School of Social Work and the Institute for Advanced Dispute Resolution Partner to Prepare Mediators for Professional Practice

Colorado State University’s School of Social Work and Division of Continuing Education and the Institute for Advanced Dispute Resolution (IADR) are excited to announce a collaborative relationship designed to offer state-of-the-art instruction in methods of peaceful conflict resolution through online and onsite coursework designed to prepare graduates for professional mediation practice.

“Professional mediation is a natural extension of social work practice,” states Shauna Ries, MSW and CEO of IADR. “A neutral third-party, termed a mediator, works with both parties in a dispute to facilitate an agreement. Given the opportunity and the means to generate solutions to their problems, many disputants find the mediation process empowers them to resolve their own conflict, rendering the need for confrontation or legal remedies unnecessary.” Mediation techniques can be used to solve many different types of disputes, including disagreements between governments, family matters such as divorce or child custody, owner/tenant or builder/homeowner problems, or disputes in the workplace. As more people choose this method of dispute resolution over other means, there is an increasing need for skilled mediators.

Pamela Bishop, MSW, and Victor Baez, Ph.D., practice their new mediation skills in a mediation course provided at CSU.

Five courses are currently available either online or onsite. The 40-hour CORE course provides the skill sets necessary for the practice of mediation. This foundational course may also be taken as an 8-week online course. The CORE course offers students an introduction to professional mediation knowledge, skills, and values. Instructors are advanced mediators who hold advanced degrees in law, social work, psychology, and counseling. Currently 38 states now recommend or require mediation to help with overcrowded court dockets and state standards are being implemented across the country. The CSU/IADR program in mediation meets or exceeds these standards of competency. In addition to the foundation CORE course, specialization courses are available and include Workplace Mediation, Healthcare and Eldercare Mediation, Arbitration, and Divorce and Child Custody Mediation. Courses may be taken for graduate credit and a 9-credit-hour graduate certificate in mediation will be available.

Ries states that “the CSU/IADR mediation program is dedicated to creating a global community of mediators who understand the principles of negotiating disputes at all system levels.” Mediation is a field that continues to grow at a rapid pace, and its benefits to families and communities are numerous. For more information, please go to our websites (www.advanced-resolution.com/education.html or www.learn.colostate.edu/mediation), contact Shauna Ries (877-BOULDER [877-268-5337]) or Deborah Valentine (970-491-1893).

Colorado State Celebrates Social Work Month with Fifth Annual Spring Open House

On Thursday, March 8, 2007, Colorado State University School of Social Work will host its fifth annual Open House. Please join us in a celebration of the social work profession and the School of Social Work at CSU!

4:00 Opening Reception
Lobby of the Education Building
5:00 Iron Chef Social Work
105 Education
6:15 Welcome and Introductions
Deborah Valentine, Director
Yates 104
6:30 Presentation: “Social Workers as Professional Mediators: Peaceful Conflict Resolution with Vulnerable Populations”
7:30 Awards and Honors
Debbie Reinberg, Executive Director of NASW Colorado
• Northern Chapter of NASW
• CSU School of Social Work Annual Awards

Please check the School’s website for emerging details: www.cahs.colostate.edu/sw/. We hope to see you at this exciting event.
Greetings from the Director…

During the past year, the faculty, students, staff, alumnus and friends of the School of Social Work at Colorado State University have been very active and truly committed to making a difference.

Both the MSW and BSW programs are thriving. A record of 88 people graduated from the MSW program in May 2006. Of these, 68 completed their program on the Fort Collins campus and 20 people graduated from the Western Slope. Currently, 40 students are enrolled in our part-time graduate program offered in the Colorado Springs distance program. The BSW program also continues to flourish with 240 outstanding undergraduate students. Social Work students provided over 83,000 hours of service to their communities last year! Both students and faculty have brought honor to the School of Social Work through their accomplishments as researchers, classroom teachers, mental health advocates, and social activists providing food, supplies, and financial support to families affected by anti-immigration activities. Three faculty members presented papers at the International Social Work Conference in Munich, Germany and CSU alumni attended.

The Social Work Research Center, now in its third year, continues to provide community partners with the data needed to make informed social policy and practice decisions. Several important research reports are available online for your review. These reports include summaries of research conducted on kinship care, juvenile sex offender treatment, and workload in child protective services. In addition, the Center collaborates with several community partners including Florence Crittenden, Larimer County Department of Social Services, and the Nordic Campbell Center.

