

SSA magazine

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2010



features

11 > **Social Studies**

New initiatives are putting into practice what research about urban education has shown—social supports are crucial to school reform.

16 > COVER STORY: **Our South Side**

SSA and the University of Chicago can give a neighborhood tour of research and advocacy.

20 > **A Place in the Neighborhood**

Local fights against new Wal-Mart stores offer lessons for urban organizers working for economic justice.

departments

2 > **viewpoint: from the dean** *SSA's Mission in Context*

4 > **conversation** *In the Zone*

6 > **ideas**

Stand Up and Be Counted Community groups and public officials have strategies to ensure that the 2010 Census doesn't shortchange any neighborhoods.

Dealings with Gangs Solutions to gang violence are under the microscope to find what works best.

Invisible Men Do society and social work turn a blind eye to the troubles of African-American males?

8 > **inside social service review**

Victim of Circumstance When does context mitigate a mental disorder?

Dollar for Dollar Matched saving accounts have an impact in Africa.

9 > **a voice from the field** **Change Agent**

32 > **behind the numbers**

Public Debate Why health care reform is historic, significant and more of the same.

25 > **memoranda**

28 > **faculty notes**

30 > **the alumni community**

31 > **in memoriam**

school news

ON THE COVER: SSA students stroll in front of the 55th Street murals, designed by artist Margaret Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History. The mural was funded, in part, by the University of Chicago's Office of Civic Engagement, and the art panels were curated and installed by the Chicago Public Art Group.

SSA magazine

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 1

DEAN

Jeanne C. Marsh

EDITORIAL BOARD

Robert Chaskin (Chair, ex officio)

William Borden

Evelyn Brodtkin

Yoonsun Choi

Robert Fairbanks II

Colleen M. Grogan

Jung-Hwa Ha

Julia Henly

Jennifer Mosley

Penny Johnson (ex officio)

Karen Teigiser (ex officio)

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Jung

EDITOR

Carl Vogel

WRITER

Samuel Barrett

DESIGN

Anne Boyle, Boyle Design Associates

PHOTOGRAPHY

American Academy of Social Work
and Social Welfare

Evette Cardona/Mona Noriega

Lloyd DeGrane

Dan Dry

Family of Natalie Heinemen

Greater Auburn-Gresham

Development Corp.

Cynthia Howe

iStock Photography

Peter Kiar

LAANE

Marc PoKempner

Jasmin Shah/CSEF

Carl Vogel

White House Fellows Foundation

and Association

Youth Guidance

SSA Magazine is published twice a year for alumni and friends of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Articles may be reprinted in full or in part with written permission of the editor. We welcome your comments. Please send letters to the Director of Communications, Julie Jung, at ssamagazine@ssa.uchicago.edu.

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
SERVICE ADMINISTRATION
The University of Chicago
969 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637
P 773.702.1168
F 773.702.7222
www.ssa.uchicago.edu



Made from 30% recycled fiber and chlorine free (TCF/ECF) pulp using timber from managed forests

©2010 The University of Chicago, SSA

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WELL-TRAINED MANAGERS IN THE WORLD. Recruiting the right people, leading a team, blending capacity with accountability, building infrastructure and clear communication: These are not skills most people learn in college or when they enter the workforce. Too many organizations flounder due to poor management of their human capital—and it seems to me that is even more true for nonprofits and social service groups.

Of course, SSA has been helping prepare organizational leaders for generations. More than a third of each of graduating class of master's students at the School have completed the administration concentration, which includes coursework on planning, implementing and evaluating programs and policies. Whether graduating with a clinical or administration concentration, SSA alumni are uncommonly well-prepared to run an organization or program, and the accomplished alumni that Dean Marsh lists in her column in this issue are only a small portion of the valuable managers that the School has produced over the years.

CEO of the Chicago Public Schools Ron Huberman, the SSA alum and leader with whom I am most familiar, is an example of another way the School builds successful managers—through a dual master's degree, in Ron's case, with the Chicago Booth School of Business. The opportunity to learn from the University of Chicago's other world-class graduate schools is an effective route to leadership skills for SSA students, be it with a dual degree, a few targeted courses, or in the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP), which offers an interdisciplinary focus to a Certificate in Health Administration and Policy for master's students enrolled at SSA, Booth, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies or the Pritzker School of Medicine.

Last year, SSA took another step to give students an opportunity to work with and learn from peers at Harris and Booth with a new series of workshops. Organized by Associate Professor Scott Allard, the program helps build core competencies for second-year master's students from all three schools to lead nonprofits and advance social change. Professor Allard is now working with others at SSA to continue to expand its commitment to building better management skills, including the development of the Emerging Leaders in Social Services Management Certificate Program through the Professional Development office, which is planned to launch in January 2011.

The importance and power of good management has always been valued and promoted by the School of Social Service Administration—the name itself is proof of that fact. I've been pleased to see that the commitment to leadership is still strong and growing at SSA, and I'm sure that social welfare and human service organizations around Chicago and the country are happy as well.



David Vitale

David Vitale
Chair of SSA's Visiting Committee

SSA's Mission in

As I leave the SSA deanship, I must reflect on how much I have enjoyed getting to know and working with SSA alumni. They personify SSA's commitment to a just and humane society and provide inspiration and guidance for our faculty, staff and students.

SSA's mission is clearly stated: We dedicate ourselves toward working for a more just and humane society through research, teaching and service to the community. Many who embody this mission come to mind, and it is impossible to provide even a partial list of alumni who have made the School a premier institution. I will point to a small number who only begin to represent the remarkable leadership and contributions to research, teaching and service provided by all SSA graduates.

Evette Cardona, AM '98: Please take the time to read this month's "Voices from the Field" article on page 9, featuring Evette. She was the recipient of the 2008 Betty Butler award, and I'd like to add that Evette has always been an alumna that we can count on to be available to our students as a mentor.

Charles Curie, AM '79: Charles is the principal and founder of the Curie Group, a management consulting firm specializing in supporting leaders in the mental health and substance use treatment and prevention areas. He was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to head the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration from 2001–2006. This year, Charles hosted the reception during Washington Week—a week of opportunities for SSA students to learn about careers at social service and policy/advocacy organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. His life-long commitment to ensure that people with addictive and mental disorders have the opportunity for full participation in American society exemplifies the very mission of SSA.

Irwin Garfinkel, AM '67: The Mitchell I. Ginsberg Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems at the Columbia University School of Social Work, Irwin is also the director of the Columbia Population Research Center. An expert in poverty, income transfers, program evaluation, single parent families and child support, and the welfare state, his research on child support has influenced legislation nationally and internationally.

Context

Ron Huberman, AM '00, MBA '00: Ron, named chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools in 2009, provides expert leadership for the continued transformation of public education in the city (see “Social Studies” on page 11). He has closely collaborated with Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor Melissa Roderick and was recently a guest speaker for our community schools program.



Jeanne C. Marsh

Kitty Mann, AM '69, PhD '99: Kitty has been an adjunct faculty member, a field consultant and a member of our Visiting Committee for many years. Kitty, a licensed clinical social worker, maintains a private practice in Chicago serving individuals and couples dealing with infertility and adoption. She helped establish Resolve of Illinois, Inc., a self-help group for infertile couples and was named Social Worker of the Year in 2000 by the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Ann Maxwell, AM '96: A 2004 Elizabeth Butler award recipient, Ann has been the assistant regional inspector general in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, Office of Evaluation and Inspections and has improved services for millions of people. A classic generalist, she's worked and contributed to a wide variety of social policies.

Erwin McEwen, AM '98: The director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Erwin has been a tireless advocate on behalf of children and families for the last 20 years. He has also been a regular volunteer for SSA and presented the keynote address for this February's African-American Alumni Committee Conference: “Over-Representation: An Emerging Epidemic of African Americans in Distress” (see page 30).

Pam Rodriguez, AM '82: Pam has been named president of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, a national organization that helps get substance abuse treatment to those in the criminal justice system and designs and advocates for model programs.

Lynn Videka, AM '76, PhD '81: Lynn was recently appointed dean of the Silver School of Social Work at New York University. She will continue her research on children and families receiving child welfare and mental health services. Many in the profession may know her from her work as the vice-president of the Society for Social Work and Research or as commissioner of accreditation and treasurer of the Council on Social Work Education.

Monico Whittington-Eskridge, AB '92, AM '96: Monico is the senior program manager of practice application support services for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services/Chicago State University Trauma Informed Practice Program and was instrumental in organizing this year's African-American Alumni Conference.

These alumni are outstanding examples of SSA alumni achievement in their professional careers. But what is more important than personal or institutional prestige, is that we continuously reaffirm our mission and are active in our professional and our personal lives as concerned citizens.

Robyn Golden, AM '81, most eloquently stated this during her acceptance speech for the 2009 Edith Abbott award. “Our profession must continue to reflect the moral imperative to correct the disparities, enhance equality and bring us all closer to a just society. To do that we need to go beyond what is comfortable and strive to be politically active and engaged,” said Golden, director of Older Adult Programs at Rush University Medical Center.

Your continued support is one element of that continued engagement. I hope that you support the SSA Fund this year, as it ensures that future generations of social workers will have the supports and opportunities to succeed and to help individuals, families and communities to achieve a better quality of life.

I wish all of you and SSA continued success.

Jeanne C. Marsh, Ph.D., is the Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor of the School of Social Service Administration.

We welcome letters to the editor. Please send your submissions to julie.jung@uchicago.edu.

In the Zone

Educators in urban schools can find themselves overwhelmed by how many different factors can limit their students' capacity to get the most from their education, from public safety to habits students learned before they even set foot in kindergarten. In New York City, one program is attempting to simply leap over the collection of barriers to learning in one swoop. The Harlem Children's Zone uses robust and sustained investment to offer a broad set of supports from early childhood through college to all of the more than 10,000 children living in 97 square blocks of Harlem.

The idea has captured the imagination of many policymakers, including the federal government, which is launching an initiative to create 20 Promise Neighborhoods across the country in areas that have high levels of poverty and crime and low levels of student academic achievement. The Obama administration has requested \$210 million for the program in the 2011 budget, to be matched by local funds.

Bishop Arthur M. Brazier recognized the opportunity the idea holds for Woodlawn, where public schools educate more than 6,000 students, 95 percent of whom are low-income. Pastor emeritus of the Apostolic Church of God, Brazier has served the community for 50 years as a church and community leader, including helping to start many local neighborhood development organizations. As chair of the Woodlawn New Communities Program, a nonprofit dedicated to comprehensive community development, he convened a group that led to the exploration of how a promise zone could work in Woodlawn.

One of the participants at that initial meeting was **Charles Payne**, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor at SSA. The author of numerous books and articles about urban education, Payne has served on many organizations and programs dedicated to education, including as co-founder of the Duke Curriculum Project and the John Hope Franklin Scholars.

Today, the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community is a new organization that has begun to think about how to impact early childhood development, after-school time, health care, violence prevention, parental involvement, school reform and more in Woodlawn. Bishop Brazier, chair of the zone, and Professor Payne, who coordinates the commitments of the University of Chicago (which is a junior partner in the efforts), talk here about how the program is mixing ideas from Harlem and the University, the progress to date and how education plays a role in improving a community.



SSA: How did the different elements of the educational blueprint of the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community come together?

Payne: The Bishop, in December 2008, called together a group to develop a plan to make sure that youth in Woodlawn were going to have dra-

matically improved life outcomes. The Advisory Committee consisted of a number of folks who had worked at organizations dedicated to Woodlawn, residents of Woodlawn, some of them retired teachers, nearly all the school principals in Woodlawn.

People from the University working in education were also on that

committee, Tim Knowles from the University of Chicago Charter Schools and John Easton from the Consortium on Chicago School Research. When we were looking for strong models of success in urban schools over the last couple of decades, the kind of work that the University of Chicago Charter Schools does—such as extended learning time, integrated social sup-

would like the University to work with us, but not develop a proposal then hand it to us and say, here's the proposal that you wanted, goodbye. Because it would probably gather dust on somebody's shelf. And we also indicated that we did not want the University to run it. That was agreed upon. So what we have here is a community that has asked one of the major universities in



This is a proposal that's going to lift the academic

ports—stood out, and the Consortium has become a national model for the quality of its work. So naturally, they had considerable impact on our thinking.

And the folks from U of C also identified other people in the city who had relevant capacity. The University of Illinois at Chicago is a partner and is going to help build a pipeline of the best students in its School of Education into our schools and work with the schools on principal development. Youth Guidance [a nonprofit that works with Chicago youth] has a strong connection to SSA and a long history of doing good work in tough schools and has an especially strong history of promoting parent engagement in schools. They're going to be involved.

Brazier: I had said to Dr. Payne, who is really the key person in this program, we

the United States of America to become a junior partner with the community to develop a proposal that's going to lift the academic level of all the children in this community.

SSA: And now that things have started—how is it going?

Brazier: Well, we're trying to develop a proposal that would meet the RFP [request for proposal] that will be coming from Washington probably in the next three or four months. We asked for a meeting with [Secretary of Education] Arne Duncan. We did not ask for a commitment of any kind. We just wanted to know if we were planning on the right track—he thought we were. And we are reaching out to the Harlem Children's Zone. We don't want duplicate what they're doing, but we

do want to take a look at programs and activities that seem to have met with such success in Harlem.

