

Community

Improving the quality of life in the local/global community

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It is with both pride and pleasure that we present you with the 5th issue of *Community Connections*. This magazine is a source of pride to the faculty, staff and students of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (PACS) because it allows us to share the "PACS Story" with people whom we care about and people who care about us. It is the brainchild and has been the special project of our former Dean, Dr. David Hartman, who recently moved back into fulltime teaching in the Department of Anthropology.

Right now the University of North Texas is amidst a sea of change. Change can be scary and is often met with some skepticism. But the change that is happening at UNT somehow feels right—and looks to be good for our College. We have a dynamic new president in Dr. Gretchen M. Bataille who is clearly committed to raising UNT's national stature and moving us to the status of an emerging research institution. The changes we are experiencing are relevant to this issue of *Community Connections* because we want people to know that we are moving forward. We like to think that PACS is not only being affected by change, but that it is because of this College that many of UNT's changes are going to work.

The self-reflection prompted by this forward progress has allowed PACS to clarify for the entire campus community the value that it has to UNT. From a distance, PACS looks very different from such conventional colleges as Education, Arts & Sciences, Business and Engineering. The differences sometimes make the traditionalists wonder...but they quickly recognize that

PACS is a progressive and innovative entity that makes UNT both stronger and somewhat unique among many large universities.

The articles in this issue of *Connections* provide you with a taste of some of the distinctive work that comes out of this College. In many ways PACS serves as UNT's direct connection to local, national and international communities. The tie that binds our students, faculty and staff is our common commitment to the development of national and international programs that directly affect millions of people. Evidence of this commitment comes in the form of activity and research in such areas as prisons, emergency response to Katrina, AIDS discrimination, and international initiatives in Mexico, Saudi Arabia and West Africa.

PACS faculty and students' primary devotion is to learning. That is true of all colleges. What makes us a little different is our passion for incorporating experience through service to the learning equation. Everyone gains from our community connections...the students through their learning, faculty through their discovery, and people in the community through the benefits they reap through the innovative service that is developed through the whole process.

My best to each of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Evenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "E".

Tom Evenson

The Global Health Connection: Combating AIDS Discrimination in West Africa

There is an African proverb that says: "One brings a child into the world and cares for him until the child has his teeth, in hopes that the child will care for the parents when they lose theirs." It is very important in African culture for children to take care of their elderly parents. From early on they are expected to be eager



"The study was to examine informal caregiving to children with HIV/AIDS in the country of Togo, West Africa."

to help their mother and father. But when a family member develops a catastrophic illness, he/she becomes unable to fulfill the role of caregiver to the parents. "This is what happens when HIV/AIDS is contracted by a family member," claims UNT assistant professor Ami Moore, "and the situation is reversed. The parents, in their old age, become forced to take care of an ailing child and at times even their children's children."

This scenario, which is believed to be spreading in West Africa, was the background for a Fulbright research grant awarded to Dr. Ami Moore, Department of Sociology. The study was to examine informal caregiving to children with HIV/AIDS in the country of

Togo, West Africa, in order to identify factors that negatively affect the health and wellbeing of caregivers and how they cope with their caregiving task.

Dr. Moore's first portion of the study included thirty caregivers in the capital city of Lome, Togo and surrounding areas. The caregivers were mostly parents and grandparents of HIV/AIDS infected children. From that she created measures to assess the experiences of caregiving. These measures were then used to collect quantitative data on over 200 additional caregivers.

"Because HIV/AIDS is a very stigmatized illness in West Africa we had to have the agencies that assist these people help recruit caregivers for our study," says Dr. Moore. "When you are infected with HIV or even affected by a family member who has the disease you don't want people to know because others ridicule you and talk about you. What we found surprising was that even within the family, there are those who don't know that another family member has the illness. For example,

a grandparent whose daughter may have died from AIDS and is left taking care of the grandchild who may also be infected, often won't tell her other children that this child has the disease. The grandparent sometimes only tells those children who she thinks may be able to help or provide in some way."

"Most of the time the caregiver will not even tell the child's school that the child has HIV/AIDS," Dr. Moore says. "If a teacher finds out a child is ill the child is often ostracized by other students and staff at the school. Other parents may tell their children to stay away from the child."

"This responsibility to keep the illness a secret only adds to the burden the caregiver must bear and is a

constant stress in the family," adds Dr. Moore. "And the burdens are many. Because most of the caregivers are older women they told us that their own health is failing, yet they are expected to take care of their adult child with AIDS as well as the grandchildren."

Others talked about how their own family members refuse to help. In one of Dr. Moore's published studies she mentions a 57-year-old woman who had been taking care of her 29-year-old son and was very despondent as she explained, "All the other members of my family do not want to help in any way. They are afraid to spend money on my son because they say it is not necessary since he is going to die anyway. They have abandoned me in this caregiving duty because he is not their flesh and blood, it is mine."

