Message from Dean Patchner

We are now nearing the midpoint of the academic year. As usual, the School of Social Work has been very busy this year. As most of you are aware, on July 1 of this year the Indiana University Division of Labor Studies merged with the School of Social Work. The School of Social Work assumed administrative authority for the Labor Studies Program which operates on six IU campuses across the state. The Labor Studies Program offers the Associate of Science and the Bachelor of Science in Labor Studies. We have begun the process of developing a Masters in Labor Studies and, hopefully, sometime next academic year, we will begin the long approval process needed for this new degree. Labor Studies and Social Work are a natural fit. Both offer degrees at various IU campuses and both have a strong commitment to social justice. This merger is already creating opportunities for collaborative teaching, research, and service. Dr. Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Executive Director of Undergraduate Education at the School of Social Work, is serving as the Interim Director for the Labor Studies Program.

Our partnership with the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has expanded. In 2001 we began a program whereby employees in public child welfare are able to earn MSWs. In 2006, we began a program that supports BSW students who have a commitment to child welfare. This calendar year we expanded our partnership with DCS by providing training to new and continuing child welfare workers. Thus far we have 23 persons working on these projects. The training program is housed in the Legacy Foundation Building in Carmel in space provided by the IUPUI campus. Hopefully, some day we will have our own building with a training center included.

With the acquisition of the Labor Studies Program and the growth of the IV-E Child Welfare Program we are now engaged in a new strategic planning process. The last strategic plan was developed shortly before I arrived as Dean over seven years ago. We formally initiated strategic planning at the School of Social Work Retreat held at the beginning of the Fall Semester. Ellen Poffenberger, Vice-Chancellor for Human Resources and Marilyn Bedford, Sr. Consultant, Training and Organization Development, HRA, are leading this planning process.

In a recent study conducted by Robert Schneider and Frank Baskind (Journal of Social Work Education, Fall 2007, Vol. 43.3, p.546) Indiana University School of Social Work ranked 32nd in the number of journal articles published during the 2000-2004 period. This was a dramatic increase in our ranking. During the 1990-1999 period our School ranked 57th. In all, there are approximately 180 schools of social work in the United States. This fall our work with Moi University in Kenya resulted in the establishment of a BSW program. We are pleased that we continued on page 5

Mark Your Calendars for the 2008 Mental Health Conference

by Helen McClain

Please reserve Friday, March 7, 2008, for the Seventh Annual IU School of Social Work Alumni Mental Health Conference on “Being Safe in an Unsafe Environment.” The Conference will take place at The Marten House Conference Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. IUSSW Alumni will receive a brochure and registration information by mail in early January, 2008. The cost for the conference is $58.50 for alumni members, $65 for non-members and $20 for students. The exhibitor fee is $100. Conference attendees will receive six CEU’s, a wealth of knowledge, and the opportunity to connect and re-connect with peers!

Nearly 400 people were in attendance during last year’s conference on the important issue of human trafficking. Evaluations from attendee’s following the conference reported that the information was very impactful and served to give voice to demand response and action to address the devastation of human trafficking and exploitation. Planning for the upcoming 2008 conference has taken into account the attendees’ comments and suggestions of additional areas of social welfare concern that were requested for future conference topics. In response to this feedback from last year’s conference, highly regarded presenters have been confirmed to speak on the important, relevant issues of: substance misuse and addictive disorders; safety in regard to sexual predators; safety in the workplace; motivating parents and others; ethics; legal issues; immigration safety issues; and the necessity of self-care. A follow up on the call for action regarding human trafficking will also be presented.

The Indiana University School of Social Work is Planning an Alumni Cruise!

In November 2008, the Indiana University School of Social Work will host a seven day alumni cruise with the School of Nursing and the School of Physical Education and Tourism Management. Continuing education courses will be held on the ship on days we are not in port. We are planning several additional onboard activities including an Indiana University Alumni reception. A brochure will go out to all alumni in January. This will be a fun week in the Eastern Caribbean. We hope you can join us. Bring your family and friends. For more information, call Karen Jones at 317-274-8959 or e-mail her at kdeery@iupui.edu.
Caste in India: The Status of Dalits

by Lalit Khandare, PhD Student, IU School of Social Work

IU MSW students partnered with Ph.D. students to organize a talk and lunch with a Mr. Chandra Bhan Prasad, a Visiting Fellow at University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Prasad began his talk saying, “Just imagine for a moment America without any Black film actor, America without any Black corporate CEO, America with only one news-media columnist, America without any Black company listed in the New York Stock Exchange, America without a single company owned by a Black member of the chamber of commerce, America without a single family adopting a Black child, the list can be endless.”

