



In The Global Community

MSW Students Study Risk Factors for Family Violence in Peru

In the summer of 2003, masters of social work students Roberto Orellana and Sergio Tovar conducted an epidemiologic study in a Lima, Peru hospital. Sponsored by the University of Washington School of Public Health, the Multidisciplinary International Research and Training fellowship funded their Spanish-language study to identify risk factors for physical violence in Peruvian families. Orellana, originally from Guatemala and Tovar, a first-generation Mexican-American born in Washington, found they were able to bridge the Peruvian cultural gap through their common language, Spanish. "In social work, there is an emphasis on cultural competence and multiculturalism," explained Orellana. Now that they have designed, and translated parts of the study instruments, the materials can be used in Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Conducted under the supervision of Dr. Sixto Sanchez, head of Epidemiology at Hospital Nacional Dos de Mayo, the study included 308 participants. Orellana and Tovar designed surveys, interviewed participants and analyzed the results. The study provided an opportunity to put learning into practice, Orellana said. "It was a real affirmation of our commitment for doing social work with oppressed populations." The Ministry of Health in Peru plans to use the research results in its unit for women and families.

The study found several suspected risk factors for physical family violence: lack of steady employment and low family incomes as well as alcohol abuse (for aggressors). Consistent with research in the field, they also found that violence was more common for younger people – those under 40; people who had witnessed inter-parental violence as children; and in families where violence was an accepted form of discipline. Tovar said he was surprised by the low percentage of people who considered themselves victims or aggressors – approximately 28 percent. Orellana elaborated, "Through research, we discovered what a closeted issue this is. I am really proud of the work we did – that 308 people were willing to sit down and talk to us," he continued. "The best part of the study was the personal connection – the conversation turned out to be very therapeutic for them." For many people, it was the first time they had been asked about what happened in their homes. "Afterward, if a person was in distress" Orellana said, "We would debrief and, if necessary, refer victims and aggressors to supportive services."

In describing what he learned from the international experience, Tovar concludes, "It gives a broader understanding of differences and a better opportunity to work with people from other cultures." Orellana added that opportunities to study abroad. "...Expose people to other cultures and result in growth for the student and the people they meet – the exchange enriches everybody."

Orellana will apply his experiences toward an MSW degree this year, then continue his studies in public health. Tovar plans to complete his MSW degree in spring and work in public health administration.

SSW Russian Cultural Exchange Benefits Youth

Pacific Rim collaboration focuses on ways to help young adults become independent

Creating ties across the Pacific, faculty and staff from the School of Social Work, its Northwest Institute for Children and Families and the Downtown Branch of the YMCA of Greater Seattle partnered with You are Not Alone (YANA), a Russian charity and leaders from the city of Ussuriisk to discuss ways to help young people transition to independence. American and Russian youth care systems, as well as their drawbacks and opportunities were the topics of a rich collaboration between academics and researchers, government officials, service providers and youth participants.

The School's involvement in the exchange fits well with its global social justice mission explains Katharine Cahn, director of the Northwest Institute for Children and Families. "As a part of the School, our Institute is committed to making a global difference," she affirms. The School of Social Work is also well-poised geographically to build relationships with its Pacific Rim neighbors.

"Our world is shrinking," observes Susan O'Brien, who notes that Ussuriisk is closer to Seattle than to the Russian seat of government in Moscow. A School of Social Work MSW alumna, O'Brien directs the Transitions Program of the Downtown Branch of the YMCA of Greater Seattle, which helps young people move from foster care to independent living. O'Brien and YMCA international initiative coordinator Dina Hansen started and funded the exchange, winning a grant from the Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation.

During the year-long collaboration, Americans learned about the difficulties that older Russian orphans face seeking housing, employment and community support in an isolated Far East city with few social services. Russian social workers and government officials became aware of the advantages and disadvantages of the foster care system as well as the challenges that young Americans experience when they exit foster care. As a result, a new Russian model of working with youth was created, based on the YMCA Transitions Program. YANA professionals are now training staff members at local orphanages how to apply it.

In Ussuriisk, non-government organizations such as YANA and churches are just beginning to provide services. American partners focused on ways to help them grow through fundraising, community organizing and media relations. American academics and clinicians shared best practices in social work that were most compatible with Russian systems. Darian Shaw, administrator for the Northwest Institute of Children and Families and a former therapeutic foster parent, advocated for a family reunion model that involves children's extended families.

The exchange forged international bonds and overcame many cultural differences. "We came to realize how much we share in common," Shaw wrote. She hopes that, "Through our partnership we can be innovative, learn from one another and develop systems of change that create hope and sustenance for our children."

