

# A SLICE *o* f LIFE

Shippensburg University Department of Social Work & Gerontology

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## A Message from the Chair

### *Greetings Alums, Students and Friends,*

The past year has been full of major events in the life of the Social Work and Gerontology department. As you read through this newsletter I hope each of you is excited about the department's growth and development and that you continue to be proud to be a graduate/friend/colleague of our programs.

One of the most significant events of this past academic year was not exciting but bittersweet. It was the retirement of Dr. Robert Hewitt. Dr. Hewitt had served on the faculty for 21 years and his influence has been felt by hundreds of students, now social work colleagues, who came through our program during that time. You can read his final "lecture" to all his former students, now colleagues, and friends, in the pages of this newsletter.

Dr. Hewitt embodies all that is good about teaching and social work. His dedication to his students was unending. Many of you remember that phone call from Dr. Hewitt, often late in the day, expressing concern about why you were not in class that day. He always went the extra mile to make sure each student had the best chance of success possible. Visits to the hospital when students were ill, travels 100 miles for field visits, or long talks in his office were just a small part of what he was willing to do for students.

To honor his service to the department we planned a celebration immediately following Senior Orals this past May. Many of you may have either attended or sent in pictures or notes for him. His wish was to keep this event small. This was one time we didn't listen to what Dr. Hewitt wanted. Hundreds of people joined us in the CUB MPR to wish him well in his retirement and thank him for his years of dedication to us all. His presence will be truly missed. However, we are hopeful he will play a part in the Social Work and Gerontology department in the future as he and his family will continue to live in the area.

If you would like to send a note to Dr. Hewitt, please send it care of Joyce Walters, to the department mailing address and she will forward your messages. As an additional honor to Dr. Hewitt, we have renamed our departmental scholarship. It is now the Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence Scholarship. If you would like to make a

donation to the scholarship in his honor you can send in the form that is enclosed in this edition of the newsletter. The scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior. See the article later in the newsletter for info on this year's recipient.

Another highlight of the year is the graduation of our first group of MSW students. Thirty-four students graduated from the collaborative program we offer with Millersville University. Sixteen students were from the Shippensburg campus and seventeen were from the Millersville campus. These new MSWs will be providing services in an area of South Central Pennsylvania where masters level social workers are in critical need. We welcome our new colleagues and celebrated their accomplishments with a reception before the graduation ceremony on the Ship campus and a joint reception at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg that was attended by the graduating students, the faculty from both campuses, the Vice Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Dr. Peter Garland, and the Deans of both Colleges at Ship and Millersville, retiring Dr. Robert Bartos at Ship and Dr. John Short at Millersville.

Our accreditation process for the MU-SU MSW program continues on target. We had our candidacy status continued for the second year, as per CSWE timeline, and will be submitting a draft self-study this summer for a fall site visit. In February we hope to receive approval to develop the final self-study for submission next summer. This would bring us to the full site visit in the fall of 2009 and the initial accreditation in February of 2010. As has been the understanding since the beginning of the program, all graduates beginning with those from this year's class will have transcripts that indicate they have graduated from an accredited program.

These are just a few of the highlights in the department this year. Enjoy reading the newsletter and we hope to hear from you in the coming year!

**Sincerely,**

**Deborah Jacobs, Department Chairperson**

# More than a Trip to the Holocaust Museum

On November 10, 2007 Dr. Samuel R. Benbow, course instructor, and Dr. Jennifer Clements, guest department faculty member, escorted two sections of the Understanding Human Diversity for Social Work Practice classes on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum's Permanent Exhibition in Washington D.C. Although this trip has occurred in the past with students enrolled in the course, this experience was the first of its kind because the two courses consisted of students currently enrolled in the traditional university course and the cohort of predominantly non-traditional students participating in the Shippensburg University BSW degree completion program offered at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg. The field trip was a follow up to various lectures and presentations on the historical aspects of the roles and responsibilities of social work.

Dr. Benbow organized the trip as a way of bringing two unique educational models together for the purpose of creating alliances in and between program students. The traditional educational model consisted of twenty-five students whose average age was twenty years old. All of the students resided on or near campus, were enrolled full-time and were actively engaged in on-campus activities. Also, they entered the university within one to three years apart from each other, and they tended to be single and without children. On the other hand, the students from the BSW degree completion program consisted of fifteen students whose average age was thirty-six years old. All of the students resided as close as twenty minutes to as far as sixty minutes from HACC. Entrants into the degree completion program were as diverse as their ages, although entrance into the degree completion program was as one group called a cohort. As for marriage status, at least half of the cohort students were married and were parents.

