

Farewell to Dr. Karen Brown

Dr. Karen Brown was a social work practitioner in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Dallas Texas before moving to San Marcos Texas in 1975. She holds degrees from Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the University of Texas, Austin. She joined the social work faculty at Texas State University San Marcos (then Southwest Texas State University) in the early 1970's as a part-time adjunct faculty member. The School of Social Work was originally a concentration in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work. By the time Karen joined the faculty, there were four faculty positions and the concentration had evolved into the Institute of Social Work under the leadership of Ms. Ardelia Brennen. Dr. Elmer Good was hired as the second director. He oversaw the initial accreditation of the BSW program and the naming of the program as the Walter Richter Institute of Social Work. Dr. Michael Smith was the third director and Karen Brown the fourth beginning in 1986. Karen had the privilege of overseeing the social work program as it grew from a small Institute into a Department and finally a School of Social Work offering accredited BSW and MSW programs. At one point, thankfully, a short period of time, she served as both Director of the School and BSW Director. She and Dr. Nancy Chavkin applied for and were granted a Title IVE contract in 1995 which they co-directed until her retirement this spring. She was also co-founder and co-director, with Dr.

Chavkin, of the Center for Children and Families from 2001 until 2004 and director from 2004 to 2008. Karen worked as a full-time faculty member and field director while pursuing a PhD in Social Work which she completed in 1984. While at Texas State she married Karl Brown and his two wonderful children, Heather and Kevin. She brought two adorable daughters, Kristen and Kama, into the marriage. Karl adopted his two step-daughters three years ago. Becoming a step-mother inspired the subject of her doctoral dissertation – step mothering. Karl and Karen now have four precious granddaughters, Emma, Sarah, Hannah, and Molly.

Karen, the faculty, and staff built the MSW program on the foundation of the BSW program. This heavily influenced the initial mission of the School of Social Work and the design of the MSW curriculum. The initial mission was to educate practitioners to work with the most vulnerable members of society, clients of non-profit and public social service agencies. The curriculum was designed to be “hands on” and included a strong emphasis on advocacy and macro practice as well as clinical practice.

Karen recalls several highlights in her career as chair and director in addition to the growth of the program. They include, first, the initial accreditation of the MSW program. Second, the procurement of the Title IVE contract which has continued for 17 years and is now directed by



Dr. Chavkin. Third, the initiation of a university funded “distance education” program with the University of Houston Victoria. Once it was successfully completed, Dr. Ted Watkins secured grant funding for distance education for CPS employees. Building upon this, the School developed and is delivering a highly sophisticated distance education MSW program directed by Dr. Dr. Mary Jo Garcia-Biggs and Dr. Dorinda Noble. Fourth, the Center for Children and Families began as a cooperative program between two academic departments across two colleges and was designated a University-wide Center in 2001. Each of these endeavors resulted in highly successful programs for the university and Karen’s beloved social work students. The fifth highlight was hiring of Dr. Noble as Director of the School in 2003.

On April 26, 2011 the School and Center hosted a scholarship fundraiser and retirement reception for Dr. Brown. The Karen Brown Scholarship for BSW and MSW students was started in 2002 by an anonymous donor. This has been the final career highlight for Dr. Brown. Donations can be made through the Development Office at Texas State to the Karen Brown Scholarship Fund.

Social Work Month 2011

Dr. Nancy Chavkin

A Message from the Director

March was Social Work month and a time to get involved and celebrate! The theme this year was, Social Workers Change Futures.

NASW has provided an outreach tool kit on its web site to help social workers choose an activity that will increase public awareness of the social work profession.

The Social Work Month Toolkit involves getting yourself interviewed, recruiting a student, securing endorsements, hosting/attending an event, honoring colleagues,

event, honoring colleagues, networking online, publishing an article, promoting yourself, funding national advertising, and finding a community partner.

Social Work Month is always a wonderful opportunity to educate the public, advocate for change, be a voice for others around you, and get involved in the legislative process.

"There are 640,000 professional social workers in the United States who have dedicated their careers to either helping people transform their lives or improving environments that make such change possible," said NASW Executive Director Elizabeth J. Clark.



We hope that you had a chance to celebrate and participate in Social Work month. Next year March 15th will be World Social Work Day, and the International Federation of Social Workers will be coordinating this event.

Hats off to Spring Graduates



Congratulations to our Title IV-E Stipend graduates. These students are expected to graduate May 14, 2011.

From Region 7, in Austin, we have Hannah Sindlinger (BSW) and Brittany Mays (MSW) graduating.

