Exploring the Many Faces of Bipolar Disorder
Jennifer Chaney
Friday, November 21, 9am to 12pm

Active Dying: Education, Interventions and Social Implications
Sue Polito, MSN, APN,C, GNP,C
Friday, December 5, 9am to 4pm

Web registration now available!
monmouth.edu/socialwork
Registration & printed brochures with original artwork as well as a full list of Spring and Summer continuing education programs are available.

Upcoming Continuing Education Events

International Lecture Tuesday, December 2nd, Wilson Auditorium, 5:30-7pm See page 5 for more details!
ICD Sending Ceremony for students going overseas Tuesday, December 9th, 3:30 pm
Social Work Honor Society Inductions Thursday, March 5th, 6 – 9 pm, Wilson Auditorium
CPFC Career Panel Tuesday, March 24th, The Club, 3:30 – 5 pm
Greta Singer Lecture in Clinical Social Work Friday, April 3rd, Wilson Auditorium, 9 am – 4 pm
Message from the Dean

This fall issue of The Communicator is full of good news and good work. It is a testimony to our faculty, staff and students, all of whom are deeply committed to human rights and social justice. There is also deep commitment to our social work programs and our work together as a team.

In July of this year, we became Monmouth University’s newest School. We are honored by this promotion of our former Department of Social Work. We are also acutely aware of the responsibilities and challenges that we face as a new School. We are privileged to have University support for our work – this is so poignant in a time of deep economic crisis in our country and around the world and at a time when some academic social work programs in the United States struggle to retain their status and credibility in their own institutions.

You will find in this issue an introduction of our new faculty, our newly appointed faculty and our new Program Directors. Several of our students are highlighted because of the wonderful work they are doing. There are also upcoming dates and events to make note of in your calendar.

Keep watching your email for announcements from the School and keep watching our newly revised website for our continuing work.

Robin S. Mama
Professor
Dean, School of Social Work

New Faculty

Michelle Scott, M.S.W., Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at Monmouth University’s School of Social Work and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Scott received her B.A. in psychology from Clark University in Worcester Mass, and her M.S.W. and Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. She has completed training programs in mental health services and financing, alcohol studies and child psychiatry. She has conducted research on the effects of behavioral managed care on juvenile justice involvement, and the referral and treatment of adolescent alcohol problems in a large managed care program. Her current research interests focus on adolescent suicide prevention including school-based screening and the role of alcohol on first-time suicide attempts. She is also interested in examining the preparedness of high-school seniors with mental health problems in transitioning to college life as it relates to crisis and service utilization on campus. In the past, she received funding from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to examine referral and service use after participating in school-based screening for suicide risk. Most recently, she published in the American Journal of Public Health examining the public health importance of school-based screening for suicide risk.

Kimberly Hanbury, M.S.W. graduated in 2000 from Loyola College in Maryland, with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; she then received a Masters in Social Work from Monmouth University in 2004. She has spent her professional career working in various realms of the child welfare system, both at the county and state levels of government, as well as in the non-profit sector. She has taught as an adjunct professor for the Monmouth University School of Social Work since 2006. She has experience working with child victims of sex crimes, investigating child abuse and neglect, and providing direct counseling with families at risk for the removal of their child(ren). Her areas of research interest include topics relevant to the child welfare system, including elements of the legal system that pertain to disclosures of child abuse and neglect.

Helen O’Brien, ACSW, Ph.D. received her master’s degree in social work (M.S.W.) from Columbia University (1989) and her Ph.D. (2006) from New York University. Her doctoral work was on the intergenerational transmission of parenting styles amongst Irish immigrant mothers. Dr. O’Brien received training in Family Therapy from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. O’Brien’s clinical practice from 1989-2000 was primarily in HIV/AIDS, out-patient psychodynamic therapy with children and families, and adult in-patient psychiatry. More recently Dr. O’Brien practiced as a psychotherapist at a university counseling center. Dr O’Brien’s areas of interest and research are HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Child Maltreatment, and Parenting Styles.
Dr. Nora Smith, MSW Program Director

Dr. Nora Smith is an Associate Professor teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level including Introduction to Social Work, Field Education, Research, Group Work, and Social Work Practice with Families. Her areas of research and interests include families, addiction, and child welfare. Current research includes family reunification for substance affected families, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and child welfare consumer and service provider perspectives.

