CARING FOR Indiana’s “INVISIBLE” Homeless
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Social Work students on all campuses are excited with the start of a new academic year. I find the start of a new academic year a good time to consider whether the School is upholding its end of the bargain in terms of what we promise students in our mission statement. As you may remember, the mission of the IUSSW “is excellence in education, research and service to promote health, well-being, and social and economic justice in a diverse world.” Judging from the accomplishments of our students and faculty, I think it is safe to say the answer is yes. Consider these examples.

Tracy McDaniel had a successful career in the corporate world, but was moved by her faith to walk away from her job and came to the School of Social Work. Tracy first earned her BSW degree and then graduated this past May with her MSW degree. While pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Tracy discovered she had a passion for working with sex trafficked victims. What is remarkable is that Tracy used the skills and education she obtained at the School to begin work developing a nonprofit agency to assist sex trafficked victims before she graduated. Tracy had already put together a board of directors and was exploring ways to raise needed funds before walking across the stage to receive her diploma. The agency is Restored and it will provide a home to victims’ ages 7 to 19. She expects to have Restored up and running by 2016.

Students at IUPUI last year found they had a new resource to turn to if they were hungry. I am not talking about snacks between classes, but hunger because they were short of grocery money after paying for their education. The new resource was the Paw’s Food Pantry, which offers students a helping hand to supplement their grocery budgets. One of the students behind the venture was Erin Sass, a BSW student.

I was inspired by our MSW students on the IUUSB campus who drove to Indianapolis with Assistant Professor John Gallagher to make their views known to an Indiana legislative commission, the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana: Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force. The students discussed the barriers social workers face in practicing in juvenile justice settings and offered recommendations to increase the number of social work students completing internships in juvenile justice.

Our faculty continues to be hard at work pushing the boundaries of social work. Heather McCabe, an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Adjunct Professor of Law at the Robert McKinney School of Law, is one of 10 Faculty Fellows selected for the Future of Public Health Law Education. The program, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, seeks to foster innovations and build a learning community among those who teach public health law.

Dr. Patrick Sullivan continues to be involved with the Council on Social Work Education on developing new models for pursuing integrated health care. Drs. Joan Carlson and Kathy Lay are leading a collaborative training program with the Schools of Nursing and Medicine after receiving a $900,000 grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program is aimed at improving the health of a larger number of adolescents and adults at risk for one or more substance use disorders. Dr. Carmen Luca Sugawara, who worked in Eastern Europe before joining the School, utilizes her extensive contacts in Croatia to give our students a first-hand look at how nonprofit agencies work with residents in war-torn communities.

When five Caribbean countries decided they needed a new approach to deal with youth and gang-related violence, they asked Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty for help. Dr. Gentle-Genitty, the Interim Director of the Bachelor of Social Work program at IUPUI, agreed to work with CARICOM, considered to be the United Nations for the Caribbean. She completed an assessment of the threats, risk, resilience and protective factors for school and community-based violence in Jamaica, Antiqua, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. She is now working on developing recommendations on what the countries can do to reduce violence.

The School continues to be a leader in online education. The Department of Labor Studies offers its courses online and our MSW Direct program offers social workers, particularly those who live in rural areas a chance to earn a MSW degree. The School, working with the Council on Social Work Education, will host a national conference this coming April on Social Work Distance Education. The conference will cover topics ranging from developing your own online program, to teaching and learning online and field issues and distance placements.

Thank you for your ongoing enthusiastic support of the Indiana University School of Social Work. Have a great fall.

Michael A. Patchner
DEAN
Indiana University School of Social Work
**Kyle McGregor**, a PhD student in the School of Social Work’s doctoral program, attended Yale University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, for a 2-month-long intensive summer program.

Not only was it an honor to be accepted into the program, McGregor saw it as an opportunity to take time to really examine the bioethical underpinnings of the work he hopes to do for his dissertation and the research he wants to engage in after graduating.

Kyle already has a leadership role in the interdisciplinary Adolescent Health Fellowship Program this year and is doing research with Dr. James Hall. Also, he has taught classes for the School’s MSW Direct program and serves on the PhD Committee.

“We have a great resource in the IU Center for Bioethics here in Indianapolis, and this opportunity will help me deepen my understanding of the principles of bioethics while actively engaging with some of the outstanding faculty that will be in attendance this summer,” McGregor said of the opportunity.

“I believe that social work, as a discipline, is under-represented in the field of bioethics. Yet social work ethics provide a complementary ethics perspective to those of other health-related disciplines. In my coursework, research and activities, I find that social work perspectives are seldom considered, and I hope to add that perspective.”

McGregor noted there are core tenants of social work that are directly relevant to patient care and unique from colleagues in medicine, nursing, public health, etc. Social work ethics distinguishes itself with a strong focus on self-determination, non-oppressive practice and a direct focus on power differentials, he added. “I hope to contribute to this perspective while also broadening my own personal understanding.”

**Jamie Smith**, Project Manager of the Child Welfare Management Innovations Institute, and **Latrece Thompson**, Deputy Director of Staff Development at the Indiana Department of Child Services, presented at the 25th Annual Network for Social Work Management Conference at Simmons College in Boston, MA. Thompson, who received an MSW from the IU School of Social Work, discussed the history of the Child Welfare Education and Training Partnership, and Smith described the development of the Child Welfare Management Innovations Institute and how it prepares leaders with blended learning strategies and workforce training.

LINSDAY LITTRELL, a Lecturer at the School of Social Work, and DR. KHADIJA KHAJA, were among faculty from 15 educational institutions from across the United States and Africa to attend the Kroc Institute's 6th annual Summer Institute, “Teaching Peace in the 21st Century.” The institute, which was held at the University of Notre Dame, was co-sponsored by the Kroc Institute and the United States Institute of Peace. The institute engaged teams of faculty who seek to launch or expand peace studies programs. Peace studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that draws on political science, sociology, history, anthropology, theology, psychology, philosophy, and other fields to help understand the causes of armed conflict; develop ways to prevent and resolve war, genocide, terrorism, gross violations of human rights; and build peaceful and just systems and societies.

DR. CAROLYN GENTLE-GENITY has been working with five Caribbean countries to develop strategies to deal with youth and gang-related violence. Dr. Gentle-Genitty was selected by CARICOM, considered to be the United Nations for the Caribbean, to do an assessment of threats, risk, and resilience in each of the countries and then use the information to suggest new programs the countries can consider to reduce violence. Her Caribbean efforts merge her passion of working with and for students and her research with at-risk youth and social bonding. Dr. Gentle-Genitty, along with ISAAC KARIKARI, a PhD student at the School of Social Work attended the American Psychological Association’s Symposium on “Perspectives on Psychology in Latin America and the Caribbean. They presented a paper on “Psychology and the Helping Professions in Belize: History Past and Present Realities.”

DR. CAROL MASSAT, Professor and Director of the MSW program at IU South Bend, was awarded the Gary Shaffer Award by the School Social Work Association of America in April 2014 at their national conference. This national award is presented annually to a university faculty member who has made a significant contribution to school social work education.

DR. KATHY BYERS, Director of the BSW program at IUB, spent the last three days before her retirement from the School of Social Work in Austin, TX, at the Policy Conference 2.0: Energizing for Activism: Recommitting to Policy Change. Dr. Byers initiated and planned the conference with three other social work education colleagues: Sunny Harris Rome from George Mason University, Stacey Borasky from St. Edwards University, and Jessica A. Ritter from Pacific University. Dr. Byers did two presentations at the conference, one with an IUSSW colleague, HEATHER MCCABE. They offered a roundtable discussion “Macro Social Work/Policy: Why do I have to take this class anyway?” Dr. Byers’ other presentation was with her co-author, Linda Cummins from North Central University on “Elder care and the ethic of care: A film and policy analysis.”

The Workers Voice – a radio show on Indiana Talks internet radio. (indianatalks.com), hosted by Indiana University Department of Labor Studies’ PATRICK HILL and worker activist Randy Obenchain, has been increasing the shows audience. People can listen to The Workers Voice at workersvoiceshow.com or at 9 a.m. Saturdays. The show is replayed at 6 p.m. on Sundays. There is also a Facebook page (facebook.com/theworkersvoiceshow) that’s updated daily with worker related news stories. The show will go up on iTunes and other podcast sources before years end. The show has gained international listeners from Canada, Puerto Rico, Italy, Maldives, UK and the Philippines.

Dr. Gallagher also became a familiar face on South Bend television. He did two news interviews, one on the havoc caused by synthetic marijuana and one about a rally IUSB social work students had to support the kidnapped Nigerian school girls. Dr. Gallagher also participated in a PBS show on drug courts. Two students, a graduate, and Dr. Gallagher provided testimony to Senator Randy Head and his commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana: Substance Abuse and Child Safety Taskforce. They discussed the role of social work in juvenile justice settings, expanding problem solving courts in Indiana, and helping youth transition back into the community following residential placements. The two current IUSB MSW students were NICOLE LEITER and EMILY SUSSMAN and the alumni from IUSB MSW program was MIKE DERANEK.


