Director’s Welcome

Elizabeth A. Sirles, Director and Professor

As always, the School of Social Work held our annual Gala party on April 30th—celebrating the graduating class of 2010. Every year I stand before the group of new BSW and MSW graduates, filled with pride. For many of you, this newsletter is a chance to find out about people you have gone to school with, mentored as a field instructor, taught in the classroom, or hired to serve your clients. For me, it’s a chance to tell you about where our graduates’ lives have taken them and how they are “making a difference…one life at a time”. Those words have meaning on so many levels. Our graduates’ futures are transformed by their education. They have become social workers, committing themselves to the values, ethics and best practices of the profession. But they are transformed as people too. Wikipedia defines education as “an experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one generation to another.” Each year, the School of Social Work graduates a new cohort of social workers. We get to know so many bright, talented, and dedicated people who will make a huge difference in this world. Our graduates enter the workforce and impact thousands of people as they work to improve the quality of life for those they serve. It’s a privilege to be a part of this process, and exciting to know that the School of Social Work is “making a difference…one life at a time.” Thank you to each and every one of you who helps make this possible. We have a lot to be proud of.

Best wishes and keep in touch!

Beth

Jerene Mortenson is the mother of Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools. Through Greg’s non-profit, the Central Asia Institute and the Pennies into Schools program, they have succeeded in building over 130 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Jerene received her PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Minnesota. She has been an elementary and secondary school teacher in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Tanzania.

You are invited to listen to Jerene explain how she has contributed to Greg’s efforts to help children in Pakistan and Afghanistan have access to education where it never existed before as well as broaden and enrich education where it exists in the developed world, allowing students the opportunity to be better educated global citizens.

The UAA School of Social Work invites you to a lecture by Jerene Mortenson, Ph.D.

“Three Cups of Tea: A Mother’s Perspective”

Friday, August 27, Noon-2:00
Wendy Williamson Auditorium, UAA Campus

ADMISSION AND PARKING ARE FREE.
Any donation you would like to make to Central Asia Institute is appreciated.
For individuals with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation, call 907-786-6900 or email Eva Wilson at eva@uaa.alaska.edu
1997 Kimber Evensen (BSW 1995; MSW, Anchorage, AK) is employed with Providence Alaska's Outpatient Behavioral Medicine Group and is working with children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. She specializes in trauma and child sexual abuse and also provides therapy in the area of eating disorders, self-injury, depression, anxiety and PTSD.

1998 Jamie Cushenbery (BSW 1997; MSW, Colorado Springs, CO) has been the Social Work Department Chair for District 11, the largest school district in the Colorado Springs area. The district has over 20 school social workers. In April 2010, Jamie was elected to the Board of Directors of the Colorado Springs Education Association, which represents over 1,500 teachers, special educators, and specialist groups such as social workers and psychologists. She has also been the Association’s representative for Mitchell High School for two years. Jamie is a certified trainer for the Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Program and co-chair of her high school’s “Response to Intervention Team” that seeks to ensure that all students get the support they need to achieve. She also volunteers with a non-profit agency that assists the uninsured and homeless with medical care.

2000 Julie Beatty (MSW, Nashville, TN) is a Pediatric Social Worker in neurology and nephrology with the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. She works with infants to young adults in inpatient-acute care and also serves as a social worker in a clinic setting for transplant patients and children with seizure disorders. Rural practice issues are also encountered, as they serve a number of small towns in MS, AL, KY, and TN. Her position is also responsible for rotating on-call in the Emergency Room. Come September, Julie will be a field instructor for an MSW student from the University of Tennessee. Prior to leaving Homer, AK in December 2009, Julie was the statewide Education Director at the Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Agency of Alaska (ADRAA) for 5 years.

Lisa Jamieson (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is the Telehealth Coordinator with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, specifically working on the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network. Lisa is the first social worker in this position and travels the state providing training and consultation to Tribal Health Organizations as they adopt and utilize telehealth. Lisa recently co-taught a course on telehealth for the UAA School of Social Work. Prior to this position, Lisa has primarily worked as a medical social worker in Nephrology, Oncology and Hospice. She has also shared her expertise as a panel member on the topic of cancer at the NASW-AK conference in 2008 and is secretary for her Community Council. Lisa married in 2006 and has a daughter, 26, living in Portland, OR.

Amanda Sandlin (Biggs) (BSW 2000; MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a court visitor with Stanley and Associates and an Adjunct Professor at the UAA School of Social Work.

2003 Christina Clarke (BSW, Johnson City, TN) is an LMSW, working on her LCSW, and is a social worker for Davita Dialysis in Johnson City and Knoxville, TN. She also provides mental health crisis consults for Frontier Health and will be finishing massage school in August which will result in her starting a volunteer hospice massage program in the area. This summer, she hopes to summit Elbrus, which is located in Russia.

2004 Allison Gottesman (MSW, Kenai, AK) has been promoted to District Supervisor with the Alaska State Division of Juvenile Justice following 18 months with the agency.

Julie Patry (Meyer) (MSW, Wichita, KS) and her family moved to Kansas in 2009 in order for their son to have time with his grandparents. She is working toward having her clinical license transferred to Kansas.

2005 Jacqueline Archer (BSW 2002; MSW: Graduate Certificate in Social Work Management, 2008, Anchorage, AK) is Head Start Program Director at Chugachmiut, serving Alaska Native families in the communities of Nanwalek, Seldovia and Port Graham. Jackie is currently working with the Kenai Borough School District to provide an Early Childhood Course for high school students in Nanwalek with an opportunity for an internship in the Head Start classroom. Jackie is enjoying being a grandmother to two-year-old Damien, with another grandchild on the way. Her youngest son is a sophomore at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO.

Lisa Cauble (MSW; Graduate Certificate in Social Work Management, 2007) was promoted to Director of the Mental Health Trust Training Cooperative (TTC) at the UAA Center for Human Development in January 2010. The TTC’s mission is to promote career development opportunities for direct service workers and their supervisors who are engaged with Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. The TTC has 4 full-time and 3 part-time staff.

Benita Holt (BSW 2002; MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Psychological Counselor II at the Alaska Military Youth Academy located on Ft. Richardson in Anchorage.

Jeremiah Newbold (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is an Outreach Social Worker with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and has earned his LCSW.

Andy Parker (MSW, South Portland, ME) is an LCSW in private practice in Portland, Maine.

Lana Stroud (BSW, Post Falls, ID) recently moved from California to Idaho following her husband’s discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. She currently works for Syringa as a human resource and Medicaid billing specialist.

Chrystal Van Sky (BSW, Kenai, AK) is an independent care coordinator with Miowak Care.

Terrilyn Wamser (BSW 1998; MSW, Wasilla, AK) is a master’s-level case manager with Network Navigators. She received a Certificate in Adoption Home Study writing from Catholic Social Services in September 2009.

2006 Stephanie Birdsell (MSW, Seattle, WA) has returned to school at Seattle University to earn a Master’s in Nursing with the plan of combining the two disciplines in outpatient mental health services.

Dennita Emerson (BSW 1998; MSW, Eagle River, AK) has earned her LCSW and is a clinician at Anchorage Community Mental Health Center.

Julie Evanson (BSW, Anchorage, AK) is a social worker with Providence Extended Care Center and has earned her LBSW.

Barbara Rath (Rodriguez) (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is Director of Operations at The Arc of Anchorage. Barbara has her CDC I License and is studying for her LCSW exam.

