

# BARRY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



# Social Work COMPASS



KNOWLEDGE ~ TRUTH ~ SERVICE ~ SOCIAL JUSTICE

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

To anyone who has turned on a television, turned up a radio or opened a newspaper in the past three months, the terms "historic" and "economic crisis" have become very familiar descriptors of the current social, political, and economic state of our country.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the nation witnessed the remarkable power of the democratic process as an unprecedented number of voters, many for the first time in their lives, waited in impossibly long polling lines to cast their vote for the country's first African-American President. Later that same night some 240,000 people - Black, White, Latino, Asian, young and old, rich and poor - gathered enthusiastically in the cold of Chicago's Grant Park to share in a piece of history. It is hard to comprehend the full range and depth of the country's, and indeed

the worlds', emotion as President Elect Barack Obama took the stage to deliver his victory speech. It is likely that among the younger generation the election of Barack Obama symbolizes a definitive end to the racial oppression and discrimination that so strongly defined the lives of their parents and grandparents. Those who have lived through the realities of Jim Crow and have firsthand experience with the long and brutal march toward Civil Rights are undoubtedly hopeful, but likely remain unconvinced. What is clear is that this historic election, combined with an economic crisis of global and epic proportions, has catapulted the United States into uncharted waters. Change has most certainly come but the full impact of these changes remains yet to be seen. As social workers we know that

change brings with it both opportunities and challenges. We know that real work is in identifying and then cultivating an ability to engage both simultaneously.

So what is to be the role of social workers in this era of change? The diversity of the social work profession has always been among its strongest assets. I believe that as individual social workers and as a profession we have the knowledge, the skill and the responsibility to help define the complex issues that currently confront individual, families, groups, organizations, and communities all across the nation.

*Continued on  
Page 8...*



## PUBLIC GUARDIAN PROGRAM

In 1998, Barry University's School of Social Work facilitated the public guardian program for Broward County. The program combines legal and social service skills to meet the needs of vulnerable adults after an adjudication of incapacity. It is unique in

that it applies the Life Model approach to guardianship practice. The Life Model views human needs and problems as generating from interactions between people and their environments. The Social Worker/Guardian intervenes directly with the cli-

ents/wards and the systems that surround them to release potentialities for growth, health, and adaptive social functioning. In this manner, systems and environments are made more responsive to our wards needs, rights, goals, and capacities.

## CONGRATULATIONS

*To all of our Summer and Fall 2008 Graduates!*

*To Maggie Krol for winning the "Name our Newsletter" contest!*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS	2
BSW DIRECTOR	2
FIELD EDUCATION	2
MSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR	3
PB/TREASURE COAST DIRECTOR	3
ACADEMY FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES	3
SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE	4
GLOBAL ISSUES	4
FACULTY PROFILE	5
STUDENT PROFILE	5
MSWSO	5
BSW NETWORK	6
ASSOCIATE DEAN'S CORNER	6-8
ALUMNI NEWS	8



**Mabel Rodriguez, LCSW**

## DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

I have enjoyed the challenge of adjusting to my new position at BUSSW as the Director of Enrollment and Admissions. I was busy admitting students for this past fall '08 semester and I am presently focused on our new admits for the spring '09 semester. It truly is inspiring to meet individuals who are committed to helping others and are eager to

begin their undergraduate or graduate education in social work. It is especially crucial during these difficult times that we are facing as a nation to have trained social workers who are knowledgeable, skilled, and compassionate. I am very proud to be part of Barry's School of Social Work and I have been attending numerous graduate fairs promoting

our top notch school and educating prospective students about the profession of social work. As always please feel welcomed to come by my office for a chat or just a quick hello!

Many good wishes...



## BSW DIRECTOR

As an alumnae of Barry University's MSW program, I am so excited and honored to be back in a different capacity as the BSW Program Director. My vision for this program is to increase student enrollment and to continue providing a high quality educational experience for students that will prepare them

for generalist social work practice. Our fall semester has been extremely successful thus far. We again partnered with the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens' Services for their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The students from our Introduction to Social Work course and Helping course

were successful in raising over \$2500 in donations to benefit homebound senior citizens of North Miami. The students delivered 50 baskets to these families the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday. I am proud to be a part of this community and look forward to next semester!

