



Dr. Len Gibbs is retiring

It is with deep sadness that we share with you that Dr. Len Gibbs will be officially retiring on November 17, 2005. He will not be teaching during the Fall 2005 semester. He has been teaching in the Department of Social Work since August of 1977. Dr. Gibbs made the decision to retire after being diagnosed with cancer. Dr. Gibbs asked that I share the following with you:

"Tell them that I care so deeply about them because they are such a wonderful group, self-selected because they care more about others than they do about needs for power, money or prestige, and also because of all the lives they will touch in their work."

Dr. Gibbs also said that because of the quality of our students here, their dedication, and their willingness to tolerate his continual experimenting with teaching methods, we have been able to accomplish things far beyond what is typical in an undergraduate university. He wanted you to know that he will describe your work at Oxford University in November if he is able and has described your work in his Keynote Address at Ohio State University and Belmont University.



He also added that the "tracks" of your reasoning are all over his three books with references to your names therein. The faculty at Tulane University, Columbia University, the University of Toronto, the University of Chicago, Case Western, and Berkeley are studying how our students have approached their problems in his fieldwork section and in the research course. Dr. Gibbs also wanted to remind you that loving motivates you to want to help; rigorous methodologically sound reasoning can help you to know how. Loving is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for helpers. He closed with, "Remind them that they need courage if they are to continue reasoning as I have taught them, because those not dedicated to such reasoning find it does not slide well, as would holding a cat by the tail with one hand and pulling the fur up toward the head with the other."

Dr. Gibbs asks that you not send him e-mails. He welcomes written correspondence (mailed).

We will be honoring Dr. Gibbs at our Social Work reunion to be held during Homecoming on Saturday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the HSS lobby. Refreshments will be served.

Pat Christopherson to retire in January

Patricia Christopherson, associate dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences and a professor of social work, will retire in January 2006 after almost 29 years of service.

Pat joined the social work department in 1977. From 1990 to 1994 she served as the director of internship and from 1993 to 1996 she was chair of the department. Pat also worked as a clinical social worker at the Counseling Center on campus for several semesters. She was appointed acting associate dean of the school of Human Sciences and Services in 1999, and following the reorganization of schools and colleges at UW-Eau Claire she assumed her present title.

"Pat has been a mentor to all of the social work faculty and to literally hundreds of students over the years," said Dr. Gloria Fennel, current chair of the department of social work.

Dr. David Johnson, professor emeritus of social work, said he has always admired Christopherson for her diligent scholarship, fairness, integrity, interpersonal skills, sense of humor and work ethic. She has always challenged students, taught them to think critically and expected them to meet high academic standards, he added.

"She has been an eager learner, an inspiration to students and faculty alike, and a dear friend," said Johnson. "She embodies all the attributes of excellence to which we at UW-Eau Claire aspire."



HOMECOMING REUNION

You are invited to our first Homecoming Reunion to be held Saturday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the lobby of HSS. We hope you can join us to meet up with friends and faculty. We are especially honoring Dr. Leonard Gibbs, a faculty member of this department for 28 years, who will be retiring in November and Pat Christopherson who will retire in January after almost 29 years. Refreshments will be served.

Greetings from the Chair!

It is with great pleasure that I write this message to all the alumni and friends of the Department of Social Work. We were very pleased with the response that we received following our 04-05 newsletter. As the result of hearing from so many of you, we decided that we would share all of the updates that you shared with us. We hope you will enjoy reading about what some of our graduates are doing and also hope that this will also encourage you to keep in touch.

The most important news from the Department involves the retirement of Dr. Len Gibbs. Dr. Gibbs has been a member of the Social Work faculty for 28 years. Dr. Gibbs' decision to retire was very sudden and was particularly difficult because it was prompted by illness. It was also very untimely in that his writing on Evidence Based Practice appears to be gaining rapid national and international attention. It is Dr. Gibbs' intention to continue to write. I think that we can expect to see him incorporating his own illness into his work. Dr. Gibbs has agreed to come to the Social Work reunion to be held during Homecoming. We will honor him at that time. I hope to see many of you there.

