

INTRODUCTION

2001-2002 was a busy and productive year for the Center for International Social Work Studies. This was due in considerable part to the work of the two graduate interns, Cari Carter and Tom Felke, who completed their field placements in the Center. We initiated an exciting new project using computer technology to enhance international exchange and learning. Elements of this project are described in several places in the Annual Report. A new student organization was begun, International Students and Company. The year was also marked by the University of Connecticut's celebration of Human Rights Semester in Fall 2001, a theme the School of Social Work maintained during the full academic year. Of course our work was also affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11 and their aftermath. International learning and understanding have never been more important.

Lynne Healy
Director

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2001 Fall Semester

October 2001 Presentation by Joseph Wronka, Creating a Human Rights Culture: Implications for Social Work

Dr. Joseph Wronka is a professor of Social Work at Springfield College in Massachusetts and a Visiting Scholar, Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare Policy, Center for Social Change, Brandeis University. Wronka's presentation focused on social workers being in the business of human rights. He reminded social workers that there is a responsibility to advocate and educate ourselves and the public about the importance of the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Joseph Wronka is also the author of a book entitled ***Human Rights and Social Policy in the 21st Century*** (1992 and 1998 revised edition). His book focuses on the history of human rights and the comparison of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights with United States federal and state constitutions.

Presentation by Vijay Prashad "Middle Eastern Conflict: September 11th" (co-sponsored with Urban Studies Substantive Area).

Vijay Prashad is a professor at Trinity College whose expertise focuses on political and historical events in the Middle East. Prashad provided an overview of possible events that may have led to the terrorist attack on the United States. There was also a panel discussion by faculty from the School Social Work. Faculty members included on the panel were Edna Comer, Bob Fisher, Diane Drachman and Peta-Anne Baker. Panel participants discussed topics such as a cohesive nation, reviving communities, xenophobia and recognizing the global picture.

November 2001 Presentation by Nobuyuki Iwama, Long-Term Care Insurance for the Elderly in Japan: Tasks for Social Workers

Dr. Nobuyuki Iwama a visiting Gratis Research Scholar at the School of Social Work from April 2001 – March 2002, is an Assistant Professor of social work at the Osaka City University in Osaka, Japan. Dr. Iwama presented information on policies and programs that are being implemented to ensure service to the growing elder population in Japan. Those present participated in a discussion relating the policies put in place in Japan that may inform future policies needed in the United States. Dr. Iwama is also the author of two Japanese social work books and has contributed to other social work text books in Japan.

December 2001 Presentation by Rhoda Howard Hassmann, Human Rights Presentation: Are Human Rights Universal?

Dr. Rhoda Howard Hassmann is a Professor of Sociology at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and Associate Member of the Political Science Department at the same university. Dr. Howard Hassmann was the Gladstein Visiting Professor of

Human Rights at the University of Connecticut for Fall 2001. She is a widely published expert on human rights. She is author of *Human Rights and the Search for Community*. Other publications include articles on women's rights, gay rights, individual rights versus group protection, human rights and culture, capitalism and human rights, genocide and many others. Dr. Howard Hassmann is presenting information focused on the controversy of whether or not human rights surpass culture or considers oppressive cultural norms. Those present were given case studies to discuss and consider.

2002 Spring Semester

February 2002 Presentation by Kwaku A. Yeboah "The Role of Women in African Societies" (co-sponsored with the OBSWS).

Kwaku A. Yeboah is a student at the School of Social Work in the Administration sequence. Yeboah is originally from the country of Ghana, located in Western Africa. Mr. Yeboah's presentation was the opening program for Black History Month at the School of Social Work. Those in attendance viewed a video about the Ghanaian tradition of Chieftaincy and the important role of the Queen Mother. The video presentation was followed by a discussion led by Yeboah.

March 2002 Presentation by Nobuyuki Iwama, Mutual Supportative Activities in a Small Community: New Japanese Trend

Dr. Nobuyuki Iwama concluded his visit to the University of Connecticut School of Social Work with a presentation on grassroots organizing in Japan. Dr. Iwama discussed the collective efforts of a community in Japan. Dr. Iwama and his family were honored at a small reception following the presentation.

