

# outreach



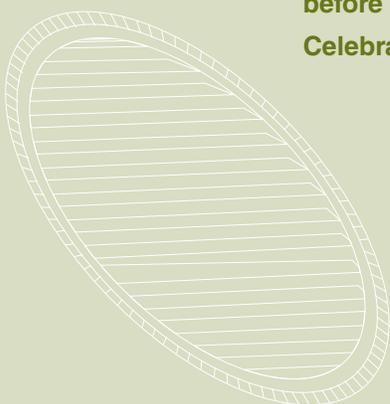
Stands For Opportunity

News from the School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida

2007–2008, Volume 6



**A group of Master of Social Work graduates gather before the School of Social Work's May 2008 Graduation Celebration at the UCF Orlando campus.**



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# message from the director



John Ronnau, Ph.D.  
Director and Professor

We hope you enjoy reading this year's *Outreach*. Its news and happenings reflect another momentous year for the School of Social Work. Our faculty members continue to be very productive in teaching, scholarship and external funding. In fact, during several months they led the way for our college in grants submitted and dollars awarded. Our students and graduates, as exemplified by the bright and enthusiastic group pictured on the cover, continue to have a major positive impact on the community through their internships, service activities and career paths.

As is the case with any large and dynamic organization, there have been many transitions this past year. In these pages you will learn of valued faculty members who have taken on assignments elsewhere and of those who join us anew to continue building on what has already been achieved. One of our faculty members is recognized and appreciated in these pages for 30 years of service to UCF and the School of Social Work. Regrettably, the most notable passage was cause for mourning. The school suffered a major loss with the untimely death of its most senior faculty member, Associate Professor Cheryl Evans Green, in October 2007. Cheryl joined the UCF faculty in the late 1970s and was a founding member of the school. This issue of *Outreach* includes a tribute to her many years of inspirational service to the school, university and community.

The school has taken further strides to implement its strategic plan. The Community Advisory Council provided the school with enthusiastic support and guidance during the year. And we now have our first-ever official

alumni chapter. The second annual alumni/ continuing education event was a rousing success. The school fulfilled its role as a community convener to explore and resolve significant social issues. This year's gathering on the prevention of gang violence drew a keenly interested crowd. Visit our Web site to learn how to join us in March 2009 for next year's conference on the topic of "Latinos in the New America: Meeting the Social Challenges of a Diverse Group."

Our students continue to exemplify social work values and to practice their knowledge and skills both inside and outside the classroom. B.S.W. students tirelessly conducted fundraisers to generate support for needy families around the holidays. B.S.W. and M.S.W. students journeyed to the state Capitol again this year to successfully advocate for social programs and policies. They were also involved in many other facets of our community, both locally and globally. For example, you will read in these pages about undergraduate students who conducted a needs assessment in an Orlando neighborhood and about graduate students who undertook research and social-action projects in Kenya and Guatemala.

You will find these and many other stories in this issue of *Outreach*. We hope they make you as proud of our school as we are. As we look forward to the coming year let us say thanks for all of your support this past year. Without our alumni and other community partners we could not achieve our mission.

## On the Cover

(Left to right) Row 1: Carmelina Lugo, Laurel Jorgensen, Brooke Jones, Frankie Marcano; Row 2: Christy McNamara, Charity Lake, Fairouz Kermalli, Kristine Beaudoin, Vanessa Stein; Row 3: Duriel Ryner, Amanda Annis



# features

## Former Gang Member Shares Strategies for Ending Violence

Luis Rodriguez, a former gang member and award-winning author, encouraged more than 100 people attending a gang violence conference sponsored by the School of Social Work on March 7, 2008, to stay connected to their children and work together as a community to end gangs and gang violence.

"I neglected my own son," Rodriguez said. "What my father did to me, I did to him. Like me, he got into a gang." His son is now serving a 28-year sentence for shooting another gang member in Chicago.

A national expert on gangs, Rodriguez wrote one of the first books about gang life in Los Angeles in the early 1990s. His vivid descriptions of gang life in *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* earned him literary accolades and gave people a new look into gang life. He is now a community activist and the founder of Youth Struggling to Survive, which helps young people leave the gang life behind.

"This is not just a police issue," he told the audience that gathered at the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center on UCF's Orlando campus. "This is a community issue, and that's the only way to solve the problem."

Attendees at the "Understanding Gang Violence — Prevention and Intervention: A Community Response" conference ran the gambit from parents, social workers and nonprofit leaders to school counselors and police officers.

The School of Social Work organized the event with help from several partners, including the College of Health and Public Affairs, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, the Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the National Alliance of

Gang Investigators' Association. The event was funded in part by grants from the African American Focus Fund and Nuestro Futuro initiatives of the Community Foundation of Central Florida.

"This is a critical issue for our community," said Estelli Ramos, an instructor of social work who specializes in gang prevention and coordinator of the event. "Luis is such a great speaker because he brings an authentic perspective."

Rodriguez identified the five "empties" by which residents can identify a gang member. Young people drawn to gangs generally feel like they have no roots or connections to anyone or anything. They feel helpless and powerless, and they have lost all hope. They also believe that life has lost all meaning for them.

Rodriguez implored all those who attended the conference to provide opportunities for young people to get involved and connect to their communities. Simply arresting or deporting offenders doesn't solve the problem, he said.

Afternoon workshops focused on the dynamics of gangs, an explanation of what lures young people to gang life, and culture and strategies for helping to end the violence.

While conference participants learned about the need for a communitywide response to gang violence, many others learned about the problem through extensive radio and television broadcasts about the conference.

"Thousands heard that the School of Social Work was addressing a community problem that threatens to reach epic proportions," said Robert Wesley, public defender for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court and a member of the school's Community Advisory Council.



Luis Rodriguez addresses the audience.



Sira Ambrosechia

Following Rodriguez's presentation, a group of panelists shared their expertise on gangs. The panelists were (left to right) Karen Broussard, Jewish Family Services; Roland Rivera, Orange County Sheriff's Office; Fred Heide, Liberty Middle School; Rusty Keebler, Florida Gang Intervention Association; Carrie Lee, Barry University; and Randy Means, Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office.



Sira Ambrosechia

Estelli Ramos conducts an afternoon workshop.

## The Dr. Cheryl Evans Green Memorial Scholarship

Friends, family members and students of Associate Professor Cheryl Green have established a scholarship, the Dr. Cheryl Evans Green Memorial Scholarship, to preserve her legacy of selfless giving and influence in the lives of students, organizations and communities.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded each spring and provide \$500 for the spring semester and \$500 for the following fall semester. The funds may be used for tuition, fees, textbooks and other items included in the cost of education.

