Meeting the Needs of Immigrants and Immigrant Communities
Greetings from the Adelphi School of Social Work. The past year has been another exciting one for the School. Despite the challenges of this period of economic uncertainty, the faculty, administration, and staff continue to work hard to further the School’s mission. You will read in this issue of the *School of Social Work News* about several initiatives which respond to this era of increased accountability through new University-community partnerships and the work of Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership.

Our enrollment remains strong at each of our academic centers in Garden City, Hauppauge, Poughkeepsie, and Manhattan. This past fall, our admissions were enhanced by students who bring a wealth of experience in other fields and have decided to further their education in social work as part of their own personal mission to give back to the community. We also welcomed five new faculty members—Drs. Jacqueline Njeri Kagotho, Tae Kuen Kim, Stavroula Kyriakakis, Jennifer McClendon, and Laura Quiros—all of whom bring an abundance of research and practice experience. They, together with the rest of our faculty, are actively engaged scholars, enthusiastic in their service to the University and the profession, and committed to teaching excellence.

Faculty and administrators have also devoted themselves to completing a self-study process toward reaccreditation by the Council of Social Work Education. The self-study document, which was submitted in August, demonstrates the vibrancy of our academic programs, the ever escalating productivity of the faculty, and the School’s leadership in the profession at multiple levels. In February, we were visited by the accreditation site team who met with various stakeholders to further examine the School’s progress in achieving our mission and goals.

We continue to offer innovative and informative events and programs for the professional community. Last fall, we co-sponsored with the Adelphi Institute for Parenting, Daniel Siegel, M.D., an internationally renowned researcher in the area of parent-child relationships and trauma. In June, Adelphi will host for the first time the Sixth International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision. The conference gives mental health professionals and educators the opportunity to examine current issues in clinical supervision research and practice within and across professional disciplines. The School’s Professional Continuing Education program launched its trauma certificate program last fall and continues to offer a series of well-attended workshops throughout the year for advanced practitioners.

It has been rewarding to see the increasing number of alumni who have become more engaged in the School. The Alumni Association presently has a steering committee that works closely with Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Lois Stein, M.S.W. ’78, D.S.W ’05. The committee meets on a regular basis to develop and run a series of alumni programs on practice issues, and to serve as a networking group that can voice professional concerns and issues to the School.

As dean for more than five years, I am immeasurably pleased with the School’s activities and achievements. Please feel free to share your thoughts or ideas with me. You can reach me via email at asafyer@adelphi.edu, or by phone at (516) 877-4354.

Warm Regards,

Andrew W. Safyer
Dean and Professor
ON COURSE FOR B.S.W. AND M.S.W. REACCREDITATION

The School of Social Work faculty, administration, and staff have been actively engaged in a self-study process of the B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs to ensure that we are in compliance with the standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), our accrediting body. Last August, we submitted a self-study document and hosted CSWE representatives from Monday, February 1, through Wednesday, February 3, 2010.

The site visit was intended to learn more about our programs and to verify that what was described in the self study is being delivered to our students. Over the course of the three days, the visitors—Dr. Frank Baskind, dean emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University and Dr. Deborah Valentine, director, Colorado State University—met with various stakeholders, including faculty, students, and administrators and community members who participate in research and training partnerships.

The site visitors reported many strengths and no concerns during their visit. They cited knowledgeable, engaged, and committed faculty; the positive and productive contributions of the dean and administrative team members; University administrators' high regard for the School; a culture of optimism within the School; the role faculty play in mentoring and teaching students; the strong presence of the School in the community; and a robust continuing education program.

At its June 2010 meeting, CSWE's Commission on Accreditation will review the self-study document and the site team report, and make a final determination of our accreditation status.

The self-study report demonstrates that we have achieved our program goals in the areas of curriculum, faculty research, and dissemination, and the School's collaborations with the professional community at multiple levels.

As part of our ongoing assessment process, we surveyed students, field instructors, and recent alumni. While these surveys serve multiple purposes for the School and the University, specific questions ask how well the social work curriculum fosters students' knowledge, values, and skills essential for competent practice. The assessment confirmed that we are meeting our overall B.S.W. and M.S.W. curriculum objectives. It also revealed the need for further integration of evidence-based practice into the curriculum and additional emphasis on policy analysis in the introductory course. These areas for suggested improvement are being further addressed by the School's assessment committee, the academic sequence committees, and the curriculum committee.

The survey also asked alumni questions about their current professional situation. More than 85 percent of the 2006 and 2007 B.S.W. and M.S.W. graduates who participated in the survey reported that they are working either full- or part-time at a job related to their social work degree. The most common field of practice is child and family services, followed by mental health. A majority of these alumni are involved in professional activities, including attending conferences and reading practice updates in journals.

Should you have any questions about the reaccreditation process, please contact Associate Dean Peter Chernack at chernack@adelphi.edu or (516) 877-4350.

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What are the barriers to mental health services for aging Latino immigrants in first suburbs? How do Muslim physicians participate in their communities? What role can employers play in encouraging physical activity among new immigrants? What challenges face Muslim chaplains in New York City hospitals? How do female social networks affect women victimized by intimate partner abuse in Mexican immigrant communities? What leads to post-traumatic growth in immigrants and refugees? These are just a few of the areas of inquiry the faculty of the School of Social Work are pursuing as they seek to identify and meet the social needs of immigrants and immigrant communities.