One would think that the differences between the program students would be so great that it would be a great challenge if not impossible to combine the two groups of students. To the contrary, the students spent a great deal of time sharing personal and professional experiences with each other while participating in team building activities prior to and throughout the trip to the Holocaust Museum. Exploring exhibits together encouraged discussion in small teams about family history, secrets and traditions. One group was fortunate to engage in a very lengthy conversation with a Holocaust survivor for whom they later learned was a guest author and lecturer for the museum. They purchased her book and were able to have it personally autographed while learning about the author's experiences and current challenges as a result of her past experiences in concentration camps.

This trip to the Holocaust Museum was eye opening because it extended itself way beyond an educational experience of the museum. Two educational models were brought together to learn from a variety of perspectives how important the role of social work continues to be internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. The students shared interests, further develop their network of resources, and were able to draw connections between the two unique programs while learning about how more than 10 million humans lost their lives from 1933-1945. ■

## Department Directory

For your information and reference, below are the department faculty members and the university extensions where they can be reached. Access from off campus can be made using the prefix 477. All department faculty have "phone mail," so please leave a message.

Dr. Samuel Benbow .....	477-1781 .....	srbenb@ship.edu	Shippen 329
Dr. Dara Bourassa .....	477-1969 .....	dpbourassa@ship.edu	Shippen 325
Dr. Jennifer Clements.....	477-1633 .....	jaclem@ship.edu	Shippen 335
Dr. Elizabeth Fisher.....	477-1365 .....	eafish@ship.edu	Shippen 337
Dr. Marita Flagler.....	477-1266 .....	mnflagler@ship.edu	Shippen 331
Prof. Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak .....	477-1655 .....	cmchiarelli@ship.edu	Shippen 333
Dr. Deborah Jacobs.....	477-1276 .....	dfjaco@ship.edu	Shippen 384A
Dr. Michael Lyman.....	477-1267 .....	mjlyma@ship.edu	Shippen 327
Professor Dorlisa Minnick.....	477-1785 .....	djminnick@ship.edu	Shippen 301
Mrs. Joyce Walters.....	477-1717 .....	jawalt@ship.edu	Shippen 382

# Final Words from Dr. Robert L. Hewitt



## Dear Friends,

I have been asked to say a few (smile) words and offer some

thoughts to you as I have chosen to (as of May 23, 2008) terminated my employment with Shippensburg University. So often we spend time together and we never really understand each other's *life-backdrop or* "how the person became the person that we know". So in the way of a last lecture from me to you I want to share a glimpse into what and who has shaped my life into the person that you know as me. We do not have enough space in our Newsletter to tell the whole story but I can tell you "some of the rest of the story".

You know, usually when a person retires or leaves after a long period of work in a certain job situation people say nice things about the person who is leaving. This is a good thing. Even the bible says: "Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body". (Proverbs 16:24) It is certainly better than having people say "bad things" about the person who is leaving. A lot of nice things were said about me as I retire from Shippensburg University and head into "reirement". I appreciate it...You all have been more than kind and tremendously humane to me. **Some** of the "nice things" said about yours truly **may** even have some truth to them. But in order to keep things in perspective and set the record somewhat straight I want to share these personal last words with you.

I would like to say that I have no regrets. I have not been perfect but I did my best. My aim during 21 years at SU and my 17 years of professional social work practice prior to SU was to do my best as a person, a teacher, an encourager, a mentor and a friend. There were times when I fail way short of that. Sincerely, I ask and thank you for your forgiveness concerning those times when I did not

hit the expected level I was aiming for. Let me underscore my thank you by personally telling you what I am thinking about and feeling as I step into this next phase of my life.

It is with deep gratitude and great joy that I say it has been my upmost honor and privilege to have taught you, to have worked beside you, to have served you and most of all to have learned from you. I guess I could stop right there and say "See ya!" but of course I won't do that. There is a time and place...a season, if you will...for all things. It is time for me to share a **last lecture**: with you...those whom I have been in the classroom and meeting room with at sometime during the 1987-2008 time period.

It was the best of times  
It was the worst of times  
It was the age of wisdom  
It was the age of foolishness

It was the season of light,  
It was the season of Darkness,  
It was the spring of hope,  
It was the winter of despair.

