

PhD Student News from the School of Social Work

From the Editor

As quickly as one year ends, another follows. Third year students are working toward proposals, while many second year students have just finished the first part of comprehensive exams, and the newest cohort has just made it to the last quarter of their first year. Already, the PhD Committee is reviewing applications for next year and preparing to welcome in a new class. This newsletter serves to highlight some of the many successes of our students and program.

Upcoming Events

3/28 NASW 6-8 Networking night, Tiny's Coffee, 2031 NE MLK Blvd, Portland

4/28-4/29: The First Annual National Conference on Social Work With and For Men in Tuscaloosa, AL

6/3-6/6 The 15th International conference on Learning. Chicago, IL

6/6-6/7 20th Annual Ethnographic and Qualitative Conference (EQRC). Ceaderville, OH.

Talk About Teaching: On 4/2 at 4pm, 4/16 at noon, and 5/7 at 4pm, several faculty members will gather in the PhD Conference Room to watch and discuss videos about teaching in MSW programs. PhD students who are teaching or will be teaching this year are invited to attend. If you cannot make it, the videos are streamed on the internet at www.socialwork.buffalo.edu

Deadlines for Abstracts!

The deadline to submit abstracts for CSWE is 3/28, and abstracts for SSWR are due 4/30. Talk to your advisor or fellow students about submitting and presenting.

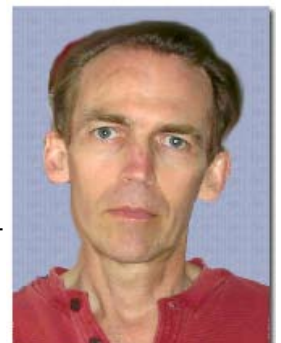
2008 NASW Conference

Portland State University was well represented at the recent Oregon National Association of Social Work (NASW) conference, held March 8. Second-year PhD student **JungHee Bae** co-presented with faculty member Pam Miller. Their session was titled *Communication at the End-of-Life: Social Work, Hospice and Oregon's Death with Dignity Act*. Maria Talbott, PhD Program Director, presented with visiting researcher Marcos Bote, PhD. Their session was titled *Hoarding Among Older People*. **Mary Dallas Allen** and **Leah**

Brookner, both students in the program, presented *Mental Health Consultation: Partnerships with Diverse Rural and Urban Early Childhood Programs*. **Beckie Child**, a first year PhD/MSW student, presented with Laurie Powers, PhD and Mary Oschwald, PhD, both of the RRI, *Safer and Stronger: Screening for Interpersonal Violence Amongst Women with Disabilities*. Finally, Catherine Beckett, a current adjunct instructor in the MSW program, presented *More of What's Right: Building Resiliency in Our Clients and Ourselves*.

Scholarship Recipients

Several students were recognized this year with academic scholarships. **Jody Becker-Green** is the recipient of the John Longres Dissertation Research Scholarship. **Terry Chianello** is a recipient of an Oregon Sports Lottery Scholarship for the current year. **Jutta Ataia** was awarded the 2008 Summer Training on Aging Research Topics in Mental Health (START-MH) Program Scholarship and the Hartford Doctoral Fellows Program Pre-Dissertation Award. **Diane Cole** received the 2007-2008 ASHE/Lumina Fellowship Program Scholarship. Finally, **Karen Morgaine** has been awarded the Feminist Scholarship award at CSWE for the paper she submitted based on her dissertation.



John Casey has had many recent accomplishments, including presentation and publication.

Quotation Corner

"The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." -- Oliver Wendell Holmes

"It's not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity." -- Francis Bacon Sr

"The growth of understanding follows an ascending spiral rather than a straight line." -- Joanna Fields

"We do not grow absolutely, chronologically. We grow sometimes in one dimension, and not in another; unevenly. We grow partially. We are relative. We are mature in one realm, childish in another. The past, present, and future mingle and pull us backward, forward, or fix us in the present. We are made up of layers, cells, constellations." -- Anais Nin

"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn." -- Gloria Steinem

Program Progress

Congratulations to the students who have just successfully completed the first portion of their comprehensive exams- days upon days of grueling tests in areas of social problems and research methods. When you see these students, be sure to say congrats! **Jutta Ataie, JungHee Bae, Terry Chianello, Brianne Hood, SungHwan Noh, Jolanta Piatkowska.**

Yay for our graduating students! The following students have successfully defended their dissertations and will graduate at June's commencement: **Kitty Huffstutter, Karen Morgaine, and Becca Sanders.**

Several students have defended their dissertation proposals. They are: **John Casey, Greg Forehand, Heidi Allen, Jody Becker-Green, and Karen Tvedt, Leslie Wuest, Leslie Wuest and Lisa Stewart.**

Jenny Powers has completed her specialization paper, fulfilling the last of her requirements for the comprehensive exams.

Publishing & Presentation

Recent student publications and presentations include:

John Casey is presenting his specialization paper, *Males, Masculinity, and Suicide: The Hazards of Seeking Help*, at The First Annual National Conference on Social Work With and For Men to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL on April 28 and 29, 2008 .