We realize that in order for us to be successful here, we have to have the support of various aspects of the community. We needed to get some support from Ron Huberman, [the chief operating officer of the Chicago Public Schools], and Barbara Eason-Watkins,

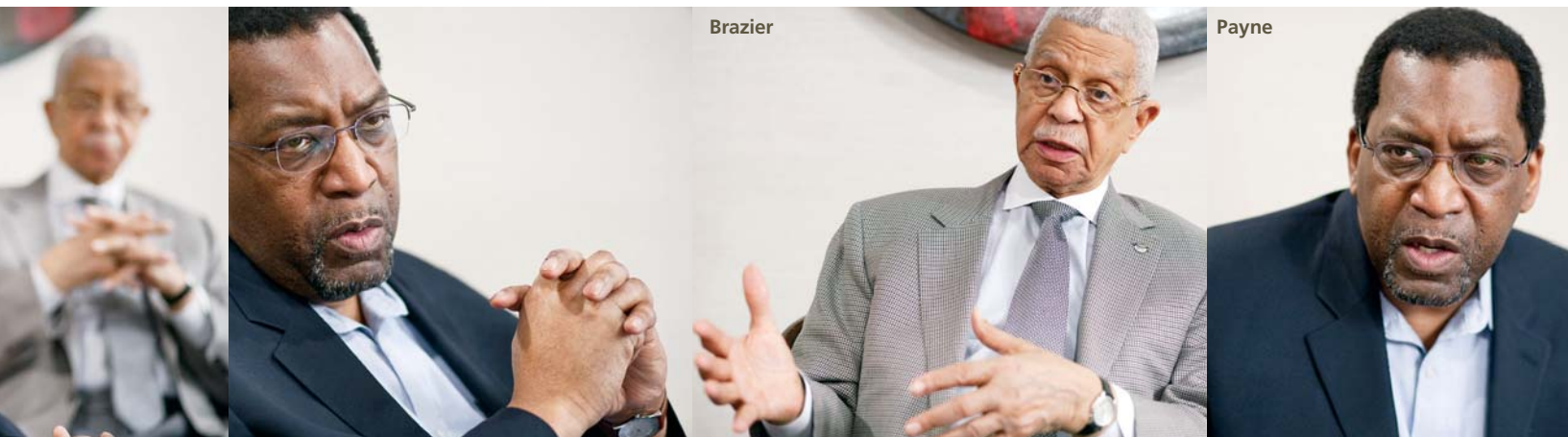
three to four years. But the fact that the project developed as an answer to a call from community leaders makes a great deal of difference.

Brazier: And at the same time, I think Dr. Payne gave the principals a sense of security. I think that without a person of his character and his background, it may have been different: Just a group

So, for example, we work to bring jobs to the community. And you'll notice on 63rd Street between Dorchester and Woodlawn, there's new housing. Ten years ago that wasn't there. It was an el structure where no trains ran, but it contributed to crime because it darkened the street and created all kinds of problems. We were able, with the help of the mayor of the City of Chicago, to

comprehensive community development plan.

Payne: Yes, and I should note that the University is also partnering in that. The Medical Center this fall has become very involved, for example: Members of their staff have been participating on a regular basis on our Health Planning Committee, trying



Brazier

Payne

level of all the children in this community.

who is the chief education officer at CPS [she has since resigned from the position]. But then we also reached out to all the principals to get their support and the support of the teachers and as many local school board members as possible. And finally, we had a breakfast in which we met with the parents of the nine schools in Woodlawn.

Payne: In some ways, typically that kind of process is slow. I don't think that's been the case here. In fact, this has developed much more rapidly than I would have thought possible. The advantage is that you do get a kind of legitimacy, and you have access to a wider range of resources because so many different groups and individuals can bring their talent to the table. The process of getting real ownership over a plan like this, I think, probably takes

of community people trying to do something in education, which educators may have felt we were not qualified to even talk about. So it's very important that we keep in mind the role the University is playing in this development.

SSA: Bishop Brazier, how did you and other community leaders decide that education was an issue that you wanted to prioritize here in Woodlawn?

Brazier: Over the years, there were a lot of small programs in the community, a lot of small funding that went on, but the nature of the community never really changed. The New Communities Program started in Woodlawn with a goal to make comprehensive changes.

get that structure down. Once that was done, we were able to build mixed-income housing.

All the people around the table who were members of the New Communities Program said that we really needed another arm to change the quality of education in this community, which we then thought would actually change the nature of the community itself. So we formed the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community. And as our schools improve, we will effectuate the idea of developing a mixed-income community because where poor people and middle-class people live together, the nature of the community changes.

SSA: It's interesting to hear you say so clearly that improving education is an end unto itself, but also part of a

to work with a set of Woodlawn-wide clients to improve the health outcomes of young people, looking particularly at youth obesity and asthma. And youth safety issues: There are parts of Woodlawn where the number of traffic accidents involving children is alarming. Chapin Hall has also been very good about helping us develop baseline data. I think we're finding a lot of ways for the University and SSA to be a part of this project. ■

For more of this Conversation, including a discussion of different models of early-childhood programs and how parents are reacting to the new opportunities, visit ssa.uchicago.edu/publications/ssamag.shtml.



Stand Up and Be Counted

Community groups and public officials have strategies to ensure that the 2010 Census doesn't shortchange any neighborhoods

THE U.S. CENSUS DETERMINES how many Representatives in Congress each state has and drives formulas that allocate some \$400 billion in federal funds each decade—for every person not counted, a community loses about \$12,000. In cities like Chicago, the 2010 Census faces new challenges in historically undercounted areas, from new pockets of the poor in the suburbs to public housing residents who have been widely dispersed by the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation.

"A lot of changes to Chicago over the last 10 years lead to the worry that we won't get a complete count," says Scott W. Allard, associate professor at SSA, who coordinated an all-day event, "Understanding a Dynamic Decade: Population Trends, Public Policy and the 2010 Census in Chicago," at SSA in February. "Immigrant groups have lower response rates, and the transformation of public housing will make it more difficult to canvas areas of the city."

For the conference panels, Allard invited a mix of researchers and representatives from public and nonprofit groups that are using new outreach strategies this year. The United Congress of Community and Religious

Organizations, for example, is working in six Chicago neighborhood areas with 2000 Census response rates of 39 percent to 56 percent, targeting hard-to-reach populations like African-American males, the formerly incarcerated and recently arrived immigrants.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is one of many groups that are getting out the word via local residents who know the language and want to ensure their own communities count. ICIRR has hired 14 "fellows" to knock on 5,000 doors in areas with low 2000 Census response rates. In addition, they've partnered with trusted ethnic media sources to promote the benefits and assure residents that information is confidential. "This [2010 Census] is just one piece of a larger puzzle in empowering immigrant communities," says Flavia Jimenez, program director of ICIRR's New Americans Initiative.

The two groups are among 26 organizations working with the Illinois Census Funders Initiative, a collaboration of foundations focusing on areas with low past return rates, and at least three strong community partners with which they could work. "Our theory was that if you 'flood the zone,' you will get

results," says Alice Cottingham, project manager for the initiative.

The strategy has the blessing of the Census Bureau, which changed its own hiring procedures in 2010, according to Stanley D. Moore, executive director of the U.S. Census Bureau, Chicago regional office. "We're hiring indigenous people who live in that block and that [Census] tract," he says. "We're finding people who speak the right language and aren't afraid to work in that community."

About 11.5 million bilingual Census forms have been sent out in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian and Spanish, says Nancy A. Potok, deputy undersecretary for economic affairs in the U.S. Department of Commerce, where the Census is housed. "Even though the Census is national, it's very local in its implementation," Potok said.

The Bureau's work, which includes the annual American Community Survey, informs academic research of all stripes. Alan Berube, senior fellow and research director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, talked at the conference about how he will use the ACS for an upcoming report on population trends. Research already shows the U.S. has

greater economic inequality than in nearly a century, he pointed out, and the "suburbanization of poverty" is challenging assumptions about where to locate social welfare programs.

Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here*, reminded conference attendees of how the Census is a step toward reporting on the lives and issues of the people represented. "The Census hopefully collects information without creating a single narrative," said Kotlowitz. "Once one gets down on the ground, people come to life. I'm not suggesting that numbers don't matter. As a storyteller, I rely on numbers as a compass. I'm suggesting they tell only part of the story."

Allard agrees. "The conversation is sometimes going to be about data sets, but the topics are going to be about families," he says. "SSA's mission is to promote social justice, strengthen community organizations and neighborhoods, and create opportunities for families and children. The Census is important to all of that." — *Ed Finkel*

Video and audio of the conference are available on the programs, lectures and conferences page in the "About SSA" section at ssa.uchicago.edu.

Invisible Men

How society and social work turn a blind eye to the troubles of African-American males

THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES, African-American males, as a group, face a disproportionately high set of hurdles to well-being. From birth to age 4, African Americans are approximately four times more likely to be a victim of homicide than white children, for example, and African-American males are at increased risk compared to other demographic groups for hypertension, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.

A lack of support from social policy and active engagement from social work as a profession have contributed to these troubles, according to Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., associate professor at SSA. “Social work and social welfare programs have historically focused on vulnerable individuals and the family and have not supported what is seen as dependence in the able-bodied, namely adult males,” he argues. “Unfortunately, the developmental trajectory to becoming able-bodied men

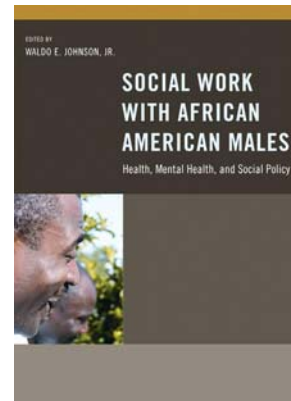
for African-American males is largely truncated during childhood, and both individual challenges and structural barriers affect their successful transition into adulthood. As a result, the profession has not always served this population well.”

Johnson is the editor of *Social Work With African American Males: Health, Mental Health, and Social Policy*, a book covering the conflicting perspectives, roles and identities of African-American males from adolescence through adulthood. Released by Oxford University Press in April, the book draws from a wide selection of researchers to examine topics that relate to family, education, mental and physical health, and criminal justice.

When taking a broad view that encompasses everything from the child welfare system’s treatment of non-custodial parents to suicidal behavior of young African-American men, a picture emerges of interconnecting

issues that have dire consequences. African-American males, for example, are more likely than other groups to have lower socioeconomic status, be single, and not have access to regular medical care. All these factors—and more—combine to contribute to relatively higher risk for poor health outcomes.

Johnson says that the discussion should also include the roles African-American males play as fathers, role models and community members, often at odds with institutions that aren’t open to their participation or input. “African-American males are not only absent from households and neighborhoods of their children and families, but



they are also ignored as stakeholders in discussions of African-American families and communities,” Johnson writes in the book’s first chapter.

At a time when an African-American male is president of the United States, it might seem as though these issues are fading. Johnson points out, however,

that from educational outcomes to employment opportunities, things are in fact getting worse for many African-American youth and men. And, he adds, “in virtually every area examined in this volume, there are better opportunities for the profession to engage this population more effectively as individuals, as well as family and community members.” — Carl Vogel

Dealing with Gangs

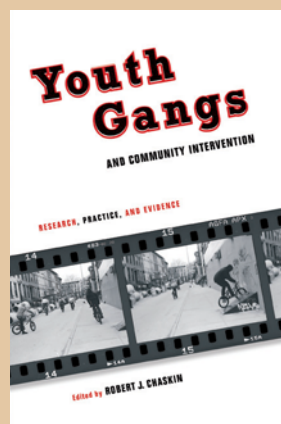
Solutions to gang violence are under the microscope to find what works best

HOW URBAN GANGS GET STARTED and how they operate are issues that have been studied from many angles. Now some are saying that to alleviate youth violence and promote neighborhood safety, it’s time to subject the solutions to the same scrutiny. “Everyone’s concerned about the gang problem, but we don’t have clearly good theoretical approaches and model designs beyond ‘let’s march on the kids’ or ‘let’s prevent them [from committing violent crime],” says SSA’s George Herbert Jones Professor Emeritus Irving Spergel.

Spergel has been a leading thinker and program designer and evaluator on gang issues for more than 40 years, honored at SSA in 2006 with a festschrift conference that brought

together well-established gang researchers and a new generation. Robert Chaskin, an associate professor at SSA, has edited a new book made up primarily of papers delivered at that event. *Youth Gangs and Community Intervention: Research, Practice and Evidence* gives insight into the leading edge of contemporary research on gang problems.

“We need to strengthen the relationship between the theories that inform gang intervention, the research evidence about those theories and the interventions themselves, so that we



have a better sense of what works,” Chaskin says.

A major theme running through *Youth Gangs and Community Intervention* is the clear and continual tension between those who favor police responses and those who urge more developmental prevention and intervention

approaches. These biases tend to be baked into solutions advanced by law enforcement, youth workers and other actors. For example, George Tita of University of California-Irvine and

Andrew Papachristos of University of Massachusetts-Amherst examine the rise, fall and re-introduction of the detached street worker, an idea that has returned to new prominence in modern-day Ceasefire projects. Tita and Papachristos claim that Ceasefire is part of an effective hybrid model that blends both prevention and suppression.

