Greetings from the School of Social Work!

I am pleased to report that the School of Social Work continues to thrive. Our most recent accomplishments include a conference exploring issues pertaining to International Social Work, a $2.5 million grant awarded to Dr. Vicky Buchan from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, active BSW and MSW Student Associations, and a new Alumni Association.

Curriculum review is also a focus of attention as we prepare for reaffirmation of accreditation of our BSW and MSW programs by the Council on Social Work Education. The School has recommitted to the Advanced Generalist Model of Social Work. Content on the values and ethics of social work, issues pertaining to diverse populations, social and economic justice, vulnerable populations, research, policy, human behavior in the social environment, and field experiences are designed to prepare CSU social work students as generalist/advanced generalist practitioners. This means that graduates are skilled at assessing and intervening at all systems levels. The curricula will be articulated in a slightly new way. Informed by knowledge, values, and skills, students are required to master specific social work roles at the foundation and at the advanced level. Students graduating with a BSW degree are prepared to have mastery in the following social work roles:

- Advocate
- Social change agent
- Broker
- Counselor/educator
- Mediator
- Researcher

In addition to the above foundation roles, students graduating with an MSW will also have mastery in the following roles:

- Administrator/manager
- Clinician
- Researcher/consultant
- Supervisor
- Community expert

Students will apply knowledge, skills, and values to the culminating field placement experience. Please visit our website, www.cahs.colostate.edu/sw/ for more information about these social work roles.

I also want to personally invite you to get involved in the School of Social Work. Please join us at the Annual Social Work Open House on March 26th, become active in the Friends of CSU Social Work organization, help students by donating to one of the scholarship funds, or just let us know what you are doing so we can share your accomplishments with others.

I wish you well and look forward to hearing from you.

Deborah Valentine
Professor and Director
Projects Receive Continued Funding Through NIOSH

By Dr. Bob Seiz and Dr. Vicky Buchan

In September, the staff of High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS) at CSU was notified by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that they had received funding from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in the amount of approximately 2.5 million dollars over the next three years. These funds will go toward the expansion of the work of the Center for Public Health Region VIII. Vicky Buchan, professor in the School of Social Work is now Deputy Director of the multidisciplinary center involving four colleges and multiple departments on the CSU campus as well as a number of outreach partners in the region. The School of Social Work has two research projects that were funded under the new cycle:

Students who were exposed to the curriculum demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge and reported a decrease in the number of injuries

First, Bob Seiz is principal investigator (P.I.) and Dr. Vicky Buchan is the Co-P.I. on a project to longitudinally evaluate a community-based, computer-driven agricultural health and safety curriculum for use with middle and senior high school farm/ranch youth. Phase I of this study evaluated the curriculum’s impact on acquiring and retaining preventative knowledge in the curriculum’s content areas and on reducing agriculture-related injuries and illnesses. Based upon the results of Phase I, there is reason for optimism: Students who were exposed to the curriculum demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge and reported a decrease in the number of injuries. Phase II of this study will evaluate the curriculum’s impact on instilling safety attitudes and behaviors in farm/ranch youth.

Second, Vicky Buchan is P.I. on a project that includes Bob Seiz and Juhua Liu (College of Engineering) as Co-P.I.s to develop and evaluate an interactive health and safety CD targeting 3rd through 6th graders in 4-H programs. We are excited to continue the work with NIOSH on behalf of those employed in agriculture and pleased to be able to represent social workers as researchers in this national initiative.

Pinning Ceremony Recognizes BSW Graduates

By Dr. Victor Baez, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

In May 2000, the School of Social Work initiated a pinning ceremony for undergraduate students. Since MSW students are “hooded” at the School of Social Work reception for graduates, it was decided that undergraduate students also needed to be recognized in some special way. Pins displaying the CSU logo and the letters “BASW” (Bachelor of Arts in Social Work), were designed, and as each student is recognized at the BSW graduation reception, he or she receives a pin.