"All of the participants in the study felt that their care was in some ways inadequate," Dr. Moore explains. "They expressed frustration and anger because as much as they were willing to provide care, they felt that they still fell short of meeting the patient's needs. They all felt overloaded and overworked. Eighty percent of those we interviewed reported they had more things to do than they could handle and over sixty-eight percent reported being completely exhausted at bedtime."

"Affordable drugs were a primary concern to everyone and money needed to buy nutritious foods for the patient was mentioned often." One 66-year-old woman who was caring for her 28-year-old daughter and grandchildren explained, "I really want to see my child live. We have heard that in developed countries people with AIDS are being healed. I spent all I had and she is still not well. We need money to make ends meet. Please help us!"

"The involvement of the government is insufficient," Dr. Moore explains. "Although it is reported that 6% of the population of Togo is HIV infected, officials consistently give

conservative numbers because they know if the numbers are high it will put pressure on them to do more," explains the professor. "The HIV/AIDS agencies in Togo give advice and support in terms of medication and nutrition and send patients to places where they can obtain medicine, which is sometimes provided by outside organizations. However, things are gradually changing with some improvement and now when a parent dies of HIV/AIDS, the children are automatically tested for it."

"With this study we hope to make recommendations to combat discrimination and stigma against people with HIV/AIDS and their families," explains Dr. Moore. "We have already made recommendations to the American ambassador, David Dunn, in Togo and we have been asked to translate into French (Togo is a francophone country) so it can be distributed to other ambassadors who are working to help people with HIV. Findings from our research will hopefully help the government and other charitable organizations to endorse policies for HIV/AIDS projects."



"HIV/AIDS is a very cruel illness that affects not only the patient but the family as well," claims Dr. Moore in her research. "Little has been written about the caregivers and the struggles they face on a daily basis. We hope that our research will begin to help others understand the family institution with regard to this terrible disease."

"With this study we hope to make recommendations to combat discrimination and stigma against people with HIV/AIDS and their families."

The Mexico Connection: Forming Partnerships to Reduce Poverty & Expand Education

"You can't just teach kids about poverty from textbooks. They need to see what real poverty is and do something to make a difference."

The partnership Mexico has with the University of North Texas is becoming well recognized. The Center for U.S./Mexico Alliances at UNT has sponsored five international conferences bringing Mexican government officials and international business leaders to work together on projects that will help reduce poverty and develop communities across the border. And, when UNT was awarded a USAID/Mexico grant for the Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions, that partnership became even stronger.

UNT was one of ten universities in the United States chosen to receive this grant which will provide Mexican citizens the opportunity to earn a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. "The \$300,000 grant will provide \$100,000 annually for three years and although the degree will be from the University of North Texas, we see this



as a joint enterprise with the Autonomous University of Guadalajara," explains Dr. Paul Leung, Chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions.

The funding will provide for UNT faculty to travel to Mexico to teach the classes at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara's Medical School. "We will also be able to bring some of the students to UNT for a short time," Dr.

Leung says, "but because it is difficult for them to spend an entire semester here, online classes will be offered as part of the program."

"Currently programs in Mexico that assist people with disabilities usually do not require a master's degree. This degree will not only enhance their knowledge but some of these students may end up teaching in higher education there," the professor says. "We are taking the program we already have here and adapting it to the one in Mexico."

"The partnership we have with the Autonomous University of Guadalajara will be very beneficial for them as well as for UNT," Dr. Leung explains, "as our goal is not only to bring a comprehensive holistic approach to working with people with disabilities to Mexico but also to learn from them."

Other programs that are flourishing in Mexico as a result of UNT's involvement are the community development projects. "By focusing on sustainable community development and reducing poverty and discrimination, the Center for U.S./Mexico Alliances works through teaching, research, and services opportunities," explains Center Director Syl Flores.

When Mr. Flores began teaching sociology classes at UNT he realized that, "You can't just teach kids about poverty from textbooks. They need to see what real poverty is and do something to make a difference." The instructor began taking students from all disciplines to Mexico so they would have the opportunity to put their knowledge into action. "As a young migrant worker in the fields of south Texas, I knew what poverty was," claims Mr. Flores. Now he and his students spend much of their time helping the poorest of the poor to improve their own lives.

One small town in Mexico the classes visited was Flor Del Campo. They were told by the village people that "God did not pass through here." There were no roads to get there, the

homes all had dirt floors and electricity did not exist. "These people had been promised electricity thirty-five years ago and were still waiting," explains Mr. Flores.