*"MY VISION FOR THIS PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND TO CONTINUE PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS THAT WILL PREPARE THEM FOR GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE."*

## FIELD EDUCATION



**Ms. Fryer was highlighted for the month of October by the Field Department in honor of Domestic Violence month.**

The Field Education Department would like to recognize one of our many outstanding Field Educators, Ms. Oscie Fryer, M.S.W. Ms. Fryer is a 1999 graduate of Barry University School of Social Work.

Ms. Fryer has worked in the social work field for over 34 years and is currently the Shelter Administrator for Dade County Department of

Human Services, Advocates for Victims Safespace Shelter. Throughout her 21 years at this shelter for battered women and their children, Ms. Fryer has been a staunch advocate for victims experiencing domestic violence and is committed to bringing more focus to the needs and rights of children, "the forgotten victims". Ms. Fryer

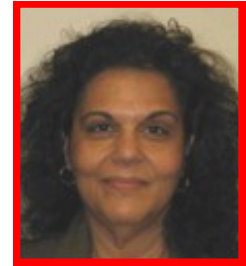
has served as a Field Educator since August 2004, and has trained many BSW and MSW students. She also serves on the School's Advisory Committee. The Field Education Department wishes to acknowledge her valuable contribution to the School and community at large.

## MSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

There may have been many reasons that led you to pursue your MSW degree; perhaps you wanted to advance in your present work environment; or you may finally be able to pursue a dream you have had for many years. Whatever the reason, all roads lead to one place. That place is connected to the core values demonstrated at

BUSSW every day by the students and faculty. *Knowledge, truth, service* and *social justice* are not just mere public relations monikers; they drive curriculum and best practice standards. As you pursue your MSW you will experience the challenges of deconstruction and rebuilding of self and you will make many sacrifices.

Your horizons will be broadened. The filters you had before from which you view people and life will change. Indeed, you will be a different person than when you began this journey. You will have begun the transformation into becoming a professional social worker. Don't forget to enjoy the journey!



Maria Teahan, ACSW, LCSW, CTS

## PALM BEACH/TREASURE COAST CAMPUS

The Palm Beach/ Treasure Coast site offers students part-time enrollment, Saturday classes, and flexible field placements. The culture of the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast site is unique in that the intimate setting (i.e. space, individualized attention, student gatherings, etc.) has created an "all in the same boat" feeling,

where students participate in study groups, social networking and ultimately form lifelong friendships. Students find that the supportive environment and small class sizes are conducive to a positive learning experience. Often, the students refer to the Palm Beach Gardens site as "one big family" made up of students, faculty and support-

ive staff. Additionally, our diverse student body brings to the program many years of work and life experience, which adds richness to classroom discussion. Students are excited about the field of social work and it is through this excitement that the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast site delivers excellence in social work education!



**"...OUR DIVERSE STUDENT BODY BRINGS TO THE PROGRAM MANY YEARS OF WORK AND LIFE EXPERIENCES, WHICH ADDS RICHNESS TO CLASSROOM DISCUSSION."**

## ACADEMY FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES (ABC)

Serving as the outreach arm of the School of Social Work, the Academy for Better Communities (ABC) at Barry University brings the University's resources – its expertise, students, and faculty - to solve pressing community challenges in South Florida, while providing students and faculty the opportunity to gain experience and deepen

their understanding of the social problems and the strategies that resolve them. Its initiative for neighborhood-based community building develops and strengthens community partnerships through stakeholders' participation in engagement, education, planning, mobilization, coordination and wise resource allo-

cation. The Academy is also the delivery point for the necessary tools to provide quality services, direct social change and mobilize to plan and implement service and system change. Community stakeholders are engaged in the process of planning, monitoring and actively participating in strategies that improve the community.



