

# SocialWork

Fall/Winter 2007



## University of South Carolina



### Alumni Spotlight

**Debra Massey, MSW '81,**  
school social worker,  
Richland District 1 Schools

*“That you empowered someone to take control of their lives again, that’s what it means to be a change agent... It’s not about the paycheck.”*

health, and prenatal care for the Department of Health and Environmental Control. She helped develop and operate a turnkey shelter where nearly 12 human service agencies offered assistance to the homeless, was program director for the Richland County Department of Social Service when HIV was becoming a true epidemic, did home health care and hospice work for Baptist Medical Center, and briefly served as program director for Epworth Children’s Home. Some people might be physically and emotionally exhausted by simply thinking about Debra’s accomplishments, but she is hardly fazed, crediting her endurance to her mother—a foundation fortified by what she learned at the college.

“The classes here taught me the theory and gave me a better understanding of the history of social work,” Debra remembers. “It put gut-level work into a clinical perspective. It brought everything full circle.” She credits former faculty members like Dr. John Gandy, who helped her in subjects where she was weak, and she appreciated the intimate classes that allowed her to connect to her classmates.

“We didn’t feel estranged from each other,” she says, recalling how important that was for her as she commuted from Winnsboro. “We would get together after class—grab a pack of crackers and a soda, and have study groups. It really prepared me.”

Debra, who celebrated a milestone birthday in August 2007, has no plans to

Upon meeting Debra Massey, MSW '81, it is soon clear that the only thing bigger than her smile is her heart. The Richland County School District 1 social worker recently was honored with the College of Social Work’s 2007 Alumni of the Year award. For more than 25 years, she has served vulnerable populations throughout South Carolina, beginning with an \$11,000-a-year job as a family specialist with Head Start.

“But you don’t go into it for the money; you go into it because you want to bring forth a change in society as a whole,” she explains. Only the anecdotes she has collected—some heartwarming, others heartbreaking—are more colorful and diverse than the stops she has made on her career itinerary. And nearly all of those experiences, she says, have been personally and professionally fulfilling.

There was the job she took with Children Unlimited, where she handled special needs adoptions, and the work she did with family planning, child

### From the Dean



### Dennis Poole

My vision is for the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina to be the premier setting for transdisciplinary, community-engaged teaching, research, and social innovation. To achieve this vision, we must:

- engage community leaders, scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers in mutually beneficial partnerships of social significance at university and community levels simultaneously.
- translate and blend scientific knowledge of the University with experiential knowledge of communities to promote social well-being and social justice for vulnerable children, families, and older adults in diverse communities of South Carolina.
- teach social work students to conduct wide-ranging, scalable change through community engagement, policy analysis, and evidence-based practice.
- act as a catalyst for positive social transformation through the development, testing, and dissemination of social innovations in strategically selected communities of the state.

# New Funding to Help Seniors Stay Independent

Carolina has received \$5 million in state funding for a SeniorSMART™ Center of Economic Excellence that will focus on multidisciplinary research to foster independence for senior citizens.

The center's research will focus specifically on three themes: SHARPBrain (helping seniors maintain or improve memory and brain function), SMART-Wheels (promoting independent mobility outside the home), and SMARTHome (helping seniors maintain independent mobility inside the home). Endowed chairs for the SHARPBrain and SMARTHome research will reside at Carolina; an endowed chair for the SMARTWheels research will be at Clemson University.

Collaborating on the center are Clemson and Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC), a public-private partnership of the state's research universities and three major health care systems. Funding for the center must be matched dollar for dollar by private, federal, or municipal funds, and HSSC has announced it will provide a portion of the required nonstate match.

Working with Paul Eleazer, professor of internal medicine at South Carolina's School of Medicine and principal investigator of the project and center director, will be the College of Social Work's dean, Dennis Poole; William Logan, director of geriatrics at the Greenville Hospital System; Victor Hirth, USC/Palmetto Geriatrics; Johnell Brooks, Clemson University; Harriett Williams and James Laditka, Arnold School of Public Health; and Judy Baskins, Palmetto Health/USC.



