



Social Work Newsletter

FALL 2006 GRADUATES AND PLACES OF EMPLOY- MENT

- Sarah Brooks, First Light Women's Shelter
- Margo DeLee, Talladega County DHR
- Charlotte Evans, Shelby County DHR
- Shannon Shepherd Flute, Alliance
- Jessica Foster, Shelby County DHR
- Kristy Gaddis, Chilton County DHR
- Marteissa Jackson, Alliance
- Carolyn Locke, Shelby Emergency Assistance
- Erin Murdoch, Jewish Family Services—Jacksonville, FL
- Tiffany Portis, Jefferson County DHR
- Eulonda Russell, Shelby County DHR
- Jennifer Terrell, Shelby County DHR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gifts	2
Practice Test	2
Alumni News	3
Involvement	4
Alumni News Form	5

MEL ROBINSON

Mel Dorough Robinson received the first Friend of the Social Work Program award at Social Work Advocacy Day in November. Mel, a graduate of the program, became re-involved with it during the early 1990's when she was a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors. Since that time, Mel has been a loyal supporter of the Program, giving both of her time and her money. Thanks to her, social work majors have had access to technology, videos, library holdings, etc. that the Program could not have otherwise afforded. In short, she has contributed significantly to the quality of education social work majors receive. Never one to seek the spotlight, Mel had to be lured to the

luncheon through trickery (and with the help of her son Mark, also a UM graduate, who attended).



Dr. Susan Vaughn and

Even though Mel is a retired social worker, she continues to exemplify the finest qualities of a good social worker: warmth, a caring concern for others, excellent problem solving skills, a generous spirit, and a dedication to advocating for those in need (including

animals). Her concern for others is evident in the time she spends caring for her friends (including cooking, transporting, etc), her willingness to be a "guinea pit" for young medical students who are trying to learn to work with elders, and her work in her church. Mel and her late husband, Pete, have a long history of being involved with groups of people in need, particularly Native Americans. In short, social work is a better profession because of Mel and the world is a better place because of her efforts and those of her late husband Pete.

Congratulations to Mel from the faculty, staff, alumni, and students of the Social Work Program here at UM.

JEANNIE DUKE RECEIVES AWARDS

Our own Jeannie Duke has had a busy year. In addition to her duties the Director of the Social Work Practicum Program at the university, she is involved in several organizations and has received rewards.

Jeannie holds the BSW from the University of Montevallo where she was president of her sorority, Chi Omega. She received her MSW from the University of Alabama and is a Licensed Certified Social Worker and member of the NASW Academy of Certified Social Workers. Her practice experience includes: child welfare, adolescent drug treatment, adolescent residential treatment and behavioral health with seniors. Jeannie demonstrated creativity and dedication to those in need early in her career. During her agency experience she developed the first interdisciplinary child welfare group in the county. She also developed an independent living program and an out-patient substance abuse treatment program for teens. Recently, she developed a behavior management program for a skilled care facility and provided on-site mental health services for the residents. Previous to joining us here in Montevallo, Jeannie served on the faculty of BSW programs at Troy University, and University of Alabama at Birmingham. During her teaching career, she has led Study Abroad programs for students to London, Costa Rica and Mexico.

Ms. Duke was awarded the Field Coordinator of the Year, 2006, by the Alabama/Mississippi Social Work Education Conference. While there she presented a workshop on learning styles and field education. In November, Ms. Duke received the Mitzi Kronenberg Award from the Alzheimer's of Central Alabama. This award is given each year to a board member for outstanding service to ACA. Ms. Duke, who serves as vice-president, headed the 2006 Walk fundraiser chair which rose close to \$100,000 as is chairing the spring fundraiser which has a goal of raising \$100,000 also.

Ms. Duke is also a member of the Alabama Conference of Social Work (past president), the National Association of Social Workers (past board member and program chair), the Council of Social Work Education (site-visitor to review programs seeking initial or re-accreditation), the Baccalaureate Program Directors, Alabama Arise, the Alabama Gerontological Society (conference program chair) and Merrie Players (as a puppeteer – group gives puppet shows for children's birthdays and donates all proceeds to local charities.

Congratulations to Ms. Duke and thank you for all you do for our Program and for the profession.

