Faculty News

Congratulations to **Kim Clare**, Director of the Inner City Social Work Program, who has received the Annual Outreach Award from the Office of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost. This award recognizes Kim’s great success and ongoing work in building bridges between the Inner City Campus and the Faculty as a whole, the North End neighbourhood and broader community of which we are a part. This is the second time in her career at the University of Manitoba that Kim has received this award. In 1988, she was recognized for her outreach and community-building work with local women’s organizations.

**Associate Professor Kim Clare, Inner City Social Work Program**

**Associate Professor Lawrence Deane** recently co-published “Indians Wear Red, Colonialism, Resistance, and Aboriginal Street Gangs”.

Summary Excerpt: Drawing upon extensive interviews with Aboriginal street gang members as well as with Aboriginal women and elders, the authors develop an understanding from “inside” the inner city and through the voices of Aboriginal people — especially street gang members themselves.


Faculty Book

**Faculty Update**

**Social Work Welcomes:**

- **Jodi Petch**
  Confidential Assistant to the Dean
- **Leia Head**
  Receptionist (NSWP)
- **Shedlmor Sevillo**
  Program Assistant

**Congratulations on Your Retirement:**

- **Lynda Paziuk**
  Instructor II/Academic Advisor (NSWP)

**Recent Faculty Publications**


Student Excellence

M.S.W. student Kimberly Hart was awarded the Scientific Director’s Award of Excellence 2013 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute of Aboriginal Peoples’ Health this past summer. Kimberly received the Master’s level award during the 2013 National Gathering of Graduate Students for her collaboration with Aboriginal communities in guiding her research. Congratulations Kimberly!

M.S.W. student Neneth Banas was invited to participate in the Pathways to Prosperity National Conference this November in Ottawa. She was one of five student representatives selected to represent the Prairie Provinces. The conference focuses on the integration of immigrants and minorities across Canada as well as fostering welcoming communities.

M.S.W. student Lynette Nikkel’s abstract was accepted by the Sixth International Outdoor Education Research Conference - Future faces: Outdoor education research innovations and visions in New Zealand at the end of November. Her paper explores the use of qualitative methods in adventure therapy program evaluations.

Ph.D Candidate Tracey Bone successfully defended her doctoral research on October 23, 2013. Tracey conducted an exploratory case study with prelingually Deaf adults, all American Sign Language (ASL) first-language users, and all of whom had also received a diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

The aim of the study was to explore how these individuals, whose primary mode of communication is visual, manage their symptoms of depression following diagnosis when faced with a health care system that is predominantly oral-language based.

Following her successful defense, Dr. Tracey Bone will now focus her attention on travel to Accra, Ghana, Africa. There, she will take the lead in a preliminary ethnographic study exploring the pathways into mental health care for individuals involved in the criminal justice system in Ghana.

To contact Dr. Bone, please email drtbone@shaw.ca.

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Event

In October, social work students from two field of focus courses taught by Associate Professor Laura Taylor (Disability) and Professor Tuula Heinonen (Aging and Health) joined together with nearly 200 students from health-related disciplines such as dentistry, nursing and respiratory therapy to learn together about collaboration and promoting health. Students who participated were connected to Desire 2 Learn so they could carry out some pre-event activities including viewing short videos, taking a short quiz on health promotion and reading material on determinants of health and health promotion and a social work case situation, which had been adapted for the event. Following the event, students completed a quiz and a short survey before receiving a grade.

The IPE events provide students in health-related disciplines with an opportunity to understand one another’s professional orientations, roles and approaches. More importantly, students in social work are able to demonstrate what they contribute in health care settings and in interprofessional teams during the learning events. Although the activity is only for a half-day, it is hoped that all the students will continue to build on what they learned and gain a better appreciation of collaboration for health care and apply such knowledge in the health care labour force.

Students will be given another opportunity to participate in an IPE event in March, 2014.

For more information on IPE events, please contact Tuula Heinonen, IPE Liaison for the Faculty of Social Work at Tuula.Heinonen@umanitoba.ca.
In the Community

With the support of the Faculty Development Initiative, the Faculty of Social Work, in partnership with Career Trek Inc. is pleased to announce the first Social Work project in the Get Ready to Work program.