Drawing on her experience as the director of crisis services at Sanctuary for Families in New York City, Assistant Professor Stavroula Kyriakakis undertook research on intimate partner abuse in Mexican immigrant communities. She found that almost all the Mexican immigrant women in her study immediately identified the abuse in their relationship as problematic. Their families almost always regarded the abuse as wrong as well.

In practice, Dr. Kyriakakis says, this means “Mexican women should be encouraged to tell their families. Families were often instrumental in providing assistance, and parents in Mexico, unable to help directly, encouraged their daughters to seek help.”

Dr. Kyriakakis also found that female social networks were particularly strong in Mexican immigrant communities, and that women who were abused turned to these networks for guidance. In practice, she argues that this speaks directly to the power of survivor outreach programs. Dr. Kyriakakis continues to present the findings from her first study to healthcare providers and domestic violence programs in the New York area.

Assistant Professor Jacqueline Njeri Kagotho

While working as a volunteer coordinator at Restore St. Louis, an organization that connects immigrant and refugee families to services, Assistant Professor Jacqueline Njeri Kagotho found that after basic acclimatization, new immigrants’ primary concerns were health related. This discovery led Dr. Kagotho to undertake, among other studies, an in-depth analysis of health behaviors in immigrant communities using data drawn from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.
She found that a significant segment of the immigrant population gets health information in the workplace. Immigrants who are more assimilated, in part measured by their English language skills, are more likely to participate in physical activity as well. One practical conclusion she has drawn from her research is the power of workplace programs in influencing health behaviors.

“Work is the perfect place to start to influence people’s health behaviors,” she says.

Another finding is the need for new ways to reach immigrants with limited English ability who are also not connected to an employer — typically older adults.

“That population isn’t getting all the messages about health yet,” she says.

Also researching the particular needs of immigrants, Associate Dean for Program Development and Administration Peter Chernack conducted focus groups and surveyed health, mental health, and aging service providers to examine the mental health service needs of older Latino immigrants. Building on research he conducted with Assistant Professor Bradley Zodikoff in Nassau County, Dr. Chernack’s exploratory study examined mental health service needs of older Latino immigrants in the particular context of first ring suburbs—suburbs surrounding their core cities whose populations are aging faster than the rest of nation, and which have become centers for primary immigration.

“In the surveys,” Dr. Chernack says, “service providers ranked cultural and linguistic barriers relatively low, while focus group participants identified significant gaps in service provision and in the cultural and linguistic competence of mental health practitioners.”

Dr. Chernack’s research highlights the importance of understanding cultural and religious beliefs and attitudes in providing mental health services with this growing population, as well as the need for more bilingual, bicultural professionals and continued professional development and training to increase their cultural sensitivity. Dr. Chernack has disseminated this work at national research conferences and through presentations to local community groups. This body of work is now being used to help shape future services as agencies prepare to meet the needs of Latino immigrants on Long Island.

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Professor Roni Berger

Professor Roni Berger’s research and practice here has been focused on immigrants since she arrived in the U.S. as an immigrant herself in the early 1990s. Most recently,
she has studied the personal benefits of immigration, specifically the psychological growth individuals gain through the adversity of the immigrant experience. Personal growth caused by hardship, known in the field as posttraumatic growth, was, until her research, largely unexplored as a potential outcome of immigration.

"A lot of immigration literature focuses on problems and pathology," Dr. Berger says. "It's useful to understand that there might be benefits as well. For practitioners, we can think about not only minimizing troubles but also fostering growth."

With the benefit of an Adelphi President Research Award in 2004, Dr. Berger looked specifically at posttraumatic growth in Latina immigrants. Continuing her research, Dr. Berger has examined experiences of and factors that contribute to posttraumatic growth among other immigrant communities in cross-cultural contexts, and this spring a book she co-edited, *Posttraumatic Growth and Culturally Competent Practice: Lessons Learned from Around the Globe*, will share these findings with practitioners and fellow researchers.

Assistant Professor Wahiba Abu-Rass's research examines the mental health needs of the Muslim immigrant community in the U.S. With a grant from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, Dr. Abu-Rass surveyed Muslim physicians and found that 99 percent participate in their community, whether through mosques, volunteer work, charity work, political advocacy, or similar activities, though political activities drew the fewest participants.

"After 9/11, the Muslim community became very isolated politically, and most Muslim physicians tried to hide when it came to political action," Dr. Abu-Rass says.

Related fears and mistrust, she explains, made data collection challenging for her study.

"Like any other Muslim, Muslim physicians aren't keen to be public. They fear we're going to give the information to the FBI." Despite this, Dr. Abu-Rass found that Muslim physicians are making significant contributions to their communities in quieter ways such as donating their professional services or providing financial assistance.

In 2008–2009, Dr. Abu-Rass also conducted research on Muslim chaplains in New York City hospitals, and identified similar concerns. Many Muslim patients, the chaplains reported, hesitated to identify themselves for fear of being mistreated. At the same time, Muslim chaplains found themselves sought out and welcomed, both by Muslim and non-Muslim patients.

