

# PhD Student News from the School of Social Work



## From the Editor

This quarter brings much good news from our Department. It has been a successful quarter for PhD students defending proposals and dissertations, receiving awards and appointments, publishing and personal joys.

This issue highlights our many successes and also links students to sources of financial support and interesting research opportunities.

## Upcoming Events

5/23: Leslie Wuest's proposal defense, 1-3.

**5/31-6/2: Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health Annual Conference. Portland, OR Hilton.**

6/8: Kitty Huffstutter's dissertation defense, 2:30-5:30.

6/1, 6/12: Info sessions on how to apply for Fulbright Scholarships. East Hall room 223, PSU.

6/11: Karen Tevdt's proposal defense, 10-12:30

**6/16: Graduation. 10am. Rose Garden. Graduating PhD students will be hooded by their dissertation chairs. GSSW Graduation 3pm at Peter Scott Center (PSU gym).**

6/19-6/20: Northwest Health Foundation 3rd Community-Based Participatory Research Conference. Portland, OR, Oregon Convention Center. (Call for presentations still open.)

9/18 (tentative): New student orientation, and later a potluck dinner at Maria Talbott's house for all PhD students.

10/27- 10/30: CSWE Annual Program Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

## Newly appointed

**Judy Vang**, 3rd year PhD student, was recently appointed to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) 'Eliminating Mental Health Disparities Workgroup.' This is an initiative that supports the CMHS Transformation Agenda by reflecting the Center's belief that mental health systems change must include strategies to reduce and eliminate disparities in care. The mission of the workgroup is to ensure that services and supports are accessible and culturally and linguistically competent in order to meet the mental health needs of culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse populations. She is one of

an estimated 40 people across this country examining how to better serve people of color and underserved communities. She recently flew to DC for the first workgroup meeting.

In PhD faculty news, **Laurie Powers** was just appointed Interim Associate Dean for Research at the RRI; **Heidi Herinckx** has agreed to serve as Interim Assistant Director, **Nancy Koroloff** has accepted the position of Associate Vice Provost for Research, and **Diane Yatchmenoff** has stepped down from the position of Assistant Director of the RRI, and has announced a move to Maryland. **Vicki Cotrell** and **Stephanie Wahab** have both just been chosen to receive faculty enhancement awards.

Faculty candidate **Ann Curry-Stevens** has been invited and accepted a job at our School. Her research interests include income inequality and privilege.

We wish these fabulous women the best of luck.

## Quotation Corner

"There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after." -- JRR Tolkien

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." -- Carl Sagan

"Science is built upon facts, as a house is built of stones; but an accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house." -- Henri Poincaré

"The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' ('I found it!') but rather 'hmm....that's funny...'" -- Isaac Asimov

"Contrary to what Asimov says, the most exciting phrase in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' or 'That's funny...,' it's 'Your research grant has been approved.'" -- John Alejandro King



Sunghwan Noh

## Program Progress

Congratulations to our graduating students! The following students have successfully defended their dissertations and will graduate at June's commencement:

**Natalie Diane Cawood.** Social Workers Addressing Student-perpetrated Interpersonal Violence in the School Context: Knowledge and Use of Evidence-supported Programs

**Patricia Ebert.** Sons Providing Care at End-of-Life: Common Threads and Nuances

**Jodi L. Kerbs.** Family Participation: Exploring the Role it plays in Outcomes for Youth with Serious Emotional Disorders

**Andrew John McCormick.** Training Social Workers in Palliative Care: Evaluation of a Self-Efficacy Model. He plans to work on a palliative care grant and publications, and also return to hobbies of running, bird watching, and ballroom dancing.

**Sara Laura Schwartz.** Engaging our Workforce: How Job Demands and Resources Contribute to Social Worker Burnout, Engagement and Intent to Leave. She begins her post-doctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley on July 1.

**Patricia A. Zimmerman.** Adolescent Mothers: Youth in Need of Developmentally Appropriate Services. Pati is opening an office to continue private practice work with victims of trauma, and expanding her services to include attachment parenting training to adoptive parents, as well as providing consultation and advocacy within state and federal systems for senior citizens and their families.

Several students have successfully defended their dissertation proposals.

They are:  
Mary Dallas Allen 2/07  
Jody Becker-Green 3/07  
Bobbie Sue Arias 4/07  
Jean Kjellstrand 4/07  
Mandy Davis 5/07

**John Casey** has passed the research portion of the Comprehensive Exam, fulfilling Part 1 of exam requirements.

**Lisa Stewart** has completed her specialization paper, fulfilling all comprehensive exam requirements.

## Publishing & Presentation

Recent student publications and presentations include:

**Mary Dallas Allen** is presenting at the RTC Building on Family Strengths (BFS) Conference. Her workshop titled, "Mental Health Consultation in Early Childhood Programs: How Do We know It Works?" is a collaborative effort with Roxane Kaufmann and Kathy Hepburn of Georgetown University, Deborah Perry of Johns Hopkins University, Beth Green of NPC Research, and Eileen Brennan.