"We worked with the Mexican government, raised some funds, and were able to build a bridge and bring electricity to the town. Government officials also gave us concrete and the students raised funds for sand and gravel which we used to lay floors throughout the community. Now the villagers are proud of Flor Del Campo, and with that comes hope for the future."

Because 43% of Mexican children live in poverty many go to school hungry. "A hungry child cannot learn and this certainly affects the future of these communities," Mr. Flores says. Knowing that the education of these children must be improved the UNT group helped begin a hot breakfast program called Desayunos Calientes in La Heuvera. By requesting aid from several agencies the group was able to have a kitchen built. Now, mothers volunteer to cook breakfast daily and all the children in the village have a hot breakfast before school.

"UNT is getting to be so well known for our work in Mexico that other universities now send their students to us for practicums," Flores claims proudly. "Some University of Texas graduate students did an evaluation of our hot breakfast program for their research," he says, "and we

currently have some students from Switzerland and Germany who are working with us in Las Chilitas, Mexico to introduce a new type of fish to the area." Nadja Nickelson and Anne Birk are doing their practicum at UNT and Ms. Nickelson explains, "We have read so much about poverty but seeing it in Mexico makes us understand it so much more. In the beginning the people were shy to us but now when they see us coming they are happy. We know they trust us and they know we are there to help."

While the success stories expand, so do the partnerships. The Center recently received commitments from ITESCO University in Guadalajara, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, and Northern Kentucky University to jointly produce the first totally bilingual refereed journal that will provide academia, government and community leaders a place where they can write about the theories used and applications of said theories with results. The goal is to help bring theory into application to reduce poverty globally.

As all of these projects with Mexico continue to grow, UNT's reputation continues to gain respect internationally. "And as the world becomes smaller," the former migrant worker turned professor claims, "our connectivity to each other becomes even closer."



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The Criminal Justice Connection: Desegregation in the Nation's Prisons

Although the 1960's brought about integration in most American institutions, prison inmates remained largely segregated by race. It took a Supreme Court case in 1968 to declare racial segregation in prisons unconstitutional. However, because prison officials and administrators held strong to the belief that desegregation would lead to massive racial violence, the Court's mandate proved difficult to enforce. This was especially the case in the Texas prison system.



"The bottom line is that integration did not lead to any more violence than when prisons were segregated."

Then in 1972, Texas prison inmate Allen Lamar alleged that the prison system's practices of racial segregation in housing violated the Constitution. A class-action suit which followed resulted in a consent decree in 1977 with a mandate that Texas prisons become racially integrated. It was this case that earned the attention of graduate student Chad Trulson in 1999 while preparing research for his dissertation.

Now as Associate Professor in UNT's Department of Criminal Justice, Dr. Trulson's research on racial integration in Texas prisons was recently relied upon by the U.S. Supreme Court in a similar California lawsuit. And because Texas is now considered the model for prison desegregation due to Trulson's outstanding work in this field, the professor has been retained as a consultant by the State of California to assist their Department of Corrections in enforcing new desegregation policies.

The research, done by Dr. Trulson

and Dr. James Marquart of University of Texas at Dallas, focused on ten years of data from 1990 to 1999, and the impact desegregation had in Texas prisons. In the wake of desegregation, the federal district court required that the Texas prison system implement a data form to track all inmate-on-inmate incidents, whether the incident was interracial, if it involved cell partners, if it was gang related, and if the incident was racially motivated, among many other areas. Trulson's analysis included over 39,000 male inmate-on-inmate assaults in all housing areas from cells to dormitories. "By looking at documented incidences of inmate-on-inmate assaults we could see what happens when you forcibly put people of different races together in a cell," Dr. Trulson explains. "In addition to court and prison system documents we also made observations of several prison units," he adds, "and that allowed us to examine how the system implements in-cell racial integration on a day-to-day basis."

"One of the main concerns with integrating inmates," Dr. Trulson explains in his research, "was the perception that integration would lead to disproportionate levels of violence among racial groups." Administrators, correctional officers, and inmates argued in the lower federal courts against integration.

"Those who were against integration literally thought it would lead to a blood bath," Dr. Trulson suggests. "Some of these wardens chose not to participate in the planning sessions even though they were going to follow through with what the court told them to do." But prison officials quickly found that integrating cells did not lead to the problems they had anticipated. "The bottom line is that integration did not lead to any more violence than when prisons were segregated," Dr. Trulson says. And, a national survey of prison wardens in 2000 seems to support Trulson's findings. This survey revealed that 30% of wardens

believed violence would increase with integration, 16% felt it would decrease the level of violence, and 54% said it would have no effect either way.

