

The Hunter College School of Social Work is committed to educating a diverse group of students prepared to respond to wide-ranging social welfare policy and services, research and behavior issues that challenge the people, agencies, and communities of New York City. With social and economic justice at its core, Hunter's curriculum consists of classroom instruction and field experiences that uniquely qualify our students to become the next generation of leaders in the field of social services. Close collaboration with more than two hundred social service agencies ensures that our mission is effectively translated into contemporary social work practice.

Social Work School to Lead CUNY-Wide Program Benefiting War Veterans

The School of Social Work has launched a dynamic new program to help veterans make the transition to a college campus after serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Funding for PROVE (Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans' Education) has been granted by the City University of New York. CUNY now has 1,608 enrolled full or part-time military veterans (46% of whom are women) — and is expecting many more in the next few years.

However, those numbers probably reflect only a fraction of the veterans on campus. "If they don't apply for benefits, we may not know about them," says Crystal Schachter, coordinator for veteran student services at Hunter. "It can often be complicated for them to sort out." In anticipation of the rising number of returning soldiers, PROVE will "have services in place before they arrive and make sure that their mental health and social needs are met."

"There are three main goals," says Jacqueline Mondros, dean of the School of Social Work. "We want to ease re-entry into the social and academic environment. We want to improve veteran retention and graduation rates. And we want to acknowledge and foster the unique skills and perspectives they bring to our campuses."

The program grew out of initiatives developed by Garrie Moore, CUNY vice-chancellor for student development; Chris Rosa, CUNY director of student affairs; and Robert Ptachik, university dean for the Executive Office and Enrollment.

Six students from the Hunter College School of Social Work, under the direction of Professor Roger Sherwood, the principal investigator, and Dr. Myra Marcus, the program director, are working with veterans throughout the CUNY system. Their activities include identifying veterans' needs and the obstacles to meeting those needs, identifying and coordinating valuable resources available to veterans, advocating for veterans within CUNY, providing a peer support service, and evaluating programs that support and assist veterans in continuing their educations through graduation.

"It's about where do I 'fit in' and how do I get started?" says Professor Sherwood. Veterans on campus, he explains, often feel isolated adjusting to civilian life. Adding to that difficulty is the lack of awareness, on the part of administrative officers and the veterans themselves, of the benefits available to them.



Hunter student Mariette Kalinowski (right) stands with one of her squad mates in Al-Taqaddum, Iraq, during her tour of duty with the Marines.

The program is aimed at students like Mariette Kalinowski, a Marine corporal who is now at Hunter after returning from seven months in Iraq.

She says that "a prevailing ignorance" and the assumption that "the infrastructure will force us into a mold along with every other student" prevent many veterans from capitalizing on health and financial benefits.

"They get the impression that they would be brushed under the table," explains Kalinowski, who did not initially know that all veterans are entitled to free medical care from VA hospitals for two years after their return.

Navigating bureaucratic systems can be overwhelming for returning veterans. Sherwood and the other organizers of PROVE are convinced that there is a need for a support network that includes everyone from liaisons to the Registrar and Bursar offices to veterans mentoring and peer counseling.

Social anxieties and difficulties in readjusting to living autonomously also inhibit the process of returning to school. "The transition out of the military is abrupt," says Kalinowski. "If there were more awareness, more veterans would come back to school."



A Message from the President

In this issue you'll read about one of the most exciting projects underway at Hunter and the School of Social Work: the Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans' Education, or PROVE. Hunter students have a long and proud history of military service, but returning to the academic fold after time on the battlefield is never easy, and veterans are a group at significant risk of dropping out before graduation. Thanks to funding from CUNY, the School of Social Work is leading the way in addressing veterans' issues at a time when doing so is sorely needed. Every year, more and more soldiers come home from Afghanistan or Iraq, and every year more and more decide to resume their educational pursuits at Hunter and CUNY. We welcome them wholeheartedly and express our gratitude by paying them the attention they deserve.