The Get Ready to Work program provides an experiential career immersion program for Grade 9 students who are interested in gaining in-depth knowledge about a particular career. Students spend three hours each week learning directly from professionals who are working the field. Projects are designed to ensure that participants carry out tasks that would generally be done by an individual with the professional designation. Each project is designed with both theoretical information and hands on tasks in order to provide participants with the opportunity to gain knowledge and practical experience about the field. A critical component of the Get Ready to Work projects is learning about the academic requirements necessary to bridge the high school/post-secondary education, and participants will be provided with information about the various pathways into social work, and the different careers that are possible with a social work degree.

Contemporary issues in post-secondary education have identified a need to become more connected with students and colleagues at the secondary and elementary levels. As well, it is important to strategically connect K-12 education systems with post-secondary institutions. This project will provide faculty with the opportunity to engage with high school students who are interested in pursuing a social work education. This process may then subsequently provide information as to how academics can more effectively meet student needs when they enter the Faculty. As well, with more information available regarding the realities of particular professions, students can make more positive education and career choices – perhaps leading to improved graduation rates.

Career Trek Inc. was founded by Darrell Cole, who received his M.S.W from the University of Manitoba in 1997. Career Trek’s vision is straightforward: Help build a Manitoba where everybody can realize their full career or educational potential. It facilitates this by providing youth hands-on experience in different careers, which gets them excited about one day going to university, college or taking part in an apprenticeship. It also helps them figure out what professions they would enjoy - and which ones they might not.

Beginning in January, the social work project will focus on community development in the Central Park area of Winnipeg, and will teach students how to conduct a community needs survey, analyze the results, and develop a summary report. Working with current social work students, participants will learn about the importance of identifying the strengths and challenges that communities are facing through community walks, meeting with individuals and groups in the community, and learning about the resources and resource gaps that exist in the community.

Post-secondary education is a significant predictor of future economic and occupational success. In contrast to some perceptions, barriers to post-secondary education for many youth are not financial. They include an absence of knowledge about particular programs, and the absence of opportunity to experience the actual tasks of a particular career. Consequently, many students end up in particular faculties with a perspective that does not accurately reflect the day-to-day realities of the career, nor the educational expectations that are demanded by the career. This project will support research that examines how to better facilitate career decision making processes and post-secondary choices in adolescents. As well, research will explore students’ perceptions and understandings of social work pre and post-participation.

We are hopeful that several future social work students will be amongst the first participants!

For further information about this project, please contact Kathy Levine at Kathryn.Levine@umanitoba.ca

Visit Career Trek online at careertrek.ca.
Strangers in New Homelands International Conference

The 6th edition of the Annual International Conference on Migration, Refugee Movements, Settlement and Integration Challenges, dubbed Strangers in New Homelands, was held at the University of Manitoba on October 17th and 18th, 2013.

The main theme of the Conference was: Pathways and Roadblocks to Settlement and Citizenship in New Homelands: Exploring Critical Issues on Migration, Integration and Adaptation of Newcomers in Host Societies.

Chaired by Assistant Professor, Dr. Michael Baffoe, the Conference brought together researchers, academics, graduate students, NGOs, government representatives, policy makers and other stakeholders from around the world to promote exchanges and discussion on aspects of the integration and settlement processes of new immigrants and refugees in the diaspora. In attendance was the Hon. Christine Melnick, Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, Province of Manitoba who extolled the innovative immigration and settlement policies of the Manitoba government in attracting resettling newcomers into the province.

The keynote speaker for this year’s conference was Prof. Peter Li, a renowned expert on immigration and a Professor of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. He spoke on Migration in the Age of Globalization: Social Construction of “Immigrants”. Prof. Li took a look at how economic globalization has changed the nature and volume of world migration.

Other speakers included Dr. Carlos Parra, a Professor of Spanish and Literature, and Chair of the Modern Languages Department at Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, TN, USA. Speaking under the theme: Biopolitics and the Hispanic/Latino Non-authorized Immigrant Subject, the role of “Non-Validity” Status, Dr. Carlos Parras examined how Official-sponsored criminalization and dehumanization of newcomers serve as background to anti-immigrant policies and public attitudes towards newcomers in host societies.

The Luncheon Presentation on the opening day of the conference was delivered by Dr. Emőke Szathmáry, President Emeritus, University of Manitoba. Speaking on the topic, “What are you - Hungarian or Canadian? Constructing identity and the notion of home”, Dr. Emőke Szathmary discussed the challenges involved in identity formation of immigrant youth when immigrant parents are themselves divided on the reasons for their arrival in a new country.

