The Silver School of Social Work Celebrates Fifty Years

The NYU Silver School of Social Work marks its 50th anniversary in 2010 with a yearlong celebration of special events and lectures. The year will culminate with the Fiftieth Anniversary Benefit Celebration to be held in November, moderated by Dean Lynn Videka, and featuring a conversation with President John Sexton; Henry Louis Gates Jr., host of the PBS series “Faces of America;” and Carol Gilligan, author of In a Different Voice.

“As we celebrate our last 50 years and look to the future, we know that the social work vision is more important than ever before,” said Videka. “We are the professionals trained in trauma response, in community building, in grief counseling, in advocating for progressive social policies and services, who can respond to the challenges facing our world.”

The School has educated over 13,000 social work practitioners and leaders in every field of practice. The School launched a major fundraising drive last fall to raise scholarship funds, with the goal of 100 percent participation of alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of the School.

Events have included lecture series and a reception in the Edward Hopper Studio, with Lynn Gumpert, director of the Grey Gallery. Students, alumni, faculty, and staff participated in the Silver Search, a mobile-based scavenger hunt around the NYU Campus and Greenwich Village in search of 10 social work landmarks.

On May 12, the School graduated its 50th class. To commemorate the milestone, graduates heard from Porter Kirkwood Jr., a member of the Class of 1961, and Videka gave the keynote speech. At the University-wide commencement, undergraduate student Jessica Mason delivered the student speech, the first time a social work student gave the University commencement address.

To learn more about the School’s 50th Anniversary, visit www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th. For a complete listing of upcoming Silver School events, visit www.nyu.edu/socialwork/calendar.
The Silver School of Social Work Celebrates Fifty Years

Below are highlights from the student speeches at the School’s convocation, held at Lincoln Center:

“Realizing this goal [preparing and writing a dissertation] required countless hours of conceptualizing, analyzing, and writing that led, ultimately, to a completed dissertation. But it wasn’t just about completing a dissertation. It was something more than that, something much less concrete. The entire process granted us a transformative learning experience.”
- Edward Alessi, doctoral student representative

“I would like to thank all of the parents who are here today. I have had the great pleasure of knowing your children and I can adamantly say that you have done a fantastic job of instilling them with unquestionable values and faith in humanity. They are truly capable of extending their great light in the world and are brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous, and powerful beyond measure.”
- Kathleen Crehan, undergraduate student representative

“I encourage you this evening, to remain engaged in the journey of research, theory, practice, and self-reflection. I encourage you to continue to stretch yourselves beyond having a broad understanding of oppression and focus on the context/singular identity of our greater communities. This will make every experience authentic and help you address the social problems in the context of the community that you are working in.”
- Bobby Casiano, master’s student representative
A Letter from the Dean

Dear alumni and friends:

It has been an exciting year for the Silver School of Social Work. We launched the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, and worked intensively to define the Institute’s mission and goals. We are in the midst of a spectacular 50th anniversary celebration with a yearlong series of events that will conclude with a gala on November 10. In May, we proudly celebrated the Silver School’s 50th convocation, which included greetings from Porter Kirkwood Jr., a member of the class of 1961. For the first time ever, a SSSW bachelor’s student, Jessica Mason, delivered the student speech at the full University Commencement in Yankee Stadium in front of 22,000 people. Our faculty, students, and alumni have excelled this year, and articles in this issue highlight a few of their achievements.

The faculty and I are working to craft a future vision for the Silver School through a strategic planning process. While we are still at work (watch for a full report in the next Newsletter), we know some of the broad directions for the School’s future. We will continue to offer outstanding clinical social work education. We will lead in creating new knowledge for practice and for poverty policy and research. We will dedicate ourselves to embracing human diversity and to ending racism in the global, 21st-century context for social work. We will prepare future social work leaders.

It has been an honor and privilege to join the Silver School. I have learned so much and met so many good people during this year. We very much embody our 50th anniversary slogan: celebrating excellence, embracing the future.

Best wishes,

Lynn Videka
Dean and Professor

1984

SEPTMBER: The School establishes its first dual-degree program. With the NYU School of Law, the program offers an MSW degree and JD degree.

1987

The New York State Department of Education authorizes the School to grant a PhD degree, replacing the DSW.

SEPTMBER: The School introduces the Advanced Standing MSW Program.