A committee will select a deserving student to receive the scholarship. To be considered for the award, the student must

- be enrolled in a College of Health and Public Affairs' program, the African-American Minor or the Black Faculty and Staff Association Legacy Mentoring Program
- be a full-time freshman, sophomore or junior
- have a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.5
- be an under-served student in financial need

Having met these criteria, special consideration will be given to a student who

- has shown evidence of caring, mentoring and involvement in community service
- is a single parent

At the end of the scholarship, the recipient will be encouraged to give back by serving the community, mentoring students and/or encouraging others to contribute to the scholarship fund.

To make a contribution to the scholarship fund, please contact Katie Korkosz, assistant director of development and alumni relations, at [kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu) or 407-823-1600.

## Remembering Cheryl Green

The School of Social Work lost a deeply valued teacher, mentor and friend with the passing of Associate Professor Cheryl Evans Green on Oct. 2, 2007.

Green came to UCF in the late 1970s as a practicing social worker with a nine-month grant to develop some training materials. When an opening became available, she was hired as a visiting assistant professor, and later as a tenure-earning assistant professor, in the School of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. She went on to become a founding member of the Department of Social Work in 1982 and to earn tenure in 1983.

As a teacher, Green loved to connect with her students. She relied on experiential approaches to help them better understand concepts, including role playing to simulate interactions with clients. She was also an exceptionally caring teacher who offered students her support in times of need. When one of her students lost a brother in a drive-by-shooting, she threw a graduation party for him in her home because he didn't have family in the area.

Green's talents and accomplishments as a teacher did not go unnoticed. During her time at UCF, she received a universitywide Teaching Incentive Performance Award on three occasions and the college's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2000. She also received the college's Excellence in Academic Advising Award in 1990.

In addition to being an excellent teacher, Green was an accomplished scholar with research interests in multicultural clinical practice, women and leadership, and addictions. She published her work in a variety of scholarly journals and book chapters and made many presentations at professional meetings throughout the country.



Cheryl Evans Green, 1946–2007

Green also dedicated time to organizations and causes both on and off the campus. At UCF, she was one of the earliest members of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, an active participant in the African-American Student Association, a fellow of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and a mentor for the McNair Scholars Program.

Among Green's many contributions to the community was helping to establish the Nap Ford Community School in Orlando. She went on to serve on the school's board of directors and helped UCF social work students gain work-study placements there.

More than 200 people gathered at a celebration of Green's life, held at UCF's Orlando campus on Oct. 18, 2007. The event included an invocation, a video presentation, music, reflections, poetry and a reception. Her loss also led to an outpouring of memories and gratitude posted online. To read these thoughts or to post one, visit [www.cohpa.ucf.edu/social/cheryl.cfm](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/social/cheryl.cfm).



# news and notes

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### School Hosts Successful Re-accreditation Site Visit

The Council on Social Work Education mandates that all accredited social work programs apply for re-accreditation every eight years. UCF's School of Social Work was scheduled to apply again in 2008. As part of the application process, the school completed a comprehensive self-study in December 2007 and hosted a successful site visit by members of the CSWE in March 2008.

"Accreditation and the quality of education that it entails is one of the hallmarks of social work education," said school Director John Ronnau. "Our faculty members, staff, students and community members were instrumental in helping us to successfully complete this arduous but rewarding process. We are confident that the outcome will be very positive for our school and that we will receive another eight years of accreditation."

### B.S.W. Students Participate in "Listening Project"

This spring's offering of SOW 3620 – Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations, taught by Assistant Professor Olga Molina, included a "Listening Project" that enabled undergraduates to gain service-learning experience by interviewing clients living in a low-income facility in west Orlando.

Molina said many residents of the facility, a former hotel transformed into a one-room apartment building, are minorities with disabilities, and some are Vietnam War veterans. Most of the residents receive federal support or other assistance to pay the \$500 monthly rent per room. A number of them had been homeless before moving to the facility.

During the project, the social work students paired up with a resident of the building and

together went out and interviewed other residents about their needs. One day the students learned the residents had no water.

Molina said many of the students were juniors and this was their first experience working with clients. "The experience reduced the students' anxiety about meeting clients," she remarked. "The residents were very pleased to meet with the students. They poured their hearts out to them."

A report of the students' findings was prepared by the Community Service Center and Heart of Florida United Way and sent to community stakeholders, including Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. Among those working on the report at the CSC were three graduate students from UCF's Master of Nonprofit Management program, Julie Colmbino, Bridget Healy and Sonya Baumstein.

According to Molina, those involved in the study hope it will lead to improvements in the residents' housing conditions, such as the installation of new locks on the apartment doors, locking mailboxes, a fire-alarm system for deaf residents and features that increase access for disabled residents.

### M.S.W. Program Access Expands at UCF Daytona Beach

The school admitted a new cohort of part-time M.S.W. students at UCF Daytona Beach in fall 2007 and will continue to admit a new cohort each year. Before 2007, a new cohort was admitted to the regional campus every three years.

In addition, the school has converted courses in the Daytona Beach M.S.W. program from classroom-only to mixed-mode ("M") to increase student access. "M" courses include both classroom and online instruction. The "M" curriculum was implemented at the regional campus in fall 2007.



B.S.W. student Angelina DiCandia (kneeling at right) teamed up with resident Oscar Dixon (far left) to pose questions to other residents during a spring 2008 "Listening Project."



(Left to right) Assistant Professor Olga Molina, student Bridget Healy, resident Josephine Curry and student Stephanie Lacerte

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS *(continued)*



Jill Davis (left), instructor and field education director, and Denise Gammonley, assistant professor of social work, secured a \$75,000 grant to launch the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

*We estimate that about 40 percent of older residents in Central Florida have at least moderate social and health-care needs because of disabilities or poverty.*

— Denise Gammonley

### School to Offer M.S.W. in Older Adult Care

The school was awarded \$75,000 over three years from the John A. Hartford Foundation to develop an innovative program at UCF that prepares social workers to specialize in older adult care. Called the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education, the program addresses the growing demand for social workers as the nation's aging population is expected to more than triple by 2050. It will be launched this fall, with the first group of graduates expected in 2009.

The program is designed to encourage students earning a Master of Social Work to pursue careers in geriatric social work. Students who enroll in the program will receive a stipend while gaining experience working with elderly populations through a series of rotating internships.

The internships will be offered by a consortium of private and publicly funded agencies — including home-based care, community centers, hospitals and assisted-living facilities — that provide aging services in Brevard, Flagler, Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties. By interning at several agencies, the students will be able to work with three elderly groups: older adults who are well, those who have functional impairments, and those who are nearing the end of life and their families.

As students move through the internships, they will be expected to gain expertise in working with each of these groups, according to Jill Davis, field education director and codirector of the program. Consequently, this will expand the teaching roles for agency field instructors.

"This internship approach has been validated empirically to increase student expertise and commitment in the field of geriatric social work in schools across the country," said Denise

Gammonley, assistant professor of social work and codirector of the program. In Central Florida, there is already a great demand for social workers with expertise in aging adults.