April 2002 Social Work Day at the United Nations, Displacement, Forced Migration and the Effects of War

Ten students and one faculty member from the School of Social Work attended the annual Social Work Day at the United Nations in New York City. The conference included a panel of speakers from the Office of the Coordinating Body for Humanitarian Affairs-United Nations, Columbia University School of Public Health, Cultural Counseling Center International Institute of New Jersey and a brief visit by Gillian Sorensen the Assistant Secretary General. The University of Connecticut School of Social Work was a supporting organization of Social Work Day at the UN.

Student presentation on Armenia, April 23rd, Social Work in Armenia

UConn School of Social Work students, Ashley Testa, Carli Howard, Tom Felke and Cari Carter, presented information on the projects they participated in during their thirteen-day stay in Yeveran, Armenia. The projects varied from political social work, distance learning via technology and the status of refugees in Armenia. A slide show, compiled by Tom Felke, illustrated the presentations.

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY

April 30th, 2002

Human Rights in Today's World

Speaker:

Professor Laura Dickinson an associate professor of law at UConn School of Law and former Senior Policy Advisor to Harold Hongju Koh, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor during the Clinton administration was the featured speaker. Dickinson's interests include international human rights, the first amendment, immigration law and constitutional law. Professor Dickinson spoke about the importance of recognizing essential human rights post September 11th, including information on the development of an international criminal court in response to the events of September 11th. Following Professor Dickinson's presentation, questions were offered by students and discussion was encouraged.

The International Day Celebration:

The Celebration included displays prepared by the International Students and Company student group. Students from Brazil, India, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Portugal, Jamaica and Nigeria prepared colorful displays including flags, pictures, dolls, handcrafted baskets, embroidery and clothing from their country of origin.

Displays:

- ◆ Brazil
- ◆ India
- ◆ Puerto Rico
- ◆ South Africa
- ◆ Portugal
- ◆ Jamaica
- ◆ Nigeria
- ◆ Armenia
- ◆ Trecker Library book display on Human Rights and Globalization
- ◆ CISWS
- ◆ Social Work and Human Rights
- ◆ Human Oppression Class Projects
- ◆ Women's Caucus/ Women's Rights

Funding was provided by the International Students and Company and Student Organization. Food was provided by Apron Strings Catering and the celebration portion of the event was held in the new Zach's Community Room.

LINKAGE PROJECTS

◆ **University of the West Indies, Jamaica**

Activities continued on the long-term linkage between the UWI – Mona and UConn School of Social Work. John Maxwell, former head of the Social Work program at Mona and current Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, made two brief visits to UConn during 2001-2002. In October, he met with CISWS staff to discuss expansion into links through technology (see below); in March, Dr. Maxwell met with UConn's field education department to make initial plans for three University of the West Indies MSW students to do their field placements in Connecticut in the Summer/Fall 2002. Additional discussions on the linkage took place in August 2001 at the Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Education held in the Bahamas. At the conference, Peta-Anne Baker (UWI and UConn), John Maxwell (UWI) and Lynne Healy conducted a workshop on *Globalization and Indigenization*, and Healy and Maxwell also presented a paper on international exchange based on the partnership experience.

Tom Felke, has also been working on an international distance education project with UWI. The project includes the use of an on-line course enhancement package called WebCT. The enhancement package provides students' and faculty with e-mail, discussion lists, chat rooms and document storage. With WebCT, Tom has been able to expand on the international links already existing with the School of Social Work such as that with the University of the West Indies (UWI). Tom was invited in August 2001 to the 5th Biennial Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Educators held in the Bahamas to give a workshop demonstrating how the UConn School of Social Work was using technology to enhance international social work education. He also discussed what the future holds for this technology and the possibility for international links with social work schools throughout the world. The workshop was attended by faculty from the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. Based on the workshop and subsequent conversations with UWI staff, the first of these guest lecturers was successfully brought into a class discussion the Fall 2001 semester. A lecturer from the UWI – MONA, Aldene Shillingford, visited the International Issues course discussion on her case study from a West Indian community in Jamaica. Students' were able to discuss the case study online and receive feedback from the visiting lecturer. A similar linkage took place during the Spring 2002 semester between a class at the UWI-Trinidad and the Computer Applications in Human Services at UConn. Both schools plan to build on what they have learned from these initial projects and continue the electronic linkages during the 2002-2003 school year.

