Greetings From the Interim Director

The air is crackling with the many changes taking place at the School of Social Work this semester. I’m honored to be serving as the interim director during this time of transition. Deborah Valentine began her transitional retirement at the end of December and we have begun the search for a new director for the School and expect to have a candidate selected by the end of spring semester. Brad Sheafor is retiring this year and we are excited to share with you information about the Brad Sheafor Lecture Series. In addition to the retirements and search for a new director, we have three other searches being carried out this semester for an associate professor, assistant professor, and an associate field director. I’m happy to announce that in December, Sue Tungate became our new director of field education. Sue brings a wealth of field, research, community and teaching experience to this position.

This edition of the SOSW newsletter will also provide updates on two of our outreach and engagement efforts. The Community Organizing to Reach Empowerment Center continues its work with the Prevention, Empowerment, and Resiliency Collaborative which provides trauma-informed, culturally-adapted, evidence-based treatment and care for youth and families impacted by trauma. The Colorado Collaborative Partnership developed a new workshop, “Was It Something I Said? Working With ‘Difficult’ Clients” to address needs identified by Colorado Department of Human Services. This workshop is available without charge to child welfare agencies throughout the state.

I am happy to announce that our BSW enrollment is going through the roof! We currently have more than 365 students and anticipate this number will continue to increase. Also, we now offer a Ph.D. in Social Work, with Vicky Buchan as its chair. If you are interested, see the criteria for admissions on the SOSW website.

Our calendar of upcoming events and professional development courses offered through the Center for Life-long Learning and Outreach Education is expanding and we hope you find an offering that interests you. Last, the highlights section of this edition of the newsletter is testament to the on-going achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni. If you are a graduate, we invite you tell us about your achievements so that we can add these to our highlights section.

Please read on and stay in touch.

Maria E. Puig, Ph.D.
Maria.Puig@colostate.edu
Maria E. Puig presented a paper at the National Social Sciences Conference in October 2011 regarding the issue of undocumented immigrants and the right of their American-born children to U.S. citizenship.

Victoria Buchan (left) and Louise Quijano received notice from the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health confirming their application to provide program evaluation for the Center will be funded as part of the HICAHS Award.

2012 will be an exciting year of transitions for our College and the School of Social Work. Our search for a new School director is well underway as we seek to hire a visionary leader who will build on the great foundation constructed by retiring director Deborah Valentine. Thanks go out to Maria Puig for serving as interim director until a permanent leader is found. The School is also hiring two new faculty members and we are enthusiastic about how they will contribute to the growing programs in Social Work.

The School of Social Work provides several outreach programs and centers including the Colorado Collaborative Partnership, the CORE Center, and the Mediation Certificate Program. In our people-oriented College, the School plays a critical role in educating students who have a strong desire to assist people such as older adults facing the problems of health and mobility, those experiencing joblessness and poverty, or people who have serious mental illness or physical disabilities.

As alumni of the School of Social Work, many of you work on the front lines tackling social problems in schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. We hope you will stay involved and connected to Colorado State as we educate the next generation of social workers critical to our society. Your expertise and input is greatly valued. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with your feedback.

Jeff McCubbin, dean
dean@cahs.colostate.edu


Kim Bundy-Fazioli, along with three other colleagues, published Extension interactive on-line modules titled: Exploring Legal Options – Tips for Grandfamilies www.extension.org/pages/60808

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Faculty Highlights
Upcoming Events and Classes

March 30, 31, April 1, and April 27, 28, 29  SOWK 580A1—Group Facilitation: Building Consensus* in Loveland, Colo.

♦ In this course, students will learn the essential skills for guiding working groups toward meeting goals effectively and collaboratively.

April 19, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (workshop) 4:30-6:30 p.m. (networking event) Colorado Springs Annual Professional Development Workshop and Networking Event at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post

♦ This workshop will provide an overview of mediation and conflict resolution. The public is invited to attend both the workshop, networking reception, or one or the other. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Jennifer Parker at Jennifer.Parker@colostate.edu.

May 11, 10 a.m. School of Social Work MSW Hooding Ceremony at the Fort Collins Senior Center

May 11, 1 p.m. School of Social Work BSW Pinning Ceremony at the Fort Collins Senior Center

May 11, 3 p.m. Graduate School Commencement Ceremony (for MSW and Ph.D. students) at Moby Arena

May 11, 7:30 p.m. College of Applied Human Sciences Commencement Ceremony (for BSW students) at Moby Arena

May 21-July 13 SOWK 554—Conflict Resolution in Workplace Settings* Online

♦ In this course, students will learn how to manage and resolve the various types of conflict that may arise in a workplace.