The second day Plenary Presentation was delivered by Mr. Tom Denton, Executive Director, Administration and Sponsorships, Hospitality House Refugee Ministry, Winnipeg. His emotional powerful presentation was under the topic, “Straining the Quality of Mercy: dilemmas in contemporary approaches to refugee movements”. Mr. Denton took a critical look at the state of the world’s refugee population and the difficulty in getting many of them resettled in new societies.

There were thirty-four presentations from presenters who came from various institutions and agencies in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa.

For information regarding the 7th Annual Strangers in New Homelands Conference 2014, please visit www.strangersconference.com.
Homecoming 2013

This year marked the 70th Anniversary of the School/Faculty of Social Work, which was founded in 1943. On September 26, staff, students, faculty, alumni and community members gathered to celebrate the history of the Faculty.

During Homecoming 2013, the Helen Mann 50th Anniversary Award was presented to Sister Jean Ell of the Grey Nuns of Manitoba for her outstanding contribution to the social work profession in Manitoba. For over 40 years, Sister Jean Ell has been contributing to community services development, health care administration and social work education. Thank you to Megan Ludlow for nominating Sister Jean for the award. Congratulations, Sister Jean Ell!

The Faculty of Social Work also welcomed Dr. Ellen Sue Mesbur who was this year’s Baird Poskanzer Memorial Lecture guest speaker. Dr. Mesbur’s speech included the role of group work in social work practice, the historical mission of social work to realize social justice while referencing the history of the School/Faculty of Social Work. Dr. Mesbur was a professor and director at the School of Social Work, Renison University College, University of Waterloo as well as at the School of Social Work, Ryerson University.

The Faculty was pleased to see a large number of students in attendance as well as the support from the Order of the Grey Nuns. To close the event, those in attendance were given the opportunity to socialize and renew acquaintances.

We are looking forward to Homecoming 2014, which will be held Thursday, September 18, 2014.

Social Work Historical Memorabilia

Do you have a piece of social work history you would like to share with the Faculty of Social Work?
The Homecoming Committee is collecting alumni memorabilia that will be on display at the Faculty.

Please send anything you would like to share to:
Homecoming Committee
521 Tier Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Distance Delivery Program

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all of our Alumni and hope you are all doing well.

Our Distance Delivery B.S.W Program at the Faculty of Social work is alive and well. We have graduated over 600 social work students from across Canada since the program began and presently have over 475 active students taking their degree through our cohorts and program. As the Field Coordinator for the Distance Delivery program, I know from experience that we have some amazing students that are in our program. I had the opportunity to travel to the Maritimes in the spring of 2013 and met with over 100 field instructors and students. The feedback that I received was very positive.

As we all know, with positives come some difficulties and challenges. Given that our students live in many of the smaller communities in Canada, it is difficult to build consistent, ongoing relationships with agencies. Although we work closely and on a regular basis with many organizations throughout Canada, it is often difficult to find field instructors that will accept our students.

As you all know, our program is an accredited program and is highly regarded. I would be very interested to hear from our alumni from all across Canada who would be willing to accept students while doing their placements. I hope to build a strong database and have names of field instructors willing to accept students.

Given that you have graduated from the Faculty of Social work at the University of Manitoba and many of you are our Distance Delivery graduates it would be a great way to reconnect with the Faculty.

If you are interested in placing your name in our database to become a potential field instructor, please contact me at Joan.Churley@umanitoba.ca or call me at 204-474-6812.

I would appreciate hearing from you and look forward to working with you in the future.

Joan Churley,
Distance Delivery Field Coordinator

DD Grad Reception

On October 17th, a small reception was held in room 307 Tier Bldg in honour of the Distance Delivery B.S.W Graduates.

We were very happy to see four of our distance students who travelled to Winnipeg to convocate on this day.

It is always a pleasure to meet with our distance delivery students and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

Northern Social Work Program

This year marks our 30th year of social work education in Northern Manitoba. Classes seem to be going well, student numbers are up and we have a full contingent of staff and faculty.

In September, the Dean spent two days in Thompson meeting staff and faculty and members of the community. He also returned in November to chair our fall Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

The NSWP had their annual “Honouring Our Students” day in October. Approximately 50 students showed up to hear a presentation by Donelda MacDonnell on Adult Children of Dysfunction.