Cheryl Jackson-Morris, Assistant Director of Field Education, traveled to Jamaica from May 27-31 to conduct a field instructor training course for UWI field instructors. While there, she visited several social services agencies.

A major accomplishment, in which the UConn-UWI link played a modest role, was the launch in March 2002 of the *Caribbean Journal of Social Work*. See the expanded note under ***Other Activities***.

◆ **Open University, England**

A new linkage is developing with the Open University in England. Initially, the projects will involve the Administration Concentration in joint efforts with the management course at Open University. Open University is a pioneer in distance education and has specialized in making education accessible to students not otherwise served.

Professors Barbara Pine and Lynne Healy visited Open University in April, 2002. In an all day joint seminar on Current Issues in Social Work/Social Care Management in the U.S. and U.K., Dr. Pine presented a paper on Ethical Decision-Making for Managers and Dr. Healy presented an overview of current issues in management, followed by a paper on managing diversity. Two papers from the U.K., "Current Issues in Social Care Management in the U.K." by Professor Richard Whipp and "Great Expectations in Hard Times: Managers Speaking" by Professor Janet Seden, rounded out the seminar. Plans are underway to produce a joint book on social work management in the U.S. and U.K. Professors Jane Aldgate and Wendy Rose of Open University will take the lead for the U.K. portions of the book, while Pine, Healy, and Barris Malcolm will be responsible for writing and securing the U.S. chapters. An agreement to be signed by the two programs will open the way to additional possibilities for cooperative work.

◆ **Yerevan State University, Armenia**

A group of students from the School of Social Work traveled to Armenia to continue ongoing project between the University of Connecticut and Yerevan State University in Armenia. The students were Ashley Testa, Carli Howard, Cari Carter and Tom Felke. Each student prepared information to present to students at YSU, Ashley Testa and Carli Howard presented information on political social work, Cari Carter presented on international social work and Tom Felke focused on distance learning. The group met with various government and non-government organizations including meetings with faculty and students at YSU.

At YSU, Tom Felke explored the possibility of implementing an international distance education program with the social work program at Yerevan State University (YSU). He conducted a needs assessment of the technology currently being used in the social work program at YSU and developed a model for the project based on the results. The produced model was well received by staff and students at both schools. While there is still work to be done before the project can be fully implemented, it is expected that information sharing and training sessions will begin this summer and that the project can be fully developed and implemented by the spring 2003 semester.

Dr. Nancy Humphreys, a key player in the development of the Armenian link, traveled to Armenia in May 2002 to receive an honorary doctorate from Yerevan State University. Dr. Humphreys has been a part of this project since its inception in 1992.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS

- ◆ **University of the West Indies, Jamaica** –
Peta-Anne Baker, member of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology and Social Work at the University of the West Indies, is a visiting professor at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work for both Fall and Spring semester for the 2001-2002 school year. Professor Baker has her B.Sc. in Social Work from U.W.I. and an M.Phil. in Development Studies from the University of Sussex, England. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Case Western Reserve University. At UConn, she has been teaching several Basic courses including Human Oppression and Ethics. Her research interests are in aging, civil society, and social policy. She is currently co-editing a book on social work issues in the Caribbean. Professor Baker expects to remain in Hartford through the fall semester 2002 to complete her research on older migrant women from the English speaking Caribbean.

- ◆ **Osaka City University, Japan** – **Nobuyuki Iwama, Ph.D.** came to The University of Connecticut School of Social Work from Japan as a Visiting Gratis Research Scholar in April, 2001. Dr. Iwama is Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Osaka City University in Osaka, Japan. He received both his Master's and a Ph.D. in social work from Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. His areas of interest are social group work and field work education. He had been sitting in on several courses since June 2001 at the School to learn different teaching styles, and to learn how social work theories and practice are integrated in teaching. He had also visited different field work agencies throughout his stay. Dr. Iwama returned to Japan with his family at the end of March 2002.

