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WINTER 2009

# A Portrait in Courage and Determination

## Ana Maria Vazquez

May 13, 1981 – July 27, 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was written with the help of Julie Alter-Kay, and includes excerpts from an article by J. Peter King, Groovehouse. Photos were provided by event photographer Anne Nicolazzo.



na Maria Fernanda Vazquez, an alumna who was awarded her MSW degree by Dean Vroom in a special ceremony on February 8, 2007 in the Thompson House parlor, died this July 27 at the age of age 27 after a courageous battle with cancer. Vazquez also attended Michigan State University, which awarded her a BS degree with honors. She was the recipient of the President's Award, the Anheuser Bush Scholarship, the Patricia Dillard Scholarship among other awards and scholarships. Her parents Jose and Alejandra and her step-brothers, Gus and Alexander, survive her.

Vazquez's last field placement was at Southwest Solutions & Development Services. She worked as a Domestic Violence Coordinator for Easter Seals and as a Community Support Specialist at Training & Treatment Innovations. Lila Lazarus, the Channel 2 health reporter, had followed Vazquez's inspiring story from early on, including coverage of the graduation ceremony.

Ana Vazquez was born in Mexico. She and her mother came to the United States in search of a better life when she was a small child. Her passion was working with children, especially those with mental & physical disabilities. She was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2006, after suffering from severe stomach

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Vazquez at February 8 ceremony with, from left, Kimberly Mercier of St. John Macomb Oakland Hospital and Julie Alter-Kay.

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**



Dean Phyllis Vroom

Welcome to the fall 2008 edition of your Visions newsletter. For us on campus, this time of year marks a new beginning...the 2008-2009 academic year. And this year there were many new things happening. At our August faculty meeting, very soon after he arrived, we greeted new university president Jay Noren. He set forth his agenda and discussed with faculty: increase accessibility of WSU to urban youths; engage with the city to find solutions to urban challenges such as poverty, education, providing economic opportunities; engage in partnerships to find solutions to urban challenges; enhance retention of at-risk students. As part of his presentation, President Noren mentioned our new Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research as an example of forming partnerships to address urban issues. He also commended our high retention rates (67% for BSW's and 95% for MSW's)

Speaking of the center, you'll note in this issue that its new web site is now open for business. It is this kind of useful outreach that I think will help the center fulfill the important role we have envisioned for it from the very beginning. We are also beginning an on-going feature to keep our readers abreast of the center's accomplishments, including funded research and published works.

Another article which may interest you details two faculty positions for which we are currently recruiting. I suspect there may be very qualified candidates right here among our readers, so I encourage you to be in touch if the opportunities should match your qualifications and goals.

And I also call to your attention Georgene Thornton's message. I hope you will take the opportunity to nominate deserving colleagues for the two Alumni Association awards.

When the semester began, we totaled these unofficial enrollment figures: 228 BSW students, 491 MSW students, 8 PhD students, 7 graduate certificate students and 29 non-degree students, for a total enrollment of 762, compared to 730 in fall, 2007.

From a financial aid perspective, we received 213 applications for scholarship awards. Sadly, we were only able to make 118 awards to honor just 54% of those requests. On a much happier note, this issue includes our annual honor roll of the donors who have supported the school during 2007. Despite the difficult times our economy has suffered recently, the generosity of our supporters continues. This support becomes ever more crucial to help us maintain our standards of excellence in the face of diminishing support from other sources. A hearty thank you to all the donors listed. Your generosity continues to warm my heart.

I end my message with warm wishes for the approaching holiday season and the hope for a happy, prosperous New Year from all of us at the School of Social Work.

Kythe & Owom

**Dean Phyllis Vroom** 

# My Journey From Child Welfare to Gerontology

**By Cheryl Waites** 

This article, by new Associate Dean Cheryl Waites first appeared in Aging Times, the bi-monthly e-newsletter of the Council on Social Work Education's Gero-Ed Center.

ike many baby boomers in the field of social work, I entered the profession hoping to change the world. After many years of practice in child welfare, along with years in the academy, I found that gerontology was my call to make a difference. My transformation began as I looked around and saw my family, friends, and children aging. I was fascinated by the demographic shifts taking place in our society and the impact of the aging baby boomers, increased longevity, growth in the number of centenarians, caregiving demands, and the projected diversity of the aging population. I was also concerned about social justice issues, specifically health disparity and access to quality health care. Furthermore, workforce issues regarding the shortages of social workers who were prepared to work with older adults were alarming. I saw an opportunity to make a difference by preparing the next generation of social workers for practice with older adults and their families as well as to engage in research that would inform education and practice.

