

# outreach



Stands For Opportunity

News from the School of Social Work at the University of Central Florida / 2005–2006

June 2006, Volume 4



**For the third year in a row, a UCF student was selected as Student Social Worker of the Year by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Here, 2006 winner Andrea “Melissa” Coral holds a copy of last year’s issue of *Outreach* featuring a cover photo of 2004 and 2005 winners, Oscar Rivera and Hans Meyer, respectively.**

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## message from the director

The term “outreach” reflects the contributions that UCF social work students and faculty make to the community — both local and global — with the help of our partners. The synergy of student, faculty and community efforts occurred in many ways this year. The following highlights a few of these efforts.

Students, faculty members and community members partnered with the Orange County Neighborhood Centers for Families for the fifth year under the leadership of Ana Leon. These centers provide an invaluable opportunity for students to learn essential community-based clinical skills. We look forward to the sixth year of funding for this project next year. The Title IV-E program enabled students to intern with community-based care organizations in the area of child welfare. Students also worked with the Orange County Coalition for a Drug Free Community and the City of Life Foundation to provide essential data for future planning.

The students were extremely active in contributing to the community by organizing gift drives for community groups. They also advocated for important community issues at Lobby Day. While Andrea “Melissa” Coral received a state award, she was only one of the many students who helped to make a difference this year. B.S.W. Coordinator Robin Kohn is a consistent inspiration to students as a leader with the National Association of Social Workers and Lobby Day.

Faculty members were also active in community service and scholarly contributions in a range of areas. Our new faculty member Mary Beth Harris published a wonderful resource in the area of school social work.

Denise Gammonley was recognized in several ways for her work in the area of aging. Paul Maiden published book chapters and edited a book in the area of employee assistance, as well as engaged in a Fulbright in South Africa. Other faculty members contributed in the areas of substance abuse, parent-youth and violence toward women. Ana Leon and Eileen Abel received major teaching awards.

The school partnered with the Florida N.A.S.W. to hold a conference in April on African-American and Latino youth as part of efforts to raise money for the Dawn I. Brett Scholarship. Meeting with former students was one of the highlights of this event.

In May, the school completed another year culminating in the graduation of 73 B.S.W. and 102 M.S.W. students. In addition, Karen Judd, who taught in the school as part of the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs, earned her Ph.D. in the program’s social work track this year. We congratulate all of our graduates and welcome them as alumni.

This is also a year of saying goodbyes and welcoming new people. I am completing my last year as the director. We are welcoming John Ronnau, Ph.D., from the University of Texas, Brownsville, who will be joining us as director. Working with our faculty, students and partners has been a wonderful experience, and I know that John will continue to move the school forward.



Mary Van Hook, Ph.D.,  
Director and Professor

Thomas Alan Smilie

### On the Cover

Learn more about Andrea “Melissa” Coral on page 10. Photo by Thomas Alan Smilie



# global partnerships

## Study Abroad Program Reveals the Challenges and Resources of Contemporary South Africa

*Social work Director Mary Van Hook led a 12-day study abroad program to South Africa from May 24 to June 6, 2005. Here she describes highlights of the trip.*

After months of planning, hundreds of international e-mails and much anticipation, 22 students and community members and I traveled to South Africa — a beautiful country marked by contrasts of severe poverty and great wealth — as participants in our South Africa study abroad program.

Upon arriving in Johannesburg, we picked up backpacks and suitcases of supplies to bring to Moloto Primary School, a school for impoverished children near Pretoria. Twenty-four hours later, we went to Lion Safari Park to see efforts to preserve the wildlife. We observed lion prides relaxing in their own habitat and petted lion cubs within a safe enclosure.

The next day we visited three important sites in the Johannesburg area. Soweto, a community where blacks were consigned to during apartheid, was the site of many

important demonstrations for the elimination of apartheid. It is currently the home of two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Bishop Tutu and Nelson Mandela, as well as many people still struggling with poverty and others who have prospered financially. The Apartheid Museum contains vivid displays of life under apartheid and the struggle for freedom. Gold Reef City is the site of an abandoned gold mine and is now also a cultural site for traditional dance and crafts.

From Johannesburg we flew to Cape Town, where our stay included a series of lectures, presented by University of Cape Town faculty members and other community experts, and visits to community programs. Dr. Patrick Smith and faculty members of the university's School of Social Development played a key role in organizing this part of the class. We learned about current racial policies and dilemmas, HIV-AIDS, issues related to children, the nature of social development and social work education, and the political situation.

Our field visits included programs addressing family violence, HIV-AIDS, poverty, children's



Sewing class

programs, women's issues and community development. We saw temporary housing for abused women; gardens; classes in sewing, baking and weaving; group homes for children with HIV-AIDS; community development programs; and schools. The concept of empowerment was a strong theme of these programs. Participants were learning the skills to make their lives better economically and in other important ways. We were impressed with the way in which community members and organizations are working together.

Most of the field visits took place in areas called townships or "informal settlements," communities in which homes are built with scrap materials of various sorts. Cape Town has miles of these settlements. During apartheid, blacks were not allowed to own property or live with their families in the Cape Town area. Despite many efforts of the current

*(Continued on next page)*



Study abroad participants



Informal-settlement home

# global partnerships

## Study Abroad

(Continued from page 3)

South African government, it has not been possible to arrange for adequate housing for most of the individuals. During our visit, there was a major demonstration with people protesting the current housing situation. We were impressed with the warm welcome we received by members of these struggling communities and the ability of people to find joy in their lives despite the hardships they face.

We also visited some of the historical areas, including the District 6 Museum, which educates people about this once multiracial community that was bulldozed by the government during apartheid. And we went to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the anti-apartheid movement were imprisoned for many years.



Vineyard in Paarl

On a tour of the wine country, we learned how the wine industry is supporting the economy of South Africa and ways in which previously disadvantaged blacks are included in this economic effort. We also visited Table Mountain, the historic waterfront area of Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope. We were all enthralled with the natural beauty of South Africa.



Penguins at Boulders Beach

## Fulbright Scholar from India Visits School

Senior Fulbright Scholar Jagannath Pati from India visited the school for several days in early April 2006 as part of his study of children's services in the United States. Pati is deputy director of the Central Adoption Resource Agency within the Ministry of Women and Children in New Delhi. While in Orlando, he attended the school's April 5 luncheon and presentation (see story on p. 9), taught a class for social work graduate students on children's services in India, and visited several social service agencies in the region.



Jay Van Hook

(Left to right) Pati with Associate Professor Paul Maiden, Professor Mary Van Hook and Professor Gary Lawrence at Van Hook's home

## Van Hook Continues Collaborations with Albanian Scholars

Professor Mary Van Hook and her social work colleagues in Albania, Drs. Eglantina Gjermeni and Edlira Haxhiymeri, continued to publish together about health and human rights issues in Albania. Their paper, "Sexual Trafficking of Women: Tragic Proportions and Attempted Solutions in Albania," was published in the January 2006 issue of *International Social Work*. Their updated chapter regarding health-care practices in Albania is being published in an international handbook of health-care practices. Van Hook and Gjermeni are also completing an article regarding child-trafficking in Albania.

