What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

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

“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.

APPOINTMENT TO EDITORIAL BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY OF VIOLENCE
Professor Jeffrey Edleson has been appointed to the founding Editorial Board of Psychology of Violence, a new journal from the American Psychological Association. Prof. Edleson now serves on the editorial boards of six journals.

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

USING AGENCY DATA TO STUDY CROSS-SYSTEM CHILD OUTCOMES
An article presenting the results of using typical direct-service agency data on a vulnerable population to understand education and child welfare outcomes more fully will be published in the January issue of Children and Youth Services Review (32). By linking agency data to statewide education and child welfare records, it is possible to learn about the school attendance patterns, special education participation, and subsequent child welfare system involvement of a treatment foster care child population. Results also suggest the ways in which agencies may improve the quality of their agency data to facilitate such explorations to enhance their understanding of program outcomes. The article is written by Anita Larson, Minn-LInK Coordinator and Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare at the School of Social Work and is titled “Cross system comparisons of children in treatment foster care: Using agency data to study cross-system child outcomes.”
25th ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL MARCH AND SERVICE

The 25th annual Homeless Memorial March and Service will be held Thursday, December 17, beginning at 5:00pm at the Hennepin County Government Center, 3rd Avenue South and 5th Street South. The march will follow 5th Street west to Nicollet Avenue and proceed south to 28th Street. A Service of Remembrance follows at 6:30pm at Simpson United Methodist Church, 2740 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis. The Salvation Army Mobile Canteen will be at Nicollet and Franklin Avenues with hot coffee. Speaker: Monica Nilsson, Director of Outreach - St. Stephen's Human Services, president of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and longtime advocate for the homeless community.

Music will include: Ninijanisag Drum Group from the Ain Dah Yung Center and Saleha Erdman on cello.

Parking and Shuttles: Parking is available at the Kmart parking lot located at 10 West Lake Street, Minneapolis. Shuttle Buses will depart from Kmart, at the corner of Lake Street & First Avenue at 4:20 pm.

For more information contact: Eric Johnson at 612-455-0858

Last year 131 homeless and formerly homeless people who died in 2008 were remembered. On any night in Minnesota, there are at least 1,000 people out on the street. The average life expectancy in America is 77 years. The life expectancy of a person who is homeless is 47 years.

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, 12:15-1:15pm 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 “Peacebuilding 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 up Mark's work over the past many years in working with people from more than 20 countries, including major conflict zones in Northern

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.
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 bcngo@umn.edu with questions.

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.