Engaging the World

Collaborating with communities near and afar
REAL WORLD COMMITMENT

BY DEAN ALBERTO GODENZI

As social work professionals, we have learned competencies that enable us to initiate and sustain change in the lives of vulnerable populations throughout the world. Our skills set is a privilege and a responsibility. We cannot sit idly by when poverty, disease, inequality, and injustices undercut families’ and communities’ potential to survive and thrive.

This past year, I attended a lecture on campus by Jesse Treviño, who served as President Clinton’s Special Envoy to the Americas. Treviño discussed how the extraordinary Hispanic population growth rate has radically changed the face of US demographics. He was calling on all of us to wake up and tackle the ramifications of this monumental transformation of our society. We should be alarmed by spiraling high school dropout rates of Hispanic and African American youth, he warned, as we will need their leadership in this newest demographic chapter “of the great American story.”

However, as New York Times columnist Bob Herbert said in a July 3 op-ed piece about the dissolution of the nation’s social conscience since the 1980s: “In many ways we descended as a society into a fantasyland, trying to leave the limits and consequences and obligations of the real world behind.” Herbert pointed to how “politicians stopped talking about the poor” and how we shipped millions of jobs overseas without any serious backup plan.

As social work students and professionals, we face this real world in the collaborative efforts we undertake on behalf of and with vulnerable and marginalized populations. Our clients are more diverse than ever and speak languages that many of us may not even have heard of. We are engaged in neighborhoods that run through neither Main Street nor Wall Street.

It is, therefore, crucial that the GSSW community deepens its understanding of and sensitivity towards issues of diversity and inclusion. Over the past two years, the School has been involved in conversations on race and sexual orientation. This academic year, our focus will be on immigrants and refugees. While we will try to better comprehend the realities of these populations, we will remain dedicated to addressing issues of poverty and inequality.

Dr. Beverly Greene, this year’s speaker in the Elaine Pinderhughes Lecture Series, spoke to the concept of multiple identities. She pointed out that understanding how categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation intersect will increase our potential to become ethnically and culturally competent.

While such a goal is an ambitious one, our School will not shy away from it. Indeed, the fact that for the first time a multi-racial, African American president is in the White House provides us with a special incentive to live up to his call to contribute to “a more perfect union.”

Our clients are more diverse than ever and speak languages that many of us may not even have heard of. We are engaged in neighborhoods that run through neither Main Street nor Wall Street.
Q. How did you learn about the GSSW and this year’s diversity focus on refugees and immigration?
A. In 2009, I was a visiting scholar at BC’s Center for Human Rights and International Justice. I taught a course at the Lynch School of Education on “Psychological Responses to Conflict and Forced Immigration.” There were a number of students in that class studying global social work, and GSSW Dean Alberto Godenzi and I have been eager to strengthen the ties between the Jesuit community and the GSSW.

Q. How does the relationship between BC, a Catholic, Jesuit university, and the broader Jesuit community work?
A. The Jesuits are always eager to see how their intellectual centers, like Boston College, can help their social apostolate work through organizations like the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Part of our goal at JRS is to introduce “boots on the ground” reality into research in this field. We’ve already had several global social work students do internships with the JRS in Malawi and Kenya.

Q. The US seems to be less welcoming of immigrants and refugees than in the past. Is there less commitment to “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free?”
A. The whole issue has become more complex over time. Post World War II, Americans understood what refugees were fleeing—the Nazis or Communism. With the Vietnam war, refugees were put into camps in neighboring countries, like Thailand, and later resettled to other nations. Today, in most of the African conflict centers, like Kenya or Somalia, refugees flee within their own borders and often end up in permanent camps or in cities, among the urban poor. The vast majority are not coming out to the US or Australia. Look at the Iraqis; most are living in Jordan or Syria.

Q. What diversity events are you and the faculty planning this year at the GSSW?
A. We’ll have a faculty retreat featuring invited speakers. We’ll also have refugees and immigrants come to tell their stories and share their experiences with the student community, as well as experts from the Jesuit Refugee Service in Washington, DC, and experts in refugee resettlement from Catholic Charities. We’re planning a film festival that will illustrate many of the issues of forced migration. Finally, we hope to work together with the Law School, which has an immigrant legal clinic. If social workers are going to work with immigrants, they need to understand what people’s rights are. As in any diversity year, we hope to have these ideas percolate out into the greater BC community.

—INTERVIEW BY JULIE MICHAELS
FOR THREE WEEKS IN MARCH 2009, more than 200 children’s drawings were on display in Bapst Library’s Gargan Hall. They showed tanks and fighter planes attacking villages, armed men shooting women and children, houses set on fire, dead bodies lying in pools of blood. The imagery came not from violent video games but from life. The pictures were made by children and teenagers who had fled attacks by Sudanese government troops and the Arab Janjaweed militia on their homes in Darfur.

“I’m going to get worked up about this subject,” Rebecca Tinsley warned the audience at a talk in the library on March 11 to mark the exhibition’s opening at Boston College. Tinsley, a British former BBC reporter and chair of the UK-based human rights organization Waging Peace (www.wagingpeace.info), has campaigned against human rights abuses in Darfur, Chad, Rwanda, and northern Uganda. She is a trustee of the Carter Centre UK and a member of the London committee of Human Rights Watch.

In years of “blundering across Africa and Bosnia,” said Tinsley, she has learned some hard truths. One is that “genocide is part of the human condition.” Another is that not all genocides are treated equally by western mainstream media. Tinsley calls it “sidebar syndrome,” the phenomenon by which certain human catastrophes dominate front-page headlines, while others are routinely sidelined. In the West, said Tinsley, “we simply don’t value an African life so much.”

Since 1989, when Islamists took over the government of Sudan in a military coup, said Tinsley, more than 200,000 black Africans living in Darfur in southern Sudan have been killed, over 2 million have been displaced, and 90 per cent of their villages have been destroyed. In June and July 2007, Waging Peace researcher Anna Schmitt carried out a fact-finding mission to Eastern Chad to collect testimony from Darfuri refugees and displaced Chadians. As well as interviewing adults, Schmitt gave children aged 6-18 paper and pencils and asked them to draw their dreams for the future, and their strongest memory.

“This is not normal refrigerator art,” said Tinsley, with grim understatement. Most of the 500 drawings Schmitt collected showed attacks on villages by Sudanese government forces (identified by their insignia) and their allied Janjaweed militia (drawn from local nomadic Arab tribes, armed by the government.) Some drawings highlight the ethnic dimension of
the attacks: The villagers have black skin, while the attackers are shown with lighter, orange faces.

Waging Peace has shown the drawings in London and around the world to compel international attention to the Darfur crisis. In 2008, they were submitted to the International Criminal Court (ICC) as contextual evidence to be used in the prosecution of Sudan President Omar al-Bashir and other alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses. On March 4, 2009, the ICC issued a warrant for his arrest on a charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Depicting in blood-chilling detail military attacks on reed-fenced compounds and huts, the killing of boys and men, the rape of women, and the capture of girls, the drawings directly contradict Sudanese government denials of complicity in the violence.

“I couldn’t do this if it was all about tears,” said Tinsley, who is awed by the resilience of survivors. “Teaching about business is an integral part of recovery,” she said, and Waging Peace teams work in Rwanda, Northern Uganda, and Chad to teach women economic survival skills. When women are educated, she said, the birthrate and the incidence of domestic violence go down, and women’s self-esteem and status soar.

The exhibition and talk were sponsored by the GSSW, with the Center for Human Rights and International Justice and the Center for the Arts and Social Responsibility.

Educating students “to understand these global tragedies” is a key responsibility of the University, said GSSW Dean Alberto Godenzi, and outreach to sub-Saharan African communities through the School’s Global Practice concentration has increasingly been a focus over the last five years. Tinsley’s impassioned advocacy and the stark evidence of the drawings reach people “on a level much more powerful than any readings in books,” said Godenzi.

— JANE WHITEHEAD

Art Helps South Asian Women Heal

**VICTIMIZATION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES**, and survivors of violence across the world must seek ways to mend and move on with their lives. An exhibit in Bapst Library last April was a testament to their resilience.

