

SOCIAL WORK NEWS

FALL 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FACULTY	2
RESEARCH	
NEW FACULTY	2
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI	2
ARGENTINA	3
ALUMNI	3
SSW MISSION	5

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The BASW program continues to grow from 68 Seniors enrolled in 2002 to 85 in 2006 and 98 in 2007
- The SSW Graduate Student Association was recognized by CASA as the Outstanding Student Organization for 2007-08.
- We are expanding our global connections with projects in Argentina, Vietnam and Mexico.

GREETINGS FROM DR. ALICE HINES, SSW DIRECTOR

Welcome to the School of Social Work (SSW) Fall 2008 newsletter! In June 2008, following a site visit from SSW's accrediting body—The Council on Social Work Education, the SSW was granted full accreditation for the maximum term - 8 years! During this process, faculty worked hard to reaffirm and expand the SSW's historic mission—to prepare social workers to meet the needs of the region through ethical, transcultural social work practice. Faculty continue to integrate the SSW's transcultural perspective into all aspects of curriculum, including the Field Education program.

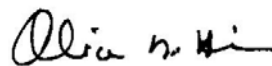
Enrollment continues to grow, currently, at approximately 375 MSW students and 175 BASW students. The SSW's student body is diverse, reflecting the demographic make up of the region and state.

Seven tenure-track full-time faculty with expertise in gerontology, child welfare, mental health, immigrant issues and issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS have been hired during the last several

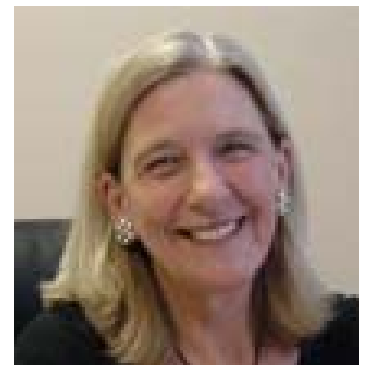
years. The SSW has a strong cadre of 13 FT faculty well poised to provide innovation, growth, and continuity for the future. We are also fortunate to have a skilled group of part-time faculty who bring valuable social work experience to the classroom.

I am pleased to announce that Katie Galvin has been selected as Director of Field Education for the SSW. Katie received her BA from UC San Diego, her MSW from Sacramento State and is currently working on her doctorate in social welfare at the University of Minnesota. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Katie Galvin as the Director of Field Education!

Sincere good wishes,



Alice Hines,
Professor and Director
School of Social Work



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

FIELD PROGRAM

There have been many positive changes in the Field Education Program over the past three years. The Field Education Office now includes Katie Galvin, Director of Field Education, Rebeca Barrans-Rojas, BASW Field Education Program Coordinator, and Nelly Chavez, Administrative Assistant for field. Additional changes to support the program include: strengthening our field faculty by increasing the amount

of their time allotted to the Field Program; instituting integrative seminars for the MSW program, and continuing to improve connections between the Field Program and other curricular areas at both graduate and undergraduate levels. Throughout, we have been cognizant of staying true to the transcultural mission of the school.

We contract with over 220 agencies, the majority of which are

located in Santa Clara County. Students are also placed in agencies in surrounding counties including: San Francisco, Alameda, Monterey, and Santa Cruz. In these agencies, our students gain experience in key fields of practice—child welfare, school social work, mental health, and aging. The diversity of our partnering agencies enables students to address critical issues that affect

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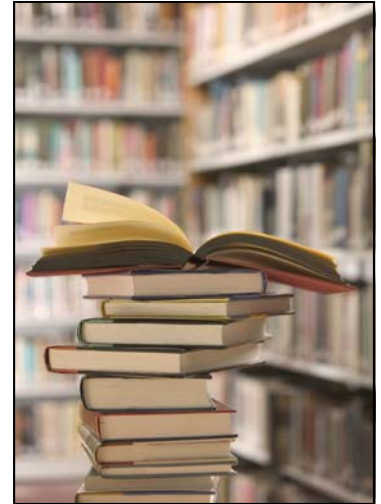
FACULTY RESEARCH

SSW faculty continue to be actively engaged in community based research. This issue highlights the work of two faculty. **Dr. Amy D'Andrade**, along with Dr. Kathy Lemon Osterling and a team of graduate research assistants, conducted a study in partnership with Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services. Funded by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), the study examined the role of

county-funded services – such as drug abuse treatment and counseling – in facilitating parents' reunification with children removed from their care for abuse or neglect. Specifically, the study considered what services are offered to parents, how and whether parents' utilization of services differs by various characteristics like parental problems or demographics, and the association of service use and successful reunification. The

study also provided an opportunity for social work graduate students to participate in faculty research while completing a required research project for their masters degree. Graduate students Melanie Valdez, David Siddall, Melinda Davis, and Jennifer Landivar used the data they collect to explore independent research questions related to reunification and county-funded services.