"Social workers and other mental health professionals, and policy makers need to know this community is going through a lot," says Dr. Abu-Rass. "Special consideration must be given to the differences between the needs of Muslim and non-Muslim patients. To increase the use of spiritual care services among Muslim patients, chaplains and hospitals must identify barriers and develop approaches to removing them."

What do immigrant communities need to thrive? What factors matter most for individual immigrant's success in the U.S.? How can service providers better meet individual and community needs? Through their research and practice, Adelphi University School of Social Work professors are asking these questions, doing the research, and disseminating their findings to the profession and relevant communities.
Jennifer McClendon  
**Assistant Professor**

Dr. McClendon recently obtained her doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis. A primary focus of her research is crisis intervention services for children and families, and, in her doctoral dissertation, she examined the service use trajectories of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Her other areas of academic and clinical expertise encompass mental health crisis intervention, access to children's mental health service systems, and family support for childhood mental disorders. She is experienced at grant writing, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, and intervention research, and has taught direct practice, program development, and program evaluation courses.

Jacqueline Njeri Kagotho  
**Assistant Professor**

Dr. Kagotho recently received her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. Immigrant communities and the issues of health disparities and social entrepreneurship are her primary research interests. Her doctoral dissertation assessed the impacts of assets and income on immigrant health behaviors. As a social work practitioner, Dr. Kagotho has worked with refugee and immigrant groups, primarily of African descent, and has facilitated cross-cultural and cultural sensitivity training for communities and groups who wish to provide services to foreign-born individuals. She has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and her teaching concentrations include social policy and health.

Tae Kuen Kim  
**Assistant Professor**

Dr. Kim obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and previously served as a lecturer and research fellow at the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include analysis and evaluation of anti-poverty policies, income support programs, and welfare-to-work programs. He is also interested in the application of advanced statistical methods to social work research and social policy analysis. Dr. Kim has published articles on the impact of economic globalization on welfare states, the effectiveness of anti-poverty policy, and a typology of the poor, and he has authored a statistics textbook, *Applied Regression: Data Analysis for Social Science*. He is currently researching the political ramifications of social welfare spending.
Stavroula Kyriakakis  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Kyriakakis earned her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, where she was a doctoral research fellow for the National Institute of Mental Health and the Center for Latino Family Research. Her primary area of research is intimate partner violence in immigrant communities with a special emphasis on the experiences and social service needs of Latinas. She recently completed a study focusing on the experiences of intimate partner violence and help-seeking patterns of Mexican immigrant women. Previously the director of a residential and nonresidential domestic violence program in New York City, Dr. Kyriakakis was also a psychotherapist in a mental health clinic in Brooklyn, specializing in the treatment of victims of violent crime, including family violence.

Laura Quiros  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Quiros earned her Ph.D. from the City University of New York, and her M.S.W. from the Hunter College School of Social Work. Her doctoral dissertation explored identity construction among women of color from multicultural backgrounds. In her social work practice, Dr. Quiros assists women with histories of trauma, chemical dependency, and mental illness. She also facilitates training for agencies on trauma-informed practice. Her current research explores how women from mixed backgrounds negotiate their racial and ethnic identities within various social contexts. Dr. Quiros is also researching and writing about critical pedagogy and social work education. She has taught direct practice and human behavior courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Schanica Pickens  
*Student Affairs Coordinator*

Ms. Pickens received her M.S.W. from New York University. Her professional endeavors include her current positions as an online instructor for the Axia College of the University of Phoenix, an adjunct professor at Touro College, and a part-time case manager/family worker at the AHRC New York City Foundation. Previously, she served as program director of the Therapeutic Foster Care Department of Graham Windham, and as the acting director/ supervisor of the Therapeutic Foster Care Department at SCO Family of Services, both located in Brooklyn, New York.
The Adelphi School of Social Work offers professional development opportunities for social workers and other mental health professionals. Our programs provide something for everyone—daylong workshops with national experts, year-long certificate programs in such areas as trauma, clinical supervision, and addictions, conferences and agency based training. Some upcoming events include:

**Annual Alumni and Friends Event**

**Friday, May 7, 2010**

Our Annual Alumni and Friends Event is designed to bring alumni and friends of the School together for a shared networking and professional development opportunity. This year, Geoffrey Greif, Ph.D., professor of social work at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, will present a keynote entitled, “When Parents Kidnap”. Dr. Greif is a prolific author and researcher and a respected authority in child abduction, family therapy, male friendships, and parenting issues.

**The Sixth Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision**

**Thursday, June 10—Saturday, June 12, 2010**

The Sixth Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision is coming to Adelphi this June! Devoted to clinical supervision theory, practice, and research, the conference provides an opportunity for social workers, psychologists (school, counseling, clinical), nurses, marriage and family therapists, substance abuse counselors, counselor educators, speech therapists, occupational therapists, rehabilitation counselors, and other mental health professionals and educators to examine current issues in clinical supervision, research, and practice within and across professional disciplines. For additional information please visit the conference Web site at socialwork.adelphi.edu/clinicalsupervision.