JAN NES, MSW Program Coordinator on the Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne campus, presented “Graduate Social Work Practicum Experiences in Criminal Justice Settings: Examples of Successful Graduate Placements in North-east Indiana 2013-2014,” at the Indiana Criminal Justice Association Annual Fall Conference. She also presented an in-service training for Lutheran Social Services: Enhancing Your Trauma Informed Approach in Working with Diverse Population Groups.

CARLENE QUINN, LCSW, ACSW and Coordinator of Field Education at IU Bloomington, is the Co-Chair for the BPD Technology Committee. She also became a Faculty Alliance member of Center of Excellence for Women in Technology.
The Indiana University School of Social Work has been awarded a National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) Grant for the next five years. **DR. BARBARA PIERCE** is the Principal Investigator of this project and Pat Howes, Director of the Child Welfare Educational and Training Partnership, is the Co-Principal Investigator. The school will be providing 7 stipends per year to child welfare concentration year students. As part of this grant, the school is enhancing the child welfare curriculum with trauma-focused content. The field placements will be trauma focused at the Indiana Department of Child Services. The grant will also provide support for the beginning of a new transition to work initiative for the NCWWI scholars. They will return to campus every couple of months for CEUs and focused work on professional development and continued trauma training. Applications are being accepted for these grants for the next 4 years. Year one has seven students already identified.

The Indiana University School of Social Work has been chosen as a site for a chapter of the Macro Social Work Student Network (MSWSN). The grant, conceived and written by MSW students **MAREA KINNEY** and **SARAH CHESTNUT**, will help fund startup costs to establish the chapter. The chapter will be a place where students interested in macro issues, whether macro track or not, can gather to discuss issues of importance and build networks to support their future work.

**DR. CARMEN LUCA SUGAWARA** and **DR. JOAN CARLSON** took School of Social Work students to Croatia for the Social Work Practice in Post-War Communities. During the two-week stay in Croatia, the students got a chance to meet with nonprofit agencies working to overcome the many issues, including the impact of the Serb-Croat War in the early 1990s.

New faculty member **DAVID KONDRAH** and PhD student **DESTINEE FLOYD** are co-authors of “The Pleasures and Pain of Mental Health Case Management,” that will be published in Social Work in Mental Health.
Please join us in welcoming new faculty members to the School of Social Work on the IUPUI, South Bend, and Bloomington campuses.

DR. KAREN ALLEN is Professor and Director of the Bachelor of Social Work program IUB. Dr. Allen received her bachelor’s degree in Social Psychology from Oakland University and her MSW in Social Work and doctorate in Education from Wayne State University. After receiving her MSW, she worked for over fifteen years as a medical social worker and hospital social work director. Her current areas of research include health care social work, chronic disease, trauma and domestic violence, and social work education. She also consults with non-profit organizations in capacity building, program assessment and quality improvement. She is the co-author, with Dr. Bill Spitzer of the upcoming textbook “Social Work Practice in Health Care: Advanced Practice and Emerging Trends” to be released by Sage Publications in February, 2015.

DR. LARRY W. BENNETT is a Professor and BSW Program Coordinator at IUSB. He received his BA in physics from Southern Illinois University and his MSW and PhD from the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois Chicago. Prior to joining UIC as an Assistant Professor in 1993, he worked for 20 years in community-based mental health settings and independent practice, specializing in court-ordered child custody evaluation. Dr. Bennett’s scholarship focuses on the co-occurrence of substance abuse and domestic violence, and on the effectiveness of services designed to interrupt these conditions. He is co-author of Evaluation of Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Sage Press, 2002) and ARIV: Addiction Recovery and Intimate Violence, an on-demand behavioral healthcare course (www.healtheknowledge.org).
**DR. JAMES BROWN** is an Assistant Professor at IUB. He graduated from the School of Social Work’s PhD program, 2010. He was an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and decided to return to the great Hoosier state. As a social worker, he has experience in foster care case management and school social work. His scholarly work thus far has focused on school bullying, previously detained youth and mental health, and housing insecurity. Dr. Brown enjoys working collaboratively with students and faculty. He is excited about the incredible opportunities that are made available by the IU School of Social Work.

**DR. JEREMIAH W. JAGGERS** is an Assistant Professor in the Indiana University School of Social Work in Indianapolis. He earned a PhD in Social Work from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, an MSW from Western Kentucky University, and a BS in Political Science from Murray State University. Dr. Jaggers’ research focuses on diverse family systems and family dynamics, antisocial and delinquent behaviors among youth, parent-child relations, and child and adolescent mental health. He teaches graduate courses in research practice and statistics in the PhD program.

**DR. YI JIN KIM** is an Assistant Professor at IUSB. He received a BA in social work from Baptist Theological University in Korea and MSW and PhD from the University of Texas at Arlington. His dissertation was a quantitative study examining influential factors for suicidal ideation among Korean adolescents. He teaches research and practice evaluation in the MSW program. Dr. Kim’s research interests focus in the areas of health risk behaviors including suicide, substance use, and mental health.

**DR. DAVID KONDRA T** is an Associate Professor at IUPUI. He earned his MSW and PhD in social work from the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University and his BSSW from St. Louis University’s School of Social Work. Dr. Kondrat is a graduate fellow of the National Institutes of Health, Summer Institute on Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials. Prior to receiving his PhD, Dr. Kondrat worked as a case manager for persons with severe mental illness and as a psychiatric social worker in an emergency department. His research interests include recovery in severe mental illness, mental illness stigma, and case management practice. Dr. Kondrat is particularly interested in what case managers do that encourages recovery in mental illness.

**STEPHANIE QUIRING**, a Visiting Lecturer at IUPUI, received her Juris Doctorate from the Howard University School of Law and is currently an IUSSW PhD candidate. Stephanie has spent over a decade as advocate, educator, and attorney on behalf of criminal defendants. Today her research is focused on the nexus of the criminal justice system and social service systems. She is immediately focused on the interaction between police and people in acute mental health crisis. In addition, Stephanie currently collaborates on projects including trafficking survivor service provisions, educational assessment, and interdisciplinary education. She thoroughly enjoys teaching a variety of research, statistics, policy, and theory courses.

**DR. HASAN REZA** is an Assistant Professor at IUSB. Dr. Reza received his PhD degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. He also received his MSW degree from Carleton University, Canada following a MSS and BSS degree in Social Welfare from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. His doctoral dissertation is a pioneering study on street youths’ social networks in Bangladesh. It explores how street youth develop social relationships under extreme circumstances and use those relationships to garner resources for everyday survival. Hasan’s research interests include street/homeless youth, community organizing and development, poverty and social inequality, microfinance, and international social work. Hasan has also co-directed a documentary film about youths’ street life in Bangladesh.

**JACKIE VOTAPEK**, MSW, is the Field Instruction Coordinator for the MSW Direct program. She comes to us from the IUSSW Child Welfare Education and Training Partnership.

**DR. BETH WAHLER** is an Assistant Professor at IUPUI after transferring from the IUSB campus. She joined the faculty on the South Bend campus as Assistant Professor in the fall of 2012 after working as a practitioner and supervisor for over 14 years. Her
practice experience has primarily been with women attempting to overcome substance abuse/dependence, mental health problems, learning disabilities, and intimate partner violence victimization. She most recently worked as a supervisor in a translational research program at the University of Kentucky (UK) Center on Drug and Alcohol Research focused on helping low-income parents begin to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and safety. Dr. Wahler earned her BS in Psychology from the University of Evansville, and her MSW and PhD in Social Work from UK. Her main research interests involve the impact of poverty and other factors associated with social disadvantage on the development and perpetuation of mental health and substance abuse problems.

This last year, the School of Social Work saw six of its faculty members on campuses at IUPUI, Fort Wayne, Bloomington and IUN opt for the next chapter of their lives: retirement.

Those leaving the School include Drs. William Barton and Lorraine Blackman from the IUPUI Campus, Dr. Katharine Byers on the IUB campus, Dr. Marilyn Ramsey and Marc Crouch from IFPW, and Dr. M. Thantabantu at IUN. Below are short summaries of their careers.

A history of being an advocate and community organizer was immediately put to use when DR. KATHARINE BYERS arrived on the Indiana University Bloomington campus as the Director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program in 1992. Her first task was to get rid of the baby blue color scheme of her office and then put the BSW program on the map at IUB. Literally.

The BSW program is housed in an old limestone house, but its connection to the rest of the IUB campus was tenuous at best when she arrived on campus. Dr. Byers discovered it was not even on the official campus map.
“Because we were funded out of Indianapolis (site for the main School of Social Work offices), we were really not considered to be part of the Bloomington campus, Dr. Byers said. “I felt my job was to put us on the map. How can you do student recruitment if people don’t know you are here?”

Dr. Byers not only put social work on the map, but expanded the program as well. When she arrived, there were three full-time faculty and about 20 seniors, who had to go to the Indianapolis campus to finish their degrees, an artifact leftover from the mid-1970s when there were few MSWs in the Bloomington area to supervise students in practica. The program now has six full-time faculty and students graduate from the Bloomington campus. Dr. Byers helped develop a full-year senior practicum that has allowed the program to grow from about 20 to 50 students in each cohort.

