



2008–2009

REFLECTIONS

CHICAGO/SSA/CENTENNIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

Judith Spiegler Adler	1
Sy Adler	2
Richard Bennett	3
Caroline Corkey Bollinger	5
Ruth Onken Bournazian	7
D. Michael Coy	8
Peter M. Chapman	11
Betty Dayron	13
Marjorie Robinson Eckels	15
Freny R. Gandhi	17
Jeffrey Glick	18
Sheila Black Haennicke	20
Barbara LeVine Heyman	21
Joan Wall Hirnisey	24
Mary Kaess	26
Charles Larsen	29
Alan Leavitt	30
Christian (Chris) Ledley (Elliot)	32
Laurie Levi	35
Lambert Maguire	36
Winifred Olsen DeVos McLaughlin	38
Brent Meyer	41
Camille Quinn	42
Dianne Monica Rhein	44
Annie Rosenthal	46
Ann Rothschild	48
Jerome Smith	49
Renee Zeff Sullivan	50
John H. Vanderlind	51
Melodye L. Watson	53
Betty Kiralfy Weinberger	54
Paul Widem	56
Vernon R. Wiehe	58
Anonymous	59

.....
| FRIENDS |
.....

Thomas J. Doyle 60

.....
| STUDENTS |
.....

Ashley Cureton 63
Karen Davis-Johnson 65
Hang Raun 67
Terence Simms 69
Anonymous 71

Judith Spiegler Adler **A.M. '61**

| ALUMNA |

I graduated from SSA in '61 with an A.M., after having graduated from the University of Chicago College with a B.A. in '59. I had a 25 year career as a school social worker, which SSA prepared me well for. I was able to fulfill the multiple roles of a school social worker. Five days before my 60th birthday, I completed a Ph.D. in social work at Fordham University in Gerontology. However, I continued as a school social worker for a while longer, then I began to teach, first at Fordham, then at the College of New Rochelle. One of the “highs” of my social work career was in developing a mini-course/workshop, introducing young students to older people at a local assisted living site, where my 92 year old mother resided. Besides work, and raising four children, one of whom became a social worker, my life's love has been in developing my musical interests. My continuing interest is in developing bridges across the generations.

Sy Adler
A.M. '58

I met and married my wife Barbara (see Fingold) at SSA and we graduated together. She was a far better social worker than I. Our marriage lasted 46 years, produced three daughters, all MSW's and 8 grandchildren. Barb passed away four years ago after a long illness. Perhaps some of your luncheon companions will remember her. Like me, I know she would have enjoyed getting together and reminiscing about old school days. You are to be commended for working so hard to put the luncheon together. I don't know if Gertrude Lloyd will be part of the group. She acted as matchmaker in bringing Barb and me together. Best wishes to all for a successful event.

Richard Bennett

A.M. '62

I was fortunate to have both Charlotte Towle and Dr. Helen Harris Perlman as instructors. Towle taught me compassion for people and Perlman taught me the science of therapy.

Over the years I have served in many capacities both in Administration and Individual Therapy. Now at 74 I am continuing a full time practice, taking more classes and writing and doing research. Along the way I was a member of the first Indiana Licensing Board for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, serving two terms as Chairman. I didn't know what the word extrapolating meant but I do now.

I also earned a non accredited Ph.D. degree in Alternative Health which gave me some insights beyond the Medical Model. My thesis for that degree, "The Brief Therapy Treatment Planner," was later issued a patent and is now marketable to skilled therapists including Social Workers.

When I graduated from SSA I thought I had the world by the tail. Not so. No one has ever asked me what my grades were, the fact that I graduated from SSA was sufficient. But I constantly was nagged by the question, "What really is a Social Worker?" To find out I took hundreds of credit hours in Anatomy, Psychology, Religion, Math and Science. I have enough hours, except a thesis for a Ph.D. in Psychology.

When I came upon the idea of "Pattern Theory" I knew that I had found my answer. Our behavior patterns are developed before age 8 and we hold on to them dearly. I was able to research this with my patent, the BTTP and Dr. Jeannette Norden from Vanderbilt University taught me the development of behavior patterns happen in the brain. What a relief I finally figured out what I was really doing.

So here I sit at 74 working full time in private practice, seeing mostly violent clients, doing workshops and crisis

debriefing. I also find time to write: have done a work book for ADHD adults, and a little book on licensing which points out that Alabama has the most accurate licensing law for social workers. I just finished another little book called *Satin Susan and her Therapeutic Escapades*, (a bit of a parody on every thing therapeutic) and am now working on two books, *Pattern Theory* and *The Diagnosis and Treatment of Pedophiles*.

In conclusion, my body is tired but my brain is having lots of fun and the launch from SSA has given me courage to stand up for what I believe as well as to tolerate managed care.

Caroline Corkey Bollinger

A.M. '62

I entered SSA in the fall of 1960. I liked the diversity in the city of Chicago and my grandmother obtained her Ph.D. in the early 20th century from the University of Chicago. My introduction to Chicago campus began with the train station and the taxi drive along State Street to the locked door at Foster Graduate Residence. Of course I eventually was able to open the door and begin my professional training in social work at Cobb Hall SSA. Outstanding teachers such as Charlotte Towle, Helen Harris Pearlman, and Marylou Aiken challenged me to learn and advance my skills working with children, families, and adults in their internal and external world. In my internships at Children's Memorial Hospital and Michael Reese Mental Health Clinic, I benefited from the supervision of Elizabeth Butler and Mae Chase respectively. I also traveled with a group of students from SSA to Germany under the leadership of Suzanne Schultz and the sponsorship of the German government. We studied children's programs and health facilities. Especially memorable was the city of Berlin separated from Western Germany by the tensions existing between Russia and the United States.

Now I am working as a clinician in private practice with children, families, couples and individuals. I also am an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, and teach in the first and second year of the medical school. The emphasis has been on the emotional components of illness and the strengths of individuals as they confront a variety of diagnosis. In addition, I have supervised many social work interns from the University of Denver School of Social Work and the Smith College School of Social Work.

I give to my community of Denver through providing Pro Bono services to Senior Support Services, an agency sponsored by Mental Health America. I also sit on the board of Denver

Sister Cities International where I have held a number of leadership positions.

In this world of global relationships, the significance of SSA has constantly provided a solid ground upon which I have been able to grow as a clinical social worker and to be involved as an international participant in the world. It is not an accident that these two themes present themselves in my life. I spent the first ten years of my life in China with two and a half of those years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp 1942 – 1945. I then lived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the home of my father, before moving to North Carolina where my father taught at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and my mother was a public health physician with the Mecklenburg Public Health Department.

Education included high school at Westtown Friends School, 1953. Randolph Macon Woman's College, Virginia B.A. 1957, a year at the University of Edinburg, Scotland, SSA University of Chicago A.M. 1962 and Smith College School of Social Work, Massachusetts 1986. I began working as a caseworker in the Mecklenburg Department of Welfare in 1958 and now 51 years later I am still working in the field of clinical social work. Learning from the changes in the field has contributed to the enthusiasm I still feel for this career choice.

During the last four years I have been my husband's caretaker. With the help of a Phillipino couple I was able to give without reservation and benefit from this commitment before he died in November 2008.

In summary, I feel SSA has been an invaluable experience in setting a standard for my career as a social worker. This career has also taught me the value of personal relationships and the importance of investment in them. At this point I can say this life has been worth living.

Ruth Onken Bournazian **PH.D., A.M. '58**

Most positive memories of SSA for me start with Wilma Walker and her untiring efforts to make it possible for me to attend SSA on a NIMH Scholarship. She was committed to getting me, a second year transplant from New York City, to Chicago. A decision that proved indispensable to my social work career.

Early morning casework classes first with Dorothy Aiken and then with Bernice Simon gave me the solid foundation I needed to elicit and to analyze case material and to formulate treatment plans. Little did I realize at the time that I was also developing an appreciation for high standards in social work education. I wanted to be just like them. After returning to the East Coast, I sought jobs that would encourage my further education and would give me an opportunity to practice teaching social work students. Five years as a field instructor gave me exposure to two schools of social work and led to a position at the New York University School of Social Work as an assistant to the director of field work. After an interruption for marriage and two children, I took a position with the Rutgers University School of Social Work. There, as a part time casework adjunct, the incentive to go on for my Ph.D. was born.

My association with Rutgers over the years was in various capacities in the classroom, in curriculum development and in research, all culminating with my appointment as Assistant Dean and Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development. This position provided opportunity to set standards and to raise standards for social workers wishing to extend their education beyond the master's level. In addition, I was president of the New Jersey Chapter of NASW for two years and Chairperson of the Eastern Regional Coalition to Delegate Assembly. Working with others social workers on behalf of social workers gave immeasurable gratification. This commitment was initiated by the faculty and administration of SSA starting in 1958. Thank you.

D. Michael Coy

A.M. '06

After a period of time at my recently acquired position as a residential psychotherapist at the Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN), I have come to understand how much I appreciate the wealth of resources to which I was exposed at SSA.