Spergel’s own anti-gang model is predicated on a mix of social intervention, police suppression, youth outreach and other factors. Although it has been adopted around the country, he says he’s glad that it is being thoroughly tested by federal agencies. “My view finally after all these years,” he says, “is we aren’t going to make much progress until we figure out what works.” — Gordon Mayer

Founded in 1927, *Social Service Review* is devoted to thought-provoking, original research on social welfare policy, organization, and practice. Articles analyze issues from the points of view of various disciplines, theories, and methodological traditions, view critical problems in context, and carefully consider long-range solutions.



The *Review* is edited by SSA's Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor Michael R. Sosin and the faculty of SSA.

Dollar for Dollar

Matched savings accounts have an impact in Africa

MORE THAN 14 MILLION CHILDREN have lost one or both parents to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the United Nations. In 2005, two researchers from Columbia University set out to experiment with a new way of helping.

In a rural district in Uganda, they helped a church organization set up savings accounts for orphaned adolescents still living with families to help pay the relatively high cost of high-school education and to instill hope, encourage planning and promote more responsible behavior. For every dollar a family placed in its account, the program matched it with two, and the youths, who were primary school students from 11 to 17, were mentored by university-students and given workshops on financial planning and other life skills.

The experiment worked, say the researchers, Fred Ssewamala and Leyla Ismayilova. In "Integrating Children's Savings Accounts in the Care and Support of Orphaned Adolescents in Rural Uganda" in the September 2009 issue, they report that after ten months the families saved an average of \$228—enough to pay for a year and a half of high school. Compared to young people outside the program, more of the youths expressed an intention to go to high school and confidence that they could go on to college.

The idea of matched savings accounts is not new in wealthier countries like the United States. "Most people think you can't do this work in a sub-Saharan Africa," says Ssewamala, a native of Uganda. "People are poor, they say, where will they get money?" The study showed, he said, that "these families can save if given the opportunity." Families often earned money to save by raising chickens, pigs and other livestock or by appealing to distant relatives for help.

Ssewamala hopes to expand the project in Uganda, and he is working to start a program in Nigeria, where children are lured with small gifts into joining local militias. "We want to keep them in school by creating something meaningful in life," he says.

Ssewamala, Fred M., and Leyla Ismayilova. 2009. "Integrating Children's Savings Accounts in the Care and Support of Orphaned Adolescents in Rural Uganda." *Social Service Review* 83 (3): 453-72.

Victim of Circumstance

When does context mitigate a mental disorder?

CLINICIANS LACK A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING of the significance of social context in diagnosing a mental disorder, according to a study published in the June 2009 *Social Service Review*. The article, "Do Perceptions of Dysfunction and Normality Mediate Clinicians' Judgments of Adolescent Antisocial Behavior?" also points to limitations in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), according to authors Stuart Kirk, professor of social welfare at UCLA, and Derek Hsieh of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

On mental disorders in children, the DSM requires at least three of a list of 15 problematic behaviors, including bullying, lying and running away from home. The DSM cautions, however, that the clinician must also determine that the behaviors are "symptomatic of an underlying dysfunction within the individual and not simply a reaction to the immediate social context."

For their study, Kirk and Hsieh sent out three vignettes to some 3,000 social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists around the country describing a fictional youth's anti-social behavior. The first vignette described behavior that clearly fit the DSM's definition of "conduct disorder." The second added details suggesting that the youth's behavior was a normal or expected reaction to his social circumstances—the youth's school was described as often plagued by gang violence, for example. The third vignette, by contrast, suggested an absence of mitigating circumstances and implied that the boy's behavior—his bursts of temper, for example—came from some

problem within him.

Each clinician received one of the three versions and was asked whether the youth suffered from a mental disorder. Most who received the third agreed that the implication of internal dysfunction justified a diagnosis of conduct disorder. But those who received the second disagreed on the significance of social context, and many concluded that the youth suffered from a conduct disorder, even though the DSM explicitly excludes such a diagnosis if the behavior seems a normal reaction to circumstances. Interestingly, social workers were more likely to see social context as a mitigating factor than psychologists and psychiatrists. "We're trained to pay attention to social environment in a way other professions are not," Kirk says.

Kirk has been studying the DSM and its use for 25 years. He argues that the current study suggests the need for greater agreement among both researchers and clinicians on the meaning of central concepts like mental disorder and inner dysfunction. And although the DSM is currently going through a major revision, Kirk doesn't expect the rewritten guide will address his fundamental issues with it.

"The question is, do we want to continue down the road of viewing more and more behaviors and emotional problems as medical entities, rather thinking about a way of funding services to people just because people need help?" he says.

Kirk, Stuart A., and Derek K. Hsieh. 2009. "Do Perceptions of Dysfunction and Normality Mediate Clinicians' Judgments of Adolescent Antisocial Behavior?" *Social Service Review* 83 (2): 245-66.



Change Agent

With one foot in philanthropy and the other in community activism, Evette Cardona is helping to advance both

BY CHARLES WHITAKER



Evette Cardona has played many roles as a community activist for more than 25 years.

A SOCIAL OCCASION WITH EVETTE CARDONA often morphs into an impromptu professional meeting. As a senior program officer for the Polk Bros. Foundation, one of the Chicago area's most prominent supporters of nonprofit civic groups, Cardona assists the foundation in the awarding of nearly \$23 million annually to social service, education, arts and health organizations. "You can imagine that when I'm at an event and I say I work for the Polk Bros. Foundation, suddenly everyone wants to talk to me for fundraising advice. The job brings with it a lot of unwarranted clout," she says.

And when she's not discussing philanthropy, Cardona is likely talking community activism. In her other persona as grassroots community organizer, Cardona has been at the forefront of a variety of local efforts to mobilize and buttress groups in often overlooked swaths of the city for more

than 25 years. From working with disadvantaged young mothers and their children to spearheading the formation of Amigas Latinas, the area's first support group for Latina lesbians, Cardona has played a stalwart role in Chicago's robust community of community activists. She has served on numerous boards, including those of the Center on Halsted's LGBT Community Center, the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Columbia College's Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts & Media and the Illinois Caucus on Adolescent Health.

Put it all together and Cardona has created a career that has multiple avenues to make a difference. It hasn't gone unnoticed. A 1998 graduate of SSA's master's program, she was honored with the School's 2008 Elizabeth Butler Award, given to a graduate who shows exceptional promise in the field of social work, and in January, the University of Chicago recognized her

with its Alumni Diversity in Leadership Award, presented to individuals who have made strong contributions to diversity both in the university and the community at large.

"The diversity leadership awards are on some level about selflessness, about seeking to provide others with opportunities and promise and hope," said Julie Peterson, U of C vice president of communication, who introduced Cardona at the awards presentation. "There are few who embody this spirit of openness and selflessness more than Evette Cardona."

statements submitted by myriad community groups seeking support, and oversees grants in youth and family support, student academic achievement and community health program areas, including those for groups like the Latino Education Alliance, the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group and the Carole Robertson Center for Learning.

In the tumult of the current economic meltdown, the stakes for funding feel higher than ever, with many community groups on the brink of financial ruin. "A lot of groups are



IN MANY WAYS, CARDONA FOUND just the right home at Polk Bros., a foundation devoted to reducing the impact of poverty and providing better education, health care and other services in underprivileged communities. Unlike a lot of foundations, which prefer that grant-makers maintain a measure of distance from potential petitioners, Polk Bros. encourages not just social mingling by its staff but also working in the trenches through volunteer and board involvement. "We value accessibility," Cardona says of her employers. "We don't believe in being in our chambers on high, doling out grants. Throughout my time here I have been able to be an activist and be recognized and affirmed here for that."

Cardona has been at the foundation since 1998. She oversees segments of the foundation's small grants schedule, reviews proposals and financial

in crisis management mode," Cardona says. "The recession has hit them pretty hard. And when you have these groups operating in communities that have been so impacted by violence and poverty, you really want to do all you can to help."

In the end, however, she says, an organization, no matter how well-intentioned, has to have the structures and leadership in place to demonstrate that the funding will be put to good use. "You have to resist the temptation to take on the role of savior. I'm not going to give a group X amount of dollars to enable their mediocrity. I'd rather that money go to an organization that I know has the capacity to put it to good use," she says.

As a Latina and a lesbian, Cardona is acutely aware that she is still a rare presence in the world of philanthropy, a domain not historically known for its diversity. But more than being a minority presence, she is committed to

bringing her activist perspective to the grant-making table—forging connections between funders and disenfranchised communities.

“At this point, it’s about more than representation,” Cardona says. “The field of philanthropy has matured in that regard, so I’m not interested in representation discussions anymore. It’s about how those dollars are used. It’s about not just funding the status quo. It’s about using dollars for social justice. And from that standpoint, there’s a lot more work to do.”

Cardona’s career at Polk Bros.

ciplines and the interaction between future clinicians and would-be program administrators—although she does say that she was a little apprehensive at first about how she might relate to her classmates at SSA.

“Not only was I older, I was Puerto Rican and lesbian. I expected I’d always have to be the voice of the ‘other,’” she says. “But that wasn’t the case, and having the diversity of social work experiences and also policy works in class together added so much richness to the discussion.”

go to discuss those issues, so we created it.”

Today, Amigas Latinas is a nexus for Spanish-speaking women in the Chicago area looking for support and resources as they struggle with issues of coming out. It serves about 300 women, providing education, advocacy and a place to be heard through its monthly programming. As the organization has grown, so too has its diversity. “We’ve had to address many layers of life experiences,” Cardona says. “Language is a big issue, because we have native-U.S.-born women and

important things an employer can offer you,” she says. “The comfort to be who you are is certainly one of them.”

As steeped as she now is in the world of philanthropy, Cardona readily admits that is not the life she envisioned for herself growing up in Chicago’s Bucktown neighborhood. As a child, she dreamed of being everything from a doctor to a police officer. She discovered photography in high school and majored in it at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in art and design in 1984. Following college, she kicked around doing audio-visual work for small design companies and freelance photography until the economy tanked in the early 1990s.

While in college, Cardona had begun to dip a toe in the pool of community organizers, involving herself with an assembly of artists and activists in the Near Northwest Neighborhood Network. That led to work with Christopher House, a social service agency for low-income families, where she worked with adolescent mothers and their children, and then to Urban Gateways, a center for arts education, where she taught photography.

She enjoyed the work enough to apply to SSA, setting her on the path she is still on today. Her wide-ranging community work has been honored by a number of groups in addition to the University, including leadership awards presented by the Humboldt Park Empowerment Project and the Coalition of Africa, Arab, Asian, European, Latino Immigrants of Illinois.

Cardona says she is grateful to be in a position to make a difference, both as an activist and a grant-maker. “I’m fortunate in that there were many people who came before me who made it possible for me to do what I do,” she says. “But I’m also fortunate because I get to go out and fight the good fight and be a champion for people who haven’t been as fortunate as I am. And being that champion is very much a part of me.”

1 : Cardona presents an Amigas Latinas scholarship award.



2 : The Amigas Latinas float at the Chicago Annual Pride Parade.



3 : Cardona receiving the Elizabeth Butler Award in 2008.



began while she was still a student in SSA. She did her second-year internship at the foundation under the direction of another SSA alumna, Gwen Rice, who was a senior program officer at Polk Bros. at the time. “I had met Evette years before, when she worked as a site coordinator at Christopher House, and I was just so impressed with her initiative that I never forgot her,” says Rice, now executive director of the Developing Communities Project. “She was so grounded and good with all kinds of people. When her resume came across my desk with the applicants for interns at Polk Bros., I just knew we had to have her.”

Cardona credits the training and experience she got at SSA with preparing her for her current work, both in activism and philanthropy. She loved the variety of the coursework at the School, the exposure to multiple dis-

ON A SWELTERING JULY DAY in 1995, 15 women gathered in a North Side apartment with no air conditioning for the first meeting of Amigas Latinas. Cardona, who had only come out two years before and was soon to start grad school, said she had no idea that the Chicago area’s first-ever coalition for Latina lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning women was about to take root.

“I didn’t go into this with the intention of creating a nonprofit organization,” she says. “It started out just as a simple support group, to provide a safe place where we could get together and celebrate who we are without apology. But it kept growing, mostly through word of mouth. There was just so much fear around being gay and Latina. It was very palpable. But there was no place to

women who just arrived in the country six months earlier. We have married women, single women, mothers and women who have not come out at work. Our role is to plug them into networks no matter what their experiences and help them find support.”

The women find Amigas Latinas through referrals from friends and Internet searches. Nearly two-thirds are Spanish language-dominant or non-English-speaking women who somehow get word that the group is there. “It’s amazing,” Cardona says. “People come to this country and plug into the network to find support.”

Cardona says that being able to be out at her job is critical to her, as is the fact Polk Bros. supports LGBT organizations. “When I go back and talk to SSA students who are about to go in the job market I tell them it’s not all about the salary; it’s also about the other





Social Studies

New initiatives are putting into practice what research about urban education has consistently shown—social supports are crucial to school reform

BY CARL VOGEL

Imagine—or recall—trying to pay attention in class when you arrived at school that morning hungry and tired, or are already planning how you'll make it back home without getting a beating on the way. Or imagine staying focused through a tough assignment when nobody at home has shown an interest in your grades or ever helped with your homework. Or learning from a teacher who is constantly shouting over unruly students or never stops to ask how your day is going.