Dr. Kelly Ward, BSW Program Director

Kelly Ward, Ph.D., LCSW, CADC, is an associate professor at the School of Social Work. Her teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels includes policy, human behavior, introduction to social work, field, and special topics classes including addictions, substance abuse populations, and using the DSM IV. In the graduate program she teaches field, supervision, administration, policy and human behavior. Her areas of research interest include intergenerational substance abuse and other aspects of addiction.

Dr. Ward was awarded Monmouth University’s Distinguished Teacher of the Year award for the 2007-2008 school year at the 2008 Commencement ceremony. Dr. Thomas Pearson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said, “Professor Ward is certainly one of our finest teacher-scholar-practitioners on campus. She models the high standards of social work practice in her classes, treats her students as rising professionals in the field, and is a master at facilitating discussion and reflection within her classes on sensitive topics that draw upon the experiences of her students in the field.” (source: https://www.monmouth.edu/newswire/default.asp?id=4766)

New Appointment

Dr. Elena Mazza, Assistant Professor

Elena Mazza, is an Assistant Professor at Monmouth University’s School of Social Work. Joining the faculty in the fall of 2004, Ms. Mazza has worked extensively in the area of mental health as a clinician and agency administrator. Ms. Mazza is a crisis clinician for Monmouth County, and a Disaster Mental Health Clinician for the State of New Jersey. She maintains a private practice in Red Bank, New Jersey. Ms. Mazza received her BSW degree from Monmouth University, an MSW from Fordham University, and is currently completing a PhD in Clinical Social Work Practice from New York University. Areas of interest and current research include college students with psychiatric disabilities, supported education in academia, and the process of recovery from mental illness.

New Website

Coinciding with the establishment of the School of Social Work, our website has moved to a new address, www.monmouth.edu/socialwork

Social Work has been incorporated into the main Monmouth University website which provides easy 2-clicks-or-less access to any page, easier access to other Monmouth web pages and a bold new look. We have also retained all of our essential functional elements for current students, prospective students and alumni including online field forms, alumni society membership, handbooks, faculty info, department news, and now online PEP continuing education registration. Oh, and did we mention lots of neat, real pictures of students?
Student Spotlight

Erin Wheeler

November 21st, 2003. A day that changed mine, my sisters, and our parents lives forever. This was the day that my brother, DJ, just 18 years old, was tragically killed in a car crash. A senseless tragedy that had a profound effect on our family, the community, and DJ’s many, many friends.

I was 20 years old, a junior at college, getting ready to head home in just 3 days for a well deserved thanksgiving break. I received a phone call telling me DJ had been in a car accident and I needed to come home right away. I never thought my brother was going to die that night. I arrived to Neptune, NJ after the longest 2 hour car ride of my life. Mom, Dad, my sister, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends met me in the parking lot. Dad cried when he told me DJ was gone; everything went black. When I woke up, we went to say our goodbyes to my handsome little brother, and sat with him until the sun came up, while the priest gave him his last rites. Life as I knew it was over.

It wasn’t until my Dad and I picked up DJ’s belongings that we found out from the police the young man responsible had been drinking, using drugs, driving recklessly, and lost control of the car. A preventable tragedy.

After a couple of years, the young man responsible pled guilty to vehicular homicide and reckless driving. He is currently serving a three year sentence in a New Jersey state prison.

The Middletown Police Department approached my sister and I asking if we would share our story with local high school students in the Rude Awakening Program. This is a nationally recognized program (2007 Parade Magazine Award, 2007 International Association of Chiefs of Police Awards) which consists of speakers from law enforcement, judges, nurses, social workers, and families of drunk driving victims. Along with the assembly, an entire day is spent by the students experiencing what drunk driving feels like. There are hands on demonstrations, like DWI fatal vision goggle glasses while driving a golf cart. Students observe a mock crash with NJ state Police medivac helicopter, an airbag stimulator to reinforce seatbelt usage, and a crane which drops motor vehicles to show speed and impact of crash. Since 2006 prom season when we first started, we have spoken to over 13,000 high school students throughout Monmouth County. We share our story with a verbal and video presentation of DJ’s life and death. Our main point is “we never thought anything like this could happen to our family.” It is a mandatory program prior to proms, and the most significant aspect is the absence of alcohol-related fatalities since its inception. New Jersey Governor Corzine named the program “the best of the best.” Continued on page 7.