Most of my colleagues hail from other social work schools in Chicago—the balance coming from a local school of professional psychology, and it strikes me how very different our educational backgrounds are. Until now, I really did not appreciate how well poised I—in relation to others who attended competing schools—was to do the work in which I currently engage.

I feel that the materials to which I enjoyed access, the theoretical approaches to which I was exposed, and the various practice tools to which I was introduced—combined, certainly, with both my enthusiasm for the material and my underlying commitment to effect socially equitable change—gave me the best professional underpinnings I could have hoped for. As a practitioner who has only just entered his infancy, I have begun to develop into an advocate and agent of change who knows not only how to search for resources to inform his practice, but who also understands how to organize those resources into a practice framework. I feel strongly that I could not have received the same training anywhere else—and certainly not in Chicago—but at SSA.

I have been in a position, rather frequently as of late, to provide research and other practice-related resources both to my fellow therapists as well as to the paraprofessionals with whom I collaborate in our collective work. The only word I can think of to describe how I feel in this work is “competent”. I have no illusions that I am a brilliant therapist. That said, I feel that I am fairly comfortable with “not knowing” in my

work with clients—of being willing to engage in the mutual process of discovery that one enters into as matter of course. The therapeutic process is fraught with twists, turns, and surprises—both pleasant and not so pleasant—and I believe that the selection of practice and theory courses at SSA, on the whole, gave me an invaluable starting point in my professional work. It seems rare that I have any answers, but I am not at all afraid to ask the difficult questions.

From a policy-related standpoint—and I note there that I did not take the administrative path at SSA—I feel that the resources afforded me by SSA were invaluable. I have nothing but positive things to say about the policy course requirements in the core curriculum. I involved myself heavily in community organizing and outreach before I entered SSA; I maintained that involvement while in school; and, I continue to develop those passions both through policy change at the institutional level and through my outside interests in marrying micro and macro practice. My work at SSA, both in the classroom and in my field placements, has heavily influenced how I think about organizing and policy change.

SSA introduced me to colleagues who are some of the most brilliant and passionate people I have ever known, a number of whom I am honored, now, to know as close friends. SSA also introduced to me some of the most thoughtful, knowledgeable, and supportive professors I could ever have imagined. Finally, select administrators and staff were constantly supportive, and made life at SSA bearable at those times when I felt weary of it all.

The great irony in all of this is that, just as the grass always seems greener on the other side, SSA never seemed to me then what it seems now. When I think back to the SSA experience, I am so very happy with the education I received—the variety of school-related headaches I endured notwithstanding. I am not alone in this appraisal. Contemporaries of mine at SSA have agreed that they could not have received the SSA education

anywhere else. Admittedly, no educational institution is perfect, and none can be all things to all people, but I do think that SSA makes a commendable and largely successful effort at providing both breadth and depth in its programs.

Basically, my two extremely intense years at SSA made me a better practitioner, a better advocate, and a better person. I cannot put a price tag on any of those things. (If only the federal government were equally unwilling!)

To current and future SSA alums I have only bit of sage advice: Listen very closely to Michael Jogerst—he knows of what he speaks!

Peter M. Chapman

A.M. '86

I was accepted to SSA in 1984, at the age of 24; I celebrated my 48th birthday last month, so SSA has been a part of my life for half of it. The better half, I may add.

I graduated in 1986, 22 years ago; I fully expect to work until I am 70 years old, 22 years from now. The good Lord willing, I am precisely in the middle of my career. It's a good time to reflect on my relationship with my alma mater. My point will be that SSA has abundantly provided me with the means to address the ambiguities and inconsistencies inherent in clinical social work.

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the poor slobs of the world, and I tend to be a contrarian, so that (for example) my Christian faith includes a respect for Judas Iscariot and I no longer go to church. I also graduated (in 1982) from the College, so I came to SSA with some personal attachment and commitment to the University of Chicago and its ideals—or at least what I then thought to be its ideals, including myself as “the University of Chicago man.” I was quite young and awfully naïve, to begin. I had no particular dream of being a social worker; in fact, I had only the vaguest notion of what social work might be. I knew that I wanted to have a Master's degree, and I knew that I wanted to have a chance to make some favorable difference in the lives of other people. I have since come to understand that social work, and my professional role as a social worker, give me the daily opportunity to respond to that Christian commandment, to care for my neighbor. I may or may not be able to help another human being—I don't entirely agree when social work is called a “helping profession”—but I can listen, and care, and do my best to understand. That is the fundamental skill that SSA has helped me develop. It's also the fundamental need that one person can meet for another.

At SSA, I learned to think about the larger picture, by studying family systems and government policy and research

practices. My classmates and I trained ourselves by taking the topics from any given class and talking about them in that great open lobby that makes the SSA building such a great place to learn. My education was not strong on technical information; I left SSA without any training in addictions, and addiction treatment became my specialty as soon as I started earning a living. But I learned how to learn there, and that has been the best education I can imagine.

A few years ago, during a minor crisis in my career, I re-affirmed my commitment to SSA by joining the Board of the Alumni Association. Today, more than ever, SSA is a true source of support for me in my personal and professional commitment to social work.

Betty Dayron A.M. '64

I made the decision to become a Social Worker when doing a career booklet in sixth grade, based largely on positive experiences with MSW's at my summer camp. I came to SSA in the fall of 1962 with a brand new A.B. in Psychology and a brand new wedding ring. (My then husband was already a U. of C. student and I got quite wonderful funding from the school.)

As a student I tended to be pretty quiet. I was known as one of the two "girls" in the school (one was in the class of '61) who wore blue jeans to class. We were "from the East " and so, I guess, excused for our strange ways. I had a stressful first year field placement at the VA West Side hospital and then a wonderful second year thanks to Laura Epstein, my field instructor at what was then called Child and Family Services... No, not Jewish Child and Family Services, the agency merged from Jewish Family and Community Service and Jewish Children's Bureau, from which I retired last December... This was a Foster Care and Homemaker Service agency. Watching Laura do a live interview and seeing her be both very professional and so very human at the same time was an unforgettable experience.

I was fortunate to learn Casework I from Charlotte Towle and Casework II from Helen Harris Perlman. That was in Cobb Hall, when its insides matched its outsides. I participated in a group research project headed by Frank Brull and Harold Richman that had something to do with Public Aid in Bloom Township. I remember that the winter the first year was colder than anything I had ever imagined.

SSA taught me the basics and the need to "use myself" and to get to know myself; a good foundation for my 43 year clinical and administrative career at JFCS and then JCFS. SSA provided a quality education and powerful reinforcement of my beliefs in the value, dignity, and specialness of every person. I remember writing a paper there on "Self

Determination” (those were pre “empowerment” days, but the point remains.)

Over the years I have taken summer PDP classes at SSA, in clinical work, supervision, management, etc. I have attended lectures and class reunions and have spent some years as a Field Instructor. I’m just starting a term on the Alumni Board. I am pleased to be phasing into retirement partly by reconnecting to the school community in a more intense way. The Centennial is an exciting time. SSA has an important past, an impressive present and looks forward to an exciting future. I look forward to being a part of it.

Marjorie Robinson Eckels A.M. '43

As I read through the Centennial issue of the *SSA Magazine*, I realized that I had unique experiences when I was a student in the 1942 – 43 class. I received my A.M. in December, 1943.

Not only was I a member of the last class taught by Edith Abbott (I believe it was Public Service Administration), I had as my thesis advisor the venerable Sophonisba Breckinridge who held forth on the top floor of the Harper Library and tried to persuade me to continue my studies toward a Ph.D. (I was headed homeward to be married on 1/1/44). I also had a class with Charlotte Towle who must have used notes from her book *Common Human Needs* in her lectures. I remember her emphasis on psychotherapy.

My experience also involved Wilma Walker, Dean of Students. She assisted me in transferring from Chicago Theological Seminary to SSA, and helped me to obtain part-time employment as an assistant to Dean Helen Wright's bedridden mother—then in her 90's. Her mind was very lively and she relished doing Crosstix puzzles in the *N. Y. Times*. My job was to assist her in looking up words in an immense bedside dictionary!

In addition, I had a rewarding placement in the public agency dealing with AFDC cases (I've forgotten the supervisor's name, but she was a dynamo!) Best of all I had a child welfare placement under the supervision of Ethel Verry, Director of the Chicago Orphan Asylum.

All through the years I have followed the trajectory of SSA with much interest and pride, though I have never had the opportunity to return to campus. My work for many years was in the child welfare field. I am now retired, and at age 87 I am doing volunteer work. I am an avid fan of SSA.

A final note of interest: At one time I assisted Charlotte Weiser in assembling her memoir. (I believe she wrote a book called *Behind Mud Walls* about her experiences in India.)

We discovered that she was an early student of Edith Abbott when the school was known as the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, while I was in Abbott's last class.