CISWS PUBLICATIONS

Struggling to Understand

9/2001

In response to September 11th, 2001, the Center for International Social Work Studies produced an eleven-page newsletter that provided background information on the crisis. The newsletter included basic facts about Afghanistan and Pakistan, brief background on the Taliban, human rights issues, relationship between Afghanistan and the United States and informational links. The newsletter was distributed to students and faculty at the School of Social Work and posted on the School of Social work website. The newsletter provided the School of Social Work with a foundation on which to build questions and encourage discussion. The newsletter is available on the web at:
www.ssw.uconn.edu/cisws/newsletter.pdf.

Where Are We Now?

12/2001

The second newsletter produced by the Center for International Social Work Studies was produced to help continue the dialogue within the School of Social Work and within our

community. *Where Are We Now?* addresses the global aftermath and response to the events of September 11th, 2001, to encourage social work students and faculty to continue informing themselves about our ever-changing world. The newsletter included profiles of the Northern Alliance and King Zahir Shah, status of women in Afghanistan and the issues around civil liberties and the Office of Homeland Security. The newsletter can be accessed by visiting the Center's website www.ssw.uconn.edu/cisws.

International Korner **2001-2002**

Intern Cari Carter has continued former intern Maria Andrade's *International Korner*, a weekly article focused on various aspects of international social work. Carter wrote a series of articles relating the different methods (Casework, Groupwork, Community Organizing, Policy and Planning and Administration) with aspects of international social work. Other topics included social work in Armenia, Ghana and the new care system for the elderly in Japan. The articles were distributed to students and faculty at the School of Social Work with the purpose of educating the community on the various aspects of international social work. Selected issues are posted on the Center's website.

CISWS Website **2001-2002**

The website has been updated and expanded throughout the school year. Now included are: Visiting Professors, Upcoming Events Database, Photo Gallery of Current Events, a Database of Upcoming International Conferences and an Online Information Request Form. The Online Information Request Form has provided prospective students with a way to request information from the Center. The website has been a useful tool for the Center in generating interest in international social work and the Center's activities. Future plans call for an expanded resource section on international social work and additional materials for educators.

Social Work Today Magazine **2002**

The Center for International Social Work Studies was selected by the *Social Work Today Magazine* for their article titled *Considering Grad School? Social Work Education With a Twist*. UConn School of Social Work was among 14 schools mentioned in the article that had a special *twist* on social work education. The Center was featured as the School's twist, a quote from the Dean Kay Davidson states that "*The center hosts international scholars and sponsors seminars, an annual International Day and linkages with other countries, especially Jamaica, Mauritius, Armenia and Ireland. Distance education has also brought a discussant from Jamaica into a Web-based class*". The article appears in the March 4, 2002 (V. 2 No. 5) edition of the magazine.

Other Publications 2001-2002

A new informational piece was developed based on frequently asked questions by prospective students. The handout, titled *What is International Social Work?*, outlines the definition of International Social Work using a question and answer format. The handout has been included with other information in mailings to prospective students and taken to presentations regarding international social work. It will also be posted on the Center's website.

OTHER CISWS ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Field Placement:** CISWS served as a field placement for two students, Cari Carter a Community Organization major and Tom Felke a Administration major.
- ◆ **Travel:** Both interns, Cari Carter and Tom Felke, had the opportunity to travel to Armenia as part of the ongoing project between Yerevan State University and University of Connecticut School of Social Work.
- ◆ **CSWE 48th Annual Program Meeting:** The following staff and Advisory Board members of CISWS were presenters at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in February. Presentations given include:
 - *Immigration – Lynne Healy* - Addressing the change in immigration in the U.S. and the challenges posed for social work education.
 - *Redefining International Social Work: Toward Enhanced Relevance for Curriculum – Lynne Healy* – Outlined definition of international social work and discussed way in which this is applied, including a focus on the professional role and curriculum development.
 - *Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Challenges for Citizens and Social Work – Lynne Healy (Panel Discussion)* – Exploring the status of human and citizenship rights of people cross borders and service provided by receiving country.
 - *Going the Distance: Using Technology to Infuse International Content in the Curriculum – Peta-Anne Baker and Tom Felke (Panel Discussion)* – Discussed models of distance learning and teaching using information technology.
 - *Social Work Students' Perceptions of Gender Roles: East-West Comparison – Kasumi K. Hirayama, Michie N. Hesselbrock and Hisashi Hirayama (Tokyo University of Social Welfare)* – Looked at perceptions of gender roles in national and international social work education and clinical social work practice.
 - *Regional Perspectives on HIV/AIDS – Barbara Dicks, Peta-Anne Baker and Barris Malcolm (Panel Discussion)* – Discussed the HIV/AIDS issue in the U.S. and the Caribbean. Dr. Dicks also shared her newly edited book HIV/AIDS and Children in the English Speaking Caribbean.
 - *Integrating Global Perspectives and International Social Work Content in Core Courses.* *Lynne Healy* was a co-presenter with Arline Prigoff (Sacramento) and Gwen Prater (Jackson State) at this faculty development institute.

