Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

The spring flower show at Smith announces the hope of an end to winter’s cold, snowy days. We need signs and experiences of hope as we face the economic challenges to our personal lives and the institutions in our world. For those of us in the northeast, flowers breaking through snow and ice are signs of hope. Students and alumni providing clinical social work service to those suffering the effects of the economy and the invisible wounds of war are signs of hope. A strong applicant pool, an excellent group of resident and adjunct faculty and staff, and an exciting summer lecture series (see page 2) are signs of hope. Thus, in the despair of winter’s unrelenting cold, snow and challenging economic news, there are signs of hope brought by a new administration in Washington, D.C. and new opportunities at the School.

Our faculty and administrators have been busy since September 2008 discussing strategic initiatives for the School. We will complete this work before the start of the summer session. Exciting ideas under discussion include a Global Intercultural/International Center; an institute addressing the mental health needs of U.S. military service members and their families; and a Center for Contemplative Clinical Practice. In support of the global initiative, we have signed an agreement for academic exchanges with the University of Hong Kong Department of Social Work. This agreement formalized exchanges that began with Professor Ceci Chan’s visit last summer as our Lydia Rapoport lecturer, Professor Josh Miller’s lectures, consultation and joint research with faculty in Hong Kong this past year on providing services to earthquake disaster victims in China, and my recent lecture on “Spirituality and Clinical Practice and Education” at the University of Hong Kong in January.

A wonderful collaboration between Sesame Workshop and the School will evaluate the impact of a program developed by Sesame Workshop focusing on the impact on children of military parents “Coming Home.” Professor Marsha Pruett leads the School’s research team and this work will be presented at our summer lecture scheduled for July 27.

We invite you to join with us in hoping for an intellectually stimulating and productive summer session.

Warmest Regards,

Carolyn Jacobs, M.S.W., Ph.D.
Dean and Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor
Summer Lecture Series 2009

The following lectures are planned as part of the School’s 2009 Summer Lecture Series. For more information about individual events, visit the web site at www.smith.edu/ssw/admin/academics_summerlectures.php. All lectures will take place in the Leo Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall.

Emerging Approaches to Clinical Social Work Practice with Older Adults
Phebe Sessions, Ph.D., Professor, Smith College School for Social Work
Monday, June 1, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

The Promise of Mindfulness
Sylvia Boorstein, L.C.S.W., Ph.D., Lydia Rapoport Lecturer, Co-founder, Spirit Rock Meditation Center
Monday, June 8, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Race, Realities and Relationship — Anti-Racism Symposium
Kenneth V. Hardy, Ph.D., Professor of Family Therapy, Drexel University
Monday, June 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Meaning Making and Change: A View of Psychotherapy from Dyadic Expansion Model and Neuroscience
Nancy A. Bridges, L.I.C.S.W., Lecturer in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School and the Cambridge Health Alliance; Faculty Member, Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis; Adjunct Associate Professor, Smith College School for Social Work
Monday, June 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Fixing Broken Hearts and Other Body Parts: Challenges for U.S. Health Care
Sarita Bhalotra, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, the Heller School, Brandeis University
Monday, June 29, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

African Americans Aging in the Rural South: Stories of Faith, Family and Community
Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., Professor, School of Social Work, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill–Brown Clinical Research Institute Lecturer
Monday, July 13, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Annual Conference and Day-Garrett Lecture
Friday, July 17, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change
Jeanette Betancourt, Ed.D., Vice President, Outreach and Educational Practices, Sesame Workshop
Monday, July 27, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Stressing Them Out: The Everyday Conflicts and Stressors in the Lives of Black Women and How They Cope
Joyce E. Everett, Ph.D., Professor, Smith College School for Social Work
Monday, August 3, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
By Rachel Simpson

Three certificate programs offered to advanced clinicians—Advanced Clinical Supervision, Contemplative Clinical Practice, and End of Life Care—are making a difference in the lives of practicing social workers and those they work with.

The programs are different from those offered at other social work schools, in part because they include a practicum, explained Idene Rodriguez Martin, Director of Graduate Enrollment and Continuing Education.

“These offer an opportunity to take an issue that is of particular concern in the profession and explore it in a deeper way,” she said. “We select students who have been doing work in the focal area for several years, so they come in with a certain level of expertise.”

In addition to coursework and the practicum, students also consult with faculty and other team members through the year. “Rather than letting students struggle on their own, they have monthly conference calls, and contact with one or more faculty team members. The whole group can consult with students about a particular issue in a participant’s practice or experience,” said Martin, and that provides invaluable support. Clinicians are very isolated in the field these days, and “this kind of professional mentorship is rare,” Martin said. “People really stay connected,” she said.

That connection is an added benefit to the programs, she said. “We didn’t plan for this, but it has been a surprisingly wonderful outcome. Each group that works together forms a very strong bond and that bond remains after the program ends,” she added. “When people have the opportunity to develop a cohort of colleagues, it’s really exciting.”

For example, one group in California holds get-togethers regularly throughout the year. Another group, who bonded in the first year the Contemplative Practice certificate was offered, formed such a strong connection that they are planning a reunion on campus this spring.

The Certificate in Advanced Clinical Supervision

The current economic situation makes the Certificate in Advanced Clinical Supervision, now in its eighth year, more critical than ever, says Associate Professor and program director Catherine Nye. The dire economy means that many agencies are having to cut all their training, not just for students but for supervisors too, Nye said. “There is less and less support in agencies for training students and oversee staff, and that is not always true,” she said.

“People don’t know what good supervision was like because they haven’t had it,” she said.

And good supervision is essential for the profession, she said. “You cannot learn how to do clinical practice in the classroom—you need to learn in an apprenticeship with a mentor who works closely with you and who really knows you. It’s also a crucial relationship in learning, both at the master’s level and after people have graduated, to learn the skills they need after they become clinicians.”

The absence of good supervision, she said, is a real disaster, and this certificate program clearly answers a need, in both a professional and an individual way. Nye said the program helps participants solidify their own clinical skills and internalize them in such a way that they can turn around and teach better. “It makes people more reflective, and it helps them conceptualize their own practice so they can pass it on.”

Ashley Davis, M.S.W. (Simmons, 2001), finished the course last summer, and said she loved it. In her position as a couples and family therapist at Cambridge Hospital, she has supervised five Smith students who had their placements there. The certificate program has helped her with that work immensely, she said.

“There’s a perception that if you are a good clinician you can be a good supervisor and will automatically know how to train students and oversee staff, and that is not always true,” she said. “There is a whole body of knowledge, of literature, of skills and techniques about it that I had not really explored before I had to jump in and become a supervisor.”

The program gave her the opportunity to step back, learn more about supervision, and have a cohort of colleagues with whom to consult, all of which were very important to her, she said. “You’re learning the theories and you have the practicum. It’s exceptional,” she said. “One thing I found very helpful was the consultation throughout the year, and being able to put into practice, in real time, what we were learning, and support each other as we did that,” Davis added.

As in the other certificate programs, participants in the clinical supervision program form exceptionally strong bonds and continue their relationships long after they finish. “People really enjoy their experience. In an era when people are feeling burned out and depleted by their work, this makes a big difference,” Nye said.
Certificate programs, continued from page 3

The Certificate in Spirituality and Social Work Practice

The Certificate in Spirituality and Social Work Practice, winding up its second year, has been an unqualified success, according to Dean and Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor Carolyn Jacobs, who directs the program. The intersection of social work and spirituality has been special interest to her for more than 30 years.

“I developed a course in spirituality, religion, and clinical practice, have continued to do work in spirituality and trauma, have taught spirituality in the End of Life program, have spoken to alumni and professional groups about it,” Jacobs explained. “And I have found more and more that social workers and other mental health professionals are struggling with how their own belief systems impact their work with clients. I thought this was the space and time to explore contemplative practices.”

The scientific community has given a boost to the concept of spirituality as a tool for working with trauma, which helps, said Jacobs. “As we look at the science of how mindfulness and holistic practices impact on the ability to heal, we see how valuable this is,” she said.

Kim Waggoner, M.S.W., ’91 agrees wholeheartedly. “The question of how you honor where people are spiritually in clinical work is very difficult to articulate and keep in the forefront, but because of my own experience with the loss of my partner in 2003, I was very aware of how important spiritual work is in healing.”

Her experience with the certificate program has been transformational, she said, and has had a big impact on her clinical work. Some of that transformation occurred as she sat in meditation with Rev. H. Ryutmon Gutiérrez Baldouquin. “We were encouraged to do that throughout the six-month program. I had never done that before—I understood the concepts, but not the practice.” She experienced both personal and professional transformation. “Through sitting in a really focused way, I was really thinking about how to integrate the practice into my work with adolescents in a more meaningful way, in a way that was much more applicable to their lives, and that happened through sitting in that really focused way.”

As a social worker at Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital in East Providence, R.I., the oldest freestanding children’s psychiatric hospital in the country, Waggoner now does a mindfulness exercise with the adolescents who come to the hospital’s after-school day program.

“They all think it’s weird, but they do it,” she said, noting that the practice is a good way to transition into the program after a full day of school, of social, academic and other stresses. “It seems to be a centering thing for them, as I thought it would be. We do it as they are doing their check-in, and they need less redirection now,” Waggoner said. She sees progress and is hopeful that it will continue. “They are becoming more aware and that’s the goal for me, for them to feel safe and settled in the here and now, or not, and then to be able to take that awareness wherever else they are in the program and talk about it.”

Waggoner, like others in all of the certificate programs, experienced extremely strong bonding with her colleagues, and has helped organize a reunion on campus April 4. Nearly all of those in the program are returning for a weekend of presentations, conversation, collaboration, and sharing, based, of course, in Lilly Hall.

The Certificate In End of Life Care

Social workers encounter death, dying and bereavement in every setting in which they work, but few have been prepared to take leadership in changing the culture in work with the dying and their families. After the death of her sister, Professor Joan Berzoff was inspired to develop an End of Life Certificate Program at the Smith College School for Social Work. At the time, she recognized that everyone dies, but “how to work psychosocially with the dying has been relegated to on-the-job training. Many social workers in end of life care describe ‘learning on the fly’ or teaching themselves.”