This year everyone in the Department will be very busy working on our program's CSWE reaffirmation. In order

to remain an accredited program, we are required to go through this every eight years. The reaffirmation process gives us the opportunity to very deliberately look at our courses and program objectives. The most recent graduates have received an alumni

We would love to have an alumni return to teach with us.

survey. We appreciate how quickly many of you returned those to us. If you have not yet returned it, there is still time. In the very near future we will also be surveying employers of our graduates. Many of you in supervisory positions will receive that survey. We will be posting the results of those surveys on our web site. I would encourage you to take a look at the results of the surveys and feel free to give me a call with your comments or ideas. Alumni and employer feedback about the Social Work program at UW-Eau Claire is essential to maintaining a quality program.

We will also be very busy this coming year as we attempt to fill vacancies. We would love to have an alumni return to teach with us. We

have a full-time tenure track position and part and full-time academic staff positions available. The tenure track requires a Ph.D. or DSW and the academic staff positions require an MSW with at least two years post-MSW experience. Please give me a call if you are interested.

We are very happy to welcome Wanda Ryan to the Department. Wanda comes to us with 20 years of school social work experience. She will be teaching Introduction to Social Work and Child Welfare.

We are most fortunate to be able to continue to rely on Dr. Tallant to occasionally teach the AODA course. Dr. Tallant is currently the Interim Provost. Dr. Mowry regularly teaches the Freshman Year Experience (FYE) section of Introduction to Social Work. Dr. Mowry is the Director of Service Learning on campus. Professor Christopherson is the Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Our current full-time faculty include: Dr. La Vonne Cornell-Swanson, Dr. Ardyth Krause, Dr. Rick Ryberg and Dr. Nick Smiar. Our part-time faculty include: Mr. Al Koeller who will teach Probation and Parole and Mrs. Diane Brandt who will be teaching the Aging course this fall.

Best wishes, Gloria Fennell

FACULTY Notes

Dr. Ardyth Krause has had a boxed article entitled "Social Worker Incognito: Empowerment Behind the Wire" published in the social work text book, *Confronting Oppression, Restoring Justice: From Policy Analysis to Social Action* by Dr. Katherine van Wormer. In May, she presented a workshop, "A Strengths-based Perspective for Meeting the Challenges of Living with a Disability: What the Consumers Have to Teach Us" at the NASW Wisconsin 2005 Annual Meeting. In spring of 2005, she and Vanessa Hodgson were awarded a student/faculty grant for the research project entitled: *Social Work Services for Persons with Mental Health Disabilities: A Consumer Perspective*. They worked on this research over the summer.

Dr. Krause continues to serve on the Solutions Team of the United Way of Greater Eau Claire and presented a United Way sponsored training event on the topic of evaluation techniques for local agencies funded by the United Way. In the spring, she was appointed to the board of the Mental Health Association of Eau Claire County.

On a personal note, Dr. Krause became the proud great-aunt of fraternal twins who were born prematurely on March 12, weighing only 2 lbs. each. Dr. Krause reports that today "they are healthy and growing cuter every day."

Dr. La Vonne Cornell-Swanson is beginning her fifth year at UW-Eau Claire.

Recently, Dr. Cornell-Swanson was the recipient of the UW-Eau Claire

Diversity Teacher/Scholar Award sponsored by Office of Student Development and Diversity. A reception honoring Dr. Cornell-Swanson and other Diversity Award recipients was held on April 27th where Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Development and Diversity, presented the awards. Dr. La Vonne Cornell-Swanson continues to teach Generalist Social Work Practice with Families and Groups and Ethnic Sensitive Social Work Practice. In addition, Dr. Cornell-Swanson is a Faculty Supervisor in the Human Development Center Interdisciplinary and Psychological Services Clinics and a Co-Chair for the UW-Eau Claire Commission on the Status of Women.

"Excellence. Our measure, our motto, our goal."

The development of merit in all spheres of life is the main purpose of the Phi Alpha Honor Society. Put another way, "The purposes of Phi Alpha Honor Society are to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work." This organization was formally recognized with the creation of a constitution and six chapters in 1962. Today the number of chapters has grown from a hopeful six to an evolving 225+ charter chapters in forty-nine states, including our beloved Wisconsin. Here at UW-Eau Claire, our Phi Alpha chapter has been active since 1998.

Keeping with the precedence of the national mission, we have created and participated in events that fulfill the purposes of Phi Alpha. For example, in the fall of 2004, Phi Alpha co-sponsored the Bolton Refugee House



The Phi Alpha chapter enjoys a spring gathering at Dr. Ryberg's home.

