New Faces in the School of Social Work

David Becerra

The School of Social Work welcomes David Becerra, M.S.W., Ph.D. who joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor in August 2008. Becerra earned his Ph.D. at Arizona State University specializing in social policy.

Becerra comes to the School with a rich background, initially teaching history to California high school students and eventually directing clinical services offered to children, adolescents, and families in mental health and substance abuse treatment in Arizona. Becerra’s social work team collaborated with community and education services to make new service recommendations for children receiving improper services based on their individual needs. Becerra commented that he would like to educate his students about “the importance of an increase in social work research that is focused on Latino populations in order to improve their community services.”

Becerra’s research and specialization interests include substance abuse and prevention among Latinos in the United States and Mexico, acculturation issues among Latino parents and children in the United States, and Latino asset building and financial literacy.

Becerra loves to spend time with his wife and young sons exploring the mountains of Colorado.

James W. Amell

The School of Social Work is proud to introduce Assistant Professor James Amell, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S.W. Amell earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison concentrating on Social Welfare and Sociology and completed his M.S.W. at the University of Minnesota, double majoring and earning an M.P.H. (Master in Public Health). In addition to his successful completion of academic ventures, Amell comes to the School with a vast knowledge of research and clinical experience. He has effectively advocated in the mental health field working with individuals diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illness; provided important education and advocacy to young adults struggling with parenting decisions, legal issues, and unique family dynamics; and participated (eventually directing) case study research in New Zealand and community-based participant research in North Carolina.

Amell’s research interests include social inequalities and men’s mental health/health outcomes; intersection of race, gender, and social class on mental health/health outcomes; home and community-based long-term care; and community-based participatory research. Amell remarked, “I am looking forward to establishing relationships with local service agencies to provide research opportunities that will further connect the University, students, and community agencies.”

Amell is involved in community events, enjoys exploring the beautiful hiking and mountain biking trails in Colorado, and loves to dine in various ethnic restaurants, and travel to unique and exciting places!

Jerry Kohler

Jerry Kohler is the new accounting technician for the School of Social Work and says he loves the nice and reliable environment. He looks forward to making everyone’s job a little easier and making everything flow better.

Peter Friedrichsen

Peter Friedrichsen is the new M.S.W. program coordinator for the School of Social Work. He is a graduate of Colorado State University and wanted to remain connected with his alma mater. Friedrichsen’s plans for the School of Social Work include making the M.S.W. program as efficient as possible.

Keli Murray

Keli Murray is the new administrative assistant for the School of Social Work. She enjoys the learning opportunities that exist here. Murray also enjoys working with the people in the School and is thankful for the opportunity to become part of the team.
Greetings from the Director …

THANKS! I offer thanks to all of our alumni, students, faculty, and friends. Your commitment to social justice, your generosity of time and energy, and the work you are doing to help people survive are critical in these difficult economic times.

President Barack Obama expressed optimism during his election night victory speech when he challenged each one of us: “… let us summon a new spirit of patriotism; of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.” (Election Night Victory Speech, 2008)

This newsletter is full of examples of the many ways that the students, faculty, and alumni of the School of Social Work are helping address the needs of people in the United States and around the world. I am honored to be affiliated with all of my social work colleagues.

Please let us know all the ways that you are making a difference in your communities. Express thanks to community members and your colleagues for all that they do! We at the School of Social Work at Colorado State University appreciate all the good work that you do!

Deborah Valentine

Director Appointed to Governor’s Child Welfare Action Committee

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter announced the appointments of 25 Coloradans, including SOSW Director Deborah Valentine, to a new Child Welfare Action Committee, which recommends improvements to Colorado’s child-protection system.

The committee is reviewing Colorado’s current state-supervised/county-administered child-welfare system to determine ways that the system can be more effective in keeping Colorado children safe, achieving permanency, and assuring their well-being.

School of Social Work Faculty

James Amell, Ph.D.
Victor Baez, Ph.D.
Nancy Banman, Ph.D.
David Becerra, Ph.D.
Pamela Bishop, M.S.W.
Roe Bubar, J.D.
Victoria Buchan, Ph.D.
Kimberly Bundy-Fazioli, Ph.D.
Emily Dakin, Ph.D.
Nancy Gerardi, M.S.W.
Ben Granger, Ph.D. Emeritus
Bruce Hall, M.S.W., Emeritus
Brenda Miles, M.S.W.
Maria Puig, Ph.D.
Louise Quijano, Ph.D.
Malcolm Scott, Ph.D.
Robert Seiz, Ph.D.
Bradford Sheafor, Ph.D.
Sue Tungate, Ph.D.
Deborah Valentine, Ph.D.
Marc Winokur, Ph.D.

2009 Events

Social Work Alumni Colloquium
• Grand Junction: Sept. 23

Advanced Standing Information Meetings
• Western Slope: Feb. 2, Glenwood Springs Recreation Center; 2 p.m.
• Pueblo: Feb. 23
• Canyon City: Feb. 23
• Colorado Springs: Feb. 24, Citadel, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Room 302A; 10 a.m.
• Brighton: Feb. 25

• Castle Rock: Feb. 25
• Pueblo: April 20
• Canyon City: April 20
• Colorado Springs: April 21, Citadel, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Room 302A; 10 a.m.
• Brighton: April 21

Applications are due by June 30, 2009.