Aretha Tyus (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is an LMSW and received a promotion to Mental Health Clinician II in March 2010 at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. In April 2009, Aretha was presented...  
Continues on page 7
On July 14, 2003, Dan Bigley’s life changed forever. After salmon fishing all day on the Russian River, Dan and a friend were leaving for the night when he saw a grizzly. They turned around and headed the other direction to avoid it. But up ahead, they heard a rustling in the bushes. What they didn’t realize, was that changing direction placed them in between a bear and her cubs. The bear came at Dan at a dead run, hitting him before he could escape.

“I went to this place as I left my body where there was nothing but blue light around me. I felt like I was at a crossroads where it would have been very easy to let go. I had this vision of my mom and she was smiling this big goofy grin and waving. I decided right then that I was going to fight to live and that I wasn’t ever going to look back and second guess that decision,” Dan says.

Five of six arteries that carried blood to Dan’s scalp were either lacerated or totally severed, and he laid like that for two hours before the EMTs arrived, and it was four-and-a-half hours before he received definitive medical care at Providence. But it seemed if anyone could survive this kind of trauma, it would be Dan. While waiting for medical assistance, Dan, a wilderness first responder, helped keep himself alive by telling people how to help him. “As a result of all my guiding work that I had done, I let people know ‘hey, I need pressure here or you need to hold that tighter there’, or whatever the case was.”

When lying on the ground, Dan made a contract with himself to fight to survive, but at that point, Dan didn’t know he would be blind. Dan sustained wounds all over his body. His brain had partially hemiated into his nose, and he was leaking cerebrospinal fluid. “At the time, all the doctors could do in the initial surgery was take out dirt and debris, because I was still at such a high risk of dying. So they sewed me up and loaded me with antibiotics to see if I would live.” Not only did Dan survive, but he miraculously avoided getting any infections.

Two weeks after the incident, Dan came out of the coma. “I couldn’t see, I couldn’t talk, I couldn’t sit up in bed, I didn’t have physical coordination, I couldn’t bring my hand up to my mouth or anything. I mean I wasn’t eating. I remember it was a big day when I was able to sit up in bed and when I first stood up. I think everybody around me was just so amazed and grateful that I was doing as well as I was, because by all the doctor’s accounts it was really beyond science or beyond medicine that I was alive,” he says.

Growing up, Dan lived for the outdoors and everything it had to offer—skiing, fishing, kayaking, hiking—he has done it all. Dan grew up in California and Ohio and spent his middle school years in Malaysia. He received his bachelor’s degree in natural history from Prescott College in Arizona. But Dan says it was his passion for adventure and the outdoors that led him to the “Last Frontier.”

But even with his sight intact and the world at his feet, Dan’s not so sure that his life was better before his accident. Dan says his priorities were all about recreation. “So when this happened, I realized that there was a new sense of what each day is worth, or a new sense of what each person in my life is worth. I really want to leave some footprints in the sand or really want to make a difference so it changed the way I pursued things like my dreams and goals.”

After eight extensive surgeries, Dan began to recover, and went to a school for blind people called Living Skills Center in California. Dan learned about assistive technologies for the blind including, computer gadgets, recording devices and special cell phone applications that could assist him in everyday life. His computer and watch speak, alerting him to new e-mails and the time. “I have a cell phone now that will actually read print to me from paper by simply taking a picture of it.” These technologies help Dan with day-to-day tasks in unique ways.

But more importantly, Dan had to learn how to do things that most people take for granted. “I had to learn how to keep an apartment clean, scan mail from my mailbox into a computer to read it to pay bills, learn Braille for things like organizing, labeling things and filing papers; how to match socks after doing laundry. I had to take cooking classes with an emphasis on how to do it blind, figuring out how to tell if food is still good or too old or just all different kinds of things that you don’t think about until you’re forced to cross that bridge.”

“The obvious path for me was to take what I was doing as an activities therapist to the next level which was to become a clinical therapist in social work.”

But what about things like walking down the hallways? On a typical walk to his office, Dan has his guide dog Anderson, a yellow lab, lead the way: a left, then another, then one more, then a right into his office—walking a mazelike course to his office, without missing a beat.

Naturally, Dan had fears about his future and adapting to his disability. “I was afraid that being a person with a disability I would get kind of pushed or shuffled into more medial types of work that would have less meaning for me and so I decided I needed to go back to school.”

At the time of the accident, Dan was a recreational therapist at Alaska Children’s
Amanda Metivier has walked the walk. As program coordinator of Facing Foster Care in Alaska (FFCA), she knows from experience how the foster care system works. A foster care “alumni” and a recent BSW graduate of UAA’s School of Social Work, Amanda has dedicated her career to improving the foster care system in Alaska.

Amanda moved to Alaska when she was 11 years old, but didn’t enter the foster care system until she was 17 – after she dropped out of high school.

As a teen, Amanda had little motivation or desire to do much of anything. She was introduced to FFCA but ditched the first meeting. After much resistance, Amanda attended a statewide retreat where she met several other youth in a similar situation as hers. This time it was different. “I felt like I belonged,” she said. “I connected with people in a way that I had never connected with anyone.”

Her experience in foster care ended up being a best-case scenario. Oftentimes, siblings are split among different households, but Amanda and her sister were able to stay together. Her sister’s friend’s parents agreed to foster the pair. “I had a great experience in foster care, but then I started hearing about all these horror stories from different youth,” said Amanda. “That keeps me going; I need to work to change those stories.” She was in foster care until she aged out of the system at 20. Dropping out of high school put Amanda very far behind, but with the encouragement of her social worker, Tom McRoberts, she worked hard to catch up with the encouragement of her social worker.

In her role as coordinator for FFCA, Amanda helps link youth and foster care alumni to resources and teaches them how to advocate for themselves on an individual level as well as a system-wide level. FFCA is supported by Casey Family Programs and Covenant House of Alaska, and works to improve the system through sharing experiences, supporting and educating youth and social services, and implementing positive change in society as a whole.

After several years, Amanda and Tom have reconnected and are now working together professionally. Tom now works with UAA’s Family & Youth Services Training Academy. They work hand-in-hand to co-train social workers on youth development. “Amanda has helped me grow as a trainer,” Tom said. “I really learn a lot from her; she’s an expert at working with foster care youth and alumni. She knows their issues, their point of view and their concerns.”

At 25, Amanda is now a foster parent to a 19-year-old young woman whose initial foster care placement fell through around Christmas time. This is her 24th placement. “There’s a serious lack of foster homes in Alaska,” Amanda said. “Some of these youth have had 50 plus placements; they’re so used to being bounced around.”

Amanda explained that there’s a 12 percent graduation rate among youth in foster care in Anchorage. “It’s hard for them to focus on education. As children and youth move from home to home and school to school, the value of education gets lost in the mix.”

In a Compass Piece she wrote for the Anchorage Daily News, Amanda stated: “As a former foster child, I know too well about the limited options surrounding education as a child becomes an adult and ages out of the system... For many of Alaska’s foster children, education or vocational school beyond high school is not really an option.”

“I think some foster youth fail because they’re not set up for school,” Amanda said. She explained how one foster care alumni started taking classes at UAA but soon after dropped out because she didn’t know how to manage her time, and she didn’t have basic things like an alarm clock and deodorant. “Students have to be willing to seek out the resources available to them and discover their own learning style.”

Amanda admitted to being very overwhelmed when first starting her classes at UAA. It took her three times to pass a math class. “I finally took it online, and that worked for me.”

According to the Alaska Foster Care Alumni Study, 73 percent of foster children wind up on public assistance after leaving foster care. Forty percent are homeless within a year of leaving foster care, 43 percent wind up in the criminal justice system, and 78 percent receive no help in planning their future beyond foster care. The study was a collaborative effort between the UAA School of Social Work, Casey Family Programs, Tribal State Collaboration Group and the State of Alaska Office of Children’s Services.

