Social Work Research SPANS THE GLOBE page 12

Professor Daniel with boys from the Mon P’tit Village Displaced Persons Camp in Leogane, Haiti.
FEATURE STORY: Social Work Research Spans the Globe …….. 12

Adelphi Hosts International Conferences on Clinical Supervision………..….. 4

Adelphi’s Breast Cancer Hotline at 31…………….. 6

Adelphi’s Nonprofit Leadership Center Grows to Meet Swelling Demand ….. 16

INSIDE:

It is my great pleasure, each year, to bring you news of the many activities and accomplishments of the School—our wonderful faculty, students, administration, and staff.

As a primary force in social work education for more than 60 years, Adelphi continues to provide access and opportunity to diverse students and communities on our main campus in Garden City and through our extension centers in Hauppauge, Poughkeepsie, and Manhattan. We are proud of our many graduates who are among the social work leaders in government and public welfare, and in the delivery of services in nonprofit and private sector human services agencies throughout the New York region.

Our outstanding faculty—joined this past year by Clinical Assistant Professor Marilyn Paul—has extensive clinical and administrative backgrounds which contribute to rich experiences in the classroom to prepare students to work effectively with diverse populations and complex practice environments that respond to the evolving human needs of the communities we serve. The faculty is also known and respected nationally and internationally for its research and continues to publish and present extensively at professional conferences.

I am very pleased to report that at its June 2010 meeting, the Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation voted to reaffirm both the B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs’ accreditation for a full eight years. This decision came after a very successful site visit in February 2010, which identified numerous areas of program strengths and no areas of concern. We are, of course, gratified by this external validation of our School and remain committed to achieving new heights of excellence in our academic programs and through ever expanding partnerships with our alumni network, the practice communities served by the School, and the profession at large.

The School continues to offer many exciting and well-attended events. Last May, at our sixth annual alumni and friends day, Dr. Geoffrey Grief, Professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, gave a provocative keynote address. His topic, “When Parents Kidnap,” reflects his research and practice experience in this area. In June, Adelphi hosted the tremendously successful Sixth Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision. Our Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership launched this fall its new and innovative leadership certificate program, Learning to Lead, addressing the development of new and emerging leaders for Long Island’s nonprofit organizations. Finally, in October, Dr. John Briere, an internationally recognized leading expert in child abuse, psychological trauma, and interpersonal violence, was the featured speaker at our sixth annual master’s series conference. The title of his talk was “Integrated Therapy with Multiply Traumatized Adolescents.”

Please let me know your thoughts or ideas, either via email at asafyer@adelphi.edu or by phone at (516) 877-4534.

Warm regards,

Andrew W. Safer
Dean and Professor

BRIAN McGOVERN ’87, M.S.W. ’89

Fighting for Those Who Are Fighting AIDS

“HIV IS A SOCIAL AND MEDICAL DISEASE, and we need to continue to coordinate things like substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and medical care to unite all our efforts,” says Brian McGovern ’87, M.S.W. ’89.

Mr. McGovern speaks from experience, as the executive director of New Jersey’s largest AIDS organization, the North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI). The Newark-based organization conducts state-wide clinical trials and offers medical treatment as well as mental health, substance abuse, and prevention services; a food pantry; transportation alternatives; and technical assistance to other community-based organizations. Each year, NJCRI serves more than 5,000 individuals of varying ages and backgrounds. Securing healthcare for minority HIV sufferers who often lack access to it is a primary focus.

Since joining NJCRI in 2001 as director of treatment, prevention, and support services, Mr. McGovern has worked to bring a balanced perspective, implementing policies and procedures, and yet always striving to meet the needs of the community in a welcoming, safe, and open environment. During his tenure, NJCRI began conducting clinical research and on-site medical care. A program for LGBT youth has garnered national recognition and is considered to be a model in counseling and prevention programming. Mr. McGovern describes NJCRI as a one-stop resource for its clients.

Mr. McGovern credits his broad background for his success at leading such a wide-reaching organization. “My career has been a mix,” he says. “I spent time in the human service side, with small, community-based programs, and I spent time in hospitals, where more established business practices were crucial.”