Children's Center Halloween party with ASSW, the faculty breakfast, as well as the Fall Initiation Ceremony. In the Spring, the members of Phi Alpha were busy with the West African Dance Workshop/Tsunami relief aid benefit (American Red Cross) and Cinderella's Closet. However, there was still time and energy found to socialize at the Honor's Banquet and spring cookout thanks to the hospitality of Dr. Ryberg.

Cinderella's Closet has been the main focus for Phi Alpha for the past three years with the vision of alumni

president Kimberly Johnson. Since the creation of Cinderella's Closet, the project has grown tremendously. This year 60+ dresses were distributed to young women in area schools such as Memorial High, Chippewa Falls and Altoona. Young prom goers even received dresses as far away as Cumberland with the outreach and resourcefulness of past Phi Alpha officer and alumni Lindsey Krueger. Here is an example of a letter Phi Alpha received from one of the prom goers:

*"Dear Phi Alpha,
Thank you for my prom dress. Now I can go, but before I could not find one in my size and that was in my spending range. You made my dream come true. So I thank you again for your kindness."*

Phi Alpha has been fortunate enough to be under the guidance and direction of faculty advisor Dr. La Vonne Cornell-Swanson for the past two years. Dr. Cornell-Swanson has been a wonderful asset and advisor as Phi Alpha strives to realize its potential. Dr. Cornell-Swanson was nominated and awarded the Roma Hoff Outstanding Honor Society Advisor Award in 2004.

This last spring Phi Alpha had twenty-six members, but ten of those members have graduated. This means that a younger group brings its own unique and creative talents and ideas to the organization. Since scholasticism is a major component in the development of excellence, one of the main focuses for this year will be to bring in a guest speaker in Spring 2006 for the benefit and growth of students, faculty, and community members. Another priority for Phi Alpha is to educate future social work majors about Phi Alpha and the far-reaching effects of being involved in organizations on campus.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth M. Bode, Senior
Social Work major
Latin American Studies minor
Phi Alpha secretary 2004-2005

Wanda Ryan joins the Social Work Department

Wanda Ryan earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota, in Sociology: Criminal Justice. She began her career working in a residential facility for cognitively impaired adolescents. Later she began working as a school social worker at a day treatment program for adjudicated juvenile delinquents. She continued to work as a school social worker but switched to the public school system for the last 20 years. She attended the University of Minnesota and earned her Master of Social Work degree. While attending the University of Minnesota, she

interned for one year at a hospital and one year as a county social worker. Experiences beyond these include working with Habitat for Humanity, food shelves, volunteering with the elderly, and various other activities and committees in the community.

Family is very important to her.

She is married and has two children, Sheena and Shaun. Her husband, Tom, teaches high school sociology and criminology.

She looks forward to meeting the students and being a member of the Department of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

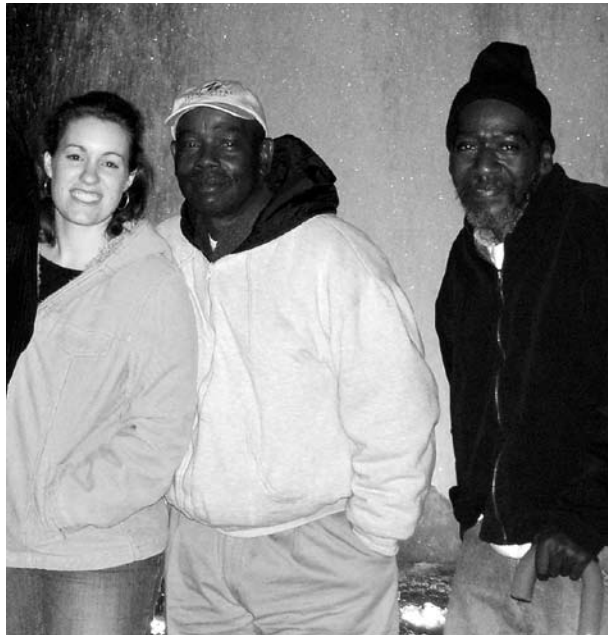


Social Work Career begins with Alternative Winter Break Trip

As a student at UW-Eau Claire, I volunteered at Christ House, a medical facility for the homeless, as part of the Alternative Winter Break trip to Washington, D.C., in January of 2004. At that time, I met the year-long volunteers who held full time positions at the facility and "on a whim" I decided that I wanted to be a part of this agency. I now have a full-time, one year volunteer position as a case manager at Christ House. In my last semester at UW-Eau Claire, I decided that before I began my career as a social worker I wanted to serve others in need without expecting anything in return. Little did I know how much I could profit from volunteering at Christ House.

