San Francisco State University’s School of Social Work continues its tradition of excellence in education and practice. For Fall Semester 2008, the School admitted 30 baccalaureate and 65 graduate social work students. Graduate students may select from three concentrations: Administration and Planning; Individual, Families, and Groups; and Social Action and Change.

The School of Social Work is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Further, it is a member of the National Association of Deans and Directors, California Association of Deans and Directors, California Social Work Education Center Board, Bay Area Social Service Consortium, and Training Advisory Board.

The School offers a strong curriculum supported by a diverse faculty from across many areas of the globe. For the 2008-2009 academic year, faculty include the following (in alphabetical order): Stephanie Coram, Cathy Davis, Christina Feliciana, Rashmi Gupta, Sheila Hembury, Jocelyn Clare R. Hermoso, Rosa Hernandez, Lisa Hines, Jamie Johnson Glover, Liz Knox, Yeon-Shim Lee, John Lemmon, Sonja Lenz-Rashid, Eileen F. Levy, Candy Madrigal, Dianne Mahan, Sonia M. Melara, Steve Nakajo, Renate Otterbach, Saralie Pennington, Dina Redman, Elizabeth Schenk, Jerry Shapiro, Susan Sung, and Rita Takahashi.

School Programs and Projects

The School of Social Work enriches education and practice through its diverse programs, many of which provide stipends and other supports to students. For baccalaureate students, the School-managed scholarships include:

- Visions for Social Justice Scholarship
- Cecily Wagstaff Arellanes Memorial Scholarship

For graduate students, the School offers stipends to students accepted into the Title IV-E Child Welfare Program (Coordinated by Stephanie Coram) and Mental Health Stipend Program (Coordinated by Sheila Hembury). Also, the School offers these scholarships to MSW students:

- Tim Sampson Onward! For Social Action and Change Award
- Visions for Social Justice Scholarship

The School is involved in projects, programs, and institutes that are consistent with the School’s mission and philosophy, including:

- Pupil Personnel Services Credential, MSW and Post MSW (Coordinated by Christina Feliciana)
- Bay Area Academy (Directed by Rodger Lum)
- Institute for Multicultural Research and Social Work Practice (Directed by Liz Knox)

The School continues to explore many new avenues to achieve its mission to serve diverse populations. It is expanding its focus to incorporate more global, international, and complete life span perspectives.

BASW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Social Work Advocates for Visions of Empowerment (SWAVE) is the activist BASW student organization. They have been engaged in many empowering causes promoting social justice.
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the School of Social Work is to provide educational opportunities that promote a just and secure society. To this end, we are committed to, and base our program on, the principle that social work should:

- Create a physical environment that sustains all life forms
- Meet our basic survival needs for food, clothing, shelter, and livelihood
- Respect our fundamental dignity and personal and cultural identities
- Protect all people from avoidable harm

We honor human diversity and acknowledge its vital role in advancing mutuality and interdependence. Our aim is to educate social work practitioners who will be versatile, creative, and effective in serving the peoples of the San Francisco Bay Area in context of global economic and human relations. Our goal is to address the needs of the oppressed, disenfranchised, and otherwise marginalized peoples and communities.

Our teaching incorporates a comprehensive range of knowledge, values, skills, and experiences for social work practice at all levels of intervention. The outcome is to provide learning experiences that will instill critical consciousness and inspire students to become advocates for economic and social justice.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The School of Social Work at San Francisco State University is located in an environment that is unique because of its concentration of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations: racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, gays and lesbians, single parents, children, disabled and the aged. The presence in large numbers of any one of these populations at risk in a metropolitan area would be noteworthy enough alone. However, it is the concentration of a constellation of such populations that makes the San Francisco Bay Area unique. This diversity presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the School of Social Work.

Each of these groups represents a population that is neglected, underserved and oppressed. Each has been systematically denied or bared access to resources available to the general population. Each has been denied an equitable share of society's rights, benefits, privileges and opportunities. The aspirations of these groups to realize their full human potential have been frustrated by an indifferent and frequently hostile society.

