

Fall
2003

Volume 2, Number 1

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Nobel Laureate/GSSW Professor Teaching Team

Beginning Fall 2003, as promised, Visiting Scholar, Nobel Laureate, Activist, and Professor Jody Williams and Dr. Brené Brown, Assistant Professor of the UH Graduate School of Social Work, teamed up to offer a new and innovative course entitled *Global Justice: Patterns, Perspectives and Strategies* as part of both the MSW and Ph.D. curriculums at the GSSW. The course is unique in many ways, including its WebCT format that links teaching with technology. The WebCT format allows Professor Williams to participate in weekly discussions from all over the globe through email and discussion boards.

Global Justice is an interdisciplinary course. Its purpose is to build practical and theoretical understanding of international political economy and human rights issues; the rights and responsibilities of global citizenship; and effective citizen-advocacy strategies for achieving social justice goals. Dr. Brown states, "For me, this class brings together what I consider to be the most important elements of what we do. It is about social justice and our commitments to both the university and the community."

Dr. Brown describes the class as tough. "The readings are difficult, the material is dense and the

group project is a major undertaking." She thinks the students are engaged and are contributing at an extremely high level. Dr. Brown is excited about the opportunity for our students to work with Professor Williams, but also about the teaching team having the opportunity to work with the students. She states, "They are amazing and have much to offer in the classroom and in the community."

Jody Williams was invited to deliver the Jenkins Distinguished Lecture last fall. Subsequently, she was approached by Dean Ira Colby about the possibility of joining the faculty. She states that it was Dean Colby's vision for the school and his flexibility that really sparked her serious interest. Professor Williams states, "I have been a practitioner for over 20 years using various strategies to try to contribute to a world where human rights and social and economic justice prevail. The opportunity offered by Dean Colby to step back and look at the world through a different prism—that of academia—while being able to help shape future practitioners is a tremendous gift for which I will always be grateful."



The Instructional Team
(L-R) Visiting Scholar Jody Williams and
GSSW Professor Dr. Brené Brown

When asked what the highlight of the UH GSSW experience has been to date, Professor Williams says that it is impossible to pick one. She states, "The students are making me think about things in different ways. I am growing and learning as much as I hope that they are in this experience." Professor Williams further states that she is thrilled to be co-teaching with Dr. Brené Brown. "She is smart, fun, a tremendous teacher and an absolute joy with whom to work."

Congratulations
UH GSSW
Agencies for Gerontology
Intercultural Field Training
(AGIFT)
on the #1
(truly outstanding)
final review rating
by
The John A. Hartford
Foundation
Board of Trustees

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN COLBY

GSSW Dean's Advisory Council

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Baylor Geriatric Medicine Associates
GSSW Alumna '95

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Ruth Brodsky
Community Volunteer

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Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

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Cecile Keeper
GSSW Alumna '78

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Houston Endowment, Inc.

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Foley's

Jerri Workman
Heights Education Project
GSSW Alumna '89

Ira C. Colby, Dean

The Texas State Legislature, during its Spring 2003 session, sharply reduced funding to programs and services throughout the state. As a state agency, funding for the University of Houston was dramatically reduced as well—the university's budget has been reduced by approximately \$12 million per year. In addition to the reduction in state support, the university must address the following issues.



Dean
Ira C. Colby

- The university's utility costs increased annually by \$3.5 million since the 2002-2003 bi-annum budget.
- As a direct result of Tropical Storm Allison, the university's cost for insurance increased by \$3.5 million annually.
- Governor Perry vetoed the university's Tier I funding, which amounts to a loss of \$6.7 million in revenue that supported the hiring of additional faculty.
- The Legislature's reduction resulted in the elimination of \$1.9 million for the university's health insurance coverage for part-time faculty and graduate teaching assistants.
- The university is required to pay full funding for tuition revenue bond debt service, \$1.5 million, which had been covered by the state.