To help combat these trends, Amanda is actively involved with the “Mentoring Spirit” pilot program, organized by Alaska Community Services. Spirit is an acronym: “S” for success,
Ann Nelson, LCSW (MSW, 2006), a private practitioner with Good Samaritan Counseling in Anchorage and Kamaree Altaffer, a current MSW student and Consumer and Family Specialist II at Alaska Psychiatric Institute have been selected to present at the 2010 International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) World Conference on Social Work and Social Development which will be held June 10-14 in Hong Kong. According to the conference website, the theme of the conference is “The Agenda” which will focus on bringing social workers, social development advocates and practitioners together to discuss and jointly develop a new action agenda for social work and social development in the next decade. Kamaree’s and Ann’s two presentations were selected from over 2000 abstract submissions to present at the conference.

Their presentation topics are “Alternatives to Traditional Mental Health Treatment: Alaska Innovations” and “Recovery-Oriented Treatment: Patient-Centered Treatment Planning in an Acute Care Setting.” Both of the presentations will be hosted under the conference sub-theme of Life Course Challenges and Actualization-Mental Health: New Practice Knowledge and Skills for Excellence. Congratulations to Ann and Kamaree on their initiative and their selection to present in this international forum!
Homeward Bound Outreach Coordinator Ben Kanohokula Jr. Receives 2010 Ernie Turner Award

On May 5, 2010, Ben Kanohokula Jr. (BSW, 2008) received the statewide 2010 Ernie Turner Award at the State of Alaska’s Annual School on Addictions conference. The recipient is selected based on their contributions to the field of behavioral health, specifically in the area of addictions. It is presented to a professional actively working in the field who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of addictions counseling by demonstrating ethical standards, ongoing professional development, cultural competency, and interagency collaboration. The person is an inspiration to those he serves. Homeward Bound is an Anchorage Services Division program at the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP).

Ben was a UAA BSW student intern at Homeward Bound before being hired at Homeward Bound in 2007 as a Case Management Specialist. He was promoted to Outreach Coordinator in 2009. Ben jumped into a challenging position at Homeward Bound serving the chronic homeless alcoholic population. Ben’s current job responsibilities include: conducting street outreach, improving entry into Homeward Bound, maintaining a leadership role in community-wide efforts to improve the system of care to the homeless, providing case management services, assisting participants with obtaining and maintaining permanent housing, and providing training and mentoring to students, other case managers and volunteers.

Prior to Homeward Bound, Ben worked as a counselor at the Salvation Army Clitheroe Center, where he continues to work on-call. Ben holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree with honors recognition from the University of Alaska Anchorage in December 2008 and an Associate Degree in Human Services and Liberal Arts from the Honolulu Community College (HCC), where he was consistently on the Dean’s List.

Ben is a State-Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor II and a certified instructor for the Crisis Prevention Institute. He has been a member of the Project Homeless Connect Committee in Anchorage since 2007 and has contributed to the ongoing success of the bi-annual Project Homeless Connects and homeless point-in-time surveys.

-This edited contribution is compliments of Colleen Ackerman and RurAL CAP News Releases

From left to right: Robert Marx, David Hardenbergh, Melinda Freemon, Colleen Ackerman, Shanlyn Kanohokula, Ben Kanohokula, Diane Mathison, Mitzi Barker, Rachel Morse, and Sarah Scanlan

BSW and MSW Programs Reaffirmed until 2018

The BSW and MSW programs were reviewed for reaffirmation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) as part of a regular eight-year accreditation cycle. The Commission on Accreditation sent two faculty representatives to Anchorage in January to review our programs. Dr. Lettie Lockhart from the University of Georgia and Dr. Stephen Anderson from New Mexico State University met with students, faculty, administrators and community representatives to learn about UAA’s generalist and advanced generalist education in Alaska. They were “blown away” by our students and had a great visit with members of the Social Work Community Advisory Council, field instructors, agency representatives, adjunct faculty, and BSW and MSW alumni. The Commission met in June 2010 to review our Self-Study and the Site Team Report. We are happy to report both the BSW and MSW Programs have been reaffirmed for the next 8 years- until June 2018! Social Work faculty send a big thank you to all of you who took the time to participate in our reaffirmation process, either in-person or telephonically. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Mariel Savage

Mariel Savage, a junior BSW student in the UAA School of Social Work, was chosen for a summer internship through the WINS program with the National Council of Urban Indian Health in Washington D.C. The National Council of Urban Indian Health supports and develops quality accessible healthcare programs for all American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban communities through advocacy, training, education, and leadership development. Mariel will be interning with their Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative, where she will be studying and researching health-related policy development in those two areas.

The WINS program (Washington D.C. Internships for Native Students), sponsored by American University, awards university credit for completion of coursework and internships. The WINS program offers students of sovereign American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian nations the opportunity to build leadership skills while living, studying and interning in Washington, D.C. Participating students will gain professional work experience through interning at a federal agency or private firm, take courses focusing on Native American public policy concerns, and participate in social and cultural extracurricular activities.

Mariel is actively involved in a number of UAA campus activities, including the Student Government Concert Board. She also participates in the Social Work Student Coalition, in which she will have a leadership position next academic year, assisting in fundraisers and service activities. Recently, Mariel was chosen for a week-long social work clinical rotation program in Kotzebue and was awarded the School of Social Work Syril’s Rising Star scholarship award for the 2010-11 academic year.

-Marie Lavigne (MSW 1999) and Susan LaBelle (BSW, 1985; MSW 1997) participate in the accreditation site visit.

-Janet Emerman

BSW Student Interns with the American University Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) Program

Maruel Savage

Janet Emerman

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with the Steps for Change Award, given in recognition for outstanding advocacy on behalf of Alaska’s children and families, in addition to being recognized for her commitment and leadership in the Office of Children’s Services Family-to-Family program.

Gary Wiebel Jr. (MSW, Kenai, AK) is in his third year as a school counselor with the Kenai Peninsula School District, working at Nikiski High School, and has earned an LMSW. In May 2010, Gary graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a certificate in school counseling.

2007 Linda DeRoy (MSW, Anchorage, AK) accepted a position as a hospice and home health social worker with Amedisys in December 2009.

Desiree Hobson (Magill) (MSW, Duvall, WA) continues her work as an Oncology Social Worker at Overlake Hospital and is now a certified oncology social worker (OSW-C). She does monthly presentations at the hospital on the “Psychosocial Aspects of Illness” and does periodic speaking engagements on topics such as “Healthy Caregiving” and “The Emotional and Spiritual Impact of Cancer on the Patient and Their Family.” Desiree and her husband are expecting their second child on December 25th.

Diana Hunter-Carlson (BSW, Sutton, AK) is the BIA General Assistance/Tribal Case Worker/Behavioral Health Aide for the Chilkat Baloon Tribal Health and Social Services Department. She has also earned certifications as a Rural Behavioral Health Aide and in ASIST Suicide Prevention. Diana is one of the founders of the Alternative Child Protection Team in the Mat-Su Valley, which has numerous team members, including OCS, LINKS, Mat-Su Borough School District, ICWA workers from Knik and Chickaloon, to name a few. She also published an article on Elder Knowledge in her local tribal newsletter that has nationwide distribution. As a result of that distribution, the Native American Prisoner Newsletter, with circulation in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, reprinted the article with her permission.