**The Fifth Annual Summer Institute**

**Tuesday, July 13—Thursday, July 22, 2010**

The Fifth Annual Summer Institute will be held at Adelphi in July, offering participants advanced intensive training in current and innovative areas of clinical practice. Consistent with the School’s mission to bring national experts to Long Island, the Summer Institute provides a unique context for advancing your professional knowledge and practice. Watch your mail and our Web site for information on this summer’s offerings.

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For additional information, visit socialwork.adelphi.edu/events
RECENT SOCIAL WORK FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

School of Social Work faculty members are dedicated scholars who remain at the forefront of their profession with innovative and comprehensive research. Here are some examples of recent scholarship.

Books


Journal Articles


Nonrefereed Journal Articles


Book Chapters


Book Reviews


Refereed Conference Presentations


**Invited Presentations**


Altman, J. C. (2009, March). Critical thinking and evidence-based practice: You can't do one without the other. Invited Evidence-Based Practice program colloquium, Adelphi University Hudson Valley Center, Poughkeepsie, NY.


Zodikoff, B. D. Mental Health Service Issues on Long Island. Invited presentation to the Senior Umbrella Network of Nassau County (SUN-N) at The Arbors Assisted Living Facility, Jericho, NY (February, 2009).

Grants

Abu-Rass, W. (Co-Principal Investigator) (2010–2011). Substance Abuse among Muslim college students. The Institution for Social Policy and Understanding, with Dr. C. Arfken, Co-Principal Investigator, and Dr. Sameera Ahmed, Co-Investigator ($15,000).

Abu-Rass, W. Principal Investigator, Faculty Development Grant, Adelphi University (2009–2010) Research Project: Chaplaincy Services and Spiritual Care in Health Care Settings and Hospitals ($10,000).


Araujo Dawson, B. Co-Principal Investigator (2009). Investigation on the association between discrimination and mental health among Dominican adolescents. Faculty Development Grant, Nyack College. Lopez Humphreys, Principal Investigator ($4,500).


Ream, G. L., Co-principal Investigator, Video Games’ Role in Developing Substance Use. National Institutes of Health 1R01 DA027761-01. (with Co-Principal investigator Eloise Dunlop and Luther C. Elliot, National Development and Research Institutes, New York, NY. (Funded 1-15-2010-12-31-2012 $943,989).

Announcing the Dr. Cecil St. George Henry Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Cecil St. George Henry was a devoted member of the Adelphi School of Social Work faculty for more than three decades. A passionate educator and committed social worker, Dr. Henry served with organizations throughout the New York metropolitan area, before joining the social work faculty at Adelphi.

He is remembered for his humor, warmth, intelligence, and vigor. His colleagues and friends in the School were deeply touched by his life and saddened at his passing.

In celebration of his life and work, Dr. Henry's family has generously established an endowed scholarship in his name. The Dr. Cecil St. George Henry Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually, to support today's students as they embark on the profession he loved.

Join us in honoring his legacy by supporting this scholarship. All contributions are fully tax-deductible and will go directly to the scholarship fund. For more information about the scholarship or the School of Social Work please contact: Associate Dean Peter I. Chernack at (516) 877-4350 or chernack@adelphi.edu.

Please direct your contribution to:

Adelphi University, School of Social Work, 1 South Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530

To make a gift via phone, please call the Office of University Advancement at (516) 877-3250.
Published this winter by Oxford University Press, *Poor Women in Rich Countries: The Feminization of Poverty Over the Life Course*, edited by Adelphi University School of Social Work Professor Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg, focuses on the economic condition of single mothers and single elderly women, and at the same time calls attention to the potential poverty of partnered women, many of whom would be poor if they had to support themselves.

“These groups of women, both supporting themselves without a male partner, are much more vulnerable to poverty than partnered women,” says Dr. Goldberg, “and this is the first book to look at both groups together, or to view feminization of poverty over the life course.”


“That conference, sparked by President Scott, was the impetus for the continuing work that led to *Poor Women in Rich Countries*,” says Dr. Goldberg. Collectively, the chapters of the book offer a cross-cultural analysis of the position of lone women in eight wealthy countries, each of which differs in its attempts to address women’s poverty.

Based on the data that she and her fellow authors compiled, Dr. Goldberg was able to extend feminist critiques of welfare state theories as well as to chart nations’ disparate progress against poverty—probing, for instance, how Sweden emerged as a leader in the prevention of women’s poverty while the United States continues to lag.

The book has already received significant notice from other scholars in the field.

“Goldberg has assembled a superb group of country specialists who have written an important book for students and scholars interested in the topic of cross-national communities and variations of feminization of poverty in rich countries,” says Dr. Mark Kesselman, professor *emeritus*, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

Dr. Marguerite Rosenthal, professor *emerita*, School of Social Work, Salem State College, offers similar praise: “This book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in an in-depth analysis of the economic status and life chances of women in eight industrialized countries.”

Unlike many other edited works, *Poor Women in Rich Countries* presents a seamless analysis thanks to the two concluding chapters written by Dr. Goldberg, which serve to summarize the findings, unify the expertise of scholars, and draw theoretical inferences.

In addition to serving as the director of the School of Social Work’s Ph.D. program, Dr. Goldberg chairs the National Jobs for All Coalition (njfac.org). For her work as co-founder and chair of the organization, Dr. Goldberg was awarded the John Collins Social Justice Award in 2008.