May 28-July 20 SOWK 680A2—Psychopathology and Social Work* Online

♦ In this course, students will learn mental illness diagnosis skills and how to balance ethical dilemmas in the diagnosis process in regard to social work values and ethics.

June 5-Jun 9 SOWK 551—Fundamentals of Mediation and Conflict Resolution* in Loveland, Colo.

♦ In this course, students will learn the basics of mediating and resolving conflicts.

June 13-August 5 SOWK 561—School/Community: People with Disabilities* Online

♦ In this course, students will learn best practices for working with people who have disabilities in school and community settings. This course partially fulfills the requirements for the School Social Work certificate required by the state of Colorado. For more information about all the requirements for this certificate, please contact Maria Puig at Maria_Puig@colostate.edu.

July 24-July 28 SOWK 556—Divorce and Family Mediation* in Loveland, Colo.

♦ In this course, students will gain knowledge and skills specific to mediating conflicts involving divorce and child custody.

*The courses listed above are offered in addition to those required in our regular BSW and MSW programs, and are open to the public. More information about these courses and registration can be found at www.online.colostate.edu/courses/credit/?subject_cat=39813#courselistings.
Many Thanks, Deb Valentine

As 2011 ended, so did Deborah Valentine’s ten years of dedicated service as director of the School of Social Work. Students, faculty, and alumni all join in thanking her for her many contributions to social work education, and the profession of social work.

Valentine has begun a transitional retirement and for the next few years will devote one semester per year to teaching and research in the School of Social Work. Not only will her leadership of the School be missed, but those who know her will miss her warmth, humor, social commitment, and caring about people during the months she will be away from campus.

Among Valentine’s accomplishments as director have been maintaining the accreditation of the BSW and MSW programs; developing an outreach arm of the School (Center for Life-Long Learning and Education) providing off-campus MSW programs in Colorado Springs and Thornton, (and initially in Grand Junction) as well as consultation and staff training offerings (Colorado Collaborative Partnership) throughout Colorado; building a successful graduate certificate in mediation; creating the effective Social Work Research Center which is nationally recognized as conducting international, national, state, and local research designed to inform social work practice; and securing substantial grant funding and providing on-site leadership for the CORE Center serving the low income population in North Fort Collins.

A culminating accomplishment was helping to secure approval of a Ph.D. program in social work at CSU. Perhaps her most notable accomplishment, however, has been her creative budget management and effective advocacy to maintain these programs and an energized faculty during the last few years of substantial budget reductions at Colorado State University.

Valentine’s reach has extended well beyond the School of Social Work. At CSU she has been a leader among the College of Applied Human Sciences’ directors and department heads and is highly respected as a member of the CSU faculty. In Colorado, among other things, she made important contributions to a Governor’s Commission addressing the well-being of Colorado’s children. Nationally, in social work education, she regularly led Master Teacher workshops for the Council on Social Work Education and served as editor of its Journal on Social Work Education for three years—substantially improving the quality of that journal. She received CSWE’s Presidential Award, as well as the Feminist Scholarship Award from CSWE’s Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education.

Valentine’s expertise touches many areas of social work, but especially services to persons with disabilities, women’s issues, kinship care, social work as depicted through movies, the effects of many forms of trauma on individuals and families, and knowledge- and value-driven social work practice. Fortunately, the School will continue to benefit from her wealth of knowledge and experience as a social work educator when she returns to her faculty role in the fall.

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Brad Sheafor Lecture Series in Social Work
Honors Outstanding Legacy

When Brad Sheafor came to Colorado State University in 1974, he served as director of the fledgling Division of Social Work. Over the next 38 years of his notable career, Sheafor held numerous leadership positions, while having a large impact on the field nationally, and helping to grow social work from a program in the sociology department into the successful School of Social Work it is today.

The School of Social Work is excited to establish the Brad Sheafor Lecture Series in Social Work in honor of Sheafor’s legacy of 38 years at CSU, his enormous contribution to the social work profession, and to commemorate his retirement in May 2012.

Sheafor’s service to the College of Applied Human Sciences includes his role as interim dean in 1986, responsible for uniting the College of Professional Studies and the College of Human Resource Sciences into a cohesive unit with disciplines focused on improving the human condition.

Including his work previous to CSU, Sheafor has spent his remarkable 51-year career as a social worker, social work educator, writer, and researcher. His perception of a need in the area of undergraduate education led to his textbook Social Work: A Profession of Many Faces, which remarkably is in its twelfth edition. His other books Techniques and Guidelines for Social Work Practice in its ninth edition, Practice-Sensitive Social Work Education, and Quality Field Instruction in Social Work have earned him national and international accolades.

