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Motier Haskins and social work students participating in the Winterim immersion course ‘Sustainable Healthcare and Social Services for the Needy’, in Vandipalayam Village, Pondicherry India. Photo by D.L. Rishivanthi

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
If you are a graduate of our program, do you remember your research course project? My first 12 years on the faculty, I taught the two graduate research courses in Des Moines. Then I went on to teach the graduate research courses in the Sioux City and the Quad Cities programs. Finally, I taught the undergrad research course in Iowa City for many years.

Given that I taught so many students their research skills, I am sometimes stopped by an alum who ask if I remember them and their research project. It's always fun to take a walk down “memory lane” with them about their research projects. Can you believe that I remember my MSW research project from 1978? It is especially memorable because it became my first published research article. I mention this fascination with research because, in this issue of In-Service, you'll read many stories about both student research activity and faculty research activity. In every issue, we like to share a big part of our faculty lives: our research.

The School's rating within the “top 25%” of schools of social work in the country is due, in large measure, to the national research visibility of our faculty. Each of us has an important research agenda and, for many of us, it is career-long pursuit. For example, I began my research into adolescent pregnancy prevention shortly after I joined the faculty in 1985 when I was invited into evaluation research projects with adolescent service providers in Des Moines. Almost 30 years later, I'm still involved in this area of research, having acquired sufficient expertise that I now consult on this topic for the Division of Reproductive Health, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC].

As faculty, we love to share the information from our research. In every issue of In-Service, you see the list of faculty publications and presentations. Many of the presentations take place at national meetings of social workers (i.e., NASW, CSWE and SSWR), but they are sometimes given to other audiences as well. For example, this last year I took my research findings to an international conference on social development (held in Uganda) and the national conference of the American Public Health Association.

Naturally, we also love to share our research with our students and encourage them to develop their own research ideas (both within their research courses and in independent studies). It's always exciting to see the next generation of social work researchers developing their ideas, sharing their findings, and savoring the “impact” of their research on practice and/or policy.

The School's faculty is highly regarded for their research in several core areas, including gerontology, child welfare, interpersonal violence, diversity, and community well-being. Our research contributes to society in many ways. The scholarship of faculty in the field of gerontology, for example, has contributed to the well-being of older adults—and their caregivers—in addressing physical, emotional and social challenges because of advanced chronic illness, including Alzheimer’s disease. Our research helps to promote active and successful aging of older adults, including immigrants.

In the field of interpersonal violence, faculty research seeks to improve system responses to family violence, especially the legal system. Our research also seeks to reduce the occurrence of intimate partner violence and limit the consequences of abuse by improving intervention strategies. Our findings contribute to the training of social workers and others working with victims of crime.

Our research on diversity seeks to decrease systemic oppression and racism that contribute to people of color being disproportionately represented in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and adult justice systems. Other research seeks to understand the impact of cultural competence education in higher education. In the field of child welfare, our scholarship helps to keep the most vulnerable children and families together and supported by minimizing the intrusiveness and trauma of multiple systems.

The goal of other scholarship in this area is to reduce the number of children who are repeatedly maltreated by parents and others, including physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Other faculty devote their research to understanding factors that contribute to personal well-being in urban, disadvantaged neighborhoods and suggesting strategies to enhance both personal well-being and positive community empowerment. It is all fascinating reading—and important reading! If you have a chance, consider reading some of the faculty research. I know I always learn a lot when I do.

I hope all of your research endeavors are good ones. If you have a story to tell about your research activity as an alum, feel free to share it with Jefri (our In-Service editor). We'd love to read about it in a future issue. And, next time you see your former research professor, thank them.

Warm regards,
Kimberlee Gregory, a Des Moines MSW student set to graduate this spring, is completing her Advanced Practicum with Project IOWA. Project IOWA is a public-private workforce development initiative working to increase career track opportunities for chronically underemployed and unemployed central Iowans through an intensive skills development program. The program offers opportunities for individuals to transform their lives by learning technical and personal skills. The goal of the program is to offer participants a hand up and not a hand out by addressing barriers to successful employment. As part of her practicum Kimberlee has been developing and implementing policies and procedures for both the participants and employees. Project IOWA has shown great success in the placement and retention of those who have participated - 75% placement rate and 82% retention rate. Kimberlee has secured a full time job with Project IOWA after graduation.

