



Social Work Newsletter

MAY 2008 GRADU- ATES AND PLACES OF EM- PLOY- MENT

- Kelly Duke – Gateway
- Cymantha Foshee – Chilton County Public Health
- Mollie Glasgow – Alliance
- Melissa Gordon – Chandler Health and Rehab
- Kelly Higginbotham – UA MSW Program
- Krissy Huddleston – UM MSW Program
- Kristin Kendrick – UM Counseling Program
- Jillian Littlefield – Shelby County DHR
- Emily Milam – Talladega County DHR
- Shaunté Slater – Alabama Youth Homes
- Mellissa Sumners – Shelby County DHR

DR. JASON NEWELL JOINS UM SOCIAL WORK FACULTY

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jason Newell joined the social work faculty this fall. Dr. Newell received his Ph.D. and MSW from

The University of Alabama School of Social Work. He has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Auburn. Dr. Newell is teaching Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare, Research, Introduction to Social Work Practice, and Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families.

Dr. Newell has worked in a variety of social service fields, including: veterans, child welfare, and mental health services for children, adolescents, and teenagers. He served with the Alabama Department of Human Resources in both Child Protective Services and Foster Care Services. He also worked with a local United Way agency, Family Counseling Service, and was a group therapist for juvenile offenders. Through the UA School of Social Work, Dr. Newell assisted with research projects conducted at The United Methodist Children's Home and the Department of Youth Services. He also served as an interim resident therapist for The United Methodist Children's Home.

Dr. Newell's research interest include mental illness and mental health care, specifically victims of trauma and the vicarious effects of trauma work on clinical practitioners. Dr. Newell spent two years of his doctoral education at Brewer-Porch Children's Center (BPCC), an agency for children and adolescents with mental illness and a teaching clinic for The University of Alabama. During his time at BPCC, Dr. Newell was the research and data coordinator for a 3 year project funded jointly by the Child Welfare League of America and the Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration. The grant examined the best practices in working with children and adolescents diagnosed with

mental illness and was aimed at decreasing the use of restraint and seclusion as means of intervention for disruptive behaviors.

In 2004, Dr. Newell was recruited to work in the Office of Research and Development at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. During his 4 years of service at the VA, Dr. Newell coordinated numerous federally funded research trials

investigating treatments for PTSD, anxiety, and mood disorders. Dr. Newell was awarded a VA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Social Work Research. He will be presenting the results of his dissertation study at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in November in Chicago. Recently, Dr. Newell was awarded a VISN-7 silver pin award by his mentor Dr. Lori Davis for his dedication to the advancement of VA Research over the past 4 years.

Dr. Newell has authored and co-authored several articles in professional journals and has a fine record of professional presentation. He is a licensed Private Individual Practitioner.

Dr. Newell is married to Dora Thompson Newell, a UM graduate, who was raised in Montevallo. Dora teaches special education at Thompson Middle School in Alabaster. They have lived in Montevallo before and have returned to Dora's home town—we hope for good. Dr. Newell is originally from Geneva, Alabama and attended Enterprise State Junior College prior to transferring to Auburn.

I hope all of you will join Ms. Duke and me in welcoming Jason to UM and the social work program.



GIFTS TO THE PROGRAM

Kristie DeVaney Alexander

Kayvon Butler

Debra Weldon Carlson

Renea Guy Carpenter

Teresa Costanzo

Maria Campbell Cooper

Lance Day

Jeannie Duke

Savannah Weaver Ferster

Starr Hudson

Rhonda Jacks

Jillian Littlefield

Carole Martin

Amy Mims

David Powell

Freddie Penick

Amy Daniels Pribyl

Anne Steidinger

Mike Traylor

Heather Youngkin

Jeanett Niven

Scholarship

Vermey Greene

Dawson Scholarship

Shannon Senna House

Porter Scholarship

Jeanetta Keller

Lois Ann Ray

WHAT YOUR GIFTS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

\$626 Journals for Library

\$286 Newsletter

\$239 Videos

\$80 Kids Count (for students and library)

“There is no telling how many miles you may have to run while chasing a dream.”

Unknown

Licensure Computer Test Available for Alumni Use

The Program has purchased both the LBSW and LGSW computer practice test. They are available by appointment Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm on campus only.

If you wish to use them contact
Ms. Amanda Fox
(205) 665-6180
or email foxat@montevallo.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

Lois Ray '60 lives in Florida and recently traveled to China ('a beautiful, welcoming country'), Norway ('beautiful, successful at managing the needs of all citizens'), and Greece.

Teresa S. Costanzo '73 is the executive director for Tuscaloosa's One Place, a family resource center, which presently has 23 employees along with interns. TOP has a variety of programs and serves over 10,000 people each year. Husband **Frank '73** is the Superintendent of Tuscaloosa County Board of Education with more than 17,000 students and 32 schools.

