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continued on page 4

SSW Student Confronts Human Trafficking

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continued on page 7
A Time of Transition for the SSW

We are entering a period of “nested” leadership transitions – both at the School of Social Work and at the College. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dean Christine Flynn Saulnier for her leadership of the SSW this year. Christine has helped advance the school’s work on several important fronts, including global social work, inter-school collaboration, diversity enhancement, and faculty research and scholarship. We welcome her as a faculty colleague as she takes time in the coming year to focus on next career steps.

I am writing to you the Monday after our School of Social Work Alumni Day. If you didn’t make it, you missed an inspiring event featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist David Shipler. (See related article on page 1.) We also lauded six remarkable Alumni Award recipients, each of whom makes us proud of our school and our profession. In the midst of transitions, which are inherently destabilizing, events like Alumni Day serve as important anchors and reminders of what we value most: excellence in service that is grounded in values of social justice and social action, community building, collaboration, and empowerment.

Carol Bonner ’74SW and I are looking forward to working together — again — as administrative partners beginning this June. We intend to build on the good work of the past year, and will be drawing on the many talents of our faculty, staff, students and, yes, alumnae/i. You are an important link in the planning process – our “eyes and ears” in the field.

I would love to hear from you, especially those who have been “out of touch” with the school for a while. Please contact me at stefan.krug@simmons.edu, or stop by for a visit. You have been missed!

Stefan Krug ’80SW, interim dean

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- Mini-websites for class and affiliation pages
- Alumnae/i message boards
- And much, much more!
Simmons Grads and Faculty Receive NASW Honors

Several members of the SSW community recently have been honored by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Congratulations to:

- **Associate Dean Carol Bonner ’74SW** who was honored in January by the Massachusetts chapter of the NASW for her extensive contributions to the social work profession. The Committee on Ethnic and Racial Affairs presented Bonner with citations from the Massachusetts Senate and the House of Representatives for her work with the Social Work Image Campaign, a project intended to unite professional social workers and elevate the public perception and value of social work.

- **Associate Professor of Clinical Practice Michael Melendez** received the Greatest Contribution to Social Work Education Award. Melendez was honored at the annual awards reception March 14 for incorporating themes of social justice into all aspects of his teaching. A SSW faculty member since 1989, Melendez is past director of the Urban Leadership Program. His community service involvement includes past-president of the AIDS Action Committee and of the Latino Health Institute, and past-president of the Massachusetts NASW.

- **Faculty members Helen Reinherz ’46SW and Gary Bailey** were selected by the NASW as “Social Work Pioneers” for their dedication and commitment to improving social and human conditions. Bailey, former Massachusetts Chapter and national NASW president; and Reinherz, an association charter member and recipient of the 2005 NASW Presidential Award for Excellence in Social Work Research, were recognized for exemplifying “a lifetime of achievements in and dedication to the practice of social work.”

- **Tikvah Portnoi ’58SW** received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 45 years of service and contributions to the social work profession. Portnoi has held many positions in her tenure, including chief psychiatric social worker at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She also established the American Board of Examiners, a national credentialing organization based in Salem, Mass. Portnoi also received the NASW Massachusetts chapter’s Greatest Contribution to Social Work Practice award in 1986.

- A well-known national figure who has championed women in politics, **Barbara Lee ’67, ’01HD** received the Beverly Ross Fliegel Award for Social Policy and Change. The head of the Barbara Lee Family Foundation, which underwrites projects that promote women in politics across party lines, Lee also is the president of Revolutionary Women, an organization that works to advance the political leadership of women. She helped to found the Simmons College Institute for Leadership and Change, and the Family and Child Policy Center at the Heller School at Brandeis University.

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**Carol E. Bonner ’74SW**
Associate Dean
School of Social Work

**Michael Melendez**
Associate Professor
School of Social Work

**Gary Bailey**
Professor
School of Social Work

**Helen Reinherz ’46SW**
Associate Dean
School of Social Work

**Tikvah Portnoi ’58SW**

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Social Workers Confront Poverty of the Working Class

More than 100 alumnae/i, students, and faculty attended the School of Social Work Alumni and Professional Development Day to discuss the myriad issues related to poverty. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, social workers across the nation observed the effects of race and class biases, and many resolved to increase public awareness of those issues. The SSW Alumni Day focused on providing a forum for Simmons social workers to discuss these problems and possible solutions.

David K. Shipler, author of *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*, delivered the keynote address.

During a panel discussion led by faculty members Gary Bailey, Beverly Sealey ’77SW, Johnnie Hamilton-Mason ’78SW, Ted Murphy, and Mary Gilfus, attendees were encouraged to discuss problems they encounter and possible solutions.

“We can go back to our agencies and organizations and pay closer attention to the people we work with, but may not always notice,” said Jeanne Martin ’75SW. “Perhaps change starts by helping the people we see every day.”

Other alumnae/i, like Eva Fridman ’58SW, raised examples of the working poor who, despite several jobs, cannot free themselves from the cycle of poverty.