1990

As School enrollment exceeds 1,000, NYU announces that 1 Washington Square North will be added to the School of Social Work building, joining 2 and 3 Washington Square North.

1994

The refurbishing of the School’s buildings is complete and the School is renamed the Ehrenkranz School of Social Work in honor of former Dean Shirley M. Ehrenkranz.

2001

SEPTMBER – DECEMBER: Following the September 11 attacks, the School’s faculty, alumni, and students respond with crisis counseling and other services.

2003

The School establishes the Division of Lifelong Learning and Professional Development.

2007

NYU renames the School the Silver School of Social Work in honor of Constance and Martin Silver’s $50-million gift. The School establishes the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy.

The School creates a 32-month MSW program designed for those who work full-time, allowing for evening, weekend, and summer study.

2009

NYU appoints Lynn Videka the School’s eighth dean.
Child Welfare Workers and Recalled Emotional Abuse

Child welfare workers handle an enormous amount of stress as they face neglected and abused children on a daily basis. Secondary traumatic stress is often associated with burnout, but much less is known about how a social worker’s own history of emotional abuse affects his or her general well-being.

Trudy Festinger, professor at the Silver School of Social Work, and Amy Baker of the Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection, recently published results of a study showing that nearly 30 percent of employees at a large child welfare agency recalled some level of childhood emotional abuse. Festinger and Baker found that the level of abuse was related to the person’s self-esteem, satisfaction with life, and sense of social support.

“A huge amount has been written on physical and sexual abuse,” explained Festinger. “Emotional abuse is below the radar, so to speak, although it exists in huge quantities and frequently accompanies physical or sexual abuse. So relatively little has been written about it.”

Festinger and Baker surveyed 253 clinical and non-clinical employees (most of whom were women) at a large full service child welfare agency in New York City using subscales of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire. Study participants responded anonymously to the survey, which used two five-item subscales to measure emotional abuse and neglect. The authors are careful to note the limitations of self-reporting childhood recollections, including memory lapses and distortions.

While nearly one-third of respondents reported past psychological maltreatment by a caretaker, female clinical staff members remembered the most severe forms of emotional abuse. Of this group, 12.9 percent had questionnaire scores that placed them in the severe to extreme emotional abuse category. Although females consistently recollect more past trauma than males, it is not clear if this is due to different past experiences, different interpretations of past adult behaviors, or other factors.

Festinger and Baker also found that child welfare staff felt ongoing effects from their childhood experiences. This was demonstrated in the three major categories of well-being, with lower levels of self-esteem, satisfaction with life, and sense of social support.

“The main finding here, even when considering other variables that were related to those three categories, was that emotional abuse came out as the strongest predictor in each instance,” said Festinger. Emotional abuse came out ahead of other factors, like the respondent’s age, whether both parents had raised the individual, and the length of time worked in child welfare.

Because agency staff are in regular contact with emotionally abused children—which could impact job performance and trigger one’s memories—this study has pertinent implications for child welfare agencies. While the authors did not explore how past emotional abuse specifically affected respondent’s work, Festinger did note that some staff felt there were continuing effects.

“We do not know what the effect of their own abuse is on their work with kids, but it is something that all agencies ought to be very much aware of,” said Festinger. “Agencies really need to be sensitized to the fact that a proportion of their staff has this in their background and need to provide some avenues of support.”

Faculty Awards and Honors

In March, the Latino Social Work Task Force honored Associate Professor Yuhwa Eva Lu with the Leadership Award for her contributions to the social work profession and the Latino community.

Professor Jerome Wakefield was honored with the 2010 Best Book of the Year Award from the American Sociological Association’s section on Evolution, Biology, and Society for his book, The Loss of Sadness: How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Sorrow into Depressive Disorder (Oxford Press).

Linda Mills, professor of social work, public policy, and law, received a National Science Foundation grant for the four-year study, “A Randomized Study Comparing Battering Intervention and Alternative Treatment Approaches for Domestic Violence Offenders.” Mills is the principal investigator and Briana Barocas, director of research at NYU’s Center on Violence and Recovery, is the co-principal investigator.

Trudy Festinger, professor, was elected president of the Kenworthy-Swift Foundation in May.

Professor Jeane Anastas has been elected president-elect of the National Association of Social Work by its members. Her term as president-elect began July 1 and will end June 30, 2011. From July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014, Anastas will lead the Washington, DC-based association as president.