Freny R. Gandhi
A.M. '55

I graduated in 1955. I returned to India to join the same Agency where I was working before my SSA training. This is a Zoroastrian Family service agency working in the field of Health, Education and Welfare. My position was Senior Social Worker and Consultant. In 1962 to 1963 I attended the School of Social Work, a pioneer post graduate center, in Mangalore (S.I. India). In 1963 to 1970 I was in Canada as Senior Social Worker in St. Joseph Hospital, Hamilton. Returned to India in 1980 and since then I have been working as an Honorary Consultant in different welfare agencies in Bombay and Ahmedabad. For the last 20 years my services are Honorary !! I am 80! But fairly active and alert. I have traveled all over India and abroad—East, West, North, South, etc. I exist on a Canadian pension of two hundred dollars per month !! I live with my sister aged 88 getting along well and contented.

Best wishes to SSA—anyone from SSA is welcome to my home, in Mumbai. The name of Bombay is changed to Mumbai for the last 10 years.

Jeffrey Glick

A.M. '75

When I graduated college, the United States was in tumult because of the Vietnam War and changing values. I was determined to “make a difference” and headed off to SSA to learn how. Driving my VW camper across country to U. of C., I moved into International House, hoping for a Spanish speaking roommate to improve my Spanish, but instead being placed with a really great guy—from Quincy, Illinois. Once classes began at SSA, I quickly changed my focus from casework to group work, then community organization and ended up in policy under the vision of Dr. Harold Richman.

My experiences at SSA and in the city of Chicago were truly enlightening. Classes opened up for me the worlds of direct intervention and policy implementation as a means of improving the lives of so many. Some of my fondest memories are sitting in a class on youth gangs with Dr. Spergel telling us about “real” gang intervention, not the West Side Story variety, and Dr. Richman teaching us ways to develop and implement federal and state social policy that is both rational and humane.

My field placements opened up Chicago to me, both its beauty and ugliness. I experienced life in the gleaming corporate world through my field placement at CNA and still strongly believe in the practice of corporate responsibility benefiting both company and community. I experienced the realities of federal government intervention through my placement at the HEW, Region V office, helping to implement a new initiative in child abuse prevention and detection.

In 1975, my two years at SSA came to a close and I was looking forward to graduation. Then Vietnam fell and I found myself missing graduation (I still regret this) and going to work for my Regional Director from HEW, Region V, at a Vietnamese refugee camp for 17,000 refugees. There I got an unexpected taste of the disaster business and really never looked back. Most of my professional career has been at the

Federal Emergency Management Agency, and I have worked just about every major flood, hurricane, earthquake or other disaster this nation has experienced since the mid-1980's including Hurricane Andrew, the Columbia shuttle disaster, the great Midwest floods of 1992, September 11 (see my article in *SSA Magazine*, March 2002), and Katrina.

Through it all, I have found that a core of what I rely on in disaster work comes from SSA, with that body of knowledge learned in school, honed by experience. Whether I am worrying about the mental distress of disaster caseworkers, causing me to reach back to my independent study under Dr. Laura Epstein and task centered casework, or trying to implement new disaster policy and thinking back to the lectures by Dr. Richman, SSA gave me that foundation which has held me in good stead all these years. Interestingly, while having taken an unusual career path for an SSA graduate, looking back, it seems like such a natural fit.

| ALUMNA |

Sheila Black Haennicke
A.M. '86

In the course of my 22-year career in social services in Chicago, I have worked in every aspect of the field, from casework to advocacy, public policy to research, staff development to communications. I have enjoyed a rich work life, thanks to the excellent education and internships I experienced at SSA. With knowledge of theory, and good on-the-job training, I left SSA with a solid background that helped me in many ways, including how to recognize quality work in both the clinical and administrative arenas. That knowledge has helped me choose quality employers. The degree I earned has always been highly regarded, and I believe it has opened doors for me.

The other legacy I have from SSA is a connection to many other social service professionals in Chicago. Some of these professionals are my friends from the class of 1986. Most are members of other classes from eras before and after the one I spent at 969 E. 60th Street. The thing we all have in common is the broad perspective that SSA instilled in us, and that, I believe, has helped build a great social service system in this city. I am proud of the past, present, and future of SSA, and grateful to be part of it.

Barbara LeVine Heyman **A.M. '57**

While an undergraduate student at Northwestern University's Evanston campus, I lived at home and worked part time in the Medical Records department of Evanston Hospital. My job each day was to collect all the medical records of recently discharged patients from each nursing station in the hospital and return them to Medical Records Department for collating, filing, and cataloging by the staff.

My daily rounds gave me the opportunity to know many of the hospital's staff and departments, including the hospital's small social work department and its then director, Goldie Pugh. At the time, I didn't really know much about social work and what it entailed in a hospital setting, but, over time, I learned from reading the charts and asking questions of the social work staff. At the time, I had no idea what I was going to do after graduation, or what possible job opportunities there were out there in the world for someone with a Bachelor's degree in sociology!

When Miss Pugh asked me about my plans after graduation, I told her that I was going to Europe for the summer, my parents' graduation gift to me. Without even discussing it with me, she quickly put in a call to the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and set up an appointment for me with Miss Alice James, who was then in charge of the medical social work placements for incoming students. Since I had never been on the University of Chicago campus, my father drove me down for my appointment with Miss James. We had a very comfortable conversation as she described for me what enrolling in their Master's degree program entailed. I told her it sounded very interesting to me but there was no way I could consider applying unless there was financial help available, and informed her about my upcoming trip. She provided me with the necessary information I needed to apply for admission to the school as well as to apply for financial help. I thanked her

for the time she had spent with me and, after completing and submitting the necessary forms, I was soon off on my trip.

I was having a wonderful time on my travels, with little or no thought about what I would be doing when I returned home at the end of the summer. In August, near the end of our trip, I received a letter from my Mother informing me that I had been admitted to the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, with a complete, two-year scholarship for tuition, books, and housing from the then-National Association for Infantile Paralysis. If I were to accept it, I would not need to work and could be a full time student. It was the only way I would be able to enroll in the Master's degree program, and I accepted the offer, with little thought about what it would mean for my future.

The scholarship meant that I could live on campus for the two years I was in the program, and needed only to work in the summer between the two years required for earning a Master's degree in social work. All my expenses, including tuition and books were included in the award. It meant a whole new life experience for me and I happily accepted, not really knowing all what that meant.

I lived at International House during my two years, going home on weekends to work half a day back in the medical records department at Evanston Hospital and full time in the summer between the two years in Cook County hospital's Social Work department. Following graduation, I was hired by the Social Work department of the then-Michael Reese Hospital, where I worked before moving to New York two years after graduation from SSA.

When I moved to New York City, I worked at Mount Sinai Hospital for two years, followed by a move to Washington, D.C. where I worked for two years at the Jewish Social Service Agency. I was field work supervisor for a student from Catholic University's School of Social Work, before

retiring to become the full time mother of our twin sons. After years of volunteer involvement in education and housing issues in our county, I worked for nine years for our county government as a staff member in the county's legislative office in Annapolis.

For all these years, I have treasured my time at SSA and feel that my experiences there instilled in me not only of pride in the education I received in my time there, but also a special feeling that I had the privilege of attending one of, if not the best, school of social work in the country.

Joan Wall Hirnisey
A.M. '65

Growing up in a small town in western Oklahoma I read a series of biographies and decided that my favorite was Jane Addams. When it was time to decide what I wanted to be, the choice had already been made. After college I applied for a job with the Child Welfare Division of the then Oklahoma Department of Public Welfare. When the Supervisor of the Division asked if I wanted to get a masters and what school I would select, I answered, "The University of Chicago." I didn't know the lady interviewing me had spent one year at SSA. She became an informal mentor for me and when I applied for a scholarship from the Department after being an employee for less than two years, I was granted one even though most employees waited much longer. I applied to two schools and was accepted by the other but waited to hear from SSA. My family put me on the Texas Chief (Santa Fe Railroad) on a Sunday afternoon and I awoke in Chicago on a fall day in 1962. I managed to get my belongings and myself to International House, a popular place for social work students to live at that time.

Fieldwork was at the Midway Office of Cook County Department of Public Aid in nearby Woodlawn. My Fieldwork Supervisor was Jewish and the others in my fieldwork group were an assorted group including a woman from India. Within a couple of weeks, International House had a tour of the city and I convinced a small group to go with me to Hull House. A childhood dream had come true.

My instructor for Casework was Charlotte Towle. One day my notes contained a sketch that reflected my "feelings." A small person was in the center and from her rays went out to the larger persons surrounding her. Great knowledge was being shared in that classroom. I also gained another mentor. When I made a "C" the first Quarter, I requested a conference. I remember her introducing me to her Scott terrier under her desk. By the end of the year I was making an "A" and the day

we took exams to determine whether we would be accepted into the second year program, I had a note that Miss Towle wanted to see me. She requested permission to use one of my case records to as a teaching case. I was walking on air after saying, “Yes.”

My scholarship required that I repay it with a year of work and I decided to do so the next year so I could graduate without a commitment to return to my home state. When I reapplied SSA found me a scholarship and I requested a Fieldwork assignment with an adolescent counseling agency. When I received my assignment it said Scholarship and Guidance and listed Charlotte Towle as the Fieldwork Instructor. I had not known Miss Towle was leaving the classroom and was going to be a part time fieldwork instructor. I was so excited! My teenage nephew said he understood. It was like he was going to play baseball (his passion) and Mickey Mantel was going to be his personal coach. I shared the story with Miss Towle and when I went home to visit she said to give her best to my nephew who had given her “such high praise.”