That doesn't sound like a formula for a learning much at all, yet for many students, it's a fair summation of their school day. More and more, educators are recognizing that to improve

urban schools, they must pay attention to students' lives outside the building and to the relationships among the people within it. "People underestimate how many school reform initiatives are inhibited by social factors," says Charles Payne, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor at SSA.

Traditionally, the role of social work in education has been to provide a clinician to counsel a handful of students with behavioral or mental health issues and to assist with compliance for students with special education needs. Those jobs are as important as ever, but the connection between social work and education has been expanding.

Over the last two decades, researchers have built a body of empirical evidence on the impact of socio-emotional factors on how well a school runs and how much students learn. For

example, in a 2006 paper, “The Essential Supports for School Improvement,” the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago lays out five key factors: inclusive leadership, parent/community ties, faculty professional capacity, a student-centered learning climate and ambitious instruction. With a “person-in-environment” understanding of the world and experience and models for providing social supports, social workers are well-suited to help design and execute programs that address these issues.

“Having good parent and community ties are a major part of successful school improvement, and social supports are needed to create effective schools,” says Melissa Roderick, the Hermon

support staff from partnering organizations, and new teachers get 24 hours of training at the start of the school year.

“We have high expectations of our students and a very strong culture that we align with our academic goals. We have a structure in every classroom to build community and quality relationships. There are clear consequences and rewards for behavior, and we want a strong sense of belonging,” explains Nicole Woodard-Iliev, Donoghue’s director.

Patrick and Woodard-Iliev also meet individually with each teacher in the building three times a year to talk through the academic and socio-emotional status of every student, in part to see if any of the school’s extended supports may be a good match



“We’ve begun talking to principals in Woodlawn about **what kind of professional development they want for themselves** and for other people in their buildings who they think will be leaders.”

— CHARLES PAYNE

Dunlap Smith Professor at SSA and the co-director at the Consortium on Chicago School Research. “Safety and order and a strong social environment are all fundamental to learning.”

>>> ▪ <<<

LLO PATRICK, A 1998 GRADUATE OF SSA’s master’s program, is the school social worker at Donoghue Elementary. Her busy schedule at the small school, one of four charter schools operated by the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute, includes tasks that would be familiar to most school social workers. Each week she meets with seven or eight groups of a half dozen or so kids to talk over topics like dealing with grief or getting along better in class, and she does individual counseling sessions, as well. She organizes meetings with parents, teachers and students when a child is having a problem at school, and she helps figure out what resources can make a difference.

But Patrick does much more. Like all the UEI schools, Donoghue is a community school, with extended hours, services and relationships to give students expanded opportunities, from targeted tutoring to karate. Patrick gets anyone who works with the kids up to speed on the school’s curriculum and culture, which includes an organized set of guidelines such as mutual respect and “no put downs.” She spends an hour or so with all

for the student’s needs. “It is time-consuming,” Patrick admits, “but it is so worth it. I get so much good information from the meetings about the classes and the students, and I think it really helps teachers to be reflective on how everything is going and to hear our feedback.”

SSA Assistant Professor Michael Woolley’s research on students’ relationships with adults—in their family, community and school—shows just how important such connections can be to academic success. In one of his latest papers, “The Social Context of School Success for Latino Middle School Students: Direct and Indirect Influences of Teachers, Family, and Friends,” a 2009 article in *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, Woolley and his co-authors used structural equation models to find that teacher support was associated with student behavior and satisfaction with school and was indirectly associated with time spent on homework and grades.

Studies by Woolley and others have also shown that for urban schools working with students who are catching up academically, the best strategy is to purposefully pair a “press” of high expectations with social support. “That’s the fundamental finding of two decades of research by the Consortium,” says Roderick. “The social aspect without an academic press doesn’t improve much, but pressing kids without a strong social support doesn’t create effective schools.”

Roderick’s research also demonstrates the importance of adult relationships, including how parental and teacher guid-

ance affects college attendance rates of students graduating from the Chicago Public Schools. “If you walk into a high school, you can figure out really quickly how to graduate—go to your classes and pass your classes,” she says. “But if your parents didn’t go to college, you might not know the kinds of grades you need and how to apply to college. Eighty four percent of CPS high school students want to go to college, but if someone doesn’t tell them how to get there, they won’t just figure it out.”

“Schools need to reach out to families,” Woolley says. “The more that at-risk kids are exposed to attentive adults—in and outside the school—the research shows that the better their out-

THE STRENGTH OF THE UEI school model, however, is also a limitation. Every school with a structure and a culture that incorporates social supports can’t be built from the ground up. “First we learned what needed to be done from the research, and now there are some schools like Donoghue, which is an exemplar of how to do it in action. But how do we take existing schools and get them to the same place?” Roderick says.

The authors of the Consortium’s 2006 report end the introduction with concern about how their blueprint for success in

“The social aspect without an academic press doesn’t improve much, but **pressing kids without a strong social support** doesn’t create effective schools.”

— MELISSA RODERICK



comes will be.” Here too, Donoghue has systems in place. As a community school, Donoghue operates a number of programs to help foster families’ connection to the school and their children’s education, including a book club, a series of meetings with kindergarten parents on the typical developmental learning stages for five-year-olds and even a family exercise/dance night.

None of this is by accident. Since Donoghue opened in 2005, Woodard-Iliev, Patrick and Todd Barnett, Donoghue’s family and community engagement director, serve as the school’s leadership team, ensuring that social supports and community connections are taken into account as decisions large and small are made about the school. “Lo’s role is the school social worker in the broadest conception of that idea,” Woodard-Iliev says. “She looks at what happens across the building and for all families.”

“We need a much deeper integration of social work and social supports with academic support in urban schools to dramatically move the needle on students’ academic performance,” says Timothy Knowles, John Dewey Director and clinical professor at UEI. “These ideas are core to what we do. We have social workers in leadership positions to help build systemic approaches to bring social work and social supports to kids and to families in need. We’ve built our schools to put the ideas behind the research at SSA into action.”

the classroom can be undermined by overwhelming barriers: “At the same time, we worry about the socially isolated, crime-ridden communities where there is little social capital. While the school system must press forward to strengthen the essential supports in these schools, it also needs to build and support powerful partnerships at the community level, as well as the city, county, state and federal levels to address the very serious challenges facing our city youth that go beyond the schoolyard.”

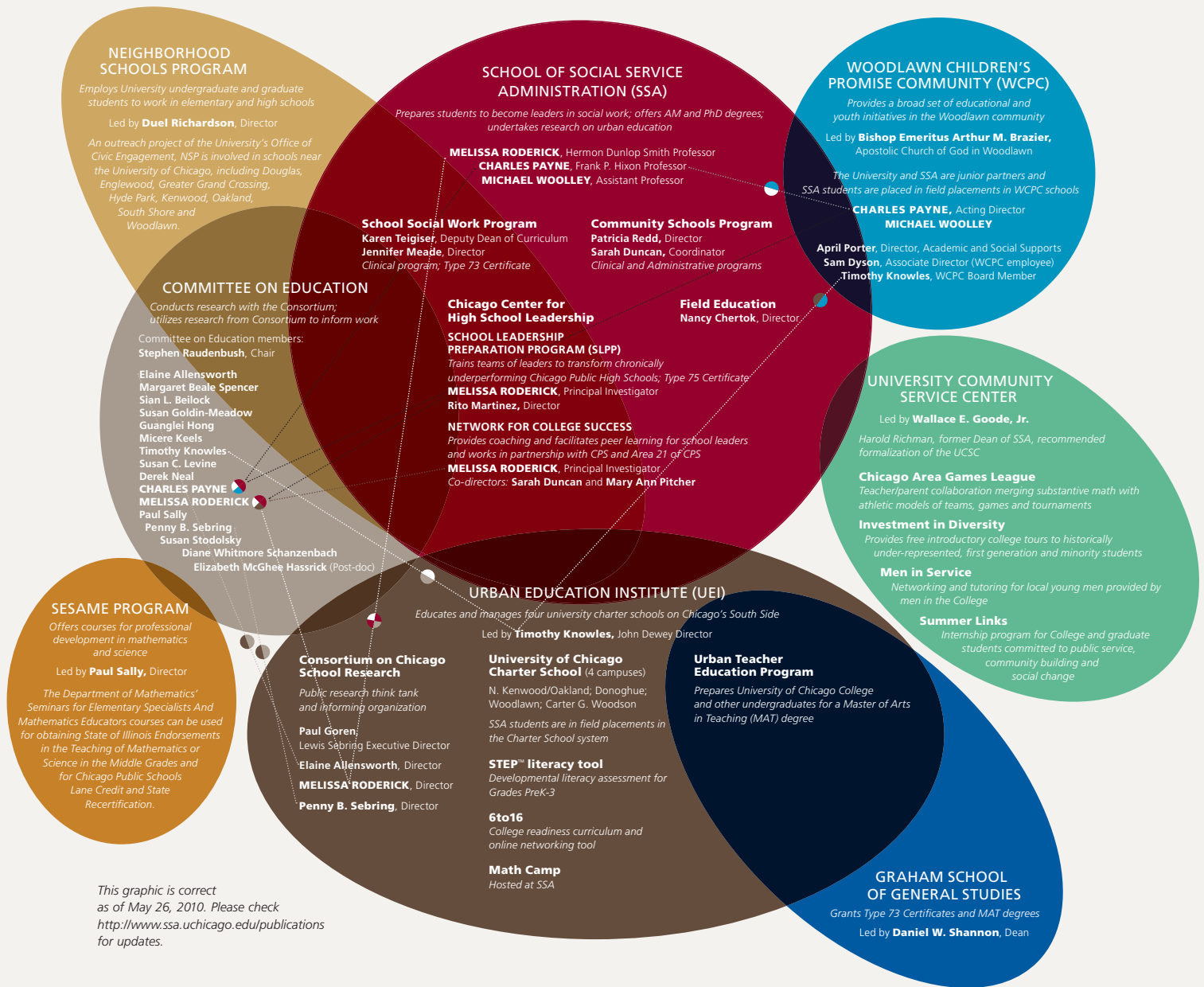
One answer to those tough questions is growing right next door to the University of Chicago in the Woodlawn neighborhood, a community with nearly 40 percent of the population living beneath the poverty line, but also with a robust collection of community groups with a track record of success. Their latest plan is the Woodlawn Children’s Promise Community, an opportunity to radically change education and the life outcomes for more than 9,000 children who live in the neighborhood.

The promise zone concept was created more than a decade ago in New York, with the Harlem Children’s Zone, which offers a broad set of free, coordinated, best-practice programs to all the children in the neighborhood from early childhood through college. In 2009, the Obama administration announced a federal program that will fund promise zones for 20 communities across the country. Led by Bishop Arthur M. Brazier, pastor emeritus of the Apostolic Church of God, the Woodlawn Children’s Promise Community began last year and will apply for the federal support. However, it is already up and running,



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

EDUCATION REFORM PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND COLLABORATIONS



FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, the University of Chicago has made urban education reform a priority in its civic engagement, scholarship and teaching. With programs that cover everything from coordinating a citywide coalition of community schools to studying the impact of classroom practices, the University has a confederation of initiatives that work in conjunction to inform and support each others' work. In the graph above, programs that work together in some formal capacity are shown as overlapping, SSA faculty names are in capitals, and lines show how University personnel are involved with multiple initiatives.

For example, Charles Payne, SSA's Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor and a long-time researcher and advisor on urban education reform, is also a member of the Committee on Education, a collection of University scholars from across disciplines who exchange ideas and research, as well as a leader in the University's role in the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community. "A real strength of the University is that there are now very interesting people doing interesting work in various parts of the University, and talking to each other about that work," he says.

"There is an incredible amount of synergy with SSA in the schools we operate," says Tim Knowles, the John Dewey Director of the Urban Education Institute. "It's one of the most important engines to develop people to do this kind of work across the city. And we're working with Charles [Payne] for the WCPC and with Melissa [Roderick, the Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor at SSA] and the Consortium on Chicago School Research. There are remarkable minds at SSA, and there are many ways we align with the School."

building on its relationship with local schools and with the University of Chicago as a junior partner (see “In the Zone” on page 4).

CPS has approved a \$1.6 million grant to build a “community of community schools” for the ten public schools in the neighborhood, supporting academic enrichment, sports, arts programming and health initiatives that are linked across schools, and the district has assigned social workers to the schools on more frequent and regular schedules. The University of Chicago is helping to analyze options for preschool programs and home visitation for new parents, interviewing teachers on what kind of supports will create stronger experiences for children and families, working on health outcomes for local residents, and bringing in partners and research from SSA, the Office of Civic Engagement, UEI and the Consortium.

SSA also is working with the schools in Woodlawn to develop comprehensive field placements at each school. April Porter, the director of academic and social supports for the WCPC, says that lessons over the years from the experiences in the field of students in SSA’s community schools and school social work programs of study have been particularly useful in designing the new placements in the Woodlawn schools.

“We want our SSA students to understand what it means to work collaboratively with students, staff, parents and community members to provide academic and social supports that strengthen the linkage between school, home and community,” Porter says. “In the WCPC schools, the SSA students have the opportunity to learn how to build and support this type of linkage not only within one school, but across all 10 schools, leveraging both resources and relationships within the community.”

Less than a month after starting his first year in SSA’s combined master’s/PhD program, Robert Eschmann was spending two days a week at his field placement at Fiske Elementary in Woodlawn. He’s implemented a social emotional learning curriculum in primary classrooms, taught math to eighth graders in preparation for ISAT tests and created a hip-hop program designed to increase social and academic competencies in 4th-8th grade boys.

