“Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both.”
~ Abraham Flexner, educator (1866-1959)

SSW News & Notes
(A compendium of news for and about SSW students, faculty and staff.)

CONDOLENCES
We offer our condolences to Associate Professor Priscilla Gibson, whose mother, Rose Anna Gibson, died in Church Point, LA on November 25; to Assistant Professor Patricia Shannon, whose father-in-law passed away last week; to Steve Maxwell, whose mother-in-law died November 25; and to Rosetta Chears, whose aunt passed away November 28.

“SPONSOR A FAMILY” 6th YEAR COMMUNITY BUILDERS EVENT
For the sixth consecutive year, the SSW community is sponsoring a local family in need during the holiday season. Our support will go through a regional, non-sectarian giving program administered by Lutheran Social Services and Catholic Charities. How can you help? Sign up in 105 Peters to purchase a gift on the wish list and/or give a cash donation (make your check out to University of Minnesota). We always give a significant grocery store gift certificate in addition to the requested items.

When: Gifts/cash donations need to be brought in by Thursday, December 10.

Many families are hurting this season. Thank you for your generosity.

What’s Goin’ On
(Details on events, conferences, seminars, workshops, retreats, and more . . . whatever’s happening in our social work community.)

MINCAVA TO HOST BOOK SIGNING BY SURVIVOR OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MINCAVA [Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse] will host a presentation and book signing with Bukola Oriola, victim and survivor of human trafficking. Ms. Oriola will present from and sign her book “Imprisoned: The Travails of A Trafficked Victim”. Please join MINCAVA in welcoming Bukola Oriola on Friday, December 4, 2009, 1:45-2:15 in the atrium of Peters Hall. This event is free and open to all who are interested. Light refreshments will follow. Please contact Jennifer Witt at 612-624-2716 with questions.
**CITYSONGS NOW PART OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UROC**
CitySongs, co-founded 18 years ago by School of Social Work Professor Helen Kivnick and a diverse group of metro neighbors and professionals, is the newest program to join the University's Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center in North Minneapolis. This arts-based youth and community development program challenges at-risk youth in grades 4-8 to master music and performance skills, to make aesthetic contributions to their communities, to take leadership roles, and to set and achieve their goals. In turn, these children provide from 10-20 live performances to inspire, strengthen, and vitalize their communities.

CitySongs is preparing for its first season, in community partnership with Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) and will begin recruiting participants from neighboring youth centers. Youth ages 9-14 are welcome. The first scheduled performance will be **NEXT** Sunday, December 6, 4:00 pm, at the Capri Theater, 2027 West Broadway, Minneapolis.

**MAY SEMESTER NAMIBIA INFORMATION SESSION DECEMBER 12**
An information meeting for the May Semester Social Work Trip to Namibia will be held Saturday, December 12, 11:30am-12:30pm in 5 Peters Hall. Come learn all about this fascinating country from Associate Professor Liz Lightfoot, who spent a year in Namibia on a Fulbright Scholarship and will lead the trip.

**CURA FORUM ON ANALYSIS OF NORTH MINNEAPOLIS FORECLOSURES**
The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) presents Mark Ireland, attorney with the Foreclosure Relief Law Project at Housing Preservation Project, speaking on “Assumptions, Mistakes, Successes and Moving Forward: An empirical analysis of foreclosures in North Minneapolis and foreclosure policies” on Friday, December 18, in L110 Honeywell Auditorium at the Carlson School of Management on the West Bank [321 19th Avenue S.] RSVP required by December 16 to 612-625-9040 or curahf@umn.edu. CURA Housing forums are free and open to the public.

**NEW COURSE IN PEACE BUILDING OFFERED**
Professor Mark Umbreit will teach a new course on "Peacemaking Through Mindfulness Practice: Transformative Dialogue in the Global Community" in the Center for Spirituality & Healing (CSPH) in the Academic Health Center, on 4 weekends (Friday evening and Saturday) in April and May. This experiential course will offer practical tools for engaging in peace building efforts among friends, within families and communities, and within and between nations. It will draw upon Mark’s work over the past many years in working with people from more than 20 countries, including major conflict zones in Northern Africa.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY DISCUSSION GROUP IN SEXUALITY STUDIES**
This interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students brings together their collective experiences, epistemologies, cultures and diverse perspectives from across the disciplines and colleges in an effort to better understand the social, historical, psychological, literary, legal, and political contexts in which human sexualities have been and are currently being expressed and theorized. This is an advanced discussion group focusing on the relation of gender and sexuality to structures of power and inequality, with the mission to advance interdisciplinary teaching, research and advocacy in Sexuality Studies, as well as to promote sexual literacy, sexual well-being and social justice.

