Wild Bill’s Coffeeshop Turns 40
Dear Friends:

When I was sitting at my “visiting professor” desk at Wuhan University almost 10 years ago and received an invitation to serve as the School’s next Director, I was surprised by the invitation. I was not aware that in the semester I was gone from the School that our Director (Salome Raheim) had been invited to serve as the Assistant to the University President. We have all heard the expression, “Don’t miss a meeting or you’ll be volunteered to do something in your absence.” That was certainly true for me. I would not have believed I would serve this long as Director of the School, but, at each term renewal, it felt right to continue.

We were involved in so many important reviews in this past decade that leadership was critical: we successfully passed CSWE accreditation under new standards; we successfully passed a University “departmental review” (required every 10 years); we successfully passed a university audit; we successfully absorbed the UI Aging Studies program into the School; we successfully implemented a Certificate program in Critical Cultural Competence; we successfully launched a new BA-SW program in Des Moines; and our National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice successfully spearheaded many new practice initiatives. The list goes on.

At the same time we were developing new educational initiatives, we moved forward with a very active research agenda among each of our faculty, bringing considerable national prominence to us. And we provided very high levels of service to the State of Iowa and nation that brought our expertise into organizations and communities.

Without the commitment of the faculty and staff to a very ambitious agenda over the past decade, we would have not have grown in positive ways that make the School a choice for prospective students and faculty. The “tradition of innovation” is unbroken and I am tremendously grateful to everyone who has taken such an active part in the process. Many of you--our alums and friends--contributed to our success during my tenure as Director. I am indebted to each of you. Thank you!

My successor, Sara Sanders, has a wealth of talent and energy that she will bring to this role. I know that Sara, our faculty, and staff will continue to do great things for social work education at The University of Iowa. I’ll be cheering from the sidelines!

As a child, the University of Iowa was a place mentioned by my grandfather who had graduated from its law school in the 1930’s. My parents would drive me through campus on our way back to our home in Illinois from visiting my grandparents in Minnesota. At that time, I saw college students walking across campus dressed in black and gold and never once thought that the campus I was viewing from my parent’s car would someday be my “home.” I joined the faculty of the School of Social Work in January 2003. I had just graduated with my Ph.D from the University of Maryland and was excited to return to the Midwest to begin my academic career. My practice experience is grounded in dementia and end-of-life care and my passion for working with older adults and the dying continues to this day. I have served as the Director of the Undergraduate Program for the School of Social Work and have coordinated the End-of-Life Field of Practice following the retirement of Dr. Susan Murty. My current research is focusing on end-of-life care for dying offenders and sudden and unexpected death among older adults, with a specific focus on deaths that may have resulted due to elder abuse.

As I start a new chapter in my career as the Director of the School of Social Work, I want to thank Dr. Edward Saunders for his service to the School. It is never easy to follow in the footsteps of someone who has led for a decade and has instituted so much positive change for a system. My goal as the new director is to continue to build on our areas of strengths through research, teaching and service. We have internationally known faculty in the areas of child welfare, gerontology, policy and community development, and many other areas. We are a regional leader in the area of cultural competency and set the bar for other University departments for distance education and reaching students in the farthest corners of Iowa who are committed to social justice and serving the oppressed. We have BSW and MSW alumni throughout the United States who are implementing programs, changing policies and positively enhancing the lives of others. The alumni of our doctoral program are at top institutions training future social workers throughout the country. I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful institution and it makes me proud to know that our alumni are representing Iowa so well.

I am a strong believer in collaboration, feedback and working together to make change. During my tenure as director, I will be spending time with all of our programs and I welcome your feedback about how we, at the School of Social Work, can do things better and how we can take our mission of scholarship, teaching, and service further into the state, region and nation. I want to hear from alumni on how you are using your Iowa education and what you now wish you had received during your time at the School so we can continue to strengthen our curriculum. I want to hear from community partners about how we can better prepare students for the challenges that exist in the field and with the clients they will be serving. Finally, I want to know how, through our scholarship, we can assist in providing answers to the challenges facing our clients, service providers, and larger system.