Our new Social Work Center on Lifelong Learning and Outreach Education provides the School of Social Work with opportunities to reach colleagues across the state, the nation, and internationally. In addition to partnerships with the United Way of Colorado and the National Association of Social Workers, a new exciting collaborative has been initiated that provides professional education to individuals who wish to add advanced mediation and dispute resolution knowledge and skills to their practice repertoire.

Finally, please do not miss the opportunity to join the new CSU School of Social Work Alumni Association. More than 100 people attended our Spring 2006 Open House which featured our first Iron Chef Social Work competition and Emily Lewis, presenting on the experiences and needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered older adults. Annual events are planned in 2007 and include our annual Spring Open House/ Iron Chef Social Work scheduled for March 8, 2007 and our Winter Alumni Celebration on December 6, 2007. Please see our website for upcoming event details and more information about alumni, faculty, and students.

Sincere thanks for all the good work that you do everyday and for your support of the School of Social Work at Colorado State University.

Deborah Valentine

Colorado State University
School of Social Work

Faculty:
Victor Baez, Ph.D.
Nancy Banman, Ph.D.
Pamela Bishop, MSW
Roe Bubar, JD
Victoria Buchan, Ph.D.
Kimberly Bundy-Fazioli, Ph.D.
Nancy Gerardi, MSW
Ben Granger, Ph.D. Emeritus
Bruce Hall, MSW
Brenda Miles, MSW
Maria Puig, Ph.D.
Malcolm Scott, Ph.D.
Robert Seiz, Ph.D.
Bradford Sheafor, Ph.D.
Deborah Valentine, Ph.D.

Staff:
Nasser Albeiruti
Dawn Carlson
Adrienne Espinosa
Allison Fink
Ashley Foster
Cynthia Geissinger
Joyce Takacs

Adjunct Faculty:
Leah Barrett, MSW
Deborah Westcott-Callahan, MSW
Larry Denmark, Ph.D.
John Gandy, Ph.D.
Helen Holmquist-Johnson, MSW
Jay Klein, MSW
Katherine McKinney, Ph.D.
Les Rudner, Ph.D.
Marc Winokur, Ph.D.
Susan Tungate, MSW

www.ssw.cahs.colostate.edu
Social Work Center for Life Long Learning and Outreach Education

The School of Social Work (SOSW) has reaffirmed their commitment to the communities of Colorado by forming the Social Work Center for Life Long Learning and Outreach Education (CLOE). True to the professional values of social work, CLOE is now able to reach underserved populations, especially those in the more rural areas of Colorado. An example of the fruits of this labor manifested in May 2006 with the graduation of 20 persons from the Master’s in Social Work (M.S.W.) Program on the Western Slope in Grand Junction.

Eleanor Downey worked closely with Deborah Valentine, SOSW Director, over the past eighteen months to develop CLOE. Downey served as the director of the Distance Education M.S.W. programs and in her role as the founding director of CLOE, developed a strong foundation through the partnerships initiated with the CSU Division of Continuing Education (DCE), United Way, Colorado NASW, and others. CLOE programs include distance education opportunities, certificate programs, workshops, institute trainings, and special projects. CLOE demonstrates the alignment of the SOSW with the priorities set forth by President Penley in the new CSU strategic plan. Within that plan, outreach efforts to the people of Colorado is a key component of maintaining the mission of CSU’s land grant heritage. CLOE meets this challenge through several efforts such as:

- Providing distance education degree programs
- Developing new partnerships to provide continuing education opportunities for social workers and other human service professionals
- Working with CSU Cooperative Extension (CE) county agents to provide research-based educational information and services to Coloradans
- Supporting the work of the Colorado Collaborative Partnership (CCP) in building strong partnerships between social service agencies and organizations in communities throughout Colorado
- Continually assessing the educational and service needs of individuals in rural areas

The distance education programs also have recruited more diverse and experienced students throughout the state. Currently M.S.W. classes are being taught in Colorado Springs and there are plans to admit a second class in 2008. The SOSW has also given instructional seminars to professionals at the United Way, Department of Human Services, and the Colorado State Patrol.

Educational outreach efforts, such as those listed above, provided by the SOSW in partnership with DCE and Cooperative Extension have led to the naming of CSU as the training provider of choice for the State of Colorado. CLOE hopes to further support the goals of CU Cooperative Extension by designing evaluation instruments, providing knowledge for sustainable community development, developing social capital leadership education programs, and forming strong collaborative relationships with the communities of Colorado.