As a new associate professor at North Carolina State University, with a background in child welfare, mental health, and a few years of working as a consultant at a nursing home, I teamed with my colleague Othelia Lee and applied for a GeroRich grant funded by the Hartford Foundation. When we received the grant, my transformation began. As a GeroRich project director, I worked to develop innovative strategies and programs to promote the infusion of aging content and competencies into our social work undergraduate program. I enhanced my knowledge regarding gerontology, competency-based education, and curricular change models and embraced an approach focused on intergenerational relationship building as the hook to motivate student's interest in social work practice with older adults.

The GeroRich Project provided an opportunity to work with geriatric social workers, educators, and researchers locally and across the country. I benefitted immensely from interacting with and being mentored by established scholars whose work has advanced social work research on aging and geriatric social work education. I have been so impressed by the commitment, mentoring, scholarship, and service of leaders in the field.

After my GeroRich adventure, I have participated in several other GSWI programs. I was an Expert Trainer and CDI Mentor with the Gero-Ed Center and also participated in the NIA/NIH and Hartford Institute on Aging and Social Work, cohort I. In 2006, I was selected as a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar, cohort VII, which has funded my research on topic "Promising Health Promotion Strategies and Interventions: Social Work Practice With Racial and Ethnic Elders." Currently, I am the Associate Dean at Wayne State University School of Social Work, which recently received a Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) grant, and I continue to work with faculty and staff regarding gerontological curricula infusion, innovation, and research.

The convergence of all these experiences has shaped my scholarship and teaching. My interest and work have been positively advanced by the mentoring, training, and support received from the GSWI programs and the colleagues that I have shared these experiences with. This has been a wonderful journey, thus far. I look forward to continuing my research, scholarship and curricula innovation, with a goal of making a contribution to advancing knowledge and theory regarding healthy aging, health promotion, intergenerational relationships and culturally responsive social work practice with older adults and their families.

Cheryl Waites is the Associate Dean at Wayne State University School of Social Work and the Co Director of the Wayne State University Gerontology Certificate Program. She was recently appointed to the Michigan State Advisory Council on Aging. She has published several articles and made many presentations as an outgrowth of her participation in the Hartford GSWI programs. She was also editor of the new book Social Work Practice With African American Families: An Intergenerational Perspective, which was recently released.

# **International Social Work Organization Sponsored Ocansey Lecture in September**



At the Ocansey lecture, from left: Vincent Smith, Yolandra Johnson, speaker Alex Ocansey, Ami Sahi, Maria Anagonye, Dr. Durrenda Onolemhemhen, and Robin Wood

nternational Social Work Organization (ISWO) hosted a lecture on September 25th from 3-5pm.in the Undergraduate Library's Bernath Hall. The lecturer, Alex Ocansey, spoke about his social work practice in rural Ghana, Africa. His lecture was titled "Social Work in Africa: Helping the Ghanaian Street Child."

Ocansey said social work started in Ghana around the year 1946 under then Department of Social Welfare and Housing to train local staff. The school is currently named school of social work and is under the direct supervision of the Department of Social Welfare.

The school runs a two year certificate and diploma

organization under the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment and is the largest employer of social workers in Ghana. The department implements three core programs: community care, child rights protection and justice administration.

#### **Working with Street Children**

The University of Ghana did a study in 1991 that counted about 7,000 street children.

Later, Catholic Action for Street Children (CAS) also carried out a headcount on the children and counted 19,196 in 2002. When ethnic violence broke out in the

Ocansey has been working with Street Girls Aid for the past eight years. Street Aid support includes providing shelter, skill training, literacy, and baby care, among others.

Those who need other services not provided by Street Aid are usually referred to other agencies such as Catholic Action for Street Children, Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), Federation of Women Lawyers FIDA, Ark Foundation, Salvation Army, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

Despite these improvements, many challenges remain, including lack of funding, recidivism among girls, family

Life on the street is in fact "survival" of the fittest. Street children struggle on the street to earn an income, doing a wide variety of jobs. They sleep in the open in various places. During the rainy season their situation becomes worse...the girls are sometimes raped, forced into unwanted sex by unscrupulous men who take advantage of their vulnerable situation, and sometimes an unwanted pregnancy results.

course in social work. Established in 1945, the oldest of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa and the first institution to train professional social workers for the Department of Social Welfare, the Ghana Prisons Service, Ghana Education Service, Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority, Non-Governmental Organizations just to mention a few. The Ghana Association of Social Workers referred to as GASOW is the professional body in charge of licensing and regulating social work practice in Ghana.