I look forward to this next step in my career and working together to strengthen the School of Social Work. - Sara Sanders
A group of University of Iowa social work students are ready to feed the homeless. The college kids spent a few hours at their professor’s home, Friday night, putting together more than 330 lunch bags, which they’ll hand out in Iowa City.

“A lot of people in Iowa City complain about the homeless, to be honest, especially some of the college students. So, why not reverse it and do something about it,” said Victoria Dotts, a UI social work student and local organizer of the effort.

Dotts said the meal making was part of a wider movement called #HashtagLunchbag. #HashtagLunchbag started in Los Angeles back in 2012. It aims to get as many as possible to make free meals for the homeless.

Dotts pitched the idea of joining up to her social work class. They were hungry to help. “Unfortunately, Iowa students only get attention when they’re in the news downtown. This is real showing the great work that Iowa students do, in terms of giving back to the community,” Sara Sanders, a UI associate professor of social work.

Inside each of the lunch bags are sandwiches of donated bread, meat and cheese. Plus, some fruit, a cookie, and a handwritten note of encouragement.

“Just to remind people. They’re going through something hard. They do matter. We’re just doing it for them,” said Lauren Chiszar, a UI social work student.

While the meals themselves are undoubtedly a small bite out of the troubles the homeless face Dotts hopes the effort is a start to something bigger.

“If we can do a monthly or even a weekly thing, I think there are enough people at the university that would be willing to help out,” Dotts said.

My trip to West Africa over winter break, was life changing and a fantastic learning experience. I visited the kids and teaching staff at Complexe Scolaire Saint Primary School in Cotonou, Benin.

What struck me the most was how welcoming the principle and teachers were to have me talk to the kids about the importance of education.

I visited the Gate of no Return located in Ouidah, Benin, which is a monument to the hundreds of thousands of Africans who were forced into slavery. We walked along the two mile trail that the slaves had walked before crossing the Gate and entering the ships awaiting on the Atlantic Ocean. Along the trail was the Tree of Return, planted in Ouidah, by the West Africans. This tree symbolizes their desire to have all slaves who were taken from their land during slavery, and all generations that come from those slaves, to return to West Africa spiritually, once they pass away.

The Door of no Return is located in Cape Coast Ghana, where male and females were separated into dungeons, and subjected to barbaric conditions. Thousands died inside the dungeons during their wait. Visiting both of these historical places, and learning more about the suffering of our ancestors, was breathtaking and brought tears to my eyes. —Bonnie L. Brown

On MLK Jr. day, I was invited to attend an MLK prayer breakfast, held at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines. The keynote speaker was Olympic gold medalist, Jackie Joyner. Her speech was extremely moving and motivating. Her message was to never become complacent. Jackie also said that when she won her first Gold medal everyone asked her “well aren’t you satisfied?” and her response was “no, I’m going to go and do it again.”

Jackie’s message was very powerful to me. “To all of you young people in the room—tired should not be in your vocabulary.” Jackie stated that we cannot be satisfied when there is still racism going on, when there are still children being bullied in schools and online, when there is still sexism and ageism. Jackie went down the list, and the whole room was silent.

Jackie inspired me and reminded me why I am in the Social Work program. I want to do as much as I can in life, and as Jackie stated, I do not want to become satisfied.—Kelly Meany
Dr. Inez Cruz, PhD ‘14, successfully defended her dissertation and became one of a small group of Mexican Americans to earn a PhD in Social Work. According to the CSWE, fewer than 5 PhDs in Social Work self-identified as Mexican American in 2013.

Inez’ dissertation, “The Lived Experience of Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Among Latinos in a Primary Care Clinic in San Antonio” attempts to understand how Latinos interpret having insulin-dependent diabetes, because increased understanding of how people interpret their illness can improve diabetes management, and promote competent social work practice.

Demographic Characteristics of Doctoral Graduates CSWE 2013

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* Excluded because number in category was less than 5.

Accelerated MSW Program

Beginning summer 2015, a select group of MSW students will begin the new accelerated advanced standing MSW Program. The program is full time and designed to allow completion of 41 semester hours in three semesters. Both Iowa City and Des Moines students may participate if they have completed their BSW or BA in Social Work within the past 5 years and have at least a 3.5 GPA in their social work major courses and a 3.2 overall. All students in the program will be required to attend a summer seminar that will be offered only in Iowa City but they may attend either Iowa City or Des Moines classrooms for their summer electives.