Nancy Banman, M.S.W., Ph.D. currently serves as the new Director of CLOE. Nancy brings a strong knowledge of community and educational outreach as well as an understanding of the curriculum and programs of the SOSW where she has served as faculty since 1993 and most recently as the Coordinator of the Colorado Springs M.S.W. program. For the past nine years, Nancy has served as the State Specialist from the SOSW to CU Cooperative Extension, an experience that has given her an opportunity to work with communities and CU CE specialists and agents throughout the state. Please do not hesitate to contact Nancy with questions and concerns for the CLOE outreach efforts. She can be reached at nancy.banman@colostate.edu.

Nancy Banman, Ph.D., Director of the Social Work Center for Life Long Learning and Outreach Education

NASW Northern Chapter Award Winners receive recognition at the Fourth Annual Spring Open House, 2006. From left to right: Barb Long, Nancy Culbreath, and Jenny Shock.
Ro Bubar J.D., a professor for the School of Social Work and Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity, was recently recognized for her service and professional contributions with the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award in April 2006 and with the Larimer County Child Advocacy Guardian Award in May 2006. Bubar has dedicated her personal and professional life to addressing violence against women and children, in particular Native women and children.

Bubar was awarded the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award for her service in tribal communities throughout the country and her involvement nationally with tribal organizations that address child maltreatment and family violence. She has worked with tribes throughout the lower 48 states and in Alaska as well as Hawaii. Bubar also has worked with national, state, and federal agencies in developing standards, strategic plans, and training curriculum for cultural competence.

Bubar says that some of the greatest challenges for Native peoples today is the fact that mainstream America is unaware of the pressing issues facing tribal communities within the U.S.; Native issues remain largely invisible. Bubar comments that Native women have the highest rate of sexual assault of all women in the United States yet most people are unaware of this public health challenge for Native women. Many people are shocked to find that most of the sexual assaults of Native women are committed by non-Native men.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights recognized this predicament in 2003 and 2004 with the publication of two documents, A Quiet Crisis and Broken Promises that labeled unmet funding needs in Indian Country as human rights violations. Regrettably, these facts are not disseminated to the American public through mainstream media, film, radio, and newspaper, or local, state, or national conferences. Access to resources and healthcare adversely and disproportionately impact Native women, children, and tribes. Too often Natives and Indian nations are viewed as frozen in the past and objectified by their art and spirituality.

The Guardian Award from the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center compliments Bubar’s national work in the area of multidisciplinary teaming, development of Children’s Advocacy Centers, and her expertise in the forensic interviews of children in child sexual abuse cases. A forensic interview is a formal interview that occurs in the course of an investigation when allegations of child sexual abuse arise. Bubar ordinarily conducts two forensic interview clinics a year for professionals involved in child sexual abuse investigations working in tribal communities. A recent development of the past ten years, Child Advocacy Centers, have been founded in more than 600 places throughout the United States. However, there are less than ten Children’s Advocacy Centers for the 562 tribes in the United States.

Bubar hopes this will change through the work and dedication of the Native American Children’s Alliance. She is concerned with violence against Native women and children and points out that there are 1,200 rape crisis programs in the U.S., yet there are none that are tribally operated in tribal communities. Bubar currently serves as forensic supervisor for the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center. “Here in Larimer County, we have an outstanding staff of social work professionals who provide forensic interviews,” Bubar stated. Larimer County utilizes a multi-disciplinary team approach to the investigation, intervention, and prosecution in child sexual abuse cases. The forensic interview is an important service provided for both the civil and criminal aspects of a child abuse case. Bubar started in the field in 1990 as the Director of the Children’s Safehouse in Albuquerque. Bubar continues to work nationally with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and the Native American Children’s Alliance in supporting multidisciplinary approaches in child abuse cases.

Bubar currently teaches Federal Indian Law and Policy; Indigenous Women, Children and Tribes; and Social Welfare Policy, while her current areas of research include health disparities for Native women and children, violence against Native women and children, and methamphetamine impacts in tribal communities.

“In contemporary class structure, differences of standard of living are the greatest of all social barriers... Freedom will never be secure until no one recognizes others as his betters.”
– Barbara Wooton, 1945
The mission of the Social Work Research Center (SWRC) is to create formal links between higher education and community partners that advance social work theory, promote social justice, and enhance learning and practice in areas such as child welfare and juvenile delinquency. Now in its third year, the primary focus of the SWRC has been the Applied Research in Child Welfare (ARCH) Project, which is a partnership between the School of Social Work at Colorado State University, the Colorado Department of Human Services, and the Colorado counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld.