As you read the lines from "A Tale of Two Cities" think "life" I want you to know that my life has been full of links and connections (some of them very clear to me and others that I am still working to understand). I am thankful for all of it.

I am thankful that God gave me a Mom and Dad who loved me (no matter what!). A family of brothers, sisters, and a handful of friends who faithfully encouraged and supported me at every "turn"...the good, the bad, and the ugly times in my life (sometimes with a hug and an extended hand and sometimes with a loving kick in the butt). My three wonderful children Rob, Lori, and Emmanuel Rajahn, My first wife, Micheline, now deceased... who taught me how real God is, my adult children who starting at ages 12 and 7 when their Mom passed away taught how to be a Daddy and a better person...My wife Nicole... who just keeps on reminding me of His realness and love in my life...my son Emmanuel Rajahn who is a joy to me. My growing faith and belief in the power of prayer.

I am thankful also for the ability and the opportunity to play on the fields, tracks, courts. From these experiences in my home town of Massillon, Ohio and during my Bluffton College days I learned three things:

- ◆ To keep my knees bent.
- ◆ To keep my eyes focused and...
- ◆ To keep my hands, head, and heart opened.

The translation is..."Be yea ever ready to go where live takes you; Be willing to face/see where you're going...and Be open to accept opportunities and responsibilities that come your way and be willing to forgive." Most of what I have learned about me and life has been caught rather than taught. I mean it has not been so much what people (parents, teachers, friends, students, professional colleagues, and others) have said but it has been more about what I have seen them do...it has not been as much about what I have said I believe in as it has been about what I have done in the inconvenient times as it relates to me living my values when "the crowd or my own selfishness was saying go against those values".

I was born as a child to Lillie Bell and Louie George Hewitt in Massillon, Ohio, October 13, 1946. I was next to the youngest child after James, Annie, Agnes, Billy, Daniel, Shirley and just a year before Quentin.

Massillon is a small (steel mill) town of about 31,000, located in North-eastern Ohio (about 52 miles south of Cleveland). Massillon is town that is (to this very day) MAD, MAD, MAD, About Football. Massillon has won the Ohio State High School Football Championship 22 times and has been ranked number one in the Nation 9 times. The stadium can hold nearly 20, 000 fans. In the mid 1960s the teams played home games before an average of 13 and 14 thousand fans. When I say that football is BIG there, I do mean GIGANTIC. Every baby boy is given a football at birth. When you past the cemeteries in Massillon it is not uncommon to see football helmets engraved on the head stone of the deceased. Truly

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## **Hewitt Thoughts** (continued from page 3)

football in Massillon is “from the cradle to the grave”.

After being born in Massillon, my first five years of life were spent in Dover, Ohio another small town located about 23 miles south of Massillon. We lived on Depot Street in a poor section of Dover. We had no indoor bathroom facilities. We had an “outhouse”. I remember...we had no charmin bathroom tissue (Mr. Whipple did not visit our neighborhood). I remember we had to crinkle up Look and Life magazines to make it soft on the “ole Bunkie”.

I remember years later when I attended Bluffton College (a private church sponsored school in Ohio) while in a Sociology class we watched a film (not video) depicting situation of poor families and I saw the equivalent of our home in Dover. I remember the students commenting in wonderment “How could people live like that?” I remember staying quiet...sliding down in my chair and wondering what they would say if they knew I had lived in a house like the one being shown in the film. I was ashamed...even as I realized that that they assumed that because I was there in college that I was middle class or more,...just like them. Of course as time went on and I matured...I became ashamed that I had ever been ashamed of where I came from.

Although we would have been considered poor by society’s standards when I was growing up I remember how loving my mother was to us, how we valued our “little bit”, and kept things clean...and I remember how protective my Dad was of us and how he always went to work in order to provide for his family.

My mother was a domestic engineer and my Dad worked at the Republic Steel Mill in Massillon. My Dad would commute back and forth from Dover to Massillon whether it was rain, sleet, hail, or snow to work in horrid work conditions. He was a stocky, muscular, strong man with huge hands and arms. As children we used to marvel at his strength and power. It would be in the summer of 1965 prior to my freshman year in college when I worked in the

Republic Steel Mill that I would learn how he got so strong, and... why he eventually lost both his hearing and his sight during his final years. He worked in that Mill for over 30 years.

