

From the Dean....*Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Ph.D.*

A new academic year has started and we have over 870 social work students enrolled as either BSW, MSW or Ph.D. students in the School of Social Work. In this issue we have some pictures from new student orientation and the text of the Richmond orientation keynote address given by Ms. Karen Legato (MSW, 1995). Her message resonated with many of us.

As many of you already know, a decision has been made to phase-out our Northern Virginia Edsall Road site over the next 3 years. As technology has changed, so have the options for offering high quality education via alternative mechanisms that do not require the maintenance and staffing of a full-time dedicated physical location away from the Richmond campus. We are already offering online and hybrid courses to NoVA students and continue to get requests for more, so while we will no longer be delivering the program from the Edsall Road site after May 2012, we

certainly expect to continue our presence and service to students in that part of the state. We have established wonderful relationships in the NoVA area and we look forward to those continuing. We also look forward to continuing our relationship with our NoVA alums wherever they may be located.

This year we will be engaged in our reaffirmation of accreditation. The self-study materials are due in August 2010, so it will be a busy time preparing these documents. The search for a new Dean also continues with renewed vigor. A professional search firm has been hired by the university to assist with the process, so we are optimistic that top candidates will be brought to campus for interviews in late winter and a selection made before the end of the Spring semester.

I have been pleased that so many of our alumni responded with updates about where they are and what they are doing. We will include this feature in each of our eNewsletters. Take a look at our alumni page and see who you remember!

Thanks to all of you for your support and please stay in touch !

TEACHING INNOVATION**THE WASHINGTON DC IN-RESIDENCE COURSE**

by *Dr. David Stoesz, Professor*

Think of it as earning 3-credits for taking a field trip everyday for a week....well, not quite, there were readings and papers to do....but the DC In-Residence Course was an opportunity to move from the traditional classroom-based instructional model to one that immersed students in the real-world of policy research and advocacy. Taking its lead from international courses in which students spend 1-2 weeks examining social work and experiencing the culture of another country, this course exposed individuals to the work and culture of "policy-wonks" in our nation's capital.

*Photo by Kim Williams***Dr. Stoesz and In-Residence Course class members**

In the first week of June seven graduate students toured ten think tanks and advocacy organizations as the inauguration of the first Washington, DC In-Residence Course. The course, taught by [Dr. David Stoesz](#), acquainted social work students from both VCU campuses as well as the University of Maryland with some of the most prominent policy institutions in the nation's capital. Each day began with a seminar followed by a de-briefing over lunch at venues such as the National Gallery of Art and Union Station, followed by an afternoon seminar and a subsequent de-briefing.

The seminars included such luminaries as,

Alan Houseman, Executive Director of the Center of Law and Social Policy and member of the Obama transition team,
Sarina Fogel, head lobbyist for Families USA who took time off from working Congressional Offices during the debate on health reform,

MaryLee Allen, long-time analyst and advocate at the Children's Defense Fund,

Sheila Crowley, VCU School of Social Work Ph.D. alumna and recent honoree for her work as chief of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition,

Michele Derr, a researcher at Mathematica Research and a NoVA adjunct instructor,

Ariane Hegewisch, a researcher at the Institute for Women's Policy Research,

Bob Moffitt, lead health care analyst at the Heritage Foundation,

Bob Woodson, social worker and recipient of a MacArthur "genius award" for his work in gang prevention,

Erik Assadourian, analyst at the Worldwatch Institute, and,

Michael Stoop, director of the National Coalition of the Homeless.

During the week's seminars, students reviewed web-sites and read policy monographs in order to dialogue with seminar leaders. Subsequently, students prepared policy logs about specific legislation that animated discussion during the seminars. Students were enthusiastic about this learning opportunity, making such comments as, "informative and mind expanding;" and, "this was an excellent opportunity and it exposed me to another avenue for future employment as a social worker."

As a trial, the course was a decided success and may be offered in the future. If you have questions or suggestions about the course contact David Stoesz at dstoesz@vcu.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

MULTIPLE FAMILY GROUPS WEEKEND RETREAT: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PARENTING TRAINING

by [Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor & [Timothy L. Davey, Ph.D.](#), Associate Dean of Community Engagement

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP, 2009), 32 percent of Virginia's children reside in low income families, defined as those families that earn 200 percent or less of the federal poverty threshold. Poverty threatens the health and well-being of children. Compared to non-poor children, low income children have an enhanced risk for a number of problems including poor mental and physical health, academic failure, and behavioral outcomes such as aggression, substance abuse, and delinquency (Fraser & Galinsky, 1997).