Meagan Wilson, Jon Beringer, Celina Solano, Monica Arreola, Steve Tjaden, Aimee Clancy, Shanna Vander Plaats and Anabel Verdin, are students in the Sioux City MSW program. They are currently in Advanced Practicum and are all engaged in providing mental health, guidance counseling, and anti-bullying education in the Sioux City Schools.

Meagan and Jon have been working with the Siouxland Mental Health Center first as part of an individual study last year, and now as advanced practicum students to provide mental health services in the schools. Celina (who is bilingual), Steve, and Aimee joined the Siouxland Mental Health crew this year, doing the same as part of their practicum duties.

Monica is working with Catholic Charities, but does part of her practicum providing bilingual mental health help in the schools.

Shawna is in schools and Juvenile Court Services. Her specialty is creating curriculum and running groups for Girls Circle, a promising practice brought to Sioux City a few years ago by JCS. It's purpose is to improve academic and social outcomes for middle and high school girls, and prevent them from engaging in risky behaviors that could get in the way of their goals.

Des Moines BA Social Work student, Becky Smith, conducted an independent study project that resulted in a four-month evaluation at the Victim and Restorative Justice Program at the Iowa Department of Corrections. She found that its victim impact (VI) class curriculum, delivery, and results are congruent with the cognitive technique of rational emotive behavior therapy (REBT). The parallels between VI and REBT can be drawn in the conceptual framework of instruction methods, shaping and challenging offender thought-processes, and overall outcome goals of curriculum. The work she completed will be used as a source of outside support for the continued funding of VI programs in Iowa correctional facilities. The findings will be presented to key stakeholders and the Board of Directors, and used as a model for institutions across the state and beyond.

Tracey Beveridge, Amber Tompkins, Honor Harrison and Lindsey Ritland, of the Des Moines BA Social Work Program, presented an educational program on the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse among middle-school aged girls. The course was held on April 11th at Merrill Middle School.
Comings & Goings

**Bob Vander Beek,** MSW ’84, is not retiring in June, but rather ‘re-focusing’ on a new phase in his life. Bob began teaching for the school in 1989 as a visiting Assistant Professor and became clinical faculty in 1999. His primary deployment during those years was as Fieldwork Coordinator. He has taught HBSE, Policy, Intro. to Social Work and Practicum Seminar and has had contact with about every Iowa City MSW student for the past 25 years!

We asked Bob about his years in the department:
- How have students changed since the time when you were a student and now?
  “The similarities are more striking; every year there are so many caring and insightful people. The difference is that in the 1980’s we looked like we’d walked off the set of ‘Hawaii Five 0’ and many students today dress like I did in the late 1960’s.”
  -Does anyone stand out as being most influential to you?
    “Not counting those who are still at the School, John Lennon and Ralph Anderson. Ralph was the director and was my mentor. He introduced me to ecological systems theory and what grew out of that. He modeled what an excellent educator, social worker and human being is.”

Bob plans are to continue teaching online, participate in white privilege diversity trainings, write fiction, and catch up on long overdue travel.

You can wish him well at Robert-Vanderbeek@uiowa.edu

**Virgil A. Gooding Sr.,** MA, MSW, ’77, died suddenly on 2/10/14 at the age of 73. Virgil worked for the 6th Judicial District of Iowa, Department of Corrections for many years. He joined Foundation 2 and for the past 11 years served Cedar Rapids as an LISW in private practice. He was an adjunct professor for the UI School of Social Work for several years.

**Lila Grace French-Smith** came into the world on 2/9/14. She is the daughter of Lily French, Clinical Assistant Professor and Field Director, and James F. Smith, MSW ’06. Welcome to the social work family!

**Jacob L. Horowitz**, the elder son of Associate Professor Miriam Landsman and Dr. Steven Horowitz died on February 1st at the age of 26. Jacob was a cinema major at The University of Iowa, class of 2014. In addition to his parents, Jacob is survived by his sister Veronica and brother Jordan.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
In May Stacia Scott will graduate from the University of Iowa with a BA in social work. Stacia’s schoolwork is as vibrant as she is. She explains “I haven’t always identified myself as a feminist. It is a recent revelation. Even last year I wouldn’t have categorized myself that way.” But this year, Stacia identifies herself as a feminist, realizing maybe she was one all along, and she used her creativity to support and promote the cause through her “Feminist Photography Project”.

