



A New Home

**Building Community
in Chicago's New Mixed-
Income Public Housing**

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- **Women and Substance Abuse Treatment**
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- **Running From Foster Care**
- **Social Work for the Aging Baby Boom**

SSA magazine

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ON THE COVER: Ms. Tirzah Brooks and her children Kyonte and Shantia Carlvinn walk to a local playground near their home in the new mixed-income Park Boulevard development.

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WE HAVE ALL GROWN ACCUSTOMED to reading about the causes of today's economic crash—the interrelated nexus that includes failing banks, soaring unemployment, and the pop of the real estate bubble. More recently, we have begun to hear about the effects on distressed communities, families, and individuals.

As we sort through how to cope with this dreadful fallout, those who can plan, manage, and provide social welfare services are invaluable. To be ready to effectively deal with the current crises, there are many roles that need to be played. At SSA, the students continue to work hard to prepare. The alumni are already in the field and lend a hand to support the next generation. The faculty research what is needed and what solutions work best and pass along their knowledge, and the staff keep it all running.

Then there's the role of support. I'm pleased to be the co-chair for SSA's Centennial Gala this June with fellow member of the School's Visiting Committee Brian Simmons and John Rogers, president of Ariel Capital. I know I speak for all three of us when I say that I'm doubly happy that at this event we will honor Frank M. Clark, the Chairman and CEO of ComEd.

Frank has been a driving force in the growth of the School's public collaborations, as well as a resource for so many other important Chicago institutions. Our role in the Visiting Committee is to provide SSA with resources it needs to do the best job it can, and Frank exemplifies this work.

At the Gala, Ron Huberman, the new CEO of the Chicago Public Schools and himself an SSA graduate, will present Frank with the inaugural Julius Rosenwald Award for Distinguished Civic Leadership, which is absolutely appropriate. The role of support has been crucial since the School began, and Rosenwald, one of the School's founding trustees, ensured that SSA lived beyond its infancy with his vision and his fiscal support. Like Frank, he was a businessman (he built Sears Roebuck and Company into the retail powerhouse of his day) who was passionate about social justice.

The Gala is the capstone of a wonderful Centennial Year for SSA. A large part of the celebration has centered around the School's plans for the future and new horizons for research and action around social welfare issues. We hope that you remain involved with the School as it tackles these important issues in its second century. The role of financial support can't be underestimated; it allows all the other important tasks to be addressed. And so, as we thank Frank, let me also thank you in advance for the support that you can provide.

Sincerely,

David Vitale
Chair of SSA's Visiting Committee

Yesterday and Today

As I reflect on **SSA's Centennial**, it is striking that the work of today's School, faculty, students, and alumni address the same issues that were salient 100 years ago. We have made progress, but we are still re-examining and grappling with significant issues fundamental to creating a more just and humane society.

It is the responsibility of the researcher and the practitioner to uncover the truth, to improve public programs, and to advocate for more effective public policy. Decades ago, Charlotte Towle fought against censorship and illuminated the connection between understanding human behavior and administering social welfare programs. Today, we work to reduce the stigma of mental illness and treatment—and to make treatment more accessible.

Grace Abbott and Sophonisba Breckinridge insisted that a well-functioning democracy care for its weakest members and helped to lay the groundwork for public welfare programs such as Social Security. Today, SSA is expanding its Older Adults Studies Program to train a new generation of social workers who will be faced with the care of one of the largest populations of older citizens this country has ever seen.

At the beginning of the last century, Edith Abbott, with Breckinridge, conducted one of the largest housing studies in Chicago and reported the vast inequities across many Chicago neighborhoods. Today, Associate Professor Robert Chaskin studies the outcomes of mixed-income programs to help shape improvements in housing policy. SSA has retained its long and ground-breaking tradition of mixing research with work in the field.

One hundred years ago, William Rainey Harper, president of the University of Chicago, said, "Democracy has scarcely begun to understand itself. It is for the University—as a center of thought—to maintain and advance the ideas and ideals so essential for the success of democracy." Harper understood that the dynamic exchange between the University and the world beyond campus was critical to the development of knowledge in all areas, including the growing field of social welfare.

SSA's commitment to this exchange inspired the faculty to organize 10 public symposia, a conference, and lectures across the country in honor of our Centennial. I was happy to see so many of you in attendance. I was consistently impressed by colleagues, peers, and alumni and learned so much at each symposium. I want to thank Professor Dodie Norton, the chair of our Centennial, (and resident

historian), for her tireless efforts in the planning and execution of the Centennial events. And I also want to thank Professor Sydney Hans and Associate Professor Julia Henly, our co-chairs, for their efforts in the development of the symposia.

Our students did a wonderful job kicking off our Centennial last May with a symposium, “A Diverse Profession: Social Work in the Twenty-First Century,” which examined the many ways that social workers and the social work profession enhance peoples’ lives and promote the principles of social justice worldwide.

Dexter Voisin and Susan Knight began the academic year with their symposium for our field instructors, highlighting SSA’s heritage as a leader in social work education. Their panelists presented innovative approaches to teaching practice competencies in the classroom and in the field, and spoke of field education—the signature pedagogy of social work education—and its importance in our efforts to train the next generation of social workers, administrators, and policy experts.

We celebrated the official start of the Centennial year in November with a party attended by University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer and many friends and alumni, who enjoyed a special performance by the Court Theatre. The weekend continued with a symposium given by Professors Charles Payne and Melissa Roderick, and Assistant Professor Michael Woolley that framed the School’s work and accomplishments over its first 100 years in Chicago-area and urban school improvement efforts. Sophonisba Breckinridge once said, “To the social worker, the school appears as an instrument of almost unlimited possibilities.” Today, our Community Schools program works with many of the more than 100 Chicago Public Community Schools, allowing thousands of students to explore unlimited possibilities of their own.

We joined many of our friends and alumni from academia at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) conference in New Orleans in January and examined whether methods and perspectives drawn from psychotherapy can adequately address issues that arise in social work. We returned to Chicago in March to join Associate



Jeanne C. Marsh

SSA has retained its long and ground-breaking tradition of mixing research with work in the field.

Professors Julia Henly and Susan Lambert for a symposium that addressed how research can be “put to work” to support and advocate for vulnerable workers through effective public policy and legislation.

Associate Professors Colleen Grogan and Harold Pollack held a symposium in April about America’s health safety-net that examined the role of various health care reform approaches—what they are and ought to be—for vulnerable populations. Their symposium also highlighted the history of SSA’s involvement with health care issues through the Center for Health

Administration Studies (CHAS).

Echoing Sophonisba Breckinridge’s trip to Paris to attend the First International Conference of Social Work in 1928, SSA and Assistant Professor Robert Fairbanks held an international symposium at the University’s Paris Center to examine a comparative analysis of the historical shifts in welfare states and the consequences for social policy and practice across a range of national contexts.

As I write this, Associate Professors Robert Chaskin and Evelyn Brodtkin, Professor Tina Rzepnicki and Senior Lecturer Stan McCracken are preparing for the last three symposia. And the staff is preparing for SSA’s closing Gala celebration, where we will present the first Julius Rosenwald Award to Frank Clark, Chairman and CEO of ComEd and a devoted Visiting Committee member. He is tireless in his work as a philanthropist and we are indebted to his support, kindness, and wisdom. Frank’s support is inspiring as it allows SSA to continue to be at the cutting edge—as evidenced by each of the symposia.

Frank and all of our supporters enable SSA to experiment, push, and grapple with the fundamental issues of how we can continue our mission of helping individuals, families, and communities achieve a better quality of life. I hope that his example will inspire you to continue to support SSA both now and into the next century. ■

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

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

On the Run

Rilya Wilson probably wasn't a runaway.

Just four years old when she disappeared from a foster care home in Miami in 2001, she was never found, and her caretaker was later charged with her murder. The case made national headlines, however, bringing attention to the issue of youth who run away from child protective services, estimated to be from a quarter to three-quarters of the adolescents in foster care.

To better understand runaway patterns and why youth in care run, SSA Assistant Professor **Gina Miranda Samuels** was part of a team that authored an influential 2005 working paper from Chapin Hall on the topic. In this issue's wide-ranging Conversation, Samuels talks with **Erwin McEwen**, the director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and an SSA alum, about how child protective services can best keep kids from running away, the emotional needs of foster care youth, changing the system, and more.



Samuels: After our study, I was aware of some programs that resulted from the findings. I know you had a lot to do with that and were part of the DCFS initiative looking at issues of running away. I'm interested in how your team is thinking about runaways at this point.

McEwen: I think in Illinois we have a real strong system of tracking our children. The biggest change is the creation of our child location unit. They take all the information [from where the child is living] if the youth is a runaway, and they have a policy to contact the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children, notify the local police, and make sure that all the I's are dotted and all the T's are crossed. From that, we started to see more about the kids who leave care and come back.

Samuels: In our study, the more typical pattern of runaways is what you're describing. They're cycling in and out; they're running back to families, running home to mom, there's a birthday party going on this weekend they don't want to miss, that sort of thing. Some young people would call in to case-

workers, knowing exactly when their 14-day bed hold [to keep their spot at the DCFS placement] was up and would come back on that 13th day.

McEwen: And so our challenge is trying to figure out what are they running from or what are they running to. We started four intensive stabilization centers that were for children who have had a number of entries and exits at our emergency shelter. They made up over 60 percent of the placement events at the shelter, but only 20 percent of the children served. The [stabilization] centers track the kids no matter where they went. So if they ran to mom's house, then you need to talk with the mom, establish rapport. That represented a shift in thinking for the child welfare community. The centers were really targeted toward older adolescents, 16 to 20. They cost a lot, and they impacted the rules.

We opened four centers, and only two remain. In the beginning, staff responsible for placing children would not do these referrals, but now, inter-

estingly enough, they are saying, "We need more stabilization centers in the downstate communities. You need to re-establish a stabilization center for the girls in Cook County."

Samuels: In the qualitative part of our study we also challenged what the average person thinks of as a runaway—the kid who takes off for a month or a year and they're living on

makes do stuff. They're the drug carriers, the drug sellers and that sort of thing.

Samuels: They're the ones who end up in trouble and paying for that.

McEwen: Exactly. As I've read more about this population, I don't believe we have the right approach, particularly addressing the needs of young girls



The fact is that the children who are going to

the street. That sort of prototype was the smallest group represented. They were mostly girls, and they were often running away with older guys. But more often, kids were running to friends because they didn't have family, hanging out with peers from the neighborhood. Are the models that we're using flexible enough to bend and twist around these different types of kids?

McEwen: That's the area we struggle with. What we saw with the girls' stabilization center is that, unlike the boys, they didn't cycle. For the younger girls, it's really dangerous. The fact is that the children who are going to run are our most vulnerable children. They're really open to exploitation, sexual exploitation, gang exploitation. Sometimes people think of kids in gangs as these menacing figures. But our kids in gangs, a lot of times they're the kid that the gang

who have been involved in the sex exploitation trades. There's an organization called GEMS in New York, they use a model similar to drug addiction treatment. When you hear about sex exploitation, we think of this violent, forced, coerced activity. But many of these girls actually have strong feelings for these guys and what they feel are real substantive, emotional relationships. And I don't think we have programs to address that in Illinois today.

Samuels: To me, it seems somewhat connected to what I've written about on ambiguous loss among youth in the system. It doesn't start when they run away. For some kids, there are relational experiences that create such a need that they're willing to be involved in dangerous behaviors for an emotional connection. Some access it by going home to a biological family, and some

by running to friends or hanging out with people where they feel they're accepted, even when it's someone exploiting them.

McEwen: When I read your article, I really started to think about the implications and whether you can find something remotely close to it in our practice paradigm. And it's not there. Say a youth is in foster care and runs away.

to be their permanent relationship. As you read the literature, you find out that even adult females who are currently engaged in the sex trade, a lot of them were introduced at 13 and 14 years old.

Samuels: This is the future that it seems like they're heading toward.

McEwen: And that's a real challenge

Samuels: Not necessarily that they're going to go back and live with that family. But there are a lot of roles that same family can play.

McEwen: It's about family reconnection, family navigation. Sometimes the caseworker would look the other way when they know the kid went home and they know he'll be back. But when parental rights are terminated,

standing of why they left their family never gets shaped. Then when they get to be 15, 16, it's so clear that nobody has checked in with them about that since they were five. Or they've gotten little pieces here and there, little granules of truth and half-truth or conflicting pieces of information, and you can tell they're trying to sort through that.

And that's a horrible way to



run are **our most vulnerable children**. They're really open to exploitation.

And then finally somehow we get her back and we send her to a residential placement. And that makes things rough, so she gets placed again somewhere else. The one relationship that will sustain itself across all these system boundaries is with these guys who are exploiting them.

Samuels: Right. That relationship is not contingent on their [DCFS] family placement.

McEwen: That's right. A lot of these relationships they have with these guys are three, four, five years old. So as we in the system were trying to figure out legal permanencies and adoptive homes and guardianship homes and relative placements, a lot of times that relationship with that guy was their permanency. And the sad part is that for a lot of these young women, that is going

ing cycle for the child welfare community to start to try to break. How do we start to develop a program?

Samuels: And what do we do with these other kids, the cyclers? How do we deal with the family context they're growing up in and different problems they encounter?

McEwen: I think that's the group that we can most help. And there are some policy barriers that we're starting to address. We've been working with a group of attorneys and legislators around developing legislation that will restore parental rights. So that if a kid turns 13, 14, 15 years old in the system and the parental rights have been terminated, we need to go back and review whether there is anything those parents can offer these children.

we have a policy that prevents us from allowing the family from doing that.

We're interested in finding a type of policy or legislation where we can say, this kid is seeing his family, and we checked out mom and we've checked out the safety issues and so we don't have to look away. We can help a kid learn to navigate and negotiate their family and the loss and understand why he came into the system.

Samuels: That's really exciting that you say that. A lot of what I keep on arguing in my papers is that we really need a multi-family model, that even when children don't live with somebody it doesn't mean that they don't think about them or that we as system can't figure out how they can have a relationship with those family members. Oftentimes when kids come into the system at five, six years old, their under-

launch the rest of your life, from this very disjointed experience about why you left this family of origin, who they are, who you are, who you are to them. How do you build a family that's different, better? They don't have this solid sense of even what happened in their own families of origin.

McEwen: And the separation from their families of origin is usually the most traumatic event cited by these kids. They don't cite the abuse or the neglect as the most traumatic event. It's the separation. 🍷

For more of this Conversation, including a discussion of a new model of family services and the role of social workers in foster care, visit ssa.uchicago.edu/publications.ssamag.shtml.