Certainly not all children who live in poverty experience such pessimistic outcomes, so it is important to understand those pathways through which low income may have an adverse effect on children's health and welfare. Systemic factors such as the absence of a living wage, discrimination, neighborhood disorganization, and poor school environments enhance the possibility of negative outcomes; however, family life, including positive parent discipline, ample supervision and an affirmative family climate, may alleviate some of the harmful effects of poverty (Brooks-Gunn & Duncan, 1997). In the absence of a living wage, parents who are poor often work long hours and/or multiple jobs to meet their families' needs. Or, they may be unemployed or underemployed feeling powerless to effect change in their families' income. Such stressors may increase frustration and depression contributing to parenting styles that are harsh and punitive or conversely, lax and neglectful. Either parenting style may contribute to negative behavioral outcomes for children. Social workers may be able to collaborate with families to enhance family life including parent discipline and supervision that may, in turn, create healthier outcomes for poor children. [Read more....](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND AGING: THERE'S A LOT GOING ON

by [F. Ellen Netting, Ph.D.](#), Samuel S. Wurtzel Endowed Chair and Professor

In the last few years public discourse about Civic Engagement has been increasing. It may be the buzz around service learning on college campuses and secondary schools, or excited talk about the the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (H.R. 1388) signed into law during National Volunteer Week on April 21, 2009 to reauthorize and reform the national service laws. But whatever the focus, a movement toward greater civic engagement is cutting across age and population groups, and a growing scholarly and professional literature, as well as numerous electronic resources, is available on the subject.

In Virginia, residents aged 65 and older will double between the year 2000 and 2030, from 790,000 to 1,752,000. In the City of Richmond and the surrounding metro area, the population in 2000 of those over 65 was 94,089, or 10% of the population, and it is anticipated that this number will increase to 12.6 %, or 124,457, of the population in 2010. Locally in Richmond and Central Virginia a great deal of momentum has been building to focus on aging and the potential of retiring baby boomers to participate in multiple, creative ways in their communities. Various groups have formed to think about and plan for this Age Wave.

Last year, The Community Foundation serving Greater Richmond and Central Virginia and Connect Richmond obtained funding to conduct research and to raise consciousness about the subject. [Read more....](#)

SAVE THIS DATE



September 23, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Capitol, Senate Room 3

VIRGINIA FAMILY IMPACT SEMINARS

Legislators, legislative staff and others interested in substance abuse prevention policy are invited to hear leading experts discuss:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION: POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES THAT CAN WORK FOR VIRGINIA'S YOUTH

Click [here](#) for further details, article and photos.

2009 STUDENT ORIENTATION



The VCU School of Social Work welcomed six new doctoral students, more than 220 new MSW students, and 83 new BSW students at its August orientation events in Richmond and Northern Virginia. At the Richmond orientation on August 18th, Dean Ann Nichols-Casebolt introduced faculty members before giving a brief history of the School of Social Work, and directors of the PhD, MSW and BSW programs welcomed the new students. Ms. Karen Legato (MSW, 1995), Director of Service Programs for [Friends Association for Children](#) in Richmond, provided the keynote address to welcome our Richmond-based students. Her presentation, entitled "The Art of Social Work Practice: Head & Heart," was so inspiring, that we have included it here for everyone to enjoy.

[The Art of Social Work Practice: Head & Heart](#)

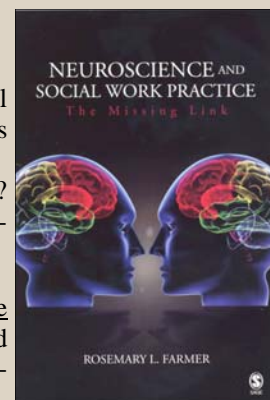


Book Review of Neuroscience and Social Work Practice: The Missing Link

by Allison Sampson, LCSW, PhD Candidate

As a profession, social work pushes itself to being open and aware to fields of research that will empower our clients and enhance our ability to partner and advocate for them effectively. It is this professional value that fosters social worker's interest in exploring the explosion of neuroscientific research occurring over the last 30 years and its relevance to our work. But where do we begin? What journals and books do we read, how do we synthesize the information without becoming overloaded, and where do we make the time?

