

SOCIALwork

FEATURED INSIDE >>

Mildred Otero: A Child Advocate's Path to Congress_[1](#)

Caroline Rosenthal Gelman Named 2007 Hartford Faculty Scholar; Will Research Latino Alzheimer's Patients and Family Caregivers_[2](#)

Report from the Dean_[3](#)

Professor Robert Leibson Hawkins Named to McSilver Professorship in the Study of Poverty_[4](#)

"The Forgotten Ones": Adult Brothers and Sisters of 9/11 Victims_[5](#)

Homelands—in Nicaragua and in America_[6](#)

Social Work Pioneer Eda Goldstein to Retire After 25 Years_[7](#)

PhD Program News_[8](#)

Undergraduate Jackie Espana Finds Inspiration, Volunteer Work in China_[10](#)

Lisa Bednarz Awarded Reynolds Undergraduate Scholarship_[10](#)

Ten SSSW Students Awarded Housing Scholarships from LCU Foundation_[11](#)

What Our Most Recent Graduates Are Doing_[11](#)

Continuing Education News_[12](#)

Social Work Fellowship Honors Memory of 1997 Alumna Amy Pearson
[_inside back cover](#)



1830s Townhouse, Wireless Included: Building Upgrades Bring Out the Best_[_inside back cover](#)

Constance and Martin Silver, Alumni and Benefactors, Pledge \$50 Million to the School of Social Work at NYU; New Professorship and Institute Planned

SSW is renamed the Silver School of Social Work at New York University

The largest private donation to a school of social work in the United States has been pledged to New York University by Constance and Martin Silver, both graduates of the University. The gift, valued at \$50 million, will be used to support the Constance McCatherin-Silver Fellowship, which provides financial aid to MSW students in need who are dedicated to helping minority populations; to establish a named professorship for a junior faculty member researching poverty, the McSilver Professorship in the Study of Poverty ("McSilver" is a combination of Constance Silver's married name and her maiden name, McCatherin); and to promote other new initiatives dedicated to the study of poverty and to better allocate funding, administration, and services. The funds will also help lay the groundwork for a planned McSilver Institute for

[CONTINUED ON INSIDE FRONT COVER >>](#)



Constance and Martin Silver, NYU Alumni and Benefactors

Constance and Martin Silver, Alumni and Benefactors, Pledge \$50 Million to the School of Social Work at NYU; New Professorship and Institute Planned

Poverty Policy and Practice. In recognition of this historic gift, New York University's Board of Trustees has renamed the school the Silver School of Social Work.

Constance Silver, who taught at the school for several years, said, "It is one of the great pleasures of my life to help the School of Social Work."

"This gift marks a new chapter in the life of our school, and in a larger sense, it is an unprecedented moment for social work education," said Dean Suzanne England. "The research, learning, and policy work sustained by the Silvers' generosity will help deepen our knowledge about systemic poverty and identify effective policies to lessen or eliminate its causes."

A Nontraditional Path

The poverty-focused institute and professorship in poverty research are both deeply resonant with Constance Silver's life story. Growing up poor in rural Maine, in a house with no indoor plumbing, she would occasionally visit Manhattan through the generosity of a wealthy family that lived in the city but spent summer vacations near her home. After graduating high school, she moved to Manhattan and met her future husband, Martin, during her first week in the city. After working in sales for a New York-based airline, Constance was encouraged by a neighbor, a social worker 30 years her senior, to take up social work. Constance was then in her midthirties.

"I thought that, with my background of commercial study, there was no way I could attend college," she said. At that time, NYU had a "Life Experience" option for nontraditional students, and she enrolled as one of the first candidates in the Bachelor of Science program for social work. After earning her bachelor's degree, she entered the Advanced Standing program, graduating with her MSW in 1979.

Martin Silver grew up in the Bronx and enlisted in the Army during the Korean War. After serving, he was able to attend NYU through the G.I. Bill and graduated from NYU's

School of Commerce (now the Stern School of Business) in 1958. After working as a stockbroker early in their marriage, he entered the hair goods business in the U.S. and in Asia. About six years later, he became involved in the plasma collection business, and the company grew to become one of the leading firms of its kind in the world. Although the business was sold in 2002, Martin remains the chairman of the company's New York City center. Martin "is proud and pleased to be able to offer his support to the School," said Constance, who noted that her husband has been a strong partner in her patronage of the School.

After earning her MSW, Constance began counseling in private practice, focusing on death and dying; in 1983, she earned a PhD from the Union Institute and University and received psychoanalytic certification from the Training Institute for Mental Health. When AIDS began to ravage the city's gay community in the 1980s, Constance was a friend and counselor to its early victims. Citing her efforts and compassion, in 1993 the NASW presented Constance with the Diego Lopez Award for Private Practitioners for her work with AIDS patients.

At the School of Social Work, Constance taught Practice I and II, as well as Individual and Family Therapy. Currently, she teaches a course in diagnostics at one of the School's placement sites.

In the late 1990s, after 15 years of private practice, she took additional classes at the SSW and became certified in forensics. After moving to south Florida, she began working *pro bono* for the Indian Creek Village Public Service Department in forensic mental health and social work, training police officers in areas including hostage negotiation, the dynamics of stalkers, and police suicide.

Through it all, she has kept her connection with the School and actively promotes its work. "I've stayed involved with the School of Social Work because we have the finest clinical program in the country," she said. Constance Silver was appointed to the NYU Board of Trustees in 2003. ■

Mildred Otero: A Child Advocate's Path to Congress

"I tell people all the time: the reason that I pursued an MSW is that your career opportunities become limitless," said Mildred Otero (MSW '03), legislative assistant to Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) since March 2006. As an aide to Senator Clinton, Otero has been working on issues that include education, child welfare, and families, including helping to draft and analyze legislation. Earning her MSW enabled her to open many doors along the way to Capitol Hill: "The field of social work is making so many transitions now," Otero said, that she considers an MSW "one of the more flexible degrees to have."