Reflection on the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on Africa’s Development Needs

By Renee Condo

The 62nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations opened on September 22, 2008 with a High-Level Meeting on Africa’s Development Needs under the theme, “State of implementation of various commitments, challenges, and the way forward.” As a graduate social work student at Monmouth University and as an intern with the International Federation of Social Workers, I was given the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet with leaders from 192 nations to address the issue of African Development. Africa currently faces a continental crisis as economic growth fails to support improvements in social welfare. The free market has procured financial capital, but has failed to deliver promises of social advancement in healthcare and education. In fact, globalization of the market has worsened the livelihood of millions who continue to live in abject poverty. This imperative meeting was convened to address resolutions, settle on a plan of action, and thus change the course of African development for the betterment of our global society. The event was diplomatic, official, and representatively diverse, but the issues discussed were familiar and very close to home. They were the issues we struggle with every day as pioneer, social work students of International Community Development. Continued on page 8.

Alumni Watch: BSW Alum Elizabeth Purdy

My research paper is on work-related stress in New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services caseworkers and whether a cognitive behavioral intervention would help decrease this stress. I chose four caseworkers, and they agreed to participate in this four day study. On the first day I had them complete a Likert scale pre-test which I created. Then they began cognitive-behavioral journaling exercises in which they were asked to write about times when they felt stressed during the week, what made them stressed, how they felt physically, mentally and emotionally, and what their thoughts were before, during and after the stressful time. At the end of the fourth day the participants completed a post-test which was identical to the pre-test. The pre-test did show that the participants reported feeling stressed, however, there was no significant difference in their level of work-related stress reported in the post-test. If this intervention had lasted longer than four days, a more significant change could have been made. The paper will be published in the Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences, published by the Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society. View the full article at http://www.kon.org/urc/v7/purdy.html
Last May, four Social Work students from Monmouth University traveled to Tanzania, Africa to volunteer for three weeks through an organization called Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS). Seniors Sarah Pfleger, Casey Pannone, and Nicole Wright as well as freshman Carly Gibson took part in the trip.

Senior Sarah organized the trip with the help of the Social Work department. “After reading the Cross Cultural Solutions website and speaking with a representative I could not help but think that this would be an amazing opportunity,” she said. “But honestly without the help from the department, especially Kelly Ward, I don’t think the trip would have been as successful.”

“Our goal was to go over there to help people and a community in need, and I do think we accomplished it but I think I personally gained just as much from the experience as I gave out” explained Nicole.

The students volunteered at various locations within the small fishing village of Bagamoyo, located on the Indian Ocean.

“I was left alone with 150 first grade students and instructed to teach them English. To say the least I was scared out of my mind because the children spoke no English and I of course spoke no Swahili” said Sarah who was placed at Majango Primary School.

Nicole who also volunteered at a local private school explained her placement “I taught second grade English with children ranging from 6 years old to 11 and was able to learn about an entirely different culture while teaching them at the same time. I saw and learned more in three weeks than I probably ever have.”

Carly who was the only student not placed at a local school described her experience “I learned so much about such a different culture and a lot about myself as well. By living in the community and working alongside HIV/AIDS patients, my perspective of the global community changed drastically and now all I want to do is use my knowledge and skills to make the world a better place.”

Despite the fears and anxiety of traveling to a third world country in Africa the four students unanimously agree that Tanzania was a trip of a lifetime and that they would do it again. The students urge anyone interested in volunteering overseas to check out CCS’s website www.crossculturalsolutions.org

The Human Right Not to be Poor
Willie Baptist
Scholar-In-Residence - The Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary

The Tenth Annual International Lecture in Celebration of International Human Rights Day
Tuesday 2 December, 2008 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m.—Wilson Hall Auditorium
This presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Mr. Baptist is a nationally and internationally known human rights activist and scholar. He is formerly homeless and has committed his life to ensuring that the human rights of all are respected. Mr. Baptist is responsible for the Poverty Scholars Program at Union Theological Seminary where he works to train dozens of low-income leaders to be Scholars-In-Residence in seminaries, universities and religious institutions. Mr. Baptist is also the Co-Coordinator of the University of the Poor, the educational arm of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, a national network of more than a hundred poor people's organizations across the United States.