*Re-Drawing Resistance: South Asian Women’s Stories of Survival and Resistance*, which was co-sponsored at BC by the GSSW, was a collection of paintings, photography, poetry, and videos by South Asian women survivors of violence and their families and allies. It illustrated the intersection of gender, sexuality, violence, and resistance among South Asian women across the Diaspora.

A recent study on domestic violence in South Asian communities in the US revealed that more than 40 percent of women surveyed were victims of intimate partner violence, and that only 50 percent of them were aware of services available to help. The statistics are on par with India, where 45 percent of married women experience domestic violence.

“*Re-Drawing Resistance* seeks to explode the commonly held view of South Asian women as the victimized other and illustrate their resilience to thrive and transcend cultural violence,” said the traveling exhibition’s producers, Serena Chaudhry and Prasanna Poornachandra.

The show’s impact was captured in the words of one of its artist participants: “We hide so many feelings in our hearts and say nothing, but when I paint and show my fears and feelings through art, that is so effective,” she said. “This exhibit shows that we are a group of women who had no source to channel our pain into but found something that allows us to protest for freedom and independence.”

— VICKI SANDERS
“MAMA MDOGO”

Navyn Salem’s entrepreneurial drive inspires a plan to address malnutrition in Tanzania

BY VICKI SANDERS

THE SUNNY BOOK-FILLED OFFICE OF NAVYN SALEM ’94 overlooks the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island. A framed picture of her four daughters, ages three to eight, rests on a shelf beside neatly arranged folders and paperwork pertaining to her new non-profit business venture, Industrial Revelation.

Everything about this home headquarters speaks of order, efficiency, prosperity, except for the row of photographs above Salem’s desk. Many of the people in the pictures, primarily women and children, look at the camera with haunted eyes. Their colorful garments and timid smiles belie the poverty, disease, and malnutrition they battle everyday to stay alive in Tanzania.

The East African country may be different from Rhode Island in many respects, but it is very close to Salem’s heart.

Salem’s great-great grandparents emigrated from India to Tanzania as traders in the mid-nineteenth century; her father and a partner in Industrial Revelation, Fazil Datoo, was born and raised in Dar-es-Salaam, the sub-Saharan country’s largest city, before coming to the United States for college. When Salem, who worked in advertising before becoming a stay-at-home mom, was searching for a worthy project that would engage her mind and allow her to be a role model for her daughters, she traveled several times to Tanzania, looking for ways to help the struggling nation.

In the relief efforts in the region by groups such as Catholic Relief Services, Partners in Health, and the Clinton Foundation, Salem observed hopeful signs of progress in HIV/AIDS treatment or empowering small business enterprises, but the gap she saw widening before her was hunger. She learned of a French product made by Nutriset called Plumpy’nut®, an energy-dense paste of peanuts, milk powder, sugar, vegetable oil, and a fortified vitamin mineral mixture with the remarkable capacity to take a child from starving to healthy in four to six weeks and a success rate of 95 percent at doing so.

Salem had to overcome many obstacles, not the least of which was persuading Nutriset that her intentions were humanitarian and not for commercial gain. Her idea was to set up a manufacturing operation to produce Plumpy’nut® in Tanzania. Doing so, she reasoned, was both nutritionally and financially sound. Her plan would address acute malnutrition while helping the economy by buying from and therefore supporting—area farmers; most of Plumpy’nut’s ingredients could be obtained that way. Industrial Revelation would also employ locals and model small business independence and entrepreneurship, factors Salem says are integral to the venture’s philosophical success.

Other hurdles included obtaining the cooperation of government bodies and clinics to administer Plumpy’nut® (it will be handled as a food by prescription); establishing national guidelines for diagnosis, prescription, and follow-up procedures; and building partnerships for distribution with the likes of UNICEF.

Salem has worked fast. Even she marvels that Industrial Revelation is almost ready to open after only two years. The plant is in a small, renovated corner of another company’s building, but there are plans to build a bigger facility on nearby land. Initially, she expects to produce 400,000 kilograms of Plumpy’nut®, enough to restore 35,000 children to health, but her goal is to reach 100,000 severely malnourished children in the East Africa region in the near future.

Industrial Revelation’s website, www.industrialrevelation.org, calls Plumpy’nut®
revolutionary because it does not need to be refrigerated or mixed with clean water, two things hard to come by in large parts of the developing world. Ready-to-use foods allow the treatment to be placed at home with the caregiver instead of requiring a costly hospital stay and its formula saves lives as if it were an essential medicine. Plumpy’nut® is encased in palm-sized, squeezable packets, making it easy for children to feed themselves. If properly delivered to malnourished children ages six months to three years—the most critical developmental growth period—Plumpy’nut® can save almost 100 percent of them.

Salem’s venture may be saving young lives in the land of her forebears, but it is also teaching important lessons to her children here at home. “I want my daughters to understand that they have the power and the responsibility to make a difference in the social inequalities that exist in our world,” she says. “The only way I know how to teach that is to lead by example.”

Salem and her husband Paul have also established the Salem Global Practice Grants Fund at Boston College, providing travel grants to GSSW students who are placed at field sites across the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

TANZANIA

HISTORY
After achieving independence from Britain, Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form the United Republic of Tanzania on October 29, 1964.

GEOGRAPHY

AREA
Slightly larger than twice the size of California. Kilimanjaro (19,341 feet) is highest point in Africa.

POPULATION
Mainland: 41 million; Zanzibar: 1.2 million.
The African population (99%) consists of more than 120 ethnic groups, majority: Bantu.
Urban population: 25% of total population (US 82%). Tanzania hosts over a half-million refugees, more than any other African country.

LANGUAGES
Official: Kiswahili and English; Arabic (widely spoken in Zanzibar)

AGE STRUCTURE
0–14 years: 43% (US 20.2%)
15–64 years: 54.1% (US 67%)
65 years and older: 2.9% (US 12.8%)

BIRTH RATE
34.29 births/1,000 population (US 13.82)
Country comparison to the world: 38

DEATH RATE
12.59 deaths/1,000 population (US 8.38)
Country comparison to the world: 35

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
Total: 69.28 deaths/1,000 live births (US 6.26)
Country comparison to the world: 26

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
52.01 years (US 78.11)
Country comparison to the world: 203

RELIGIONS
Mainland: Muslim 35%, Christian 63% (more than half also practice indigenous beliefs), other 2%. Zanzibar: 99% Muslim.

ECONOMY
In the bottom 10% percent of the world’s economies in terms of per capita income. Economy depends heavily on agriculture, which accounts for more than 40% of GDP, provides 85% of exports, and employs 80% of the workforce. The industrial sector accounts for about 23% of GDP, one of the smallest in Africa.

GOVERNMENT
Republic; President and National Assembly members elected by direct popular vote for 5-year terms. President Kikwete was the first African president to meet President Obama in Washington in May 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS
Rock legend Freddie Mercury was born Farrokh Bulsara, on the island of Zanzibar.
MULTIPLE

CHOICES
Imagine two people with identical health problems. Both have diabetes, are wheelchair bound, and suffer from high blood pressure. Both require home care financed by Medicaid.

**PERSON A** has no control over her care. A state agency hires her home health aide and even determines the hours he works. Rules are strict; the aide is permitted to do the participant’s laundry but he cannot wash her children’s clothes.

**PERSON B,** on the other hand, spends the same amount of government funds, but she controls how the money is allocated. Instead of hiring a caregiver through an agency, she hires her sister to come for two hours in the morning and two hours in the late afternoon. With the money she saves, she purchases a microwave oven so she can do more of her own cooking. Person B, who can tailor care to fit her particular needs, is a far more satisfied customer.

**BY JULIE MICHAELS**
JOSIE DICKEY, 87, who has MULTIPLE HEALTH PROBLEMS, faced a constant turnover of home health care workers. Her health has improved since Arkansas’ consumer-directed home care program allowed Josie to hire her daughter Brenda as a health aide.

CALVIN DODSON, 50, is PARTIALLY BLIND, EXPERIENCES SEIZURES, AND HAS DIABETES. He hires helpers he knows to help him in his home and has used some of his Medicaid funds to purchase a voice-activated computer and microwave.

But here’s the money part, explains GSSW Professor Kevin J. Mahoney: Studies reveal that individuals who participate in decisions about their own health care are more apt to accept care. They are more satisfied, have fewer unmet needs, and their health outcomes are the same or better. It’s a rare win-win situation: Participants are happier and the government saves money.