When Dr. Trulson and Dr. Marquart met with officials at one correctional facility in Huntsville, Texas, they interviewed some of the inmates. "Although there are those who would prefer to be in a cell with someone of their own race, many said they have learned tolerance," Dr. Trulson claims. "They see this as beneficial once they get back into society." Trulson says he has received letters from inmates basically saying they just want a cellmate they can get along with. "It's about personality more than race," he claims. "They may not like the idea of integration but most of them can co-exist without violence."

"One reason this system works," explains the professor, "is that cellmates are matched on traits such as height, weight, health status, criminal history, and things that are relevant to prison security. They also take the violent ones and lock them in single cells the majority of the time. Those inmates involved in gang violence and those who are known racists are removed from the rest of the prison population. This leaves approximately 65% of the inmates that are eligible for integrated cells. Over half of our cells are racially integrated and that is not matched anywhere in the nation."

Because Texas was the first state to do large scale racial integration in the prisons it has become the model for other states. "A lawsuit against the prison system in Oklahoma recently brought about changes in their system," says Dr. Trulson, "and in 2005, the U.S Supreme Court heard a case out of California and ruled that race cannot be used to classify and sort people in prison including segregating double cells unless there is a very good reason to do so."

As Dr. Trulson's research has laid the groundwork for other states to follow, he suggests that "Not only

does integration appear to be a policy that can be achieved, but in Texas, integration has appeared to be at least as successful as segregation in terms of managing institutional violence..... maybe even more successful in fostering inmate-to-inmate relations. Indeed, based on official data since 1990, intraracial assaults in the Texas prison system have always held a higher rate than interracial assaults. This trend held true even after 1993, when there were more integrated cells than nonintegrated cells."

Dr. Trulson is currently writing a book on the Texas experience and says, "Texas is well ahead of the game. And although other states are gradually following due to lawsuits, eventually this will be an issue across the nation."

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The Public Service Connection: Students Identifying with a Cause

When UNT graduate student Louanne Weeks wrote a grant proposal for a community organization in her nonprofit management class in the Department of Public Administration she knew the hands-on experience would be an excellent learning opportunity. But she certainly didn't know where it would lead. "It was a huge surprise," Ms. Weeks claimed, "when I found out the grant was going to be approved and funded."



And she credits Dr. Lisa Dicke, Coordinator of the Master's in Public Administration program, for guiding her through the process and "being a wonderful professor, mentor and supporter to all her students."

"The community organizations who work with our students help them develop the skills they need. It truly is a partnership and without them we couldn't offer this type of hands-on learning opportunity."

One of the specializations in the Public Administration MPA program is nonprofit management. "Instead of writing term papers my students are out in the community doing service learning projects," explains Dr. Dicke. "Service learning is a way of teaching that is used to help students learn more by getting out into the community and working with others to improve the quality of life for everyone. These particular projects are to write grants for various 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organizations and agencies and even though very few of them actually get funded the experience helps prepare our students for work in the nonprofit sector or a government agency."

"The community organizations who work with our students help them develop the skills they need. It truly is a partnership and without

them we couldn't offer this type of hands-on learning opportunity."

"The students not only gain grant writing skills," she adds, "but they can also include this as a learned skill on their resumes." Dr. Dicke says she tries to provide a lot of feedback through the semester so the projects are "pretty polished by the time the students complete them."

Because there are thousands of nonprofit agencies in the metroplex the students have plenty to choose from. "I encourage my students to work for a cause they are interested in," the professor explains. Louanne Weeks wrote her grant for Adaptive Dance, a project that provides dance classes for underserved youth with disabilities. The grant was funded by the Hogle Foundation.

An earlier nonprofit course in the MPA program led to a job with the Dance Council in Dallas for Ms. Weeks, which in turn led to the grant project. "The coursework in the MPA program can certainly have a snowball effect," she explains. The UNT graduate continues to chair the Adaptive Dance committee and was asked to serve on the Board of Directors.

Another student, Alison Ortowski, who graduated May 2007, wrote a grant for the City of Denton Downtown Development Division. The grant requested funding to cover fifty percent of the printing costs for Denton's Clean and Safe Program manual. "The manual is distributed to all business and property owners downtown and includes information on dealing



with graffiti, litter, homelessness and crime safety," Ms. Ortowski explains. She says her class with Dr. Dicke "taught me the personal side of grant writing and fund development. It is much more than just the final 'paper' product. What makes the difference is developing relationships with donors and those who administer grants so they will know you and your organization long before you request funding."

Dr. Dicke stresses to her students that "grant funding is much tighter now than in the past and the grantors want to make sure a requesting organization can account for the funding and has the capacity to do the project. We teach our students leadership skills, management skills in organization and accountability, how to prepare and analyze budgets, and how to work with Boards of Directors." The professor also states that "because grants are usually just a small part of funding we also try to teach other ways to raise money and the means to enhance overall fund development strategies as well."

