CPACS Happenings (November 1977 Newsletter)

College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Organized student efforts on an urban, commuter campus are often few and far between. So when a student group does organize and actually effect change, recognition is due. The Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) has emerged as such a group. Revitalized within the past two years, the SSWO has been actively involved in School of Social Work concerns, contributing extensively to the School's accreditation efforts. Curriculum review, leadership recommendations, evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of the School, and mobilizing the student body are but some of the areas in which the SSWO has made contributions. This, of course, meant many hours of voluntary work by social work students, a valuable contribution to the growth and development of the School of Social Work.

Responding to a wide range of student needs, the SSWO has undertaken a variety of projects, with more on the drawing board. This last year, for example, students indicated a need for supplemental educational experiences. As a result, 15 weekend workshops have been planned for this academic year to acquaint students with different modes of therapy, professional issues and experiential learning opportunities. This educational effort by the SSWO has also tapped vital community resources in the form of practitioners and agencies.

The SSWO also responded to student concerns by becoming the vehicle for nomination of students to the various school committees. There are nine standing committees with at least two student representatives on each. These students are voting members of the committees and an integral part of the governance of the School. Committees within the student organization were also restructured to ensure more effectiveness.

Another successful effort has been to provide opportunities for students to get together outside of class. Recreational activities planned include faculty-student parties (e.g. during orientation, holidays and graduation), athletic nights and seasonal sports competitions.

Membership increases, due to active recruiting since April 1977, have been phenomenal. In addition to undergraduate and graduate memberships, a new contributing membership status has been created. This has encouraged many community practitioners and
faculty to join in the SSWO activities. The membership increase resulted in a substantially larger treasury. As a result, the SSWO newsletter is now being published monthly to keep community, faculty and students informed. Treasury funds were also supplemented by the sale of T-shirts this fall.

A new orientation program designed for incoming students was implemented with the help of the SSWO this fall. Faculty profiles were developed and distributed so students could get a more personal view of instructors and learn more about their teaching methods and concerns. In addition a 40-page Student Handbook was designed and introduced during orientation.

As mentioned previously the SSWO became involved directly in the Social Work accreditation process. Perhaps the most striking example of student support came in a show of numbers when students met with members of the accreditation team and shared their thoughts concerning their education and the School in general. Student involvement was also substantial in the preparation of the actual documents for the self-study report. Their participation was also noteworthy in the implementation of recommended changes.

Upcoming projects include the SSWO involvement in the development of a supplemental teacher/advisor evaluation tool to provide more specific, informative feedback for improvement of instruction. Practicum profiles are also being compiled to give students a better understanding of community agencies, their workings and how other students view their experience within the practice setting.

The groups' efforts on behalf of the School are made more effective by the fact that the SSWO is an independently functioning organization with a strong leadership. Leadership for these efforts has been provided by Carol Johnson, who was elected president of the SSWO in March, and Mike McGrath, faculty advisor. A capable, interested Executive Committee comprised of the SSWO officers and chairpersons of the groups' committees includes: Heidi Siegfried, Anne Thomas, Emily Wagoner, Bob Wilmot, Linda Erickson, Scotti Thralls, Vicki Mohr, Pat Pumputis, Joe Alta, Susie Buchwald, Rich Nassau and Mary Tyler.

The Gerontology Program has received a two-year $57,000 grant from the Administration on Aging to develop a Center on Aging at the University of Nebraska.
A three-campus organization, the Center will "facilitate communication and coordination of aging-related activities among the various departments and campuses," according to Dr. David Peterson, director of the Gerontology Program and the Center. "Aging is a multidisciplinary field," he said. "Almost all departments have an interest in aging, and to exclude any would make the Center incomplete."

"The Center is designed to begin with faculty interests and assist them in implementing projects," added Dr. Chris Bolton, project coordinator in gerontology and assistant director of the Center.

To begin organizing the Center, the Gerontology Program distributed a questionnaire across the three campuses in mid-October. The questionnaire was needed to determine faculty background and interest in aging, and to give faculty an opportunity to participate in the Center. Responses, as of October 24, indicate some degree of interest on the part of 136 faculty members.

The next step in Center development will be the formation of an Executive Committee, made up of four faculty representatives from each campus plus the director and assistant director. The Committee will recommend policy and procedures for the Center. It will also recommend distribution of grant money to faculty for developing research proposals, conducting research, developing curriculum, attending professional meetings and educational programs and increasing involvement with older persons and professionals in the field of aging.

Gerontology faculty will coordinate education, research and public service activities for the Center working through subcommittees. Dr. James Thorson, coordinator of academic affairs, will work in the area of education; Dr. Bill Bell, research coordinator, will oversee the Center's research; and JoAnne Lofton, coordinator of community service and continuing education, will supervise public service for the Center. Involvement of other interested faculty and staff will occur through an Advisory Council on each campus.

"Biculturalism: Chicano Style" is the topic of a "brown bag" seminar on November 30 from 11:30-2:00 in Room 312A, Milo Bail Student Center. The seminar will be presented by the Chicano Training Center of Houston, Texas and is sponsored at UNO by the School of Social Work. All members of the university community are invited to attend. More information on the seminar is available from Audrey Forrest, Social Work.
Seminars to assist students in such things as writing, preparing letters, interviewing, and job-seeking are being offered again this fall. The first two seminars were held October 24 & 26 and November 1 & 3. Two more sessions are upcoming—one November 7 & 9 from 1:00-2:30 and the other November 15 & 17 from 10:00-11:30. All sessions are in MBSC 314. The seminars are a service of the Career Development Center and Career Placement Services.