## Alumni Spotlight

**William "Bill" Deemer, MSW '71,**  
certified financial planner

*"I feel an allegiance to social work and social workers.... I think Social Work is getting broader, getting into different things."*

As a member of the College of Social Work's first cohort, which graduated in 1971, Bill Deemer has seen the evolution not only of the College of Social Work program but of the social work profession.

His initial exposure to professional social work was in the United States Army, where he worked in a mental hygiene clinic. He earned an undergraduate degree in marketing and, later, an MBA, both from Carolina. So why would Deemer pursue a formal career in social work with degrees in marketing and business?

Deemer lived in a foster home and was adopted as a child; the social workers who helped him and the family who raised him motivated him to become a social worker. "The family I was raised with was a very giving family," he said. "I felt an allegiance to social work and social workers."

He became the first social worker at the former Central Correctional Institution (CCI) and worked there a total of 27 years as the social work supervisor, then director of the division of human services for all of CCI, now the Department of Corrections.

"I felt good working in corrections," he said, "we did a lot of good things."

While he enjoyed his work in corrections, Deemer took advantage of the opportunity to retire early and began the certification process to become an independent financial planner in the early 1990s. He has worked as a CFP since.

"I didn't know it was going to be so natural," he said, "I thought I would just be dealing with dollars and cents." But Deemer did not totally abandon his mental health background when he transitioned into financial planning. He teaches classes on the psychology of money, which deals with individual behavior in relation to money. "Money is powerful and pervasive in all our lives, and we all have a money personality," explained Deemer, who is a donor to the College of Social Work and encourages others to do the same. "Our individual relationship to money—our childhood, parents—affects how we think about money, what it is and what it isn't. It became an area that I picked up on early and now it has become more popular."

Deemer teaches on the psychology of money to various groups from educators to social workers because the topic is so relevant. The move to the business world is a testament to the diverse professional opportunities made available with the MSW. Deemer said he sees social work becoming broader and more diverse as students are attracted to administration, nonprofit work and other opportunities in the field that "weren't there 20 years ago."

## Alumna-student friendship comes to short, bittersweet end



Despite having lived with a past that included “criminality and drug addiction” and a future that ultimately led to his agonizing and painful death, when MSW student Arjun Nicastro sat with Yancey Wise, MSW ’81, in March 2007, he told her, “I feel like I’m the luckiest man in the world!”

The two met for the first time over lunch at McCutchen House on the Carolina campus. There, Nicastro—who was a member of the 2007 MSW cohort—was able to personally thank the woman who made it financially possible for him to complete his degree requirements. It was a bittersweet encounter because although Nicastro did live to meet his donor, he did not live to graduate with his classmates.

Nicastro had been informed in the winter of 2006 that he was a 2006–2007 recipient of the Dorthea Crouch Kemp Fellowship. Wise established the fund in memory of her mother to support students who continue to pursue an MSW despite facing personal, life-changing challenges.

At the time of his application, Nicastro had indeed overcome some personal challenges: he was a seventh-grade dropout who developed an addiction to heroin at age 14. By the time he was 17 Nicastro had been convicted of several drug-related crimes and was sentenced to life in prison as a habitual felon. After serving 23 years in prison, he was released in 1998 with \$100 to his name and Hepatitis C in his blood.

Nicastro, who was 48 and living near Chapel Hill, N.C., at the time of his death, was able to get his life on track after earning a GED. He developed an interest in social work while being counseled by a social worker in prison and eventually earned a BSW from North Carolina Central University. He was married with a four-year-old son, and he worked as outpatient services coordinator for Freedom House Recovery Center, a nonprofit organization that provides services to alcohol and drug addicts.

Based on the story he shared in his application essay, Wise believed that Nicastro fulfilled the fellowship criteria.

“A lot of people don’t think people change, but they do,” said Wise, a retired social worker. “Social workers believe people change.”

It seemed like things had changed for the best for Nicastro, but shortly after winning the award, he informed Dean Dennis Poole and others in the College of Social Work via e-mail that he had been diagnosed with acute leukemia.

“It was explained to me that means not only sudden onset but also very fast acting,” Nicastro wrote in his e-mail. “In other words, if I do not begin treatment immediately I might die in less than one month. Very sobering.”