The University of Houston and its 14 colleges, including the GSSW, are actively seeking alternative sources to replace the lost revenue. To address the Texas State Legislature's budget reduction, the University of Houston adopted a two-fold strategy. First, the budgets of all UH colleges, including the GSSW, were reduced by 5 percent. As dean, I chose not to eliminate faculty or staff positions to meet the budget cut; as a result, by taking GSSW faculty and staff salaries off the table, the funds available to meet the mandated budget cut are reduced and actually increase the original 5 percent to an 18 percent reduction in operating funds.

Second, the University of Houston System's Board of Regents announced earlier this semester a \$19 per credit hour tuition increase to take effect in January 2004. The estimated revenue that will be generated by the Regents' action enables the university to compensate for some of the lost state appropriations while increasing financial assistance for undergraduate and graduate students, meeting the increased utilities and property insurance expenses, and providing faculty and staff a modest salary increase (2.5 percent for faculty and 4 percent for staff).

However, revenue from the January 2004 designated tuition increase will not come directly to the GSSW. Essentially, the new designated tuition will help to pay university-wide infrastructure costs. The reduction in funding by the Texas State Legislature comes at a time when it should provide increased funding. University and GSSW enrollments are at historic highs with approximately 36,000 students across the campus and nearly 450 students in the GSSW.

Last spring, in meetings with students, we discussed the fiscal crisis and its potential impact at UH and the GSSW. The challenge before us is to empower ourselves to take control of our fiscal life and not be solely dependent on the Texas State Legislature. All state agencies, including the University of Houston, are now feeling the brunt of the Legislature's fiscal actions. While the public sector reconfigures its programs and services, one particular message is clear – the Texas State Legislature no longer is supporting public education, in particular professional graduate education.

SCHOLARSHIP EVENT PLANNED

Clear your calendars! Alert the family and friends! There's going to be a "big bash" in late March 2004 that will provide food, fun, elegance, glamour, heartwarming vignettes about social work, and a chance to support scholarships for our school. It will be held in the ballroom of The Aquarium downtown, with its breathtaking nighttime view of the skyline. We will salute Foley's for many decades of community support for social services and volunteer leadership as well as Nancy Frees Fountain, a local leader in the field of philanthropy. The co-chairs for the evening are a mother-daughter team: alumna Laura Canion Chiles and Cam Canion. Our goal is to raise \$133,000 for student support (that spells s-c-h-o-l-a-r-s-h-i-p-s) for the GSSW and the American Humanics program. This will be the third fund-raising Scholarship Gala. Once again it will be offered officially by the Dean's Advisory Council and our GSSW Alumni Association. Student representatives are also helping to shape it and will be a large part of the program.

In 2002, we entertained close to 250 folks in the UH Alumni Center. The chair was Houston businessman/activist Victor Samuels, and we honored longtime community mover-and-shaker Jonathan Day. We netted more than \$100,000. As a result of that success, the school has been able to offer more dollars-in-aid to more students, including outstanding folks from out-of-state.

We are seeking underwriters starting at \$15,000, \$10,000, \$5000 and \$2500 and including other levels of giving. We are discovering that there are constituencies in Houston who know that investing in the highest quality professional education affects quality of life in our city. Philanthropists, community board members, corporate partners, affluent alumni and their families—we need everyone's attention this Fall as we start our fund-raising. Contact Barbara Henley (bhenley@uh.edu) or Mary Guillory (mguillory@uh.edu) for more information.

AMERICAN HUMANICS CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

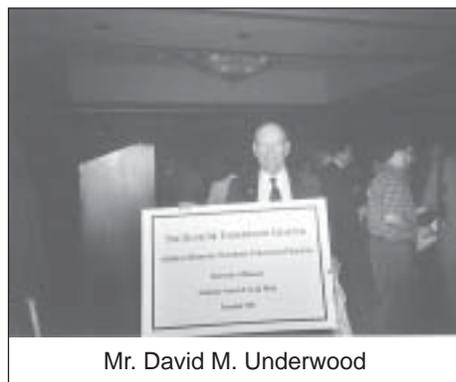
The American Humanics Nonprofit Certificate Program held its Tenth Birthday Celebration highlighting *Ten Years of Impact* in the Houston Community. The event was held at the Inter-Continental Hotel Galleria with more than 200 students, families, and honored guests in attendance. Mr. Lee Hogan, a University of Houston Presidential Award winner, served as the keynote speaker. The AH program and the Graduate School of Social Work honored its founding donor by announcing the renaming of the program as *The David M. Underwood Chapter, American Humanics Nonprofit Certificate Program*.