Her goal in launching the certificate program was to advance social work leadership in the field by addressing the lack of curriculum and scholarship in the field. The program was the first in this country and is now in its ninth year.

Kathleen Maxwell, M.S.W., ’88

Maxwell, who has worked in end of life care for nearly all of her career, is a social worker at The Gathering Place in Cleveland, Ohio and runs a bereavement program there. The Gathering Place is a cancer support agency for people whose lives have been touched by cancer.

Her experience with the School’s certificate program helped her to make the experience as meaningful as possible for people who are dying, and has allowed her to be able to process her own feelings, to acknowledge that end of life care is difficult work but that it is balanced by what she and others in the field get out of it. “We felt like we give a lot but we also receive so much from the authentic relationship we get to have with people when they are dying, and with the people who love them,” she said. She also said the program allowed her to focus on the very important emotional and spiritual dimensions of her work.

Maxwell also noted the exceptional bonding she felt with her colleagues during the program. “One of the most meaningful pieces was to be with other social workers devoted to this kind of work, people with the same outlook on assisting families and individuals. It was wonderful to be with people who share this calling.”

Citing a recent case in which a 12-year-old boy’s younger brother died unexpectedly, Maxwell said she has learned that she can help the boy strengthen his coping skills, give him empathy about having lost his little brother, and give him hope for the future and help him through the present.

The program, she said, “informs my work because it brings meaning to my everyday existence as well. I got to acknowledge the impact that helping people through this has on their mental health for the rest of their lives.”
When Maury Frieman learned that the School for Social Work’s Alumni Association needed mentors for current students, he signed right up. In no time, he and Lydia Onofrei were visiting at coffee shops in the Boston area, comparing notes on the joys and pressures of attending the School. Together, they pondered their challenging field.

Today, it’s clear to Frieman that the benefits of the association’s two-year-old pilot program run both ways—to mentors and students alike. “I also learned from Lydia,” said Freiman, a 1982 SCSSW graduate who works in the Dover-Sherborn (Mass.) school district. “She’s extremely bright and has a lot to offer. I’ve probably developed a life-long friendship.”

While that exceeds the mentoring program’s goals, its creators would be pleased. Karen Bellows, president of the association’s executive board, says she long admired the mentoring program run by the Alumni of Color Standing Committee. Bellows felt mentoring relationships should be offered to all students—and the pilot program in Boston was born.

No end is in sight. In fact, the Boston experiment could go national. While School for Social Work students have access to many sources of support, Bellows sees something special in the counsel that comes from a fellow professional—one who isn’t a boss, a dean, or the one assigning a grade.

“[Their] sole role is to support the student’s learning and progress as a clinical social worker,” said Bellows, who runs a private practice in Topeka, Kansas. “I think that’s a good thing.” Under the guidance of Jeannie Seidler, the pilot program has so far orchestrated 17 matches between alumni and students in the Boston area. Mentors agree to spend one to two hours a month with students. When the call went out for mentors, far more stepped forward than could be accommodated, Seidler says.

“They’re on the list ready for next year,” said Seidler, a 2000 M.S.W. graduate who is in private practice. One afternoon this winter, the Boston-area students and mentors gathered in a yoga studio for a presentation by mentor Carla Odiaga on ways to help transgender youth. It was a form of mentoring en masse—gathering new and established professionals to talk shop. Seidler hopes to arrange a similar event early next fall, to welcome new mentor-student matches.

Onofrei, the student paired with Frieman, says she found the relationship beneficial. “We’ve formed a deep friendship, which has enabled me to speak about intersecting personal and professional issues. It has been a great help to have such open communication with a mentor who is not affiliated with my school, or with my training site.”

In their visits, Onofrei and Frieman pondered the M.S.W. program’s unique design and pressures—as fellow consumers of it. They debated theory and discussed how to blend life with work. “We talked about everything,” said Freiman, who said mentors must be open to addressing any need students bring forward. “The magic is in the match.” Onofrei believes the pilot program helps students make important connections. “For me it has been a major catalyst of personal and professional growth.”

Other students who have taken part in the program say it means a lot that the mentors understand the Smith experience. Kimberly Stasny, who graduated in August 2008, says her mentor, Melissa Coco, offered her very helpful support. “I haven’t met with (Coco) since last spring, but we have spoken on the phone and she continues to be a support and resource for me and my future as a social worker,” Stasny said.

Teresa Mendez, who was also matched with Coco, says she found it hard, given the demands of her internship and studies, to spend as much time with her mentor as she would have liked. They ate dinner together in Boston and spoke a number of times after Mendez arrived in the area. “I hope to see her at least a few more times before the year is up…Different students will use the (mentoring program) in different ways, but it is a very nice option to have.”
Mendez says that to strengthen the student-mentor tie, the association should work to make the matches earlier, enabling the pairs to communicate before the student arrives. It’s part of her wish to have fewer “surface” relationships with school officials and more “deeper ones.” Seidler says she understands it might help to make the matches earlier, but she’s found it hard to gather the information she needs while students are still wrapped up in summer studies.

When mentors and students meet, one ready topic is the education they both received, and how it is in many ways different from that of social workers trained in other schools. Bellows believes the rigors of Smith’s psychodynamic approach can come into conflict with social workers accustomed to accepting quicker solutions. She reasons that mentors can help students feel less like “lone rangers.”

Some mentors, in evaluations, are telling the alumni association they wished they’d had a chance when in school to meet graduates who are good at their social work jobs and, perhaps as important, feel fulfilled by them. “That can offer all kinds of hope and guidance,” Bellows said. In her view, mentoring keeps the best part of Smith’s training alive. And like the school itself, the relationships can be transformational, as students share the excitement of their pursuits with alumni.

The Origins and Future of the Mentoring Program

The drive to foster links between graduates and current students stems in part from a 2006 alumni survey. Bellows says that survey revealed that many graduates remain deeply interested in what’s happening at the School. They want to know what current students are learning. “Mentoring a student is one way to keep in touch and have a small role in influencing the next generation,” Bellows said.

Before the mentoring program expands, the association will wrestle with lots of questions. A new network of matchmakers like Seidler will have to be established in cities where mentors will work with students. The program may also have to consider relying more on phone and Internet contact between students and mentors when face-to-face meetings are impractical in more rural areas, Bellows notes.

Seidler acknowledges the need for mentoring is perhaps greater away from a city like Boston. And should the program grow into rural areas, the match-making itself will be harder. “It becomes more difficult to make good matches when you have fewer alumni available to be mentors,” Seidler said. “However, it’s more important to offer mentoring to students in these areas, since there tend to be fewer opportunities—and more of a need.”

Seidler says that from her experience in Boston, the work of linking students with mentors takes time initially. She puzzled through logistics, factoring in transportation, areas of special interest and work schedules. “I make a big chart and do the best I can,” she said. “Once the matches are made, it’s actually not that much work.”

“The biggest challenge in expanding it is that we’ll need to put more legs on the ground, so to speak,” Bellows said. “We’re really in place to expand it, if we can figure out how we want to set it up.” While the program is now limited to current students, especially those closest to graduation, Bellows said the association will likely consider expanding it to recent graduates as well, in order to help them make their way in their new profession.

The cost of it all? An occasional cup of coffee.
Smith College School for Social Work welcomes two new faculty members this year, both of whom bring a wealth of clinical social work practice and dynamic research interests that span disciplines.

Assistant Professor Annemarie Gockel, Ph.D., arrives at the School by way of a post-doctoral residency in California and will teach in the clinical practice sequence. A native of Ontario, she received her M.S.W. from the University of Toronto and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of British Columbia.

Gockel said she is looking forward to working with the School’s students and faculty, and collaborating with others in what she described as the “nexus of scholarly activity” that is the Five College area. The School’s strong emphasis on clinical practice appealed to her, she said.

“You try to be fully present with the client,” says Gockel, who practiced in the field for years before returning to academia. “It’s difficult to be present when you’re first learning to sit with somebody.”

How people draw on spirituality to address social and mental health problems is among Dr. Gockel’s primary research interests today. “More broadly, I’m interested in how clinicians work with their clients’ spirituality,” she said. “At its core, clinical social work is about how people make meaning in their lives under difficult circumstances.” Gockel says helping students develop an appreciation and understanding of how people derive meaning in the world is inspiring.

“I really enjoy the applied nature of what they’re learning,” she says. “They come in very motivated and it’s a very exciting kind of learning process.”

Also new to the faculty this year is Assistant Professor Hye-Kyung Kang, Ph.D., who arrived at the School for Social Work in July from Fordham University where she taught several policy courses at the Graduate School for Social Service.

Assistant Professor Annemarie Gockel

Assistant Professor Hye-Kyung Kang

Helping students learn the useful skills they need to be reflective practitioners will be among her top objectives. For Gockel, that means incorporating the concept of mindfulness in her teaching and classroom literature, or as she put it, understanding “what it is you do as you do it.” Mindfulness can help practitioners become better listeners and more effective communicators not only in a clinical setting, but also in their own lives, Gockel notes.

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Kang said the School’s anti-racism mission also impressed her. “I was compelled to teach clinical social work practice at a school that takes this education seriously and to be part of its continuous effort to innovate clinical social work practice,” Kang said.

Dr. Kang’s areas of interest are immigrant communities, cultural citizenship, and immigrant and refugee social and mental health. She is concerned with the interconnection between personal struggles, environmental problems, and societal oppression and inequalities.

Dr. Kang received an M.A. in psychology from Antioch University Seattle and her M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Before launching a full-time academic career, she practiced in a variety of fields for more than a decade, including community mental health, child and family services, domestic and sexual violence prevention/intervention, community organizing and anti-oppression education.

“My teaching and academic career really stem from my practice background,” Kang said. “From my experience, I have come to believe in social work practice that integrates multiple contexts. I emphasize the interconnection between private troubles and social problems.” For example, Kang said she fell into community organizing after recognizing how limiting her clinical work with domestic violence victims was because these victims were not getting the necessary support from their communities.

Her past community organizing experience has primarily involved Asian Pacific American communities in Seattle. “I realized that unless we helped create communities that stop blaming the victims, the work that we were trying to do during the therapy hour was not going to be very effective,” Kang said.