"Approximately 17 percent of Central Florida residents are 60 or older," Gammonley said. "We estimate that about 40 percent of these older residents have at least moderate social and health-care needs because of disabilities or poverty."

Demand will only grow as the region continues to experience rapid growth, she added.

UCF's School of Social Work is one of 21 schools nationwide to receive the award.

These schools will join 41 others around the country that have adopted the field education model developed by the New York Academy of Medicine's Social Work Leadership Institute, with support from the Hartford Foundation.

To date, about 600 students from around the country have graduated from the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education, and 80 percent of them have gone on to pursue careers in the aging field.



## EVENTS

In addition to hosting a well-attended conference on gang violence in March 2008 (see p. 3), the School of Social Work sponsored a trip to the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee for Lobby Day and a Graduation Celebration in the spring.

### Lobby Day 2008

Forty-six students and several faculty members attended this year's "Rally in Tally" to lobby for progressive social work legislation.

On March 31, the group traveled by bus to Tallahassee, where students attended a half-day training on legislative advocacy. The following day, the group met at the Capitol, where they networked and viewed exhibits before heading off to visit with legislators. During their visits, they advocated for a variety of services and programs, including independent-living transition services for foster-care children, suicide-prevention services for veterans and insurance coverage for mental-health disorders. Thanks to the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers,

the students were able to provide legislators with fact sheets about these and other legislative goals. Included was a fact sheet on a Professional Social Worker Identification bill that will make it a law that only those with a degree in social work may use the title of "social worker."



The UCF contingency poses on the steps of the Florida Capitol during Lobby Day 2008.



Student participants included (left to right) Michelle Busz, Stephanie Lacerte, Gueline Felix, Xavier Persad and Whitney Kelly.



Students attend a training on advocacy.

### Graduation Celebration 2008

College Interim Dean Joyce Dorner welcomed members of the B.S.W. and M.S.W. classes of 2008, as well as their families and friends, to a festive Graduation Celebration held on May 2 in the Student Union at UCF's Orlando campus. Fifty-nine B.S.W. graduates and 84 M.S.W. graduates were recognized at the event.

Highlights of the celebration included the announcement of student and faculty recognition awards, a multi-media tribute to Associate Professor Cheryl Green and remarks by Public Defender Robert Wesley of the Ninth Circuit Court of Florida. School Director John Ronnau extended his congratulations and read the professional oath induction for social workers. The event concluded with a slide show featuring photos of the graduates, which has become a much-enjoyed tradition.



B.S.W. graduates (with green tassels) and M.S.W. graduates (with black tassels and holding gold "hoods") prepare to enter the Student Union's Pegasus Ballroom for the Graduation Celebration.

# research and scholarship

## RESEARCH

### School Launches New Office of Research

With the hiring of John Bricout as a new associate director for research in August 2007, the School of Social Work has been able to enhance its support of faculty and student research activities.

Since his arrival, Bricout has established a School of Social Work Office of Research to share information, tools and strategies for research development with members of the school and their research partners. The school strives to build research partnerships that address issues of diversity, inclusion and globalization with empirical studies.

The new research office also supports the school's goals of providing a high-quality education for its students by integrating research and evidence-based practice into the classroom and field curricula.

Working with Bricout has been his graduate assistant, Audrey Anspach. Together they have launched a newsletter for faculty members and research partners. The publication provides information about active research projects, recent publications and grant submissions. The newsletter also includes a list of useful links and profiles of current or prospective community partners.

The research office has already had a very positive impact on the school's productivity in the area of grant applications and external funding, according to school Director John Ronnau. "The number of applications and awards has increase over the past year," he said. "Of course special recognition is due to the faculty members who have used the support provided by the research office to prepare and submit their proposals."

### Leon Named Vice Chair of UCF Institutional Review Board

In January 2008, Associate Professor Ana Leon was appointed a full-time member of the UCF Institutional Review Board by the university's Office of Research and Commercialization. She was asked to serve as vice chair of the board as well. Her appointment followed her "exemplary" participation as an alternate to the board during the fall 2007 semester. Members of the IRB review and evaluate new research proposals and ongoing research investigations to ensure they follow ethical principles and meet federal regulations that protect research participants.



### Interdisciplinary Team Continues Study on Juvenile Crime in the Region

An interdisciplinary research team led by social work Director John Ronnau continued its study of juvenile crime records made available by the State Attorney's Office for Orange and Osceola counties. The team completed its first goal, a trend analysis, in early 2008. The analysis revealed that in Orange County there has been a slight decrease in the number of juvenile crime cases from 1995 to 2006; however, the proportion of cases that are serious or violent crimes has increased. In fact, there has been a "dramatic increase" in recent years in the proportion of cases in which a juvenile has been charged with a crime that carries the potential sentence of capital punishment or life imprisonment. In Osceola County, the number of serious and violent crime cases has remained relatively stable.

In a second phase of the study, the team examined the case records of 400 juvenile crimes to learn more about the offender, victim and major characteristics of the crime. Leading this phase was criminal justice Professor Ray Surette, and he engaged several students in the effort, including Rebekah Hazlett, a public affairs' doctoral student specializing in social work, and Diana Jones, a B.S.W. student who graduated in May.

During the project's third phase, the team will interview offending juveniles, educators, parents and law enforcement officials to learn more about the dynamics of juvenile crime in the two counties.

The team will use the study results to formulate recommendations for public policy and programs designed to help the State Attorney's Office address juvenile crime problems.



Members of the juvenile crime research team include (left to right) criminal justice Professor Ray Surette, State Attorney Lawson Lamar, Interim Dean Joyce Dorner, doctoral student Rebekah Hazlett and social work Director John Ronnau. They are pictured here in Lamar's conference room.



Swart's study revealed that clean-up activities in a Nairobi slum mean different things to boys than girls.

### Swart Conducts Research in Nairobi Slum

M.S.W. student Betsy Swart conducted a research project designed to explore and describe perceptions and experiences of street youth in Kibera, a "megaslum" in Nairobi, Kenya, as they planned and participated in environmental clean-up projects in the slum.

Swart collected data for her study during a trip to Kibera in December 2007. She interviewed 10 youths (five females and five males) individually at a local park to learn about the role of environmental clean-up activities in their lives. The youths were 18 to 20 years of age.

Her analysis of the interviews revealed that clean-up activities "can mean very different things to boys than to girls." While boys view clean-ups as a form of personal accomplishment, girls tend to see them as a way to have a stable network of friends and

mutual support — "probably the only such network available to them," she reported.

Swart said the results suggest that most successful projects in Kibera are ones that are self-driven and community-based because "they enable the creation of social networks that let kids experience roles that are not available to them anywhere else." She hopes the results will provide a context for dialogue and effective communication in the local community and among researchers.

Swart returned to Kenya in May 2008 to work on another project involving Kibera youths. This time she examined daily journal entries maintained by girls living in the slum to learn more about their lives and thoughts.