Information for Practice (IP), the Web site edited by Professor Gary Holden, was recently selected for inclusion in the final version of the Internet Resources Newsletter, published by Heriot-Watt University Library in the United Kingdom.

IP was chosen as one of the top four non-Canadian sources for connected social policy works by the Web site, Social Policy Cafe.

Duy Nguyen, assistant professor, received a 2009 Hartford Faculty Scholars Grant for his research, “Asian American Elders’ Social Relationships: Implications for Mental Health and Help-Seeking.”

Dean Lynn Videka has been elected to the executive committee of the St. Louis Group, representing social work programs in major research universities.

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

In September, John Wiley and Company published At the Crossroads: Leadership Strategies for Not-for-Profit Executives and Boards by Phil Coltoff, executive-in-residence. The book examines the role of not-for-profits, changes in governance, shifting missions and vision, developing leaders, and the role of academic training in universities.

“Social Networks and Isolation: The Role of Trauma Among Women with Histories of Substance Abuse, Mental Illness and Homelessness,” by Professor Deborah K. Padgett and PhD candidate Ben F. Henwood, was published in Women and Addictions: New Research by Nova Publishers.

“Research on Social Work Practice: A Bibliometric Evaluation of the First Decade,” co-authored by Professor Gary Holden, was published in the January 2010 edition of Research on Social Work Practice. Holden co-authored the paper with Gary Rosenberg (Mount Sinai School of Medicine), Kathleen Barker (The City University of New York: Medgar Evers College), and Justin Lioi, MSW ’08 (NYU and Good Shepherd Services).

In July, New Harbinger Press released Stop Overreacting by Judith Siegel, associate professor. The book draws on the latest research on neurobiology as well as Siegel’s extensive experience working with individuals, couples, and families to explain how triggers, beliefs, and emotional memories combine to create episodes of overreaction.

“Does the DSM-IV Clinical Significance Criterion for Major Depression Reduce False Positives? Evidence From the National Comorbidity Survey Replication,” by Professor Jerome Wakefield, Mark Schmitz (Temple University), and Judith Baer (Rutgers University), was published in the March 2010 edition of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

“An Empirically Based Field Education Model: Preparing Students for Culturally Competent Practice with New Immigrants,” by Associate Professor Alma Carten and Jeanne Bertrand Finch (Stony Brook University) was published in the September 2010 issue of the Journal of Public Child Welfare, a special issue on immigration.

PRESENTATIONS

In September, Gladys Gonzalez-Ramos, associate professor, will present at the World Parkinson Congress in Glasgow, Scotland, on social work in the care of Parkinson’s disease. She will also participate in an international panel presentation and discussion on healthcare teams in Parkinson’s.


Yuhwa Eva Lu, associate professor, presented two papers at the 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in June in Hong Kong (with PhD candidates Chiung-Yun Chang and John Hannigan). Lu also presented “Assessing Social Work Clinical Competence and Methodological Issues: The Development of Social Work-OSCE” at the Sino-European Forum, hosted by the East China University of Science and Technology.

Associate Professor Theresa Aiello was one of four invited plenary speakers at the April conference of the American Association of Psychoanalysis and Clinical Social Work Conference, entitled Love, Loss and Creating a Meaningful Life. At the Interdisciplinary Trauma Conference in Washington, DC, in March, Aiello presented her paper, “A Terrible Beauty is Born.” Aiello’s article, “Psychoanalysts in Exile,” was published in the fall 2009 edition of Psychoanalytic Perspectives.

In June a series of conferences was organized in Paris around Professor Jerome Wakefield’s work on depression and the conceptualization of mental illness from an international perspective. Each of the conference days explored specific topics of Wakefield’s work as debated by French, Canadian, and British philosophers; epidemiologists; psychologists; and sociologists.

The Role of Housing in Reducing Substance Abuse in the Homeless and Mentally Ill

Homeless adults with histories of mental illness and substance abuse are one of society’s most vulnerable populations, with recovery often long and costly. A recent article by Silver School of Social Work professors Deborah K. Padgett and Victoria Stanhope, doctoral candidate Ben F. Henwood, and Ana Stefancic (Columbia University) examines two programmatic approaches to serving this population’s needs—Treatment First and Housing First.