*"The Academy invests in people, strengthens communities, and offers effective, innovative solutions to social problems throughout the contiguous South Florida counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach."*



## SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND GLOBAL ISSUES

*Jamie Ganger, MSW, is a Barry graduate from the School of Social Work who is utilizing her MSW working within a global community. Take a look at what she's doing in Thailand.*

In 2007, I completed my MSW at Barry. I was working at Women In Distress in Ft. Lauderdale as a therapist after graduation when I discovered this volunteer position with the American Refugee Committee International (ARC).

The six month position involved working directly with Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) service providers in two refugee camps along the border to build their capacity to manage SGBV cases in their community. The two groups are the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Program of ARC and the SGBV Committee. I live in a small village called Um-

phang in the Tak province of Thailand. It is located in the middle of a large mountain range and is a three hour drive from the nearest town.

My role here has been that of Trainer. Since I have been here I have developed training modules for the GBV and SGBV Committees on Gender, SGBV Fundamentals, Case Management, Community Awareness and Counseling. In the last training session, I drew from my experience in Dr. Gray's class and role played. We even had "reflectors". I think she would have been proud! Barry has been a very important part of my personal and professional development. The faculty and professors have been extremely supportive. I am very proud to be a Barry graduate and look forward to contributing to School of Social Work in any way that I can.

I feel that Social Work is such an important field of work and so diverse. I think that International Social Work is a very rewarding direction and there is a lot of work to be done both on the ground and in the areas of policy and advocacy.

I would like to include a website about the border situation:

- \* American Refugee Committee International [www.arcrelief.org](http://www.arcrelief.org)
- \* United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [www.unhcr.org/country/mmr](http://www.unhcr.org/country/mmr)
- Thailand Burma Border Consortium [www.tbbc.org](http://www.tbbc.org)

" I think that International Social Work is a very rewarding direction and there is a lot of work to be done both on the ground and in the areas of policy and advocacy. "



## FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Rosenwald is proud to be a member of the social work profession and is committed to student-centered social work education. He teaches foundation and advanced practice courses as well as an elective on conflict resolution. Originally from Maryland, he received his B.A. in Sociology and Economics from Salisbury University, his M.A. in Sociology from Syracuse University, and his M.S.W. and Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. An advocate for children and families, Dr. Rosenwald's post-M.S.W. practice experience

includes: investigating child abuse and neglect; providing home-based individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, care management and advocacy for both youth and seniors facing challenges; writing home studies for an adoption agency; and conducting group work with adopted children, adult day care residents, gay men, and LGBTQ youth. He currently practices group work in the community, serves as the Legislative Chair for the Broward County chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and is a licensed clinical

social worker and a certified Florida Supreme Court Family Mediator. He has volunteered as a community mediator, a trainer with the Alternatives to Violence Project, and as a mediator and consultant for the NASW New York State Chapter Ethics Committee. Dr. Rosenwald presented nationally at conferences hosted by the Child Welfare League of America, the Council on Social Work Education, the American Adoption Congress, and the Peace Studies Association.



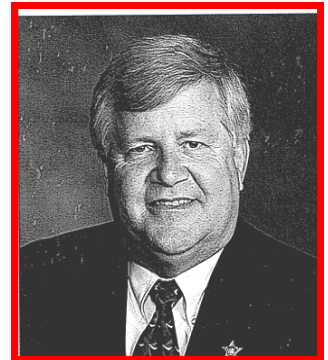
"Social work is a fantastic profession that champions twin commitments to improving individuals' lives and the communities in which they reside. By focusing on empowering individuals and making communities more just, social work continues to serve its role as a vanguard of the professions."

