

Annual Report of Activities

2002 – 2003



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CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK STUDIES

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Prepared by Abigail Amorim, Graduate Intern
with Lynne Healy

Introduction

2002-2003 was a busy year for the Center for International Social Work Studies. Staff services were energetically provided by Abigail Amorim, 2nd year student intern in Community Organization, and by work-study student, Cari Carter, under the leadership of Director Lynne Healy. Cari Carter took major responsibility for keeping International Students and Company, a student organization supporting international programs, active and helped to organize our first International Pot Luck Dinner. A significant program innovation this year was the Lunch and Learn Series, developed and implemented by Abigail Amorim. Designed to mine the rich experiences and interests of our international and foreign-born students, the series featured presentations by students from India, Brazil, Jamaica, Trinidad/Tobago and Jamaica. This very successful program increased the overall interest in international issues at the school of social work. The Center's all day conference on Human Rights in Today's Social and Political Environment, attended by more than 130 social workers, students, faculty from UConn and other programs in the Northeastern United States.

In addition, the Center continued to offer lunch-time seminars, and participated in Social Work Day at the United Nations. Work was begun on policies to improve services to international students. In the curriculum area, the International Issues Substantive Area was redesigned and was approved by the full faculty under the revised curriculum plan. Additional work was done by faculty members of the Center Advisory Committee to add international content to several of the revised foundation curriculum courses, most notably Social Welfare Policy & Services and Human Oppression.

Lynne M. Healy, Director

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Programs Sponsored: Fall, 2002

September, 2002 Presentation by Dr. Kasumi Hirayama: "Social Work Students' Perceptions of Gender Role: East-West Comparison."

Dr. Hirayama is a professor of Group Work at the UConn School of Social Work and frequent visiting professor in Japan. Her research compared student attitudes and beliefs in the U.S. and in Japan.

October, 2002: Documentary Film Debut: "Current of Change: Social Work in Armenia." Produced by Thomas Felke (co-sponsored with the Institute for the Advancement of Political Social Work)

October, 2002: Luncheon and Special Lecture, Ahmed Kathrada, South Africa. Mr. Kathrada is a veteran of the South African liberation movement and a noted anti-apartheid leader. A political and intellectual friend of Nelson Mandela since the 1940's, Kathrada spent 26 years on Robben Island with Mandela as a political prisoner. He is the author of the recently released *Letters from Robben Island*. Other guests at the program included Amii Omara-Ottunu, Director of the UConn ANC partnership and UNESCO Human Rights Chair; Marilyn Moch, North American representative to the International Federation of Social Workers Human Rights Commission; and Shirley Gunn, South African social worker and anti-apartheid/human rights activist. The guests were in Connecticut along with others to participate in the University of Connecticut's third annual Comparative Human Rights Conference, organized by Dr. Omara-Ottunu. Lynne Healy chaired a panel featuring the UNESCO Human Rights Chairs from Europe and North America at the Comparative Human Rights conference.

November, 2002: Panel presentation, Latina Women and their Migration Experiences. A panel of 5 Latina community practitioners shared their experiences and insights into Latino migration issues. Co-sponsored with the Puerto Rican/Latino Studies faculty and the Latino American Student Organization.

December, 2002: World Aids Day Program. Brian Libert, Keynote Speaker, and video from South Africa.

Mr. Libert is from the Ryan White Planning Council and is HIV outreach coordinator at the Community Health Services, Inc. of Hartford. His theme of stigma and HIV was highlighted at the international level by the showing of a brief video, produced by Vishanthie Sewpaul of the University of Natal, South Africa, documenting the struggle of a South African couple coping with AIDS and finding support through a social work-led group. Displays and publicity supplemented the event. Co-sponsored with the Student Health Organization, led by Dr. Barbara Dicks.

December, 2002: Lecture. Peta-Anne Baker. Elderly Women Migrants from the Caribbean: Their Experiences and Needs.

Ms Baker is a visiting professor at the UConn School of Social Work and a member of the faculty at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. She presented the preliminary findings of her study of women over the age of 55 who migrated from the West Indies to the greater Hartford area.

December, 2002: Visit by Margarita Emelyanova, Kyrgystan. Professor Hirayama, member of the CISWS advisory board, arranged a one-day visit to the School of Social Work by Ms Emelyanova. She met with faculty members at the school and gave a presentation to students in the International Issues Seminar class on her work in Kyrgystan on family planning and HIV issues.

Programs: Spring 2003

February, 2003: "Sharing Our Stories." CISWS and the Women's Caucus sponsored a discussion among a group of students and faculty members; participants shared their personal stories about their social work values, where they came from, people who helped them through their careers, and their decisions to follow the path to social work careers.