Since this is my last lecture I will tell you that I was in love with my kindergarten teacher Miss Miller (who is more than nearly 80 years old if still alive). I like to jokingly state that when the news of this one way interracial romance hit the streets of Dover in 1952 my parents pulled me from school and we left town, returning to Massillon. I was a kindergarten school drop out.

In truth we moved back to Massillon when I was five because the commuting was taking it’s toll on my Dad and he found us a “better living situation”. We continued to “be poor.” But we were “moving on up” our bathroom facility in the new place was on the porch of a former neighborhood grocery store. Our living space consisted of a large room (a little bigger than Shippen Room 380, a kitchen area (somewhat smaller than my office at 330 Shippen) and a half bath situation on the porch (which we shared with the McKey Family who lived in the apartment next door)...“From the Outhouse to the Back porch...progress!!!

My visionary, faith grounded, creative Mother who had the gift to take little or nothing and make something useful and wonderful out of it.... She took bailing wires and plastic curtains and partitioned the large room into three rooms. The front room which faced our street (Fourth St.) was our living room by day and my older brother Danny’s room by night. A second room was where my two older sisters, Agnes and Shirley, shared a bed. A third room was my Mom and Dad’s bedroom. My brother, Quentin, and I shared a bed on the other side of that room.

The area that we lived in SW Massillon was called the Columbia Heights. It was a community of working class poor (predominately) African-American people. The majority of the men worked in the Republic Steel Mill (located approx. ½ mile from our house). It was notorious as a rough section of town, with bars, illegal betting joints.

In our neighborhood I saw a violent tough side of life (i.e., domestic violence, alcohol abuse, sexual predators, street fights, and killings, etc). In the midst of this my siblings and I felt loved and protected by our parents. My mother and father offered us a balance of God’s love and the world of street toughness.

My Dad was a loving father, a hard worker, and a hard drinker. He was also a street wise man who was feared & respected by the men of Massillon. He could be a loyal wonderful friend and he could be a tough, unforgiving, vengeful enemy.

We only had to mention that we were Louie Hewitt’s kids and other adults treated us respectfully because they did not want any part of upsetting “Louie”. They would say something like “Hey don’t mess with them kids, they Louie Hewitt’s kids, you know he ah crazy ‘n.....!”

My Dad lost both of his parents when he was a small child, and grew up in the South ( in Alabama) with relatives who were not always kind to him, to say the least. He migrated to Cleveland, Ohio as a young teenager. He lived with his older sister and her paramour. Dad soon moved out on his own, and finished raising himself on the mean streets of Cleveland.

I know very little about my Dad’s family. I do know that he named me after his brother Robert. On my Mom’s side we had plenty of family, cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents. They all lived in Canton, Ohio; a town of about 150,000 located 8 miles from Massillon (As you may or may not know The NFL Hall of Fame is located there). My Mom was an active Christian in her talk and in her walk. She made us attend church. We attended Shiloh Baptist Church. She also made us take out the ashes from the coal furnace that heated our clean but meager dwelling. During my developmental years my Mom and Dad’s attitude of “take care of the kids and protect them no matter what” was a constant with me and my sibs.

In a very healthy way he and my mother were like the yin and the

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# The Field Practicum:

## *Notes From The BSW Corner of Field Education*

The Department of Social Work and Gerontology's BSW Field Practicum program had one of its most successful field education school years. The BSW field education program continues to train and develop quality entry level social workers for both the field of practice in professional human services and graduate social work education. Our field education theme for 2007 Fall Semester was **"Pulling Together!"** During this school year the field faculty members encouraged our field students to not just "hang in there" but to pull together, help one another, look out for one another and encourage each other to do his or her best throughout the semester. We continued to promote this message during the 2008 Spring Semester with the theme **"Finishing Strong, Whatever It Takes!"** It was stated in the beginning of the Spring Semester, starting at Field Instructor's Training (F.I.T), that each student, field liaison, and field instructor would do whatever it takes to commit to doing quality work/service and to finish the semester with quality. It was a motivator and our rally cry for the whole semester leading into our two full days of Senior Oral Presentations.

During this past 2008 Spring Semester the department added three new field placement sites and hosted a record number (41) of BSW students who successfully completed the field practicum experience.