Samuel Johnson (MSW, Fairbanks, AK) continues to pursue his Ph.D. in the UAA-UAF joint doctorate psychology program. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Resource Center for Parents and Children. Sam is married to UAF BSW student Wendy Sailors-Johnson and has two stepchildren, Tommy and Allie. He continues his serious alpine climbing.

Kimberly Kilkenny (MSW, Petersburg, AK) is a mental health clinician and substance abuse specialist at Petersburg Mental Health Services. She also provides weekly training to Wrangell staff on substance abuse counseling. Kimberly has also earned her LCSW.

Dagmar Mayer (BSW, Soldotna, AK) is a social worker with the State of Alaska Office of Children’s Services and also volunteers as a NODA phone coordinator for Central Peninsula Hospital. She has earned her LBSW and plans to return to school to obtain her MSW in 2011.

2008 Cynthia Burton (MSW, Palmer, AK) is a Medical Social Worker at ANTHC-Alaska Native Medical Center and is working towards her LCSW.

Kim Leming (MSW, Anchorage, AK) joined the Aleutian-Pribolof Islands Association as a Resource Developer in January 2010. She works with 13 tribes, representing 13 communities, and five in-house departments (health, community services, cultural heritage, human services, and IT).

Anna Luby (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Nephrology Social Worker with Fresenius Medical Care, a kidney dialysis center. She has obtained her LMSW.

Julian Marsh (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Care Coordinator with Hope Community Resources.

Chris Mortenson (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is currently a Clinician with Anchorage Community Mental Health Services in their family services unit. He is working towards his LCSW.

Trinidad Ruiz (MSW, Barrow, AK) is a Clinician with the North Slope Behavioral Health Department and will be obtaining her LCSW in September 2010. Trinidad notes that there is a need for counselors and clinicians in Barrow. The salaries are good and benefits are excellent. Supervision is available for licensing requirements. The Mental Health Trust helps with student loan repayments.

2009 Heidi Carson (BSW, Anchorage, AK) is Associate Program Coordinator with Covenant House Alaska.

Jeanne Croy (MSW, New Haven, CT) will complete her fellowship at Yale Child Study Center on June 30, 2010. Jeanne was offered and accepted a therapist position at the Yale Center with their In-Home Services Program, where she will continue to provide home-based therapeutic services with at-risk families and children. Her new position begins July 1. Jeanne continues to work toward her LCSW.

Jeanette Lacey Dunn (MSW, Juneau, AK) is an on-call social work case manager at Bartlett Regional Hospital and is providing contractual adoption home studies with the Alaska Center for Resource Families. She is currently taking some time off as Jeanette and her husband just had a baby boy: Rowan Finnegan Dunn, 9 lbs, 6 oz, born April 5, 2010!

Jennifer Kiser (MSW, Silver Spring, MD) is a case manager with SEEC and is a Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW). As the only licensed social worker in the agency, Jennifer provides direct services, assists with funding proposals, conducts annual review meetings for over 70 consumers, is involved in quality assurance processes and mediates. The Clinical Trials Bill that Jennifer worked on during her practicum in 2008-09 was passed this year. The clinical trials brochure she created, entitled “Clinical trials: A student’s interviews of nurses, patients, and survivors experience and opinions of cancer and cancer clinical trials in Alaska” is now being utilized in the State of Alaska’s Comprehensive Cancer Partnership Program, as well as hospitals and cancer treatment centers. To obtain a copy, contact: Alaska DHHS, Division of Public Health, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program & Clinical Trials Work Group at 907-269-8082.

Meg Loomis (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Behavioral Health Consultant at the Southcentral Foundation, working to integrate behavioral health services into Southcentral’s Women’s Health Clinic.

Christina McGauthiar (MSW, Chugiak, AK) is a Mental Health Clinician at Volunteers of America-ARCH and has certification as a CDC I and has received EMDR Basic Training.

Jeri Museth (MSW, Juneau, AK) is the Wellness Coordinator for the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska.

Tyne Smith (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Discharge Planner/Clinical Therapist with North Star Behavioral Health and has obtained her LMSW. She and her husband also are pleased to announce the May 2010 birth of James Lane Smith, 7 Lbs 12 oz and 20 1/4 inches!

Continues on page 10
Guy "Tauraq" Guy was born in Kwethluk, Alaska to parents, Phillip and Nastasia Guy. When Guy passed away he left his wife, Olga and children, Betty and Isaiah. Guy was known for his gentle personality, humor, and care for people. He joined the U.S. Navy after High School and following completion of his service, he entered the Rural Human Service (RHS) certificate program. Guy had goals of earning a Master’s degree and to that end he moved to Fairbanks with his family to obtain a BSW. He then entered the MSW program at UAA and graduated with his Masters in 2004.

Guy became a clinical supervisor and counselor at Yukon Kuskokwim Behavioral Health Corporation. Guy Guy was an MSW Alumnus from Kwethluk, Alaska.

If you would like to join us by contributing to this scholarship please contact Naomi Horne, UAF College of Liberal Arts Development Officer, at (907) 474-6464 or naomi.horne@uaf.edu.

-Naomi Horne, BSW, UAF '06

Dan says he feels so lucky to be alive and on this earth. “Some people ask me if I feel unlucky about what happened to me, which is a fair question. But most of the time I absolutely do not feel unlucky because I really could be dead. I’ve been given a chance to experience love and marriage and the joys of parenting, and given a chance to reach for goals like my career goals.” Dan is currently working on his book that will be ready in a couple of years.

But Dan couldn’t have gotten where he is today without his family. He is married to his wife Amber of four years, who he dated before the accident. They now have two children—Alden, 3, and Acacia, eight months.

With his dignity and character in question, Dan showed there are truly no limits. It’s all about how much effort you put into it. There are no limits to what job you have, what school you go to, what degree field you choose, or how well you do in school.

“Some people say that there is something special about me, and I don’t know if that is true or not. But what I do know is that I do have a real sense of connection to things—to this life, to this planet, to other people. A spiritual sort of thing, you know?”

This profile was created by the team at UAA University Advancement.
WICHE ICE: A Student’s Perspective

The following perspective from MSW distance student Margie Thomson highlights the benefits of WICHE ICE. Additional Perspectives from Beth Sirles (Director, UAA School of Social Work), Tom Miller (UAA Vice Provost), and Mary Dallas Allen (Assistant Professor) are posted on the WICHE ICE site: www.wiche.edu/ice

WICHE ICE... from a Student’s Perspective

Margie Thomson graduated with a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from Penn State University before moving to Alaska where she began working in the parks and recreation field. Soon, however, she migrated to working with people with disabilities and has held several different positions in the social work arena over her 20-year career.

To expand her skills and expertise, Thomson always wanted to a her Master’s degree in Social Work but she could not leave Juneau where she was working and raising three children. Then a few years ago she learned about and enrolled in the four-year, part-time, distance delivered MSW program by The University of Alaska Anchorage. She finally had the opportunity to pursue her dream.

Thomson had completed several courses in the program when she heard about UAA’s participation in the WICHE Internet Course Exchange (ICE). At UAA, she registered for “Introduction to Assessment,” an online course in social work offered by the University of Wyoming. “It is the perfect complement for my

Dr. Eileen Lally Retires as FYSTA Director

Dr. Eileen Lally retired as Director of the Family and Youth Services Training Academy. Dr. Lally served as the Director since it began in 1998. She earned an Ed.D. at the University of the Pacific and a MSW at Indiana University. She has practiced social work for over 30 years, including work in family and child protective services. She taught social work at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) for ten years, and was one of the forces to begin the quest for the MSW program at UAA in the early 90’s.