Stacia invented the project for her “Contemporary American Women Writers Writing about Girls” class. Subject matter from the class, especially Margaret Atwood’s Cat’s Eye, coupled with Stacia’s dedication to the topic, inspired the project.

The project includes photographs and the perspective of 28 different women who identify as feminists. The photographs and written content shed light on the question of what female empowerment means to local young women, as well as exploring the questions of what advice each woman would give to her girlhood self, and what she would most want to remember about her current self in the future.

Stacia realized through her interviews that the answers to these questions are often intertwined. For example from the interviews Stacia learned, “You have realizations at this age about your girlhood. You’re at this awakening period for your feminist identity, and your definition of female empowerment is impacted by the struggles and experiences you had in your girlhood, and how you view yourself now.” Stacia’s own recent experience, identifying herself as a feminist, supports this sentiment.

Stacia fears that, “our generation is hesitant to adopt the feminist identity because we have this notion of extremism of feminism, and we internalize unjust and misplaced generalizations of who can identify as a feminist. Feminism is a complex identity, which takes on different forms in different people...so I wanted to showcase a group of women in the community whom I’ve met who inspired me, who openly identify as feminists, and who don’t necessarily fit that extremism.”

Through the answers of the women included, Stacia was able to do just that. When asked, “how do you define female empowerment?” the interviewees response was an overwhelmingly flexible, and positive idea of the concept. The women described that being empowered means being an individual, and whether that includes wearing make up or not is entirely up to individual, as are all the decisions she makes. The interviewees hold the idea of freedom to make choices, unhindered by societal pressure, as pivotal to being an empowered woman. Most women’s answers regarding what they would tell their girlhood selves is ‘Don’t change to fill the mold society makes for you; always be yourself.’

Stacia’s passion for the “Feminist Photography Project” did not end when she submitted it. Rather she intends to continue by interviewing a wider, more diverse, group of women, no longer limiting the project to women she already knows. We look forward to the next evolution of this project from Stacia. To see the entire photography project, go to:

http://feministphotographyproject.tumblr.com/
Bill Sackter Day is April 13th. The School of Social Work honors an alum and a student with the Bill Sackter Award each year to acknowledge those providing exceptional service to persons with a disability.

This year the alumni award goes to **Mary K. Corbin, MSW ’84**, Social Work Specialist at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital in the Center for Disabilities and Development. Since 1986 Mary has served as the liaison between the Center for Disabilities and Development and government and community agencies, served as the Director of the ILEND Program supervising graduate students in all facets of social work and provided evaluative assessments for families of children with physical and mental disabilities. Congratulations Mary!

The student award goes to **MSW student Latasha Cardenas** who has worked with people with mental illness or disabilities for the past eight years. She is particularly interested in eliminating barriers to treatment for families impacted by poverty.

Latasha is advocating to change the policy for Medicaid waiver funding to allow coverage of a developmental disability that does not also include mental retardation, such as autism.

Award recipients receive a plaque and their names are engraved on the permanent plaque in Wild Bill’s Coffeeshop in the School of Social Work.

The awards will be presented on Thursday, April 10th at Uptown Bill’s Coffeehouse and Community Arts Center. The evening will be devoted to music, readings and spoken word performances related to Bill Sackter and his impact on individuals, communities and the world. There will also be photographs, artifacts and memorabilia about Bill displayed throughout the space.

If you have a favorite story about Bill, email it to the address below and it will be ‘performed’ on Thursday night.

To contribute to the Spoken Word performance or to the display, please email uptown-bills@gmail.com or call 319-339-0804.

On Saturday, April 12th, there will be an all-day Bill Sackter Birthday Bash with a different band and a different cake every hour, and a harmonica happy birthday salute at 4 pm!

Iowa City Eagles Lodge #695 donated $200 to the UI Foundation to be designated for Wild Bill’s Coffeeshop. A tile engraved with their name will be attached to the coffee shop wall. Pictured are coffee shop employee **Rachel Villhauer, her father Tony**, who solicited the donation as a member of the Lodge, and Development Coordinator Jefri Palermo.

You too can have your own tile! In memory of your graduating class, a loved one or a favorite teacher, you can specify what the tile says and even include a photo. Go here to order: http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/wild-bills-coffeeshop or call 319-335-3750.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Growing up in Des Moines, **Claire Heger Scholl** always had a fire in her belly for helping people with vulnerabilities, from the elderly and the sick to those struggling with homelessness and other socioeconomic hardships.