**Melanie Sage** and **Brianne Hood** and MSW student **Jessie Green** are presenting a poster at the BFS Conference titled *Importance of Head Start-Kindergarten Teacher Communication when Children have Emotional or Behavioral Challenges*.

**Jenny Powers** and incoming PhD student **Jennifer Blakeslee** are presenting a paper at the BFS conference titled *Self Determination and Transitional Outcomes of Youth with Disabilities in Foster Care*.

**Heidi Allen** has presented two papers; *Monitoring the safety-net at the local level: Oregon's Health Indicators Project (HIP)*. Allen, H., Edlund, T., Smith, J. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, June 2007 *and* *How we measure matters: Conceptualizing insurance status when evaluating unmet need among low-income adults*. Allen, H., Wright, B., Carlson, M. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, June 2007.

**Lisa Stewart** presented her team's paper at the 87th Annual Convention of the Western Psychological Association in Vancouver, Canada on May 3. "Assessing the Business Case for Flexible Work Arrangements". Brennan, E.M., Rosenzweig, J.M., **Huffstutter K.J.**, **Stewart, L.M.**, Coleman, D.



Rebecca Block (2006 PhD Grad) and Sara Schwartz

## Sage represents School of Social Work in receiving University awards



Melanie Sage and President Bernstine

On April 26, Melanie Sage received an award for the 2007 Essay Contest sponsored by the President's Commission on the Status of Women at the Third Annual President's Diversity Awards Event. Her essay spoke to ways Universities can continue recruitment and retention of female faculty, address issues of current disparity in tenure assignments, and encourage women leadership on campus.

She received a \$500 award, and her essay will be published as a compilation with past years' winners.

Melanie will also be honored at a luncheon on June 6 as recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding University Service for her involvement in student groups, student teaching, social service research, and her participation in departmental committees.

## Student Spotlight: Jean Kjellstrand

Jean successfully defended her dissertation proposal in April, and has just been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Sweden. The Fulbright is a competitive program



Jean Kjellstrand and her daughter Maria, son Bjorn, and husband Torsten

established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to “enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Jean is studying resilience and trauma in children at risk, especially those in the child welfare system who have incarcerated parents. While

in Sweden, Jean will examine the contributions of political, cultural and economic factors on child well-being and compare how researchers and other professionals address the problem of trauma there as compared to the United States.

Jean, her husband, two children (Bjorn, 16 and Maria, 14), and two Springer spaniels moved to Portland 3 years ago for jobs and school. In her free time, she enjoys running, biking, hiking, camping, and traveling with her family. She looks forward to doing more cross country skiing while in Sweden!

Jean is a member of the Oregon Program Evaluators Network, National Association of Social Workers, Society for Social Work and Research, and Society for Prevention Research.

## Committee & Club News

Jenny Powers and Brianne Hood are serving on the PhD Committee. They report that 8 applicants have been accepted to the incoming 2007 class. There were many strong applicants. The result is a diverse group of people with interests ranging in child welfare, disabilities, mental health, health care, and justice system issues. The committee has also spent time this year reviewing data from student satisfaction surveys that were collected last year. Discussion about improving the comps is ongoing. Some ideas proposed include taking the exam at school, individualized exams, and changing the social problem format. No decisions have been made, but major changes are not expected for next year.”

Melanie Sage is the PhD rep at Social Work Faculty Meetings. Efforts are being made to share “Talk About Teaching” sessions with PhD students who seek support in their student teaching efforts.

The PSSWA (PhD Students in Social Work Association) continues to organize events. The most recent, held on Feb 6th, was a lecture on how to apply for an academic job. At cookie mixers, students have the opportunity to talk with faculty about research interests and connect with students in other cohorts. On May 22 Melanie and Jenny are hosting an informal student talk about comps. If you would like to suggest a PSSWA event, contact this year’s co-chairs, Lisa Stewart and Jenny Powers.

## Faculty Spotlight: Laurie Powers, PhD

Laurie Powers, Professor in the School of Social Work, has many important roles within the school. She teaches in the PhD Social Problem sequence, as well as offering policy electives and working with PhD students. She is currently serving as a mentor, specialization paper chair, and research practicum supervisor to Jenny Powers. She also supervises a practicum experience for Sunghwan Noh. She is faculty advisor to JungHee Bae, advises Marjorie McGee, and is on Peg Sandeen’s dissertation committee.