Last November, the coalition collaborated with the Chicago Political Economy Group, labor and religious

continued on page 22
Karen Campbell, director of the Manhattan Center Social Work Program proudly describes the Center’s commitment to quality and personal attention. She calls it “academic excellence with a personal touch.”

“What sets us apart from the other schools of social work is the sense of community that’s here, that personal touch,” says Ms. Campbell. “We’re able to offer students a lot of one-on-one services that they might not get in a larger school.”

With a population of close to 300 part-time adult students, many of whom are employed and balancing other commitments, Ms. Campbell says providing fast access to services, ranging from academic advising to financial aid guidance to tutoring, is essential.

“They need to be able to come in during the five minutes between classes to address an issue,” says Ms. Campbell. Although most of the Center’s students come from the New York City area, a number of them hail from as far away as Utah or California. Students range in age from 20 to 60 and span diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Many are already employed in human services and are looking to find ways to better serve their profession and their communities.

“Many of the social workers we train describe their experience in social work school as transformational,” says Ms. Campbell. “They are excited and feel empowered by the professional skills they have developed and can bring back to their communities. Their passion and commitment is amazing.”

Field placement is an important part of any social work program and, at Adelphi, is at the core of the social work education experience.
“It is the place where theory and practice come together and get integrated,” says James Amato, assistant director for field education at the Center. Mr. Amato meets with students individually to assess their interests and learning needs and students are actively involved in the placement planning process. Over the course of their two years of field instruction, Manhattan Center students have an opportunity to experience a wealth of options, including working with children and in residential treatment, outpatient mental health clinics, hospitals, in corrections, in substance abuse clinics, or in nursing homes, to name just a few. Mr. Amato also offers workshops to enhance students’ field placement and career planning experiences.

Aixa Rodriguez, student affairs coordinator, recently launched a Student Experience Discussion Group to help address students’ concerns as they balance family and work responsibilities with their education at the Manhattan Center. Students who have attended these programs find the peer support enormously helpful as they negotiate the challenges inherent in graduate education.

The Center holds a town hall meeting twice a year in which students can offer suggestions and express concerns. The meetings have spurred several changes, including extended library hours during exam time.

The increasingly engaged student association is involved in a variety of activities, such as the recent holiday book drive and raising funds to support AIDS Walk New York. Ms. Campbell credits her devoted administrative team with fulfilling the program’s mission to offer “a warm, welcoming community where students benefit from the expertise and support of a professional, caring faculty and administration.”

For more information:
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Director, Manhattan Center Social Work Program
75 Varick Street
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adelphi.edu/manhattan.sswk.php
The needs of Long Island’s nonprofit organizations have changed in the wake of the economic crisis that continues to impact the sector. To address those changing needs, the Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership (LICNL), part of the Adelphi School of Social Work, sponsored forums across the Island, offered new services to address emerging needs, and worked with Long Island nonprofit leaders to explore responses and opportunities.

The LICNL held a summit in June 2009 focused on the new nonprofit landscape. Long Island nonprofit leaders came together with national experts to plan for the future, to discuss the possibility that the current economic turmoil may be the “new normal,” and to move toward making the adjustments necessary to sustain their organizations. Collectively, summit attendees considered strategies for strengthening not just themselves, but also the sector as a whole.

“It is important, especially in times like these, to know that you are not alone and that you can count on friends,” says Ann Marie Thigpen, director of the Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership.

Building on the success of Summit 2009, and through support from private and corporate foundations as well as sustained dialogue with sector leaders, the LICNL is offering programs and services to help nonprofit organizations manage in this complex economic climate. Dr. Peter Chernack, faculty director of the LICNL, notes, “We needed to design programs and services that would be meaningful and accessible to Long Island’s nonprofits. We wanted to provide immediate support to executives and to boards of directors as well as reach out to the new and emerging leaders who will ensure the future of the sector.”

Thanks to a $35,000 grant from the Allstate Foundation, the LICNL has also been able address the particularly acute economic needs of nonprofits focused on domestic violence issues, providing financial training for domestic violence organizations’ boards of directors. At the same time, the grant has also enabled the LICNL to increase the financial literacy of victims of domestic violence by training new instructors of Allstate’s Economics Against Abuse Program curriculum.

“The need to impart financial literacy to survivors of domestic violence has never been greater,” says Ann Marie Thigpen, “and the region’s nonprofit organizations in this arena also need to be more financially aware than ever before.” As an extension of working with these organizations and their clients, the LICNL will also focus on strengthening their boards.

Amidst its other activities, the LICNL continued to offer cost-effective service and consulting programs, aiding nonprofits in board development, executive transition planning, executive coaching, strategic planning, and providing organizations with timely information through monthly newsletters, executive forums, and workshops. This fall, the Center will launch a certificate program targeting new and emerging leaders.
MINDSIGHT AND INTEGRATION:
THE HEART OF PARENTING AND THE
CORE OF HEALING TRAUMA

On October 15, 2009, more than 180 clinical professionals filled the second floor of the Ruth S. Harley University Center to listen to well-known clinician and researcher Daniel Siegel, M.D., deliver the master seminar, “Mindsight and Integration: The Heart of Parenting and the Core of Healing Trauma.”