As she got into community organizing, Kang found that all kinds of contextual issues needed to be addressed to create a safer environment for victims. They included visa and green card issues for immigrant victims, treatment options for limited-English speaking offenders, and collaboration with religious leaders.

“Now I see all of these issues as part of clinical social work,” Kang said, noting that social work has multi-disciplinary roots, drawing on sociology and psychology, among other fields. “If you take the Person-in-Environment framework seriously, it is difficult to not look at all those narratives,” she said.

Kang said her focus on immigrants and refugees has much to do with her professional and personal experience. She is a first-generation immigrant and points out that immigrants tend to be one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. “The social work field has a long history of working with immigrants,” Kang said. “Immigrants, especially immigrants of color, occupy a very interesting space in our society.”

The Smith/Sanville collaboration was established and is generously funded by Jean Sanville who is a Smith graduate, a former adjunct faculty member at Smith College School for Social Work, and the founding dean of The Sanville Institute. The Institute was established in 1975 as The California Institute for Clinical Social Work. Because of Dr. Sanville’s deep love for both programs, she has sponsored a collaboration that began in 2006 with an exchange of faculties from each school during the summer session at Smith and the winter in-residence convocation of The Sanville Institute in Los Angeles.

During the school year of 2008-2009 the collaboration grew to include the exchange of three students from each school. In the summer, three Sanville students spent a week at Smith SSW attending seminars, having individual consultations with faculty members, and visiting with other students and presenting their work to the doctoral student body and faculty.

Just this past January, three Smith students went to Los Angeles for the winter convocation of The Sanville Institute for their portion of the exchange. The topic for the three days centered on adolescence and included lectures and presentations on “The Adolescent Brain,” “Suicide and Depression,” and “Adolescent treatment in a variety of settings: middle school, recovery, rape crisis, and college counseling center.” The students also sat in on a dissertation proposal seminar, and had individual and group consultations with Sanville faculty members. A student party and an Institute-wide party were also given in their honor. The weekend concluded with the special Jean Sanville Colloquium West, where papers integrating theory and practice were presented by one Smith and one Sanville student, followed by faculty discussion from the Sanville core faculty. Jean Sanville, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, was able to join the students for lunch prior to the colloquium and to hear the presentations as well.
The Joan Untermyer Erdmann Fund

More than 50 women have been able to enter the field of social work in mid-life thanks to a scholarship in the name of Joan Untermyer Erdmann, A.B. ’40. In her forties, Joan attended the Graduate School of Social Work at Columbia University and in time became the president of Youth House and secretary of the board of the Jewish Board of Guardians, both in New York City, before her death at the age of 50.

In 1978, to honor the memory of their mother on what would have been her 60th birthday, her children, A. John Erdmann III, Ann E. Carmel, Anthony Carl Erdmann, and Abigail B. Erdmann, A.B. ’69, established the Joan Untermyer Erdmann Fund to enable other women to pursue a satisfying career in social work in midlife. The fund was started with a commitment of $20,000 from the children. Over the years, the Erdmann family, close friends, previous scholarship recipients, and others who have appreciated the fund’s intentions have continued to add to the fund on an annual basis. Today, the fund’s principal value is significantly more than the initial investment, and it generates enough interest to provide generous scholarships to two students each year.

One recipient wrote years later: “When I went to Smith to become a social worker in 1981, [this] fund was there to make it possible for me. At that time, I was making $75 a week. Needless to say, I needed a scholarship to supplement the loans I took out. Thankfully, there was a fund for women in midlife returning to graduate school.” More recently, Nancy Begin, M.S.W. ’05, also an older student when she attended Smith, became aware of this fund. When asked what motivated her to support it, Begin stated, “Smith was a very special and amazing part of my life. Helping others to achieve their true passion at a similar point in their life journey was a great opportunity to pay forward the gift of a unique educational experience.”

To support the fund, send a check to Smith College School for Social Work, 103 Lilly Hall, Northampton, MA 01063, or go online to www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/giving.php. Be sure to name the Joan Untermyer Erdmann Fund to assure it is designated accordingly.

Houston Challenges Your CHANGE

2009 is definitely a year for change.

Following along with the theme, the Houston SSW alumni are challenging you to join in some friendly fun—all in an effort to support our students. From now until June 30, the Houston alumni will be saving their change (the change that usually goes in a jar at the end of the day) for the annual fund. They have laid down the gauntlet and are behind this fun challenge 100 percent. Come on! Join in!

You can participate in this challenge individually, geographically, by class, doctoral degree or any other affiliation you would like to create. If you are interested in becoming a CHANGE LEADER for a particular group, please contact Jeana Hayes-Carrier, Ph.D ’02, M.S.W. ’84 (jeanahc@mac.com or 703-869-2212) or Roxanne Pin at (rpin@smith.edu or 413-585-7964). Status updates and CHANGE Challenge submission forms can be found at www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/giving_swcc.php. Surely there must be other alumni willing to take on the Texans!

What bigger gift is there than the last one you make?

Please remember us in your will.

For recommended wording and advice on how to direct your gift to the School for Social Work, see www.smith.edu/ssw/bequestwording or call 413-585-7964.

If you have already identified the school in your will, we deeply thank you. We would be pleased to work with you to assure your philanthropic desires are met.
News from the Alumni Association Executive Committee

It has been a tremendous privilege and a pleasure to serve as board president these past three years. As the Executive Committee enthusiastically prepares for the June transition of leadership to our incoming President, Alice Chornesky, M.S.W. ’78, Ph.D. ’90, we are reflecting on the work that the board has undertaken, what has been accomplished, and the ongoing challenges that lie ahead.

Through introspection and a formal strategic planning process, the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association has developed a new Mission Statement and five strategic initiatives (see page 12). The Executive Committee of our Alumni Association has continued to develop and refine the work on these strategic initiatives over the fall and winter. The priority projects from the current work of the board center on improving our communication with our alumni constituents, as well as with students, and with the School. Below is an update on several of our projects that are intended to improve communications.

Facilitating Increased Communication with and between Alumni

(Initiative Leaders: Barbara Malcolm Krementz, M.S.W. ’01 and Chris Vaughan, Ph.D. ’06)

There are many ways to improve the communication and interconnectedness of the SCSSW community, both through the use of new technology and strategic and judicious use of mail, phone and event planning. As you will read below, the committee is working to evaluate new priorities and implement new systems for enhancing communication among our constituents: alumni, the dean, students, faculty, administrative staff and the College President. As we strive to fulfill this goal, we need your input. Please refer to the end of this article for the different ways you can easily contact us.

The 2009 Alumni Association ballot provided the opportunity to vote on an Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alumni Association. The proposed change will permit electronic voting to augment our current use of a paper ballot sent via postal mail. Electronic voting has many benefits, including preservation of paper resources, printing and postage cost savings, and hopefully increased alumni participation. At the time of publication, voting was not complete, but it is anticipated based on responses to date that this amendment will be approved.

Online Social Networking for Alumni

The SCSSW Alumni Association Executive Board is currently evaluating the College’s new online directory, which is available to all Smith alumnus/i including SSW. We are hopeful that this new tool will help with referrals and resource networking, as well as sharing and communicating the rich experiences of our alumni. As a body of professional graduates, we seek a networking program that allows us to tell each other about our interests and specialties pertaining to our vocation in detail.

We encourage you to visit this directory and get back to us with your feedback. Data was carried over from the legacy directory so if you had previously entered personal information regarding yourself and your practice, it was transferred to this new directory. There is also a feature that allows for profile synchronization with Facebook so that updates to Facebook will automatically map over to the Smith directory and be updated there as well. This feature is in testing at press time, but should be available around the time of publication. The more alumni who post and update their profiles the better we will be able to connect around like-minded needs. Discussion groups specific to SSW can be established as a venue for private communication and on-going conversations.

Recruiting, Marketing and Advocating for the School

(Initiative Leaders: Tony Ledesma, M.S.W. ’88, and Tanita Cox Teagle, M.S.W. ’99)

The Association’s five Regional Representatives serve to inform, educate, network and reach out to alumni in their region, often through the Placement Area Coordinators (PACs). PACs serve as a liaison between current students, alumni and the School during the placement period. Typically, they provide connections with local alumni and encourage alumni to reach out to students in a mentoring role. We propose to continue the PAC position with the primary role of supporting current students while in placement. However, in order to enhance the connection that alumni have with each other and with the School, we are working on a proposal to create Alumni Area Coordinators (AACs.) The intent is to better serve active and retired alumni within their geographic locale by facilitating a direct connection with the School.

It is envisioned that AACs will: facilitate networking on all levels, help organize local alumni activities and professional development continuing education events, help coordinate alumni mentors in areas where there are students who desire a mentor, and help respond to requests from other alumni for local advice and/or therapy referrals. Another of the proposed roles of an AAC is to work with the Office of Admissions in recruiting and marketing for the School. For example, an AAC could facilitate a meeting over coffee with a couple of alumni and a prospective student so that questions and concerns about enrolling in either the Master or Doctoral program can be addressed. We also envision AACs to be a conduit between alumni and the School sharing information, feedback and concerns in both directions. If you are interested in serving as a liaison to other alumni in this capacity, please contact Tony and/or Tanita.

Alumni Panel with Students

(Board leader: Tanita Cox Teagle, M.S.W. ’99)

The Executive Committee is working with key members of the student leadership organizations to provide a meaningful presentation to students while on campus this summer. Two events at the 90th Anniversary Celebration last summer underscored the desire of students to be in contact with alumni, particularly as they approach graduation. Students have expressed an on-going interest in networking with alumni around career development, job advice, and other employment
related matters. An on-campus, interactive event with alumni and students is in the planning process. Contact Tanita if you would like to be involved.

**Fundraising**

*Initiative Leader: Joana Hayes-Carrier, M.S.W. ’84, Ph.D. ’03*

A key mission of the Alumni Association is to increase fundraising for student scholarship. In an effort to enhance and reinvigorate our work around this significant endeavor, a sub-committee of the Executive Committee was formed in November 2008. This committee was charged with brainstorming new and different ways of achieving our current goals. I want to extend a huge expression of appreciation to the board members who volunteered to help with this effort. The members were: Clara Genetos, M.S.S. ’54, Elaine Koenigsberg, M.S.S. ’59, Barbara Krementz, M.S.W. ’01, and Ashley Varner, M.S.W., ’09. We were especially fortunate to have Morgan Varner, III, J.D., a gentleman with extraordinary college advancement experience, graciously volunteer his time and expertise to help us clarify and redefine our specific goals and identify means of achieving these goals.