This imaginary scene is in fact the India of today for Dalits. This was a small imaginary world posed by Mr. Prasad to compare the present situation of 250 million Dalits or “Ex-Untouchables” under the Hindu caste system. One predominant theory suggests that Dalits were the indigenous people of the native Indian subcontinent. Dalits faced to a large extent, similar apartheid system of segregation that existed in the USA until recently. The 3000 year old Hindu caste system make a large extent, similar apartheid system of segregation that existed in the U.S. until recently. The India’s National Crime Records Bureau reports, “Every hour two Dalits are assaulted; every day three Dalit women are raped, two Dalits are murdered, and two Dalit homes are torched.”

Apart from Mr. Prasad’s media coverage, www.ambedkar.org, the Zestcaste, and www.atrocitynews.wordpress.org are among the few platforms to access Dalit news. Mr. Prasad spoke about the chief architect of Indian’s Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who fought for the rights of “untouchables” and was a contemporary of “Mahatma” Gandhi. Dr. Ambedkar and many others criticized “Mahatma” Gandhi for propagating violence through advocating Hindu Dharmashastra, caste based occupation and prohibition of intercaste marriages.

Mr. Prasad spoke about Manusmruti, a Hindushastra which is worshipped in India as a religious constitution. According to this shashtra, “Brahmins are the masters of the entire universe. Besides, Brahmins alone act as a sort of post office for transmitting food to the gods and the dead, that is to say, the gods and the dead eat food through the mouths of Brahmins (apparently because they do not have mouths of their own).” Manusmruti says, “even though the shudra possesses the quality/merit, he/she should be prohibited from collection of wealth or money.” It has list of hierarchical nature punishments and treatment for Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras, and “Untouchables”. Mr. Prasad said India is going through a period of conflicts. The continued violation of human rights of “ex-untouchables” might soon spark a civil rights movement similar to what happened in America in 1950-60s.

In 1996, Kenneth Cooper, a foreign correspondent for The Washington Post, asked his friends in the Indian media fraternity for the contact details of a Dalit journalist. The query sparked off a chain of events that began with the publishing of an editorial by B.N. Uniyal titled “In search of a Dalit journalist”, in which Uniyal concluded “that in all the 30 years I had worked as journalist I had never met a fellow journalist who was Dalit.” Uniyal’s article and findings were condensed into a memorandum by Chandra Bhan Prasad, President of the Dalit Shiksha Andolan and Dr Sheoraj Singh Bechain, Convenor of the Dalit Writers Forum, and was submitted, with no avail, to the Editors Guild of India and the Press Council of India. Since then, Mr. Prasad became and continues to be the first and only Dalit to write a weekly column in India, who began with the English daily The Pioneer, and now is invited by most Indian publications to write on their opinion pages. Widely cited by national and international press like The Washington Post, USA Today, National Geography magazine, BBC, Guardian, and The Economist. He is presently based at the University of Pennsylvania as a visiting fellow. Mr. Prasad wants to educate Indians with an entrenched caste psyche about the positive development in USA toward overcoming racial apartheid.
THE ‘87 THREE
by Irene Weinberg

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down with three members of the MSW class of 1987 while they reminisced about their graduate school experiences and their social work careers. Now, Sherry Gass, Susan Larimer, and Anita Osborn are all on the faculty of the IU School of Social Work on the IUPUI Campus which is where we met.

The ‘87 Three all entered the MSW program via different paths. Sherry had earned her BSW at IU in 1981 and then worked until she returned to IU in 1984 to start on her MSW. Susan had earned her Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Taylor University in Upland, IN in 1985 and went directly from there to IU to start work on her MSW as a regular student. Anita had earned her Bachelor Degree in Psychology in 1970. She worked for the Howard County Department of Public Welfare in Kokomo and enrolled in the MSW program at IU in 1985 as a Saturday student while she continued her employment.

Deans Schneiderman and Siegel were at the helm when Sherry, Susan, and Anita were working on their MSW’s. Memorable faculty members were Marion Wagner, Beckie Van Voorhis, Peggy Hess, Ray Koleski, Cyrus Behroozi, and Ray Kane, to name a few. The School of Social Work was then in its present location on the fourth floor of the Education and Social Work Building on the IUPUI Campus in Indianapolis. There were about 125 people in their class, 36 of whom were Saturday students. Tuition was approximately $102 a credit hour. Sherry, Susan and Anita sort of knew each other at first but they became much better acquainted during their concentration year when they had a lot of the same classes.

