

SSW CONNECTIONS

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE UMB SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Are Social Workers Ready for the Aging Boom?

Carmen Morano from the School of Social Work,
and other social work professionals, examine the issue



DEAN'S WELCOME

As we begin this academic year I am happy to welcome you to another issue of our magazine for alumni and friends of the University of Maryland School of Social Work – *Connections*.

I am excited to note this issue of *Connections* highlights our School's Aging Specialization. As we are all aware, our nation is becoming grayer. In part because of medical science, we are living longer and, thankfully, living better. We must recognize, however, that the increase in the number of people over the age of 60 presents a challenge for the social sciences and for social work in particular. We have an unacceptable number of our elderly who are poor; in ill health; and who are without social supports. Some are abusers of alcohol and some are abused by their caregivers, including their own children.

I have been concerned about the shortage of students pursuing the Aging Specialization at our School. The workforce shortage of specialists in gerontology is evident in medicine and nursing, as well as in the profession of social work. This shortage has all the makings of a national crisis.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) are supporting increased funding for social work research. Dr. Carmen L. Morano, associate professor and chair of the Aging Specialization, participated in the NIA-supported First Annual Institute on Aging and Social Work at the College of St. Scholastica in July 2004 in Duluth, Minnesota.

The John A. Hartford Foundation, recognizing this shortage, is funding doctoral students and faculty nationwide who have demonstrated an interest in research and teaching in the field of gerontology. The School is fortunate to have had several doctoral students and two faculty members benefit from its programs administered by the Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Morano and Dr. Mitsuko Nakashima, assistant professor, are currently Hartford Faculty Scholars. Doctoral program alumnae Eunice Park (2003), Kelsey Simons (2003), and Sara Sanders (2001) were Hartford Doctoral Fellows.

I encourage you, as always, to be an ambassador for the School of Social Work, advising potential social work students to consider pursuing their MSW degree at the University of Maryland. Further, I urge you to talk to those who have not yet committed to a specialization about the need for students in the Aging Specialization.

In other news, I am delighted to welcome our newest member to the School's Board of Advisors. Hector L. Torres, Executive Director of the Governor's Office on Hispanic Affairs, Maryland Department of Human Resources, has accepted my invitation, and that of the members of the Board, to serve a three-year term. Mr. Torres' presence on the Board will add yet another important perspective as we strive to further the mission of the School of Social Work.

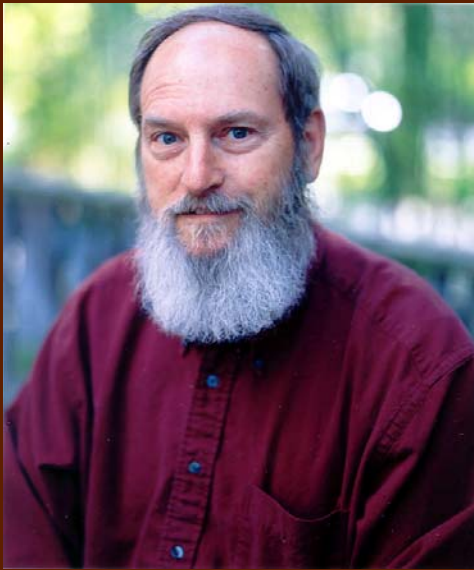
Finally, as we go to press with this magazine, I have received wonderful news I wish to share with you. The University has selected Dr. Diane DePanfilis, associate professor and assistant dean for research, for its highest honor - *Research Lecturer of the Year*. Dr. DePanfilis is also director of the University of Maryland Institute for Human Services Policy and is co-director of the University of Maryland Center for Families. She will be honored during the University's 2004 Founders Week, whose theme this year is "Defining a Decade." During this week Dr. DePanfilis will give the Faculty Research Lecture (October 13) and will be celebrated at the Founders Week Gala (October 14). Please check the School's Web site (www.ssw.umaryland.edu) for more information on these events and look for the full story on the cover of our upcoming issue of *Connect*, the School's periodic newsletter.

With warm regards,

Jesse J. Harris, PhD
Dean and Professor

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Pulitzer Prize Winning Author David K. Shipler speaks on Friday, October 1, 2004.

Pulitzer Prize Winner David K. Shipler Coming To UMB SSW October 1 To Discuss The Working Poor

Treading Water: Women, Work, and Poverty

Friday, October 1, 2004
8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Nursing Auditorium
CEUs: 3.5 Category I
Tuition: \$ 35

The University of Maryland School of Social Work and the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) are proud to present author David K. Shipler, whose recently published and highly-acclaimed book, *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*, draws on years of reporting and research and details the variety of ways in which the working poor fall on hard times.

In order to highlight the many challenges faced by women in poverty who are trying to improve their lives — and often the lives of dependent children — the BWGC and the SSW are presenting a forum to help identify critical issues and advance a meaningful conversation between the public and private sectors. The goal of this event is to bring attention to women living in poverty in conjunction with the economic conditions affecting them and the response to and social implications of such conditions. This topic is particularly timely due to recent across-the-board reductions in private and public funding within the region.

In addition to the keynote address by Shipler, followed by audience Q & A with the author, the program will include remarks from and discussion with a panel comprised of University faculty and local foundation and community resource leaders. The panel will present perspectives on women and poverty in relation to the public policy and the academic research agendas; the power of philanthropy; and grassroots solutions.

David K. Shipler is also the author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Arab and Jew* (1987); *A Country of Strangers: Blacks and Whites in America* (1997); and *Russia: Broken Idols, Solemn Dreams* (1983).

Visit www.ssw.umaryland.edu for more information. Pre-registration for this event is required.