During her tenure at IUB, Dr. Byers worked hard to give students at IUB and others an understanding of how to advocate for policy changes. She initiated, with colleagues across the state, what became the Legislative Education and Advocacy Day at the Indiana Statehouse, an event that brings hundreds of social work students to the statehouse annually.

DR. MARILYNNE RAMSEY had been a practicing clinical social worker for more than 25 years when she returned to the University of Denver to pursue her PhD degree. A year after receiving her doctoral degree in social work in 2004, she joined the Indiana University School of Social Work as an assistant professor in the School’s Master of Social Work Program at IU South Bend.

She was named the Director of the School’s MSW Program in 2007.

Teaching and the science of teaching has always been of interest to Dr. Ramsey. While at South Bend, she undertook a study to measure the outcomes in the foundation year of social work students in regards to the then newly adopted Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) guidelines. The guideline changes reflected an interest in measuring outcomes instead of just telling CSWE, the School of Social Work’s accrediting body, what is being taught. The study found the social work students at South Bend were improving significantly in several areas.

During her tenure as director of the MSW program, Dr. Ramsey worked on several issues, including pay equity. Dr. Ramsey said some employees who had been hired a long time ago were getting 2 to 3 percent annual raises while newly hired new people had come in at much higher market prices. She worked to raise the salaries of employees who had been there longer. Dr. Ramsey also developed a writing course for students who needed extra help with their writing skills.


Dr. Iverson’s areas of scholarly interest include Feminist Theory, African-American Political Thought, Labor Studies, Human Rights, and Comparative Politics.

Prior to joining the Labor Studies faculty, Dr. Iverson worked in a number of occupations in different industries, including as a health and safety organizer on the international staff of the Service Employees’ International Union (SEIU). He also worked as a coal miner and mine safety activist with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). Dr. Iverson also worked as an auto worker with the United Auto Workers (UAW) and as a steel worker with the United Steel Workers of America (USWA).

Dr. Iverson brings to his teaching and scholarship the lessons of participation in several social movements spanning several decades within the United States. These include: the Civil Rights, Black Power, African Liberation Support, Vietnam Anti-War, New Left, and Human Rights Movements.
**DR. LORRAINE BLACKMAN** has been an ardent supporter of translational scholarship and teaching for much of her academic career and is a pre-eminent community champion and scholar.

Dr. Blackman joined the School of Social Work’s faculty in 1992. Her teaching, research, and service focused on strengthening families to provide for their instrumental and expressive needs across the lifespan. A related focus was on shaping social policies to facilitate family functioning. Dr. Blackman holds the position of Chief Executive Officer and Consultant of the African American Family Life Education Institute in Indianapolis.

Dr. Blackman was an inspirational and creative teacher who took theories and evidence based practice and translated this knowledge into practical applications for social work practice. In her teaching she often looks to headlines on the front pages of newspapers as an entry point for her students to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it to real people facing real problems.

Dr. Blackman also consulted with the Office of the Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., and for eight years, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children’s and Family Services.

**DR. WILLIAM H. BARTON**’s research and service activities have combined to affect the course of juvenile justice policy nationally and locally. His work reflects a commitment to improving the life chances of youths who come into contact with the juvenile justice system or who are at risk of doing so.

Dr. Barton received a BA and MA in Psychology from Swarthmore College and his MSW and Ph.D. in Social Work and Psychology from the University of Michigan, where he was a graduate student research assistant on the National Assessment of Juvenile Corrections (NAJC), directed by his mentors Rosemary Sarri and Robert Vinter.

Dr. Barton joined the faculty of the IU School of Social Work in 1993. He taught courses in juvenile justice policy, program evaluation research methods, leadership practice, and the philosophy of science. During his career, he has worked on more than 20 research projects, including 14 as director or co-director.

His community service activities include serving as president of the boards of the Indiana Youth Services Association and the Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force. He has been a volunteer consultant to the Marion County (Indianapolis) Juvenile Court, which has become a site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Dr. Barton was a part of a team that developed the approach nearly 20 years ago. His work in Marion County helped reduce the average daily population at the detention center by a third with no increase risk to public safety. For his work, the presiding judge of the Marion County Juvenile Court recognized him as a “Champion for Children.”

Dr. Barton was presented with the Natalie S. Bimel Award for Outstanding Contributions to Juvenile Detention Reform by a Community Leader in 2008 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**MARK CROUCH**, an Associate Professor of Labor Studies, has been responsible for a broad range of university labor education programs since he joined the Labor Studies program in 1980. The program was made part of the Indiana University School of Social Work in 2007 and its title was recently changed to the Department of Labor Studies.

Mr. Crouch was responsible for developing, administering and teaching non-credit short courses, conferences, and institutes and labor studies courses both on and off designated Indiana University campuses. Besides working with and advising students, he also maintained a close working relationship with local labor organizations, central labor councils and CAP councils, areas labor education advisory committees and state-wide and district labor bodies.
On a warm, sunny day in June, Melissa Burgess, the coordinator of an Indianapolis homeless rapid response outreach team, dropped in to see Paul at his eastside apartment.

It’s a small modest place, but Paul, 44, is enjoying the experience of having his own home for the first time in 25 years. Since the late 1980s, Paul has been homeless, one of the near-invisible people most people go out of our way not to see.

Burgess, on the other hand, has known Paul for years, knew where to find him and of his reluctance to come in out of the cold. It’s one of the reasons Paul is alive today.

By Rob Schneider
Six months earlier during the brutally cold winter, Burgess, a Master of Social Work graduate of the Indiana University School of Social Work, heard Paul was having problems with his feet. He had been able to stay at a motel for a few days with the assistance of a church group that works with the homeless, but then returned to his sleeping spot under a bridge.

Burgess found him there following a winter storm. Paul decided he would remain where he was. Paul’s feet had turned jet black, but the black was peeling off and he thought his feet were recovering. He was wrong.

The next night, Melissa asked another outreach worker and a police officer to check on him. Paul was in his usual spot covered by two blankets and coated in ice. This time, Paul accepted an offer of help. Paul’s feet were worse than he realized. He had suffered frostbite and gangrene and lost portions of his toes and feet. After leaving the hospital, Paul spent time in temporary housing provided by Gennesaret, where he began to appreciate living in a place with a stove and refrigerator close at hand. When Burgess brought up the idea of finding him his own apartment, Paul was interested. Burgess was able to secure funding for Paul’s apartment through a rental assistance program and Paul moved in.

Burgess’ work with Paul is just one example of how the School’s graduates, faculty and students, including BSW students in Bloomington advocating for a low-barrier homeless shelter there, have an impact on addressing homelessness. While the welfare and health of the poor has been part of the School’s mission since it was founded in 1911, the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services and the Indianapolis Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention, are taking notice of what the School is doing.

The national homeless center is a new endeavor by the University of Albany School of Social Welfare. Last fall, Indiana University School of Social Work Dean Michael Patchner along with the School’s faculty were approached by center officials about collaborating with the newly developed center.

▲ Melissa Burgess and Paul at his apartment
The School of Social Welfare created the National Homeless Services Center in 2013 after receiving a $50,000 gift from a donor who wanted to have a bigger impact on homelessness. The donor’s idea was to launch a national center, which would develop partnerships with schools engaged in addressing homelessness.

“We talked about the opportunity as a profession through these partnerships of schools that are already doing more, like Indiana University, in addressing homelessness,” said Heather Larkin, an Associate Professor of Social Welfare at UAlbany.

“The idea,” Larkin said, “is to work together as a national center consortium to have an impact more broadly on preparing leaders in homeless services, address gaps in knowledge and share examples of excellence in different regions of the country.”

The School of Social Work is seen as a great partner in Indianapolis as well. “I think we are extremely lucky as a city to have such a wonderful partner and resource as IUPUI and the School of Social Work,” said Christy Shepard, Executive Director of the Coalition for Homeless Intervention and Prevention. She noted faculty and students want to understand the issues that service providers are facing. “We (CHIP) have a pool of talent to draw on for internships, for placements, for short or long term staffing,” Shepard said of the agency’s relationship with the School.

“We also have a very active group of students that are not only engaged from the academic perspective, but they are interested in social justice and policy and are taking an active role in being champions in their personal life.”

When the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention was created in the 1990s, Dr. Patrick Sullivan of the School of Social Work was asked to join the agency’s board of directors. He had recently stepped down as Director of the Indiana Department of Mental Health and Addictions and was seen as the logical guy to do mental health and addictions.

CHIP was charged with developing a plan to end homelessness in Indianapolis. While homelessness was certainly not a new problem, Dr. Sullivan noted the downtown area of Indianapolis was undergoing a major renovation and the homeless had become more visible. The development of Circle Centre Mall and the gentrification of nearby neighborhoods removed some low-income housing and some of the city’s old hotels were remodeled or replaced.

“At the same time the very definition of the term homeless began to change. People realized those affected by homelessness went far beyond the classic stereotype of a single man holding a bottle of Thunderbird wine,” Sullivan said. “We were talking about young people and families.” He recalled giving a talk at an Indianapolis public elementary school where 30 to 40 percent of the kids were homeless. “That’s stunning.”