See website for more location information:
www.ssw.cahs.colostate.edu
Professor Joins Local Team in Outreach to Rwanda

Malcolm Scott, M.S.W., Ph.D., an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, along with five members of the Abyssinian Christian Church in Fort Collins, recently traveled to Rwanda in hope of touching lives and making a difference. The group’s primary purpose for the trip was to assess current efforts in the Kanombe Province, considered one of the poorest in the country, and how they could best support the educational, health, and business aspirations of children and families located near the capital city of Kigali.

 Residents of the country of Rwanda, located in east-central Africa, have very serious needs that must be addressed. Living in the most densely populated country in Africa, the people of Rwanda rely on community and extended family for meeting basic human needs of food, water, shelter, and medical care. Rwanda may be best known for the genocide that took place in 1994 that decimated and impoverished the country. Communities of faith, business, agriculture, and industry are working together to rebuild the country after such tragic events.

Scott, whose research interests include educational opportunity and access for children of color, community building and outreach initiatives, and youth development, believes the trip was a life-changing experience. “In all my years, never have I seen such a sense of community, a genuine commitment to unity, self-determination, creativity, and cooperative-economics, and with a fraction of the resources,” says Scott. “We earnestly wanted to help by supporting what the community leaders are already doing,” says David Williams, senior pastor at Abyssinian. The group and local church community helped to raise more than $10,000 for efforts in Kanombe, collected more than 300 pairs of reading glasses for seniors, and donated several hundred pounds of fabric used in the senior handicraft production program. The group continues to support a food program for young children in the Kanombe community.

In the absence of any substantial government-administered social welfare services and programs, the responsibility to provide the basic needs of clean drinking water, basic health care and education, and the provision of adequate nutrition falls to the global community. Scott and the Abyssinian Christian Church see these modest efforts as a starting point to what they hope will develop into a thriving collaborative partnership between the Fort Collins and Kanombe communities.

B.S.W. Influence in Darfur

How many times have you heard about the genocide in Darfur and wondered if we were doing anything to help? Well, we are, and the Colorado State University School of Social Work has one of its B.S.W. students working for the cause.

What started out as a class project has grown into a business and a passion for Jessy Turnell. In Fall 2007, she created a website informing people of the situation in Darfur and named her limited liability company “Who Cares? Bags” to get people thinking about whether or not they care and what they are willing to do for the citizens of Darfur.

Turnell’s idea for the website was influenced by her sponsorship of a child through World Vision, a faith-based organization aimed toward improving the lives of children. It was through this sponsorship that Turnell began to understand the true problem taking place in Darfur. Through Turnell’s website, people are able to purchase tote bags, book bags, and T-shirts. Fifty percent of the proceeds obtained through these sales goes toward helping the citizens of Darfur.

But for Turnell, it is important to support local organizations as well, which is why she also donates 50 percent of the proceeds from select products to the Larimer County Food Bank and World Vision. Customers decide who the money should be donated to based on the different messages on the merchandise.

If you would like to purchase one of Jessy Turnell’s products, please visit www.whocaresbags.com, and you too can help the cause in Darfur.

– Courtney Gaston, B.S.W. Student
One of School’s Finest Retires

Bruce Hall, M.S.W., has officially retired after 35 years with the Colorado State University School of Social Work. Though Hall has retired from classroom teaching, his dedication to the School and the community will certainly persist. Hall says, “I will always be a social worker and will continue to work with people who seek help, expect to benefit from a helping relationship, and contract for services.”

Hall contributed to the educational development of more than 8,000 students in more than 35 years of teaching. He encouraged these social work majors and graduate and undergraduate students from across the University to become involved in activist organizations, to conduct research, and to become competent and confident practitioners. Hall is quick to name the accomplishments of his students and faculty throughout the years and expresses his gratitude for having been a catalyst for more than 700 change projects invented by community members, students, and colleagues. Hall credits the success of these change projects to the support and expertise of social work students and practitioners. Hall and social work students contributed to the start of the first soup kitchen and homeless shelter in Fort Collins. They exposed ethnic discrimination in retail stores in the community and campaigned for civil rights for oppressed people in Colorado.

Hall says that his most memorable teaching experiences come from witnessing students overcome challenges in their social work practice. “Social workers have to discover how much investment is required to help a client make gains. Change is difficult for change agents as well as for their clients. School often blinds students to the fact that failure is a great teacher. Joe Biden said, ‘It doesn’t matter how many times you get knocked down. What matters is how many times you get back up.’ This cannot be taught. It can only be learned.”

Hall’s success in teaching community social work is informed by his experiences practicing community social work. Hall compares community social work to gardening. “The more one gardens, the more one becomes aware of the developmental cycles that are involved and the manifestations and behaviors that appear in each cycle. A community social worker becomes aware of how the environment affects different kinds, arrangements, and stages of growth. Clients are the experts who are the focus of our respect. A social worker brings knowledge, skill, experience, respect, and hope. The client is the master of the change process. Good social work is an investment in the life of the community and its people.”

The Fort Collins community has benefited from Hall’s varied service as a representative of the School of Social Work and Colorado State University. For example, he served as president of the United Day Care Board, member of the Catholic Community Services – Northern’s Board, treasurer of the Fort Collins United Way, and founding member of several social agencies. Hall joined the faculty of Colorado State on Jan. 3, 1973, after serving as a director of a settlement house in Saint Louis, Missouri. Prior to that, Hall was a caseworker in a family service agency and in a children’s psychiatric facility. Hall also practiced as a community organizer in Los Angeles, Calif. In addition to community work, Hall taught social policy, social welfare history and principles, human behavior, and rural social work. As one of the original faculty members of the School of Social Work, Hall served with all seven directors of the social work program. He was responsible for coordinating continuing education and field education before assuming the position of baccalaureate program director for a decade (1982-1992).