Another remarkable year of learning and over an hour a week spent individually with Miss Towle after she read my process recording of interviews. Insights from her years of experience and knowledge were shared—how to deal with the concern of one teenager that she might be homosexual; how to encourage another to continue to write her feelings in her poetry; and a book to read about working with teenage boys when I accepted a job counseling adolescents of both sexes. She had revised her *Common Human Needs* and signed my copy: “To Joan Wall, whom I shall remember as one who understood them and had uncommon ability to meet them.” Her kiss on the cheek on graduation day was special as was our correspondence until her friend wrote to tell me of her death.

Mary Kaess
A.M. '71

I was a student at SSA from 1969 to 1971. What better years could there have been to learn to be a social worker?! These were years of great promise and an “opening up” of society. I arrived on campus just two months after the first moon landing and one month after Woodstock. However, these were also years of national discord and social chaos. Since all good social workers must examine events “in context,” the tumultuous backdrop of political and social upheaval of those years cannot be overlooked. In my memory, national and local turmoil will always be linked to my years at SSA.

Of course, the main source of turbulence on the national scale was opposition to the war in Vietnam. Even the usually staid University of Chicago was home to some student anti-war groups. Then, in April, 1970, President Nixon announced that the US military would invade Cambodia. He had made it a point to pledge not to initiate such an operation during his campaign. Just about two weeks after Nixon’s announcement, the Ohio National Guard troops killed four students at an anti-war demonstration at Kent State University. These two events in such close succession led to student outrage across the country. Hundreds of colleges organized a national strike of university campuses. SSA joined in a coalition of student groups at the U. of C. and participated in a week-long strike of classes in May, 1970.

While all of this was going on at the national level, other disturbing events were going on in Chicago. This was the time of the trial of the Chicago 7, student organizers who had been charged with conspiracy to start rioting at the Democratic Convention in 1968. They were acquitted of all charges in February, 1970. In December, 1969, there was a police raid on a West Side apartment that ended in the death of two leaders of the local Black Panther Party, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

This caused further tension in a racial climate still raw after Dr. King's assassination and the subsequent West Side riots.

In this setting, I was to become a social worker, a problem-solver, an advocate, an agent for change. I will always feel so very fortunate to have been able to come to SSA, a school where I had professors who had actually authored the textbooks we were using! I had Helen Harris Perlman for my first casework class and Rachel Marks for my first SWPS class. These grandes dames of social work truly influenced the way students looked at the profession we were pursuing. There were so many wonderful professors that expanded our mind-set and invited us to think big thoughts. Of course, I was also greatly influenced by my two fieldwork instructors, by my fellow students, and by the esteemed University itself. I quickly realized that even though SSA was on "the other side" of the Midway, it was a part of a bigger whole.

During my last semester at SSA, it dawned on me that graduation was looming and I hadn't learned it all yet. How would I ever know enough to call myself a social worker? My "aha" moment came when I realized that I would never know it "all." Yes, I had learned a lot and I had developed many skills. However, there was really no end to learning to be a social worker. The calling was to a life-long inquiry into factors leading to the betterment of the human condition.

So, I took my knowledge, skills, and spirit of inquiry and used all of it for 36 years as a school social worker in the Chicago Public Schools. I know that my SSA education enabled me to help many children, adolescents, parents, and teachers along the way. I also felt an obligation to foster the development of my social work colleagues, serving as a field instructor, mentor, and supervisory lead social worker. I loved doing the orientation sessions for the new hirees. Although I retired from the formal part of my career in June, 2007,

I will always be a social worker. It has become too much a part of my identity to ever give it up! Thank you for that, SSA, and Happy Centennial!

Charles Larsen A.M. '67

In 1967, during the Vietnam War, bloody and divisive, I was accepted into SSA at the age of 33, having spent seven years in business after receiving my B.A. in 1960. Mine was not the culture shock of some—the Hutchins era undergraduate program had already made me familiar with “The University,” as Andrew Greeley refers to the U. of C.

However, upon meeting other students, I became aware of Helen Harris Perlman as an icon in the field. She was to be my first year social casework professor. How lucky I was, said one and all, especially since it was rumored that this was to be her last year of instructing the course.

During the first class (I recall no more than ten students sitting around the table) we all introduced ourselves. My resume was lengthy, and I presented it for my peers. My voice was probably a bit tremulous, as I recited my experience from the Korean War to date. I included a recent writing success, a small political office held, as well as family details and work history.

Others had spoken of their GPA in glowing terms—never had I achieved such grades. Some discomfort flooded my reddening face. Insecurity opened its maw to devour me. Then Mrs. Perlman fixed it all.

She turned to my classmates and said, “It appears that we are fortunate enough to have a renaissance man. Welcome, Mr. Larsen.” The other students may not have looked upon me differently, but she displayed a sense of respect for me which never wavered. I last saw her some ten years ago, perhaps longer, and she remained brilliant and gracious.

It was one of those “only at Chicago,” experiences to be recalled and treasured, especially when confidence wavered.

Alan Leavitt

A.M. '58

I left Chicago in 1962 to move to the San Francisco Bay Area and have been here ever since. In retrospect, the most important impact SSA had on me was that the training and degree allowed me to work at a variety of different positions over a period of 45 years, all of which have been very enjoyable, socially useful and paid enough for me to live comfortably.

Being able to continue to learn about the complexities of psychotherapy while at work was especially important in my first two jobs, one in Chicago treating adolescents and parents, and later at the psychiatric clinic at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, California. When I decided I wanted to add some management and supervisory responsibilities to my clinical ones, this proved easy enough to do in publicly funded community mental health program. Later I was able to add part-time program planning and development, grant writing, and teaching -supervision-consultation to my work week. In my last two managerial positions—director of mental health for the City of Berkeley, and then for the City and County of San Francisco, I was the first social worker to hold these positions.

By the latter part of my career I had become interested in teaching myself wood sculpture so I reduced my “regular” work week to half-time and returned to my first love, working with low-income clients and addicts and alcoholics. After 10 years of that I retired in 2003 at age 72, though I still work at wood sculpture.

In summary, my education at SSA prepared me for a career where my creativity and my interest working with low income people of all kinds were allowed to flourish. I found social work a field where many kinds of specialization were possible. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my life, both at work and with my family, then and now.

It's likely to be different for young people coming into social work now as the need for services of kinds increases while non-military resources decrease because of recent national priorities (at least since the Vietnam War) which are incomprehensible to me.

Christian (Chris) Ledley (Elliot) **A.M. '58**

After serving in the British Army during World War II, I graduated as a social worker from Edinburgh and Leeds Universities, majoring in Child Welfare in the U.K. I then worked for 7 years for a local authority addressing all the child welfare problems in that area. When my Supervisor suggested I go to the U.S. for additional training, I jumped at this opportunity. I was excited at the idea of furthering my education in Social Work. SSA accepted me and granted me a scholarship. I had planned to spend only one year at SSA and return back to the UK with my newfound knowledge. Because I was learning so much SSA extended my scholarship and allowed me to complete my Master's Degree. However, my life suddenly changed. I met my husband-to-be (at International House—where else!) Brian Ledley, an Australian Physicist who had just arrived to work as a post-doctoral student at the Fermi Institute. We were married after graduation.

After two years in Australia we returned to the U.S. where Brian worked for 25 years at NASA. Our daughter, Jean, was born in Australia.

It was not long before I got involved in volunteer work in the community. I helped to start a Nursery School for 4 year olds. At that time there were very few available. It is now a much sought after resource for now 2, 3 as well as 4 year olds.

When President Johnson launched his war on poverty I became very interested in the problems of those less fortunate and needing a hand-up. An Agent with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service was particularly concerned about the needs of the mothers of Headstart children. She approached the Minister of my Church who approached me and we set up a program—we called it a Parent Education Program. This was totally run by volunteers in the community. I was responsible for finding and organizing volunteers who would become teachers, child care providers, drivers to enable the mothers to come, and preparers of

snacks and lunches. Many classes were offered including sewing, knitting, crocheting, nutrition, preparation for GED, driver's ed, English for foreign born, and talks on community resources during lunch. We had an average attendance of 25 at each session, many low-income mothers were reached and they became more self-confident and many were able to get jobs. I chaired the program for 12 years and it still continued for another 13. It was a model for similar programs organized in churches throughout the area using all volunteer help.

As a result of working in this program, I became aware that many families were living in very substandard housing. I became part of an all-volunteer organization (Extended Hand, Inc.) whose main objective was to find adequate housing for those in desperate need. Each family's rent was based on income and subsidized by contributions from local churches and organizations. However, it was recognized that more than just housing was needed so each family was assigned a Family Aid and then a Financial counselor. These were trained by the Extension Service Agent and participated in the classes. I worked with this organization for 10 years, 5 of which I served as President. Few people are aware that our local housing authority was re-enacted as a result of our demonstration of the pressing needs of low/moderate income housing.