## STUDENT PROFILE

Colonel Michael Gauger is presently a student at BUSSW Palm Beach Campus and is scheduled to graduate with his MSW degree December 2008. Recently he was profiled in the third quarter issue of *GEOWorld Magazine*. Mike has been affiliated with Palm Beach Sherriff's Office since 1971. One of

his important projects is the Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.) program Mike is presently doing his field placement at the Mental Health Department of the Palm Beach county Detention Center. Mike's experience with the community and police work has integrated amazingly well with the

practice standards and values of social work. Mike has a deep commitment to the community. He believes social work adds another layer of expertise and service which allows him to assist vulnerable populations experiencing challenges with issues of social justice and life changing events.



**Colonel Michael Gauger**

## MSW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The Masters of Social Work Student Organization (MSWSO) was started in January 2008 with the purpose of enhancing the lives of social work students in the Master of Social work program at Barry University. The intent of the organization is to provide mentoring, advocacy

and confidence through group support while making a contribution to the community in practicing and upholding the National Social Work Code of Ethics (NASW).

The goals of the MSWSO is to promote positive social and academic support systems as

well as provide community outreach opportunities and promote school pride.

**Carol Frazier:** →  
*President*

**Elise Preira:** →  
*Vice-President*



## BSW STUDENT NETWORK



The BSW Network is a student service organization, working towards being recognized by the university as such. The network has been created to promote professionalism among students, provide a forum for students, faculty, and staff to bring about needed change, and most importantly to serve the university, neighboring communities, and in-

ternational needs. The Thanksgiving Food Drive for the North Miami Senior Citizen Foundation is our largest community service project. Last year we collected over \$2,000 dollars and provided Thanksgiving baskets for over 40 families. This year we are looking to exceed last year success and planning for this project is already underway. This year

upcoming events include Lobby Day and several other community events

## ASSOCIATE DEAN'S CORNER

*"Let it remind us that we should not take any person or groups of persons for granted and ignore their value to the universe. We must seek to help reconcile differences and spread the threads of justice to all corners of the world. Let it be a new year for the world; a time for all of us to plan and make changes in our lives so we may be a better laborer for peace."*

During the fall semester we acknowledge and hold sacred many special holidays. Our semester began with Labor Day, celebrated first in New York in 1882 and later in 1894, US congress moved to establish Labor Day as a legal holiday. Labor Day allows us a time to pause and acknowledge all of the workers in America who have, in various ways, contributed to the strength, prosperity, and the social and economic well being of our country and the world. Following Labor Day, the Jewish New Year is celebrated.

Jews all over the world celebrate this sacred holiday which day lasts for 10 days beginning with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Yom Kipper. During these ten days, known as Days of Awe, time is dedicated to introspection/reflection and meditation, righting the wrongs, and seeking reconciliation with others, all of which leads to Yom Kipper -the Day of Atonement. Several weeks following this sacred holiday, Thanksgiving is upon us.

For our Canadian students Thanksgiving is celebrated in October while Americans celebrate this nonsectarian day in November. Thanksgiving is celebrated by different cultures in many different ways and for many different reasons. As an American tradition, Thanksgiving originally was the day a feast was prepared to extend the thankfulness of English settlers to the Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts who helped the settlers survive during a long winter. Since that time, it has morphed into a general holiday of giving thanks for what we have; for family, friendship, and good health. The next holiday we witnessed was Hanukah/Chanukah, an eight day Jewish festival.

Hanukah/Chanukah is a joyous celebration of a series of miracles that dates back centuries ago when a small band of Jews through faith, prayer, and determination fought

and won a mighty battle and reclaimed and rededicated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It is a time when Jews all over the world offer thanks and praise in very special ways. Then there is Christmas.

The word Christmas taken from the term *Christ's Mass*. Christmas in most religious settings is acknowledged as a sacred holiday; a time to honor the birth of Jesus. As a part of and beyond the holiness of the day Christmas is seen as a time to reflect and seek rebirth in faiths, deeds, and goodwill. It is also filled with large feasts and gift giving. It is one of the most exciting times of the year for many children around the world, but it is also a very stressful time for parents, people living alone, and the elderly. Moving past Christmas we end the year with Kwanzaa.