“I always felt strongly that we could come up with a more global plan that involved more actors to make a dent in it,” Sullivan said of Indianapolis’ homeless population. “I still think if you get pooled funds, if you have a lot of people kick in and say here is the money we are going to devote to this project, we are going to come up with a rational plan on how to do it and everybody has a stake in it.”

Robert Weiler, a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Work, was a post graduate student at the University of Illinois, when he became intrigued with the homeless issue. It all began when a faculty member suggested he apply for a job at a local homeless shelter as a part-time volunteer coordinator. In addition to working with the volunteers, Weiler spent time talking with the men who

“The very definition of the term homeless began to change. People realized those affected by homelessness went far beyond the classic stereotype of a single man holding a bottle of Thunderbird wine. We were talking about young people and families.”

DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN
took advantage of the shelter’s services. “That got my interest in what is homelessness about from the experience of the person actually experiencing it.”

“I developed a passion for the issue. Some of the people I talked to at the shelter were Vietnam veterans. I am of the Vietnam-era age and had friends who served in Vietnam. After their tours of duty, they returned to the U.S. and had mixed results in terms of their outcomes. One died quite young from chronic alcohol abuse. One did just fine. I was interested in what are the factors that come into play when you are a homeless Vietnam vet and have a history of abusing substances.”

What Weiler found in his initial research was a lot of the studies up until the late 1990s had to do with large scale statistics about how many Vietnam veterans there were with this characteristic or that characteristic. He found there was little information about the life of the person who was homeless. So Weiler started doing his own research. “I did in depth interviews with homeless vets about their experience. I wanted them to help me understand how they drew the connection among homelessness, Vietnam and substance abuse.”

After joining the faculty of the School of Social Work at the Indiana University Northwest campus, Weiler became a member of the Continuum of Care Committee (COC) for Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, a group made up of all the concerned parties that provide care for the homeless. After serving on the committee for a period of time, a representative of the mayor’s office in Gary asked him to serve as chair of the committee, which he did for two years.

When he transferred to the IUPUI campus, Weiler continued his involvement with COC through CHIP in Indianapolis. He serves on a committee that looks at what programs are the most likely to receive HUD funding and helps those agencies prepare applications seeking funds.

Weiler, who also has served as a Senior Field Coordinator and Field Administrator for MSW students, estimates students are in practicums at some 15 to 17 agencies that deal with the homeless to some degree. One of the agencies where students are placed asks the students to go out and spend a day as if they were homeless and see what homeless individuals face on a daily basis.

When William Moreau, a partner in the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg, and long-time supporter and board member of CHIP, wanted to create a fellowship to honor Joe Fahy and support CHIP and its work with the homeless, he turned to the School of Social Work. Moreau and his wife, Ann, saw the fellowship as a way to honor Fahy, a newspaper reporter who died of cancer, and a cause the Moreaus and Fahy both shared: a passion to help society’s voiceless and vulnerable.

“There was something special about him, something God given,” Moreau said of the decision to name the fellowship after Fahy. “I first got to know Joe when he was a reporter at the state house,” said Moreau, who served as a key aide to former Gov. Evan Bayh. “Joe was a man of incredible principle and believed passionately in what he did. He took that same passion to CHIP. He is and always will be the principal drafter, researcher, and architect of our Blueprint to End Homelessness.”

MSW students with an interest in the homeless are eligible to apply for the fellowship, which carries a $5,000 stipend. The student awarded the fellowship completes their MSW concentration practicum at CHIP to help the agency carry out its mission.

One student who chose to immerse herself in the homeless issue for the 2013-2014 school year was Cortney Owens. “It’s just been a great experience,” Owens said. “It created that life experience of what I was learning through my program.” Owens, who was on a leadership track in the MSW program, met with Indianapolis city-county councilors, civic leaders and the Indiana Attorney General during her stint with CHIP. She also got to see behind the scenes at how CHIP manages its relationships with other groups, city officials and others as it works to coordinate the city’s homeless initiatives.

Owens said what she learned at CHIP will be invaluable as she moves on to work on the Sickle Cell Initiative at the Martin Center.
A Point-in-Time Count in 2013 by CHIP and the Indiana University Public Policy Institute found 1,599 people in Indianapolis were experiencing homelessness. It also found 120 people were unsheltered. Experts estimate there is three to five times the number of homeless than are actually counted.
While Melissa Burgess has being working with the homeless for about a dozen years, it wasn’t until she arrived at Horizon House as a member of AmeriCorps, that she realized she had found her life’s work. Horizon House is a day shelter for the homeless and offers a variety of services. It was during her time with AmeriCorps that she learned what homelessness really is. “It’s not the typical person on the corner shaking a cup,” Burgess said. “It’s such a deep, intense and complicated issue. Even though there is a significant amount of severe mental illness and drug addiction, there is also situational homelessness where people have lost employment, gone through divorces or have had medical issues,” Burgess said.

Burgess has been at Horizon House for five years, where she is the Street Outreach Rapid Response Team Coordinator (SORRT). Previously, she worked at the Homeless Initiative Project, Partners in Housing and at Midtown Mental Health. The rapid response team was created about three years ago and was funded by the United Way with funds from Lilly Endowment. The team provides the city with a central place to call, whether it is the police, hospitals or other homeless providers about questions or concerns about a homeless person. The SORRT team then sends the information to all the professional outreach teams to whoever can address the situation the fastest. The average response time is four hours, but often the issue can be addressed within an hour.

“My main passion is meeting people where they are at,” she explained. She is a well-known presence among the homeless, taking services and resources to individuals to keep them moving forward, so they hopefully will walk through the door of a service provider one day.

Burgess was one of three people who were involved in bringing the 100,000K Home Campaign to Indianapolis. The campaign is a national movement to provide permanent housing to the homeless and its primary goal is to save homeless individuals who might otherwise die if they continue to live on the streets. The key, Melissa noted, was to get them under a roof and then work on their other needs. A vulnerability index is used to identify the homeless who are most at risk. The index looks at a number of things ranging from medical ailments to whether the individual had three visits to the emergency room in the previous three months. Vulnerability factors also include whether the person is under the age of 24, pregnant, parenting children under the age of 18 and whether the person has mental illness. “I am a huge advocate of housing first. So many people die on the streets due to barriers to housing.”

That was painfully clear when CHIP honored 50 people who experienced homelessness in Indianapolis and died in 2013 at an annual memorial ceremony held each December. It was the highest number of people honored since CHIP began holding the annual service in 1996. More than 400 homeless people who died had been honored since then.

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Mary Provence and Shelley Landis are neighbors, social workers and adjunct faculty at the School of Social Work. Both are experienced at working on inner-city projects and both have spent time working on homelessness. Provence had worked with Outreach Inc. for four years a number of years ago and remains interested in homeless individuals. Landis works at Trusted Mentors where she matches mentors with individuals who are currently homeless and living in a shelter or are becoming housed.

To this day, Provence abides by a lesson she learned early in her social work career. She recalled as a young social worker living in the inner city she thought she had skills and assets to bring to the table. And she did. What she didn’t realize and what she learned was she had so much to learn and she needed to be a student of the community. “I believe we are students of our clients, oppressed populations, of our communities,” Provence said. “It would behoove us to listen and learn and not think we have all the answers.”

Landis often has social work students doing their practicums at Trusted Mentors. As part of their experience she wants the students to see what it looks like to be homeless. “I want them to go to a homeless community and see what it is like. It breaks down the myths,” she said of the experience.

It was during a visit to a downtown homeless camp at the Davidson Street bridge that Landis met Maurice Young, a college educated advocate for the homeless and leader of the camp. Young has intentionally chosen to be homeless so he can be an advocate at that level.

Her students got a chance to meet with Young so they could learn more about the camp and engaging with homeless people. She also introduced Young to Provence, who thought the homeless
advocate sounded like someone she needed to meet. Provence came away impressed not only with Young, but with the organization and structure of the Davidson Street bridge camp. The camp had a hub where residents could see what services were available, when meals were coming and what service providers were going to visit the camp.

When CSX decided to undertake significant repairs to the railroad bridge, the camp had to be closed as the work could not proceed with 65 people living under the structure. Young chose to be arrested for obstruction of traffic in protest of the closing. Burgess noted there was a huge collaborative effort with City of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department’s Homeless Unit, faith-based outreach teams, Professional Street Outreach teams and homeless organizations that worked together to help make it as smooth of a transition as possible.

Out of the 65 people living under the bridge, the social service agencies were able to secure treatment and/or housing for 25, Burgess noted.

After the closing of the camp, Young began looking into the idea of a Homeless Bill of Rights. Landis stresses she is not an expert in homelessness, but sees the Homeless Bill of Rights as an interesting issue for students to look at. “I feel like it needs to be part of our discussion with our students. If they can gain experience at a policy level, a community awareness level, then great.”