“We’ve been analyzing the music and making our own music, too. The kids have been writing personal reflections about their community and what they’d like to see change. I’ve been working with the school social worker in thinking about the curriculum I’m using and how to best design the groups,” says

Eschmann, himself a CPS graduate who grew up in the East Roger’s Park neighborhood. “It’s all been an incredible experience, and I can’t imagine being in a better place for what I want to learn.”

Charles Payne, who is coordinating the University’s role in the WCPC, says that one of the goals is to help build distributed leadership at the schools. “We’ve begun talking to our principals about what kind of professional development they want for themselves and for other people in their buildings who they think will be leaders,” he says.

Much of Payne’s research in education revolves around the idea of the school as a social entity—a workplace as well as a place of learning, and an institution that depends on goodwill and respect among parents, teachers, administrators and students to succeed. He points out that CPS schools have an annual student mobility rate of nearly 30 percent, that every four years a school can expect to turn over half their faculty and that half of CPS principals have been on the job for less than four years.

“With that kind of turnover, people can never build the kind of relationships that drive change,”

Payne argues. “Starting this summer, we’re going to ask our parent organizers and parents in Woodlawn to think about what would it take to stop this little dance of people moving from one school to another and to encourage families to make sure that their child finishes the school year in the school where the child began the year. And in the fall, I hope we’ll begin getting teachers in Woodlawn to begin outlining a plan to reduce teacher mobility.”

Woodlawn’s program will serve as a testing ground for such ideas, processes and programs. “We’ll start gathering baseline data this spring for research purposes, and we’re already learning a lot about how you implement certain kinds of things. We should be able to document this in such a way as to shorten the learning curve for others,” Payne says.

That’s important because experts like Woolley and Knowles agree that to take social supports in urban education to scale, policymakers and planners are going to need to not only change perspectives, they’ll have to find the funding and the ready personnel to implement the new programs. A new generation of social work graduates like Robert Eschmann will be crucial if tomorrow’s students can say that they felt encouraged, challenged, safe and enthusiastic at school. ■



To take social supports in urban education to scale, policymakers are going to have to not only change perspectives, they’ll have to find the funding and the ready personnel.

Our South Side

BY JULIE JUNG

SSA and the University of Chicago's neighborhood tour of **research and advocacy**



from its beginning, the School of Social Service Administration has always seen its mission to do more than study the issues faced by distressed individuals, families and neighborhoods. By explicitly linking research to action, teaching generations of practitioners and leaders, and working with service providers through field education, SSA is a partner and resource for communities, and nowhere is that more true than in the School's home, the South Side of Chicago.

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, and according to the 2000 Census the South Side is home to 1.3 million people. It is a home for families and neighbors who have defined neighborhoods such as Bronzeville and its proud

history, live in the bungalow belt of Auburn Gresham, and enjoy picnics, baseball and the DuSable Museum in Washington Park. The South Side is home to a multitude of churches, block clubs, stores and schools.

SSA does not have a direct connection to every community on the South Side—it's hard to imagine any one organization could—but through its programs and people, the School has an impressively wide and deep relationship with institutions throughout the area; the photos and programs on these pages are only a sample of the School's interaction. "SSA has been the leader in community engagement in Chicago for over a hundred years—and though we lead the way, we lead by example. We have a historic record of positive community engagement and we continue to seek ways to enhance that engagement," says Associate Professor Waldo E. Johnson, Jr.

Today, SSA is in a new partnership with the



Calumet Park, 95th Street and Lake Michigan: The coal-burning State Line Power Plant sits across from Calumet Park, just one of hundreds of sites that were captured last year by the Resource Mapping Project, a project of the South Side Health and Vitality Study. Coordinated by South Side leaders and University researchers, including SSA Professor Colleen Grogan and Associate Professor Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., the project has plotted community health, education, business and human service resources in six South Side neighborhoods to help local residents and programs better understand how local conditions affect health. The data has already been shared with the MacArthur Foundation, LISC/Chicago and the Chicago Department of Information Technologies; eventually all 34 neighborhoods on the South Side will be mapped.

Oakwood Shores Development, Pershing and Vincennes:

Associate Professor Robert Chaskin is leading a multifaceted study of several mixed-income communities that have been built by the Chicago Housing Authority to replace former high-rise public housing, including the Oakwood Shores Development on the near South Side. The research, which explores the complexities of the transformation of the environment around relocated public housing residents and the nature of social interaction with market-rate renters and owners, has informed the CHA and the MacArthur Foundation for their plans for youth activities, resident supports and facilitation of positive interactions among all residents.



University of Chicago's Office of Civic Engagement, which is writing a new chapter to the University's history with the surrounding neighborhoods. In the past, the U of C has been described by its neighbors as at best aloof, and at worst a bully. Today, though, under the leadership of President Robert J. Zimmer, the University is developing permanent and positive relationships with communities on the South Side.

The efforts are being led by Ann Marie Lipinski, the University's vice president for civic engagement, who is working with the city and local communities to determine how to best leverage the strengths of the University to provide transdisciplinary approaches to urban challenges. "We are working toward a model where the University's distinctive assets can be focused on Chicago's opportunities or problems in ways that create unique value and relationships. Much of that is achieved through partnerships with faculty, and we have spent significant time with members

of the SSA faculty, whose work often aligns with the city's most pressing issues," she says. "Dean Jeanne Marsh has been a tremendous partner."

Lipinski's office has worked with SSA faculty such as McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service, Law, and Public Policy Jens Ludwig and Helen Ross Professor Harold Pollack on the University of Chicago Crime Lab. The office has worked on education issues with Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Charles Payne and Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor Melissa Roderick, and with Johnson, the community engagement chair for the South Side Health and Vitality Studies. She notes that SSA Associate Professor Robert Chaskin, whose expertise is in community development and organizing, has spoken eloquently about connecting experience to scholarship and the opportunities the University has to harness skills across disciplines. "That's a potent idea," Lipinski says.

A big part of the approach is working in partnership.

Gary Comer Youth Center, 7200 South Ingleside Avenue:

SSA's has been working with the Comer Science and Education Foundation since 2004, a relationship that has augmented SSA's Community Development curriculum. Alumna Barbara Jackson was instrumental in developing the strategic plan for the Paul Revere School and the Gary Comer Youth Center by bringing a social work perspective to its management and service offerings and by creating a field education program. Samuel Deutsch Professor Emerita Dolores Norton also provided guidance as an Advisory Board member. The community now has social supports where none existed before.



“We’re creating a new paradigm in how we collaborate with the South Side community,” Johnson says. “All urban universities bear some responsibility to their communities. But it means that we are a ‘partner’ not a ‘leader.’” For example, before the Mapping Project was started, Johnson, SSA Professor Colleen Grogan (the project’s co-chair), and other University faculty and staff worked with local aldermen and church and community leaders to create an advisory board to determine how best to conduct the surveys. “Community engagement sometimes means that we’re behind the scenes or part of the choir,” Payne says.

The Office of Civic Engagement has engaged the South Side by holding town hall meetings for community leaders and residents (hosted at SSA) where collaborations and research projects have been presented and discussed. Other groups, such as the Community and Economic Development Organization, a joint stu-

dent group of SSA and the Harris School of Public Policy Studies, have held information sessions for the residents of Woodlawn and the University community, and Lipinski’s office has also worked with SSA on projects such as the Census Conference held at the School in February (see “Stand Up and Be Counted,” page 6).

“We’re asking communities to collaborate with us as research partners, not solely as research subjects. This approach includes working with communities to determine the appropriate questions and subsequent projects that should be pursued and how the community can be brought into the decisions about how the research is conducted in a respectful manner,” Johnson says. “This is a very different approach than in the past, where social scientists would go into communities and observe them as outsiders. We want to conduct research that’s going to be useful to the communities as well as the University.”



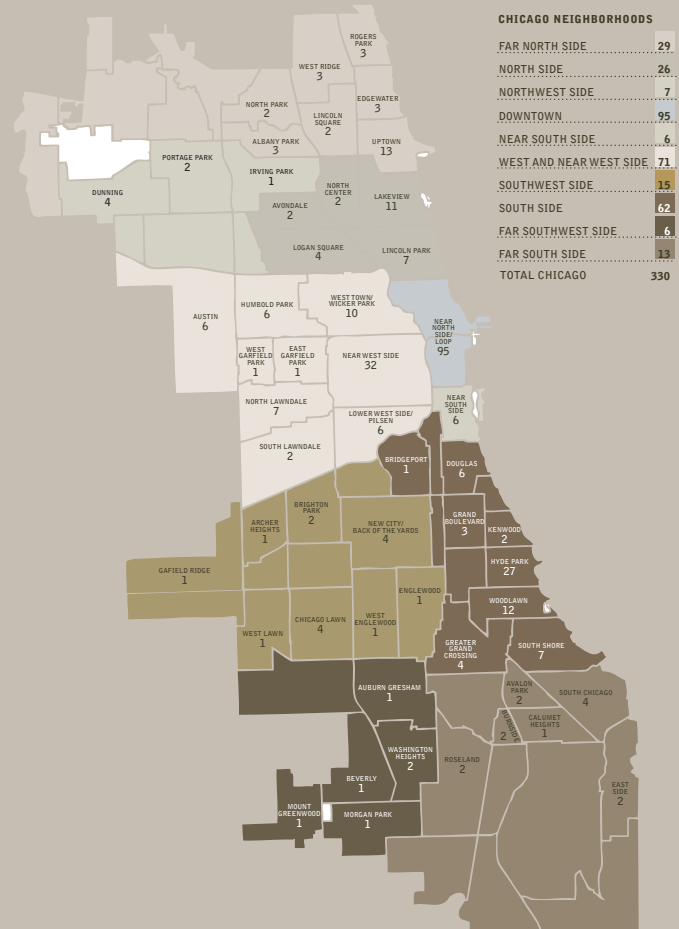
Paul Robeson High School, 6835 South Normal Boulevard: This fall, the University of Chicago Crime Lab funded Becoming A Man (BAM), a youth intervention program operated by local nonprofits Youth Guidance and World Sport Chicago. The program is now working with male students in 15 Chicago public schools, including Robeson, to address the problem of youth violence. Jens Ludwig and Harold Pollack, both professors at SSA, are co-directors of the Crime Lab's inter-community effort, leveraging research power across the University to help determine which programs work.

Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), 1615 West Chicago Avenue: This year, Allison Hollander, AM '10, has been helping to evaluate city projects, such as a summer youth employment program, that impact communities across Chicago—including the South Side—at her master's field placement at the Department of Family and Support Services. SSA has relationships with more than 600 agencies and programs throughout the Chicago area for its field placement program. This past academic year, more than 400 students worked in the field for a total of more than 225,000 hours. Students are guided by practitioners who teach them best practices and provide services that include clinical and administrative work.



Emmett Till Math & Science Academy, 6543 South Champlain Avenue: SSA students and faculty are also involved with smaller scale projects throughout the South Side. When Associate Professor Waldo E. Johnson, Jr. was "principal for a day" at Till Academy last fall, for example, he discovered that their library needed help affixing bar codes on their books. He contacted the University's Community Service Center and found several University students willing to help.

SSA Field Placements in Chicago





A Place in the Neighborhood

Local fights against new Wal-Mart stores offer lessons for urban organizers working for economic justice

Residents of Inglewood, Calif., made national news in 2004 when they defeated a ballot referendum that would have permitted Wal-Mart to build a “supercenter” in the community.

Conventional wisdom says that urban areas like Inglewood—a low-income community of color that is completely surrounded by the City of Los Angeles—should fight for the jobs a retail behemoth like Wal-Mart provides. And it certainly says that if the community does fight against the world’s largest retailer, the community loses.

“Usually, in these kind of referenda, if you’ve got money you win,” says Virginia Parks, an assistant professor at SSA. What made the difference in Inglewood was an unusual coalition of community groups and organized labor that mobilized hundreds of people to knock on

doors and distribute flyers urging voters to keep Wal-Mart out. They argued that the arrival of the nonunion company would provide only low-paying jobs and undermine the wages and benefits at other local stores, thus weakening families and the neighborhood.

For Parks, the battle of Inglewood, along with similar fights against new Wal-Mart stores in New York City and Chicago, offer a roadmap to how local efforts can have an impact on fighting poverty. “Community residents are organizing around low-wage work and see it as a threat. That’s fairly new,” says Parks, herself a former community organizer. She and Columbia University colleague Dorian Warren are studying the trend for a book about the Chicago and Inglewood anti-Wal-Mart campaigns.

The new labor-community partnerships are trying to improve the wages and work-



Inglewood City Council member Eloy Morales speaks at the victory party after Wal-Mart's defeat.



ing conditions of low-paid service sector jobs. “This is an evolution in how low-income urban communities of color are working to be sure they have access to decent jobs,”

Parks says. “Policy innovations have emerged from these fights; new campaigns and new coalitions are being created.”

>>> ▪ <<<

BETWEEN 1979 AND 2003, THE BOTTOM FIFTH of American households measured by income distribution saw their after-tax income essentially stay the same, increasing by just 4 percent total over those 24 years, according to Census figures. For the wealthiest fifth, however, income rose nearly 60 percent—and for very the top one percent, their after-tax income more than doubled.