The student did immediately begin treatment, but he didn’t do it alone. Along with care from his wife, Janaki, Nicastro received support in the form of mail, e-mails, telephone calls, and visits from COSW faculty, staff, and classmates, and Yancey Wise.

“I was so concerned about him,” Wise said. As the result of his ambitious studying while receiving chemotherapy treatment, Nicastro was eligible to graduate in the spring, but continued to undergo chemotherapy and a physician-recommended bone marrow transplant that would “boost survival rate but bring severe side effects.”

Despite his illness, he told Wise during their lunch, “I will not develop invalid consciousness. I hesitate to use the words ‘tragic’ and ‘awful’ because,” he told her, “it hasn’t been so far.”

Nicastro’s health rapidly declined after his meeting with Wise, and he died April 26, 2007. Nicastro wanted to continue his social work education by pursuing a Ph.D.

## An Update from The Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS)

*Jennifer Reid, MA, Writer and Editor, CCFS*

Where practice, policy, and research intersect to affect change in the lives of children and families, The Center for Child and Family Studies does outstanding work. A branch of the College of Social Work since its inception 20 years ago, CCFS bridges academia and the greater society via its range of talents, and local and national contacts. Boasting a record of exemplary projects, CCFS continues to address social issues in and beyond South Carolina.

Current Center initiatives include a longitudinal survey of adolescents in care under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Flynn. The Transitions Survey is one of the few in the nation to look in such detail at permanent connections with adults, education, and attention to mental and emotional health. Survey results help the Department of Social Services create and modify policy and procedures to enhance protective factors. South Carolina is one of six states chosen to participate in the National Governors’ Association Policy Academy on Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care. The Center is involved in this Academy and is creating a separate survey for adults ages 22–30 to study their transitions from care into adulthood.

Building on extensive research on the role of victimization in the lives of incarcerated women, funded by the National Institute of Justice, Dr. Dana DeHart is currently researching the link between victimization and crime among girls in the juvenile justice system, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and other agencies. The center is also collaborating with the State Office for Victim Assistance to develop a state victim service coordinating council.

“I can’t think of doing anything other than social work,” he told Wise, “I love working with people and helping them rebuild their lives.”

Wise was invited to make comments on her friendship with Nicastro at the May commencement, where she also met for the first time Nicastro’s son Dylan and his wife, who was hooded in his memory.

“As time goes by I have come to appreciate Arjun’s time at USC more and more,” Janaki wrote in a recent e-mail. “The universe placed him there and I am grateful for that, and to your staff and faculty. Thank you!”

The Social Work Student Association, the College of Social Work, and the Nicastro family are developing a fund designed to offer auxiliary support to students who are living with or are in remission from, or are caring for a family member who suffers from, cancer, or a student who has overcome personal challenges. To make a gift, please contact Mai Li Muñoz Adams, alumni development director, at 803-777-3902 or [munoz.adams@sc.edu](mailto:munoz.adams@sc.edu).



## COSW Cockaboose!

The college hosted a pregame reception for alumni and friends in Cockaboose #14 before the Gamecocks’ first game of the season, against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. The Gamecocks beat the Ragin’ Cajuns 28-14, and it very likely could have been because of the support they got from the college cheering from the stands!

# COSW works to end hunger in S.C.

By Laura Boudon, Ph.D., MSW, COSW Director of Student Affairs

This year fall orientation for incoming MSW students was designed to be much more interactive and quite memorable. Many of the new students had the opportunity to sit with colleagues and faculty to discuss their passion for social work and learn about several important social issues affecting South Carolinians.

The future social workers were asked to choose one issue, prepare talking points about the issue, make recommendations about steps the College of Social Work could take to address it, and design a T-shirt. Students, faculty, and staff were then invited to vote for one of the six issues as our college issue for the 2007–2008 academic year, and we voted as a community to end HUNGER in South Carolina!

