

## Congratulations School of Social Work Winners of the Fowler Business Challenge

Focused on energizing the entrepreneurial spirit of UST students across campuses and colleges, Fowler challenges students to develop a business concept that has the potential to become a viable, high-growth business. The teams that submit the winning business concept in each of three divisions (undergraduate, graduate and social venture) receive scholarships from the University of St. Thomas.

### Social Venture Division

**Lindsey Landgraf**, Social Work and

**Jen Strong**, Economics.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Social Venture Division

ReWrite Boutique

ReWrite Boutique is a boutique for women in the Twin Cities with an emphasis on single mothers. Women who are unable to afford clothing will receive free clothing based on a point system. For instance, by attending a class at a local agency she will receive points for clothing. The goal is not to enable women by giving them free clothing, but rather by connecting them to resources and supporting them in making positive steps. Women who can pay will purchase clothing knowing that their purchase will offset the cost of someone who cannot afford the clothing.

### Graduate Division

**Donara Rudman**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Graduate Division

Survivorship Training and Counseling Center

The Minnesota population was 5,379,139 in 2012, with a male-female ratio of approximately 50/50. One in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in Minnesota are survivors of sexual assault and violence, which means the total number affected by sexual abuse and violence in Minnesota is estimated to be 1,344,785. Thirty percent of those survivors develop PTSD in their lifetime; that's about 336,445 Minnesotans who are in need of PTSD sexual abuse and violence counseling.

The Survivorship Training and Counseling Center will be a for-profit counseling center and boxing gym that specializes in providing clinically sound treatment practices for survivors of sexual abuse and violence. This will be an adults-only treatment

center. Initially the treatment center will be based out of local boxing gyms in the area to help defray the set-up costs. Treatment will focus on group therapy session of 90 minutes; 45 minutes spent in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), 30 minutes spent in the gym utilizing boxing equipment and using Somatic techniques based on Dr. Peter Levine's Somatic Theory, and 15 minutes spent in Guided Imagery Therapy.



Left to right, students Jen Strong (Economics) and Lindsey Landgraf (Bachelor of Social Work)



Left to right, Trustee Ron Fowler, student Donara Rudman (Master of Social Work)

# Letter From the Dean



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am sure for you as for me, the fall went by way too quickly! One day it was 60 degrees, almost balmy, and the next day it was 3 below with 3 inches of snow. The wonders of Minnesota!

This fall has been exciting and hectic all at the same time. Faculty have determined which of our strategic priorities they will focus on in their program units, all involving sustaining our strengths and exploring new opportunities. With a new president, Dr. Julie Sullivan at the University of St. Thomas, we have been encouraged to consider the value proposition of getting a UST degree (UST-SCU in our case), innovation and comprehensive institutional internationalization.

It didn't take faculty long to articulate what they saw as the value of a social work degree from our joint school. Just to highlight a few points: ours is the only profession with social justice in its code of ethics, our faculty are engaged at all levels of practice, we have long-standing relationships with community partners, seamless connections between research, teaching, and practice, high employability of graduates, polished reputation, generalist to clinical and beyond, and strength of collaboration.

Exploring new opportunities and innovation is center stage this academic year. Not only do faculty have a focus on innovation, our students are strutting their stuff as well. Two teams of social work students, one undergrad and one grad, entered the Fowler Business Challenge and walked away with 3rd place in each category. Faculty are busting-button proud of these students! We have highlighted their accomplishments on the front page.

Not to be outdone by their students, BSW faculty are working on several new initiatives including the development of a BSW to MSW clinical program, a social services management minor, a chemical dependency minor, and a social work public health double major. At the graduate level, we initiated the area of emphasis in military practice in the fall and will implement the area of emphasis in clinical practice with immigrants and refugees next fall. Our major innovation is the development of a doctorate in social work, a DSW,

which will address the workforce shortage of doctorally prepared faculty for BSW and MSW programs. Stay tuned!

At the university level, I have been charged with directing the search for the executive director of international education at St. Thomas. This is a fabulous opportunity for me to learn more about our brand of international education and comprehensive institutional internationalization. For me, international education is not only a passion, but a commitment. Last spring, I was honored to be elected for a second term as president of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD). In July, we hosted an outstanding 18th International Symposium in Kampala, Uganda. I am also fortunate to be serving on the board of directors of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) promoting the development of social work education globally. IASSW will be hosting the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in July 2014 in Melbourne, Australia.

In July 2013, I assumed the role of Board Chair for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). This fall, CSWE hosted a White House Briefing "Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in a New Era: The Role of Social Work Education." The discussion focused on preparing the next generation of social work practitioners for the new paradigm in health professional education and collaborative practice to meet the needs of all Americans. The briefing featured panels of White House and federal agency officials speaking on the following topics: Shifting U.S. Demographics: Ensuring Care for All; The New Expectations for Health Care; A National Dialogue on Mental Health and Building Capacity to Meet the Need. This was a historic and important event for the profession. Congratulations to Dr. Darla Spence Coffey, President and CEO of CSWE, for her leadership. By the time this reaches you, we will have celebrated Christmas and ushered in the New Year. My hope for all is that we find peace in this world, and each of us cherish our blessings. For me 2013 was truly a fabulous year!

Barbara W. Shank  
Dean and Professor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara".

social work perspectives

The School of Social Work publishes Perspectives twice during the academic year.

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# Welcome

## Director of Marketing and Recruitment Cindy Lorah



I joined the School of Social Work in October, just in time for the inauguration of Dr. Julie Sullivan as the 15th president of the University of St. Thomas. As reported by the St. Thomas Newsroom, Dr. Sullivan noted that the United States is losing the middle of its socioeconomic spectrum and is suffering from growing gaps in achievement and income. Sullivan

said “the call of the 21st century is loud and includes wide-ranging challenges, which are also exciting opportunities.” I am thrilled to be a part of the School of Social Work, which plays an integral role in helping both of our universities address these challenges (and opportunities)!