Coming out of the Watts uprising and the Black Student Movement, he has worked as an organizer and leader of the United Steelworkers Union and the National Union of the Homeless. He is the author of many articles. In 2007, Willie received the Alston/Bannerman Fellowship for Long-Time Activists of Color. Willie has also received the Spirit of Dignity Award, the Smart-Edward Award presented by the National Welfare Rights Union in 1995, the Community Organizer Award given by National Union of the Homeless in 1993, the Educating for Justice Award presented by the Bread and Roses Community Fund in 2002, and the 2004 Public Citizen of the Year - National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter.
In October, the Peace Corps welcomed Monmouth University as its newest Fellows/USA partner school. Upon joining, Monmouth became the 50th institution to offer the Fellows/USA option to returned Peace Corps volunteers. Fellows/USA, conceived at Columbia University Teacher’s College in 1985, allows returning Peace Corps volunteers to pursue subsidized masters and doctoral degrees while using the skills garnered during Peace Corps service in underserved communities here in the U.S. The Fellows/USA program has recently undergone substantial expansion, and it is with great excitement that they reach this milestone in signing Monmouth University to the partnership.

Monmouth’s program, housed in the School of Social Work, will grant successful Fellows masters degrees in social work with concentrations available in clinical practice with families and children, as well as international and community development. A joint master of arts in public policy degree is also available, as is a joint master of divinity degree in association with Drew University.

Dr. Robin Mama, dean of the School of Social Work, said, “We are thrilled to partner with the Peace Corps in the Fellows program. I look forward to having the returning Peace Corps volunteers joining the Monmouth community as graduate students in our master of social work program. Their experience will benefit the classroom as well as the community where their Peace Corps experience will definitely be put to use in their field internships.”

Volunteers who have satisfactorily completed their Peace Corps service will be eligible for the program which, besides class work towards the degree, will include an internship geared toward assisting individuals, families, and communities in New Jersey to address age, gender, and social issues. Fellows will be awarded graduate assistantships which will cover room, board, and include nine credit hours of tuition remission.

Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter said, “I am enthusiastic about our new partnership with Monmouth University. With this partnership, the Peace Corps will have the opportunity to further develop the skills of volunteers in the area of social work. I am confident that Monmouth University will be a strong Fellows/USA partner.” Continued on page 8.

THE SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK AND THE PEACE CORPS

In October, the Peace Corps welcomed Monmouth University as its newest Fellows/USA partner school. Upon joining, Monmouth became the 50th institution to offer the Fellows/USA option to returned Peace Corps volunteers.

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Monmouth University, continuing its commitment to social work education, will offer the Fellows/USA program. The program will be housed in the School of Social Work, with concentrations available in clinical practice with families and children, as well as international and community development. A joint master of arts in public policy degree is also available, as is a joint master of divinity degree in association with Drew University.

Dr. Robin Mama, dean of the School of Social Work, said, “We are thrilled to partner with the Peace Corps in the Fellows program. I look forward to having the returning Peace Corps volunteers joining the Monmouth community as graduate students in our master of social work program. Their experience will benefit the classroom as well as the community where their Peace Corps experience will definitely be put to use in their field internships.”

A number of topics were presented throughout the day, including: sex trafficking of children; juvenile sex offenders and community notification; rights of children of same-sex couples; AIDS orphans in Africa; disability rights movement; children’s rights in out-of-home placements; children living in Uganda; and “Seen and Not Heard?” portrayals of children in mass media.

Continued on page 8.
The School of Social Work held the First Annual Golf Outing on September 22 at Glenwood Country Club in Old Bridge, NJ. The fundraising effort was successful and the weather was perfect. Thanks to Laura Brunetti, Glenwood Country Club, The Social Work Council, and all of our sponsors. We hope to see you next year!

Visit from Japan

September brought a group of Japanese students and faculty to Monmouth University. Hosted by the School of Nursing and the School of Social Work, 17 students and their 2 faculty spent the morning through lunch at Monmouth. The students, from Kanagawa University of Human Services were on an exchange program at Brookdale Community College. The students are studying nursing and social work and enjoyed meeting social work students and nursing students from Monmouth. Rie Komatsu, a current MSW student at Monmouth, spent the morning translating and helping with other students to welcome our visitors from Japan.

Erin Wheeler cont.

In addition I speak to fifth grade students who participate in Project P.L.U.S. (peer leaders understanding students) who have the potential to be Middle School peer leaders as they mature into healthy productive adults. I work with all 8 elementary schools in Middletown, and believe the younger the better to reach out to them. I have already spoken to well over 500 students.