Dr. Lally was Alaska’s Deputy Commissioner of Health and Social Services in 1990-91. She was the Academic Department Head of the Social Work Department at New Mexico State University between 1995-97. Her direct practice work with families and policy work at the statewide level led to an interest in child welfare services. A High Tea Retirement Party was held for Dr. Lally in May, celebrating her many years of leadership and service to the University and the State of Alaska. Good-bye, Eileen and Best Wishes from the School of Social Work!

FYSTA Experiences Changes

As Bob Dylan sang, “The times they are a changing”. The Family and Youth Services Training Academy (FYSTA) is in transition as our founding director, Eileen Lally, retires and our new director, Tammy Sandoval, takes over. We are excited to have Tammy join the team here with her experience as Director of the State of Alaska’s Office of Children’s Services (OCS) and her commitment to helping Alaskan children be safe and Alaskan families be strong.

“We pride ourselves on meeting the ever-changing needs of Alaskan families through the training...”

Change is nothing new to those of us who work at FYSTA; we pride ourselves on meeting the ever-changing needs of Alaskan families through the training we provide to help OCS staff do the best job possible. FYSTA’s mission is to deliver a competency-based training system, where all trainings identify the knowledge and skills (competencies) workers, supervisors and managers will obtain.

From the time of its establishment in 1998, FYSTA has worked in partnership with OCS to develop and provide OCS staff with the tools they need when working with Alaskan children and families. We accomplish this through ongoing involvement with OCS workgroups, technical assistance training sessions conducted by national experts, involvement with national child protective service training associations and attendance at regional and national conferences and training sessions. We look forward to continuing the partnership we have with OCS to help OCS meet its vision of “Safe Children, Strong Families.”

In the past 12 months, we have revamped the four-week initial OCS staff training, redeveloped the child forensic interviewing course and delivered training to OCS supervisors on issues specific to their work in child protective services. We are also working closely with OCS supervisors to develop and deliver new training on initial family assessment and the development of safety interventions to help families when parent behavior places children in unsafe situations.

This training has been developed following significant OCS policy changes and will be
Social Work Student Coalition

Robyn Corbett (l) and Michelle Goolio (r), two members of the Coalition who participated in Project Homeless Connect.

Under the student leadership of BSW students Mandy Fowle, Amada Arredondo, and Lacy Francis, the Social Work Student Coalition engaged in several community service events during the 2009-2010 year. In December, they held a very successful Hat/Glove/Chap Stick drive for the Salvation Army’s McKinnell Family Shelter. BSW Coalition Member Alyse Mondok organized Coalition members to participate in Anchorage Project Homeless Connect. The Coalition is already looking forward to events in the Fall of 2010. The Coalition has partnered with the Anchorage Healing Racism Steering Committee, which is bringing Tim Wise, a highly regarded anti-racist activist and writer, to speak at the Wendy Williamson auditorium in September 2010. Stay tuned for more information!

-Mary Dallas Allen

Social Work Pre-Major Now Available Statewide

UAF, UAS, and UAA have built an educational pipeline such that college students anywhere in Alaska can complete the social work pre-major requirements while earning an Associate of Arts (AA) degree on their community campus or via distance delivery. Students can matriculate seamlessly to the UAF campus-based or distance delivered BSW degree; or the UAA campus-based BSW program.

Professors Kathi Trawver (UAA BSW Program Coordinator) and Beth Sirles (UAA School of Social Work Director) traveled extensively this year, visiting community campuses around the state to work with faculty and advisors who assist students with their academic planning.

The AA degree is offered on every community campus statewide. Articulating the pre-major requirements makes it possible for students to complete their general education requirements such as oral and written communication, humanities, quantitative skills, and natural and social science requirements while completing the social work pre-major requirements. UAA and UAF offer distance delivered lower-division social work courses that transfer between programs and introduce students to the social work profession.

Continued from page 7, BSW and MSW Graduate News

Wendy Weston (MSW, Ketchikan, AK) is a Medical Social Worker and Family Indian Child Welfare Social Worker with Ketchikan Indian Community and is working towards her LCSW.

2010 Brittany Beaujean (BSW 2004; MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Clinical Associate with Anchorage Community Mental Health.

Natalia Carboy (MSW, Katy, TX) is moving to Katy, Texas, following graduation from the MSW program.

Marietta Cunningham (BSW, Anchorage, AK) received several awards, including Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Honor Society, AHAINA Student Programs, and a UAA Student Appreciation Citation. Marietta did her senior practicum at Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Agency of Alaska (ADRAA).

Ben Fischer (MSW, Anchorage, AK) is a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ashley Hice (BSW, Anchorage, AK) was elected as a senator to the Union of Students University of Alaska Anchorage for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Maria Manfredi (MSW, New York, NY) has accepted a position as a Medical Social Worker at Albert Einstein Hospital in New York City.

Jessica McKay (MSW, Anchorage, AK) has been admitted to the Clinical and Community Psychology UAA-UAF joint Ph.D. program and will be moving to Fairbanks this summer to begin the program in Fall 2010.

Diane Palmer (BSW, Anchorage, AK) is a care coordinator with The Arc of Anchorage.

Donna Schock (MSW, Anchorage, AK) has accepted a position as Social Services Clinician at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage.

Thanks to all of you for keeping in touch!

We had a record number of submissions! We would really like to hear from more of you! If you have news you would like to share in the 2011 newsletter, we now have a link to the form to make it easier for you to complete: http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/socialwork/alumni/update.cfm

After completion, please e-mail to Chad Morse at afcem@uaa.alaska.edu or mail it to: Chad Morse, UAA School of Social Work, GHH 106, 3211 Providence Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508. We really look forward to hearing from you!
New Specialization in School Social Work Created

Mary Dallas Allen and Beth Sirles worked in consultation with faculty at the University of Wyoming School of Social Work and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to create a Specialization in School Social Work within the UAA MSW program that will prepare MSW-level practitioners to provide school social work services across Alaska. In March 2010, Mary Dallas and Patty McMillan, the lead school social worker for the Lower Kuskokwim School District, travelled to Juneau to request that the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development approve the UAA MSW Specialization in School Social Work as meeting the requirements of the Alaska DEED Type C Certification for School Social Workers. The Board unanimously approved the Specialization.

The Specialization in School Social Work is open to MSW students currently enrolled in the MSW program, as well as practitioners who currently hold an MSW degree. The requirements of the Specialization include:

- An MSW Degree from UAA or another accredited school of social work (approximately 60 credit hours);
- SWK 690 Social Work in Schools (3 credits), taught in distance format, or a comparable course completed at an accredited MSW program;
- SWK 690 School Social Work in Alaska (1 credit), taught in distance format;
- 3 credits of approved education electives; Examples:
  - EDSE A492 Inclusive Classrooms for all Children
  - EDSE A611 Supporting Families of Exceptional Children
  - EDSE A624 Social / Emotional Development, Assessment, and Intervention
  - EDSE A632 Special Education Law: Principles and Practices
  - EDSE A674 Families: Developing Parent Professional Partnerships
  - EDSE A674 Issues in Early Childhood Special Education
  - EDL A639 The Politics of Education
  - EDL A640 Laws and Ethics in Education
- Verification of a field practicum (minimum of 480 hours) in a school setting or one-year of supervised social work practice in a school setting.

If you would like more information about the Specialization in School Social Work, please contact Mary Dallas Allen, the Specialization Advisor, at mdallen@uaa.alaska.edu or 786-6992.

“...will prepare MSW-level practitioners to provide school social work services across Alaska...”