Associate Professor John Bricout is serving as Swart's faculty adviser during her research.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS, 2007–2008

### Eileen Abel and Jane Allgood

*Treating Trauma and Attachment Disorders in Families Experiencing Abuse: An Evaluation of a Conjoint Intervention*  
Kids House of Central Florida, Inc., \$50,000

### Jane Allgood and Mary Beth Harris

*Drug-Free Prevalence Work Force Survey*  
Orange County Coalition for a Drug-Free Community, \$75,765

### Denise Gammonley

*Nursing Home Psychosocial Care for Older Adults with a History of Mental Health Treatment*  
John A. Hartford Foundation, \$50,000 per year for two years (2006–2008)

**Denise Gammonley** and UCF's Maria Redmon (Modern Languages) and Rudy McDaniel (Digital Media)  
*COHPA/CAH Collaborative Working Group on Latino Health Disparities Research*  
UCF College of Arts and Humanities Interdisciplinary Research Award, \$18,700

### Shawn Lawrence

*Relationship between Perception of Self and Physical Activity Among Latino Children.*  
UCF College of Health and Public Affairs, \$3,000

### Ana Leon

*Neighborhood Centers for Families' Clinical Social Work Unit — Year 7 (2007–2008)*  
Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children, \$70,000

*Experiences of Hispanic/Latino Parents in Accessing Health and Mental Health Services for their Children*  
Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children, \$26,559

### Olga Molina

*Post-separation Experiences of Abused Latina Immigrants*  
Shifting Foundation, \$5,327

### John Ronnau

*Juvenile Crime Research Project*  
UCF College of Health and Public Affairs and Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office, \$43,340

### School of Social Work

*Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Program*  
Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, administered by Florida Atlantic University, \$59,321 per year for five years (2006–2010)

*2008 AHEC — Social Work Program*  
Central Florida Area Health Education, \$8,000

*Understanding Gang Violence — Prevention and Intervention: A Community Response*  
Community Foundation of Central Florida, \$5,000

## RESEARCH *(continued)*

### Colton Studies Child Welfare in Guatemala

Last summer, graduate student Amanda Colton (M.S.W. '08) traveled to Guatemala to learn about foster care and international adoption in the Central American country. Her monthlong stay was part of an independent study directed by Assistant Professor Denise Gammonley.

Colton spent much of her time in the mountainous city of Xela in southwestern Guatemala. She began her stay by taking intensive Spanish classes in preparation for living with a host family and volunteering at an orphanage.

While there, Colton sought opportunities to speak with people about children in Guatemala. She also read local newspaper articles and made many of her own observations.

Increasingly, Guatemalan children are leaving school as early as age 9 to work to help their families, Colton learned. "I noticed so many young children around trying to sell or give services," she wrote in a travel blog.

To learn more about Colton's study, visit <http://mandatravels-manders.blogspot.com/>.



Colton (kneeling at center) was a volunteer at an orphanage, where the children "really try to help each other."

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Abel, E. M.** (2007). Effectiveness of the F.A.M.E. project. Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention [May 2007 Monograph].

**Abel, E. M.** (2007). Outcomes of project A.T.M. Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention [November 2007 Monograph].

**Abel, E. M.** & Greco, M. (2008). A preliminary evaluation of an abstinence-oriented empowerment program for public school youth. *Research on Social Work Practice, 18*(3), 223-230.

**Allgood, J.**, Maiden, R. P., & **Harris, M. B.** (2007). The 2007 Orange County (FL) Drug-free workplace compliance survey. Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida, School of Social Work (a report submitted to the Orange County Coalition for a Drug-free Community and Orange County Board of County Commissioners).

**Gammonley, D. L.**, Rotabi, K. S. & Gamble, D. N. (2007). Enhancing global understanding with study abroad: Ethically grounded approaches to international learning. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 27*(3/4), 115-135.

Rotabi, K. S., **Gammonley, D.**, Gamble, D. N., & Weil, M. O. (2007). Integrating globalization into the social work curriculum. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 34*(2), 165-184.

Rotabi, K. S., **Gammonley, D. G.** & Gamble, D. N. (2007). Partnerships in study abroad: Reflections and recommendations from host country facilitators. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping, 13*(4), 5-18.

**Harris, M. B.** (2008). Family life education. In T. Mizrahi & L. E. Davis (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of social work* (20th ed.). Washington D.C.: NASW Press and New York: Oxford University Press.

Franklin, C., **Harris, M. B.**, & Allen-Meares, P. (2008). *The school practitioner's concise companion to health and well-being*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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Franklin, C., **Harris, M. B.**, & Allen-Meares, P. (2008). *The school practitioner's concise companion to preventing violence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Molina, O.** (2006). Divorce and domestic violence among undocumented Latina immigrants. *Family Violence and Sexual Assault Bulletin, 22*(3/4), 13-21. (Available in print in 2007).

**Van Hook, M.\*** (2008). *Social work practice with families: A resiliency-based approach*. Chicago: Lyceum Books.

**Van Hook, M.\*** (2008). Spirituality. In A. L. Strozier & J. E. Carpenter (Eds.), *Introduction to alternative and complementary therapies*. New York: Haworth Press.

\*Emeritus professor

## EDITORIAL SERVICE

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# people

## FACULTY

### Awards and Honors

The National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education has retained Assistant Professor **Denise Gammonley** as a mentor for the 2008–2011 cycle of a program that provides expert training and mentoring at U.S. universities.

Instructor and B.S.W. Coordinator **Robin Kohn** was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the 2008 graduating class of B.S.W. students for “her reliable assistance, tireless commitment and selfless dedication” to their academic success.

Instructor **Michael Rothenberg** was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by graduating students in a program he leads that offers specialized training in child welfare with support from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

Instructor **Iradly Roche** received the Field Instructor of the Year Award at the school’s 2008 Graduation Celebration.

An alcohol prevention and education team at UCF led by **Tom Hall**, a part-time instructor in the school and director of the campus’s Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming Office, earned the nationwide 2007–2008 Prevention Excellence Award from Outside The Classroom, the creator of AlcoholEdu. The Classroom donated \$10,000 to support UCF’s alcohol education and prevention efforts.

### Selected Community Activities

Assistant Professor **Jane Allgood** supervised three clinical interns for the Salvation Army during the academic year.

Visiting Instructor **Julia Buckey** served as a community member on the Institutional Review Board for Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee, Fla.

## Eileen Abel Marks 30 Years at UCF, Receives Graduate Teaching Award



This year, Associate Professor Eileen Abel marked her 30th year at UCF — and she received the 2008 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award from the College of Health and Public Affairs.

Abel joined UCF’s social work faculty in 1978, having completed a Master of Social Work and a Certificate in Gerontology at the University of Maryland one year earlier. Since then, she has been an integral member of the faculty, teaching and developing both undergraduate and graduate courses and at times leading the gerontology certificate program, field education curriculum and undergraduate program.

