

News from the Alumni Association Executive Committee – Fall 2009

The Alumni Executive Board of the School met for our summer meeting in June. New to the committee were in-coming President **Alice Chornesky, M.S.W. '78, Ph.D. '90, Tanita Teagle, M.S.W. '99**, who was appointed Vice President last year to fill a vacancy, and new board members **Virginia Lopez-Bunnemeyer, M.S.W. '94**, Region V Representative and **Gay Lee, M.S.W. '94**, Nominations Chair. **Yvette Colon, M.S.W. '90**, the new Annual Fund Chair joined us by conference call.

Current work of the board:

We continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan Initiatives that were adopted in March of 2008. **One of the most exciting specific actions we are taking to achieve a key initiative of the strategic plan is to create a new alumni volunteer position - Area Alumni Coordinators (AAC).** AACs are the key liaison between alumni, Regional Representatives, and the School. AACs work under the leadership of and in collaboration with the area Regional Representative. When students are in the local area, AACs also work in conjunction with the Placement Area Coordinators (PACs) whose key role is to provide support to students by coordinating efforts to maintain communication and facilitate alumni activities in the local area. The primary role of the AAC is to assess alumni needs and identify alumni volunteers to facilitate activities at the local level.

Using alumni lists provided by the Regional Representatives, AACs will develop alumni activities and identify and link requests from other alumni who can best meet the requestor's needs and/or assist in other volunteer opportunities as needed. They may also build an area alumni base for various activities (e.g., mentoring, peer supervision, hosting events for alumni, co- sponsoring events with PACs, and identifying speakers for alumni events) and recruit prospective students for the M.S.W. and Ph.D. programs. The AAC position is best suited for high-energy alumni who have the passion and time to build alumni support in your area. **Please contact your regional representatives for more information:**

Region I Representative, 2007-2010, MA, CT, RI, ME, NH
Mike Langlois, M.S.W. '94, (617) 776-3409, Email: mike@mikelanglois.com

Region II Representative, 2008-2011, NY, NJ, PA
Edward Eismann, Ph.D. '67, (516) 775-5289, Email: edoc@optonline.net

Region III Representative, 2008-2011, DC, MD, NC, VA, GA
Chris Vaughan, Ph.D. '06, (202) 588-0581, Email: cc.vaughan@mindspring.com

Region IV Representative, 2008-2011, OH, IL, KA, Canada
Elaine Koenigsberg, M.S.S. '59, (312) 640-0807, Email: elainekmsw@sbcglobal.net

Region IV Representative, 2009-2012, CA, CO, TX, NM
Virginia Lopez-Bunnemeyer, M.S.W. '94, (619) 582-9882, Email: virg_lopez@hotmail.com

We are delighted to announce another new development. In the process of exploring and facilitating an online network system to further increase communication with alumni we discovered a young Facebook page that was quickly modified for Smith SSW alumni. Please check out this page. (see sidebar article)

An alumni panel presentation for graduating students which was moderated by **Nada Michael, M.S.W. '09** and **Gay Lee, M.S.W. '94** focused on job searches, networking and the reality issues of entering the work force in this difficult economy. The panel presentation was in response to a request from the Student Organization leadership. It was perceived as informative and was well received by students. (see page X for more information)

A pilot mentoring program, which continues in the Boston area under the direction of **Jeannie Seidler, M.S.W. '00**, and the Alumni of Color Standing Committee's (ACSC) mentoring program, were discussed by **Sujin Lee, M.S.W. '04**, ACSC Chair. The programs intend to introduce a rolling application process to better meet student needs. The board is also reviewing the criteria that students are requested to submit for the master's thesis awards and the Roger Miller Dissertation Grant. The Board will be working with respective faculty to modify and more clearly define the submission criteria to facilitate the application and review process. The Board recognized and congratulated this year's student thesis awardees (see page x).

Alumni Association Awards

Each year, the Alumni Association has honored individuals associated with the School who are not alumni by awarding the status of Honorary Alumna/us. The purpose of this award is to recognize those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to the Alumni Association and/or the School, or who have otherwise attained distinction deserving of recognition by the Smith College School for Social Work Alumni Association. This year's award was presented during the Annual Supervisor's Conference to Phyllis Glass, L.C.S.W. from Atlanta, Georgia. (see full citation at page x). Log onto http://www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/sswaa_awards.php today and nominate your favorite non-Smith alumna/us who is deserving of this recognition.

Economic realities

The economic realities affecting us all have found their way to our community, too. Despite this hardship, we believe the School, the Executive Committee, and the Alumni Association remain in a healthy, viable, and dynamic position to meet these challenges and advance our agendas.

Our five regions continue to move along at their own pace. We are encouraging alumni from all areas of the country to get in touch with us and with each other; get active and explore different means of communication; try some web-based networking. We will continue to communicate with and encourage use of electronic communications in an effort to connect more efficiently in a much less costly manner and in an effort to be greener, which ultimately reduces our carbon footprint.

If you have not already done so, **please send your current email address to this on-line link (<http://www.smith.edu/ssw/alumni/address/update.htm>)** to update your information so that we may better keep up with you and you with us. We are hoping to continue to develop a more organized and active alumni network *that works for you*, including opportunities for networking and professional support, events and continuing education opportunities.

Chris Vaughan, Ph.D. '06
Region III Representative

Alice Chornesky, M.S.W. '78, Ph.D. '90
President SCSSW Alumni Executive Committee

SIDE BAR

Keep in touch with your fellow alums ~ exciting news about Social Networking!!!

Thanks to **Elizabeth Tara Friedman-Prokopishyn, M.S.W. '03**, we now have a Smith College School for Social Work Facebook page. While this is piggybacking on an already existing site and not SCSSW specific, we believe this is the best way to facilitate all the benefits of social networking without reinventing the wheel. For those of you already on Facebook, we encourage you to register. For those of you not on Facebook, this is yet another way to reconnect with classmates and the larger SCSSW Alumni community. While we know we already have the ListServes, In Depth and In Brief, we want to provide as many opportunities to get and stay connected with fellow alumni and the School. So come check us out on Facebook and say hello! Here is the Link directly to the School's page or just search Smith College School for Social Work once in Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18055482545&ref=ts>