Applicants currently completing a BA in Social Work or BSW, submit reference forms completed by the BA/BSW Director of their program, and from their Field placement supervisor, as well as their final field evaluation when it is available.

Applicants who are not current students, and have been working in a social work position, provide designated reference forms completed by their current employment supervisor instead.

The program was developed in response to student and faculty requests and current market forces. It is an excellent option for high achieving students to reduce the time and expense of completing their MSW. So far, the school has received about 25 applicants to the program.
The University of Iowa School of Social Work National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice recently completed the fifth year of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsored Iowa Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) evaluation in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The program serves inner-city Des Moines neighborhoods with high levels of poverty. The project uses two evidence-based programs, Positive Behavior Support Case Management and Nurse Family Partnership, to provide services to children and families.

Program implementation, individual outcomes and systems development and change were evaluated using quantitative and qualitative data. Using the Life Skills Progression (LSP), significant improvements were found for children and families involved with both the Case Management program and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Results also show significant improvement in each of the eight LSP domain areas (for example, relationships, health, basic essentials and child development). Parents reported that the program helped them out “a lot” on each of the dimensions of the LSP.

In the last two years of the program a new dimension was added to the LAUNCH program: building workforce capacity to better meet the mental health needs of young children and families. Staff trained through the program reported increased understanding of mental health in early childhood, knowledge of promoting children’s social, emotional, and behavioral health, ability to articulate the role of mental health for their early childhood program, and improved ability to make referrals.

Policy outcomes from the program include the establishment of state and local councils addressing policy changes to create a better system of care. Noteworthy accomplishments of the councils include: legislation which requires that 90 percent of home visiting dollars support programs with a record of achieving meaningful family outcomes; a fourfold increase in state appropriations for the 1st Five program to expand and enhance care coordination and developmental screenings for at-risk children; and receipt of a SAMHSA System of Care planning grant to create a statewide plan for expansion.

For more information on the LAUNCH program evaluation contact Dr. Brad Richardson, Research Director at The University of Iowa School of Social Work, National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice at brad-richardson@uiowa.edu, 319.335.4924 or 515.771.3589.

References for article on pages 10-11

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Alumni In Service

Social Work is a Family Affair

Jane Caton, LISW, CADC is a Threat Assessment Specialist at The University of Iowa. She swears that she did not try to influence her children to pursue social work careers, but 3 of her 4 children became school social workers and are alumni: Sara (Caton) Studdard, MSW ’07; Charlie Caton, BSW ’07; and Gina (Caton) Horenı, BSW ’04.

Jane lived in Iowa City as a child, graduated from Regina High School in 1971, and moved north to receive her BSW from St. Catherine’s University in St. Paul, MN. After working with runaways and in psychiatric hospitals in the area of mental health and chemical dependency, she returned to school for her MSW at Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. When Charlie began college at Iowa in 2003, Jane moved back to Iowa City. After graduation in 2007, Charlie returned to Chicago and completed his MSW at Loyola University and completed his school specialization. He currently works in a Chicago area Middle School as a School Social Worker.

Gina attended De Paul University at first, then transferred to Iowa as a sophomore. She had visited her grandparents in Iowa City for many years, so Iowa City was familiar. “I had a great experience at Iowa”, she said. She completed her MSW at Loyola University, got her school specialization, and then moved to Des Moines to work in the Child Guidance Center. Today she works in a Chicago area Middle School with children in grades 6-8.

Sara, the oldest, attended Illinois State and studied deaf education. She found a job doing crisis counseling in a school but decided she wanted to be a social worker. When her mom moved back to Iowa City, she came with her and attended the Iowa City part-time MSW program. After working at a psychiatric hospital admitting kids having trouble in school, she attended Aurora University to get her school specialization certificate and now works in an alternative high school doing crisis intervention in the Chicago area. “I wasn’t sure if I would like working with adolescents, but I really do,” she said. The school has 46 students and Sara has been working there for four years.