Mr. McGovern says that despite NJCRI’s notable achievements, challenges remain, and he continues to look to the future. “We tried some new things, some of which were more successful than others,” he says. “My overarching goal remains further incorporating HIV/AIDS services and awareness into the general community.

Mr. McGovern keeps an open door to colleagues within and outside his organization. A member of Leadership Newark, he has developed partnerships and relationships throughout Newark. “I came here with a vision for change that was bigger than one-to-one relationships,” he says. “I wanted to be able to work toward systemic change, to make sure we could be efficient and ambitious, but still warm and personal.”

A former Jones Beach lifeguard, Mr. McGovern says that helping people has long been second nature. “I was diagnosed with a learning disability in the first grade,” he says, “and I came to Adelphi with an interest in teaching. In many ways, I think I always understood what it meant to be a minority, and when the idea of social work was introduced to me by my tutor, it felt like a natural fit.”

While at Adelphi, he worked part time at a group home, as an Adelphi pool lifeguard, and as a swim coach for a blind swim team, where he gathered experiences that would serve him well in his career.

When he’s not working, he can be found sailing in the waters off Long Island and New England. He also serves on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations.
Bill Valente M.S.W. ’11
Named NASW Social Work Student of the Year

On March 11, 2011 in Albany, the New York State chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) recognized Bill Valente M.S.W. ’11 as its Social Work Student of the Year. The award, presented during the chapter’s annual conference, honors Mr. Valente as a student who “personifies the values of the social work profession” in his university and community through leadership skills, academic excellence, and a commitment to advocacy.

While at Adelphi’s Hudson Valley Center, Mr. Valente has been involved in a wide array of activities—through his work at a local hospital and mediation center, on campus as a volunteer tutor and a graduate assistant to Associate Professor Diana Cameron-Kelly, and in the classroom and at his field placements as a dedicated, successful student.

“The two of us had been reviewing articles from a variety of disciplines that only talked about the research and practice within their own profession,” says Dr. Safyer, “and we thought it would be important for these different disciplines to come together to talk about the current state of research in clinical supervision and to foster new research and new interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Clinical supervision is common to a variety of disciplines within mental health, education, and therapy. “Supervision is used to help professionals who are working with clients to improve the quality of their work,” says Dr. Safyer.

Following the success of the 2010 conference, which attracted 200 participants from Europe and across the United States, the three-day 2011 event will commence on Wednesday, June 8 with preconference workshops, an evening opening plenary session, and reception. The conference will end on Friday, June 10 and will include workshops, roundtable discussions, and paper and poster presentations.

More information is available on the conference website at socialwork.adelphi.edu/clinicalsupervision.
In 2011, we at the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program have entered our 31st year with pride and trepidation—pride for the work that has been accomplished in helping women cope with a diagnosis of breast cancer and trepidation about the loss of significant funding.

When the program started, I was the director of community relations for the School of Social Work. The Oncology Support Program, as it was called then, was part of our Social Services Center. I’ve watched the program and the world come out of the closet about breast cancer, as we lead Long Island in breast cancer activism. Every breast cancer activist group on Long Island started at our program as women came together to demand research and better treatment options.

The heart of our program is the service we provide to women (and men) and their families as they confront breast cancer. Our volunteers—most of whom are women who have or had breast cancer—and our staff are the most dedicated group of individuals I have ever worked with. They care, and they have passed that sense of caring on to the social work students who have done their field service in the program.

Jennifer Klein M.S.W. ’09 is a sterling example of the type of student who has been part of our program. Ms. Klein, with a master’s degree in student personnel administration, began the Adelphi M.S.W. program in the Spring of 2007. Her first internship was with us where she ran three support groups and worked with four individual clients. She says, “My experience was one I would never forget; I came out of this internship with a new perspective of life and compassion.”

At that time, personal tragedy struck when Ms. Klein’s mother was diagnosed with lung cancer and died within two months. She credits her internship with helping her through this terrible time. “The program guided me through this process and, to be honest, if it weren’t for the strength of the clients I was helping and working with, I would never have gotten through. It was a relief to come in to the internship and help clients who had strength. The program saved me that year.”

