Total	Conflict Resolution Survey	6.43	7.20	2.122	-3.034	.003
Total	Gang Identification Survey	10.41	8.03	6.322	3.123	.003
Total	Personal Resource Questionnaire	17.67	19.41	4.658	-3.130	.003

# THE FIELD CONNECTION

For 35 years, our practice community has been supporting the field program at the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work. One of the most rewarding moments in the life of field education is watching former students walk into the training course for new field instructors. It is this circle of learning and teaching and teaching and learning, that has always been the heart of social work education. We believe that the continued involvement of alumni through the field instructor role offers vital up-to-date practice infusion into our curriculum.

Students often ask, "But what is in it for the field instructor?" They are certain, of course, that field instructors are looking for free labor or are being handsomely paid from state coffers for their work! The truth is our field instructors tell us they do it because someone did it for them. The UH GSSW alumni are a proud group in that tradition—someone in Houston did it for you, and now you are repaying the professional favor.

For that intense commitment to the school and the profession, we do our best to say "thank you." The Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners allows us to give field instructors .5 CEUs per semester of field instruction, up to 1.0 CEU per year. We offer a series of field instructor events, which are free of charge to field instructors. These include two 3-hour seminars, one of which is an ethics seminar. Each seminar offers .3 CEUs. The new field instructor training seminar not only provides valuable information and training for field instruction, but also .5 CEUs. Along the way, there are several opportunities for .1 CEUs. Our goal is to create a continuing education program that allows you to increase competence in field instruction while at the same time garnering all the CEUs required for annual licensure.

The crowning glory of the field instructor events each year is the Field Instructor of the Year banquet. For 15 of our 35 years, students have nominated field instructors they have experienced as outstanding. Since 1999, we have honored these nominees with a banquet. This is the school's opportunity to come together with field instructors and celebrate the excellence of the UH GSSW field instruction and to recognize those who have been nominated by their students as true masters of the art. We are most proud to announce that the 2004 Field Instructor of the Year is none other than UH GSSW alumna, 1990, Ellen Seaton of Harris County Social Services and immediate past chair of the Houston Unit of NASW. Congratulations, Ellen!

We appreciate Ellen and all of the UH GSSW alumni community for your hard work on behalf of the school's current students. We couldn't do social work without you. For those alums who have two years of experience since graduation from the school and have not yet attended our training, please join us. Give us a call. Become a Field Instructor. Make the connection. Help complete the circle as we carry a rich tradition into the 36th year and far beyond in the life of the GSSW.

## 2005 Upcoming Field Instructor Program Events

**January 14**

Training Seminar  
for New Field Instructors  
UH-GSSW, Room 231  
9:30-4:00  
.5CEU

**January 27**

Field Forum  
9:00-11:00  
Location TBA

**February 16**

Field Instructor Seminar Series  
"Ethical Decision-Making and  
the Field Education Community:  
Peer Problem-Solving"  
Location TBA  
6:00-9:00  
.3 Ethics CEU

**March 16**

Agency Seminar in  
How to Use the  
Field Agency Marketplace  
UH-GSSW, Room 231  
3:00-4:30

**April 8**

Field Agency Marketplace  
10:00-3:00  
University Center/  
Houston Room

Congratulations GSSW Alumni Association on receiving the 2004 Houston Alumni Association White Banner Award!

## SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE FOR BILINGUAL SOCIAL WORKERS

Everyone talks about the increase of the Hispanic population in Houston. The Houston Survey, conducted by Dr. Steven Klineberg, reports that 60 percent of Hispanic residents identify themselves as first generation immigrants. The critical need for bilingual social workers is compounded by the fact that a majority of Latino immigrants come from rural areas in Latin America with little more than an elementary-level education. Translators impede the efficiency and effectiveness of the problem-solving process. A mini-survey of GSSW field instructors produced 120 responses; over a third (37 percent) have at some time had to cancel programs because of the lack of Spanish-speaking employees, and almost 80 percent report "much" or "some" difficulty hiring Spanish-fluent social workers when they need them!