*Continued on page 7...*

**ASSOCIATE DEAN'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)**

Kwanzaa is a seven day non religious African American celebration focused on the traditions of African values. During this celebration seven guiding principles are put forward for family, community, responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. It is a time for reaffirmation.

Okay, those are the holidays. I am sure along the way I perhaps missed other holidays that are celebrated by different cultures in America. For that I apologize, but as I pondered the meaning of each of these special holidays, I was moved by the insight of what each of these holidays could mean to us as social workers. From each holiday we can take a cloth of wisdom and honor and create a quilt for social justice. Labor Day honors you and your contribution to the social and economic well being of this country and the world we live in. As social workers we must stand up for those who have been denied the opportunity to earn equal pay, who have been marginalized in our work force because of race, gender, religion, social class, gender preference, and physical abilities. Let us take from this holiday a cloth that will remind us that our voices must remain strong for those who have been systematically denied equal access to work. We must skillfully stitch into our quilt the faces of children living in poverty, the faces of the elderly who worked hard all of their lives and cannot afford medication, the faces of men who have been stripped of their dignity as they shuffle their families from shelter to shel-

ter, faces of our disabled sisters and brothers who long to work, who have learned to ignore public stares, they just want to work.

From Rosh Hashanah we borrow the fabric of reconciliation and self reflection. This fabric represents our call for justice; to self reflect on those times when we did not fulfill our role as social workers; we did not advocate for justice, we did not seek to reconcile with those we were too busy to help, nor did we take time out to self-reflect, to challenge what we did and why we did it. Let this fabric remind us of our limitations and our strengths and the power we hold in the lives of others. Let it remind us that we should not take any person or groups of persons for granted and ignore their value to the universe. We must seek to help reconcile differences and spread the threads of justice to all corners of the world. Let it be a new year for the world; a time for all of us to plan and make changes in our lives so we may be a better laborer for peace.

Ahh, diets are long forgotten during our Thanksgiving celebration! I pondered Thanksgiving, its origin and felt a longing for a time in our lifetime when we will be able to look beyond what is different and discover what is truly different. We are all unique; every human being, every tree, every fish, every day, every night is unique; we need these differences...we need this uniqueness to survive. Our history has been overshadowed with the horrific acts of injustice to others not because others were different, but because of a fear of difference. Our Native

Americans, through profound yet simple acts of kindness, spoke the spirit of Thanksgiving. As social workers let us make use of the fabric woven many years ago and champion more loudly, give of ourselves more proudly, and stand more profoundly for the goodness of difference.

Hanukah celebrates many triumphs and among them is the triumph of light over darkness. It is the textile of this triumph I ask social workers to borrow. In your quilt sew threads of light; become the beacon for social justice. Let your words and your actions shed light on injustices in communities, in the hallways of justice, in labor camps, in schools, and hospitals. Hand-in-hand we as social workers can build a flame that will light up the corners of Darfur, glimmer behind the walls of violence and neglect, silhouette the faces of children and families in Haiti, and shimmer darts of light throughout the dark corners of the world. Let us establish our legacy of triumphs where light overcomes darkness.

It was the night before Christmas... a holiday that has become so commercialized its true meaning seems lost in the glitter of it all. Thus we are left with a tattered cloth but one that will add meaning to our quilt. When I think of Christmas I do think of gifts, but it is the gift of life. It is a time to celebrate the rebirth of faiths, friendships, values, and opportunities.

*Continued on page 8...*



**Dr. Phyllis Scott**

*"Let us open our eyes for we have the responsibility to see injustices. Open our ears for we have a responsibility to hear all that is not being told. Open our hands for we have a responsibility to help shape the future of the world. Raise our voices for we have a responsibility to speak for justice."*