According to Harvest Hope Food Bank, South Carolina has the second

*“The first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.”  
—Norman Borlaug*

highest percentage of hungry people in the nation. We are currently strategizing about ways to best use our resources and abilities to make a difference at the state and local levels. We know that members of our community will want to get involved in a variety of ways that best suit their time, resources, strengths, and interests, and we invite you to join us help end hunger in South Carolina.

This student project complements Dean Dennis Poole’s vision for the College of Social Work. “My vision for the College of Social Work,” says Dr. Poole, “is to be the premier setting for community-engaged research, teaching, and service. Why not begin with one of the most basic needs of life: food security?”

It will be a great learning and community-building experience for MSW students to work alongside faculty and staff to identify, assess needs, and address an issue. With students taking classes at many different times, days, and locations, a community-wide project is a positive and meaningful way to have students meet and work together as a community to make a difference.

As a college, we are putting into practice what we ask our students to do in some of their classes and field placements. If you are passionate about addressing hunger in South Carolina and want to join our efforts, please contact me at 803-777-3599 or [boudon@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:boudon@gwm.sc.edu).

Questions/comments: [boudon@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:boudon@gwm.sc.edu)

Debra Massey continued from page 1

slow down. “That you empower someone to take control of their life again, that’s what it means to be a change agent. That, to me, makes up for all the miles you drive up and down the highway to make home visits, for getting doors slammed in your face,” she says. “It is not something that is learned; it is a gift to be in this line of work. This has to be your purpose in your life. You have to love it; you have to feel it, or you’ll burn out and stop, and there’s nothing worse than someone who is burned out and doesn’t care anymore.”

# Looking Beyond Ourselves and Learning from Others

By Alex Espadas, Ph.D., COSW Assistant Professor



We live in a world where people share experiences with common root causes. We might better understand and explain experiences within our geographic borders if we try to understand what happens or could happen beyond our borders. Addressing these issues through scholarship, research, and service are principles of international social work.

The College of Social Work (COSW) intends to further explore international social work via various collaborations, including one I have initiated with Colegio Kukulcan (CK) in Cancun, Mexico. CK is a school with a student population of more than 700, many of whom have a history of behavioral, emotional, and substance abuse issues. Families migrate from across Mexico to Cancun to make money to support immediate and distant families. In doing so they leave familial, social, and community support networks to enter an environment that does not reflect their culture. Parents spend most of their time working, while simultaneously dealing with their own sense of loss, leaving children unsupervised, unsupported, and coping with stress by using drugs or alcohol, or developing affective problems (e.g., stress/anxiety, anger, depression). This results in children's poor academic performance, dropping out of school, legal problems, marginalization/isolation, and unsafe sexual practices.

Colegio Kukulcan offers in-house psychosocial services, off-site extended treatment programs, and the opportunity

for involvement with various community projects and claims to have a high degree of success helping students stay in school and manage their psychosocial problems, as well as helping them excel academically and, later, attend college. What the school lacks is the clinical, research, and theoretical skills to help empirically demonstrate and explain success.

Studies related to the adaptation of Hispanic immigrant families to the United States often describe a similar process of migration and assimilation challenges—and resulting similar psychosocial issues—to those described for families migrating to Cancun. It would benefit Hispanic immigrant youth to both the United States and Cancun to study and learn from CK staff what interventions have been successful for them.

A class is currently being developed that will allow COSW students to work with CK teachers and student leaders via the Internet to develop, plan, and implement psychosocial and academic intervention focused on the needs of students from migrant families in Cancun. This will facilitate COSW students' learning of cross-cultural perspectives on school social work with Hispanic students and allow COSW students to practice program development and research skills to the benefit of CK. Future efforts will involve students and alumni traveling to Cancun to work with CK staff in clinical and research projects, study the efficacy of interventions used at CK with Hispanic students in South Carolina, and develop transnational community support virtual environments.

**Questions/comments:** [espadas@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:espadas@gwm.sc.edu)

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## Student Welcome Reception

Dr. Judith Whiting, MSW '76, hosted a welcome reception for new MSW and Ph.D. students at her Columbia law firm on Aug. 31, 2007. More than two dozen students, alumni, faculty, and staff members gathered at the restored two-story house to meet and greet each other over delicious refreshments.