We continue to expand our research capabilities and interests, with new partnerships with University College of the North and community agencies occurring this year. One important aspect of this effort is the inclusion of a growing number of NSWP students acting as research assistants.

Along with our 30th year in the North comes the retirement of NSWP’s longest serving staff member. Lynda Paziuk will officially retire in January, 2014. For 30 years Lynda has instructed, advised, coaxed and prodded our students to strengthen their reading, writing, communication, and study skills.

I am sure that many of our graduates are indebted to her support.

Over the years, Lynda has also played a major role in determining course schedules, creating four-year plans for students, and negotiating courses through Inter University Services. Most of all, Lynda has acted as a sounding board regarding the programs original intention to create an adult education program for and about northerners.

In gratitude for her work and dedication, we held a come and go tea on November 22nd. All were invited to come and share a story and show their appreciation for the dedicated work Lynda has done.

Those who were not able to attend this event are encouraged to contact Lynda by phone or e-mail at Lynda.Paziuk@umanitoba.ca

Colin Bonycastle, Director, NSWP

Congratulations on Your Retirement, Lynda!

Jim Mulvale, presenting Lynda Paziuk of the Northern BSW Program, with gifts for her 30 year retirement.
Faculty Abroad

For the 2012-13 academic year, I was on a research leave following completion of my term as Rector of St. Paul's College. While rector, I maintained a 1/3rd appointment in the Faculty of Social Work, and used my leave time to undertake research related to my long-term interest in criminal justice social work in anticipation of my return full time to the Faculty.

During the year, I held academic visitor appointments at the Institute of Criminology, School of Law University College Dublin and the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin.

My plan for the Research/Study Leave was formulated so as to provide an opportunity to study social work practice within community justice settings as it related to indigenous and ethnic minority offenders.

The indigenous Irish minority are the “Travellers”, sometimes known in literature as “Tinkers”, and often mistakenly called “gypsies”. Ethnic minority offenders are made of two broad groups: people from within the EU who moved to Ireland for economic reasons during the Celtic Tiger (1995-2008) economic boom (many of them are Roma), and refugees/asylum seekers, a large percentage from Africa.

I had done two of these overseas leaves before, and so I know that it is important to be open to invitations to speak about your research (current and past), to do guest lectures in classes at local institutions of higher education, and participate in academic conferences, meetings, etc.

Before leaving Winnipeg I had agreed to lead a graduate seminar in Comparative Penal Policy at UCD and that I did in the winter term 2013. All of this is in addition to developing and implementing one’s research plan.

I was able to do my research with the kind assistance of the Irish Probation Service and the national organization that promotes the rights of the Travelling Community, Pavee Point and their affiliated organizations across the country.

What follows are highlights of some of my presentations, guest lectures, etc. while living in Ireland last year:

**September**
Re-imagining Imprisonment in Europe, Common Challenges, Diverse Policies and Practice, sponsored by the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice Ireland along with the European Scribani Network at Trinity College Dublin. My paper entitled Canada’s Punitive Turn and its likely impact on Custody & Aboriginal Offenders was presented on September 6.

**October**
Presentation Seeking a balance between Community Safety and Reintegration: The Canadian experience of release from custody at the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development annual conference on Exit from Custody

**February 2013**
Presentation at the UCD Law School Research Seminar on Probation Work with Travellers and Ethnic Minority Offenders

**April**

**May**
Presentation entitled “Restorative Justice in a Canadian Prison” at the 4th Global Conference-Experiencing Prisons, Prague, Czech Republic

Dr. Denis Bracken,
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs
The Inner City Social Work Program (ICSWP) marked its 32nd admission to the Full-Time Program this past August. During the last three weeks of August, new students worked on critical thinking skills, learned about balancing family responsibilities and study time, and had time to get to know each other, the staff, advisors, elders and instructors.

Early in September, we held a “Family Night” for the new student group where students invited their family and friends who will be supporting them over the course of the B.S.W program. At the event family and friends were introduced while they shared a meal. Thank you to the Faculty of Kinesiology’s “Rec’n’Read” program for organizing activities for over 30 children who were in attendance.

We would also like to acknowledge the most recent group of Part-Time B.S.W students, Cohort 15. The ICSWP Part-Time B.S.W program began in 1999, originally designed as a strategy to address the severe funding cuts ACCESS students faced throughout the decade of the 90s. The program seeks out those individuals who have a significant work or volunteer history in the human services field. Also thought to be a “temporary” measure when first launched, there continues to be high demand for the program. During the fall and winter terms nearly 100 students attend classes held on Saturday mornings and Wednesday.