In 1979 I became involved in a project to transform a very dilapidated building in housing for senior and handicapped citizens. The building was bought, by a private individual who was able to get funding from HUD to rehab and offer subsidized housing under Section 8. I helped to relocate families who did not qualify to stay in the building. As the building was rehabbed, I helped to interview applicants. The owner had the foresight to recognize that the population was going to be quite unsophisticated and offered me the job as Tenant Liaison, i.e. a built-in social worker. This was

a change for me going from Child Welfare, working with families to addressing the needs of the elderly! When I first started working here, the local housing authority (HOC) had one counselor and I believe that we can take credit for demonstrating the need for these services and now all their senior buildings have tenant counselors.

I retired in 1991 but at that time Extension was chosen to set up the Senior Health Insurance and Assistance Program (SHIP). You guessed it! I continued to volunteer for them in 1992. This has involved counseling for seniors and handicapped on the mass of problems associated with Medicare. This has been a real challenge but very satisfying and really uses my problem solving education from SSA.

During these years I have had several awards for volunteer service including being on the Honor Roll of University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service for contributions and dedication of 40 years. Others include one from Community Ministry of Montgomery County; another one from the State of Maryland for 7 years service on the local Board of Social Services.

I have always been extremely grateful to SSA for giving me the chance to get my Master's Degree. I feel strongly that without all the training, knowledge and experience gained I would never have been able to make the significant contributions I feel I have made, nor would I have been able to help those less fortunate who just needed that helping hand to fulfill their potential.

Laurie Levi
'78

| ALUMNA |

It's now been 30 years, a second Master's, and Ph.D. later and I still credit SSA with the quality of my clinical training. I am now doing a program, at the Philadelphia Center for Psychoanalysis, and despite my primary identity as a psychologist now, frequently acknowledge my social work roots. Thank you SSA for helping me obtain the foundation upon which I have helped so many people!

Lambert Maguire A.M. '71

My decision to apply to SSA was the result of my work after my undergraduate degree in psychology. I worked at the Pritzker Center for Children on 55th Street. I did not know very much about the profession, but I was extremely impressed by the work and capabilities of the social workers on the staff. It included Judith Mishne (later on the NYU SW faculty), Ruth Friedman, and several other inspiring role models.

My experience as a student was outstanding. At age 22, with an entire year of post bachelor's degree experience, I thought I knew it all! I had Helen Harris Perlman for casework. She was such a sweet, quiet and gentle lecturer, that I did not initially pay much attention. Gradually, I started to focus on what she was saying so that by the end of the semester, I was writing every word she said, finally realizing how much I had been missing. My experience with Peggy Rosenheim was quite different, but equally informative. Professor Rosenheim called on students by name. After the first two classes, where I came in unprepared, I learned that her class required a thorough preparation beforehand, and I avoided further embarrassment by going well beyond the assignments for the remainder of the semester. I was rewarded by great discussions in her class. Yet another inspiration for me was Professor Mary Lou Sommers. I eventually had the privilege of getting to know her well. She was an excellent, dedicated teacher. She was also kind enough to write a great reference letter for me when I applied to the University of Michigan for my doctorate. I believe I was accepted due to her generous support.

One of my many memorable experiences took place in my second week at SSA. I was informed by my many fellow classmates that virtually all of them had scholarships. I was there on borrowed money, while working two jobs. I built up my nerve to go in to talk to the Associate Dean (my current job at the University of Pittsburgh), to ask for some money.

I was two minutes into my well rehearsed plea for money when he interrupted me, asked how much I wanted, and he then gave me a two year NIMH fellowship for tuition and expenses!

SSA was a great place for me. I am now a full Professor and Associate Dean and author of several books, and it would not have happened if I had not had the support and intellectual stimulation I received at Chicago.

Winifred Olsen DeVos McLaughlin **A.M. '47**

I arrived at University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration in 1945 and received my A.M. in 1947.

I had studied at a small liberal arts college in the Midwest, where my interests in Psychology and Sociology shaped my direction toward Social Work. Co-op job placements enabled preliminary experience in the field. Work in NYC at the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital was exciting because of numerous notables in the field of psychiatry and because of its ethnically diversified neighborhood.

Chicago was to become home by the fact that I had recently married a U. of C. student, then in the military, who intended to complete studies there!

SSA was a natural choice to pursue my own professional development at a level of excellence.

I was fortunate to qualify for a fellowship from United Charities of Chicago, and had field work and employment at the Woodlawn and Southwest district offices at the agency. I have kept aware of demographic changes in the city's neighborhoods in intervening years.

I had other field work at the Institute for Juvenile Research.

My academic major was Psychiatric Social Work among the three majors then available. In my experience, that body of knowledge has been very relevant to Family and Children's Services.

I honor the pioneers who established Hull House which played such a significant role in developing and organizing community services in Chicago. It embodies the ethic, stamina, resourcefulness, and accomplishment that are the essence of social work. Effectively defining a problem and a need are crucial to finding the means of achieving some amelioration.

Important mentors were Charlotte Babcock, M.D. and Thomas French, M.D. who were regular psychiatric consultants with the agency. The Psychoanalytic Institute was a valuable learning resource. Faculty persons I recall particularly are Charlotte Towle and Helen Perlman. *Common Human Needs* is an incomparable statement of values by which to live, to learn, and to work.

I joined the National Association of Social Workers as a student and maintained membership until beyond retirement. I was aware but relatively uninformed about union activity going on in the field at the time.

I worked in Chicago until having my first child in 1951, lived the next two years in its suburb of Elgin, and have re-visited Chicago intermittently over the next six decades. One son obtained his Ph.D. at U. of C. One colleague, Wilda Dailey, is a friend whom I still see during visits.

The magazine published by the U. of C. continues to be a welcome intellectual stimulus. It generates pride in being identified with the university as it reports on the ongoing vitality there.

Chicago is a stop-over when I visit family members in Wisconsin and Michigan. I always feel gratified by devoting intense time viewing art works at the Art Institute of Chicago. I love setting foot in Hyde Park, International House, Rockefeller Chapel, Ida Noyes, and on the quads at the university campus. The bookstores have their place, too.

It was difficult initially to relate to the “modernized” structure that now houses SSA. I am interested in the present extended outreach of SSA within its immediate neighborhood.

Practice of social work has been concurrent for me with raising a family, traveling and living abroad, learning other languages, and volunteering in community activities. I was a staff worker in a pioneering Center on Deafness at University of California San Francisco. I have enjoyed doing voter

advocacy with the League of Women Voters, and being a resident committee member promoting regard for diversity within the senior residential community at which I now live.

I have felt the constructive influence of SSA and the University of Chicago throughout. For that reason, I chose to set up a charitable gift annuity that should eventually benefit the ongoing program and its students.

Brent Meyer **A.M. '03**

My time at SSA opened my eyes to various aspects of social work that, to be completely honest, never crossed my mind prior to admission. Days before my arrival to the University, the attacks of September 11th occurred. I remember thinking as the whole event was unfolding, “I am starting graduate school now...what am I thinking?” It appeared at the time, that our country was changing quickly and our citizens felt differently regarding many aspects of our society, domestically and abroad. I remember coming to the opening week of orientation and realizing that our country would never be the same. I also remember sitting in the main hall of SSA’s Mies Van der Rohe building, watching as the first airline jets took off and flew over the city of Chicago, just thinking how vulnerable we had become. I never thought that it would ever be a concern of mine.

My feelings changed quickly from a sense of uncertainty, to almost a moment of clarity. There would be different and new opportunities for the social workers of tomorrow now that these events occurred, and all I could feel was that there was no better time to enter this field. Our country had a difficult time thinking of resilience, rather our communities were experiencing a sense of despair and fear. I understood how important the profession of Social Work truly was to our society, and how my time at SSA would help develop my “professional self” due to it. I encountered various experiences and shaped my skills through the use of SSA’s vast resources over the next two years. I don’t live in Chicago anymore, but will always look back at my time in the program. as a time for building, strengthening, networking and ultimately becoming the social worker that I am today. Thank you to my professors, fellow students and ultimately to the school itself for providing those experiences for me.

Camille Quinn A.M. '98

My career and life have been greatly shaped by my experiences at SSA. It was nearly a decade ago that I was a student in the program and I enjoyed every minute while I was there. Whether it was being challenged by Professor Jeanne Robinson in my Practice class or sweating through daily Economics homework assignments from Professor William “Bill” Pollak; I absorbed it all knowing full well that I was growing intellectually and preparing myself for life after SSA. Then there were the wonderful events coordinated by Betty Allen: Fall Quarter Barbecue, Christmas Party, Cultural Diversity Dinner and the Graduation Reception which brought us all together, faculty, staff and students to socialize and enjoy each others company. As a GPHAP student, Professors Eddie Lawlor and Tom D’Aunno hosted dinners and events at their respective homes to enhance collegiality among our cohort. There were also the formal “Chats” with Dean Marsh or my regular visits with Dean Johnson that kept me going. These gestures made me feel like I belonged to the SSA family and I in turn wanted to share that with others. Their interest and consideration empowered me to make change in the lives of my fellow students as well as the clients and agencies I worked with. I participated in student government and other student associations because I wanted to ensure that students had a good experience at SSA.