# Class Notes

## 1971

**Forrest (Hemphill) Yanke (MSW)** is a licensed clinical social worker and licensed marriage and family therapist in Florida. Living in Panama City, Fla., Forrest is a Christian social worker in the process of retiring after 25 years in private practice. She earned a doctorate in philosophy in religion and societal studies in 1998, then taught part-time at Florida State University's College of Social Work. She is now project director of the Homeless Day Resource Center, operated by the Homeless and Hunger Coalition of Florida, and supervises FSU's College of Social Work undergraduate and graduate students who intern at the center.

## 1973

**Dr. Kin Sturkie (MSW)** is chair of and professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Clemson University, where he has taught for 26 years. In 2003 he received the Class of 1939 Award for Faculty Excellence, the highest award given to a Clemson faculty member.

## 1979

**Evelyn (Lyn) Phillips (MSW)** works as director of the South Carolina Birth Defects Program at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Bureau of Maternal and Child Health).

## 1992

**Michell Roberts (MSW), LMSW**, is currently employed with the Department of Mental Health as a school-based mental health counselor. Michelle is working toward completing her doctorate degree in human services with Capella University. In the summer of 2007, she received Robert L. Grove Scholarship for the quarter.

## 1993

**Michael Nienhuis (MSW)** wrote on behalf of his wife, **Amy Nienhuis (MSW)**, who recently was a recipient of the "Heroes in the Field" Award in honor of significant contributions in reducing the incidence of infant mortality. The award is sponsored by March of Dimes, Palmetto Health,

and Palmetto Healthy Start. Amy currently serves as state coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program.

## 1994

**Courtney (Rinehart) Sullivan (MSW), LMSW**, is executive director of A Loving Choice International Inc. Adoption Agency and a certified adoption investigator for South Carolina.

## 1995

**Allen Barbare (MSW)** has been an instructor in the Human Services Department at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC since 2004. Allen teaches case management, behavior modification, interviewing skills, social work and activity therapy.

## 1996

**Lynne (Bolt) Hansen (MSW)** joined the University of South Florida College of Medicine as a faculty administrator for the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences June 2007. Her current primary responsibility is the coordination of reaccreditation activities for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program; in spring 2008 she will focus on curriculum development and faculty support. She is married to Emmy Award-winning television director Dennis "Chip" Hansen and mom to Jillian, Sullivan and Hayden.

**Rosetta Harmon Penny (MSW)** is a school social worker for the Child Study Team Special Education Department with Richland County School District one in South Carolina.

**Marcia Davis Taylor (MSW), LMSW** is the victim services program manager for CASA/Family Systems in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She has the managerial/administrative responsibility for domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Marcia recently became certified by the National District Attorneys Association in its National Child Protection Training Center program as a forensic interviewer for the purpose of interviewing children and preparing for court in alleged cases of sexual and physical abuse.

## 1997

**Amy Bernstein (MSW), LCSW, CH, EFT-ADV**, owns Lakeside Counseling and Hypnotherapy Center in Mooresville, N.C. The center offers counseling in hypnotherapy and emotional freedom techniques.

**Tricia Tiller (Lanahan) Johnson (MSW), LCSW** is a school social worker in Buncombe County Schools, Asheville, N.C., and is certified as a Level 1 EAGALA therapist who has worked with Horse Sense of the Carolinas using Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy with children, adolescents, and families. She married James Johnson (Carolina Law School alumnus) in 2003 and gave birth to a baby boy, Tiller, May 16, 2007.

## 1999

**Shannon (Watson) Cook (MSW)** is a counselor for the older blind through the South Carolina Commission for the Blind.

**Jennifer L. Reed (MSW)** is currently employed with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Region One Intake and Evaluation Team. Her daughter, Brigetta, is a fourth grader at Northwest Elementary School in Chatsworth, Ga. Jennifer took up motorcycling in 2005, and her longest trip to date has been to Savannah, Ga.