Hall will continue to offer support to the SOSW through chairing committees and representing the School in various community settings. As a member of several boards of directors and client organizations, Hall envisions retirement as an opportunity to facilitate conversations between the University and the surrounding community. Though Hall is content to serve in this capacity, he will also miss the maturity, experience, creativity, and commitment of his students and fellow faculty members.

Hall leaves us with a few words about life in social work: “In social change, learners become teachers, and teachers become learners.” As Freire and Horton write, “We make the road by walking.”
Brad Sheafor Honored with Pennock Award

Brad Sheafor, Ph.D., was selected in April 2008 for the Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award. Established in 1920, this award is given to only five persons each year from the Colorado State University faculty for their outstanding service to the University, community, and profession.

Sheafor has devoted his life to serving the field of social work in many ways. He is a consummate teacher and mentor; provided service to the School of Social Work, the College of Applied Human Sciences, and several national social work professional associations. His contributions are noteworthy in all areas – research, teaching, and service. Sheafor has truly done it all. He served as director of the Social Work Program; associate dean for the colleges of Professional Studies and Applied Human Sciences; interim dean for the College of Applied Human Sciences; and organizer of a study abroad program at the University of Canberra (Australia) while at Colorado State.

Sheafor distinguished himself in many ways. He was chair of the allocations committee and president of Fort Collins United Way; board member of The CLASS Foundation; executive committee member of the Human Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC); board member and program evaluator of the Fort Collins Family Support Alliance; and member of the Colorado Child Welfare Workforce Advisory Committee and Colorado Department of Health’s Violence Prevention Advisory Committee.

Sheafor has contributed to the profession of social work in various capacities including serving as president of the Council on Social Work Education; as senior scholar and consultant to the NASW Workforce Studies Center and the ACSW Examination Review Committee; on the examination committee for the Association of Social Work Boards; as consulting editor for the Social Work/Family Therapy Division of Allyn and Bacon, Publishers; as board member for the International Association of Schools of Social Work; as author of two social work books; and as Fulbright Lecturer to Massey University (New Zealand).

Sheafor has shared his talents, dedication, and excellence with Colorado State and the School of Social Work since 1973. In addition to his professionalism, Sheafor is well known for his personal warmth, sense of humor, and generosity.

Tenure-Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Kim Bundy-Fazioli was awarded the College of Applied Human Sciences Tenure-Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award in May 2008.

Bundy-Fazioli came to the School of Social Work with extensive social work practice experience, and she has used this experience to her students’ advantage. She has quickly become a master teacher of social work practice. In addition to teaching five different courses, she serves as faculty field consultant for several B.S.W. and M.S.W. interns each semester.

Bundy-Fazioli demonstrates a commitment to Colorado State and to students in many ways. Deborah Valentine, director of the School of Social Work, writes, “Basic tenets of Kim’s teaching philosophy include the recognition that learning is a collaborative process that demands the acquisition of critical thinking skills. She has deep respect for students and maintains high academic standards. She uses innovative teaching strategies to help prepare excellent social workers.” One student writes, “Dr. Bundy-Fazioli exhibits a sense of openness and respect for everyone that, in turn, makes other people feel comfortable in her presence. She has a remarkable way of connecting and relating with her students and sees herself as part of the entire group growing, and learning together. She truly wants her students to succeed, not just in graduate school, but in life.”

School of Social Work 2008 Award Recipients

Outstanding Alumni: Cathy Victorson, L.C.S.W., Medical Social Work Director at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Outstanding B.S.W. Seniors: Katherine Martin and Liesl West

Friend of the School of Social Work: Jim Drendel, M.S.W., Ph.D.
What Works? Kinship Care Around the World

A trip to Denmark to represent the School of Social Work at the 2007 What Works? Conference in Copenhagen was a high point for the director of the School’s Social Work Research Center.

With support from the Nordic Campbell Center, Director Marc Winokur presented findings from a systematic review of international research on kinship care. Winokur states, “I was humbled to be one of only a few native English speakers out of a group of more than 200 people. Most attendees were Danish practitioners who were eager to learn about many of the systematic reviews being done around the world.” After discussing the findings, participants were encouraged to ask questions and share their experiences with kinship care in Denmark. The most asked question was about the use of unpaid kinship care providers in the United States (especially in Colorado). This was surprising to the participants because foster care is a career option in Denmark, as foster parents and kin caregivers earn a fairly high income and are prohibited from seeking other employment.

The systematic review was accepted by the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations for publication in November 2008. The review included 62 studies that reported on the effect of kinship care on child welfare outcomes. The main findings were that children in kinship care have fewer behavioral problems and psychiatric disorders, along with greater adaptive behaviors and well-being than do children in foster care. While there was no apparent difference between the groups on reunification rates, children in kinship care were less likely to be adopted but more likely to be in a legal guardianship arrangement with relatives. Children in kinship care also were less likely to experience three or more placement settings. In addition, the groups were comparable on measures of educational attainment and family relations. Lastly, children in foster care were more likely than children in kinship care to utilize mental health services.

The Social Work Research Center will now turn its attention to updating a systematic review of juvenile sexual offender treatment, which was originally completed in 2006. Keri Batchelder, a research associate for the Social Work Research Center and M.S.W. graduate from Colorado State University, will be the lead researcher on this study.