Prior to this role, I was with the Health Care MBA program at St. Thomas (a graduate business program for leaders in the health care industry), where I managed enrollment and external relations. I am actively involved with the Women’s Health Leadership TRUST, a Minnesota organization committed to developing women leaders in health care, and currently serve as co-chair of its Programming Committee. Being immersed in health policy and education over the past 6 years, I have seen firsthand the changes taking place in the health care system and am excited by the industry’s renewed focus on overall “health” as defined in the preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization (unchanged since 1948):

*“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”*

It would be impossible not to recognize the expanding need for social workers and others who embrace the “person-in-environment” perspective in tackling individual and systemic “health” challenges and societal disparities. From “Medical Homes” and “Accountable Communities of Health,” to “Achievement Zones” and “Promise Neighborhoods,” an increasing number of organizations and initiatives are embracing what social workers have always known: that each individual functions as part of a system and that each aspect of the system may provide opportunities for strength and support or create obstacles and disincentive. It is with good reason the profession of social work is expected to grow by over 25 percent in the next decade!

## 2014-2015 will mark two significant milestones for the School of Social Work

The 2014-15 academic year will mark the 25th anniversary of our Master’s Degree in Social Work program and the 40th year of offering a joint BSW program. If you are interested in taking part in the dialogue about ways to mark these exciting milestones, please contact me at [cllorah@stthomas.edu](mailto:cllorah@stthomas.edu) or (651) 962-5814.

Finally, and most importantly, help us stay connected with you! If you are an alum, please join our LinkedIn group, and make sure to update us with your preferred contact information and your current role. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you in the larger SCU-UST SSW community in the months and years to come!

### Stay Connected with the SCU-UST School of Social Work Community!

#### Upcoming events calendar:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/events/>

#### Alumni updates:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/alumni/>



“Like” St. Kate’s - St. Thomas  
School of Social Work

Pictures, announcements and comments from the  
St. Kate’s – St. Thomas  
School of Social Work community



Request to Join the NEW “SCU-UST  
School of Social Work Student/Alumni Group”  
for current students, alumni, and faculty of the  
School of Social Work to network, post announcements,  
and share articles and job opportunities

*Accredited by the  
Council of Social Work Education (CSWE)*

# Social Work for Social Justice

## Ten Principles

**Human Dignity** – Dignity of the human person is the ethical foundation of a moral society. The measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

**Community and the Common Good** – All individuals by virtue of their human nature have social needs. Human relationships enable people to meet their needs and provide an important vehicle for change. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened. The way in which society is organized directly affects human dignity and the common good.

**Rights and Responsibilities** – People have a right and a responsibility to participate in society and to work together toward the common good. Human dignity is protected and healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.

**Priority for the Poor and Vulnerable** – A basic moral test of any community or society is the way in which the most vulnerable members are faring. In a society characterized by deepening divisions between rich and poor, the needs of those most at risk should be considered a priority.

**Participation** – All people have a right to participate in the economic, political and cultural life of society. It is the ultimate injustice for a person or a group to be excluded unfairly.

**Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** – The economy must serve the people, not the other way around. The basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property and to economic initiative.

**Solidarity** – We are our brother's and sister's keeper. We are one human family, whatever our differences. An ethic of care acknowledging our interdependence belongs in every aspect of human experience.

**Stewardship** – It is incumbent upon us to recognize and protect the value of all people and all resources on our planet. While rights to personal property are recognized, these rights are not unconditional and are secondary to the best interest of the common good, especially in relation to the right of all individuals to meet their basic needs.

**Governance/Principle of Subsidiarity** – Governance structures in all levels/settings have an imperative to promote human dignity, protect human rights and build the common good. While the principle of subsidiarity calls for the functions of government to be performed at the lowest level possible in order to ensure self-determination and empowerment, that higher levels of government have the responsibility to provide leadership and to set policy in the best interest of the common good.

**Promotion of Peace** – In light of the human dignity and worth of all and the ethical imperatives of solidarity and stewardship, we are called to promote peace and nonviolence at all levels. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon the respect and cooperation between peoples and nations.

## Social Work for Social Justice: Ten Principles

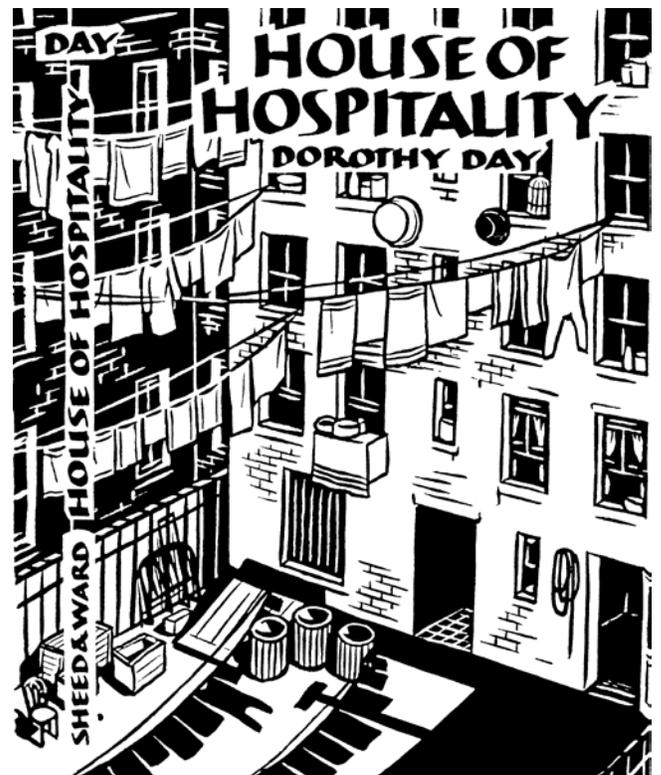
Each issue of Perspectives features one of our Social Work for Social Justice: Ten Principles. These principles reflect the convergence between the NASW Code of Ethics and Catholic Social Teaching. Each column provides a glimpse from source documents as well as an example of how our students, faculty and alumni address the principle in their daily social work.

In this issue, we explore ...