It has become part of School lore that the first time these pins were presented, a number of students were wounded by Dr. Ben Granger, the School’s former Director, as he attempted to affix the pins to their robes! Therefore, we have since resorted to handing out the pins and letting students pin themselves. Despite these mishaps, the School of Social Work is very pleased to have developed this small ritual to show our pride in each of our BSW graduates, and we look forward to continuing the pinning ceremony tradition.

The biggest task for School at this point is preparing for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). We are confident that our curriculum is solid, but writing the self-study presents us with the opportunity to examine the School’s programs and make appropriate changes. One area under review is the process of progression into the social work major. Although this procedure has worked well in the past, we believe it is time to review the procedures and try to identify ways in which the process can be made more meaningful for students.

UPCOMING MSW REUNIONS

In conjunction with the Social Work Open House celebration, the MSW classes of 1994 and 1999 will be holding class reunions. 1994 graduates, your reunion is scheduled for March 26th. If you wish to attend, please contact the School for more information. Class of 1999, your reunion festivities will occur on Saturday, March 27th at Mel’s Restaurant and Bar in Denver at 5:30pm. To RSVP for the 1999 reunion, please contact Tammi Atkinson at immata@yahoo.com by March 4th. If you’re in town for your reunion, don’t miss the chance to mingle with faculty and students at our annual Social Work Month Open House on March 26th!
Last October, the School of Social Work organized its second fall event featuring a contemporary social work topic. This year, activities focused on international social work. The day provided learning opportunities for students interested in social issues and concerns outside of the US. In addition, current international social work activities of School faculty and students as well as new opportunities for social workers in other countries were addressed. Social work faculty and students were also encouraged to share past international experiences and projects with which they have been involved.

Those who attended International Social Work Day were able to find out about social work opportunities in the UK, learn about social work in the Peace Corps, and meet international students studying social work at CSU. Organizers hosted presentations on contemporary health issues focusing on women and children in indigenous communities in North America, how the AIDS epidemic is affecting African nations and people, social work practice with people with disabilities in South Korea, and how social and economic justice are key principles underlying a global perspective for social work.

Over a hundred people attended, and all had the opportunity to learn something new about the CSU School of Social Work and social work on an international level. “It was a very enriching program, and I enjoyed learning more about health issues involving indigenous people and the implications for social work practice given the AIDS epidemic in Africa”, said Jennifer Cullinane, an MSW student who attended the event. The School of Social Work looks forward to another day of presentations and discussions this fall. The upcoming event will focus on human rights.
The field program is a vital part of the social work curriculum in the School of Social Work. Much of the success is due to the high caliber of agencies in which our students are placed. The importance of a warm welcome and professional attention from agency personnel is not always obvious. Agencies work with students to help them apply what they have learned from course work to “real world” settings to provide what students often consider the “highlight” of their social work education. Supervisors of our interns go the extra mile to support and educate students so they may learn and succeed in a positive atmosphere.

Hospice of Larimer County is one agency that accepts CSU field students. Their mission is to provide physical, emotional, social, and spiritual care to dying people and their families. For fifteen years, the School has placed interns at Hospice and maintained a cooperative relationship that provides students with excellent training and supervision.

At Hospice, social work interns work on professional teams in developing treatment plans, helping ensure the comfort and care of the individual, performing home visits, co-facilitating support groups for family members, and networking with other agencies to build support for families. The social workers who supervise our students demonstrate that compassion, patience, and the ability to work with individuals in challenging situations are realistic goals.

In what might be considered a depressing placement, social work students witness care, concern, and support. Hospice interns speak highly of their supervisors and the manner in which they are treated—like members of the Hospice team. It is unanimous that supervisors at Hospice are knowledgeable and supportive. It is also evident that they take a great deal of time with students to ensure they have the opportunity to ask questions, debrief, and reflect on situations they encounter.

Chrissy Mazurkiewicz is a second-year MSW student placed at Hospice. She has confirmed what students from previous years have said: “This internship has changed my life. I am honored to have been involved with my clients at such an intimate time in their lives.”

