

FORUM

Autumn 2003



University of Washington
School of Social Work

*The School of Social Work:
A Remarkable Community*

Autumn, 2003

FORUM

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Article ideas or comments
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Editor, *Forum*
School of Social Work
University of Washington
4101 15th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6299
206-221-7735

School of Social Work
Web site:
www.ssw.washington.edu

University of Washington
School of Social Work
4101 15th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6299

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The School of Social Work: A Remarkable Community



In The Community

Alumni Turn Learning into Leadership

Influential Graduates Further Social Justice in their Communities

Alumni carry forward the heart and the mission of the School in many ways. The following story is the first in a series that highlights alumni contributions to their communities. Orest John Wasyluk, Jeanne Burbidge, Ken Weinberg, Eric Pettigrew and Kathryn A. Williams describe how the School of Social Work had an impact on their careers and how they use their social work experience to make a difference in the world.



Orest John Wasyluk,
MSW '79
Office of Asset
and Enterprise
Management,
Department of
Veterans Affairs

Orest John Wasyluk blends keen management abilities with compassionate people skills to influence large systems through his position in the Office of Asset and Enterprise Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs. "The graduate program at the School of Social Work has had a profound impact on my career," he notes. "It enabled me to see how many parts are integrally related to the whole and if I wanted to have an impact on a process (welfare, research, legal, political, etc.), I needed to know the rules of the game, the players, and roles they perform both formally and informally, and define my role... [to] develop a plan for strategic interventions," he says.

As mayor of Federal Way, Jeanne Burbidge taps her social work knowledge to tackle complex problems and forge relationships with community groups. "My social work background and experience have played a vital role in the evolving of my career over the years," she describes. "I continued to be drawn to community activism, and the values and skills which form the basis of social work have served me well in working with individuals, groups, and the community."



Jeanne Burbidge,
MSW '65
Mayor of
Federal Way



Ken Weinberg,
MSW '77
Executive Director,
Jewish Family Service

Executive director of Jewish Family Service, Ken Weinberg draws inspiration from the diary of Anne Frank. She wrote: "Isn't it wonderful that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Weinberg declares, "The School of Social Work helped me implement these wise words...and essentially set me on my career path." He says, "This career has truly given my life great meaning, value and a sense of fulfillment beyond any expectations I ever had."

Washington State representative Eric Pettigrew explains, "Some important things my background in social work has given me are tools to be an effective communicator in a variety of settings as well as a broader and more intricate understanding of social problems. In addition, it has shown me how devastating knee-jerk reactions can be." He says, "These are all useful, transferable skills I am able to apply to my service in the State Legislature."



Eric Pettigrew,
MSW '87
Representative,
Washington State
Legislature



Kathryn A. Williams,
MSW '71
Director of
Community
Relations,
HomeStreet Bank

Kathryn A. Williams states, "My experience and the knowledge that I obtained through the School of Social Work has continued to be of value to me throughout my professional career." She brings a diverse background working with American youth and rural Honduran families to her position as director of community relations for HomeStreet Bank. "HomeStreet Bank has been a strong community member for its 80 year history," Williams explains. "So my role is to help guide it to be most effective in its community partnerships, to coach our managers, and to provide opportunities for our staff to serve our communities."

Nominate a Distinguished Alumnus or Alumna

This is one of our favorite times of the year; the opportunity to honor one of our very own alums! The School of Social Work is seeking nominations for its annual Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award. To be nominated for this award is itself an honor, reflecting recognition by one's peers, faculty, and other associates.

A faculty-alumni committee will select this year's recipient, who will be honored at the School's annual Recognition Reception on March 4, 2004. Previous recipients are: Sharon Berlin, Ruth Brandwein, Douglas Cook, Theresa Fujiwara, Dorothy Hollingsworth, Janice Jackson Fiegenger, Herman McKinney, David Okimoto, Randy Perin, Joyce N. Reyes, Elaine Schroeder and Harry Thomas.