The three siblings have a lot in common and often consult with one another about struggles at work. “Our parents raised us to care about others, about standing up for people. Our dad had a BA in social work too and then went into hospital administration and management of non-profits. He worked for places that served developmentally disabled adults, so we just grew up around all kinds of people,” Charlie said.

“Social work is a great career, it’s different every day and you meet great people” Gina added. Mom smiled proudly.

Greg Gaul, LISW 1962-2004

“Greg’s spirit and legacy continues to inspire those associated with LifeWorks. Greg continues to be missed by many within our community and it is our hope that people continue to reflect on his life and follow the example that he left for many of us who work within social services.”

These words grace the website of LifeWorks, an agency started by Greg, John Stanley and Ryan McClure in 2000. Greg was shot and killed by a 16 year old client when Greg visited him at his home. The teenager also killed his housesitter, fled in Gaul’s car, and committed suicide while being pursued by police in Colorado.

Greg received his Bachelor of Social Work at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN where he lived in the St. Vianney Community and received his Masters of Social Work from the University of Minnesota. Greg worked at PACE Juvenile Center of Orchard Place in Des Moines for 13 years before starting LifeWorks Inc.

Beloved and respected by many in the social work community, the Iowa Chapter of the NASW gives an annual award in his memory.

Gaul left a wife and seven children.
LifeWorks Celebrates 15 Years of Success

John Stanley and Ryan McClure are noticeably proud of the agency they started together 15 years ago. What would make them even happier would be if Greg Gaul were still alive to share it with them. He died in the fourth year of the agency, shot by a young client. (see insert on page 6) Greg continues to inspire the founders, such that his name appears on every brochure.

LifeWorks provides individual, couples, marriage and family therapy as well as Behavioral Health Intervention Services, an Integrated Health Program, Employee Assistance, School-Based Therapy, Children’s Mental Health Waiver services and custody evaluations. They supervise numerous MSW students who provide pro bono therapy as part of the their practicum.

Started by three guys who knew nothing about running a business, they now employ 21 therapists, half of whom are UI alums. Several others are enrolled or have plans to apply to the Des Moines BSW or MSW program.

Ryan McClure said “I wouldn’t have gotten my MSW if the UI program hadn’t been in Des Moines. That was when it was in the United Way Building. LifeWorks made it easy to go back to school.” The support has been mutual, “Billie Marchick was a big supporter of us and instrumental in getting LifeWorks started, she was a big fan.”

John had to take out a home equity loan to start the business. “We had to figure it out as we went along. We lost a lot of money because we didn’t understand the complexity of running a business. We didn’t think of social work as a business but to be successful, you have to. This is why directors of agencies aren’t necessarily social workers anymore,” John explained. LifeWorks is now big enough to have an HR director, who is also an Iowa grad.

Jill Cook, now in her 7th year at LifeWorks, Directs the IHP program which serves 700 families. “I forget that other agencies don’t operate the way we do, everything we do at LifeWorks involves caring about families, that is what brought me here and keeps me here, it is a core value at LifeWorks,” she said.

Carly Wellman has been with LifeWorks almost ten years and was recruited by Ryan and John the day after she received her degree. “I love my job, I like the spirit and what we stand for, we try to excel at everything we do,” she said.

Greg’s death and changes in child welfare policy were both turning points in the development of the agency. John said, “The first ten years we were focused on child welfare, we did all in-home services. When the field changed, we had to change with it. It was sad but we grew through it. We don’t want a lot of bureaucracy or layers, we are all paid on what we produce, but we value giving back to others. While providing supervision to students is a loss of billable hours, teaching and mentoring others is important. Greg would have supported this,” John said.

“We were very selective about who we wanted to work with and the programs we started. We made some decisions not to expand into some areas because we felt it would dilute some other services. We never wanted LifeWorks to be about us, but about what we are doing. After we are gone, these people will be the ones who carry on the work. They will lead the organization into the future, “ John said.
Wild Bill’s Coffeeshop Celebrates 40 Years

$40 for Forty Years

The School of Social Work will celebrate its 40th year of sponsorship of Wild Bill’s Coffeeshop on Friday, April 10th, 2015 with a reception from 5-7 pm. The event will be part of the annual Bill Sackter Day events held each year in honor of Bill’s birthday on April 13th.