The Adelphi Institute for Parenting cohosted the event with the School of Social Work.

Participants gained a greater understanding of healthy psychological development, some of the intergenerational origins of trauma, and the importance of healing trauma.

Dr. Siegel champions “mindsight,” a term he coined to describe the attunement of one person to another. Mindsight, which is essential for strong bonds between parent and child, is also vital in therapy and for healing trauma. “Mindsight is one of those things that without it, we’re at risk, but with it, all sorts of great things can happen,” he said.

He described mindsight as a quality that helps a person understand another person’s thoughts, feeling and behavior. Understanding enables integration to occur. Integration leads to healing.

“Science shows that for parents who have experienced trauma or loss...if the pain experienced hasn’t been dealt with directly, the children will have the most negative attachments,” he said.

He elaborated on this point, calling it a “cross-generational passage of a traumatic event,” citing that the effects can be witnessed on a genetic level, as some experiences trigger changes in the biological structure that govern genes and alter their expression in the body.

The brain, mind, and relationships were described as forming a triangle of balance. If even one of these three cornerstones isn’t properly established or supported, the structure will fail.

“As parents, educators, therapists...your job is to make this triangle of well-being,” he said. Being able to understand and integrate all of these areas is crucial to developing a healthy parental bond, as well as to promote healing after trauma.
On May 8, 2009, the Adelphi University School of Social Work awarded the 2009 Richard Lodge Prize to Dr. Sarah Gehlert, E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity at the Brown School and a scholar at Washington University’s Institute for Public Health.

Named for the late Dr. Richard Lodge, a leading social work educator and Adelphi professor, the Lodge Prize is given each year to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of social work theory.

Dr. Gehlert is known internationally as a pioneer in health and social work research. Her publications focus on social influences on health, especially the health of vulnerable populations.

At the Lodge Prize Award event, part of the School of Social Work’s annual Alumni Day, Dr. Gehlert delivered a keynote address, “A Multi-Informative, Multi-Level Approach to Understanding the Role of Stress in Health Disparities: Implications for Social Work Practice,” in which she discussed some of her most recent research.

Prior to joining the Brown School, Dr. Gehlert was the Helen Ross Professor in the School of Social Service Administration and the Institute of Mind and Biology, and the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago. There, she also served as the associate director of the university’s Institute for Translational Medicine and cochaired its Community Translation Science Cluster. She remains the principal investigator and director of the university’s Center for Interdisciplinary Health Disparities Research, now a joint center with Washington University in St. Louis.

“Dr. Gehlert’s trans-disciplinary work in health disparities is visionary, and she serves a model for other social work researchers as a creative thinker and leader in the profession,” says School of Social Work Dean Andrew Safyer.

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The book’s analysis of the successes and failures of social and economic policies related to poor women in a range of countries makes Poor Women in Rich Countries both a blueprint for abolishing women’s poverty and a relevant guide to addressing the jobs crisis in the U.S., which, Dr. Goldberg notes, “affects not just the 15 million who are officially unemployed but the other 15 million who are hidden unemployed.”
“Social work is one of the strongest backgrounds you can have if you want to be involved in the political arena,” says Congressman Edolphus Towns M.S.W. ’73. “You learn about individuals and groups and processes and how they work together, and that’s all important in politics.”

A 14-term veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives representing New York’s 10th District, which encompasses much of northern and eastern Brooklyn, and chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Mr. Towns also credits his Adelphi education with giving him early experience in building alliances.

“The opportunity Adelphi gave me to dialogue and talk about life experience and recognize that backgrounds are so important in what you say and do and think… helped me to understand politically that everyone isn’t going to walk alike and talk alike, but you can still form a coalition,” says Mr. Towns.

During his terms in Congress, Mr. Towns has worked to address issues from improving the public healthcare system to increasing access and opportunities for minority business leaders. His introduction of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which increased grant funding for minority-serving institutions, has been particularly important to colleges and universities. But one bill in particular was built directly on research he undertook while earning his M.S.W.

“While I was at Adelphi, I was concerned with athletes not having enough information to determine what school they should attend,” says Mr. Towns. “After coming to Congress, I sponsored the Student Athletes Right-to-Know Act. There were some colleges at the time that for over 10 years had not graduated a single basketball player, but they didn’t have to acknowledge that in their scholarship offers. Now, when students get a scholarship they get information about the school’s academics that help the family and the athlete to be in a better position to make a decision.”

Perhaps the greatest lessons Mr. Towns took from his time at Adelphi regard the vital role of private nonprofits in solving social issues.

“Nonprofits serve a tremendous purpose,” he says. “Politicians can’t do everything, and elected officials need to work diligently to make sure nonprofits get the funding they need.”

In keeping with his strong belief in the power of nonprofits in general and social workers in particular, Mr. Towns has sponsored the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. If passed, the Social Work Reinvestment Act would address a number of issues, including high caseloads, workplace safety, and fair market compensation for social workers, in addition to supporting social work student and faculty recruitment and postdoctoral social work research.
How have the economic circumstances of the last two years impacted the work you do at Jewish Family Service?