[Continued To page 4](#)



NEW FACULTY

Dr. Soma Sen began working at San Jose State University during the Fall of 2007. Prior to joining the SJSU faculty, Dr. Sen received her Ph.D. from Arizona State University. At Arizona State she taught a variety of MSW and BSW level courses, including social welfare policy, human behavior and the social environment, mental health assessment, and human service delivery systems. Her primary area of

scholarly research lies at the cross-section of health and poverty. Her specific interests include understanding the issues related to health and mental health among immigrants and ways in which social capital and social networks mediate these relationships. Dr. Sen teaches the Human Behavior and the Social Environment courses in the MSW program. **Dr. Edward Cohen** joined the SSW at Jose State

University in Fall 2007. Prior to joining the SJSU faculty, Dr. Cohen served as Director of U.C. Berkeley's Center for Social Services Research and also taught Research Methods at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. His scholarly interests focus on adolescent and young adult mental health services; the organization and financing of public mental health services; and

[Continued To page 4](#)



Dr. Sen

Dr. Cohen



Katie Galvin

Dr. Flanzer

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Three SSW alumni have received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. **Gil Villagran** (MSW 1976) has lectured in the SSW since 1995 where he teaches a variety of social work courses including Social Welfare Policy. He continues to have significant impact on the profession and the community even after retiring from Santa Clara County DSS where he worked for 32 years. Two of his notable achievements include: serving on the Mayor's

Gang Task Force, and establishing a non-profit called Human Agenda. **Blanca Tavera** (MSW 1994) served as SSW Interim Director of Field Education from 2004-06. She the principal member of the Matrix Consulting Institute. Her numerous key positions in the community include: the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence Board, the California Department of Health Services Domestic Violence Advisory Council, and the California Department of Social Service Do-

mestic Violence Task Force. **Tuan Tran's** (MSW 1987) accomplishments include: initiating the first Vietnamese American Gamblers Anonymous San Jose chapter and JOB FOR JOB SEEKERS. In addition to serving as a Faculty Field Liaison for the SSW, he currently works at Mekong Community Center. He is also actively participating in a collaborative effort between the SSW and the Vietnam National University in Hanoi, to promote social work training and curriculum development in Vietnam.



Blanca, Tuan & Gil

ARGENTINA: HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL WORK CHALLENGES BY DR. MIKE GORMAN

In June 2007 14 Social Work students and I ventured to Buenos Aires for over 3 weeks of introduction to social work with a focus on human rights and social justice. SJSU's School of Social Work partnered with the University of Palermo, located in the barrio of the same name in Buenos Aires and also liaison with the School of Social Service of the University of El Salvador. This was a pioneering effort to expand our students' awareness of global social work issues as well as provide an explicit

reference to our newly re-tooled transcultural practice, policy and education perspective. It was a great experience for faculty and students, with cordial relationships established between SJSU SSW and both Argentinean universities. Integral to the program was an "immersion" into the vibrant and colorful capital, Buenos Aires. Students lived with Argentinean families arranged by the University of Palermo. All non fluent Spanish speaking students were required to take a conversa-

tional Spanish course.

The course addressed a host of historical, cultural, economic and political concerns in Argentina as well as current social work challenges. Students visited social service agencies, met with Argentinean social workers, visited public hospitals in addition to visiting museums, points of historical and political interest in Argentina including the Congress.

continued To page 4

ALUMNI

There are over 3,500 alumni of the SSW. The Social Work Alumni Association (SWAA) provides networking, support, and linkages among graduates of the BASW and MSW programs, as well as with current students. We are

currently revitalizing SWAA, and are looking for volunteers to support this effort. Please visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/alumni/> for more information and to access our Alumni Contact Information Form, or send an

email to swalum@email.sjsu.edu with your update.

FIELD PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the community, such as: domestic violence, immigration, homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. In their field placements, students practice social work ranging from prevention to crisis intervention.

We have over 250 Field Instructors (FIs) with a wealth of expertise, committed to supervising and instructing students.

FIs make it possible for students to gain experiences working with vulnerable populations in a variety of agency

settings. FIs support students as they develop, strengthen, and apply their critical thinking skills. Our program goals include preparing students to develop their leadership skills, practice ethically, and advocate for social justice. We acknowledge and thank our Field Instructors for their role in achieving these goals.

Faculty Field Liaisons (FFLs) are integral parts of the Field Education Program. Serving as ambassadors for the program, they collectively bring experience in fields ranging from hospitals and schools to men-

tal health clinics. The FFL support and advocate for students, and serve as consultant to agency Field Instructors, mediating when necessary. We truly have 15 FFLs whom we recognize and commend for the vital work they do.

If you would like to become involved as an FI or an FFL, contact Field Education Director Katie Galvin at kgalvin@casa.sjsu.edu.