So after Claire graduated from Roosevelt High School, she headed for the University of Iowa, where she was able to explore her interests through the general education program. That led her to courses in the School of Social Work in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, from which she graduated in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree.

For Claire, now the executive director of the **Iowa Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**, pursuing her UI social work degree was a decision that has fundamentally shaped her life’s direction. “It was more than just an undergrad experience for me,” she says. “It laid the foundation for the rest of my life—who I am, every decision I make, and everything I do.”

While in the School of Social Work program, Claire was offered service opportunities that pushed her beyond her life as a college student. In particular, she completed an internship at Iowa City’s homeless shelter, now called Shelter House. “It allowed me to see real-world issues, and I came to understand that everyone, even a college student, can have an impact.”

After Claire left the UI and returned to Des Moines, she landed a job as operations manager for Hawthorn Hill, a shelter for homeless women and children. The UI had prepared her perfectly for the position. “Everything I did—nonprofit programming, crisis management, working with mental health issues—I learned at the UI.”

After three years, she moved on to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as executive director, where she focuses on fundraising and development for cystic fibrosis research. And she’s been successful—the Iowa chapter of the CFF has doubled its fundraising activity, and funds raised by chapters across the nation funded research that in 2012 led to a breakthrough medicine for cystic fibrosis sufferers. But Claire, and the CFF, have much work ahead of them. “The cystic fibrosis community will not rest until we’ve found a cure,” she vows.

Having built on her UI degree with a Master’s in Public Health degree from Des Moines University in 2008, Claire is active with numerous Des Moines organizations. She serves on the board of Community Health Charities of Iowa and works with the Blank Children’s Hospital, United Way of Central Iowa, and area homeless shelters.

All of that good work—and her two children and husband—keeps Claire busy and fulfilled making life better for countless Iowans. And it all started in the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

**Tim Spence**, MSW ’86 Hi there, my great news is that I will be retiring from Phoenix Elementary School District #1 on May 23rd. This is my ninth year as a School Social Worker at Garfield Elementary. Prior to moving to AZ, I was a School Social Worker for Minneapolis Public Schools. One of my favorite organizations in Phoenix is St. Mary’s Food Shelf. I hope to do some volunteer work with them upon my retirement. The picture is of my sister Ann and I hiking the "Go John" trail in Cave Creek.

**April Dirks-Bihun**, MSW ’01, PhD ’07 has been awarded tenure at Mount Mercy University. Congratulations April!!

**Debbie Eberly**, MSW ’11. I started a new job on January 27 (for the same agency where I have been for 5 years). I am the Caregiver Specialist & Options Counselor at Connections Area Agency on Aging in Sioux City (formerly Siouxland Aging Services). This is a new position for the agency. For the past 39 years, Siouxland Aging had been serving only the elderly, but as of January 1, the agency became an ADRC (Aging & Disabled Resource Center). In my new position, I am now able to assist persons aged 18 and older to attain in-home services, apply for waivers for such services, provide support for caregivers, and more. There have been many changes and I’m sure there will be more exciting changes to come!

**Dawn Worrell**, (MSW ’99) LSW has opened the Counseling & Wellness Center in Iowa City. She lists her specializations as assessment and treatment of attachment disorders, autism spectrum disorders, ODD, ADHD, and Theraplay Therapy with children, adolescents and families. 319-400-6168
Alumni Spotlight – Gary Weinstein

Gary Weinstein became a social worker by chance. Young and looking to make a little extra money, he accepted a part time position offered to him with Transitions Mental Health Services (formerly NAMI Rock Island and Mercer Counties). It was through this job that Gary discovered his passion for social work and returned to school. Gary graduated from The University of Iowa Quad Cities MSW program in 1990, became licensed, and is now the CEO of Transitions Mental Health Services. Today Gary says, “Almost 30 years in field and I still love it every day.”

Gary explains that when he first began working for Transitions he enjoyed the constant direct contact he had with clients. Later, Gary was promoted to supervisor, where he continued to have direct contact with Transitions clients, and in 1990, after being with Transitions for 5 years, Gary was approached with an offer to be CEO and accepted. Gary describes how it took time to get used to his new role in the agency, and the macro administrative issues it presented. Gary emphasizes the importance of establishing the connection between the macro and micro issues and he continues to seek out frequent direct contact with clients.