Founded in 1993 through a generous start-up grant from Mr. David M. Underwood, the UH American Humanics program has become a national model for new urban university programs. The American Humanics

Nonprofit Certificate Program is the undergraduate "outreach" program which extends the GSSW's mission to prepare professionals for human services. The program certifies students to become entry level managers in nonprofit organizations through academic and experiential requirements that arm them with the competencies needed to be successful. As a national program partnered with over 80 universities across the country, American Humanics, Inc. has been certifying college students since 1948. The program director, Margaret O'Donnell, an alumna of the GSSW, works with the national office to provide orientation and training for new directors of other campus programs.

To earn the nationally recognized certificate, undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students from a variety of majors must complete a rigorous set of requirements based on competencies in the areas of program planning and evaluation, board and committee development, fund-raising principles, general nonprofit management, marketing and financial management. Students must complete 15 semester credit hours of academic courses and over 50 hours of non-credit workshops.

In its first 10 years, the AH program at the GSSW has enrolled more than 300 students, placed almost 200 student interns and successfully certified 135 nonprofit professionals. Our graduates find positions within numerous Houston-area social service agencies. Over 20 percent of AH students are accepted to the GSSW program and a full 35 percent of our certified students go on to graduate degrees. For more information call Margaret O'Donnell, LMSW-ACP at (713) 743-8137.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Andy Achenbaum delivered a speech for The Senior Source, Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas (SAGE) in September. His topic was "What Aesop's Fables Can Tell Us about Growing Older."

Patti Aldredge has accepted an invitation to serve as the GSSW Student Association Faculty Advisor for the 2003-04 academic year.

Gerson David spent three weeks on a study trip to Japan in July. He held discussions with social work educators affiliated with Japan College of Social Work, Sophia University Division of Social Work, Japan Lutheran College Department of Social Work and with social scientists on the staff of the Japan Aging Research Center in Tokyo. Discussions led to consensus on the significant role of spirituality and religion and its impact on well-being, health, and longevity in global aging.

Maxine Weinman Epstein has recently published the following articles: "The associations of family support, resiliency, and depression symptoms among indigent adolescents attending a family planning clinic" in *Psychological Reports*; "Targeting males for teenage pregnancy prevention in a school setting" in the *School Social Work Journal*; and "Young fathers: An analysis of risk behaviors and service needs" in *The Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

Barbara Henley delivered a talk entitled "Children in Trouble- Some Answers, Twenty Years of Research by the Search Institute" as a guest at an international workshop at Kyoto University in Japan in May.

Jean Kantambu Latting received the Houston Alumni Organization's Outstanding Faculty Award. She was honored at the HAO Annual Meeting on

November 8, 2003. Dr. Latting is the recipient of a grant to continue work on *Creating Personal and Organizational Change in the Context of Differences*. Dr. Latting has an article in press entitled "Promoting service quality and client adherence to the service plan: The role of top management's support for innovation and learning" in *Administration in Social Work*.

Mary Lewis is a member of the Board of Directors of Houston's New Project DOCC (Delivery of Chronic Care) being implemented at Baylor College of Medicine. DOCC's objective is to educate people (especially professionals) about the impact of chronic illnesses and disabilities on families and communities. Dr. Lewis also serves on the coordinating committee for the joint MSW/MPH degree program which the GSSW has with the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Patrick Leung has been elected to the CSWE Board of Directors for 2003-2006.

He recently spoke on "Social Work Practice with Asian American Families in Health Care Settings" at the Annual State Conference for the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care-Texas Chapter on September 23. Dr. Leung presented at the 11th Annual Case Management Society of America Educational Conference in September, as well.