To qualify for the award, a nominee must have shown distinction through outstanding service or innovation in one or more of the following areas: clinical casework practice; social work administration; scholarship and research; education; professional leadership; community and public service and advocacy. To nominate a deserving alum, submit a letter describing the nominee's achievements and justifying his or her distinction; and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references (not necessarily alumni) who support the nomination and are able to comment knowledgeably about the nominee's qualifications. Nominations must be received no later than **January 16, 2004**.

Please send your nominations to Attn: Distinguished Alum Committee, Dorothy Van Soest, Dean, UW School of Social Work, 4101 15th Ave NE, Box 354900, Seattle, WA 98105. For more details, please call 206-685-1692 or visit our website at <http://www.ssw.washington.edu/alumni>.

The School of Social Work: A Remarkable Community

Message from the Dean



The dean's team, from left to right – Margaret Spearmon, associate dean for academic affairs; Dorothy Van Soest, SSW dean, and Diane Morrison, associate dean for research

Among the many pleasures of being dean of the University of Washington School of Social Work are the daily reminders of what a remarkable place this is. In my interactions with students, they reveal how bright and creative they are. Their passion about making the world a better place is contagious. And it is clear that when they graduate, they do indeed make the world a better place. Our alums are

making a tremendous difference in the lives of countless children, families, communities and organizations. In this edition of the *Forum*, we feature a snapshot of the impressive leadership provided by some of our graduates. As we consider our work of educating professional social workers for almost 70 years, we can look back and recognize the scope of contributions that our alums have made, and continue to make in academia, government, nonprofit and for profit organizations, corporations, and the private sector.

Our faculty are incredibly talented with a long history of scholarly excellence and leadership in education and research. As evidence of our faculty accomplishments, our school has

four Hartford Scholars. This is a highly competitive and distinguished award and we are proud to feature their contributions in this newsletter.

We welcome Margaret Spearmon's return as associate dean for academic affairs, a position she held in the School prior to going to the University of North Carolina in 1999. Margaret joins Diane Morrison, associate dean for research, on the dean's team as we face a busy year. Together, we will continue our curricular innovations, prepare the self-study for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education in 2004-05, and further the development of our Institutes of Excellence. In this edition, we feature the first two: the Institute on Multi-generational Health, Development, and Equality and the Institute on Inequality and Social Structures. The network of developing institutes aim to create a strong synergy across our teaching, research, and service missions and encouraging new collaborations within and beyond the school while extending our social justice mission to new levels and populations.

We welcome you to be a part of this shared commitment to innovation. It is your ongoing support that enables us to continue our legacy of excellence and transformation.

New Institute Addresses the Causes and Structures of Inequality

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Interdisciplinary Team Seeks to Influence Public Policy

The Institute on Inequality and Social Structures was launched this year to focus the strengths of scholars and researchers, students, practitioners and policymakers to leverage their shared interests in health, economic and social inequality. The Institute will increase knowledge about the ways in which inequalities are structured and reproduced and use this knowledge to influence intellectual and policy agendas.

Marcia K. Meyers, Institute Director explains its goals: "We want to influence both the academic side – by increasing prominence of inequality questions on research agendas, and the policy development side – to move from a reactive position of creating a floor under the poorest, to a more proactive position of identifying sectors that reproduce structures of inequality."

The Institute is already building momentum by organizing an interdisciplinary workshop with the School's Northwest Institute for Children and Families. The January workshop will bring together economists, sociologists, social workers, scientists and public health professionals to focus on unequal participation in public programs and receipt of public benefits.

"This is an example of leveraging research models – the School will provide the intellectual, academic and research resources to this project and export the results to a broader field of researchers, academics and policymakers," Meyers continues.

To expand its impact, members of the Institute are raising funds to create a visiting scholars program as well as doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships in inequity studies.

One exciting result of the Institute's efforts will start this fall: the MSW Advanced Standing program has added a new focus on policy practice. With this emphasis, "Social workers can be trained to be effective in policy analysis and advocacy roles," Meyers says.

Members of the Institute include Meyers, David Takeuchi, associate director and initial affiliates Gunnar Almgren, Lewayne Gilchrist, Karen Lincoln, Taryn Lindhorst, Jennifer Romich, Emiko Tajima, Edwina Uehara and Karina Walters. For more information about the Institute, please contact Marcia K. Meyers via email, mkm36@u.washington.edu.