In 1999, Abel earned her doctorate in social welfare from the Mandel School of Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. The following year she was appointed assistant dean of graduate studies for the College of Health and Public Affairs, a position she held for two years.

Abel has also provided leadership for the college’s Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. She served as director of the program from 2000 to 2004. She continues to teach in the program, guide student dissertations and doctoral research, and act as the program coordinator from the School of Social Work. Since 2000, she has served on no less than 19 dissertation committees.

Abel’s research, supported by both grants and contracts, focuses primarily on the concerns of women and children and social work education. She has published extensively in the areas of domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, teen-pregnancy prevention, and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Among the many awards Abel has received are the Lois and Samuel Silberman Foundation Award for Research, the Fahs-Beck Award for Research and Experimentation, the college’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, and several UCF Teaching Incentive Performance Awards.

This year, Abel added to her collection the college’s Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, which recognized her great talent as an educator and tremendous commitment to graduate education.

*(continued on next page)*

## FACULTY *(continued)*

Instructor and Field Education Director **Jill Davis** conducted a 16-hour *Field Instructors' Supervisory Training* for agency field instructors and task supervisors in October 2007.

Assistant Professor **Denise Gammonley** served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Florida Pioneer Network, a state and national organization that advocates for culture change in the provision of long-term care.

Assistant Professor **Mary Beth Harris** was a staff development consultant to the Volusia County School District in November 2007.

Instructor and B.S.W. Coordinator **Robin Kohn** was chair of the Committee on Disabilities and Persons with Disabilities for the National Association of Social Workers, cochair of the Addictions and Disability Committee for Orange County's Coalition for a Drug-Free Community, and a board member for Accessible Solutions in Avalon Park, Fla. She also continued to coordinate the Greater Orlando Spinal Cord Injury Network.

Assistant Professor **Shawn Lawrence** was a member of the School Health Advisory Committee for Flagler County and supervised registered social work interns at Park Place Behavioral Healthcare in Kissimmee, Fla.

Associate Professor **Ana Leon** was a member of the Orange County Children's Cabinet in fall 2007. She also continued her ongoing partnership with Orange County's Citizens' Commission for Children, which houses the Neighborhood Centers for Families.

Instructor and M.S.W. Coordinator **Estelli Ramos** spoke about Latino issues in the fall at the Latina Caucus Against Domestic Violence and in the spring at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, both located in Orlando.

### Top-Selling Social Work Text

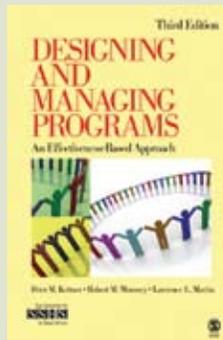


Larry Martin, a professor of public affairs who also teaches in the School of Social Work, is a coauthor, with Peter

Kettner and Robert Moroney of Arizona State University, of the third edition of *Designing and Managing Programs: An Effectiveness-Based Approach*, published

by Sage Publications in November 2007. The text is the publisher's all-time best-selling social work

text since its original publication in 1990. This wide-reaching book has been used by colleges and universities across the United States and in the United Kingdom and Spain. It has been translated and reprinted in both Chinese and Korean.



Assistant Professor **Mary Beth Harris** will leave UCF in early August to assume a faculty position at the University of Southern California.

Instructor **Estelli Ramos** became the interim M.S.W. program coordinator in fall 2007 and was formally appointed to the position in 2008. He succeeds former Coordinator Jane Allgood.

Instructor and Field Education Director **Jill Davis** will leave her position on June 30 to spend more time with her family.

**Julie Steen**, an assistant professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, will join the school's faculty as an assistant professor in summer 2008. She earned her doctorate in social work at Florida State University. Her professional interests include child welfare, human rights, social welfare policy, and community-level risk and protective factors.

**Jacqueline Withers**, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with an M.S.W., will assume the role of field coordinator for the school in July 2008. She has worked with the UCF Counseling Center for the past two years and has many years of clinical and administrative experience.

**Marlee Walsh**, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a doctorate in social services, will join the faculty as a one-year visiting instructor at the M.S.W. program in Daytona Beach. She and her husband moved to Florida from New York, where she taught graduate courses and administered programs at Fordham University.

### Appointments and Transitions

Assistant Professor **Jane Allgood** will leave UCF in early August to assume a faculty position at Missouri State University.

**John Bricout** joined the school as an associate professor and associate director for research in August 2007. He was previously a faculty member at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

## STAFF

### Appointments and Transitions

Senior Secretary **Bryan O'Keefe** left the school in fall 2007 to assume a staff position at Harvard University.

**Zaida Valentin** joined the school's staff as a senior secretary in January 2008.



## B.S.W. STUDENTS

### Awards and Honors

**Eileen Stana**, a part-time student in the B.S.W. program, was selected Student Social Worker of the Year by the Central Unit of the Florida Chapter of the National



Association of Social Workers. This year, she served as the B.S.W. Student Representative to the Florida Chapter of the NASW. In this role, she submitted proposals to develop an Email Mentor Program and Social Work Student Scholarships to support NASW student members. At UCF, Stana was selected to receive a 2008 Founder's Scholar Award in recognition of her academic achievement, leadership and community service. She has a special interest in working with older adults, and she is earning a Minor in Aging Studies along with her B.S.W. She has gained service-learning experience with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Day Break, a day facility for individuals with Alzheimer's. Stana is also a registered nurse and employed part-time at Orlando Health's Memory Disorders Clinic.

The following B.S.W. students received awards at the school's 2008 Graduation Celebration:

**Jasimine Thompson**, B.S.W. Academic and Professional Excellence Award

**Ana Sofia Nunez** and **Cynthia Vel**, B.S.W. Excellence in Field Education Award

**Greta Bell-Rhynes**, B.S.W. Award for Perseverance and Resilience

### B.S.W. Student Association

This year, the B.S.W. Student Association held several fund-raising events to obtain money to send students to Lobby Day. The events included two garage sales in the fall at the home of Instructor and B.S.W. Coordinator Robin Kohn. Students in both the B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs donated the sale items. The B.S.W. students ran the garage sales, bringing in more than \$800 from both events.

Among the association's charitable activities was the donation of money and items to two local families that were still suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley in 2004. The items included a laptop computer donated by Andrea Predl, the association's cochair. The association also secured dental assistance for one family member, arranged for a Thanksgiving dinner for both families and provided Christmas gifts for the children. Their efforts were the topic of a full-page article in the Oct. 25, 2007, issue of the *East Orlando Sun*.

For another project, students volunteered to help with craft projects at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando. "The hospital really appreciated our students," Kohn noted. "They did a great job."

The association also held its annual food drive and Angel Tree project, in which students collected donations of food and holiday gifts to distribute to local charities. To begin the project, the students displayed poster-board Christmas trees adorned with paper tags, each with a gift wish from a child. The tags were selected and the gifts purchased by generous donors. The students collected, wrapped and delivered all of the donated gifts. "The Angel Tree was a huge success, with more than 60 children at four agencies getting gifts," Kohn said.