### Principle Four

#### Priority for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test of any community or society is the way in which the most vulnerable members are faring. In a society characterized by deepening divisions between rich and poor, the needs of those most at risk should be considered a priority.



Ade Bethune "House of Hospitality" book jacket  
Ade Bethune Collection, St. Catherine University Library

# Economic Justice

## Room at the Table

Carol F. Kuechler, coordinator



Each year the School of Social Work identifies a theme to guide our primary events, Room at the Table and the Justice Lecture. This year the theme of Economic Justice was highlighted by a presentation and dialogue on the Faces of Poverty, a report on the poverty gap by the Greater Twin Cities United Way.

Presenters were Meghan Barp, M.A., vice president of community impact, Greater Twin Cities United Way, and Rajean Moone, Ph.D., independence manager, Greater Twin Cities United Way and adjunct faculty, School of Social Work.



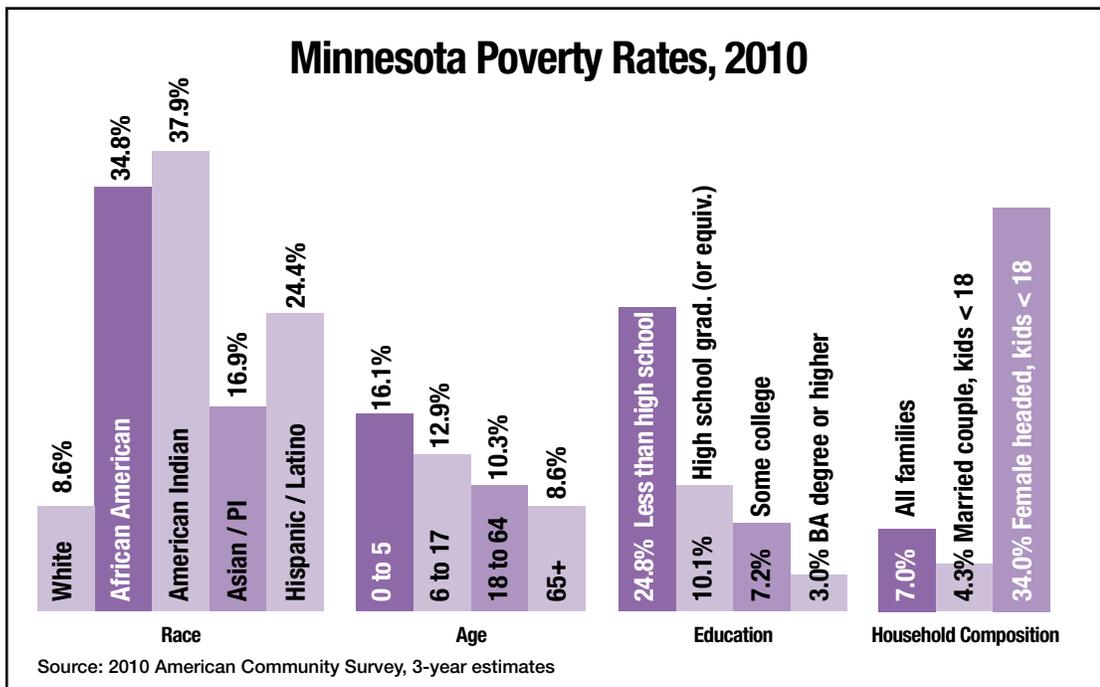
Nearly 100 participants – students, alums, faculty and community members – engaged in conversations about the specific population areas for which the United Way has written briefs in the past two years:

- The Paradox and Promise of Education: Key Learnings About Children and Poverty
- Six Key Learnings About Unemployment and Situational Poverty
- Four Key Learnings About Chronic and Intergenerational Poverty
- Key Learnings About Poverty and Seniors

The findings of the table-based conversations were shared with the large group and included further sharing of resources among the participants.

All participants received the report: Faces of Poverty, which can be found at [www.gtcuw.org/community\\_news/faces\\_of\\_poverty](http://www.gtcuw.org/community_news/faces_of_poverty).

We hope to see you again at the Justice Lecture on March 18, 2014



From “Faces of Poverty 2013,” nearly 200,000 children ages 0-17 are living in poverty in Minnesota, a 60 percent increase since 2000.



## Student / faculty research sheds new light on academic experiences of young adults with disabilities after moving from foster care to adoption

BSW Senior, Shannon Koester, and Assistant Professor, Katharine Hill, along with their community partner Ampersand Families, collaborated on a research project titled *Permanency and Preparation for Transition*.

They examined how academic experiences change for young adults with disabilities who are also in foster care after they are adopted. Shannon and Katharine used existing school and agency records, as well as interviews with the adoptive families of ten young adults. Findings included a high rate of mis-identification of youth's disabilities in IEPs prior to adoption, an increase in educational mainstreaming after adoption, and an increase in healthy peer interactions and extracurricular participation for youth after they were adopted.

In addition to creating a written report, Shannon presented the research findings to the Family Builders Network, a national group of agencies and stakeholders in foster care, child welfare, and adoption. Shannon's presentation was very well received and sparked a spirited dialogue about services and supports for children with disabilities in the child welfare system. She and Katharine are hoping to continue to disseminate their findings through presentations and publications in the upcoming months.

## For the Kids: Kenyon Youth Center Now Open

Melissa Dobbs is a senior in the Evening/Weekend/Online BSW program. In October 2013, Dobbs opened a Youth Center in Kenyon, Minn.

According to the Kenyon Leader newspaper: "Melissa is taking her desire to help kids from an idea to actuality."

Dobbs originally approached All Seasons Community Services' Steve Martin about conducting an internship project. Steve asked her what her driving passion was and she responded: the kids. So their focus became the youth center. Many volunteers would be needed to clean and paint the building and staff the center. There would be opportunities for adults, especially senior citizens, to connect with the youth. Dobbs is positive about her vision for the center. It's a safe, warm, fun place to hang out and it's free!

Her life is a busy one with two children, she is employed as a special education paraprofessional with the Medford school district and is in the process of completing her social work degree.