Multigenerational Health, Development and Equality Institute Spurs Innovation in Research, Education and Practice

Institute Transcends Age-based Approach

The Institute of Excellence for Multigenerational Health, Development and Equality was founded last fall to promote health, development and equality across generations. Using an innovative multigenerational and life span lens, the Institute seeks to build and communicate critical knowledge as well as develop policy and practice skills to advance health and social justice. "This approach really makes the Institute distinctive both nationally and internationally," says Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Institute director. "We're focusing on breaking down traditional paradigms of age-based policy, education and service."

The outcome of the Institute's research and collaboration will help professionals work across generations, as well as between and within generations. "We're addressing not only an increase in older adults worldwide, but also the dramatic increase in the number of generations within a family," Fredriksen-Goldsen describes. "We are examining how strengths, challenges and resiliency are passed across generations."

The MSW program is already benefiting from the Institute's research by incorporating a multigenerational context into first-year studies. The new curriculum responds to a large gap in skills and training for practitioners. A second-year program of study on multigenerational practice and policy/services is currently in development.

In the coming year, members will collaborate with practitioners and community-based agencies to identify challenges and opportunities in multigenerational practice. Input from community members will help prioritize the Institute's research and curriculum development. To continue its momentum, members of the Institute are seeking funds for pilot research, a national conference and student support.

Members of the Institute include Fredriksen-Goldsen, Nancy Hooyman, co-director and associate faculty Amy Ai, Katharine Cahn, Charles Emler, Jeannette Franks, Lewayne Gilchrist, Mary Gilmore, Tracy Harachi, Susan Kemp, Rona Levy, Karen Lincoln, Taryn Lindhorst, Maureen Marcenko, J'May Rivara and David Takeuchi. For more information about the Institute, please email multigen@u.washington.edu.

School Advances Geriatric Social Work Nationally with Greatest Number of Hartford Faculty Scholars

The John A. Hartford Foundation Faculty Scholars Program in Geriatric Social Work has selected faculty from the University of Washington School of Social Work each year since the initiative began, making the School home to the greatest number of scholars nationwide. This year, Karen Lincoln was chosen for the competitive program – only nine scholars were selected. Lincoln joins three distinguished Hartford Faculty Scholars from the School: Jeanette Semke, Charles A. Emlet and Amy Ai.

“This is a very prestigious program and it’s having a huge impact on the profession,” says Nancy Hooyman, SSW professor, dean emeritus and a member of the Hartford Faculty Scholars National Selection Committee. Already, the first three cohorts of scholars have raised more than \$8.5 million in grants and leveraged funds, given nearly 200 presentations, developed curricula projects and published numerous articles, book chapters and commissioned reports.

The Faculty Scholars Program addresses the lack of adequately trained social work practitioners to meet the social and health care needs of today and tomorrow’s rapidly increasing aging population. “What’s most exciting about the program is that it not only supports research, but prepares faculty to be outstanding educators,” Hooyman explains. “They gain a firm foundation in teaching, research methods and lobbying so they can become leaders in public policy.”

Funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by the Gerontological Society of America, the two-year awards of \$100,000 fund research, professional development and professional networking. The program also pairs scholars with national and institutional mentors. In addition to nurturing the leadership development of forty scholars, the program expects to increase student and faculty interest in of gerontological social work, supported by new knowledge of social work’s contributions to health outcomes. For more information, visit <http://www.geron.org/hartford/facscholarsprg.htm>.

SSW Hartford Scholars’ Research Topics

Karen Lincoln, 2003
Race Differences in Social Relations Among Older Adults

Amy Ai, 2002
The Long-Term Effects of Spirituality and Positive Attitude on the Health and Adjustment of Older Adults Following Cardiac Surgery

Charles A. Emlet, 2001
Exploration of Sources of Social Support for Older Adults with HIV/AIDS

Jeanette Semke, 1999
Community Residential Care for Older Adults with Neuropsychiatric Disorders (posted online at <http://www.geron.org/Hartford/semke.htm>)

SSW Continuing Education

Certificate programs are available in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Geriatric Mental Health and Human Services Management. For more information about certificates or individual classes, please visit the School’s Web site, <http://www.extension.washington.edu/ext/courses/SUBJECTS/socwk.asp>

Or call 206-616-0783. To be added to the SW Continuing Education mailing list, email requests@ese.washington.edu and specify “Social Work mailing list.”