Otero's interest in helping children and families is long-standing. She began working in the Brooklyn District Attorney's office in 1998, and eventually her work included case management with a focus on child welfare and child abuse. In the course of her duties, she would conduct forensic interviews with children—in many cases, children younger than 10 years old—to determine details about particular events, helping them and their families prepare for court and navigate the criminal justice system. "It was doing that work that encouraged me to get my master's in social work," said Otero. "I was already experienced in case management, but I didn't have the clinical skills. Getting my MSW gave me the foundation I needed. I definitely feel that my clinical education helped."

She entered NYU's School of Social Work in September of 2000 and graduated with her MSW in 2003. Prior to



Mildred Otero ('03), right, is a legislative aide to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

joining NYU, she had earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish literature; afterward, she went to work for New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver for three years, two of those years in Albany. When Otero left Silver's office for the post in the Brooklyn D.A.'s office, she rose from victim's advocate to working as a counselor in 2000. After earning her MSW, Otero was accepted into the Washington, DC-based Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellowship, a program that accepts 20 Latinos every year from around the United States for a nine-month fellowship on Capitol Hill. Otero's fellowship was in Senator Clinton's office, ending in May 2004.

After her fellowship in Congress, Otero joined the Children's Defense Fund as deputy director of the Early Childhood Development Division and, in 2005, worked briefly for Senator Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island. Otero returned to work for Senator Clinton in March 2006 as her legislative assistant on children's issues, and she has been working there ever since. Otero assists Senator Clinton in her role as a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Otero noted that there are four staffers in Senator Clinton's office with MSWs, including an aide who works on health care issues. In April 2007, Otero met with SSSW professor of social work Jeane Anastas in Washington, as part of Anastas's work advocating legislation supporting "reinvestment" in the social work profession. ■

Caroline Rosenthal Gelman Named 2007 Hartford Faculty Scholar; Will Research Latino Alzheimer's Patients and Family Caregivers

As the Latino population increases within the United States, the country can also expect an increase in the number of older Latinos suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related dementias. In light of the multiple burdens often faced by caregivers of such patients within the Latino community, "Latino family caregivers may have an especially strong need for interventions that support them in their caregiving role," writes Caroline Rosenthal Gelman, who was named a Hartford Faculty Scholar for 2007. Rosenthal Gelman is an assistant professor of social work at NYU.

Rosenthal Gelman's proposal, "Evaluating a Community-Based, Multi-Component Intervention for Latino Family Caregivers of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease," was selected to receive research funding of \$100,000 over two years. The purpose of the proposed study is to explore the feasibility of implementing the New York University Caregiver Intervention (NYUCI) model, developed by Mary Mittelman and colleagues at NYU's School of Medicine, within existing community-based structures to measure its effectiveness for Latino caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

The NYUCI consists of three components: individual and family counseling, referral to group support, and



Professor Caroline Rosenthal Gelman

ongoing case management and referrals as needed. It has demonstrated several positive outcomes from its initial implementation with non-Latino caregivers, according to Rosenthal Gelman. It significantly added to the time patients were able to spend with their families (prior to being institutionalized), and it improved indicators of caregiver well-being, leading to decreased depression and stress, and increased acceptance of support.

Rosenthal Gelman's research focuses on the particular impact that Alzheimer's has on Latino families. She notes that Latinos may be at greater risk for AD because of the prevalence of several known or suspected risk factors, such as low levels of education and greater prevalence of vascular diseases. When this is combined with higher rates of poverty, illness, and language barriers, as well as a tradition of family caregiving, it produces a tremendous amount of responsibility and stress, particularly for female family members who usually become the caregivers. "Hispanic caregivers have greater problems in almost every dimension—a greater need for services, underutilization of formal services, and cultural values that emphasize families taking care of their own elderly, despite the reality that those caregivers have multiple responsibilities and need more support in caring for loved ones," she said. If members of the family are undocumented immigrants, it compounds their reluctance to seek help, she added. Rosenthal Gelman said that she focused on studying Latino families of Alzheimer's patients because of their growing numbers and needs.

The Hartford Scholars Faculty Program is funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by the Gerontological Society of America. ■

Report from the Dean



Suzanne England, PhD
Professor and Dean

This year we are exceptionally fortunate to have four outstanding faculty members join our School: Victoria Stanhope, Duy Nguyen, and Karra Bikson are our newest assistant professors, and Alison Aldrich joins us as clinical assistant professor. Their backgrounds and research interests reflect the richness, diversity, and professionalism that have come to characterize the teaching staff at the SSSW.

Victoria Stanhope brings many years of solid experience as a researcher, teacher, and policy advocate in the areas of mental health services, practice-based research, and mental health policy. Duy Nguyen is an accomplished researcher in mental health, behavioral disorders, and mental health services, having worked with child, refugee, and Asian American immigrant populations. Karra Bikson, whose dissertation research focused on innovative palliative care, comes to us from UCLA; her professional interests include organizational change and innovation, end-of-life care, and improving access to services for the underserved. Alison Aldrich is an experienced practitioner and manager in the field of HIV/AIDS, having worked in a range of positions from case manager to assistant director of clinical services. These wonderful additions to our faculty will greatly benefit our students and our community, and keep the Silver School of Social Work at the leading edge of professional education and relevant research.