There are a lot of reasons for this rising disparity, but a big one is the changing nature of the American economy. In urban communities of color, this trend has been exacerbated by the disappearance of union manufacturing jobs and reductions in federal, state and local government, which employed disproportionate numbers of the African-American middle class. In 2009, 12.3 percent of American workers were in a union, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, down from 20.1 percent in 1983.

These well-paid jobs have been replaced by work in home health care, retail and other service-sector industries that pay much lower wages—in 2009, full-time unionized workers had median usual weekly earnings of \$908, while those who were not represented by unions had median weekly earnings of \$710. And unemployment is higher among African Americans, in part because of a disparity in education levels. At the start of the current recession, white unemployment stood at 4 percent and had risen to 8.8 percent by February 2010, according to the Economic Policy Institute’s analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data. For African Americans, it started at 8 percent and had risen to 15.8 percent.

“In this country, we have the least effective programs for reducing inequality and at the same time we have the greatest inequality because of our labor market arrangements,” says Evelyn Brodtkin, associate professor at SSA. She points out that mid-1990’s welfare reform reduced benefits and access to the social safety net, producing an increase in families that are living well below the poverty line. Brodtkin describes what this “deep poverty” looks like in terms familiar



to social workers on the front lines: “doubling up in housing, getting evicted and moving all the time, staying in bad relationships, moving into worse neighborhoods than you were already in, running out of food by the end of the month.”

To keep the urban economy afloat, the general theory of development in cities has been to “attract capital at all costs or go the way of Detroit,” says Robert Fairbanks, an assistant professor at SSA. “That means forfeiting demand-side regulations—reasonable wages, benefit structures—and it means providing tax breaks to major corporations, which ultimately diminishes potential budgets for city services or social service delivery.”

>>> ▪ <<<

THE SEEDS OF THE 2004 REFERENDUM DEFEAT in Inglewood were planted a year before, when the pressure across California from a plan to build 40 new Wal-Mart supercenters—stores of more than 200,000-square-foot that sell groceries as well as other items—led to a push for wage and benefit cuts by other Southern California grocery chains. When grocery worker unions went on strike, many neighbors respected the picket lines.

Meanwhile, the Inglewood City Council had rejected the retailer’s proposal to build a supercenter on a 60-acre site near the Hollywood Park racetrack. Wal-Mart responded by creating a ballot measure that, if approved, would have permitted it to develop the site without any governmental oversight, sidestepping the council and the established development process, including environmental impact review.

Energized grocery workers threw themselves into the campaign to defeat the Inglewood ballot referendum. This time, they were joined by neighbors, church and civic leaders. “People were working on this at least a year before this actually came to a vote,” Rev. Altagracia Perez of Inglewood’s Holy Faith Episcopal Church told *Democracy Now*. “Slowly, [they were] joined by churches and local businesses and politicians.”

Although opponents were badly outspent, the referendum was defeated by a 2-1 margin on April 6, 2004. “They sent out five pieces of mail a day, TV ads every day with people of color saying how much they love to work in their stores,” says Roxana Tynan, deputy director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), an advocacy group that works for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods throughout Southern California. “But people finally had enough. I remember this middle-class African-American couple saying, ‘This is plantation economics.’ People got bent out of shape

that there was this lack of respect.”

In Chicago, a similar story played out to a different conclusion. Wal-Mart’s first foray into the city in 2002 went nowhere after the retailer asked for \$18 million in public subsidies to open a store in the South Loop. “Am I buying the company?” Mayor Richard M. Daley cracked at the time.

By the fall of 2003, Wal-Mart was back with a new proposal to build two stores in low-income communities, on the West Side neighborhood of Austin and on the site of a former steel plant on the South Side. As in California, the wage gap between disappearing union jobs and the Wal-Mart galvanized local residents to build bridges with unions. The new coalition began by lobbying the City Council to deny Wal-Mart’s requests for zoning changes. Their pressure forced the Council to a split decision—yes to the Austin store, no to the South Side proposal.

Next, key coalition members like Chicago ACORN and the community-labor partnership Jobs With Justice mobilized to support a Big Box Living Wage Ordinance, requiring stores of 90,000 square feet or more, owned by retailers with more than \$1 billion in sales, to pay their workers at least \$10 per hour. It was the first ordinance in the country to set wages for a specific subset of the retail industry within a city.

“We may not match the \$20 an hour somebody made at a factory, but we must make sure they’re at least paid a living wage. People really resonated with that,” recalls James Thindwa, the former executive director of Jobs with Justice, who now organizes Chicago teachers in charter schools.

Neighborhood leaders met with their aldermen and spoke before the City Council to lobby for the ordinance. “We used local, indigenous leaders in those wards—five, six, seven, 10 people who visited aldermen. We did a lot of training and talking points,” Thindwa says. Welfare reform was still new, and single mothers and Wal-Mart employees from nearby suburbs made the case that Wal-Mart wages weren’t enough to get them out of poverty.

Although the living-wage ordinance passed the City Council in July 2006 with a veto-proof majority, by September 2006 Mayor Richard M. Daley was able to push three aldermen to change position, and he then vetoed the measure, his first veto since taking office in 1989. The Austin store opened without having to pay the higher minimum wage. “The fact that Mayor Daley had to issue a veto suggests there was a limit to his power to wrangle votes on this particular issue,” says Parks’ co-researcher Dorian Warren.

THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF MAJOR STORES in Chatham Market, as the South Side shopping center on the former steel plant is now known, but the land that Wal-Mart had its eye on still sits vacant. As this issue went to press, the City Council’s zoning committee, union leaders and Wal-Mart representatives were negotiating over what it would take to open the store.

“I don’t want Wal-Mart here,” William Blackman said on a cold mid-February afternoon. Out foraging for scrap metal, Blackman makes a case against Wal-Mart and globalization worthy of the most ardent trade unionist. “They aren’t going to give nothing but minimum wage, if that. Everything at Wal-Mart mostly comes from China. They’re putting Americans out of work.”

Travel a few blocks away, though, to Mather’s Café and More east of the Dan Ryan Expressway, and you’d be hard-pressed to hear a word against Wal-Mart. “I believe in the union,” said Mary Blackwell, a retired member of the Chicago Teachers Union. “But I also think some people need a job. Something is better than nothing. With things as hard as they are now, everybody needs a job.” She went on to make a textbook neoliberal case for Wal-Mart.

“They have some good bargains,” she said, and added that she would prefer to shop Wal-Mart in Chicago than have all the money from sales go to Evergreen Park, a nearby suburb.

How long do you hold out for better jobs when it means no jobs? When residents don’t have many places to shop, should a neighborhood fight against a new store that doesn’t buy much from U.S. producers? Those aren’t easy questions to answer, and Parks says that differences of opinion within the Chicago communities were one reason Wal-Mart was able to open the Austin store.

“The poverty rates in the Chicago neighborhoods were higher than in Inglewood in LA, and Wal-Mart was able to cast the issue as any job is a good job,” she says. “To make a community campaign like this work, all the local voices have to be saying that we don’t want these low-wage jobs, and in Chicago that wasn’t the case.”

To Parks and Warren, however, the biggest lessons from the Wal-Mart campaigns are about what can happen when a community does speak with one voice. The central insight is the power of what Parks calls “spatially delimited markets.” When a retail firm is interested in the profits from selling in a specific community, there aren’t many location options. That gives the community leverage. “These businesses need the city. They want those local consumer dollars,” Parks says.

At the same time, the jobs that come from a new retail development are positions that can’t be outsourced or moved. Someone in Kentucky or India can’t stock the shelves at a local grocery store or run the register. And that means that these are jobs worth fight-





In the Contract

In Los Angeles, community-labor coalitions have pioneered community benefits agreements (CBAs), a legally enforceable contract between neighborhood groups and a private developer that lists specific requirements of a proposed project. “We’ve never seen anything like that before,” says SSA’s Virginia Parks. “These groups can take the developer to court. These CBAs are enforceable. Lots of agreements made with low-income neighborhoods are more akin to promises; they don’t have teeth.”

The first full-fledged CBA was signed in 2001 as part of an expansion of Los Angeles’ Staples Center sports arena that included an entertainment complex, hotels and retail. The agreement included provisions to hire locally for 70 percent of the 5,500 jobs created by the project, to pay workers at least \$7.72 per hour with health insurance and to make 20 percent of the housing units affordable to families earning 80 percent or less of the area median income.

Parks says that Los Angeles developers are beginning to see community benefits agreements as “the way business is done in L.A.” They are finding advantages for themselves, too. Most notably, developers are assured local communities will support their plans. “CBAs can fast track the often slow, and costly, development process.” Parks says.

ing for, because once they arrive in a community, they’ll stay.

Parks points out that in these Wal-Mart struggles, the new coalitions of community activists and labor unions also found a new arena to battle against low-wage work—municipal legislation and regulation. Historically, labor used its muscle to change state and federal law and policy, such as minimum wage laws. But many large cities have home rule and are able to legislate creatively, giving activists a new opportunity to advance wage and other forms of labor market regulation.

The fights have birthed or advanced a number of innovative policies designed to ensure that a new development will bring some benefits to residents of the community, including first-source hiring rules, living-wage campaigns and community benefit agreements (See “In the Contract”). “It isn’t unprecedented to have important policies being created by grassroots activists—the Community Reinvestment Act is one example—but it is rare. Right now, there is a lot going on at this grassroots level,” Parks says.

SSA Associate Professor Robert Chaskin sees these kinds of organizing efforts as critical in shaping community development, some strands of which have backed away from open power struggles over the past several decades. “It’s an important set of new alliances that crosses organizational boundaries and operates at different levels of action,” Chaskin says. “It has some real promise to influence policy and create change at the community level.”



THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURES of the Wal-Mart battles have not gone unnoticed. In Los Angeles, many of the grassroots leaders involved in the Inglewood victory went on to join the Campaign for a New Century, an organizing effort to improve communities along Los Angeles’ Century Boulevard, the primary artery serving the Los Angeles International Airport. In December 2004, the campaign won the largest community benefits agreement ever approved: \$500 million for environmental remediation, local hiring,

job training and money for local schools in exchange for supporting airport expansion.

In Chicago, a version of community benefits agreements between community groups and the city was woven into Chicago’s failed bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics. In January, a proposal by powerful alderman Ed Burke to tie approval for the South Side Wal-Mart to an ordinance requiring retailers with more than 50 employees and receiving “direct or indirect city subsidies” to pay workers at least \$11.03 per hour failed.

Community-labor partnerships around the country have taken up the idea of leveraging local development. In Pittsburgh, for example, a new stadium for the NHL Penguins has given a coalition of more than 130 organizations an opportunity to negotiate for quality jobs, training for local residents, a full service grocery store in the area, LEED certification for the arena, and creation of local parks and open spaces. A national nonprofit, the Partnership for Working Families, now provides local labor-community groups with

information and technical support around these kinds of community benefits campaigns.

The groups are even starting to take the local policy innovations to the federal level. Tynan says LAANE worked with national allies Green For All and the Partnership for Working Families to try to link community hiring and job standards to federal stimulus money, and was able to attach worker-related standards to last year’s Waxman-Markey environmental bill. Though the measure failed, Tynan says the experience helped LAANE learn the ropes in Congress, and that they’ll be back.

In this tough economy, the leverage of communities isn’t as strong as in the boom times. “The pressure for jobs and the consumer pressures may be just too much to overcome,” says Warren about Chicago’s ongoing South Side story. On the other hand, local politicians are anxious to show constituents that they were able to get things accomplished. “I could also see a deal being cut where Burke and the Mayor and others agree to some kind of living wage ordinance in exchange for Wal-Mart being able to open more stores. I think the timing is good for the labor and community groups to mobilize on this, because the election clock is ticking.”





White House Fellows Award

On October 23, **Harold Richman** was posthumously awarded the Legacy of Leadership Award from the White House Fellows. Richman was a White House Fellow and special assistant to the Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirt, from 1965 to 1967, and was a member of President Jimmy Carter's Commission on Mental Health from 1977 to 1978. Richman was dean of SSA from 1969 to 1978.



Professor Emerita Pastora San Juan Cafferty at the White House Fellows event

conference, "Social Work Research: A World of Possibilities," in San Francisco, Calif. on January 13-17. **Jeanne C. Marsh**, Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor

organized the symposium, "Gender, Access and Equity in the Provision of Substance Abuse Treatment." Presenters included Helen Ross Professor **Harold Pollack**, doctoral students **Christina Andrews**, **Melissa Hardesty** and

Hee-Choon Shi, NORC researcher. Assistant Professor **Michael Woolley** was an organizer and presenter at the symposium, "The Critical Role of Adults in the Efficacy of Schools: The Work Climate Influences the Learning Climate and Student Outcomes." Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor **Mike Sosin** conducted a workshop, "Publishing

Empirical Studies in Social Work: Writing Influential Articles."

Several of SSA's doctoral students and faculty presented oral papers and posters, including Assistant Professor **E. Summerson Carr**, Associate Professor **Yoonsun Choi**, Professor **Colleen Grogan**, Samuel Deutsch Professor **Sydney Hans**, Associate Professor **Julia Henly**, Assistant Professor **Jung Hwa-Ha** and Associate Professor **Susan Lambert**.