Ms. Klein promised herself that she would do everything in her power to “pay forward” what was given to her that year. She has made breast cancer and lung cancer causes for her advocacy and support, and has done that through her job at Queensborough Community College as a counselor where she helps the College Discovery Club. Knowing the value of the program, she has referred three people. She says, “Because of my experiences, I have been able to help people in my personal life as well as help people professionally with breast cancer.”

In Fall of 2010, we learned our program had fallen victim to the budget crisis in Albany. Our program was completely eliminated from the budget, a loss of more than one-third of our operating costs. It will be through the help of former interns such as Ms. Klein and the thousands that the program has served in its 31 years that we will be able to continue. Marshalling support, we will advocate for restored funding in the next budget cycle. In the meantime, private support will sustain us, especially in an era of evaporating public funds.

For more information about how you, your friends, family, and others you know can contribute, visit adelphi.edu/nysbreastcancer.
Dr. Mullin Reflects on a Decade at Adelphi

When he embarked on a career in social work, James Mullin had no plans to be a professor. But, life eventually brought him to Adelphi where, as the director of the School of Social Work’s undergraduate program, he discovered the dream job he hadn’t expected. Now, after a decade at Adelphi, Dr. Mullin is retiring. We spoke with him about his Adelphi experience and his impact on the School and its students.

Q: What led you to Adelphi?
A: I was a sociology major at the college I attended. Although the school did not have an undergraduate social work program, it was through the influence of a professor in that department that I became interested in social work. I went on to earn an M.S.W. degree, and through the influence of a professor in that department that I became interested in teaching. I happened to see an ad in the SUNY-Albany School of Social Work. Over about 13 years as an adjunct professor, I discovered that I enjoyed teaching and working with students, but that I wasn’t either interested in or ready to do it full time. When I moved to Long Island, I worked in not-for-profit social agencies, but discovered that I missed teaching. I happened to see an ad in the NASW News for a professor/director of the undergraduate social work program at Adelphi, and saw this as an opportunity to combine my love of teaching with my administrative knowledge and skills. So, I submitted an application, and here I am 10 years later.

Q: What would you say are some of the highlights of your time at Adelphi?
A: What has been most memorable about my time at Adelphi has been the relationships I have with students, faculty, and staff. The position of director of the B.S.W. program enables me to become very familiar with students. I see them from their application stage all the way through graduation. I know all of them. Some, for example, those who start here as freshmen and continue on to the master’s program, I know for five years. I’m a professor for many of them, as well as their adviser. I’ve enjoyed being a part of the Adelphi faculty, and being with so many talented people. I’ve learned a lot from my colleagues, those in the School of Social Work as well as in other departments and schools, especially those with whom I’ve served on various University committees. We say in social work that you need to be a life-long learner, and I can thank my colleagues for providing me with a great continuing education.

From President Scott to, especially Dean Andy Safer, I’ve enjoyed very positive and important relationships with administrative staff, students, that innovative quality epitomized the School,” she says. Soon after joining the Adelphi faculty full time in 1976, Dr. Skolnik became involved in the School of Social Work’s community clinic. She developed it into the Adelphi Social Services Center and became its director. She says that the now 31-year-old Adelphi-New York Statewide Hotline & Support Program, as well as numerous other state-funded programs, emerged from the Center. Summing up such creativity, Dr. Skolnik says there was “a sense that we were a school that innovated and led the way for the country.” Later, as director of human services for Nassau County, Dr. Skolnik was part of the team that developed the No Wrong Door initiative to coordinate the efforts of the social services departments that served Nassau’s residents.