The GSSW is doing something about this. Behold the "Committee for Scholarships for Spanish-Speaking Social Work Students," co-chaired by Nancy Frees Fountain and Barbara Henley. The committee's goal is to raise full tuition for five students in the admitting classes of 2005, 2006 and 2007; that is \$5000 per semester for each student. (You can do the arithmetic!) Upon admission to the GSSW, students may apply for this scholarship and after a Spanish fluency test, may qualify. Only full-time students planning work in the metropolitan area will be eligible. Amber Mollhagen, Director of Admissions, has stated that already there is an increase in inquiries from potential students in the Hispanic community, as word has gotten out that the GSSW "cares." It is hoped that the overall percentage of Hispanic students will increase from the 20 percent that we admit today.

We are indebted to a hard-working volunteer committee that includes James Anderson, Dr. Steven Applewhite, Leonel Castillo, Richard Farrias, Ann Hilbig, Raphael Medrano, Ben Mendez, Robert Navarro, Theresa Ramirez, Guillermina Ruiz-Bowers, Caroline Sabin, and the GSSW support of Mary Marks Guillory and Amber Mollhagen.

We have not known if students who self-identify as Hispanic do indeed speak Spanish, fluently or at all. Starting this year, there is a question on the admissions forms asking if there is fluency in another language, then asking "which," so we have a baseline from which to measure.

Dr. Steven Applewhite from our faculty, and alumna Theresa Ramirez LCSW, J.D., recently appeared together on "Nuestra Gente" Telemundo, Channel 47, to publicize the need and the fact that we are seeking donors. Dean Colby made a presentation before approximately 30 minority businessmen at Doneraki's on September 15 and the enthusiasm was palpable. Our strategy is to seek \$5,000, \$10,000, or full two-year scholarships from foundations, corporations, businesses, organizations, and institutions, and grassroots sources. We are half-way to our goal for the Class of 2005. Any ideas? Call 713-743-8114. This is our pilot project. If successful, we can go on to address other language groups.

## DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

### Seventh Annual Houston Gerontological Society Richard J. DeBottis Memorial Lecture "The Road to 100: Realities and Myths"

Thomas Perls MD, MPH, delivered the Seventh Annual Richard J. DeBottis Lecture at The Terrace at West University on November 8. Perls is a renowned physician and researcher in the study of aging at Boston University Medical School. He is the director of the New England Centenarian Study which is the largest genetic and social study of centenarians and their families in the world. Dr. Perls has focused on the critical role of a key genetic region governing health and longevity. His presentation featured details of findings and insight into the potential impact on baby boomers and future generations.



Dr. Thomas Perls

Dr. Perls cites that over 10,000 individuals are centenarians, of which 85 percent are women. He stated, "The older you get, the healthier you have been." Perls sees a strong need to distinguish between aging and disease. The secrets to becoming a centenarian as stated by Perls include maintaining a positive attitude through managing stress, genetics, regular exercise, maintaining varied areas of interests, and "getting rid of smoking."

The lecture was held in conjunction with a beautiful dinner and the awarding of the DeBottis Scholarship to two deserving GSSW gerontology concentration students, Denyse Soto and Margo Kenney. The scholarships are given in memory of Richard DeBottis who was an ardent advocate for the elderly and was a founding member of the Houston Gerontological Society. He deeply believed that through education of the caregivers as well as the general population, ageism would begin to wane.

## In the *Spotlight*

**Kay Schiller ('89)** is Chair of the NASW Texas State Conference Committee. She spearheaded the 28th Annual Conference, "The Power of Social Work: Pass It On," that was held in Austin in October, and will continue with the 2005 conference to be held in Galveston next November.

Kay has been involved in clinical practice since receiving her MSW from the GSSW in 1989. She holds the credentials of DCSW, LCSW, and ACSW, and is currently involved in private practice where she provides individual, couples, family, and group therapy. She offers advanced licensure supervision to LMSWs and serves as a consultant to numerous agencies throughout Houston. Kay serves as an adjunct faculty member at the GSSW and at UH Clear Lake.