Shoppers consult with Jasimine Thompson (B.S.W., '08) (left) during the garage sale.



B.S.W. student Jodi Degrandchamp wraps gifts obtained through the Angel Tree project.



B.S.W. student Christian Lamb loads a car with Angel Tree gifts.

## M.S.W. STUDENTS

### Awards and Honors

**Beth Engelman**, a part-time M.S.W. student at UCF Daytona Beach, was named Volunteer of the Year for 2008 by the Stewart-Marchman Center, a community-based agency in northeastern Florida that encourages family involvement in the treatment and prevention of addictions and delinquency. She completed her first field internship in the M.S.W. program with the center.



**Michael Bermes**, also a part-time M.S.W. student at UCF Daytona Beach, was named Student Social Worker of the Year by the Volusia/Flagler Unit of the



Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The honor is given to a student who positively impacts practice and the community through social work. Bermes is very active in the community, holding positions on the NASW–Volusia/Flagler Unit’s Steering Committee and the School of Social Work’s Community Advisory Council. He is also president of the M.S.W. Student Association at the Daytona Beach campus.

**Margaret “Peggy” Hightower** was one of three UCF students to receive a UCF Women’s Club Scholarship worth \$1,500 in January 2008. She has been a single mother of two for the past 18 years. After completing her M.S.W., she hopes to counsel women, children and families.

The following M.S.W. students received awards at the school’s 2008 Graduation Celebration:

**Greta Kauffman**, M.S.W. Academic and Professional Excellence Award

**Gwen Mundorf**, M.S.W. Excellence in Field Education Award

**Rokisha Broadnax**, M.S.W. Award for Perseverance and Resilience

### M.S.W. Association

A reinvigorated M.S.W. Association was launched this spring, reported Estelli Ramos, the school’s new M.S.W. coordinator. The association’s members are planning an Opening Day Picnic for M.S.W. students on orientation day in August 2008. Ramos said the association will plan other events and activities for M.S.W. students to encourage fellowship and learning in the coming year.



Students, alumni and faculty members attended the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs’ 10-year anniversary celebration on April 2, 2008. Pictured here are (left to right) public affairs–social work students Faith Sills and Kathryn Frahm, Nancy Ellis (’07), Carole Zugazaga (’02, the first graduate of the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs), Eileen Abel, Michael Campbell (’07) and public affairs–social work student Rebekah Hazlett.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS — SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIZATION DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The Doctoral Program in Public Affairs currently has four students specializing in social work. One student, **Kathryn Frahm**, earned first prize for the best poster at the Fourth Annual Health and Public Affairs Research Conference, held in October 2007 on UCF’s Orlando campus.

In addition, three students completed the program in 2007–2008. In July 2007, **Michael Campbell** defended his dissertation, “The Impact of Service Delivery Models on Non-Disabled Peers Intent to Include Their Peers with Disabilities,” and **Nancy Ellis** defended her dissertation, “Nutrition and Health Promotion: An Elementary School Study.” In March 2008, **Katharine Campbell** defended her dissertation, “An Analytical Understanding of Administrative Practices Minimizing Vicarious Traumatization in Domestic Violence Organizations in Florida.”

Associate Professor Eileen Abel was the thesis adviser for all three graduating students.



## ALUMNI

### Social Work Alumni Chapter

The College of Health and Public Affairs and UCF Alumni Association jointly sponsor the Social Work Alumni Chapter. The purpose of the chapter is to serve the professional networking, fellowship and continuing education needs of the school's alumni as well as to provide multiple levels of support for the school and its current students.

Membership in the Social Work Alumni Chapter is automatic with your UCF Alumni Association membership. Besides gaining access to continuing education, networking, professional fellowship opportunities and events, additional member benefits include a subscription to *Pegasus*, UCF's alumni magazine, career services, numerous discounts and much more. Individual annual dues are only \$35. Call 407-UCF-ALUM or visit [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com) to join today.

### Upcoming Meetings

The chapter holds monthly meetings in the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center at UCF's Orlando campus. To find out when the next meeting is, visit [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com) and visit the Social Work Alumni Chapter page.

### Call For Leadership

The chapter is looking for a chair-elect, communications chair, membership chair and special-events chair. If you would like more information or if you are interested in getting involved with the chapter, contact Katie Korkosz at 407-823-1600 or [kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu)

Margaret "Peggy"  
Hightower (August '08)  
*Chair, Social Work  
Alumni Chapter*



Karen Guin

### FALL 2008 CEU EVENT

#### "Psychopharmacology: What Every Social Worker Should Know"

The Social Work Alumni Chapter and the National Association of Social Workers will be holding a 2-hour CEU event featuring Shawn Lawrence, assistant professor of social work at UCF.

**Date:** To be announced (mid-September 2008)

**Time:** 4 to 6 p.m.

Reception to immediately follow

**Location:** To be announced (Orlando area)

**Cost:** \$5 for students

\$10 for non-CEU credit

\$15 for CEU credit (Attendees may earn 2 CEUs.)

For more information, visit the Social Work Alumni Chapter's page at [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com) or call 407-823-1600.

## CLASS NOTES

If you would like us to include your information in the next issue of *Outreach*, visit [www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni/stay\\_connected.cfm](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni/stay_connected.cfm). Below, degrees in **bold** were awarded by UCF.

### 1992

**Marlen Zuniga-Dool, B.S.W., M.S.W.**, Florida State University ('94), has been employed for the past 14 years at Vitas Innovative Hospice Care. She is currently an admissions social worker/hospital liaison and a registered clinical social work intern.

### 1995

**Maureen Terwilliger, M.S.W.**, is a national clinical services officer with Aspire Behavioral Health, Inc.

### 1996

**Atiya B. Day, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('97)**, is director of the Positive Lifestyles Counseling Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Cathy Edwards, M.S.W.**, is vice president of programs at Seniors First in Orlando. She was initially hired by the organization in 1996 as director of social services.

### 1997

**Jennifer (Hamilton) Wenhold, B.S.W., M.S.W.**, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas ('98), is manager of testing services for the Florida Department of Health.

### 1998

**Delores Kadlec-Roussey, M.S.W.**, is director of finance at the Area Agency for Aging for Southwest Florida, Inc.

### 2001

**Brian Kurz, M.S.W.**, is director of operations, outpatient services, with Intervention Services, Inc. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst.

(continued on next page)

## CLASS NOTES *(continued)*

**Cheri Monger, M.S.W.**, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the Community Mental Health Services/Behavioral Medicine Department at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

**Melissa J. Plank, M.S.W.**, is a dialysis social worker at DaVita Dialysis. She and her husband, Todd, have two sons: Will (8) and Zachary (3).