Washington Week

Twenty-three current SSA students went to Washington, D.C., over spring break for SSA's annual Washington Week, an opportunity to learn about working for social service, policy and advocacy organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. More than 40 alumni held onsite information sessions, spoke at events and offered work shadow experiences. **Charles Curie, AM '79**, hosted an opening reception at the Cosmos Club for

Harold Richman, former dean of SSA, posthumously received the John Gardner Award from the White House Fellows at a dinner on October 23. His widow, Marlene, and sons Robert (far left) and Andrew (right) accepted the award on his behalf from Bob Edmonds, president of the White House Fellows Foundation and Association.

the students and alumni, and **Sonal Shah, AB' 90**, deputy assistant to the president and director of the office of social innovation and civic participation for the White House Domestic Policy Council, invited students to a talk she gave for the U of C alumni Distinguished Speaker Series.

African-American Student Association Events

The African-American Student Association at SSA hosted three events

SSA at SSWR Conference

SSA was well represented at the annual Society for Social Work and Research



1



2



3



4



5

during Black Heritage Celebration 2010. On January 18, students participated in a Day of Service, assisting local elderly with household chores at the Good Shepherd Manor, a senior residential center on Chicago's South Side. During the Martin Luther King Commemoration Services on January 22, the event's keynote speaker, Bishop **Arthur Brazier**, talked about the lessons he learned from his experiences as a young person and offered words of encouragement to African-American youth. And on March 5, students hosted "Taste of Africa," an opportunity to enjoy African and Caribbean food and dancing and to bid on handmade jewelry, masks and more.

SSA and U of C

SSA has worked closely with the University for a number of recent events. In March, the School hosted two events: the Woodlawn Community Summit, "Building Bridges: One

Blockclub at a Time," a collaboration between the University of Chicago and Alderman **Willie B. Cochran**, and the Project Exploration Group's Annual Girls' Health and Science Day, an all-day conference for approximately 100 Chicago Public School girls in grades 7-10, co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Hospitals. SSA is also an initial partner in the Recycles Pilot Bike Share Campus Program this school year.

An Evening with CEDO

The Community Economic Development Organization hosted an evening for Woodlawn residents and University students on February 10, allowing attendees to network with local elected officials and representative community organizations. CEDO is a joint student organization between the Harris School and SSA, whose purpose is to improve the quality of life in under-served neighborhoods.

American Indian Experience

SSA celebrated American Indian culture and explored issues surrounding social services for American Indian communities on May 1 with a conference, "American Indian Urban Families—Sustaining Traditions Through Creative Expressions." The event, organized by **Dorene Wiese, A.M. '82 (Social Sciences)**, and **Francie Corrie, A.M. '10**, brought together leading experts to discuss American Indian urban families and what social workers, educators and others need to know about American Indian legal rights, identity issues, educational barriers and historic trauma. The audience also enjoyed American Indian performances, including dance and drumming. Wiese is president of the American Indian Association of Illinois and an enrolled member of the White Earth Ojibwe. 🍷

TASTE OF AFRICA:

- 1 : Artist and guest of honor **Margaret Burroughs**, whose works include the mural featured on this issue's cover.
- 2 : **Genny Castillo**, a student organizer of the event.

AMERICAN INDIAN URBAN FAMILIES CONFERENCE:

- 3 : One of the members of the **Black Hawk Performance Company**.
- 4 : The organizers of the conference: **Andrew Begay**, **Francie Corrie** and **Dorene Wiese**.
- 5 : **Black Hawk Performance Company** drum circle leads the audience in a prayer and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Changing of the Guard

Neil Guterman has been named the new dean of SSA

Neil Guterman, the Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor at the School of Social Service Administration and an expert on child abuse and neglect, has been appointed as the next dean of the School.

Guterman, who begins his five-year term on July 1, says that he will aim to continue to strengthen SSA's interdisciplinary approach and sees opportunity for the School to expand its role as an institution that helps address the root causes of complex social problems such as extreme poverty, violence and social exclusion.

"The School of Social Service Administration is unparalleled in the ways it brings together scholars across multiple disciplines under one roof, all with a shared dedication to tackling some of the most intractable social problems of our day," Guterman says.

"Our uncompromising value on rigor—in thought and methodologies, in education and in direct application to the field—mixed with a deep commitment to tangibly advancing social justice and reducing human suffering make for a uniquely exciting culture for scholars and students alike."

The choice of Guterman as dean emerged from an intensive faculty search process, with a committee elected by SSA faculty. In the letter announcing Guterman's appointment, University President Robert J. Zimmer and Provost Thomas F. Rosenbaum wrote: "We are confident that Neil's insights and leadership will materially advance SSA's distinctive model of developing the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of social work, while at the same time demonstrating its highest forms of professional practice."

Guterman received a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1983, an M.S.W. from the University of Michigan in 1986, and a Ph.D. in social work and psychology from the University of Michigan in 1992. He completed a Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Hebrew University Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare in Jerusalem in 1993 before assuming a faculty position at the Columbia University School of Social Work. He has provided direct clinical services to children and families in a wide variety of family and child service settings in Michigan, California, Israel and New York City.

The author of *Stopping Child Maltreatment Before it Starts: Emerging Horizons in Early Home Visitation Services* (2001), the benchmark book in its field, Guterman is also co-editor of the forthcoming reference volume, *Child Maltreatment Prevention*, as well as author of numerous papers on family risk, child abuse prevention and children's exposure to community violence. He has advised the U.S. Surgeon General's Office, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Prevent Child Abuse America and the National Conference of State Legislatures about issues related to violence against children.

Guterman joined the University of Chicago faculty in 2006 and currently is the principal investigator for four federally and privately funded research studies. The director of SSA's Beatrice Cummings Mayer Program in Violence Prevention and a faculty associate at Chapin Hall, Guterman says that his work has been enhanced since arriving in the city. "Chicago is home to perhaps the richest gathering of scholars in the world dedicated to reducing children's victimization," he says.

Guterman will succeed Jeanne C. Marsh, SSA's George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor, who served as dean from 2005-10 and 1988-98. After a sabbatical period at Chaire Sante, a health policy and services research center, part of SciencePo, Paris, Marsh will return to the classroom to focus on her research. "I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as dean, to recruit and work with a world-class faculty, staff and student body, to facilitate significant faculty research and to promote quality educational programming," Marsh says. "I am extremely enthusiastic that Neil Guterman, distinguished SSA scholar, teacher and colleague, will serve as the next dean of the School of Social Service Administration."

As he considers the future for the School, Guterman says that he sees opportunities for SSA to enhance its already stellar role in leading social work education and scholarship. "Building from our current strengths, I hope to foster more ambitious collaboration across the University, Chicago, nationally and internationally. In the coming years, I expect SSA to increasingly become the nexus of interdisciplinary research that catalyzes real world change," he says. "And SSA's unique position within the University and in Chicago presents enormous opportunities to reenergize our community engagement in ways that are synergistic to advancing both research and practices in the field. As one example among many, a growing cadre of SSA's faculty test and develop new evidence-based practices and policies—ones that are shown to work under rigorous scientific scrutiny and can be disseminated to make tangible differences in the lives of the vulnerable populations we serve."

Guterman also points to changes underway in the field of social work. "I think we're in the midst of an unmistakable shift in the profession, where we are beginning to work more proactively—or further 'upstream' if you will—to go after the causes of social problems, thereby preventing a downward cascade into more intractable and costly social consequences. It's my hope that SSA will deepen the pivotal role it already plays in marshaling this historic shift forward." ■



Neil Guterman

Grogan Named Professor, Editor

In March, **Colleen Grogan** was named a professor at SSA. In July, she will also assume the editorship at the *Journal of Health Politics, Health, and Law*, which focuses on “the initiation, formulation, and implementation of health policy and analyzes the relations between government and health.”



Colleen Grogan

Grogan has been on the faculty at SSA since 1999, after serving as an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University, where she also held a joint appointment with the Institution for Social and Policy Studies.

Marsh Joins Social Work Academy

At a reception at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on April 21, Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor **Jeanne C. Marsh** was awarded a



Jeanne Marsh at AASWSW ceremony with Academy President **Richard Barth**, dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, and awardee **Irwin Garfinkle, AM '67**, Mitchell I. Ginsberg Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

medal as an inaugural fellow for the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. The Academy, housed at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, encourages and recognizes outstanding research, scholarship and practice that contribute to a sustainable, equitable and just future, serves as a source of information on social work, and promotes the examination of social policy and the application of research to test the impact of alternative policies, programs and practices.

Faculty Speaking

At the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall



Scott Allard

Research Conference, held in Washington, D.C., on November 5-7, Associate Professor

Scott Allard presented during two

panels: “Energizing Neighborhoods Through Public Partnerships with Faith-Based and Community Organizations: Lessons Learned and New Opportunities” and “Service Delivery and Nonprofits.” In March, Allard spoke at the Opportunity Dividend Summit in Detroit, hosted by CEOs for Cities.

Associate Professor **Julia Henly** and Associate Professor **Susan Lambert** presented two papers March 15-17 at Rutgers

University’s International Labor Process Conference, “Precarious Work Schedules in Low-Level Jobs:



Susan Lambert

Implications for Work-Life Interferences and Stress.” Lambert also presented her latest research on how employers with low-wage workers are addressing the issue of inconsistent scheduling in an audio conference for CLASP on December 11.

Associate Professor **Dexter Voisin** was the keynote speaker at the Second Annual World AIDS Day



Dexter Voisin

Conference, “HIV Complacency: A Deadly Risk Factor,” on December 1, presenting, “I Am Educated, Young, and Live in the South; So

Why Should I Be Concerned About HIV?” Arkansas State University’s Department of Social Work in the College of Nursing and Health Professions hosted the conference. Voisin also presented his research in a talk, “Spectrum of Risks among African American Adolescents,” at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health in April.

Professor **Colleen Grogan** sat on a panel that discussed a new publication, “Medicaid Everyone Can Count On: Public Choices for Equity and Efficiency,” at the American Enterprise Institute of Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C., on March 11.

Associate Professor **Robert Chaskin** organized a roundtable on Bridging Research, Policy and Practice at the Children’s Rights at a Crossroads Conference at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December. He also presented a paper, “Implementation Challenges and Political Dynamics in Designing and Conducting Complex Community Initiatives,” at a conference on Evaluating Complex Community-based Initiatives for

New Faculty Grants

SSA’s faculty have recently received a number of new research and program grants.

Assistant Professor **Jennifer Bellamy**, for “The Father Engagement Project,” Hedge Fund Cares

McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service, Law and Public Policy **Jens Ludwig**, for “Chicago Youth Gun Violence Initiative,” Polk Bros. Foundation

Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor **Melissa Roderick**, for “Network for College Success,” Polk Bros. Foundation

Assistant Professor **E. Summerson Carr**, for “Disseminating Motivational Interviewing (MI) Across Social Work Domains: An Ethnographic Study of MI,” Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation

Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor **Charles Payne**, for “Woodlawn Community of Community Schools,” Chicago Public Schools

Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor **Michael Sosin**, for “Evaluation of the Homeless Student Support Initiative,” City of Chicago



Robert Chaskin

Children and Families in Dublin, Ireland, in January and another paper, “Social Norms and Social Control: Uses and Expectations of Space and Place in Mixed-

Income Public Housing Communities,” at the Urban Affairs Association in March in Honolulu.

To support his new book, *How it Works: Recovering Citizens in Post-Welfare Philadelphia*, Assistant Professor



Robert Fairbanks, II

Robert Fairbanks, II

gave a lecture on April 5 for Drexel's Center for Public Policy at Drexel University, and on April 6th he participated in a roundtable discussion, "Addiction and Recovery: Lessons from Philadelphia," at The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in conjunction with a special exhibition on homelessness and addiction, which included photography, edited transcriptions of conversations, fieldwork notes and critical analysis.

Ludwig on National Youth and Family Board

Jens Ludwig, the McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service, Law, and Public Policy,



Jens Ludwig

has been appointed to the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council's Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. The BCYF addresses a variety of policy-relevant issues related to the health and development of children, youth and families by convening experts to weigh in on matters from the perspective of the behavioral, social and health sciences.

Monarch Award to Johnson

During the "The Monarch Awards Gala: A Tribute to Black Men" on November 14 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, Associate Professor **Waldo E. Johnson, Jr.** received the Monarch Award for Education from the Monarch Foundation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The occasion recognizes



Waldo Johnson


Chicago area professional men as well as high school/college students for making a difference in both their professions and communities with unselfish endeavors.

Henly Child Care Research

Associate Professor **Julia Henly** was awarded a contract for a new project titled "Theoretical Frameworks for Understanding Child Care Decision-making" from Child Trends, Inc., under the support and auspices of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She will be conducting the research with Ajay Chaudry,



Julia Henly

director of the Urban Institute's Center for Labor, Human Services and Population, and Marcia Meyers, a professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work. 

director of the Urban Institute's Center for Labor, Human Services and Population, and Marcia Meyers,



ConverSSAtions

The Alumni Board held their spring 2010 “ConverSSAtions,” a professional development workshop series, which provides an opportunity for alumni and second-year students to discuss a central topic to social work—this year’s focus was on maintaining a nonprofit in the current economy. The series kicked off at the Polk Bros. Foundation on February 25 with **Frank Baiocchi, A.M. ’07**, program officer of Polk Bros. Foundation, leading a discussion about the mission and perspective of the foundation and its partnerships with local nonprofits.