March 2003: Lunch and Learn Series, Inaugural program. Shanthi Rao, 2nd year student, presented a paper: "Women as Leaders in India." Shanthi discussed grass roots movements involving women leaders in India. Shanthi is originally from India.

March 2003: Lunch and Learn program. Reia Brumble, 1st year student, presented a video "All About Trinidad" and discussed the places and traditions shown in the video. Reia came to UConn from Trinidad & Tobago.

March 2003: Dr. Isidor Wallimann, visiting from the School of Social Work, Basel, Switzerland, gave a lunch hour lecture on "Globalization: Reality or Rhetoric?"

March 2003: Lunch and Learn Program. Abigail Amorim, 2nd year student and CISWS intern for 2002-2003, gave a power point presentation on "The History of Social Welfare in Brazil." Abigail is originally from Brazil.

April 2003: Social Work Day at the United Nations. Professor Barris Malcolm, Advisory Board Member, and 15 students attended the 20th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations. The theme was: *Poverty, Health and Families: Global Concerns*. Participation in the event was organized in collaboration with International Students & Company.

April 2003: Annual International Day, Keynote Speaker: Carlos Cardenas. Theme: Human Rights and Health (described below).

April 2003: Lunch and Learn Program. Paul Asante-Yeboah, 1st year student, presented a paper on “Water Pollution in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Paul is an international student from Ghana.

April 2003: Lunch and Learn Program. Yvonne Patterson, 2nd year student, and Ann Patterson, doctoral student, presented their power point, multi-media presentation on Jamaican Funeral Traditions. They had documented a traditional rural funeral of their grandmother in Jamaica and explained the various religious and traditional aspects of the ceremonies. Yvonne and Ann came to the U.S. from Jamaica.

April 2003: Lunch and Learn Program. Orlando Wright, 2nd year student, presented on the Men Against Violence Against Women program at the UConn main campus. He discussed some of the cultural and international issues that arise when working with men from other cultures who commit violence against women.

April 2003: Dr. Bandana Purkaystha (University of Connecticut) and Dr. Aswani Rao (Columbia) presented a seminar on “South Asians: Past, Present and Future.” Co-sponsored with the Asian and Asian American Student Organization.

April 2003: Human Rights in Today’s Social and Political Environment. An All-Day Conference sponsored by the CISWS with support from the University of Connecticut Human Rights Initiative. See details below.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

INTERNATIONAL DAY, APRIL 8, 2003.

Keynote Presentation: Human Rights and Health. Presented by: **Carlos Cardenas, MD, MPH.** Dr. Cardenas is the Country Director for Peru for CARE, an international relief and development organization. In Peru, Dr. Cardenas is extensively involved in civil society networks working to overcome poverty, He emphasized the connections of human rights to health care issues, especially in providing health care to the poor and to women.

International Day Exhibits and Celebration: The International Day program was enriched by the country and issue displays prepared by members of International Students & Company. Displays featured: Armenia; Brazil; Jamaica; Japan; Mexico; Nigeria; India; Panama; Peru; Puerto Rico; South Africa; human rights, health and children (prepared by the CISWS); and Health and Women’s Rights (prepared by the Women’s Caucus).

West Indian food, catered by the Apron Strings Restaurant of Hartford, was featured at the International Day lunch. Funding was provided by the International Students & Company; Student Organization, and the Center for International Social Work Studies.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE APRIL 28, 2004

Theme: Human Rights in Today's Social and Political Environment

Keynote Speaker: Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Technical University of Berlin and director of a collaborative Master of Social Work in Human Rights program involving 3 universities in Germany. Prior to her work in Berlin, she taught for many years as a Professor of Social Work in Zurich, Switzerland. Dr. Staub-Bernasconi's lecture emphasized the contested area of social rights, bringing European perspectives and scholarship into our discussion.

Morning panelists following the keynote were three human rights experts from the University of Connecticut: Dr. Amii Omara-Otunnu, History Department, UNESCO Human Rights Chair and head of UConn's Comparative Human Rights project; Dr. Bandana Purkayastha, Sociology Department and Asian-American Studies, whose scholarship emphasizes globalization and informal organizing and gender rights; and Laura Dickinson, School of Law, where she teaches international human rights, immigration law and constitutional law.

Five afternoon workshops covered a broad range of topics on human rights and social work. Topics and speakers were as follows:

*The Difficult Path from Human Rights Theory to Human Rights Practice
Silvia Staub-Bernasconi

*Working with Immigrants in the Post 9/11 Climate: Impact of Trauma and Curtailment of Human Rights
Diane Drachman, University of Connecticut School of Social Work; Joyce Hamilton, Democracy Works.