Victoria Stanhope received her PhD in social welfare from the University of Pennsylvania and her MSW from the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional interests are in the areas of mental health services research, recovery, cultural competence, practice-based research, and mental health policy. Her research has been funded by the National Institute

of Mental Health. Dr. Stanhope's teaching areas are in social welfare policy and research methods. She previously taught courses as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania and LaSalle University. She practiced as a social worker in community-based mental health, providing case management services to people with severe mental illnesses. Prior to her social work career, Dr. Stanhope had eight years of policy experience working in Washington, DC, as an advocate for school psychologists in the areas of mental health, health care, and diversity issues.



Duy Nguyen earned his PhD from Columbia University, where he was the recipient of a Ruth Fisdale Doctoral Dissertation Award; he received his BA and MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. During his doctoral studies, he was a Fellow in the Council on Social Work Education's NIMH-funded Underrepresented Mental Health Minority Research Fellowship Program. Prior to joining

the faculty at NYU, Dr. Nguyen held an adjunct teaching position at the Columbia University School of Social Work. He has clinical experience working with clients with a range of mental health needs, including children with emotional and behavioral disorders, immigrant and refugee adults and elders, and Asian Americans with severe mental illness and their families. His professional interests are in mental health services, older adults, and Asian American families.



Karra Bikson received her PhD and MSW in social welfare from UCLA and her MA in gerontology from San Francisco State University. Her dissertation research, funded by the Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in Geriatric Social Work and the Veterans Administration Social Work Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, focused on innovation in end-of-life care in hospital settings. Her research

interests include organizational change and innovation in health and human services, including implementation of research findings, improving access to services for underserved populations, and the politics of aging and health policy. Dr. Bikson's teaching experience includes courses such as Human Behavior in the Social Environment; Social Welfare Policy; Direct Practice with Older Adults; and Death and Dying. Her practice experience includes psychoeducational support groups for caregivers, hospice social work, and program evaluation for social services agencies. She has copublished articles in several peer-reviewed journals, including *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* and *Health & Social Work*.



Alison Aldrich received her MSW at the Columbia University School of Social Work. Prior to earning her master's degree, she was a fine arts photographer in conjunction with the International Center of Photography/ NYU Master of Photography Program. Professor Aldrich's practice experience for over a decade has been in the field of HIV and AIDS. In this regard she has worked as a

case manager, social work supervisor, family intervention specialist, program manager, and, most recently, as the assistant director of clinical services at Bailey House. Professor Aldrich's areas of professional interest include harm reduction strategies, disclosure issues in the LGBT and transgender communities, and substance abuse in individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Professor Robert Leibson Hawkins Named to McSilver Professorship in the Study of Poverty

Dr. Robert Leibson Hawkins, assistant professor of social work, has been appointed to the McSilver Professorship in the Study of Poverty, a new professorship for junior faculty at the School. The position will enable Hawkins to expand his study of poverty and its causes and begin new initiatives in research and policy. The support for this chair is from Constance and Martin Silver, who have committed \$50 million to the School and its work (see cover story).

“I believe that the focus of a school of social work should be on those who are most oppressed and placed at risk in our society,” said Hawkins, who joined the faculty in 2004. “Having a professorship dedicated to understanding poverty is a statement that the School and the University care about people at the economic margins. If we believe in social justice and advocacy, poverty should be our main concern. Putting resources into research and study, with the goal of eradicating poverty, is a significant step for the School and should be applauded.” Hawkins teaches classes on policy and poverty and ethnocultural social work.



Professor Robert Leibson Hawkins

Hawkins’s most recent research focuses on low-income children and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and the effects of chronic loss and accumulated trauma. “In the interviews I conducted, many people said, ‘This isn’t the first time I’ve lost everything.’ I’m finding that, as a result of Katrina, for a lot of low-income families this was the first access they have had to services. It becomes obvious that these interventions should have occurred much earlier in their lives—it should not take a disaster for people to get the services they need. I am developing a larger research project to examine this further.” In addition, Hawkins is beginning a study of child and family well-being in Newark, in collaboration with Wynona’s House, a child advocacy center.

Hawkins has a PhD and master’s degree from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. In addition, he holds a master’s in public administration from the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a BA in communications from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. ■

“The Forgotten Ones”: Adult Brothers and Sisters of 9/11 Victims

In the days and weeks following 9/11, many mental health professionals in the New York City area staffed crisis centers that provided counseling for first responders, as well as for spouses, children, or parents of those who had fallen. As the enormity of the tragedy became apparent, David Flomenhaft, LCSW, PhD, part of a Nassau County mental health team, saw that although resources were available to support surviving children and spouses, “I realized there was another group that hadn’t been served—sibling survivors.” Over time, the sibling counseling group his team established grew from five people to eighty. “They named themselves ‘the forgotten ones,’” said Flomenhaft, because in the months after 9/11 the public (and media) tended to rally around children and spouses of the lost, while siblings’ grief seemed overlooked.

Speaking at a PhD colloquium at the School, Flomenhaft told attendees that the siblings often found themselves in emotionally difficult straits when, in addition to coping with the sudden loss of a brother or sister, they had to take over family and legal issues while spouses and/or parents of siblings were too grief-stricken to act on their own behalf.

Flomenhaft, who was a doctoral student in the years following 9/11, came to find that there was very little literature on the socio-emotional impacts of terrorism and decided to look at those impacts as they affected adult sibling loss. Given his experience in counseling sibling survivors, he focused his dissertation research on an examination of this group and the role of grief counseling in such situations, including how those individuals viewed and interpreted their circumstances. All the siblings he studied had lost brothers,

ranging in age from 27 to 65 years, at the World Trade Center. The siblings, all from the New York metro area, included three males and three females (median age was 40). Flomenhaft gathered 20 hours of recorded interviews, resulting in 550 pages of transcripts, in the course of his qualitative research investigation.