Many social work graduate alumni have fond memories of Sheafor’s “bootcamp,” an intense course introducing them to the field. Among several alumni who have made gifts to the lecture series, M. B. McAfee, MSW ’88, Ph.D.’97 writes, “Brad Sheafor’s generosity, wisdom, and patience helped me not only in pursuing of graduate degrees at CSU, but in my best parts of my MSW program at CSU and I am happy to support such a wonderful cause!”

Sheafor’s contributions have been recognized with distinctions including the College of Applied Human Sciences’ Outstanding Teacher and Superior Service Awards, CSU’s Outstanding Service to Study Abroad Programs, the University’s Pennock Distinguished Service Award, and the CSU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Professor Award. He also served as a Fulbright Lecturer in New Zealand, President of the Council on Social Work Education, and received CSWE’s Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award. In 2011, he was designated a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers.

The Brad Sheafor Lecture Series in Social Work will support bringing recognized experts on cutting-edge topics to CSU better inform faculty, students, and social work practitioners on topics of current interest in social work and human services.

To make a gift to support this series and honor Brad Sheafor’s retirement, please contact Victoria Keller at (970) 491-7340, victoria.keller@colostate.edu or contribute at advancing.colostate.edu/bradsheaforlectureseries.
Colorado Collaborative Partnership Workshops

A recent 2009 Colorado Department of Human Services survey of Colorado Child Welfare case aides, case workers, and supervisors in 64 counties asked respondents to identify development and training topics that would be most helpful in improving their practice. The number one most-requested topic was “Effectively Dealing with Resistant Clients.” In addition, “Dealing with Mentally Ill Caretakers” was among top-four requests by case aides, case workers, and supervisors.

The Colorado Collaborative Partnership is a joint venture between the Colorado Department of Human Services and the CSU School of Social Work. One of CCP’s primary functions is to provide evidence-based staff development for child welfare departments and also community and government agencies that work closely with child welfare and/or families in crisis.

Cynthia J. Geissinger, LCSW, is CCP’s staff developer. Before coming to CCP, Geissinger had developed a workshop on working with “resistant” or “difficult” people. This workshop linked certain types of behaviors to the traits of some mental illnesses. The core information was still viable, but a curriculum update was needed. In 2011, CCP conducted research looking for evidence-based approaches and studies.

One study in particular, (Koekkoek, et.al. 2006), qualitatively examined the features of clients who are described as “difficult” and their corresponding personality disorder diagnoses.

This research reinforced the workshop’s approach to “difficult” people and was included in the new curriculum. In addition, new research on the use of self and mindfulness were built in. The curriculum and handout materials were written and tested before a live audience in June before being offered to agencies in the field in August 2011.

Was It Something I Said? Working With ‘Difficult’ Clients is an interactive three-hour workshop covering the use of self in human services professions, unconscious and confirmation bias, information about the three personality traits identified by Koekkoek as being most “difficult” with which to work, approaches to use with these diagnoses or traits that do not rise to the level of a DSM-IV diagnosis, empathy, mindfulness, and de-escalation techniques. Case workers, supervisors and management are strongly encouraged to attend.

As of March 2012, the workshop has been presented in four locations, with 48 people contributing feedback. The workshop has been revised three times based on participant feedback and suggestions. Evaluations have been very good, with feedback that the information is useful, immediately applicable, and interesting. In content, 92 percent rated the workshop as “Very Good” or “Excellent.” In terms of the presenter, 98 percent rated the presenter as “Very Good,” or “Excellent.” Comments from participants include:

“All of it—no kidding—was excellent and pertinent.”

“Very applicable! Great info that I can begin to implement immediately.”

“Best training I’ve been to all year!”

The curriculum will continue to be revised to reflect any new evidence-based studies or participant feedback. It is CCP’s hope that this information will result in improved employee morale and better client outcomes.

In addition to the Working with Difficult Clients training, CCP also offers the following workshops:

Secondary Traumatic Stress, Critical Thinking, Change Management, Strengths-based Supervision and Management, and Bridging Colorado Works and Child Welfare. To schedule, call (970) 491-0472 or e-mail Cynthia.Geissinger@colostate.edu Visit our website for more information: www.cahs.colostate.edu/ccp

Cynthia Geissinger

Federal Grant Enables School of Social Work to Assist Those Experiencing Trauma

Mono-lingual Spanish speaking parents need support for their eight-year-old daughter who was sexually assaulted by a family friend...An undocumented immigrant woman requests assistance for herself and her three young children after her husband was deported... A family seeks help after learning that a family member was unexpectedly killed in their home country, but is not able to return home for the memorial service because of their legal status...