Yet at times along the way our profession's pre-occupation with the "micro" versus the "macro" perspective has resulted in a splintering of our unity and a siphoning off of our collective energies and contributions. To be a significant player in these extraordinary times I believe we will need to reacquaint ourselves with the core values, commitments, and mission on which the profession was founded. As a profession we must be willing to consistently speak truth to power on behalf of the poor and most vulnerable people of our society; to keep the light shining on the overt and institutionalized acts of discrimination and oppression that confine the lives and deny the contributions of individuals based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religious or sexual orientation; and to serve proudly as agents of change within our respective service

organizations and communities ensuring they live up to their responsibility to function as resource and a source of support to the people they serve rather than as a barrier to opportunity. In this historic, this exciting, yet uncertain time, President Elect Obama calls on all of us to "cross party lines", to work together, and in so doing, remind ourselves of the best of what we have been and can be again. As a profession we need only to step up and be willing to defend with pride the unique skills of our profession that celebrates diversity; knows that effective intervention requires both reflection and action, and is both committed to peace and social justice and confident in our professions ability to make a significant contributions toward these goals.

The months and years ahead will reveal the exact nature and direction of this historic time of change. Whatever is to come, it is my sincere belief that the profession of social work has a perfect opportunity and all the resources and skills it needs to take up the challenge!

Debra M. McPhee  
Dean  
School of Social Work  
Barry University

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[WWW.BARRY.EDU/SOCIALWORK](http://WWW.BARRY.EDU/SOCIALWORK)

**Quote for the Day**

*Since life is our most precious gift,  
Let us be certain that it is dedicated  
To the liberation  
Of the human mind and spirit...  
Beginning with our own.*

-Maya Angelou

If you are like me, you really like giving gifts more than receiving them. It is the element of surprise, I think. Let's add the tattered cloth of rebirth to the quilt for social justice. It will remind us that every day we have the opportunity to strengthen our faiths, become a better friend, and evaluate our values and how we live out those values. The greatest question is what gift can I give that will change a life, save a life, give voice to the voiceless, give hope to those in despair, provide shelter to the homeless, give dignity through a touch...what gift can I give that will help me keep believing I can make a difference?

The last holiday of the semester that will add to our quilt for social justice is Kwanzaa. While there are seven guiding principles, all of which are valued, let's borrow the fabric of responsibility and artistically weave it around the corners of our quilt. For in all that we come to know, responsibility is central to our work as social workers. Let us open our eyes for we have the responsibility to see injustices. Open our ears for we have a responsibility to hear all that is not being told. Open our hands for we have a responsibility to help shape the future of the world. Raise our voices for we have a responsibility to speak for justice.

Happy Holidays,

Dr. Phyllis Scott  
Interim Associate Dean/Associate Professor

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Alicia Kula** is a recent graduate of Barry University's School of Social Work, Palm Beach Gardens Campus. In 2002 Alicia began employment with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue as a community educator, facilitating partnerships with local schools for the purpose of expanding the schools' safety curriculum to include Risk Watch®. Concurrent with Risk Watch® coordination she developed curriculum, taught, and assessed participants in the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program as well as co-produced several educational videos called Crossing the Line Recognizing the use of psycho educational programming in a non-social work environment, Alicia joined a committee to assist in the development of a volunteer based social service program for Fire Rescue

called Community Assistant Team (CAT); wherein volunteers assist the community at large during times of crisis through validation, normalization, and resourcing. Given the diversity of populations serviced by Fire Rescue, obtaining an MSW was invaluable for Ms. Kula; not only to support and strengthen the program, but to lend credibility to the program's mission.

**Elisa Grabois** is a mental health social worker in Boca Raton, Florida. She was recently profiled in NASW in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month 2008. After the devastating loss of her husband, Elisa began the MSW program at BUSW. "In a state of grief and despair...I was so fortunate to meet the most loving and caring faculty member of that program." Elisa

believes that to be able to have [an MSW degree] and to do for humanity while earning money to educate my family and feel a sense of total well-being is a wonderful thing. "I have helped so many people just like my professor at a down moment in their lives and recognize the value of a listening ear and an opportunity to reflect." Presently, Elisa works with those facing the challenges of mental illness. "I thank the social work profession for having molded my life and having given me a good path."



Alicia Kula



Ms. Grabois