Animal-Assisted Therapy and At-Risk Youth

HABIC (Human-Animal Bond in Colorado) and the Social Work Research Center have first-year results with regard to a research/evaluation project in providing animal-assisted therapy (AAT) with “at-risk” students. This is a four-year study in collaboration with the Thompson School District and the Colorado Department of Education.

A bonding scale was designed, adapted by CSU Assistant Professor of Social Work, Dr. Bob Seiz, from Poresky’s (1989) Animal Bonding Scale, and administered to 24 students in four elementary schools and two middle schools during the 2007-2008 school year. The instrument measures the relationship between AAT and the development of pro-social skills. Bonding scale results showed statistically significant improvement in self-reported bonding from pretest to post-test for seven questions: I know what my dog likes; my dog comforts me; my dog helps me relax; my dog gives me a reason for coming to school; I miss my dog in between visits; I know what my dog does not like; and I am close with my dog. One child said he didn’t want school to end; at the beginning of the year he wished the school year to be over as soon as possible.

This project is scheduled to continue for the next three years. For more information, contact the School of Social Work Research Center at (970) 491-0885 or HABIC at (970) 491-2776.
2008 CLOE Update

It was an exciting year of growth for the Center for Lifelong Learning and Outreach Education (CLOE) Outreach programs, new personnel, new collaborations, and M.S.W. students filled the calendar. CLOE now is a team with numerous players you’ll be introduced to below. We sponsored four outreach events during 2008, and the first cohort of the Colorado Springs Distance M.S.W. Program graduated.

Colorado Collaborative Partnership has been reaching out across the state of Colorado helping organizations and communities build strong effective collaborations and programs for the past eight years. It was only appropriate that CCP and CLOE join together to enhance the School of Social Work outreach efforts, and the faculty supported this move. During 2008, CCP staff Sue Tungate, Allison Fink, and Cynthia Geissinger accomplished the following:

• Developed a replicable staff development program for professional cross-training and service integration, specifically between child welfare and TANF programs
• Completed in-depth research highlighting the continuum of service integration in Colorado counties including specific practices and challenges
• Provided facilitation in the development of a collaborative emergency shelter in Adam’s County, which will be a unique model for assisting children and families in crisis
• Provided in-house staff development to departments of human services and community-based organizations across the state
• Highlighted and supported collaboration in Colorado human services through The Collaborator, CCP’s quarterly newsletter

CLOE growth continued with the following additions and changes:

• Michelle Ross started work with CLOE in March 2008, coordinating the mediation program. Ross has become a critical part of CLOE as her responsibilities have expanded to include coordinating the School of Social Work newsletter, coordinating schedules and marketing events, and assisting with the partnership CLOE and the School of Social Work has with the Colorado State University Extension. Ross is part of the new Colorado Springs M.S.W. cohort, which is just beginning the three-year M.S.W. education journey. If you would like to be on our electronic mailing list for information about upcoming learning opportunities through the Colorado State University School of Social Work – CLOE, please send a note to Michelle Ross at chiross@cahs.colostate.

• Kathryn Kidd served as the Colorado Springs M.S.W. field coordinator for the past two years. Congratulations are in order for Kidd, as she is now completing her doctoral work in Colorado State University’s Interdisciplinary Program in the School of Education with a concentration in social work.

• Jennifer Parker, L.C.S.W., has joined the CLOE team to be the field coordinator and on-site coordinator for the Colorado M.S.W. Program. Parker is a 1999 graduate of Colorado State’s M.S.W. program and has served as a field consultant and field instructor for Colorado Springs students. Parker will also assist in developing an alumni chapter in the southern Colorado, where we have close to 250 School of Social Work alumni.

• In August, we welcomed doctoral student Valerie Thompson-Ebanks from Jamaica. Thompson-Ebanks brings a wealth of practice experience with children and families having worked as a social worker in the public schools of Jamaica. Thompson-Ebanks’s expertise is being utilized in the development of new outreach courses and assisting with developing teaching resources for the distance M.S.W. program.

CLOE is pleased to be providing a Family-Centered Work course for Head Start program family workers in collaboration with Colorado State Extension’s Family Development Credential program. This academic course has provided an opportunity for Head Start workers to continue their educations, while at the same time increasing the knowledge and skills they bring to their work with families.

During 2009, CLOE will offer six new, one-credit-hour courses in addition to the online disabilities course and additional continuing education opportunities.

If you have ideas for workshops or classes you would like to see offered or would like to explore offering through the Colorado State University School of Social Work, please contact me directly. Watch for School of Social Work events over the course of 2009 – we’re excited to be bringing you numerous new opportunities for continued learning and professional development. Please visit www.cahs.colostate.edu for more information.

– Nancy Banman, Ph.D., CLOE Director
# CLOE 2009 Elective Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervision in Social Services</td>
<td>SOWK 590*</td>
<td>Brenda Miles</td>
<td>May 30 and 31</td>
<td>CSU Fort Collins</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Facilitation</td>
<td>SOWK 590*</td>
<td>Stan Scott and Nancy Banman</td>
<td>July 11 and 12</td>
<td>CSU – Brighton</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>SOWK 590*</td>
<td>Kathryn Woods</td>
<td>Aug. 8 and 9</td>
<td>CSU Fort Collins</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>SOWK 561</td>
<td>Pam Bishop</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Law to Advocate for Your Client</td>
<td>SOWK 590*</td>
<td>Eleanor Pepi Downey and James M. Downey</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
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*Note: All SOWK 590 are titled Workshop. Participants will be given a certificate of completion with the title of the course/workshop.