Current MPA student Meredith Reekers works for Sequoia, a nonprofit agency that serves people with developmental disabilities through various in-home and group home programs. Ms. Reekers wrote a grant requesting \$125,000. One hundred thousand dollars of that was for the purchase of a new group home for six women, \$17,500 was for debt retirement for the purchase of a new van for the men's group home and \$2,500 was for debt retirement for a new air conditioner for the men's home.

This was Ms. Reekers first grant writing experience and it was fully funded by the Hillcrest Foundation founded by Mrs. W.W. Caruth Sr. "This project will benefit me in the future because it gives me an avenue for advocacy," claims Ms. Reekers. "Right now I do case management and social work for the twelve men and women living in our Dallas group homes. My



job allows me to see up close what their needs are and grant writing is a way for those needs to be met when our other funding sources can't quite foot the bill."

Although grant writing is so competitive Dr. Dicke says the practical learning, learning about the needs of others, and identifying with a cause is what is most important. "I had a student who was writing a grant proposal for helmets for kids who ride bikes," she remembers. "He told me that the night before class he had considered watching a movie but he thought about it and decided he could sit down and watch the movie or work on his grant and possibly save the lives of 100 children. He chose to work on his project."

"This is what public service is all about. This is what I want my students to get out of it....a desire to help people," Dr. Dicke proudly explains. "And this was a student who got it!"

"This project will benefit me in the future because it gives me an avenue for advocacy."

The Cultural Connection: Perspectives on Saudi Arabia

"Saudi Arabia is so completely different from the United States, that to really understand it you need to be there and experience it."

When UNT graduate student Jennifer Stark took her Maymester course in Saudi Arabia this past Spring, she says it didn't take long for her to realize that "the country is nothing like the media often represents



it." Her experiences as well as those of six others who traveled abroad to study the Middle Eastern country gave her a much better understanding of a culture that to so many Americans has always seemed almost mystical. But as Professor Ann Jordan who led the trip explains, "Saudi Arabia is so completely different from the United States, that to really understand it you need to be there and experience it."

Having lived in Saudi Arabia in 2002 and 2003, where she was a researcher at King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic studies, Dr. Jordan, Associate Dean of PACS and Professor of Anthropology, feels very strongly that "there are too many miscommunications and misunderstandings between our two countries and that people in the United States really have no chance to understand what the Saudi people are like," reiterating her student's opinion that the news media creates even more misunderstanding.

"While our students knew that some of their information about the Middle Eastern country was probably incorrect they didn't know what to replace those perceptions with," the professor explains. Anthropol-

ogy student Kelly Moran wondered if Saudi women felt demeaned by having to wear the traditional abaya, the long black cloak they wear over their regular clothes. "But when we spoke to them about this, they explained that by covering themselves they feel precious..... like diamonds that you would keep away from strangers."

"When they asked us if we felt special since we don't keep ourselves covered, none of us had a good response," claims Ms. Moran. "I guess most American women don't feel precious on a daily basis....an ideal we really don't consider."

As guests of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Jordan, Anthropology Professor Doug Henry and the other students had their in-country costs covered by their hosts. "The Ministry had four or five Saudi students travel with us during our stay and these students related very well to our students," claims Dr. Jordan.

The trip included visits to three cities; Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran. Jennifer Stark says she was "surprised at how busy and alive the cities were with the shops all lit up at night and people walking everywhere and traffic at all hours."

"One night we went to the Half Moon Beach on the Arabian/Persian Gulf and spent hours talking with our student guides about everything from movies and TV shows, to politics and current conflicts."

Student Kelly Moran says her experience taught her that "even with differences young people are basically the same the world over." "When we visited their universities we saw young women in the female sections sitting on the grass together, sipping sodas and giggling while others walked by listening to their Ipods." She says, "The young male guides who escorted us even watch Southpark and like to play on YouTube!"

The trip included visits to King Saud University, Yamamah College,



Imam Mohammed Bin Saud University, Effat College, and King Abdulaziz University as well as several chambers of commerce, businesses and a hospital. "My hope was for the students to get a grasp on modern Saudi Arabia as a society, a culture and a nation," Dr. Jordan explains. "We went to dinner at several Saudi families' homes so the students could get a well-rounded picture of the modern kingdom and how the people live."

"It was important for me to expose my students to the Saudi women because their lives are so intriguing to people in the U.S," she says. "The women we met communicated to our students that they are very strong and dynamic women and although they do welcome some changes they most certainly do not want to be like the United States. They want changes to be made slowly and carefully. They like to visit America but they want to keep their culture."