Mahoney is a leading advocate for consumer-directed home care supports and services and has participated in much of the research that has proved its effectiveness. He joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Social Work in 1999 and just last spring assumed the directorship of the GSSW’s new National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services.

“The mission of the National Resource Center is to give every person eligible to receive publicly funded long-term care services the option to manage those services for themselves at home,” says Mahoney. The center, which has received more than $9 million in foundation and government grants, will provide technical assistance, training, research, and policy analysis to states and other organizations interested in transitioning to more participant-directed services.

Taped on the wall of Mahoney’s office at Haley House hangs a Biblical quotation that very much defines the man and his mission: “He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless”—Isaiah 40:29. It is from this tidy Chestnut Hill building that Mahoney will direct a still-evolving staff of 22 and represent the GSSW in the national debate on health care reform.

Mahoney has made a career out of bending bureaucracies to meet people’s needs. Even as far back as the 1970s, while a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, he investigated ways to develop home and community alternatives to nursing facilities. But the real push toward consumer-directed health care started in the 1990s, when the Clinton administration tried to pass comprehensive health care legislation. “There was a lot of talk about long-term care and how to control costs,” says Mahoney. “It was in response to those concerns that the Cash & Counseling program was developed.”

Based on a Dutch prototype, Cash & Counseling was designed to test whether giving the elderly or disabled more control over their Medicaid funding would make their lives better without costing the
government more. From 1998–2003, Mahoney and his colleagues conducted controlled experiments in three states, Arkansas, Florida, and New Jersey. Participants were randomly divided into two groups and allocated the same amount of money: The control group continued with the traditional, agency-directed system of services. The other group was offered flexible spending plans that would allow them to manage their own funds.

The second group required additional assistance in redirecting their spending. Counselors helped them develop financial plans and suggested a variety of options: Clients could hire their own service workers, determine work hours, and perhaps spend any funds saved on such things as home alterations (adding a wheelchair ramp, for example), air conditioning, or auto repair. A financial management service provided bookkeeping and tax assistance.

“The clients didn’t want a case manager,” Mahoney says. “They wanted someone to help them think things through so they could decide for themselves.”

The results of the study, “bowled us over,” says Mahoney. Since care workers were being hired by the participants rather than an agency, they treated their employers with more respect. They showed up on time and were more efficient in their duties. Health outcomes improved. There were fewer bed sores, falls, or other events that might require hospitalization. There was less physical, financial, and psychological stress for participants and their families.

These results were consistent across the board, in all three states, with participants much more satisfied with Cash & Counseling (C&C) programs than those who received traditional services. These changes did not, in themselves, save the states any money, but there were profound savings in other areas. “In Arkansas, there was an 18 percent reduction in nursing home use,” says Mahoney. With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Retirement Research Foundation, Mahoney and his colleagues repeated their study in 12 additional states. Again, the results strongly favored the flexible spending option.

Even as Mahoney has made a career out of researching services for the elderly and disabled, he has also experienced the need for those services

**Karla Herrera, 22, has Cerebral Palsy and is a Spastic Quadriplegic.** Her mother has used home care funds to pay for computer training that has made Karla more self-sufficient. She’s also hired a friend to build Karla’s stamina through swimming.

**Harold Hamilton, 70, is Blind and Diabetic.** Poor home care led to frequent hospitalizations for insulin shock. When Harold’s wife, Violet, discovered she could quit her job and earn enough by caring for him herself, she was relieved. He hasn’t been hospitalized since.
Participant-directed services are long-term care services that help people of all ages across all types of disabilities maintain their independence and determine for themselves what mix of personal care services and supports work best for them.

The National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services, launched in April 2009, is the only center of its kind to assist states and other entities offer participant-directed services to people with disabilities.

The original Cash & Counseling Demonstration was a three-state demonstration in Arkansas, New Jersey, and Florida beginning in 1998. Cash & Counseling programs now operate in 15 states.

Research showed that in Arkansas:

- 93 percent of early enrollees said they’d recommend the program
- 82 percent said their lives had improved
- Institutional costs were 18 percent higher for the control group

Research showed that in New Jersey:

- 99 percent were satisfied with the caregivers they hired
- 70 percent said choosing their caregivers was the primary reason their lives improved.

Kevin Mahoney, founder of Cash & Counseling and director of the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services, was awarded the 2007 Flynn Prize for Social Work Research.

The results of Mahoney’s C&C research have begun to draw widespread interest among government policymakers. The 2007 implementation of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act and the 2006 re-authorization of the Older Americans with Disabilities Act created an opportunity for every state to institute flexible spending plans within their Medicaid-funded services. Such developments have increased the demand for specialists who know how to implement and monitor these services.

It’s this very demand that has sparked the need for GSSW’s new National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (www.participantdi-rection.org). The center has already provided research, training, and consulting for states and other organizations eager to implement programs in participant-directed services. It will also function as a public policy advocate to further knowledge and understanding of self-directed care options.

Given the Obama administration’s commitment to new health care legislation, Mahoney expects his center to be deeply engaged in providing the government with options that contain costs even as they provide better services. Obviously, others agree, since the center has received a $4.75 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a $3.5 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies, and additional support from the U.S. Administration on Aging and the Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The center has also received funding from the Veterans Health Administration, which will be directed at developing self-directed care options for the nation’s veterans.

“Our vision is that, one day, high-quality, participant-directed care programs, based on the hallmarks of the very successful Cash & Counseling program, will be the primary way that states make personal care services available to eligible residents with disabilities—with a traditional direct-care plan available as an option rather than as a default plan,” says Mahoney.

When that day comes, it’s certain that Mahoney and the GSSW will be leading the way.

Julie Michaels is a freelance writer and principal in Spence & Sanders Communications LLC.
Building BRIDGES

Scholar envisions a universe of possibilities

When Professor Ruth McRoy trained her experienced gaze on a Methodist multipurpose care center in Johannesburg, South Africa, during a visit there last summer, she saw opportunities for improving outcomes for impoverished families worldwide. Instead of defeat, she saw small victories. Instead of overwhelming odds, she saw singular achievements. Instead of local restraints, she saw global possibilities.

BY VICKI SANDERS
the big picture in the scenarios she encounters in the US and abroad in pursuit of her scholarly passions: child welfare research and practice, adoption, foster care, diversity, and disproportionality. Lured out of retirement by the GSSW, McRoy this September began bringing her optimistic perspective to Boston College as the inaugural holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship.

Her recent experiences in South Africa offer a glimpse into McRoy’s gifts of observation. She visited AMCARE, a seven-year-old program of the Alberton Methodist Care and Relief Enterprise that offers everything from vegetable gardens for impoverished families to clinics for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS patients to services for orphans and child-headed families. Notable as these initiatives were, they took on added significance for McRoy when she thought about their field-study, research, and teaching potential.

She was impressed with AMCARE as 1) a possible location where BC students can learn how to conduct a comprehensive, community-based, volunteer program addresses a variety of needs; 2) a research post to study the effectiveness of outreach; and 3) a promising model for other communities and churches that serve at-risk populations.

McRoy’s interest in strategies for comparative research was further piqued by several of the country’s adoption programs. Officials there are trying to design national policies to improve the likelihood of finding permanency through domestic adoption rather than through more commonplace intercountry adoption. She is excited by such efforts because she believes they afford universities like BC the chance to collaborate with counterparts in emerging countries to jointly design and evaluate innovative social programs. McRoy is already collaborating with her South African colleagues on policies and practices to promote domestic adoptions. She presented a workshop on comparative models of adoptions policy. The payback, according to McRoy, is that “it helps us learn about a new context for developing targeted interventions and for looking at multiculturalism and diversity. It’s an opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration in a global context.”

McRoy’s enthusiasm for collaboration, internationalization, and inclusivity animates her conversation and offers a clue as to why she joined the GSSW faculty. Since 2005, when the School began work on a diversity initiative and hired McRoy as consultant to the project and visiting research professor, the GSSW has nurtured a culture that’s become increasingly attractive to her. “Through my visits to BC over the past four years, I developed close relationships with faculty and the dean and I saw a school that has a commitment to training students and faculty to truly value and pursue global as well as multicultural practice,” she explains. “That commitment, more than anything else, caused me to come out of retirement and to want to be a part of this amazing initiative here.” She was also drawn by the “knowledge, drive, and wonderful collegial spirit” of Professor Emerita Elaine Pinderhughes.