Giving in Hard Times

AS RICKETY INVESTMENT BANKS and multinationals have been faltering, the nonprofit field has watched and wondered: What does this mean for funding? Foundations base their grantmaking on the value of their endowment, and endowments shrank by an average of 29 percent between 2007 and 2008, according to a recent *Chronicle of Philanthropy* survey of 57 foundations.

Given the size and scope of the economic downturn and the federal response, it's hard to predict trends in philanthropic funding during the next year, says Jennifer Mosley, an assistant professor at SSA who studies nonprofit organizations, including philanthropic foundations. Based on previous recessions, an educated guess would be that foundation-based grantmaking will almost certainly decline in 2010 if the stock market does not pick up soon. That said, some large foundations will find ways to maintain their giving in a time of need, and when the stock market rebounds, funding may also be quick to bounce back.

The severity of this recession is distorting typical responses to economic downturns. During previous recessions, overall grantmaking usually stabilized rather than shrinking outright. (The notable exception was 2001-2003, when inflation-adjusted giving by U.S. foundations declined by 4.4 percent.) Of the 73 foundations that provided

In this terrible economy, there's more need for help but less money to give. How will philanthropy react?

2009 data in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* survey, only 22 planned to stay the course; more than half anticipated giving less than in 2008.

Individual donors and association charities are already feeling the effect of the economy—and passing it on. A recent report from the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University found a one-third decline in charitable gifts of \$1 million or more by individuals in the second half of 2008. Some charitable associations have already cut back: the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, for example, announced in late December that it was withdrawing funding opportunities for many fiscal-year 2009 projects.

"Nonprofits haven't actually felt the full impact yet," Mosley says. "Large scale funding generally comes for a year or more at a time, so budgets remain stable at first." Regardless, nonprofits are anticipating the squeeze. More than 60 percent of nonprofits nationwide expected foundation funding to decrease, according to a survey by the Nonprofit Finance Fund this spring.

The enormous impact of this recession may also cause grantmakers to rethink their priorities. Brenda Nelms, senior director of foundation and cor-

porate relations at the University of Chicago, points out that after Hurricane Katrina, many corporate donors and some foundations instituted a "temporary redirection" in grantmaking.

In this economy, donors may ramp up funding for emergency programs such as food assistance, heating aid, and homelessness prevention. As of January 2009, foundations and corporate donors had already committed more than \$100 million toward economic relief. More than half of this cash is targeted toward housing. For example, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation pledged \$68 million for foreclosure prevention, borrower counseling, and legal assistance for homeowners.

"Because this economic crisis seems bigger, there is a lot more concern about what the impact will be," notes Mosley. "A lot of foundations are saying this is exactly when we need to step up to the plate." The Ford Foundation has pledged to dip deeper into its endowment to increase its payout rate in 2009 and 2010, for instance, and 12 of the 57 foundations in the *Chronicle* survey said they planned to increase giving in 2009.

Donors may adopt a "back to the basics" approach, suggests Jean

Quinlan, chief development officer at the University of Chicago Medical Center and an SSA graduate. In her contacts with individual donors she has found the downturn has "made people think more analytically about the impact of what they are doing philanthropically." For now, Quinlan says she is focused on relationships and on the horizon: Donors may not be able to make the gift they ultimately aspire to make today, but the picture will change in the future.

Historical experience suggests that philanthropy can recover quickly—well before the economy as a whole is back on its feet. In the Spring of 2003 the stock market began to pick up, but unemployment was still high, so few realized that a recovery was underway. At the time, Mosley was meeting with nonprofit leaders in focus groups in California, many of whom reported they'd temporarily given up appealing to funders. Meanwhile, grantmakers said they now had plenty of money to give—but fewer applicants.

Predicting what will happen a year from now "is like reading a crystal ball," cautions Nelms. "It's a question of how long before there's a rebound." So far, the prospects for the near term aren't so bad; she anticipates that grantmaking to the University will flatten out rather than steeply decline. Says Nelms: "Everyone recognizes that you just have to run a little faster."
— Kathleen McGowan

Get Well Soon

Does parents' **low-wage work** impact children's health?

FACED WITH A MORNING SURPRISE of a child with a fever, working parents everywhere have a handful of furtive choices: take sick time, flex the work day, extend lunch hours, or, admittedly, dose the kid with Tylenol and hope he makes it through the day. A single mother in a low-income job may not even have all these options, and also faces issues that can range from a lack of health insurance to simply managing the logistics of multiple work schedules and doctors' office hours.

How parental work impacts children is well-studied—but largely from the perspective of children's socio-emotional and cognitive development. Heather D. Hill, an assistant professor at the School, is asking a fundamentally different set of questions about parental work and children's health, particularly in low-income families.

"I want to look at the context of employment and the characteristics of low-wage work: hours, access to paid sick leave and paid vacation, what's required of workers on the job," Hill explains. "These may affect family schedules and routines, how much time parents have with kids, how stressed out they are. It may be that some jobs make it hard to maintain regular eating and sleeping schedules, for example."

Hill's interest stems from her recent doctoral work at Northwestern University, where her research on welfare reform programs suggested that increased employment had only small and age-specific effects on young children in terms of their later behavior and academic achievement. She now wants to take data on parents' work lives and combine it with data about children's health insurance coverage, preventative health care, and health outcomes, such as illness, accidents, and obesity.

Hill points out that the potential benefits of parental employment for children's health come from earnings and health insurance coverage. If jobs pay low wages and offer no health



Some jobs may make it hard to maintain regular eating and sleeping schedules, for example.

coverage, the negatives could outweigh the positives. "It may be that a lot of parents are quite good at managing work, so it doesn't affect children's health," she says. "But there are lots of questions about how parents negotiate these demands on their time and health behaviors at home."

As the economic crisis worsens, Hill's questions become more pertinent. Policy discussions already underway—including proposed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit and state Unemployment Insurance programs, as well as efforts to pass legislation that would mandate paid sick leave for employees of private companies—may take on a new light when long-term children's health is also part of the equation. — *Patti Wolter*

Add the Dad

Fatherhood initiatives are exploring how to **bring more men** into family social services

WALK INTO THE WAITING ROOM of a family or child development social service agency and you're likely to see a lot more women than men. Mostly that's because there are more single moms trying to raise their kids alone. But in some cases, it can also be because men feel uncomfortable in the environment.

But SSA Assistant Professor Jennifer Bellamy says efforts begun more than a decade ago to support employment and help ensure men pay child support are blossoming into a variety of programs that involve fathers and other male father figures in children's lives. "Somewhere in the mid- to late-1990s, we saw a little bit of a surge in these programs specifically being developed to support fathers," she says.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, Bellamy provided evaluation and technical support to practitioners involved with the Texas Fragile Families Initiative, one of 11 statewide programs supported by multiple national and local funders, including the Ford Foundation, to help support male caregivers across the state. "Finding a concrete intervention is a good way to get dads involved," she says. Job-search support, for example, can help fathers and other male caregivers who want to fulfill a "breadwinner" role. Some successful programs include incentives to fathers, such as the ability to bring home diapers as a reward for participation. Another approach is to provide pragmatic activities—for example, practicing how to change a diaper on a football.

"It's not that dads don't want to be involved in caring for their children," says Gardner Wiseheart, director of programs and services at Healthy Families San Angelo, one of the programs Bellamy worked with. "But they don't often barge in to an agency, and we don't often ask them in."

The benefits of fatherhood involvement accrue to both the male caregiver and the family. For example, getting involved in a family program may not be many young dads' first impulse when they learn a partner is pregnant, Bellamy says, "but when they are pulled into these programs it can help them to shift their point of view. Finding ways to feel as though they are making a positive contribution to their families and the child is an encouraging and stabilizing force in their lives."

The Centers for Disease Control recently issued a call for new research documenting the rigor and value of fatherhood involvement. "Ten years from now I think this will be more common," Wiseheart says. "We've learned a lot about the barriers to working with fathers and we've also learned some good things about how to work with them more successfully." — *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.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Acceptance of a **community-based group home** often hinges

FOR DECADES, policy makers and social service agencies have believed that people with serious mental illness are best served in community settings and not in the isolation of the huge institutions. The problem is that communities often seem not to want them.

Recent research from Rutgers University of community resistance to group homes provides some insight into how community relations often play out. First, even though press accounts can make the opposition seem huge, relatively few neighbors oppose a group home in the neighborhood. Second, opposition usually fades over time. And third, neighbors who come to accept group homes often do so for public-spirited reasons, not simply because they cease to worry about their safety

or property values.

Social service agencies generally use one of two strategies when starting a group home for people with mental illnesses. Most give neighbors little or no advance notice, believing that notification violates the civil rights and privacy of residents and may actually provoke opposition, while others tell neighbors ahead of time to try to allay fears.

In "Neighbors' Perceptions of Community-Based Psychiatric Housing" in the September 2008 *Social Service Review*, authors Allison Zippay and Sung Kyong Lee studied the perception of group homes in 66 communities in seven states by interviewing administrators and 1,425 local residents. They found that about half of group homes met with initial opposition—but also that the homes that are opposed are eventually accepted

Do No Harm

The role of social workers in Japanese internment camps in the U.S. raises ethical questions about the profession

DURING WORLD WAR II, nearly all of the 110,000 or so Japanese Americans in the United States were removed from their homes and placed in internment camps. Few realize, though, that social workers played an important part in both the formation and execution of the internment policy. During research in the California state archives, Yoosun Park found evidence of what she calls "social work's equivocal role as both the protector of [Japanese Americans] and instrument of their delivery into incarceration."

Park, an assistant professor of social work at Smith College, is the author of "Facilitating Injustice: Tracing the Role of Social Workers

in the World War II Internment of Japanese Americans" in the September issue of *Social Service Review*. In the article, she asks whether "this well intended profession, doing its conscious best to do good, may be continuing to do harm through its very efforts to do good."

While some lawyers, private citizens, and even government officials opposed internment on civil liberties grounds, the American Association of Social Workers told Congress that, despite its misgivings, it would defer to the military. At the National Conference of Social Work in 1942, an official suggested that social workers could "minimize hardship and perhaps help to make loyal Americans appreciative of democratic ideas."



A sentry post today at the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California, one of ten camps where Japanese Americans were interned during World War II.

Social workers working for government offices interviewed families before their removal and often interpreted the internment policies for them. In some cases they arranged to send family members to institutions, such as county hospitals and sanatoriums, that were hostile to Japanese Americans and that the families had little hope of visiting.

Each internment camp had a social work unit. Social workers provided clearly helpful services, such as procuring marriage licenses, arranging funerals,

and helping inmates obtain medical care. They also registered interned Japanese Americans for the draft and sat on boards that determined whether inmates were eligible to leave the camps for work or education—judging an inmate's "loyalty or willingness to abide by laws"—and participated in a "family counseling" program aimed at overcoming the resistance of Japanese Americans to resettlement. Park argues that social workers, rather than simply working on behalf of the interned Japanese, were "vital cogs in the

on communication

as readily as group homes that had no opposition.

The real difference is that initial opposition in neighborhoods that received advance notice and other outreach was at 58 percent, compared to 40 percent in neighborhoods that received no notice. But over time, 51 percent of people in neighborhoods that received notice expressed favorable views of the local group home, whereas only 39 percent of people did in neighborhoods that received no notice. The reason may not have been the advance notice alone; agencies in these neighborhoods were also likely to continue outreach efforts after the home opened, believing that they could in this way reduce prejudice and promote good will.

Perhaps the study's most striking finding came in open-ended questions.

Of the people who felt the group homes exerted a positive influence on the neighborhood, three-quarters emphasized themes of social responsibility. Responses included, "This shows humanity at its best," and, "We need to take care of people in need."

With these findings in mind, Zippay, a professor of social work at Rutgers' School of Social Work, says that organizations planning a group home "might be more confident in talking about themes of social responsibility when talking to neighbors about programs and understand the degree to which citizens uphold the core values of collective care."

Allison Zippay and Sung Kyong Lee. 2008. "Neighbors' Perceptions of Community-Based Psychiatric Housing." *Social Service Review* 82 (3): 394-417.

machinery of the camps, functioning as an arm of the government by carrying out tasks of questionable value to the inmates."

Park notes that patriotic fervor made it hard to dissent, but not impossible. "Other people were doing it, and social workers were not. And you would expect social workers to be at the forefront," she says. "[Social worker's actions] enacted and thus legitimized the bigoted policies of racial profiling en masse."

Social work publications during the war paid scant attention either to the needs of Japanese Americans or to the responsibilities of social workers taking part in the internment. Park says the internment raised difficult questions that social work's leaders never faced. "What is our role as social workers? And what is the role of the profession? How do we react to these times of crisis?" she says. "I didn't see anything that even came even remotely close to this kind of discussion."

Much remains hidden in what Park calls the "official narratives" of the internment, although even official

reports contain evidence of mixed feelings. One supervisor wrote, "It is a tragic thing to see the machinery of freedom in reverse, and to have a part in the deprivation of any group of American citizens or of foreign born of the liberty America has always stood for—but it is part of the bitter necessities of war."

But Park is concerned only in part with history. She worries about social work's ongoing capacity for self-reflection and self-criticism around contemporary issues such as immigration and welfare reform. She says she does not seek ethical purity and rejects the "false dichotomy between social service and social control," but believes both are woven into social work's inevitable complexity. "It's the central problem of social work. It can't be escaped. You can't get out of the dynamic of power. If you're constantly denying it, you get nowhere," she says. "We're in a messy field."

Yoonsun Park. 2008. "Facilitating Injustice: Tracing the Role of Social Workers in the World War II Internment of Japanese Americans." *Social Service Review* 82 (3): 447-83.

Work, Welfare, and Depression

How women on welfare are pushed into the workforce can impact their mental health

AS MANY AS A THIRD of all welfare recipients may suffer from depression. Among young mothers, the number rises to almost half. Depression has long been recognized as an obstacle to employment, and before the 1996 welfare reform act, mothers with depression were usually excused from work requirements. Welfare reform changed all this. In the effort to push women into employment, depression was no longer a reason not to work.

Welfare reform has allowed states to vary their approach to the move to work, and some policies seem to increase depression, others to decrease it. At the same time, policies such as those that try to lift women out of poverty rather than simply to put them to work seem to reduce depression in some circumstances but not in others.

To try to untangle this puzzle, Pamela Morris, a researcher at MDRC in New York, looked not at the policies themselves but at how welfare agencies enact them. Welfare agencies use two basic approaches to get welfare recipients into the work force. Some emphasize finding a job quickly; others allow welfare recipients to wait for the best and most satisfying job. Programs also differ by how much personal attention they give welfare recipients.