Among Flomenhaft’s findings: loss due to an act of terrorist violence is sudden and unexplainable, causing grief to be exacerbated; the circumstances of 9/11 contributed to a lack of “finality” because of delays in receiving remains, receiving them incrementally or not at all; and in instances where the siblings’ grief was recognized, many felt they were caught up in “the bizarre celebrity of public loss.” He also found that siblings of emergency responders and of civilian victims had very different grief experiences and that, surprisingly, religion did not play a role in coping among the group he studied. He added that, in some ways, the grieving process adhered to traditional modes: female siblings sought the solace of community and forums allowing the expression of grief, while male siblings tended to isolate themselves.

While his findings indicated that, overall, sibling support groups were helpful in dealing with grief, Flomenhaft also saw that some turned their grief into activism—organizing memorials, becoming public speakers, even getting into political advocacy.

The implications, he said, point to the need for counselors to better understand “the significant gender differences in mourning and coping,” noting that when dealing with men, the avenue for treatment may begin by reaching them through their spouses. He added that it was important to let adult siblings and their families know that there is “an evolution to their grief,” and that hope and healing are possible. In the wake of 9/11, he saw value in family-centered, community-based trauma support groups, which he felt reduced the perceived stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment.

Flomenhaft earned his PhD in 2007 from the School of Social Work. ■

Homelands— in Nicaragua and in America

Claudia Narvaez-Meza
(MSW '07) and the Narratives
of Struggling Families

Homelands: Women's Journeys Across Race, Place, and Time (Seal Press, 2006) is a collection of 28 stories by women describing what “homeland” means in the context of immigration, war, or exile. Claudia Narvaez-Meza’s powerful chapter, “Sowing for Lineage,” explores her Nicaraguan origins, her mother’s struggle for survival as a factory worker in Brooklyn, and the impact of growing up poor in urban America.

Narvaez-Meza, who graduated this year with her MSW from NYU’s Silver School of Social Work, sees the experiences of her family’s past as the seeds of her work in social justice. She is passionate about it, having done work in grassroots organizing during her undergraduate years at Hunter College, and she earned her MSW within the context of realizing social justice for disenfranchised women and children. “Social work embraces all the ideals—social justice, activism, idealism, faith, courage, and the ability to make a difference in the lives of others,” Narvaez-Meza said.

In *Homelands*, the Nicaraguan family Claudia describes is held together by women who manage to make do with little and take hardship in stride, finding solace in their deep-rooted Catholic faith. In her graduate field placement, she worked with low-income Spanish-speaking children and families of Hispanic and of African-American origins, and particularly focused on efforts aimed at reuniting at-risk families. “That has been the most rewarding aspect of my work—allowing the healing to begin, helping families get back together,” she said.



Claudia Narvaez-Meza

This aspect of her work is being carried forward after graduation; Narvaez-Meza is doing postgraduate training at the Ackerman Institute for the Family in Manhattan and working in a new program at the forensic psychiatry unit at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. The program is designed to help families of women incarcerated at Rikers Island by providing the women with family therapy together with relatives, including children and caregivers, at Elmhurst Hospital. Narvaez-Meza noted that the women and families will be served by a team including herself, a psychiatrist, and a psychologist. Her initial caseload will be eight to ten families, she said.

Narvaez-Meza said that her professors “were instrumental” in developing her strengths and talents as a social worker and helped her focus all the assets she possessed—including her talent as a writer—to help struggling women and children. Having grown up in poverty herself, “it’s more than empathy. I really do understand what they’re going through,” she said. “Like many who have suffered the traumas that afflict a wandering tribe, such as loss, despair, exploitation, servitude, brutality, violence, or displacement, our stories help give credence to the potency of lineage. My mother had been at the helm of this awakening when she told me that a woman alone is not necessarily disempowered, but in silence she will be.” Prior to her enrollment at NYU, she worked as a domestic violence crisis counselor for New York’s LGBT and Latino communities. Additionally, Narvaez-Meza completed a Master of Fine Arts in poetry at Brooklyn College. ■

New Program Initiative Honors Social Work Innovator

Zelda Foster Studies in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Dear Friends,

There are so many exciting things happening at the school, all of them made possible through the generosity and thoughtfulness of our alumni community. I want to take this opportunity to announce a very special new initiative in social work education, the *Zelda Foster Studies in Palliative and End-of-Life Care* program.

Zelda Foster was a pioneer in the development of the hospice movement in the United States and a leader in the field of palliative and end-of-life care throughout her career. She wrote and taught extensively in the areas of social work practice, leadership, and mentoring and was an important part of the Post-Master's Certificate in Palliative and End-of-Life Care program at our school.

In recognition of Zelda's contribution to the field, we have established a new palliative and end-of-life program in her name with support from the Zelda Foster End-of-Life Care Memorial Fund. The mission of this new program is to develop and mentor social work leaders in the areas of clinical practice, education, research, publication, and administration. This reflects Zelda's vision of both social work practice and leadership. We are honored to work with Zelda's family, and with the Memorial Fund, to help today's students build on her remarkable legacy.

Zelda began her career as a caseworker during the 1950s, earning her MSW in 1958. She rose to become a supervisor of social work at several New York-area hospitals and implemented groundbreaking work in palliative care during her tenure as chief of social work at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. In 1965, she published an article in the *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers* describing care of the terminally ill at the Veterans Administration hospital and the efforts to improve end-of-life care at that facility. The publication of her article was a watershed event in the field of social work that helped launch the modern palliative care movement.