“I know of single moms working three jobs while suffering from severe schizophrenia,” said Fridman. “I see cases like this all the time and it is so frustrating. What about the issue of mental illness and poverty?”

The discussions continued at the eight workshops that followed the keynote address. The workshops addressed issues such as trauma treatment, men and social welfare, domestic violence, and the economics of poverty. One workshop focused on how to create a safe environment to have constructive conversations about issues of power, race, class, sexuality, faith, and other difficult topics.

Shipler Debunks Poverty Myth  from page 1

children to the daycare center where she works; another woman who was working in the back room of a bank, filing canceled checks, but had $2.02 in her own account; and people that all of us encounter personally every day....


In *The Working Poor*, Shipler delves into the lives of Americans working in low-paying jobs, who face the consequences of poverty every day.

“Because work carries such moral weight in American ideology, I wanted to explore the dynamics of poverty among those who had jobs, yet didn’t earn enough to get them very far above the poverty line,” said Shipler.

In spite of Shipler’s vast exposure to poverty through previous work experience, he was surprised by his findings, which revealed many connections between abuse and socioeconomic status.

“I was surprised by the high rate – at least in my sample – of women who said they had been sexually abused as children,” said Shipler. “I must emphasize that I’ve never seen reliable data correlating sexual abuse with socioeconomic status ... but it’s surely true that anyone without the knowledge and money to get counseling and therapy has less chance of recovering, so the long-term results may be more severe among the poor.”

Associate Dean Carol Bonner ’74SW said that the issue of poverty in the U.S. does not get as much attention as it should. “David helped to broaden the definition of poverty to include not just income, but also debt. He shared with us his perspective on connecting the dots, to include relationships that exist among factors such as healthcare, job loss, illness, substance abuse, etc., and how they can lead to poverty and lack of mobility in society.”

“Because work carries such moral weight in American ideology, I wanted to explore the dynamics of poverty among those who had jobs, yet didn’t earn enough to get them very far above the poverty line”
SSW Honors Alumnae/i With Awards

By Julia Wilson

Seven graduates of the School of Social Work were honored this year at the annual Alumni and Professional Development Day April 1.

• Karin Ballay ’03SW received the Recent Graduate Award for her post-graduate work at the Brookline (MA) Community Mental Health Center. Multilingual and bicultural, Ballay applies her unique background to her work as a therapist.

• Laura Chasin ’77SW, who received the Distinguished Career Award, founded the Public Conversations Project in Watertown, Mass. The mission of the program is “to foster a more inclusive, empathic, and collaborative society by promoting constructive conversations and relationships among those who have differing values, world views, and positions about divisive public issues.”

• Emeline Homonoff ’67SW, an associate professor at the SSW, received the Alumni Special Recognition Award for her book, The Heart of Social Work: Best Practitioners Rise to Challenges in Field Instruction. Recognized by the National Association of Social Workers, the book includes information about social workers’ field instruction experience. She currently is a member of Simmons Field Work Department, serving as a mentor to the school’s aspiring social workers.

• Kiyomi Kawano ’71SW received the Distinguished Career Award. After graduating from Simmons, Kawano returned to her native Japan and founded a feminist therapy clinic in 1980. A writer, professor, and activist, Kawano’s work on feminist therapy in Japan has distinguished her in the field.

• Seth Kleinman ’01SW received the Recent Graduate Award for his post-graduate work as a child and family therapist at Tri-City Mental Health Center in Everett, Mass. and the Lynnfield (MA) Mental Health Center. He also has been active in the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on the ethics committee and the committee for children and youth members. Kleinman also is a member of the SSW Alumni Council.

• Diana DeLanoy Parad ’82SW received the Excellence in Supervision Award. Parad is director of the Boston-based school program at Wediko Children’s Services. As program director, Parad helps to provide individual and family therapy to at-risk children in the Boston public school system.

• Judith Radtke ’63SW received the Alumni Special Recognition Award for her outstanding contributions to the field of social work. Radtke has traveled the world with programs such as Oxfam America and Grassroots International, working in Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, and Senegal. Radtke also co-founded the Circle of Women/El Círculo de las Mujeres in Oaxaca, Mexico, a non-profit organization that focuses on the improvement of Mexican women’s social and economic issues.
In March, Assistant Professor Gary Bailey served as keynote speaker at Anna Maria College’s (Paxton, Mass.) fourth annual social work conference, “Forgotten Offenders: Perspectives on Women in Prison.” Bailey discussed social justice and the role of professional social workers in serving children when a mother is incarcerated.

Associate Professor Mary Gilfus was the keynote speaker, a panelist, and a workshop presenter at the Dec. 5 conference “Moving Toward Community and Healing: Transforming our work with criminal justice involving women,” sponsored by the Vermont Department of Corrections and the Vermont Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Instructor Allen Jonghyun Lee ’03SW wrote a book review of Nam Nam Sang Yeol Ji Sa (“Passion Between Men”), by Korean author Hae Ul. The review was published in the January issue of the International Journal of Asian Studies.