Morris's article in the December 2008 *Social Service Review*, "Welfare Program Implementation and Parents' Depression," reports that where welfare agencies push welfare recipients into the workforce, women with young children earn more yet suffer a higher rate of depression than women in programs that allow them to wait for the best job. And yet for women without young children the choice of strategy has no effect on depression.

Morris speculates that the pressure of caring for young children makes women more vulnerable to depression. But the crucial factor may be the quality of the jobs. Jobs taken quickly may be worse jobs and they may be lost quickly, increasing job instability. Personal attention doesn't seem to influence mental health one way or the other, probably because case workers can give personal attention without conveying a sense of support.

Morris draws at least two implications from her research. First, the problem of depression among mothers with young children suggests that case workers need to be sensitive to mothers' responsibilities at home. In a broader sense, she says, her study and other research continue to point to the importance of "front-line staff/client interactions" in the execution of the new welfare policies.

Morris, Pamela A. 2008. "Welfare Program Implementation and Parents' Depression." *Social Service Review* 82 (4).



A Person In Context

As Jonathan Wildt finds his place in the world of international aid, he provides a social work perspective in Darfur

BY JULIE JUNG

Darfur. Although the civil war has ended, the fighting continues sporadically throughout the country. Yet the Sudanese are trying to find a sense of normalcy, and building institutions for a functioning civil society is a priority.

After returning to the States, Wildt had a clearer picture of what he wanted to do with his career. He opted for a second-year placement with the Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture, where he did grant-writing and fundraising. He also submitted a proposal to the newly established University of Chicago Darfur

grades 1 through 3. It's proven to be very popular and enrollment has grown to 270, with an ultimate goal to serve students through the 8th grade. Wildt says the hope is that they'll get additional funding to offer scholarships so that the children will continue on to a city school.

The school also houses a community center—which has raised some eyebrows with local security forces who are edgy about any kind of public gathering for fear of organized rebellion. Trust also took a while to build with the Ministry of Education, but Wildt says that now it is supportive of the new school.



IT IS 34 DEGREES IN CHICAGO, and Jonathan Wildt looks out the windows of SSA's Mies building as the snow softly floats down, "It's so cold here," he says, "it was 110 degrees in Khartoum." Wildt is back in town from his work in Sudan for a few days to meet with students, thank donors, and catch up with friends and family. He's relaxing before giving a talk to SSA's International Social Welfare Group, a student group that he was involved with when he attended the School before graduation in 2007.

As SSA students settle into the classroom, Wildt gives everyone a friendly welcome. Some of the students seem a bit shy, yet as Wildt tells his story of how he has spent the last two years working on and off in the province of Darfur, Sudan, and in the capital, Khartoum, they move forward in their seats. At the end, they are eager to ask questions about how he found his career path in international aid.

WILDT STARTED AT SSA in the clinical track, with an interest in healthcare and international aid work. But by the end of his first year, he became increasingly interested in health policy and switched to the administrative track and the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy. While there, he was fortunate to network with a missionary who was working in Africa and who put him in touch with the Educational Development Organization of Sudan (EDOOS), a non-government organization entirely managed by Sudanese that was launched in 2005 to bring education to the country's poor and marginalized.

EDOOS offered Wildt a summer position; and for six weeks he did administrative work in Khartoum, where about half of the 11 million residents are displaced from the provinces of Equatoria and, more recently,

Action and Education Fund, which supports understanding of the conflict in Sudan and creative and entrepreneurial solutions by faculty and students.

The University awarded Wildt a grant for his proposal: the Darfur Education and Community Participation Project, a collaboration between EDOOS and Sudan's Ministry of Education to build and open a community school in the Dereig Displacement Camp near Nyala, which would be operated by EDOOS. After graduation, Wildt quickly left for Sudan to launch the project. He has served as an advisor to EDOOS, helping to set goals, find consensus, and keep the project moving forward. For example, when community leaders were unhappy with a choice of brick for the building, he worked with all involved to find a way to simultaneously keep to a budget, incorporate the input, and stay on a timetable.

The school opened in 2007, initially serving about 100 children in

Currently the school primarily uses the ministry's curriculum, for instance, but they have been reviewing a curriculum that Jonathan and his colleagues developed for the school based on a Swedish model.

In the spirit of community schooling, EDOOS does more than simply concentrate on education. Part of their success is dependent on having children who are healthy enough to attend school. Wildt has received a second round of funding from the Darfur Action and Education Fund to build 300 water bio-sand filters over the next year to supply cleaner water to 8,000 local residents. EDOOS will train 15 men and give them the equipment to build and sell the filters.

Wildt strongly believes in this empowerment-based approach, training locals to build and sustain services for their communities. Not only do these "ground-up" techniques allow the community to take ownership of the projects, in an environment where aid workers

are sometimes accused of siding with rebels, they're also practical. "Locals are more effective at moving filters into the marketplace than NGOs, who are often not allowed to move supplies, fuel, or any type of resource that could be taken by rebels and used against the government," he says.



WILDT BELIEVES that the success of international aid requires a combination of empowerment-based approaches and the top-down methods often used

organizing approach, allowing change to develop organically, and communicating through traditional Sudanese channels.

"Because there is such wide-scale need here, perhaps some [NGOs] don't have the time and resources to use a bottom-up approach. In many cases, however, I think that very few actually have that [social work] perspective embedded in their intervention methodology. Donor-driven interventions dominate," Wildt says.

Wildt has not met any other social workers in Sudan and he says he isn't

with a new visa sponsored by a larger organization, International Aid Services (IAS), he now knows that he can stay and work until 2010.



WILDT SAYS he has enjoyed his time in Sudan and has relied on his faith to get him through some of the tougher moments. And he says that he's been lucky—by initially signing on with a smaller organization, he's had the chance to "be his own boss" and learn about international development at a

with his work" and maintains his strength through his faith and through the positive energy of the people around him. And his perception and understanding of the country and situation has evolved. As he describes it, many Westerners have an image of Sudan as a country rocked by genocide due to ethnic conflict, and though that has been and too often still is true, the country is also now trying to move forward and people are concentrating on their daily lives.

Although his job is in an administrative capacity, Wildt works in the



- 1 : Children in the Dereig Displacement Camp.
- 2 : Jonathan Wildt (second from right) with colleagues from the NGO where he works, the Educational Development Organization of Sudan.
- 3 : Wildt and local residents drill a new well for fresh water.

by large aid organizations. The large NGOs are important to provide economies of scale for service provision and supplies, and they can often exert influence on diplomats and governments. But he has also found that they can overlook the micro dimensions of the problems facing distressed communities. "Sometimes they do not understand the importance of involving the community," Wildt says.

This is where Wildt's social work training comes heavily into play. He gives an example of how a large NGO tried to introduce soap to a community without first consulting the elders. The elders were not convinced, and so the community members weren't convinced, and the intervention was a failure. He points out that a social work strategy would be to try to understand the person in context and recognize and respect the culture and community dynamics. He says EDOOS has been successful by utilizing a community

aware of any social work training in the country's universities. He remains the only Westerner working for EDOOS, providing sorely needed English language, finance, and nonprofit management skills. "It's unusual for an expatriate to work in a Sudanese-led organization," he says. "Many NGOs and nonprofits are managed by people and entities that are not Sudanese or are organized outside of the country."


Aside from being a lone social worker, Wildt has faced other challenges, including learning Arabic. After a six-week crash course in Cairo, he returned to Sudan realizing that it would take a much longer time to become conversational, let alone fluent. "My Sudanese friends laughed at my 'funny Egyptian accent,'" he says, "but they have been gracious and happy to help me learn their language and local dialect." He also has had to leave the country twice due to insufficient documentation over the course of the last two years. But

very quick pace. He says that the overall experience of being at SSA helped—he cites "Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations" as the most valuable class that he took at the School—but that nothing can prepare a student for encounters with humanitarian crisis and mass economic upheaval.

Wildt is modest, giving most of the credit for the successes to his Sudanese colleagues and those that have financed the work, including the University of Chicago and smaller groups such as the Black Student Association (BSA) at the University of Chicago Lab Schools, which raised almost \$3,000 for the water filtration project. It gives him enormous satisfaction to be able to spend a week in Chicago with Lab students and then the next with the very people in Sudan who will benefit. "I can see a direct correlation between the givers and the beneficiaries," he says.

Wildt admits he sometimes misses home, but he says he is "very happy

and often finds himself in what would be described as clinical situations. His Sudanese colleagues have all been affected by displacement, and their resilience has made a huge impression on him. He speaks of friends who have witnessed and experienced horrible atrocities, but who are in school and are planning for a brighter future for their country.

"Sudan simply doesn't have the capacity to deal with some of its largest needs, and laws are still made in the streets," Wildt says. "But I'm optimistic, and I like to think the work I do is part of a better future. At one time Darfurians who had no access to education, now do." 

For more information about the University of Chicago Darfur Action and Education Fund, please contact Keith Madderom at: krmadder@uchicago.edu.



“Targeted services keep women in treatment and **when they stay in treatment,** it increases their chances of success.”



In Treatment

Researchers are learning more and more about **how to help women who need substance abuse treatment**, but the reality is, the best options aren't always available.

BY CARL VOGEL

WOMEN AND MEN ARE NOT EXACTLY THE SAME.

For more than two decades, the profound implications of that simple truth have begun to permeate how substance abuse treatment programs approach their work. Gender differences are expressed in many different ways. However, there are no easy answers when it comes to addiction, and researchers and policymakers are still exploring the complicated mix of what works best for women who want to end a dependence on drugs or alcohol.

“Typically, women go into substance abuse programs with more problems—often with more family issues, the demands of being a single mother, a history of domestic violence. Sometimes, these problems make it more difficult to get into a program at all. Then, once women are in a program, how it is structured and what it offers can impact how well it serves female clients,” says Jeanne Marsh, the dean of SSA and the School’s George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor.

Marsh has been interested in the issue of women and substance abuse for nearly 25 years, since she herself was in graduate school, when she studied one of the first treatment programs in the country just for women. A major part of its approach was to provide participants with health care, legal services, childcare, and other supports to help clients return to a life that had more opportunities—and therefore help the women stay away from alcohol and drugs.

The idea of comprehensive or “wrap-round” services has become increasingly accepted as a key component of substance abuse treatment for any population. For the past several years, Marsh has led a team of researchers to explore the impact of comprehensive services on the effectiveness of treatment, breaking down the impact by gender and by racial/ethnic groups.

“Jeanne’s research finds, and this is replicated by other research, that targeted services do keep women in treatment and when they stay in treatment, it increases their chances of success,” says Dionne Jones, the deputy chief of the Services Research Branch of the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research, which is the major funder of Marsh’s studies.

“Researchers are examining the issue of women and substance abuse from a number of perspectives, and the research findings are having an impact on the field,” Jones says. “Over the past 20 years or so, researchers have become very interested in gender-sensitive treatment and services. Today, we’re exploring the details of what that means. The next step for this program of research is to transform the research to everyday practice.”

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Different approaches to treatment for women work in part because women tend to arrive at a treat-

ment facility with a different set of life circumstances than men. Studies have shown that they have more health and psychological issues, family and employment problems, and are more likely to report past and current physical and sexual abuse.

In an article in the *Journal of Family Violence* from last April, SSA Assistant Professor Malitta Engstrom and co-authors drew upon interviews with more than 400 women in methadone treatment. They found that 58 percent had experienced child-

hood sexual abuse, 90 percent had experienced intimate partner violence (78 percent within the past six months), and 29 percent met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.

hood sexual abuse, 90 percent had experienced intimate partner violence (78 percent within the past six months), and 29 percent met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.

simply because she doesn't know who'll watch her children," says Sydney Hans, a professor at SSA whose own research has included studies of ways to mitigate the demands of motherhood on substance abuse treatment.

Gender differences are often not a case of whether men or women do better or worse in treatment. Both women and men benefit from substance abuse treatment overall. But more men enter substance abuse treatment through the criminal justice



Jeanne Marsh meets weekly with a team of doctoral students and partners from the University to discuss progress on their research.

Women in treatment are more likely to have **childcare needs and employment troubles**, including a lack of financial independence.

There is a complicated relationship between trauma and substance abuse, including heightened risks for continued substance use during treatment and quicker return to substance use following treatment among women with co-occurring post-traumatic stress disorder. When so many women in treatment have a history of intimate partner violence or childhood sexual abuse, it means that services should be trauma-informed and should include integrated treatment to address both substance use and trauma-related concerns," Engstrom says.

Joan Blakey, a doctoral candidate at SSA who is studying the intersection of the child welfare system and substance abuse treatment, says that she was surprised at how many of the women she interviewed at a women-only treatment center in Chicago reported various forms of abuse. "The rates of sexual abuse and rape were really high, as well as domestic violence. Many of the women also had a history of prostitution. It was very troubling to me, and I'm still mulling over the impact that this abuse has on their treatment," Blakey says.

Women in treatment are also more likely to have childcare needs and employment troubles, including a lack of financial independence. "I think that it's very important for the programs to recognize the role of parenting in the lives of many women in treatment. Often a mother can't go into treatment

system, for example, and more women through the child welfare system. Researchers are studying how the factors that lead to a successful treatment outcome—including the characteristics of the organization's therapeutic approach and specific services that are available—may differ for women and men.

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A DECADE AGO, THERE WAS A DEBATE IN DRUG-TREATMENT POLICY CIRCLES: Did services connected to treatment dilute the impact of treatment, or were they a useful scaffold to allow the client to build a more successful life? By early in this decade, findings were accumulating that comprehensive supports are essential in substance abuse treatment, particularly when they are "tailored" to the client's specific needs.

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) launched one of the biggest boosts for comprehensive services in the form of the Access to Recovery (ATR) program, which has provided approximately \$300 million to states for vouchers for clinical substance abuse treatment and recovery support services. The program has provided treatment and support to an estimated 160,000 individuals and is now in its second round of funding.

"Through Access to Recovery, for the first time the federal government has been paying for these recovery support services," says Charles Curie, a

graduate of the School, former head of SAMHSA, and now the principal of the Curie Group, a substance abuse and health policy consulting firm. “The vouchers give individuals an opportunity for choice and it captures the uniqueness and individuality of recovery.”

In Illinois, Access to Recovery has funded vocational, educational, and other services through more than 40 community-based organizations. “We have been able to provide \$12 million annually to help



people who have received treatment keep engaged with services that may not necessarily be available at the treatment program. We’ve done a lot of evaluation, and there are good indications that people do well in recovery with these services,” says Maria Bruni, the department’s research director and an alumae of the School.