Laurie is a PI at the Research and Training Center, and was recently appointed to the position of Associate Dean for Research/Director of Regional Research Institute. She is an alum of University of Rochester State (BA), University of New York at Buffalo (MS) and University of Oregon (PhD). Her practice interests include adolescent transition to adulthood, interpersonal violence, person-directed support and self-help. She teaches in the areas of social problem evaluation, policy

analysis, disability, diversity and social justice. Her research interests include promotion of self-determination by individuals with diverse abilities and their families and communities, youth development and transition, interpersonal violence, person-directed services, peer-delivered services, and mental health transformation.

Laurie conducts participatory action research with adolescents and adults, and is as strong an advocate as a researcher. She models respect for consumers and a belief in the value of self-determination. She generously shares her wisdom with PhD students in our program.



Laurie Powers

## Funding Opportunities

### Dissertation funding

American Association of University Women \$15k grant for any discipline. [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

American Educational Research Foundation. \$15k. Due date: 5/25/07. [www.aera.net/fellowships/](http://www.aera.net/fellowships/)

American Cancer Society oncology social work research dissertation grants, \$20k a year renewable for two years. Due Oct 15. [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Award. [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org).

Hartford Doctoral Fellows pre-dissertation awards for geriatric social work. Due Aug and Feb. <http://www.geron.org/Hartford/DoctoralApl.pdf>

Harry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship for dissertations about violence. \$15k. <http://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm>

Health and Human Services offers a number of grants. Current is funding for child care research. Due date: 6/22/07. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-OPRE-YE-0010.html>

Housing and Urban Development. \$15k early doctoral student or \$25k dissertation grants for work related to housing policy, including homelessness. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa07/edddsec.pdf>

Influencing State Policy \$2000 dissertation award. [www.statepolicy.org](http://www.statepolicy.org)

Josephine de Kármán Fellowship Trust. \$16,000. Any discipline, favors humanities. (due Jan). <http://www.dekarman.org/>

National Association of Social Workers offers several dissertation/research grants with due dates in March. [www.naswfoundation.org](http://www.naswfoundation.org)

National Institute of Health dissertation awards for health-care related dissertations. Up to \$35k per year. R36 award. Due quarterly.

National Institute of Mental Health Minority Researcher, up to \$35k, R36 award. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-06-217.html>

National Science Foundation: Grants that advance social/behavioral science theory, or statistical measures. \$7500 dissertation award. [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)

Veterans Administration. Social Work research conducted at a VA facility and benefits veterans. Due Oct 1. \$25k. [http://www.va.gov/oaa/fellowships/SocialWork/sw\\_flyer.doc](http://www.va.gov/oaa/fellowships/SocialWork/sw_flyer.doc)

### Compilations of funding resources

Grants.gov lists all federally-funded grants from 26 agencies. Go to their search section and type in "dissertation." All dissertation awards will display. These applications can feel overwhelming. Many of our faculty have successfully applied for these types of awards, so seek consultation.

This list of many doctoral and post-doctoral awards is compiled by the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research: <http://charityadvantage.com/iaswr/FODDPDSRev1206.doc>

This list contains general and Columbia specific sources. [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/phdprogram/financial/dissertation\\_funding.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/phdprogram/financial/dissertation_funding.html)

Enotes offers a search engine with many dissertation awards in its collection. <http://college.enotes.com/scholarships-loans/>

Finally, do not overlook our local resources. Portland State now has an online application for scholarships, which simplifies the process. There are several scholarships available specifically to graduate students or those interested in community development. <https://portlandstate.scholarships.nelnet.net/>

The Graduate School of Social Work also offers several scholarships, and a few are designated for PhD students specifically. [http://www.ssw.pdx.edu/phd/pdf/pdfWeb\\_FinancialAid0607.pdf](http://www.ssw.pdx.edu/phd/pdf/pdfWeb_FinancialAid0607.pdf)

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) offers a combined application process for 340 different awards. While many are geared to high-school graduates, several are open to all. <http://www.osac.state.or.us/>

**Recent graduate?** NIH offers student loan repayment programs for those who spend at least 50% of their time in research and have a high student-debt ratio. Check out details here: <http://www.lrp.nih.gov/about/lrp-clinical.htm>

### Current PhD Student Addendums

In the last issue, we shared research interests of students in the program. We welcome additions in future issues and will include updates as students submit their information.