"It is heartbreaking to read about the suffering experienced by people who have been trafficked," Van Hook said. "It has made me more aware of the need for coordinated efforts to address this great tragedy. Collaborating with individuals from other countries has helped me recognize the existence of such problems and to respect people who are trying to make a difference in their countries."

## School Hosts Sabbatical of South African Professor

The School of Social Work hosted Lourens Terblanche, professor of social work at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, during his sabbatical in fall 2005. While at UCF, Terblanche worked with Associate Professor Paul Maiden on a book chapter titled, "Managing the Impact of Trauma and Community Violence in the South African Workplace." The chapter will be published in fall 2006 in a new book by Maiden, *Workplace Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management*. Terblanche also traveled with Maiden to the International Employee Assistance Professionals Association's annual conference in Philadelphia; to New York for meetings with the Council on Accreditation; and to Washington, D.C., where he met with EAP directors at the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Terblanche and Maiden in Philadelphia



# global partnerships

## Scarves for Russian Orphans Project is Still Going Strong

The school's project that provides handmade scarves for orphaned children in Russia is going strong, reported Associate Professor Paul Maiden. He and his wife, Anschion, continue to receive scarves and contributions from many community members, including students from Boone and University high schools in Orlando. "And we still get a biweekly box of scarves from a lady in New Jersey," Paul Maiden noted.

In February 2006, a group of Russian cadets and leaders from the Volgograd Military Academy in Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) that visited the College of Health and Public Affairs for a week packed their suitcases with some 200 scarves to take back to Russia. They delivered the scarves to the Volgograd Center for Youth Policy and Social Work for distribution to street children and orphans.



Scarves to be taken to Russia

Paul Maiden



Russian cadets with scarves

Paul Maiden

The Maidens have about 500 more scarves at their home waiting to be sent to Russia.

## New Project Provides Gowns for South African Babies

As an outgrowth of the scarves project, Anschion Maiden is coordinating a new project that provides handmade "gowns" for babies in South Africa either abandoned by mothers with AIDS or orphaned by mothers who died from AIDS.



Anschion Maiden

"Mother Theresa" vests made by a group of knitters in Central Florida.

The babies, some of whom are born HIV-positive, stay at the Ingwavuma Hospital in the KwaZulu Natal province on South Africa's east coast. "When we were there last June, there were 785 babies being cared for at this hospital," said Paul Maiden.

During their trip, Anschion Maiden met a woman who is a retired minister and has a knitting group making "Mother Theresa" gowns for the babies. She decided to start a similar group in Central Florida. "The gowns are a way of providing some dignity for these babies," she offered.

Since then, women from a local knitting group and several students from Boone and University high schools started making the gowns. The Maidens delivered more than 30 gowns to the hospital during a trip to South Africa in May 2006.

## Fulbright Grant Supports Maiden's Work in South Africa in 2006

Associate Professor Paul Maiden traveled to South Africa in May 2006 with support from a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant. While there, he gave a series of lectures to M.S.W. and doctoral students at the University of Pretoria on the integration of employee assistance, work-life and wellness programs. He also presented the keynote lecture on similar topics for work-place human service conferences in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. In addition, he provided consultation to several employee-assistance program firms in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas.



This was Maiden's second Fulbright grant. In 2004, he received support to work with colleagues at Udmurt State University in Izhevsk, Russia, on developing workplace substance abuse- and violence-prevention programs.

# community partnerships

## New Title IV-E Program Offers Specialized Training in Child Welfare

B.S.W. and M.S.W. students at UCF may now receive specialized training in child welfare — and opportunities for employment after graduation — thanks to a new program established with a five-year contract between the School of Social Work and the Florida Department of Children and Families. The contract, which began in July 2005, was awarded with federal funds provided through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

The students are not the only beneficiaries of the program. “There are very few formally trained child-welfare workers with B.S.W. or M.S.W. degrees,” said Michael Rothenberg, the manager and an instructor for the Title IV-E Child Welfare Program at UCF. “So agencies that contract with the DCF to provide services in foster care and adoption are compelled to hire workers from other disciplines.” The Title IV-E program prepares qualified child-welfare professionals for placement in these agencies.



Under the management of Michael Rothenberg, 12 students participated in UCF's Title IV-E program in 2005–2006. Shown here are (standing, left to right) Kaylin Fisher, Kelly Kirsten, Rothenberg, Leanne Marston, Micaela Merrills, Seanna Williams; (seated, left to right) Jacqueline Vega and Amy Elias.

And because programs like this are under way at social work schools throughout the state, qualified applicants will be available statewide, Rothenberg noted.

B.S.W. and M.S.W. students in UCF's Title IV-E program enroll in the undergraduate

or graduate certificate program in children's services, respectively. In addition to taking several courses, including two taught by Rothenberg on child abuse and children's services, the students work as interns at community agencies. They may also receive a stipend of \$6,000 per year (up to a maximum of \$12,000) if they agree to work after graduation in an agency for one year for each year of stipend received.

“The School of Social Work, participating agencies and members of the community are very excited about the opportunities afforded by the Title IV-E program,” Rothenberg said. “We have many excellent social work students who are eager to make a difference in the lives of children in our community.”

## M.S.W. Students Gain Experience at Neighborhood Centers for Families

For the fifth year in a row, UCF M.S.W. students gained valuable clinical experience working as interns at Orange County's Neighborhood Centers for Families, thanks to funding from the county's Citizens' Commission for Children.

Under the direction of Associate Professor Ana Leon, six graduate students provided individual, group and family counseling to children. This year's program included a specialized infant mental health service in which the students provided assessment, case management, information and referral for children ages 0 to 5 with emotional or psychological challenges, said Leon. “The children presented with problems ranging from

adjustment to family situations, such as divorce and illness, to mental health diagnoses that included depression, conduct disorder and attention deficit disorder,” she explained.

The interns also participated in Leon's ongoing research projects based in the Neighborhood Centers for Families, gaining insight into the research process.

To date, the Citizens' Commission for Children has awarded more than \$449,000 to fund the “NCF Clinical Social Work Unit.” Leon said the commission will fund the program for a sixth year as well and that she is currently recruiting student participants for 2006–2007.



Clinical Supervisor Michele Tingley-Winner (far left) poses with student interns (left to right) Autumn Davis, Erin Toole, Ronellie Borromeo, Natasha Corley and Sandra Perez. (Ana Leon, associate professor, and Shelley Ryan, intern, not pictured).



# academic programs

## Research Project to Track Youths After Foster Care

A team from the School of Social Work is working with the Orlando-based City of Life Foundation on a project that will help youths ages 18 through 25 who were previously in foster care.

“At 18 these youths are considered adults and are emancipated by the Department of Children and Family Services,” said Associate Professor Paul Maiden. “Yet many are ill-prepared to go out on their own. They often end up in minimum-wage jobs and living on the streets or in homeless shelters.”

In spring 2005, Maiden and Assistant Professor Jane Allgood launched “Project Lifeline” to establish a system to track the progress of these youths. Maiden and Allgood are enlisting the help of M.S.W. students in their second-year research courses to create the system.