There has been an increasing awareness of the etiology, occurrence, and impact of juvenile sexual aggression during the past 15 years. However, social work research has not kept pace with the exponential growth of treatment options for these adolescents. To address this challenge, a systematic review of quantitative research on treatments for juvenile sexual offenders (JSO) was conducted. The purpose was to provide the field with evidence-based research to more effectively implement treatment programs for these youth.

After a comprehensive electronic and manual search of the literature, quantitative studies from 1995-2005 that examined the effect of treatment on juvenile sexual offender outcomes were assessed on the quality of their research designs and methods. There were eleven studies that met the inclusion criteria for the review. Meta-analyses then were generated to calculate effect sizes for the seven studies that reported recidivism outcomes.

According to the results there is a small to moderate positive effect of treatment on the recidivism rates of juvenile sexual offenders. Specifically, adolescents who complete a cognitive-behavioral treatment program are less likely to commit sexual or nonsexual re-offenses than are adolescents who do not receive or complete treatment. These findings are limited by the small evidence base and are undermined by threats to the internal and external validity of the included studies. However, several important implications for social work practice, policy, and research emerged from the systematic review.

The primary recommendation for practitioners is to provide juvenile sexual offenders with cognitive-behavioral treatment options within a continuum of care model. For example, community-based settings should be considered for the treatment of lower risk offenders. The main recommendation for policymakers is to enact developmentally appropriate standards while providing the financial resources necessary for timely treatment programs and ongoing support services. Finally, future research is needed to explore the effects and dynamics of different treatment modalities, settings, and intervention lengths.

The findings, from what is only the second such study of its kind, have been shared at numerous county and state meetings and were presented at the Society for Social Work and Research conference in San Francisco.

Social Work in Action!

Social Work in Action, a student organization, provides many opportunities for B.S.W. students to volunteer on campus and in the community. Students gather to engage in many fun and exciting activities. Members of this organization volunteer on campus and throughout the city of Fort Collins. For example, Social Work in Action participated in the Northern Colorado AIDS Project Thanksgiving food drive and helped more than thirty local families. Social Work in Action also participated with Crow Creek Domestic Violence Shelter Collection and CORE Center Book Collection.

SWA meetings are held twice a month and consist of bowling, potlucks, barbecues, guest speakers, and presentations. It is an excellent support system and a way to meet new people and make new friends.

If you would like further information about joining or supporting SWA please contact Social Work in Action: E-mail: socialworkinactionCSU@hotmail.com

Courtney McAllister and Meghan McHenry received Highest Honors and a $100 prize for their research presentation at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Social Work Baccalaureate Program Directors in Los Angeles, California, titled “Interaction: Bridging the Gap Between Old and Young?” The researchers surveyed 161 college students about their attitudes and experiences with older adults. The results indicated that college students who have more interaction with older adults had more positive attitudes toward this age group in general. The Social Work Baccalaureate Program Directors is an organization of undergraduate faculty in social work programs throughout the country. This year’s conference had over 800 members in attendance and approximately 250 social work students. Both graduate and undergraduate Social Work students participated in the Student Poster Presentation during the conference.

Courtney and Meghan, both seniors in the School of Social Work, also received Honors for their presentation at CSU’s 2006 Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium.
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program Thrives

It is amazing that our third cohort of students has been admitted to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program! Working with the School of Education, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree has provided the School of Social Work with the opportunity to offer a Ph.D. with a concentration in Social Work with the primary goal of preparing practitioners who have an M.S.W. to become faculty in social work programs across the country. Students entering the program with an interest in becoming faculty or researchers take 15 social work course credits developed specifically to prepare them for faculty positions. Ten students are currently in the program; Tobi Hamilton, a recently admitted doctoral student, writes the following.