1987 was in the pre-computer age and The Three talked and laughed at length about how much of their time was spent at the library combing through card catalogues, reading through journal articles, taking notes using the library’s golf pencils, and waiting for other people to finish with the one and only copy of a particular journal that the library had. Sometimes they would even try to bribe a student to let loose of a journal with the promise of making a copy of it for them. And speaking of copies, they would always go to the library with pockets full of nickels so that they could use the library’s Xerox machine. They also had not so fond memories of typing all of their papers on old-fashioned typewriters where adding footnotes and correcting mistakes were not easy tasks.

Block field work placements were being used at the school at this point in time so that the fall semester of each year was spent in classes and the spring semester in the field. Sherry’s placements were at the Marion County Welfare Department and Community Centers of Indianapolis. Susan had placements at Lutherwood and Valle Vista Hospital. Anita did her field work at the Howard County Welfare Department and the Family Service Association in Indianapolis. The Three were all employed while in school: Sherry at the Salvation Army; Susan at Koala Hospital; and Anita at the Howard County Welfare Department.

They also recalled that when they graduated in May, 1987, some of their classmates organized a large graduation party and they wanted to thank Greg Bowman, Bob Stoner, Jane Bewley, and Susan McCord for their efforts in this regard.

BSW Exploration Session

A BSW Exploration Session for students that have indicated they might be interested in the field of social work was held on Thursday, October 25. Perspective students heard from alumni, current students, and faculty about the BSW program. Information regarding admittance to the BSW program was distributed during the session. Sheila Dennis, BSW Student Services Coordinator, met individually with students after the session to further discuss the program and review transcripts. A special thanks to alumni Annette Hadley-Smith, Christine Jakacky, Yvonne Render and Rob Richardson for coming to speak to perspective students.

Sherry, who has served as the NASW President in the past, has been on the faculty for a total of thirteen years. She currently coordinates admissions, advises students and teaches. Susan has been with the school for three years and she does MSW recruitment, advises students, and teaches. Anita has been there for almost two years and she is an MSW 4E field instructor and teaches.

The Three had fun thinking back to what they said they would NEVER do in their careers as social workers. Sherry had said she would NEVER teach and she’s doing just that at IU. Susan NEVER wanted to be in policy class or work with older people and she teaches both now. Anita NEVER wanted to do planning and management but accepted a position in this field two weeks after graduation. She also NEVER wanted to deal with money and budgets as a social worker and she now teaches these NEVERS. One could truthfully say that “never” is a word that has a way of catching up with one.

Regarding changes that have occurred since 1987, The Three spoke of the drastic changes on the IUPUI Campus, the great increase in the quality of and access to information available to students thanks to modern technology, and the overall increase in openness between faculty and students.

The class of 1987 held their class reunion on October 6, 2007 and The Three were there.

Below are pictures from the Reunion!

Claasmates talking at the School before the school tour.

The Dean addresses the class at dinner.

Alumni stop at the Herron Gallery during campus tour.
Lew Linde, Class of ’57

by Lew Linde

My desire and motivation to enter social work to help people with their problems follows the force of ancestral energy with my maternal grandmother as a frontier midwife, my father, a country doctor of 55 years, and my mother, a school teacher. It was easy to follow in their footsteps. The youngest of a family of three, I was born on May 11, 1928, at Starbuck, MN.

After finishing high school in 1946, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for a three year term and became a weather observer. Best of all, I became eligible under the G.I. Bill for forty eight months of college. In 1949 I enrolled in Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and graduated in 1953 with a liberal arts degree. In the fall of 1953, I enrolled in night classes at the William Mitchell College of Law and I went to work as a public assistance caseworker at the Ramsey County Welfare Department in St. Paul, MN in 1954. I applied for, and was awarded a two year social work scholarship from the State of Minnesota in 1955 and chose to attend the Indiana University Division of Social Service because of the friendly and warm acceptance of my application. Another strong factor was that my Aunt Martha and her family lived in Indianapolis.