The School’s collaboration with this vital agency fosters the development of both the goals of the School of Social Work and Hospice’s mission by providing students with an experience that allows them to learn and grow as social workers.

“Only a spontaneous feeling of empathy with others can really inspire us to act on their behalf.”

The Dalai Lama
“Friends of CSU Social Work” Takes Off!
By Dr. Bruce Hall

The School of Social Work has initiated a new service connecting social work practitioners in a nation-wide network. Available on the School of Social Work’s website, Friends of CSU Social Work is an expression of the School’s continuing involvement with and support of professional practice with our alumni and others concerned with social work. “A number of alumni are already excited by this opportunity,” says Bruce Hall, a faculty member working on establishing the Friends network. “People are always interested in connecting with friends that they’ve known in their professional education, and Friends has the additional benefit of addressing professional challenges and identifying feasible solutions”. The School’s website provides an opportunity to identify practice issues through an electronic forum with thousands of social workers across the country and learn how issues are being handled in other regions and service systems.

Friends is not just about issues, however. Another goal is to open communication and discover successes people are experiencing. “The range of expertise that may be marshaled for an issue is huge—probably limited only by the ability to explain the issue”, said Hall with regard to the wide variety of professional knowledge available on the network.

An additional goal of the Friends network is to understand the distribution of challenges to effective practice. The Friends network may also help identify needs and alternatives for policy and instructional changes as well as invite the involvement of faculty and practitioners. According to Hall, “The range of content is as broad as the interests of the participants. The network is a medium for addressing the interests of all our constituents.”

The Friends site can be accessed at www.cahs.colostate.edu/sw. Anyone interested in additional information about Friends of CSU Social Work and the electronic network may contact the School at swfriends@cahs.colostate.edu or by phone at (970) 491-6612. We look forward to hearing from our Friends across the country and around the globe!

Youth Benefit from Animal-Assisted Therapy
By Dr. Ben Granger

Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC) was funded by the CLASS Foundation to conduct a research study evaluating the effectiveness of animal-assisted therapy in an alternative high school for at-risk youth. Over an academic year, individual and group animal-assisted therapy approaches were provided as part of the students’ educational and treatment goals.

The richest data was obtained through students’ journal entries and revealed that three fundamental outcomes of the project were increased trust, communication, and student-pet interactions. Students improved in all three areas as a result of their contact with the animals. The student interviews revealed that students enjoyed their experience and learned the importance of human-animal and human-human relationships due to their involvement in the program. The staff interviews revealed that educators were supportive of the program, with only some concern about scheduling and time away from academics. Overall, all participants agreed the experience had a positive impact.

Results also showed a difference between the social skills ratings of students participating in animal-assisted therapy at the beginning and end of the project. At the same time, however, there was also a difference between the number of observations of a negative nature before and after the project, suggesting that the animal-assisted therapy also had the inadvertent effect of decreasing students’ obedience of school staff. In summary, students participating in the project exhibited a significant gain in social skills and social-peer behavior as a result of their human-animal therapy. With regard to educational achievement, participating students also showed improvement as a result of their involvement with the project. A more detailed project report as well as video clips of individual and group animal-assisted therapy sessions are available through HABIC.
In Fall, 2002, the School of Education approved an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program concentration for the School of Social Work. The primary goal of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program is to prepare MSW practitioners to become faculty in BSW or MSW programs. The curriculum consists of a minimum of 30 credit hours in research, 15 credit hours in education coursework related to an area of specialization, and 15 credit hours in social work 700 level courses. The latter courses include an introduction to social work education, advanced policy analysis on national and international levels, and theories of social work practice. In addition, students are required to teach at both the BSW and MSW levels. Once a student is admitted, an individualized program of study is developed in collaboration with her/his adviser and graduate committee.

We currently have six students at various points along the route to their Ph.D.s. One is working on a dissertation, one is taking exams to move to that stage, and four are in education coursework and/or working on the social work course requirements. From an administrative viewpoint, we prefer to admit “cohorts” of students. This approach provides an automatic support group for students within the social work concentration, and a nice class size for the doctoral level social work courses.