The Social Work Student Coalition was busy during the 2009-2010 school year.

Kandi Keith first came to work for the School office in the fall of 2007 and if any of us could have our own way, she would stay with us for a long time to come. During these three years, we have all come to depend upon her skills in managing data, assisting with research projects and developing and managing websites—in addition to which she is an expert in APA reference styles and takes excellent photographs of our events. Kandi has been involved in nearly every aspect of the School, including our preparation of the lengthy self-studies required in the program re-accreditation process. And she has infallibly brought a cheerful and upbeat attitude to work with her.

Kandi will be moving on to Arlington, Virginia this fall to attend a graduate program in forensic psychology at Marymount University. We are going to miss Kandi’s company a great deal though I think we all share a vicarious pride in her accomplishments. We all wish her the very best and look forward to hearing her tales of adventure in this new chapter in her life. Best Wishes, Kandi!
Another successful year of field experience was reported by practicum seminar instructors, Janet Emerman (fall) and Mel Henry (spring). Students were placed in fairly typical BSW placements: child welfare (4); Anchorage School District (3); elders (3); military (2); and developmental disabilities, adolescent mental health treatment, domestic violence, and health-related fields (one student each). As of this writing, at least 4 of our graduates are employed social workers as a direct result of their placements, 2 are entering the UAA MSW program this fall, 3 are moving out of state, and a number of other BSWs are entering the professional job market, well-prepared to assist with a variety of social service problems statewide.

Interesting highlights:
• In Fall 2009 a large number of soldiers returned to Alaska from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two BSW students were at Ft. Richardson to learn from and assist with transitional issues. One student, Ashley Hice, was placed with the family assistance program working with the spouses and children of soldiers. The other student, Christian Garrett, was placed in the Soldier Family Assistance Center working with “wounded warriors” – providing professional referrals and supportive services to the men and women who served our country and returned needing an array of health and social services to successfully transition back into U.S. society.
• Caitlin Wankowski needed to move to a northern Texas location because of her husband’s military transfer, but with the assistance of a nearby Texas university BSW program, was able to do her practicum and her policy course in Texas, and her UAA capstone practice course via distance delivery with UAA. Caitlin graduated with her class in May, and her entire family (including baby Maddox, just a month old) attended the School of Social Work Gala.
• Two agencies, which had not previously hosted our BSW students, accepted students this year. Linda Erickson was placed with the Anchorage Senior Activities Center, which provided her with opportunities to be involved in almost every aspect of gerontological social work – from policy issues and community-wide forums to beneficial health and recreational programming to direct services and advocacy and referrals. Kayli Helvie was placed with the American Cancer Society, where she took on a pivotal leadership role in the planning and implementation of the new Cancer Resource Center at Alaska Regional Hospital. As a social work student, Kayli learned skills in both macro and micro arenas, and was able to welcome the public and future clients to the new Cancer Resource Center’s grand opening in January 2010. Stop by the 3rd floor at Alaska Regional and see the culmination of a lot of hard work by the American Cancer Society – with Kayli Helvie’s capable assistance. Kudos to both Linda and Kayli for accepting challenging placements that pioneered social work student involvement!
• Rick Lagao was placed at OCS (Office of Children’s Services) with the Independent Living Unit. This unit works with foster children who are “aging out” of the state child welfare system, providing special case management services to assist them with the challenges of preparing for transition back into U.S. society.

Continues on page 16

Loan Repayment Opportunities for LCSWs

Did you know there are currently nearly 800 job opportunities available in nearly every state in the country that are eligible for educational loan repayment benefits through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) for those LCSWs who have an interest in community health and underserved populations?

For a 5-year commitment to the NHSC, clinicians are eligible for up to $145,000 in loan repayment funding. The initial commitment is 2 years for a $50,000 loan repayment award. Clinicians can search for current job opportunities at http://www.nhscjobs.hrsa.gov. Select “Alaska” and the link takes you to all of the current social work jobs in Alaska eligible for loan repayment.
Partnership Between Tomsk State University (TSU) and UAA

Tomsk State University in Tomsk, Russia and UAA worked together to create a master’s equivalent in child welfare at TSU. Social work students can now major in Social Work with Families and Children. Eileen Lally, Program Director of the Family and Youth Services Training Academy at UAA School of Social Work wrote the following for the Assistance to Russian Orphans (ARO-3) Program Report, 2006-2010:

“Three years ago, the attitude towards at-risk families was much different than it is today. On my most recent trip here, I found a real desire to learn about prevention and the need to work with families, not just remove children from a bad situation. I saw that our partners in Tomsk really believe in strengthening families and providing them with support. There is no longer the idea that at-risk families cannot change. They recognize the opportunity and responsibility to prevent social abandonment through specialized social services. The broad-based acceptance of such ideas is a wonderful accomplishment.

During my most recent visit, I learned that Tomsk State University plans to make the curricula we developed together available to all universities in Russia. It is my hope that they will work to replicate their experience to other regions of Russia.”

Eva Kopacz, Professor, completed her third year as a co-participant on a three-year Alaska Geriatric Education Center grant from HRSA (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration). The purpose of the grant is to expand knowledge among community health professionals, academic health professions faculty, and university students in the areas of geriatrics, health literacy, health promotions, ethnogeriatrics and interdisciplinary health care team practices. As part of the grant, Eva team-taught a WWAMI course for first year medical students, offered by the University of Washington, titled “Geriatrics from a Cultural and Interdisciplinary Perspective.” Eva also participated in the development of a Geriatric Clinical Simulation Case Study that was delivered statewide via teleconference. Graduate students from a variety of disciplines including Psychology, Social Work, Nursing, and Occupational Therapy interviewed an elderly client and met as an interdisciplinary team with a physician board certified in family medicine and geriatrics to demonstrate interdisciplinary team roles and practice. The simulation was observed via teleconference by HRSA grantees and trainers from the University of Texas.

The Mayor of Anchorage renewed Professor Kopacz’s appointment to the Anchorage Senior Citizen’s Advisory Commission for another two-year term. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Mayor on issues pertinent to seniors.

New Graduate Certificate in Children’s Mental Health Being Developed

The School of Social Work participated in the development of a multidisciplinary UAA Graduate Certificate in Children’s Mental Health this year. The certificate program prepares graduate students and post-graduates to practice in the field of children’s mental health using principles and methods from multidisciplinary sources to assist in the mental health treatment of children and their families.

The 14-credit graduate certificate includes coursework from Social Work, Psychology, and Special Education. Certificate students may either be in a behavioral health graduate program (including the MSW program) or have graduated from an approved program in the last 7 years. Required courses include a child development course (pre-requisite to the program), a family systems course (3 credits), and a systems of care course (3 credits). Elective courses include assessment and intervention in children’s mental health (3 credits) and specialty content courses in children’s mental health issues such as autism or FASD (total of 6 credits). Certificate students participate in a two-semester multidisciplinary practicum seminar (1 credit each semester) while either working in a setting that serves children and their families, or doing a field practicum involving children’s mental health.

The graduate certificate program proposal is working its way through the University system for approval, with the goal of obtaining Board of Regents approval next year. Curriculum development for the graduate certificate was funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority as part of the Workforce Development Focus Area in response to providers’ needs for children’s mental health specialists. For further information, contact Psychology Professor Patt Sandberg at (907) 786-1636 or School of Social Work Director Beth Sirles (907) 786-6907.
The Social Work Student Coalition was busy during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Community Engagement Student Assistantship**

UAA coursework that has done a good job of preparing me to be a generalist social worker. I am very interested in the clinical aspects of social work for the future, and this will provide me with some additional skills and knowledge. Next fall, I will do my final practicum at Palmerston North Hospital in New Zealand, working in a Mental Health Unit with adults. This WICHE course directly prepared me for the internship, and situations that I may encounter in my upcoming semester. I am thankful to have this offered at this time in my schooling. It is a lifesaver!