President Jennifer J. Raab

A Message from the Dean

I am excited about all the wonderful things happening at HCSSW. Many members of our faculty are currently helping to solve some of the most pressing problems we face as a society, from abused children to returning veterans to planning for the aging of the baby boom generation. Other HCSSW professors are engaged in crucial research projects on such topics as HIV prevention in Latino and African-American communities; aging prisoners; mothers in child protective services; suicide among older Asian women; and school reform. The one sad note is that the School said goodbye to our former dean and colleague, Bogart Leashore, at a memorial service held on October 9th. A library fund is being established by the HCSSW Alumni Association in his honor. We continue to strive to be a school that will make you proud to be alumni. Plans are presently underway to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Stay tuned for further news about symposiums in the spring, summer and fall.

Dean Jacqueline B. Mondros



Abramovitz Appointed to Named Chair, Will Focus On Public Policy

Professor Mimi Abramovitz has been named the Bertha Capen Reynolds Chair at the School of Social Work.

Dr. Abramovitz — a nationally recognized expert in social welfare policy — hopes to use this prestigious position to continue her lifelong commitment to sound scholarship, social justice and improvements in public policy.

Like Bertha Capen Reynolds, a professor at Smith College's School of Social Work in the 1930s and 1940s for whom the chair is named,

Abramovitz has dedicated her career to linking social welfare policy to social work practice and social change. "I am very proud to stand on the shoulders of Bertha Capen Reynolds and extremely flattered that people think my work is similar to hers," said Abramovitz.

A professor at the School of Social Work since 1981, Abramovitz also holds an appointment in the PhD program in Social Welfare at The Graduate Center of City University.

"I absolutely love what I'm doing —

Continued on page 5

Meet Our New and Returning Faculty



Martha Bragin received her PhD from NYU. She has extensive experience in urban social services and in advising governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations on mitigating the effects of violence on children, youth and families. Her areas of expertise include conflict transformation and the reintegration of men, women and underage soldiers. Among her publications is the CPET, an internationally recognized instrument that facilitates global community research, including the evaluation of programs designed to benefit children. In August 2007 she was awarded the Tyson Prize by the International Psychoanalytic Association. Dr. Bragin currently teaches Human Behavior in the Social Environment.



Anthony DeJesus, who received his EdD from Harvard University, has broad experience as a social work practitioner, administrator and researcher. He served as a research associate in education policy at Hunter's Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO) from 2003-05 and as CENTRO's interim director from 2005-07. His research focuses primarily on the social and cultural barriers that keep Latino and African-American students from entering college. His professional interests include community — and school — based social work

practice, the history of Puerto Rican/Latino education and the sociology of education. Professor DeJesus presently teaches Research Methods in Social Work.



George S. Getzel was a member of the School of Social Work faculty from 1970 until his retirement in 2002. He was named professor emeritus and taught as an adjunct until his reappointment as substitute professor this year. His many areas of expertise include gerontology, group-work practice, health-care practice, disability studies, social work and the arts, religion and death, and programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. He has taught at NYU and was named adjunct professor emeritus by the Fordham Graduate School of Social Service in 2002. He has written approximately 100 publications, has served on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals, has won numerous prestigious grants and has been a consultant to many governmental bodies.



Manny J. González joins Hunter from the Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, where he was a tenured associate professor and chair of the clinical concentration area. He has practiced in health, mental health, child welfare and school-based settings as a clinician, supervi-

sor and consultant. He is co-author of *Multicultural Perspectives in Working with Families*, which deals with cross-cultural clinical practice issues, and *Mental Health Care of New Hispanic Immigrants: Innovations in Contemporary Clinical Practice*. His current research focuses on the detection of mental health needs among Hispanic patients in urban public hospitals and the experiences of Spanish-speaking caregivers involved in children's mental health. Dr. González is teaching courses in Clinical Practice (Social Casework) and Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Psychopathology of Adults and Older Adults).



Kenny Kwong, who received his PhD in Social Welfare from CUNY, was recently appointed by Governor Eliot Spitzer to the state's Minority Health Council. He was director of research and evaluation at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center where he completed a study assessing attitudes toward and barriers to mental health treatment among Chinese immigrants in New York City. His professional interests include culture, immigration, health and mental health practices in the Asian American community and practice-based research and evaluation in primary care. Professor Kwong is currently teaching Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Research Methods in Social Research.