The economy has affected our work at Jewish Family Service in several ways. More and more people are seeking our assistance, many of whom have never before had to ask for help. The most frequent thing I hear from our clients is: “I never thought I would ever have to come to a social services agency.” Looking at the needs of the community we serve, last year we launched a series of workshops and programs to help individuals understand bankruptcy and foreclosure, reduce stress and regain sleep, and search for jobs.

Our food pantry program has been significantly impacted by the economic climate as well. We are actually seeing two times as many people in need this year compared to last year. Last year, people were still able to live off savings and max out their credit cards. Now we are seeing a whole new population. With two times as many people, that means there are two times as many bags of food to fill.

JFS has always had programs for the poor, vulnerable, and needy, those facing bankruptcy or foreclosure. It is the sheer number of those in need due to the economy that has forced us to revisit how we are providing those services.

Given your experiences at JFS, can you offer any perspectives on immigration?

Refugee resettlement services have been a part of JFS since the organization was founded in 1918. For the past year, JFS of San Diego has ranked as the largest refugee resettlement program among all of the Jewish Family Service organizations across North America. This is largely because of the Iraqi population that settles here. After Detroit, Michigan, San Diego is the second-most sought after relocation site for Iraqis. Our number one priority at JFS is to get the refugee population acculturated, and
an important part of that process is ensuring that they find job opportunities. Even in good times it is hard for immigrants to find work. Their English is limited and they possess a skill level that doesn’t necessarily translate here. Unfortunately, today’s refugees are arriving at a difficult time to find jobs, increasing the challenges they face.

The arrival of 400 to 500 refugees each year presents a demanding responsibility for JFS. In response to the rising need for resettlement services in this area, we have expanded our staff and increased volunteer opportunities. The nice thing about San Diego is that our “Volags,” or voluntary agencies, work very cooperatively, sharing resources and information with each other so that we can effectively resettle refugees.

To what do you attribute the heavy representation of Iraqis in San Diego?

Family reunification is typical in most refugee resettlement programs. What happens is refugees arrive here, and then relatives across the United States come to San Diego as well, to sponsor the next family member coming to the United States. The Iraqi population begins to swell, and we get significant numbers; today thousands of Iraqis live here. El Cajon, a city in San Diego County, has become the center of Iraqi relocation. Here, Iraqi refugees own stores, restaurants, community centers, and churches that define their community.

You joined JFS in 1984 with a strong social work background. What does JFS look for when hiring employees today?

When I started here 25 years ago, JFS was essentially a counseling agency. Most people who worked here needed a graduate degree and a social work license because at that time, JFS focused on helping people with psychological problems. As the agency has grown and our services have expanded, the definition of who can fulfill these jobs has broadened. Having earned a bachelor’s degree in social work might give prospective employees a leg up, but does that mean we only consider those candidates? No. People are no longer defined by their degree. Things have changed dramatically. Today, we need people with different educational and professional backgrounds to provide a wide array of services. JFS employs personnel to deliver meals to the hungry, serve as case managers for the needy, and provide specialized services for domestic violence victims, among other important services.

What do you most value about your Adelphi School of Social Work experience?

Adelphi was really a pioneer in the development of the bachelor’s degree in social work. I loved the fact that I was able to do fieldwork so early in my career. It really set me on the path to what I do today.

You have been a loyal supporter of your alma mater. Why do you give to Adelphi?

My father was a college professor, so I was always aware of how expensive it was to run a university. I feel it is important to support institutions of education to the extent that you can. I give because Adelphi had a major influence on my life. Adelphi is the place where I was able to define my professional direction, and I am so grateful for that.

To learn more about Ms. Borg Spitzer, visit her Adelphi Alumni Profile in Success at adelphi.edu/alumni
Lloyd Johnson M.S.S. ‘57 is the president of 100 Black Men of Savannah, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides education, mentoring, and economic development services to communities in Savannah, GA. Mr. Johnson was formerly a senior prosecutor in Prince George’s County, Maryland, and served as counsel and subcommittee staff director in the United States House of Representatives. He is also on the vestry of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Rincon, GA.


Paul Arfin B.A. ‘62, M.S.W. ‘70 is a Peace Corps volunteer who lived in a Colombian village 4,000 feet up in the mountains, where he used a horse for transportation and washed his clothes by beating them on rocks. Mr. Arfin has combined his business savvy with a passion for public service, leading to positions as executive director of various nonprofits, and heading his own company, Intergenerational Strategies.


Mark Handelman M.S.W. ‘73 was recently named executive director of Hamilton-Madison House, a century-old settlement house that provides services to 17,000 children and adults across the country. Previously, Mr. Handelman taught at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University and served as president/CEO of the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA), the largest refugee resettlement and immigrant services agency in the United States.

Robert Penaskovic M.S.W. ‘73 has coauthored a book, Bobby Brown & Richie Blue, A Spiritual Memoir, with his twin brother, Richard Penaskovic.

Esther Fiore Goodcuff B.S.W. ’74, M.A. ’78, associate vice president for enrollment management and student affairs at Adelphi, has been named College Counselor of the Year by the Nassau Counselors’ Association. Ms. Goodcuff is a former association president and a former cochair of the organization’s yearly conference for counselors, administrators, and parents.