When Nick Brooks and Margarita Rebollar, two Bachelor of Social Work students sat down in their social policy welfare class last January, a Homeless Bill of Rights wasn’t exactly on their minds. The class was being taught by Provence. The students were asked to pick a bill that was before the Indiana General Assembly and try to make a creative change. They could use anything in their skill set, whether they were web designers, a photographer, a storyteller or writer. The students were having difficulty picking a bill when Mary asked Maurice Young, an advocate for the homeless who also lives in a homeless camp to speak to her class. Among other things, Young talked of his experience of being arrested when police decided to close down the Davidson Street camp and how there was a need for Indiana to adopt a Homeless Bill of Rights. Provence saw Young’s presentation as an example of someone doing a creative change project. “I had no intention of saying this is the project you need to do.”

The students had other ideas. As a class, they decided to investigate the homeless bill of rights idea. The students met with Young and then began looking for ways to create interest and momentum for such a bill, creating Facebook and web pages to draw attention to the issue.

Brooks and Rebollar presented a discussion about the homeless in the Commons at the School of Social Work and invited Young to talk about the demographics of the homeless and about the idea of a Homeless Bill of Rights. At the end of the session, Brooks stepped to the podium and asked the audience to investigate the homeless issue for themselves and not just take what they heard as fact. “This is a huge topic, a lot of numbers, a lot of factors. Go find out for yourself. There are a lot of organizations you can talk to, there is information out there.”

Colleen Gore has worked more than 20 years with women and children in crisis situations to help them address trauma and work towards stability. “It is something I have enjoyed doing,” said Gore who received her MSW degree in 2009. Her interest led her to Wheeler Mission, where she has been the Director for Women and Children Services. Gore said her position at Wheeler allowed her to combine social work and a faith-based organization in the way they work with women.

Wheeler provides shelter for about 100 homeless women and children each night and provides a variety of short and long-term programs. While Gore has been at Wheeler for nearly five years, she still finds the numbers of women and children in need of housing shocking. “We stay full all the time.” Gore explained her office receives about 500 calls each month from people they can’t help because of lack of space. Some of those calls are probably repeat calls hoping space has opened up, but the numbers regularly stay exceedingly high, Gore noted.

“It’s an exciting time to work with the homeless because there is a lot that is coming together,” she said of city efforts to end homelessness. She referred to Melissa Burgers as a “super star” with the homeless and said it was important to have such capable people because resources are always in short supply.

Amber Ames, who received her BSW degree in 1989 and MSW degree in 1991 from the School of Social Work, had no clue she would end up spending two decades working with homeless individuals. “I was going to work with kids at Riley Hospital. That’s what I hoped to do.”

Ames, who is now the executive director of Stopover, an agency that provides a shelter and transitional housing program for young people, said she was providing school-based counseling at Harshman Middle School for the People’s Health Center,
when she received a call from the Homeless Initiative Program (HIP). Would she consider becoming a case manager with HIP, they asked. Amber was interested but acknowledged she had to face one fear about the work. “I was terrified. I was terrified of homeless men.”

Ames soon discovered her fears were unfounded. As it turned out, homeless men became one of her favorite populations to work with. “They were one of the most genuine populations to work with. There were no games.” After hearing their stories, it changed her perspective and left her with a newfound respect for what they have been through.

Stopover’s transitional housing program is for kid’s ages 16 to 21 that are having difficulties at home and likely won’t return home. “We are preparing them for life on their own,” Ames noted. “The biggest surprise for me is the number of calls we get from parents who don’t want their kids anymore. It’s remarkable.” The teens are equally adamant about getting out of their homes, she added. “The kids are saying I would rather go to foster care than go back home.”

These are but a handful of examples of how the School of Social Work and its faculty and students intersect with the homeless. Odds are there will always be homeless individuals, whose immediate circumstances, be it the loss of a job or illness, that left them without housing, hope, or an idea of what to do next. That’s when people like Melissa Burgess and others will be there to offer help and let them know they are not alone.

“This is a huge topic, a lot of numbers, a lot of factors. Go find out for yourself. There are a lot of organizations you can talk to, there is information out there.”

**NICK BROOKS, BSW STUDENT**

▲ BSW students Nick Brooks and Margarita Rebollar; Shelley Landis and homeless advocate, Maurice Young
Professionally, Tracy McDaniel had done well by the time she reached her 30s. After starting out working in a bank after high school, Tracy had found her place in the business world and eventually became a manager with a large corporation in Indianapolis.

Even so, Tracy realized there was something missing in her life. Guided by her deep faith, she quit her job and enrolled as an undergraduate in the Indiana University School of Social Work.

Little did she know then that her decision would open the door to what she now sees as her life’s work – helping domestic sex trafficked victims. Tracy, who graduated in June with her Master of Social Work degree, is already pursuing the next chapter of her life: the creation of Restored, a nonprofit agency that will provide a home to domestic sex trafficked victims ages 11 to 19. Her goal is that Restored will provide direct care by 2016.

When she entered the Bachelor of Social Work program in 2010, Tracy had already been working in the business world for a dozen years and was 33, making her a little older than most of her counterparts. On her first day on the IUPUI campus, Tracy found herself wearing a t-shirt, jeans, a backpack and was surrounded by 20-year-olds. She couldn’t help but think, “What have I done?” Whenever she had doubts about what she was doing, she turned to Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, who is now the Interim Director of the BSW Program at IUPUI.

Like most undergrads, Tracy was interested in learning about different aspects of social work including domestic violence and human sex trafficking. “Honestly, when I graduated with my Master’s degree, I thought I would work at Riley (Hospital for Children) with children. That was my overall goal when I graduated from the program.”
She worked with Erica Galyean to arrange undergraduate practicum at the Julian Center, a domestic violence shelter in Indianapolis that also assists foreign born and domestic sex trafficking victims.

Tracy readily admits that she knew little about sex trafficking victims before starting her internship at the Julian Center. “If you would have asked me about human trafficking two years ago, I would have been like everyone else – it doesn’t exist here, it happens internationally.”

It took just one victim, an adolescent, for Tracy to realize how wrong she was. In January of 2013, she decided to observe how the crisis call staff handled incoming calls. One of the calls was from a 19-year-old girl who after seeing a special on television about sex trafficking realized she too was a sex trafficking victim. Her realization is not as unusual as it may sound as victims don’t self-identify and associate what they are doing is part of sex trafficking, Tracy noted.

The young woman did come in to the Julian Center and Tracy discovered she was a textbook case of sex trafficking victims. The adolescent had been in and out of 12-14 foster homes from the age of 4 to 16 where she often ran away. When Tracy met her she was pregnant and trying to find a safe place to stay.

“She was the first client I personally had,” Tracy said. The young woman had been involved in trafficking for about six months to a year and had managed to get away. “To really see that vulnerability … she didn’t have a chance in the beginning,” Tracy said of the teen’s upbringing. “It changed my life,” Tracy said of the meeting. “I already had a passion for working with individuals who came through the foster care system.”

“One of the things I’ll never forget her saying is I was the first person she ever met that she felt like she had a positive relationship with. That’s extremely heartbreaking when you spend your whole life in the system (foster care) and really felt like no one really cared for you,” Tracy said. “She didn’t know or understand what it was like for someone to care about her.”

After starting as a full-time MSW student, Tracy worked 5 to 10 hours a week as a volunteer at the center so she could continue to help the adolescent she worked with during her practicum as an undergraduate. “I really enjoyed that experience,” Then, the center’s care coordinator left in July and the Julian Center hired Tracy to become the full-time care coordinator for human trafficking victims last August.

Because of her position at the Julian Center, Tracy became part of the Indiana Protection against Trafficked Humans Task Force and began working with the Attorney General’s office, Indiana Homeland Security, US Attorney office, and the FBI as well as other law enforcement partners. Tracy had the chance to do some undercover work with law enforcement officers as part of victim services.

As a task force member, Tracy had a chance to meet with Cindy McCain, the wife of U.S. Senator John McCain. Cindy McCain heads a similar sex trafficking task force in Arizona. The Arizona task force wanted to see how Tracy and her group did their job in preparation for Arizona hosting the next Super Bowl. Tracy had only been in her job for two months when she met McCain. “It was very surreal,” she recalled. “It was just different for me in the beginning. I had just graduated from the undergraduate program. It’s a whole new world where I have to perform at a different level.” It helped that Tracy was older and already had a sense of who she was to meet the challenges of working on the task force.

Last September Tracy had a faith-inspired vision to create a nonprofit agency to be called Restored. In her vision, Restored was located on a farm and included a community center and three cottages. Tracy has already assembled a board of directors and is looking to raise $2.8 million for the project.

The goal of Restored is to create a real home life and would have house parents that would build positive relationships with trafficked or sexually exploited girls, she noted. “There is such a need and children get lost to the system because there is not enough manpower,” Tracy said of people who work with sex trafficked victims. “So this (Restored) is really about focusing on individuals where there is mentoring, healing, and relationship building so that when they do turn 18 they can go out into society and become successful adults.”

Tracy’s immediate plans are to continue working at the Julian Center while she develops Restored. What excites her is the thought of having hope for foster care runaways and having them know they are loved. “I just feel it is something I’ve been called to do.”