It was a special time for me and my group of friends, many of whom I’m still in touch with. SSA introduced me to many individuals that I continue to have close ties with. As a first year student, I was selected in the 1996 – 97 inaugural class of the Chicago Schweitzer Fellows Program sponsored by Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG). Presently, I’m a member of the Schweitzer Advisory Council and a Board Member of HMPRG. This relationship developed because of my affiliation with SSA. After graduating from SSA, I secured several management positions whether in healthcare or social

services. I know that my experiences at SSA directly influenced my career including my decision to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I relish the fact that I am a benefactor of SSA and all that it has to offer. I have no doubt that my life would be completely different if SSA were not a part of it. Happy Centennial Anniversary and I hope the next 100 years are even better than the first!

Dianne Monica Rhein **A.M. '78**

TALES FROM A SMALL TOWN DREAMER

I learned of the University of Chicago from my Miami University of Ohio Sociology/Gerontology professor and mentor Dr. Millie Seltzer, who had earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. I'd been a Psychology undergraduate, with a lot of courses and internships through the budding Social Work Program at Miami as well. I was clear that I wanted to focus on aging issues and services as my life's work, excited by all I had been exposed to through the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami. I was completely unaware that the University of Chicago was of such high caliber or that many applicants for SSA had been out in the work world. I was very young, still wet behind the ears, just out of college. But I just knew I needed to be challenged, needed to get the heck out of Goshen, my rural township graced then with only 1 traffic light.

After my parents and I experienced a lively, funny and encouraging office chat with Dr. Shelly Tobin, I was leaning towards picking Chicago over 2 other graduate schools in Wisconsin and Michigan that I'd been seriously considering. The opportunity to be mentored there by Dr. Bernice Neugarten and other well-respected faculty on campus was a big enticement. Finances were, however, a major hurdle. Given my large family, which included 7 siblings and a dad with a terminal health condition, the generous funding package offered from the University of Chicago felt like a miracle to me. I was being given the amazing opportunity to spread my wings and embrace adventure in the Windy City. No more living vicariously while pouring over *National Geographic* maps as I cleaned house for my elderly neighbor Ms. Christine Williams down my country lane.

At the end of my first year, I was awarded the Florence G. Heller Fellowship for "Excellence and Potential in the Field of Social Work." This covered nearly all the costs of my second year there. Part of me found the award very embarrassing

since I was surrounded by such extremely talented classmates. Part of me found it intimidating, not sure if I could live up to expectations. But a larger part of me embraced the challenges and blossomed in amazing ways. I learned some hard lessons from tough teachers and grew as a result. I had a strong foundation laid there for rigorous inquiry and for multilevel innovative approaches to tough problems.

I remain deeply grateful for the belief in my potential that I experienced at the University of Chicago.

It's always been a major milestone and an enduring touchstone for me. I survived and thrived at the University of Chicago. Thirty years later, I am still highly motivated to exceed and to have a significant impact in the fields of both aging and long term care. I've worked for many years, first in Illinois and, since 1981, with aging and disability programs in Wisconsin.

And now with my eclectic younger daughter Sally O'Brien heading off as an undergraduate to the University of Chicago this fall, I'll have chances to reacquaint myself with the wealth of opportunities available to the community of learners associated with SSA and the University of Chicago. Again, the generous grants and scholarships that alumni help provide is making this a possibility for her. Given my now post-divorce fiscal realities, I am again so grateful she'll have this chance to thrive.

I'm lobbying to gather up my talented longtime SSA friends for a Chicago reunion to celebrate our own resilient mid-life journeys along with the history and accomplishments of the past 100 years of SSA. I'm also dreaming of a future for myself where I will have enough financial security so that I can create my own SSA Fellowship to give another small town dreamer a shot at spreading wings in the Windy City.

Annie Rosenthal
A.M. '98

I have 2 vivid memories of SSA which seem to capture a significant flavor of the school.

First, over Labor day weekend in 1996, I was in a bike accident and had broken my right (dominant) arm in several places. I had a cast on my arm from my fingers all the way up to my armpit. The day after Labor day, I remember getting the telephone call that I had been accepted off of the waiting list, and I had a short window of time to decide whether I would accept the space in the Class of 1998.

As I was unable to write or type with my right hand, concerned about being able to start a masters program in this condition, I set up an appointment to meet with Penny Johnson. Penny was my introduction to SSA and she made a lasting, warm, welcoming, “we can do it” impression. She assured me that the school would make accommodations for me so I could manage the note-taking in classes. I was given permission to audio tape all of my classes while my arm was out of commission. I felt so welcomed, and so taken care of, I accepted the admission offer.

When I arrived at school several weeks later, the community around me was equally generous and accommodating. All of my professors were great about speaking right into the tape recorder, and my classmates (who I barely new yet) helped set up my laptop (which was the only one in the classroom in those days) and made sure there was a space for me near an outlet. The attentiveness and care people I hardly knew took was powerful. I felt so at home.

Second, sometime in my 2nd year, I lost my wallet at school. I was so upset, wandering around every crevice of the building searching for it. A few hours later, I went to check my mail folder in the lobby, and to my great surprise, the wallet had been placed there! I could barely believe that this was possible. It didn't have much money in it, as I was a graduate student, however, it was still my wallet!

I truly believed that if I had lost my wallet at any other school, even within the university, it would not have turned up in my

mail folder. Regardless, the fact that I got it back so quickly demonstrated to me that SSA was a safe and kind place.

Both of these snapshot memories highlight an important and priceless value to a school dedicated to training students to help others (both on a micro and a macro level). The academics seemed like a given to me. SSA quickly lived up to its reputation as a stimulating and rigorous learning environment. But what became so clear through this experience of only having one usable arm, that, I had not expected was this warm foundation of nurturing and caring. I firmly believe that such foundation helps students to grow and challenge themselves...and in turn has helped me help my own clients do the same.

Ann Rothschild
A.M. '58

My experiences at SSA are so much the warp and wolf of the whole cloth I am that it is hard to pick threads from this fabric. Pulling as best I can I discover knots and tangles of self-observation, interactions with others and results of those interactions which were probably not there before SSA.

Hoping for their authenticity these are my claims: I am at once less self-centered and more self-critical, I am more reconciled to the impossibilities within people and their settings, and I am always admiring and astonished when change does occur.

Jerome Smith
PH.D. '75

| ALUMNUS |

I am an SSA graduate (Ph.D., 1975), still teaching statistics (at IUPUI) thanks to John Schuerman teaching me the logic and reasoning that goes with it. Thanks, John.

I lost my wife of 42 years in 2005 due to lung cancer (stage 4). A college acquaintance from Carroll College I met in 1954 read about the book I am writing as a tribute to my late wife, called me to tell me what a wonderful tribute to her. The long and the short of it is that this old acquaintance and I married each other last October and are living in Carmel, Indiana.

I have 8 grandchildren. Two of my three children are MSW's, the other is a physician.

Renee Zeff Sullivan A.M. '54

MEMORIES OF SSA 1950 – 55

For me, the most striking difference between SSA and my previous university years was that here women reigned. In two years of a liberal arts program at Northwestern University and three years working on a graduate degree in international relations at the University of Chicago, I never encountered a woman professor or instructor. Women were clerks, secretaries, bosses at Commons cafeteria where I worked, and fellow students, but absent from academia.

At SSA, there were The Deans, Walker and Wright and many professors, Dorothy Aiken, Bernice Simon, Charlotte Towle and the social worker bible she authored *Common Human Needs* which I found pre SSA at the Chicago Welfare Department where I worked as a case worker from 1947 until 1950.

There were other women professors whom I can't name who were influential supportive and inspirational.

I gradually became aware of the whole issue of women's rights and this leads to a tribute I want to include in this essay to my friend Mae Chase A.M. 1951 whom I met in an English class my first year at the University of Chicago in 1944. Mae was then in Library School, a strong independent African American woman, who became my dear friend, a friendship that lasted over fifty years until she died in 1999. Mae inspired my social work career, was a mentor, and a pioneer in the profession. She integrated a number of agencies as the first African American social workers. She maintained a private practice and worked in private and public hospital and agencies in Chicago and New York. Most of all, she was a strong supporter of progressive causes, civil rights, women's rights, and a teacher to her students and to me during her long career.

I want this tribute to memorialize her achievements when she is no longer here to speak for herself.

John H. Vanderlind **A.M. '54**

I never expected to attend the University of Chicago. I wasn't a member of the elite group or family. However, as a young person growing up in Michigan, I heard of Mr. Hutchins and what he was trying to do at the University. My father had purchased a set of Harvard Classics...partly, I feel sure... to impress his business associates...and partly with the idea that he would read parts of that extensive collection of books to educate himself. I believe it was as a result of having this collection in our home that we were somewhat aware of the University of Chicago and its avant-garde president, Mr. Hutchins.