I am currently serving in the capacity of Director of the social work Interdisciplinary concentration and am happy to talk with anyone who has questions or wants more information about the program. Please contact me, Vicky Buchan, at (970) 491-5211 or via e-mail at buchan@cahs.colostate.edu

The School of Social Work is so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity, for it is very clear from all of the available data that there are many faculty positions to fill across the country, both currently and for the foreseeable future.

CSU PROFESSOR TAKES TIME TO SERVE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

School of Social Work Professor Eleanor Downey is now officially a National Operations Volunteer and will train Girl Scout Councils to do their self-evaluations and minority audits. She will also serve as part of the team who reviews these evaluations. The evaluations occur every seven years and have some similarities with the University’s re-accreditation process. She will be in New York City for four days in March, 2004 and is very excited about this unique opportunity. Kudos, Eleanor!

MSW APPLICATION DEADLINE REMINDER...

Just a reminder from our staff that application packets for the MSW program are available beginning in October, 2004 (by mail or on-line). The early application deadline for the 2005-2006 school year is December 30, 2004, and the second deadline for application is January 31, 2005. Applications for the CSU/Pueblo program are due by March 1, 2005. We look forward to hearing from our next cohort of MSW students!

They say, “Nothing can be done here!” I reply, “I know no such word in the vocabulary.”

Dorothea Dix, Mental Health Advocate
Have you ever stopped to think about how social workers are depicted in the movies? Drs. Deborah Valentine and Miriam Freeman have. In their recent study entitled, “Through the Eyes of Hollywood: Images of Social Workers in Film”, Valentine and Freeman analyzed 62 movies spanning the period from 1938 to 2002. They paid particular attention to themes of gender, race, and class in the portrayal of social workers. Their analysis revealed that social workers are most often portrayed as female, white, middle-class, heterosexual, mostly working in child welfare, incompetent, having a tendency to engage in sexual relationships with clients, mostly working with people living in poverty, and mostly functioning to maintain the status quo. Dr. Deborah Valentine recently presented her findings to School of Social Work faculty and students at a multicultural soup and bread supper last April. If you are interested in learning more about social work in the movies, Valentine and Freeman's article will appear in an upcoming issue of Social Work.

School Hosts International Professors

The CSU School of Social Work was honored to host two distinguished international professors this academic year!

Professor Peter Camilleri was on the CSU campus in November and addressed themes from his book, Working with Men in Human Services. He also discussed current social work issues in Australia. Dr. Camilleri is Associate Professor and Head of the School of Social Work at the Australian Catholic University in Canberra, where he is also Rector of the Signadou Campus.

He is President of the Australian Association of Social Work and Welfare Education, is the Author of (Re)Constructing Social Work (1996), and has been involved in the education of social workers for the past twelve years.

We were also pleased to welcome Professor Husain Y. Siddiqui, who visited CSU in January. Dr. Siddiqui is the Head of the Department of Social Work and Dean of the Faculty of Social Science at Jamia Millia Islamia, the National Islamic University, in New Delhi, India. Dr. Siddiqui is also the author or editor of six books, including Social Welfare in India (1997), Working with Communities: An Introduction to Community Work (1997), and Social Consequences of Economic Development (to be published later this year) as well many scholarly articles and papers.

Dr. Siddiqui spoke at great length about his experiences and work in India

Professor Receives Recognition from National Association

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that Professor Bruce Hall is a co-recipient of the Social Worker of the Year award presented by the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The award is presented to social workers who demonstrate community service and dedication to the field of social work and who exemplify the NASW ethics. Presentation of the award will be at the Arvada Center on Friday, March 12th from 5:30-9:00 pm. We applaud Dr. Hall on this exceptional achievement!
As I sit here today, reflecting on my decision to become a social worker, I am reminded of my junior high biology class. I can visualize my teacher pulling microscopes from the closet and asking us to observe little particles moving around on the slide. I remember spotting this little blob crawling through the water. As I learned more about this creature, I discovered it had no boundaries and no backbone. Now I see that I, too, once resembled this “amoeba”. I was just there, floating around, and sliding my way through life.