An esteemed researcher, McRoy is also prized for her 30 years as a practitioner, trainer, and lecturer. She is the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and author or co-author of eight books and more than 100 articles and book chapters on child welfare issues. Recent honors include the 2004 Flynn Prize for Social Work Research from the University of Southern California, the 2005 George Silcott Lifetime Achievement Award from the Black Administrators in Child Welfare, and the 2006 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).


“WE NEED TO TAKE AN INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE AND FIND STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING THE WELL-BEING OF ECONOMICALLY OPPRESSED AND Socially EXCLUDED GROUPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.”

~ DONAHUE AND DIFELICE PROFESSOR RUTH MROY ~

Alberto Godenzi. “To be able to handle the challenges of research collaborations, you need a deep understanding of and respect for people and communities. Ruth’s distinguished research and diversity expertise uniquely qualify her for these kinds of community-based endeavors. I have no doubt that she will build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with communities across the globe.”

The GSSW diversity initiative MRoy worked on mapped out a plan through 2010 in which each of three themes would be examined in successive academic years: race in 2007-2008, sexual orientation in 2008-2009, and immigration and refugees in 2009-2010.

MRoy is eager to see how this year’s immigration and refugees theme can serve the learning environment at GSSW. “I’m particularly interested in looking at child welfare issues in a global context. One goal is to embrace multiculturalism through leadership, curriculum, services, practice, and research,” she says. A good place to start, she points out, is our own backyard in Boston, where the burgeoning immigrant population is not only changing the city’s demographics but is also providing an exciting learning environment.

“Unfortunately, we often expect immigrant populations to assimilate and don’t take the time to understand their heritage, their culture, their language, their families, their background, or their religion. We need to better prepare students to understand within-group and between-group diversity and the different environments from which immigrant families are coming. As a result of that increased understanding, hopefully we will be able to design programs and interventions to meet their needs,” MRoy says.

This is also a time to identify topics for additional comparative research, she contends. By examining issues such as adoption policies and practices in South Africa and America, for instance, GSSW students and scholars can reflect on and learn to appreciate the challenges in various global contexts and the impact of those challenges on children and families in different cultures. This in turn can lead to research that provides empirically based responses and strategies to address the many problems families and children face worldwide.

MRoy’s duties as Donahue and DiFelice Professor will include teaching a doctoral course in qualitative research methods, promoting linkages between the School and various national and international initiatives and agencies like Catholic Relief Services, particularly in the area of child welfare, and providing leadership in the social work arena.

MRoy regards today as a uniquely suitable time to be pushing the diversity and global agendas forward. In Barack Obama, America has its first African American president and a leader whose international travels are bringing much-needed media attention to the plights of many cultures. “We have much work to do both in the US and abroad. There are still issues to be resolved. The differential impact of race, power, and class is still far-reaching. We now have an opportunity to address more of them, to look at sources of oppression, the disparities in outcomes between the haves and have-nots, between various minority and majority racial groups, and to talk openly about and eventually overcome these inequities,” she says.

This era can be a boon to social work. MRoy adds. It’s raising awareness about the value of social workers’ expanding role in world society, their appreciation for people’s interconnectedness and interdependence, and their interest in reducing or alleviating the cruelties of poverty, disability, disease, violence, oppression, prejudice, and cultural insensitivities and misunderstandings.

“If we have a model for really examining how other cultures have addressed the social work principles of social economic justice and empowerment and for how they go about promoting participation by various socially excluded groups,” MRoy argues, “it will illuminate how we look at our own models and strategies for enhancing well-being.”

Given the aspirations of many of those entering the social work field today, MRoy sees a bright future. Global education is far more than improved training of social workers and the people they serve beyond our borders. Yes, she acknowledges, we want to produce students who appreciate global interconnectedness, who have multicultural knowledge and understanding, and who desire to go around the world and learn from it. But there are also imperatives here at home. “We must have a long-term institutional commitment to promoting social justice, reducing disparities and inequities,” MRoy says. “We are in an ever-changing global age and we must be prepared to contribute to it in our communities here and abroad.”
Ensuring That Longevity Is a Blessing

Lubben puts GSSW on top in aging studies

Lubben has taken on the challenge of creating an Institute on Aging that will position Boston College at the forefront of research and scholarship on the aging of society.

or older. The challenge for social scientists is to make sure these extra years are healthy ones, says Lubben. “Seniors must have services that will help them remain engaged in the community.”

Engagement is Lubben’s specialty. He is best known for his creation of the Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS), a series of questions designed to gauge social isolation in older adults by measuring perceived social support received by family, neighbors and friends. The scale has been employed in numerous studies that demonstrate the dangers of social isolation among the elderly. In fact, social isolation appears to be a greater health risk for seniors than limited exercise or excess weight, and almost as dangerous as being a life-long smoker.

It will be the responsibility of the next generation of social workers to identify essential services for the elderly and advocate for their creation. Lubben hopes the institute can create an undergraduate minor in “aging studies.” He also looks to the GSSW for a new generation of social work “pioneers” to lead the way.

But the IOA’s mandate extends beyond any one graduate program: Lubben intends to bring together under his umbrella interested faculty from the schools of Business, Nursing, Social Work, and Law, all of which have an interest in aging issues. He will develop a research grant program for faculty and doctoral students as well as encourage joint appointments. Already a new member of the sociology department has a joint appointment with the IOA, and there are plans for a similar hire in economics.

“I admire Boston College for ‘capturing the wave,’” says Lubben, and recognizing that this is an existential moment of growth and development in the field of aging. I am delighted to help them take a leadership role.”

— BY JULIE MICHAELS

PROFESSOR JAMES LUBBEN, AN EXPERT ON AGING and the importance of social support networks for the elderly, is a man who acts on his own research.

“Longevity is a blessing,” says Lubben, holder of the Louise McMahon Ahearn Chair at the BC GSSW and director of the University’s new Institute on Aging (IOA). “But we have to be sure that as we age we remain open to new opportunities. We must constantly reinvent ourselves.”

Thus it comes as no surprise that, at age 64, Lubben has taken on the challenge of creating an Institute on Aging that will position Boston College at the forefront of research and scholarship on the aging of society. This University-wide appointment has gone to a faculty member of the Graduate School of Social Work whose work as a gerontologist is well known throughout the world.

Our aging population is a 21st century phenomenon, Lubben explains. In 2008, an estimated 28.7 million people were over the age of 65, or one of every eight Americans. By 2050, the number of people over 65 will rise to 86.7 million. Even more significantly, 18.7 million Americans will be 85

Professor James Lubben, Louise McMahon Ahearn Chair
AWARD-WINNING PAPER CHALLENGES CONVENTION

Berzin’s study looks anew at youth outcomes

GSSW PROFESSOR STEPHANIE BERZIN
caused a stir in the social work field recently with her article in Social Service Review on foster care outcomes. The piece did more than provide a new perspective on youths transitioning to adulthood, however. It also earned her the 2009 Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for best article in the University of Chicago journal and has been nominated for SSWR’s (Society for Social Work and Research) 2010 Excellence in Research Award.

“Difficulties in the Transition to Adulthood: Using Propensity Scoring to Understand What Makes Foster Youth Vulnerable” challenged the conventional view that foster care is a primary deterrent to many young people’s ability to succeed after emancipation.

“My paper was a different way to look at the problem,” explains Berzin. “Previous research looked at defects in the system and how foster care had failed youths.” By contrast, her findings suggest that “the placement characteristics that put youth at risk for foster care involvement also place them at risk for negative outcomes in the transition to adulthood.” In other words, the issues that make youth vulnerable in the general population—poverty, abuse, government dependence, etc.—and not foster care itself, are the culprits in poor transitions to adulthood.

While Berzin was applauded for her efforts, she says some critics have challenged her study for including kids who were ever in foster care, not just those transitioning out. Others have expressed concerns from a policy perspective, arguing that her findings could undermine existing programs designed specifically for foster care youths.

Berzin thinks the broader glimpse provided by her study begs the question: “If kids in the general population are just as vulnerable as foster care kids, shouldn’t we be providing these services to all at-risk kids?”