The School is promoting a special fund-raising event, 40 for 40, asking alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members to donate $40 to help sustain the non-profit for the next forty years.

The coffee shop began when Bill Sackter, and his guardians, Bev and Barry Morrow, moved to Iowa City when Barry accepted a job at the School. Bill spent 44 years in Faribault State School due to his intellectual disability and his mother’s economic situation at the time. Bill was admitted to the institution at age 7 and never saw his family again.

Bill became world famous when a screenplay Barry wrote about him was made into an award winning TV movie called Bill. Bill made coffee for students and faculty in the School and was beloved by everyone who met him. Bill died in his sleep in 1983 but the coffee shop lived on, and now has 13 paid employees, all of whom have disabilities. Each semester dozens of students volunteer at the coffee shop, usually as a service learning project or for social work course credit. There they learn about Bill and what made him special, and how every person with a disability has unique gifts and talents to contribute to the world.

Please help us to continue Bill’s legacy by donating whatever you can afford. Your donation can be mailed to the University of Iowa Foundation using the form on the back page of this newsletter. You can also donate online at https://www.givetoiowa.org/GiveToIowa/ WebObjects/GiveToIowa.woa/wa/goTo?area=socialwork
On November 1st, 2014, an exhausted, exuberant and impassioned group of cross-country climate marchers arrived in our nation’s capital (right on schedule) following a 3,000 mile epic journey to raise awareness and inspire action on our rapidly expanding climate crisis. This is the greatest threat and challenge humanity has ever faced - and the worst kind of social injustice imaginable. “Climate Justice Now” was one of our rallying cries as we spoke to thousands of people along the route at potlucks, rallies, churches and schools, in shops, on city streets and along the roads.

The participants in the Great March for Climate Action called our moving community the “One Earth Village.” Among this dedicated group averaging 35-50 citizens, were about a dozen retired social workers and former administrators of non-profit organizations doing the challenging and never-ending work of championing for social justice. But in truth, every Marcher knows first hand that social and environmental Justice issues are inextricably intertwined.

An MSW graduate of UI School of Social Work and a retired psychotherapist, I walked all the way across our vast and beautiful country to sound the alarm – like a modern day “Paul Revere.” We will never know for certain what impact we had as we traveled 15-25 miles per day for 8 months all across America. But what I do know for certain is what we witnessed all along the journey.

-Water wars between states in the SW where they are experiencing an unprecedented 15-year drought. Many (mostly poor) communities have no access to potable water.

-Sickness in a pueblo reservation where we camped in NM and the people shared their story of over 50 years of living with the toxic runoff from uranium mines (for nuclear power) which have poisoned their groundwater for 130 miles in every direction and is still spreading. Their rates of illness reflect this poisoning. Periodic government “cleanup” involves pushing toxic piles around. No cleanup. Maggie, who invited us to camp at her organic farm in Ohio, shared her story of the callous disregard of the fossil fuel frackers that have poisoned her land and made her an American climate refugee.

-Terry Greenwood of Washington County, PA: his pond and well were contaminated and his cows poisoned by the runoff from a fracking operation on an adjacent farm. The state department of environmental protection told him the reason for 10 deformed, stillborn calves was “poor farming practices” and “bad luck.” Shortly thereafter, Terry died from aggressive brain tumors.

-Hardest to hear are the stories of those on the front lines of extreme fossil fuel extraction and refining whose communities are called “sacrifice zones.” These stories are repeated hundreds (thousands) of times across our nation. Toxic petcoke, a byproduct of tar sands refining, and other air and waterborne toxins, have made whole towns uninhabitable because of our nation’s addiction to fossil-fuel based energy systems and the callous greed and deceit of the corporations who provide it.

-Marktown, IN, is next to a huge BP tar sands refinery. Their town is so contaminated the children cannot play outdoors. BP is “generously” paying them $30,000 for their homes so they can leave. Their entire community has been destroyed and their health compromised.