Sandra Lopéz delivered a talk entitled "Suicide Assessment and Intervention" at the Annual State Conference for the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care, Texas Chapter.

Ellen Stevens-Roseman has an article entitled "Working for a Living: Senior Adults as Contributors to Jewish Community" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*.



(L-R) University of Chicago President Charles Randel, Edith Abbott Award recipient Dr. Gerson David and Dean Edward Lawlor of the School of Social Service Administration

GERSON DAVID, PH.D HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Gerson David, Ph.D., a member of the founding faculty of the GSSW, has been recognized by the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration as its 2003 Distinguished Alumnus. He was presented with the Edith Abbott Award on June 7 in Chicago. The award was established to recognize UC SSA alumni for distinguished service to society and for outstanding professional contributions at the local, national and international levels. The tribute honors exceptional leadership in an agency or within a community; meaningful contributions through research or publications; or creativity demonstrated by traditional, non-traditional, or innovative approaches to practice. The text of Dr. David's acceptance speech can be accessed at: www.sw.uh.edu/newsEvents/past/edithabbottchicago.htm

*Dean Ira C. Colby
and the faculty of the
University of Houston
Graduate School of
Social Work
are pleased to
announce
the reaffirmation of
accreditation of its
Master's Degree in
Social Work Program
by the
Council on Social Work
Education
July 2003
through
February 2010*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

Scholars and Scholarships—A Hit at the GSSW Alumni Association Annual Meeting

The topic was "Privatization and the Liberal Agenda" and the insight was vintage George Magner, as GSSW Alumni were treated to an evening of "wit and wisdom" from our resident professor and Senior Vice President Emeritus of Social Work at the annual GSSW Alumni Association meeting. Hosted by The Terrace at West University, the 85 alumni, GSSW faculty and staff enjoyed a wonderful meal, had the opportunity to re-connect with old friends, all the while earning 1.5 CEUs!

Our annual meeting gives us a chance to bring our membership together, to recruit new members and promote our activities, one of which is fund-raising for the Charlotte Campbell Scholarship awarded yearly. Named in honor of a longtime, devoted staff member of the GSSW, this scholarship is one way the GSSW Alumni Association works to help current students. At the annual meeting, our generous alumni donated \$300 toward our goal of \$500. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the GSSW Alumni Association Scholarship Fund can contact Amber Mollhagen at (713) 743-8082 or amollhagen@uh.edu.

Your Alumni Association Wants YOU!

Calling all interested GSSW grads.....your Alumni Association is looking for volunteers to serve on committees. What do you get in return? The opportunity to meet some really nice social workers who are never short of an opinion! Other benefits include staying connected to the school and the opportunity to make a difference in how your Alumni Association serves its members and the GSSW.

Tell you more? Committee needs include:

- 1) coordinating alumni sponsored Brown Bag seminars for current students
- 2) working on the Annual Social Work Awards Breakfast
- 3) helping out with scholarship fund-raising
- 4) assisting with our scholarship and award nominations
- 5) planning the annual meeting in August
- 6) developing a new set of social and educational activities for alumni members
- 7) any special projects that may be of service to both current and former students

If you would like to sign up for duty, call Barbara McGinity at work: (713) 341-6184, home: (713) 460-1657, or mcbap@houston.rr.com. We will put you to work ASAP!

GSSW Alumni Association 2003-04 Officers and Board Members

Officers

*Barbara Parrott McGinity ('00)- President
Will Dickey ('02)- Vice President
Amy Blakeney ('00)- Secretary
Agnes Dulin ('02)- Treasurer
Stephanie Foy ('94)- HAO Council Representative*

Board Members

*Rufina Basu ('03)
Jennifer Battle ('98)
Shannon Bishop ('98)
Olga Flores ('01)
Gene Gundersen ('80)
Jane Hoffman ('02)
Sara Lewis ('02)
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Amber Mollhagen ('99)
Ann McFarland ('94)
Michael Roberts ('02)
Sue Schreiber ('03)
Sarah Stricker Stone ('01)
Patricia Sullens ('03)
Eva Thibaudeau-Graczyk ('01)*

**Congratulations GSSW Alumni Association
on receiving
the 2003
Houston Alumni Association
Red Banner Award!**

In the *Spotlight*

2003 Outstanding Field Instructor of the Year Heather Kanenberg

Congratulations to Heather Kanenberg, doctoral student, advocate, policy analyst and field instructor, for being awarded the GSSW "Outstanding Field Instructor of the Year" for 2003! Fifteen field instructors were nominated by GSSW students for the award. Heather was selected because of her sincere dedication to the positive learning experiences she has provided in the areas of policy and advocacy on behalf of children.