**Gita Williams, B.S.W.**, has been employed by ChildNet for a little over a year. She is a child advocate and recently “became certified in the state of Florida for family counseling.” She wrote that UCF taught her a lot to prepare for the future.

### 2002

**Susan Balsamo, M.S.W.**, currently works as a school social worker for the Hernando County School Board and as a therapist in private practice at Pathways Counseling Center. She became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 2006.

**Nancy (Suris) Groeger, M.S.W.**, M.P.H., University of South Florida ('04), is a social worker at DaVita Dialysis.

**Gillian T. Zagers, M.S.W.**, is a school social worker with Seminole County Public Schools. She gave birth to her son, Nolan Benjamin Zagers, in May 2006. She became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 2007.

### 2003

**Stacey Hikade, B.S.W.**, is a social work case manager at Preferred Care Partners and HCA Doctors Hospital in Sarasota, Fla. She is currently working toward an M.S.W. at the University of South Florida.

**Nancy Malito, M.S.W.**, is the social services director for Flagler Pines, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility in Bunnell, Fla.

### 2004

**Oscar Rivera, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('06)**, is a social

worker for the dementia and hospice programs at the Orlando VA Community Living Center. He wrote, “Oscar Emanuel is now three years old and playing soccer. Arianne and I are expecting our second child this fall.”

### 2005

**Valerie J. Johnson, M.S.W.**, relocated to Tallahassee, Fla., after graduating to pursue her interest in infant mental health. She is currently an infant mental health counselor with the Ready by Five Program at the Children's Home Society of Florida, North Central Division.

**Eliza Opena, M.S.W.**, was a member of the Children in Need team in the Borough of Ealing in London, England, in 2007. Since July 2007, she has been a medical social worker at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Fla.

**Roberta E. Vose, B.S. in psychology, M.S.W.**, has been in private practice providing individual and couples counseling since February 2006. In addition, she has been a member of the Palliative Care Team at Florida Hospital South since 2005 and a consultant and financial coach assessor with Resource Financial Group since 2007. She is also a volunteer social worker for St. Vincent DePaul.

### 2006

**Stephanie Benedict, B.S.W.**, lives in Cape Canaveral, Fla. She wrote that she desires to further her education in social work and to eventually become licensed.

**Amy Elias, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('07)**, is a certified family services counselor with the Florida Department of Children and Families. She is employed as a permanency specialist with Devereux Florida in Orlando. She is currently working on completing a Play Therapy Certificate and beginning her clinical supervision.

**Cory Hloska, B.S.W., M.S.W.**, Simmons College in Boston, Mass., lives in New York City, where he is a mental health specialist at the Harlem United Community AIDS Center.

## 2004, 2006

Congratulations to **Natasha Corley, B.S.W. ('04), M.S.W. ('06)**, who was named the Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Public Health Social Worker of the Year. “Many people came to offer their support and congratulations ... and asked where I had gone to college,” she wrote to Associate Professor Ana Leon. “I was so happy to say UCF.” Corley attributes her success to the training she received during her Neighborhood Centers for Families internship program, led by Leon. “It was tough, but I am forever grateful,” she wrote. Corley works as a case manager for the Mecklenburg County Health Department in Charlotte.

**Keosha Lincoln, B.S.W., M.S.W.**, Barry University, completed two additional internships at Easter Seals and Memorial Regional Hospital and is looking for employment.

**Melissa Singh, M.S. in health services administration ('00), M.S.W.**, is employed as a senior social worker at West Orange Christian Service Center and Vitas Innovative Hospice Care. She is also a registered clinical social work intern.

**Adriana Torres, B.A. in psychology ('04), M.S.W.**, is a family care coordinator with Orlando Health and is a registered clinical social work intern. She was married on Dec. 16, 2006.

### 2007

**Brittany Biba, B.S.W.**, currently lives in Chicago where she is a master's degree student in the School of Social Work Administration at the University of Chicago. She said she loves the city and the program. She welcomes students to e-mail her at [texasbiba@yahoo.com](mailto:texasbiba@yahoo.com) if they would like to ask her about the program.



## 2006

**Michael Campbell, Ph.D. in public affairs, social work specialization**, is a clinical social worker in the Division of Behavioral Pediatrics at Nemour's Children's Clinic in Orlando.

**Nancy Ellis, Ph.D. in public affairs, social work specialization**, is director of the Center for Community Partnerships in the College of Health and Public Affairs at UCF.

**Stephanie Felder, M.S.W.**, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for the state of Georgia, and she is in the process of becoming a LCSW-Provisional for the state of North Carolina, where she currently lives. She is employed by the Orange County (North Carolina) Department of Social Services and is providing services to families all around the city of Chapel Hill. She wrote, "I am utilizing many of the family centered practices I learned while at UCF!!"

**Erik Frankwich, M.S.W.**, is self-employed as a psychotherapist for children and families.

**Kenisha Royster, B.S. in legal studies ('04), M.S.W. and Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy**, is employed a mental health therapist at both Lakeside Behavioral Healthcare and Orange County Corrections. At the latter, she is working with women who have experienced sexual trauma. She is currently working on obtaining her licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She wrote, "I aspire to open my own practice one day with a focus on working with families in some capacity."

**Bridgett Stinson, B.S.W.**, is working as a social worker for the Lake County School Board. She is applying to graduate school and hopes to attend in August 2008.

**Latesha Taylor, B.S.W., Undergraduate Certificate in Addictions**, is assistant director of social services at Avante in Mt. Dora, Fla.

**CORRECTION:** In the 2006–2007 issue of *Outreach*, Rachel M. Smith was incorrectly identified as having earned a B.S.W. from UCF. She earned an M.S.W. from UCF in 2003.

As she neared the completion of her M.S.W. in May 2006, **Sandra Perez** had a few job offers in Orlando, but she knew she was to do work "away from the comforts of home." She thought a lot about missionary work and after considerable research decided to participate in a yearlong program coordinated by Salesian Lay Missioners.

*The skills I attained through the M.S.W. program helped me to better understand the girls' cognitive and psychosocial development and the importance of advocating on behalf of the people we serve.*

— Sandra Perez

Perez was assigned to help at a girls' orphanage in the city of Montero, Bolivia. She worked with more than 100 children who had been abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned. Her primary responsibility was to ensure that the girls were "physically and developmentally well." This involved taking the girls to see doctors, dentists and optometrists, as well as advocating for their developmental and physical needs. A few times, she made requests for immediate health services for girls that many people considered impossible to fulfill; however, "the social worker in me knew differently," she recalled.

Perez found the experience both rewarding and spiritually enriching. "There were so many things I learned from these girls that I could not have learned in a classroom," she said.

"The angels I met are girls who have journeyed through so much heartache, years of separation from the blood relatives due to severe cases of abuse, terminal illness or economic hardship. [They] showed me that these experiences alone did not define them. ... [The experiences] empowered them to achieve more and greater things in life," Perez shared. She added that a large percentage of the girls at the orphanage go on to graduate from high school and earn a college degree.