Congratulations and job well done Melissa!

## BSW Innovation Showcased in The New Social Worker

Congratulations to BSW students **Nora Smyth** and **Helen Garcia** and faculty member **Ande Nesmith, MSW, Ph.D.**, on having your article published. The article, titled "*The Power of Social Work Students: A Call to Action on Violence Against Women*," appeared in the fall issue of *The New Social Worker*. Nora and Helen started a student-run organization called Women Against Domestic Violence, to raise awareness of gender-based violence. The students and their Half the Sky event were highlighted in the Spring 2013 edition of *Perspectives* newsletter.

Their article can be found on pages 18-19 of the *The New Social Worker*: [www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/634357/follow](http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/634357/follow)

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## Students Aim to Bring ‘Life,’ in More Ways Than One, to Africa

(Excerpt from St. Thomas Newsroom)



Co-founders of Maysha, left to right: Netsanet Negussie (Neuroscience and Philosophy), and Samali Mutazindwa (Social Work and Justice and Peace Studies)

There’s an old saying:

*“Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day.  
Teach a man to fish, you feed him for  
a lifetime.”*

The idea is that while a handout is a thoughtful gift, it is ephemeral. Education, however, is a gift that leaves a legacy.

This is the spirit that drives Maysha, a healthcare program-in-the-making focused on education that will serve marginalized and remote areas of East Africa. Maysha, which means “life” in Swahili (the primary language of East Africa), is a Tommie-run program – operating under Minnesota-based NGO West African Medical Missions – founded and led by program directors Samali Mutazindwa and Netsanet Negussie, both seniors at St. Thomas, and executive director Mathew Vicknair ’13. WAMM is shepherding the team’s vision and serving as the program’s organizational mentor while they learn how NGOs work and providing the nonprofit status they need to operate.

Maysha’s purpose, Negussie explained, is to “empower members of underserved communities in East Africa to take an active role in addressing health disparities instead of merely being recipients of aid.”

Negussie, a Minnesota native born of Eritrean parents, and pre-med student, and Mutazindwa, a Uganda native and dual social work/justice and peace studies major, became friends their freshman year at St. Thomas. Each harbored the same dream of bringing better health care to underserved communities in

East Africa. Negussie had seen firsthand local and international healthcare disparities in her time with the Minnesota Future Doctor’s program. She wanted NGOs to do more than distribute aid and to see more involvement by local community members. Mutazindwa’s Ugandan high school required students to volunteer for credit. On her many trips outside of Kampala, the capital of Uganda and her hometown, she noticed “the orphanages and schools didn’t have the same resources ours had. The small hospitals in the villages didn’t have as many resources and staff.”

Over lunch in Scooter’s last semester, Mutazindwa pitched to Negussie a rough sketch of what would become the bones of Maysha: She wanted to bring health care education projects and malaria intervention initiatives and supplies, like malaria nets, to Uganda, where the disease is the leading cause of death.

“She was enthusiastic but thought I was crazy!” Mutazindwa remembers. The pair didn’t waste time getting Maysha off the ground.

They enlisted sociology/international economics major Vicknair, whom they knew through classes at St. Thomas, and scheduled a meeting with Gabriel Warren, co-founder of WAMM. The group was a fan of the NGO’s approach to bringing health care education to marginalized areas of West Africa – an approach that was in line with their own vision for East Africa.

Maysha will focus its efforts first on Uganda. If all goes as planned, they hope to expand to Ethiopia, then Kenya and Tanzania.

Efforts also will gear toward community-health outreach for local (Ugandan) students who plan to work in medicine “so they feel empowered to be a part of our project,” Mutazindwa explained. She will travel home this winter to lay the groundwork, essentially “searching out and starting to build relationships with people and organizations we can link up with,” she said.

All three founders already have applied for a Clinton Global Initiative grant, which would give Maysha not only operating funds but also invaluable training at a weekend-long conference hosted by former President Bill Clinton in March.

If all goes according to schedule, Negussie said Maysha will be poised to “inspire, advise and mentor communities” in Uganda by summer 2014.

# Alumni Notes

## BSW Student Chosen as Commencement Speaker



Theresa O'Connor, BSW '13, was the student commencement speaker at the St. Catherine University spring ceremony which included 47 SCU-UST social work students.

Theresa is the 11th child of an impoverished rural Minnesota family. She was raised in a culture of poverty. Her father had a sixth grade education and her mom had a high school diploma. She experienced the painful realities of foster care and struggled with basic literacy. College was a dream for her. She wrote:

“Energy and encouragement are not put into dreams you cannot achieve. However, these beliefs were challenged by a few amazingly strong and influential women who saw my potential and nurtured my possibility.”

Considering college, she felt overwhelmed and uncertain, but she was elated when her letter of acceptance arrived. She had so much to learn. Social justice was woven through the curriculum and gave her a picture of the world she had never seen before. She was inspired by words made famous by Mother Teresa:

“Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.”

“Knowledge is power,” stated O'Connor. “We are charged with the responsibility to use our knowledge to impact our communities, change the structures of our society, and promote peace in our world. We have the capacity and obligation to impact the lives of others. Our time of doubt and hesitation is over. Today, we let our voices be heard. We look upon the canvas of our world. We pick up our paintbrushes and paint.”

## Congratulations

**Emily Ross**, LGSW, BSW '10 and MSW '12 was elected to the board of directors for National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota (NAMI-MN). Emily worked with NAMI throughout her MSW clinical research paper project. Currently she is a Mental Health Practitioner at Maghakian Place - People Incorporated Mental Health Services.

**Rachel Murr** MSW '13 had an article published in the Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work titled: “*I Became Proud of Being Gay and Proud of Being Christian: The Spiritual Journeys of Queer Christian Women.*” To access the entire article: [www.tandfonline.com/eprint/TsX9Ex9sB9Dku5H4QD6i/full](http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/TsX9Ex9sB9Dku5H4QD6i/full)

## Updates

**Kendra (Hensch) O'Connor** MSW '02, has worked for six years as the clinical director at Addictions and the therapist of a residential treatment program for women. Kendra has an LCSW and LCAC and now works in a private practice with seven other clinicians. Her focus is children and adolescents, mood disorders, addiction, and trauma.