What has not been as clear was who benefited the most from these services and how. “We know that comprehensive services are useful, but we don’t have a thorough understanding of the complexity of how they work. It’s a bit of a black box in the theory—go through and it helps, but we’re still figuring out the details. Knowing that will allow us to create treatment programs that do a better job of providing help to women, men, people with HIV/AIDS, the homeless, members of different racial/ethnic groups—you name it,” Marsh says.

In 2004, Marsh and co-authors provided the first glimpse into gender differences in comprehensive services for substance abuse treatment in a paper in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. Their analysis of data about more than 3,000 clients from 59 treatment facilities from the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study (NTIES) showed that both women and men benefit from comprehensive services.

But it also showed some notable differences. More women received comprehensive services and, when used them, had greater reductions in their post-treatment substance use than men. At the same time, women and men differed in how they reacted

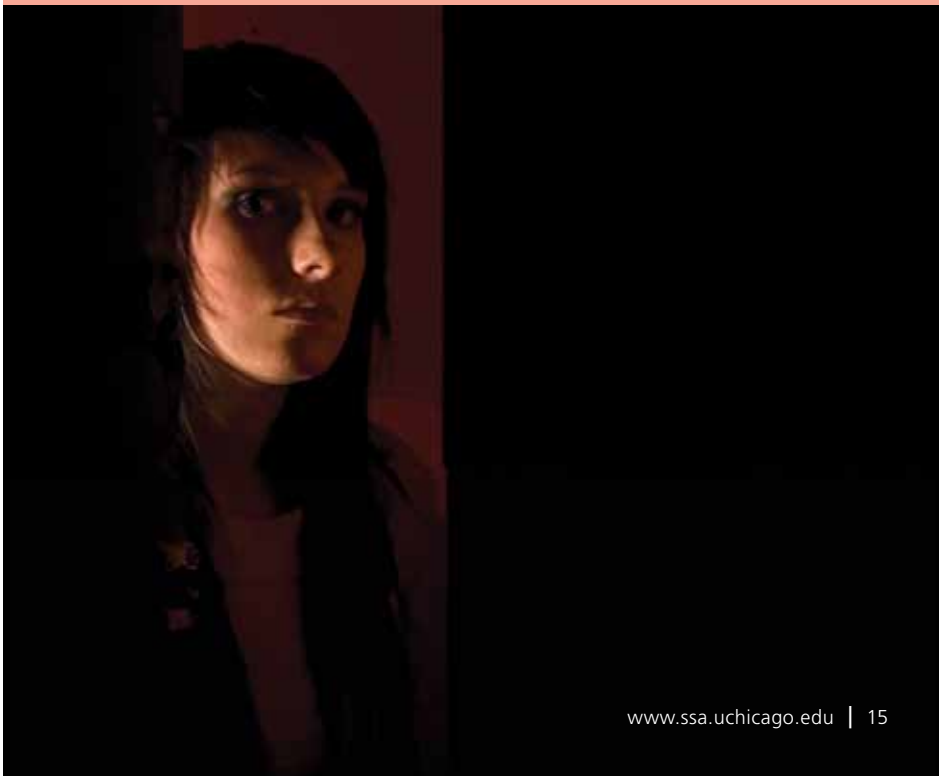
Targeted Treatment

RESearchers and policymakers are exploring the intricacy of substance abuse and its treatment for many populations, not just for women. For example, for more than a decade, the Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) process has been promoted by leading federal and state agencies to help individuals with both substance-use issues and severe and persistent mental illness.

The mix of therapeutic, organizational, and fiscal complexity of providing treatment for both issues at once, however, has kept the program from reaching as far as its architects and advocates would like. “It’s the state of the art for people with co-occurring disorders, but there are so many moving parts. And there are issues about cost and even just keeping it running,” says Stan McCracken, a senior lecturer at SSA who has worked with many agencies throughout Illinois to institute IDDT.

On the other hand, not every subgroup has as robust a system for identifying and attending to its needs. At-risk youth who have been exposed to community violence, for instance, are twice as likely to have used marijuana or alcohol than at-risk peers who have not, according to research published by Dexter Voisin, an associate professor at SSA, and co-authors in a 2007 article in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. By understanding the common effects of first-hand experience with violence outside the home, Voisin says practitioners can have a better grip on how to help.

“We did not find a notable increase in the use of crack, ecstasy, or amphetamines. That suggests that these young people are seeking a soothing effect, rather than a stimulant,” points out Voisin, who teaches a doctoral course on models of prevention at the School. “If exposure to community violence was on the radar screen of more social workers who work with youth, that could be very useful information to help find appropriate treatment.”



Moral Hazard

THERE'S AN ELEMENT OF MORALITY laced throughout drug policy when it comes to women, attitudes and assumptions about motherhood, femininity, responsibility, and decorum. At times, these judgments run counter to policies and programs strictly built on research and logic.

"During the crack epidemic of the 1980s and '90s, there was a wave of concern whether a pregnant woman using crack was damaging the baby, and there was a lot of funding for research and programs for prenatal interventions," says SSA Professor Sydney Hans. "But the data have shown that when a woman uses cocaine or heroin, much of the risk to the child comes once he or she is born. The issue of how to help parents with children in the home hasn't gotten nearly the same attention."

During welfare reform, legislators on the left and right were concerned that many women would be unable to comply with work rules due to substance abuse problems, and they built a system that allowed states to do broad-based drug testing of welfare recipients. However, research by Associate Professor Harold Pollack and colleagues has shown that only about 20 percent of welfare recipients report any illicit drug use in the past year, with the majority of these drug users engaged in casual marijuana use.

Largely forgotten in the rush to identify millions of drug-using welfare mothers that simply didn't exist were serious questions about providing sufficient funding for substance abuse treatment and how to provide real support that can help women become ready for employment.

"Substance abuse might not be a highly prevalent problem for a lot of women on welfare. But it can be an indication that something else is not right. If you're a 34-year-old mom who's smoking marijuana in the afternoon, that's often a warning sign. We've done research that shows a correlation with that behavior and other mental health issues," Pollack says. "We should be more concerned and more careful and competent about helping women with those issues."



to the organization's characteristics: The availability of on-site services and more frequent counseling sessions resulted in reduced post-treatment drug use for men but not for women.

Marsh has continued to use the NTIES to dig deeper into what makes comprehensive services work. Her most recent research looks into the next logical question: If tailored services are a benefit to participants, then how often are clients able to access them?

"There was a natural progression from what clients said they needed in health and social services to whether these services were available. We found a real service gap," Marsh says. In fact, in a paper that has been accepted in *Social Work Research*, Marsh's research team shows a substantial number of clients of both genders who are not able to access health and social services they need during treatment, including fewer than a third who receive vocational, housing, and financial services (see "Mind the Gap").



MARSH'S RESEARCH INTO THE SERVICE GAP illustrates how substance abuse treatment for women can get derailed by fiscal and programmatic realities. A 2008 study of gender differences within racial/ethnic subgroups that she co-authored revealed another gap: They found that African Americans and Latinos who are in treatment receive fewer and lower quality services than whites, and African Americans and Latinos were also less likely to receive the services they needed.

The paper, now in press for the *Journal of Evaluation and Program Planning*, also has a

quirk in the data that may be a marker for how site-level details can impact whether treatment is fully successful: Matched services were found to be effective in treatment for whites and African Americans, but not Latinos. "We found in our data that when Latinos receive matched services, they stay in treatment longer, but their post-treatment drug use does not go down," says SSA doctoral candidate Erick Guerrero, who, with doctoral students Christina Andrews and Melissa Hardesty, has worked for the last several years as a research assistant with Marsh.

The study also found that compared with whites, Latinos on average are younger, less experienced in treatment, and are generally serviced by smaller organizations, with less services and thinner schedules. In his dissertation, Guerrero is exploring how these smaller organizations can be better equipped to improve Latinos' treatment experience.

"High-resourced programs with culturally sensitive managers are more likely to have bilingual and culturally competent counselors for Latinos. By structuring organizations in ways that reflect cultural inclusion and understanding, treatment programs have the potential to make a significant impact on Latinos post-treatment drug use," Guerrero says.

Even when a program is explicitly created for women, real-world demands and details can affect its success. E. Summerson Carr, an assistant professor at the School, spent more than three years observing the operations of a substance abuse treatment center created for homeless women in a Midwestern town, starting from the program's inception. She found in her day-to-day ethnographic research that despite the best of intentions, many of the program's features did not work as planned.

Over and over again, program administrators would say, "We're a feminist program. We're cul-

Mind the Gap

Gap Between the Need for Services in Substance Abuse Treatment and Delivery

Service Category	Women Needing Service	Women Needing and Receiving Service	Men Needing Service	Men Needing and Receiving Service
Substance and alcohol abuse counseling	98%	97%	97%	97%
Medical service	65%	65%	60%	63%
Mental health service	71%	32%	63%	32%
Family service	84%	62%	79%	48%
Vocational service	64%	29%	63%	27%
Housing service	71%	29%	61%	16%
Financial service	72%	24%	70%	20%

Source: "Closing the Need-service Gap: Gender Differences in Matching Services to Client Needs in Comprehensive Substance Abuse Treatment" *Social Work Research*

turally appropriate.’ But it was hard to see that in practice in the therapy room. People’s jobs were so demanding—there were so many crises, and clients were coming in and out of the program—that maintaining a philosophical base became a real challenge,” says Carr, who is using her case study of the program as the basis of a book to be published in 2010, *Scripting Addiction: The Politics of Therapeutic Talk and American Sobriety*.

The clients in the program Carr studied were recommended by one of several local housing programs, which meant that the women typically had many services already in place, and the program itself provided transportation to the facility and childcare during therapy sessions. These services were well-run and certainly made a difference in how well the treatment worked, notes Carr, who teaches “Drugs, Culture, and Context” in the School’s master’s program.

At the same time, however, many of the women were mandated to attend treatment as a condition of remaining in transitional housing. In practice, that meant that many of the clients in treatment were not self-motivated to end their substance use. Blakey has observed the same dynamic in her study of a Chicago substance abuse treatment program for women.

“For my research, I was studying women who had been told by the child welfare system that they needed to get treatment in order to keep their children or to get them back. There really is the question of motivation. Do these women really want to quit? Yes, a court order will get them into the program, but unless their point of view shifts and they say, ‘I want to be here; I want to make that change,’ it will not last,” Blakey says. And yet, she is far from sure that mandating treatment is a recipe for failure,

either, pointing out that some clients who did not enter of their own volition, genuinely wanted to stop using once they had begun to get the drugs out of their system.

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WHEN IT COMES TO PROBLEMS in how substance abuse treatment serves women, the biggest issue is not culturally insensitive programs or programs that don’t supply sufficient services. It’s a shortage of any kind of program at all.

In 2006, 314,000 people nationwide knew they needed substance abuse treatment, but were unable to find care, according to SAMHSA, and a whopping 21.1 million total needed treatment but did not receive it—a mix of those who did not consider themselves as having a problem and those who did not have enough information to identify the problem.

“We have significant access problems for substance abuse treatment in this country because we’re doing a poor job of financing the system. Today we’re below even where we were seven years ago in that funding for SAMSHA, when you take inflation into account,” says Harold Pollack, an associate professor at SSA and the faculty chair at the Center for Health Administration Studies.

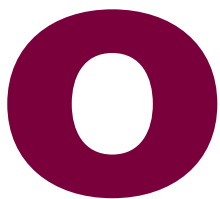
“We now know so much more about how to provide effective services, but due to budgets, we’re declining to offer these services,” Marsh says. “There is widespread concern that our substance abuse treatment system is in decline due to reductions in funding for services and research. The next wave of research is likely to focus on issues of cost effectiveness as well, so that we learn how to serve clients most effectively and efficiently.”

“People’s jobs were so demanding—there were so many crises, and clients were coming in and out of the program—that maintaining a philosophical base became a real challenge.”

A Community Under Construction

The success of the Chicago Housing Authority's **big bet on mixed-income housing** arguably will hinge on whether the developments can become **true communities**

BY ED FINKEL



OAKWOOD SHORES' CENTRAL LEASING OFFICE and surrounding townhouses

at Pershing and Vincennes on Chicago's near South Side have the look and feel of any other newly constructed housing development that's marketing its units—and that's precisely the point.

The development is a mix of single-family homes and apartments, as well as three-bedroom, two-bath townhouses, which currently rent for \$1,433 a month. Interspersed with market-rate rentals, however, are tax-subsidized affordable units, as well as apartments that house residents who formerly lived in public housing. These units are subsidized by the Chicago Housing Authority as part of its Plan for Transformation, the massive program to remake public housing in the city, including replacing the city's most devastated public housing projects—in this case, Ida B. Wells, Clarence Darrow, and Madden Park—with mixed-income developments.

When completed, Oakwood Shores is projected to consist of 3,000 units on

its 94-acre parcel, a third of which will be for CHA residents. The development opened in 2004 as a public/private sector partnership led by national nonprofit urban housing developer The Community Builders and Granite Development Corp., which is developing the for-sale properties. Lee Pratter, The Community Builders' senior project manager for the development, says the partners are working hard to make the development look "organic," so no one can tell who leases a market rate unit and who is a CHA resident.

Seamless architecture doesn't guarantee, however, that everyone who lives in Oakwood Shores will become, well, neighbors—in the deeper sense of knowing one another and interacting in mutually beneficial ways. Yet for many, some version of "building community" is a major part of what mixed-income development is supposed to be all about, at least as a benefit for public housing residents. Can the new developments foster social interaction among the different residents, break down prejudice, improve neighborhoods, and provide new opportunities for low-income residents?





Researchers Robert Chaskin (left) and Mark Joseph talk with local resident and activist Shirley Newsome near Oakwood Shores, one of the mixed-income developments that have attracted national attention.



“The bricks and mortar of a successful development like this in this economic climate are incredibly tough,” Pratter says. “The harder part is building a community and helping the residents take advantage of the opportunities.”

“All communities, at some level, are contested ground,” notes Robert Chaskin, an associate professor at SSA and deputy dean for strategic initiatives. “People from different backgrounds care about different things and have different expectations and priorities. This is raised to a pitch by the relatively extreme diversity, at least in terms of income, that’s being intentionally promoted in these developments.”

Chaskin and Mark Joseph, a former SSA post-doctoral scholar and now an assistant professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, are the co-principal investigators of a multifaceted study, “Building Mixed-Income Communities: Documenting the Experience in Chicago,” funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. They’re finishing a three-year phase of an ongoing investigation of how CHA’s new mixed-income communities are playing out, how residents are experiencing them, and what the policy and practical implications are.