The Department of Social Welfare is a state

northern part of Ghana in the 1990's, women and children fled to the south.

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rejection, transportation and education hurdles and the tedious nature of the work itself.

In conclusion, Ocansey said the lack of "formal" institutions and community resources in the rural areas contribute heavily to the increase of children and young people on the streets. He then expressed his appreciation to the Project Consultant; Sarah Ann Barlow, the International Social Work Organization and the School of Social Work for making it possible for him to come and share this experience.



A Portrait in Courage and Determination ... Continued from page 1



Ana Vazquez flanked by her parents Jose and Alejandra at the Thompson House ceremony.

"Cancer has taught me not to take life so seriously and enjoy life; it is good to enjoy a sunset, and watch every leaf change colors."

— Ana Maria Vazquez

pains for a prolonged period. "Cancer has taught me not to take life so seriously and enjoy life; it is good to enjoy a sunset, and watch every leaf change colors," said Vazquez after her diagnosis. Even after her illness was discovered, she was able to complete nearly all of the requirements for her MSW degree.

"God has given me a gift to embrace love, and live life to the fullest, and taught me that materialistic things don't matter in the end, instead love matters," said Vazquez who also suggested that life is only as magical as you make it. ■

# School Announces Two Faculty Openings — Beginning August '09

The School of Social Work is currently searching for two additional faculty members and it occurred to your Visions editor that there well may be worthy candidates among our readers. Here is the basic information. More details are available from Cheryl Waites, Associate Dean, (dv7029@wayne.edu) All positions subject to availability of funding.

#### ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE / FULL PROFESSOR

The school and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (www.mpsi.wayne.edu) seek a jointly appointed assistant, associate or full professor, tenure-track or tenured, with expertise in research with urban families, child health and/or child development. Both institutions value interdisciplinary collaboration. Appointment enhanced by a reduced teaching load to free time for research. Applicants should have an outstanding record of research achievement and a strong commitment to research, training of doctoral students, and graduate and undergraduate teaching. Successful candidates must have an MSW degree, at least two years of post-MSW practice experience, and an earned doctorate in social work or a related discipline. Application must be made online at http://jobs.wayne.edu posting Number 035660

#### **ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

The school also has an opening for a nine-month assistant or associate professor, tenure-track or tenured, with expertise in social work practice or social welfare policy in the criminal justice system and/or mental health practice or policy and/or substance abuse practice or policy, who may also teach quantitative and/or qualitative research courses and statistics for BSW, MSW or PhD students. Prefer candidates whose research and teaching demonstrate knowledge about issues and concerns of urban, poor populations, including minorities. Successful candidate expected to conduct research within the newly established Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research, collaborate with the Center staff, and teach within at least one degree program (BSW, MSW, PhD).

Must have an MSW degree; at least two years post-MSW practice experience, an earned doctorate in social work or a related discipline; a good beginning record of publications and potential for outstanding scholarship; demonstrate strong potential as a teacher and scholar; demonstrate strong potential for external funding. The candidate must be able to conduct research independently, as well as collaboratively. Salary is competitive, based on background and experience. Make application online at http://jobs.wayne.edu

Applications must include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the names and full contact information for three references. In addition, please send three writing samples to Search Advisory Committee, Wayne State University School of Social Work, 4756 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201-2357 ■



#### TWO ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES JOIN PHD PROGRAM

n September two more students joined the school's PhD program, bringing the total currently enrolled to eight. The newcomers are Jessica Lucero and Patty Meyer.

Lucerto earned her BSW and MSW degrees from the University of Wyoming. During her undergraduate and graduate years she held research assistantships in Social Work. She was also a program assistant for Climb Wyoming, an agency that trains and places low-income single mothers in jobs that better support their families in rural areas of the state. She also provided several years of advocacy and leadership for The SAFE Project, a domestic violence and sexual assault response agency, as well as administering The Ohio Benefit Bank, a program that served to decrease barriers to receiving

public assistance for eligible Ohioans as an Americorps participant.