Ava Rozelle '73 received the 2008 Frederick S. Wolf Award presented by ALPHA. From the ALPHA August 2008 newsletter – "She began her public health career in Public Health Area VI as social work director and currently serves as Director of Regional and Professional Services for the Bureau of Children's Health Insurance. Supporters credited her for developing a new social work program and building an outreach model to insure Alabama's children. Called a 'visionary,' her nurturing style of leadership is appreciated by those with whom she works. One supporter wrote, 'I have often heard that the mark of a true leader is one who when they turn around and look behind them they find people following them. Wherever Ava has worked in public health, people have followed.' This award was established in 1982 to recognize an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years, who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services, and who has provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health."

Paula Smith McClellan '78 works with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Nashville, Tennessee. Paula serves two units containing Alzheimer's patients and those with mental illness.

Marriette CroftHorschel '80 is the Assistant Director of Residential South Unit for ARC of Jefferson County where she provides a 'home type life experience' for 57 special need individuals.

Mauri Howell '83 passed away last October.

Melissa Woodard '83 is writing a soap opera.

Robin Ramey Hatcher '84 is a certified dementia trainer for Alabama. She presented 'Alzheimer's & Abuse: A 21st Century Cultural Swing' at the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease in Chicago this summer and will present again at the American Association of Service Coordinators National Conference in Washington, DC, this fall.

L. Brooks Burdette '85 has relocated The Burdette Law Firm, P.S., to downtown Trussville.

Rhonda Jacks '85 is the Director of Family Services at the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults. She is an

active member of the Tennessee Chapter of NASW – current Vice-President, Chair Continuing Education Committee, Co-Chair Multi-level Licensure Committee, and National NASW Professional Review Member. Rhonda is a field instructor for University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Dalton State in Georgia. She also teaches policy as an adjunct faculty member at UT-Chattanooga.

Amy McDonald '85 helped coordinate Alabama's first Honor Flight carrying WWII veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. Amy said, "We had a great day and I'm still swirling in all the emotion. It was our first flight and we learned a lot. We got there and back safely, our guardians were wonderful, the vets had a heck of a time, so we feel it was a success."

Daniel J. Pezzulo '87 is an adolescent psychologist with Behavioral Healthcare Consultants and Warwick School District. Daniel was recently featured in an article in *Lancaster Online's* Lifestyle section discussing the importance of parents' role in helping their teens and pre-teens develop healthy perspectives on sexuality in today's high tech world.

Hollie Holmes '92, her husband, and four children live in Pinson. They are in the process of adopting 3 Ukrainian orphans. The family also hosted eight orphans this summer for a cultural exchange program.

Heather Youngkin '92 teaches 2nd grade at Clay Elementary. She says 'you can learn lots from these kids and they can make you laugh.'

Shauna Webb Bryon '94 is a certified Transitions Lifestyle Coach. She leads education and support related groups promoting healthy lifestyles/weight management in Franklin, Tennessee. She shares her dream home with her two dogs and one cat.

Crystal WhiteheadCapps '95 works in the financial industry and teaches budgeting and financial counseling classes. She and her husband Calvin live in Florida.

John Mark Willis '95 is the Senior Products Market Manager for Secure Horizons where he educates providers on products, works closely with the Area Agency on Aging, RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion. He remarks 'My social work background really does come in handy when forming relationships with these groups. It is amazing how the training we receive as social workers can take us in so many directions.'

Dayla Davis Hamilton '96 is a social worker with the Chilton County Health Department. She and husband Shanon have two children – Shayla, 5, and Cayman, who was born in January.

Christine Widder Kilgro '96 is the CQI Coordinator for the Northeast Alabama Disability Board where she oversees residential and day habilitation placements for adults and adolescents with develop-

mental disabilities. Christine and her husband have two children.

Stephen Land '98 is Area Operations Manager for Fresemies Medical Care at the Odyssey Facility. He is also pursuing a Master of Business Administration at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. Stephen is married with one daughter.

Savannah Weaver Ferster '99 is a Family Assessment Worker with Prevent Child Abuse Athens and promotes the Healthy Families program for first-time mothers at a local hospital. Savannah married David Ellis Ferster of Olean, New York, on December 15, 2007. David is a third year law student at the University of Georgia.

Kristie DeVaney Alexander is a foster care social worker for Walker County DHR. She has been married to Landon for seven years.

Lacey Baker Ellison '03 has been promoted to a supervisory position with Public Health as a Area VIII Social Work Manager. She is still based in Clanton, but the new position will require travel as she oversees the clinic programs. Lacey writes, 'During a recent conversation with my director, he started naming all of the key persons in Public Health who graduated from the University of Montevallo. It was impressive and made me very proud.'

Rowena West '04 works with Social Security in Selma, Alabama. She wrote to say "I recently drove through Montevallo...and a wave of nostalgia hit me as I reflected on my UM experience. The University of Montevallo is a gem and I truly believe that not even one of the Ivy League schools could compete with the staff dedication or individual attention that a student receives at UM. My attendance at UM were two of the best years of my life. Kudos to the wonderful Social Work staff."

Sarah Brooks Greer '06 works for First Light. She and Ben married in March 2008.

Kristy Gaddis '06 is currently enrolled in the MSW program at the University of Alabama.

