

Social Work Research Fellows Named for 2005-2006

New York City, Fall 2005. The Center for the Study of Social Work Practice is pleased to announce the recipients of *Social Work Research Fellowships* and *Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships for 2005-2006*. Each recipient receives an award to conduct a significant research project that is likely to advance evidence-based social work practice. The Center for the Study of Social Work Practice is a joint program of the Columbia University School of Social Work and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services.

Joretha N. Bourjolly, Ph.D.

Dr. Joretha N. Bourjolly's research, *The Transfer of Learning Cultural Competence to the Assessment of Mental Health Services*, aims to develop and pilot test a measure that assesses the transfer of skills that participants acquire in cultural competency training in order to work with their clients. Utilizing the training program PRIME (Partners Reaching to Improve Multicultural Effectiveness), the study examines how cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills acquired in the program will transfer to culturally-based competencies in the assessment of mental health consumers.

Dr. Bourjolly is affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice where she is Associate Professor/Clinician Educator. She also serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the MSW Program. She earned the Ph.D. (1996) from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Her M.S.W. (1980) and B.S.W. (1979) are from Temple University Graduate School of Social Work. Dr. Bourjolly's research interests include personal, social, and cultural factors that impact coping processes and social functioning of women with breast cancer; development of cultural competency among behavioral health practitioners; utilization of health care services by vulnerable populations; family relations and religious change in African American families; and, interdisciplinary approaches to geriatric health care research.

Jennifer Bellamy

Jennifer Bellamy's research project is titled *Mental Health Resilience and Mental Health Services in the Context of the Child Welfare System*. Her research traces the pathways and services experienced by children in child welfare systems by means of a longitudinal study of a large, nationally representative, stratified random sample. She will examine the role that access to mental health services plays in the mental health resilience of children who have contact with the child welfare system.

Ms. Bellamy is a doctoral candidate in social work at Columbia University School of Social Work. She earned the B.A. in Psychology and Sociology (1977) and the M.S.W. (2000) from the University of Texas, Austin. Her research interests include research methods, children and families, and social policy. Currently, she is Program Co-coordinator of the Wilma and Albert Musher Program's Evidence-Based Practice Pilot Project at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Elisa LaPietra

Elisa LaPietra's research project is titled the *Impact of Motivational Interviewing on Initial Treatment Attendance for Participants with Dual Disorders*. Her research will examine whether motivational interviewing is an effective intervention for increasing initial treatment attendance when applied to clients with co-occurring severe mental illness and substance use disorder.

Ms. LaPietra is a doctoral candidate in social work at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. She holds a B.A. in Psychology (1992) from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Northeastern University. She has worked at various social service agencies as counselor, case manager, director of outpatient services, manager of crisis and case management services, and adult services manager.

Social Work Research Fellowships and *Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships* are available nationwide to doctoral students and social work faculty at all ranks who seek to conduct research aimed at improving the quality of evidence-based practice in social work. Applicants may apply for funding up to \$20,000 in any of the following priority areas: *Approaches to Staff Supervision; Effects of Staff Training in Cultural Competence, Diversity, or Racism; Foster Care and Mental Health; Effects of Removal/Non-removal to Foster Care; Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices;* and, *Advances in the Effectiveness of Social Work Practice*. The Doctoral Fellowships provide support for social work students during the dissertation phase of their doctoral studies. Funds may be used to support the student's time in conducting the dissertation research and/or to cover expenses incurred while engaged in the dissertation research.

For more information, contact Chito Trillana at 212-851-2266; cbt1@columbia.edu