The answers that are emerging are complicated. The research to date generally shows little interaction among people of different races and classes beyond very brief, informal, “Hi, how’re you doing?” types of exchanges. “There’s a certain amount of wariness. There’s not a huge yearning for people in these places to get involved in one another’s business. And most of them—in fact, most

urban dwellers in general—are comfortable with that,” Chaskin says.

“It’s nice to say we’re going to have a night out to see Alvin Ailey—but at \$40 a pop, what does that do to your public housing families?” says long-time local resident and activist Shirley Newsome, who lives near Oakwood Shores and served as a community representative during the CHA’s transformation process. “And a picnic on the grounds or a street party—for your market rate residents, that’s a mundane activity that they don’t generally participate in. It ends up being a public housing family picnic.”

“It’s early, so arguably one can imagine these kinds of interactions happening over time,” Chaskin says. “There’s also reason to be skeptical, given differences in education, income, and life experiences.”

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tHE \$1.5 BILLION Plan for Transformation is the nation’s most ambitious and largest proposal to close “the projects” that dot cities across the country and start a new and better chapter in the lives of their residents. As such, critics, planners, and scholars are watching closely to monitor its performance on factors from the support for residents undergoing relocation to whether sufficient new housing is available to replace the thousands of units that have been demolished.

When the CHA drew up the blueprint for the plan at the end of the 1990s, mixed-income developments figured prominently. The CHA anticipates building



Welcome to the Neighborhood

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT launched Moving to Opportunity (MTO), a demonstration project in Chicago and four other cities that provided housing vouchers and relocation counseling to very low-income public housing households to assist a move to less economically distressed areas. The program was a randomized housing-mobility experiment designed to track the neighborhood effects on the life chances of low-income families.

Now that the 10-year experiment is over, the question is, how did the families and children fare when moving to a more wealthy community? Jens Ludwig says that the answers were much more complicated than the program's architects probably expected.

Ludwig, the School's McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service, Law, and Public Policy, and several colleagues researched MTO's effect both in broad terms and, in a separate paper, specific to the question of youth crime. They found little impact on adult economic self-sufficiency but positive (and quite large) impacts on adult mental health and the rate at which youth are involved with violent crime. Female youth also saw a drop in crime in general, but male youth were if anything more likely than those who stayed behind in public housing to be arrested for property crime.

Ludwig says it's not well understood why the economic impacts are not more dramatic and why the impacts on crime seem so different by gender. "We have a lot of after-the-fact theorizing now that we've seen the results, but these findings were not what most people were predicting," he says. "My experiences working on MTO make me somewhat unsure about the relative value of people- versus place-based social policies. I'd like to see more research on what a successful place-based social policy would look like in practice."

or rehabilitating approximately 25,000 units of housing, which would match the number of CHA leaseholders when the plan began. More than 7,500 public housing units are planned in mixed-income developments that will replace more than 10 former CHA sites. To date, about 2,800 of these units have been built in mixed-income developments, which are typically one-third public housing, one-third affordable housing, and one-third market rate housing.

The notion that integrating formerly segregated people of different economic classes can have positive social benefits has been growing since the publication of former University of Chicago sociologist William Julius Wilson's 1987 book, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, which put forth an argument about the particularly pernicious effects of concentrated poverty on those who live in it. Deconcentrating poverty has become an increasing focus of federal housing policy, in part with the passage of the HOPE VI program in 1993.

But Newsome notes that in the long-run, she doesn't neces-

sarily think that neighbors will socialize in her community. "I think it's an unreasonable expectation that people will automatically come together as one big happy family," she says. Richard Sciortino, president of Brinshore Development, a partner in several of the mixed-income developments, agrees, and furthermore, says that the success of the program shouldn't be measured by that metric.

"Neighborhood interaction is not a prerequisite for a high



functioning neighborhood, nor is it necessary to improve the lives of the people living there," says Sciortino, who argues that the CHA, development teams, service providers, and other partners are responsible to provide well-

maintained neighborhoods with less crime and fewer anti-social activities. "We are presenting our children with a much healthier environment to grow up in," he says.

For Joseph, that twinned question—whether building community is necessary and then whether it's possible—is the core of their research agenda. "To what extent does the sustainability and ultimate success of these developments depend on some level of community and constructive, healthy neighboring?" he asks.

In addition to Oakwood Shores, Chaskin, Joseph, and their team are investigating two other developments: Westhaven Park on the city's West Side, and Park Boulevard, in the city's historic Bronzeville neighborhood. The Westhaven Park development, which has a larger proportion of public housing tenants than the other two, has probably experienced greater day-to-day interaction but also greater conflicts, Chaskin says, typically centering around "disjunction between different normative expectations and views about appropriate behavior, including the appropriation and



use of public space in ways that some newcomers, homeowners, and higher-income people feel is inappropriate."

Chaskin and Joseph are also investigating whether the mixed-income developments lead to better amenities and services for the public housing residents, as well as the extent to which mixed-income development is an effective response to the isolation of public housing populations from resources and opportunities. "There's reason to believe that social networks matter," Chaskin says. "We know, for example, that people find employment that way. But we've seen very little evidence so far of the kind of interaction [in the mixed-income developments] that would lead to that

kind of exchange of information between people of different backgrounds.”

Joseph echoes Chaskin’s caveat about how early it remains in the life of these mixed-income communities. “Residents with whom we’ve spoken have been living there, in many cases, one to two years,” he says. “They’re really still just getting settled in these developments. The other point is, none of these developments are completed yet. The ultimate community that is going to be in place is still far from realized.”

To date, the first papers have focused on issues such as resident perceptions of their new environments, social interaction, and resident decisions about whether to return to a mixed-income



development. Upcoming studies will include qualitative and quantitative research on topics that include social norms, governance, interorganizational collaboration, and racial dynamics.

Even as their research continues, Chaskin and Joseph are producing briefs on their findings to provide information directly to the CHA, developers, residents, and other interested parties to help shape the communities as they are being formed, in addition to academic publication. “Their findings provide important insights about the dynamics in these new communities while

highlighting both positive outcomes and ongoing challenges that the CHA and its partners are working to address,” says Kellie O’Connell-Miller, a CHA spokesperson.

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IN A 2007 PAPER BY JOSEPH, CHASKIN, AND HENRY WEBBER published in *Urban Affairs Review*, the authors point to another reason for building new mixed-income developments, one less interested in the benefits to public housing residents. This school of thought sees a strategy to redevelop vacant or underused, centrally located land in an economically lucrative, politically viable way.

“There are real tensions between some very different goals at play here,” Chaskin points out, “the social goals of re-creating and building new, well-functioning neighborhoods on the footprint of the most difficult public housing developments in ways that will benefit the very poor, on the one hand, and market-driven goals of making a profit and attracting investors on the other. Critics see [the Plan for Transformation] as a return to Urban Renewal, the playing out of a revanchist agenda that’s about reappropriating public housing lands in the city for the benefit of the more affluent classes.”

SSA Assistant Professor Robert Fairbanks argues that the Plan for Transformation has accelerated gentrification in the areas around Chicago’s downtown Loop, while dismantling existing communities of low-income residents in public housing. “The public policy assumption is that

those community ties were the wrong kind of community ties,” he says. “That can be subject to rigorous criticism.”

Fairbanks, whose courses at the School include classes on the political economy of urban development and the history and philosophy of the welfare state, acknowledges that public housing prior to the Plan for Transformation “effectively segregated and isolated a group

of poor, predominantly African-American Chicagoans.” But he contends that the privatized nature of mixed-income communities, combined with the intense screening methods that CHA requires of its residents for the developments, has led to considerable displacement.

“The screening of criminal records, work requirements, drug [testing], is a way of weeding out the worthy poor from the unwor-

The Museum of Public Housing

THE FINAL BUILDING LEFT STANDING from the Chicago Housing Authority’s Jane Addams Homes development, at 1322 W. Taylor St., will be rehabilitated and reborn as the National Public Housing Museum if a group including activists, community developers, CHA resident leaders, preservationists, funders, and architects succeeds in raising the necessary remaining funds.

“This started when the big developments were being torn down. There were generations of people from all backgrounds who had lived in those developments,” says Donna Barrows, board chair at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, one of the museum’s supporters. “While nobody was mourning the bad parts of public housing, there’s always been this tension: It’s one thing to tear down buildings, it’s another thing to obliterate community.”

Modeled on the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York, the museum, which has been incorporated as a stand-alone 501(c)3 nonprofit, has recently hired an executive director and has in hand preliminary drawings of the rehabbed building, plans for programming, and a web site about the project (publichousingmuseum.org). The effort just received a \$40,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create an extensive oral history program.

“The museum and its education center will challenge the myths and the stereotypes,” says Sunny Fischer, executive director of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, which has taken a lead role, and, like Barrows, is a member of SSA’s Visiting Committee. “We will develop a curriculum for the Chicago Public Schools based on the oral histories we collect. We envision the museum, along with its permanent exhibits, being the basis for conversations about poverty and race, and many other social issues raised by the history of public housing.”



thy,” Fairbanks says. “I see this as an aggressive use of state power to offload a number of very vulnerable folks from what meager provisions they were receiving. The Plan for Transformation, as a whole, must be considered against a backdrop of late 20th century welfare state transformation and urban restructure.”

O’Connell-Miller argues that the CHA valued residents’ social networks and communities in the former developments and continues to do so in the new mixed-income communities. “The Plan’s goal is to give families choices—between mixed-income and traditional sites, between geographic locations, and more—while also providing them with the services, resources, and opportunities they need to maintain economic stability and meet the screening requirements for their housing of choice,” she says.



bUILDING A COMFORTABLE, functioning community isn’t just a potential benefit to public housing residents, however. Joseph wonders how well even the market-rate side of these developments will continue to fare if community building doesn’t work.

“Without an intentional means of breaking through [racial and class] barriers, people tend to retain the assumptions they had going in,” Joseph says. “So much of the attention and energy and resources around these developments have to go into the basics: demolishing old sites, building new sites, recruiting people, relo-

cating them. There hasn’t been a whole lot of attention paid to some intentional ways to build community.”

Before the Plan for Transformation, public housing residents have typically had tenant advisory councils. “The tenant groups are really important in terms of having a process for residents to give feedback to decision-making bodies,” says SSA Assistant Professor Jennifer Mosley, whose research centers around how citizens’ groups and other interest groups interact with government agencies. “But they’re also important for building trust between different kinds of residents, finding areas of agreement, and building social capital. Those are the ways in which civic engagement happens.”

The CHA tenant councils for residents in mixed-income communities are in the process of being dismantled, however, now that their large-scale developments are razed. And the condominium and homeowner associations that are emerging in the developments, by definition, only include buyers. Some of these associations are open to renters and CHA residents, but only owners can vote.

Chaskin says other attempts to bring together residents into a common forum to talk about community issues have not been “particularly successful so far, from the perspective of building community and reconciling tensions.” Some developers have made attempts to promote integration through social and recreational activities, for example, but people have tended to self-select into or out of such activities. “People assume certain kinds of activities are for certain



kinds of residents,” he says. “It’s difficult to organize participatory structures that fully incorporate highly diverse populations.”

At Oakwood Shores, fledgling efforts have begun under the aegis of the Bronzeville Oakland Neighborhood Association (BONA). Renters meet with homeowners “a couple times a month” to discuss any issues and concerns and to build trust, explains Rosalie McCormick, a renter and secretary for BONA. “We’re just getting started. We’re getting our feet wet,” she says. “I’m not a bad person as a renter. You’re not a bad person as a homeowner.”

Deborah Thigpen, president of BONA, says that other management companies need to follow The Community Builders’

example in facilitating owner-tenant interactions. “That’s definitely needed to bring owners and tenants together, under one umbrella,” she says, adding that without such assistance, misperceptions persist. “We’re all a community. Most people think the CHA residents will bring down their property values and make the neighborhood worse than what it is, and that’s really not true.”

Ultimately, Joseph believes it will become necessary to promote a degree of what he calls “productive neighboring.” “Surely, not everybody has to become friends. But people need a way to voice issues and concerns,” he says. “To this point it’s not clear how that will happen or who has responsibility for facilitating that.”

Elder Sta

Social work education is ex



a As a first-year student at SSA three years ago, Cynthia Phon was thrilled when she received her field placement at the Council for Jewish Elderly on the North Side of Chicago.

Phon, a career-changer who'd worked in communication consulting for 17 years before entering graduate school for her master's degree, enrolled in SSA because she liked its older adult program. "I came to social work specifically wanting to work with older adults," she says.

That interest was a pleasant surprise to her supervisor at the agency, which has since changed its name to CJE SeniorLife. "They were used to getting students who would say, 'I want to work with pre-schoolers or I want to work in an elementary school.' So my supervisor said it was amazing to have someone come in and say 'I want to work with older adults,'" recalls Phon, who has worked as a case manager at the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield, Ill. since graduating in 2007.

Phon's enthusiasm for working with the elderly is rare among those entering social work. "Many of our students are of an age where, unless they've had someone in their family or in their personal lives who is older and dealing with those issues, they just don't tend to think much about the later phase of life," says Karen Teigiser, SSA senior lecturer and the School's deputy dean for curriculum.

Yet the need for social workers who focus on older adults is ballooning, particularly because we're approaching what some have dubbed a "senior tsunami" with the graying of the voluminous Baby Boom generation. The Brookings Institution estimates that by 2011 more than 10,000 Americans

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ploring how to prepare for the complex needs of an aging population

will turn 65 every day for the next 20 years. By 2030, more than 20 percent of the U.S. population will be 65 or over.

The sheer size of the aging Baby Boom generation and their longer life expectancies will have far-reaching implications. Older adults have different needs in terms of health care, family issues, community dynamics, and more. Not only will a generation need support adjusting to these new realities in their own lives, but their impact will be felt throughout society. The field of social work is gearing up to address the repercussions.

“Whatever you do in the field, you will be likely to be working with the elderly,” says Phyllis Mitzen, coordinator of SSA’s Older Adult Studies Program. “If you’re working in a hospital, you’re working with the elderly. If you’re working with families, you’re working with the elderly. If you’re doing community work, you’re working with the elderly. So you’ll use the strengths and insights that you get from working with this population over and over again.”

For example, more and more family caregivers—usually women—are caught in the squeeze of looking after children and older parents. “What happens to a woman,” Mitzen asks, “who has a gap in her career because she raised children, then at age 50 has to stop work to take care of her mom? So many women are financially unprepared for their old age due to taking on the caregiving roles that society expects of them.”