**Other News**

**Alumni of Color Standing Committee:**

A continued thank you to our ACSC Chair, Sujin Lee, M.S.W. ’04, for the outstanding work she has done over the past year in revitalizing the mentoring program for students of color. More than 30 students have been paired with mentors, thanks to Sujin and her hard-working committee!

A new endeavor, the ACSC planned a Community of Color event in the San Francisco Bay Area where current students, alumni and prospective students were invited to attend. This is the first time an event of this type has happened. For more information and pictures, please visit the ACSC at: www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/sswaacoming.php

**Alumni-Student Mentorship Programs:**

For an update on this program see the article on page 5.

**Changes to Board Membership:**

Two people holding elected positions will fulfill their terms this June; at the time this article went to press, the election results for their replacements were not final. Final results of the elections will be announced in InBrief, the electronic newsletter and also on-line at: www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/ssw_exec-comm-members.php

**Barbara Malcolm Krementz, M.S.W. ’01; Nominations Committee Chair**

Barbara has done an extraordinary job, not only in her titled role with finding excellent candidates to serve on the board, but also in the creative leadership she has shown during our recent board transformation. As her term ends, Barbara is noted for competently promoting changes to our nominations and voting procedures, and for leading the Communications Initiative to advance our raison d’etre, namely to serve alumni, by connecting them with each other and the School community.

**Dr. Tony Ledesma, M.S.W. ’88; Region V Representative**

In addition to serving as the alumni representative for the largest geographic region, Tony’s contributions include his wisdom in the workings of academic organizations, his calm and steady leadership during our strategic planning implementation, and his leadership with proposed changes in how we can better serve alumni and the School with recruiting, marketing, and advocating. His talents and dedicated service have been greatly appreciated.

**Dimitra Gianacopolous, M.S.W. ’99; Vice-President**

We were saddened by the need for Dimitra to resign from her position last October. Greatly appreciated are the many hours (and hours) of her work with the School to make our 90th Anniversary Celebration so memorable.

**Tanita (Cox) Teagle, M.S.W. ’99; Vice-President**

Through executive appointment, Tanita assumed the responsibilities of this position following Dimitra’s resignation. Tanita received the Alumni Association’s first Alumni Volunteer Award during the School’s 90th Anniversary celebration last July. This award recognizes an alumna/us who has rendered distinguished volunteer service to the Association, to current students, and/or to the School. When asked to take on the role of Vice-President, Tanita, in typical fashion, did not hesitate. Her past experience on the board serving as ACSC Chair is particularly valuable as she assumes active leadership.

**Meet the New President, Alice Chornesky, M.S.W. ’78, Ph.D. ’90**

“In the past year I have been busy learning my way around an active and creative alumni association. I am honored to be part of. I value and support the unique strengths that the board members bring to the association. The strategic planning priorities outlined at the start of this newsletter address my hopes and expectations for the very near future: increased, meaningful participation of current alumni; ongoing, timely dissemination of firsthand knowledge of the school’s curriculum and current events; the development of a user-friendly alumni internet data base; new avenues to assist fund development and promotion of mentorship programs (a fabulous idea!) that provide guidance for a lifetime. Many thanks and much appreciation to Karen Bellows for her strong leadership.”

**Transition of Leadership**

Recognizing that we have an unusual transition of leadership this year, with both a new President and new Vice-President, we have been working to plan
and facilitate a smooth transition. I am confident that the exciting work of the board will continue, because of the talented and devoted individuals who will continue to serve on the board and because of the extraordinary support the Alumni Association receives from the Office of the Dean and from the Alumni Affairs Office. I encourage all alumni to become involved with our Alumni Association in whatever ways you are able to do so. We are a crucial link in what has for so many generations of clinical social workers made the “Smith experience” a transformative one—both for ourselves, and for those we serve. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the SCSSW Alumni Board.

Karen Bellows, Ph.D. ’99
President, SCSSW Alumni Executive Committee

Strategic Planning Priorities
1. Define and operationalize new strategies for effective bidirectional communication with our constituents/stakeholders: alumni, the Dean, students, faculty, administrative staffs and the College President;
2. Develop a new plan/strategy for the Executive Committee to assist with fund development for the school;
3. Develop mechanisms to obtain and utilize data for evidence-based Board work and our communications with constituents;
4. Improve avenues for enhanced communication between constituents, using the Internet, social networking, telephone and mail; and
5. Enhance alumni participation in recruitment for new students, involvement in mentorship programs, career building support for students, and alumni feedback to the School about the current curriculum.

Please contact us!
We want to hear your suggestions, feedback, concerns and ideas. Here’s how to contact us:
1. All board members:
   www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/sswaa_exec.php;

1. Send an email directly to the Board at
   scsswalumniboard@yahoo.com.

2. Don’t have a computer? Call the Alumni Affairs Office at
   413-585-4290
Kathryn Basham continues her research, teaching, and practice interests in addressing the issues of service members and their families as they reunite following tours of duty in a combat zone. In February, Dr. Basham was appointed to a second Congressionally mandated committee sponsored by the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies of Science. The charge for this interdisciplinary group is to explore the expected educational credentials and experience required for clinicians to assess and treat returning veterans and their families.

Findings and recommendations will subsequently be shared with the Congressional committee that oversees TRICARE (the military health program designed to coordinate health care between the military and civilian systems) mental health services for service members and their families.

Dr. Basham has consulted on practice approaches with post-deployment couples and families grounded in a synthesis of attachment, trauma, family and social theories in various settings. For example, she was invited to present the Annual Edith Harris Memorial Lecture at Wayne State University on “Coming Home: Refuge or the New Combat Zone?” and a day-long workshop at the University of Georgia (Athens) Alumni and Department of Social Work. Plans are underway for her to also present this workshop with the Department of Social Work at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

In January, Dr. Basham was the invited guest of the Canadian Forces Department of Military Social Work, consulting with 95 military clinicians at their annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba on couple/family practice during post-deployment. At the American Association of Psychoanalytic Clinical Social Workers (AAPCSW) in February, Dr. Basham presented three papers: “Homecoming as safe haven or the new front: Attachment and detachment among military couples;” “Writing for publication;” and “Diversity and clinical social work: An infusion teaching model.”

Writing projects have also included editing a special double issue of the *Smith College Studies in Social Work* in her role as its editor. This issue is devoted to the proceedings of the conference held last summer titled “Combat Stress: Facing the Challenges, Preparing for the Return.” The text includes papers from plenary speakers, workshop presenters and panel consultants on a broad range of topics related to the mental health adjustments experienced by service members and their families. Voices of OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom), OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom), Vietnam Veterans and their families are also represented through the Veterans Education Project in Amherst, and paintings from the “100 Faces of War” project created by Matt Mitchell are included as well.

Dr. Basham is actively engaged with Dr. Jean LaTerz with a pilot research project (Post-Deployment Transition Project) that explores the effectiveness of a couple therapy intervention aimed to promote re-connections and affect regulation, reduce stress and strengthen understanding. Anthony Hill, Associate Director of Field and Dr. Basham are immersed in their second year of an innovative case-based telephonic seminar with our M.S.W. students placed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the VA Medical Centers. After drawing from their pre- and post-test evaluations and commentaries from the group, an academic paper will emerge. Finally, in her role as Co-Director of the Doctoral Program and liaison with the Sanville Institute in California (see story, page 8), Dr. Basham looks forward to an ongoing dynamic collaboration between the doctoral students from both programs during this upcoming 2009 SCSSW summer and Convocation in 2010 in Los Angeles.

Joan Berzoff stepped down as co-director of the Doctoral Program at the end of the summer of 2008. She now directs the End of Life Certificate Program (see story, page 3). This year she has been working on developing an interdisciplinary end of life program with Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts that will include doctors, nurses, chaplains and social workers. Dr. Berzoff is also continuing to do research with palliative care physicians at Baystate Medical Center, Mt. Sinai Hospital, and Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York, where she and her co-investigators are studying the effects on renal patients and their families of learning their prognoses.

Dr. Berzoff has been on sabbatical since September 2008 and has begun work on her new book on psychodynamically informed social care with oppressed, vulnerable and at risk populations. Because her husband, Lew Cohen, won both a Rockefeller Grant and a Guggenheim Award to finish his book on doctors and nurses accused of murder for providing palliative care, Dr. Berzoff was
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able to write her new book proposal in Bellagio, Italy where they lived for a month with artists, writers, scholars and activists from all over the world. Securing a book contract with Columbia University Press, she began writing the book in the Caribbean where she and her husband both worked on their books. Her book will be published by Columbia University Press and is slated for completion by March 2010. It is an edited book looking at practice with those discriminated against or stigmatized on the basis of race, class, sexual orientation, ability, homelessness, chronic mental illness, and religion. It will also look at practice with vulnerable populations in schools, residential treatment for post incarcerated women, with children who have been institutionalized, adults in prison, victims of genocide and in child welfare settings.

Before the summer, Dr. Berzoff published two papers. The first (2008) was entitled, “Working at the end of life: Providing relationally based end-of-life care,” which appeared in the Clinical Social Work Journal, 36(2), 177-185. The second (2008), co-authored with doctoral graduate Dr. Efi Kokaliari, was entitled, “Non-suicidal self injury among non-clinical college women,” and was published in Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, 27(3), 259-270. Dr. Berzoff has also given a number of presentations. She presented twice at the American Association of Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work in New York City. Her first presentation with Joel Kanter debated the topic, “Compassion fatigue and countertransference: New wine in old bottles?,” in which she argued the importance of compassion fatigue in trauma work and work with the dying. Her second invited presentation was on “The transformative nature of grief and bereavement.” Dr. Berzoff presented similar content at the Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, at the Yale Lawn Club in New Haven, Connecticut, as well as in the capacity of Distinguished Speaker at the Salem State School for Social Work Alumni Association, Salem, Massachusetts.

