

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

President Hinckley dedicates JFSB, new social work home



Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Social Work at Brigham Young University is to support the overall mission of BYU and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by generating new knowledge and by educating and training students to use the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities of the social work profession to serve children and families within their environment and the context of their specific cultures.

Photo courtesy Deseret Morning News

President Gordon B. Hinckley recently dedicated the Joseph F. Smith Building, which is the new School of Social Work's home.

On September 20, 2005 general authorities, faculty, alumni and students gathered to hear President Hinckley pay tribute to President Joseph F. Smith.

"He (President Joseph F. Smith) was a man of unshakable courage in the face of adversity, of industry and devotion, and of faith and knowledge concerning this great Latter-day work of the Redeemer. It is proper that this wonderful new building carry the name of this remarkable man," President Hinckley said.

President Hinckley retold stories from the prophet's life. He discussed Joseph F. Smith's memories of his father, Hyrum Smith, and the Prophet Joseph Smith; his mother's faith in

traveling across the plains; his mission to Hawaii; and his time as prophet, including his gospel scholarship, and his vision of the redemption of the dead.

In his dedicatory prayer, President Hinckley said Joseph F. Smith served the Lord "with faith and courage, with industry and love throughout his life. How fitting it is therefore that this beautiful new facility on this campus should carry his name."

The building was dedicated "as a place for teaching and learning, for pondering and reflecting on the wonders of the world in which we live and on the eternal verities of life." He continued "we thus dedicate and consecrate this structure to the many purposes for which it will be used and to thy glory and thine honor ... where young men and women come to

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President Hinckley was joined to dedicate the building by members of the First Presidency, President Monson, President Faust, Sister Monson and President Samuelson. Others in attendance included: President Boyd K. Packer, Elder M. Russell Ballard, Elder Richard G. Scott, Elder Robert D. Hales, Elder David A. Bednar, Elder Earl C. Tingey, Sister Bonnie D. Parkin, and Presiding Bishop H. David Burton



From the Director



By Kevin M. Maret, Ph.D.

“It was the best of times; it was the best of times.” This misquote from Charles Dickens seems to be quite fitting, as a description of the current status of the School of Social Work. There has been a great deal of change in the last year and the School is moving forward like never before. I was appointed as the new Director at the beginning of Fall Semester last year.

That was also the same time that Dr. Greg Pettys was placed on disability for his health problems. In spite of these unfortunate circumstances, the School has been able to continue to grow and progress.

In February, we moved from the Knight-Mangum Building into the new Joseph F. Smith Building. That was definitely a step forward. In August we hired a new faculty member, Gordon Limb, Ph.D., another definite step forward. All of our faculty are publishing like never before, yet another step forward. Our Alumni Association has launched several new initiatives, our Reaffirmation/Reaccreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is set to take place in November and we are feeling confident in our preparation and in our programs. The progression seems never ending.

Our new building has provided us with the opportunity to count our blessings and be grateful for all it has to offer. It is state of the art and is a work of art, a wonderful contrast to where we were before. The new building has also provided an opportunity to dream new dreams. Our donors would be pleased. We invite any who would like to see the new building to stop by anytime and let us show you around. I think you'll be impressed.

The CSWE Reaccreditation of the bachelors and masters programs occurs every eight years and provides a unique opportunity to reflect on what we are about and to redefine ourselves to better meet the needs of the profession and the people we serve: directly, our students, and indirectly, our community, the recipients of social work services. We will continue to have a generalist focus at the undergraduate level and a clinical focus with an emphasis on children and families at the graduate level. We think we have been able to modify and refine both of these programs in meaningful ways to make them more responsive to our constituents.

The feedback from the Advisory Board, field faculty, emeriti faculty, graduates, the Alumni Association, students, friends and professional community (last, but not least) has been invaluable in helping us chart our course for the future. We literally could not have done it without your input. I thank you as well for your generous donations of time, effort, support, and financial contributions and hope you will continue to work with us in the future.

This truly is the best of times...