My first year of field work was at the Marion County Juvenile Court and my second year was at the Indianapolis VA Hospital. The Division of Social Service faculty did an excellent job of introducing me to the profession. Director Mary Houk was extremely impressive. She was a competent educator and a woman ahead of her time. My field work instructors, Meritt Gilman, Juvenile Court, and Margaret Neville, VA Hospital, passed on a wealth of knowledge and practice skills. Freudian philosophy was a prominent part of the curriculum at that time and most case diagnosis mentioned a Freudian idea. Although much of Freudian thought is outmoded, I still believe that the id, ego and super ego concepts are valid. On the last day of school, Margaret Neville gave this word of advice, “If you remember anything from IU, always stick to reality.” I received my Master’s Degree in Social Work on June 10, 1957 at the graduation ceremony in Bloomington, IN.

Because of my scholarship commitment; I returned to Minnesota and worked two years at the Hastings State Hospital as a psychiatric social worker. I had completed half of my law school studies and was undecided about completing work on my law degree. Mary Houk had encouraged me to finish law school citing sisters Grace and Edith Abbott, pioneer social workers, who were lawyers at the University of Chicago. She said that a law degree would enhance my social work practice. I decided to finish work on my law degree. I graduated from the William Mitchell College of Law in 1960 and I was admitted to the Minnesota Bar the same year.

My work history over the past 50 years has included employment with a blend of social work wisdom and knowledge with legal principles and practice. Some of my significant work experiences were in public welfare, psychiatric social work, consulting with non-profit child welfare agencies, supervising state adoption and foster care services, and refereeing public welfare appeals. I also worked in corrections as the chair of the Adult Parole Board, Administrator of the Minnesota Corrections Board, Executive Officer of Juvenile Releases and a Middle Manager at Stillwater Prison.

Upon my retirement in 1991 from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, I became a volunteer (Pro Bono) attorney with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services in St. Paul, specializing in Family law. Since 2000, I have been associated with Legal Assistance of Dakota County. As a volunteer lawyer, I have handled approximately 175 divorces. In 1994, I was awarded the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition Pro Bono Public Award and in 2006, I was given the First District Minnesota State Bar Association Pro Bono Award.

On a personal note, my beloved wife, Marcella, a graduate nurse, died of cancer in 1998. My youngest son, Paul, is a San Francisco psychiatrist and is on the medical school faculty at the University of California, San Francisco Medical School. My youngest daughter, Sara, is a high school counselor at Richfield, MN. I will always be deeply grateful for my education, training, and experience at the Indiana University Division of Social Service. As a result, I have had many rich personal and professional dividends over the past fifty years.

Note: The classes of 1956 and 1957 held their class reunion on November 2 and Lew was there. See the photo on the right taken at their reunion.

Pictured left to right: Lew Linde, Jean Murray, Merlin Outcalt, Sue Spears, and Wayne Johnson

IU School of Social Work 1956 Master of Arts

Margaret Kaloust Aslanian*  Margaret Louise (Sellers) Belknap*
William Carson Elliott*  Margaret Rose Foltz
Donald Lee Gouwens  Helen Rebecca Grove*
John Louis How*  Herbert Wayne Johnson
Joan Therese (Casler) Kern  Charlotte Caroline Maas*
C. Madelyn Kearney*  Patricia Niel Laidler*
Rudolph Thomas Mueller  John Cecil Patterson*
Winifred Fukoko Ogata  Jean Yoshino (Serikaku) Okita*
Sue Ann Spears  Rosalie Doris (Talley) Wall*
Mary Hart Stahly  Jean Adell (Vanderpool) Murray*
Ralph H. Weber, Jr.*  *Denotes Deceased

Lost or Deceased

Violet Louise Bump
Lois Kyu-Oak (Lee) Chai

If you have any information regarding those under the “lost or deceased” list; please call Karen Jones (317) 274-8959 or e-mail: kdeery@iupui.edu

IU School of Social Work 1957 Master of Arts

Bonetta Lee (Becker) Cacavas  William Bernard Dunn
Marcella Corrine Egenes  Mary Louise Elure
Mary Beatrice (Lattig Paden) Giase*  Ben Lee Glancy
Rosemary Theresa (Mattingly) Glass  Russell Grant Green*
Sonia Maxine (Deister) Helmer*  Samuel Harrison Johnson*
Esther Langlois  Llewellyn Herbert Linde
James Walter Lubs*  Mary Jane McCarthy
Edwina W. Means*  Bernadine (Marker) Noxon
Merlin Brewer Outcalt*  Eleanor May (Henry Stovall) Blankenship
Galen Adair Wilson