Over the summer, Dr. Berzoff coordinated an exchange with the Sanville Institute of California, where three students from the Sanville Institute came to Smith, received consultation from Smith faculty, and presented their work. In addition, a Smith doctoral student presented her clinical work in a colloquium held for both programs. Additionally, Greg Bellow from the Sanville Institute taught Practice II in the doctoral program, and two Smith doctoral students presented their work at the Sanville Institute in Los Angeles, in January.

Late last fall David Burton presented with Smith undergraduate Rosa Town on a meta analysis of trauma rates for juvenile sexual abusers at the annual Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) conference in Atlanta. Dr. Burton was also asked by the ATSA conference committee to work with Dr. Stephen Bengis on presenting a specialized treatment conference track (of 12 hours) on therapy with adolescent sexual abusers for the second year in a row. Dr. Burton has been working with state agencies in Delaware and Ohio on both treatment and research projects. Dr. Burton will be collecting data in those states on sexual abuser’s trauma, personality, criminality, family life, spiritual life and many other characteristics to help redesign treatment programs in both states. The Ohio Project
is funded, in part, by the Smith College School for Social Work Clinical Research Institute. Dr. Burton is also providing clinical training via teleconference and a few in person visits to probation, parole, mental health and related service providers in the state of Delaware.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Burton has been working with the John Joseph Peter’s Institute (JJPI) (www.jjp.org) to develop a research collaboration using their extensive clinical databases. Funding is being sought for data entry and analysis at this time. In addition, JJPI has offered a stipend opportunity for second-year students to be placed at JJPI and work in the research collaborative with Dr. Burton for their thesis projects next year. In Massachusetts, Dr. Burton has been collaborating with the state’s Department of Youth Services on developing further training on delinquency and sexual abusers across the state in addition to some recent serious case evaluations.

Joanne Corbin is privileged to continue her work exploring the experiences of children and families living in the conflict-affected area of Northern Uganda. She returned in February from that country where she worked with Ugandan colleagues to deliver the third year of training for psychosocial support providers. This training provides content in psychosocial knowledge and skills to local service providers, and supports them to work in smaller groups to deliver this training to local providers in Internally Displaced Persons’ camps. During this recent trip, Dr. Corbin also learned of the challenges that families are experiencing as they begin to leave the camps and move to their homes of origin for the first time in 20 years. The challenges that families face as they return home include the breakdown of traditional norms and agreements, discovery of land devastated by war, lack of education or medical facilities, and alcohol abuse. In February she also presented “Returning to normal in Northern Uganda: A qualitative study of individuals’ experiences to return home after armed conflict,” for the Interdisciplinary Seminar on Conflict and Violence, sponsored by the Psychology of Peace and Violence Concentration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Corbin recently co-authored an article with Dr. Josh Miller using the conceptual framework of collaboration to explore the psychosocial model as an intervention. The article, “Collaborative psychosocial capacity building in northern Uganda,” has been published in January–March 2009 edition of Families in Society, 90(1), 102-109. Dr. Corbin made two presentations at last year’s Council on Social Work Education Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in October; “Psychosocial capacity building in northern Uganda” and “A content analysis of concentration level M.S.W. research syllabi,” (co-presented with Dr. Jean LaTerz). This research on the research syllabi indicates that most schools of social work that responded to the survey have master’s social work students conduct original research as part of their master’s experience.

Dr. Miehls also had a sole-authored publication on supervi- support recently accepted by The Clinical Supervisor Journal entitled “Contemporary trends in supervision theory: A shift from parallel process to relational and trauma theory,” Dr. Miehls has presented this paper in various venues, including a summer lecture at Smith and to the Field Advisors of Smith’s Masters Program. Dr. Miehls has also been invited to contribute chapters to three texts and each of these chapters will be forthcoming over the next few months. First, he is completing a chapter on PTSD that will appear in a new text, Mental Health and Social Problems: A Social Work Perspective, edited by Nina Heller and Alex Gitterman. Second, he has been invited to contribute a chapter on “Neurobiology and Social Work” to the revised text, Theory and Practice in Clinical Social Work, edited by Jerry Brandell. Finally, Dr. Miehls will complete a chapter on “Relational Theory,” which will be a new
chapter in Frank Turner’s 5th edition of *Social Work Treatment: Interlocking Theoretical Approaches*.

In the fall of 2008, Dr. Miehls was invited to be an external reviewer consultant (with Marion Bogo, School of Social Work of the University of Toronto) for the social work discipline at the Center for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Ontario. CAMH is the largest addiction and mental health treatment center in Canada and the review process was initiated to examine how the social work discipline is faring in this large multi-disciplinary teaching center. Dr. Miehls and Dr. Bogo spent almost three days conducting focus groups with a variety of constituents at the Center and the report was completed in December 2008.

Josh Miller has been busy with disaster response and anti-racism work since the end of the summer. In September, Dr. Miller went to Denver where he conducted two days of anti-racism training at Aurora Mental Health Center with managers and clinicians. He also ran a one-day continuing education course at Boston University about responding to disasters.

In October, he and Ann Marie Garran presented a workshop on teaching about racism at the Institute for the Study of Race and Culture’s annual conference, where he also ran a workshop about psychosocial capacity building. He and Dr. Garran have written a chapter about racism and social work for the forthcoming edition of the *Social Workers Desk Reference*. Dr. Miller also presented a paper about psychosocial capacity building at the annual conference of the Council for Social Work Education in Philadelphia.

Dr. Miller is currently writing a book about psychosocial capacity building and is co-editing a book on the Wenchuan earthquake with his University of Hong Kong colleague Cecilia Chan. Other writing projects include articles about psychosocial capacity building projects established for construction workers assigned to “Ground Zero” after September 11 with colleagues from Cornell University (and with the research assistance of student Kay Naito). He, Assistant Professor Yoosun Park and student Bao Chau Van are continuing their work about Vietnamese families who are recovering from Hurricane Katrina. He also has been working with student Mareike Muszinski on an antiracism training for social service providers in Western Massachusetts.

Yoosun Park published several articles in 2008, including two historical analyses that examine the role of social workers in the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans (Social Service Review) and the construction of “refugee” in the discourse of U.S. social work (The British Journal of Social Work). Her current historical projects include the archival tracing of social workers in the War Relocation Authority during World War II, and the role of exoticism in the construction of refugees and immigrants in 20th century U.S. social work discourse. As part of an on-going multi-disciplinary research project on immigrant populations in urban settings, Dr. Park has published two applied research papers focused on the examination of the concept of acculturation. This NIH-funded project will continue until 2010. She has also recently completed data collection on a national survey of social work practitioners’ views on immigration and immigrants and is currently conducting the analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data.

After campaigning for Barack Obama in Philadelphia and visiting his students in Seattle, Dr. Miller went to China where he was the keynote speaker at conferences in Sichuan Province and Hong Kong on the six-month anniversary of the Wenchuan earthquake. He also worked with Chinese colleagues to prepare funding proposals to establish psychosocial capacity building centers in villages affected by the earthquake and in temporary housing settlements. As a result of this work he was appointed as an Honorary Professor at Beijing Normal University, where he hopes to teach a course on psychosocial responses to disasters next fall.
CLASS OF 1944
Deborah Cantor Glasser writes, “What sort of momentous event could an 87-year-old alumna report? I’ve been retired from the Greater Lawrence Mental Health Center for over 25 years. I spend several months in Florida in the winter. When here, I attend monthly meetings of the Smith Club of the Palm Beaches and served as program chairman for four years and now as membership chair. In addition, I try to get to professional conferences when possible and am taking several adult education courses at FAU. I’m lucky to be well enough to travel to California to visit my sons and to Italy to visit one of them when he is there working on a book. When I am not in Florida I spend my days on Martha’s Vineyard, a more ‘laid back’ life than Florida except for a couple of months in summer.”

CLASS OF 1953
Sylvia A. Stevens writes, “2008 was a banner year for me. I officially retired from my private fiduciary business. Also I received a ‘wet suit’ for my 80th birthday so I could go snorkeling in Tonga to see the Antarctic whales. Except for losing our wonderful Governor Janet Napolitano, all is well in Arizona.”

CLASS OF 1954
Aline Bier writes, “Ah Yes! A group of the Class of ’54 attended the festivities at Smith this past summer. Roxanne Pin was kind (or cruel) enough to take pictures of us. One classmate, known as Ann Hartman, opened a Sunday morning free-for-all in the library with an invitation for attendees to speak, with the words, ‘Don’t spoil a good story for the sake of the truth.’ Now! Is that kosher talk for an honorable citizen and former Dean of the School? Well, it worked! Some of the remarks...in particular one alumna’s account of confusing Annette Garrett with a clerical person...had the attendees rolling in the aisles.

CLASS OF 1956
Nancy Boyd Webb writes, “It’s been wonderful to be in Florida for January and February where I always do a lot of writing. I am looking forward to seeing my newest book in print sometime this fall. It is titled Helping Children and Adolescents with Chronic and Serious Medical Conditions: A Strengths-based Approach. I learned a lot working on this edited volume, which includes chapters from authors from a variety of disciplines, including a physician, Joan Lovett; a child life specialist, Deb Villas; a minister, Paul Thayer; several nurses, social workers, psychologists, etc. Now I’m turning my attention to the third edition of Helping Bereaved Children. My ‘retirement’ since September has been busier than ever.”

CLASS OF 1958
Jan Clark Jekel writes, “Greetings, fellow Smith SSW Alums! Having married on August 30, 1958 (three days after Smith SSW graduation), Jim and I celebrated 50 years of marriage with friends and family last year. All four children and their families (including eight grandchildren) visited us during our time on Cape Cod this summer, presenting a beautiful family photo, and a ‘This is Your Life’ book, filled with pictures and memories. Jim is
mostly retired from his work in epidemiology, public health, biostatistics and preventive medicine. For more on these subjects, look for any edition of his excellent textbook We have lived in the New Haven, Connecticut area since 1967, and plan to relocate to Camp Hill, Pennsylvania (near Harrisburg - near family) in November later this year. I retired from social work (most recently working with elderly in a retirement community) in 1997, allowing more time for family, church, friends and music. I have found the social work experience and perspective extremely valuable in working with my chamber music and orchestral groups, and in fact, in all areas of life. I am ever appreciative of the excellent experience at Smith. Our family is thankful for the blessing of good health.”