## ***Field Practicum Rosters for School Year Fall 2007-Spring 2008***

### **Field Practicum Information**

#### **Fall 2007**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Field Instructor</b>
Porsha Bond	Keystone Community Mental Health Services, Harrisburg	Cynthia Suhring
Daniel Cahan	Area Office on Aging, Harrisburg	Leslie Kibathi & Linda Pezzuti
Kelly Coldsmith	Cumberland Co. Children & Youth, Carlisle	Sandy Gibson
Mary Cooksey	Franklin Co. Children & Youth, Chambersburg	Lucy Bert
Sarah Dietz	Washington Co. Family Center, Hagerstown	Shana Matthews
Trisha Fisher	York Co. Children & Youth	Caroline Red
Julie Hampton	Women's Center, Shippensburg University	Nicolette Yevich
Alana Joseph	Pottsville Area High School	Mary Ellen Setlock
Jessica Keiter	Dauphin Co. Children & Youth, Harrisburg	Hope Rohde
Pamela King	Families United Network, Inc., Mount Joy	Lisa Cannon
Elizabeth Lantz	Mechanicsburg School District	Gina Daniel
Jodie Larue	Shippensburg Area School District	Angie McKee
Becky Moats	WIN Victim Services, Chambersburg	Karen Johnson
Laura Moyer	YWCA, Carlisle	Jacqui Jurado
Lee Nedrow	Cumberland Co. Children & Youth, Carlisle	Ed Rouse
Jannet Perez	Harrisburg YWCA	George Payne
Teresa Peters Cahan	Adams Co. Children & Youth, Gettysburg	Kathy McConaghay
Laurence Polk	Mountain Valley Center, Chambersburg	Laurie Anderson
Artia Reynolds	Mountain Valley Center, Chambersburg	Laurie Anderson
Victoria Smith	Hoffman Homes for Youth, Gettysburg	Rebecca Hagan
Amanda Walters	Green Ridge Village, Newville	Robin Moore

## **Spring 2008**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Field Instructor</b>
Ashley Brown	New Visions, Carlisle	Miki Hull
Tammy Buffington	Adams Co. Children & Youth, Gettysburg	Sherry Despasqua
Krysten Cagle	Victim Witness Services, Carlisle	Jennifer Boyle
Julia Callaghan	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Amy Cazalas	PA Human Relations Commission, Harrisburg	Raymond Cartwright
Howard Chavous	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Kristin Champlain	Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging, Harrisburg	Ben Hillard
Jami Cook	Cumberland Co. Children & Youth, Carlisle	Leslie Richards
Matthew Daley	Cross-Systems Department, Chambersburg	Tracy Clark
Eva Domalski	Dauphin County Social Svcs. for Children & Youth, Harrisburg	Josh Berra
Corrie Engel	Elder Day Adult Services, Chambersburg	Vicki Krenitsky
Lindsey Frey	York County Children and Youth	Caroline Red
Nicole Giarratana	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Andrea Gionta	Hospice of the Good Sheppard, Chambersburg	Angie Pickel
Leanne Graybill	Lancaster General Hospital: Healthy Beginnings Plus	Liz Diacont
Kathryn Hall	Elizabeth Gotwals, Private Practice, McConnellsburg	Elizabeth Gotwals
Rebecca Hege	Mountain Valley Center, Chambersburg	Laurie Anderson
Melissa Hrinko	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Enola	Donna Greco
Kimberly Jappell	Manito, Gettysburg	Robin Robinson
Margaret Johnson	Adams Hanover Counseling, Chambersburg	Jane Marshal
Sara Lawlor	The Amazing Kids Club, Hanover	Kate Tuckey
Heather Leach	Lewistown Hospital	Sherri Walters
Chris Long	Chambersburg Area School District	Stan Shilling
Laura Mapes	Church of God Home, Carlisle	Erin Naylor
Kelli Miller	Washington Co. Family Center, Hagerstown	Shanna Matthews
Miranda Morningstar	Perry County Children & Youth	Julie Martzall
Kristi Musselman	Shippensburg Area School District	Angie McKee
Lisa Myers	York County Children & Youth	Caroline Red
Lauren Patterson	Summit Health-Community Health, Chambersburg	Nickie Fickel
Laurence Polk	Mountain Valley Center, Chambersburg	Sommer Horn
Alyson Ricci	Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, Carlisle	Susan Shevlin
Allison Rutland	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Stacy Salvadge	Cumb. County Office of Aging & Community Svcs., Carlisle	Jan Branyan
Susan Smeck	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Megan Smith	Community Action Commission, Harrisburg	Robin Kelly
Megan Strouse	Franklin County Head Start, Chambersburg	Linda Butts
Megan Syage	C.A.R.E.S. Homeless Shelter, Carlisle	Shari Bellish
Ashley Vinson	Shippensburg Head Start	Jeff Hafer
Tiffany Way	Roxbury Treatment Center	Allison Faythe
Jessica Webb	Carlisle Barracks	Anne Hurst
Brownwyn White Herb	Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Dept., Carlisle	Hank Theilemann & Lisa Harrison