“The first stage of the project is to develop the informational components of a database to track these kids,” Maiden explained. “The second stage is to actually develop the database. The third is to implement it and begin tracking the progress of these youths and to offer them assistance with housing, employment and education.”

Fifty-one students participated in the project during the spring semester. In addition, one student, Desiree Modenesi, worked as an intern at City of Life and several volunteered at the foundation’s annual job fair in April, which is attended by hundreds of youths.

Through mentoring, these youths are more likely to make a successful transition from foster care to adulthood and self-sufficient living, Maiden said.



M.S.W. student Desiree Modenesi (right) helped organize the City of Life’s annual job fair while interning at the foundation. She is shown here with fellow graduate student Melvin Betancourt, who volunteered at the fair.

## Second Survey Conducted on Substance-Abuse Patterns in Orange County

Associate Professor Paul Maiden and Assistant Professor Jane Allgood are the recipients of a grant from the Orange County Coalition for a Drug Free Community to conduct a second household drug survey in Orange County. The first survey was conducted by Maiden and Professor Mary Van Hook in 2003.

Maiden and Allgood enlisted the help of M.S.W. students in their second-year research courses to conduct a phone survey of 500

randomly selected Orange County residents. Their objective was similar to the 2003 survey: to identify patterns of substance abuse in the community.

“The 2006 survey was intended to be a follow-up to the one we conducted in 2003,” Maiden said, “But we also explored the growing problem of methamphetamine in Orange County, as well as parental attitudes towards underage drinking.”

• For fall 2006, the School of Social Work is enrolling a new cohort of part-time M.S.W. students at UCF Daytona Beach and a new cohort of part-time, evening M.S.W. students at the Orlando campus.

• B.S.W. and M.S.W. students may now receive specialized training in child welfare thanks to a new program established with a five-year contract between the School of Social Work and the Florida Department of Children and Families (see full story on page 6).

• The school offered the following new courses during 2005-2006:

- Introduction to Social Services
- Forensic Social Work (summer 2006)
- Field education orientation programs for students and community agencies

• Associate Professor Ana Leon and psychologist Rose Marie Ocaña, a private consultant who is also completing a master’s degree in instructional Spanish, jointly offered a minicourse in conversational Spanish for 13 M.S.W. students during spring 2006.

The course consisted of five three-hour classes held on Saturdays and was uniquely designed to help the students develop basic Spanish language skills useful in working with clients. Leon said it is becoming increasingly important for M.S.W. students to be familiar with the language given the growing Hispanic population in Central Florida.



(Standing, left to right) Ocaña and Leon

# campus partnerships

## Students Gain Clinical Experience at UCF's Counseling Center

M.S.W. students Hans Meyer and Valerie Smith held yearlong internships at UCF's Counseling Center during the fall 2005 and spring 2006 semesters. Here, Meyer responds to questions about his internship experience.

### **What did you do during your internship?**

The internship began in August with two weeks of training. This oriented us to the inner-workings of the center and allowed us to build rapport with staff and other trainees. This training really provided a foundation to the internship experience overall.

During the internship, I was able to have an individual caseload of around 10 clients. Being able to assist students with self-esteem and relationship issues, anxiety, and depression was very rewarding. I also observed a returning adult therapy group during the fall semester and co-facilitated a group in the spring.

Beyond the direct counseling, Valerie and I were able to participate in Knight Advice, a consultation service provided to students in several dorms each Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. This allowed students and RAs to speak with a counselor about personal concerns without having to schedule an appointment. In turn, this allowed us to reach out to students who might not be inclined to seek help.

### **Who was your supervisor?**

Tom Hall was the LCSW supervisor for both Valerie and me. His confidence in us and ability to normalize our fears and challenges, while offering his insights on a weekly basis, was invaluable. I feel very privileged to have worked with him during this past year.

### **How did you find the experience?**

The whole experience was invaluable. As a beginning counselor, having the opportunity to start developing a theoretical orientation for intervention and learn about the many

crucial characteristics of the therapist-client relationship was so helpful. I would highly recommend this opportunity to any upcoming

M.S.W. student who desires a more clinical internship.



Germyne Graham

The interns included UCF students Valerie Smith (far left) and Hans Meyer (far right), as well as Rollins College students (from left after Smith) Alina Aloma, Claire Mauer and Clymene Wilkins.



Thomas Alan Smilie

**Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Interns.** M.S.W. students Jennifer McGinnis (seated) and Stephanie Felder were interns at UCF's office of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming in 2005–2006. Under the leadership of program Director Tom Hall, they counseled UCF students who were offenders of campus alcohol policy and were mandated to attend an alcohol screening and intervention program.



# activities and events

## Holiday “Angel Trees”

Each year, colorful displays called “Angel Trees” are created by social work students from the B.S.W. Student Association to solicit holiday gifts for children, adults and families in need in the Orlando area. Generous members of the college community select the cutouts, purchase the items and give them to the students to wrap and deliver to selected charitable organizations.

This year’s Angel Tree gifts were delivered to Harbor House, a refuge for victims of domestic violence in Orange County; CHARLEE Family Care Services of Central Florida, a facility for abused, neglected and abandoned children; the Hug-Me Program at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, a program for those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS; and the BETA Center, a parenting education program for teen mothers and at-risk families.

“This is not something our students do for credit or service learning,” said Mary Van

Hook, director of the School of Social Work. “It’s what social work is all about: helping members of the community and eliciting help from others.”



Karen Guin

“Finger paints,” “A poem book for teens” and “Shoes (any size)” — all were among the wish-list items that adorned Angel Tree displays in fall 2005.



Students wrap gifts donated for the Angel Trees

Thomas Alan Smilie



UCF Lobby Day participants on the steps of the state Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla.

## Lobby Day 2006

UCF social work students and members of the Central Florida Unit of the National Association of Social Workers traveled by bus to Tallahassee, Fla., to participate in Lobby Day on March 27, 2006. While there, they learned about the legislative process and met with state legislators to bring social work issues to their attention.

## Presentation on “African-American and Latino Youth: Challenges and Resources”

On April 5, 2006, the School of Social Work hosted a daylong series of events that drew a large number of alumni, students and faculty to the new FAIRWINDS Alumni Center on UCF’s Orlando campus.

The day started with a well-attended career fair that featured displays by organizations and offered participants the opportunity to speak with representatives. Also on display were posters and postcards featuring the artwork of the late Dawn Brett, a former UCF social work faculty member and accomplished artist.

The afternoon activities began with a luncheon followed a presentation by Dr. Lawrence Gary from Howard University in Washington, D.C.,

titled, “African-American and Latino Youth: Challenges and Resources.” In addition, Associate Professor Barbara Turnage, Associate Professor Ana Leon and Oscar Rivera, and Assistant Professor Mary Beth Harris, described research they are conducting related to this topic. Participants who registered for and attended the event were eligible to earn 3.0 hours of CEU credit.

The afternoon activities were sponsored by both the school and the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The NASW chapter generously donated proceeds from the event, amounting to more than \$1,500, to a scholarship in memory of Dawn Brett.