CLASS OF 1964
Phyllis Wainman Tatum writes, “After two private practices in two different locales in British Columbia and working for two different small community agencies, I began e-counseling this fall for Shepellfgi’s Employee Assistance Program. Shepellfgi, with its headquarters in Toronto, is the world’s leader in offering clients the choice of counseling over the Internet in addition to face to face and telephone options. I find myself quite adept at connecting with clients this way and enjoy being wise, caring, and empowering to clients who live all over Canada as I sit in front of my computer in my home in the West Kootenays.”

CLASS OF 1970
Judy Cressy Crosley writes, “I retired in June 2008 after 38 years in the field (the last 15 years working with trauma victims.) My husband, Carl, continues to work at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York and plans to retire in a couple of years. We are blessed with two grandchildren, Grace, 2, and Emma, born on Dec. 15, 2008; both the children of our eldest daughter, Catherine, and her husband Paul. Our youngest daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Justin, are living in Nicaragua for a few years. She is working on becoming bilingual and works as a rental agent while her husband sells real estate. In addition, she does projects with various foundations including helping out at medical clinics and participating in developing a women’s enrichment center. In my ‘spare time’ I enjoy spending time quilting, which is a new venture for me.”

CLASS OF 1971
Amy C. Barkin writes, “I retired June 30, 2008 as a Captain (06 officer) from the United States Public Health Service after 30 years of service to the nation. I had a full retirement ceremony, with all the military protocol, recognitions, presentation of awards, military medals, and honors, and ‘pomp and circumstance.’ The memories of this part of my professional career will be with me for years to come. In July I spent a wonderful week with my mom, Class of ’33 (SC) and ’35 (SCSSW) at the 90th Anniversary of the School where I participated on the panel ‘Alternative Careers for Social Workers in Business and Government Sectors’ with a fellow classmate, George Anderson. It was good to be back at the School and reconnect with George after 37 years and see other ‘Smithies.’ In this next phase of my life my husband and I are traveling, I am taking courses, and I am now a part-time ‘independent contractor’ in the Washington, D.C. area working with governmental, public and private sector organizations. And over the Christmas holiday I visited with fellow classmate Diane (Diti) Gordon.”

CLASS OF 1973
Kristine Roop Lima, also known as Kristine Champagne, writes, “After living in the Boston area since graduation, I moved to Seattle in May, so that my husband,
Gerry Champagne, could work with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. I loved my private practice in Cambridge that I built up over many years, so I’ll start one here. I will be opening an office in downtown Seattle in January. The Northwest is beautiful, but there’s no place like home. I wonder if any of you classmates are out here, too?

CLASS OF 1980
Pam Raab continues to enjoy practicing in Greenwich Village, seeing individuals and couples and doing clinical supervision. Daughter Emma is now a successfully launched freshman at USC, majoring in psychology. Son Noah will start high school in the autumn.

CLASS OF 1984
Cathy Codispoti-Mullins sends a big hello to all her friends and writes, “I’m currently living in Apex, North Carolina, which is just outside of Raleigh. My husband, Bill, and I have two beautiful daughters. Sarah is 15 years old and a high school freshman. Rachel, 18, is a senior. Rachel will attend the University of North Carolina - Greensboro in the fall of 2009. I’m currently working in education and I’m beginning the search to get back into the mental health field. I would love to hear from classmates! My e-mail is cathymullins@nc.rr.com.”

CLASS OF 1988
Tony Ledesma writes, “This academic year marks my 21st year teaching as a full-time college professor. I am living my dream. The greatest reward in life for me after the therapist-client therapeutic interaction is teaching people how to help other people address their psychological challenges. The sign that reads ‘People Working’ is better termed ‘People Helping People.’

This year also completes the last year of a three-year term serving on the Smith College School for Social Work Alumni Association Board as Region V Representative. It has been a joy to serve with other alumni in this capacity as we assist current students and serve Smith alumni in our schools 91st year of educating leaders in the social work profession. I encourage all alumni to get involved and most of all to financially contribute at whatever level possible. No matter what dollar amount you give, you are helping a student accomplish her or his educational goal and completing an essential step on their way to fulfilling their dream.”

Linda Plaut writes, “My husband and I, along with another couple, did a 19-day trek in Nepal in the fall of 2008, climbing to 17,500 feet, where we had a 360-degree view that included Everest and several other peaks over 8,000 meters. Our fifth grandchild was born this past March. I’mgradually moving toward retirement, but am still very active with the Denver Psychoanalytic Society.”

CLASS OF 1991
Miriam Berkman, writes, “Life is good for me here in New Haven. I am still working at the Yale Child Study Center in the Trauma Studies Section. After 17 years, it is still difficult but rewarding to be working with children and families affected by violence, abuse and other traumatic events. Two years ago I reduced my Yale hours and opened a half-time private practice in New Haven. At this point in my life, it is nice to be more autonomous in my work and energizing to see a more varied group of adult and child patients. My daughter, Julia, is soon to start high school and my husband, Brett, is still my best friend and support.”

CLASS OF 1992
Annie Weiss, L.I.C.S.W. is practicing in Cambridge and Newton, Massachusetts. She teaches at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and at Boston College. Her younger daughter, Eliza, currently attends fourth grade with Heather Ayaress, (M.S.W. ’92) daughter!

CLASS OF 1995
Daniel Beck, L.I.C.S.W. has been conducting a series of trainings on CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) for the staff of Entre Familia, a residential treatment program in Boston for women with substance use issues. He also teaches an ongoing CBT seminar for psychiatry residents at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.
Cindy (Thomas) Smrcka writes, “News?? Well, I live in the same house, in the same town, have the same family and the same job as I have for the past eight years or more. I do have a new dog, maybe that counts. I still love being a social worker and I am enjoying new challenges at work. I have new respect for my previous supervisors now that I supervise a team of nine clinicians and master’s level students. Supervising master’s level students is probably my favorite part of my job. I hope all are well and I enjoy hearing from several classmates on Facebook. Here’s to a fabulous 2009 with new national leadership and a focus on the individual and collective worth of people!”

CLASS OF 1996

Pamela Morehouse writes, “I am currently living in Lee, Massachusetts, and working at Berkshire Medical Center on the intensive care inpatient psychiatric unit. David and I are enjoying our new home, our new golden retriever, Jesse, and our almost six-year-old daughter, Asa Frances Stone. I would love to hear from classmates at pj.simmer@gmail.com.”

CLASS OF 2000

Astraea Bella Davidson, A.C.S.W. writes, “I’m still doing psychotherapy, and can happily say that my appreciation for the work has only deepened. As I grow, and learn ever more profound ways of working, my excitement is buoyed and compassion deepened. My commitment to social change continues and I love being involved in this election - hooray for all of us! I just got married (wow!) this October to my queer lover of five years, and am still marveling at how rooted I now feel - it’s a great feeling. This year I took up singing lessons and choir, and they have become my second love. I’m looking forward to a year of success with work, lots of singing, spiritual study, adventures in the wilderness, and fun and frolicking in the city with my lover and friends. I completely welcome hearing from past friends from Smith at astraeadavidson@yahoo.com.”

Kathleen Moore, L.I.S.W. writes, “I’m working in downtown Albuquerque at a small progressive charter school, Amy Biehl High School. It’s a great combination of some clinical work and general school social work. I’m also doing a little side practice in the area of adoption home studies. Albuquerque is a great city and the community is wonderful. Please email me if you are ever in the southwest at kmmoore1@juno.com.”

CLASS OF 2001

Angela (Snyder) Rowan and J. Michael (Nissen) Rowan announce the birth of their second child, Rose Angelica, on August 1, 2008. She joins her big brother Riley in their growing family. Angela is currently working as a clinician at ServiceNet and in private practice. Michael has just started a new position as Family Stabilization Team Director for ServiceNet this January. They live in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Hilary Viens, L.G.S.W. writes, “I have lived in Washington, D.C. for the past two years and currently work as the Director of Programs and Operations for a non-profit agency that works on the creation and expansion of programs that address the health, socioeconomic, environmental and systemic challenges facing the African American community. We are focused on eliminating health and economic disparities, with an emphasis on HIV-related programs. I am interested in any networking opportunities in the D.C. area and am looking for somewhere to do some part-time outpatient therapy.”

Anne H. Webb, L.C.S.W. writes, “After working in Therapeutic Foster Care for several years in New Haven, I have opened a private practice in Old Wethersfield, Connecticut. I primarily see children and adolescents, including some sibling and family work. I work largely through play therapy and Kalffian Sandplay Therapy, with regular travel to Colorado for specialized workshops and supervision. Children in foster care and adoptive families continue to be one of my particular interests. I have stayed in touch with my first supervisor, Kathleen Boudreau (Clifford Beers Child and Family Guidance Clinic – New Haven), and she has continued to be a wonderful supervisor, colleague, and friend. I also returned to Smith in 2002 for the certification course in Clinical Applications with Children and Adolescents and found it an excellent follow-up to the general M.S.W. program. On a personal note, I now have three grandchildren and a son being married in May. Life after 60 is a joy.”

CLASS OF 2002

Jenna Balsavage, writes, “In December of 2007 I received my L.C.S.W. and became the Program Manager of the Adult Full Service Partnership (FSP) program through San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc. The FSP program was started in January of 2007 with funds from Proposition 63, which passed in California several years prior, which expands mental health services for the ‘unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served.’ The program that I run specifically targets adults ages 26-59, and provides field-based, intensive case management services to adults with severe mental illnesses who have multiple episodes of either psychiatric hospital-
izations, incarcerations, periods of homelessness, or those who live with their families and have not received mental health services for lack of resources. I supervise a multi-disciplinary staff of twenty which includes case managers, clinicians, nurses, psychiatrists, and outreach workers who all contribute to the overall care and treatment of our 143 clients. Although intense and never without a crisis, the program has been successful in moving lives forward, and exemplifies the true spirit of social work.”

Laurel Feigley would like to announce the birth of her daughter, Isla, in August. She is happily juggling the demands of mothering and a few hours of private practice in Princeton, New Jersey.