## Hewitt Thoughts (continued from page 4)

yang...the hard & the soft,...male & female...the push & the pull. They provided us with a wonderful "balanced" perspective on life. They taught us right from wrong. They provided us with strong ethics and values. Although we grew up in a family living environment that could have lent itself to relationship problems...we were taught to be respectful of each other and of each other's privacy.

By the way in my sophomore year of high school we moved into a house that provided us with our very first inside bathroom and bathtub!! We all thought that we had died and gone straight to heaven! I remember the tremendous waiting lines outside the bathroom to take a bath or ...do ..whatever.

Growing up in Massillon was a great experience for me (remember what I said about sports, especially football??). Massillon was great for me because I could not dance...I could not roller skate...and I had no rap...I did not know how to talk to the girls. BUT I WAS A BALLER...I was good at playing just about any sport... (of course in those days "we" did not have the opportunity to learn to play golf, tennis or to do much swimming) most importantly *I was a very good football player in a town where being that was the equivalent to all other important qualities needed to be accepted in the Massillon society.*

But the truly special gift that I "caught", in my youth and my young adult years, from my parents and my participation in athletics at both Massillon and Bluffton College is the truism that...

### **You cannot Change The Wind But... But You Can adjust Your Sails:**

- ◆ You cannot change your skin color...
- ◆ You cannot change who your parents or grandparents are...
- ◆ You cannot change where you came from...
- ◆ You cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way... and
- ◆ You cannot change what happened to us in the past.

But "I caught" that I have the power to make the adjustment in terms of how I view my internal and external environment. "I caught" that I can change how I look at myself, I can reframe how I see the world around me, you focus on developing what is inside you rather than what is behind you or ahead of you. It does not matter my gender, race, size, where I came from, my intelligence or what people say about me... I was the first person in my family to ever set foot in a college. My mother had a 4<sup>th</sup> grade education. My father had a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. "I caught" that where I start or how you start has nothing to do with how or where I end up. "I caught" that life is not the 100 meter dash...life is ...the marathon race. "I caught" not to be blinded and bound by my own "current" situations. "I caught" that so much of succeeding in life has to do with continuing to check and manage my attitude, and, being a concerned citizen with faith. "I caught" that I should not rest too long on my past mistakes or successes. The past is the past...learn from it (the good and the bad) and move on... "I caught those attitudes determine altitudes. The longer I live (and it has been a while now!) the more I realize the impact of attitude on life,...I am convinced that life is **10% what happens** to me and **90% how I react** to it. It will make or break a friendship, a marriage, a family, a department, an organization,...a church,...a community,...a career or a life. Attitude, to me, is more important than almost anything. Attitudes are like bridges over which the cargo of life is hauled. These attitude bridges are a vital link between where things have been and where they are going. Attitudes are the launching pads for the most important actions and reactions in life. "I caught" that ability may get you to the top, but it takes "character, faith, a healthy attitude of determination and perseverance to keep you there. Attitudes are not the way the winds are blowing, but the way my (and your) sails are set.

For me, this was and continues to be a truism. I believe it to be the same for you. We each are in charge of our "tudes" and our choices. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

Remember earlier I spoke of links and connections?... Remember my Mom made me put those big lumps of coal in the furnace and she made me take out those heavy ashes??? ....From doing this I developed some "decent size guns" and good leg strength back in the day. This allowed me to become a fairly decent football player for the "1964 State Champion football Tigers" and later at Bluffton University where I was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame (1993). More importantly, taking out those ashes also helped me to develop a sense of responsibility and the need to "always be willing do my share of ".

On May 17<sup>th</sup> my family and I return to Massillon-Canton area for my enshrinement into the Greater Canton Negro Athletic Hall of Fame. I had the opportunity to share the links and connections among, parents who role modeled love, poverty, the nature of athletics, God's grace, and perseverance as it relates to the journey that led me from the "field, tracks and courts of play to professorship at Shippensburg University.