To push that conversation forward, she is working on another project that examines vulnerable youth generally, with attention to three groups: 1) those who do okay in transition to adulthood despite their situation; 2) those who don’t do well academically but do moderately well in emerging adulthood and present no chronic patterns of harmful behavior; and 3) those who do poorly in all categories of transition outcomes (e.g., habitual drug users or youths involved in criminal activities or teen pregnancy).

Berzin suspects that which group people fall into has more to do with their own resilience, personal attributes, and family characteristics than with external factors such as whether they are in special classes in school or in foster care.

“If we can figure out youths’ future orientation based on these qualities,” Berzin argues, “then we are much more likely to target appropriate programs for them.”

— VICKI SANDERS

GSSW LECTURE SERIES 2008 — 2009

ON-CAMPUS

December 11, 2008
WALTER DEKESEREDDY, professor of criminology, justice, and policy studies, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
“Dangerous Exits: Escaping Abusive Relationships in Rural America”

March 26, 2009
CYNTHIA FRANKLIN, professor and holder of the Stiernberg/Spencer Family Professorship in Mental Health, University of Texas at Austin
“Dropout Prevention for Adolescent Mothers Using the Taking Charge Life Skills Intervention”

OFF-CAMPUS

March 10, 2009 — Stonehill College, Easton
KERRY MITCHELL, GSSW clinical assistant professor, health and mental health
“Confessions of a Cognitive Therapist: 20 Years in Practice”

May 5, 2009 — Maine Community College, South Portland
DEBRA BUTTERFIELD, GSSW adjunct faculty
“Intuition as a Reliable Skill in a Clinical Setting and as a Resource for Client Health and Well-being”
Shen Granted Tenure

CE SHEN, whose academic goals emerged from his experience growing up in China, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in March by Boston College President William Leahy, S.J.

Shen witnessed firsthand the impact of the Cultural Revolution on his family. His background inspired his passion for social development issues, especially as they relate to low-income nations and countries transitioning to a market economy.

During his six years as an assistant professor in the Global Practice concentration at the GSSW, Shen developed and taught courses such as Research Methods, Statistical Analysis, and Comparative Policy.

Shen has published more than 20 articles on such diverse topics as cross-national studies in child and infant mortality, women’s status, social security, corruption and governance, post traumatic stress disorder, and math and science education. In addition, he was co-chair of the 2007 International Consortium of Social Development’s Biennial Symposium in Hong Kong.

Shen’s broad array of interests extends beyond academia. He is an avid soccer player and, as many of his students can attest, has outstanding Chinese culinary skills.

Shen’s tenure is a reflection of his record of excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship.

—SERENA HEARTZ
Here are highlights from among the many accomplishments of the full-time faculty in the 2008-2009 academic year.


O'Hare, T. & Sherrr, M. V. (forthcoming). Effects of clinic staff support on psychosocial wellbeing and PTSD symptom severity in clients with severe mental illnesses. *Best Practices in Mental Health: An International Journal*.


The multitude of presentations made by GSSW faculty at scholarly conferences in the US and abroad are not included in this magazine. Though these are very important scholarly activities, they could not be referenced due to space limitations.
THE MAKING OF A SCHOLAR-ACTIVIST

IN AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH ABOUT PIVOTAL MOMENTS THAT SHAPED HIS LIFE and future as a social worker committed to HIV/AIDS education and prevention, David J. Brennan, MSW ’87, PhD ’07, accepted the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award at a dinner ceremony on campus last May.

A member of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, Brennan said he would not be a social worker were it not for the Catholic Jesuit education he received at Boston College. “I have learned about the role of social justice through that training,” he told the audience of fellow alumni, faculty, and friends.

The first transformative event that set Brennan on his path was seeing a film in high school about Soweto when he was 16 years old. It was his first exposure to the concept of apartheid, which separated the races in South Africa, and it shattered his world view. “Here was this film about how in another country there was a law that identified someone who was black as essentially non-human. I had no idea that that could even happen,” he said. Not only that, it opened his eyes to injustices everywhere.

In 1981, Brennan acknowledged to a friend that he was gay, and that occurrence was the beginning of his activism of behalf of the gay community and various social causes while a student at Boston College. He fought for gay rights, gun control, and issues related to the Central American conflicts of the time, among other things.

The 1980s was also the era when a mysterious illness began taking the lives of homosexuals, hemophiliacs, and heroin addicts. The HIV/AIDS epidemic propelled Brennan in a new direction. He determined to make it the focus of his life’s work and has become an outspoken advocate.

Brennan concluded by calling upon the social work community to recommit to HIV. “Get infected with the passion for fighting this epidemic…with the concern that we still need to reach out to those at highest risk and develop programs and models to protect everyone from the ravages of HIV,” he said.

— VICKI SANDERS

AIDS Conference Looks to the Future

THE 21ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Social Work and HIV/AIDS, founded by Vincent J. Lynch of the GSSW, was held in New Orleans, May 21-24.

Based on the theme, “Defining the Future of HIV/AIDS Social Work: What is YOUR Vision?”, the four-day conference featured more than 120 presentations on AIDS social work service delivery and drew more than 500 AIDS-care social workers from the US and abroad. Four books on AIDS social work have been published from the proceedings from several past conferences.


For further information regarding the conference, contact Vince Lynch, GSSW Director of Continuing Education, at 617-552-4938 or vincent.lynch.1@bc.edu or visit the GSSW website at www.bc.edu/schools/gssw.

Innovation Is Cornerstone of Alumni Conference

Graduates share creative thinking in various key areas

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK hosted a forum in May that enabled alumni to present their most innovative work to an audience of fellow graduates.

Presentations took the form of workshops and reports during a daylong session in Devlin Hall on the BC campus.

Cynthia Kennedy and Kassie Goforth led a workshop on promoting healing in human trafficking survivors, and Anita Riley discussed how counter-transference can be used as a guide for self-growth. Deb Shriver tackled the social worker’s role during an adopted person’s return to his or her birth country, and John and Gail Kaplan
unveiled their psycho-educational program to assist couples planning marriage.

Religion was the backdrop of two presentations: its role in substance abuse treatment programs was Margot Trotter Davis’s topic, and Celtic spirituality’s role in organizational belonging was Dylan Dalton’s.

Former GSSW faculty member Dale Masi revealed the findings of a recent study on college binge drinking. Shaping adaptive behaviors in people with developmental disabilities was discussed by Joseph Samaro and Richard Salandrea, and Kate Granigan talked about the evolving role for social workers in geriatric case management.

The day ended with an alumni dinner and awards presentation.

**GSSW Website Gets Facelift**

*Redesign wins national award*

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK website, which was redesigned and launched in spring 2009, has been awarded an Award of Excellence for design by the UCDA (University College and Designers Association). The new website design was the result of a collaboration between the GSSW Marketing Office, the Boston College Information Technology Office, and an outside web consultant firm.

The GSSW site, located at www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/, features online applications, news and events stories, profiles, image galleries, GSSW magazine, directories, calendars, and related links to BC resources.

In order to connect with current and prospective students and build an online community, the school has also launched GSSW social media sites—including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. To learn about how GSSW is using social media for sharing and learning, visit www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/student-life/student-life.html.

**GSSW Commencement 2009**

Three PhD’s and 181 MSW degrees were awarded to the graduates of the GSSW Class of 2009 at the 133rd Commencement of Boston College May 18. Among the speakers were student representative André Lira Gordenstein (1), alumni board president Anita Riley (2), and Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston president Tiziana Dearing (3). In her talk, Dearing identified social service trends that point to increases in need even as programs close; growing cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and experiential diversity that will require new skills of social workers; and a double-whammy of privatization and disinvestment in infrastructure that threatens the social safety net. She urged the new graduates to stick to their commitment to serve. “Do not go lightly into this work. Do not tread softly as you go. Poverty hates children. It preys on those who have been weakened, and vulnerability eats its own. You have chosen to be warriors for those in need. Fight. You are signing up for this in a time of crisis and tremendous need,” she said. “You must stick.”
ALUMNI NEWS

TO POST AN UPDATE, EMAIL GSSWALUMNI@BC.EDU OR CALL 617-552-4020.