Treatment First programs have long been the dominant method to help homeless, mentally ill adults move toward independent living. When starting these programs, the client enters group housing and fulfills detoxification and sobriety requirements. Only then will the person move towards a less restrictive program and, ultimately, independent housing. By contrast, the newer Housing First approach provides individuals with their own apartment upon entering the program. Housing is not contingent upon substance abuse and mental illness treatment, although these services are offered to clients.

Whereas results from previous studies yielded no significant differences between the two approaches in reducing substance abuse, Padgett and Stanhope et al. found Housing First participants are less likely to abuse substances. Participants were also less likely to use substance abuse treatment services and less likely to leave the program early.

“Housing First fulfills the new paradigm of mental health recovery by promoting two central components of recovery—consumer choice and community integration,” explained Stanhope. “Clients choose their own housing, rather than being placed in congregate settings where they are isolated from the community and more vulnerable to stigma.”

The National Institute of Mental Health-funded study followed new enrollees for one year at four New York City programs: three Treatment First facilities and one Housing First program. All participants had histories of substance abuse and severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Data were collected through interviews with clients and their case managers.

Out of the Treatment First clients, 54 percent left the program, most due to drug and alcohol relapse. Only 30 percent of the Housing First group used substances during the year and all remained in the program. Through logistic regression analyses, the authors determined Treatment First participants were 3.4 times more likely to use drugs or alcohol than Housing First participants.

Padgett stressed that part of Housing First’s success hinges on its holistic approach. This includes offering a range of support services, including job skills training, 12-step support groups, and cooking classes.

“The structure of Housing First really gives providers the flexibility to follow the lead from the client,” said Stanhope. “The trust that builds from being able to meet clients where they are is key to bringing about positive change.”

Added Padgett, “Our findings speak to a person’s improved mental state when they have a foothold in a new life. Having their own apartment gives them a sense of security and belonging which means less reason to abuse drugs and alcohol.”

Despite its successes, the Housing First model remains one small part of the vast homeless service system. The ‘new paradigm’ of mental health recovery has evolved in recent years with research showing that a significant number of people hospitalized for severe mental illness go on to lead full lives. The Silver School will host a conference on October 27 and 28 on recovery-oriented services in mental health, featuring new research presented by Padgett and Stanhope.

Putting It All Together: Earning an MSW in Mid-Life

Davida Adedjoura, MSW ’07

When Davida Adedjoura graduated from the NYU Silver School of Social Work in 2007, she took away an MSW degree uniquely infused with a lifetime of experience. Her 50 years included time as a single parent, welfare recipient, award-winning creative writer, and college teacher. Additionally, she lives with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

Adedjoura got into social work unexpectedly. In her late 40s, while finishing her BA at Empire State College, a professor urged her to get an MSW, telling Adedjoura she showed aptitude and that there was a need for black therapists. Inspired, Adedjoura applied to the SSSW because she had had a very positive experience a few years earlier in NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Once accepted, she registered with the University’s Center for Students with Disabilities. Along with academic assistance, the Center also afforded her financial assistance.

“I loved the SSSW; it changed my life,” said Adedjoura, a psychiatric social worker at HELP/PSI in the Bronx. “Learning how to accept clients as they are, without judging them, was the biggest thing for me. It made me a better person,” she said. “The professors made social work exciting, and the students were inquisitive and compassionate—willing to go the extra mile for you. It was amazing to be around so many good, good people,” she said. And her SSSW experience reinforced her desire to work with poor minorities.

Adedjoura was quick to see opportunities to use writing as a treatment technique with her clients. Her published works include the book, The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children, and she has received grants to live and write in France and Australia. At her first field placement while attending the SSSW, the senior center ARC Fort Washington, she helped members with early dementia write their life stories.

Adedjoura is employed where she completed her second-year field placement, HELP/PSI. This organization provides residential health care for a challenging population: people with both AIDS and chemical addiction, most of whom also have some form of mental illness and are court mandated to attend. Writing is an effective and exciting way to help them, Adedjoura found. “I try to have all my clients keep journals,” she said. “I’m even teaching therapeutic creative writing groups. I completed a 10-week cycle, and the students begged my boss to let me do a second one.”

She keeps in touch with the School through Alumni Affairs, headed by Courtney O’Mealley. When the School was renamed following Connie Silver’s generous gift, O’Mealley invited Adedjoura to attend the ceremony and speak on behalf of current students and alumni. “Of course, I agreed. To be given that honor was just incredible to me,” she said.