Nancy Howland, L.M.S.W., writes, “I have been employed since graduation at Northeast Parent and Child Society; founded in 1898 and still going strong. I am doing individual therapy with children in foster care and doing some training with therapeutic foster parents as well. Currently I am finishing a Post Partum Doula licensure to serve families in the Saratoga, Glens Falls, and Lake George, New York communities. My new husband, Carl Bennette, and I enjoy kayaking and spending time in our 1863 farmhouse in the Adirondacks. Life is good!”

Rachel Hulstein-Lowe writes, “Since graduating from Smith, life has taken some interesting turns. After getting married in June 2003 and working for East Bay Community Recovery Project in Oakland, California as a case manager and lead therapist for a treatment program for HIV-positive mothers, my husband and I decided to relocate to London, England in 2005. We’ve been in London nearly four years now! I developed a new program for London Borough of Hounslow’s child and family services, providing individual and family therapy to teens in the care system and their foster parents. I am proud of my achievements, particularly having accomplished my goals within a culture that does not recognize clinical social work as a respected and known profession. I left my post in September 2008 to be a full-time mother to our one-year-old daughter, Nina, but very much look forward to resuming

Remembering The City That Care Forgot

by Mike Ellis, ’98

New Orleans is sometimes called The City that Care Forgot. Visitors are invited to leave their troubles behind while enjoying this extraordinary place of delicious music, food, and culture. Since Hurricane Katrina, however, a more accurate nickname might be the City That We Forgot to Care For.

Listening to people in post-Katrina New Orleans, one thing I hear repeatedly is that they feel abandoned by those in power. They feel that they have been left to fend for themselves, move out of the city, or die. The heartache around that experience is as thick and oppressive as the humidity that dominates the city every summer. The nightmare continues, more than three years later, as once-thriving neighborhoods remain empty and blighted, rents soar, and federal aid to homeowners continues to be wrapped tightly in seemingly insurmountable red tape.

Bearing witness to this Ground Zero of institutionalized neglect and oppression has moved me to take action. In 2006, in response to my outrage and love for my newfound friends in New Orleans, I helped found a grassroots organization in Ithaca, New York, called Love Knows No Bounds (www.renew-orleans.org). LKNB was formed to counter the narrative that, depending on one’s race and socioeconomic status, some New Orleansians’ lives and well-being are expendable.

We work to keep the New Orleans recovery in people’s consciousness. We serve from an empowerment model, following the lead of our friends in New Orleans, who know best what they need in their recovery process. Our community has responded by sending more than 20 work teams to rebuild homes, at no cost to the homeowners, delivering ten tractor-trailers filled with furniture, home appliances, and other needed items, raising more than $100,000 in donations, sending teams of social workers and social work students to provide counseling and case management services, helping to bring nearly 100 Katrina survivors to nearby Thunder Mountain Retreat Center for healing and rejuvenation, and most importantly, building lasting relationships based on mutual respect and care.

Various groups working together on behalf of this partnership have strengthened our community as well. We have formed alliances and friendships with people we might not have met otherwise. Our youth, in particular, have seen their ability to make a positive contribution.

Any community can do what we are doing, and more. Social workers can play a vital role in organizing the talents and resources in our respective communities and finding ways to share those gifts with our neighbors in New Orleans. As insiders, we can help people navigate the systems that are supposed to be serving them, not keeping them running in circles. This is a great opportunity to flex our Smith-trained, anti-oppression muscles in creative and immediately helpful ways! Not only can we make a big impact by sharing our talents and stretching beyond our comfort zones, New Orleansians are counting on us to do just that.

Contact: Mike Ellis, (607) 239-7247, mel-lis@icsd.k12.ny.us, or www.renew-orleans.org
my career when we return to the U.S.A. later this year. Best wishes to all in the class of 2002!

Suet Lam (Peggy) writes, "I moved from Phoenix, Arizona to Boston, Massachusetts in April 2008 and currently work at Tufts Medical Center outpatient psychiatry as a clinical social worker."

CLASS OF 2003

Janah Boccio writes, "I have never written in, but am excited to announce that I have finally received my L.C.S.W. in the state of New York. After the state changed requirements mid-way through my application process, I had to re-submit information and track down an un-cooperative supervisor and I feel so relieved to finally be done. I currently work full-time as the Middle School Social Worker at the Churchill School in New York City, a K-12 school for students with learning disabilities. I also have a part-time private practice focusing on identity, self-esteem and GLBTQ clients. You can publish my email if fellow Smith classmates are interested in contacting me: j_boccio@hotmail.com."

Suzanne Fix (Suzanne Rauscher while at Smith) writes, "After a long and winding road through hospice work and working with clients with SPMI on an ACT team, I’ve finally reached my goals of becoming an L.C.S.W. and working with children again. I’m the Asheville area therapist for children in foster care and group homes run by the Grandfather Home. I’ve also begun establishing a part-time private practice in therapy and coaching for children and parents. Lost many emails in a change of computers, and would love to reconnect to friends from Smith. I can be reached at suzmsw@gmail.com or by phone at 828-545-2618."

Deidre Linburn writes, "I live and work in San Francisco. I worked at UCSF Children’s Hospital for the past one and a half years, ending in January 2009. I am beginning to look for jobs in San Francisco and Berkeley. I will be moving to Berkeley in February. Any tips/leads are appreciated. I saw Janah Boccio (’03) with her boyfriend in October when they were visiting San Francisco. She seemed happy. That same week I saw Gabrielle Stevens Holder (’03) in New York City when I was visiting. Her two daughters are engaging and fun. I also keep in touch with Alissa Nickey Carlino (’03) who is living in Pennsylvania with her husband, Peter, daughter, Gianna, and another on the way!"

Charlotte Redway, writes, “I am living in Portland, where I have started a private practice and am working for an agency that provides family therapy for multi-stressed families. I recently graduated from the Dulwich Centre’s international post-graduate diploma program in narrative therapy and community work. It was a fantastic program and I highly recommend it for anyone interested."

CLASS OF 2004

TyAnn J. DeChambeau writes, “Hello Smith alumni! I am currently a nephrology social worker in Oakland, California, and I am beginning to study for the L.C.S.W. exam. I hope to become licensed within a year. In October 2008, I got married to my partner at beautiful San Francisco City Hall. It was amazing to feel the equality of marriage as a gay couple (and hopefully Proposition 8 won’t change that!) We are looking to buy a home in Oakland within the next year. My partner is considering going back to school to get her M.S.W. -- she may become a Smithie too!"

Sara Lesser writes, "I am sending you my brief update. I now have two wonderful kids. A four-month-old named Eden Rose and a three-year-old named Teo. I continue to live in Oakland, California with my partner. I have been working at New Leaf in San Francisco running the Adult Substance Abuse Program and the HIV Mental Health Program. I am currently in the process of starting a small private practice. You can reach me at (510)-459-7551. Hope you’re all well."

CLASS OF 2005

Elizabeth Bierbaum Clarke, L.C.S.W., writes, “In June 2008, my husband and I welcomed our first child, Rocco Emmett, into the world. I am loving my experience as a new mom and thoroughly enjoying balancing the demands of motherhood with my thriving private practice. I am treating a diverse population with a wide range of issues, and am currently creating a peer consultation group out of my office. I would welcome psychotherapy referrals or networking with other Smith alumni in the Chicago area.”

Donna Nicolino and her partner are in the process of buying a house, an exciting and somewhat scary venture that is a first-time experience for both of them. They are also in the process of becoming licensed as adoptive parents through the State of Connecticut, which is even more exciting and scarier. Donna is now an L.C.S.W. and works as an adult outpatient clinician at a community mental health agency in Willimantic, Connecticut. She is a member of the Wrench in the Works Collective (www.wrenchintheworks.org), which runs a community space and lending library in downtown Willimantic, where she engages in various activities including holding recent workshops on home funerals and white privilege. She has become a
mixed martial arts aficionado, taking classes
in grappling, kickboxing and Filipino stick
fighting three times a week.

CLASS OF 2006

Kat DeShayes and Mod Ono report that
they are happily living together in Oakland,
California. Kat works with teenage foster
youth and formed an anti-racism com-
mittee at her agency while Mod conducts
individual and group therapy for adults at
Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. “Hopefully
by the time this gets to print, we’ll both be
knee deep in studying for our licensure!”
They also report that Lindsay Duckles put
out a documentary on Prop 8 in her ‘spare’
time in addition to leading a mobile crisis
response team.

Patricia Adams Kissinger writes, “I
am working as an outpatient clinician at
Wayside Community Counseling Center
in Milford, Massachusetts. I passed the
L.I.C.S.W. exam in December and am in
the process of opening a practice in Sharon,
Massachusetts. I work with all ages, but par-
ticularly enjoy working with children. My
husband, Phillip, and I are proud grandpar-
ents of five girls, the youngest of whom was
adopted two months ago.”

Eliza Sher received her independent
license in September 2008. She is currently
working for Jewish Family Service of Rhode
Island doing individual, couple, and family
therapy, as well as adoption work. Eliza also
works at Child and Family Service of New
Bedford, where she started a psychodynam-
ic group for GLBTQs, and ran open crisis
stabilization groups. Eliza is currently train-
ing with the Sensorimotor Psychotherapy
Institute, learning body-based methods for
treating trauma. Since leaving Smith, Eliza
has continued to work as an anti-racism
educator, providing workshops for multi-
racial groups as well as for white people.
Most recently, Eliza presented an anti-
racism workshop at the Evening of Jewish
Renaissance in Providence, Rhode Island.
Eliza also presents workshops for Jewish
Family Service of Rhode Island, includ-
ing a workshop on Time, Community,
and Ritual: Using the Tenets of Jewish
Mourning to Help People Cope with Loss.

Alicia (Abernethy) Ward lives at
913 Chase Lane, Denton, Texas, 76209
and is employed by Faith Presbyterian
Hospice, in Irving, Texas. She is also teach-
ing as adjunct faculty at Texas Women’s
University in their social work department.