**Elizabeth (Wallner) Friederich** LICSW '03, works at Courage Kenny Rehab Institute at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. She works primarily with patients who have experienced traumatic brain injuries and strokes. She became a certified brain injury specialist in 2011.

### ∞ In Memoriam ∞

Ernest Michael Gunderson MSW '11, passed away on May 29, 2013, from pancreatic cancer.

An interest in emotional healing led to a second career in social work with an MSW from St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas. Ernie's delight in people and relationships made him a valued friend and member of many communities. He was active in several men's group, loved nature, outdoor recreating, reading to children and dancing. A celebration of his life was held June 7, 2013.

# Professional Notes



**Richa Dhanju**

Conducted research with 2 social work seniors - Caitlyn Wright and Eleanor O'Neil - on microenterprise initiatives in MN. This research was conducted in summer and fall of 2013 and was funded by the Summer Scholars Program at St. Catherine University. The project is currently in the data analysis phase. Key findings were presented to stakeholders in September 2013.



**Lance Peterson**

"Audio-recorded Feedback: An Effective and Efficient Approach to Teaching Interviewing Skills." Skills workshop presented at the 59th Annual Program Meeting for the Council on Social Work Education, November 2, 2013, Dallas Texas (Peterson, L. T.)



**Kendra J. Garrett**

Garrett, K.J. (2012). (2012). *Managing school social work records. Children & Schools*, 34(4), 239-248. doi: 10.1093/cs/cds003



**Katharine Hill**

Hill, K. *Special education experiences of older foster youth with disabilities: An analysis of state administrative data.* Journal of Public Child Welfare. Accepted for publication.

Donaldson, L., Hill, K., Ferguson, S., Fogel, S. & Erickson, C. *Contemporary Social Work Licensure: Implications for Our Profession.* Social Work. Accepted for publication.



**Mari Ann Graham**

Graham, M.A. (2013). "A spiritual approach to teaching research," bi-lingual presentation at 8th annual North American Spirituality & Social Work Conference, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, June 21.

Graham, M.A. (2013). "Integral ethics in social work education," workshop presented at National Association of Christians in Social Work Conference, Atlanta GA, October 19.



**Lisa Richardson**

Richardson, L.M., & Shank, B.W. (2013, November). *The Field Practice Institute: Elevating social work field education.* Presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX.

Richardson, L. M. (2013, October). *Supervision refresher: From practice wisdom to effective performance management.* Presented at the Metro District Conference, Minnesota Social Service Association, St. Paul, MN.



**Pa Der Vang**

Vang, P.D. & Vang, C. (2013). *Hmong and Acculturation. Summer Scholars Program,* St. Catherine University. Presented at the 16th Annual Hmong National Conference in on April 5, 2013 in CA: Fresno.

Xiong, G.L. & Vang, P.D. (2012). *Culture and sexual identity: An analysis through the perceptions of Hmong-American Minnesotans.* McNair Scholars Program. St. Paul, MN: University of St. Thomas.



**Jessica Toft**

Toft, J. & Hollister, D., & Martin, M. (2013). *Welfare reform impacts on Hmong families in Minnesota.* Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work, 22(1), 40-59

Toft, J. & Hollister, D. & Martin, M. (2013). The influence of paid work, racial-ethnicity, and immigrant status on health care coverage after Welfare Reform in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Journal of Social Work in Public Health 28(2), 67-80.



**Catherine Marrs Fuchsel**

Marrs Fuchsel, C. (2013). *Familism, Sexual Abuse, and Domestic Violence among Immigrant Mexican Women.* Affilia: Social Work Journal for Women, 28, 378-389. doi: 10.1177/0886109913503265

Marrs Fuchsel, C. & Hysjulien, B. (2013). *Exploring a Domestic Violence Intervention Curriculum for Immigrant Mexican Women in a Group Setting: A Pilot Study.* Social Work with Groups, (36)4, 304-320. doi 10.1080/01609513.2013.767130. Paper accepted at a conference in June 2013



**Kari Fletcher**

Fletcher, K. L. (2013, October). *Military social work advanced practice guidelines within graduate education: Progress since 2010?* Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.

Fletcher, K. L., Comer, S. D., & Dunlap, A. (Article accepted for publication, 2013). *Getting connected: The Virtual Holding Environment.* Psychoanalytic Social Work.

# Innovation in the Classroom

## Kendra Garret, Ph.D.



I developed a number of teaching goals for the year, among them to cut my lecture time and increase classroom opportunities to apply theory to practice situations. I am “flipping” one of my classes and putting the lectures online. (I hear that students are listening to lectures under the hair dryer at the beauty

salon and as they are driving to work.) Taking lectures out of class time frees up our time together for more student interaction. Students can use this class time for co-creating learning by discussing the material in greater depth, applying theory to case situations, and problem solving together.

I have been thinking about teaching as a parallel process to practice. This has led me to consider the importance of various components of practice and how they appear in the classroom. I have wondered why our undergraduate student ratings of practice evaluation are lower than other elements of practice, and that led me to consider how much I was using “teaching evaluation” to monitor student learning. I have increased my use of classroom assessments, asking students “what from today’s chapter, will you use in your own practice” or “do you have questions about what we discussed today?” We use their responses in the next class and our discussions are very rich. I hope that students are gaining a solid understanding of the course objectives, which parallel their practice goals.

Kari Fletcher and I have started a monthly brown bag lunch session, Talking About Teaching. Our first topic was the teaching relationship, which fits with my ruminations about the parallels between teaching and practice. We will continue these discussions throughout the academic year, and hope to learn many of the tips and techniques our faculty members have to share.