Valuing this dilemma faced by practitioners today, [Dr. Rosemary Farmer](#) offers [Neuroscience and Social Work Practice: The Missing Link](#). This 185 page text offers both novice and seasoned social workers a reader-friendly resource dedicated to synthesizing the latest research in social neuroscience and its applicability to social work practice. Yet, the reader is not only offered this synthesis of current research but a transactional framework that supports practitioners in balancing their enhanced neurobiological perspective with the psychological, social, spiritual perspectives so important to effectively conceptualizing challenges in living. The author offers compelling arguments of the relevance of the neuroscience revolution to the social work profession, yet perhaps more compelling is her charge of the important role social work has in this revolution! [Read more....](#)



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

[June ~ August 2009](#)

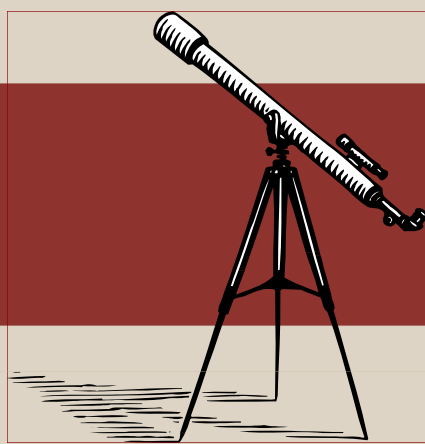
How I Spent My Summer

by Anita Petty, 2nd Year MSW Student



"How I spent my summer" is a common essay topic for this time of year as students return to school from the carefree days of summer vacation. I can honestly state that the summer of 2009 was one of the best of my life; never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that I would be fulfilling an internship in the executive branch of our government, the White House. This particular intern class was in itself unique, as it was the inaugural internship class of the Obama administration. One of the hallmarks of the administration, and reiterated by the President and First Lady repeatedly, is that the White House is the "people's house." It was encouraging to witness the manifestation of this sentiment in that the interns truly represented the picture of diversity that is America. A myriad of demographic indicators, the 2009 summer intern class included African Americans, Native Americans, European Americans, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, women, men, transgender, homosexuals, heterosexuals, the differently-abled, Ivy Leaguers, community college students, religious believers, atheists, military service members, traditional and non-traditional students alike. The composition of the class alone was enough to inspire a social work student like me who is looking for social justice and inclusiveness. [Read more.....](#)

ALUMNI *Focus*



School of Social Work Implements Alumni Survey

We've had a wonderful response to our survey asking for updates. Unfortunately, we couldn't include them all, but we will provide some in each issue of the newsletter. If you've not already done so, please be sure to go to the [Alumni Updates Survey](#) and let us hear from you !

In the meantime, if you want to connect and find out what others are doing, you might check out the VCU School of Social Work Alumni [Facebook](#) page. Over 400 people are now members! We'd also like to encourage you to [Join the VCU Alumni Association](#). The [VCU Alumni Association](#) will be holding events this Fall to introduce Dr. Rao to alums, so watch for the Association's eNews notices or visit their website to learn more.

VCU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PHD, MSW AND BSW ALUMNI

The 70's

F. Faye Adams, MSW 1973, is a disability rights advocate with Virginia Office for Protection & Advocacy and works largely from home as a telecommuter. She and husband, Ken Jessup, a lobbyist, live in Virginia Beach.

Linda Armstrong, BSW 1971, recently retired as training manager for Benefit Programs Training, Virginia Institute for Social Services Training at the VCU School of Social Work.

Stanley Feuer, MSW 1975, recently retired from the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond where he also served as a field instructor for VCU students.

Karen Ford, MSW 1979, is a professor of social work and nonprofit studies at James Madison University.

Deborah (Chavis) Moore, MSW 1976, is a social service manager at St. Francis Nursing Center (Bon Secours) and is married to Marcellus Moore (MSW 1976). They will celebrate their 33rd anniversary this year and they have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Peggy (Watts) O'Neill, MSW 1975, is a Project Director for VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities. She and husband Al Watts (Ph.D. 1982) have lived for 23 years in Ashland Vineyard, the Quaker intentional community. They are new grandparents--their son Coleman's daughter, Althea, was born in February 2009. Peggy also teaches Sacred Dance and designs jewelry.

Rebecca Proehl, MSW 1974, is a professor and program director of Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Saint Mary's College of California and has published *Organizational Change in the Human Services*.