“ICE provides a wonderful opportunity for students to experience different teaching styles and formats. It exposes both faculty and students to other backgrounds and perspectives and expands your thinking,” says Thomson.

The University of Wyoming course is one of several ICE courses selected by the UAA social work faculty to supplement their program offerings. Students know in advance how the courses will apply to their program and can register and pay for them at their home campus where the courses will be listed on their transcripts.

Continued from page 9, WICHE ICE

**Recruiting MSW Distance Students!**

Recruitment for the part-time MSW distance education cohort is currently underway for entry into the MSW program in the Summer of 2011. This will be the fifth distance cohort in the MSW Program’s history. Distance MSW students attend intensive course sections in Anchorage at the beginning of each semester and complete coursework via audio and web-based learning. Courses are held year-round and both the part-time distance and on-campus program takes four years to complete.

Deadline for applications is January 15, 2011. MSW application packets are available through the School of Social Work. To request a packet or if you would like further information, please call 786-6900.

**The Social Work Student Coalition was busy during the 2009-2010 school year.**
### 2010 MSW Graduates

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<td>Brittany Beaujean</td>
<td>Maria E. Manfredi</td>
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<td>Dawn M. Bell</td>
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### 2010 BSW Graduates

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<td>Aubrey L. Cooper</td>
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<td>Ashley L. Dudinsky</td>
<td>Linda A. Erickson</td>
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<td>Mandy S. Fowie</td>
<td>Lacy K. Francis</td>
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<td>Christian Garrett</td>
<td>Bev J. Harper</td>
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<td>Kayli P. Helvie</td>
<td>Ashley N. Hice</td>
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<td>Liang S. Lagao</td>
<td>Diane E. Palmer</td>
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<td>Christopher S. Reppel</td>
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### Social Work Honor Society Inductees to the Phi Alpha Honor Society Epsilon Chi Chapter, Spring 2010

- Brian D. Albright
- Natalia N. Carboy
- Marietta Cunningham
- Ashley L. Dudinsky
- Lacy K. Francis
- Christian Garrett
- Jerry Grower
- Nekeysha T. Taylor
- Michaela P. Cunningham
- Danijel M. Manfredi
- Renee M. Marcionette
- Michelle D. Pettijohn
- Jennie Schroll
- Donna L. Shock

### Social Work Honor Society Kappa Phi Spring Inductees

- Natalia N. Carboy
- Marietta Cunningham
- Jerry J. Grower
- Corrin M. Karge
- Maria E. Manfredi
- Renee M. Marcionette
- Patricia M. Merwin
- Donna L. Shock

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**FACULTY Updates**

**Kathi Trawver** Assistant Professor, served her third year as BSW Program Coordinator, and taught in both the BSW and MSW programs. She presented her research that focuses on the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system at several national conferences including the Council on Social Work Education, Society for Social Work Research, and the Center for Mental Health Services National GAINS Center Conference. Additionally, Kathi presented her research on mental health courts at the 10th Annual International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Conference, held in Vancouver, BC. She was co-editor and authored/co-authored three chapters for A clinician’s guide to evidence-based practice series: Psychosocial interventions for people affected by schizophrenia that will be published Fall 2010 by John Wiley & Sons Publishers. Kathi serves on the Board of Directors of the Disability Law Center of Alaska, is an appointed Advisory Board Member of Alaska Psychiatric Institute, and chairs the Alaska Mental Health Rights Advisory Board. She also continues her collaborative work collecting data for Anchorage Project Homeless Connect.

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**BSW FIELD NEWS**

Adult living – finding employment, living independently, and considering college or other post-high-school vocational training. These are challenges to meet which most young adults receive assistance from their parents. For children in State custody, the State is their “parent” and Rick learned to coordinate and provide services to meet their needs. He also worked closely with Covenant House and its Preparing for Adult Living (PAL) classes.

- In the fall of the practicum year, the BSW seniors take a practice class that teaches them to understand and lead small groups. Adjunct faculty member Rich Steinzig has students plan a group for a specific client population, from the design/marketing stage to the curriculum/topic development to the evaluation stage. In at least one instance this year, that assignment became an actual multi-week group being offered to a client population experiencing developmental disabilities. Diane Palmer’s group for healthy life skills, conceived and designed by Diane in the fall, was adopted for continuing use by her placement agency (ARC of Anchorage) and was implemented in the spring semester by Diane with the assistance of a UAA MSW practicum student. This is an excellent example of practicum being the integration of social work theory/course work and real practice skills and of the real-world applicability of classroom assignments!

All in all, it appeared to be a very successful year for all BSW practicum students, and as always, the School of Social Work is VERY grateful to all the field instructors and agency representatives and other agency personnel who work with all of our students and help them develop ethical and professional skills.

Once again this year, it is exciting to note that 75% of the field instructors for our BSW students are graduates of the UAA School of Social Work – some BSW graduates, some MSW graduates, and some of them both.

It’s gratifying for us to welcome our former students as field instructors, and we’ve been told it is exciting and satisfying for them to be able to “give back” by mentoring new professionals.

Thank you to everyone for another good year, and stay tuned for news of brand new, innovative placements next year!

-Janet Emerman Clinical Professor, BSW Field Coordinator
WICHE Region Students Can Attend UAA MSW For Resident Tuition

The UAA MSW Program has been approved for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). The program makes high-quality, distinctive graduate programs available to students of the West at a reasonable cost. As part of the Student Exchange Program of WICHE, WRGP helps place students in a wide range of graduate programs, all designed around the educational, social, and economic needs of the West. Through WRGP, residents of Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming are eligible to enroll in the UAA MSW Program at Alaska resident tuition rates. Students need not meet financial aid criteria. To receive WRGP tuition status, students simply apply directly to UAA and identify themselves as WICHE WRGP applicants.

Out-of-state MSW applications from WICHE region states significantly increased this year as the result of WRGP. This is an important recruitment tool for Alaska as we attract future social workers to our state.

Events Highlights

BSW Seniors engage in self-care activities.

2010 Student Showcase a total of 30 students.
Distance and on campus groups presented their research projects on April 23. The event was open to the public and attended by family, friends and field instructors as well as faculty and staff.

2009 - 2010 AmeriCorps Participants

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<td>Lacy K. Francis</td>
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Dove Kull Memorial Scholarship Awards

- Michon M. Alvarez, BSW Student
- Lacy K. Francis, BSW Student
- Stephanie C. Luck, MSW Student
- Jennie M. Schroll, MSW Student
- Tonja M. Whitney, MSW Student

Syril’s Rising Star Award

- Mariel Savage

Ella Craig NASW Alaska Scholarship

- Jennie M. Schroll

Tuition Waiver Recipients

- Michon Alvarez  Patricia Merwin
- Lacy Francis    Jennie Schroll
- Jamie Gregoire  Mary Sullivan
- Arika Jensen    Jessica Truesdell
- Doug Lindsay    Deneise Weyhmiller

Student Coalition Leadership

- Mandy Fowler, President
- Lacy Francis, Secretary
- Amada Arredondo, Treasurer
The School of Social Work is truly fortunate to have community experts continue to contribute to our School as adjunct faculty. Serving as Adjunct Faculty were: Josh Arvidson, Lisa Brown, Yvonne Chase, Alexa Filanowicz, Sara Gavit, Bernita Hamilton, Robin Hobbs, Summer LeFebvre, Jan Lindeman, Verna Loosli, Jenny Miller, Kaela Parks, Pauline Richard, Mary Elizabeth Rider, Amanda Sandlin, Nancy Scheetz-FreyMiller, Rich Steinzeig, Stephanie Vaughn, and Angela Watts.