STUDENTS ATTEND NASW-CA LOBBY DAYS EVENT

- 135 SJSU social work students attended events March 9th & 10th – more than ever before
- Students lobbied to: expand the geriatric and gerontology workforce, ensure state social workers title protection, better educate caregivers about foster youth school safety issues, and oppose proposed cuts to mental health and foster care services.



SJSU School of Social Work
Students

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

FACULTY RESEARCH

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The study's results will provide information that can help counties better understand parents' service utilization patterns, and better tailor their services to parents who need them. The results will also inform the development of a CalSWEC curriculum on reunification services delivery.

Dr. Sadhna Diwan is the project principal investigator of a \$1,500,000 four-year grant (2007-2010) awarded by the John A. Hartford Foundation to

the Council on Social Work Education's Gero-Ed Center. The project titled "*Increasing Gerontological Competencies in MSW Advanced Curriculum Areas*" (MAC Project) is designed to help schools of social work better prepare advanced master's program students specializing in health, mental health, and substance abuse to care for older adults. The two main goals of the project are to: 1) produce reviews of existing evidence-based litera-

ture relevant to aging and the specialty areas, 2) provide small grants for 14 Master's in Social Work (MSW) programs to develop innovative curriculum resources to infuse gerontological competencies into their advanced classes. In collaboration with colleagues at the Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Diwan is currently developing a curriculum to train volunteers from five ethnic and faith-based organizations in the

Fremont-Newark-Union City area in the East Bay to do psychosocial assessments and extend information and referral to hard-to-reach and underserved minority elders and their families. The project titled "The Community Ambassador Program for Seniors (CAPS)" is funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the City of Fremont Human Services Department.

NEW FACULTY

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parent/family-centered approaches to serving children in the mental health and child welfare systems. Dr. Cohen teaches research methods and analysis in the MSW program. He received his PhD from U.C. Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. **Dr. Jerry Flanzer** began working for San Jose State University mid-Fall 2007 serving as the Associate Dean of Research, for Graduate Studies and Research. He

works closely with the School of Social work developing and implementing strategies for new and emerging research initiatives. Prior to joining SJSU, he served as a senior social and behavioral scientist, as branch chief of health services research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and as a senior consultant to NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research. Dr. Flanzer has served as a social work

professor at various universities. He has been in the forefront of drug abuse and health disparities research and practice, especially as applied to adolescents, the homeless, welfare and HIV transdisciplinary research initiatives. He received his MSW from Case Western Reserve University and his Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of Southern California. **Katie Galvin, MSW** joined SJSU in Fall 2007 as

Interim Director of Field Education. Prior to joining the School of Social Work, Katie pursued her Ph.D at the University of Minnesota. Where she worked as an advisor for Social Justice & Family Violence prevention and assisted students in identifying and achieving their academic goals. Her research focuses on ways in which social justice is defined and practiced in schools of social work.

ARGENTINA

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A high point was visiting the famous "Madres de la Plaza" (mothers of the plaza) who have been marching as witnesses to the disappearance and murder of their children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces during the terrible repression of the military dictatorship 1976-1983. Students engaged in a variety of activities from assisting in soup kitchens, to adopting a "jardin infantil" a nursery school in the poor

neighborhood of La Matanza where they established a library for the children. Students spent a day at an estancia on the pampas, did many walking tours and established many friendships. They sampled Argentinean cuisine including wonderful empanadas, world famous gustatory beef and fabled Malbek. Optional activities included tango lessons.

Students returned to Argen-

tina again in June 2008 and another trip is planned for June 2009. If there is interest among SSW alum, we might try to explore a post MSW course in Argentina. Inquiries are welcome.

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We are on the web

<http://www.sjsu.edu/>

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Our Mission

The mission of the School of Social Work at San Jose State University is to prepare social workers for effective, ethical social work practice from a transcultural perspective with Latinos, Asians and Pacific Islanders, African Americans and those individuals, families, groups and communities who are disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized. In the service of this mission, we are active in scholarship and professional leadership endeavors that advance a transcultural perspective in social work and promote social justice.

**SJSU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
 MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The SSW continues to do great things that have an impact on our community. This is due in large part to our alumni and faculty who have contributed to the outstanding reputation of the school. As we look to sustain our programs and plan for the future, we are reaching out to our alumni and friends like we have never done before. Your involvement and support will create a legacy of excellence for the SSW. We have just celebrated the university's 150th anniversary, and are now positioning ourselves for the

next 150 years.

We are looking to enhance research opportunities both locally and nationally, support further faculty development, and increase student support. You can make a difference in the lives of students through supporting faculty and programs through financial support.

Your financial investment ensures that students and faculty continue to have the opportunities to make significant contributions to the field and the community. We would like to encourage you to

contact us to learn more about ways in which you could have an impact on the future of our programs.

Should you wish to discuss ways of giving or to discuss a planned gift to the SSW, please contact our development director, Janikke Klem.

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