These tragic stories are not just stories; they are the health and lives of real families and communities. The global injustices are even more dire. Millions are dying every year from the ravages of the increasing floods, droughts, heat and storms increasing faster than anyone anticipated. The pollution created by our thirst for oil/energy, the production methods of agribusiness and the manufacture of consumer products our materialistic society craves are literally killing our future.

As social workers and members of the human community, as an integral part of nature, we need to wake up and join the movement to create a livable future on Earth. It’s simple to do, but it requires commitment. Google 350.org or connect with your local environmental organiza-
Grassroots action is necessary but probably won’t get the job done by itself. We also need top down political action by governments to create incentives and policies to shape individual, corporate, and national choices.

How can we possibly imagine bringing about the major economic, social, political, and environmental changes needed to deal with the climate crisis? We need a paradigm shift, a fundamental change in the basic mindset that guides all our thinking and decision-making. Our traditional “business as usual” paradigm is based on materialism, individualism, science and reductionism, the growth economy, and the view that since we are separate from Nature we can exploit it to meet our needs. In this paradigm the social worker functions as the expert, following the medical model.

An alternative, holistic paradigm, is emerging that is based on cooperation for the common good, happiness, lower levels of energy use and consumption, and a steady-state economy so that we come to live in balance with Nature. In fact we come to see ourselves as what Miriam calls, “…an integral part of Nature,” rather than separate. This holistic paradigm is guiding many grassroots actions and is beginning to be considered in corporate boardrooms and government meetings. In this holistic paradigm the social worker functions as a partner or consultant in a strengths-based, empowerment-oriented approach (Mosher, 2010) (Saleebey, 1997). Actually, both the traditional and the holistic paradigms may guide practice and decisions in some situations, such as caring for a person with a serious mental illness.

Miriam’s statement that, “Social and Environmental Justice issues are inextricably intertwined,” is now being reflected in changes that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is making this year in the EPAS standards for accrediting bachelors and masters social work degree programs. Environmental justice is being added to two of the competency standards that require teaching about social and economic justice and to other places in the standards. CSWE is also creating an Environmental Justice Committee to consider how social work education will respond to environmental issues.

These significant changes reflect the pro-
fession’s growing recognition of the importance of environmental issues to the teaching and practice of social work. Miriam cites a number of compelling cases of environmental injustice. Another example is the many low-income people in New Orleans who suffered during Hurricane Katrina because they did not have the resources to escape to safety. Environmental justice is the work of social workers.

Miriam refers to the critical role of corporations in exploiting the Earth and its people and in fueling our fossil fuel addiction. These multinational companies operate under an economic model that foolishly asserts we can have a continually growing consumer economy on a finite planet. As suggested below, we will eventually recognize that Earth’s accessible resources are running out (e.g., water, oil, copper, lithium, etc.). Then government will impose the regulations needed to create a steady-state economy that operates in balance with Nature’s ability to provide resources. The alternative—perpetual growth—leads to economic, social, and environmental collapse (Diamond, 2011). Reining in the corporations is unlikely in the US, of course, until campaign finance laws—and the Supreme Court—are changed to restrict the control wealthy individuals, organizations, and corporations have over legislators (Klein, 2014). Don’t hold your breath, but there is a way.

The “real families and communities” that Miriam writes about hold the promise of helping us cope with some of the changes that climate change is bringing upon us. We can develop resilient sustainable communities that are relatively self-sufficient in energy and food, provide meaningful employment and vibrant arts and music scenes. In urban neighborhoods and small towns we can generate much of our own energy using wind, solar, geothermal, and small hydro—all plugged into a community smart grid. Local and urban farmers can provide much of our food through farmer’s markets, food hubs, coops, creameries, butcher shops, and bakeries. Entrepreneurship can create jobs in small businesses that fill unique market niches. Community theater, arts, and music can enrich our lives. Local government can be revitalized to provide more direct democracy through town meetings, more use of committees, and other devices.

So how does this all come about? David Korten’s new book, Change the Story, Change the Future, describes an old idea: that culture is created and transmitted through story telling (Korten, 2015). So if we want to change the dominant paradigm and change the continual growth economic model, we need to change the existing story of our materialistic exploitive model. Korten tells another story, about a society that lives in balance with its natural environment and still creates abundance. And there are, certainly, other stories we can tell about other alternative futures.