John and Dan have also worked on an article together : Coleman, D., & Casey,

J. (2007). Therapeutic Mechanisms of Suicidal Ideation. *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention* 28(4), 198-203.

Peggy Nygren continues to work in research at OHSU, and has two recently published pieces: Peggy Nygren, MA; Rongwei Fu, PhD; Michele Freeman, MPH; Christina Bougatsos, BS; Mark Klebanoff, MD, MPH; and Jeanne-Marie Guise, MD, MPH. (2008). Evidence on the Benefits and Harms of Screening and Treating Pregnant Women Who Are Asymptomatic for Bacterial Vaginosis: An Update Review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Annals of Internal Medicine*;

Mary Ann Dearborn is presenting a workshop on *Healthy Relationships: A Sexual Assault Prevention Program For Middle-School Youth in Rural Oregon* at the 2008 Adolescent Sexuality Conference ("Making It Real") in Seaside, Oregon, on April 15th.

Jenny Powers co-presented *Men with Disabilities and Abuse* at the Male Survivor's 11th International Conference last October along with Mary Oswald., and presented *Measuring Self-determination Among Youth in Foster Care with Disabilities* at the Oregon Association of Vocational Special Needs Personnel

2008 Conference in February. She also contributed to an edited book: Powers, J. Identifying evidence-based practices in mental health. In *Evidence-Based Field Manual*. (K. Corcoran and B. Thomlinson, eds.). Oxford UK: Oxford University Press. (Invited and Refereed), and an article: Powers, L. E., Curry, M. A., McNeff, E., Saxton, M., Powers, J. L., Oschwald, M. (In-press). End the silence: A survey of abuse against men with disabilities. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.

Brianne Hood co-presented a paper titled *Building capacity of community-based preschool programs: The process and outcomes of an organizational-level intervention* at the 21st Annual Research Conference, A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base in Tampa, FL at the end of February.



First year students cool off in Rhododendron near Mt. Hood. Left to Right, they are Amy Salazar, Amanda Fixsen, Aimee Bellmore, Rebecca Arredondo, Kevin Jones, and Jen Blakeslee. Not pictured from first year cohort: Mike McCarthy and Beckie Child

Visiting Scholar: Marcos Bote, PhD



Marcos Bote

Marcos Bote is currently a Post-doctoral Visiting Scholar in the School of Social Work. He obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Murcia in Spain., and was a Marie Cure European Union Fellow at the University of Surrey in England. His research has been in the areas of love in old age, and sleep. Currently he is researching hoarding and other topics in aging at our University. He is also teaching Spanish for social workers in the MSW program, and lectures in areas of gerontology, international social policy and social theory.

*** **Mary Dallas Allen** has been offered a faculty position at the University of Alaska! Congratulations, Mary Dallas! ***

March is
Social Work
Recognition Month!

Student Spotlight: Kitty Huffstutter



Kitty at the Lincoln Monument in Washington DC

Katherine "Kitty" Huffstutter defended her dissertation in December. The dissertation is titled *Family-friendly workplace culture, flexibility, and workplace support for dependent care: The perspectives of human resource professionals*. She has presented Work-life issues at several conferences, including *The Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association* in 2006 and 2007, and *The 11th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference* in 2007, and *The WorldatWork Total Rewards Conference & Exhibition* in 2006. She has three publications in press: (1) Rosenzweig, J. M., Brennan, E. M., Huffstutter, K., & Bradley, J. (in press). Child care and employed parents of children with emotional or behavioral disorders. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders* and (2) Rosenzweig, J. M., Roundtree, L., & Huffstutter, K. (in press). The workplace: Work-life integration, barriers and supports.

In J. Rosenzweig & E. Brennan (Eds.), *Supporting families of children with emotional or behavioral disorders: Achieving work-life integration in the community*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes, and (3) Rosenzweig, J. M., Barnett, R. C., Huffstutter, K., & Stewart, L. (in press). *Work-life integration: History, Theory and Strategy*. In J. Rosenzweig & E. Brennan (Eds.), *Supporting families of children with emotional or behavioral disorders: Achieving work-life integration in the community*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes

Kitty has taught several sections of HBSE in the MSW program, and also guest lectures at other local universities. Kitty is currently a project collaborator on the RTC Work-Life Integration Project. She is also working at The Children's Center, a counseling center in Vancouver. She will test for her LCSW this summer. She plans for a future in Work-Life Research, and hopes to work with a university or non-profit.

News from Sweden

Jean Kjellstrand, PSU SSW PhD student, reports that all is well with her Fulbright year in Sweden. Interested in children of incarcerated parent, Jean has spent the year learning more about Sweden's Criminal Justice and Child and Family Welfare systems; examining how these systems as well as the state support at-risk children and families. Jean has also been immersing herself into the community and participating in major Swedish activities as a way to learn more about Swedish culture. In December, she was fortunate to receive an invitation to the Nobel Award ceremony which was both exciting and inspirational. She also received an OUS-SYLFF scholarship for next year.