...April Parker, new Clerk Typist II in the Criminal Justice Department.
...Carole Stephens, new Secretary I in Criminal Justice.
...Betty Saunders, new to the Gerontology Program as Clerk Typist II.

DEAN
John Kerrigan has been named to the National Council of the American Society for Public Administration. He represents ASPA's Region VII which includes Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

Dean Kerrigan will participate in a panel on "Special Intra-University Organizational Problems Associated with Professional Public Affairs/Administration Programs" at the Annual Conference of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The conference will be held in Colorado Springs the week of November 7.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Laurence French directed the "Symposium on Racism and Sexism within the Criminal Justice System" at the Society of Police and Criminal Psychology meeting in Nashville, November 3-5.

At the same meeting, Larry together with Janet Porter presented a paper, "Jail Crises: Their Causes and Control."

Also Larry was made a member of the Alcohol Advisory Board of the Lincoln Indian Center.

GERONTOLOGY
Leo Missinne has been honored by the Goodrich Program for his support of the program during its early stages. A contribution of $450 has been made to the UNO Library for a "Missinne Collection" for which Leo will select the books.
David Peterson, delivered the keynote speech on "Old Age in America" at a workshop on Interdisciplinary Programs in Understanding and Communicating with the Aged, October 27 in Kansas City. The workshop was sponsored by the Region VII Long-term Care Education Center.

Bruce Horacek spoke on "The Needs and Problems of Older People" as part of the Way of the Cities Program, sponsored by the Junior League, November 2. He will also participate in a training program for the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging Senior Companion Program, November 8, speaking on "Death and Dying."

Donna Eden presented a paper at the 10th annual convention of the National Association of Management Educators in Atlanta, November 3-4. The paper, which was co-authored with Bob Mathis (College of Business Administration) is titled "Assessing Teaching Effectiveness: Classroom Process."

Jim Thorson is conducting a series of four workshops in Atlanta for service providers in the field of aging. These programs are sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and the University of Georgia. The first was held October 17 & 18 and the second program will be November 15 & 16.

GOODRICH
Wilda Stephenson and Barbara Hewins-Maroney (UNO Office of Special Programs) were among 50 persons invited by Operation Hope to a follow-up conference on the education of high risk/high potential students. The conference was November 1-4 at Monterey, California. Wilda spoke to the group about the Goodrich Program.

SOCIAL WORK
Hobart Burch spoke to the Southwest Iowa National Association of Social Workers about "The Place of the Voluntary Social Service Agency" on September 29.

On October 25 in Kansas City, he addressed the National Convention of the Disciples of Christ on "The Role of the Church in Human Service."

He was both keynote and concluding speaker at a State Conference of Social Workers and related professionals in Bozeman, Montana the end of October. The conference theme was "The Future of Social Services in the U.S.A."

"Rural Practice Models: Community Development" by Salima Omer was published in Social Work in Rural Areas, edited by Ronald K. Green and Stephen A. Webster,
University of Tennessee, 1977.
Salima, together with Craig Mosher of the University of Iowa, has been asked by the Board of Editors of Social Development Issues to prepare an annotated bibliography on social development.

TRAINING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Don Deppe was in Washington, D.C. October 5-7 to explore possibilities for grant support for several projects, including a college-wide student consortium for public service; training for government officials; and minority outreach activities.
Don presented a paper at the meeting of the Society of Police and Criminal Psychology in Nashville, November 3-5. His paper "Improving Correctional Practice: Opportunities and Impediments" was based on his experience as head of the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, North Carolina.

URBAN STUDIES
Peter Suzuki participated in the Third World Conference in Omaha October 27-29 as chairperson of the session "Community Development in the Third World" and as a discussant in the session "Urbanization in the Third World."

Congratulations to Don Dendiger and wife Mary Jo on the birth of Regina Marie October 19th.
Very best wishes to David Burch (son of Hobe and Ginger) and his new bride. They were married October 29 in the chapel at Princeton University— the wedding performed by Rev. Hobart Burch.

November 4 - CPACS Curriculum Committee.
November 7 & 9 - 8:30 A.M., Annex 24, Job Readiness Seminar, 1:00-2:30, MBSC 314.
November 14 - Promotion and Tenure Recommendations due to the Dean.
November 15 - CPACS Personnel Committee, 3:00 P.M., Annex 24.
November 15 & 17 - Job Readiness Seminar, 10:00-11:30, MBSC 314.
November 23-27 - Thanksgiving Vacation
November 24 & 25 - University closed for Holiday.
November 28 - Status report on graduating students due to Registrar by noon.
November 29 - UNO catalog copy due to Dean.
CPACS Personnel Committee, 3:00 P.M.
Annex 24.
November 30 - "Biculturalism: Chicano Style," 11:30-2:00, MBSC 312A
CPACS Faculty Meeting, 3:00 P.M., MBSC 315 (Note time change!)