Karen Guin

Students network at the career fair



Sara Cooper

Attendees listen to Dr. Gary Lawrence speak

## “Boozin, Abusin and Losin!” Film Series

Prompted by discussions with students on substance-abuse films, this spring Associate Professor Paul Maiden launched a new film series, “Boozin, Abusin and Losin,” to raise awareness and prompt discussions on substance abuse, addiction and recovery. He established the program in collaboration with Tom Hall, director of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming at UCF.

The film series featured six movies shown on alternating Thursdays throughout spring 2006. Following each film, a panel of three substance-abuse

professionals — Maiden, Hall and M.S.W. graduate assistant Kaylin Fisher — and recovering addicts discussed the film and answered questions. Students who attended each event were eligible to receive extra credit.

“Having collected nearly 70 years of films on addictions and watching them all several times, I have come to appreciate differences in filmmaking on substance abuse as the drug problem has evolved in the U.S.,” Maiden offered.

This spring’s film series was a trial run, he noted, and he and Hall plan to continue it next year with both a fall and spring series.

“I’m also going to attempt to develop a new joint course between social work and the film school on ‘Substance Abuse in Film,’” Maiden said. The social work students would address the clinical issues in each film and the film school students would examine the filmmaking aspects of each movie. I think this mix of students would make for a lively class discussion.”



## people

### Students

#### Coral Named Florida Student Social Worker of the Year

For the third year in a row, a University of Central Florida student has been selected as the Student Social Worker of the Year from undergraduate and graduate students at 12 social work schools in the state.

Andrea “Melissa” Coral from Lake Mary won the award this year from the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. It is the first time in the award’s 30-year history that the honor has gone to students from the same university for three consecutive years, according to the NASW Florida Chapter office in Tallahassee.

Coral is an exemplary student with a 3.9 grade point average in her major. She also spends many hours volunteering for several nonprofit groups and maintaining a statewide Web site for students, said Robin Kohn, faculty coordinator for the undergraduate program in UCF’s School of Social Work. Coral also has a keen ability to work with others as an advocate for clients and a leader among peers.

Coral said her interest in social work developed as a child when she and her family emigrated from Peru to Canada and then to the United States. She experienced culture shock, periods of financial instability and racism. When she grew older, Coral started working as a volunteer and learned the value of people helping one another.

“I learned in the face of adversity that one person can make a difference,” she said.

As a student, Coral has actively sought opportunities to help those in need. She has volunteered as an assistant at Kids House of Seminole, a facility in Sanford that provides services for children who are victims of abuse; the after-school literacy program at ESTEEM in Winter Park; the Lisa Merlin House, a

residential facility in Orlando for women who abuse drugs and alcohol; and Island Lake Center, an elder-care facility in Longwood.

“Melissa has a sincere interest and commitment to the social work profession,” Kohn said. “She faithfully upholds our code of ethics and demonstrates the highest degree of integrity.”

Coral graduated from UCF this May and plans to enter the School of Social Work’s master’s degree program in the fall. By doing so, she will follow the lead of Oscar Rivera and Hans Meyer, the statewide Student Social Workers of the Year for 2004 and 2005, respectively. Rivera and Meyer earned their bachelor’s degrees at UCF and are spring 2006 graduates of the master’s degree program in social work.

“The school is extremely proud of these students,” said Mary Van Hook, director of the School of Social Work. “All three have combined academic excellence with a commitment to the service and social justice values of the social work profession.”

In recognition of March as National Social Work Month, members of the Central Florida Unit of the NASW Florida Chapter held a celebration to recognize the accomplishments of Coral, other social work students and practicing social workers. And at the end of the month, the group traveled to Tallahassee to bring social work issues to the attention of state legislators.

#### Coral Wins College Founders’ Award

Andrea “Melissa” Coral was also selected as this year’s Founders’ Award student for the College of Health and Public Affairs. The college gives the award each year to its most outstanding student. Coral was recognized at a universitywide ceremony at UCF’s Orlando campus on April 5, 2006.



### Rivera Wins UCF Rising Star Award

Oscar Rivera, a 2004 B.S.W. graduate and 2006 M.S.W. graduate, was selected to receive the 2006 Rising Star Award from the College of Health and Public Affairs. The award recognizes the accomplishments of alumni who have graduated from UCF in the past five years. Rivera was selected to receive the award by the UCF Alumni Association from nominations made by departments and schools in the college. He received the award at the 2006 Leadership Week Awards Ceremony, held February 23 at the Orlando campus.

### Judd is Second Public Affairs-Social Work Doctoral Student to Graduate

Public affairs' doctoral student Karen Judd successfully defended her thesis on March 21, 2006. She is the second student in the social work track of UCF's Doctoral Program in Public Affairs to complete the program. Her thesis is titled "The Relationship Between Resiliency in Rural African-American Male Youth and Their Awareness of Citizenship Practices."

"The School of Social Work did its absolute best to support and assist me through my doctoral experience. The faculty and staff were always looking for opportunities for me and the communication was quite open," Judd said. "It was really a quality experience. I couldn't have asked for more."

For the last two-and-one-half years, Judd has been employed by the University of Florida in Gainesville as a research coordinator



Thomas Alan Smilie

Judd poses near a sculpture in front of Health and Public Affairs I building.

for a longevity study of children born at the university-affiliated Shands Hospital. She also works for Mentor, Inc., as a comprehensive assessor, determining the needs of children in foster care. And as an outgrowth of her thesis research, Judd has created a charitable organization, "The Ampersand Foundation," that will support her implementation of a model program designed to increase the success of rural African-American male youths in high school and after graduation.

### Students Participate in 2006 UCF Research Forums

#### Showcase of Undergraduate Research

**Excellence.** The Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence is a poster- or display-based forum for UCF undergraduates to present their research and creative projects to the broader university community. This year's event was held on March 30 in the Student Union. Listed below are social work student participants, their research topics and their faculty mentors.

Amy N. Elias, *Compassion Fatigue and Satisfaction in Child Welfare Workers: Implications for Practice and Organization*  
Mentors: Program Manager Michael Rothenberg and Professor Mary P. Van Hook

Renea A. Forde (Coauthor: Ashley Green), *The Path to Victory: Examining Factors That Have Positive Impact on the Career Path of African-American Women in Higher Education Administration*

Mentor: Associate Professor Cheryl E. Green (not related to A. Green)

Eboni L. Gunn, *At Risk Students and Early Educational Intervention Approaches*  
Mentor: Associate Professor Eileen M. Abel

Amanda D. Johnson, *Psychosocial Characteristics of Elders with Severe Mental*

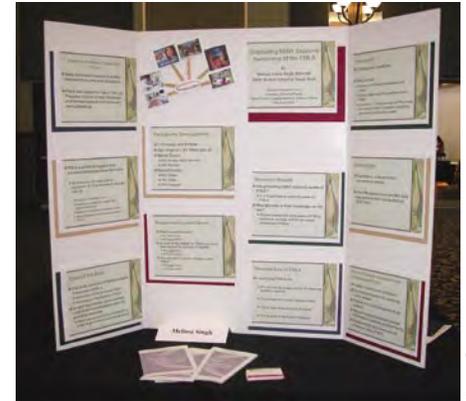
*Illness Residing in Nursing Homes*

Mentor: Assistant Professor Denise Gammonley

Denise L. Stearns, *UCF Students' Perception of Diversity*

Mentor: Assistant Professor Shawn A. Lawrence

**Graduate Research Forum.** The Graduate Research Forum, hosted by the UCF Division of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association, includes poster displays and oral presentations of student research and creative projects. This year's event was held on March 29 in the Student Union and included a poster presentation by M.S.W. student Melissa Singh titled, "Are Graduating M.S.W. Students Aware of FMLA Laws?" Her faculty mentor was Associate Professor Eileen Abel.