Roger Rothman, MSW 1974, is a clinical social worker in Fairfax County and has been in private practice since 1981. He currently chairs the board of directors of Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (MD), a local chapter of the nation's largest home repair program for low income homeowners. Their chapter repairs more than 100 homes per year with volunteer labor.

The 80's

John Austin, MSW 1974, Ph.D. 1984, was recently promoted to associate vice president for research and sponsored programs at Delaware State University.

David Boehm, MSW 1981, is assistant warden/program director for the Marion Correctional Treatment Center. He was appointed to the Virginia Board of Social Work, and to the Virginia Board of Health Professions, initially by Governor Mark Warner and to a second term by Governor Tim Kaine. David currently chairs the Health Professions board of directors.

Richard Grosse, MSW 1988, is a partner in Dominion Behavioral Healthcare. In 2005 he presented a paper at Penn State's Symposium on Bruce Springsteen and American Culture and, this month, he will present his paper, 'Glory Days', at the 2009 Symposium co-sponsored by Penn State and Virginia Tech.

Lisa Langston, MSW 1986, is a mental health clinician and a per course instructor at Missouri State University.

Joyce Phillips, BSW 1985, is an accountant at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Krista Oberlander, MSW 1985, is supervisor for child welfare at the Alexandria Department of Human Services.

Norman Winegar, MSW 1983, is chief operating officer for EAP Consultants, Inc.

The 90's

Leanne (Wood) Charlesworth, Ph.D. 1997, is an assistant professor at Nazareth College of Rochester and has recently accepted a half-time appointment as coordinator of student learning outcomes assessment.

Brenda Eastman, Ph.D. 1997, is an associate professor at East Carolina University and is currently serving as the BSW program coordinator for ECU's School of Social Work.

Amy Nash, MSW 1995, Ph.D. 1997, has worked for the City of Charlottesville for 14 years - since the week she graduated from VCU. She has held various positions with the City, all in child welfare, and currently works part-time as a foster home specialist, recruiting and training foster parents, so she can enjoy afternoons with her children, ages 9, 7, and 1. Amy earned her LCSW in 2002.

David Perry, MSW 1998, is in private practice, David Perry and Associates.

Heather (Baum) Reynolds, MSW 1999, is a school social worker for Hanover County Public Schools, where she had done her foundation year's internship. Heather spent her first year after graduation as a school social worker in Warren County before returning to the Richmond area.

Debra Savage, BSW 1990, MSW 1993, has a private practice in a rural community, providing services to emotionally disturbed children, families, and adults. She serves on several committees in the community working to improve local services for clients.

The 00's

Mary Dallas Allen, MSW 2001, is an assistant professor of Social Work, University of Alaska Anchorage. She completed her Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Research at Portland State University in 2008.

Cassie Arnold, MSW 2006, is a social worker/therapist in Arlington County and at the DC Rape Crisis Center. Cassie holds two positions, providing the opportunity to obtain supervision toward her LCSW exam.

Chloe Connell, MSW 2007, is a mental health counselor with Community Residences, Inc.

Lisa Cox, MSW 1987, Ph.D. 1997, is an associate professor of social work and gerontology at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey where she was tenured/promoted in 2004, and appointed program director soon thereafter. Lisa enjoyed a most productive and rejuvenating sabbatical last year, has recently submitted a grant proposal to NIA and will teach MSW students again this year.

Iris Giggetts, BSW 2005, MSW 2006, is executive director/grant manager for Rappahannock Teen Abstinence Program (RappTAP). With her degree, experiences, and knowledge obtained while attending VCU, she has been able to acquire an executive position doing what she loves -- making a difference in the lives of teens, their families, and the community.

Connie Kvarfordt, Ph.D. 2005, is an assistant faculty member in the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Raphael Mutepa, Ph.D. 2003, recently received tenure at West Virginia State College.

Madeline Roberts, BSW 2004, MSW 2005, is an adjunct instructor at VCU.

Hans Selvog, MSW 1986, Ph.D. 2005, is in private practice as a forensic and clinical social worker and is teaching new forensic social work certification in the extended education branch of California State University at Fullerton this fall.

Aimee (Hull) Tulou, MSW 2005, works in resident services at Covenant Woods Retirement Community, Mechanicsville, VA.

VCU School of Social Work

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



[Tim L. Davey, Ph.D.](#)
Associate Dean for
Community Engagement

Research Initiatives In the past year we have had 26 different Community- based projects involving 18 different faculty members and generating more than 1 million dollars in total funding.