“Dr. Skolnik is someone who has made a real and lasting impact at Adelphi University and the community around us,” says Adelphi Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gayle D. Iner. “Her work emphasized innovation in creating solutions, with a highly collaborative model of problem-solving. The Adelphi community is very fortunate to have had Dr. Skolnik as a colleague and partner in the important work of the county, and we are stronger for it.”
Welcome
New Faculty and Administrators

Marilyn Paul
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Paul received her Ph.D. and M.S.W. from Adelphi. Her research focuses on the complex psychosocial issues confronting contemporary families, especially issues concerning families formed with advanced medical technology and third-party assistance. Her previous research in the field has dealt with infertility, pregnancy loss, and related grief. In her former position as a maternal-child social worker at North Shore University Hospital, Dr. Paul created a pregnancy and infant loss support program. She is also a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. As a new Hudson Valley faculty member, Dr. Paul is working on creating and strengthening partnerships with social agencies and organizations throughout New York.

Sandra Nicaisse
Director, Manhattan Center Program

Ms. Nicaisse obtained her M.S.W. from Columbia University. Prior to joining Adelphi, she was a program director of COBRA case management at Housing Works, the largest community-based AIDS service organization in the United States, where she supervised clinical and administrative staff members and coordinated client services. Ms. Nicaisse has also worked as a social work supervisor at Good Shepherd Services, Safe Horizon, and St. Vincent’s Services in Brooklyn, New York, and her research experience includes four years in charge of data collection at Cornell University Department of Psychology. She is interested in pursuing a doctorate in education with a focus in black studies. In addition to her new position overseeing the Manhattan Center program, Ms. Nicaisse personally advises new and returning students.

Regina Tracy
Student Affairs Coordinator, Hudson Valley Center

Dr. Tracy earned her D.S.W. and M.S.W. from Adelphi. She has been working at the Adelphi School of Social Work for the last 22 years in various administrative and teaching capacities in Garden City, Hauppauge, and Hudson Valley. In addition to her new position as student affairs coordinator at the Hudson Valley Center, Dr. Tracy is a senior adjunct faculty member in the M.S.W. program. Her research has focused on social involvement among the elderly, and she is interested in engaging students in the field of gerontology. Her other areas of expertise include case management, community mental health, and research methodology.

Patricia Durecko
Office Manager and Budget Coordinator

Ms. Durecko received her B.B.A. in business and communications from Adelphi’s University College. She also has an Associate of Applied Science degree from Nassau Community College in early childhood education. Prior to joining Adelphi’s administrative staff, she had a 27-year career at Verizon Communications, Inc., where she most recently served as a customer service administrative manager and staff manager. In 2001, Ms. Durecko received the Verizon Excellence Award, which is the highest recognition for a Verizon employee. Her daughter recently graduated from the Adelphi School of Nursing.

Hudson Valley Happenings

With increasing student enrollment and additions to the faculty and staff, Adelphi’s Hudson Valley Center has expanded by developing a second building in the historic 19th century complex in Poughkeepsie, New York. The new space boasts a state-of-the-art computer lab, two classrooms, and office space for faculty. The Center’s main building has been reconfigured to house a spacious library, student lounge and study areas, and office space for faculty and staff.

The Hudson Valley Center is Adelphi’s oldest off-campus site. The Master of Social Work program was established in 1974 at the request of state, county, and non-profit agencies, as well as the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The program has attracted practitioners and career-changers alike, with a diverse student body coming from areas across New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The Center currently serves 135 students, and has graduated nearly 1,000 social work professionals. To meet the needs of a growing student body and regional changes in the Mid-Hudson Valley, the Center continues to evolve.

“In recent years, there has been the addition of a community outreach coordinator, a librarian, a student affairs coordinator, and a full-time faculty member,” said Eileen Chadwick, director of the Hudson Valley Center. She added that, “Classes are offered in the evening and on Saturdays to accommodate the needs of our students, many of whom are employed.”

Another growing presence at the Center is the Graduate Student Association (GSA), a student leadership program serving the surrounding community and raising public awareness of current social issues. This past year, the GSA has made a sizeable impact.

Joanne Vazquez ’11 led the Bags of Bounty Thanksgiving food drive last fall to support low-income families in Poughkeepsie. Approximately 600 pounds of food were gathered by students to help families complete their holiday dinners.