Karen Guinn

Singh's poster

### 2005–2006 Scholarship Recipients

**John L. Mica Public Service Scholarship**

Tejah Okun

**Marlene Richmond Quasi-Endowed Scholarship**

Stephanie Felder

Melody Frohling

Adriana Torres

# people

## Students

### Crosby Named Miss Wheelchair Florida

Rebecca Crosby, an M.S.W. student who uses a wheelchair because she has cerebral palsy, was selected from five participants as Miss Florida Wheelchair during a two-day pageant held Jan. 21, 2006, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The contestants were judged during sessions that included an onstage pageant and a series of workshops.



Crosby

"During the onstage pageant, contestants were required to give a two-and-a-half minute speech about their respective platforms," Crosby said. "Once we had all given our speeches, we had to answer two questions — one general and one relating to disability advocacy."

Crosby seeks "access to open minds" among the average citizen and those with disabilities. "We're really not so different," she said.

As Miss Wheelchair Florida, Crosby will serve as a role model, make public appearances and meet with legislators to gain awareness for her cause. She will also compete in the Miss Wheelchair America pageant in late July and early August.

Adapted from "Role Model," published in *The Central Florida Future*, Feb. 6, 2006.

## Staff

### A Fond Farewell

Beverly Warner, a member in the School of Social Work's office staff for more than 12 years, will retire from UCF at the end of July 2006. She joined the office as a secretary in March 1994 and went on to earn a series of promotions leading to office manager, a position she has held for the past seven years.

At a meeting in April, Warner surprised members of the school with beautiful tote bags she had made in a variety of colors and designs using quilt squares. She wanted to give everyone a gift as she prepares to leave the school.

"Beverly demonstrated again her generosity of spirit and dedication to the School of Social Work by sharing her artistry with the faculty and staff members," said Director Mary Van Hook. "This is a gift that we will treasure for many years along with our memories of Beverly and what she has given to the school."



Warner and her handmade tote bags

## Faculty

### Honors

Associate Professor **Eileen Abel** was selected by her colleagues to receive a UCF Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award in recognition of her "outstanding contribution to the scholarship of teaching and learning."

Assistant Professor **Denise Gammonley** was named a Hartford Faculty Scholar in Geriatric Social Work by the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City. As a scholar, she will receive financial support for her research on "Nursing Home Psychosocial Care for Older Adults with a History of Mental Health Treatment." She and co-investigator Dr. Jackie Zhang, assistant professor of public affairs, will conduct the research using the public affairs' Informatics Research Lab. Gammonley's institutional mentor for the project is Eileen Abel, associate professor of social work.

**Gammonley** is one of 15 scholars nationwide selected to participate in the Second Annual Institute on Aging and Social Work, a research training program sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. The program is being held over three multiday sessions in 2005 and 2006 in Duluth, Minn.

**Gammonley** was also selected to receive a 2006 in-house research grant from UCF. As the principal investigator of a study titled, "Transnational Dementia Caregiving in Central Florida Latino Families," she will hold survey and focus groups to investigate migration, family solidarity and preferences for early Alzheimer's education among Latino families living in Central Florida.

Associate Professor **Ana Leon** was selected by her colleagues to receive a UCF Teaching Incentive Program Award in recognition of her "outstanding teaching performance."



**Leon** also received a 2005 Millionaires Club Award from UCF in recognition of her substantial grant acquisitions. In addition, she was selected to participate in the summer 2005 Faculty Development Summer Conference at UCF, which provided a \$1,000 stipend.

The Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children recognized **Leon's** innovative contributions to the county by nominating her Collaborative Assessment of Life Functioning tool for a National Association of Counties Organization's Achievement Award.

Associate Professor **Paul Maiden** traveled to South Africa in May 2006 with support from a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant (also see p. 5).

## Welcome



Harris

**Mary Beth Harris** joined the School of Social Work as an assistant professor in August 2005. She completed her doctorate in social work at the University of Texas at Austin in 2000.

**Shawn Lawrence** also joined the school as an assistant professor in August 2005. She completed her doctorate in social welfare at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2003.



Lawrence

## Transitions

**Claire Massey**, field coordinator for the School of Social Work, retired from her position in December 2005. She contributed to the school in many ways over the years. She was a member of the Community Advisory Committee that helped develop the M.S.W. program and



Massey (right) with Sarah Vielot (B.S.W. '04, M.S.W. '05) at the school's graduation ceremony in May 2004.

served as an adjunct instructor before joining the faculty as the field coordinator. Prior to coming to UCF, she was a school social worker for Orange County and a highly respected member of the social work community.

The school was very fortunate to have someone with her extensive knowledge of the community. She made immense contributions to our programs through her organizational skills and commitment to social work education and the profession of social work. She had sound judgment and the ability to remain calm when dealing with complex problems. The students always knew that she did her best to arrange for a worthwhile field experience for them, and she was available to discuss their concerns. The book of notes written by students, alumni, community professionals and fellow faculty members reflected the appreciation and respect she earned during her years at UCF. — *Mary Van Hook*

## Other Activities

**Eileen Abel** worked as an evaluator for the Family Action Model for Empower Program, Abstinence Till Marriage Program and Kids House of Seminole, Inc.

Assistant Professor **Jane Allgood** worked as a consultant for the Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families in Orlando and Kids House of Seminole, Inc. She also served as a board member for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center.

Instructor **Laurel Davis** facilitated partnerships with agencies throughout the community and served as the school's field director during the fall 2005 semester.

Assistant Professor **Denise Gammonley** was a board member for Seniors First and a member of the Little Egypt Neighborhood Association and the Central Florida Regional Aging and Mental Health Coalition. She also worked as a mentor and coordinator for the National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education.

Associate Professor **Cheryl Green** was a board member for the Ripple Effect, a nonprofit organization in Orlando that provides services to the homeless.

M.S.W. Coordinator **George Jacinto** was a board member for the Mental Health Association of Central Florida.

B.S.W. Coordinator and Instructor **Robin Kohn** served as chair of the Central Florida Unit of the National Association of Social Workers, worked as a facilitator and consultant for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association and worked as a training facilitator for Florida's Peer Mentoring Program.

Associate Professor **Ana Leon** worked as a consultant for the CHILL program for the Winter Park Health Foundation.

*(Continued on next page)*

# people

## Faculty

### Other Activities

(Continued from page 13)

Associate Professor **Paul Maiden** was appointed to the Orange County Methamphetamine Task Force by Mayor Richard Crotty and was a panel member at a Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking held by the county's Coalition for a Drug Free Community on March 27, 2006. He also served as co-chair of the Drug Free Workplace Business Committee of the Orange County Coalition for a Drug Free Community and as a board member for the City of Life Foundation in Orlando.