From Region 8, in San Antonio, we have LeeAnn Cloud and Kristen Torres (BSW), and Kimberly Barnhill (MSW) graduating.

All of these students will go on to work at Child Protective Services post-graduation. We wish them the best of luck!

National Title IV-E Roundtable

This year's National Title IV-E Roundtable will be held May 24-27, 2011 at San Luis Spa and Resort in Galveston, Texas.

The National Title IV-E Roundtable is sponsored by the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Family Strengths and the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, this conference builds on the 14 year history of the IV-E Roundtable sponsored by the

Center for Children and Families of Texas State University-San Marcos.

The conference will focus on IV-E topics including: field placements for IV-E; administration & contract issues; child welfare curriculum & courses; recruitment, retention & employment; and research & evaluation. This year's keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson,

Dean of School of Social Welfare, State University of New York at Albany. (*See page 4 for more information*).

From our CCF and School of Social Work family here at Texas State University-San Marcos, we have Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Dr. Amy Benton, Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, Rhonda Smith, and Graduate Assistant Brittany Gold presenting at this year's conference. We are so very proud of them!

**According to the
Child Welfare
Outcomes Data
web site, in 2009**

*in Texas, there
were 69,169
child
maltreatment
victims.*

Children's Bureau launches new Child Welfare Outcomes Data Web site

The Children's Bureau has launched a new Child Welfare Outcomes Data web site. The web site features data from the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports: <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/> data. The Child Welfare

Outcomes Reports provides information on the performance of States in seven outcome categories.

Currently the web site makes the data for 2006 through 2009 readily available and easily accessible.

The web site makes it easy to view your State, data, and data years, as well as give many formats in which you would like the data displayed. This gives you the capability to compare data across different States.

CSWE-2011 Annual Program Meeting

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is hosting its 57th Annual Program Meeting (APM).

The meeting will be held October 27-30, 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia. Guests and attendees will be staying at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel.

The main topic of discussion for the Annual Program Meeting will focus on *Increasing Access: Confronting Disparity and Inequality*.

The meeting will consider various strategies to broaden and establish access for diverse and vulnerable populations.

There will be 40 tracks offered at the 2011 APM; some of the tracks include, addictions, child welfare, and social welfare history.

For more information regarding directions, more tracks topics, and program information please visit the web site of the Council on Social Work Education.

National Title IV-E Roundtable Keynote Speaker



The Center for Children and Families is located at Swinney House on the Texas State University-San Marcos campus.

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TEXAS STATE
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson is the Dean of School of Social Welfare of the State University of New York at Albany. Dr. Briar-Lawson is the keynote speaker for this year's National Title IV-E Roundtable.

Dr. Briar-Lawson received her education at many institutions such as, Oberlin College; Connecticut College for

Women (B.A); Columbia University, School of Social Work (M.S.W); and University of California Berkeley, School of Social Welfare (Ph.D.). She has also worked at a number of colleges and universities across the United States.

She is the immediate past-president of the National Association for Deans and Directors. Dr. Briar-Lawson has been involved

with writing and editing numerous publications and books on child welfare partnerships. She helped spearhead partnerships in 1987 when she was an Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families in Washington State. She is currently the co-PI for the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

Center for Family Strengths Symposium at University Houston-Downtown

Save the Date! The Center for Family Strengths of University Houston-Downtown, is hosting a symposium taking place September 7-9, 2011.

The mission of the CFS is to support families by informing community-based services that promote and sustain family systems. The CFS facilitates family, worker, supervisor, and

agency training; promotes research and evaluation; and disseminates information for best practices that support family centered practice.

This year the symposium focuses on the theme of strength in the face of challenges. Possible workshops and exhibitors that are available include child welfare, mental

health, juvenile justice, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, fatherhood, domestic violence, self-care, and many more.

More information regarding workshops, exhibitors, keynote speakers, registration, pricing, and directions please visit the web site of the Center for Family Strengths at <http://www.uhd.edu/cfs>.

2011 NASW/Texas Annual Conference

The 2011 NASW/Texas Annual Conference will be held October 8-10, 2011 in Dallas, Texas. Guests and attendees will be staying at the [Sheraton Dallas Hotel](#).

This year's conference will include the following tracks: behavioral & mental health; child, family & schools; community; aging/disabilities; health/medical; professional/career and social work education. The conference provides numerous

opportunities such as; continuing education credits and "meeting of the profession".

Presenters of the conference include, NASW Assurance Trust, Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners, Texas Association of Social Work Deans and Directors, and Texas Field Educators Consortium. For more information regarding registration, pricing, exhibitors, or sponsorships please visit the [NASW Texas](#).