Community Involvement
The ICSWP currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee for Aboriginal Visioning for the North End (AVNE). Partnering with organizations and agencies in the local area, AVNE provides organizational support to many of the significant community events such as Aboriginal Day, Community Picnic in the Park. This December 5th, AVNE will be involved in “Lighting up the Avenue” which highlights local entertainers, a community feast, a street lighting ceremony and a visit from a special guest who brings gifts for the children.

The ICSWP staff and students enjoy being part of this beautiful celebration in our community every year and are looking forward to this very special event.

Kim Clare, Director, ICSWP

Jibaii Geezhigaad & Dia de los Muertos

Every fall Dr. Kip Coggins and his partner Natalia invite all ICSWP staff and students to join them in celebrating the Jibaii Geezhigaad (Ghost Suppers) and Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

These celebrations at the Inner City Social Work Program campus on Selkirk Avenue combine the Indigenous traditions of Great Lakes Anishinabe peoples and the Indigenous peoples of central Mexico. For the feast an altar is set up with pictures of family members who are deceased, along with flowers, candles, and of course offerings of food. After a blessing of the meal with a smudge of wengush (sweet grass) the meal begins.

For both Indigenous Mexicans and Indigenous peoples of the Three Fires (Ojibwa, Odawa, Potawatomi), the idea of a feast honouring the dead includes the preparation of foods that are first offered to those who have passed on, followed by a celebration that includes feasting, talking, laughter, and sharing stories about loved ones who are now gone.

This year’s feast was a great success with over 60 people in attendance.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Kip Coggins, ICSWP

ICSWP’s 32nd Full-time Program class admitted
Notes from the Dean

Dr. Leslie Brown of the University of Victoria and Dr. Hugh Shewell of Carleton University. They provided an “external review” of our proposal to launch a new M.S.W program based in Indigenous Knowledges. This proposal is the fruit of hard work over an extended period by our faculty colleagues Michael Hart, Diane Hiebert-Murphy (during her time as Associate Dean), Deana Halonen, Don Robinson, and other members of the Indigenous Caucus. As external reviewers, Drs. Brown and Shewell provided very positive feedback and many constructive suggestions for how to strengthen the M.S.W-IK proposal. It is now our intent to move it forward for final approval within the University and for consideration for funding by the provincial government.

I attended my first meeting of the Canadian Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work in Montreal in October. One key agenda item at this gathering was how to impart professional competencies to our students as they prepare to enter practice in the various fields of social work. There have been concerns among social work regulatory bodies in many provinces that students are not being equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge that they need to ‘hit the ground running’ upon graduation and entry into practice. On the other side, there have been concerns among social work educators that (at least some) conceptualizations of social work competencies take a ‘cookie cutter’ approach and downgrade professional discretion and a commitment to advocacy. In my own opinion, as social work educators we must strive to equip students with the necessary entry-level professional competencies, and at the same time teach them to be critical practitioners and innovative thinkers with a firm commitment to advocacy and social justice. We may not yet have perfected this fine balance, but I believe that we can make further progress towards this goal. Competent (or indeed excellent) social work practice is not inherently contradictory to a commitment to innovation, critical thinking, and progressive social change. In fact, it can be argued that you cannot really have one without the other.

It is vital that we pursue this complicated but very important conversation about social work competencies within the Faculty, and in broader provincial and national forums. One opportunity to do so will be provided at the joint conference of the Canadian Association of Social Work and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, which will be held at Brock University on May 26-29, 2014.

Another key item discussed at Deans & Directors was the set of challenges currently faced by Field Education in Social Work across Canada. These challenges include the availability of good quality placements for our students (especially as agencies experience cuts and as competition for field opportunities grow with other professional programs); how to define field educators’ roles in regard to teaching and research; best practices in using information technology in field education; and how to ensure minimal consistency in field education across Canada, while at the same time taking account of local circumstances and unique features of specific B.S.W and M.S.W programs.