Perez returned to Orlando in November 2007. She is currently working with special-needs children, from birth to 3 years old, in the Howard Phillips Development Center at Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital in Orlando. She is responsible for assessing their physical, social and cognitive development; identifying areas of concern for further evaluation; and, when appropriate, matching a child's needs with the center's services.



After graduation, Sandra Perez (M.S.W., '06) (center in left photo) spent a year working with orphaned girls in Bolivia.

# community advisory council

The School of Social Work's Community Advisory Council meets quarterly in Orlando to provide guidance to the school as it works to meet the needs of its students and the community. The school greatly appreciates the time and efforts of its 2007–2008 advisory council members, who are listed below.

**Michael Bermes**  
*Graduate Student*  
UCF M.S.W. Program  
South Daytona, Fla.

**Karen Broussard, Vice Chair**  
*Director of Program Development*  
Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando  
Winter Park, Fla.

**Denise DaCosta**  
*Clinical Social Worker*  
Orlando VA Medical Center  
Orlando, Fla.

**Bettye Ettinger**  
*Health Services Coordinator,  
Early Childhood Development*  
Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.  
Orlando, Fla.

**Emily Garten**  
*Program Director,  
Foster Care and Outpatient Services*  
Devereux Florida  
Winter Park, Fla.

**Tina Gulli**  
*Oncology Social Worker*  
Florida Hospital — Memorial Division  
South Daytona, Fla.

**Mary Beth Harris, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
School of Social Work  
University of Central Florida  
Orlando, Fla.

**Cathy Lieblich**  
*Special Projects Manager*  
Senior Resources Alliance  
Orlando, Fla.

**Mercedes McCall**  
*Central Florida Region Executive*  
Banco Popular North America  
Orlando, Fla.

**Joan Nelson**  
*Director of Research and Evaluation*  
Heart of Florida United Way  
Orlando, Fla.

**Mary Norris**  
*Clinical Social Worker*  
Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children  
Orlando, Fla.

**Jeffrey Pickering, Chair**  
*Vice President of Philanthropic Services*  
Community Foundation of Central Florida, Inc.  
Orlando, Fla.

**John Ronnau, Ph.D.**  
*Director*  
School of Social Work  
University of Central Florida  
Orlando, Fla.

**Michael Rothenberg, Ph.D.**  
*Instructor, Coordinator of Title IV-E Program*  
School of Social Work  
University of Central Florida  
Orlando, Fla.

**Michele Saunders**  
*State Coordinator*  
Florida Partners in Crisis  
Orlando, Fla.

**Cathy Soriano**  
*Oncology Social Worker*  
Florida Hospital Cancer Institute  
Orlando, Fla.

**Robert Wesley**  
*Public Defender*  
Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Orlando, Fla.

**Tyra Witsell**  
*Manager*  
Orange County Citizens' Commission  
for Children  
Orlando, Fla.

## Wesley Receives Statewide Award from NASW

Robert Wesley, public defender of the Ninth Judicial Circuit and a member of the school's Community Advisory Council, was named "Elected Official of the Year" in January 2008 by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The award is given to recognize outstanding leadership and service on behalf of Florida's children and families.

"Bob is a loyal and committed supporter of the School of Social Work as well," said Director John Ronnau. "We appreciate all that he does for our community and the field of social work."

Photo: Robert Wesley (left) with Instructor and B.S.W. Coordinator Robin Kohn (right) at the awards ceremony.





# report of gifts

## DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

*May 2007 through April 2008*

### **Pegasus Circle Partner** Annual giving of \$500 to \$999

#### **FRIENDS**

Jane G. Allgood  
John P. Ronnau

### **Pegasus Circle Supporters** Annual giving of \$250 to \$499

#### **ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**

Thomas B. and Judith G. Thames ('73)

#### **FRIENDS**

Mary P. Van Hook

### **Pegasus Circle Friends** Annual giving of \$100 to \$249

#### **ALUMNI**

Kirsten Bullock ('95)  
Heather A. Burroughs ('07)  
Kathleen M. Densberger ('00)  
Diana G. Depaolo ('88)  
Georgia E. Massicotte ('80)

#### **FRIENDS**

Eileen M. and Frederick G. Abel  
Rosalind M. Beiler  
John C. Bricout  
Denise L. Gammonley  
Risa J. Kiam  
Stuart A. and Joyce R. Lilie  
John F. Schell  
Thomas B. Thames II  
Randolph P. Thames

#### **ORGANIZATION**

The R. Heard Saxon ('98) Revocable Trust

### **Other Gifts** Up to \$99

#### **ALUMNI**

Margaret A. Arnett ('02)  
Jill K. Davis ('99)  
Adrienne A. Landgrabe ('81)  
Linda R. Mystic ('87)

Eliza R. Opena ('05)  
Martha C. Phelps ('99)  
Kathleen E. Rashid ('92)  
Victor M. Rosa ('06)  
Su Sheridan ('98)

#### **ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**

Oscar ('04) and Arianne S. Rivera

#### **FRIENDS**

Jose B. Fernandez  
Rosalyn Howare  
Robin M. Kohn  
Ira L. McGhee  
Olga Molina  
Waltraud Q. Morales  
Janice Z. Peterson

*These names were compiled on April 30, 2008. If you made a contribution and your name was inadvertently omitted, we apologize. Please contact the Outreach editor at 407-823-1270 so we can report your gift in our next issue.*

*The university, college and school appreciate all of your generous financial contributions.*

### **Consider Leaving a Legacy**

*For information about giving or to make a gift, please contact Katie Korkosz or Carlee Thomas by visiting [www.cohpa.ucf.edu/giving](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/giving).*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

To aid students in achieving a degree in social work from UCF, the School of Social Work offers several scholarships — all of which are available thanks to the generous contributions of donors.

### **Patricia T. Barnes Memorial Endowed Scholarship**

For a student in the gerontology certificate program, particularly one specializing in Alzheimer's and/or dementia, and a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0

### **Dawn Brett Memorial Scholarship**

For a student involved in leadership and/or community service, particularly in child welfare, and a minimum GPA of 3.0

### **Marlene Richmond Quasi-Endowed Memorial Scholarship**

For a full-time student with demonstrated financial need and a minimum GPA of 3.0

### **Judith G. Thames Endowed Scholarship**

For a full-time student with a minimum GPA of 3.0

### **Dr. Cheryl Evans Green Memorial Scholarship**

For a freshman, sophomore or junior with a minimum GPA of 2.5; preference for a single parent and evidence of caring, mentoring and involvement in community service to others

**STUDENTS:** Scholarship applications for 2008–2009 will be available beginning August 25 at [www.cohpa.ucf.edu](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu). Completed applications must be submitted to the College of Health and Public Affairs Dean's Office (Health and Public Affairs I, Suite 365, reception desk) by 5 p.m. on October 1.

**For comments, questions or more information:**

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