GSSW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEMBERS 2008 - 2009
The board strives to recruit alumni to achieve representation across many categories, including class years, clinical and macro specialties, MSW and PhD degrees, and professional concentrations that correspond to the current curriculum, those being Children, Youth and Families, Health and Mental Health, Global Practice, and Older Adults and Families. Board members are elected for up to three-year terms, with one-third of the board elected annually.

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VICE PRESIDENT
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Liana Fantasia, MSW 1993, Clinical
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Mike Gutierrez, MSW 1982, Macro
Heidi Hart-Gorman, MSW/MBA 2003, Clinical
Susan Moriarty, MSW 1999, Macro
Kristena O’Hara, MSW 2004, Clinical
Danielle Sutton, MSW 2001, Clinical
Retiring Board Members

NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010
Corey Gabowitz, MSW 1998, Clinical
Kimberly Hayes McManama O’Brien, MSW 2005, Clinical

Rachel Greene Baldino ’97 co-authored a book with the National Foster Parent Association. Success as a Foster Parent: Everything You Need to Know about Foster Care, published by Alpha/Penguin, is the first commercially available book to explain the foster parenting process. Greene also contributes a relationship column to a health and wellness website.

Cheryl Boissy ’86 won the National Association of Social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award for the Massachusetts Chapter. She is a clinical social worker in the mental health unit at Heywood Hospital. Her community service work includes leadership roles with the Leominster Spanish American Center; the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General Task Force on Hate Crime Prevention; the Human Rights Commission, City of Fitchburg; and the North Central Massachusetts Minority Coalition.

Andrea Cohen ’84 received the 2009 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Achievement in Entrepreneurship Pinnacle Award. She is the co-founder and CEO of HouseWorks, Inc., a leading private home care company in New England dedicated to helping seniors live independently. Among her many endeavors, she was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

Matthew Eggen ’07 was featured in the Winter 2009 issue of Cool Kids Connection, a national newsletter for children fighting cancer. Eggen is a clinical social worker at the Pediatric Oncology Unit at Baltimore’s John Hopkins Hospital, where he “assists with keeping the patient’s family, including the parents and siblings, healthy.”

Anthony “Benny” Mokaba, MSW ’88, has been an executive director of Sasol Ltd., an oil and gas company, since 2006 and serves as the head of the firm’s South African business. He is married to Ramaesela Mokaba, MSW ’92.

Debra Morgan ’83 received the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network’s Kountz Heritage Award for Excellence in recognition of her ongoing support of the organization’s community outreach initiatives, particularly those designed to raise awareness among the African American population. As director of the Renal Pancreas Transplant Division of Saint Barnabas Health Care System, she has been instrumental in significantly expanding renal transplant services to New Jersey patients.

Most Rev. Timothy Senior ’92 was ordained a bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia on July 31. After graduating from BC’s joint MSW/MBA program, he joined Catholic Human Services in Philadelphia, where he has held numerous leadership positions. Since 2004 he has served as vicar for clergy for the Philadelphia archdiocese.

Ltc Jeffrey Jarvis ’94 was honored as the 2008 US Army and Uniformed Services Social Worker of the Year for his work on PTSD and his book on Subthreshold PTSD. He is an assistant professor of family medicine and director of social work at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD, and adjunct professor of social work at Virginia Commonwealth. He is also the first chief of the new Integrated Adult Behavioral Health Clinic for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
PROFESSOR AND FORMER DEAN OF GSSW EDMUND "ED" BURKE died November 3, 2008, after a brief illness.

Dr. Burke’s tenure at Boston College spanned many years, beginning with his studies at the Boston College School of Social Work, where he earned an MSW in 1956. He later received a doctorate in urban planning from the University of Pittsburgh and joined the faculty of the GSSW in 1965. After serving as dean from 1971 to 1976, Dr. Burke was a member of the Domestic Policy Unit at the White House under President Jimmy Carter. In 1985 he founded the Center for Community Relations, now known as the Center for Corporate Citizenship, at Boston College.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Burke remained committed to the ideal of involving the community in the design of responses to social issues. He will be remembered for his joyful optimism and exuberant spirit.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANET “LEE” BEZANSON died July 25. From 2002–2008, she advanced causes for people with disabilities in her roles with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Clearinghouse, the Independent Living Research Utilization Technical Exchange for Community Living; and the Cash & Counseling program. Her expertise on self-determination for people with disabilities and her commitment to change were highly respected in academic policy and practice communities across the country.

DIANE CANNING ’77 passed away in July 2008. She ran a private counseling practice and was a family therapist at McLean Hospital’s Klarman Eating Disorders Center in Belmont. She was also known for her green thumb and respect for nature.

HYMAN LITWACK. The GSSW community was saddened by the April 30 death of longtime friend Hyman Litwack, whose generosity to the geriatric social work field enriched the school. For more than 40 years Mr. Litwack and his wife Betsy rented rooms to Boston College women. While Mrs. Litwack used her social work skills to help the students overcome the obstacles that young people frequently encounter, Mr. Litwack was the “father figure” who ensured a safe, comfortable, and hospitable environment.

The lasting friendships that resulted inspired the Litwacks, their son David, and his wife Mary Anne to endow a GSSW fellowship for students interested in serving the older adult population. Since 2006, more than a dozen individuals have received financial aid enabling them to pursue an MSW, a degree that otherwise might not have been within reach.

LOUISE (MCALIFFE) DONELAN ’39, a pioneer member of its second graduating class, passed away in May at the age of 92. The only girl in a family of seven boys, Mrs. Donelan was among the first women to graduate from Boston College. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Emmanuel College before discovering her calling in social work. In her master’s degree thesis, she challenged the school of thought that children born out of wedlock should always be separated from their mothers. Later, she worked for Catholic Charities and the American Red Cross. In 1941 she married a BC alumnus with whom she raised four children. At the age of 30 she re-entered the workforce to use her skills in the adoption field.
**WELCOME ADDITIONS**

**RICK ALLEN** joined GSSW last November as the Communications and Web Assistant. He brings eight years of experience as a lab operations manager at Emerson College, where he earned his BFA and MA in publishing. He replaced Patricia Shuker, who moved to the BC Advancement Office.

**SUZANNE CRISP** became Director of Program Design and Implementation at the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPDS) last December. During some 20 years in health care consulting and research, she has provided technical assistance to state Medicaid programs on implementing, monitoring, and evaluating self-direction with in-home and community-based programs.

**MARY CURLEW, LCSW,** joined the Sloan Work & Family Research Network in February as Policy Research Associate. Curlew holds a masters of psychology and religion from the Andover Newton Theological School. In private practice, she specialized in perinatal mental health, child development, and trauma.

**JACQUELYN JAMES, PhD,** was named Co-director of Research at the Sloan Center on Aging. She is also the center’s co-principal investigator of the Workplace Culture and Flexible Work Arrangements Study and a Research Professor at the Lynch School of Education.

**HUONG NGUYEN** was hired in January as the Web Support and Communications Specialist in BC’s Center for Aging and Work. She was employed previously as a quality assurance engineer at Stanford University.

**JIM WIRONEN** joined the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services in April as Director of Product Development and Participant-Directed Services. He has been a senior executive at Fidelity Investments, State Street Global Advisors, New York Life Benefit Services, and the American Association of Retired Persons.

**FOND FAREWELLS**

**JEANNE ZILLOX** departed GSSW after 10 years as Senior Admissions Assistant and as Assistant Director of Academic and Student Services (PhD Program). She will devote her full attention to her one-year-old son, Luke.

**MOVING AHEAD**

Congratulations to the following GSSW staff on their recent job title changes and promotions:

**JEN BEWLEY,** Assistant Director, Hartford Doctoral Program & Institute on Aging

**LIZ CINQUINO,** Director, GSSW Advising Center

**DIANE KAYALA,** Director of Measurement and Information Systems, NRCPDS

**JEANNINE KREMER,** Program Manager, Hartford Doctoral Program

**PATI KRUZ,** Fiscal and Administrative Assistant, NRCPDS

**ELIZABETH MAGUIRE,** Assistant Director for Marketing and Communications, NRCPDS

**LINDA ROBICHAUD,** Manager of Information Systems

**BUDDY RUTZKE,** Consumer Direction Module Technology Manager, NRCPDS

**CASEY SANDERS,** Research Analyst, NRCPDS

**KRISTIN SIMONE,** Director of Quality Assurance and Member Services, NRCPDS

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**ALUMNI EVENTS**

We encourage you to check our website at [http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/alumni/alumni.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/alumni/alumni.html) to keep informed about upcoming Graduate School of Social Work Alumni events and CEU course offerings.