Times have changed. As a student in the School of Social Work’s Advanced Standing Program, I can assert that my peers and I are no longer like that amoeba. Our boundaries are endless, thanks to our exposure to the advanced generalist perspective, and we now possess strong, solid backbones developed by the intense curriculum.

As we continue our journey through life, we will reflect back on experiences that shaped and structured our beliefs.
Expanding the Boundaries: Benefits of an Interdisciplinary Approach

By Jennifer Cullinane, MSW student and Graduate Assistant

With support from the College of Applied Human Sciences and the Mary Scott Memorial Fund, the School of Social Work launched an exciting project this year to expand the scope of social work practice within an interdisciplinary model. Partnering with the School of Education (SOE) and the Occupational Therapy Department, the School is writing a grant to fund an interdisciplinary professional development internship in conjunction with the Poudre School District. The School of Education has a longstanding relationship with Poudre School District using the Professional Development model to train future teachers.

Practicum students in the SOE enjoy hands-on learning experiences within an actual school under a licensed teacher, and University staff is on-site to facilitate their understanding and mastery of educational practices. The model is a win-win situation for the University, its students, and the Poudre School District. An interdisciplinary professional development internship will prepare graduate students in Social Work, Special Education, Occupational Therapy, School Counseling, and School Administration to work on a collaborative/multidisciplinary team and will provide a more holistic program for students in the Poudre School District.

The grant money sought to support this new endeavor will make it possible for the various departments to offer small stipends to students for their work with the school district. It will also allow the University to offer a course specific to working on an interdisciplinary team, understanding the language of other disciplines, and integrating special education services to best serve students with learning disabilities. This project allows the School of Social Work the opportunity to promote responsiveness in the educational system and the larger community in order to meet the needs of individual youth and enhance the dignity and worth of all students.

Western Slope Program is Right Answer for Working MSW Students

By Dr. Eleanor Downey, Western Slope Program Coordinator

On August 4, 2003, twenty-nine students began a three-year MSW program delivered on the Western Slope. This is the second cohort of graduate students participating in a distance education format of the School's graduate program. Members of the class are already actively engaged in human service work with jobs in child protection, foster care, adult protection, juvenile probation, mental health, addictions, and homelessness. They have already made a significant contribution to the field with a total of 523,419 hours of human service work for the group, averaging approximately 18,694 hours per person. This wealth of experience makes for lively, rich, and insightful classroom discussions. The group also has significant life experiences with an average age of 39.4 years. The group is drawn from Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Eagle, Fruita, DeBeque, Montrose, Ridgway, Pueblo, and Marble, Colorado.

Course work began with one week of classes on the Fort Collins campus. Traditionally referred to as social work “boot camp”, students took the introductory graduate course (SW500), taught by Malcolm Scott, as well as spending time becoming acquainted with the School, the faculty, and the University. The three-year, part-time program is designed for individuals working full-time. It involves one weekend of classes on the Fort Collins campus each semester and three weekends of classes in Grand Junction with faculty traveling to Grand Junction for classroom instruction. The remainder of course instruction is delivered through internet and video technology. The group will graduate in spring, 2006. Initial evaluations of the program by students are excellent.

The program will also include advanced standing students beginning in the summer of 2004.

SABBATICAL PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESENTATION AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Dr. Mona Schatz, School of Social Work professor since August of 1985, began her sabbatical by presenting at the International Social Development Conference in Mumbai, India, December 27-January 3. She delivered a paper entitled Social Tolerance and Social Civility: Key Issues for Emerging Democracies. She then returned home to begin work on a practice text book in the area of advanced generalist social work. Dr. Schatz returns to the School for the Fall, 2004 semester. Best of luck, Dr. Schatz!

Professor Schatz “passes the baton” to John Tracy, who is taking over some of Dr. Schatz’s spring semester classes in her absence.
Reflections of Social Worker at Heart

By Carrie Thompson, BSW Graduate

I did not come to Colorado to be a social worker. The perception I had of the social work profession never seemed applicable to my interests in the hard sciences. But here I am, and I can’t imagine a scenario in which I would be happier. I carried my love of research into the field of social sciences.