But what about all the resistance from entrenched political and economic interests? Paul Gilding and Jørgen Randers both suggest that the solution will come in the form of a climate crisis so severe that it galvanizes our entire nation into agreement and action (Gilding, 2011) (Randers, 2011). Imagine a summer with a huge dustbowl in the west, rampant tornados in the south, a record breaking flood on the Mississippi, and two hurricanes, stronger than Katrina and Sandy, hitting the US within a week of each other. The destruction would be immense. Gilding suggests the US would mobilize the way we did after Pearl Harbor during World War II. The entire country would become united in doing what needed to be done to adapt to the changing climate.

As social workers we can use our skills and knowledge to advocate and prepare as much as possible before such a disaster forces our hand. The sooner we make changes the easier and cheaper it will be and the less suffering there will be among the populations we serve. As Miriam said, “We need to wake up and join the movement to create a livable future on Earth.”

Craig Mosher, Ph. D., LMSW earned his MSW from Iowa in 2000. He is Associate Professor and Director of the Social Work Program at Luther College in Decorah. He is founding co-chair of the Bachelors Program Directors (BPD) Sustainability Committee, a member of the new CSWE Environmental Justice Committee, and was the first chair of the Luther College Sustainability Council. He lives in a small, round, passive solar house that he built near Decorah, using wood heat and solar PV panels for electricity.

References for this article can be found on page 5.
Mercedes Bern-Klug  With funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation “Practice Change” program, Associate Professor Mercedes Bern-Klug is working with Jane Dohrmann (Iowa City Hospice, and Director of the Honoring Your Wishes Program) and Nicole Peterson (advance practice nurse in the UI College of Nursing) and two local nursing homes to incorporate POLST Paradigm best practices. POLST stands for “Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.” It is a method developed in Oregon to increase the likelihood that persons in frail health will have their medical preferences known and honored, and includes the completion of a medical order. In Iowa, the POLST paradigm is called “I-POST” (Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) and was enacted into Iowa law in 2012.

Lorraine Dorfman  More and more Americans are living into their later years and experiencing often lengthy retirements. Challenges of this new chapter of life include health, finances, meaningful activities, and social relationships. I have continued my long time research program on retirement in my own retirement. My latest publication (in press, 2015) is "Leisure activities in retirement" in S. Whitbourne (ed.), Encyclopedia of Adulthood and Aging, John Wiley Publishers. I have taught a class in aging one semester a year for the four years since retiring and continue to serve on the editorial board of Gerontology & Geriatrics Education. Aging-related volunteer activities include program committee chair of our local senior center and member of the Johnson County Task Force on Aging.

Motier Haskins  Domestic violence against women and children in Muslim American communities has become a serious concern. The problem has reached epidemic proportions and can be seen as a national crisis. Combating domestic violence in the Muslim community is a vitally important issue. In many Muslim communities, the issue has been swept under the carpet, forgotten, silenced, and in some cases denied. The reasons are many, out of context interpretations of Quran, social stigma, fear of spousal retaliation, distress, and anxiety due to uncertain financial security. My research interest highlights the need to recognize and prevent the domestic violence against Muslim women and children and evaluates strategies that can be transferred to social work practice.

Sara Sanders  The number of individuals aging and dying behind bars is growing throughout the United States. Attention to prison hospice programs has grown over the last 10 years; however, there has yet to be a focus on the need for advance care planning among dying offenders. Currently I am working with four prisons in Iowa to implement a systematic advance care planning program for older offenders and those who are dying. Through this project, I am collecting data on the wishes of dying offenders about end-of-life care and their reactions to dying behind bars.

Ed: Sara has been named as one of the winners of the President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence, one of the most distinguished teaching awards given at the University.