From the Alumni President



By Tammy Leifson

As president of the Alumni Association, I welcome the incoming BSW and MSW students. You have been adopted into a growing family of BYU social workers who are ready to nurture you through a choice educational experience. We want to know who you are and look

forward to an association with you that will last well into your career as a social worker. The alumni board is hard at work providing networking opportunities and a new mentoring program where BSW seniors and second year MSW students will be connected to an alumni to foster a positive experience in their career development

If you missed the First Annual Alumni Conference, you'll want to make a note of the date for next year. We've scheduled the week preceding October General Conference for your convenience. We had a fabulous dinner at TGI Friday's with steak, salmon and all the trimmings. We were then entertained by James Arrington with his rendition of "The Farleys" which left us in stitches, a great stress reliever from our industrious lives! It was a great kick off followed by the CEU conference the next day in which Judy Norman spoke about literature that prepares us and allows us to be more effective as social workers in various cultures and contexts. Three CEU's were given to those in attendance. We plan to offer this opportunity every year so mark your calendar.

Please update your personal information on the alumni website so that the Class Representative Committee can keep you up-to-date on upcoming alumni activities and services. We would appreciate any feedback as we work to strengthen our current services and develop an association cause.

It is a privilege and an honor for me to be able to serve you and the university on the alumni board. My hope is to continue to nurture the culture of giving that exists at BYU. I hope to hear about your concerns and suggestions. Please contact me by e-mail: tammyl@discoveryacademy.com Together we can make a difference!

Tammy Leifson, President

John Stewart, Vice President

Mindy Woodhouse, Secretary

Ashley Sanders, Cause Development

Stephen Schultz, Marketing consultant

Kevin Maret, School Director

Lisa Willey, School Advisor

School of Social Work in the process of re-accreditation

During November 7-9, 2005, four members of the CSWE reaccreditation site team will be in Provo to review the BSW and MSW programs.

The team will visit with members of the community including the university president, the dean of the college, the chair of the school, faculty, staff and students.

The site team will be lead by Terry L. Singer, Dean of the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work at the University of Kentucky-Louisville; and will include Catherine Hawkins Boling, of Southwest Missouri State University; Marquessa Brown of Gallaudet University; and Bart Grossman from the University of California at Berkeley.

Schools of social work are reaccredited every eight years. The process begins at least two years before the site team visits the school, including one year of intense self examination, said Dr. Lynn Pehrson coordinator of the self study. Reviewing is long and difficult, but worth the effort.

“Reaccreditation is what keeps schools consistent, it keeps our credibility strong,” Dr. Pehrson said. “When we are forced to re-evaluate, it helps to keep the program vibrant — at the top of our game, it helps us to have the best program we can.”

The BYU program is in its third cycle of reaffirmation. Dr. Pehrson is quietly confident of the results.

“We are told we have an excellent

undergraduate program by graduate schools who take our students. We have high caliber students in our own Masters program: employers tell us they do not need to waste any time bringing them up to speed after they are hired,” Dr. Pehrson said.

The process of creating the programs that make it possible to train students to perform well includes a self-review of all aspects of the program that has become a three volume document including 15 tables and 24 appendices. The academic standards include 1-The program’s stated mission, goals and objectives in relation to those of the sponsoring University

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Dr. Gordon Limb joins the social work faculty



This fall, the School of Social Work welcomed Dr. Gordon E. Limb (previously at Arizona State University) as an Associate Professor.

Dr. Limb’s research interests are in Native American studies, particularly in child welfare. His interest arises from his Winnebago native heritage, which became focused when he attended

BYU for his undergraduate degree in psychology.

“I almost felt a calling to learn more about it,” he said.

He learned his grandmother and her siblings had attended the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, whose philosophy was to “Kill the Indian and Save the Man.” School photos show Native American children in native dress and then in uniform-like attire after attending the school.

“Helping students become more aware” of Native American issues is Dr. Limb’s goal. While many of his students may not frequently come across a Native American case, understanding the issues involved will help his students handle each situation more sensitively and effectively.

Teaching social work at BYU has advantages for Dr. Limb.

“It opens up what we can talk about. In many places, I

cannot get into my religious beliefs and how they influence my ideas. Here I can. It makes a difference on how we treat people,” he said. “I am thankful to be here. The faculty has been so supportive.”