Transitions is a smaller social work agency in Rock Island, Illinois. Gary says the staff is a group of 30 highly professional “good people” who serve about 300 people per year. In addition, Transitions works with families, schools, and other provider agencies who are committed to better serving their clients. Transitions’ clients include children over age 5, teens and adults with mental health issues, including mental illness and personality and behavioral disorders.

Transitions offers “psychiatric care, therapy, counseling and daily living and self-care coaching in areas including anything from cooking to symptom management, to anger management, and relationship building.” The agency has two residential programs; one providing 24-hour care and the other partial care. In addition, Transitions owns and operates 3 businesses: Property Professionals Building Repair and Renovation Services, Printer’s Mark Printing Company, and Transitions Commercial Cleaning Services, all of which serve as employment and training sites for clients.

Transitions also assists those seeking community employment in preparing and applying for employment with employers in the Quad Cities area. In this way Transitions effectively fosters the success of its clients in the working world. Gary describes Transitions as a dynamic agency, “We are able to maneuver easily; we adjust quickly. If there is any way we can serve you, we will.”

When asked about changes in the social work field at large, Gary answers that there are a lot of positive and exciting things happening today. Gary believes more of our elected officials and the public in general, are beginning to see the value and necessity of social workers, as well understanding the many needs of the people they represent. Increased acceptance of social work leads to less stigmatization of those who seek help from social workers and hopefully greater financial support of the programs that can meet their needs.

Gary identified that the array of social services is often described as a “patchwork,” and that the large number of human service agencies is inefficient. Gary does not completely agree, and offers his insight, “Instead of a patchwork, I look at it as more of a quilt, if you will, where the value and the uniqueness of the quilt is the different designs sewn into it. I think that’s actually one of our strengths. Persons needing the array of human services are not a homogeneous group. There are many unique needs, preferences, goals and barriers, etc. that

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must be matched with the most appropriate services if we want those seeking help to invest themselves in critical services. Further, this quilt is a great check and balance system in that as we all work together, coming from varying perspectives, we are far more apt to see the gaps and any problems that might exist."

Instead, Gary supports the No Wrong Door Policy, saying that all decisions and aid should not come from one entity. Instead, it is beneficial for the different agencies to be well connected so as to best serve their clientele. Gary stresses the idea that if people aren’t happy with one agency they need to be able to go to others. If they do not know where to go for help, they can go to any provider and that provider will assist them in finding the help they need. As long as that continues to be the case, Gary has no problem with consolidation or joining a larger coalition of service providers.

Gary serves on the board of Illinois Partners for Human Services (IPHS) – a statewide advocacy organization, and is hopeful about the recent increased attention to human services, and mental health in particular, from new health care polices. Through his participation in IPHS, Gary works to generate greater financial support and to re-brand social services to the public by emphasizing the constructive and integral role social work plays in all communities.

Gary is delighted with the field’s growth so far and is enthusiastic for what is to come. As advice to students of social work, Gary says the secret to maintaining your drive and your passion is something his first supervisor told him. At the end of each and every day, identify every accomplishment you made – the big ones and the small ones. Savor each one, and recognize that sometimes it may just be a smile on your client that was not there yesterday. That simple smile may put your client on a path to success that would have never otherwise happened.

Alumni Donation Benefits Students

Lenore Rice Hale, MSW ’73 and her husband Charles, bequeathed $30,000 to the School of Social Work. She died on October 5, 2013 in Seattle, Washington. At her side were her daughter Betsy and granddaughter Elise. An excerpt from her obituary:

In 1952, Lenore married Charles A. Hale, of Minneapolis, then a graduate student in history, who became a scholar of 19th century Mexican political thought and a Professor of History at the University of Iowa. Although their four children were all born on the East Coast, they moved to Iowa City in 1966, and made Iowa their home. Lenore and Charles sunk deep roots in Iowa City, devoting themselves to a growing circle of dear friends, discovering the subtle pleasures of small town life in the Midwest. In 1971, Lenore entered graduate school in social work, and upon graduation took a job as family counselor in the Child Psychiatry Department of the University of Iowa. Retiring in 1989, Lenore continued work on a volunteer basis as peer counselor at the Senior Center in Iowa City. She and Charles moved to Seattle in 2004, leaving behind a lifelong community of friends and colleagues. They made their new life together in Seattle until Charles’ untimely death in 2008.

We are extremely grateful for the Hale’s generosity. The money will be used for student scholarships.