If not for the GI Bill, I would never have been in college in the first place. But following the war, I went to Olivet College (Michigan) where I received outstanding assistance from the faculty in overcoming my academic deficiencies and allowing me to progress in a college setting. I wrote a booklet about my experience at Olivet, entitled *The Rape of Academic Freedom*, circa 1948 which led to my attending other colleges and ending up at Northwestern University, in Evanston. There under my esteemed faculty adviser, William F. Bryon, I prospered and regained my focus about my interest in Sociology and Social Work. Professor Bryon was a great influence on my life; he apparently saw something in me that I had failed to see. He thought I would benefit from SSA and went to bat for me in ways I can only question. I was accepted at SSA as long as my work showed promise; the probation only lasted the first semester; it was hard work but it was satisfying work and the sense that I could do it inspired me even more. I did so well that first year at SSA, that when the opportunity a couple of years later arrived from the University of Michigan to get my MSW, I sailed through their program while at the same time holding down a full time job, caring for a sick child and helping my daughter through her early years in public school.

I have never forgotten that experience: classroom instruction and field work experience under the direction of faculty members.

If only social work positions were as financially rewarding as many M.B.A. positions are, I would be making a sizable financial gift to the University of Chicago, instead of this note of appreciation.

Melodye L. Watson
A.M. '01

| ALUMNA |

Every year I check the SSA website for an announcement of the Chicago Dinner event hosted by CEDO. It's important to me because I like knowing that something I help start as an SSA student is being continued and expanded by current SSA students. During my last year at SSA (2001), Alisa Holman and I were the first Chairs of the Community Economic Development Organization (formerly the Social Enterprise Forum). As one of CEDO's community building activities we hosted the first Chicago Dinner event at SSA. The dinner discussion was about participatory community change in Woodlawn and the role and responsibility of institutions like the University of Chicago and residents. We felt it was necessary and relevant to our education to put into practice what we were learning about community organization and development in the field of social work. I recall that we had an excellent turn out and I was greatly inspired by the lively discussions taking place at various tables.

My experience at SSA, and as co-Chair of CEDO, greatly influenced my personal and professional decisions to "build community" wherever I am.

Betty Kiralfy Weinberger **A.M. '58**

Reflections on my experience at SSA: I realize that my SSA professional education gave me an excellent foundation for all four of my later jobs, and with each job I benefited from a different aspect of my training. After graduation I became a pediatric social worker at Michael Reese Hospital. There I called upon my clinical and assessment skills and my understanding of the therapeutic process as I worked closely with children and their parents as they dealt with the trauma and management of the child's illness.

Next, while I was raising my own children, I co-founded and developed a program called Parents as Resource in which three colleagues and I trained inner-city parents to recognize their important parental roles and in turn train other parents within their own communities. During this time we worked closely with a number of early childhood programs, including Head Start and Home Start, and we co-authored several children's activity books, a newspaper comic strip and most excitingly, a television program. "Look at Me!" produced by WTTW.

Then, with my children now ensconced in junior high and high school, I returned to social service. In my 17 years at Scholarship and Guidance where I held first the position of Intake Coordinator and then ultimately as Coordinator of Agency Services, I drew upon the communication skills and sense of organization which I learned at SSA and strengthened in my earlier activities. I understood how the pieces had to go together, how to help the staff work cooperatively and efficiently to implement the objectives of the Board, the United Way and the other funding sources. I even drew on my experience with statistics as I took responsibility for the statistical documentation of the agency's work. Often I represented the agency at planning sessions or conferences and I became a recruiter as we reached out to schools and social service agencies for referrals.

And now my fourth venture: I have established my own independent college counseling service. Would you believe that I turn to my SSA training here more than its three predecessors? It was in graduate school that I learned the importance of listening and not only listening with my ears but with my eyes. Recognizing body language has become an important component of my counseling students. When I was working with a student with learning disabilities who was seeking an appropriate college to meet his needs, I was not only dealing with his own fragile self image but also with his parents' reaction to their having to look at a "different kind of college." I helped two students with severe hearing impairments find appropriate colleges, several students who had been hospitalized for physical and/or mental illnesses, and many others with special needs.

Sometimes the greatest challenge is helping parent and child reconcile the former's ambitions with the latter's capabilities and interests.

SSA, thank you; I believe you've helped me to recognize these problems and then effectively deal with them.

Paul Widem
A.M. '55, ACSW

Looking back, it hardly seems possible that SSA is 100 years old! My days at SSA confirm a truism—that a full appreciation of the value of a long-ago time at Cobb Hall can only be gleaned when that value is tested in later daily experiences. Those days in the early and middle 1950's were most profound and enriching for me personally as a budding professional and in an academic world of social work that was pioneering and shaping the content and boundaries of social work. Not to demean the achievement of other days and years, they seem at SSA to have been a unique time and place that gave so much to a single profession.

At SSA, my first dean was Helen Wright, an economist by training, who projected the importance of economics in shaping social work practice; Wayne McMillan wrote the first textbook on statistics specifically designed for social workers, and his instruction brought how to me the vital role of research in social work; Alton Linford, both a mentor and a friend, conveyed to me and others the important role that administrative leadership could play in social agency development, and Suzanne Schultze, one of Europe's outstanding child welfare leaders who escaped Nazi persecution, was not only my close advisor in child welfare practice but a warm person and a demanding scholar.

I came, only after I left SSA, to appreciate more strongly the work of Charlotte Towle, Helen Harris Perlman, Dora Goldstein, Margaret Rosenheim, Frank Flynn, Barbara Palmer (my first year social casework professor), and Bernice Simon (my second year social casework professor), among other faculty, in developing the content and boundaries of social casework (now direct practice/intervention). Their case studies and related writings provided an excellent guide and resource in my own clinical work after graduation from SSA.

And, I cannot forget the support and encouragement given me by my field work supervisors—Lou Perlman taught

me, in my first year field placement, that even within the difficult setting of Cook County Public Welfare Department, a social worker could help clients carve out a better tomorrow for their and their children's lives. Virginia Cornwall, in my second year field placement at the Illinois School for Crippled Children, was inspiring in helping me gain the ability to work productively with a variety of severely disabled children, which would prove a rich foundation when I began my first full-time social work position at the Institute for Juvenile Research in Chicago.

Birthdays have at least two attributes—they help us, in memory, to appreciate the past, and they open up for us an even richer and fuller life's journey. To SSA, on your Centennial, I send my best wishes for an ever-growing contribution to students whose lives you influence and to a field of important human endeavor. And, a heartfelt thank you for all you gave to this once-budding professional social worker.

Vernon R. Wiehe
PH.D., A.M. '61

I received my master's degree in 1961 from SSA. My graduation was the beginning of a long career in research and teaching. In 1965 I graduated from the Program of Advanced Studies in Social Work from Smith College and received a Ph.D. in social work in 1972 from Washington University, St. Louis. I began teaching in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky in 1974 and just a few years ago retired, although I continue to teach one graduate seminar. My research has been in the area of family violence. I have written ten books on the subject, focusing especially on violence between siblings. I have lectured extensively throughout the United States and abroad. I am deeply grateful to SSA for the excellent foundation I received in social work theory and practice upon which I have continued to build.

Anonymous

Dear Friends,

I would have been delighted to attend the 50th SSA Reunion! Unfortunately age (74 this year), distance (!), and family responsibilities (I take care of my sister), prevent me from doing so. Please convey my greetings and fond remembrances to any of my SSA classmates of 1958.

I often recall with nostalgia my University days and life at the International House, and the hospitality and warmth of my American Friends...

Thomas J. Doyle

| FRIEND |

Retired from the Chicago Public Schools after serving as a teacher, district administrator, and principal for 41 years.

My life's work was formed and influenced by the University of Chicago Settlement House. Rose, my wife, and I were products of the settlement house movement in the 1940's as children. Following that, in the early 1950's, we were selected by professional staff to work with children and young adults as staff members. We were called neighborhood indigenous leaders. During the summers we worked at our summer camp, Camp Farr, in Chesterton, Indiana, which was owned by the University of Chicago. Camp programs allowed our neighborhood kinds to move to the country for two week periods to experience many opportunities not offered them in the congested Back of the Yards community.

From 1954 to 1962 Rose and I lived in Mary McDowell's home at the University of Chicago Settlement House. Actually it was an apartment she lived in as Head Resident until her death in 1934. She was a contemporary of Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, who was working on many of the same causes in communities which were desperate for help in remedying depressed human conditions. Our building was located at 4630 South McDowell, a diagonal street between 47th street and Ashland Avenue in the heart of the Back of the Yards community in Chicago. The building was raised in 1973. While living and working there, two of our three children were born. This small community of some twenty staff residents was truly a small scale melting pot of society with a mixture of religious, ethnic, national origin, and political groups of the 1950's. Some prominent names of Head Residents after Mary Mc Dowell included Stuart Knarr, Bert Boerner, Everett Cope, Helen Roy, Guido Tordi, and Dan DeFalco. Most were products of Hull House programs in earlier days. During this time I was finishing my undergraduate degree in education at

Chicago Teachers College and then on to Loyola University for my graduate degree.

This community agency—a settlement house—was a place that served people in an “underprivileged,” deprived community with a variety of human needs- employment, education, welfare, health, recreation, etc. My relationship with this particular community agency, which received its financial support through a hard-working dedicated board of directors comprised of University of Chicago professors, administrators, their spouses and the Community Fund or the United Way/ Crusade of Mercy, had a profound impact on my life’s work.