Dr. Limb has been teaching for several years. He began in social work as a teaching assistant at the University of Utah where he earned his MSW and the University of California at Berkeley for his Ph.D., specializing in Child Welfare Services (American Indian child welfare), Theories of Deviance, and Social Work Education. He then did postdoctoral work at Washington University in St. Louis. While there, he lectured and was the Assistant Director of the Buder Center for American Indian Studies. He left St. Louis for an assistant professor position at Arizona State University.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Limb enjoys “researching” and “making a difference.” He has helped write legislative testimony and worked with Native American tribal officials to study how programs are working in their jurisdiction. He is currently researching State compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, (ICWA) Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plans, and Title IV-E Tribal/State Agreements.

Dr. Limb and his wife Erika met at BYU while undergraduates. They have five children.

Dr. Limb says he appreciates BYU’s flexibility to provide a good balance of family and work.



BYU students participated in a research study in Uganda

Three BYU students participated with, Dr. Jini Roby, in a research study in Uganda this summer, conducting an external evaluation of the Action for Children (AFC) program, which seeks to assist parents and other care givers in raising and providing for children. To implement the evaluation, Stacey Mosman, Amy Peterson and Carrie Nelson spent the summer formulating research questions, hiring native research assistants to assist with interviews, and meeting with local AFC leaders to select research participants.

“The best part was getting to know the people, seeing how happy they are even though they have so little. It sounds cliché, but it’s true. They are so nice and giving,” Mosman said. “These were sweet, humble, happy people.”

To conduct the interviews, each of the three students paired off with a native research assistant. Each team interviewed the primary caregiver of each family and asked questions about their experience in receiving AFC services. The teams were able to interview approximately 300 families in the city of Kampala during the project.

The research project focused on evaluating the Family Preservation component of Action for Children. “Family Preservation’s goal is to find families, most of whom are raising orphans, and find ways to support them,” Mosman said. “Family Preservation targets seven key areas

which include housing, food security, education, health and hygiene, community participation, psycho-social support and income.”

Action for Children will be benefited by the work BYU students have done. “They can see what their participants are saying statistically. It is an actual representation of their clients. They can see both good and bad things,” Mosman said. “When it is published, other programs can get advice from what we have found. They can implement pieces that are appropriate to their programs. They can see what has proven to be successful.”

Mosman participated in a volunteer program in Uganda in 2002 and was involved in choosing and implementing the external evaluation project. Jini Roby, an associate professor in social work, is the faculty advisor for the project and worked with Mosman to organize the research thus far.

— Kelleigh Cole, Family Home and Social Science Newsletter Reporter, contributed to this article.



Promoting glo

South African professor visits Provo

Professor Margie Maistry from the University of Fort Hare, East London, South Africa visited campus on Thursday and Friday, September 15-16, 2005.

Professor Maistry discussed "Social Welfare and Social Development: The Challenges for Social Work and Community Development Education in a Democratic South Africa."

Professor Maistry is training social workers

who will improve the community for all South Africans.

Maistry's research interests include community development and developmental welfare; identity, culture, feminism and gender studies; spirituality and human values; development of indigenous knowledge; and participatory action research and learning methods.



Alum visits tsunami-stricken area

BYU alum Michael Benjamin was among 17 therapists sent by the Association for Play Therapy and Operation USA to aid tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

Benjamin spent 10 days in Sri Lanka visiting orphanages and relief camps, working with more than 700 children.

Benjamin used play therapy to help children begin to process the devastation and personal tragedy they witnessed because of the tsunami. He said signs of stress were apparent. Some of the children would not look at the ocean, others clung to their mothers, and still others had psychosomatic symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches.

"The basic premise [of play therapy] is that small children lack the verbal language skills and/or insight to express their thoughts, feelings, worries, concerns, etc.," Benjamin said. "Therefore, toys, drawings, games, art, puppets, music, books and sand are used to help children express their emotions and problems. Through play therapy, children are able to make sense of their world, explore their fears, problems, frustrations, and work through these as well."

While Benjamin and his colleagues began helping the children, recovery is a long-term project. "It feels like we only put band aids on some of the very large emotional wounds," he said. I would like to see and maybe even be a part of a more long-term project with those children."

During this process, Benjamin helped train local counselors in play therapy, to assist them in working with the children and adults who had been devastated by the experience.

"It was humbling to be in their presence. They exhibit such resiliency and strength in light of such horror," he said. "To me, this was a more personal way of giving humanitarian aid, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I did not want to let pass me by. Providing humanitarian aid and play therapy to the tsunami children was a way for me to volunteer and use my expertise in a direct way." Benjamin is an LCSW for Terry Reilly Health Services in Nampa, Idaho.