# Mediation Course Calendar 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Spring 2009</th>
<th>Summer 2009</th>
<th>Fall 2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Mediation (foundation course) SOWK 551</td>
<td>Jan. 13-17 CSU Fort Collins May 19-23 CSU Fort Collins March 4-April 29 ONLINE</td>
<td>Aug. 4-8 CSU Fort Collins June 3-July 29 ONLINE</td>
<td>Sept. 15-19 CSU Fort Collins Sept. 23-Nov. 18 ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorce and Child Custody Mediation SOWK 556</td>
<td>April 20-June 14 ONLINE</td>
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<td>Sept. 30-Nov. 25 ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare/Eldercare Mediation SOWK 552</td>
<td>April 20-June 14 ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 30-Nov. 25 ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Mediation SOWK 554</td>
<td>Feb. 9-April 5 ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 14-Dec. 9 ONLINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbitration SOWK 558</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 1-Oct. 25 ONLINE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

On-site courses are available at Colorado State University campuses in Fort Collins. Courses can be offered in other venues in Colorado! Please call us for details. All dates listed are CY 2009. All courses are on-site, in-person unless otherwise indicated. All courses are five days in length unless otherwise indicated. Five-day courses take place from Tuesday through Saturday unless otherwise indicated.

For questions about how to incorporate mediation training into your professional future, please contact Michelle Ross at chiross@cahs.colostate.edu or (970) 491-7183.

http://www.learn.colostate.edu/certificates/graduate/mediation.dot
Collaborative Case Management Meets Needs of Families

Colorado Collaborative Partnership conducted research to discover effective ways of working with families with both basic-needs issues and child welfare concerns. Based on an understanding of the co-occurrence of poverty and child neglect/abuse, and recognizing that many families are involved in both “welfare” services (Temporary Aide to Needy Families: TANF) and child welfare interventions, models of collaborative case management have emerged. These new approaches focus on breaking down barriers between divisions in county departments of human/social services through cross-training and co-management of the family’s case. The TANF worker and the child welfare professional coordinate their employment and family treatment plans to avoid conflict concerning requirements of the family in each division.

Conventional models of practice create conflicts and confusion for many families. Services may be duplicated and gaps may not be identified. A collaborative case management model requires the workers involved with the family to meet on a regular basis and create nonconflicting plans and resource access designed to address both poverty and children’s safety needs. CCP was encouraged and excited by these promising/best practice models and was anxious to facilitate the development of this type of systemic approach in the Denver Metro area.

In July 2006, CCP approached Arapahoe/Douglas Works! (Arapahoe County’s Workforce Center) and Arapahoe County Department of Human Services with an offer to facilitate the development and implementation of collaborative case management in Arapahoe County. A team was assembled that involved representatives from Colorado Works (TANF), Child Welfare, and the Workforce Center. CCP provided information, prepared meeting agendas, facilitated each meeting, compiled and distributed meeting notes, synthesized information and work products from the team, and assisted in keeping the vision clear and the team focused.

The Arapahoe group called themselves the Interdivisional Communication and Empowerment (ICE) Team. They first worked to formulate their communication norms and philosophy of working together. They crafted the initiative’s mission and vision statements and developed a set of guiding principles for the institution of collaborative case management. Recognizing the importance of linking clients to the best services and linking staff to each other, the team named their initiative CONNECTIONS. The team then turned to the task of developing protocols and procedures for staff to utilize with families who have co-occurring needs in more than one county program.

CCP staff authored and delivered a two-day curriculum that involved cross-training across agency divisions and prepared the community for a new way of doing business. Staff looked at the link between poverty and child welfare issues. They discussed and experienced how complicated, overwhelming, and confusing the different systems can be for families. They realized how little they knew about each other and services available through the county. Approximately 350 staff attended, with 92.5 percent indicating they would recommend the staff development to co-workers. While staff development was taking place, the ICE planning team transitioned into an implementation and evaluation team. This group is now focused on sustainability, further staff development, evaluating the initial rollout of CONNECTIONS, and creating changes to procedures based on feedback from workers and clients. The county programs continue to work together to provide the most comprehensive services in the most empowering way.

Please call (970) 491-4695 or visit the CCP website at www.cahs.colostate.edu/ccp for more on CONNECTIONS and other services provided by CCP.

– Cynthia J. Geissinger, M.S.W., Colorado Collaborative Partnership

The Colorado Collaborative Partnership (CCP) is a joint venture sponsored by the School of Social Work at Colorado State University and the Colorado Department of Human Services. CCP’s mission is “to promote the capacity of health and human services systems to partner across organizations, disciplines, and with community members, using a collaborative, client-centered, strengths-based philosophy, which encourages the development of new ideas, creative problem solving and the equitable participation of all stakeholders.” CCP is housed at Colorado State University and employs three part-time professionals.
Collaborating to Meet the Needs of Older Adults in Colorado

The Colorado State University School of Social Work and CSU Center on Aging sponsored an evening of panel discussion which highlighted current and needed social services to aging adults in Northern Colorado. The panel included Jeannette Hensley, Colorado DHS Director of Aging and Adult Services; Margaret Long, Larimer County Office on Aging Program Manager; Dorothy Escamilla (pictured), Weld County Office on Aging; and Rosa Wims (pictured), registered nurse and community activist (New York).