Discussion Group Goals include but are not limited to: promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative discussions and research; to provide a rich environment for graduate students from across the university to think through their projects in dialogue with experienced researchers; to supplement the educational experiences and training of graduate students interested in sexuality studies; to foster an atmosphere that is increasingly open to and excited about research addressing sexuality, gender, and GLBTQ sociopolitical issues; to enhance and complement the educational missions of various departments and colleges; to investigate the ways that sexuality is shaped by social roles and intersecting or overlapping identities based on race, gender, dis(ability), nationality and socioeconomic class; and to enhance and enrich the students’ regular curriculum opportunities by exposing them to expertise in a truly interdisciplinary forum that will position them to compete on the academic job market or in professional fields where such training is vital.

**Primary Contact Person:** Edén E. Torres, Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies terre007@umn.edu 612-625-5035

**CI 8150 – RESEARCH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE – WRITING SEMINAR**
A spring 2009 writing seminar designed for students who have passed their preliminary exams and are beginning/writing their dissertations - “Ethical and Epistemological Issues in Research with Minoritized Populations” will be taught by instructor Bic Ngo, Mondays, 4:40-7:20pm. The seminar will engage students from a variety of disciplines and research interests in consideration of the epistemological and ethical issues and implications...
of doing research for social justice. Students will examine the possibilities and problematics of research that seeks to understand and explicate inequality and disparities in the experiences of immigrant and other minoritized populations. The class will emphasize critical epistemology and practices in data collection, analysis and writing of research. The work of interdisciplinary, critical researchers, debates about the role of research for social change, and issues related to reflexivity and representation will be considered.

This interdisciplinary course is relevant to students in the various content and disciplinary areas of education research. It will be important for students whose dissertation research includes concerns related to:

- immigrant youth and families
- minoritized populations
- achievement gaps
- educational disparities
- anti-oppressive education
- urban and multicultural education
- education in urban contexts
- dimensions of difference (e.g., race, gender, class, religion, sexuality)

Contact Bic Ngo at bngo@umn.edu with questions.

MINNESOTA GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY CALL FOR PAPERS
The MGS annual conference will be April 30, 2010, at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, 8:00-3:30. The conference theme is “Be the Change: New Ideas for Transforming Aging Services”. Keynote Speaker is Harry (Rick) Moody, Ph.D., Director of Academic Affairs for AARP. This promises to be a thought provoking day and engaging exploration of aging services innovations. Through presentations, poster sessions, round table discussions and networking, conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about current research and how it translates into practice in our rapidly changing world of aging services.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from professionals and researchers located throughout Minnesota and choose from a variety of professional tracks: Innovations in Diversity; Innovative Partnerships; Innovations in Housing and Health Care; and Innovations in Evidenced Based Practice. MGS invites you or someone you know in the field of gerontology to submit a break-out session abstract for the 2010 Conference. About 250 participants from a wide variety of disciplines typically attend the yearly MGS conference. Visit the MGS website and download the form at: http://mngero.org/conference/index.html

Job Market
(Listings of positions currently open in the School of Social Work, social work field agencies and the wider social service community.)

JOB POSTINGS NOW EXCLUSIVELY ON SSW WEBSITE
Job openings in the social work community are now exclusively posted on the SSW web site. Please forward details about jobs you would like posted to either Jackie Colby at colby041@umn.edu or Jill Beaudette at jbeaudet@umn.edu. To view job postings, go to: http://cehd.umn.edu/ssw/Employment/default.asp

We welcome your ideas, tips and recommendations. Submit to: Jill Beaudette at jbeaudet@umn.edu.

SSW Speaks is a weekly e-mail newsletter for students, alumni and friends of the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota. The newsletter, a free information source prepared by the School, is designed to help students, alumni, and friends stay connected to the School. To unsubscribe contact: jbeaudet@umn.edu. (C) 2009 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This email sent by: The School of Social Work, 105 Peters Hall, 1404 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul MN 55108.