"The exchanges enrich our lives," Cahn adds. "Through them, we can look at ourselves from the outside."



MSW students Roberto Orellana and Sergio Tovar researched public health issues in Lima, Peru



SSW delegate Darian Shaw visits with Russian orphans during a Seattle-Ussuriisk cultural exchange

On the cover:
MSW students Roberto Orellana (pictured) and Sergio Tovar traveled to Machu Picchu at the end of their research fellowship in Lima, Peru. Photo by Amy Thompson, MSW '02



Global Vision for the School of Social Work

Message from the Dean

On many levels, things at the School have never been better. Our research activities continue to expand remarkably and we feature some of them in the *Focus* newsletter, enclosed. We are implementing our new MSW curriculum. We launched two Institutes of Excellence last spring. A new institute began this fall – the Global-Local Community Action Institute, which will be featured in the next newsletter. Two more institutes are in development.

After twenty years of global peace and justice work, I came to the University of Washington with the vision that our school would become known as a leader in international issues. As you will see here, it's a shared vision. Many of our faculty members are engaged in activities that demonstrate their commitment to engage with problems and their solutions from a global perspective.

More of our graduates are working with immigrants and refugees than ever before. Our alumni are often liaisons between the old world and the new, helping people to adapt to change, and assisting communities to redefine themselves and build on their strengths. Yet, the country in general and

the social work profession in particular are not prepared for this dramatic change. Social workers need to be ahead of the national learning curve in building hospitable communities and recognizing the interdependence of nations. As educators, we are well positioned to stimulate positive change for the human condition, and schools of social work need to prepare social workers who are astute global thinkers.

As we continue our positive focus on promoting change, the economic climate continues to challenge the School. While our ongoing budget challenges are serious, we have developed a sound fiscal plan to ensure that our work will continue to move forward. It is impressive that most of the international activities featured here are privately funded. Despite a difficult economic time, members of our School community continue to be a source of inspiration as they engage with fresh, creative ideas. Our challenge is to garner and direct more resources toward increasing social work understanding of global connections and to move our School forward on all levels. As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and interest.

School's International Activities Build Bridges Worldwide

The following activities are just a few examples of the ways that members of the School contribute to international social work locally and around the world.

The **Northwest Institute for Children and Families** is part of a global conversation about the child welfare application of restorative justice principles with practitioners and scholars from the U.K., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as indigenous peoples in North America.

James Whittaker is a founding member and an associated board member of European Scientific Association for Residential and Foster Care. He serves on editorial review boards for the international social service journals, *The British Journal of Social Work*; *Child and Family Social Work* (U.K.) and *International Journal of Child and Family Welfare* (Belgium). Whittaker's works have been translated into eight languages. **Peter Pecora** and Whittaker are part of a group of Italian, American, Canadian, British, Israeli, and Irish researchers who are sharing data to advance the field.

Lynn Behar is involved in a social work exchange with Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel that includes school counselors, high school students, politicians, and others. She is membership chair for the International Association of Oncology Social Work. Behar and **Pauline Erera** co-founded the UW Interdisciplinary Qualitative Research Group, an affiliate with the International Institute of Qualitative Methodologies. Erera has several research projects in Thailand and Israel.

Mary Gillmore co-authored a paper with colleagues from the Netherlands and Great Britain, "Sex Education as Health Promotion: What does it Take?"

A. Myrth Ogilvie helped the Metis group form "Healing Waters: A Metis and Family Preservation Society." She also trains foster parents in British Columbia on attachment and bonding issues for children in foster care.

Ratnesh Nagda received a faculty training grant to explore collaborative peace and social justice initiatives in South Africa and Oslo, Norway. **Elise DeGooyer** is involved with Seattle Women in Black, which promotes justice and peace in the spirit of the International Women in Black movement.

Rona L. Levy is involved in the "Rome Committee," an international group that defines the diagnostic criteria of functional GI disorders.

Lynn Carrigan trained social workers at MESE (Minores en Situaciones Extraordinarias) in Mexico to provide practicum experiences for UW students. Carrigan is a liaison to several other schools of social work, and arranges practicum experiences for students in Peru, the Philippines, Ecuador, Australia and other sites. **SSW faculty and staff** also helped students create international practica in India and Korea.

J'May Rivara is working with several students who are doing overseas practica in Peru and Thailand.

Rosemary Ryan is a member of the board and International Committee of the Lifelong AIDS Alliance. She helped create a partnership between Lifelong and Via Libre, a CBO in Lima, Peru that provides HIV/AIDS care and prevention services.