The cost of establishing and maintaining a quality lifestyle for the elderly is also a growing concern. “Most of us would say that we don’t want intensive curative services at the end of life, but we know that we do need some kind of medicalized environment. It’s a huge challenge for us to figure out what kind of medicalized environment will keep frail, elderly people comfortable and safe,”

says SSA Associate Professor Colleen Grogan, director of the University’s Graduate Program in Health Policy and Education. “What does it look like? How do we make it affordable?”

There are many facets to gerontological medical issues that go far beyond dealing with death and the end of life, even though that might be the first thought when it comes to geriatric care. For example, one out of every two people over the age of 85 is projected to suffer from some progressive cognitive impairment that will require care. Malitta Engstrom, an assistant professor and Hartford Faculty Scholar at SSA, points out that nearly one in four people living with HIV/AIDS is over the age of 50.

“Research with older adults who use drugs suggests that their HIV sexual risk behaviors are comparable to their younger counterparts and that they underestimate their risks. There is a great need to recognize that older adults are at risk for HIV and to provide HIV prevention and intervention strategies that are created with older adults in mind,” Engstrom argues.

Geriatric researchers and clinicians also warn about the increasing number of primarily low-income individuals who have battled chronic illnesses like diabetes and asthma over the course of their lifetimes. The result could be an explosion of younger “old people.” An individual who has diabetes and not had access to good medical care, for example, could find herself impaired by the time she reaches 40 and



Malitta Engstrom

Older adults have different needs in terms of health care, family issues, community dynamics, and more—their impact will be felt throughout society.



Jung-Hwa Ha

Senior Researcher

NEWLY ARRIVED SSA ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JUNG-HWA HA is one of a new generation of scholars who are carving out paths in gerontology research. She says the enthusiasm she sees at gerontological conferences demonstrates that the future of geriatric research and clinical practice is bright.

Ha, a native of Korea, says her introduction to gerontology was somewhat accidental. Following college in Korea, she volunteered at an international conference on gerontology. From then on, she was hooked. "I found it fascinating," she says. "There were so many experiences that were personally related to mine. My parents are

might need to be institutionalized by the time she reaches age 60.

"These chronic illnesses could be one of our more difficult policy, social work, and medical challenges," Grogan says. "We really need to be looking at what we should be doing to ensure that there is a public health infrastructure to help people live and age better."

And who better to explore these issues than social workers? "A lot of chronic disease management is not high-technology medicine," Grogan points out. "I think social workers can be the key people to help individuals with chronic illness connect with the kinds of disease management systems that work for their current life circumstances. That's the work we're trained to do."



WHEN SSA adjunct faculty member Darby Morhardt launched an "Intro to Aging" class for first-year master's students in the fall of 2007, most of her students confessed that they had only enrolled because virtually every other course was full.

But by the end of the term, Morhardt, who is also a research associate professor in the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, had won a great many

converts. She emphasized the growing role the elderly play in modern intergenerational families, the strength that many people display as they age, and the many ways in which social workers help older people lead meaningful lives, even as they cope with chronic illness.

"Many of the students remarked that they felt that the course should be required of everyone," Morhardt recalls. "They may not go into quote unquote aging, but they now have a sensitivity to the issues and a more holistic perspective."

Morhardt's class is part of a systemic effort at SSA to help prepare social workers for the growing need for gerontological social work. "The mismatch between the anticipated service needs of older adults and the availability of social workers trained in gerontology has been deemed a crisis by some scholars," Engstrom says.

"There is this notion in both medicine and social work that gerontology is all about working in nursing homes, that it's only end-of-life care," Grogan says. "But even if you are working in a nursing home or in hospice, it's not just about helping people to die. It's about understanding people's connection to life as well as death. It's about the kind of intergenerational care that happens across a lifespan. The trick is figuring out how to expose students to this without forcing it down their throats."

One of the keys, says Teigiser, is to provide students with information about the issues surrounding care of the elderly early and often

in their education. "What's clear is that when they have the opportunity to think about and connect with issues facing older adults—whether it's in the classroom or in a field experience—that makes the difference. Once we expose them to the challenges and issues of working with this population they tend to be committed," she says.

Teigiser has helped facilitate that exposure at SSA by making structural changes to the curriculum that introduce aging issues to students earlier in their course work. The class on working with older adults is now available in the first quarter, for instance, when students are required to take a course in human behavior.

The change is one example of the impact of SSA's Older Adult Studies Program, which is the incubator and launchpad for an infusion of elder care issues into the SSA curriculum. In addition to new coursework, the program's members have persuaded colleagues to introduce gerontological issues in a variety of courses. "We encourage the use of older adult case examples in both the first and second year as a way to engage students in this area," says Robyn Golden, director of Older Adult Programs at Rush University Medical Center, who teaches "Aging and Mental Health" at SSA as a member of the adjunct instructional staff.

SSA has also introduced a fellowship program specifically designed around geriatric issues, part of a national initiative sponsored

in a generation where they must care not only for their children but also for their parents. Thinking about how important it is to promote productive aging struck me as very important work."

Ha's doctoral work focused on widowhood as one of the major stresses in later life, and her papers have discussed the many aspects of losing a spouse. "Widowhood is multifaceted," she says. "The consequences are not just emotional; they're also behavioral, economic, and social."

And while many studies have examined how social support can help people adjust to widowhood, Ha's research has concentrated on the social consequences of widowhood itself. Her work sug-

gests that widows often form or strengthen relationships with friends and loved ones following the death of a spouse. "In the past we tended to think that people become socially isolated after the death of a spouse and some of that is true," she says. "But I found that in some ways people are very resilient and maintain their social supports and keep quite good contact with friends and loved ones."

Ha's next research horizon is studying how a decline in health affects the relationships of the elderly. "Previously, other studies looked at how social support affects health, but I think it is also important to examine how health affects those

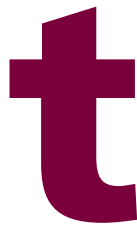
social supports. If you are limited in mobility, you are obviously limited in your opportunities to engage in social relationships. So I want to use longitudinal data to look at that effect, as well as how your spouse's health affects your relationships."

Ha also sees an uptick in interest in gerontology among her students. "I see some more awareness among young students that it is important to pay attention to older people," she says. "They are discovering that even if you are interested in younger children, it is important to know about older adults as a resource who can help the whole family."

by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered through the New York Academy of Medicine. The foundation is a leading champion of gerontological research and the training of scholars and clinicians in the field. Through the foundation's support SSA paired with the Loyola University School of Social Work in 2006 to form the Chicago Area Gerontological Social Work Education Consortium. By the end of the grant in 2010, each school will have conferred 30 Fellowships to second-year master's degree candidates, including a \$5,000 scholarship.

The program's Geriatric Leadership Fellows are engaged in seminars, courses, and fieldwork, including rotations designed to give the student a broad exposure the diverse needs of older people and to the programs and services designed to meet these needs. A clinical student, for example, may spend time in an institution's grants department to gain a different perspective on the issues. The goal of the program is to enable the Fellows to become leaders in the field.

Cynthia Phon, who was in the first class of Hartford Fellows at SSA, says that the program provided a cohort of like-minded students. "There's not a lot of understanding [among social work students] about the various things you can do with older adults," she says. "The Hartford fellowship provided validation that there are other people out there who are really interested in this and wanted to talk about the issues and the career options."



THE OLDER ADULT STUDIES PROGRAM has also introduced several courses on working with the elderly in the School's Professional Development Program (PDP), which provides

diverse continuing education opportunities for social workers. The program is now looking into creating a comprehensive set of courses around working with older adults.


"The reality in the master's program is often young people only want to work with kids or with people their age," says Golden, who also works with SSA students in field placements. "But then they get out and they're in their 40s and suddenly the idea of working with the elderly isn't so distant. It's their parents and their friends' parents, and they begin to realize that this might be the next phase of their work. PDP courses allow them to get back in the classroom to understand the theory and get a better grasp of the issues."

Ultimately, more social workers, administrators, and policymakers informed about and involved with elder care are needed to design and advocate for new models of care. Much of the geriatric care in the country it perceived to take place in nursing homes, but that perception fails to address the realities of how people age in their communities and the expectations of contemporary seniors.

Golden says that despite all the talk about

the coming senior tsunami, little is being done to develop new models of care. "Right now, the money is not following the people," she says. "We need to develop policy and care models for a range of new issues related to aging—things like people leaving or being forced out of the workforce earlier or having to hang on to their jobs longer because their 401(k) has been decimated. The new models of care need to have a bio-psycho-social framework if we're going to really take on the issues of aging."

Mitzen, a 1980 SSA alum, envisions a return to a more collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to the study of aging at the University. "When I went to graduate school, there was robust research going on across the campus addressing aging issues," she says. "Bernice Neugarten and Shelley Tobin [both scholars in human development and psychology] conducted seminal research on aging at the U of C. Today we have some pieces in place to develop that kind of synergy again."

Golden envisions an even grander mission. She would like to see SSA promote a collaboration with the City of Chicago to take on elder care in the same way that the University has worked with Chicago Public Schools on education initiatives. "If we could pull together all of the intellectual and clinical resources of the University and create a 'town/gown' partnership to think about these issues," she says, "think of the great role we could play." 



Centennial Kicks Off with Opening Event

On the evening of November 14, University of Chicago President **Robert J. Zimmer** and SSA Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor **Jeanne C. Marsh** hosted the opening celebration of SSA's Centennial, held at the School's Mies building. The event highlighted 100 years of field-shaping research and service at the School. Human service pioneers, philanthropists, social service leaders, and distinguished SSA alumni and friends renewed the School's commitment to enriching the discipline and illuminating solutions for society.

Preceding the opening event, SSA offered an invitation-only opportunity to listen to **William Schulz**, executive director emeritus of Amnesty International and now a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Schultz spoke to the group about his latest book, *The Future of Human Rights: U.S. Policy for a New Era*.

Washington Week

Nineteen students spent their spring break the week of March 23 at SSA's sixth annual Washington Week, where more than two dozen of the School's alumni gave presentations about career opportunities in the nation's capital. The event was launched with a reception at the Cosmos Club, hosted by **Charles Curie, A.M. '79**. The event featured a presentation by **Frank G. Farrow, A.M. '71** about his experiences at SSA with former dean Harold Richman, who was instrumental in launching the Center for the Study of Social Policy, a think tank in the nation's capital.

Marsh and Students at ASHR

In October, Dean **Jeanne C. Marsh** and doctoral student **Christina Andrews** presented "Gender Differences in Need-Service Matching in Comprehensive Substance Abuse Treatment" at the Addiction Health

Services Research meeting in Boston. Doctoral candidate **Erick Guerrero** also presented on institutional arrangements and adoption of culturally competent practices in outpatient substance abuse treatment, and received the Outstanding Young Investigator award, which recognizes interdisciplinary scientific work in materials research by a young scientist or engineer.

SSA @ SSWR

SSA was well represented throughout at the 13th annual Society for Social Work Research conference held in New Orleans in January. In addition to the Centennial Symposium (see "Centennial Symposia Continue"), Assistant Professor **Michael E. Woolley** spoke at the symposium, "Sources of Strengths: Social Environments that Promote Positive School Outcomes for Students." **Julie Darnell, A.M. '03, Ph.D. '08**, an assistant professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois, Chicago, was presented

the 2009 Outstanding Social Work Dissertation Award Honorable Mention and doctoral candidate **Judy Havlicek** won the 2009 Doctoral Fellows Award for her paper, "Movement Trajectories: Patterns in Placement Changes of Former Foster Youth Leading to the Transition to Adulthood."

SSA on Facebook

In addition to Facebook groups created by SSA students, the School now has its own Facebook page. Join other alumni and students and become a "fan" of SSA. Search under "University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration" to find the page and connect with the SSA community and get event updates.

Alumni Back for Black History Month

During February, alumni and friends of the school participated as speakers in a lunch time brown bag series,



SSA Centennial Opening Event

- 1 : Jinnie English, A.M. '99, shares a laugh at the reception.
- 2 : William Schultz spoke about human rights issues prior to the opening event.
- 3 : Assistant Professor E. Summerson Carr talks with Assistant Professor Robert Fairbanks.
- 4 : University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer gave a joint opening address with Dean Jeanne C. Marsh.
- 5 : From left to right: Dean Jeanne C. Marsh, Samuel Deutsch Professor Dolores Norton, University President Robert J. Zimmer, Joe Loundy, A.M. '69, Professor Emerita Pastora San Juan Cafferty, Donna Barrows, A.M. '79, and Visiting Committee Chair David Vitale.
- 6 : Emcee and *Sun-Times* Editorial Page Editor Tom McNamee, A.M. '82 introduces actors from the Court Theatre.



Above: SSA Master's students enjoyed meeting alumni in our nation's capital during Washington Week.



Left: Students plant trees a few blocks from SSA in Woodlawn in honor of the Centennial.

SSA and the 2008 election
Read about SSA students' involvement in the presidential campaigns. Visit ssa.uchicago.edu/publications.ssamag.shtml.

"ConverSSAtions," for Black History Month. **Jinnie English, A.M. '99**, CEO of Chicago High Achievers spoke on February 5, **Donna Steele, A.M. '97**, regional program manager for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and **Raymond Thompson, A.M. '03**, director of community outreach for Perspectives Charter School on February 11, **Kelly Michele Evans, A.M. '00**, co-founder and CEO of KEDA Consulting, Inc., and **Delrice Adams, A.M. '00**, co-founder of KEDA and program coordinator for Project Match, on February 17, and **Dorothy B. Holly-Turner**, retired director of social services for the Chicago Department of Health on February 23.

Students Plant Trees to Commemorate Centennial

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of SSA, more than 60 SSA students headed out to the Christ Way Missionary Baptist Church on September 25. At Woodlawn and 62nd street, the group planted seven trees, the first of 100 pledged to the United Nations Environmental Program Plant For the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign in a project planned by the School's Environmental Action Group. The international campaign encourages individuals and communities to collaborate with industry, government, and educational

institutions to plant 7 billion trees by the end of 2009. The students also attended an outdoor seminar in Woodlawn's Brickyard Garden with **Dorothy Pytel**, a local activist gardener and founder of Woodlawn Youth Solutions. Additional trees will be planted this spring.