**Carolyn H. Smith (MSW)** is Laurens County director for the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

**Tamara Smith (MSW)** is program director for Community Support Programs with Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center, where she coordinates services for its psychosocial rehabilitation programs, peer support programs, individual placement supported program, and the federally funded mental health treatment study. The peer support program Tamara works with recently was awarded the Heroes in the Fight Award for Best Program in 2007. In October 2007 ABMHC plans to open a Shared Decision Making Center. Tamara took and passed the LMSW licensure exam in September 2007.

**Michelle Varner (MSW), LCSW**, currently works as a survey consultant with the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation.

**Natalie Denise Weathers (MSW), LISW-CP, LCSW** currently works part-time as a therapist at the Family Service Center of South Carolina. She obtained the social work clinical licensure in Georgia and South Carolina.

## 2000

**Mary Katherine (Nelson) Daniels (MSW)** began working after graduation as an early interventionist with Columbia-based Bright Start, helping developmentally disabled children from ages birth to three years old. She helped Bright Start develop a satellite office in Spartanburg and later moved to Atlanta with her husband, Matt. Now living in Charlotte, Katherine was case coordinator for the Carlton Watkins Center, working with developmentally disabled children until giving birth to son Nelson, who turned a year old Aug. 30, 2007.

## 2001

**Kimberly Sommerville (MSW)** is employed at the Center for Elders Independence (a PACE program) in Oakland, Calif. Kimberly also fulfilled a life-long dream of attending culinary school in 2005. Kimberly wants to connect with her classmates and invites you to e-mail her at [assam5563@aol.com](mailto:assam5563@aol.com) or 1819 7th Ave., Apt. 1, Oakland, Calif. 94606.

## 2002

**Shin Yun (MSW, Certificate of Gerontology), LMSW**, currently works at Palmetto Health Richland Memorial Hospital in the Heart Center as a medical social worker.

## 2004

**Kimberly McElroy (MSW), LMSW**, was recently promoted to director of therapeutic foster care for the Alston Wilkes Society in South Carolina. Kimberly is also a field instructor for the College of Social Work.

**Tracey Phillips (MSW), LMSW**, is an assistant professor at Springfield College's School of Human Services in Charleston, S.C. She is also a doctoral candidate at Regent University School of Psychology and Counseling.

# Faculty Update

## 2006

**Jennifer Browder (MSW, LMSW)**, is project coordinator on a research study at the Medical University of South Carolina's Family Services Research Center. She earned her LMSW license in September 2006. Jennifer and husband, Jamie, gave birth to their first child, Will, October 23, 2006.



**Jessica Warble (MSW)** is the coordinator of Case Management and Clinical Services at Epworth Children's Home in Columbia.

## 2007

**Danielle "Dani" (Smith) Cady (MSW)** works as case manager for a nonprofit therapeutic center in Columbia and recently passed the licensure exam. She married 2nd Lt. Stephen Cady on June 2, 2007.



**Rochelle Renee Green (MSW)** is the review board coordinator for Children's Foster Care Review Board. In her spare time she sings soprano with the Sandlapper Singers and Trenholm Road United Methodist Church Choir.

**Dolores ("Dee") Harrington-Hucks (MSW, LMSW)**, works at Mattie C. Hall Health Care Center-Aiken. She took and passed the LMSW exam in July 2007.

**Michelle Skinner Makarski (MSW)** recently passed the Social Work Master's Level Board Examination and is licensed in South Carolina.

**Joan M. Pendergast (Ph.D.), LMSW, MSW**, is employed at Concord University (West Virginia) as assistant professor of social work.

**Katie Wicker (MSW)** is employed at Palmetto Health's Adolescent Recovery Center in Lexington, S.C.



Johnny Jones



Jinseok Kim



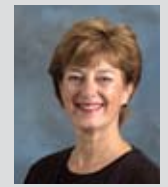
Nancy Brown



Nicholas  
Cooper-Lewter



Miriam Freeman



Arlene Andrews

**Dr. Johnny Jones'** paper "Collaboration for the Provision of Services: A Review of the Literature" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Community Practice*.

**Drs. Jinseok Kim and Karen Gray** had their manuscript "Leave or stay? Battered women's decision after intimate partner violence" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. It will appear in print in volume 23 no. 10, October 2008.