Kay is very involved with NASW, both at the state and local levels. She has chaired state committees for private practice and conference fundraising. Within the Houston unit, she has served as Vice-Chair and Coordinator for Legislative Action and has chaired the Fundraising Workshop Committee. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Houston Alumni Organization and has held numerous positions on the board of the GSSW Alumni Association, including President. Kay has worked tirelessly on behalf of the GSSW having served on the Dean's Advisory Council and as Co-chair for several Futures Conferences.

Kay is fueled by a passion for the profession of Social Work that comes from her appreciation for the variety that it has to offer. She is a leader, an advocate, and a role model for all social workers.

**Ruben Vargas ('78)** is the owner and manager of Driver's License Training School in Houston. He has been in business in Houston for 20 years teaching driver's education.

**Jose Castellon ('80)** is the Executive Director of Catholic Counseling Services, Inc. in El Paso. He is married and has three sons.

**Shirley Wheeler ('84)** is a clinical social worker in private practice in the Houston area.

**Eileen LeCompte ('88)** is with UTMB Care Management Pediatric Clinic and Women's Health Care Group Clinic.

**Melissa Standish ('89)** is in private practice in the Galleria area. She works with adults, both individually and as couples, concerning anxiety, depression, pain management, relationship and workplace issues. She also consults with clients on issues that arise at each stage of their journey through life.

**Linda Hampton Hyams ('90)** relocated from rural Colorado to a full-time social work position at Shreveport Rehabilitation Hospital. She thinks it's great to be doing the work she loves and being closer to her family.

**George Shuler ('92)** is working for the Army in Fort Irwin, California as a treatment provider in spouse abuse and child abuse cases. He lives in Barstow and is President of the Mojave Desert Democratic Club and a member of the Palm

Springs Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

**Dorothy Massie ('93)** has recently accepted a position in the Department of Patient Affairs at MD Anderson Cancer Center where she is responsible for the coordination of clinic visits and inpatient admissions of patients in need of special attention as identified by the Executive Offices. She is excited to serve as the first social worker within that department.

**Jan Edwards ('96)** is Director of Case Management Services at Sheltering Arms. Jan is an active member of the GSSW's AGIFT Consortium and a mentor to gerontology concentration students.

**Aye Khaine ('97)** serves as Program Supervisor for the Services to the Alone and Frail Elderly (SAFE) Program at Catholic Charities. She is proud to announce that she has successfully hired two social workers who graduated from the UH GSSW to work with the SAFE program, **Julie Walker Cole ('04)** and **Nhan Nguyen ('98)**. Both began work with Catholic Charities in July.

**Sharon McCabe ('97)** is living in Beaumont and is employed by Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute of Memorial Herman Baptist Hospital as an Oncology Social Worker.

**Suzanne Roberts ('98)** currently works for Memorial Hermann Hospital

System as a Psychiatric Response Team member by night and as a mom to her two children, Kendall and Reece, by day.

**Lisa Cano ('00)** is working in private practice with offices in Kingwood and The Woodlands.

**Kirk Workman ('00)** is the Director of Social Services at West Texas Rehabilitation Center in San Angelo. The center serves as an outpatient medical rehabilitation facility.

**Elizabeth Olivares ('01)** is a social worker with HISD at Jane Long Middle School.

**Sylvia Teeple ('02)** is proud to announce the birth of her son, Matthew Aidan, in March 2004.

**Kevin Newton ('03)** has recently accepted a position with Goodwill Industries of Houston as Manager of Job Connection. He offers thanks for posting Goodwill's most recent job opening on the GSSW website.

**Kimberly Davis ('04)** and **Julie Walker Cole ('04)**, recipients of the *Richard J. DeBottis Gerontology Student Advocate Award* for 2003, will receive Part II of this award, as alumni, for their subsequent employment in Gerontological and Geriatric Social Work settings.

**Rolando Elizondo ('04)** is working as a Staff Therapist in the Youth Adolescent Unit at Cypress Creek Psychiatric Hospital.

## ALUMNI NOTES

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the GSSW Alumni Association. At our annual meeting in August, we voted in new board members and officers for 2004-2005. The 80 alumni in attendance enjoyed a meal provided by The Terrace at West University while hearing a wonderful presentation from Dr. Brené Brown discussing her new book, "Women and Shame."