Jeannette Franks spent a month in Nicaragua with the group "El Porvenir" (for the future), an outgrowth of a Habitat for Humanity project. She brought medical supplies, visited clinics, interviewed residents and service providers and wrote a report on health care issues for the Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Island Association.

James DeLong is on the board of the Training Team of Amigos de las Americas, which fosters youth-to-youth partnerships throughout the Americas, trains youth to be community leaders, and promotes youth empowerment. He also recruits students for Probigua (Proyecto Bibliotecas Guatemala), in La Antigua, Guatemala, which funds village libraries and prepares rural teenagers to be teachers in their home villages.

Rico Catalano and **Barbara J. McMorris** are conducting an investigative longitudinal study of risk and protective factors and their impact on the development of substance use, related violent or delinquent behaviors, and prosocial academic competency among a random sample of almost 6,000 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students in Washington State and Victoria, Australia. Catalano is working with the Gatehouse project on a test of a whole school approach to prevent depression and self-harm in Melbourne, and a test of Communities That Care, a community-based planning and prevention approach, in multiple Australian cities.

Paula Nurius visited Hokusei Gakuen University's School of Social Welfare in Hokkaido, Japan where she served as lecturer and consulted with human service agency staff on assessment and services for women victims of violence.

Tracy Harachi works with **Ellen Minotti**, a SSW graduate and director of social services in Cambodia and is collaborating with the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Institute of Sociology in Hanoi, Vietnam as well as with other partners in Korea, Japan and Fiji.

Bu Huang is researching "self-control" in children in Taiwan as well as HIV-related projects in Mainland China.

Ellen Wilcox works with the Tibetan Healing Fund, a Seattle-based NGO with a mission to improve maternal and child health in rural Tibet.

Marilynn Moch is commissioner for the Human Rights Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers; co-chair of the Committee for International Human Rights Inquiry, a U.S./Canadian-based social work network for human rights; and currently helps several international organizations increase foreign charities' accountability in Latin America.

Barb Crook consults with groups such as: the Health Alliance International on community mobilization related to women's syphilis testing in prenatal clinics in Mozambique; Save The Children in Malawi on developing a locally-made clean delivery kit to protect women and babies from infections; and PATH to help design/facilitate an international conference on involving men to improve women's reproductive health.

SSW Dean **Dorothy Van Soest** recently made a presentation at the Center for Disease Control based on her book, *The Global Crisis of Violence: Common Problems, Universal Causes, Shared Solutions*.

Jennifer Beyers volunteers as an evaluation consultant for a new Seattle-based after-school program called OneWorld Now! The two-year program for high school juniors helps them learn Arabic and Chinese, study abroad, and participate in globally-oriented internships.

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."

BASW Students Think Globally, Act Locally

Students in Stan de Mello's class turn global concepts into action through local agencies with international ties. The BASW Community Service Learning course focuses on real-world experience. According to de Mello, the ultimate goal of service learning is, "Helping students feel that they are making a difference in a significant way." He emphasizes that hands-on opportunities for undergraduate students help them learn leadership skills. "They can also gain advocacy experience as well as learn about grant writing, marketing, community service and civic engagement."

Students participate in the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Native Youth Action Project and Maryknoll (Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America). At Maryknoll, students help HIV-positive Cambodian women sell their quilts internationally, giving them income to support their families and buy AIDS-fighting drugs. "It's a win-win situation for everybody," declares Brother Tim Raible, regional director for Maryknoll. "People in Cambodia and Thailand benefit from the students' professional experience, Maryknoll benefits from student involvement with international programs and the students have a chance to experience the work firsthand."

Jeff Smith, Northwest Regional Indian Program director for AFSC and a 1990 MSW graduate says that the partnership has been a boon to his programs and the students who participate. Students organized teach-outs, produced special events and even edited a video for the Indian Program.

International Social Work Committee Transcends Borders

In today's global society, social problems and solutions often move beyond countries and governments, requiring social work to adopt a worldwide perspective. "Social workers in this country need to understand how U.S. policies may contribute to worsening social conditions globally, and the impact of this on populations we serve. We also have much to learn from our counterparts abroad who are initiating innovative interventions to promote social justice in their regions," stresses Nancy Farwell. Developing international social work curriculum, and facilitating practicum opportunities, research, and faculty exchange are just some of the ways the International Social Work Committee incorporates international perspectives and content into professional education. In response to widespread student interest, students and faculty have worked together to design and implement a first-year MSW course: International Social Work and Development. Moving forward, committee members seek to infuse global perspectives throughout the curriculum.