The upcoming year will be a challenging one for the Faculty and the University, as we face budget reductions but no lessening of demand for excellent teaching, relevant research, and broad community engagement.

continued on page 11
Notes from the Dean

Here in Manitoba, we await the release of the report of the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry. We will do what we can as a Faculty to play a constructive role in improving child welfare / child protection in the wake of this report. Further afield, the Faculty’s research and teaching partnerships will continue in other parts of Canada and indeed in other countries around the world (e.g. Ghana, Rwanda, Ukraine, Russia, Finland, Belize, Ireland, and the United States). We will also continue to collaborate with other academic units at the University of Manitoba on Interprofessional Education and on other initiatives that arise from ‘clustering’ among Faculties.

On a personal note, I am settling into my new home and have become acquainted with some of the many wonderful features of Winnipeg and Manitoba since my arrival in July. At the top of my list of local attractions are the restaurants! The celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay would be hard pressed to find a dysfunctional eating establishment anywhere in Winnipeg to feature on his TV show. All of the restaurants that I have managed to visit so far have been great!

Dr. Jim Mulvale, Dean of Social Work

At the Faculty

The Faculty of Social Work recently welcomed Dr. Pavlo Khobzey of Ukrainian Catholic University and Dr. Volodymyr Pavlysh of Lviv Polytechnic who visited the University of Manitoba this November. Dr. Jim Mulvale, Professor Brad McKenzie and Dr. Lyn Ferguson met with Khobzey and Pavlysh to discuss further partnerships with the faculty. Dr. Brad McKenzie formerly directed the Reforming Social Services in Ukraine Project from 1999 to 2002.

During the week leading up to the Grey Cup game, Professor Laura Taylor (President of the Ticat Fan Club, UM Social Work chapter, and a Hamilton native) discusses the upcoming game with a refugee from Rider Nation (Dean Jim Mulvale).

The Saskatchewan Roughriders ended up winning the CFL Grey Cup, defeating the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 45-23.

For more information on Faculty news and events, please visit www.umanitoba.ca/social_work
**Faculty Research**

**Research Profile**

Assistant Professor, Dr. Régine King, obtained her Ph.D. at Factor-Inwentash, Faculty of Social Work and her Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) in Counseling Psychology and Community Development at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Dr. King’s research interests include survivors of organized violence, including refugees and those who resettle where violence occurred, social inequities, cross-cultural mental health interventions, and approaches to forgiveness and reconciliatory processes. She is also interested in transnational research methodologies and ethics.

Dr. King has extensive practice experience working in community-based mental health organizations in Canada and Rwanda.

**Recent Projects**

“Synthesizing indigenous and international social work theory and Practice in Rwanda,” a SSHRC partnership-funded project was launched in Rwanda in October 2013.

Dr. Regine King, a co-applicant, together with Dr. Susan McGrath, the Principal Investigator, from York University and partners from the Department of Social Work at the former National University of Rwanda (NUR) facilitated a two day workshop with academics and the BSW students at NUR.

The purpose of the workshop was to establish a framework from which to collect, analyze and synthesize local practices that will inform social work education, policy and practice in Rwanda.

“Examining the Factors that Influence the Mental Health of African Refugees after their Resettlement in Winnipeg,” a project led by Dr. Regine King, presented her preliminary findings at the Strangers in New Homelands Conference 2013 in collaboration with Professor Tuula Heinonen and research assistants Petra Roberts and Alero Adeleye-Olusae.

The study seeks to gain a better understanding of mental health, mental health needs and the resources that African refugees who resettled in Winnipeg need to improve and promote their mental well-being.

For research collaboration, please email Regine.King@umanitoba.ca

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**Conference Presentation**

Professor Tuula Heinonen and Assistant Professor, Marlene Promrenke, from the Student Counselling Centre, presented their research study, “Transitions from Childhood to Pre-Adolescence and Beyond of Adopted Chinese Children” at this year’s Strangers in New Homelands Conference 2013.

With the rise in inter-country adoption from China, the study explored the views of parents about their adopted Chinese children’s integration into their adoptive families and lives in Canada.

The children were all under 12 at the time of the study and were thriving in their families, at school and in Canadian society. Many of the parents, however, were concerned about the future as their bi-cultural children began to develop their own individual identities and wanted to know more about their Chinese families and what happened when they were young children waiting for adoption.

Most parents reported that they were preparing themselves and had developed some protective factors and/or supports for dealing with the kinds of questions their children might ask as they grow into adolescence, many parents were concerned that it could be difficult for their children.

For more information on Faculty research, please visit our Faculty pages at www.umanitoba.ca/social_work