Lucerto has many research interests, but focuses particularly on women's issues, health promotion, social welfare and public policy. Asked why she chose WSU for her doctoral studies, she said, "(an) incredibly bright faculty, along with the opportunity for rich social work research in Detroit have made me very excited to begin my doctoral studies at Wayne State." Lucerto is working with Dr. Shawna Lee as a graduate research assistant.

Patty Meyer's affiliation with Wayne State University began with completion of the Masters in Social Work program in 2002. Since earning that degree Meyer has worked in the field of co-occurring disorders through a non-profit agency within the Detroit-Wayne County catchment area as a clinical social worker, administrator and program manager.

She says, "I chose Wayne State for doctoral studies as there is a good fit between my research interests and the community in which I am invested." Her areas of interest include recidivism among the co-occurring population and ways of working toward easing problems associated with service delivery. Meyer is also planning to earn certification in addiction studies through the CADAS program here. She is currently working as a GSRA for Dr. Sobeck in the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research.



# NEWS FROM THE Center

# **Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research Introduces New Web Site**

After spending much of the summer collecting information regarding the varied research at the school, the new web site of the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research is now live and available for your use. You can find it at www.research.socialwork.wayne.edu

There you will find information about the faculty and staff, services, and activities held by the Center to bridge the relationship between practitioners and researchers. You can read about the center's new Strategic Partner's Project; an exciting initiative blending faculty and social service agency interests. Brown bag seminars, useful links, summits, and dialogues will bring practitioners and researchers together over a common area of social work expertise. Periodically information will be posted on new research findings related to a multitude of practice settings and topics.

As we continue to celebrate the inaugural year of the new Center we anticipate connecting with social workers, researchers and others who have a stake in enhancing knowledge related to social interventions and policy. The center staff invites you to go to the site and look around. They also welcome your feedback. Contact center staff, Erin Comartin: at9766@wayne.edu with your comments.

#### **Latest News**

As part of our Strategic Partner's project the Center staff and School of Social Work faculty have been working with Matrix Human Services to build capacity to conduct mutually beneficial research. Center staff visited all 15 of Matrix Human Service's programs for an overall program analysis. This information was summarized and used to write a collaborative National Institute of Mental Health Interventions and Practice Research Infrastructure Proposal (IP-RISP). This grant would build the capacity of both Matrix Human Services and The School of Social Work to conduct research in order to facilitate effective mental health practice and achievement of evidence-based outcomes. This collaborative research opportunity parallels other faculty and staff activities of the strategic partnership including focus groups with aged populations of Matrix and training for Head Start staff on accurate records documentation.

For more information about Matrix Human Services please visit their website at www.matrixhumanservices.org

For more information about the Strategic Partners project please visit our website at www.research.socialwork.wayne.edu and click on the Strategic Partners tab.

#### **Publications (in print)**

Black, B. M., Tolman, R. M., Callahan, M., Saunders, D. G., & Weisz, A. N. (2008). When will adolescents tell someone about dating violence victimization? *Violence Against Women*, 17(7), 741-758.

Campbell, R., Adams, A.E., and Patterson, D. (2008). Methodological challenges of collecting evaluation data from traumatized clients/consumers: A comparison of three methods. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 29, 369.

Campbell, R., Patterson, D., Adams, A.E., Diegel, R., and Coats, S. (2008). A participatory evaluation project to measure SANE nursing practice and adult sexual assault patients' psychological well-being. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, 4, 19-28.

Hopp, F. P. (2008). Impact of provider self-management education, patient self-efficacy, and health status on patient adherence in heart failure in a Veterans Administration population. *Congestive Heart Failure*, 1, 6-11.

Jozefowicz-Simbeni, D. M. H. (2008). An ecological and developmental perspective on dropout risk factors in early adolescence: Role of school social workers in dropout prevention efforts. *Children & Schools*, 30(1), 49-62.

Kubiak, S. P. & Allen, T. (2008). Public opinion regarding juvenile life without parole in consecutive statewide surveys. *Crime and Delinquency*.

Kernsmith, P.D. & Kernmith, R.M. (2008). Online support for recovering sex offenders. *Journal of Technology in Human Services*, 26(2-4), 223-237.

Lee, S., Guterman, N., & Lee, Y. (2008). Risk factors for paternal physical child abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

Miles, B., & Okamoto, S. (2008). The social construction of deviant behavior in homeless and runaway youth: Implications for practice. *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 25(5), 425-441.