"Saudi Arabia is a true Islamic country. The Quran serves as the basis for the legal system. Religion sets the hours the shops are open, how banking is done and how the Saudis live. The students were quite surprised at how modern the cities are." "Up until about 1960 there was no formal education for women so their education system is very new. Now, because of money from their oil resources, they have a fully developed education system and even healthcare is free."

This trip was Dr. Jordan's third effort to build an understanding between the two cultures. Twice she has brought scholars from Saudi universities to UNT for symposia that impacted some 2,000 UNT students each time. "By bringing Saudi students and faculty here, our UNT community can hear them speak about what they want Americans to understand about their country."

"By taking our students to their country we can experience Saudi life as it really is today." Dr. Jordan explains, "I can't impact foreign policy; I can only impact people. Hopefully the students who went with me will tell others of their experiences and a better understanding of Saudi Arabia will spread. Everywhere we went, the Saudis were very gracious and invited me to come back with even more students next year."



"I can't impact foreign policy; I can only impact people. Hopefully the students who went with me will tell others of their experiences and a better understanding of Saudi Arabia will spread."

The Research Connection: The Katrina Disaster . . . Two Years Later

When Dr. Bernard Weinstein of UNT returned from a trip to New Orleans to assess the devastation from Hurricane Katrina he claimed almost in disbelief, "It looks like a war zone." What made it so shocking to the pro-



"It could take a couple of decades for New Orleans to recover completely from the devastation."

fessor was that this was nearly a year and a half after the fact. Now, even two years later the impact of Katrina is still overwhelming.

Dr. Weinstein, who serves as Director of the Center for Economic Development and Research, and several other North Texas professors have been studying the economic and social impacts of one of the deadliest hurricanes in United States history and although the findings are disturbing their research is considered critical for future disaster preparedness.

Dr. Weinstein's research, "The Economic Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: A Local, National and Global Assessment," was presented last year in Bangalore, India and Scotland.

"Locally," Dr. Weinstein claims, "it could take a couple of decades for New Orleans to recover completely from the devastation. There were over 330,000 damaged homes in Louisiana. And while Congress approved \$7.7 million in rebuilding funds for 2005, state officials claimed they needed \$12 million in assistance to rebuild damaged houses, pay incentives to apartment dwellers and provide compensation to people who decided to sell damaged houses at a loss."

The professor also says the New Orleans metropolitan unemployment rate rose from 5.8% before the hurricane to 15.5% after Katrina. "In 2006," he claims, "only about 2,000 businesses of 22,000 existing before the disaster had started to operate in the city. The streets were still empty of tourists, the main source for the city's sales tax revenues." But there were those determined to bring back tourism and to bring it back quickly.

This subject matter became the basis for research by another UNT faculty member, Dr. Jack Rozdilsky, Assistant Professor in the Emergency Administration and Planning Program of the Department of Public Administration. "Ethical questions arise regarding tourism in high-risk disaster zones," explains Dr. Rozdilsky.

After the disaster Dr. Rozdilsky performed participant-observation research on tours in New Orleans. He is currently analyzing these observations concerning if and how they are contributing to the recovery of the Mardi Gras capital.

Dr. Rozdilsky explains, "I have found tradeoffs concerning tourism in disaster zones. From one perspective there are serious ethical questions raised by tourism activities in these areas. On the other hand, the activities bring money into the local community and to a certain extent let local persons tell their side of the story. New Orleans disaster tourism is indicative of the complexity faced when an American city is destroyed and entering into

a long-term disaster recovery process.”

The financial devastation from Hurricane Katrina reaches into billions of dollars nationwide but the sociological impact of this disaster cannot be measured by numbers. Professors Linda Holloway, Nicole Dash and Doug Henry submitted a grant to study how individuals were constrained in their decision making and the role of poverty and disability in limiting the choices evacuees were able to make as the hurricane approached and in the immediate aftermath.

“After Katrina hit the media was blaming the victims,” Dr. Dash explains, “asking why they didn’t leave when the evacuation was called.” She says the official mandatory evacuation did not happen until Sunday and Katrina hit on Monday, leaving very limited time. Her research found that “approximately 80,000 people in New Orleans had no transportation out of the city.” Many of these were people with disabilities.

“The trauma experienced by the disability community was just devastating,” Professor Holloway claimed when she interviewed some of the victims. One twenty-five-year-old woman with quadriplegia who sat in her wheelchair for 48 hours before being rescued told her story:

“We had to leave behind my lift and wheelchair. They decided it would be easier to transfer me to my godfather’s car if they put me into the back of a pickup first. They dropped me and I broke my arm. I heard it and felt it. They took me to the hospital for my arm and my decubitus ulcers, which I developed from being in the wheelchair so long. I spent two weeks in the hospital.”