Through her work at **Children at Risk**, Heather is a role model in the area of advocacy. Her voice is heard from Houston to Austin on radio, on television, in the *Houston Chronicle* and at the Capitol, advocating for children at risk. She inspires students to get involved with policy and policy-makers, wholeheartedly and fearlessly. By walking side-by-side with her students, Heather helps them gain confidence and skills to promote social justice for Texas' underserved children.

Students describe Heather in the following manner: "She exemplifies social work ethics by promoting social justice and by advocating for change in policy on behalf of children in Houston, Harris County and Texas. She stands up for the most vulnerable and oppressed children living in poverty, and educates organizations and policy makers on children's needs and social problems. She is passionate and makes her arguments based on evidence and social justice, never compromising social work ethics. She does not give up!"

ALUMNI NOTES

Pat Matthes ('76) works for Hospice Support as a Care Education Liaison.

Lee Wunsch ('76) is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

Steve Waldner ('77) is the Regional Director for Sheltering Arms. He brings health care, person care, life line, I&R and elder care services to seniors in the Bay area.

Judy Kajander ('80) was named *Texas School Social Worker of the Year* by the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. Judy is working as a Safe Schools Counselor for Ft. Bend ISD.

Guillermina Ruiz-Bowers ('81) is working as an HISD School Social Worker at Bonner Elementary School.

Meyer Goldberg ('88) is a social worker for Vista Care Hospice.

Dudley Farenthold ('93) works for Noah's Glen Residential Treatment Center. His work focuses on treatment for adult males and adolescents.

Harry Livesay ('94) is working as a social worker/therapist through Memorial Hermann Health Centers for schools in Rosenberg.

Wendy McNamara ('94) is currently Social Service Program Coordinator for Ben Taub Hospital. She has three children, one who was born during her graduate school education. She has a 20-year old son and 9- and 6-year-old girls.

Susan Hitchcock ('97) is working at Women's

Hospital as an NICU Social Worker.

Mark Akerlund ('98) is Houston Coordinator for Social Work PRN since graduation. He is in private practice and reports that he has adopted another cat from the SPCA. He vacations in the Philippines annually at the wonderful beach of Borachay and stops in Agana, Guam as well.

Mark Groblewski ('98) added LMSW-ACP to his name in December 2002 and began private practice in May 2003. He is involved in contract work for Cadwater Behavioral Clinic in the 5th Ward and serves as a board member for NASW.

Babette Howard ('99) is employed as the Director of Social Services at HCR ManorCare Sharpview, a skilled nursing facility. She and her 6-year-old son are doing great!

Kathleen Crist ('01) is Director of Social Services for the Houston Area Parkinson Society.

Sonia Kotecha ('01) has moved back to Washington, DC! She is a social worker with Foundations First Home Care where she loves working with families and children.

Melissa Simon ('01) is working at Associated Catholic Charities as the Grant Coordinator.

Will Dickey ('02) has recently formed Immigrant Hope Network (IHN), a nonprofit corporation, where he serves as Executive Director. IHN provides immigrants legal

assistance and linkage to social services to facilitate transition especially for lower income immigrants in Houston and the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region.

Richard Dole ('02) was married on 2/14/03 to Maria Antoinetta Guittierez and moved to Friendswood. He is currently working as a substance abuse counselor at Our Daily Bread, a day drop-in-shelter on Galveston Island. The agency is a satellite of St. John's Christus Hospital and was the model for SEARCH in Houston.