Associate Professor **Barbara Turnage** was a board member for Heritage Family Preservation, Inc., in Orlando and worked as a grant writer and evaluator for the BETA Center, Inc., also in Orlando.

Professor **Mary Van Hook** was a board member for Pathways to Care and served as secretary for the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families.

### Publications

#### Jane Allgood

Adolescent marijuana abusers and access to family based services. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 12(1), 51-62. (2005)

#### Denise Gammonley

A lay helper intervention for rural elders with mental illness. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 4(4), 1-19. (2006)

Relationship qualities in a lay helper intervention for rural elders with severe mental illness. *Rural Mental Health*, 3(1), 16-20. (2006)

Ethical guidelines for study abroad: Can we transform ugly Americans into engaged global citizens? (with Rotabi, K.S. and Gamble, D.N.) *British Journal of Social Work*, 36(3), 451-465. (2006)

Crisis intervention responses to children victimized by terrorism. (with Dziegielewski, S.F.) *Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention*, 5(5). (2006)

Elder-friendly communities sourcebook. (with Gibbs, R.) Orange County Commission on Aging. (2005)

#### Cheryl Green

Improving comfort about sex communication between parents and their adolescents: Practice-based research within a teen sexuality group. (with Burgess, V., and Dziegielewski, S.F.) *Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention*, 5, 379-390. (2005)

#### Mary Beth Harris

The delivery of social work services. (with Franklin, C. and Hopson, L.) In Allen-Meares, P. (Ed.) *Social Work Services in Schools*, Fifth Edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. (2005)

*The school sourcebook: A guide for school mental health professionals.* (with Franklin, C. and Allen-Meares, P., Eds.) New York: Oxford University Press. (2005) Also author of four articles in the book.

#### George Jacinto

[Review of the book *A pastoral counselor's model for wellness in the workplace: Psychergonomics*]. *Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*, 21(1), 95-99. (2005)

The strengths based approach in addressing discrimination against gays and lesbians. (with Blackwell, C., and Dziegielewski, S.F.) *Journal of Human Behavior and the Social Environment*, 13(4). (2006)

#### R. Paul Maiden

*The integration of employee assistance, work-life and wellness programs.* (with Attridge, M. and Herlihy, P., Eds.) New York: Haworth Press. (2005). Also author of article in this book: Welfare capitalism comes full circle through the integration of EAPs, work-life and wellness.

Managing trauma in the South African mining industry. *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, 7(3). (2005)

Evolution of employee assistance programs in Russia. (with Kirilov, E.) In Masi, D. (Ed.) *International anthology of employee assistance programs.* UK: ICASS. (2005)

Developing workplace substance abuse programs. In Sirotkin, S. and Kohl, H. (Eds.) *Strategies for substance abuse prevention in the workplace.* Russia and Germany: Tempus Project (book chapter published in Russian and German). (2005)

#### Barbara Turnage

Domestic violence: Focus groups from the survivors' perspective. (with Dziegielewski, S.F., and Campbell, K.) *Journal of Human Behavior*, 11(2), 9-23. (2005)

#### Mary Van Hook

Sexual trafficking of women: Tragic proportions and attempted solutions in Albania. (with Gjermeni, E. and Haxhiymeri, E.) *International Social Work*, 49, 29-40. (2006)



## Journal Editors

### R. Paul Maiden

*Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*

### Mary Van Hook

*Rural Mental Health (through August 2005)*

## Editorial Board Members

### Eileen Abel

*Social Work Education: An International Journal*

### Jane Allgood

*Journal of Social Services Research*

### Denise Gammonley

*Social Work Education: The International Journal for Social Work and Social Care Education*

### Shawn Lawrence

*Journal of Health and Human Behavior in the Social Environment*

### R. Paul Maiden

*Employee Assistance Program Digest*

## Consulting Editors

### Mary Beth Harris

*NASW Press*

### Ana Leon

*Families in Society: A Journal of Contemporary Human Services*

## Reviewers

### Jane Allgood

Allyn & Bacon

### Denise Gammonley

Council on Social Work Education

### R. Paul Maiden

Fulbright Exchange of Senior Scholars,  
Institute of International Education  
South African National Research Foundation

### Barbara Turnage

Lyceum Books, Inc.  
Sage Publications

### Mary Van Hook

*Christianity and Social Work*  
Arete

## Presentations

### Eileen Abel

A Student-Centered Learning Approach to Teaching Clinical Practice: Outcomes of a Mixed Methods Investigation, Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Chicago (2006)

### Jill Davis

Play Therapy Counseling Techniques, Front Line Annual Conference, Citizens' Commission for Children, Neighborhood Center for Families, Orlando (May 2005)

The Work of Play Therapy, Annual Conference, NASW Florida Chapter, Orlando (June 2005)

### Mary Beth Harris

Hispanic Youth: Community-Based Prevention Programs, UCF School of Social Work and NASW Florida Chapter Conference on African-American and Latino Youth: Challenges and Resources, Orlando (April 2006)

### Robin Kohn

Addictions and Disabilities: A Tangled Web, NASW Diversity Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (May 2005)

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis): Living and Dying, Annual Conference, NASW Florida Chapter, Orlando (June 2005)

### Ana Leon

Latino Youth in Central Florida: Challenges and Resources, UCF School of Social Work and NASW Florida Chapter Conference on African-American and Latino Youth: Challenges and Resources, Orlando (April 2006)

Overview on Infant Mental Health, Meeting of the Children's Home Society, Daytona Beach, Fla. (May 2005)

Social Work Documentation for the 21st Century, Annual Conference, NASW Florida Chapter, Orlando (June 2005)

### R. Paul Maiden

The Introduction of Employee Assistance Programs in the Russian Workplace, Annual Conference of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association, Philadelphia (October 2005)

### Barbara Turnage

FAME: Family Action Model for Empower Program Evaluation, Abstinence Education Evaluation Conference for the Office of Population Affairs, Baltimore (November 2005)

SEE: Student Educational Enhancement Program Evaluation, Annual Conference for Adolescent Family Life Care Grantees, Washington, D.C. (December 2005)

African-American Young Women, UCF School of Social Work and NASW Florida Chapter Conference on African-American and Latino Youth: Challenges and Resources, Orlando (April 2006)

### Mary Van Hook & Michael Rothenberg

Quality of Life and Compassion, Satisfaction, Fatigue and Burnout in Child Welfare Workers. Children's Home Society of Florida Workforce Development Conference, Orlando (May 2006)

# class notes

## Faculty

### In Memorium

**Dawn I. Brett**, a member of the School of Social Work faculty from 1992 to 2004, passed away in November 2005. She was born in Surrey, England, in 1929. After completing high school, she moved to London, where she studied at the London School of Economics and worked as both a nursing intern and juvenile probation officer. At age 28, she moved to the United States and attended Ohio State University, where she earned her M.S.W. In 1966, she became the first woman to complete a Ph.D. in social work at the University of California at Berkeley. Dawn went on to teach at Metropolitan State University in Denver and eventually retired from the university as professor emeritus. In 1990, she moved to Orlando and returned to teaching at UCF's School of Social Work.