In fact, Adedjoura’s greatest financial assistance and mentoring came from Silver. Adedjoura received the Constance McCatherin Silver Fellowship and Silver offered her advice about entering the meaningful world of social work.

After graduation, Adedjoura obtained a post-master’s certificate from a psychoanalytic institute. Now, she is working on a PhD in health psychology through an online university. She wants to sharpen her awareness of the psychological implications of health conditions, such as chronic pain, and ultimately hopes to combine private practice and writing.

Referring to her past experience with textbooks that focused on pathology in African American families, she said, “I want to write social work textbooks in which African Americans are more accurately and adequately represented. I mean, where are the happy black families pursuing their goals?”

Saturday, October 23
Alumni Day, featuring the Dean’s Luncheon, Alumni Awards Ceremony, and the Alumni Affinity Group Receptions
Support Silver School Students through the 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund

Our students come from all over the world with a noble purpose: to improve the lives of people in distress and to effect positive change in society. But, too often they are weighed down by financial struggles.

Your support of our talented and committed students is more important than ever. Please help us reach our 2010 goal of raising $1 million in student scholarships.

Visit http://nyusilver50.org/the-50th-anniversary-scholarship-fund/

Mail your check to New York University, Office of Alumni and Development, 25 West 4th Street, Room 403, New York, NY 10012

Contact Sara Phillips, Associate Director of Development, 212-998-6924 or sara.phillips@nyu.edu

2009–2010 Student Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following students and student groups who were honored with awards this year.

Nicole Barclay, MSW ’11
President’s Service Award, NYU

Bobby Casiano, MSW ’10
Philip Vera Cruz/Pete Velasco Mentorship Nia Award, NYU
Center for Multicultural Education and Programs; Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU Silver

Angelica Cazares, MSW ’11
Dedication to Education Award, NYU Office of LGBT Student Services

Shane Crary-Ross, BS ’11
President’s Service Award, NYU; Social Justice Award, NYU Silver

Kathleen Crehan, BS ’10
Silver Spirit Award for Outstanding Social Work Students, NYU Silver

Janet-Michelle Cuevas, MSW ’10
Silver Spirit Award for Outstanding Social Work Students, NYU Silver

Jennifer Dyer, MSW ’10
National Association of Social Workers Student Award, NASW; Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU Silver

Graduate Student Association
President’s Service Award, NYU

Josetta Harris, MSW ’10
Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU Silver; Social Justice Award, NYU Silver

Shalyse Henderson, BS ’10
Dean’s Award for Innovation in Social Work Practice, NYU Silver

Sara Kahn, PhD Candidate
Dianne Greenstein Memorial Fellowship, NYU Silver

Christine Perrotto, MSW ’10
Outstanding Student of Distinction Award, NYU State Society for Clinical Social Work

Pi Pi Chapter • Phi Alpha
National Honor Society
President’s Service Award, NYU

Amanda Raposo, BS ’11
Dean’s Award for Innovation in Social Work Practice, NYU Silver

Jo Rees, PhD ’10
Robert Moore Award for Excellence in Scholarship, NYU Silver

Rebecca Rivera-Maestre, PhD ’10
Robert Moore Award for Excellence in Scholarship, NYU Silver

Katharine Savin, BS ’10
President’s Service Award, NYU

Christian Tamasco, MSW ’10
Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU Silver

Lauren Tetenbaum, MSW ’10
Dean’s Award for Innovation in Social Work Practice, NYU Silver

Maryam Tolouei, MSW ’11
Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU Silver

Eileen Tucci, MSW ’10
Outstanding Student of Distinction Award, NYU State Society for Clinical Social Work

Jeremy Schwartz, MSW ’11
Excellence in Leadership Award, NYU

Undergraduate Student Association
President’s Service Award, NYU

Fiftieth Anniversary Benefit Celebration

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2010

5:00 PM • Eisner & Lubin Auditorium, 4th Floor
Conversation with President John Sexton; Henry Louis Gates Jr., host of the PBS series “Faces of America”; and Carol Gilligan, author of In a Different Voice; moderated by Dean Lynn Videka