While issues of grief and loss, domestic violence, child abuse, depression and suicidal thoughts, and sexual abuse impact families across socio-economic class and racial/ethnic groups, the majority of Hispanic/Latinos, immigrants, and those less acculturated face unique challenges that may affect their ability and willingness to access trauma treatment services.

For many Hispanic/Latino children and families who face similar challenges in their lives, there are few opportunities for them to talk openly about their experiences involving trauma or feel comfortable with or trust therapists who offer traditional mental health services. In fact, a report from the Presidential Task Force on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Trauma in Children and Adolescents (2008) further emphasizes that “cultural context and background, as well as membership in a minority group, will affect how individuals perceive a traumatic event and its impact and how the community can assist in recovery.”

The School of Social Work was awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant in 2009 to establish the Prevention, Empowerment, and Resiliency Collaborative Center, which operates at the Community Organizing to Reach Empowerment Center, a north Fort Collins area program which provides educational programs to residents, many of whom live in poverty.

Grounded in the principle of building on the strengths and developing the capacity of youth, families, and neighborhoods to facilitate recovery and promote resilience, PERC provides trauma-informed, culturally-adapted, evidence-based treatment and care for youth and families impacted by trauma that is precipitated by living in chronic poverty, exposure to community violence, child maltreatment, and the immigration experience. PERC partners with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network treatment centers, ChildSafe, Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center, Larimer Center for Mental Health, Larimer County Department of Human Services, the Poudre School District, and the residents of high-need neighborhoods in north Fort Collins.

Project staff and partner clinicians are trained to implement the following interventions and programs:

**Psychological First Aid:** Developed jointly with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, PFA is an evidence-informed modular approach for assisting people in the immediate aftermath of disaster and terrorism to reduce initial distress, and to foster short and long-term adaptive functioning.

**Trauma Adapted – Family Connections:** Centered on public health and social work perspectives, the program partners with families to develop their skills in ensuring safety in their homes and communities, to provide information about trauma including "normal" behavioral and emotional reactions that are influenced by trauma, to promote parenting skills needed for parents to communicate this information to their children, and to facilitate dialogue in families about the effects of trauma on the family’s health and well-being.

**Culturally Modified – Trauma Focused Treatment:** This intervention was developed for use with Latino children and is based on Trauma Focused - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, with the addition of modules integrating cultural concepts throughout treatment.

For more information, contact Marilyn Thayer, director of the CORE Center, at (970) 484-2580.
Alumni Highlights

This is our first official installment of alumni highlights. We would love to share the exciting things our alumni have been doing, so please, keep us posted on your activities!

Jeff Lujan (MSW, ’08) has started a new business combining his expertise in martial arts with training front line workers in long-term care settings to protect themselves while being compassionate in handling aggressive behavior of the people they care for. An article written by Lujan entitled “Believe in your Magic” was published in the spring 2011 publication of a journal for directors of nursing called Director. In December 2011, The Colorado Springs Gazette and the Denver Post published an article about Lujan’s work as well. You can read the original newspaper article here and view his business’ website at www.thetcs-llc.com.

Lilly Berger (BSW, ’09) served in the Peace Corps from 2009-2011 in a Mayan village in Belize. During her time serving there, she was able to help raise money to construct a much-needed footbridge to serve the village. Before the bridge was constructed, the people living in the village only had one dangerous crossing of a river to access services, such as school. Because of Lilly’s work, the people will have better and safer access to the things they need.

Director and Assistant Director of Field Education

Congratulations to Sue Tungate, Ph.D. and Jennifer Parker, LCSW. Both accepted new positions with the SOSW Field Education Program in January. Tungate, the new Director of Field Education, has been with the SOSW since 1998 as a researcher, instructor and most recently as the Assistant Field Education Director, Director of the Colorado Collaborative Partnership (CCP), and the Site and Field Education Coordinator for the CSU Distance MSW — Central Cohort. For the past three years, Parker has been serving as the Site and Field Coordinator for the Distance MSW — Southern Cohort. In October 2011, Parker became the Director of Colorado Collaborative Partnership and in January 2012 became one of two Assistant Field Directors for the School. Both Tungate and Parker are alumni of the CSU MSW program. We are pleased to have these two wonderful individuals on board in their new capacities.