As part of Social Work Month at Massachusetts General Hospital, Associate Professor Peter Maramaldi made a formal presentation to physicians March 16. Maramaldi discussed the development of social work research in interdisciplinary efforts to improve the health and well-being of patients and their caretakers.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Beverly Sealey ’77SW, who recently was selected as a Fulbright Senior Faculty Scholar. Sealey is conducting the SSW’s first international course in Ghana this summer. She will return to Ghana as a Fulbright Scholar in January 2007. Sealy has been studying parent-child relationships among Black adolescents from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and the impact of adolescents’ perceptions of quality of parenting received on their involvement in delinquent behavior and overall social functioning.

Jennifer L. Tannen, research assistant professor with the Simmons Longitudinal Study at the SSW, is co-editor of Emerging Adults in America: Coming of Age in the 21st Century (American Psychological Association, 2006). The book portrays the lives of young Americans in the developmental stage from late adolescence through their mid-20s.

Johnnie Hamilton-Mason ’78SW recently was promoted to full professor. The decision was made official in January by the Simmons Board of Trustees. Hamilton-Mason becomes the first African American and person of color to become a full professor in the history of the SSW. A member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Hamilton-Mason has traveled from Jamaica to Africa educating colleagues about the economic, class, race, and cultural issues that affect people of color. She is active in HIV/AIDS research and treatment, children and urban poverty, and cross cultural theory and practice. Currently the director of the SSW Doctoral Program, Hamilton-Mason received her M.S.W. from Simmons in 1978, and her Ph.D. from Smith College in 2001. She has years of professional experience consulting and teaching in the Boston area. At Simmons, she teaches courses in racism and oppression, human behavior in the social environment, clinical practice in low-income communities, and political action and strategies for professional social workers.

Emerita School of Social Work Professor Sophie Freud ’48SW recently was interviewed for an Austrian television program commemorating the 150th anniversary of her grandfather, Sigmund Freud. The program, which aired May 4, was broadcast by satellite throughout Europe, drawing over 100,000 viewers. In the program, Freud discussed many topics including her tenure at Simmons and the differences between she and her grandfather. She has spoken out against the famous psychoanalyst on several occasions, claiming he did not understand women’s sexuality or the role of fate.
Sallie Gratch ’57, ’59SW was featured on National Public Radio in November for her unique protest on the war in Iraq. Gratch has left thousands of green plastic toy soldiers all over Chicago. Her peace project began with her synagogue in Evanston, Ill. Each soldier comes with a sticker that reads “Bring me home.” Her project has made a huge impact, and NPR received many letters in response.

Joan Bress ’80SW recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of College Resource Associates, a full-service college admissions advisory service she founded to help students navigate the complex process of finding the best college or graduate school. Located in Worcester, MA, the company serves clients from all over the U.S. and abroad. For more information about College Resource Associates, please visit www.CollegeResourceAssociates.com.

A resident of Medford, MA, Howard David Harris ’86SW retired last year after 20 years of being an outpatient psychotherapist.

Jean Fain ’91SW is expanding her weight-loss CD series with audio instruction on mindful eating. The new CD offers a strong foundation in Mindfulness-Based Eating Awareness Training (MB-EAT), which embodies principles of mindfulness meditation and research in food intake regulation. In addition to using hypnosis regularly in her Concord, MA, private practice, Fain teaches hypnosis at Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School and writes for O magazine, among other women’s magazines.

Alex Christine Copans ’94SW, recently authored Warming the Stone Children, (Publish America, 2006) which discusses the healing process from mother-daughter incest. Copans is the clinic director of the Lawrence (MA) Clinic at FCP, Inc.

Kerri Kaletski Lanzieri ’99SW and Robert Lanzieri, Jr. were married Nov. 26, 2005, at St. Augustine’s Church in Providence, RI. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. They currently reside in North Providence. Robert is an assistant project manager at Bacon Construction, and Kerri is a middle school counselor in Burrillville, RI.

Maryann Ludwig ’00SW has been traveling to China to help American families adopt children from the Guangdong Province. She said that stepping into an orphanage is “a stark reminder of how bottomless the needs of children in this world are.” Ludwig feels blessed to work for an agency that is as much a humanitarian aid organization as it is an adoption agency.

Jennifer Traficanti ’02SW moved to Thailand in January to volunteer with International Justice Mission, a human-rights organization. She is working for an anti-trafficking program.

Eleni Metropulos ’03SW is working at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL, as a psychotherapist in the college counseling center. She is a clinical social worker and working toward her license.

Melissa Luongo ’05SW was married in July. She currently lives in Norwood, MA, and is working at McLean Hospital.

Social Work Student Confronts Human Trafficking from page 1

“Our goal is to create a social transformation that prevents these kinds of human rights violations from ever happening or being tolerated,” said Gomez. Matahari/TVOS works with numerous consultants and community organizations to provide shelter, legal help, language interpretation, career skills, and counseling.

In addition to the conference, Gomez also is working with Simmons on a computer literacy program that will enable TVOS clients to gain computer skills in order to find employment and support themselves and their families.

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