GIFTS TO THE PROGRAM

Melissa Scott Barrow	Gabrielle Metz
Pamela Laurence Borland	Mel Durrough Robinson
Robert Dunn in member of his wife Annette Dunn	Freddie Penick David Powell
Jeannie Duke	Carol Rohling
Ruth Fitzgerald	Heather Sims
Maria Goodman	Lou Ann Hubbard Smith
Dale Garris Gravitt	Brandy Tate
Kathy Coston Frost	Rebecca Turner
Brandi Horton	Felicia Walker
Stephanie Hogg	John Mark Willis
Jeannie Martin Kline	Eagles Allied Health Scholarship
Kelli Brannon Lachowicz	Susan Vaughn
Carole Martin	Porter Scholarship
Barbara McLennan	Jeanine Bozeman

WHAT YOUR GIFTS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

Journals for library (5 for \$392)

Three DVDs (aging, rural social work, troubled children--\$240)

Newsletter (\$280)

Registration for 13 students to attend Arise Advocacy Day at Birmingham Southern (\$195)

A special thank you to Mel Robinson for helping us purchase a computer for the classroom projection system, a computer desk for the student lounge, and a printer for student use. We are pleased to report that the computers and printers in the lounge get heavy use.



The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt.

~ FREDERICK BUECHNER

Licensure Computer Test Available for Alumni Use

The Program has purchased both the LBSW and LGSW computer practice test.

If you wish to use them (on campus only)

contact

Ms. Amanda Fox
(205) 665-6180

or email at

foxat@montevallo.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

Janet Swain Shaw '82 is now a stay at home mom after working for years as a social worker in home health and nursing homes. Her husband recently began his own business and it is doing well.

Louanne Hubbard Smith '83 is attending the advanced standing MSW program at the University of Alabama and is interning at Russell Medical Center in Alexander City.

Cindy Smothers McGhee '86 passed away last fall. Cindy spent her career at DHR working with the elderly. Our condolences go out to her family and co-workers.

Freddie Penick '89 is a social worker at University Hospital.

Alesha Kennedy Smith '91 began work as a case manager and court liaison for the Shelby County Community Corrections in August 2005 after being able to stay home with her two daughters for ten years. She loves working with the adults and particularly enjoys her involvement with the courts, the jail, and the DA's office. Alesha says 'It is fulfilling to know that the knowledge and experience I gained over 15 years ago is still applicable.'

Bill Kennedy '93 is the Program Director at Brantwood Children's Home in Montgomery. He received his MSW from Florida State in August, 2006. Bill has three children: William (11), Wenton (7) and Winola (1 1/2)

Melissa Scott Barrow '94 is a dialysis social worker for Roanoke Dialysis in Roanoke, Alabama. She is also the chairperson for the Alabama Council

of Nephrology Social Workers where she organizes and plans meetings. Melissa is married to Galen and has an 8-month son, Ethan.

Kelli Brannon Lachowicz '97 is a medical social worker at Children's Hospital where she has worked for four years. She is expecting her first child in May 2007.

Pam Lowrance Borland '99 volunteers at the Jefferson County jail, helping women study for their GED. She and husband Col. William E. Borland (Retired) are busy remodeling their new home and spending time with their grandchildren.

Amanda Evans Dyer '99 is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Red Mountain. For the previous six years she worked for JBS Mental Health authority and loved every minute. Her husband, Brian, is a realtor as well, and this allows them to have a 'great time working together.' Amanda is expecting her first child in April, 2007.

Calee Bradley Johnson '99 is working at UAB Hospital in the OB and Well Baby Services where she has been for 5 years. She married Kevin in April of 2005.

Sonja Dale Garris Gravitt '01 is the bereavement and volunteer coordinator for Community Hospice of Baldwin County. Sonja has a 2-year old son, an infant daughter and two older step-children with husband Chris.

Heather Kaiser Martin '02 is a part-time therapist for a child with Downs Syndrome. She and husband Blake have a 15 month-old daughter, Lauren.

Carla Easterling '04 is working for AseraCare Hospice in Clanton. She is expecting the birth of her son, Issac, in May.

Brandi Horton '04 works for Family Connection in Alabaster and recently received her LGSW.

Michael Mitchell '04 is working as a maternity care coordinator for Viva Health in both Clanton and Selma.

Haley Edwards '05 is a social worker with the E/D Waiver Program at the Talladega Health Department, where she works in the field with elders and disabled people. Her son, Brody, will be three years old in August.

Alexis Gothard McDonald '05 works for the Alliance in Birmingham.