Wims has volunteered most of her life to help others in her community and inspires people around the nation to reach out and build strong communities. For example, after “retiring” from 28 years in the nursing profession she became aware that the Westside Health Awareness Center in her community was at risk of being closed. Recognizing that the center was a vital service to her community, she worked with several funders and was able to keep the wellness center open. The wellness center is now named the Rosa Wims Wellness Center. Wims has been honored with several awards for her community activism and was nationally recognized for her work by accepting the “Make a Difference” award presented by President Clinton.

The panel discussed topics such as Colorado demographics, aging issues, changes in population growth, and employment challenges. Wim’s dynamic participation in the panel discussion can be summed up by her closing remarks, “Community members face many challenges but we are all from the same ‘family’ and in order to make a difference we all need to be active participants.”

Hartford Funds Students Interested in Social Work with Older Adults

The Fellows in Gerontological Social Work (FGSW) program is a unique opportunity for Colorado State University M.S.W. students to build social work practice skills with the aging population, network with community agencies, and develop positive relationships with clients, faculty, and students. The FGSW program is one of 60 programs like it in schools of social work across the country that have been funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation through a program called the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE).

Fellows selected for this program take part in a field placement rotation during the concentration year, attend aging-specific seminars outside of normal class time, become involved in the broader HPPAE program evaluation, and are eligible to receive a stipend.

The field rotation model includes concurrent primary and secondary internships from which fellows gain experience serving individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

In addition to the field rotation, fellows will take part in the HPPAE skills assessments and program evaluation. The third component of this program is a series of seminars jointly facilitated by field instructors and social work faculty. Seminars will focus on teaching geriatric social work competencies through hands on activities, thoughtful discussions, and case examples from field experiences.

For more information, please contact Louise Quijano, Ph.D., at (970) 491-7448 or lquijano@cahs.colostate.edu.

School of Social Work Doctoral Graduates

We would like to congratulate LaTra Rogers, Sue Tungate, and Helen Holmquist-Johnson on their successful completion of their doctoral studies!

Good luck!
M.S.W. Student Association Update

Greetings from the Masters in Social Work Student Association (MSWSA). We are very excited to have three active committees: professional development, community action, and social connectedness.

Helen Frost and Lahta Barasch, M.S.W. students, provide leadership for the professional development committee and are sponsoring presentations on multicultural practice, active membership in professional organizations, and equine therapy. Danielle Willis and Justin Shaffer spearhead the community action committee and organized a service day at Northern Colorado AIDS project over the winter break. The social connectedness committee, headed up by Doree Kovis and Nara Samuels, keep the group connected to our campus community and organize events to enhance students’ social support.

In addition, MSWSA is joining the NASW effort to increase student involvement in our local chapter. Nara Samuels and Justin Shaffer are acting as student representatives in the newly formed NASW Colorado Student Council. Student votes that represent B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs across the state will be informed by council discussions of issues that come before the NASW-CO board.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, questions can be directed to Nara Samuels at narasamuels@gmail.com.

BSW Student Association Update

Social Work in Action (SWA) is the bachelor’s student organization for students studying social work at Colorado State. SWA is an organization dedicated to building healthy communities and encourages members to volunteer and work toward a brighter future. In past years, SWA has been involved in many important community projects including being one of the first responders to support the victims of the Greeley SWIFT raid; annually raising food, clothes, holiday gifts, and meals for needy community members; raising money to support a school in Uganda for orphans; and helping collect a donation of an entire truck full of coats for the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

This year, we are maintaining a local focus. We volunteered with tornado relief in Windsor, Colo., helped raise 800 pounds of food for the food bank through Cans Around the Oval, are volunteering at a homeless shelter, and sponsoring a family through the housing authority.

If anyone is interested in joining our organization, please contact us at SocialWorkinAction@gmail.com. SWA needs you!

Current Officers
President: Lilly Berger (pictured)
Vice President/Treasurer: Brooke Pevny
Secretary: Daniel Covey

Lilly Berger at the fundraising event.

SWA Raises Funds to Renovate Uganda School

In 2007, Social Work in Action partnered with a native Ugandan man to raise money for the renovation of a village school near Kampala, Uganda. The school’s focus is to provide education for orphans. The school has very poor facilities and funds were being raised to renovate the school. Many of the orphan children are infected with HIV/AIDS. SWA decided to organize a fundraising event through a local restaurant and by selling T-shirts. The fundraiser went well, and SWA was able to raise almost $1,000.

With the contributions of SWA, the school was able to complete renovations. The children and teachers expressed deep appreciation for their new schoolhouse.
B.S.W. Alumni Volunteers in India

“Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live in somebody else’s skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.”

– Frederick Buechner

Social work is most definitely being there for a friend, a stranger, someone vulnerable, someone strong, or simply for yourself.

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer in Dharamsala, India, just after completing my B.S.W. at Colorado State University. This six-week opportunity afforded me the chance to work in a small city in northern India at a school for children with developmental disabilities. The work was interesting and challenging and pushed me to quickly adapt to a new culture, new values, new teaching styles, and a new school. There are very few schools in India that address the special needs of children with different strengths and challenges. In the not too distant past, children with disabilities were often seen as a burden and fell into the category of “untouchable.” Not only were they not given special attention, they were often excluded from educational systems in general.

I was working with a relatively new project, Harmony Through Education, which is an American- and Indian-based nongovernmental organization, and saw firsthand the difference that a school such as this makes. The school was established to be a teaching facility for children with a wide range of disabilities and served a large area. Within weeks of the school’s opening, there was a waiting list nearing 100 children from as far as 70 miles away.