Cocktails 6:00 PM • Rooms 912 and 914

Dinner 7:00 PM • Rosenthal Pavilion, 10th Floor
Helen and Martin Kimmel Center for University Life
60 Washington Square South, New York City
(at the corner of La Guardia Place)

Honoring

Eleanore Z. Korman, who spent over 30 years at the Silver School as an advisor, classroom instructor, administrator, and dean

Judy Tobias Davis, who worked tirelessly for over 20 years telling the School’s story and preserving the Edward Hopper Studio

Festive Attire • Ticket prices begin at $250

For more information
Visit www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th
Contact Sara Phillips at 212-998-6924 or sara.phillips@nyu.edu

The City Year Scholarship Program
NYU Silver has partnered with City Year to establish the City Year Scholarship Program, designed for City Year corps members or alumni who have successfully completed at least one year of service, and to City Year staff members employed for at least two years. For Master of Social Work students, the program offers a minimum of $10,500 per year for each year enrolled in the MSW program along with an application fee waiver.
Shane Crary-Ross Named Morris K. Udall Scholar

Shane Crary-Ross, BS ’11, has been awarded a Morris K. Udall Scholarship. Granted to students who have demonstrated a commitment to careers related to the environment, the award can be applied towards tuition and educational expenses.

Crary-Ross, a double major in social work and economics, is interested in how public policy can promote a just society, healthy planet, and strong economy. She is a founding member of Sustainable Silver, a student group working to increase the Silver School’s environmental efficiency, promote sustainable living among students, and raise awareness around issues of social and environmental justice.

The idea behind forming the group: “There’s so much connection between environmental justice and social justice and so it was logical for social work students to be talking and thinking about that.”

During her freshman year, Crary-Ross joined the University’s Sustainability Task Force—comprised of students, faculty, and staff across the University—and became involved in the Food and Purchasing Working Group. Additionally, Crary-Ross is an NYU program coordinator at Project HEALTH, an organization that seeks to break the link between poverty and poor health, and the co-chair of RISE, a grassroots collective of New York City social workers committed to social action through political education. She was the recipient of this year’s President’s Service Award and the Silver School’s Social Justice Award.

While Crary-Ross said she is most interested in economic justice, she suspects her work after graduation will always have an environmental lens. “Part of why we have so much environmental decline is because the people who are the most affected by it have the least power politically and economically.”

Class Notes

**Chaya Aspir**, MSW ’03, has been hired as an EAP specialist for the Counseling Service Unit of the FDNY.

**Gretchen (Peterson) Halverson**, MSW ’97, was named NASW-MN’s 2010 Social Worker of the Year, for her exemplary service to the social work field. She is also working toward her EdD in leadership through the School of Education at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Susan Kurner-Johnson**, MSW ’94, continues to work as the burn unit social worker at Shands Healthcare in Gainesville, Florida. She has been with Shands Healthcare for 10 years. In 2006, she adopted a son from Guatemala. In February, her family grew with the addition of a son from Haiti. She continues to advocate for international adoptions, children’s rights, and adoptive parents.

**Darryl Mitteldorf**, MSW ’92, founded the country’s first gay men’s cancer survivor nonprofit, Malecare, in 1998. Malecare is now a multinational nongovernmental organization providing support and advocacy for gay cancer survivors worldwide. In 2005, he founded The LGBT Cancer Project - Out With Cancer, the country’s first and leading cancer survivor support and advocacy nonprofit for LGBT people. He is the organization’s executive director.

**Lora Sasiela**, MSW ’96, has recently launched a financial therapy practice focused on empowering women in their relationship with money: www.FinanciallySmitten.com.

**Sarah Skinner**, MSW ’05, has been working for Value-Options, a behavioral healthcare company in Dallas, Texas, since September 2009. She married Samresh Naik in 2009, and traveled to Goa, India, for one of the wedding ceremonies.

**Chrisula Tasiopoulos**, MSW ’03, has served as director of the Rape Crisis Center at the YWCA of Bergen County in Hackensack, New Jersey, since January 2010. She is also an instructor for the Rutgers School of Social Work Center on Violence Against Women and Children continuing education workshop series and is a guest instructor at New Jersey Victims Assistance Academy at Rutgers.
Thank You Silver School Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge those alumni and friends who have supported and pledged their support during the 2009-2010 year. Your generosity clearly demonstrates your dedication to the future generations of social work leaders.

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Written by Elizabeth Jenkins,
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