Crime Lab Opens Doors

McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service, Law, and Public Policy **Jens Ludwig** and Associate Professor **Harold Pollack**, co-directors of the Chicago Crime Lab, launched a design competition to identify promising new intervention ideas and work with selected applicants to find private funding to launch and evaluate the pilot programs. The competition aims to generate evidence that is as reliable as medical clinical trials and use it to inform large-scale violence prevention efforts in Chicago and across the country.

On December 6, Ludwig and Pollack teamed with Associate Professor

Dexter Voisin for a daylong program, "An Examination of Gangs and Urban Violence," at the University's Gleacher Center in Chicago. Panelists included Chicago Police Department superintendent **Jody Weis** and CeaseFire founder **Gary Slutkin**, and the topics discussed included the compelling factors of joining a gang and how characteristics of gangs have changed over time.

DOC Films Celebrates 100 Years of SSA

The University of Chicago's film society, DOC Films, presented 10 films to celebrate SSA's Centennial, each of which addressed an important social issue for its time. The event kicked off on January 1 with the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* and ended on March 3, with *In the Family*. The celebration honored SSA's impact on social policy issues throughout the years and its legacy of working with individuals, families, and communities to achieve a better way of life.

Dean Jeanne C. Marsh (center) with doctoral students at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) conference held in New Orleans in January.





Centennial Symposia Continue

SSA's series of special symposia held by faculty throughout the School's Centennial year continued, with events exploring education, clinical therapy, low-wage work, and health care.

On November 15, SSA held "Into the Second Century: Continuing SSA's Tradition of Improving Urban Education," organized by Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor **Charles M. Payne**, Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor **Melissa Roderick**, and Assistant Professor **Michael E. Woolley**. Framed by an overview of the School's work and accomplishments over its first 100 years, the event spotlighted areas of emerging research, current policy issues, and innovative practice activities, and ended with a look at future directions for research, policy, and practice efforts.

Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor **Jeanne C. Marsh** and Associate

Professor **Beth Angell** joined Professor **Leslie Alexander** from the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College to organize "Off the Couch and Out of the Clinic: Innovations in Research on the

Therapeutic Relationship in Community-Based Settings." The event, held in New Orleans on January 15, discussed the current status of research on the therapeutic alliance and showcased emergent contemporary perspectives across a range of

community-based settings with children and adults.

On March 7, Associate Professor **Susan Lambert** and Associate Professor **Julia Henly** hosted "Putting Research To Work: Improving Low-

Jarrett and Duncan Go To Washington

Two SSA Visiting Committee members have left the committee to join the administration of President **Barack Obama**.

Valerie Jarrett was named senior advisor to President Obama, while **Arne Duncan** was the president's choice to become U.S. Secretary of Education.

Jarrett has served on the Visiting Committee since 2001, and is a former chairwoman. In 2007, SSA created the Valerie Jarrett Award for Faculty Leadership in tribute to Jarrett's leadership at SSA and to honor her role as an unwavering advocate and benefactor for the School. "Valerie has been instrumental in raising awareness and support for SSA," says Dean Jeanne C. Marsh. "She has also been crucial in advancing understanding of the role and value of social work in our society."

Duncan has served on the Visiting Committee since 2000 and was named chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools in 2001. SSA faculty has worked with Duncan through the Consortium on Chicago School Research and the School's Community Schools Program. "Arne Duncan has used talent and ideas coming out of the University of Chicago to help shape the strategy and direction of [CPS's] massive turn around effort," Marsh says. "We are thrilled that he will bring his energy, intelligence, and experience to positively affect the lives and educations of millions of American children."



Centennial Symposia

“Off the Couch and Out of the Clinic”

1 : Dean Jeanne C. Marsh

“Putting Research to Work”

2 : Assistant Professor Heather Hill addresses the audience

3 : Associate Professor Waldo Johnson, Jr.

4 : Associate Professor Susan Lambert

“America and Chicago’s Health Safety Net”

5 : Associate Professor Colleen Grogan

6 : Associate Professor Harold Pollack

“Continuing SSA’s Tradition of Improving Urban Education”

7 : Assistant Professor Michael Woolley

8 : Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Charles M. Payne

For more information about how SSA created the Centennial symposia series, visit ssa.uchicago.edu/publications.ssamag.shtml.

Wage Jobs and Public Policies to Support Vulnerable Workers,” a symposium that brought together top social work and social policy scholars and practitioners to discuss the implications of the changing labor market on low-income working families. The event highlighted the richness of social work’s enduring contributions to knowledge about macroeconomic labor market trends, employer strategies and practices, and job conditions at the frontlines of today’s firms.

On April 17, Associate Professor **Colleen Grogan** and Associate Professor **Harold Pollack** conducted the symposium “America and Chicago’s Health Safety Net: A Century of Continuity and Change.” The event discussed the role of various health care reform approaches for vulnerable populations. Presenters looked at the major historical trends in the development of the U.S. health care delivery system, particularly the development of our private/public mixed system, and offered a new critique on how this broader framing influenced the separate development of the health care safety net.

The Next Generation

Amzie Moore follows in the footsteps of his father, a leading light in the fight for civil rights

STUDENTS IN THE MASTER’S PROGRAM AT SSA often learn fascinating information in class, but the news Amzie Moore discovered last year was something else altogether. During a discussion of the civil rights era in his policy course, he had mentioned to then faculty member Judith Levine that his father, also named Amzie, had been a pioneer in the struggle in Mississippi.

“She was interested and looked into him. So the next class she told me that [SSA’s Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor] Charles Payne had written a chapter in one of his books about him. I had no idea,” says Moore. “I went and got the book, and I have to say the research was extremely accurate. It was like he lived with us.”

Payne devotes an early chapter in *I’ve Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle* to the elder Moore, noting that “If asked to choose one person as the forerunner of the work they did in Mississippi in the 1960s... veteran SNCC workers would overwhelmingly choose Amzie Moore.” No wonder; after WWII, Moore helped start the state’s Regional Council of Negro Leadership, saw the church that served as his headquarters burned down after an NAACP meeting in 1955, refused to put up “colored” and “white” signs over the restrooms at his service station, and was a pioneer in attracting federal attention to racist terror tactics in the state. “Threats against his life were almost constant,” Payne writes.

“My father deeply influenced the work I do,” Moore says today. “You look at what was accomplished by people like him—and that includes work he did helping establish subsidized housing for low-income families and economic development for people in the area—and I’m certain that he’d be proud to see me here at SSA.”

The 37-year-old Moore’s journey to SSA did not follow a straight line. After high school in Mississippi, he served nearly seven years in the Navy, after which he earned a B.A. at Hampton University in Virginia. Nine years ago, he moved to Chicago with the idea that he’d apply to law school, but, disillusioned as he learned about the difficulties in impacting social justice through the courts, he ended up with a job “in corporate America,” as he puts it.

An article in the *Chicago Tribune* brought Moore back to his need to work for social change. “It noted that one out of five African-American children drops out of high school,” he recalls. “I felt like I needed to do something about this crisis. I wanted to work with young people.”

Moore found a position at a community center as the after-school program director, then in the foster care system at a residential facility for children and later as case manager and a residential assistant in a transitional living program. “I started observing how a lot of policies didn’t make sense with what we were seeing on the ground. I had heard about SSA’s social administration concentration and so I applied. I knew at the School I could get the intellectual and theoretical foundation I needed to achieve whatever I wanted to do next.”

As one of SSA’s 82 evening program students, Moore has kept his current job as case manager for the screening assessment support services program with the Community Mental Health Council while taking classes, which have included “The Social Meaning of Race,” a class taught by Payne, who had no idea that Moore was at the School. “After I read his book, I sent him an email. He was shocked,” Moore says. “We had lunch and talked about the civil rights movement and what I had been doing. Then I took his course and it was one of the best classes I’ve taken at SSA.”

Moore says that throughout, the School has been what he had hoped it would be. “It’s been humbling to me to be at SSA. There are some of the smartest people I’ve ever met here, and I’m getting new perspectives and being forced to think hard about how things work,” he says. “That can only benefit me in the long run.”

Moore isn’t sure which direction his career will go after he graduates at the end of 2009, but his interest in providing a better life for children has led to a focus on support for families. “I’m interested in what causes disorganization in families, particularly African-American families, and how to mitigate that impact on young people,” he says. “I may become involved with research that helps influence social policy.”



Amzie Moore

Alumni Updates

Joe Loundy, A.M. '69, was awarded an alumni service citation by the University of Chicago this spring for his more than two decades of work with SSA. A long-standing volunteer for the School, Loundy is an active member of the SSA Visiting Committee and a member of the SSA Centennial Committee.



Joe Loundy, A.M. '69

He also served as president of the SSA Alumni Association from 1998-2003, where he advocated and networked actively to help SSA expand its student internship placements by 25 percent.

Loundy also received the Human First Award for his commitment to the issues of the GLBT community on March 21 at the Human First Gala, an event to support the programs of Center on Halsted. From 1978 to 1982, Loundy served as chair of the Gay Horizons' board of directors and later served as the organization's first executive director.

Look and Leave: Photographs and Stories from New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward, by **Jane Fulton Alt, A.M. '75**, will be published by the Center for American Places in August. Alt began actively exploring the visual arts while pursuing her career as a clinical social worker, and she has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work can be found in many permanent collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts,



Houston, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and Yale University's Beinecke Library.

Janice Pyrce, A.M. '77 received the 2009 Rita Johnson Humanitarian Award from Family Service & Mental Health

Center of Oak Park & River Forest at the group's 2009 Spring Gala on May 1. Pyrce has served the organization as board president, volunteer, and committee member. Family Service is a nonprofit mental health, counseling, and youth (harm) prevention agency.

In January, **William Sinunu, A.M. '93**, launched Globally Hip, an organization trying to eliminate ethnocentrism and promote cultural awareness. The organization provides online cultural IQ tests, cultural personality profiles, and programs such as cultural coaching and facilitated sessions. Sinunu has also published two books: *Life Could Be Sweeter* in 2005 and *The Sweet Life* in 2007.

The founder of SVT Group, **Sara Olsen, A.M. '98**, and her business partner Brett Galimini were one of 25 finalists in *BusinessWeek* magazine's "America's Most Promising Social Entrepreneurs" contest, out of an entrant field of 200. SVT is the first advisory firm to specialize in valuation of non-financial, social, and environmental return on investment, and clients have used its services to inform critical business decisions, drive investment toward the greatest positive impact, and ensure accountability.

Damian J. Martinez, A.M. '00, Ph.D. '08, edited his first book, *How Offenders Transform Their Lives*, expected to be released in July 2009 by Willan Publishing. The book discusses prisoners' needs when returning to their home communities and explores the rarely researched area of internal identity shifts from prisoner to citizen, primarily through qualitative studies. Martinez was recently honored as one of the first recipients of the SAGE Junior Faculty Professional Development Teaching Award by SAGE Publications and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) in an award reception in Boston. He is an assistant professor at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Center for Law and Justice, with a joint appointment with the Department of Social Work.

Huberman Heads Chicago Schools

Ron Huberman, A.M. '00, was named chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools on January 27. Prior to being named CEO, Huberman served as the president of the Chicago Transit Authority, as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's chief of staff, and executive director of the city's Office of Emergency Management and Communications. In 1995, Huberman joined the Chicago Police Department, serving in various capacities.



Ron Huberman, A.M. '00

"We are very pleased to see that a graduate of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration will provide the leadership necessary to ensure the continued transformation of public education in the City of Chicago," says Jeanne Marsh, Dean of SSA and the George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor.

As assistant deputy superintendent for the Office of Information and Strategic Services, Huberman led the research and development, information services, and records services divisions. While working for the police force, he studied at SSA as well as the Chicago Booth School of Business and also earned his master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Chicago.



Student Career Panels

SSA wishes to thank the following master's program alumni who participated in the **Alumni Student Career Panels** on February 28.

Laura Bass, '08,	Sarah Doran-Mudd, '00	Aida Pigott, '06
Peter Chapman, '86	Marsha Hahn, '05	Matt Shaffer, '07
Pamela Cook, '05	Kristen Komara, '04	Mary Shapley, '08
D. Michael Coy, '06	Allison Levine, '05	Donna Steele, '97
Kimberly Denton, '07	Ann Maxwell, '96	Kelly Waldhoff, '07

Read **Alumni Reflections** online at <http://ssacentennial.uchicago.edu/participate>. More than 50 alumni submitted reflections of their time at the School for the Centennial year.

Full House

Led by a succession of three SSA grads, Erie Neighborhood House thrives

ROUND ABOUT THE END OF THE DAY, when streetlights flicker on, the Erie Neighborhood House sees a flurry of activity. Parents pick up their children from the white brick, utilitarian building, and adults hoping for a better future arrive to take nighttime classes. But this is nothing new. Since 1870, Erie House has helped people of all races and backgrounds have a better life.

There aren't many institutions in Chicago's neighborhoods that have been around for more than 130 years, let alone ones that have grown to add new services and remain relevant to the community. That takes a blend of vision, knowledge, compassion, and attention to details. It's one reason that the last three executive directors at Erie House have been SSA graduates.

"It matters to have gone to SSA if you're going to be in social work in this city," says **Ricardo Estrada**, executive director of Erie House since 2003 and a 1993 graduate of the master's program at the School. He acknowledges that keeping an organization like Erie House going in the right direction is a demanding endeavor. But the skills he learned at SSA, as well as the School's network, make the course navigable.

Established in the settlement house tradition, Erie House evolved into one of the first comprehensive social service agencies in Chicago. Today, it serves more than 5,000 people a year, with a budget of more than \$8 million annually, a staff of 160, and a wide array of child care and after-school programs and adult education classes like technology training or English as a second language. Erie House also founded a local elementary charter school in 2005. "The com-



Erie House Executive Director Ricardo Estrada plays with students at the agency's early childhood development center.

mon denominator is that it's all about education," Estrada says.

Over the past several years, the West Town neighborhood in which Erie House is located has gentrified, diminishing the organization's ability to offer service to the disenfranchised. Five years ago, Erie House began working with the Little Village Development Corporation to also provide services in that largely low-income Latino community.

Rafael Ravelo, executive director at Erie from 1985 to 1997, currently serves as senior advisor to the organization, with an emphasis on the collaborations in Little Village. During his tenure, Ravelo oversaw the expansion of the Erie House child care and the adult education programs, as well as the development of a community technology center. In the early 1990s, when Estrada first worked at Erie House, it was Ravelo who convinced him to get a master's degree in social work from SSA.

"He came to me and said he was going to go and get a psychology degree someplace," recalls

Ravelo, who graduated with a master's from the School in 1977. "And I said, 'Why would you want that? I think I have a better suggestion for you. SSA will give you that and a lot more. You can go in any direction you want to go with a degree from SSA.'"