[Community Partners and Projects](#)

Germany Study Abroad As in the past ten years, Dr. Matthias Naleppa took a group of BSW and MSW students on a study abroad program in Germany. The group visited a range of social service agencies, focusing on child and youth welfare, vocational and residential services for persons with intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homelessness, and programs for ex-prisoners. The group also attended lectures by two VCU alumni. Gerald Bowman, a graduate of our MSW program, lectured comparing social work practice in Germany and the US, and Andreas Fassler, PhD, a recent graduate of our doctoral program and now a faculty member of a Stuttgart, Germany School of Social Work, discussed substance abuse treatment approaches.

FIELD INSTRUCTION

Richmond Area Opening Meeting for Field Instructors held on August 27th

Almost 75 Field Instructors attended the 2009 Opening Meeting last week. Information presented included:

- Over 600 students will be in Field Placement this academic year, the largest number of students we have had in field in more than a decade. Please contact the Field Office if you are interested in taking additional students.
- The Field Department's On-line Database system is now available for other Schools of Social Work to purchase. The system is designed to help field departments manage their field offices more efficiently.
- We are starting a number of military initiatives to support the growing need within VCU and throughout our community.
- Field Fair Day is scheduled for March 1, 2010 and for the first time a "snow date" is also being planned; as you recall, this past Spring the Field Fair Day was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The NOVA Area Opening Meeting for Field Instructors was held on Friday, September 11th.

Save these dates ! Upcoming Workshops for Field Instruction Workshops are free to Field Instructors.

Integrating Theory and Practice, October 2, 2009, 8:30 - 11:00 AM, Student Commons, Forum Room

Use of Educational Tools for Successful Internships, November 6, 2009 8:30 - 11:00 AM, Student Commons, Virginia Room D

PROGRAM UPDATES

PhD PROGRAM

PhD Program Welcomes 2009 Cohort Six new doctoral students attended orientation on August 18th and were welcomed by more than 70 faculty, staff and fellow doctoral students at the annual Welcome Dinner.

[View photos !](#)

Price to Teach First Semester Research Course [Dr. Sarah Kye Price](#) will teach the required first semester SWKD 701 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis I course for the first time in Fall 2009. This research course is the first of a three-semester course focused on concentrated study of principles of the quantitative, scientific method for knowledge building and practice- and policy-related research.

DPC Annual Retreat Held on August 20th Faculty and student members of the Doctoral Program Committee attending the retreat discussed a plethora of issues related to structural support and resources, curriculum, teaching and professional development, program assessment and evaluation, and community-building activities. Task groups were established and an agenda for the year was set .

MSW PROGRAM

CSWE Accreditation Reaffirmation Report Due in August 2010 The MSW Program has a busy year ahead preparing for our upcoming CSWE Accreditation Reaffirmation. The program was previously reaffirmed in 2002 for the full 8-year CSWE Accreditation cycle and faculty are now actively involved in numerous objectives to affirm that our MSW course content meets the new 2008 CSWE BSW and MSW Education and Accreditation Policy standards.

Adjunct Faculty Opening Meeting Held August 21st Adjunct faculty were greeted by our Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Marcia Harrigan, the MSW Program Director, school support staff and several full-time faculty who serve as dedicated mentors, providing a strong and consistent link for our adjunct faculty to both the MSW and BSW Programs. Our "ad hoc" technology support colleague, Mr. Ananda Newmark, provided Blackboard training and review, as well as an overview of access to VCU's technology teaching supports.



[Delores Dungee-Anderson, PhD.](#)
MSW Program Director

The MSW Program is fortunate to have such a committed group of community, alumni and doctoral student adjunct faculty teaching our Foundation and Concentration year students. Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our program, school and profession!

The VCU School of Social Work website provides the latest information about the school's curricula, policies, and academic, student and alumni programs.

[School of Social Work website](#)



Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action university providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, veterans status, political affiliation or disability.

Join now ! The logo for the VCU Alumni Association features the text "VCU Alumni Association" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A small, stylized yellow starburst graphic is positioned to the right of the word "Alumni".

[Visit Website](#)

Click on the *Visit Website* link above for membership information and to join the

VCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Publication Schedule

March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1

For submissions guidelines or other information contact Fay P. Wade at 804/828-1044 or fpwade@vcu.edu

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