## Lance Peterson, Ph.D.

Excerpt from Exemplars, 2013; University of St. Thomas Grants and Research Office



Early in my career I was an adjunct teacher at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). I sensed that Masters of Social Work (MSW) students were feeling like the emphasis on theory outweighed the emphasis on skill development. This left them feeling unprepared for the workforce. Some feeling of inadequacy is natural when beginning any field of work, but I could

not help but wonder: Was there more that could be done to help students gain needed skills for practice?

A simple idea began to take root after a conversation with my mentor, Dr. Wally Gingerich, at CWRU. He and I were both teaching a course in clinical social work practice with families. He was introducing a new assignment to his class, which would include students recording a role-play video of a social worker/client encounter and him providing feedback digitally. I decided that his idea might be a good one to adopt.

I used the video-recorded role-play assignments, and a digital audio recorder for student feedback, which I sent via email. After recording the feedback, I uploaded the recordings to my computer, and then sent them via email. After teaching three or four courses in which I incorporated this role-play and feedback strategy, I believed I had a teaching method that was making a real difference. Although students frequently approached the activity with high anxiety and doubts, it seemed that 80 to 90 percent of them found it to be a crucial part of their competency development.

When I arrived at UST, I had to come up with a creative plan to continue the video-recorded role-play assignments that did not require a recording studio. I sought help and was introduced to the Flipcam; it has made the process even more user-friendly for students.

I believe video-recorded role-play activities, accompanied by audio-recorded feedback and classroom discussions, provide a fertile learning environment for students with respect to all types of clinical practice. Student skills are enriched through observing videos of classmates who do particularly well in the role-play exercises. I look forward to continuing to develop methods that capture the learning that is occurring through these exercises.

# School of Social Work Notes



Lisa Richardson

## Field Education Leadership at Home and Beyond: Lisa Richardson, Director of MSW Field Education

By Carey Winkler

Lisa Richardson recently put on another field-related hat by becoming the president and treasurer of North America Network of Field Educators and Directors (NANFED).

NANFED was founded in 1987 to promote the interests of social work field education and to give field educators a voice at the Council on Social Work Education annual program meeting. Lisa describes herself as being “drawn to organizations that are valuable, engage critical thinking, and are nimble,” and she saw that NANFED fits this bill. She was recruited by the group and invited to take on a leadership role. With Lisa’s leadership, NANFED was reincorporated in 2013.

NANFED is a network of field educators working together to independently represent field educators, promote and celebrate quality field education, and support best practices in field education. For more about NANFED: [www.nanfed.com](http://www.nanfed.com)



Carey Winkler

## Welcome Lisa Kiesel, Ph.D., LICSW



I recently completed my Ph.D. in social work from the University of Minnesota and am enthused to be teaching within the MSW program. I currently teach History and Philosophy of Social Work, Social Welfare and Program Development, Theory and Practice, and act as chair for students’ clinic research. I began in social work completing my BSW at Augsburg College

and later my MSW at the University of Washington, Seattle, in its first cohort of advanced standing students. I have worked in clinical practice over the past 17 years in a variety of settings, including residential treatment, day treatment, school-based and

in-home services, and clinic-based community mental health. My work with children, youth, and families has often been adjunctive to their involvement with the child welfare system, and I had the opportunity to pursue my research interest in this area with my dissertation research of the relationship quality and content between foster parents and foster children within treatment foster care. Other research projects with which I’ve been involved explored the impact of child abuse and exposure to IPV upon children’s school performance and disability as well as research exploring the experiences of children and families served concurrently by multiple systems, including special education, child welfare, and juvenile justice. I’m looking forward to future research regarding the well-being of children and families, and the systems that serve them.

## Welcome Eva Solomonson, MSW, LICSW



I was thrilled to join the accomplished faculty and staff at the SCU-UST School of Social Work. I came from a 13-year clinical case management practice at the Center for Victims of Torture where I had the opportunity to work with a highly functioning interdisciplinary treatment team in an effective human rights organization. In that position I

offered both direct client care and administrative and clinical supervision. I served as a field supervisor for several MSW students over the years. I am enjoying the transition to social work education; I hope to make a contribution to the field of social work from the new perspective of teaching. I am interested in best practices for offering practical and clinical interventions for refugees and immigrants, providing cross cultural care, and working with trauma. I am also interested

in the intersection of spirituality with social work – how we can help clients access their own spiritual resources to improve their functioning and how the spirituality of the social work practitioner can be used and impacted by one’s professional practice. I also enjoy the opportunity to mentor the next generation of social workers and am particularly interested in methods to support effective self-care practices that will sustain new social work professionals in their workplaces.

I am working exclusively in graduate field education, helping students integrate academic learning with real-life social work practice and accompanying them as they develop their own identity as competent social work professionals. We work with agency field supervisors in the community who so generously share day-to-day practice wisdom with our students.

I obtained my MSW from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) School of Social Work. I also recently obtained a graduate certificate in Holistic Health from St. Catherine University.

# School of Social Work Notes

## AEA and AEGSW Welcomes 12 New Scholars

By Diane Bauer, Coordinator of Aging Services



This year our Area of Emphasis in Aging MSW Scholars program expanded to its largest cohort ever: 10 new scholars focusing their clinical education on serving the needs of older adults and their families. The new scholars are Bethany Doerr, Rebekah Elling, Ellen Grosh, Karina Johnson, Carolyn Lokensgard, Angela Mueller, Rebekah Taylor, Lindsay Walker, Kasey Weber, and Florence Wright. This new group of scholars joins our existing eight scholars doing clinical placements and clinical research projects around issues affecting older adults.

We also have welcomed two dedicated BSW students, Morgan Bohmbach and Emily Fifolt, into the Area of Emphasis in Gero-Social Work program. They are doing their senior placements in agencies that serve older adults and also participating in various leadership activities that educate other students about the rewards of working in this ever-growing field of practice.

## Dr. Barbara Shank Represents School of Social Work at National Level



School of Social Work Dean Barbara Shank was elected to the Council on Social Work Education's board of directors as the chair-elect and is now serving as board chair through June 30, 2016. CSWE is a nonprofit, national association representing more than 2,500 individual members, as well as 500 undergraduate and 232 graduate programs of professional social work education. Founded in 1952, this partnership of educational and professional institutions, social welfare agencies and private citizens is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States.