Christ House is more than just a shelter. Not only does Christ House provide a place to stay and 24-hour medical care to people who are homeless and in need of outpatient care, we also provide patients with healthy meals, pastoral services, activities throughout the week, social services and Alcoholics Anonymous. As a case manager at Christ House, I assist patients with applying for benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. We work towards finding housing for patient when they leave Christ House; we frequently refer patients to substance abuse treatment programs. I also co-facilitate an HIV/AIDS education class once a week. More than anything, I am here to support the patients in any way I am able.

James is a 45-year-old man with congestive heart and lung failure. He uses oxygen at all times and recently had a defibrillator surgically placed in his heart to control his irregular heartbeat. After James received multiple sharp shocks to his heart due to his extreme heart rate and



Laura Krocheski with some of the patients she met at Christ House in Washington, D.C.

spent several weeks in the hospital, he learned that he is no longer able to walk and needs a heart and lung transplant. It is always difficult to get an organ transplant, but when an individual is homeless and only has Medicaid for insurance, it becomes nearly impossible. James is hopeful that he will find a way to get a transplant, but it would take something close to a miracle for this to become reality. We are helping him establish financial stability through SSI and find housing that will provide support for James through his medical trials.

We have 32 beds at Christ House and each patient has so much to teach me and so much to share with the other patients at the facility. James' experience has taught me the power of determination. Most patients are grateful for what we are able to provide them and the difference we make in their lives. It is hard to believe my year at Christ House is coming to an end! Though I will be sad to leave Christ House behind, I will take the lessons back to Minnesota with me. This has been the perfect place to begin my social work career.

Laura Krocheski, (June, 2004)

Thomas J. Neuville (1974) obtained his Ph.D. in Special Education and Social Change. He does consulting and is an associate professor at Millersville University in Millersville, PA.

Sarah Garfoot Nelson (1983) received a master's degree in Counseling in 1992 and is a psychotherapist/consultant with the Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, WI.

Catherine Pierzina (1985) is an Organizational and Leadership Development Specialist for Luther Midelfort. She planned and implemented the Luther Midelfort Academy.

Julie (Jurek) Ohmann (1986) is a school social worker for the Orono School District (Western suburb of Minneapolis).

Rachel Kumferman (1993) is a school social worker with the Wauwatosa School District.

Mike Arieta (1994) works at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus, as a financial aid counselor and completed his MSW there also.

Mary Kerwin (1994) received an MSSW from UW-Madison in 1995 and is working for UW Hospitals and Clinics in the Outpatient Geriatrics Clinic.

Katherine Beavers (1997) is a social worker with Dodge County in Mantorville, MN.

Jennifer Brumm (1997) is a project manager for the State of Wisconsin-Department of Workforce Development.

Jane (Lehtinen) Leeper (1997) received her MSW from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and is a school social worker for Orono Public Schools in Minnesota.

Mary Nienow (1997) obtained her master's degree in social work and is working toward a Ph.D. She currently works at the University of Minnesota in the Center for Early Education and Development as a grant coordinator. She also owns and operates a lobbying/consulting company called Grasstops.

Lisa Quinn (1997) is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota, a grief therapist for the Center for Grief, and an adjunct professor at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN.

Areina Rose (Smock) Rehl (1997) is a senior human resources generalist for a commercial real estate firm in Minnesota.

Lisa Stasik Rovang (1997) is working for Olmsted County in the Community Services-Adult Protection area.

Paulina Santos Tharaldson (1997) is a massage therapist in Champlin, MN.

Carrie Williams (1997) is currently working in real estate. Carrie received her MBA in finance from Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Amy Delgado (1998) is completing her internship at the Veterans Administration while working on her masters degree at the University of St. Thomas/College of St. Catherine in Minnesota.

Kelly Dougherty (1998) is the center director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County.

Heidi (Dimitrijevic) Dryer (1998) received her MSW from UW-Milwaukee in 2002 and is a school social worker in Kenosha, WI.

Melissa Schwartz (1998) is a flight attendant with American Airlines.

Samantha Stehr (1998) is a social worker with the developmentally disabled at Ramsey County CHS in St. Paul, MN.

Robyn Thibado (1998) is a grant writer for the West Central WI Community Action Agency.

Ann (Hackel) Elenbaas (1999) obtained her MSW from the University of Minnesota in 2002 and is an assessment social worker at Dakota County Social Services in Apple Valley, MN.