This school was not, however, only about educating children with disabilities. Its presence in the town helped to change attitudes. Community members embraced the students. The school is set in a beautifully modified home; was full of supplies, teaching aids, and hand-painted walls; and had a wonderfully caring staff that was qualified for the specific work. Harmony Through Education is a shining example of the possibilities of education. The people who walked by the school or knew one of the students who attended understood its importance and realized the value of each child.

We as social workers need to work alongside the people of the world to help make it possible for us all to feel peace and joy.

– Philip Pierce, B.S.W.

For more information on Pierce’s travels, go to http://wanderworldwonder.blogspot.com.

Pierce working with a young girl at the Harmony Campus in India.

Social Work Alumni Association

Since Summer 2006, a group of Colorado State University Social Work Alumni have been meeting to form a productive alumni association for the School of Social Work. As president of the Social Work Alumni Association, I have seen us making great progress toward this goal by increasing awareness and interest in the alumni association. A second goal of the association is to raise funds for scholarships to support B.S.W. and M.S.W. students.

As a group, we have been meeting to organize several fundraising events such as a benefit at Avogadro’s, the yearly Social Work Open House, a Homecoming event, and our Social Work Alumni lunch bag sale. The association is built on the premise that by continuing to provide scholarships to students, we are helping to educate the next generation of social workers. We all remember how costly getting an education is, particularly now, as it is more and more difficult for students to obtain loans, go to school, and work.

The association remains steadfast in its goal to increase alumni participation. We are hoping to build our membership and extend an invitation to all B.S.W. and M.S.W. graduates to join and help us in our efforts to make this a strong alumni association. Participation will help you to reconnect with other social workers in the professional world.

Please consider giving back to a program that helped you to become the great social worker that you are and help us to continue our work of service for CSU’s School of Social Work. Thank you and we hope to see you at our next meeting!

For more information, about the Social Work Alumni Association, contact Maria Puig at puig@cahs.colostate.edu.

– Diane Shaw, President, '02, B.S.W.
A Greeting from Sangyong, Korea

by Sangyong Kim Woo, Chair of Educational and Advisory Committee, Autism Society of Korea

Hi everybody!

I am Sangyong from South Korea. I graduated in May 2005 from the M.S.W. program at Colorado State University. It is very nice to say “hello” to all of you through this newsletter.

When I was young, I studied French literature in college in South Korea. Now, I am a social worker. My motivation for studying social work at CSU was my first son, Joseph, who lives with autism. Joseph was born in Fort Collins in 1984, when my husband was a graduate student in the Ph.D. program of civil engineering at Colorado State. Two years later, my second son was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and my family returned back permanently to South Korea for my husband’s new job.

When Joseph was 3 years old, he was formally diagnosed with autism. In South Korea, at that time, knowledge about autism was limited, and only a very small group of specialists worked with this population. So I gathered information on autism and consulted various specialists.

I had an opportunity to visit the United States again when Joseph was in the 7th grade and my husband was a CSU visiting professor. I found that services to people with disabilities were excellent and hoped that Joseph could live happily, even after I die. So I decided to study social work and learn to be an advocate for Joseph and other children with autism.

During my study at CSU, I trained as a case manager for people living with a developmental disability at Community Centered Board and was a council member for the Family Support Service Program. I also prepared a service plan for Joseph’s independent living program in Fort Collins.

I graduated from Colorado State University with an M.S.W. degree in 2005 and completed Joseph’s independent living plan. My second son graduated from high school and went to college. I returned to Korea after seven years in Fort Collins. In South Korea, I started my new life as a social worker. Joseph and I benefited from the disability services available in Fort Collins. Many people with disabilities in Korea, however, do not have access to services. I knew I wanted to share my knowledge and experiences with others and improve services.

I strive to educate people in South Korea from an individual model to a social model. Using seminars and discussions, a social model of disabilities is slowly replacing a paradigm that focuses on individual deficits. Participants include family members of people with autism, social workers, and community members. Currently, I am gathering statistics about people with autism and their families in South Korea. A welfare facilitation center for people touched by autism is still needed. In addition, the Autism Societies of Japan and Thailand are being pursued. In the future, I am hopeful that cooperation with the Autism Society of America and ASK will be strong and mutually beneficial. Through ASK, I am also working on translations of such books as Advocacy, Beyond the Wall, and Childhood Autism.

I am currently in the fourth semester of a social work Ph.D. program in a Catholic university near Seoul. I am living with my husband and my parents-in-law. My father-in-law is paralyzed, and my mother-in-law has Alzheimer’s disease.

I want to thank the faculty at the School of Social Work for changing my mind and view of life’s problems to a new perspective. Though life’s problems can be challenging ones, they can be faced positively. I hope to continue to work on the implementation of social welfare for people with autism and, more widely, for the welfare of all people with disabilities in South Korea.

April is National Autism Awareness month.