Jennifer Bearden '06 is the Director of Social Services for The Inn at Sarasota Bay Club. The Inn is a 60 bed nursing/ rehabilitation facility. She loves her job and feels 'that I am learning and growing in my profession daily.' She also enjoys the beach life.

Grelier Keller '06 is interning at the University Medical Center in Tuscaloosa in medical/mental health social work. She graduates with her MSW in May.

LaQuita Moore '06 is the program administrator for a new agency - In Your Home Options Care. Her son Solomon is two and her husband David works at the Honda Plant in Talladega.

Brandy Tate '06 works for Talladega County DHR in adult services.

Program Represented at UM's Women's Day Celebration

Dr. Ethel Hall, a social work professor at the UM for seven years, was a panelist on women and politics at UM's Women's Day Conference. Dr. Hall was elected to the State Board of Education in 1987 and continues to serve. While the Governor is the President of the Board, he seldom attends the meetings and the Vice-President serves in his absence. Dr. Hall has been the Vice-President for eight years and during that time, remarkable strides were made in education in the State.

Dr. Hall's efforts on behalf of Alabama's children span almost half a century. She was a public school teacher, the director of one of the earliest Head Start Programs in the State, and the Director of the Neighborhood Youth Corp in Birmingham prior to coming to UM. She left UM to assume a position at the University of Alabama School of Social Work and retired from there. However, never one to sit idle, she went back to work with HeadStart. Through her work on the State Board, her work in agencies, and the countless social workers she educated, Dr. Hall has had a major impact on the quality of life of the children of this state.

Despite recent back surgery and the loss of her beloved husband of 55 years, Alfred, she made the trip to UM. Dr. Hall was honored at Women's Day when she was included in the Reader's Theatre along with such notables as Rosa Parks, Helen Keller, Harper Lee, and Dr. Hallie Farmer. Dr. Hall was a trailblazer as she was the first African American professor at UM. In December 2005, Dr. Hall was UM's commencement speaker. Dr. Hall has always been willing to give freely of her time to UM and we are very proud to call her one of our own.

Susan Wilder-White is chairman of Sealing Equipment Products Co., Inc., and several other businesses in the Birmingham area. She received her B.S. in Social Work from the University of Montevallo in 1988 and is a member of the Alabama Association of Medical Social Workers. Since 1994, she has been actively involved in the management of her businesses, including SEPCO and Birmingham Rubber and Gasket; she has been named by the *Birmingham Business Journal* to the Top Twenty-Five Women-Owned Businesses in the area. She is active in community affairs, serving as a member of many boards, including the University of Montevallo Foundation. Prior to entering the world of business, Susan was the social worker (the first) at the 1917 AIDS Clinic. She also began the first girl's softball team in Montevallo.

SOCIAL WORK DAY

The Social Work Program celebrated social work month at 3:30 on March 14. **Grellier Keller and Regina Pollard** (06 graduates) made presentations about their experiences in graduate school and Valerie Schroeder presented on the practicum experience. Ten seniors were inducted into Phi Alpha Honor Society. Social work faculty and students were joined by four guests from the graduate program at Alabama. Two of the guests were **Louanne Hubbard Smith '83** and **Laurel Peet Saxon '98**. Louanne and Laurel are in their MSW practicums and will be graduating in May.

PHI ALPHA NEW INITIATES



ARISE LOBBY DAY

BY SENIOR STUDENTS BETH BRASFIELD
AND JESSICA CHASTAIN

On behalf of those who attended the Alabama Arise "Let Justice Roll" Conference on February 15 at Birmingham Southern College, we would like to extend our gratitude to the social work alumni. Without your financial contributions to the University of Montevallo Social Work Program, many of us would not have been able to attend. We appreciate having

had the opportunity to learn more about poverty and policy. We had the chance to network with a variety of people, including students, practicing social workers, and others concerned with poor and vulnerable populations. This trip was valuable to us as social work students in that we now have a better understanding of ways in which we can make a differ-

ence. The conference enabled us to make a connection between the skills we have learned in the classroom and how these skills are put to use by professionals in the community. Again, we would like to thank the alumni for providing us the means to attend this valuable conference.