Sobeck. J. (2008). How cost effective is capacity building in grassroots organizations? *Administration in Social Work*, 32, 49-68.

Taylor, C., Guterman, N., Lee, S. & Rathouz, R. (2008). Intimate partner violence, parental stress, nativity, and risk for maternal child maltreatment. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Weisz, A. N., & Black, B. M. (2008). Peer intervention in dating violence: Beliefs of African American middle school adolescents. *The Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 17(2), 177-196.

Waites, C. C. & Urieta, D. M. (2008). Health promotion activities in six African American churches in a southeastern community. *African American Research Perspectives*, 12(1) 130-149.

#### **2008 Funded Research Projects**

#### Black Family Development, Inc. & Good Neighborhoods Initiative

Dr. Shirley Thomas is conducting an evaluation that documents the process utilized by Black Family Development Inc. to organize block clubs and train leaders in the Osborn community in Detroit.

#### **Center for Disease Control's Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study**

Dr. Shawna Lee is co-investigator on a series of studies that analyze the role of fathers in the etiology of physical child abuse and neglect using data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study. This research agenda, Fathers and Risk for Physical Child Maltreatment: Prevention Pathways, is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grants for Violence-Related Injury Prevention Research.

#### **Detroit Public Schools Homeless Literacy Project**

In partnership with the Detroit Public Schools Homeless Program, Principal Investigator Debra Jozefowicz-Simbeni is engaged in a program to meet the educational, literacy and other needs of children and parents who are homeless. The project will have social workers provide library and tutoring services, literacy training, and parent education to mothers and children who reside in Detroit homeless shelters.

# **Evaluation of the Collaborative Process for the Family Service Alliance for Southeastern Michigan**

Oakland Family Services (OFS) will join with Macomb Family Service and Family Services of Detroit and Wayne County to form the Alliance for Family Services. The Alliance will make measurable improvements in quality, access and efficiency in the current health care delivery system. Principal investigator Neva Nahan will evaluate both process and outcomes of this project.

#### **Evaluation of New Detroit, Inc's Compassion Capital Initiative**

New Detroit has been awarded a three year federal grant to provide capacity building services for small faith and community-based organizations. Principal Investigator Elizabeth Agius serves as the evaluator who will document the process objectives, as well as tracking outcomes to the participating organizations.

#### **Evaluation of Oakland Family Services FOCUS Program**

Principal investigator Elizabeth Agius is conducting a process and outcome evaluation of the Oakland Family Services FOCUS program providing case management service, parenting education and life skills for offenders living in the community who are under supervision.

#### **Evaluation of the Out-Wayne County SANE Program**

Dr. Poco Kernsmith is conducting a needs assessment related to the current handling of sexual assault cases through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program in Wayne County. An outcome evaluation of the SANE program and a process evaluation of the Wayne County Sexual Assault Task Force are included in this research project.

#### Hartford Scholars Program's Barriers and Facilitators to Advanced Heart Failure Care in Urban Settings

Dr. Hopp's research, funded by John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program, looks at persons with advanced heart failure need of appropriate health care, end-of-life care, and supportive services. Drawing on the chronic care model, this study is designed to obtain in-depth information about how persons with advanced heart failure experience their illness and their perceptions and use of formal and informal services.

## Health Promotion Activities in African American Churches in the Detroit Area

As part of a long term goal to identify strategies to enhance community infrastructure to enhance or maintain health, Dr. Waites is examining how the faith community is involved in health promotion activities for elders and their commitment to eliminating health disparities and promoting healthy aging. This study consists of a content analysis of health-promotion activities and programs in the Detroit Metropolitan area and interviews with church leaders.

#### Wayne County Head Start Community Assessment

Neva Nahan serves as principal investigator for planning and facilitating the implementation of a community assessment for The Wayne County Head Start Program. The assessment will collect demographic information and data related to the needs of low-income families in Out-Wayne County.



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Scholarship recipient, (1) Laurae Stumpf, with (r) Annette Freedman at the 2008 Scholarship Reception.

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Scholarship recipient, (l) Elizabeth Christensen, with (r) Daniel Gwinn at the 2008 Scholarship Reception.



Scholarship recipient, (1) Tiffany Wallace, with (r) Annie Louise Pitts Handy at the 2008 Scholarship Reception.