*Denotes Deceased

Lost or Deceased

Richard Henning  Barbara Quinn
Helen Towles

If you have any information regarding those under the “lost or deceased” list; please call Karen Jones (317) 274-8959 or e-mail: kdeery@iupui.edu
Theo Allen Scholarship Recipients

By Kathy Byers

This year’s recipients of the Theo Allen Scholarship, Andrea Shepherd and Genevieve Johnson, met Irene Weinberg, the scholarship major donor, and Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Executive Director of Undergraduate Education, for a luncheon on November 13 at the Indiana Memorial Union Tudor Room. Also joining them was Kathy Byers, Director of the Undergraduate Program on the Bloomington campus. Irene Weinberg set up the scholarship to honor Theo Allen, social work faculty member who served as a mentor for Irene as a young undergraduate on the Bloomington campus. Irene went on to earn her MSW from the School of Social Work. She has a long and distinguished career as a social worker with the Veterans Administration and now works in international adoptions. Both Andrea and Genevieve are seniors graduating from the Bloomington BSW program. While both plan to go on for their MSWs in the future, they both are planning on gaining some social work experience first. Andrea is particularly interested in the field of aging and Genevieve is open to practice in a variety of fields.

News from the Bloomington campus

Carol Hostetter, associate professor, will be one of two recipients of the 2007 “GLBT Spirit” Award, presented each year by the GLBT Office on the anniversary of its opening on the Bloomington campus. Carol was nominated by a student who wishes to remain anonymous. According to the guidelines, "this award is presented to individuals, groups, offices and departments that embody the strength, character and spirit of the Indiana University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Student Support Services Office.” We all congratulate Carol for her sensitivity and commitment that no doubt earned her this award.

Five seniors have been selected to participate in the child welfare scholarship program this fall: Kristina Deckard, Vicki El, Emily Queiro-Tajalli, Executive Director of Undergraduate Education, for a luncheon on November 13 at the Indiana Memorial Union Tudor Room. Also joining them was Kathy Byers, Director of the Undergraduate Program on the Bloomington campus. Irene Weinberg set up the scholarship to honor Theo Allen, social work faculty member who served as a mentor for Irene as a young undergraduate on the Bloomington campus. Irene went on to earn her MSW from the School of Social Work. She has a long and distinguished career as a social worker with the Veterans Administration and now works in international adoptions. Both Andrea and Genevieve are seniors graduating from the Bloomington BSW program. While both plan to go on for their MSWs in the future, they both are planning on gaining some social work experience first. Andrea is particularly interested in the field of aging and Genevieve is open to practice in a variety of fields.

Message from Dean Patchner

Continued from page 1

have been able to assist our colleagues at Moi University with this program. Recently, Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Valerie Chang, and I met with Vice Chancellor Richard Mibey regarding this BSW program during his visit to IUPUI. We will continue to support this program and know that our involvement will lead to joint teaching and research endeavors. As a result of this partnership we already have students doing field placements in the Eldoret, Kenya.

We have had a few transitions at the School of Social Work. After distinguished careers Dr. Marion Wagner (25 years at the IUSSW), Dr. Eldon Marshall (20 years), and Professor Elsa Iverson (35 years) have retired. We miss them greatly. Dr. David Westhuis has replaced Dr. Wagner as the Executive Director of MSW Education. Robert Weiler, former director of our MSW Program at IU Northwest, has been appointed as the Senior Coordinator for MSW Field Education on the IUPUI campus.Joining the School in August in tenure track positions were Drs. Stephanie Boys and Carmen Luca.

On a personal note, I have been appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to chair the Indiana Commission on Disproportionality. This Commission will examine the over-representation of minority children and families in the state’s child welfare system. It is an honor to serve in this capacity and I am hopeful the work of the Commission will have a meaningful impact on children and families in Indiana.

I thank each of you for your constant interest in and support of the School of Social Work as we continue to educate students to serve Indiana and beyond.

MSW Cohort in Fort Wayne

Beginning in Summer 2008

The MSW program will again offer a cohort in Fort Wayne at the IPFW campus beginning in the late summer of 2008. The program offers a 3-year, part-time evening curriculum (Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:40 p.m.) with a concentration in child welfare. For more information, please contact Susan Larimer at slarimer@iupui.edu.

Tell Others About Yourself!