“Their generosity was overwhelming,” Ms. Vazquez said of the bounty. “We donated 21 bags of food and $150 in gift cards, exceeding our original goal.”

The Hudson Valley Center also collaborated with the Garden City campus in a midnight run to collect personal items for New York City’s homeless population, among other events.

In March, the students traveled to Albany to lobby State legislators on behalf of the profession, our clients, and communities.

To learn more about the Hudson Valley Center and its Graduate Student Association, visit socialwork.adelphi.edu/about or check out its Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/phigadsa
Dr. Rozario’s primary interest was how the
children for financial maintenance.
Because of the close historical links between the United States and South Korea, following the United War, South Korea’s initial special education laws largely mirrored the U.S. laws, but not exactly.

“There are two major differences,” says Dr. Palley. First, in South Korea, universal education is mandated for all students from age three. Second, in U.S. special education policy, parents have the right to a hearing. In South Korea, parents have the ability to be part of the process, but there is no option for court hearings. “They’re just not as litigious a society,” says Dr. Palley.

While South Korea has had special education laws for almost as long as the U.S., says Dr. Palley, both countries have struggled to fund the implementation of these laws. Furthermore, there is more of a stigma toward disability throughout Korean society than in the United States, but much is changing. In the last five years, new legislation has passed, and Dr. Palley believes it is likely to have a significant impact. In the past, many civil rights laws in South Korea were passed in part to appeal positively in the eyes of the rest of the industrialized world. Now, “there is more of an internal pressure for change,” she says.

Special Education in South Korea

In the Spring of 2010, Dr. Elizabeth Palley from the School of Social Work had a Fulbright Teaching Award to teach American disability policy and social science theory at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. While there, she began a project with a colleague, Joan Yoo, at Seoul National University looking at Korean special education policy, its implementation, and the influence that U.S. policy has had on the South Korean special education policy.

“The disability rights movement began in the United States. The U.S. also had the first major special education legislation,” explains Dr. Palley.

In follow-up research, Dr. Kim is expanding his scope from 18 countries to 35, using similar longitudinal data to explore connections between social spending and economic globalization. “My hypothesis is that if a country wants a more globalized society, that country should develop a stronger welfare state,” Dr. Kim says. For the answer, we’ll have to wait and see.

Globalization and the Welfare State

While some professors are conducting research in one or two countries, Assistant Professor Tae Kuen Kim is looking at 18. “My research is on the relationship between globalization and the welfare state,” he explains. In particular, Dr. Kim’s most recent research has focused on connections between globalization and the welfare state in 18 OECD countries, including the U.S. and countries in Asia and Europe.

Examining data from 1970 to 2005, Dr. Kim determined that, despite previous studies which argued that globalization led to reduced social spending in welfare states, this was not the case. By further dividing welfare states into “conservative,” “liberal,” and “social democratic” groupings, he was able to reach more nuanced conclusions.

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On the School of Social Work

The University is really and has become a much more dynamic place in recent years. The School of Social Work was always pretty much more dynamic place in recent years. On the School of Social Work

The School of Social Work has produced a string of bright teachers and scholars. Dr. Elizabeth Palley is just one of those. She has taught American disability policy and social science theory at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. While there, she began a project with a colleague, Joan Yoo, at Seoul National University looking at Korean special education policy, its implementation, and the influence that U.S. policy has had on the South Korean special education policy.

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Adelphi’s Nonprofit Leadership Center Grows to Meet Swelling Demand

THE STORY THIS PAST YEAR at the Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership has been growth. “We’ve been busier than ever,” says the Center’s director, Ann Marie Thigpen. “The number of clients has increased dramatically. The need for our services is greater than ever.” The LICNL has continued to adapt those services to the needs of Long Island’s nonprofit organizations even as demand has drastically increased. Perhaps foremost among its new, and popular, services, is Learning to Lead, the Center’s leadership certification program aimed at new and emerging nonprofit leaders. Launched in fall 2010, the program emphasizes a hands-on approach to developing leadership skills under a collaborative framework. “There’s a leadership deficit today,” Ms. Thigpen says. “This program is designed to address that deficit.”