In closing, let's stay connected by each of us embracing the following **Pledge of Success** as we live out the rest of our stories:

*Today is a new day, a new beginning.  
It has been given to me as a new gift.  
I can either use it or throw it away.  
What I do today will affect me tomorrow.  
I cannot blame anyone but myself if I do not succeed.  
I promise to use this day to the fullest by giving my best, realizing it can never come back again  
This is my life and I choose to make it a success.*

See ya! I wish for you and your family the peace that passes all understanding,

**Bob Hewitt**

# BSW Cohort in Harrisburg Continues

We are currently in the middle of the second cohort of BSW students at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg. This program was designed to serve students who had challenges traveling to our Shippensburg campus and taking courses during traditional college class times. The program offers evening courses on a part-time basis to students who have already showed college level competence by the completion of at least 45 credits of college level work as well as some specific social work course requirements. The second cohort will graduate in the Fall of 2009. Pending the availability of the resources we hope to have a new cohort begin some time in 2010.

To give you a flavor of the program we have asked some students to briefly describe their experiences. Alana Joseph is from the first cohort and has graduated, and Tajuanna Wallace is in the current cohort. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this program, they can contact Dr. Liz Fisher at [efish@ship.edu](mailto:efish@ship.edu).

**Alana Joseph**  
**Class of 2007**  
**Part of the first BSW cohort**  
**May 26, 2008**

*Without the emergence of the Harrisburg BSW Cohort Program, my aspirations of higher education may have been out of reach*

*I'm from small town in rural Schuylkill County which is quite a driving distance from any university. Dorm life just wasn't for me, so with the help of my parents I was able to obtain an associates degree in Human Services from Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus. After receiving my A.A., I knew I would have to reach higher if I wanted to be able to support myself in the social work field. Shippensburg University's BSW cohort program located in Harrisburg made a bachelors degree possible for me. The cohort was not only an educational blessing, but a life experience that I will carry with me in my personal and professional life.*

*There were many benefits of the cohort's dynamics. Small class sizes gave me the opportunity for one on one attention and also to make many life long friendships. We were "in it together". Study groups, phone calls, late night emails, we supported each other for a two year period. These kinds of relationships are often more difficult to develop in a larger setting. Our professors understood the demands of our full time jobs, full time lives, and/or children, while still arming us with a high quality liberal arts education.*

*I am proud of the education I was given through the BSW Cohort. It was the right choice for me.*

**Tajuanna Wallace**  
**Class of 2009**  
**Part of the second BSW Cohort**

*As a single mother of two boys (10yrs. and 5yrs.), I am always cautious of the decisions I make. And as any parent, the decisions I make always have to benefit my children. So when I was approached by a Shippensburg social work student who had information about furthering my education with their cohort program, I felt that was exactly what I needed.*

*I had started working towards my Associates in Social Services in January 2003. I had no idea once I got my associates how I would be able to obtain a bachelor's or more after HACC. I was just unfamiliar with universities having evening programs for working adults.*

*The cohort program has been very convenient and challenging. I appreciate that everyone in the class is in the same situation as I am, we all work, have families, and most importantly, we all have the desire to want to be a social worker. The professors from the cohort have been more than accommodating to us. The fact that they drive from Shippensburg to Harrisburg every Tuesday and Thursday evening and teach with the same energy as if they were teaching a day class just amazes me and gives me a greater appreciation for them!*

*I believe it's a blessing to have been chosen to further my education with Shippensburg. Since having children at a young age, I never had the opportunity to experience the university life and the professors do all they can to give us the same experience as their full-time social work students. Needless to say, Shippensburg BSW Cohort program is unparalleled and I am very grateful to be part of this program and to have had this experience!*



# Inaugural MSW Program's Initial Graduates

*Some of the happy members of our first MU-SU MSW graduating class ...*



*Left to right: Amy Shaffer and Kelsi Balum.*



*Standing, Fred Anderson and seated, David Mattern.*



*Left to right: Karen Sheriff and Nicole Reed*

## Joint MSW Program

The Millersville/Shippensburg collaborative MSW program graduated the inaugural group of MSW students on May 9, 2008. The week began with a reception of all the MSW graduates in Harrisburg and then individual ceremonies in each respective school. A reception was held before the graduation ceremony where students had a chance to socialize with faculty and their families before the official hooding ceremony. The faculty proudly participated in the hooding ceremony later that evening where each individual graduate stood front and center stage, and had an MSW hood placed over their heads by one of the social work faculty members. A total of 16 students graduated with their MSW degrees from Shippensburg.