Yvonne Farley  I am studying the Implications of Mindfulness Practice in the Classroom by doing a pre and post test of students before and after a semester of mindfulness exercises done at the beginning of each class. I now have two years of data so will be able to draw some conclusions about the implications.
On Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 the first Enhancing Relationships Forum was hosted by Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. Approximately 80 people came together to participate in roundtable discussions and large group dialogue. This partnership between the Iowa U. S. Attorney’s Office; the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Iowa/Nebraska; Des Moines Police Department; University of Iowa School of Social Work (UISSW); Corinthian Baptist Church and other members from the African American community, came about out of concern about relationships between law enforcement and the African American community. The goal was to be proactive as a community in the aftermath of Ferguson, Ohio, and New York where African American males were killed by police and two law enforcement officers were assassinated by a Black man.

The roundtable discussions centered around the following questions: 1) What actions can we take as members of the community (individually and collectively) to eliminate the perceived threat of minorities young and old? 2) What actions can law enforcement officers take (individually and collectively) to eliminate the perceived threat of officers across our community?

As a group decide on the following: 3) what one logical/practical step can we take toward these ends in the next 6 months? Two consistent themes were evident in the responses. First, the importance of building and maintaining relationships as everyone is needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. Second, continue having forums that encompass dialogue and foster the spirit of community. The youth involvement was awesome. Young people expressed over and over that they “just want a chance” and “do not want to be stereotyped as dangerous”.

Sandra McGee, PhD, LMSW lead the forum planning team, Ed Barnes, LMSW emceeed the event, and Janice Lane, LMSW, Sheri Floyd, MSW, Denise Rathman, MSW, Brian Walker, LBSW, Teresa Hobson, MSW Student, and Will Walker, LISW, all facilitated roundtable discussion groups. The FBI is preparing to host a similar forum in Omaha in the next two months. They are placing a post about the event on fbi.gov, Community Relations section.

Photos courtesy of Chris Connors
Dr. Chris Martin, MSW ’01, PhD ’14, has been hired as a tenure track faculty member in the St. Ambrose MSW program. She will begin her new position in July 2015.

Dr. Theresa Barron-McKeagney, BA ’81, Associate Dean in the College of Public Affairs and Community Services at the University of Nebraska Omaha, has written a book that will be published in May 2015. It is a memoir-biography of Alberto Gonzales, entitled Mi Rinconcito en el Cielo: My Little Corner of the Sky. Copies can be ordered from University Press of America/Hamilton Books at customercare@rowman.com.

Mary M. Bouillion, MSW ’84, died Nov. 27, 2014 when her car was hit by a train. In almost 40 years as a social worker she saved countless lives - at an Iowa prison, South Central Juvenile Home in Indianola (IA), Grinnell Iowa Public Schools, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where she helped develop the eating disorder clinic. After 21 years, she retired from UIHC as a psychiatric social worker in 2012.

Dr. Jessica Toft, MSW ’94. I got my PhD in Social Work from the University of Minnesota in 2005. I am now an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University where I teach policy, history of social work and social welfare, and social work research methods courses. We just began a DSW Program, and I taught the first course: History of Social Work Education. My social work scholarship focuses on the development of a “Citizenship Social Work” model which considers the political humanity of the persons we work first and foremost based on the rights and obligations of citizenship. I also focus on the effects of discourse and construction of social identities on the creation of policy and practice, especially with regards to women in poverty and persons of color. I received an excellent education there and the inspiration to address systemic issues of oppression and marginalization (right after I graduated I became a policy advocate for child welfare issues in Minneapolis). I am so thankful for Tracy Martin, Tom Walz, Cathy Alter, Bob Jackson, Salome Raheim, Marcia Egan, Amy Butler, and others for their dedicated teaching and instruction. Thank you!

Dr. Jerry Ingram, MSW ’99, PhD ’06, has been named the Interim Chairperson of the Social & Behavioral Sciences Dept., University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Rachel Graber, MSW ’14 is the public policy director for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence based in Washington, DC.

Zadok Nampala, MSW ’14 is working as the international student advisor at North Iowa Area Community College. Read about him here: http://globegazette.com/news/local/adviser-helps-niacc-international-students-feel-at-home/article_27a82929-3e55-5ddd-b47f-90e8d46cd824.html.

It is likely that future editions of this newsletter, will be published electronically. If you would like to receive it, please send me your email address. It will not be shared with anyone without your permission. Send it to: jefri-palermo@uiowa.edu
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