Making the Move From Direct Service to Management

A workshop with Gary Weinstein

Friday, July 11, 2014
9:00 am-4:00 pm

University Conference Ctr.
Room 2520D
Old Capitol Town Centre
120 Clinton St.
Iowa City, IA

Registration brochure at:
http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/professional-development-opportunities

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
The participants of the UI NCBI Campus Affiliate 2014 Train the Trainer, eight of whom are from the school.

The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) is a nonprofit leadership training organization based in Washington, D.C. Since 1984, NCBI has been working to eliminate prejudice and intergroup conflict in communities throughout the world.

NCBI works through a coalition-building model to provide leadership training for inclusion and equity, with the goal of eliminating all forms of prejudice throughout the world. NCBI’s approach is to begin with one or more people from a community, school, or organization. When a handful of like-minded leaders from that group or area have been trained, a local NCBI Affiliate or resource team is formed. Thanks to Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer Georgina Dodge, The University of Iowa became an NCBI Campus Affiliate in 2010.

One of the most visible and well-known programs that NCBI has created is the one-day “Leadership for Equity and Inclusion” workshop. The workshop is highly interactive and hands on. Participants engage in self-reflection and sharing, talk about the messages we internalize about our own and others’ identity groups, correct misinformation about our groups through “caucus” sessions, share personal stories and experiences of oppression and mistreatment, and practice how to respond to hurtful jokes, comments, and slurs.

In 2011, the school hosted two one-day workshops for social work faculty, staff and a few students. Since then, several faculty and staff have gone on to be trained as trainers. In 2013 we piloted the one day workshop to all new MSW students as part of their orientation. In August, UI Affiliate Director Lindsay Jarratt, and several members of the campus team will deliver the workshop to incoming MSW students in Iowa City, Des Moines and Sioux City.

After months of interviews, research and filming, a video about the school’s history is complete. The film is almost 19 minutes long and traces the social, political and economic trends that influenced the school’s development from the army barracks days to the present.

The film was produced by the school’s Development Coordinator, Jefri Palermo, and filmed by Georg Koszulinski and Joshua Yates. Let us know what you think!

The History of The University of Iowa School of Social Work Now on YouTube!

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/about/school-social-work-history
The winners of the 2014 contest were announced on March 1st to kick off Social Worker Month. We received 65 entries from 38 social work schools in 23 states. The rules required writers to limit their poem to seven lines and to write about their hopes, dreams, fears and experiences related to social work. The top prize is $300 and half price admission to the Creative Writing Seminar for Helping Professionals held each summer in Iowa City. The winning entries are below. For more information about the contest, go to http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/creative-writing-social-workers

Jonathan Knight Palley, U California Berkeley ‘75 1st Place

Production Line
This wide, wild, gritty human field in which we till
A complex of intertwined, hard to visualize systems
Were we dentists, we’d be sculpting silent mouths with precision tools
Or GI Docs, probing inner mysteries fiber optic, Oh such clarity!
But no, we are professional people persons
Our selves: our plows; Listeners to heart sounds
Producing communities of care for others, for ourselves.

Sarah Pettit Dawson, U South Carolina ‘99 2nd Place

Tell Me
And she lays the story down.
Just drops the bag she's been carrying
and it spills out, in rivulets of pain.
How she escaped, how she rediscovered kindness;
moored herself against the tides of sorrows
I’d never even imagined.
Her eyes tracking mine, expecting judgment; finding none.

Catherine Crandall, U Georgia ‘13 3rd Place

2440 S. Henderson St.
Come again, anytime! --he called out-- as we waved,
thanking him for showing us the view from his living room,
the potted ferns glowing in the warm afternoon light,
the crock-pot on the counter and the comforter pulled
neatly over his pillow, where the threadbare blanket
of his dignity, lay smoothly folded, the one he slept with
each night on the street-- now at the foot of his bed.
Awards

**Dr. Sandra McGee** has been named the 2014 DMACC Outstanding Alumni Award. This award was established in 1987 to recognize alumni who provide service to their community, have had great professional or personal achievement since graduation, and continue to be involved in the life and work of DMACC.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Motier Haskins** has been named as a University of Iowa 2014 recipient of the prestigious Catalyst Award for his many accomplishments in the area of diversity education. Mo has served on the African American Council both as a general member and a member of the Executive Board. He is a founding Executive Member of the Hubbard Group, an organization on campus devoted to the retention of African-American students, faculty and staff. Mo was instrumental in helping The University of Iowa become a National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Affiliate. NCBI is a leadership training organization whose mission is to help eliminate prejudice and intergroup conflict in communities throughout the world.