Dawn was known for her intelligence, determination, perseverance, integrity, loyalty, kindness and creativity and brought these qualities to all aspects of her life, including teaching. Among her many contributions was the development of a seminar on social work in the arts, which encouraged the use of creativity by practitioners in community work. She also became a prolific painter who loved to use color, light and broad strokes in her work.

Dawn is survived by her two sisters, Julie Toksvig and Shirley Brett; her sister-in-law,

Annalisa Brett; and several nieces and nephews, all of whom live in England. She will always be remembered by her family, many close friends, colleagues and students.

### Dawn I. Brett Scholarship

The Dawn I. Brett Scholarship in Social Work was established in her honor with proceeds from the school's April 2006 continuing education event. In addition, portions of the proceeds from a gallery offering Dawn's work are being donated to the scholarship. (Visit [www.dawnbrettgallery.com](http://www.dawnbrettgallery.com) and select Gallery Store.) To make a contribution to the scholarship, contact the School of Social Work office at 407-823-2114.



B.S.W. Coordinator Robin Kohn (right) examines prints from the Dawn Brett Gallery, which were available for sale at the school's spring career fair.



If you would like us to include your information in the next issue of *Outreach*, visit [www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/alumni) and click on "Stay Connected."

### 1978

**Linda Maisel (Hasemann), B.A. in social work**, lives in Las Vegas and works as a substance abuse prevention analyst for the state of Nevada.

### 1983

**William Boylston, B.A. in social work**, earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1987, and he is married and has a daughter. He is currently a student in the Master in Mental Health Counseling program at Nova Southeastern University and expects to graduate in July 2006. He plans to go into counseling and be a bivocational pastor.

### 1985

**Cindy Beers, B.A. in social work**, is currently employed as a substitute teacher for the Hawaii Department of Education. She resides in Waipahu, Hawaii (island of Oahu).

### 1994

**Page Blinderman, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('95)**, is vice president and a consultant for Quality Assurance Solutions, Inc., in Altamonte Springs, Fla. She lives in Casselberry, Fla.

**Patricia Grady, B.S.W.**, completed her master's degree in 1986 and has had her LCSW credential for many years. She works with at-risk youth in the Pinellas County school system, and she is a presenter for group work for at-risk youth. Grady is also the mother of three children, ages 7, 9 and 22. She loves to bike, camp and spend time with her kids. She is also in the process of learning to play bagpipes and is an active member in the St. Petersburg Pipe and Drum Band.

**Shellene Mazany, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('95)**, has her LCSW credential and is employed as a program manager for the Coordinated Youth Initiative at the Winter Park Health Foundation



in Winter Park, Fla. She also lives in Winter Park.

**Valerie Smith (Rozier), B.S.W., M.S.W. ('96)**, is a licensed clinical social worker who works full-time as a clinical supervisor at Endeavor Family Services in Orlando. She is also the owner of VRS Consultants, Inc., a for-profit organization that focuses on providing consulting services to businesses and includes the supervision of UCF social work interns. In addition, Smith owns Social Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization that specializes in providing free counseling services to low-income families.

#### 1995

**Julie Coyle Atkins, M.S.W.**, is currently employed by the U.S. Department of Defense in Arlington, Va., as a care manager for Military OneSource, a resource for American troops and their families. She resides in Washington, D.C.

#### 1997

**Victoria Bernauer (Iadarola), B.S.W., ('97)** is director of social services at Avante of Melbourne in Florida. She lives in Sebastian, Fla.

**Angel R. Epstein, B.S.N. ('95), M.S.W.**, writes that her son, Joshua Louis Epstein, recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design.

**Janice Ricks, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('98)**, is a full-time faculty member and field service instructor at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. She is also a licensed clinical social worker in Florida and a member of the Association of Certified Social Workers. Ricks lives in Walton, Ky.

#### 1998

**Tina Maria Nelson, B.S.W.**, moved to California after completing her bachelor's degree to work full-time for Child Protective Services and to enter the Master of Social Work program at Fresno State University. She completed her thesis on "Domestic Violence in the Navy." In 2003, she was commissioned

into the U.S. Air Force, where she is currently a military officer and chief of family advocacy at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Fla. This year she received the Air Education and Training Command's Company Grade Social Worker of the Year award. She will be leaving soon for Spangdahlem, Germany, where she will continue to work in the Family Advocacy Program, providing preventative services to high-risk families and implementing services to other families. She writes, "The Air Force has provided me such great professional opportunity" as well as "personal happiness in introducing me to the man who I am planning to marry."

**Maggie Winston, M.S.W.**, works as a staff advocate for Guardian ad Litem in West Palm Beach, Fla. She lives in Fort Worth, Fla. Maggie writes, "After working with private adoptions for the past eight years, I have decided to open a consulting agency to work with attorneys and international adoption services. I plan to also offer adoption transition counseling in another year or so."

#### 1999

**Kelly Richards, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('03)**, received her LCSW credential in October 2005. In February 2006, she and a partner opened a private practice, the "Center for Life Enhancement," in Melbourne, Fla. She sees children, teens and adults for individual, marital and family counseling. She specializes in issues of loss, grief and bereavement.

**Melissa White (Hardin), M.S.W.**, is currently working as a social worker II at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla. For the past three semesters, she has taught entry-level social work and social welfare classes at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She also completed a 10-month training program in infant mental health through Florida State University and Louisiana State University.

#### 2000

**Karen Czarniak, M.S.W.**, writes that she lives in Melbourne, Fla., and is expecting her first child in May. She hopes to return to social work

practice in the future.

#### 2001

**Shari Garnewell, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('02)**, is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Winter Park, Fla. She resides in Oviedo, Fla.

#### 2002

**Laura Kelly, M.S.W.**, is currently working as a clinical therapist at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill. She resides in Lisle, Ill.

**Rebecca Kurta (Safier), M.S.W.**, works as a human resource manager for ZOM in Orlando and lives in Winter Park, Fla. She writes, "Since graduation I have been working for a property management and real estate development company overseeing the human resource function for 400-plus employees. I love my job ... every day offers exciting challenges and opportunities to educate, assist and advocate for employees. Additionally, I got married last year, and I am very much enjoying life with my wonderful husband."

**Sara Wienke, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('03)**, is a medical psychiatric social worker at the Florida Hospital Center for Behavioral Health in Orlando. She lives in Winter Park, Fla., and is currently working toward her licensed clinical social worker certification. She recently became engaged and is planning a March 2007 wedding.

#### 2003

**Tamara Blickem, M.S.W.**, is a capital mitigation specialist in the Office of the Legal Defender in Phoenix. She also lives in Phoenix.

**Kelly Craig, B.S.W.**, plans to complete her M.S.W. degree at Temple University in Philadelphia in spring 2006. She writes, "I am specializing in grass-roots organizing and work with Philadelphia FIGHT, an HIV/AIDS nonprofit. To relax, I enjoy singing karaoke and like being known as the 'Philadelphia karaoke queen.'"