Receiving my acceptance letter from CSU was exciting and scary for me. For the last fourteen years I’ve been a social worker. I taught part-time as an adjunct instructor at the University of North Florida in the sociology program for the Child Welfare Certificate Program and I worked in the field. Teaching Social Work as a Profession every semester since 2000 gave me a joy and excitement that is hard to describe. Most times I walked out of the classroom energized, which was important because I spent many days working in an urban ghetto. Although I enjoyed my social work job, it was stressful, emotionally draining, and dangerous. The decision to leave that life and move cross-country was difficult in some aspects and easy in others. My biggest fear was being ten years removed from the role of student. Walking on campus the first day I thought, “All these students could be my children.” My anxiety quickly diminished as my professors graciously helped me transition to full-time student and classmates became friends. The expectations are high from the school and faculty but I wouldn’t want it any other way. I know this education and experience will provide me the skills to be the best professor I can be for my future students.

Tobi Hamilton
1st year Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student

If you have any questions about this program, please contact:
Vicky Buchan, Ph.D.
Professor and Program Chair
(970) 491-5211
Buchan@cahs.colostate.edu

B.S.W. Student Serves on NASW, Colorado Chapter Board

Liesl West exclaimed, “It’s such a rich resource!” about being on the board for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Colorado Chapter. Liesl is a junior B.S.W. who became a Social Work major a year ago. “I just needed to do something more,” Liesl said about the decision to join the Northern Colorado Chapter in June. She now serves as the CSU School of Social Work student representative.

A STUDENT M.S.W. ASSOCIATION UPDATE

This year promises to be an exciting one for the 2006-2007 Student Master’s in Social Work Association (SMSWA). So far this year, SMSWA has become an official CSU student group and hopes that this will provide financial opportunities for their future humanitarian projects. SMSWA is comprised of three committees: social action, professional development, and social. Projects include: volunteering at a local soup kitchen, a book drive for a community in Kenya who lost their library to a fire, interesting guest speakers, a holiday party, and helping with the 2007 M.S.W. graduation. If you want to be involved, please contact:
Co-facilitator: Kirsten Nelson kjane20@hotmail.com
Co-facilitator: Mary Monnens momnnens@gmail.com
Secretary: Andrea Lawson ajlaw713@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Allison Wither allison.wither@gmail.com

From left to right: Allison Wither, Kirsten Nelson, Mary Monnens, and Andrea Lawson.
Learning in Nepal

Mary Monnens graduated several years ago with a bachelor’s in psychology from South Dakota State University. She states that she, “really had no direction other than wanting to help others and live in another country.”

The first year out of college, she joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and worked in Washington, D.C., at a low-income housing facility. For a ranch girl from South Dakota, working in inner-city D.C. with formerly homeless adults was quite a change! It took her a long time to adjust, but by the end of the year, leaving was painful. However, she had already committed to two more years with the Jesuits, this time teaching in Nepal. Although she had traveled outside the U.S. before, this was her first experience living in another country, another culture.

Mary Monnens, current MSW student, with students in Nepal.

Living in Nepal was learning to “be” all over again. Since returning, Mary explains that, “we are all like onions. In the middle, is our essence. Then we have a layer that is our family, and a layer that represents our culture, society, language. A layer for education, for our experiences, our friends. By the time we add on all those layers, it is often hard for us to determine what our essence really is. Living in a different culture strips off all those layers, or most of them anyway. Those that remain, are so thin that you can look right through them, and know who you truly are.” Her experiences in Nepal left her vulnerable.

She was not fluent in the language, she didn’t understand the culture, she knew nothing about Hinduism or Buddhism, and she had never been a teacher (her new job). She was constantly learning. “I hope that that experience of discomfort will help me tune into future clients’ sense of comfort, or discomfort. And even more, I hope that I will not be afraid to keep stepping out of my own comfort zone, keep challenging myself and keep learning new things,” states Mary.

A Griffin Foundation Scholar Chooses Social Work

She is a woman of determination, an outgoing entrepreneur and a full-time student in the Bachelor of Social Work program at Colorado State University. She is a single mother of two teenage boys whom she adores and is proud to claim as the most influential people in her life. “They are proud of me and we study together,” says Leslie Chase. Leslie was born in Colorado Springs, Colo., and moved to Fort Collins in 1982 to major in theatre at CSU. Leslie moved to New York to study acting her junior year at CSU.

She returned to Fort Collins, married and started a family and worked as a children’s drama teacher. Five years ago, Leslie divorced and soon regained her passion for theatre. She retuned to theatre and began her own business, “Imagine That, Improv and More.” She taught creative dramatics to school children and preschoolers.

Leslie was asked to provide this service at an expulsion school. Although she was concerned about working with adolescents who were dealing with many troubles, her experience opened a door for Leslie. She was ecstatic with the positive response and began working in residential treatment centers using an alternative therapy called, “Empowerment by Improv.”