If you would like to have your biography printed in a future issue of this newsletter, please contact Irene Weinberg, 317-578-7883 or turtleindy@aol.com. Since this is a newsletter for Alumni of the IU School of Social Work, we would like to hear from more of you and pass your information onto your classmates and others who are interested in what you’ve been doing since you earned your degree. Your biography can be written by you, by Irene, or by both, as you wish. It doesn’t matter if you are a recent graduate or a graduate from years ago. We each have a story to tell.
DORIS OLSON, CLASS OF ‘63
by Irene Weinberg

Doris Olson was born and raised in a small rural community in Montana and she attended school there until she went to college. She spent most of the summers from 1951 to 1960 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN having surgeries done. During the early part of this period she was encouraged by her plastic surgeon and Protestant Chaplain at Mayo’s to go into social work. She subsequently took their advice and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Montana at Missoula in 1955.

Doris’ first social work job was as a caseworker for the Hill County Welfare Department in Havre, MT which served the aged, disabled, dependent families, and foster care children. She then became the Director of Public Welfare for Hill and Liberty Counties where she had administrative, supervisory, and direct service responsibilities.

In 1961, to quote Doris, “It was kind of spur of the moment that I decided to apply for graduate school. My child welfare supervisor told me she could not provide an education for me and I needed to go on to school. I applied at several schools in July and got accepted at IU in August. I really had to scramble.” Thus, Doris and I became classmates. Her first year field work placement was in the Indianapolis Public Schools and her second year placement was at the Children’s Bureau. She fondly remembers Mary Houk, Director of the Division of Social Service, as it was then known, and faculty members Walter Johnson and Linda Chestnut. And, she became fast friends with another classmate, Harriette Wright, from Bluefield, West Virginia, with whom she has maintained contact over the years. Upon earning her Master’s Degree from IU in 1963, Doris returned to Montana.

Doris then became a child welfare worker for Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite Counties in Anaconda, MT where she “developed program in a very resistive area.” Next, she worked as a child welfare supervisor for Yellowstone County in Billings, MT, where she increased the staff from three to six, provided in-depth education to the County Board of Commissioners and general public, supervised staff, and consulted with other departments. Doris was then the Director of Social Services at the Saint Vincent Hospital in Billings, MT where she developed the first social work department in a private Montana hospital. She later chose to become a clinical member of the hospital staff for more rewarding experience and a preference for direct services. She provided direct casework services with emphasis in pediatrics and perinatal services, discharge planning, counseling in adult services, and consultation to hospital and medical staff. She also served on the Ethics Committee and was a consultant to the Elizabeth Seton Prenatal Clinic.

Doris is a current member of the Billings Child Protective Services Team, and a current, appointed member of the Foster Care Review Committee. In the past she has served several organizations such as the Montana Improved Pregnancy Outcome Advisory Committee, the Montana Health Professional Advisory Committee, the Montana Chapter of S.I.D.S., the Rocky Mountain Home Health Agency, the Yellowstone County Health Department, the Big Sky Hospice, the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers, and the Montana Perinatal Association.

On a personal note, Doris cared for an elderly friend for many years and she is still the neighborhood resource person for runs to the doctor’s office, hospital, grocery store, etc. She collects antique clocks and commented in her letter to me that she “can still hear Walter Johnson reminding us not to be late to class.” She loves to go shopping for antiques. She also collects Scottie dog items and has a Scottie dog named Nessie, as in Loch Ness, who can be a little monster. Nessie is a rescue dog. Doris also has two cats named Michelob and Kissee. Doris is in the process of doing some genealogical research on her father’s side of the family. He was born in Sweden. She has one brother and she enjoys close contact with him and his family.

Class Notes

Cheryl Hillenburg, MSW ’81 was recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the Center for Women and Families at the 2007 Celebration of Service.

Meghan Miles Joyner, BSW ’02, was accepted into Loyola University Chicago Advanced Placement MSW program and graduated in May 2007 after only 10 months!

Victoria Ransberger, MSW ’79 was presented the Robert J. Kinsey Award by the Service to Children and Families. She is the Master Commissioner at the Marion County Court. The “Kinsey Award honors a judge with juvenile distinction who best exemplifies the characteristics associated with Judge Kinsey – creative and innovative approaches to problems facing children and youth.”

Stephen Vriebweg, MSW ’85 has been elected President Elect for the Indiana Chapter of the National Association for Social Workers. His President Elect term is from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 and then he moves into the President’s role and serves two years.