*Women, Violence and Human Rights: Bridging Advocacy and Clinical Practice.
Susan Roche, University of Vermont, Department of Social Work; Rose M. Pullam, Statewide Coordinator, Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence; Marty Dewees, University of Vermont, Department of Social Work.

*Social Action Strategies Toward Creation of a Human Rights Culture
Joseph Wronka, Springfield College School of Social Work

*Racism, Poverty and Human Rights: The Continuing Struggle.
Gregory Acevedo, Temple University School of Social Work; Barris Malcolm, University of Connecticut School of Social Work; Louise Simmons, University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

The all day conference was attended by more than 130 faculty, students, and practitioners from Connecticut and other parts of the Northeast.

SOCIAL AND OTHER EVENTS SPONSORED:

September, 2002: Book reception held to honor the publication of *HIV/AIDS in the English Speaking Caribbean*, edited by Dr. Barbara Dicks.

October 2002: Welcome dinner held for School of Social Work international students from South Africa, Japan and Ghana.

March 2003: First Annual International Potluck Supper for students and faculty, organized by International Students & Company and the CISWS, and co-sponsored by the Asian and Asian-American Student Organization. Participants enjoyed food from diverse countries and danced to music from South Africa, Brazil, Ghana and Japan.

April 2003: Dinner held for speakers at the Human Rights Conference.

INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

University of the West Indies

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- Peta-anne Baker of UWI spent the fall semester at the UConn School of Social Work, where she taught several courses and participated in school and community activities. This semester concluded her 2-year stay at the School of Social Work
- Several courses at UConn were linked to courses and/or experts at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and Trinidad for dialogue via the WebCT system.
- The School of Social Work hosted a dinner for colleagues from UWI who attended the CSWE Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta. Participating from UWI were John Maxwell, John Small, Peta-anne Baker, and
- UConn faculty members Lynne Healy and Barris Malcolm continued to assist with work on the newly launched *Caribbean Journal of Social Work*. UConn School of Social Work

contributed resources to help with the initial production of the journal.

- UConn faculty and staff members Barris Malcolm, Cheryl Jackson-Morris and Lynne Healy participated in the biennial Conference of International and Caribbean Social Work Educators, held in Barbados, July, 2003. Both Malcolm and Healy presented papers and Lynne Healy gave the opening plenary speech to the conference.

Yerevan State University and the Armenia Project:

- UConn School of Social Work, Armenia Project, led by Dr. Nancy Humphreys, sponsored a visit by the Armenian Ambassador
- 2 students from the UConn School of Social Work visited Yerevan State University .
- A joint course, conducted largely on-line, “Social Work in the 2nd World” was initiated involving students at UConn and social work students at Yerevan State University. Dr. Nancy Humphreys developed and taught the class, with technology assistance from Thomas Felke
- A video “Current of Change: Social Work in Armenia” was produced by Thomas Felke, documenting developments in Armenia as recorded by the student team visiting in spring, 2002.

OPEN UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND:

- The Administration Concentration faculty, Barbara Pine, Barris Malcolm and Lynne Healy, continued work on a joint book on Social Services/Social Care Management, to be edited and published collaboratively with the Open University in Milton Keynes, England. The team from Open University are Wendy Rose, Jane Aldgate, and Ann Bullman.

Curriculum

REDESIGN AND APPROVAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SUBSTANTIVE AREA

As part of the School of Social Work's curriculum revision, the Advisory Committee redesigned the International Issues Substantive Area and submitted the proposal to the full faculty. The Substantive Area was approved for continuation. The details of the curriculum are described on the CISWS website. As with all substantive areas, students must now complete 9 course credits in international subjects and a one year field placement related to international social work. One course, SWEL 348: International Social Work: Global Issues, is required for the substantive area.

CONTINUATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

(mention article in the Advance)

MEMBERS OF THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 2002-2003

Chair and Director, Lynne M. Healy, Ph.D.
Abigail Amorim, MSW intern
Barbara Dicks, Ph.D. Faculty
Diane Drachman Ph.D. Faculty
Thomas Felke, MSW Department of Social Services
Kasumi Hirayama Ph.D. Faculty
Cheryl Jackson-Morris MSW Field Education Department
Barris Malcolm Ph.D. Faculty
Priscilla Nombulelo Mbizeni
Reesa Olins MSW. STEP program
Louise Simmons Ph.D. Faculty