Leslie believes that giving young people a chance to be someone or something different for just one moment allows stigmatizing labels to take a back seat and empowers them to take control of their behaviors. Leslie Chase is now a member of Project Self Sufficiency, a program that provides educational and employment opportunities to single mothers. Her advisor was impressed with her background of community involvement and urged her to consider applying for the Griffin Foundation Scholarship.

The Griffin Foundation Scholarship is awarded to individuals who have an associate degree and are seeking to fulfill a baccalaureate degree. It is based on leadership and service, personal traits, and financial need. She was the perfect candidate as she maintained a 3.8 grade-point average and her business provided her with community-based work. Leslie received one of the seven scholarships awarded this year. The Griffin Foundation Scholarship allowed her to return to CSU, and choose Social Work as her degree of choice because it gives her the opportunity to combine her social work knowledge, values, and skills with her knowledge of theatre to work with teens in groups.
The Role of a Social Worker at Hospice of Larimer County

Social workers at Hospice of Larimer County serve in two different capacities, as a social worker working with patients and their families or as a grief counselor working with grieving clients. The social worker in both cases is a member of the Interdisciplinary Care Team, which is the model for hospice care. The patient care social worker works closely with a nurse, chaplain, medical director, certified nursing assistant and sometimes a music therapist, art therapist, and massage therapist. This team’s primary focus is to work closely with the patient and his/her family.

The social worker’s role varies greatly depending on the needs of the patient, but may include counseling and emotional support, help with accessing resources, and end of life planning.

Social workers who work as grief counselors at hospice provide counseling to anyone grieving the death of a loved one; this includes hospice families and any bereaved person in the community; adult, teen, child, or the entire family. They also facilitate grief support groups for a variety of different losses. Social workers in both areas of hospice work are also involved with community education on issues of death, dying, grief, and loss.

Hospice of Larimer County has been an internship site for advanced M.S.W. students for eighteen years. The agency has a strong commitment to providing an excellent field experience to graduate students in the context of an advanced generalist program. A placement at Hospice of Larimer County includes spending one semester as a patient care social worker and another semester as a grief counselor. The M.S.W. student experiences the full range of responsibilities in both of these roles and has the benefit of supervision from two different social workers.

Nancy Jakobsson, a CSU School of Social Work alumna, has supervised M.S.W. students for fifteen years and continues to enjoy working with students who are such open and eager learners. She states, “The internship is the last opportunity we have in which learning is our primary responsibility. The challenges and rewards of working with the dying and grieving may have a life-changing impact on one’s world view. These changes may be gradual and subtle, but most often profound. And whether hospice work is a professional goal or not, students come away with a greater appreciation for the impact loss has in our lives.”

Interning at Hospice of Larimer County

by Molly McNeely, MSW student

I often tell those around me how lucky I feel to be doing my M.S.W. concentration-year internship at Hospice of Larimer County (HLC). Having a background in nursing, I originally intended to find a medical social work internship at one of the local hospitals; but everyday, as I’m leaving my current internship, I give silent thanks that I followed two people’s advice (a valued classmate and a trusted faculty member) and looked into HLC as well.

I find nearly every aspect of HLC’s approach to client care to be compassionate, refreshing, and attentive to what really matters to the people we serve. I realize that these are not new concepts of client care; however, in our current fast-paced medical industry – so often riddled with hierarchies, bottomlines, and issues of managed care – these concepts, unfortunately, are not always at the forefront of what we do in the fields of medicine. This is why I am so ecstatic and proud, and even still a bit amazed, at how well Hospice of Larimer County integrates that which has been lost elsewhere into every aspect of their work.

One example that currently stands out in my mind is the way in which hospice employees work as a team. At HLC, interdisciplinary team (IDT) members are in regular communication with one another: social workers, nurses, CNA’s, chaplains, music, art, and massage therapists, and volunteers. All are equally valued for their vital input, along with their unique roles and contributions to client care. By circumventing many of the more traditional, hierarchical aspects of modern-day’s medical model, HLC reestablishes the significance of “client care,” by emphasizing two irreplaceable components to each client’s struggle: time and compassion.

Other than providing me with renewed inspiration regarding teamwork and client-centered care in a medical social work setting, I’ve been equally impressed with the program that HLC has designed specifically for social work interns. I am receiving ongoing, holistic and invaluable supervision, including the many emotional elements which often accompany practice as a hospice social worker, and I will emerge with a very complete and balanced experience of social work in a hospice setting.