Ravelo stepped down as executive director after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, naming Erie's associate executive director, and fellow SSA alum, **Esther Nieves** as his successor. "I feel very humbled to have been the director," says Nieves, who left in 2003 to earn a second master's degree in international non-governmental management from New York University. Currently, she is the national director of immigrant and refugee rights for the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker-based organization with headquarters in Philadelphia.

Despite Ravelo's grim prognosis, he returned to Erie House after a brief recovery. His advice has been instrumental in the next big project underway at the non-

profit: The Little Village Immigrant Resource Center, an Erie House extension that will offer many of the same services as its West Town counterpart, but with an emphasis on leadership programs and legal services. The hope is to open in two years, and nearly \$1 million of the \$4 million needed to build the center has been raised.

But Estrada isn't content with that project to keep Erie House relevant. He and his staff are considering how to foster a culture of literacy in the community, for example, including a study into whether introducing the importance of reading to young mothers in the maternity ward would have an impact. It's an idea that would mix research, community-level intervention, and new thinking—in other words, a very SSA idea.

It's much too soon for Estrada to consider stepping down as executive director, but he does offer one hint as to what he'll look for in a candidate for his demanding job when that time comes: "I can say that the person will have a master's in social work." ■

Chicago Women's Alliance Group

To commemorate Jane Addams Day and SSA's Centennial, the School's Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor **Jeanne C. Marsh** and the Chicago Women's Alliance Group held an event at the Holland & Knight law firm on December 10 that honored the University of Chicago's Pioneering Women.



Jeanne Marsh

The event examined collaborations between Jane Addams, Edith Abbott, Sophonisba Breckinridge, and Grace Abbott and their contributions to policy, practice, and research. The Chicago Women's Alliance Group is an organization of women 45 or older who are alumnae, faculty, or researchers for the University of Chicago.

Lambert and Roderick at Harper Lecture Series

As part of the University's Harper Lecture series, Associate Professor **Susan Lambert** and Hermon Dunlap Smith Professor **Melissa Roderick** spoke to alumni and friends of the School.



Melissa Roderick

Roderick presented "Potholes on the Road to College" on November 9 in Ann Arbor, Mich. discussing her multi-year research

project on how first-generation college students struggle to navigate the col-

lege search and application process. The conversation explored how high schools and communities can help close the aspirations/attainment gap for today's youth.



Susan Lambert

On November 23, Lambert gave a lecture titled, "The Hidden Reality of Hourly Jobs" in Milwaukee, focusing on how front-line managers maintain the link between consumer demand variations and labor costs in low-level, hourly jobs in the transportation, retail, hospitality, and financial services industries. She also discussed "hidden realities" that interfere with worker's ability to access social benefits. The Harper lectures, named for the University's founding president William Rainey Harper, bring faculty to speak to alumni communities.

Norton Receives Service Award

Samuel Deutch Professor

Dolores "Dodie" Norton

received a service award in the fall from Bryn Mawr College, her alma mater, where she is a Trustee Emerita. Norton was honored for her historical legacy and contributions to the School over the course of her career.



Dolores Norton

Faculty Speaking

The SSA faculty has been involved in a number of events to present their

research and speak on important issues in social work and social justice during the first part of the 2008/09 school year.

Dean and George Herbert Jones Distinguished Service Professor **Jeanne C. Marsh** delivered "Seeing Eye to Eye: Human Perception in Vision and Service Delivery" with Eliakim Hastings Professor **Steven Shevell** to the University of Chicago Alumni Club of Japan, in Tokyo, Japan on October 15, as well as "Quality Treatment for Women: Special, Tailored, or Matched Services" at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference in Boston on October 21.

On December 11 Associate Professor **Robert Chaskin** was a panelist for Chapin Hall's event "Thursday's Child: Location, Location, Location: Combating Urban Poverty Through Place-Based Initiatives," which discussed how initiatives that integrate services for high-need young people can complement comprehensive neighborhood development work.

Frank P. Hixon Professor **Charles Payne** spoke on October 29 at the Union League of Chicago as part of the Chicago Schools Policy Luncheon sponsored by the Business and Professional People for the Public Interest. The luncheon series topic, "Is Great Teaching Enough?" was inspired by new research by the Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Associate Professor **Evelyn Brodtkin** presented two research papers at the Annual Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management in Los Angeles in November, "Choice and Constraint in Street-Level Practice: How Organizations Make the 'Real World' of Workfare" and "Organizations, Exclusion, and Welfare: Administration and Access to Benefits."

In December, Assistant Professor **Robert Fairbanks** presented a research paper titled, "Bodies Is What Makes It Work: Statecraft and

Urban Informality in Philadelphia's Recovery House Movement" at the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Urban and Regional Development in Tokyo, Japan on December 18.

Associate Professor **Waldo Johnson** delivered the keynote address, "Diversity Lessons Learned but Unheard: Insights from the Empirical Research and the Field," for the Child Care Association of Illinois Fall Meeting in Lisle, Ill. and participated in a roundtable discussion, "Crafting a Research Career" at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.

At the 2nd annual Illinois Youth and HIV/AIDS Forum sponsored by The Children's Place Association at the Chicago Cultural Center on February 27, Associate Professor **Dexter Voisin** presented shared research about teenagers' responses to message initiatives and programs to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS.

New Publication from Walsh

In December, Guilford Press published the second edition of the 2003 book

Spiritual Resources in Family Therapy by SSA



Froma Walsh

Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor Emerita **Froma Walsh**. Walsh was invited to give the plenary address and workshops at the International Congress: An Investigation into Psychology in Michoacan, Mexico, and at the International Congress on Family and Crisis in Castellon, Spain. 🇺🇸

Former SSA Professor **Walter Walker** died on November 11, 2008, ending his more than 30-year battle with multiple sclerosis. An advocate of the handicapped, Walker was the president of Lemoine-Owen College until 1986 and vice president at the University of Tennessee until 1991. He grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate. After earning his master's degree at the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work, he received his Ph.D. from the Heller School at Brandeis University. At SSA, in addition to his tenure as a professor, he also served as vice-president for planning.

The University of Chicago's long-time director of the Office of Special Programs and College Preparation, **Larry Hawkins**, died on January 30, 2009 at the age of 78. Hawkins partnered with SSA on many community programs and initiatives. In 1972, he founded the Institute for Athletics and Education, an advocacy organization promoting a healthy balance between sports and education, and in 1991, he founded Space Explorers, a science enrichment program that connected underserved students with the scientists of the Kavli Institute. He was honored last December with the Diversity Leadership Staff Award, as an "exemplary leader" in the efforts to support diversity at the University.

Harold A. Jambor, A.M. '39, died on December 28, 2008. He is survived by his daughter.

Ben Meeker, A.M. '40, died on March 8, 2009 at the age of 97. Meeker helped establish the Federal Probation Training Center in Chicago, and won the Doyle Award from the Federal Probation Officers Association in 1964 and the Halpern Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1967. After retiring from law enforcement in 1973, he worked for 10 years as an administrator for the

Center for Studies in Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago.

Miriam Elson, AM '42, a lecturer at SSA from 1980 to 1994 and a clinical social worker for 58 years, died on May 6, 2009 at her Chicago home. She was 99. Elson played an important role in establishing the field of clinical social work. She developed model field placement programs and had an abundant impact on the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, where she headed their adoption division, and the student mental health clinic at the University of Chicago, where she served for 23 years.

Elson published widely, including two classic books, *Self Psychology in Clinical Social Work* and *The Kohut Seminars*, which introduced Heinz Kohut's idea of "the psychology of the self" to the field of clinical social work. She was honored with many awards, including SSA's Edith Abbott Award for Career Distinction and the Lifetime Contributions Award from the International Council for Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology. A scholarship at the School in her name and that of her late husband, Alex Elson, a prominent lawyer and labor arbitrator, was established by friends.

SSA has recently learned of the death of **Jack R. Hegrenes, A.M. '60**.

James Wagner, A.M. '68 died on January 10, 2009. He started his professional career as a Chicago Public School teacher, then became education director at the Chicago Urban League, then the dean of students at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois. After his retirement, he nurtured the return of jazz to Hyde Park. In 2007, Wagner and associates partnered with the University of Chicago and the Hyde Park Cultural alliance to create the Hyde Park Jazz Festival. In 2008, the festival's main stage was named in his honor.

SSA has recently learned of the death of **Irma Jean Ellis Patterson, A.M.**

Margaret Rosenheim

Margaret Rosenheim, former dean of SSA, died on February 2, 2009 at the age of 82. A pioneering scholar who combined an interest in child welfare with training law, Rosenheim was among the first faculty to receive the Norman Maclean Faculty Award, which is given to emeritus and senior faculty for outstanding contributions to teaching and the student experience on campus.

Throughout her career, Rosenheim was an advocate for a system of non-judicial interventions to deal with troubled adolescents.

She was the author, editor, and co-author of numerous books and articles about juvenile justice and child policy, including *A Century of Juvenile Justice* and *Children Harmed and Harmful: Risk in the Public World of Childhood*.

Rosenheim received her J.D. in 1949 from the University of Chicago Law School, where she met her husband, Edward Rosenheim, the David B. and Clara E. Stern Professor in English, who died in 2005. From 1969-72, she was the director of the Center for the Study of Welfare Policy and was director of the Center for the Study of Welfare Policy at SSA from 1969-72. In 1975, Rosenheim was named the Helen Ross Professor of Social Welfare Policy. She served as dean of SSA from 1978-83, before retiring in 1996.



'69. After beginning her career as a medical social worker at the University of Chicago Hospital, Patterson held various management administrative positions at several social service organizations, including Youth Guidance. Most recently, she worked as an independent management consultant providing strategic planning, organizational, program, board and staff management, and diversity awareness training.

SSA has recently learned of the death of **Thelma Wagner, A.M. '80**.

Lester Brown, A.M. '71, Ph.D. '80 died on February 16, 2009. Brown was a professor in the Department of Social Work at California State University at Long Beach.

Beverly Avery, A.M. '83, died February 2, 2009. A resident of Atlanta, Avery worked for the DeKalb

School System as a prevention/intervention specialist.

Kiyo N. Finucane, A.M. '96, died on December 11, 2009 at the age of 91 in her home in Columbia, Md. Finucane was a resident of the Washington, D.C., area for more than 60 years, where she first moved to work with disabled children and adults at Gallinger Hospital. In 1961, she joined the Crittenton Home, counseling unwed mothers and girls with behavioral problems. She retired in 1980.

Finucane attended SSA in 1939 after attending Occidental College in Los Angeles. The start of WWII ended her time at the School, as she had to take care of her widowed mother and younger siblings, who had been placed in an internment camp in Wyoming. In 1996, the University of Chicago and Dean Jeanne C. Marsh reviewed her academic records and awarded her a master's degree in social work. 🍷

Weaving a Better Net

To truly help low-income families, policymakers should focus on local social service delivery

DEBATE ABOUT POLICY RESPONSES to the current recession offers an opportunity to reflect upon how the safety net helps low-income Americans and how we might strengthen it. Popular impressions of assistance often are of welfare cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) or food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program). These important programs account for only a small portion of safety net spending, though.

Today's safety net delivers much more assistance through social service programs that support efforts to find and keep a job, cope with job loss, care for children, or address various health, substance abuse, and mental health problems. While we spent roughly \$50 billion on TANF and SNAP in 2008, in my recent book *Out of Reach: Place, Poverty, and the New American Welfare State* I estimate that we spend \$150 billion each year on social service programs.

The disconnect between popular conceptions and the reality of safety net assistance not only distorts political rhetoric and policy debate, it leads us to look past important structural features of the safety net that impede our ability to successfully deliver programs of assistance.

Inherent Localness of the Safety Net

Unlike cash assistance, most social service programs cannot be delivered to clients in their homes, relying instead on

local agencies to provide assistance at the street-level. Because the capacity of local social service organizations varies by region, city, and town, the American safety net actually is a con-

glomeration of tens of thousands of unique local safety nets. This makes our safety net responsive to local needs and preferences, but it also inhibits efforts to coordinate programs, minimize duplication, or respond swiftly to widespread increases in poverty or changes in the economy.

Moreover, local variation can lead to safety net assistance that is inaccessible to the poor. For *Out of Reach*, I interviewed nearly 1,500 public and nonprofit service organizations in metropolitan Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. I found high-poverty neighborhoods (poverty rate over 20 percent) to have about one-third as much access to a variety of social services as low-poverty neighborhoods (poverty rate less than 10 percent).

Why are there fewer service providers in or near high-poverty areas? Perhaps first and foremost, high-poverty communities often lack quality, affordable office space. Location also

may be determined by a need to be close to a trained workforce, program partners, fee-paying clients, donors, and volunteers. Some agencies may want to distance clients from their home neighborhoods to preserve anonymity and protect from the stigma associated with seeking help.

A lack of access to service programs, however, is likely to lead to lower program take-up, failure to follow through on referrals, and higher rates of program attrition. Greater distances means more difficult commutes and less information about avail-

recent decrease in funding at the time of my interviews also reported reducing staff levels, the range of services offered, numbers of clients served, or even temporarily closing the facility.

Moving Forward

The success of recently proposed federal strategies for reducing poverty ultimately rest on the strength of local nonprofit service organizations.

For example, for transitional job and employment training programs to be effective they should be located within reasonable commut-

150 billion
annual public and private expenditures for social service programs

able programs. Simply put, inadequate access to service providers can be tantamount to being denied assistance in the current safety net.

Safety net programs are also less predictable sources of support than is typically understood, and agencies are most vulnerable right at the moment when stable support is most necessary. Government revenues, private endowments, and charitable giving decline during economic downturns. About 40 percent of service providers I interviewed reported decreases in at least one of five key funding sources in the years following the recession that began in 2001. Given the severity of today's economic conditions, we should expect the percentage of agencies reporting lost funds today to be much higher.

Less reliable revenue flows generally lead to less predictable services. Seven out of ten government and nonprofit service agencies that reported a

ing distances of low-skill job-seekers. Effects of programs intended to strengthen parenting and engage non-custodial fathers will likely vary according to their availability in neighborhoods where needs are greatest. Accomplishments of President Obama's Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships will rest on the strength and sustainability of local organizations. Likewise, neighborhood investment through programs like the Promise Neighborhoods initiative will yield results only where there is adequate nonprofit service delivery infrastructure.

By ensuring local service providers are accessible and stable sources of support, we can offer better help to those in need and help the country emerge quickly from the economic challenges ahead. ■

Scott W. Allard is an associate professor in the School of Social Service Administration.



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