Susan Gerbino, clinical associate professor of social work and a former colleague of Zelda's at NYU, notes that "Zelda was an integral part of our Post-Master's Certificate in Palliative and End-of-Life Care program. She mentored and challenged students to take a leadership role in their organizations. Zelda believed that true change was the result of listening to the voices of our patients and advocating loud and clear for their needs. This program will honor Zelda's vision."

The Silver School of Social Work at NYU invites you to join us in supporting this important and innovative program in Zelda's memory.

Donations can be made to:

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The Zelda Foster Studies in
Palliative and End-of-Life Care
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In the spirit of service,
Suzanne England
Professor and Dean

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2. CONTINUING EDUCATION: How can the School's Division of Lifelong Learning and Professional Development meet your needs? Do you have ideas/suggestions for topics and courses?

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Social Work Pioneer Eda Goldstein to Retire After 25 Years

Her writings include books that are widely used in schools of social work and by practitioners across the country. She is a Distinguished Scholar in the National Academy of Practice and a member of the Columbia University School of Social Work Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. And, for more than 25 years, she has been among the brightest stars at NYU's Silver School of Social Work, teaching courses in contemporary psychodynamic theories and clinical practice in both the PhD and MSW programs. For many, these achievements would, by themselves, amount to a life well lived. But if we're talking about Eda Goldstein's life, we've barely begun.

Eda, who joined the School of Social Work in 1981, published and presented extensively across a range of research topics. She has written about Narcissistic and Borderline Disorders, Ego Psychology, Self Psychology, Object Relations Theory, Short-Term Treatment, and the Therapeutic Relationship in Clinical Practice. She has also been acclaimed for her cutting-edge clinical work with gays, lesbians, and people dealing with midlife issues. As an author, she is probably best known for her book *Ego Psychology and Social Work Practice* (2nd edition, 1995: Free Press), which has become a textbook in many schools across the country, and her articles on therapist self-disclosure. Several of her books have been translated into foreign languages.

Through her extensive presentations, scholarly work, and teaching activities, she became a major figure in contemporary clinical social work and a prominent member of both the Society for Clinical Social Workers and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). She also served as an editor for numerous professional journals, including *Clinical Social Work*; *Psychoanalytic Social Work*; *Social Work in Mental Health*; *Social Work in Health Care*; and the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*. Additionally, she was chair of the Licensing Task Force of the NASW, New York City chapter, which was instrumental in getting updated licensing for social workers passed in New York State.



Professor Emerita Eda Goldstein

Touching the Lives of Colleagues and Students

As former chair of the Social Work Practice curriculum area of the MSW program and former director of the PhD program, she helped put NYU at the forefront of clinical social work education. She developed many new clinical courses and revised the post-master's clinical program, adding to its strength and vigor. Her faculty colleagues describe Eda as someone who was able to synthesize complex theoretical ideas into social work practice, addressing many timely issues, making clinical theory accessible to practitioners, and enriching the knowledge base of clinical social work. Those who have been taught by Eda—at all levels of the School—speak not only about her teaching abilities, but about her capacity to inspire and serve as a role model of a professional “who is not afraid to be human.”

Latest Published Work, With More Planned

In September 2005, she published *When the Bubble Bursts: Clinical Perspectives on Midlife Issues* (Analytic Press). The work won praise from many in the field, including Jerrold R. Brandell, PhD, author of *Psychodynamic Social Work* (2004) and editor-in-chief of the journal *Psychoanalytic Social Work*. He wrote of her book, “In this work, deftly guided excursions into the realm of midlife theory are complemented by expertly crafted, detailed case illustrations.” She is currently the lead author of a book-in-progress, *Advanced Clinical Social Work: Relational Principles and Techniques*, forthcoming from Columbia University Press.

Eda retired from NYU's full-time faculty in August; however, she was recently named Professor Emerita of Social Work and will retain that title within the University. She expects to continue her involvement in the SSSW's Post-Master's Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice program, counseling patients through her private practice, and traveling between New York City, East Hampton, and Florida. ■

PhD Program News

Claire Cammarata Awarded the Diane Greenstein Memorial Fellowship



Claire Cammarata

The Diane Greenstein Memorial Fellowship for 2007 was awarded to Claire Cammarata at an end-of-year reception on May 3. The fellowship was established in 2001 by the family, friends, and colleagues of Diane S. Greenstein, a graduate of our MSW program and PhD candidate who died in 2000. According to the Greenstein family's request, the fellowship is

awarded to a PhD student whose dissertation shows great promise. In order to determine the recipient, the PhD Program Committee solicited nominations from faculty dissertation advisers on the basis of the quality of the student's dissertation proposal. Proposals had to be successfully defended in order to qualify. The committee reviewed each of the proposals and their accompanying nominations, taking into consideration the importance of the topic, the research questions, and the quality of the literature review, proposed methodology, and overall writing. The fellowship, which consists of a \$5,000 cash award, will assist Ms. Cammarata in completing her dissertation, "September 11, 2001 and the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY): A Search for Growth." The chair of her committee is Professor Martha Gabriel.

PhD Students Receiving External Awards

Janet Baumann

Fahs-Beck Fund Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Justine McGovern

Hartford Geriatric Social Work Pre-Dissertation Award

Jennifer Mills

American Cancer Society Oncology Social Work
Doctoral Training Grant

Christine Theuma Wilkins

Fahs-Beck Fund Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Victoria Young

Fahs-Beck Fund Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Recent Publications of PhD Students

Edward J. Alessi:

Alessi, Edward J. (in press). Gay men married to heterosexual women: Examining clinical practice and countertransference issues. *Clinical Social Work Journal*.

Grossman, A. H., Haney, A. P., Edwards, P., Alessi, E. J., Ardon, M. & Howell, T. J. (in press). LGBT youth talk about experiencing and coping with school violence: A qualitative study. *Journal of LGBT Youth: The Interdisciplinary Quarterly of Practice, Research, Policy, and Theory*.