This fall Dr. Barbara Shank moderated one of four panels at a White House briefing for 160 social workers titled "Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in a New Era: The Role of Social Work Education." Several senior White House officials participated in four panels addressing the importance of social workers as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act moved into a new phase Oct. 1, when health insurance exchanges opened for business. Dr. Shank's panel reviewed the ongoing national dialogue on mental health, launched by President Barack Obama at the White House on June 3, and the role social workers can play in promoting dialogue about mental health.

An overview of this briefing can be found in the General News Archives at [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)

## Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Report

This fall, SCU/UST School of Social Work launched its military social work curricula. We now offer an Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars program; a general fall elective *SOWK 490/GRSW 590: Practice with Military Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families*; and a spring clinical elective *GRSW 690: Clinical Military Social Work Practice*.

If you are interested in learning about military social work at SCU/UST, check out [www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/militarysocialwork](http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/militarysocialwork) or contact AEMP Coordinator Dr. Kari Fletcher [flet1660@stthomas.edu](mailto:flet1660@stthomas.edu).



### 2013-2014 AEMP Scholars

Top row (left to right): Lisa Nafziger Bittner and Nora Hewson-Stech.  
Bottom row (left to right): Claire Niessen-Derry, Christa Lane, Tonia Smith, Marcus Kuboy, Anthony Christian, and Charles Kalogo

# School of Social Work Notes

## The Advanced Clinical Practice Institute “The Year of Development”

By Colin Hollidge and David Roseborough



The Advanced Clinical Practice Institute is proud to announce the “Year of Development.” We have the honor of offering seven events, including seminars, day and half-day events, all centering on themes related to human development, hosting nationally and internationally recognized contemporary leaders in this field, such as Dr. Daniel Siegel. Our first offering, Sept. 26, was hosted by Karlen Lyons-Ruth, Ph.D., professor of psychology in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Her presentation was titled “Developmental and Neurobiological Pathways Related to Early Maternal Withdrawal.” Dr. Lyons-Ruth is Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Her research has focused



on the assessment of attachment relationships in high-risk environments during infancy, childhood and adolescence, and their implications for later psychopathology. One of the most interesting parts of the evening focused on her findings that early maternal withdrawal (independent of other variables) has a direct influence in creating a pathway that may lead to borderline personality disorder. Approximately 50 people attended the seminar, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis.

Our second offering was on Oct. 19, with Charles Zeanah, M.D., and Elizabeth Carlson Ph.D., who discussed the impact of institutional deprivation in early childhood, citing the Bucharest Study. The presenters asked whether infants compromised by institutionalization can be rehabilitated and to what degree. Dr. Zeanah from Tulane University, and Dr. Carlson from the University of Minnesota, were principle investigators in this study. Dr. Charles Zeanah participated via Skype. The American study group researched the deleterious effects of institutionalization in Romania and the impacts of interventions on this group of children. The program included video recordings of attachment assessments, the background of the research and current results from the studies. The afternoon was moderated by Dr. Alan Sroufe, professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota, who is an internationally recognized expert on attachment theory. Dr. Sroufe will join us again for several events.

In our third offering, we were honored to host Minnesota’s own Dr. Alan Sroufe, who presented “On the Nature of Development: Implications for Clinical Practice,” based on findings from his decades-long longitudinal study. In his talk, he pointed to ways in which what we often think of as temperament is more fluid and context-dependent than once thought. He pointed to the importance of experience and relationship in how personality unfolds. He discussed how development builds upon itself and offered reasons for hope, including examples of times people in this study were able to seize a developmental opportunity, and take a different life course.

## Upcoming Institutes

You are invited to attend the following events. Please remember you can visit our webpage ([www.stthomas.edu/socialwork](http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork)) to find institute offerings and registration information. Please consider joining us; student discounts are available for all of these events.

ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE		
Jan. 25, 2014 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Attachment and the Developing Brain: Implications for Mindful Therapy	Dan Siegel, MD
Feb. 15, 2014 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Psychopathology as an Outcome of Development	L. Alan Sroufe, PhD
Mar. 28, 2014 9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Attachment, Fear, and the Clinical Process	Arietta Slade, PhD
GROUP WORK INSTITUTE		
Feb. 28, 2014 (joint with Supervision) 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Effective Group Supervision: Roles and Responsibilities of Supervisors and Supervisees	Carol F. Kuechler, MSW, PhD, LISW and Kathy Caron, MSW, LICSW
SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE		
Jan. 10, Mar. 21, May 16, 2014 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Practice/Skill Building for Mindfulness-Based Helping Professionals	Spirituality Institute Faculty
Feb. 7, 2014 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Deepening Skillful Practice: Non-judgment and Equanimity	Stacy M. Husebo, MSW, LICSW and Felicia Sy, MSW, PhD, LICSW
SUPERVISION INSTITUTE		
Feb. 28, 2014 (joint with Group Work) 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Effective Group Supervision: Roles and Responsibilities of Supervisors and Supervisees	Carol F. Kuechler, MSW, PhD, LISW and Kathy Caron, MSW, LICSW

# School of Social Work Notes

## BSW Social Work Club

By Madeline Busch, club officer



Day at the Capitol

The St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas BSW Social Work Club is in the middle of an exciting year. Officers Kibbie Clafin, Gao Xiong, Ashley Erickson, and Madeline Busch are working to increase the club's presence and participation both

on campus and in the community. The intent of the BSW Social Work Club is to meet the members' needs in a way that makes club involvement a rewarding experience while remaining aware of students' schedules and responsibilities. This year's theme is Micro-Mezzo-Macro, and we participate in a variety of experiences on each level. On a micro level we make get-well cards for children at St. Joseph's Hospital and we've become involved with 1:1 service opportunities through organizations such as the Ebenezer Society nursing home.