“This is only one of many tragic stories we heard,” Professors Holloway and Dash both explain. “What failed with Katrina,” adds Dr. Dash, “was that there was not any assistance from the local government to help those who had no way out. There

wasn’t enough public transportation. The hospitals were unprepared and for those who ended up in the Superdome, the sanitary conditions were horrendous. For those who did make it to shelters, 54% of those shelters did not have working agreements with disability agencies and most of the community agencies did not know how to link with the emergency system.”

Some of the people who were able to leave New Orleans ended up in Dallas. Professor Dash claims there were approximately 66,000 of them in the DFW metroplex but “because FEMA had no tracking system we don’t know how many have blended into the community or how many have left.”

“Families were split up,” explains Dr. Holloway, “and this was especially traumatic if one of the family members had a disability.” The professor says that there was a social network in the New Orleans community and the people were very kin-oriented. “Now many of them are separated, literally torn apart, and the social networks they relied on are gone.”

As the research continues and conclusions are drawn from the sociological perspectives of Hurricane Katrina these North Texas professors hope to present their findings to the rehabilitation community. “People with limited resources have limited choices to make in terms of disaster preparedness and evacuation,” Dr. Dash explains. “Katrina was a socio-economic disaster. This grant is multidisciplinary and fits well with UNT. Our goal is not only to find out what happened but to research, present, and help implement public policy so that if and when a major disaster occurs, the poor and people with disabilities will know they have options. We want to make a difference.”

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The Student - Faculty - Staff Connection

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service Awards of Distinction event was held on May 4, 2007. Recipients of the PACS awards for 2007 included: Richard G. Smith, Hiram J. Friedsam Award for Distinguished Faculty Service; Jane Provo, Daniel M. Johnson Award of Distinction for Community Service; People's Clinic of Denton County, Inc., Award of Distinction for Organizations Involved in Community Service and Leadership; and Andrea Robledo, William A. Luker Award for Student Involvement.

Genie Bodenhamer-Davis, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions, recently received a lifetime achievement award from the International Society for Neurofeedback and Research.

Paul Leung, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions, received an outstanding contribution to education award from the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

The Department of Anthropology was featured in a special issue of *Practicing Anthropology*, a publication of the So-

ciety for Applied Anthropology. Half the issue was devoted to articles by the Department's faculty about their new, online MA and MS programs in Applied Anthropology. These are the first such programs offered fully online in the U.S.

Bob Bland, Chair and Professor, Department of Public Administration, received the Terrell Blodgett Academic Award, presented by the Texas City Management Association at their annual conference in San Antonio on June 22.

Cecilia Thomas, Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions, received a scholarship through the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program in Geriatric Social Work. The award, funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation, provides funding over a course of two years to support training and research opportunities, as well as professional development.

Bernard Weinstein, Director, Institute of Applied Economics, was appointed "Visiting Research Fellow" at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, from October-December 2007.

Dr. Constance Lacy, an alumnus of UNT's Social Work program, a Ronald E. McNair (1997) and Truman scholar (1998), is the Coordinator of the new Human Service Management and Leadership (HSML) degree program. Dr. Lacy earned a Doctor-



ate of Philosophy in Social Work in May 2005 and her Master of Science degree in Social Work (2000) from the University of Texas at Arlington. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Dr. Lacy has worked several years with community-based programs and non-profit organizations. She has been involved in extensive community outreach and collaboration and is particularly committed to working with agencies providing comprehensive services to diverse populations. As the coordinator of the HSML degree program, Dr. Lacy works to equip students with the skills needed to become effective leaders in the non-profit community. The program accepted its first students this past fall. The Human Service Management and Leadership degree is an interdisciplinary degree, housed at the Dallas campus, and designed to meet a critical shortage of skilled managers within non-profit and human service organizations.

Homecoming 2007



Saturday, October 27, 2007

Mean Green Village

Pre-game activities: 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Game time: 6:00 p.m. vs. Middle Tennessee

Join faculty, staff, alumni, and friends for pre-game festivities at the College of Public Affairs and Community Service tent in Mean Green Village (practice field at North Texas Boulevard and Allan Saxe Drive).

Popcorn, face painting, games, prizes, and more!

Using Punk Music and Leftover Food to Change the World

"Using Punk Music and Leftover Food to Change the World" was the title of the talk by Robert Egger at the PACS Fall Forum on September 13, 2007.

Mr. Egger is the Founder and President of DC Central Kitchen, Inc, in Washington, D. C. where unemployed men and women learn marketable culinary skills through a training program that utilizes food donated by restaurants, hotels and caterers. Since opening in 1989, the Kitchen has distributed 17.4 million meals and helped over 605 men and women gain full-time employment.