Baumann, Janet:

Baumann, J. (Ed.) (2006). Group therapy and the treatment of eating disorders: Challenges and rewards [special issue]. *Group*, 30 (4).

Baumann, J. (2006). Introduction to the special edition. *Group*, 30, 279-280.

Benjamin Henwood:

Henwood, B., & Padgett, D. K. (2007). Reevaluating the self-medication hypothesis among the dually diagnosed. *The American Journal on Addictions*, 16, 160-165.

Padgett, D. K., Henwood, B., Abrams, C., & Davis, A. (in press). Engagement and retention in services among episodically homeless adults with serious mental illness: Voices from the margins. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*.

Catherine MacLaren:

MacLaren, C., & Freeman, A. (2007). Cognitive behavior therapy model and techniques. In T. Ronen & A. Freeman (Eds.), *Cognitive behavior therapy in clinical social work practice*. New York: Springer.

MacLaren, C., Landsberg, G., & Schwartz, H. (2007). History, accomplishments, issues and prospects of supportive service programs in naturally occurring retirement communities in New York State: Lessons learned. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 49, 127-144.

Ian Ong:

Carten, A. J., Ong, I. D., Hawkins, R. L., & Gersh-Rosner, H. (under review). A collaborative approach for the design and evaluation of an empirically based educational model for best practice with immigrant families. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

The Entering Class of 2007

Jennifer Bauwens, MSW (Washington University '98).

Ms. Bauwens comes to NYU from California, where she provided counseling services through Krista Foster Homes for children and adolescent survivors of abuse. In her nine years of post-master's practice experience, she has worked with abuse survivors and victims of violent crimes in inner cities across the U.S. and in South Africa, Mozambique, and Mexico.

John Bennett, MSW (New York University '02). Mr. Bennett is a clinical social worker at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and a part-time psychotherapist at the Institute for Human Identity. He specializes in clinical work with members of the LGBT community, especially individuals and groups affected by HIV/AIDS and crystal methamphetamine. He has also worked with children and adolescents directly affected by the World Trade Center attack.

Christine Greer, MSSW (Columbia University '04). Ms. Greer is a clinical social worker at Kateri Residence, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. She is particularly interested in gerontological social work and hopes to conduct research that will lead to improvements in services for older Latinos and clients with Alzheimer's disease.

Grace Ying Chi Lai, MSSW (Columbia University '02). Ms. Lai is a social work supervisor in the Asian Bicultural Clinic and the Mobile Crisis Unit at Gouveneur Hospital and a group facilitator for the Mental Health Association of New York City. Her passion is working with immigrant children and families, with a primary specialty in Asian American mental health and community-based treatment. Originally from Hong Kong, Ms. Lai is fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese.

M. Seven Laracuente, MSW (Boston College '03). Ms. Laracuente is senior clinical supervisor of adolescent portable therapy at the Vera Institute of Justice. She specializes in work with troubled and delinquent teens, and she is particularly interested in the issues involved with being a bilingual clinician.

Katherine Maurer, MSW (Hunter College '03). Ms. Maurer is a clinical social worker in the Behavioral Health Program's Adult Outpatient Clinic at Interfaith Medical Center. She is particularly interested in traumatic stress, especially within the context of such chronically retraumatizing environments as urban poverty and war. Ms. Maurer is a member of NASW's Disaster Trauma Working Group.

Michelle Melendez, MSW (New York University '02).

Ms. Melendez is director of the chemical dependency day treatment program at the Urban Resource Institute. She has considerable experience working in the substance abuse treatment field as a clinician, program administrator, and trainer. Her primary research interest is in the area of PTSD and substance abuse.

Jamila S. Miah, MSW (Fordham University '05). Ms. Miah has been working to develop a mental health treatment program for women veterans in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation program at the Veterans Administration Hudson Valley Health Care System. She has experience working in inpatient and outpatient mental health, intensive day treatment, and homeless services. Originally from Bangladesh, she is fluent in Hindi and Bengali. In 2005, Ms. Miah received an Award of Distinction from the New York State Society for Clinical Social Work.

Nancy A. Payne, MSW (New York University '00). Ms. Payne is a research social worker in the Institute of Biological Psychiatry at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She is particularly interested in wellness and recovery among people with severe mental illnesses. In addition to her MSW, Ms. Payne has a master's degree in organizational psychology, and she also completed a two-year certificate program in psychoanalytic psychotherapy at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy.

Jennifer Smith, MSW (Syracuse University '02). Ms. Smith comes to NYU from Pennsylvania, where she has been a mobile therapist for children and families at Kids Peace and an adjunct instructor of sociology at Lehigh Carbon Community College. She is particularly interested in attachment and resilience among children who experience abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.

Laura Summerhill-Coleman, MSSW (Columbia University '99). Ms. Summerhill comes to NYU from Texas, where she was a lecturer at Texas State University-San Marcos and a clinical social worker at the Hays County Law Enforcement Center. Last year she received the Teaching Excellence Award from Texas State University's College of Health Professions. She is especially interested in issues involved with international adoptions, including trauma, attachment, and resilience. In addition to her MSSW, Ms. Summerhill also has a master's degree in education.

Undergraduate Jackie Espana Finds Inspiration, Volunteer Work in China



Jackie Espana

It's an idea being spread from campus to campus, not another Facebook or MySpace, but a volunteer organization called China Care that helps orphan children in China get needed medical treatment. Ranging from relatively minor procedures, such as correcting cleft palates, to more complicated cardiology, neurosurgery, or orthopedic surgeries, China Care provides treatment, rehabilitation, education, and foster care for abandoned or orphaned children in group homes across five provinces in China.