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# MESSAGE FROM Georgene Thornton Alumni Association President



¶Alumni Association President Georgene Thornton

Greetings! Your alumni board recently welcomed Shantalea Johns and Sarah Barlow as new board members. With recent graduates joining the alumni board each year, we will sustain the vitality of our organization in service to alumni and the school. Our current paid membership is about 850, or nearly 10% of our 8811 living alumni. Please consider renewing your membership to help us maintain a loyal alumni base. Also consider purchasing some School of Social Work alumni merchandise. The sale of T-shirts, as well as crewneck and hooded sweatshirts generates funds which the alumni association uses to support our endowed scholarship and alumni events during the year. To receive an order form and make a purchase, send an email to the school at aa2851@wayne.edu.

We are looking for nominations for the 2009 Social Work Alumnus/Alumna of the Year and Citizen of the Year. We, of course, will honor both awardees at our annual luncheon meeting next March. In fact, if you have your 2009 calendar already, you might want to note the date and place: Friday, March 27, 2009 at Alumni House from 11:30 to 1:00

Here are the award criteria for Alumna/Alumnus of the Year: be an alumna or alumnus (BSW, MSW or PhD); demonstrate a commitment to the profession, exemplified in the pursuit of social work knowledge, practice, leadership and/or research; a demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: the profession, service to the community, service to the school.

For Citizen of the Year, these criteria apply: demonstrated outstanding record of public/private sector or voluntary service to vulnerable populations, impacting the quality of life in metropolitan Detroit or Michigan communities; exemplify social work values and ethics; demonstrate outstanding compassion, teamwork and leadership.

If you have nominations, you can obtain a form from Loren Hoffman at aa2851@wayne.edu or by phoning 313-577-4464. The deadline is December 31, 2008.

I wish everyone the best for the coming holidays, and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Luncheon on Friday, March 27, 2009 at 11:30. ■

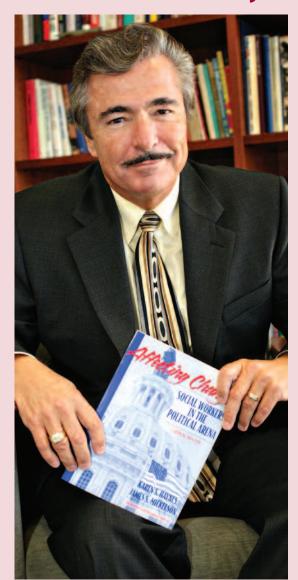
### Alumni Author Jim Mickelson MSW '78 Seeks Political Activism Vignettes for Textbook

Jim Mickelson, who earned his MSW from the school, and his co-author, Karen Haynes, are looking for stories and vignettes of real-life experiences from social workers who have brought about social change through political activities. These materials will be used in the upcoming seventh edition of their textbook Affecting Change: Social Workers in the Political Arena, which was first published in 1986.

They are anxious to find politically active social workers who are willing to contribute specific examples for possible inclusion in the book. Mickelson told your Visions reporter that these materials "have proven to be a powerful tool in this how-to text about political activism."

If you are interested in helping out, submit scenarios and vignettes by December 20th, 2008. Mickelson says they will work with authors to assure "fit" within the book, and provide formal sign-off requests for those submissions chosen to be included. He adds, "If you have any questions or want to submit your scenarios, please send to: affectingchange@csusm.edu."

# Meet Alumnus Jim Mickelson



Jim Mickelson

Jim Mickelson, who received his M.S.W. from the WSU School of Social Work in 1978, is now director of ACE Scholars Services at California State University San Marcos, a program that helps youth who have aged out of the foster care system to enter and succeed in college. After obtaining his MSW, Jim worked in metropolitan Detroit for several years. He told Visions that he felt his education at WSU was "excellent preparation" for the career challenges he faced after graduation as he pursued a career in education and child welfare advocacy. He particularly remembers Maryann Mahaffey as an excellent role model for the social worker turned politician, although he was never in a class she taught. After several years of working he came to realize that political activism was the key route for affecting needed policy changes and went so far as to run (unsuccessfully) for Oakland County Commissioner, a victim of Ronald Reagan's landslide victory in 1984.

Soon after, he moved to Houston, where he established CHILDREN AT RISK a nonprofit organization that drives change for children through research, education and influencing public policy. He then followed his co-author and wife to California.

Would-be authors among our readers will be heartened by Mickelson's revelation that his coauthored textbook was rejected by 25 publishers, but now is about to be in its 7th edition. ■

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