APA Workshop

An APA Writing Style workshop was held on November 29, 2007, for all social work students. Mary Jo Pride of the IUPUI Writing Center conducted the noon workshop. The workshop reviewed important information when using the APA writing style. Mary Jo Pride also had a question and answer period for students with specific questions. She stayed after the workshop had concluded to meet one-on-one with students. The photo above was taken at the workshop. A special thank you goes to Mary Jo Pride for teaching the class. The workshop was sponsored by the MSW Student Association and the Alumni Association. Lunch was provided to all students attending the workshop. The workshop was taped and is available for viewing.


Melody Stiles, MSW ’97, has been named primary partner for the Indiana Center for Families in Transition. She is recognized by the Indiana court system as a certified domestic mediator and concentrates her area of practice on behalf of families in District Eight.

Stiles co-authored “Helping Families Through Divorce” which has been used as a training tool for court-ordered education for divorcing parents Clinton County. She has spent her career focusing on marital and family relationships and is an addictions specialist. Stiles is celebrated for her work with the legal system including the Hamilton County Department of Probation, the Hamilton County jail, and as an expert witness. Her extensive training includes work with victims of trauma including domestic violence, and survivors of homicide and suicide. In addition, Stiles completed advanced training in parenting coordination.
Hello Alumni!

The current officers of the MSWSA are President Kasey Demps, Vice President Alexis Rose, Treasurer Bessie Proffet, and NASW Representative Angie Turk. So far this year we surveyed the student body to discover that our program is concerned with improving professionalism. This has been the focus point of our policies. To help improve professionalism, we have made Spanish lessons available, given support to the Graduation Student Organization as there have been many changes to the way money is handled at the Indianapolis campus, worked to create a Concentration Fair, and the Alumni Association, the fair brought 8 alumni to campus to discuss the various concentration areas. The alumni volunteers included: Christine Jakacky, Kjirsten Kmetz, Susan Day, Monisha Mannan, Amber Gerke, Marc McAleavey, Jackie Votapek and Katrina Carlisle. Pictured in the photo are alumnae Kjirsten Kmetz and Susan Day meeting with students interested in mental health and addictions.

Concentration Fair a Big Success

On Thursday, November 8, 2007, a Concentration Fair was held for IUPUI School of Social Work students. Sponsored by the MSW Student Association and the Alumni Association, the fair brought 8 alumni to campus to discuss the 6 different concentration areas for students. Over 80 students attended the noon session to hear from alumni working in the various concentration areas. The alumni volunteers included: Christine Jakacky, Kjirsten Kmetz, Susan Day, Monisha Mannan, Amber Gerke, Marc McAleavey, Jackie Votapek and Katrina Carlisle. Pictured in the photo are alumnae Kjirsten Kmetz and Susan Day meeting with students interested in mental health and addictions.

MSW Student Association News

by Alexis Rose

Hello Alumni!

The current officers of the MSWSA are President Kasey Demps, Vice President Alexis Rose, Treasurer Bessie Proffet, and NASW Representative Angie Turk. So far this year we surveyed the student body to discover that our program is concerned with improving professionalism. This has been the focus point of our policies. To help improve professionalism, we have made Spanish lessons available, given support to the Graduation Student Organization as there have been many changes to the way money is handled at the Indianapolis campus, worked to create a Concentration Fair to answer students’ questions, lent support to the new International Social Work Group, started a professional development curriculum focus group, participated in the campus wide survey about needs of graduate students, and put on a workshop for students to help with APA style. Many of these activities would not have been possible without the Alumni Association and their continual support.

For next semester we will continue to utilize the Alumni Association with a professional interviewing workshop to help students who will be graduating soon. Also, based on the survey and the focus on professionalism, we are going to incorporate a grant writing conference during a weekend. This is something that we would like to open up to alumni as well as students because of the need in the field. Many of our students are unable to take the grant writing course offered at school, therefore we decided that this is a gap we can fill. Beside professionalism, the MSWSA is working on networking as well. The International Social Work Group has been very active in bringing social workers with international experience to school to talk with students about what they need to do before going abroad. We hope that many alumni will be able to come to our grant writing shop as well as our Concentration Fair.