Alumni Notes

Jean Balestrery, MSW ‘97 is currently living and working in bush Alaska. She commutes by small plane, snowmachine, and four wheelers to and from “the office” in the villages around Nome where she provides rural mental health services to the region’s indigenous population.

Kelsey S. Barnes, MSW ‘85 lives in Denver and was recently hired as an associate attorney for Spivey/Harris Health Policy Group, a consulting firm that assists safety net hospitals across the nation (J.D., University of Denver 1999). She is in the process of adopting a daughter from Kazakhstan.

Mary (Jorgensen) Everett, BASW ‘89, MSW ‘91 married Fred Everett in 2000 and moved to New Mexico where she is a licensed independent social worker. She works at the UNM Hospital as a case manager in the neurosurgery unit and says, “It’s the best job I’ve ever had.”

Karen Gonzales-Leitch, BASW ‘02, MSW ‘03 recently accepted the position of executive director at the AIDS Housing Association of Tacoma/Three Cedars.

Francisco (Frank) Irigon, MSW ‘79 received the second annual Helping Hands Award from the UWAA for his volunteer support this past year. He was also honored last fall with the Sam Kelly Award for his outstanding accomplishments in support of diversity at the University. Irigon is currently the executive director and original co-founder of the Washington Asian/Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse.

Merrilyn A. McDonald, MSW ‘93 is a licensed independent social worker who works for Harrison Hospital as an ER social worker and for Suquamish Tribe as a family preservation therapist. In 1998, her article “The Myth of Epidemic False Allegations of Sexual Abuse in Divorce Cases” was published in the *Court Review; the Journal of the American Judges Association*. She is also a Guardian ad Litem for children in King and Kitsap County.

Marilyn Melcher, MSW ‘73 is a retired clinical social worker living in Bothell. She is part of an informal network of social workers, friends, disabled and recovering people who gather for in-home group singing. Melcher invites those interested to join the fun, relaxation, and camaraderie – email wernermm@msn.com for more information.

Corrinne V. Minnard, MSW ‘98 published “A Strong Building: A Foundation of Protective Factors in Schools” in the December 2002 issue of *Children and Schools; a Journal of Social Work Practice*. She currently works as a school social worker with the Lake Stevens School District.

Joan Tierney, MSW ‘82 graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2001 and was admitted to the Washington State Bar and the Federal Bar United States District Court Western District of Washington. She is currently the associate director of Career Services at Seattle University School of Law and is a member of the faculty of Edmonds Community College Paralegal Program. Tierney is a pro bono attorney for the King County Bar’s Community Legal Services Programs and serves as a member of the Gender and Justice Committee as an attorney at law.

In Memoriam

Betty Lou (Jones) Green, MSW ‘63 died in Seattle on July 20, 2003 at the age of 83. She was retired from the Seattle YWCA.

Faculty Highlights

Emeritus faculty were honored by the School at a recent luncheon. **James W. Leigh, Jr., Allethia L. Allen, Lloyd J. Averill, Jack A. Ellis** (pictured left to right) joined their colleagues **John Longres, Florence Stier, James Anderson, Jr., Carl F. Hanneman, Henry Maier, Lloyd Averill, Moya Duplica, James Herrick and Cheryl Richey**.



Congratulations to **Karina Walters**, who will be the new director of the School’s PhD program this fall. Thank you to outgoing director **Lew Gilchrist** for her years of dedicated leadership.



Anna Haley-Lock, a new acting assistant professor at the School, will obtain her PhD in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago in December, 2003. Her research focuses on using organizational theory to understand and enhance human service program management and employee development. She is especially interested in how the design of work and workplaces facilitates or curbs workers’ professional and personal growth.

Correction

Belated congratulations to 2003 MSW graduates **Ursula J. Petters** and **Kristine V. Powell**. Their names were inadvertently omitted from the Spring/Summer issue of the *Forum*.