The board of directors changed the name of the building from the U. of C. Settlement House to the Mary McDowell Settlement House to honor Mary’s significant work in the mid 1950’s after the Chicago City Council changed the street name from Gross avenue to McDowell street much earlier.

I feel compelled to share the gifts I received while growing up and living/working at the settlement house—concern, care, self-worth, feeling of belonging, appreciation, gratitude, and confidence, to name a few. I was given so much! To those who have been given much, much is expected! My values and the following scripture passage embody a personal creed of mine. “If we have the Lord’s offer of abundant life, dare we offer each other a mere cup of commitment?” All this was given to me, therefore; I felt obligated to give back.

I became a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools and served communities and children in Chicago for forty-one years until my retirement in 2000. During my teaching career I taught Americanization, citizenship, and GED classes at the University of Chicago Settlement House. I also served as a consultant, district administrator, and principal in a variety of schools during these happy, fruitful years.

On October 11, 2008 we held our 20th reunion of more than 175 University of Chicago Settlement alumni who have known each other for more than 50 years.

Thank you for allowing me to share the gift I, and so many others, received from the University of Chicago Settlement House.

Ashley Cureton
A.M. '10

At the start of middle school, my mother enrolled my sisters and me in a neighborhood community center's educational youth program that offered enrichment courses on writing, math, and college access. I enjoyed the long days at the center, especially the positive attitude and energy from the staff. After attending the program for several years, I began to imagine myself working for human service organizations towards positive change. However, I would sometimes hear the staff complain about the lack of resources available to support the youth within the program, and how things would never change if they did not address those in authority. At that time, I did not know what they meant, but I wanted to be part of the solution that addressed those issues. Therefore, the idea of working with communities to advance social programs seemed very rewarding. Encouraged by these experiences, I actively sought graduate programs within the field of social work, because of my strong passion to better understand the role of policy and research within youth-related community organizations as well as the logistics and programming of such organizations.

Through the SSA curriculum, I have extended my knowledge about social issues through an emphasis on cultural diversity and a holistic approach to social policies. Due to the stellar reputation of the faculty and their research and the history of engaged commitment towards urban settings and communities, I have deepened my knowledge of cutting-edge theories, methods, and policy issues as they relate to the challenges in urban communities. Attending the SSA program offers analytical and organizational skills for effective practice, which will give me a firm basis in policy and research. As a pioneer within the realm of social work, this program offers a mixture of intellectual and challenging courses as well as an opportunity to connect with different communities through the field placement work. Finally, the location of the SSA

program within Chicago offers me a plethora of resources that truly enriches my classroom experience.

Karen Davis-Johnson

A.M. '09

| STUDENT |

I've had many, of what I like to refer to as, personal "social work" moments. Reflecting back, my earliest memory of a "social work moment", centers on a time I worked with one of my neighborhood friends as a child. Her family struggled to provide her with small things that my family was fortunate enough to have plenty of, like clothes, shoes and personal hygiene items. As we worked together each day on her reading skills, she would share with me the difficulties her family faced, and helping her gave me an indefinable sense of happiness. That experience was the primary stitch in a common pattern woven into the fabric of a lifetime of interactions. It ignited within me an unclear, burning desire to understand the plight of others, and to bring about positive changes in their lives.

For nearly thirty years, I have worked with women and their families in various capacities. Many of the women, with whom I have worked; as a result of childhood experiences, have found themselves in emotional spaces they are unable to define but desperate, to move out of. The impact of living in unhealthy emotional spaces extends into their intimate relationships and their interactions with their children.

I decided to pursue a career in clinical social work so I could offer therapeutic counseling services to families who are challenged by the demands of maintaining a healthy relationship and parenting their children. I chose to attend SSA because many of the professors, with whom we would interact daily, were working on innovative, ground breaking social work research on families. I knew learning from them and their experiences would be an opportunity of a lifetime.

I selected the full-time day program, because I wanted to be exposed to students who had not long since graduated, from their undergraduate programs, and were still connected to that experience. Their ideas are fresh, innovative and infused with an incredible desire to bring about social change. I feel very

blessed to have been influenced both by the students and the instructors at this world renowned academic institution.

Hang Raun A.M. '09

Prior to coming to SSA, I had been working as a music producer/engineer for six years in a project studio in downtown Chicago. The work of turning amateur songwriters' ideas into "radio-ready hits" grew less and less meaningful as time went on, and thus I began my search for a more fulfilling vocation. After years of Zen practice, I came to know, at a gut level, what my job in this world was—to help others. And so I went back to school to complete my B.A. in psychology.

Before I came to SSA, I worked as a Research Assistant for the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and then as a Literacy Assistant at Family Start Learning Center (FAST). My job at FAST was also part of an AmeriCorps community service. These two jobs provided me with a sense of fulfillment that I have never experienced before in non-social service jobs. As a result, I became more convinced that social service was my vocation.

My experience at SSA has been extremely positive and, at some levels, profound. I feel very privileged to be surrounded by so many bright students and world-class faculty. My experience at SSA has changed me profoundly and expanded my sense of possibilities; I am now much more confident about what and how I can contribute to this world.

I am also very grateful for the open-mindedness I have encountered at SSA. Since there was no Buddhist student organization at SSA, I talked to students and faculty about starting a Zen meditation group here. The support and enthusiasm I received from faculty and students were more than I had expected. Not only did SSA provide a place for us to meet and practice meditation, they also found a way for us to store our mats, cushions, and other meditation supplies right at SSA. It was a joy to meet and practice meditation with so many interesting students and faculty, and to learn about their fascinating background and history with Buddhism,

meditation, and spirituality. The dialogues we had about the integration of meditation with social work and therapy became invaluable out-of-classroom learning for me.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to be at SSA, and look forward to giving back by becoming the ethical and competent social worker that SSA is training me to be.

Terence Simms

A.M. '10

| STUDENT |

Millions of people across the world live in poverty every single day. One would think there would be many ways to provide equal opportunities and resources to those individuals who desperately need them. But it has been my experience that many of those living in poverty are overpowered by various aggressive forces, with limited options for recourse, and are forced to live life harshly, exposed to peril and stagnation that arise from neglect and inequity. The social reality is that most of those who live in poverty suffer from a lack of necessary resources that impede their choices made under conditions of scarcity. While there are many who believe that being poor is a choice, hence something that is in one's control. This would suggest that poverty is solely a matter of consequence, and that the delineation of inequalities due to one's race, gender, or culture is simply a mirage. It is my belief that some of the ultimate aims of social work are to empower individuals, fight oppression, guide communities, and influence policy. And in order to truly improve and empower the lives of vulnerable populations whom they affect, there is an urgent need to bridge the gap between public policy and social inequity that can be uniquely addressed through the field of social work.

Where social work promotes social justice and social change, public policy provides the necessary vehicle to implement and administer that change through new and innovative laws, regulations, and policies that are directed towards vulnerable populations that need them most. For far too long public policy has neglected the concepts of social justice, dignity and worth of a person, importance of relationships, integrity, and competence. More specifically, social policy is typically shaped by elites whom bolster political agendas that only address the social needs and concerns of their constituents when it poses an opportunity for a political advantage for the policymaker. In order to truly improve human lives we must examine and understand

how social policy affects the lives of people through their life course. When developing social policy, policy makers do not seemingly take into consideration how people develop, how various experiences and contexts affect human lives and how the underlying logic of poorly designed social programs significantly impact their lives. From the moment we are born, we are forced to reorganize our ways of thinking as life's challenges arise. Everyone's life course is different, how humans develop is indicative of one's biological, psychological, and sociological being. Everyone does not have equal access to resources and/or are afforded the same opportunities in life. And it is because of issues such as these which have led me to the SSA Program. In my opinion the field of social work adds both an unyielding balance of value, knowledge; skills, compassion, sincerity, and trust that are greatly need in order to effectively serve its target population. To whom much is given much is required, it only takes one hand to save a life, just imagine how many more hands can save the world.

Anonymous

REFLECTION OF A GRATEFUL THRIVER

Meeting an SSA alumnus prompted the opportunity to come to SSA. She guided me in a reflective process which presented a challenge to learn how to be effective in social work as a second career.

Though I came to SSA to acquire renowned professional skills, my SSA experience has been life-changing thanks to the nurturing community of administration, faculty, students, and staff. In this community of compassionate, wise, and curious “souls,” I have been encouraged to think about the context from which I come and the context of those with whom I interact. Through my classroom and practice experiences, I am developing skills which move me to listen to and explore new perspectives, seek collaborative ways to process and voice ideas, and understand human vulnerability and resiliency in the context of change.

Given the opportunity to thrive, I am grateful to participate in the SSA legacy and social work mission; to be a small part of bringing about universal justice and well-being. Having received compassionate wisdom, I hope to pass this legacy to others so that they too can thrive.

CHICAGO/SSA/CENTENNIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

969 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 • phone: 773.702.1250 • fax: 773.702.0874
email: centennial.uchicago.edu • web: <http://ssacentennial.uchicago.edu/>