Marc McAleavey Selected as the NASW – Indiana Chapter MSW Student of the Year

Marc McAleavey, a 2007 Indiana University MSW graduate, was honored as the NASW – Indiana Chapter Social Work Student of the Year. One of Marc’s nominator, Sherry Gasper, said “It is his passion and commitment to the profession of social work that truly shines. He works hard to look at all sides of issues and then finds a way to always start with client’s strengths. This is true regardless of who the client is – an individual, family, group or community.” Marc was presented the award at the Celebration Reception and Keynote Address at the NASW – Indiana Chapter 2007 Professional Education Conference on October 4, 2007. The following is an excerpt from the program and photo from the awards presentation provided by the NASW:

Marc McAleavey is the Evaluation and Documentation Manager at the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC). McAleavey holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy from Indiana University and received an MSW in May of 2007 from the Indiana University School of Social Work. His interests include Asset Based Community Development, affinities between clinical and community practice, and alternative participatory action research and evaluation methodologies. McAleavey is the Director of Outreach on the Board of Directors of the Mapleton-Fall Creek Community Development Corporation, a member of the Committee for Lay Leadership at Indianapolis’ Broadway United Methodist Church, founding member and Illustrator of Gifts for the Zawadi Exchange (a community organizing organization), and was recently appointed to serve on the Indiana University School of Social Work Alumni Association’s Board of Directors.

A special thanks to NASW – Indiana Chapter for allowing us to reprint the program and providing a photo.

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Highlights from the IUPUI BSW Program
By Irene Queiro-Tajalli,
Professor and Executive Director of Undergraduate Education

Throughout the semester, the BSW program has focused on several projects including a review of the undergraduate curriculum, building collaborations with campus academic units and the IUSSW Alumni Board, outreach with community agencies, and supporting students with academic and co-curriculum activities.

One focus of the BSW program has been to rethink the integration of the many facets of internationalization in the curriculum that will better prepare BSW graduates to practice within a global context. The BSW committee hopes to have a well developed curriculum plan by the end of the 2007-2008 academic year.

The BSW program continues its work with the Office of International Affairs, the Schools of Education and Engineering, and Ghaja Mada University in Indonesia. The group is implementing a grant that funds the internationalization of undergraduate professional education through collaboration and innovative technology.

On Thursday, October 25, the BSW Program at IUPUI hosted the IUSSW Alumni sponsored Fall Information Session for prospective BSW students. Alumni Christine Jakacky, Rob Richardson, and Annette Smith, provided students with first-hand academic and professional experiences that highlighted the diverse opportunities available in social work. Two other social work graduates, Nicki Dean and Polly Lay assisted the program with the IUPUI Fall Campus Day, one of the main student recruitment initiatives on this campus. The collaboration between our alumni and the School is a perfect match for success in the making of future leaders in social work. Planning is already underway for the Spring 2008 Information Session. Please contact Katrina Patterson, 317-274-8359 (kabrown@iupui.edu) if you are interested in participating in the next information session or other upcoming BSW recruitment events.

New to the practicum component is a paid BSW Practicum site at the Warren Township Trustee. The Trustees Office has offered one paid position per semester for a BSW student to assist township residents with emergency financial assistance. This assistance is often used for meeting basic housing and living needs such as payment of rent, mortgages, and utilities. Students will also be able to get experience in case management and information and referrals. They will have the opportunity to establish collaborations with religious groups, food/clothing pantries, and community service centers.

This latest partnership with the Office of the Warren Township Trustee is a significant one. Apart from its educational value, students appreciate the opportunity to earn an hourly wage for field work hours at a time when they struggle with high gas prices and balancing the demands of work, school, and home life.

Technology has allowed the BSW Program to expand field placement opportunities outside of the Indianapolis community with the continuous development and availability of online social work courses that students can take from anywhere in the world. For example, this semester thanks to online course technology and our students’ interest in exploring new avenues for learning, we have two BSW Seniors completing their practica and concurrent social work courses from South Africa and California! One student is completing her field placement working under the supervision of a social work faculty in the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa and the other student is working at the macro level with the California Chapter of NASW in Sacramento, California. It is indeed exciting that we are gradually building our capacity of offering students national and global field experiences.

Three students participated in Spanish language and cultural immersion programs; one went to Cuernavaca, Mexico, one to Costa Rica, and the third to Salamanca, Spain. In December another BSW student will go to the Gulf Coast with “Y’ALL” (Youths Advocating Leadership and Learning) program. Y’ALL is dedicated to educating communities and to help facilitate disaster relief trips to areas with a great need. Students will be using charter buses for transportation to different areas along the Gulf Coast, and they will spend much of their time cleaning the area and removing debris left behind by Hurricane Katrina.

Finally, we have been able to support a number of students with some of their economic needs through IUSSW scholarships. On behalf of the BSW students, I would like to thank faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the school for their contributions to the various School scholarships. Regardless of the amount, our students appreciate the support they receive from our social work community.

Best wishes for the New Year.