Under the guidance of social work faculty, I have been able to refine my skills to a graduate level of performance. I’m still, after three years of incredible experiences, amazed by how willing faculty have been to nurture my interests and bring me to where I am today.

I struggled culturally when I first moved to Fort Collins. This was the first time I had experienced being part of the racial majority. Once in the social work program, I sought to focus my academic efforts on African-American studies, due to my background and my observations of the Black experience here in Fort Collins. One research class required me to complete a survey project on the perceptions of African-American undergraduate students on their social integration at a predominantly White university. The project led me to Dr. Jeffrey Shears. He agreed to help me, and he put more effort toward my success than I would have ever expected. With his guidance, I was able to identify my niche and have had opportunities to participate in several research projects.

Research opportunities were not the only highlights in my undergraduate experience, however. The School also has extremely competent faculty. They share their wealth of experiences with students, and it has been easier for me to understand what it means to operate beyond the boundaries of the University through their wisdom.

I believe I made an excellent choice when I became a social worker. Every class I took was worthwhile. Now that I have graduated as a self-assured and professional social worker, I finally understand how everything fits together. Both personal effort and the constant encouragement and support of social work faculty, staff, and students are to thank. I owe a great deal to this school in helping me find myself.

CSU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR APPOINTED NATIONAL JOURNAL EDITOR

Dr. Deborah Valentine, Director and Professor of the CSU School of Social Work, was recently appointed by the President of the Council on Social Work Education to serve a three-year term as Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Social Work Education. In response to this appointment, Dr. Valentine said, “I am honored and humbled by the opportunity... and look forward to learning much more about social work education as I review manuscripts and share with consulting editors the difficult decision of choosing articles for publication.” Congratulations, Dr. Valentine, on this tremendous honor!

THE $10 CAMPAIGN

Remember the financial struggles of being a student? The current student body faces the same financial crunch. In order to help students in the School of Social Work, we would like to establish a Friends and Alumni Scholarship. If every alumni of the School sends just $10 to the fund, we would have a sufficient base for awarding two $500 scholarships each year, available to both undergraduate and graduate students. The faculty has already committed to making both monthly and annual donations to the fund. Additional support from students would make the scholarship a reality! Remember—your donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!

Presenting the Student Masters of Social Work Association!

By Twyla Gingrich, MSW Student and SMSWA Co-Chairperson

The fall semester of 2003 has seen the separation of the Student Social Workers Association into two groups, one representing the BSW program and the other representing the MSW program. Students of the two programs decided that each group has different priorities and that the needs of the groups would be better met if separated.

The Student Masters of Social Work Association’s first meeting of the year started with a large turn out (yes, there was pizza present). The MSW students at CSU decided that the SMSWA would have three main purposes:

EDUCATION: Through speakers and a mentoring program for BSW students, incoming MSW students, and foundation year students will be informed on a variety of topics.

COMMUNITY ACTION: Provides a means for the group to have an impact on local agencies and activities.

SOCIAL OUTLET: Students will have the opportunity to get to know each other and to remind one another that we need to take time for ourselves!

Our hope is to establish the SMSWA as a student organization of CSU. This would give the group access to a campus bank account and various grants for activities. Other goals include: establishing a book exchange to save costs on textbooks, identifying volunteer opportunities, and organizing lunch hour gatherings so students can relax and socialize together. The association also agreed to be responsible for organizing the 2004 MSW graduation.

We extend an open invitation to any MSW, faculty, and alumni who would like to be involved to join meetings and activities. Any input is welcome! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me, Twyla Gingrich, SMSWA Co-Chairperson, at tgingrich@yahoo.com.
Yes, I want to support the School of Social Work with a charitable gift!