In addition to the program, we had a silent auction to raise funds for the Charlotte Campbell Scholarship, a scholarship awarded annually by the GSSW AA to a 2nd year student. Thanks to Amber Mollhagen and Ann Liberman for coordinating the auction that raised just over \$1,900 for our fund!

Our board committees are actively planning events for both students and alumni in the coming year. We welcome ideas and help with coordinating events. If anyone is interested in participating on a committee or taking a leadership role with the GSSW Alumni Association, you are welcome to contact me at 713-460-1657 or [mcbap@houston.rr.com](mailto:mcbap@houston.rr.com). Those interested in joining the Alumni Association should contact Wendy McWilliams at: 713-792-0759 (wk), 713-978-6502 (hm) or email: [wmcwilli@mdanderson.org](mailto:wmcwilli@mdanderson.org) (work) [wquick@msn.com](mailto:wquick@msn.com) (home).

We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. Information about events is usually mailed...but it is always emailed. If you want to be on the email list, send me your information at [mcbap@houston.rr.com](mailto:mcbap@houston.rr.com). You will receive periodic emails from the GSSW as well as the GSSW AA.

Thanks!

Barbara Parrott McGinity, LMSW (Class of 2000)  
President/GSSW Alumni Association



**GSSW Alumni Association Board**

## GSSW Alumni Association 2004–2005 Board

Barbara Parrott McGinity, President  
Will Dickey, Vice President/President Elect  
Amy Blakeney, HAO Representative  
Ann McFarland, Secretary/Historian  
Agnes Dulin, Treasurer

### Directors

Rufina Basu	Sara Lewis
Shannon Bishop	Lataya Duren
Olga Flores	Gene Gundersen
Jane Hoffman	Wendy McWilliams
Michael Roberts	Sue Schreiber
Sarah Strickler Stone	Deidre Wright

## ALUMNI UPDATE FORM: Bring us up-to-date!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive email updates and announcements from the GSSW. Please add my email address to the Alumni Distribution List.
- I would like to join the GSSW Alumni Association. Please send me information on how to join.

I prefer to receive the *Connections* newsletter

- Via email
- In print

Please clip and send information to University of Houston, GSSW, 237 Social Work Building, Houston, TX 77204-4013 or email to [gsswalum@sw.uh.edu](mailto:gsswalum@sw.uh.edu)

## GSSW NEWS

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

#### Assistant Professor Kelli Connell-Carrick

Dr. Connell-Carrick received both her MSSW and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Arlington. Prior to joining the GSSW, she was an assistant professor at the University of Texas El Paso. Her research interests focus on child abuse and neglect, developmental consequences of maltreatment, and professional development. Connell-Carrick's current research investigates the retention of child welfare workers, including training and job satisfaction issues. She received the *Pro Humanitate Literary Award* given by the Center for Child Welfare Policy of the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare in October 2004.



#### Assistant Professor Needha Boutte-Queen



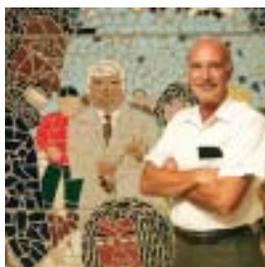
Dr. Queen received her MSW from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and her Ph.D. from the University of Houston. Her research has focused on the roles of the social work profession and practitioner as they impact functioning. Her areas of specialization include the barriers of social work licensing, life events of workers and their impact on current practice with children and families, and knowledge and attitudes regarding transgender persons. Dr. Queen was an assistant professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake before joining the GSSW faculty.

#### Assistant Professor Sheara Williams

Dr. Williams earned her MSW from Louisiana State University and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. Her research interests include interventions for families and children that promote positive child development outcomes, the role of school social workers in addressing and reducing the academic gap, and the interrelatedness of children's mental health, social, behavioral, and academic competencies. Dr. Williams' work on aggressive behavior in Los Angeles has recently been published in the *Handbook of Prevention Interventions for Children and Adolescents*.



### UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON STAFF COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Joe Papick, director of the Graduate School of Social Work's Child Welfare Education Project, was elected to the position of president of the University of Houston Staff Council for 2004-05. Through the leadership position, Joe plans to focus efforts around the results of the UH Staff Council Survey, particularly involving leadership and career development for staff and supervisors. Other key areas of interest include improved staff benefits and the exploration of new ways to give staff members positive recognition. Joe plans to continue moving forward with the strategies that President Gogue and the board have developed. Congratulations, Joe!

## THE GSSW BRINGS PEACEJAM TO HOUSTON

The Graduate School of Social Work has continued its tradition of bringing world leaders for peace and social justice to Houston by pledging to sponsor a PeaceJam Conference in 2005.

The PeaceJam Youth Conference is a gathering of high school students who have the opportunity to interact with the featured Nobel Peace Prize Laureate through both question and answer sessions and presentations over the course of a two-day session.

Leading up to the conference, students are guided through a curriculum that is centered on peace and non-violence as well as the life and work of the featured Nobel Laureate.

Once at the conference, students have a chance to present their plans for initiating positive change in their communities directly to the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Students are engaged in a variety of leadership workshops, meetings with youth from different schools, team building games and more. The youth also participate in a service project set up in the community.

The PeaceJam Foundation was founded in 1996 in Denver, Colorado. PeaceJam is built around Nobel Peace Laureates who work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody. The goal of PeaceJam is to inspire a new generation of peacemakers who will transform themselves, their communities and the world. PeaceJam is a yearlong, on-going educational program for youth. The participating Nobel Peace Laureates are directly involved in developing the curriculum and the program itself. PeaceJam is the only organization in the world which has twelve Nobel Peace Laureates working together long-term for a common cause—our children.

The Nobel Laureates involved are: *Jody Williams, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, José Ramos-Horta, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, The Dalai Lama, Aung San Suu Kyi, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, President Oscar Arias, Betty Williams, Sir Joseph*



**Jody Williams (left), Nobel Laureate (1997), has led seven PeaceJam conferences around the world.**

*Rotblat, Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, and Mairead Corrigan Maguire.*

Since the launch of the PeaceJam program in March 1996, almost 40,000 teenagers worldwide have participated in the program. Each student has had an average of 45.5 contact hours with their teacher, mentor, community leader, or PeaceJam staff member. Through the PeaceJam program, over 100,000 new service projects have been developed and implemented, and thousands of new volunteer opportunities for youth have been created.

Jody Williams, the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate known for the banning and clearing of anti-personnel landmines, has been an active member of the PeaceJam Foundation. Williams is also a Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Social Justice at the GSSW. She is in her second year of co-instructing a course on Global Justice with Dr. Brené Brown. Bringing PeaceJam to the University of Houston is further building a bridge between the GSSW and the peace and social justice communities.

The PeaceJam Leadership Team, along with Dean Ira Colby, is in the process of selecting the featured Noble Laureate. Details will be announced as plans develop.

### Would you like to be involved?

**We are looking for volunteers to help us expand our contacts in the community, engage students in the program, mentor students, and prepare for the conference.**

**For more information about PeaceJam contact:**

**Brian Trachte, MSW**  
PeaceJam Program Coordinator  
237 Social Work Building  
Houston, TX 77204-4013  
[bltrachte@uh.edu](mailto:bltrachte@uh.edu)  
(713)724-3016 cell

*Also visit the National PeaceJam website:  
[www.peacejam.org](http://www.peacejam.org)*



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Connections is a semi-annual publication of the GSSW Office of Alumni and Career Services. Its purpose is to link the GSSW with alumni and the social work community.

## GSSW CONTACTS

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Ph.D. Admissions	(713)743-8080
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Connections can be accessed online at  
[www.sw.uh.edu/alumni/newsletter.htm](http://www.sw.uh.edu/alumni/newsletter.htm)

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**GSSW's 35th  
Anniversary  
Celebration Events  
2004-2005**

**UH Legislative Day  
February 7**

**Social Work Awards  
Breakfast  
March 4**

**Field Agency  
Marketplace  
April 8**

**Continuing Education  
Class Information  
can be accessed at  
[www.sw.uh.edu/ocp](http://www.sw.uh.edu/ocp)**



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