Kristin Martin (1999) is a medical social worker at St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI.

Jessie Davis (2000) is a case manager at South Metro Human Services and attending graduate school for social work at the University of Minnesota.

Kari Ives (2000) is a social worker with the Department of Corrections in Chippewa County.

Heidi Buchman (2001) is a family service worker providing social services to Head Start families for Anoka/Washington County Head Start.

Molly (Suchla) Carlisle (2001) was a social worker but recently adopted a beautiful 2 ½ year old child and is now a stay-at-home Mom in Fort Collins, CO.

Karin (Frederick) Niemuth (2001) is a medical social worker in the Emergency Department at St. Michael's Hospital in Milwaukee.

Lynsey A. Ray (2001) is a Ryan White CARE coordinator with the Department of Health and Family Services Division of Public Health in Madison, WI.

April (Saline) Cerqua (2002) completed her MSW at the University of Minnesota and is employed at the North Memorial Medical Center as a social worker on the inpatient rehabilitation unit.

Erin Ginder (2002) completed her MSSW from UW-Madison and is a social worker in the Emergency Department at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

Jackie Hagen (2002) is a benefits specialist at the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Amity Olson (2002) is a probation/parole agent in Milwaukee County.

Mark Theisen (2002) is a social service coordinator at Community Health Partnership in Eau Claire.

Angie Uher (2002) will be starting graduate school (full-time, weekend program) in January at Augsburg College and working full-time at the schools.

Jessie Wolf (2002) is a social service director at the Minnesota Valley Health Center Nursing Home and Hospital.

Kristie Hanson (2003) is a Child Protective Services social worker for Polk County.

Carilyn Imbery (2003) is employed at the Pepin County Child Protection Intake and Ongoing Department.

Marisa Nast (2003) is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration in Green Bay.

Katie Pierquet (2003) is a special needs case manager at St. David's Child Development and Family Services in Minnetonka, MN. She is planning to start graduate school at Madison in the fall of 2005.

Beth Schmies (2003) is a children's program coordinator for the crisis shelter at Sojourn Services for battered women and their children in Santa Monica, CA.

Christopher Beamish (2004) is employed with South Metro Human Services Adult Care in St. Paul, MN. He is also enrolled in the MSW program at the College of St. Catherine/University of St. Thomas.

Keri Hineman (2004) is a social work manager at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Elroy, WI.

Katherine Miller (2004) is a full-time graduate student at UW-Madison, interning at the Waunakee area elementary, middle, and high school.

Ann Rye (2004) is a school social worker at an area learning center in Minnesota.

Jennifer Traczyk (2004) is a case manager for persons with SPMI at South Metro Human Services in MN.

Lindsey Krueger (2004) is an Eau Claire County Youth Services social worker.

ALUMNI Link

The Alumni link is up and running on the Social Work webpage. The information that graduates have submitted is in a spreadsheet at the bottom of the Alumni link. Once a form is completed and sent it is added to the spreadsheet.

It is a great resource for graduates and undergraduates alike. Undergrads can use the alum's to get information from the field and their experiences. The graduates can use the link to stay connected with the program and classmates. All information submitted goes onto the link and is accessible to anyone on the webpage. Please visit and update us with all of your great accomplishments and contacts.

The Social Work Scholarships and Funds

Support the Social Work Advancement Fund

Our Social Work Advancement Fund is the largest and primary fund for the department. It is used to support a wide range of activities in the Department including student travel to national meetings, special research and instructional equipment, faculty recruitment, and the seminar program. If you choose, your gift can also be applied in part or total to individual scholarship award funds. Undesignated funds will be credited to the Social Work Advancement Fund.

Some of the funds and scholarships available to choose from are: Social Work Advancement Fund, Hanke Family Scholarship, Madeleine Lifferring Fund, Scientific Reasoning Inference Fund, Decision-Making Fund, Julie Guite Social WorkFund, and the Elwood and Virgelee LeDue Fund.

Your gift will enable the department to continue to build upon its reputation for excellence and to provide future generations the same quality education you received. If you would like to donate, please send your donation to:

UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.
214 Schofield Hall
105 Garfield Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

To donate online go to: www.uwec.edu.fndn/giving.htm



Thank you and know that you are making a difference.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 219
Eau Claire, WI

S.W. NEWS
Department of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
Forwarding Service Requested