TO LEARN MORE: FACEBOOK — FACEBOOK.COM/RESTOREINDIANA
TWITTER — @RESTOREINDIANA,
EMAIL — RESTOREINDIANA@GMAIL.COM
I came to the IU School of Social Work for two reasons. First, because of the influence of my family experience. From the time I was 6-years-old to the time I was 24 years old, my family was a foster family for 42 children as a ministry of love. Most of the children who lived with us were new born babies and they stayed with us a year until the law allowed them to be adopted. Therefore, I had a very gentle, kind social worker in my life for 18 years and knew that foster care was a loving service and ministry.

My second reason was because of an experience volunteering at a children’s hospital. I attended another school my first year of college and was pre-med. While I was volunteering that year I realized that the doctors I saw did not have time or opportunity to really talk to a family or child. The social worker was there working with them in many ways; counseling the family, the child and the other children in the family, and assisting them with issues of finance, emotional adjustment to the diagnosis, family dynamics and stress. I decided I wanted to be able to work with the whole person and family rather than focus primarily on their medical concerns. The school I was at did not

By Rev. Dr. Loletta M. Barrett
have a social work degree so I transferred to IU Bloomington because I loved the beautiful campus and knew I would enjoy the social work classes.

My focus at the School of Social Work was child welfare. My senior internship was at the Children’s Guardian Home in Indianapolis with both abused children and their families. In conversation with my peers, I began to realize that my gifts and abilities included administrative, financial, public policy, planning, organizational and management skills. At that time there began to be a demand for social programs to show return on investment and other “business” efficiencies, and I believed I could best serve by using my skills to develop and manage programs and grants that would ensure other social workers could focus on direct service. That led to my attending the University of Chicago School Of Social Service Administration where I earned an MA with a focus on Policy and Management.

I then entered a period of public sector service that allowed me to use my degrees in social work in wonderfully diverse ways. I worked for the State of Illinois, Bureau of the Budget, as a senior analyst in the areas of Probation, Parole and Corrections. In that role I developed legislation and financial plans and advised the Governor on public policy.

I then moved to California, where I lived on a 38-foot Catalina sailboat for three years, and worked for the County of Orange, California. I was the Director of Finance for the Social Services Agency and people were surprised to find a social worker in that role. It was a major advantage to the organization however. I understood the programs and their purposes and the services provided and this helped me advocate for federal and state funding as well as create budgets and financing plans that were a good use of resources and supported the work of the social workers.

I then served as the Director of Administration for the Waste Management Department. My first duties were to develop the legal framework as the program separated from an agency and became a department on its own. This involved managing the
development of a recycling component, separate fees and funding sources, hiring an entire administrative support staff, developing the first engineering, finance and office automation information technology support for the new department, and developing and negotiating with the state on creative financing tools and agreements for the use and closure of technologically advanced, environmentally sound landfills.

My last seven years with the County were as the County and Operational Area Emergency Manager. This involved creating a new organization for the entire county, and the cities, schools and special districts to respond to disasters and a way they could all work together across jurisdictional boundaries when dealing with such things as earthquakes, wild fires, floods, and nuclear power plant emergencies and terrorist activities, of which we had several of each. When I explained my job I would say it was to do group therapy with a population of 2.5 million people during a major disaster, while facilitating and mediating the interaction of multiple professions and political entities at the local, state and federal level.

During this time I decided to go to seminary part-time for my own spiritual development. When it came time to do an internship I decided to stop working and attend seminary full time. I never intended to become an ordained minister of my denomination, the United Church of Christ. But the first time I preached the call was loud and clear and “I could do no other.” In my last year at IU, I was a triple major — social work, religion and sociology, but a well-meaning soul told me that women could not be ministers (and I believed him because I had never met a woman minister even though my denomination was the first to ordain a woman in the late 1800s, and because the social work internships required travel to Indianapolis. I made the choice to avoid the call to ministry at that time. I went on to complete my Master of Divinity and then my Doctor of Ministry focusing on Interfaith relations and peace building. (So I have earned a BSW, MA, MDiv, and DMin – I love learning!!)

Since completing my doctorate I have worked for my denomination at the state and association level. I have also been a local pastor and a transition specialist (working with churches between called pastors). Before I left for Namibia I worked for a period as a medical social worker at the local hospital and I enjoyed working at the field level in social work. It also took me full circle back to the days before I entered IU — hospital social work!
My faith/religion was highly influential in my choice to go into social work because of my parents. We attended church while I was a child, and I was always interested in the person and actions of Jesus, but my formal religious education was very minimal. Instead, it was the actions and words accompanying my parents’ lives that shone through and I believe these are based on his ministry and are at the heart of my faith. My mother always said referring to the babies we cared for, “there is always room in the inn.” My father always told me and taught me with his actions to treat others as I would like to be treated no matter who they are — the golden rule.

My social work education has been instrumental in my ability to work with people, to see people as whole persons, to have an open mind toward people and cultures that are different (in fact a thirst to learn about what makes us different and the same) and to treat people with mutual respect and compassion. I believe it is the best foundation for any career and life — there are few careers that don’t require people skills and all careers can benefit from them, and every life needs the ability to see people as people — deserving of dignity.

Interpersonal relationships would improve 100% if we all treated each other that way, and the world would be a much saner and more peaceful place. That is where my interest in interfaith relationships comes from — working for peace between religions, people treating people with different beliefs with compassion. Curiosity and dignity will lead to more peace in the world. My doctoral dissertation was entitled, “Community Building and Peace Making through Interfaith Dialogue, Religious Education and Social Justice Action.” It is a program for creating relationships between people of different religions

“moments of relationship realized,” through truly meeting each other, studying, praying, worshiping, and working together in justice projects.

My trip to Nicaragua in January 2012 was the first mission trip I went on outside the United States. I have been fortunate to travel all over the United States and to many different countries in my life, but I wanted to begin focusing on being with people rather than just seeing places. I have wanted to live in a country other than the United States and experience another culture, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to go and learn from working with others. I have applied to the Peace Corps a couple times but the timing was not right. I was called to serve with Global Ministries in January 2013 to go to Kalkfeld, Namibia. I spent several months in South Africa and Botswana teaching and facilitating workshops, but more importantly, learning a lot about the history of the three countries and the history of mission and Apartheid.

I was in Namibia from June 2013 to January 2014. I then returned to the United States and traveled for three months to talk to churches and various organizations about my experience in Kalkfeld and Otjiwarango. In the time I was there I was the Pastor to the church in these two locations. I did the traditional pastor things; preaching, teaching, visiting.

My main focus was a ministry of presence; living with them day to day and being with them.

In that capacity I worked on personal empowerment issues. I was there to preach with my words during one hour on Sunday. But more essential was living the values of social work and faith: love, kindness, dignity, understanding, openness, honesty, studying, praying and working together, communication, respect, compassion, caring, listening, singing, dancing, sharing, laughing, coloring, cooking, giving, walking, playing, encouraging, reading, crying, sitting...

The socio-economic issues in Kalkfeld are very large and my work was to begin building the base of a sense of personal agency on which efforts in community organizing and community development can be built. The settlement has experienced unemployment, flight of resources for jobs, education, and social support, extended drought, extreme poverty, severe drug and alcohol abuse, emotional, physical and economic abuse, and the legacy of racial separation and Apartheid.

My job is to make connections between the people of Kalkfeld with the churches and organizations in the United States; to be a witness to the people in Kalkfeld of God’s love and options beyond their emotional and physical borders, as well as interpret to them a real picture of a person from the United States, and to create an appreciation of the people of Kalkfeld in the minds, hearts and lives of the churches and organizations I speak with. I am to be a witness to the fact that though we are different and far apart, we also have many similarities and are all Children of God, deserving of dignity, and have choices of how we live our lives in love and compassion toward others in thought, word and deed.
When social work students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas in May, no one could have been happier than Nathaniel Spaulding. Growing up in poverty and hardship and then falling under the sway of alcohol and drugs, Nathaniel didn’t see how he would ever achieve his dream of getting a college education. Here is Nathaniel’s own story of how he and a special friend made his dream come true.

My journey to receive a Master’s degree in social work has been exciting and enjoyable. In 2003 I began taking classes at IUPUI. My plan was to work full time at the university and attend classes part-time in the pursuit of a Bachelor’s degree in Organizational Leadership and Supervision. Along the way many things changed, but let me start at the beginning.

My personal life growing up was one of hardship and poverty. Drugs and alcohol were a prevalent part of my family’s life. My father was addicted to alcohol and so was my mother. My father was killed while intoxicated in a bar and my mother died of cirrhosis of the liver.
I began using drugs and alcohol at the age of 13 and they consumed my life until 13 years ago. At the age of 53, I decided to change my life. I sought professional help and voluntarily admitted myself into a residential treatment facility for six months.