- ◆ **Human Rights Committee:** The University of Connecticut celebrated Human Rights Semester this past Fall. Lynne Healy, director of the CISWS, represented the School of Social Work on the University committee responsible for organizing events for the Human Rights Semester and the continuing Human Rights project. The Semester included various conferences and presentations regarding the state of human rights throughout the world; events were held at all UConn campuses.
- ◆ **Human Rights at CISWS:** The Center published a weekly calendar of the Human Rights Semester events held on various UConn campuses in order to encourage faculty and student participation in events beyond those sponsored by the Center. Among the events were: a day long conference on Comparative Human Rights, sponsored by UConn African National Congress Partnership, a seminar on Children's Rights, a presentation on learning from the Cambodian genocide by Dith Pran, a presentation by Justice Albie Sachs of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a presentation by Robert Drinan. A videotape of the Albie Sachs lecture is available at the Center. Videos will be available from the University Human Rights project of Dith Pran, Rhoda Howard-Hassmann and Robert Drinan. A human rights series will continue throughout the University in 2002-2003. For more information, visit www.humanrights.uconn.edu.

The CISWS submitted and has received a grant from the Human Rights project for a conference on Human Rights and Social Work in Spring, 2003. The conference will be held on April 28, 2003 and the theme will be on Economic and Social rights.

- ◆ **International Students and Company:** CISWS intern Cari Carter began the year organizing an international student group. The group has grown to include members from Brazil, Portugal, India, South Africa, Jamaica and the United States. The goal of the student group is to promote awareness of the diversity within the School of Social Work. Some of the groups activities for the year include: a welcome dinner for our newly arriving member from South Africa - members of the group gathered at a local Portuguese restaurant for dinner, the group also attended Social Work Day at the United Nations and gave this years International Day flare with displays representing their countries. The student group approached these activities with great enthusiasm and was eager to share their culture with the rest of the school. International Students and Company is looking forward to continuing this enthusiasm and awareness in the upcoming year.
- ◆ **The Caribbean Journal of Social Work:** *The Caribbean Journal of Social Work* was launched in March, 2002. The goals of the journal are to feature and encourage scholarship on social work and social issues in the Caribbean, in the Caribbean diaspora, and thirdly articles of general international interest. Lincoln Williams, Director of the Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI Jamaica and President of the Association of Caribbean Social Work Educators, is Editor-in-Chief. The UConn School of Social Work provided modest financial support for the first issue, and Lynne Healy served as an Associate Editor. Dr. Barris Malcolm (UConn Faculty) will join Dr. Healy as a member of the ongoing Editorial Board. Copies of the first issue can be purchased through the International Center.
- ◆ **Organizational Affiliations:** The UConn School of Social Work is an institutional member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the Inter-

University Consortium for International Social Development (IUCISD). Dr. Kasumi Hirayama has been appointed to represent UConn on the IUCISD Board.

CISWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2001-2002

Cari Carter, CISWS Intern and MSW Student
Barbara Dicks, Ph.D. Faculty
Diane Drachman, Ph.D. Faculty
Thomas Felke, CISWS Intern and MSW Student
Silvia Ferreira, MSW Student
Catherine Havens, JD Associate Dean
Lynne Healy, Ph.D. CISWS Director and Faculty
Kasumi Hirayama, Ph.D. Faculty
Cheryl Jackson-Morris, MSW, Field Education Department
Barris Malcolm, Ph.D. Faculty
Ressa Olins, MSW Step Program
Louise Simmons, Ph.D. Faculty
Ashley Testa, MSW Student

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UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
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