Mo is currently the coordinator of the undergraduate Certificate Program in Critical Cultural Competence. From an enrollment of eight students in the first cohort, Mo has recruited 25-30 students each year into the certificate program making it one of the most successful certificate programs in CLAS.

Presentations


**Bern-Klug, M.** Feb. "Preparing Medical Students to Engage in Advance Care Planning Discussions- Lessons Inspired by TV Game Shows," American Medical Directors Association, Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.


**Haskins, M.** (January 15, 2014) Sustaina-

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
ble Healthcare and Social Services for the Needy, Atithi Conference Center, Pondicherry, India.


French, L. & Cummings, S. (December, 2013) Honing Your Leadership Skills & Re-energizing Your Practice: The Benefits of Supervising a Student Intern, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Dept. of Social Service Spotlight, Iowa City, IA.


Publications


French, L. & Fisher, P. (November, 2013) Child’s Play: Creating a Path to the Middle Class - Improving Child Care Assistance to Facilitate Parent Education. Iowa Fiscal Partnership, Iowa City, IA.


Interested in getting your Ph.D.? Got questions?

Go to http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/graduate-program/phd-social-work

or email carol-coohey@uiowa.edu

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Afluent girls residing in two-parent homes are much less likely to be sexually assaulted than other female youth, according to a new study from the University of Iowa. The research revealed that when family income reaches 400 percent of the poverty threshold, or around $92,000 for a four-person household, the risk of sexual assault declines by more than half.

The study conducted by professor Amy Butler examined sexual assault in more than 1,000 girls aged 17 and younger, across all income levels. It relied on data obtained from the ongoing Panel Study of Income Dynamics—a national survey of families begun in 1968 and directed by University of Michigan faculty.

Unlike other analyses that examine data gathered after a sexual assault has occurred, Butler's study looked at risk factors related to behavior, family history, and parental income that were measured prior to an assault, giving the work potentially predictive value. "It's important to have clear before and after measures," Butler says.

Published in the International Journal of Child Abuse & Neglect, the study showed that the risk of sexual assault for girls between the ages of four and 17 declined from 12.3 to 5.6 percent once income reached 400 percent or more of the poverty threshold.

Her analysis also confirmed previous research that showed girls whose mothers had at least a high-school education and whose biological parents were both present from birth to age one had a lower risk of sexual assault.

Nationwide, one in 10 girls is sexually assaulted, according to Butler’s study. This compares to one in five girls who are victims of sexual abuse—a term often encompassing a broader range of inappropriate behavior that can include voyeurism or verbal pressure for sex—as reported by the advocacy organization, the National Center for Victims of Crime.

While reasons behind a decreased risk of sexual assault for young females in economically comfortable, two-parent households are not yet known, Butler notes there may be several possible explanations.

For example, factors that might enable some parents to achieve higher socioeconomic status—e.g. having children later in life—could be tied to personal characteristics like enhanced maturity levels that are then passed down to their children. Education appears to play a role as well.

"It is possible that educated, two-parent families can better afford to raise their children in safe neighborhoods, send them to safe schools, and ensure that their activities are well supervised, thereby decreasing their risk for sexual assault," Butler writes.

"Alternatively, the personal characteristics that may enable some parents to achieve higher socio-economic status may be transmitted to the daughter through heredity and parental modeling, thereby reducing her risk."

Butler’s research helps establish that many risk factors identified in retrospective studies (those conducted after the fact) are accurate predictors of whether a girl will experience childhood sexual assault.

Her analysis found that girls with extremely low math and reading scores, and those referred to special education programs were more likely than their peers to experience an assault. It also confirmed that girls who—according to their caregivers—were shy, withdrawn, had impulsive tendencies or expressed feelings of worthlessness were more prone to sexual assault.

The study further outlined that many mental health disorders found in victims and survivors of assault appear to be a result of their experience with rape. Butler is conducting additional analysis to research this link and others. She is hopeful that her study will open the doors for more young women to discuss sexual assault, and encourage them to find support and assistance.

And though her research focuses on risk factors in girls, she is quick to note that victims are never to blame. "Perpetrators hone their skills to entrap girls. No one enters a situation expecting to be sexually assaulted," says Butler.

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