— Erika Wittekind contributed to this article.



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Gene, Evelyn Gibbons; Gene Shumway; Bill, Mary Farley; Genevieve, Arturo De Hoyos

College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and the College of Humanities. There are classrooms for more than 1,400 students and several labs and conference rooms. The building will house 10 LDS Church wards and 4 stake offices. It is estimated that more than half of the student body will use the building in some way while at BYU.

The architects used the theme of light and truth. The building has a courtyard and a fountain that are reminiscent of a medieval cloister and Renaissance courtyard, according to the public information staff. "Cloisters were places of quiet reflection and personal meditation ... the courtyards ... invited enlightened conversations between scholars and servants of both secular and sacred institutions, concerning the good, the beautiful,

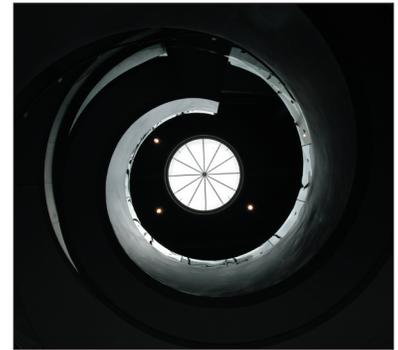
learn and from where they will go forth to serve in all the world." The building is now used

by the

and the truth that exists in the world, but which also prepares us for the next." The fountain is designed to represent both the Savior's living water and the water necessary for physical life.

The building is state-of-the-art and features a 3-in-1 classroom. The main room shares its back wall with two smaller classrooms that can be rotated in to form a large room that can seat up to 250 people. There are also rooftop gardens and a dozen alcoves.

Faculty, students, and staff are grateful for the new building. "What a shift. We've gone from duct tape on the carpet to the



JFSB Central Staircase

First Presidency in the building — in our conference room. We're honored to have them in our presence," Lisa Willey, MSW graduate secretary said.

"It humbles me to have access to such a beautiful building," Tom Hail, first year MSW said.

The Dean of Humanities John Rosenberg told the Deseret News "the faculty and the students from this college are deeply grateful to the donors and university administration that made this (edifice) possible."



JFSB Courtyard

Reaffirmation from Page 3

2-The curriculum designed to teach the mission, goals and objectives based on sound knowledge, skills and abilities and founded on the values and ethics of the social work profession

3-The faculty assembled to teach the curriculum. Each faculty member must have at least a Masters' degree in social work.

4-The resources (physical, financial, and commitment based) to conduct the program.

5-The program efforts to meet the needs of its students

6-The efforts to ensure nondiscrimination, diversity

7-The efforts to provide program renewal through ongoing exchanges with external constituencies

8-The program's assessment plan and procedures for evaluating the outcome of each program objective

After the site team visits campus, they develop a written report and send it to the CSWE Commission on Accreditation and a copy is provided to the school. The school will have the chance to respond to the report. In June 2006, following a commission vote, a decision will be sent to the university president.

If the commission has concerns, the school will be asked to respond in writing. If a program is found to be out of compliance, accreditation can be withheld for a given time while the school works to get back into compliance.

First conference helps alumni come together

The first annual BYU social work alumni conference was held September 29-30, 2005.

The conference began with dinner at TGI Friday's on Thursday evening, featuring entertainment by James Arrington's Farley Family Reunion. On Friday, Dr. Judy Norman taught a seminar session on "Literature for the clinician" that carried three Continuing Education Units.

Dinner at TGI Friday's created an atmosphere to honor those who have helped the school of social work, renew old acquaintances, and meet new people. Dr. Elaine Walton received the John R. Christiansen Honored Alum Educator Award. New Alumni President Tammy Leifson presented past board members with plaques in appreciation for their work.

Dr. Judy Norman's CEU course focused on literature that prepares us to be better social workers in various contexts.

"I'm concerned that we not just know statistics, but experience. ... We can learn, develop, and master skills. What about looking at a client, our selves, and problems differently? — through the eyes of literature. When we look at things differently, we can do a little

better," Dr. Norman said. "Literature can really help us describe human experience and feeling in the external world."