I am also a member of Middletown Alliance, a program that takes a proactive rather then reactive measures to educate the public, and especially our young children. The alliance does everything it can to educate our residents before a tragedy occurs. The membership is a broad representation of the private sector and professional communities working together.

My family has established a DJ Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Fund which helps students and charities in need. This year our scholarship donation was given to Jason’s Dreams for Kids, a nonprofit charity which helps delivers dreams to terminally ill children. On Saturday, November 29th, DJ's friends and family will return home to play in “The Turkey Bowl” for Jason’s Dreams. This is a charity touch- football game in which we sponsor a team in DJ’s memory, while helping others. We all get together and remember a great young man, with a great smile, who taught me so much in his short life. And so, in giving to others, I honor the memory of my brother. If you are interested in receiving more information about the DJ Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Fund, or the Rude Awakening Program, you can contact me at 5050595@monmouth.edu.
UN General Assembly High Level Meeting cont.
Despite the regality of the event and its many formalities, the interaction between ambassadors and leaders was very much like the interaction between students debating global issues. In fact, at times during the event, I wish my classmates could have been there to help brainstorm with new, fresh ideas. International social workers, with a human rights and social justice background, are the embodiment of what the United Nations stands for. Our ecological and strengths perspectives provide the knowledge and insight to gather communities of people in union for the betterment and strengthening of societal institutions through human rights based egalitarian practice. Individuals are empowered when they make change for themselves, thus the international community must come together and encourage African citizens to seize their rights as we provide them with the tools they have been denied for so long. The international community, especially the West, has denied Africans the right to peace, justice, and security through economic and societal control mechanisms. As Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania and the African Union Chairperson observed, “Africa is not a hopeless case but needs the immediate support of the international developed community.” The UN Secretary General, Ban-Ki-moon urged wealthy nations to follow through with their promise to double overseas development aid for Africa by 2010. The Millennium Development Goals can be achieved in Africa through efforts of sustained economic and social development in which all nation states, governing parties, and individuals are held accountable for their contributions.

At the closing session General Assembly President d’Escoto presented the draft resolution, “Political Declaration on Africa’s Development Needs” which was then adopted by the Assembly. President d’Escoto noted that the hard part would be keeping and not breaking promises, and called on the Assembly not to repeat history, but rather “rise to the occasion and make poverty history instead.” As social workers and as students, it is our responsibility to study world history, policy, and social movements so that we have the knowledge and awareness not to make the mistakes of our predecessors. In order to end world poverty, misery, and injustice, we as social workers must uphold universal human rights and lead society into the future.

In conclusion, as social work students, I know we often struggle with the question, “there are so many injustices, so now what can we do?” As agents of international community development we must hold one another accountable for promoting the welfare of all people. More specifically, social workers can support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa by holding local government leaders accountable for the fulfillment of development aid contracts. We must write to our leaders and persuade local governments to make policy commitments and strategic action plans in promoting African Development. Development is possible only through joint economic and social gains. Social workers must advocate for fair trade agreements in developing countries so that small farmers are able to provide for their own families and communities. International social work organizations should encourage the worldwide collaboration of NGO affiliates so that important health and education services are resourcefully allocated throughout Africa. As international social workers, we must provide support and resources to fellow social workers in Africa and persuade local citizens here in the United States to become aware and get involved.

Peace Corps cont.
An integral part of the Peace Corps Fellows/USA program is a substantive, degree-related internship in a high-need community. With their cross-cultural skills, adaptability, and desire to work for improvement, returning volunteers are valuable assets at their universities. The program has established partnerships with 50 universities nationwide. As one of Peace Corps’ domestic programs, Fellows/USA enables returning volunteers to pursue graduate degrees at a reduced cost while aiding underserved U.S. communities through internships.

For more information about Fellows/USA, please visit the Peace Corps website at www.peacecorps.gov/fellows.

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**Calling all alumni...**

Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey and send it to
School of Social Work
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898
Or fax this page to 732-263-5217

Your Name ____________________________________________________________

Home Address _________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip code ________________

Home Phone ___________________________ Work Phone ______________________

E-mail ___________________________ Degree __________________________________

Year of Graduation __________ Degree _____________________________________

Place of Employment ___________________________________________________