First, I started seminars for the families of people with disabilities and developed college classes on disabilities and family support. I also founded the Autism Society of Korea (ASK) in January 2006, the first organization of its type in South Korea. The president of the society is a father of a son with autism, and my husband is also a board member. ASK was formally permitted to register as an organization by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. ASK now includes 13 committees and receives about $100,000 annually from big corporations and society members. Last summer, ASK had a camp for boys and girls with autism and their families. More than 1,000 people participated. At the present time, I am starting a cooperative work project to develop a professional interdisciplinary team of home- and community-based early intervention case managers to help support families and people living with autism.
Volunteers Leading Loveland Parkinson’s Support Group

After Marion was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease 15 years ago, he and his wife, Cecil, became active disseminating information about this unusual and hard-to-diagnosis illness. As volunteer leaders of the Fort Collins and Loveland Parkinson’s Support Group, they unite people with an interest in Parkinson’s disease. This is not an agency with paid staff. Everything is done with volunteers. So when SOWK 286, a sophomore class that places students in community agencies to provide what the profession used to call “friendly visitors,” needed a Parkinson liaison, Cecil stepped in. She spent numerous hours recruiting people with Parkinson’s disease who would enjoy having a student visit for two hours a week in their homes, matched those persons to students, and coached or assisted students throughout the year. Cecil and Marion came to class giving such funny and interesting presentations that each year there were more student requests to meet with someone with Parkinson’s than could be met.

From left, Cecil, Marion, and Brandi Strickland, B.S.W. student.

Their help to the class went further. When a student needed a Parkinson’s “mentor” to visit and none was available, Marion willingly filled in. Brandi Strickland was one such student. She spent many days helping Marion compile the book about his life that he is writing for his children and grandchildren. They often went for walks together in Marion’s neighborhood, where his neighbors would notice Brandi and ask, “How can I get one of those?” Brandi fondly remembers the stories she heard while visiting with both Marion and Cecil. Other students remember the exquisite chocolate chip cookies Marion baked for his visiting students.

As Marion and Cecil conclude their six-year involvement with teaching students, Brenda Miles, SOWK 286 instructor, remembers their many contributions. “They were incredible, each brought something different. Cecil did what a social worker would do in another agency. If a mentor became too ill to meet with a student, Cecil would call everyone she could think of to find another person willing to spend time with that student. She was always available to help students, always treated them with respect, and in general did whatever she could to make this class and the students’ experiences successful. Marion shares his life with students as he faces Parkinson’s disease with humor and a positive attitude.”

Pershing E. Sims Scholarship for Poverty Prevention

Poverty prevention is one of the emphasis areas within the School of Social Work, and the first scholarship to reinforce that mission is the Pershing E. Sims Scholarship for Poverty Prevention. Pershing Sims was the eldest son of 12 children growing up during the Depression in southern Minnesota. During his childhood, the Sims family moved from town to town trying to make a living from farming but ultimately fell into poverty due to limited job opportunities. For most of his childhood, Sims and his family lived day-to-day trying to find work, food, and suitable housing.

While serving in the Army, most of Sims’ military pay was sent home to support his siblings. After his discharge, Sims married his bride, Bernice, and they had nine children, one of whom is Lori Sims, director of development for the College of Applied Human Sciences, and who with her husband, Vern Dosmann, established the new scholarship. “While growing up, my parents were able to move one step up from Depression-era poverty, but with their blue-collar jobs and a big family to support, we qualified for some social services, including dental care, hot lunch, and work study, among other things.” A vivid memory that she has is watching her mother pay the bills each month, with little stacks of dollars and quarters, and remembering the expression on her mother’s face of not knowing how it would stretch. “Even though my parents were not able to give a lot of money to charity, they volunteered their time at several places and did hundreds of good deeds for others,” said Sims. “We grew up with that example.”

Through these personal struggles, the Sims family knows firsthand that the only way out of poverty is through educational opportunities combined with personal drive and ambition. All nine Sims children went to college and broke the cycle of poverty in their family. Sims died of Alzheimer’s disease in 1999, and Bernice lives in Fargo, N.D. In honor of their father’s life and philosophy, the Sims scholarship will offer assistance to Social Work students whose primary academic focus is preventing and reducing poverty. The first Pershing E. Sims Scholarship award will be made during the Fall 2009 semester.
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
  - American Express

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Exp. Date __________________________________________________

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This gift is from:
- me
- my spouse and me
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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 President’s Council, Colorado State University’s prestigious giving society, which recognizes donors who give $1,000 or more per year.

- School of Social Work Enrichment Fund (#12553)
  This fund was established to assist the School with special events, lectures, and other educational needs.
- School of Social Work Scholarship Fund (#53123)
  This fund is for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students studying social work.
- 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.
- Georgia V. Granger Human Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC) Endowment (#45125)
  Established at Colorado State University’s School of Social Work by Ben and Georgia Granger, HABIC is an animal-assisted therapy program that effectively draws upon the powerful human-animal bond to help people of all ages improve the quality of their lives.
- Richard Mimiaga Scholarship Fund (#19685)
  This endowment fund was established by Mimiaga’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. Schissler, who died in 1989, was a 1970 graduate of Colorado State University in sociology and was involved with social work issues.
- Pershing E. Sims Scholarship for Poverty Prevention (#61693)
  This memorial scholarship was established by the Sims family in honor of their father, Pershing E. Sims. The award goes to an undergraduate student dedicated to poverty prevention and eradication.

Return completed form to: CSU Foundation, P.O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870
You can also donate online at www.ssw.cahs.colostate.edu.

It’s easy to let us know where you are or your news!

SOSWAlumniMembership@cahs.colostate.edu

Send the completed form to Colorado State University, School of Social Work, 129 Education Building, 1586 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1586, phone (970) 491-6612, or respond electronically to the above e-mail address.

Please Print

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Address: ___________________________ City, State, ZIP: ___________________________
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What’s New: ________________________________________________________________

Yes! I want to be a member of the CSU School of Social Work Alumni Association.