Ed Zapala writes, “I continue living in
Madison, Wisconsin, where we closed out
2008 with the snowiest recorded year. We
had 130 inches. I also continue working
for the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, in
the homeless program. There are exciting
transitional housing projects about to start,
and it is really neat to coordinate engineer-
ing, nursing, nutrition, and police while I
do a clinical assessment to make sure the
programs pass muster. Our hospital contin-
ues hiring like crazy, doubling the amount
of social workers in the past two years. I
have also begun work on establishing a
veteran’s court in Wisconsin. This is a ver-
sion of a treatment court, where substance
abuse/mental health treatment is mandated
instead of incarceration. I went with a
number of Justice Department folks to see
the original court operate in Buffalo, New
York and it was quite a sight. At one point,
the judge stood up and shook the veteran’s
hand as the whole courtroom applauded his
progress.”
Adventurous, Blessing, Colorful, Delightful, Extraordinary, Fabulous, Gregarious, Honest, Intelligent, Joyful, Kind, Loving, Motherly, Nurturing, One Hundred Years Young, Positive, Queenly, Radiant, Special Social Worker, Treasure, Unmatched, Valued, Wonderful Writer, Exuberant, Youthful, Zany
I am thankful for the 50-plus years of being a part of Edith’s life. I will always treasure the memories, and Edith will always be alive in my heart.

Thank you, Edith, for the West Island adventures, the Mohonk Mountain Resort escapades, the concerts, the museum tours in New York City and Philadelphia, the musicals and dramas, the Roundabout Theater shows in the first row for the past ten years, the convertible rides in my Mustang, the 90th Smith College School for Social Worker weekend in Massachusetts, the delight of meeting your family and friends and sharing them with you, the joy of watching you exercise with your “girlfriends,” the hours of Scrabble games, the image of the many hours we lay on your bed watching television, the tea parties in your dining room, the restaurant experiences, the funny stories of your life, the intellectual discussions, the humorous anecdotes of your adventures, and the honor and pleasure of being called your friend.

You are loved my dear friend, Kate Hanley

Edith Karlin Atkin, M.S.S. ’30, was born on December 25, 1907 and died in her New York home on November 6, 2008. She was the widow of Samuel Atkin, M.D. Edith was the first child born in the United States of parents who emigrated from Russia. Edith completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago, and following her graduation from Smith, returned to Chicago. Her employment history reveals that Edith was the Chief of Social Service at the first psychiatric clinic established in connection with the criminal court in Cook County where she remained for six years. She also worked as an Assistant Director of Social Service at the Institute for Juvenile Research where she reportedly supervised students from Smith and Loyola. Further training included child therapy under Helen Ross, a renowned child analyst. For a period of six years Edith worked in Washington, D.C. at the Children’s Bureau and at NIMH. Eventually moving to New York, Edith was on staff at Jacobi Hospital-Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Child Study Center. She also had a private practice. Her career also included the publication of some articles.

Edith was a feisty, dedicated, socially active and colorful woman who remained mentally alert until her death. Those of us who attended the 90th reunion in July had the special gift of welcoming her as the oldest living alumna. As one of her nieces once commented, “She had admiration for the human spirit.” On a personal note, during my visits, Edith repeatedly stated, “I owe much to my Smith experience.” Survivors include two stepchildren and their children and many nieces, nephews and a large circle of friends.

Submitted by Clara Genetos, M.S.S. ’54
Sophie Glebow died on September 16, 2008. She joined the resident faculty of the Smith College School for Social Work in 1966 and served with distinction for the next 15 years. The School was fortunate to find in Sophie a rare combination of professional and academic preparation that uniquely fit its needs. She brought an M.S.W. degree from Simmons College and a D.S.W. degree from the Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies of Social Welfare of Brandeis University. In addition to professional practice, she brought research experience at Boston State Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health, Beth Israel Hospital Department of Psychiatry and Boston University School of Medicine. She had part-time teaching experience at Boston University School of Social Work, Simmons College, and Smith College School for Social Work. She began as Associate Professor and became Professor and Chair of the Research Sequence during her tenure at Smith.

It was Sophie’s fate to serve the School during interesting times. Initially, she joined a small compatible faculty that enjoyed a close, harmonious relationship with students. Then, the students generally brought out the best from the faculty and the faculty generously fostered the considerable learning and professional development of students. But this happy dynamic did not long endure. The cultural revolution of the late 1960’s gradually permeated the School. Harmony gave way to conflict. Classes were boycotted, protest meetings were held, students demanded to take over the decision-making authority for the School. Students invaded faculty meetings to challenge the right of faculty to meet without their participation and challenges were issued against the structure and functions of the School.

Sophie’s address to the turbulence of these times is revealing. She was a very model of adult response to challenge. Sophie remained her poised, patient and reasonable self. She met abrasive language with unfailing politeness and consideration. An intensely private person, she was always respectful toward others. Then and subsequently, Sophie helped develop pathways for establishing community.

Sophie was a great hostess who entertained elegantly. She conducted something of a salon for the itinerant faculty assembled during the summers. She was my closest and dearest faculty friend. I greatly valued her interest, her support and companionship during difficult and happy times. She is missed.

Submitted by Roger Miller, Professor Emeritus
Jean Leach, M.S.S. ’36, died peacefully at her home in Cincinnati, Ohio on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Jean was the clinical director at Family Service in Cincinnati for over 40 years and foundational to the Smith SSW internship and clinical social work community there. She began her career in social work in 1933 following her graduation from Ohio State University, received her master’s degree from Smith in 1936, and returned to work at Family Service of Cincinnati where she remained for 45 years.

Jean was instrumental to the organization of the Cincinnati chapter of the Ohio Clinical Social Work Society in 1975. Following her retirement from Family Service, she helped found the Olympus Center (for the assessment and treatment of learning disabilities) and served on the boards of the Children’s Psychiatric Center, The Seven Hills School and the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute. Jean was elected a Cincinnati Women of the Year in 1985.

Jean was an ardent advocate for the School for Social Work. She was a member of the summer faculty in the 1950’s, a member of the 1918 Society, a recipient of the Day-Garret Award, and her perspectives on her life, career and social work history were recorded as part of the School’s Oral History Project. She will be sorely missed but long remembered throughout the Smith community.

Submitted by Joanne Lindy, Ph.D. ’83

Judith Schlesinger, M.S.W. ’95, was born in Boston on October 24, 1967, and died August 15, 2008. Judith was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. With the love and support of her husband, parents, sisters, extended family and numerous close friends, she put extraordinary efforts into fighting the cancer and extending her life.

Judith’s professional life was robust. She graduated from the Smith College School for Social Work in 1995. She worked at The Worcester Youth Guidance Center, Bay Cover Academy in Brookline, South Shore Mental Health in Quincy and Cambridge Hospital in the Program for Psychotherapy. Judith completed two intensive post-graduate training programs, first at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and later at The Psychoanalytic Couples and Family Institute of New England (PCFINE). In 1999, Judith began a private practice in Brookline treating adolescents, adults and couples. Her practice thrived, but she always worked part-time so that she could spend time with her two beloved children, Oliver, born in 2000, and Esli, born in 2004.

Judith was a loving and thoughtful woman who had a phenomenal sense of humor. Her compassion, wisdom and generosity as a friend and therapist is difficult to describe in words, but was so easy to feel in her presence. Her death leaves an enormous hole in many people’s lives.

Submitted by Jennifer Roberts, M.S.W. ’96
Sidney Wasserman
December 10, 1924 – December 4, 2008

Sidney Wasserman will be remembered as a very good friend, a kindly accepting teacher, and a brilliant mentor. We who were fortunate enough to be touched by his wisdom, wit, good humor, and support knew well his genius for engagement and talent in teaching. His “here and now” pragmatic approach was informed by a deep understanding of the varieties of the human condition and the importance of each person’s unique history and experience. He was also known for his keen ability to spot and address “the elephants in the room.” Another memorable hallmark of his style was a “try it, see if it works” kind of encouragement, and the acceptance of the student/client’s “place and pace.” He was especially respectful of issues that the client would not be ready to address, such as his sensitivity to “the Door Handle” (end of the interview) comments. Importantly, he would ask, “What does the client need in the relationship now?”

Born in Elyria, Ohio, Sidney obtained his A.B. at Ohio State University, majoring in Drama. He received his M.Sc. (Social Administration) and D.S.W. at Case Western Reserve University. After practicing as caseworker and supervisor at Bellefaire Residential Treatment Center, and the Jewish Children’s Bureau in Cleveland, he turned to teaching as Lecturer at Case Western. Smith College recruited Sidney as Assistant Professor at the School for Social Work in 1964. He taught Social Casework and was Supervisor of Field Work until 1967. After leaving Smith he continued for 14 years as a summer faculty member, teaching casework and seminars. His many outstanding contributions to the School resulted in his being honored with the Day-Garrett Award in 1996.

In the 1960s, Sidney, a liberal antiwar activist, was investigated by the C.I.A. Thus, he left the United States for Britain, accepting a teaching position at Bradford University. He became a U.K. citizen and did extensive consultation, staff development, in-service training, and private practice. In 1987, he retired and settled in Reading, England, traveling to see friends and family in the United States and many other countries.

In the last months of his life, close friends stayed by his side, and those farther away kept in daily touch via letters, cards, emails and videos. During his last days, he was pleased to see the outcome of our November election, saying that if this had happened in the 1960s he might never have left home. Sidney’s deep sensitivities helped those of us who knew him to focus on what is really important in the here and now. As Roger Miller, wrote, “Sid lived a well-fulfilled life that expressed his rich talent for engagement. Would that we all could do as well.” Sidney’s brother, Harry, was an accomplished social worker, teacher and writer. Sidney’s close companion, Corinne Bellows (who died in 1999) was a talented Associate to the Director of the Tate Museum in London for many years.

Submitted by Ann L. Overbeck, M.S.S. ’57, Ph.D. ’72
STATEMENT OF ANTI-RACISM:
Smith College School for Social Work has committed itself to becoming an anti-racism institution. The School pledges to overcome racism in all of its programs. All programs are expected to monitor and report on their anti-racism efforts to the Anti-Racism Consultation Committee.

NOTICE ON NONDISCRIMINATION:
Smith College is committed to maintaining a diverse community in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. Smith College does not discriminate in its education and employment policies on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national/ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, or with regard to the bases outlined in the Veterans Readjustment Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director of Institutional Diversity, College Hall #104, (413) 585-2141.