**Dr. Nancy Brown** was selected to receive a Teaching Excellence Grant for Tablet PCs in Teaching. She received use of a Gateway Tablet PC for one year, beginning summer 2007, as part of the grant.

**Dr. Nicholas Cooper-Lewter** was invited by the Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust to deliver a special presentation at its 2007 Spring Health Braintrust event April 20, 2007. The year's theme is "The Health and Wellness of the African-American Male: America's Challenge; Our Imperative."

**Dr. Jinseok Kim's** research productivity proposal on childhood victimization, sexual behavior develop-

ment, and neighborhood context was selected for an internal award of \$17,000 from the Office of Research and Health Sciences. The competition was very strong—only 9 of 70 proposals throughout the University were chosen by an independent scientific review panel for this particular award.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board selected **Dr. Miriam Freeman** as a Fulbright scholar grantee to Azerbaijan. As a Fulbrighter, Dr. Freeman joins the ranks of some 279,500 alumni in the program. Dr. Freeman currently serves as interim director of the social work program at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C.

**Dr. Arlene Andrews** had three book publications this year: Andrews, *Social Assessment History*, University of South Carolina Press; Beck, Britto, and Andrews, *In the Shadow of Death: Restorative Justice and Death Row Families*, Oxford University Press; Andrews, Culp, and Dexter, *Send Me! The Story of Salkehatchie Summer Service*, South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

## CCFS continued from page 3

Evaluation is an important component of the center's community work and research, and CCFS is evaluating BASICspaces, an Institute for Families in Society initiative to improve children's growth, play, and learning environments, and two Lexington County school programs designed to reduce school violence and partner mental health counselors with students in their own environment. With the Department of Education, the center is evaluating Boston University's annual Teacher Academies and Teen LEAD, a project that helps teens and their teachers learn and implement character education programs in their schools. In 2007 CCFS concluded a multiyear evaluation of the faith-based project Collaborative Response to Crime Victims in Urban Areas. Dr. Sandra Altshuler joins both the center and the college as research associate and associate professor, bringing nationally recognized expertise in translational, community-based research in child welfare.

Finally, supporting the work of CCFS and other agencies are the center's award-winning conference planning facility, directed by Margaret Marter, and its information design branch, headed by Beck Sullivan, winner of a string of national awards.

While these highlights do not encompass all of the center's work, they suggest the breadth of its capacity influenced by a staff that is diverse in academic knowledge, in community and practice background, and in the ability to work collectively to benefit South Carolina and the nation with the support of the college, the University, and the community. Learn more about The Center for Child and Family Studies at [www.sc.edu/ccfs](http://www.sc.edu/ccfs).



# SocialWork

University of South Carolina

## College of Social Work

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This is the first issue of **Social Work South Carolina**, so let us know what you think, and send us any updates on your professional, personal, or contact information!

Drop us a line at [coswalum@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:coswalum@gwm.sc.edu).

## You Can Always Make a Difference!

This year the College of Social Work admitted more than 240 advanced standing, full-time, and part-time students into our Columbia program, as well as nearly two dozen more into our Charleston and Greenville part-time classes. The demand for quality social work education—and quality social work practitioners and scholars—is great, but training capable and competent social workers is not free.

A tremendous number of our students, both domestic and international, depend on loans and other financial aid to finance their education. Figuring out how to pay for their education can distract them from what's most important when they enter our college: becoming focused students who are learning and synthesizing a strong curriculum to become effective practitioners. Perhaps you remember the anxiety of repaying your student loan?

You can help us relieve the financial pressure for at least one student, the way Yancey Wise did for Arjun Nicastro. As you prepare to make your end-of-year charitable donations, remember how easy it is to make a gift to the College of Social Work. Gifts are 100 percent tax deductible and can be used in the way you see fit. There are a number of charitable gift vehicles available to fit your and your family's lifestyle and philanthropic goals.

For more information on how to make a gift to the College of Social Work, please contact Mai Li Muñoz Adams, alumni development director, at 803-777-3902 or [munoz.adams@sc.edu](mailto:munoz.adams@sc.edu), or visit us online at [www.sc.edu](http://www.sc.edu) and click on "Make Your Gift to Carolina."