Field Agency Highlight . . . Hospice of Larimer County

“Our plan of care at hospice is very patient centered and we labor to serve each patient/family with the goals they have named. Some of the work is like medical social work because all of our patients are so very ill, but because we are not as involved in aggressive treatment plans – comfort and pain management being the primary medical tasks – we are able to enter into the sharing of stories and memories that honor life and give dignity even to those who are compromised by physical limitations.”

– Richard Riddoch, Larimer County Hospice Social Worker and CSU alum

“It has been an honor to be let in the lives of so many individuals and walk along side them during their extremely challenging journey. I am continually inspired by my clients, and deeply moved by their stories. With each therapeutic relationship, I have been changed from what they have taught me. I also learned a lot about myself from my interactions with them in how to be a better social worker. It has been a humbling experience to realize how much I have to learn. It will be a life-long process, and it thrills me to know this is just the beginning!”

– Ben Gaibel, MSW student

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Active Minds at Colorado State Receives Chapter of the Year Award

The Colorado State University Chapter of Active Minds was recently presented with the Chapter of the Year award at the 4th annual Active Minds Mental Health on Campus Conference in Washington, D.C. The award recognized the Colorado State Chapter of Active Minds for their accomplishments in helping combat the stigma of mental illness on campus. Kathleen McKinney, Ph.D., M.S.W., a graduate in social work at Colorado State University, founded the organization.

Some of the activities the chapter sponsored for the Colorado State community included “Movie Madness,” “Doggie Delirium,” “Screamfest,” and “Peer Support Groups.” Each of these events promoted in some way awareness, education, and support on behalf of people diagnosed with mental illnesses on campus.

Kathleen McKinney completed her master’s thesis entitled, “The Initial Evaluation of Active Minds: The Stigma of Mental Illness and Willingness of College Students to Seek Professional Help.” Her work outlined the programming of Active Minds at CSU and showed promising results in reducing self-reported public stigma of mental illness for the participants who attended events sponsored by the chapter. While at the conference, Kathleen McKinney, Becca Frazee, and Meghan Malone presented the results of the evaluation and described in more detail the programming they sponsored for the CSU community.

For more information on the Colorado State Chapter of Active Minds, contact Kathleen McKinney, School of Social Work, via e-mail at kathymck@lamar.colostate.edu, or the School of Social Work at (970) 491-6612.

Active Minds is the nation’s only peer-to-peer organization dedicated to the mental health of college students. The organization serves as the young adult voice in mental health advocacy on more than fifty college campuses nationwide.

For more information, see www.activemindsoncampus.org.

Think About It . . . The Split Client and Why Collaboration Matters

The Colorado Collaborative Partnership (CCP) is a partnership between the School of Social Work at Colorado State University, the Colorado Department of Human Services, and communities in Colorado. CCP provides technical assistance, facilitation, and staff development to county departments of human/social services and other service providers involved with vulnerable families. CCP fully supports the national best practice model of coordinated case management with dual-system families.

Sue Tungate, CCP Director, states, “The overarching goal is for service providers to emerge from silos and work together on behalf of those we serve. In doing so, we aim toward prevention via effective coordination and early intervention.” CCP helps human services organizations strengthen collaborative partnerships and skills, within and across agencies and with families. This may range from a tailored, time-limited staff development session to longer-term intra- or interagency group facilitation and strategic planning. Allison Fink, Cynthia Geissinger, and Sue Tungate comprise the CCP staff. Both Cynthia and Sue are alumni of the CSU School of Social Work. For additional information about CCP, visit their website at www.cahs.colostate.edu/ccp/index.html, contact them via e-mail at ccp@cahs.colostate.edu or give them a call at (970) 491-4695.
The School of Social Work is proud to announce the establishment of the School of Social Work Alumni Association. Whether you are a current CSU social work student, or a graduate of the first social work class in 1974, this is exciting news. The Alumni Association is grateful to the faculty and staff of the School, particularly Dr. Maria E. Puig, the Alumni Association faculty advisor. It was through her unequivocal support and encouragement that the social work Alumni Association “idea” became a reality. It is now time for all current students and alumni to get involved and support your new Alumni Association.