At this time I was working at IUPUI. I was a floor tech for Campus Facilities Services when I first met Mike (early in our relationship I attempted to address Mike as Dean Patchner on two occasions and he was very insistent that I call him Mike). Mike had just moved here from Pittsburgh as the new Dean of the School of Social Work. He would leave the ES building late at night and I would be on the first floor mopping the corridor and he would always stop and talk with me for a few minutes. This happened so regularly that I would look forward to our conversations. The conversations were usually small talk, but I enjoyed talking with Mike. After I was released and returned to work, within one year I was promoted from floor tech to group leader. One year later I was promoted to supervisor. About the same time as my promotion to supervisor, my church appointed me to the position of financial officer, a position I hold to this day. I have been happily married for 10 years and have three sons ages 14, 22, and 30.

Our conversations changed when I returned to work after my recovery. I believe one of my co-workers informed Mike that I was in recovery and that was the reason he did not see me cleaning the floor nightly. When I returned to work from the residential recovery program, our conversations started being about how I was doing. How was I feeling, was I attending meetings, did I have a sponsor, he was genuinely concerned. This was very humbling for me that the Dean of the School of Social Work would care how I was doing in recovery (at this time I had no idea what social work consisted of).

I always had a dream of earning a college education, but it was just that, a dream. I attended Western Kentucky University for a year, but alcohol and drugs made continuing my education impossible at the time. I remember the conversation Mike and I had that started me on my educational journey. One night Mike asked me how I was doing and I answered “I am doing fine, but I miss going to bars”. Mike replied, “Nathaniel, going to bars is a big waste of time, why don’t you read a book or something.” At the time, I thought Mike had no understanding of what real fun was. Since then I have often told Mike that once I never thought about reading a book and now I do not have the time to read all the books that I have at home.

At this point in our relationship Mike suggested that I take one class and see how I would like attending IUPUI. My first semester I was successful and I received an ‘A’. Mike suggested that I try two classes, again success, two ‘A’s’. Classes were going great until one day I received a very large Bursar bill. I never anticipated the cost of my education. I understood that as an employee at the university some of my expenses were being taken care of. This is where Mike really became my mentor. After I received the Bursar bill Mike suggested that I attend Ivy Tech where the tuition is more economical. He then returned the next day and made this statement, “I don’t know what I was thinking, I am the Dean of the IU School of Social Work and here I am suggesting that a student attend another school because of finances”. Mike helped me to get in touch with the IU Foundation Scholarship committee and the rest is history.

After my first semester at IUPUI I discovered I enjoyed the learning experience and wanted more. In 2006 I was in invited to join the National Society of Leadership and Success, because I had a high GPA. In 2008 I received a Certificate in Leadership Studies from Purdue University. In 2011, I graduated with a Bachelor’s in General Studies. I was also elected as the president of the General Studies program.

At this juncture in my educational pursuit I thought I was finished with my educational goals. Dean Patchner had spoken to me about attending the IU School of Social Work, but I was not sure if I would succeed at the graduate level. After more conversation we agreed that I should indeed apply and see how things went. A few weeks after submitting my application, I received a letter that I had been accepted into the IU School of Social Work program. To this day, I am unable to begin to express the joy my family and I felt after receiving this news.

This past May, I graduated with a Master’s degree in social work, truly a dream come true.
When Vincent Butler graduated with his MSW Degree in 1973 from the Indiana University School of Social Work, the last thing he expected was a 35-year career in domestic violence after he asked a client, “Where did you get that bruise?”

While he was an undergraduate at the University of Dayton working on his Bachelor of Science in social work degree, Butler had developed an interest in working with children. One of his professors at Dayton, Jack McDonald, who was an IUSSW graduate, and a college roommate, Mike Reidy, who was from Indianapolis, helped convince Butler to come to the School of Social Work for his MSW degree.

Butler, who is from Secaucus, NJ, was the first social worker from a family who valued helping others. “My parents taught us to help out and make a place better than you found it.”

While at the School of Social Work, Butler remembered having great field work experiences at the Riley Child Guidance Clinic and with the Indianapolis Public Schools. “I really did get immersed in working with kids.”

Butler spent a year working at the Midtown Community Mental Health Center after receiving his degree. Then wanting to be closer to their families, he and his wife Laura moved Rochester, NY, where his wife’s family lived.

Because there weren’t any child social worker positions open when he arrived, Butler took a position as a Primary Therapist of Adult and Children’s services at the Genesee Mental Health Center in Rochester. It was there, that his career took an unexpected turn as he developed the first support group for women who were battered.

It was 1976 and during a span of a week and a half, Butler’s clients included three women who had facial bruises. “All three said they had walked into a door,” Butler said. Butler said he was treating the women for anxiety and depression, but on paper there were no obvious clues as to what was causing their conditions. When the second woman told him the same thing, he became a little suspicious, but thought, well, it’s possible. But when the third woman appeared and mentioned walking into a door, Butler pressed her on what had actually happened. She took a chance and confided in him that her common-law husband had struck her. “She made a bet with me to go back and ask the other two women if in fact it wasn’t their husbands or boyfriends who caused their injuries. She was absolutely right.”

Honoring a ground breaking career in DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Rob Schneider
Butler brought the three women together and started the first domestic violence support group in Rochester. At the time, domestic violence wasn’t a term being used yet. Instead, it was referred to as wife abuse and wife battering. He also had to keep reminding himself that until 1977, it wasn’t illegal to hit your wife in the State of New York. “Hitting a stranger was illegal, but not your marriage partner.”

At the time there was nothing in the professional literature to give suggestions on how to support the women, he noted. He enlisted a community health nurse whom he worked with at the mental health center to help with the support group.

Butler scheduled the time of the support group meetings to allow the women to attend and return home before their husbands got home from work. He was always careful not to make a follow up call to her home should she miss a group meeting. Even when it was possible to bill the spouse’s insurance company, they wouldn't in case the woman's husband might check to see what the charges were and thus compromise her safety.

“It was difficult for women to share the secret they had kept for so many years,” Butler said. They had been blamed by their abuser for their actions, so it took a huge amount of courage to admit and open up to somebody. Many of the women would open up in bits and pieces. They wanted to see if we were really going to be there and continue and be accepting of them. Their abusers had told them no one would believe them and in fact other people would think they were crazy if they tried to tell them about their situation.”

Besides providing a safe place where they could talk about what was going on, the group helped the women to understand they were not alone, that other women were going through similar experiences, Butler noted. “It lightened the load of feeling unique. They were actually strong, resilient, creative people to have done what they had done and to have survived to that point.”

When a domestic violence shelter opened in Rochester and was able to provide the same services he was, Butler asked how he could be of assistance. The director of the shelter asked him if he would be willing to work with the offenders. Some of the offenders had been calling the shelter’s hotline and were asking for assistance to help them change their behaviors.

Butler then founded the first batterers intervention program in Rochester, The Men’s Education for Non-Violence Workshop, in 1982. Most of the offenders Butler began working with had been referred through the legal system and police department. There was a high-level of resistance among the offenders, Butler recalled. Butler took the approach that he wasn’t there to make friends, but to provide a program. “Basically, it was an education program based on the drinking and driving programs that were popular around the country. The program looked at the history of domestic violence, how it is a learned behavior. Butler said they learned from the men and their victims the violence was a deliberate act, it was more than being out of control. The men told Butler the violence was a way to get their spouses to do what they wanted them to do. “Part of the program was to get them to look at things differently, to look at their partner with respect.”

Butler went on to become a founding member of the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium. He also became a founding member of the Western and Central New York Batterers Program in 1989. His peers have recognized his pioneering efforts in the field of domestic violence. Butler received the NASW Genesee Valley Division of Social Worker of the Year Award in 1989 and their Stop the Hurt Award” in 2006. In 2007, he received the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium’s Lifetime Commitment Award.

Butler did eventually work in a children’s program after the mental health clinic started one. “So, I did get back to my roots.” But as a colleague pointed out, he had really been involved with children during his years working in domestic violence. “Essentially, we were running a father’s group where 75 to 80 percent of the men were fathers. It was important to teach men what kind of role models they were being for their children. We did have big pieces in our curriculum about respectful parenting and respectful fathering.” There was a time when people thought domestic violence didn’t involve kids, it just involved their parents, Butler noted. “But those who worked in the field have always known it negatively affects children.”

Butler retired in 2011 following the death of his wife, Laura, whom he described being his strength and support in doing this difficult work. In the years following, consciousness about domestic violence has been raised and protocols have been developed to assure victim's safety, batterer accountability and a coordinated community response. Still, he continues to volunteer with the domestic violence consortium and works on its Community Action Committee. The committee works to ensure legislators support domestic violence related bills and understand how they will make it safer for the victims and survivors.
When our son Christopher died this past March, Lisa and I could not imagine how we could face the next day. We did though because we had the love and support of many individuals who lifted our spirits. The cards, flowers and words of encouragement helped us more than you can imagine.

Then, we were heartened to learn people were moved to keep Christopher’s wonderful spirit alive by donating to the Patchner Family Scholarship in his memory. As parents, we of course, knew what a gift Christopher had been to our family. It was wonderful to realize that others who had met Christopher over the years saw the same thing.