Robbin Johnson B.S. ‘81, M.S.W. ‘82 is pursuing a Ph.D. in peace studies at Ignatius University. She is currently employed by the New York City Department of Education and is vice president of the Future Scholars program.

Gerard Dohrenwend M.S.W. ‘82 was named assistant executive director of Leake & Watts Services Inc., where he will have oversight of the agency’s residential services for youths in its therapeutic/educational and child welfare programs. Mr. Dohrenwend’s previous positions include assistant executive director of the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie and director of Foster Homes and Adoption at Abbott House, among others.

Vivian Cutaia O’Connor B.S. ‘82, M.S.W. ‘83 is a self-employed private practitioner.

Emil Zakutny D.S.W. ‘93 has expanded his private psychotherapy practice to a second office in Garden City, NY, with his first office located in Baldwin, NY.

Mary Kennedy M.S.W. ‘96 is the director of a therapeutic summer camp for children of alcoholics’ annual project. She brings to this position a wealth of experience in clinical services, programs for children of substance-abusing parents, program development, and design of services.

Susan (Parise) Guida M.S.W. ‘98 has a full time private practice in Williston Park, NY, and wrote an article for North Shore Today titled “Build Confidence and Get What You Want Out of Life.” She is currently employed by STG Psychotherapy Inc., and is an employee assistance program professional contracted by Military OneSource to provide counseling to military families. She is also a former psychology and social work professor at several colleges.

Phoebe (Harvey) Hoch Kessler M.S.W. ‘98 is relocating to an office suite in Woodbury, NY, and has two other offices for rent to fellow practitioners.

Eibhlin (Donlon) Farry D.S.W. ’99 was named to the 75 Most Influential Women List, by the Irish American Magazine, Irish Voice, and Irishcentral.com. She is a private practitioner in psychotherapy and a professor at Empire State College in Nanuet, NY. Dr. Farry is

Dr. Eibhlin (Donlon) Farry D.S.W. ’99 (left) with her husband Paul Farry. Dr. Farry was honored by the Irish Voice in 2009 as one of the 75 Most Influential Women. Photo by Nuala Purcell.
also on the board of directors at the Aisling Irish Community Centre in Yonkers, NY. Now married to CBS news editor Paul Farry, she has two children and returns to Longford, Ireland, every year to visit family.

Yvonne Murphy M.S.W. ‘00 has a home care agency licensed by the New York State Department of Health as of August 2009.

Zulma Rodriguez B.A. ’00, M.S.W. ’03 is a program director for a mental health/substance abuse program in Washington Heights, NY. Following her graduation from Adelphi, Ms. Rodriguez became a director at a call center for substance abuse.

Marie Paul-Sharpe M.S.W. ’04 has been happily married since May 31, 2008.

Michelle Romero M.S.W. ’06 is employed at the Elmhurst Hospital Center as a medical social worker. She works in the immunology clinic where she provides supportive services to HIV-positive patients. She also runs a women’s and transgender support group for Hispanic HIV-positive patients.

—— Calling All School of Social Work Alumni ——

We’d Like to Hear from You.

Keep track of your former classmates by reading the latest issue of School of Social Work News. Share news of your accomplishments and activities by filling out this brief survey. Or, keep in touch with former classmates and keep up to date on upcoming alumni events via AU Connect, Adelphi’s online community. Visit alumni.adelphi.edu and click on “Alumni Directory” to register today.

Name: __________________________________________ Degree and Year of Graduation: __________________________

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☐ I am interested in contributing to the Cecil St. George Henry Memorial Scholarship. My contribution is enclosed.

Interested in Giving Professional Guidance to Students and Other Alumni?

The Office of Alumni Relations is constantly working to develop new and interesting programs for our alumni. One program you may be interested in is our C.O.A.C.H. (Count on Alumni for Career Help) Speaker/Mentor program. The Alumni Office and other groups on campus, including student groups, often seek alumni speakers and mentors for various programs. We also receive requests for alumni to speak on a professional topic or about a particular industry.

We are seeking to develop a database of alumni willing to speak or provide advice either generically or on a specific area of business. Being part of the program simply means that our office may contact you if a request for speaking/mentoring arises that matches your background or interests. Your time commitment for this engagement opportunity would be minimal. If you are interested in being included in our database of speakers/mentors, please check the box below, or call (516) 877-2470 or email alumni@adelphi.edu.

☐ I am interested in joining the C.O.A.C.H. Speaker/Mentor program.

Please tell us about your professional activities, special projects, or personal news in the space provided:

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The Annual Fund

Each year, the Annual Fund campaign starts September 1 and closes August 31. Gifts to the Annual Fund work to fulfill student scholarship requirements, create an exciting campus life for students and faculty, provide our outstanding professors with appropriate resources, and invest in the maintenance of our nearly 80-year-old campus. Annual gifts play a crucial role in meeting all of these needs.

The Adelphi teaching and learning experience depends on alumni support. The number of people who support the University annually is an important indicator of our strength.

Each year, new alumni join the ranks of donors, and increased participation in annual giving is a priority of The Campaign for Adelphi University. Simply put, all contributions, of any size, matter.