The mezzo level includes community-based initiatives such as resource collections for agencies throughout the community. On a macro level, the club is looking forward to involvement in the Day at the Capitol in the spring. We are attempting to set up a discussion board for sharing of ideas, and at this time are alternating between the two campuses every other meeting, which occur bimonthly. Group cohesion is an important piece of the club to be effective and supportive to members; therefore, we would like to engage in club-group activities. We are excited to increase community involvement and would love for you to join us!



UST/SCU BSW  
Social Work Club

## MSW Student Association

Volunteer • Network • Learn



Open Baskets

The MSW Student Association (MSWSA) serves as a social network, builds community connections through service, and increases professional support and development to help prepare for entering the field of social work.

On Nov. 23, 2013, the MSWSA participated for the fourth year in the "Open Baskets" service project at SouthCross Community

Church in Burnsville. This continues to be a collaborative effort with the project founder, Colleen Hansen, and Mental Health Resources, whose mission is to foster hope and recovery for those affected by mental illness. Other community-service projects are currently in the development phase.

In addition, two professional development opportunities will be offered second semester.

The MSW and BSW licensure sessions are scheduled for Feb. 7, 2014. These sessions provide an overview of the purpose of licensure and an outline of the exams. The fourth annual "Navigating the System" alumni panel is scheduled for March 7, 2014. At this event, alumni share their experience of how they navigated the first two years post-graduation. The panel will consist of four to five alumni who have recently accomplished these steps.

Want to get involved? The MSWSA meets on a monthly basis. Request information at [MSWSA@stthomas.edu](mailto:MSWSA@stthomas.edu)

Student Leaders: Nicole Dahl, Emily Brunner, and Elisabeth Wells  
Faculty Adviser: Jane Hurley Johncox  
Staff Adviser: Lisa Dalsin



UST/SCU MSW  
Student Association

# Signature Events

## March 18, 2014 - Justice Lecture

St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas School of Social Work will host its sixth annual Justice Lecture, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2014, McNeely Hall room 100 on the St. Paul Campus of St. Thomas. In keeping with our 2013-14 topic of economic justice, the event will feature Professor Nekima Levy-Pounds, JD, director of the Community Justice Project (CJP), an award-winning civil rights legal clinic. The CJP is a part of the UST Interprofessional Center (IPC) for Counseling and Legal Services, a collaboration between the School of Social Work, the School of Law, and the Graduate School of Professional Psychology.

All are invited, there is no cost to attend.

## May 19, 2014 - Clinical Research Paper Presentation Day

The School of Social Work will host Presentation Day on Monday, May 19, 2014 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the St. Paul Campus of the University of St. Thomas in McNeely Hall.

For two semesters MSW students, faculty, and committee members work together through the various stages of the research process to reach the final day – Presentation Day!

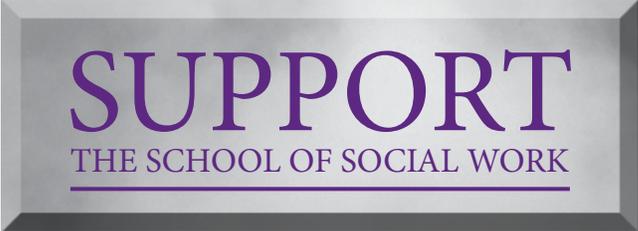
The 140 students will present their research projects on diverse topics related to clinical social work practice. Each student brings a passion for a topic, a population group, practice field, or service delivery setting that help focus the project. Over the years, perspectives of our alums on the value of this project and process have validated contributions to the educational process and the value placed on the demonstrated skills by future employers.

“Participating in the MSW Clinical Research projects made me feel like I was really contributing to a growing body of social work research.” – Courtney

“This paper was one of the hardest and most rewarding things I have ever done. The process was stressful but now that it is over I am extremely proud and cannot wait to present my paper on presentation day.” – Tori

Community members, faculty, committee members, students and their families engage in lively research and practice discussion throughout the day. The atmosphere is electric. There are 16 concurrent sessions, each lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Save this date and watch our website for upcoming details:  
[www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/events](http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/events)



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THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Your contribution will support a broad range of students who are pursuing their BSW generalist and MSW clinical social work degrees, and will help to support the achievements of our dedicated and outstanding social work faculty.

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**Full time faculty, 2013-2014**

Barbara Shank, *Dean and professor*  
Sarah Ferguson, *BSW program director*  
Carol Kuechler, *MSW program director*  
Carey Winkler, *BSW field education director*  
Lisa Richardson, *MSW field education director*  
Kathy Caron, *MSW field weekend cohort coordinator*  
George Baboila, *Director, Social Work Services,  
Interprofessional Center for Counseling and  
Legal Services*

Diane Bauer  
Mary Ann Brenden

Karen Carlson  
Michael Chovanec

Richa Dhanju  
Kari Fletcher  
Kendra Garrett  
Mari Ann Graham  
Katharine Hill  
Colin Hollidge  
Jane Hurley-Johncox  
Stacy Husebo  
Miriam Itzkowitz  
Lisa Kiesel  
Catherine Marrs Fuchsel  
Ande Nesmith

Lance Peterson  
David Roseborough  
Eva Solomonson  
Felicia Sy  
Jessica Toft  
Pa Der Vang

**Adjunct faculty 2013-2014**

Michele Braley  
Tonya Brownlow  
Marcy Buckner  
Tim Eiesland

Kathleen Fargione  
Teresa George  
Michelle Gricus  
Renee Hepperlen  
Abel Knochel  
David McGraw-Schuchman  
Theresa McPartlin  
Rajeane Moone  
Jessica Peterson  
Tanya Rand  
Elizabeth Rezek  
Kent Rhein  
Rochelle Rottenberg  
Cindy St. George  
Paul Schnell  
Carol Schreier  
Jeanne Schuller  
James Stolz  
Sheila Sweeney  
Amanda Thooft  
Serene Thornton  
Mary Tinucci  
Merra Young

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Lisa Dalsin  
Patrice Engelmann  
Kelly Fox  
Pam Kilpatrick  
Cindy Lorah  
Hiyana Xiong