The primary goals include: enhance the reputation of the School; support the School in its many educational and community-based projects and initiatives; help foster a true sense of a CSU/School of Social Work alumnus community, and serve as a conduit for the exchange of ideas with other CSU social work graduates.

Our alumnus can expect to gain many benefits from joining and participating in the Alumni Association including having full access to the CSU Alumni website. This website is an easy and cost-free way for all alums to keep up with the School, related activities, e-mails and other contact information of former graduates; job openings and networking opportunities; social and community related interest issues, and with many other topics that concern social work professionals. Other Alumni Association benefits include a speakers bureau for training and related events; invitations to alumni gatherings throughout the Front Range; local seminar opportunities; invitations to “lunch and learn” discussions at local agency settings or on campus; and most importantly, assistance with communication with other alumni.

The Alumni Association holds regularly scheduled meetings and get-togethers to bring CSU social work graduates (and soon to be graduates) together. The Alumni Association’s newly elected Board of Directors and Officers are helping to guide and lead the organization.

On behalf of all our members and the Board, we extend an invitation to all current and graduated students to join and get involved with the Alumni Association. We are all members of a wonderful, new and vital organization which has the potential to be an enjoyable and rewarding association for all concerned. Please, plan on coming aboard and supporting your new School of Social Work Alumni Association.

Contact us via e-mail at SSWAlumniMembership@cahs.colostate.edu.
Yes, I want to support the School of Social Work with a charitable gift!

Donor Information
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- 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 President’s Council, CSU’s prestigious giving society, which recognizes donors who give $1,000 or more.

Ben Granger Distance Education Scholarship (#57773)
This scholarship was established to honor Ben Granger, professor emeritus and the former director of the School of Social Work. Dr. Granger was the moving force behind the establishment of a School of Social Work Distance Education Program. Students enrolled in one of the distance education degree programs are eligible.

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.

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/H0709

Alumni Leah Barrett McGaughran Speaks Out, continued from back cover

I approached a local oncology clinic with a proposal to create a support services program that would work closely with the medical team. For three years, I was committed to create and integrate psychosocial services within a medical paradigm. Wonderful things happened, but the for-profit environment was not a good fit for these types of services. Letting go of this project was one of the hardest things I have had to do in my career.

I began a private practice and provided individual, couples, and family therapy for the next six years. I continued to periodically teach for the School of Social Work at CSU as well as work at a macro level with the Colorado Collaborative Partnership (CCP).

Most recently, I left my private practice to take a Clinical Counselor position with the Argus Institute at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Their mission is to prepare veterinary teams to successfully meet the emotional needs of pet-owning families. In a way, I have come full circle. I am working in a medical setting with an established system of integrating psychosocial support services with veterinary science in order to provide families help during stressful situations. This position allows me to work at all system levels from individual/micro to community/macro.

I took a risk when I left the Ph.D. program in Nutritional Sciences to pursue a Masters in Social Work. It was well worth it. I hope that by my sharing some of my story it becomes clear that having a M.S.W. degree opens up many possibilities both professionally and personally. I took a risk. I’m glad I did.
Alumna Leah Barrett McGaughran Speaks Out!

Deciding to pursue a Masters in Social Work was a risky move. It was 1994 and I was working towards a Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences at Colorado State University when I made the switch to social work. I had already received a Bachelors and Masters degree in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Wisconsin, so a Ph.D. seemed like the logical next step. As time went on, my interest in nutrition policy grew and I began to ask questions about broader issues, such as why are eating disorders primarily a women’s issue? And, if the United States is such an affluent country, then why do so many people still go hungry? I wanted answers, but lacked the tools to explore these social concerns.

I entered the M.S.W. program at CSU in 1995 after volunteering for a local crisis hotline. I jumped in with both feet. Before I even started taking coursework in the School of Social Work, I joined the Northern Colorado Social Legislative Network. I partnered with Social Work faculty to organize a forum on poverty. I went from studying people at a cellular level to exploring people in their environment.

After my first year of the M.S.W. program, I took a leave of absence to take care of a close family member who was fighting a rare form of cancer and was in need of a bone marrow transplant. During that year, I became the primary caregiver and was thrust into the medical world full of ongoing doctors’ appointments, cancer treatments, and medical tests. I felt lost, lonely, and disempowered. It became clear that the medical environment might be fine for treating the physical body but had limited ability to take care of the whole person as well as loved ones.

I finished my last year of the M.S.W. program with a new passion: medical social work. As that year drew to a close, continued on page 11