Christine Kobes ('02) is a Guidance Counselor with St. Edward Catholic School in Spring, TX.

Ph.D Students Honored

Banghwa Lee Casado ('00) has been awarded the CSWE Minority Doctoral Fellowship.

Leslie Raneri was awarded the Training and Technical Assistance Internship at the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau, in Maryland for the summer 2003.

GSSW C&F ALUMNI

Volunteers needed for completion of confidential research survey!

If you graduated from the GSSW in the last four years with a concentration in C&F and would like to participate, please contact:

Trish Taylor
(713) 743-8081
ptaylor2@mail.uh.edu

PARTNERSHIP ADDRESSES HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is a global epidemic. The U.S. Department of State estimates that as many as 900,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked worldwide annually, including as many as 20,000 persons into the United States. Human trafficking involves the recruiting, transporting, or harboring of individuals to unlawfully and unwillingly perform labor. Types of forced labor involved include prostitution and sexual services, domestic labor, agricultural or field labor, servile marriage and work in “sweatshops.” Victims often have few resources, fear for their lives, and are faced with language limitations and little understanding of the legal and social service systems in the United States.

In Houston, YMCA International Services was awarded funding by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime to provide comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking. The Trafficked Persons Assistance Program offers housing, counseling, legal assistance, medical treatment, safety planning, case

management, and ongoing support to victims. The program also works to increase awareness, rights and options for victims, and the availability of victim assistance.

YMCA International has partnered with the UH Graduate School of Social Work’s Office of Community Projects to complete a human trafficking community needs assessment in order to better understand the needs of victims in Houston, the resources available, and the barriers and gaps in services. The results will guide future victim assistance and outreach efforts. Local service providers will receive questionnaires addressing their experiences with victims. Service providers who have assisted someone who may be a victim are asked to contact YMCA International Services for possible inclusion in this group. The project will also include interviews with victims of human trafficking. Participants will be compensated for their time, and interviews will be anonymous and confidential. For information, contact Jennifer Katial at (713) 339-9015 ext. 312.

By Jennifer Katial, GSSW Alumna

Memories of Helen Kapiloff from UH-GSSW

By Barbara Henley

The Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston has reason to be grateful to Helen Kapiloff for having been one of the “movers and shakers” in the ‘60s who convinced the legislature that Houston needed this school. That was so typical of Helen. She “walked the walk” when it came to causes in which she believed. She picked up the phone, she rode to Austin, she button-holed the “people in charge” and she shook that elegant finger as she spoke eloquently for her beliefs. She taught a lot of social workers how to “be political” long before the GSSW instituted “Political Social Work” as its innovative second year field of concentration. When she turned 70, friends underwrote a “Kapiloff Lecture” bringing a national health care social worker to Houston. The school chose to continue the Kapiloff Lecture series for another nine years, in recognition of Helen’s respect for the delivery of professional, comprehensive, high quality health services through interdisciplinary teamwork. Her influence on social work in Houston will endure, even though we do not have her incisive ideas to draw upon in person. We miss her!

ALUMNI UPDATE FORM: Bring us up-to-date!

Name _____ Year Graduated _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to receive email updates and announcements from the GSSW. Please add my email address to the Alumni Distribution List.

I would like to join the GSSW Alumni Association. Please send me information on how to join.

I prefer to receive the *Connections* newsletter:

Via email

In print

Please clip and send information to University of Houston, GSSW, 237 Social Work Building, Houston, TX 77204-4013 or email to gsswalum@sw.uh.edu

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Connections is a semi-annual publication of the GSSW Office of Alumni and Career Services. Its purpose is to link the GSSW with alumni and the social work community.

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| Development | (713) 743-3599 |
| Alumni Relations | (713) 743-8071 |

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Connections can be accessed online at
www.sw.uh.edu/alumni/newsletter.htm

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Alumni
Networking Events
To Be Announced

Annual
Social Work Awards
Breakfast
March 5, 2004

GSSW Scholarship
Fund-raising Event
March 30, 2004

Underwood Lecture
April 22, 2004

Continuing Education
Class Information
can be accessed at
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