Donor Information
- My check, payable to the Colorado State University Foundation, is enclosed.
- Please charge $________ to my:
  - Visa
  - Mastercard

(Signature as it appears on your card)

Card number: ____________________________
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This gift is from:  ☐ Me  ☐ Me and my Spouse

My full name: ____________________________
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Additional Information:
- ☐ My matching gift form is enclosed.
- ☐ Please send information on making a planned gift through my will and gifts that return an income for life.
- ☐ I have already included Colorado State University in my estate plans.
- ☐ Please send information on becoming a member of the 1870 Club, CSU’s most prestigious annual gift club, which recognizes donors who give a minimum of $1,870 each year.

Funding Opportunities
- Richard Mimiaga Scholarship Fund (#19685)
  This endowment fund was established by Rick’s colleagues, friends, and former students in honor of his tenure as a faculty member in social work. The award goes to an undergraduate or graduate student committed to working with diverse populations.

- Larry Morita Scholarship Fund (#49203)
  This scholarship was established for students planning to work with gay and lesbian clients. Larry was an MSW graduate of the School of Social Work who passed away after a brief and difficult illness. He was a highly creative clinician who practiced with intelligence and warmth.

- Michael J. Schissler Scholarship (#19705)
  This memorial scholarship was established by his wife, Elizabeth, in 1990. Michael, who died in 1989, was a 1970 graduate of CSU in sociology and was involved with social work issues.

- School of Social Work Scholarship Fund (#53123)
  This fund is for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students studying social work.

- School of Social Work Enrichment Fund (#12553)
  This fund was established to assist the School with special events, lectures, and other educational needs.

Return completed form to:
CSU Foundation
P.O. Box 1870
Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870

12553/H0412

Please cut forms apart at dotted line. Thank you.

Alumni Roundup
This survey is provided in each Alumni and Friends Newsletter to remind you to send along your news and address changes. Also return if you would like to be added to our mailing list. Send completed form to Colorado State University, ATTN: Dawn Carlson, School of Social Work, 129 Education Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1586, phone: 970-491-2536, or e-mail: dcarlson@cahs.colostate.edu.

PLEASE PRINT

Name (while in school): ____________________________ Degree: __________ Year: __________
Name (now): __________________________________
Address: ____________________________ City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Phone Number: Work: ____________________________ Home: ____________________________
Job title and description: ______________________________________________________________
Professional activities (publications, awards, honors): ____________________________________
Chris Head loves her job. There was no doubt about that as I sat down with her to find out how she went from CSU social work graduate in 1978 to Agency Relations Coordinator for the Food Bank for Larimer County. Chris held a long line of positions in a variety of fields before she landed at the Food Bank. Her social work career began with her undergraduate internship in Weld County Child Protective Services. She then found herself in Washington DC working at a women’s clinic and doing crisis pregnancy counseling. Then, after several years working outside the field at Anheuser Busch and 13 years as a stay-at-home mom, Chris accepted her current position in the summer of 2002.

As Agency Relations Coordinator for the Larimer Food Bank, Chris is responsible for coordinating the non-profit agencies who “shop” at the Food Bank. She sends out applications, visits agency sites, and tracks these agencies via the Food Bank’s computer system. She also has the opportunity to advertise for the Food Bank: “People are always curious about the Food Bank and what we do, so I get to do a lot of public relations work.”

Chris said, “The best part of my job is that no two days are alike. There is a lot of variety. I also like knowing the specific needs of local community agencies and seeing the food going where it’s needed most.” On the other hand, her job demands a lot of her, and sometimes, she said, “it is difficult to know where to be so I can be the most effective.”

Chris’ social work background prepared her for this work in several ways. She feels prepared to work with people from all walks of life and credits her BSW background for these interpersonal skills. “Just being a graduate of the CSU social work department speaks volumes on my resume. There is a great deal of respect for CSU’s program in the local community and nationwide.”

Like most social workers, Chris likes knowing that her time has made a difference. “I feel a need to feed people. My nightmare is being a cupcake short at my son’s birthday party—that kind of thing keeps me up at night!” It looks like Chris is in the right place. She can sleep well knowing that her daily efforts are keeping many mouths in Larimer County full and happy.