End of fall semester potluck
Faculty member Kathi Trawver and adjunct faculty member Nancy Scheetz-FreyMiller enjoying the potluck.

Students enjoying the "end of Fall 2009" semester potluck; left to right: Stephanie Engel, Cory Karge, and Jessica McKay.

Adjunct faculty member Summer LeFebvre.

Thinking about how you can continue to “learn for life?” The UAA School of Social of Social Work continues to offer two graduate certificates to MSW graduates and current students, one in Clinical Social Work and another in Social Work Management. Taught by community practitioners and UAA faculty, each of the certificates requires 15 credits and some of your past coursework may count toward the certificate, no matter where your MSW was obtained. Each certificate can be completed in 1 to 2 years.

Not ready to commit to that kind of timeframe? Then consider taking individual courses that interest you, as part of your continuing education. The sequence and scheduling of courses is listed below for each of the certificates:

**Certificate in Clinical Social Work:**
Required Courses: (7 credits)
- SWK 651: Social Work Practice in Addictions & Mental Health (3 credits), Spring 2011
- SWK 663: Clinical Social Work with Children and Adolescents (2 credits), Spring 2012
- SWK 664: Clinical Social Work with Adults (2 credits), Summer 2011, Summer 2013

Plus, completion of 8 credits from the following options:
- SWK 656: Treatment of Families (3 credits), Spring 2011 and Spring 2012
- SWK 672: Social Work with Families & Couples (2 credits), Summer 2012, Summer 2014
- SWK 665: Comparative Group Work (3 credits), Summer 2011, Summer 2013
- SWK 667: Clinical Group Therapy (2 credits), Fall 2011, Fall 2013
- SWK 668, 669, 670: Group Supervision I, II, & III (1 credit each); These courses will be offered when demand is sufficient. Participants must be in post-MSW practice to enroll. 50 hours of group supervision may be counted toward licensure requirements.

**Certificate in Social Work Management:**
Required Courses: (15 credits)
- SWK 634: Organizational Practice (3 credits), Fall 2010, Summer 2011, Fall 2011
- SWK 654: Supervisory Management in Social Work (3 credits), Spring 2012, Spring 2014
- SWK 659: Leadership and Decision Making in Social Work (3 credits), Spring 2011, Spring 2013
- SWK 660: Financial Leadership for Social Work Administrators (2 credits), Fall 2010, Fall 2011
- SWK 661: Marketing in the Social Sector (2 credits), July 2011 (Two weekends)
- SWK 662: Financial Resource Development for the Social Sector (2 credits), June 2011 (Two weekends)

With the exception of SWK 634, all of the Certificate in Social Work Management courses are offered on Saturdays or intensive weekends.

Questions? E-mail Chad Morse: afcem@uaa.alaska.edu

**Elective Courses offered in Fall 2010/Spring 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>SWK A660</td>
<td>2 Cr</td>
<td>Financial Leadership for SWK Administrators</td>
<td>Sept 25, Oct 9 &amp; 23, Nov 6</td>
<td>9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Chad Morse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK A690</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Healthy Aging</td>
<td>ARR</td>
<td>WICHE WEB COURSE</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK A690</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Practice in Alcohol &amp; Substance Abuse</td>
<td>ARR</td>
<td>WICHE WEB COURSE</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK A440</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Mental Health &amp; Addictions</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 6:45 PM</td>
<td>Gene Mangiardi</td>
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**SPRING 2011:**

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<th>NUMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>SWK A651</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Addictions &amp; Mental Health</td>
<td>To be Announced</td>
<td>To be Announced</td>
<td>Gene Mangiardi</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK A654</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Decision Making in Social Work</td>
<td>Jan 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, &amp; 26</td>
<td>9:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Chad Morse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK A656</td>
<td>3 Cr</td>
<td>Treatment of Families</td>
<td>To be Announced</td>
<td>To be Announced</td>
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</table>

Elective courses are often added so check in with the School of Social Work offices for the latest offerings!
Congratulations!

TO ALL THE 2009 - 2010 GRADUATING STUDENTS!
IT WILL BE EXCITING TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE YOU’LL MAKE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE STATE!!

Thank You

The agencies listed below participated in the UAA School of Social Work Field Education Program by hosting one or more BSW and/or MSW practicum student(s) during the 2009/10 academic school year. Many thanks to the dedicated people at these agencies that contributed to the excellent educational experience provided to the UAA School of Social Work social work students.

- AARP
- AWAIC – Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis
- Alaska Children’s Services
- Alaska National Guard Youth Corps, Alaska Military Youth Academy
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Alaska VA Healthcare System
- Alzheimer’s Resource Agency of Alaska
- Anchorage School District
  - Begich Middle School
  - Denali Montessori
  - East High School
  - Romig Middle School
  - Whaley School
- American Cancer Society of Anchorage
- Anchorage Community Mental Health Service
- Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
- Anchorage Senior Activity Center
- Daybreak Mental Health Services Coordination
- Fort Richardson Family Advocacy Program
- Fort Richardson Wounded Warrior Program
- Holy Family Cathedral
- Lori Houston
- Mat-Su Services for Children & Adults
- Montgomery Inc.
- Municipality of Anchorage
  - Dept. of Health & Human Services
  - Dept. of Community Health Services
  - Dept. of Neighborhoods
  - Dept. Senior Services
- Northstar Residential Treatment Program
- Providence Alaska Medical Center
  - Adolescent Residential Treatment Program
- Family Medicine Center
- Case Management
- RuralCAP, Homeward Bound Program
- Salvation Army, Clitheroe Center
- Southcentral Foundation, Primary Care
- Southcentral Foundation, Planning & Contracts
- State of Alaska
  - Alaska Psychiatric Institute
  - Dept. of Corrections, Hiland Mountain Correction Center
  - Dept. of Health & Social Services, McLaughlin Youth Center
  - Office of Children’s Services
  - Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman
  - Office of Public Advocacy, Adult & Juvenile Representation
  - The ARC of Anchorage
- Prepared by Suzanne Dvorak

TO ALL THE 2009 - 2010 GRADUATING STUDENTS!
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3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Address Correction Requested

ACADEMIC FACULTY AND STAFF CONTACTS

Mary Dallas Allen, Assistant Professor ........................... 786-6992
Tracey Burke, Associate Professor ............................ 786-6905
Patrick Cunningham, Associate Professor ..................... 786-6902
Suzanne Dvorak, Program Assistant ............................. 786-6910
Janet Emerman, Clinical Professor
and BSW Field Coordinator ................................. 786-6903
Sharie Field, Program Assistant ................................. 786-6971
Mel Henry, Clinical Associate Professor .................... 786-6908
Eva Kopacz, Professor, and MSW Field Coordinator .... 786-6909
Randy Magen, Professor, and
MSW Program Coordinator ................................. 786-6901
Gene Mangiardi, Clinical Associate Professor .......... 786-6898
Chad Morse, Clinical Professor ............................... 786-6904
Mary Parker, Office Manager ................................. 786-6911
Elizabeth Sirles, Director and Professor .................. 786-6907
Kathi Trawver, Assistant Professor, and
BSW Program Coordinator ................................. 786-6915
Eva Wilson, Program Assistant ............................... 786-6900