This unusual look at social work allowed those who attended to re-focus on why they went into the profession. "In this smaller group, it is easier to remember what we are about," said Chris Michalek,

MSW class of 1997. "Conferences can be self-aggrandizing... Here I am able to think about being connected." He said he was now thinking again about the notion of being a guide for his clients.

Mike Hanley, MSW class of 1990, said the conference is part of the process of becoming a better therapist. "I think the most exciting project is ... the ever moving project of 'fine-tuning' my therapeutic instruments,

coupled with the gratitude for opportunities to help others with their passages of pain. I don't want to be an echo. I want to be a voice," Hanley said. The messages Dr. Norman helped participants explore provided different ways of thinking.



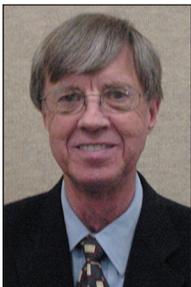
Above: The departing alumni board, Louise Brown, Kerri Freeman Robinson, Marty Matheson



Left: Dr. Elaine Walton and Tammy Leifson

"I am finding myself feeling and thinking like a client. How does this apply to me? I am thinking about what my clients are understanding and what we are working toward," Hanley said.

Don Cook constructs the community and BYU interns



Don Cook has been helping to build both the community and social work students while serving at a local Community Action agency. Community Action helps those in greatest need in Provo. The agency provides financial assistance to pay rent and utility bills; it reaches out to the elderly; and fosters self-reliance among other life supporting skills.

"It is the little things in life that make the difference," Cook said. "When I hand people bus tokens and they tell me this will help them secure employment, it really helps."

There are approximately 22,000 people, or the number of people the Marriott Center holds, in Provo that are need of help, Cook said.

Community Action uses BYU social work interns to help provide these services. Cook supervises the interns and helps them develop essential professional practice skills.

"They (interns) are family," he said. "I help coach them and give them the confidence and the guidance they need."

His philosophy is to allow interns to do the work themselves. He said he has had students come into his office and ask him if he would go out and tell people they are not eligible for assistance. Cook said most often in this situation, he helps his interns decide what they need to say and how to say it. He has had students call him after their internship is over and thank him for the skills to do difficult things when they are faced with them again.

For his efforts, Cook was awarded the "Excellence in Supervision Award" in 2002 by the BYU students.

"My life has been so rich. I have been wondering where I would be if I had gone another direction. I am glad I went the way I did," he said. "I just love people."

Cook and his wife Ruth have three children and are the grandparents of five.

"I love our family. I have been blessed with good kids."



Photo courtesy Deseret Morning News

An evacuee from Hurricane Katrina sorts through clothes at Camp Williams

Hundreds of the evacuees were emergency airlifted to Utah where they were greeted by local aid workers and housed at Camp Williams, a local military facility.

Doran Williams and Scott Taylor, both of Wasatch Mental Health were among those who met evacuees and helped them begin to adjust by listening to their stories, playing with their children, and helping them through the paperwork.

Taylor said many of the children thought that “this was an adventure,” but the parents looked tired. He said “You could see the emotions begin to ooze out of them.”

One family, who had been at the Convention Center, had three autistic children. Taylor said you could see that the father and mother had done everything they could for the past five days to keep those children safe. “Now, he (the father) realized his family was safe and you could see the emotion and relief come over him. He had amazing inner

BYU alumni help evacuees from Hurricane Katrina

BYU alumni worked to help victims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

strength.”

Williams talked to families who had been rescued from the roofs of their homes. He said as the water had risen, they had moved from the first floor to the second and eventually to the roof. Williams said the people told him stories of diving down to the kitchen for food and other necessary supplies.

One woman commented that her dress was finally dry. Taylor said she had been taken from her rooftop to the airport and then flown directly to Utah. Many found they were coming to Utah only when the pilot announced it.

Williams and others helped to reunite families. One woman had been watching her grandchildren while her daughter was at work. During the evacuation, the daughter had been sent to Texas, while the woman and the children were in Utah.

Local officials also worked to help in the adjustment to Utah and its primarily Caucasian population. African-American Baptist preachers came to help in the transition and began the discussion. One congregation moved its Sunday services to Camp Williams.

By mid-October, all of the evacuees have left Camp Williams for more permanent housing. However, for these victims of Katrina, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other life decisions and issues remained to be resolved.