**Racquel Findlay, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('04)**, works as a social services counselor and juvenile probation officer at the Orange Halfway House

in Orlando. She lives in Orlando as well.

**Emily Helms, M.S.W.**, has been working as a graduate social worker at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Affiliate in Baton Rouge, La., since November 2005. She is the first social worker ever employed by the clinic. Helms writes that the affiliate sites allow children to receive weekly chemotherapy at home rather than having to travel to the main hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

**Jennifer Petrosky, M.S.W.**, gave birth to twins Alexander and Kailyn on March 22, 2005. She and her family live in North Port, Fla.

**Kim Rodgers, M.S.W.**, works as an elementary school counselor for Healthcare Providers and Associates in Winter Park, Fla. She lives in Casselberry, Fla.

#### 2004

**Patricia Genao, M.S.W.**, is a registered clinical social worker and counselor at Manatee Glens in Bradenton, Fla. She writes that she and her husband "welcomed our daughter, Gloria Faith, into the world in October 2005."

**Dawn Gilts (Biss), B.S.W.**, earned an M.S.W. from Florida State University in August 2005, and she married Rob Gilts in February 2006. She is currently employed as a case manager at Florida Hospital in Orlando. She also resides in Orlando.

**Naomi Maingot, B.S.W.**, is a campaign coordinator for Children's Campaign, Inc., in Tallahassee, Fla. She also lives in Tallahassee.

**Michael Mason, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('05)**, is director of social work for Meal on Wheels in Sanford, Fla.

**Tara Moser (Ream), B.A., psychology, ('02), M.S.W.**, lives and works in Cape Coral, Fla., where she is a private-practice therapist specializing in play therapy.

**Jacqueline Rogers, B.S.W.**, is a social worker at Florida Hospital in Orlando. She completed a master's degree in human resource management at Rollins College in May 2006 and is getting married this August. She currently resides in Orlando.

**Amanda Morten, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('05)**, works

as a safe-start advocate with Help A Child, Inc.'s Safe Start Program in Pinellas Park, Fla. The program provides clinical assessments to families with young children who have been exposed to violence. She lives in Largo, Fla.

**Asahi Wada, B.S.W.**, is employed as an enrollment and matching social worker for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami. She resides in Miami as well.

#### 2005

**Jill Brown, M.S.W.**, is currently working as the director of social services at Uihlein Mercy Center, a nursing home in upstate New York. When she moved back to New York, she initially worked as a substance abuse counselor with adolescent males and then as a wilderness field supervisor with adolescent females "before finding my niche at the nursing home." She resides in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

**Karen Castellanos-Brown, B.S. in psychology ('03), M.S.W.**, is a fellowship recipient, research assistant and doctoral student in social work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She married William Brown, a production manager for Signs by Tomorrow in Columbia, Md., on March 11, 2006, in Miami. The couple resides in Baltimore.

**Yesenia Cendejas, B.A. in psychology ('03), M.S.W.**, lives and works in Sarasota, Fla. She is employed as a school social worker at an alternative school for eighth and ninth graders.

**Francesca Eferstein, B.A. in psychology ('03), M.S.W.**, is a family therapist at the Institute for Family Centered Services in Pompano Beach, Fla. She currently lives in Coral Springs, Fla., and is preparing to take the exam next year to become a licensed clinical social worker.

**Mearlene Filkins, M.S.W.**, is employed as a therapist at the Children's Advocacy Center in Daytona Beach, Fla. She resides in Edgewater, Fla.

**Marissa Gajewski, M.S.W.**, works with the geriatric population as a care manager at Elder Advocates, Inc., in Orlando, where she is responsible for medical monitoring and

care management services. "The position encompasses a range of services, from being an advocate in a care plan meeting to serving as a liaison for family members in another state on behalf of their loved one," she writes. "The continual growth in the aging population and community issues makes for a busy business." She lives in Casselberry, Fla.

**Renee Natvig, M.S.W.**, lives in Winter Park, Fla.

**Jennifer Pruum, B.S.W.**, is an admissions coordinator for social services at Inland Valley Care and Rehab Center in Pomona, Calif., and lives in Chino Hills, Calif.

**Jo Ann Russell, B.S.W., M.S.W. ('06)**, is the 2006 NASW Student Social Worker for the Space Coast Unit and is an active board member of the unit. She recently did an internship at Glenbrooke Independent Living Community in Palm Bay, Fla., under the "great" supervision of UCF social work alumna Charlotte Willis. She lives in Cocoa, Fla., and plans to work in the field of geriatrics in Brevard County.

**Michael Schwing, M.S.W.**, is a child and family therapist at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, Fla. He resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

**Kelly Veatch, M.S.W.**, is a mental health therapist at the Bowen Center in Fort Wayne, Ind.

#### In Memoriam

**Traci Kristall (B.S.W., '03)**, passed away in September 2005. She was born in Kendall, Fla., where she lived until she was 10 and her family moved to Dallas. In 1999, her family returned to Florida and settled in Orlando, where she pursued her dreams and attended the University of Central Florida. She started the career she loved as a counselor for those who truly needed her care and help. Traci is the loving daughter of Ray and Adrienne Kristall, the beloved sister of Jason and the devoted granddaughter of Jean Deblinger. Those whose lives she touched will remember her fondly.



# report of gifts

## Donations to the School of Social Work

April 2005 through April 2006

### **President's Circle Partners**

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Jay and Mary P. Van Hook

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Jim Crawford

Zoila Cronin

Jill K. Davis

Laurel Davis

Everton Dawkins

Sheri Dressler

Veronica Duarte

Amy Elias

### **Other Gifts** *(continued)*

Resa Flint

Delia Fuentes

Denise Gammonley

Cheryl Green

Mary Beth Harris

Jodi Hasel

Mary and Christopher Heimlich

George Jacinto

Heather Jelkren

Janet C. Isaac

Jewish Family Services

Karen Judd

Risa Kiam

Joshua Kirven

Robin Kohn

Christina LeMieux

Pedro and Ana Leon

Life Stream

Keosha Lincoln

Paul Maiden

Keenan Mallory

Leanne Marston

Georgia E. Massicotte

Christina Moore-Conti

Vanessa Rodriguez

Victor Rosa

Kenisha Royster

Kwanya Saunders

Stephanie Schields

Michelle Scott

Elizabeth Sikes

Valerie Smith

Laura Sterling

Latesha Taylor

Caroline Thorndike

Barbara Turnage

Sheryl Welton

Seanna Williams

Lisa Wobbe Viet

*These names were compiled on May 1, 2006.*

*If you made a contribution and your name was inadvertently omitted, we apologize. Please contact us at 407-823-2723 so we can report your gift in our next issue.*

### **Additional Opportunities**

President's Circle Leadership Gifts

*Associate: \$1,000 to \$2,499*

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President's Medallion: \$10,000+

President's Trust: Lifetime \$100,000 to \$999,999

Colbourn Society: Lifetime \$1,000,000+

Millican Society: Planned or deferred gifts

*The University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs and School of Social Work appreciate all of your generous financial contributions.*

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

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