**Sunghwan Noh, 2004 cohort. Research interests: prison violence, mental health issues, children and youth in poverty.**

**Rupert van Wormer, 2002 cohort. Research interests: effective interventions for assisting homeless persons with severe mental illness.**



## Research Opportunities

Many opportunities exist on and around campus for PhD students to become involved in research and publication. In the last issue, we highlighted student research interests to increase collaboration opportunities. In this issue, specific project opportunities are offered. Some of these may be funded, some might become a publication, some might become a dissertation, and/or some could potentially be research practica. If you are interested in any of these, please contact the person named below and Maria Talbott.

**Cedar Sinai Park** seeks a practicum student's assistance in a mixed-methods evaluation of organizational culture change in a long-term elder care facility. Donna Arriaga, MSW. 503-535-4447. donna@cspark.com

**Center for Applied Research and Evaluation, Trillium Family Services.** Data on Children's Mental Health treatment, opportunities for mentorship. Michele Solloway, PhD, 503-813-7750. msolloway@trilliumfamily.org.

**Children's Relief Nursery (CRN)** seeks someone to design and conduct a study of the role of respite care in services to high-risk children and families. They have a SAMHSA grant. Diane Yatchmenoff would supervise this as a practicum. Contact Diane, 503-725-8079. yatchmd@pdx.edu.

**Macdonald Center.** Offers assisted living to people experiencing poverty, mental illness, or poor health. They seek students interested in researching issues related to their work. Dean Kristi Nelson may be available to supervise a research practicum here. Contact Maria for more information.

**William Temple House, Episcopal Mission Society,** offers a mental health counseling program and emergency social services department. They seek help designing, implementing and evaluating programs and are willing to provide a practicum placement. Allen Hunt, Executive Director. 503-226-3021 x208

### Working with faculty:

**Eileen Brennan** is offering assistance to Mary Dallas Allen as she works on her funded dissertation in Head Start Mental Health Consultation. Mary Dallas seeks a student to help her code six focus group teleconferences. Eileen can offer practicum supervision related to this work.

**Kevin Corcoran** is willing to work with students on any of his several projects, including a CODA grant, a client debt reduction program, and statistical analysis of the social work workforce. He also has data related to teenage mothers available for publication work, and is willing to act as a practicum mentor.

## Oh Baby!

In the time that some of us have just scratched the surface of a single social problem, **Peggy Nygren Hamilton**, 2nd year student, has managed to get married AND have a baby! Congratulations Peggy and Andrew, and welcome to the world Henry Hamilton!



**Paula Mike** would like assistance in developing an MSW alumni survey, and is willing to work with a PhD student on this project.

**Laurie Powers** is willing to work with a student in collecting written and video taped case studies about experiences of youth in foster care following an intervention project, and is also willing to serve as a research practicum mentor. She has data she can share with students on topics of (a) men with disabilities and health provider abuse and (b) youth transitions.

**Janet Putnam** has about ten years worth of MSW alumni information that has received little analysis. She is willing to make this data available to a PhD student.

**Vicki Cotrell** offers an opportunity to help conduct a needs assessment and intervention of a 235 unit project-based Section 8 apartment building for older adults to identify the high-cost, high-impact health and aging needs of the residents and their family caregivers. This could potentially be a paid research practicum.

Data software news: **AMOS**, a software package for Structural Equation Modeling, is being installed on the computer in the PhD resource room for student use.

**Atlas TI**, the qualitative software program that PSU has chosen to support, is available to students for purchase at the very reduced license rate of \$15 at the OIT office. Their license copies are limited (50 school wide).

**Websurveyor**, a survey software program, is available to PhD students for free. This program has some limited capacities to report data, and has many benefits over free software such as Survey Monkey.

OIT (located in basement of Smith Memorial) can get you either of these programs.

## Get Involved:

If you would like to help with the new student orientation in the Fall, please contact Maria Talbott.

Our student group organization, **PSSWA**, will elect officers and appoint committee representatives in the Fall. If you are interested please contact Jenny Powers or Lisa Stewart.



This newsletter serves as a communication tool for students in the PhD in Social Work and Social Research program at Portland State University. We hope to highlight accomplishments and share good news, and also help connect students to faculty at our University and beyond. This is a student-written newsletter, and an extension of the PSSWA student organization. If you have news or information that you would like included in future issues, please contact newsletter editor Melanie Sage ([melaniesage@gmail.com](mailto:melaniesage@gmail.com)). If you would like to see a certain activity hosted by the association, please contact PSSWA Co-chairs, Lisa Stewart ([stewartl@pdx.edu](mailto:stewartl@pdx.edu)) and Jenny Powers ([powers.jenny@gmail.com](mailto:powers.jenny@gmail.com)). Calls for submissions to the newsletter are posted to the PhD listserv; if you are not on the listserv, please contact Pauline Duffy ([pauline@pdx.edu](mailto:pauline@pdx.edu)) in the School of Social Work.