David Powell '06 works with Chilton County DHR in Child Welfare.

Lance Day '07 works with the Clarke County Department of Family and Child Services in Georgia. Lance is engaged to Amanda Voss.

Bethany Garver Thigpen '07 is a Probate Court Case Manager with JBS Mental Health/Mental Retardation where she helps family members, hospitals, and social workers file petitions for involuntary commitments. Bethany, husband Bill, son Aiden, 5, and daughter Ava Elizabeth, 10 mths, live in Hoover.

Melissa Gordon '08 is the Director of Social Services at Chandler Health and Rehab.

Jillian Littlefield '08 works with the Shelby County DHR in child welfare.

Virginia Jones, Former Social Work Chair

Virginia Riddle Jones died on May 11, 2008 at St. Martin's in the Pines, where she had resided for the last few years. Virginia was a front runner in undergraduate social work education in Alabama. She was successful in getting the program approved in the early 70's prior to BSW programs being accredited. Thanks to Virginia, our program was in the first wave of programs accredited when the Council on Social Work Education began accrediting undergraduate programs. She brought in nationally known consultants to work with the faculty during and after the initial accreditation. She also funded most of the development of the program through federal grants totaling almost a million dollars (to my knowledge, the largest amount of grant money ever received at UM).

Virginia was instrumental in helping launch the careers of innumerable social workers (including two of the current UM faculty members). She was devoted to her students and often was able to find the best in them and bring it out. She believed in some of us more than we believed in ourselves. She was also devoted

to her faculty members and hired the first African American professor on the UM campus, Dr. Ethel Hall. When Virginia stepped down as Chair of Social Work, she began the first full fledged academic advising program on campus. Ironically, UM is looking once again at an in-depth advising program suggesting that Virginia, in more than one way, was a woman ahead of her time.

Virginia received her Masters of Social Work from Tulane University. She had a lifelong career in teaching and research including post-graduate training at Columbia University, Cornell, Case Western Reserve and Tulane. She was an active member of Alabama Conference on Social Work and served in various capacities, including as its' President. She also held many positions in NASW in the state and was an active member of CSWE. She received twelve major honors and awards.

Virginia also knew how to have a good time. She enjoyed time with friends, the symphony, theatre, traveling, and sports. She spent several weeks studying in India in the early 1970's and

traveled to Europe and The Mediterranean countries. She was generous in sharing her home with students and faculty alike.

After Virginia retired from UM, she taught at Miles College and UAB as an adjunct and worked as a social worker at St. Martin's. Virginia continued to be a creative social worker. She described and worked with residents who had Sundowner's Syndrome before it ever even had a name. She also supervised practicum students from UM. She was a long term member of All Saints' Episcopal Church. She was a loving mother and grandmother and enriched the lives of everyone she knew. Her intelligence, generosity, warmth, humor and devotion to family and friends will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Virginia would have been pleased to see her old colleagues at the memorial service including Ms. Paula Ward, Ms. Connie Arnwine Bracewell, Dr. Ethel Hall, Dr. Ron Manning, Dr. Susan Vaughn and Ms. Douglas Hawkins. It was a final tribute to a remarkable woman and friend.

STUDENT NEWS



2007-2008

McNair Scholars

Claudia McLawhorn

Ms. Jeannie Duke

Jennifer Travis-Scott

Moriea Barnett

JENNIFER TRAVIS-SCOTT

Upon entering the McNair Scholars Program and completion of my research on Elder Abuse, I found numerous troubling, yet informative facts on a national, state, and local level. My research was conducted at the Shelby County Department of Human Resources where I spent a few weeks this summer collecting secondary data. My mentor (Jeannie Duke) and I identified cases of abuse by the types of offenders associated with each one, based on an Offender Typology by a Social Worker/Sociologist Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik. My findings were presented this summer at McNair's presentation day. The number of elderly people that are abused each year vary greatly, but the minimum statistics are alarming. Completing this research has furthered my knowledge of the problems associated with the causes, effects, etc. of elder abuse, and has also increased my goal to one day make a change to prevent abuse and protect OUR elderly.

MORIEA BARNETT

Moriea Barnett, known as "Mo", was one of three social work majors involved in the McNair Scholars Program in 2008-2009. Her research project was titled "Bullying: The Here and Now". Mo won the "Best Presentation" at the McNair Scholar's presentation day and presented her project in Baltimore, Maryland in September at the National McNair Scholar's Conference. Her research is summarized below. From the playground to the newsroom, American society is being plagued with an age old activity we term bullying. Studies show the act of bullying involves ways of making others feel hurt, afraid, uncomfortable, and miserable and even has been found to threaten the physical and mental well-being of others. In her research, she identified predictors of both perpetrators and their victims. In addition, Mo focused on structural attributes which increased or decreased the likelihood of bullying to taking place. She reviewed journal, articles, and evidence-based studies including various preventive measures. Dr. Stephen Parker, Sociology, served as Mo's mentor.



S O C I A L
W O R K
P R O G R A M

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