Currently, Egger is the Chairperson of the DC Mayor's Commission on Nutrition, Street Sense, Washington's "homeless" newspaper, and RE-

SULTS, a multinational microcredit and citizen advocacy organization. He was also the Co-Convener of the first ever Nonprofit Congress. Egger signed his book, *Begging for Change: The Dollars and Sense of Making Nonprofits Responsive, Efficient and Rewarding for All*, which received the 2005 McAdam Prize for "Best Nonprofit Management Book" by the Alliance for Nonprofit Management. While in Denton, he also met with local nonprofits and spoke at a Hunger Banquet given by the American Humanics Student Association, a co-curricular club for students interested in nonprofit management and whose members made the initial contact with Egger.

In Memory

Tory J. Caeti, 40, associate professor of criminal justice, died in an automobile accident on August 20, 2006, near Nairobi, Kenya, where he was working on a project with the U.S. Department of State. Caeti joined the UNT faculty in 1996, after holding the same position in the Criminal Justice Program at Bowling Green State University. He also had worked as an assistant instructor in the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University.

Caeti is survived by his wife, Melinda; two children, Anthony and Lauren; parents, Salvatore and Nancy Caeti; sister, Gina Pochocki; mother-in-law, Roxie Mapp; and sister-in-law, Merry Harris.



Dr. Hiram Johnson Friedsam, Founding Dean of PACS, died from complications of pancreatic cancer in San Antonio, Texas, on March 24, 2007, at the age of 87. Dr. Friedsam was instrumental in



establishing the Center for Studies in Aging at North Texas. In 1973, after serving as director of the Center, Dr. Friedsam was appointed as

the first Dean of the newly established School of Community Service (now the College of Public Affairs and Community Service), a position that he held until his retirement in 1983. He maintained an office in the Department of Applied Gerontology where he continued to write and edit professional publications, serve on local and national advisory boards, and mentor students and faculty.

Friedsam is survived by his wife, Reva Sykes Friedsam, daughter and son-in-law Karen F. and Tom Duncan, son S. Carl Friedsam and his wife Charlene, and grandchildren Stephen and Elizabeth Friedsam, his niece, Georgia Heppler (Bert), and cousin Sandra Mittica.

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PACS Development Connection



After several months of searching for the right person to head its Development efforts, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service

found exactly that person in Dameon Madison. Dameon joined the PACS team in April and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the job. Before arriving, he was at Talladega College in Alabama where he held the post of Vice President for Institutional Advancement for five years. He has already established a presence on the UNT campus and has been concentrating on creating a foundation for PACS alumni development. He has also focused on his work with members of the PACS Dean's Advisory Board and the Board's role with the College. Dameon is officed in Chilton Hall and you can contact him at 940/565-7051 or dmadison@unt.edu.

PACS Scholarship Recipients for 2006-2007

*Congratulations to these
outstanding students*

Joyce Ann Brown and Popo Gonzalez Scholarship: Nadia Majors (Applied Arts and Sciences, Dallas Campus)

Gail Rola Memorial Service Learning Scholarship: LuAnn Gibson (Social Work); Timothy Liden (Applied Arts and Sciences); Sarah Miller (Criminal Justice)

PACS Advisory Board Scholarship: Timothy Liden (Applied Arts and Sciences); Camila Valdiviezo (Applied Gerontology)

David and Lydia Hartman Scholarship for Service Learning in Mexico: Nadia Majors (Applied Arts and Sciences, Dallas Campus)

Deans, Department Chairs, and Directors: ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Thomas L. Evenson, Interim Dean
940-565-2239

Linda Holloway, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Student Services
940-565-4664

Ann Jordan, Associate Dean, Graduate and Administrative Affairs
940-565-2239

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Tyson Gibbs, Chair
940-565-2290

Institute of Applied Economics
Bernard Weinstein, Director
940-565-3437

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Richard A. Lusky, Chair
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Department of Public Administration
Robert L. Bland, Chair
940-565-2165

Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions
Paul Leung, Interim Chair
940-565-2488

Department of Sociology
David A. Williamson, Chair
940-565-2296

Center for Public Service
Stanley R. Ingman, Director
940-565-4863

Center for Public Management
Patrick Shinkle, Associate Director
940-369-7843

Center for U.S./Mexico Alliances for Community Renewal
Stanely R. Ingman, Interim Director
940-565-4863

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940-369-7808

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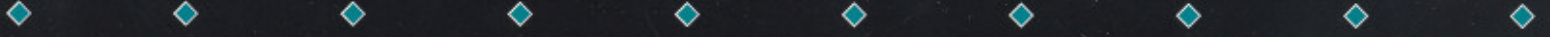
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