Committee members have developed practicum opportunities in countries including Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Wales, India, Thailand, Philippines, Peru, Ecuador, Canada, and Mexico. In addition, faculty and staff on the committee are developing partnerships in the Russian Far East, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Israel, Eritrea, Mexico and Ecuador, which advance collaboration across borders. The committee sponsors International Social Work Extravaganzas, films and presentations by students, faculty, activists, practitioners, and human rights groups, and builds linkages with local organizations involved in international work.

International Social Work Committee Members

Grace Block
Bobb Boggs
Lynn Carrigan
Stan de Mello
Pauline Erera
Nancy Farwell
Tracy Harachi
Jane Macy
Diana Pearce
Darian Shaw
Sue Sohng

Global Classroom Project: Partnership between SSW Students, Local East African Social Service Agencies

Forced migration, resettlement, and transnational identities – these are just some of the global topics that students addressed in Nancy Farwell's Global Classroom Project. This course examined the spectrum of displacement experience: flight, repatriation, or resettlement in a third country, with a focus on Horn of Africa communities from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. Class participants developed an understanding of the complex networks of resources, identities, and challenges newcomers face. They also gained empowerment practice skills working with diverse refugee communities.

For their course projects, students partnered with two local agencies: Horn of Africa Services (HOAS) and the National Union of Eritrean Women in Seattle (NUEWS). Students collaborating with HOAS developed a needs assessment that addressed gaps between East African families and Seattle schools, contributing to a proposal that garnered \$150,000 for youth programs over three years. Working with NUEWS, students produced an agency brochure, resource list, and a program assessment. This spring, the course will feature a bi-national partnership with social work students in Eritrea.

"Offering students the opportunity to apply culturally-competent skills through community experience is a great example of a partnership that develops strengths-based services and reinforces the integration of practice and research," Farwell describes.

Alumni Notes

William Dethlefs, MSW '81 received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 2002 and is currently the assistant director for alumni relations in the Health Sciences at Stony Brook University. He was recently honored as the 2003 social worker of the year by the NASW Suffolk Division, New York State.

Calvin Hermanson, MSW '99 currently works as the senior social worker at Palladia Inc.'s Esperanza Transitional Residence, a drug-free program in East Harlem. Prior to that, he was the social worker at Harbor House, a treatment program for individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse issues. His future plans are to enter medical school to pursue psychiatry.

Dianna Kunce, MSW '95 recently completed a Master of Divinity at Regent College in Vancouver, BC and is now pursuing ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church USA. She is working with **Denise Easter, BA '86, MSW '91**, to launch a religious nonprofit organization called Elger Bay Renewal Ministries on Camano Island.

Michael S. Lee, MSW '86 (LCSW, LMHP) currently owns and administers Ada Family Services, PLLC, a full-service mental health clinic in Boise, Idaho. He is active with the NASW Mentoring Program, provides clinical supervision and maintains a full-time therapy caseload serving children, adults and families.

Scott Edward Rutledge, PhD '02 is an assistant professor at the Florida State University School of Social Work. He is also researching the AIDS stigma in Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago and coordinating HIV prevention and AIDS care community planning for eight counties in the Florida Panhandle.

School Highlights

Gino Aisenberg, assistant professor, presented "Depression among Latina Mothers and Young Adolescents Exposed to Community Violence" at the Critical Research Issues in Latino Mental Health conference.

Lucy P. Jordan, third year doctoral student, was awarded a two-year \$50,000 dissertation grant from the U.S. Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services to study the relationship between child care subsidies and job tenure for low-income single mothers.

Laurie Miller, BASW senior was awarded the Faculty Auxiliary Scholarship for combining academic achievement with a commitment to community service for 2003-2004. She is a double major in Social Welfare and Economics and is interested in pursuing social service program development after graduation.

In Memoriam

The School was sorrowed to learn **James W. Leigh Jr.**, professor emeritus, died unexpectedly. A full tribute will be made to him in the next issue.

New Faculty

Amelia Gavin joined the School of Social Work this January as an acting assistant professor. She will receive her PhD in June 2004, from the Joint Program in Social Work and Political Science at the University of Michigan. Her dissertation is entitled, "Depressive Symptoms and Preterm Delivery among African American Women: A Socioeconomic Life Course Perspective." Additionally, her research interests include risk factors associated with depressive disorders among African American women.

Alumni Connections

We want to better serve you and your input is important. Please visit our alumni Web site at www.ssw.washington.edu/alumni to fill out the new alumni survey. You can also join the SSW email listserv to receive timely news about the School and learn about upcoming events. We try to limit the number of emails to six or fewer per year.



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