The faculty wants to wish all the best and give warm congratulations to:

### MSW Field Information

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Field Instructor</b>
Fred Anderson	Holy Spirit Hospital, Harrisburg	Becky McCoy
Connie Aumiller	Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg	John Bowen
Kelsi Balum	Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol	Sally Kammerer
Brandon Barnhart	Big Spring School District, Newville	Jessica Blewitt
Heather Bell	Loysville Youth Development	Brett Leamer
Mary Berzanski	Altoona Hospital	Krista Snyder
Johanna Cordell	South Mountain Restoration Center	Kelly Walters
Wendy Harrison	York Co. Children & Youth, Dillsburg	Dot Everhart
Dave Mattern	Dauphin County MH/MR, Harrisburg	Shirley Keith-Knox
Lindsay McKee	Hoffman Homes, Gettysburg	Holly Saporito
Terry McSwain	Washington Co. Dept. of Social Services, Hagerstown	Tiffany Rexrode
Nicole Reed	Dickinson Law Clinic, Carlisle	Gary Shuey
Amy Shaffer	Washington Co. Hospital, Hagerstown	Mike Shea
Karen Sheriff	Cumberland Co. Office on Aging, Carlisle	Dave Mohr
Loran Stough	Adams-Hanover Counseling	Betty Derr
Cynthia Taylor	Manito, Inc.	Amy Hershey

*“Take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”*

*— Elie Wiesel*

***Practice without Politics is not Social Work.***

***Social Work Practice without the Political is Hypocritical.***



***DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!***

**A L U M N I**  
**D O I N G S**

Our alumni continue to grow in numbers and achievements. Here are a few of the bits of information about their professional and personal accomplishments we have received about them recently. Please send in your "doings" and we will publish them next time.

**Raquel (Robinson) Watson** (1992) & **Andrew Watson** (1993), gave birth to Sophia Victoria, March 30, 2007. She joins big sister Gabriella Amina, 4 years old.

**Currin Haines**, 1999, obtained MSW from Widener University, Summer of 2007. Currin also has two kids, Bobby, age 5, and Megan, age 2.

**Maria Torres Delgado**, 1995, gave birth to a son on May 7, 2006. His name is Tyler.

**Angela (Mason) Wilson** (1996) gave birth to daughter in July. Received promotion to Clinical Coordinator at Cen-Clear Child Services where I have worked for 10 years.

**Treasure (Comp) Gallagher**, 1998, and husband James, welcome their daughter, Teagan, on March 5.

**Laura Feather (Crider)**, 2006, married Aaron in December, 2006 and gave birth to a son, Landon Aaron, on April 24, 2007.

## **What's Doing?**

Cut this section out and mail to: Department of Social Work & Gerontology, Shippen Hall, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Recent news for newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

# Vision for Excellence Scholarship Recipient for 2007-08

**Lee Nedrow** was the recipient of the social work and gerontology department scholarship during this past year. Lee was a student in the BSW cohort who graduated in the fall of 2007. Lee had an excellent academic record and wrote an outstanding essay about her ideas on social work excellence. Lee did her internship at Cumberland County Children and Youth and was surprised at Senior Orals when the director of the office, Wendy Hoveter, SU alum and advisory council member, announced that Lee was selected for a job that began only days after graduation. Congratulations to Lee and best wishes for a successful social work career.

This coming year will be the first time we offer the scholarship under its new name — the Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence in Social Work Scholarship. If you are able, please join us in donating as a tribute to Dr. Hewitt and as a much-needed support to one or more (we hope to be able to offer 2 scholarships soon) aspiring social work seniors.

## "ROBERT L. HEWITT VISION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL WORK" SCHOLARSHIP

### Contribution Form

*This scholarship honors an outstanding senior majoring in social work who demonstrates professional commitment, leadership ability and financial need.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of contribution enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in making a pledge to the scholarship that may extend over several years please contact the Shippensburg University Foundation at 477-1377 for further information.

*"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."*

*Elie Wiesel*



**SHIPPENSBURG  
UNIVERSITY**

*Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, in compliance with federal and state laws and university policy, is committed to human understanding and provides equal educational, employment, and economic opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, creed, national origin, religion, veteran status, or disability. Direct requests for disability accommodations and other inquiries to the Office of Disability Services, Horton Hall 120, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299, (717) 477-1329, [odl@ship.edu](mailto:odl@ship.edu).*