To view this year’s Continuing Education course offerings for 2009-2010: [http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/academics/ce.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/academics/ce.html)

The 22nd Annual National conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS will be held May 27-30, 2010 in Denver. See details on our website at [http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/academics/ce/conferences.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/academics/ce/conferences.html)

**Alumni Networking Event**

**Thursday, November 19, 2009**

RSVP by November 2nd to gsswcareerservices@bc.edu

Our Alumni are a great resource for both networking and job searches. This evening event brings together students and alumni to talk about their career interests.

**Questions?**

Contact SSW Alumni Association at gsswalumni@bc.edu or 617-552-4020
In February, I visited six countries (Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Cambodia, Thailand, and Bangladesh), to see the MSW students in the Global Practice Concentration use all that they had learned in the previous year of training. I met with students and their supervisors to gain an understanding of the overall learning opportunities, heard about their challenges and successes, experienced a bit of what it means to live in their countries of assignment, tried amazing indigenous food, and met with the local community members.

After five weeks of traveling, 21 LONG flights and the loss of my luggage three times, I observed the beginning transformation of the students and gained a deeper admiration for their work. Our students served refugees and people infected and affected by HIV, leveraged limited resources for the growth of programs, and measured the impact of an intervention. This was accomplished with social work professionalism, humor, flexibility, a sense of wonder, and overall respect for the agencies and community members. Here is a snapshot of some of my site visits this past year.
REPORT ON GIVING

We have again had a record number of donations to support the GSSW community. Every gift, large or small, directly benefits our students, programs, and the future of social work. Donations to our annual fund come directly to GSSW and provide the flexible discretionary funds necessary to provide the best educational environment possible. Other donors on this list have chosen to support specific fellowships, research funds, or student support funds that also have a direct impact on the school.

To make a gift, visit www.bc.edu/friends/give.html and select “GSSW” from the dropdown menu to designate it to the School. Donations made after May 31, 2009 will be acknowledged in this magazine next fall. If you need to report an error or omission, please call Steve Witkowski at 617-552-9162 or email witkowst@bc.edu.

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Thomas G. Foley, MSW ’64
Carol Senopoulos Forbes, MSW ’74
Daniel F. Forbes, MSW ’85

* deceased

GSSW GIFTS:
JUNE 1, 2008 TO MAY 31, 2009

GASSON GIFT SOCIETY ($10,000+)

Mark W. Holland, BS ’76 &
Jo Ann Hilliard Holland, BA ’75
Joan Fallon Marker, BA ’71, M.ED ’75 &
Joseph C. Marker, Jr., BS ’71, JD ’75
Nayni Datoo Salem, BA ’94 &
Paul J. Salem
Lynn H. Stahl, MSW ’79
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
The Salem Foundation
The Stahl Family Foundation, Inc.

PRESDIENT’S CIRCLE ($5,000- $9,999)

Timothy V. Gavin, BA ’98
Fidelity Charitable Gift

FIDES GIFT SOCIETY ($1,000- $2,499)

Agnes Cox M. Carson, MSSW ’41
Cassandra M. Costa, MSW ’68
Peter C. McKenzie, BS ’75 &
Maureen Quinn McKenzie, BA ’75 &
Carole Boscasy Remick, MA ’63
William W. Scannell, Jr., BA ’38 &
Ellen Dalton Scannell, MSSW ’42
Katherine Volpe, MSW ’05
Carol M. Volpe & Louis J. Volpe
Foundation

GERALD GSSW GIFTS

Pamela M. Abraham, BS ’06
Merrill B. Adler, MSW ’73
Joanne M. Agababian, MSW ’71
Nabija Akbar, MSW ’07
Jane Malick Alden, MSW ’80
Sarah Alexander, MSW ’93
Louis F. Altono, BS ’43 &
Ella G. Altono, MSW ’79
Patricia Allard, MSW ’03
William J. Allen, MSP ’71
James W. Alves, MSW ’80
Amy Amatangelo, MSW ’93
Sophia Andriotos, BA ’04, MSW ’05
Andrew J. Arena, Sr., P ’09 &
Sandra A. Arena, P ’09
Dorothea F. Argetsinger, MSW ’87
Nancy L. Ayotte, MSW ’91
Rev. Paul F. Bailey, MSW ’62
Susan Balder, MSW ’79
Callan Barrett, MSW ’05
* Mary Murphy Bean, MS ’42
Deborah Y. Beers, MSW ’07
Judith B. Bello, MSSW ’72
Linda Rene Bergeron, PhD ’98
Ronald J. Bigley, MSW ’61
Mary B. Blackman, MSW ’94
Lindsay Boger, MSW ’01
Michael Bohigian, BA ’99
George J. Boior, MSW ’68 &
Marcia King Boior, MSW ’69
Sara S. Booth, MSW ’79
Mary P. Bordes, MSW ’87
Bernice B. Borisson, MSW ’83
Audrey R. Boucher, MSW ’83
Eileen Coogan Boyle, MSW ’87
Mary T. Brackett, MSW ’74
Diana M. Bradly, BS ’08
Leah Marie Bradley, BA ’88, MSW ’91

26 BOSTON COLLEGE | GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2010

Nominate an MSW or PhD alumna/us of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work for the 2009 Distinguished Social Work Alumni Awards. These awards recognize contributions to the practice of social work made by a BCGSSW alumna/us that include:

• enhancing the profession of social work in the larger community
• improving social work education
• enhancing an area of public service
• supporting practice issues within the profession (clinical and macro)
• changing or improving social policy
• helping BCGSSW students and alumni, and/or
• representing a lifetime of achievement in the profession of social work

The award must go to an alumna/us of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work (MSW or PhD). Current BCGSSW Alumni Association Board members are not eligible. Nominations can be made by alumni, faculty (past and present), administrators, and current students. Nominations must be completed and received by 5 p.m., March 5, 2010.

To nominate, submit a resume of the nominee and include the following:
1. Your name, address, daytime phone, and email.
2. Candidate’s name, address, daytime phone, and email.
3. A brief summary of the candidate’s achievements.

Nominations can be submitted in three ways:

1. Email
gsswalumni@bc.edu
2. Mail
Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
140 Commonwealth Ave.
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Attn: Alumni Award Nominations
3. Fax
617-552-1095
Attn: Alumni Award Nominations

You may also download a nomination form from our alumni web page at http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/alumni/alumni.html