In our journey with Christopher we came to see first-hand how important it is to have highly trained social workers who truly understand the needs of a family with a member with developmental disabilities. In some instances, it took both of us working nearly full-time to ensure that Christopher received the assistance he needed. We could only imagine what it must be like for a single parent or other families who find all the red-tape of health care and community services simply incomprehensible and overwhelming. As saddened as we were by Christopher’s death, we knew that without us, Christopher would never have lived the full live that he had.

That realization is what led us to begin the work to initiate the Patchner Family Scholarship several years ago. Our idea was to have the scholarship support students at the Indiana University School of Social Work who intend to prepare for a career in service of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Because of the generous donations from people in memory of Christopher, we have realized our first goal of endowing the scholarship. Lisa and I are making plans to award the first Patchner Family Scholarship. Now that the scholarship is endowed, we want to continue to work to grow the scholarship fund and assist as many students as possible. If you would like to help us have an impact on the lives of those with developmental disabilities and their families, please consider joining us in support of this scholarship.

For those of you that may want to make a contribution to the Patchner Family Scholarship, you can mail contributions made payable to the IU Foundation, attention of Sandy Noe, Development Director, IUSSW, 902 W. New York St., ES 4114B, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Please put Patchner Family Scholarship in the memo section. Anyone who would like to make a credit card donation can call Sandy Noe at (317) 278-1620 and she can assist you.

Again, Lisa and I are most grateful for your heartfelt support.
JaSon hoJnacki still remembers the rush of excitement he felt when he opened the letter from the Indiana University School of Social Work. Hojnacki, who graduated with his Master of Social Work degree in 2006, opened the letter with his fiancée and shouted with delight as he read the letter announcing he was a recipient of the Agnes Anderson Memorial Fund Scholarship. The scholarship is named for a faculty member who was with the IU Division of Social Service from 1945 to 1956. The scholarship is awarded to a student for their distinguished academic achievements.

Hojnacki had come to the School of Social Work for one simple reason: he always had an interest in helping people. “I knew that I wanted to devote my working life to helping other people rather than just making money,” he explained. Hojnacki knew pretty much from the start of his graduate studies that he wanted to focus on the mental health side of the program. “I always knew that leadership and finances was not me. I was not a math person,” Hojnacki said. Instead, he was interested in the mental health aspects of social work where he could utilize his coping and empathy skills.

The scholarship not only helped with the cost of his education, but provided the encouragement that others valued his work. “I felt it was really validating all the work I had done and was doing,” Hojnacki said. Hojnacki currently is a mental health therapist at the Serenity Medical Center.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IUSSW FUNDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS, PLEASE CONTACT SANDY NOE, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT (317) 278-1620 OR SMNOE@IUPUI.EDU. Donations can be made online at socialwork.iu.edu or checks can be made payable to IUF and mailed to: IUSSW Annual Fund | Attention: Sandy Noe | 902 W. New York Street | ES 4114B | Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. ALVIN W. COHN received the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indiana University School of Social Work Alumni Association. Dr. Cohn, who received his Master’s degree from IU in 1960, is a recognized expert in all aspects of corrections, including adult and juvenile institutions. His 45 years of experience includes working in adult and juvenile institutions and adult and juvenile parole. Dr. Cohn has worked at three universities and is the author of six books and over 50 professional journal articles and monographs on the criminal justice administration. Dr. Cohn was presented the award by IU School of Social Work Dean Michael Patchner and Karen Jones, Senior Director, IUPUI Office of Alumni Relations, during a reception held during the National Association of Social Workers conference in Washington, D.C. in July.

Long-time faculty member of the School of Social Work, SUDARSHAN SINGH, better known as Darshi or Darshi-ji, has died. Darshi embodied the practice and education of social service and social work, a rare human being dedicated to humanity. Her life was a perfect example of symbiosis between academia and serving those in need. She passed away in Seattle, WA, on November 9, 2013.

Darshi began teaching in 1970 at the School of Social Work at IUPUI, and then at IU Bloomington. She retired in 1992. In Bloomington, Darshi devoted her life to community service. She worked tirelessly at the Monroe County Community Kitchen. She would knit continuously, especially scarves, to provide warmth to those in need. Darshi gathered the Indian community in Bloomington to cook at an annual fund-raising dinner, known as the Indic-Bloom Dinner to support the education of young women in India. It lasted for more than 20 years! Any friend could always ask for help for any social project or favor and get substantive pragmatic advice and a donation. Once a friend asked, and Darshi taught her Urdu. She was the “elder” of the Indian diaspora in Bloomington. Always self-evasive and never wanting to be “somebody”; she was hugely generous.
Where Are They Now?

Randy Daniels, MSW 1969
I worked for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources as a Social Work Supervisor in Family and Children Services with emphasis on Adult Protective Services. I also supervised social workers who were obtaining their license to practice. I retired in 2001 and now live in Parkersburg, WV. I feel blessed to have attended Indiana University and have wonderful memories of my time spent with classmates and my field placements at the Indiana School for the Blind and Family and Children Services of Fort Wayne, IN.

James Paul Schroeder, MSW 1978
I live in Evansville, IN, and work at the Advanced Pain Care Clinic as a Clinical Social Worker where we know that chronic pain is as much as about suppressed and repressed emotional pain as it is about the physical body. I also have dedicated myself to a Haitian Mission so the real poor in our world can experience some of the many blessings we have received.

Lisa Arick, MSW 1987
After 19 years working for the Veteran’s Administration, I now am in my 12th year in my private integration psychotherapy practice in Broad Ripple, Indianapolis. Additionally, I have the opportunity to provide clinical consultation services for the staff at the Indianapolis Vet Center. I enjoy time with my family and friends and love quiet time spent in nature.

Donyel Byrd, BSW 1992, MSW 1995
I am employed as Associate Faculty in the IUSSW, Bloomington Campus. I teach Diversity and Community Behavior and Practice. I am Outreach Coordinator with the ACA Volunteers of Monroe County. My social justice passions include health care reform, homelessness, poverty, marriage equality and public education. My volunteer efforts include not only the ACA outreach, but also summer and winter shelters and the Indiana Coalition for Public Education. I am married to John Stipp, Social Worker and Photographer, and am the parent of a 15 year old freshman son and 12 year old 7th grade daughter.

Beverly Mussetter, BSW 1992, MSW 1993
I am continuing to serve clients who suffer from mental illness and families “at risk” and their children by providing both outpatient therapy as well as in-home community based therapeutic services via contracts with the Indiana Department of Child Services. These contracts exist to provide wrap around services to assist children with severe and chronic mental illness to stay in the community instead of residential institutions. I work for a private practice, Life Solutions Counseling Associates, PC, and am enjoying developing my group’s home based program in Regions 9, 10, and 11 in Indiana. I enjoy my personal life and 18 grandchildren. It continues to be a privilege to be a social worker and an IUSSW alumna.

Ebony Shumpert, BSW 2000, MSW 2001
In the years since I graduated, I have worked in various areas that include mental health (children, adults, families, and groups), adoptions, foster care, school based, hospice, and geriatrics. In 2004, I received my LCSW, which was very helpful when moving to different areas in the state, such as St. Joseph and Elkhart communities. After moving back to Indianapolis in 2011, I started working in geriatrics with Senior Care at Eskenazi Health. My program work is specific to older adults who suffer from dementia and/or depression.

Erica Dehart, MSW 2008
I currently work at the VA Medical Center of Ft. Wayne, IN in the general mental health program providing outpatient therapy to individuals, couples, and in groups. I am also providing services of trauma recovery utilizing evidenced based therapy to survivors of military sexual trauma, combat related trauma, and other types of complex trauma. I currently live in a 100+ year old farm house in Huntington, IN. I am connecting to the community through my yoga practice and my love of knitting. I enjoy learning in all forms and thus spend time in reading, discussing, and teaching on topics of interest to social workers and the population I support.

Sara M. Elliott, MSW 2012
I continue working with the federally funded program, Jobs for America's Graduates, or JAG, at Ben Davis High School. I work with juniors and seniors identified as being “at risk” due to absenteeism, credit deficient, low GPA, having a criminal background or incarcerated parent, having a child or currently pregnant, etc. I help prepare them with college and career readiness skills. I recently got engaged and will be married in October, 2014. We have a four legged fur baby, a goldendoodle named Moye, after our favorite IU basketball player.
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Website: alumni.iupui.edu/associations/socialwork/scholarships.html

**ALUMNI — WHERE ARE YOU NOW?**
Fill out a brief form on your website to tell us what’s happening in your life. Please tell us about things like your employment/retirement, your family, your hobbies, your special interests, any honors/special awards you’ve received, books or articles you’ve written and/or anything else you think would be of interest to your fellow alumni. What you submit will be posted on your IUSSW alumni website and may also be printed in the Network magazine.

Labor Studies Alumni — alumni.iupui.edu/associations/laborstudies
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The Indiana University School of Social Work Alumni Conference will be held on March 6, 2015 at Valle Vista, 755 E. Main Street, Greenwood, IN.

Indiana University School of Social Work and the Council on Social Work Education are sponsoring the Social Work Distance Education Conference on April 15-17, 2015 in downtown Indianapolis. For more information about the conference go to swde.iu.edu or email swde@iupui.edu.