Along with Learning to Lead came another new initiative, Building for Change. The program works with organizations that address issues of social equity to solidify their infrastructure so that they can sustain the valuable work they do and achieve a positive social impact on Long Island. “We work intensely with the selected organizations to build their capacity and help their sustainability,” Ms. Thigpen says.

Meanwhile, the LICNL has expanded its series of Executive Director Roundtables, which are held monthly at the School of Social Work building on campus in Garden City. The purpose of the roundtables is to provide nonprofit executive directors a forum of peers to whom they can turn when they need guidance or feedback. “Think of it as a peer support group,” says Ms. Thigpen, “where we talk about the issues executives face on the Island.” The center has also begun to offer Webinars. For example, we recently had one that covered what a board and executive need to know about social networking.

Once again the LICNL hosted the Allstate Foundation Economics Against Abuse Training program, but in 2011, says Ms. Thigpen, the number of participants increased by four times over the previous year. With three events throughout the spring semester, one each at Adelphi’s Manhattan Center, Hauppauge Campus, and Garden City campus, the program provides domestic violence and women’s service professionals the opportunity to deliver financial empowerment training directly to their clients.

“It’s just been amazing,” Ms. Thigpen says of the program’s explosive growth. “It’s not surprising, in terms of need for this kind of service, but the response has been amazing, without any kind of aggressive marketing. You can say the same about the growth of the entire Center this year. It’s all been because of great word of mouth, which is the best marketing there is.”

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Meanwhile, the LICNL has expanded its series of Executive Director Roundtables, which are held monthly at the School of Social Work building on campus in Garden City. The purpose of the roundtables is to provide nonprofit executive directors a forum of peers to whom they can turn when they need guidance or feedback. “Think of it as a peer support group,” says Ms. Thigpen, “where we talk about the issues executives face on the Island.” The center has also begun to offer Webinars. For example, we recently had one that covered what a board and executive need to know about social networking.

Once again the LICNL hosted the Allstate Foundation Economics Against Abuse Training program, but in 2011, says Ms. Thigpen, the number of participants increased by four times over the previous year. With three events throughout the spring semester, one each at Adelphi’s Manhattan Center, Hauppauge Campus, and Garden City campus, the program provides domestic violence and women’s service professionals the opportunity to deliver financial empowerment training directly to their clients.

“It’s just been amazing,” Ms. Thigpen says of the program’s explosive growth. “It’s not surprising, in terms of need for this kind of service, but the response has been amazing, without any kind of aggressive marketing. You can say the same about the growth of the entire Center this year. It’s all been because of great word of mouth, which is the best marketing there is.”

Along with Learning to Lead came another new initiative, Building for Change. The program works with organizations that address issues of social equity to solidify their infrastructure so that they can sustain the valuable work they do and achieve a positive social impact on Long Island. “We work intensely with the selected organizations to build their capacity and help their sustainability,” Ms. Thigpen says.


Book Chapters


Refereed Conference Presentations

Abu-Ras, W., "Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Services for Muslim Patients in NYC Hospitals." Paper presented at the 56th Annual Program Meeting of Counsel on Social Work Education. Portland, Oregon, October 2010.


Cohen, C., "When, Where, and How Do Professional Practitioners Become Supervisors?" Presented at the Sixth International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision. Adelphi University, Garden City, New York, June 2010.


Joyce, P., and Berger, R., "From Research to Practice: Developing and Delivering a Culturally Competent Trauma Curriculum for Child Welfare Practitioners after 9/11." Presented at the European Society for Trauma and Dissociation. Second Biannual Conference. Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, April 2010.


Kelley, D., and Araújo Dawson, B., "Deconstructing Social Disconnectedness to Understand the Cross-National Transmission of Racism and Its Impact on the Dimensions of Depression, Civil Identity, and Democratic Representation." Virtual presentation at the 10th International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations, Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, July 2010.


Cohen, C., Magowan, M., Muskat, B. and Oshiver, A., "Les Standards de Pratique de l’AASWG pour le Service Social des GroupeS.
Calling All School of Social Work Alumni

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