Questions? Contact the GSSW Alumni Association at gsswalumni@bc.edu or 617-552-4020.
Mary Ellen Flynn McGowan, MSW ’68
Mary Elizabeth McGrath Durkin, MSW ’82
Joseph W. McCreal, MSW ’64
Paul E. McGuinness, MSW ’65
William V. McNeney, BS ’63
MBA ’73 &
Kathleen A. McNeney
Carmen M. McNamara, BS ’63
Phyllis A. McCoy, MSW ’80
Mary Meara-McAdam, MSW ’84
Carmen M. Mercer, MSW ’91
Linda K. Merz, MSW ’90
MBA ’92 &
Sandra Meyer
Ann H. Miller, MSW ’83 &
Henri Flikier
Cheryl A. Miller, MSW ’75 &
William E. Miller, P ’12
John Marmelo Mimoso, MSW ’89
Susan Zebely Morang, MSW ’76
Thomas K. Morgan, JD ’84 &
Debra Lussier Morgan, MSW ’83
E. Jennifer Morris, MSW ’71
Edward F. Morrissey, MSW ’58 &
Carolann Morrissey
Walter Mullin, PhD ’00 &
Kathleen P. Mullin
Gwendolyn H. Murphy, MSW ’63
Jennifer Cowen Murphy, MSW ’94
Kenneth C. Murphy, MSW ’61
Michael J. Murphy, MSW ’61
Thomas M. Murphy, BS ’59, MWSW ’56
Nancy Elizabeth Myerson, MSW ’78
Donald A. Myres, PhD ’62
Paula Beebe Nannicelli, MSW ’74
Michael A. Nardolillo, MSW ’60 &
Janet B. Nardolillo
Barbara Etchingham Nash, MSW ’68
Lorenzo Noone, MSW ’48
Margaret Norbert, MSW ’92
Barbara Nordstrom, MSW ’93
Anne M. Norman, MSW ’79
Gina A. Nuntziato-Smith, MSW ’86
Paul J. Oates, BS ’59
Anne O’Brien
Kimberly H. M. O’Brien, MSW ’05
Edward J. O’Connell, Jr., MSW ’67
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Johnnie M. Oliver, MSP ’74
Rhonda M. Ollquist, MSW ’82
Mark R. Olson, MSW ’69 &
Lynn D. Olson
Gregory R. O’Meara &
Mary Jane O’Meara
Joseph M. O’Neill, BA ’53
Margaret O’Neill, MSW ’02
Jennifer M. Orcutt, MSW ’91
Ellen R. Orlen, MSW ’59
Ellen M. Orsi, MSW ’84
Leah Ottow, MSW ’07
Pietrina M. Owen, MSW ’86
Gail S. Packer, MSW ’77
Steven J. Paige, BA ’84
Eleanor A. Paras, MSW ’71
Richard F. Papalia, PhD ’62
Andrea Limon Parada, MSW ’94
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William J. Parks, BS ’59 &
Jane E. Parks, MSW ’86
Abby Patterson, MSW ’70 &
Deanne M. Payne-Rokowski, MSW ’70 &
Joseph Rokowski
Kathryn A. Pearson, MSW ’60
Kathleen T. Peck, MSW ’72
Shirley T. Perry, MSW ’60
Michael R. Petit, MSW ’70
Heather K. George Pistell, MSW ’77
Jeanette Polito, MSW ’71
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Valerie Marshall Potter, MSW ’68
Joan Langhorn Power, MSW ’59
William J. Powers &
Anne F. Powers
Denis P. Pringle, MSW ’39
Paul J. Provencher, MSW ’64 &
Mary O’Brien Provencher, BS ’63, MSW ’66
Marianne Pugatch, MSW ’98
Jesse Quam, MSW ’95
Michela Questell, MSW ’05
Meaghan P. Quinlan, BS ’66, MSW ’77
Owen R. Quinn, BS ’59
Judith Foster Ramirez, MSW ’94
Linda M. Ramos, BA ’86
Kathleen Houlihan Rao, MSP ’74
Katherine C. Redman, BA ’09
Nancy Reiche, MSW ’77
Elizabeth S. Redy, MSW ’52
Jane H. Reilly, MSW ’66
Carole Bocasky Remick
Kathleen T. Reilly, MSW ’63
Robert J. Porta, MSW ’69
J. Edward Reiley, MWSW ’88
Krystal Rheinwald, MA ’90, MSW ’96
Anthony F. Ricciardi, MSW ’81
Robert J. Ridick, MSW ’59
Kristen S. Ringdahl, BA ’97, MSW ’93
Jennifer Rivelli-Daigle, MSW ’04
Virginia Bogdan Robertson, MSW ’54
Virginia W. Robinson, MSP ’74
Lorraine A. Rogstad, MSW ’64
Dena B. Romero, MSP ’82
Linda Rosa, MSW ’84
Roland L. Ross, MSW ’75
Sandra E. Rosenblum, MSW ’76
Jane Mary Rosenfield, MSW ’59
Cecelia Bain Ross, MSW ’76
Colette M. Rowland, MSW ’95
Anne K. Rowley, MSW ’87
Helen J. Rubel, MSW ’76 &
Neal C. Allen
Barbara Naglin Ruchames, MSW ’72
Sheila Flynn Russo, MSW ’88
Ryan M. Rutze, BA ’05, MSW ’06
Thomas M. Sadler, MSW ’77 &
Jane E. Wells
Eileen Finn Salame, MSW ’60
Casey E. Sanders, MSW ’09
Nancy J. Sanders, MSW ’74
Mary Saunders
Nancy Dalishem Savage, MSW ’86
Mary M. Scanlan, MSW ’66
Ann F. Schwartz, MSW ’01
Laurel Scott, MSW ’96
Paul Secord, BA ’98, M.Ed.’98
Nancy S. Segal, MSW ’83
Grace Merton Sexton, MSW ’48
Gregory Shea, MSW ’66
Pamela M. Shea, MSW ’72
Joseph F. Sheehan, MSW ’61
Margaret A. Sheehan, MSW ’88
Robert P. Shepardson, MSW ’54 &
Irene Nardi Shepardson, BS ’51
William A. Sherman, BS ’59 &
Lucy Irene Sherman, BA ’68
Harry Shulman, MSW ’69
Kenneth L. Sipe, MSW ’77 &
Margaret L. Sipe
Mary V. Slovic, MSW ’48
Barbara Francioni Smith, MSW ’76
Katharin G. Smith, MSW ’77
Kimberly J. Smith, MSW ’90
Rupert A. Smith, BS ’59
Lauren L. Sommers, BA ’08, MSW ’09
Theresa Sweeney Sorota, MSW ’71
Susan Munce Soucy, MSW ’68
Roger P. Souza, MSW ’71 &
Mary K. Souza
Robert F. Spaniano, MSW ’69
Gerald C. St. Denis, MSW ’53
Margo W. Steinberg, MSW ’04
Alan C. Stewart, MSW ’67
Florence Vitale Sullivan, MSW ’59
Janet Sullivan, MSW ’81
Thomas W. Sullivan, MSW ’82
Kenneth M. Surdan, BA ’85, MSW ’86
Pamela S. Surratt, MSW ’71
Louis M. Swan, MSW ’76
Mary Tepryan Syliva, MSW ’56
Eрин S. Tippins, MSW ’83
Melvin Tapper, MSW ’73, D.Ed.’96 &
Jill C. Tapper, MSW ’75
Lisa M. Tarashuk, MSW ’87
Paul J. Tauselli, MSW ’69
James R. Taylor, MSW ’64
Carolyn Thomas
Jane K. Thompson, MSW ’64
Sheila A. Thornton Soucy, MSW ’79
Susan Tibejukia, MSW ’07
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Marylynne Tietjen
Theresa A. Todd, MSW ’59
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Rev. Normand Tremblay, MSW ’65
Amy Troxell-Mautz, MA ’97
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Janet Utzman, MSW ’70
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Andrew S. Valeras, BS ’01 &
Armine M. Burk Valeras, BA ’01, MSW ’02
Kathryn Ruda Vallon, MSW ’72 &
Ronald M. Vallon, MSW ’79
Dale L. Van Meter, MSW ’65
Rosemarie Sacco Verderico, MSW ’69
Kathleen Anne Vernam, MSW ’73
Delores S. Vincent, MSW ’77
Renee Waldon, MSW ’75
Lisa Petra Wallace, MSW ’96
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Sandra L. Wallace
Frank J. Walsh, MSW ’80
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Loretta L. Warren-Barnes, MSW ’86
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Norline R. Wild, MSW ’03
Jerome J. Wild, MSW ’62
Tracy Wilkes, MSW ’91 &
Paul Wilkes
Marilene Willett Wilson, MSW ’65
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William R. Wilson, MSW ’58
Stephen T. Witkowski &
Laura L. Witkowski
Hans Woocke, MSW ’05
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Jill M. Wussler, MSW ’93
Dianna C. Young, MSW ’95
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Joanne D. Zannotti, MSW ’68
Katherine A. Zeisler, MSW ’83
Ling Zhang, MSW ’92
Elisabeth Zweig, MSW ’77, MSW ’77, DHL ’02
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Jewish Healthcare Foundation
Kennebunk Foundation
Lucy J. Sherman Charitable Foundation
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Sisters of the Good Shepherd
United Way of Rhode Island
* deceased
A Field Day

“We want to express our appreciation for the significant contribution by our field instructors to the professional and personal growth of our students. You are indeed the heart of social work by providing the mentoring that helps students to understand the meaningfulness of their work.”

William Keaney, PhD, Director of Field Education, at this year’s Mary Mason Appreciation Breakfast

Top to bottom: Emma Bank addresses her supervisor Andrea Flint. They worked together at Center Communities in Brookline; Kristyn Morrissey (left), supervisor at Brigham & Women’s Hospital, with her student Molly McHugh; supervisor Karin Elliott (left) from the Steppingstone Foundation with her student, Susan Park.
An orientation session was held for incoming students who participated in roundtable discussions with faculty, staff, and current students.