Most recently, Jean joined the masses in the annual Vasaloppet cross country ski race; a 90 km (56 mile) race that attracts 14,000 skiers from Sweden and around the world to commemorate Gustav Eriksson Vasas (who later became a king of Sweden) escape from the Danes in 1521. Jean is happy to report that she finished the race in 7 hours and 38 minutes, the 199th woman-- not bad for a non-native! She's looking forward to her return to Portland in the summer of 2008.

Faculty Spotlight: Stephanie Wahab, PhD

Stephanie Wahab joined the School of Social Work faculty in September 2005, and has made a considerable impact in a few short years. As Chair of the Diversity (SW539) committee she has helped bring diversity curriculum to the MSW program, which has kickstarted a larger conversation in our school about diversity and social justice. She chairs the Promotion, Tenure, and Merit Committee, is a Senator on PSU's Faculty Senate, and a member of the PhD committee.

Stephanie contributes to the development of many PhD students. She has acted as a mentor to those interested in teaching, and was the Chair of Karen Morgaine's dissertation committee (Karen successfully defended her dissertation in 11/07). She is currently Chairing Moshoula Capous Desyllas' Dissertation committee, a photo-voice project with commercial sex workers. She is also a member of Judy Vang's committee.

Her current research includes "Understanding Transitional Housing Programs for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence: A Qualitative Study"; "Increasing Colorectal Cancer

Screening in Primary Care Settings," "CBPR to Improve Depression Care for African-American Domestic Violence Survivors." She is also a consultant on a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault project, and is collaborating with three other researchers on a systematic review of publications from 1950-present on exotic/strip dancing in the US.

Stephanie brings specialization in areas of sex work, motivational interviewing, and qualitative research. Those who know her appreciate her very supportive and collaborative approach, and the way she values the voices of those she works with, whether they are peers, students, or research participants. The SSW benefits very much from her warm presence.



Stephanie Wahab

The Child Welfare Partnership/Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services

The Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services is housed within the GSSW, and invests in the development of many PhD Students. **Melanie Sage** holds a Graduate Research Assistant position at the Center. She has worked on a variety of programs in this role, including developing a training for Oregon Judges and working with a team in designing and facilitating training for mandated child abuse reports to increase the awareness of adolescent needs and development. Melanie has aided in the development of web-based surveys for the local child welfare service area through her work at the Center, and is currently working with another PhD student, **Mike Ponder**, on a workforce survey that will be administered to child welfare workers across the State of Oregon. The Center also sponsored Melanie's recent trip to the Society for Social Work Research in Washington DC, where she was able to attend many conference sessions on child welfare workforce issues and bring ideas and methods for collecting and approaching data back to the University.

Don Schweitzer is a PhD student who is working with the Center as the project manager for the Communities Empowering Youth (CEY) project. The CEY project entails conducting site visits of the 10 Federally funded Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs in Oregon. During site visits the research team conducts one-on-one interviews with program administrators, program staff, community stakeholders and focus groups with youth who are participants of the program. Data gathered from these visits will be used to create a case study for each individual agency, which they will be able to use for capacity building. Additionally, data from all agencies will be combined to create a logic model of statewide services, and eventually Standards of Practice for RHY, for which there is currently none.

Brianne Hood is a PhD student working on the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) project and on the Subsidized Guardianship (SG) project. CTFO funds numerous child abuse prevention programs across the State of Oregon and the Partnership generates reports of the various activities that CTFO funds. The SG project team seeks to better understand subsidized guardianships as well as why they dissolve by conducting interviews with caregivers, reviewing case files, and analyzing administrative data. She will take a break from the Partnership this summer to go teach English in Korea.

Samantha Blanchard is doing her research practicum with a Center

advisor, Linda Newton-Curtis.

The Center Director, Katharine Cahn, recently chaired specialization paper committees for both Melanie Sage and Christie Halvor. Katharine was also instrumental in supporting Sara Schwartz, a recent PhD graduate, in bridging relationships in the local child welfare community while Sara conducted her dissertation research using a local sample of case-workers. Katharine has also helped students develop relationships with important child welfare community stakeholders by including students in meetings with child welfare partners and attracting nationally known researchers to the University to visit and discuss child welfare research issues.

Previously called The Child Welfare Partnership, the name of the office was recently changed to The Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services to better encompass the broadening work the office has taken on. Responsible for training all child welfare workers across the state at a campus in Salem, the Center has recently adopted new roles in training Self Sufficiency workers, and has just rolled out a new training for all child welfare supervisors in Oregon. The Center has valuable access to statewide child welfare data that can be made available to PhD students with interest in child welfare issues, and researchers at the Center are involved in several program evaluation projects. The Center also works frequently with community partners, such as the Juvenile Rights Project and the Oregon Department of Human Services.



Mary Ann Dearborn feeds the deer who visit her back yard