Jackie Espana, now in her third year as a social work undergraduate, learned about China Care as a freshman through friends sharing the same floor of her dormitory. Eventually, five freshmen from the Weinstein Residence Hall founded the NYU chapter of China Care, led by Alice Chen, who became the group's first president.

In summer 2006, Espana went to China and stayed with

Chen, taking the bus each day to volunteer at a China Care orphanage on the outskirts of Beijing. At the orphanage, she provided one-on-one attention to disabled children aged from 5 months to 14 years. "It was my first experience getting involved in international volunteer work in college," said Espana. "While it's difficult to work for any organization that is based on constant fund-raising, going to China—and making the connection with the people who need help—changed my outlook on what we do. It was truly inspirational, and I would love to go back some day."

The China Care group at NYU also organized a China Care Benefit Concert featuring local bands and enlisted the Yuan Fashion Show (organized by the campus branch of Chinese Mei Society) to help raise money for the cause. The two events generated roughly \$2,500 for China Care. Today, the NYU chapter's listserv has grown to over 100 members.

Although she is still determining the area of concentration for her social work studies, Espana said that her experience in China, and a subsequent trip in 2007 to the African nation of Ghana, has her looking toward an international direction for her future social work practice.

Members of the NYU community who are interested in learning more about China Care can send an e-mail to chinacarenyu@gmail.com. The organization's Web site is www.chinacare.org. ■

Lisa Bednarz Awarded Reynolds Undergraduate Scholarship



Reynolds Scholar
Lisa Bednarz

The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship in Social Entrepreneurship has been awarded to Lisa M. Bednarz, a social work undergraduate planning to enter the master's program as an Advanced Standing student in fall '08. The scholarship includes up to \$20,000 per year over two years of study for full-time students at NYU.

Bednarz said that her interest in healing and social work began at an early age, forming over the years as she accompanied her mother—a registered nurse—to a hospital near her hometown of Torrington, Connecticut. After several years, her mother's career at the hospital began to include case management and eventually a promotion to leader of the hospital's case management team, a group that included social workers.

As Bednarz became familiar with the day-to-day workings of the hospital, she began talking with the social workers. "I remember a social worker at the hospital telling me, 'We help people when they're at their worst,'" said Bednarz. "When I saw the discrepancies between what I had available to me and what those patients had, I knew I wanted to be a social worker." After graduating from high school, she began volunteering at the same hospital, doing a variety of jobs.

Bednarz said that the many experiences and events she witnessed in the hospital sparked her interest in public health; she said her "two passions" were public health and palliative care. Last year, she interned at a hospice facility and found the experience to be "incredibly rewarding." In terms of public health and policy, she is interested in doing research in a country such as South Africa, where the government is beginning to implement universal health care.

In addition to the monetary support, Reynolds Undergraduate Scholars take part in a full range of curricular and cocurricular activities pertaining to public service and social entrepreneurship. ■

Ten SSSW Students Awarded Housing Scholarships from LCU Foundation

The LCU Foundation (New York, NY) has awarded \$50,000 in housing scholarships to 10 students at the Silver School of Social Work at NYU. The LCU grant helps defray housing costs for female students who have demonstrated academic excellence, financial need, and a commitment to a career in social work.

The students come from widely varied backgrounds and reflect the commitment to diversity at the School—from places that include Ethiopia, Jamaica, Texas, Oklahoma, Israel, New Jersey, Canada (Vancouver), and Trinidad and Tobago. They bring enormous energy and caring to their social work training, as reflected in the work experience

(both volunteer and paid) they sought out before enrolling as MSW students, including working with substance-abusing youth, children with developmental disabilities, domestic violence victims, and adolescents facing multiple problems.

The 10 grantees for academic year 2006-2007 were Beteleham Girma, Avalon Hills, Kiu (Kathy) Ho, Saima Hussain, Anne Phabmixay, Marie Reynolds, Tara Silber, Meagan Walker, Kimberly Wright, and Irina Yakubovitz. The LCU Foundation, which provides grants to universities to support the housing needs of their female students, will extend its support for SSSW students in the 2007-2008 academic year. ■

What Our Most Recent Graduates Are Doing

The Silver School of Social Work takes a continuing interest in the life and work of its graduates and in learning how recent graduates have put their training to work. **This issue's '07 alumna is Arundhati Dutta, MSW.**

Where are you currently working? What is your job title?

Arundhati: Deloitte Consulting LLP. My title is human capital consultant, working in the service areas of organization and change.

Although you're new to this job, could you describe what you will be doing?

Arundhati: As a human capital consultant, I will be working in a team environment to address people-related challenges and opportunities within companies and organizations. Human capital consultants typically assess organizational effectiveness and change management issues such as program evaluation, leadership development, communication, and talent management. Consulting projects span different industries and can be in the public or the private sector.

In what ways to do you feel that your training and education at the School of Social Work helped prepare you for this position?

Arundhati: I believe my education at the School helped me develop a strong understanding and insight into human behavior and honed my critical thinking skills. Courses in psychology, organizational development, conflict resolution, and culturally competent practice exposed me to new ways of thinking and relating. My extracurricular involvement as president of the Graduate Student Association further strengthened my leadership skills, and the excellent mentorship and individualized attention of the faculty and administration gave me an incredible opportunity to develop personally and professionally. Most important, though, it was the people—my professors, colleagues, friends I made, and the relationships that I built with them—that truly enriched my learning. ■



Arundhati Dutta, MSW

Continuing Education News

Division of Lifelong Learning and Professional Development Announces New Certificate Programs for Career Professionals

The Division of Lifelong Learning and Professional Development (DLLPD) continues to expand, reaching out to the professional community through the offering of a wide array of programs designed to meet the needs of professional social workers. Our latest school year (2006-2007) was very active, with a total of 855 people participating in continuing education programs offered by the Division. ■

New Offerings

Keeping current with emerging needs, DLLPD has expanded the range of certificate programs. New this year is our **Certificate in Executive Leadership in the Not for Profit Sector**. Directed by Phil Coltoff, former executive director of Children's Aid Society and executive in residence and Katherine and Howard Aibel Visiting Professor at the School, this program features content that emphasizes the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective leaders in directing staff and programs as well as overall organizational management.