ADVOCACY DAY 2006

The UM Social Work Program sponsored its 2006 Advocacy Day Conference on November 9, 2006. The day long conference was titled Advocating for Cultural Competence: Improving Practice Skills with Hispanic and Latino Families. We had approximately 60 attendees including UM students, UM alums, community practitioners and UM faculty. Dr. Phillip Williams was the luncheon speaker and Mrs. Mel Robinson, UM sup-

porter, was given an award for her long time support of the social work program. The program holds an advocacy conference each fall covering a different topic area each year. Previous conferences have focused on poverty, aging and HIV. Presenters and speakers included: Isabel Rubio and Blanca Taylor (Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama), Julia Sosa Hayes (State Department of Public Health),

Dr. Phillip Williams (President, University of Montevallo), Consuelo Viteri and Eckert Werther (Gateway), Fernando Martinez (HICA), Shelia Benton (Atlanta Office of Immigration), and Ben Bruner (Immigration attorney from Montgomery).



SHORTAGE INSURES EMPLOYMENT FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

This article, written by Jean M. McLean, appeared in the Birmingham News on Sunday, February 11, 2007, in the Jobs Section.

For the past two years, all 14 of the Alabama colleges offering social work degrees have met together to solve a problem. Teaming with Alabama's Department of Public Health and the state's Department of Human Resources, these schools are working to provide more social workers to fill the growing demand.

"We need to get the word out that there are jobs in social work, and they're not just DHR jobs," said Susan Vaughn, director of the social work program at the University of Montevallo.

Vaughn said that both state agencies and colleges are seeking to fill shortages in private agencies, hospitals, nursing homes and mental health centers. Faith-based organizations are also in need of social work specialists.

One of the profession's strengths is its flexibility, said Felicia Walker, past president of the University of Alabama's Social Work Society and program director for the Presbyterian Transitional Center in Sylacauga, part of the Presbyterian Home Shelter. Licensed professionals can move from hospital work to work with children, or choose to share their expertise with senior clients.

A bachelor's degree in social work qualifies a graduate to sit for the state licensure exam, a national test qualifying social workers for employment in a variety of settings.

The fast-growing aging population has spurred demand for social workers in hospice and home health as well as hospitals and aging agen-

cies.

There is also demand in homeless and battered women's shelters, adoption agencies and nongovernmental agencies, such as those supported by the United Way.

Vaughn said that a few of the state's public schools have begun hiring social workers to supplement counselor's work. State agencies are major employers.

In addition to basic coursework, social work candidates pursue studies in psychology, sociology, economics and government.

What makes a good social worker? Walker said excellent social workers are effective communicators. In addition to oral presentations, social workers' written records must be accurate and clear.

Both Walker and Vaughn said social workers are typically good listeners.

"They have a caring heart," said Vaughn, and are able to work with people very unlike themselves. Most clients are in crisis and need someone who can be both compassionate and pragmatic. Walker said that although those entering the field may be tempted to give their own possessions to needy clients, a professional must develop a different reaction.

"They must be able to cut off (their emotional response) and let the system work for these people," said Walker.

Much of what social workers do is in advocacy and referral to help. "We do a lot of connecting people to resources," Vaughn said.

Walker recalled her medical social worker internship at the University of Alabama. When a physician ordered treatment, it was her responsibility to suggest alternatives that might better fit the patient's budget. She also ensured that care givers were available after dismissal. Social workers are called to be advocates in other settings as well, including courts and governmental agencies.

Vaughn's new graduates' salaries typically start at \$26,000 to \$30,000 a year, though most get raises within the year. She estimated mid-career salaries at \$40,000 to \$45,000 annually. Social workers with master's degrees earn more and are able to work in counseling agencies or open their own offices.

Those interested in social work can explore the field by volunteering for social agencies or care centers. Job shadowing is usually not an option, due to confidentiality concerns. However, both educators and field social workers are typically eager to brief prospective students on what they can expect.

Walker tells those interested in the profession that it is stressful, even thankless at times. However, she has enjoyed rewards. Each year the Presbyterian children's home hosts an alumni day, or reunion. She said it is rewarding to see these former residents return with their own children.

"A lot of them consider us family," Walker said. Many of them support the program financially in thanks for what was done for them.

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because some day in your life you will have been all of these."

~George Washington Carver

ALUMNI NEWS FORM

Please complete this form and return it to us so that we may include information about you in our next newsletter.

Name _____ Year of Graduation _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Place of Employment _____

Position _____

News _____

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM ALUMNI GIVING

I wish my gift to be applied to the following:

_____ Videotapes for the classroom

_____ Louise White Dawson Scholarship

_____ Student registration fees at professional meetings

_____ Mary Edna Porter Scholarship

_____ Unrestricted (to meet the needs of the Program)

_____ Jeanette Niven Scholarship