On March 25, “Integration of Clinical Care in Non-Traditional Social Work Settings” was held at the PCC Community Wellness Center at the Austin Family Health Center. **Katherine Gregg Suberlak, A.M. ’07**, manager of behavioral health, was one of several staff members who shared the center’s integrated health and behavioral health care model and examined the role of the social worker in a non-traditional setting working with a multidisciplinary team.

Crystal Gonzales, A.M. ’09, career program manager at the Posse Foundation, and Dominique Jordan-Turner, the foundation’s director, spoke at “Striving for Change through Education and Leadership: Social Workers in Educational Settings” on April 8, encouraging a larger discussion of the role of social workers in educational settings. The Posse Foundation is a college access and youth leadership development program that provides financial and social support for high school students entering post-secondary education.



African-American Child Welfare Symposium

On February 20, in a special symposium during African-American History Month, SSA’s **African-American Alumni Committee** brought together leading practitioners and scholars for “Over-Representation: An Emerging Epidemic of African Americans in Distress.” The keynote address was given by **Erwin McEwen, A.M. ’98**, director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Panelists for “Acknowledging Race as a Factor of Disproportionally in Child Welfare” included Chicago State University Professor **Yan D. Searcy, Ph.D. ’99** and Arthur Bishop, deputy director of field operations for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. **Monico Whittington-Eskridge, A.M. ’96**, a supervisor for the Trauma Informed Practice Program at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services served as moderator.

Alumni Updates

Aida Giachello, A.M. ’71, presented at the 16th Karen Honig Memorial Lecture, “Strategies to Address Health Disparities through Community and System Change,” at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in April. Giachello is an associate professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work and the founding director of the Midwest Latino Health Research Training and Policy Center.

Abbie Natenshon, A.M. ’70, wrote *Doing What Works: an Integrative System for the Treatment of Eating Disorders from Diagnosis to Recovery* (NASW Press, 2009), which integrates tried-and-true traditional treatment methods with adjunct and holistic techniques as they apply to eating disorder healing. A psychotherapist for 40 years of full-time practice, Natenshon was also published *When Your Child Has an Eating Disorder: A Step-by-Step Workbook for Parents and Other Caregivers*.

After 34 years of service, **Chris Valley, A.M. ’73**, retired as chief administrative officer from Families First, an Atlanta-based nonprofit family services agency. During his time as CAO of Families First, he managed government contracts and helped initiate programs dealing with pregnancy prevention, transitional housing, family counseling and youth services. For his strong support of social work education, the college and Families First honored him by establishing a scholarship for students in Valley’s name.

Christopher G. Hudson, A.M. ’74, is a professor of social work in the M.S.W. program at Salem State College, just outside of Boston, and is completing an M.A. in publishing in London. Hudson has written three books, with his most recent being a human behavior textbook, *Complex Systems and Human Behavior*,

published by Lyceum Books this year. He continues to be active with NASW, chairing Massachusetts’s task force on social work compensation and employment, and was recently elected as a state delegate to NASW’s Delegate Assembly.

Bernard S. Dyme, A.M. ’79, president and chief executive officer of Perspectives Ltd. presented during the NASW IL 101 series, “A Return to Basics for Social Workers” on February 17, where he taught the basics of networking in any given situation to SSA alumni. Perspectives is a Chicago-based workplace resources company.

Jerrold R. Brandell, Ph.D. ’82, is the editor of the Second Edition of *Theory and Practice in Clinical Social Work* (Sage, 2010). Brandell has published eight other books and is now in his 17th year as editor-in-chief of the journal *Psychoanalytic Social Work*. He is a distinguished professor at Wayne State University School of Social Work in Detroit and maintains a part-time private practice in psychoanalysis and dynamic psychotherapy.

Sunny Fischer, A.M. ’82, was honored with the Keeper of the Vision Award by the National Public Housing Museum at the Merchandise Mart on April 11 for her work to help launch the institution. The executive director of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Fischer helped found one of the first private women’s foundations in the country, the Sophia Fund, and was a co-founder of the Chicago Foundation for Women. The museum’s supporters are hoping to raise another \$17 million to open the facility in 2012.

Pamela Fladeland Rodriguez, A.M. ’82, has been named president of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, a statewide criminal justice advocacy and service organization. Rodriguez, who has

in memoriam

been TASC's executive vice president, will manage a \$20 million per year operation with 335 employees across 12 regional offices in Illinois. Founded in 1976, TASC advocates drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders at state and federal levels.

Jinnie English, A.M. '99, and her business, Chicago's High Achievers, are featured in the January/February issue of *University of Chicago Magazine*. English offers personal and professional development counseling to minority executives. She is currently the president of the SSA Alumni Association.

Damian Martinez, AM '00, Ph.D. '08, an assistant professor at Arizona State University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice was invited to be a guest lecturer at the University of South Africa College of Law in May.

Cheryl Smithgall, A.M. '01, Ph.D. '03, a research fellow at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, presented "Improving Urban Service Systems for Children and Families" at a Chapin Hall forum in November, which examined the many challenges of systems reform and the partnerships and strategies required to help foster the successful development of vulnerable children and families.

Eric F. Foster, AM '03, accepted the position of COO of the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Association.

Eileen Richardson, A.M. '06, is a co-founder of The Divinity Institute of Allied Health in Joliet, Ill. The Certified Patient Care Technician Program at the Institute prepares graduates to work as an entry-level Patient Care Technician. Graduates acquire a Certified Nurse Assistant designation after passing the CNA state licensure exam. ■

Willye Alita Coleman, A.M. '38, died at the age of 99 in March. She was an important advocate for adoption in Illinois, in particular for hard-to-place children. Coleman and her husband, Dr. Jerry Harrison Coleman, adopted their daughter, Janice, and son, Alan. Mrs. Coleman was a coordinator for the Adoption Information Services for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. She was active in the NAACP and Alpha Gamma Pi.

Muriel E. McCord, A.M. '48, died in December, 2009. After serving in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War II, McCord attended SSA, and her post-war career in social services focused on child welfare.

Carolyn Wollaston, A.M. '61, died in November. Wollaston worked in several capacities as a psychiatric social worker, ending her career at a private practice in Naperville, Ill. that works with families.

Rev. Roger J. Coughlin, AM '64, died on April 15, 2010. Ordained a priest in 1951, Father Coughlin served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Angels, Chicago until 1956. At age 30, he became an assistant director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Over the ensuing decades, Father Coughlin became the founder, organizer or innovator of numerous Catholic Charities social service programs that served people in need throughout Cook and Lake counties. He served as vice president of the National Council of Catholic Charities for two years, organized the National Parent Rights Movement and founded and served as director of Catholic Charities Research Services from 1978 until 1990. In 1993, Father Coughlin retired and became an almost full-time volunteer at Catholic Charities.

Betty Gene Wade Truax, A.M. '65, died in December 2010.

Eddie Davis, A.M. '71, died March 6, 2010. Associate professor at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, N.Y., Davis served as the chair of the social work department from 1994 to 1996 and on SSA's Alumni Association Board from 2003 to 2005. His areas of special interest and research included youth violence, minority content in social work, effects of social policy on psychosocial development, and family dynamics. Davis was also a campaign manager for a Chicago city councilman and helped organize tenants unions in Chicago and Salt Lake City. In Detroit, he was active with the Detroit Head Start Advisory Board and WTVS Channel 56's City for Youth Program.

Harry Singletary, Jr., A.M. '71, died in January. During the 1960s, Singletary was a basketball star at Florida Presbyterian College in St. Petersburg, Fla., and was the first African American to head the Florida Department of Corrections, from 1991-99.

Ick Seop Lee, Ph.D. '88, a distinguished doctoral program graduate and former director of the Yonsei University School of Social Work, died on February 2. When Lee returned to South Korea after completing his Ph.D. at SSA he was widely acclaimed as one of the first legally blind individuals to be appointed to the faculty of a major university. ■



Natalie Heinemen, P.H.B. '33, a member of the SSA Visiting Committee for 36 years, died February 26, 2010 at the age of 96. A pioneering champion for children's welfare and a respected national leader, Heinemen was an advocate of social services for children and youth and was considered an early expert on adoption and foster care services.

Heinemen began her career as a social worker for the City of Chicago during the Great Depression and was very active in the civic community, including service as the first woman president of the Chicago Child Care Society, the oldest existing child welfare agency in Illinois. She was a lifetime member of the group and was recognized for her extraordinary leadership on its 150th anniversary.

In 1960, she was elected to the national board of the Child Welfare League of America in Washington, D.C., and later served as its president. In 1986, upon her retirement, the organization established the Natalie Heinemen Distinguished Service to Children Award in recognition of her extraordinary volunteer work.

The Child Care Association of Illinois gave Heinemen the Friend of Children Award in 1980, saying that she was a "friend of children in need of attention and love and an informed and persistent advocate.... You have never lost sight of the needs of a particular child as you have moved steadfastly to open ways to improve the lives of all children."

Public Debate

Why health care reform is historic, significant *and* more of the same

WHEN PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA signed the health care reform bill in March, guaranteeing coverage for 32 million currently uninsured Americans, he touted the bill's historic significance. However, he also was quick to assuage fears that the bill meant we were moving away from a private insurance model. Conservatives disagreed, saying the bill is a massive government takeover of American medicine, while many liberals took the opposite view, arguing that the administration capitulated to private insurance by not ultimately allowing the public option.

So what are we to make of this seeming contradiction? Is this health care reform legislation as significant as the creation of Medicare or the New Deal? Is it fundamentally in line with the current American health care system? Yes and no. Understanding why those questions aren't the right ones is crucial to making health care reform effective.

Like many proposed plans since 1965, the health care reform bill is typically explained as expanding access to private health insurance. Our political preferences to call our system "private" does not make that label true, though. In truth, Americans created a mixed public-private system a long time ago and health care reform further embeds this mix.

The myth of an American private health care system is based on two "facts" consistently presented to the American people. First, private health insurance is the primary way Americans receive their health care coverage. In 2007, 53 percent of Americans received private health insurance coverage

through their place of employment and another 5 percent purchased private health insurance on their own, according to estimates from the Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. In comparison, public insurance (Medicare,

Medicaid and other) covered just over one in four Americans. Second, the private sector has consistently been shown to fund the majority of total U.S. national health expenditures, at 54 percent.

These figures are seriously misleading. Private insurance has been eroding since the mid-1980s and private funding relative to public has been significantly declining over time. Moreover, even those facts are deceptive because reports of private funding typically include out-of-pocket payments from individuals. Conflating individuals payments for health care with private health insurance is not accurate—to understand the extent to which government versus private insurance companies pay for services, it is important to keep individual's payments distinct.

When we separate out out-of-pocket payments, the picture of our

American health care system changes drastically. In 1960, nearly half of the national health expenditure was out-of-pocket; by 2007 that figure had dropped to just over 10 percent. As our out-of-pocket expenditures have declined over time, government has picked up a greater share of the health care tab. Both private insurance and public health insurance/health treatment shares stood at 20 percent in 1960. By 2007, private funds paid for 35 percent of expenditures; public funds paid for 40 percent.

How can private insurance

will become even more so after the creation of health insurance exchanges—that public-private distinctions become meaningless. Under the new health care reform, the government (state and federal) will (1) determine the basic benefit package that all health insurance plans must provide to participate in the insurance exchange; (2) more heavily regulate private insurance companies, including barring actuarial risk rating when setting premiums; (3) provide public subsidies for some families to purchase health

40%
Share of health care expenditures from public funds in 2007

account for only about a third of expenditures when the number of individuals covered by private health insurance stood at 70 percent in the mid-2000s? This seeming contradiction is easily explained by limitations in what private health insurance covers. For private health insurance to be financially viable, anyone with chronic disease, pre-existing illness or a profile that puts them at higher risk for illness (e.g., minorities or women), will have to pay higher premiums on average for limited benefits. As a result, low- to middle-income people meeting any of these conditions are often priced out of the private insurance market and end up receiving health services from public insurance or publicly funded health care facilities. This latter form of health care funding is the most hidden aspect of our health care system.

The reliance of private players on public funding is so paramount—and

insurance on the exchange; and (4) provide public health insurance (Medicaid) for individuals below 133 percent of poverty. Can one clearly label the new health insurance arrangements predominantly private? Of course not.

The danger of believing in the "predominantly private" myth is that it prevents Americans from understanding the significance of the health care reform bill and from seeing what is still possible as we move forward. If private actions occur with public funding, then we have a right to demand accountability. It is crucially important that the American people claim a voice under this predominantly publicly funded health care system. ■

Colleen Grogan is a professor at SSA and co-chair of the Center for Health Administration Studies.

Support the SSA Fund



Your gift helps SSA to attract and retain exceptional students such as Ifrah Magan, AM '11, winner of a 2010 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and a 2010 Davis Projects for Peace Grant

I came to believe that there is tremendous value to alumni—as well as to **the causes we care about**—in maintaining an ongoing relationship with a school that continues to dedicate deep knowledge and broad resources to the values that first brought us there as students. One of the most important ways we can carry on this relationship is to support the SSA Fund.

— JOSEPH LOUNDY, AM '69



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE **SSA** FUND

A gift to the SSA Fund will help our current students—and future leaders—achieve the mission of SSA.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or visit: <http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/givingtossa/fund.shtml>



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

969 East 60th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
PERMIT NO. 7664

www.ssa.uchicago.edu