Another new program is the **Post-Master's Certificate in Clinical Practice with Adolescents**. This program offers mental health professionals comprehensive and culturally competent clinical skills in engagement, assessment, treatment, and prevention with adolescents and their families.

Our current **Post-Master's Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice** has expanded to include two optional additional semesters for those who have completed the Post-Master's Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice. The additional semesters are structured in a case seminar format.

We continue to offer our **Post-Master's Certificates in Clinical Approaches to the Addictions, Clinical Supervision, and Palliative and End-of-Life Care** (PELC). The PELC course is now part of the *Zelda Foster Studies in Palliative and End-of-Life Care* program, made possible through the generosity of her devoted family, friends, professional colleagues, and former students.

Our one- and two-day seminars for 2007-2008 will concentrate on clinical practice, the intersection of law and social work, evidence-based practice, disability and spirituality, and social work.

Another new component of DLLPD is international study. In June 2007, a group of 27 social workers traveled to Amsterdam for a week of study and touring. The highly successful experience has led to a new offering for June 2008. The School will be providing a similar learn/tour opportunity focusing on Scandinavia, to include Copenhagen and Stockholm. ■

Participant Survey Findings

A pre-/post-survey of the participants in the post-master's certificate program revealed that, across the board, graduates reported an increase in clinical knowledge and skills as a result of the program. A profile of participants in the post-master's program found that the majority are women ranging in age from 26 to 50, working in mental health. Most have

two to five years of experience in their primary practice area, with an additional substantial cohort having six to ten years of experience. The majority are employed by community agencies and health care settings, with a smaller group employed in school settings and private practice. They are mainly case managers, counselors, therapists, and/or case workers. ■

1830s Townhouse, Wireless Included: School Building Upgrades Bring Out the Best

In the distinctive brick townhouses that are the home of our school, restorations and improvements require a unique balance, preserving the “old New York” style while providing 21st-century amenities to students and staff. The three buildings at 1, 2, and 3 Washington Square North are collectively known as the Ehrenkranz Center, where the Silver School of Social Work is located. The School's location also has a relevant legacy—one of the earliest social service institutions in New York, the New York Foundling Asylum, was housed at 3 Washington Square North in the early 1870s.

Since 2002, a series of upgrades have been made not only to the buildings' facades, but also will continue into every classroom, as wireless Internet access expands through the School during this academic year. SSSW associate dean Mark Callahan has been overseeing this work, and he provided the “big picture” for the *Newsletter* in terms of the changes that have been made and the efforts underway.

“As some alumni may recall, the School was expanded from 1992 to 1994. During this time, the School moved to temporary quarters at 7 East 12th Street. While that project

was hugely successful, and we added 2 and 3 Washington Square North, funding restrictions really limited the scope and quality of work available at that time.

“In the past five years, under Dean England's leadership, it was possible to return to attending to outstanding needs—including a detailed restoration of the outside of the buildings, as well as the interior,” Callahan said. “During this time, we've also been able to upgrade the faculty meeting room and the student lounge, and provide some classrooms with PC/AV technology.” Given the historical legacy of the buildings, Callahan's responsibilities demand that any work on the facilities must bring out the best of old and new. The parlor on the first floor has been renovated with new furniture, carpeting, and locally inspired artwork, while the Edward Hopper studio on the fourth floor has also been carefully restored. Callahan noted that the studio has undergone “a detailed, historical restoration,” with repaired plaster, woodwork, and flooring.

Today, work on the School continues with the restoration of the back of the building and improvements on the alternative entrance in time for the new semester, he added. While the School's funding priorities always put education first and foremost, Callahan is hoping that alumni will increase their involvement to help the Silver School of Social Work/Ehrenkranz Center stay among the most authentic and beautiful structures in New York City. “We hope that, with the assistance of our alumni, we can continue to modernize the resources available to our students, while retaining the historical flavor that gives our School its special character,” he said. ■

Social Work Fellowship Honors Memory of 1997 Alumna Amy Pearson

A \$50,000 fellowship fund, honoring School of Social Work alumna Amy Pearson, has been established in her memory by her husband Nick, son Robb, family, and friends.

Pearson, who earned her MSW in 1997, was a gifted teacher and counselor for troubled youth. She became interested in social work after receiving care and bereavement counseling in the wake of a personal tragedy. She was able to bring positive change to the lives of her patients and fulfill her wish to help others heal before her untimely death from cancer. “She always had the ability to establish a rapport with people, a way of putting people at ease very quickly,” said Nick Pearson, Amy's husband.

The fellowship will be granted to graduate students seeking a second career in social work. “My sense is that people who are changing careers often don't get the same kind of attention as students who are first starting out,” he said. “It's a difficult thing to give up a job, enroll in school, and get by on family support. I wanted this to be Amy's gift to the School.”

Interested applicants should contact Byron Cortes at byron.cortes@nyu.edu. Donations to the fellowship fund should go to Silver School of Social Work at NYU/Amy Pearson Fund, c/o Leslie Timothy, New York University, 25 West Fourth Street, New York, NY 10012-1119. ■



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