While the School of Social Work seeks to be responsive to the needs of the general community, we believe that we have a special mission to respond to the needs and aspirations of these particular populations at risk in the San Francisco Bay Area. Therefore, we aim to produce social work practitioners who will staff programs concerned with the identification and solution of problems that particularly affect these populations such as institutionalized racism, sexism and homophobia, poverty and unemployment, substandard housing, inferior education, inadequate health care, insufficient child care, social isolation, bureaucratic neglect, and public indifference.

We expect our graduates to strive to increase the accessibility of services for these populations, to organize them into effective advocacy groups, to assist them in their own program development, and ultimately, to enable them to acquire and exercise power on their own behalf. At the same time, our graduate’s work within established human service agencies and institutions to secure greater responsiveness and accountability to the people they serve.

Thus, our program aims to educate social workers, who render direct services to people in need and assist communities in their struggle for self-determination and empowerment.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since the 1930s, then named San Francisco State College had an undergraduate major in social welfare. Since its early inception, however, it was situated within the Sociology Department. According to accreditation documents submitted to the Council on Social Work Education in November 1967,

... in 1955 it [social work] became an independent department – within the Division of Social Sciences. With the later reorganization of the college into schools, the Social Welfare Department became one of the constituent members of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. . . (p. 32)

In the early years of the undergraduate social welfare curriculum, all courses were taught by sociologists. It was not until 1948 that a professionally educated social worker was brought in and placed in charge of the social welfare course offerings. (p. 32)

Graduate Education

From 1948 until 1966, the Department concentrated on baccalaureate education, with enrollments reaching around 600 at the time it started a Master of Social Work degree program in 1966. Almost forty years ago, then San Francisco State College submitted its self study materials for graduate social work program accreditation. In a cover letter dated 27 November 1967, College President John Summerskill said:

... I want to personally assure you of the College’s firm and enthusiastic support of the Department of Social Work Education in its efforts to establish and maintain a program of excellence in graduate professional education. The College is committed to the proposition that whatever physical, financial, or intellectual resources are required to maintain a program of excellence will be and, in fact, have been allocated. Moreover, I am greatly encouraged by the splendid support the program has received from the professional social work community.

Social workers in community agencies have played a key role in the establishment, development, and ongoing excellence in the School’s curriculum. According to the 1967 accreditation document,

In 1962, the President of the College appointed an Advisory Committee for Graduate Social Work Education consisting of leading agency executives and practitioners in the Bay Area. Assisted by the faculty of the Social Welfare Department, during 1963 this Committee conducted a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school of social work at the College, using guidelines provided by the Council on Social Work Education. The Committee’s report, submitted to the President in February 1964, concluded that there is a need for another graduate social work school in the Bay Area and that adequate resources for field instruction exist among Bay area social agencies. (pp. ii – iii)

San Francisco State College’s first MSW class was tentatively scheduled to begin in September 1967, but the program was funded a year earlier than projected. Therefore, the graduate program began in 1966 with a 41 students who were selected from a pool of 180 applicants. Field placements were found for all 41 students, and all but 13 “secured” stipends (p. iv).
Information Meeting for Prospective BASW Students

Monday, 3 November 2008
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
HSS 153

1. Introductions

2. Two-Step Process for Admissions: First, Undergraduate Studies admission. Renee Stephens, Undergraduate Studies

3. Field Education: Dianne Mahan, Director of Field Education

4. Student organizations: Phi Alpha Honor Society, Mu Beta Chapter; and Social Work Advocates for Vision of Empowerment (SWAVE)
   - Julio Martinez, SWAVE President
   - Carlos Cano, SWAVE Treasurer
   - Lisa Hines, SWAVE Advisor

5. BASW Program Overview: Rita Takahashi, School of Social Work Director
   - Social Worker jobs
   - Career opportunities in social work
   - School of Social Work mission, goals, and emphases
   - SFSU BASW curriculum content and structure
   - Online educational supports and programs
   - Application forms and processes for BASW admission

6. Questions and Answers