MSW students who participated in a class taught by Jeff Fulsom focusing on the 2011 Legislative Session are pictured with Gov. Brian Schweitzer at the State Capital in Helena.

Get involved!
Become an Alumni Ambassador!
Help plan the MSW Ten Year Anniversary!
Contact Jim Caringi at james.caringi@mso.umt.edu for more information.
Find us on Facebook!

Contribute to your newsletter!
Send us updates on your careers, travels, projects and family.
Share information on trainings and workshops.
Let us know what kinds of items you would like to see in your newsletter!
Alumni Updates

Jeanette Prodgers, Class of 2010

I am putting those federal stimulus dollars to work for rural Montana. I opened an outreach office in Dillon for Montana Independent Living Project, an organization that promotes independence for people with disabilities in southwestern Montana. I serve Beaverhead and Madison Counties. It is temporary, part-time, which gives me a little time to do some freelance writing. Funding for the outreach office lasts until December, then who knows. I am definitely putting to use those principles of social justice that I learned during my education.

Angela Locke, Class of 2008

Greetings Alumni! Since graduation, I have enjoyed traveling (living and working in California and Colorado) gaining hours towards licensure, but now I am back in Montana! I just recently received a position with Altacare in Seeley Lake, MT as a CSCT Therapist and I am loving it. Glad to be back to the beautiful country and look forward to seeing several of you in the near future!

Kara Mileski, Class of 2009

I recently moved to Seattle, Washington to work with Public Outreach Fundraising. I am going to be working with different non-profits assisting them with organizing campaigns and identifying fundraising goals. I welcome visitors!

Kerry Herndon, Class of 2010

I continue to work at The University of Montana as the Assistant to the Registrar. Following completion of my program evaluation for our pilot project implementing withdrawal counseling for students who are thinking about leaving school, we received permission to continue with the process. In addition, my team has made a proposal to implement some new policies and practices around withdrawal at UM as a result of what we have found. In Spring 2010, I participated on the Vet Center Exploratory Committee and was tasked with chairing the Program Development and Staffing Subcommittee. As a result of our proposal and hearing from student veterans (many from the School of Social Work), President Engstrom approved moving forward with implementation of a UM Vet Center. Although I am no longer in class, I have been busy working on preschool art projects with Molly (age 3.5). Molly could definitely be a future MSW. She has a very strong-willed personality and doesn’t give in easily when she is advocating for something she believes in (which is a great challenge for Mom & Dad). Molly also cares deeply for those around her and is a great little caregiver. Jason (my husband) has been very busy managing the family business, Double Front Café. He is very busy getting ready for the big 50th Anniversary Bash. Never a dull moment. Miss you all, and hope you are well.

Do you have news?

Share with your fellow alumni! Send your Alumni Update to Jim Caringi at james.caringi@mso.umt.edu

No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see possibilities; always see them, for they are always there.

Norman Vincent Peale

Many a man would rather you heard his story than granted his request.

Philip Stanhope
Alumni Updates

Diana Reetz-Stacey, Class of 2010
As part of my job with the Missoula City/County Health Department, I send out a few things that people may want to subscribe to:

- A weekly Healthy Aging e-mail with links to current research, policy, local events & announcements.
- Cancer coalitions for Missoula, Mineral & Ravalli Counties, collaborating on projects, issues, & concerns over the cancer continuum - from prevention, screening, treatment, survivors, care givers, end of life, fundraising, research & policy.

Kim Brown, Class of 2007
My husband and I are still living in British Columbia and have recently applied for Canadian citizenship (we hope to be dual citizens of the U.S. and Canada). I still work part-time for the University of Montana Rural Institute on Disabilities and travel to Montana several times each year as part of that job. In the fall of 2010, I had the opportunity to teach two sections of an undergraduate Social Work course (one on-campus and one online) at the University of Victoria. The UM MSW program with its social justice focus provided a perfect foundation for my teaching at UVic.

Pender Island is a small, close-knit, extremely progressive community. I am fortunate to volunteer my time to such things as the Pender Organic Community Garden (building community while growing food), the Pender Community Transitions project (promoting sustainable lifestyles to address peak oil, climate change and worldwide food shortages), and the Pender Island Mental Health Initiative (every other month, we show a mental health-related film at the Community Hall followed by an open forum discussion, and a colleague and I are facilitating a no-cost depression support group for community members). It is exciting and immensely rewarding to be able to put the skills from our MSW program to direct (and widely varied) use.

Spock
Since Spock has freed himself from the grips of Jim Caringi’s office, he has taken advantage of all the world has to offer. He sends his salutations and declares that his hosts have been treating him quite admirably.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.

Ben Sweetland
Cindy Garthwait is on sabbatical during spring 2011, and spent two months traveling in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia. She studied social work programs for older adults in these countries, presented a poster at the symposium of the International Consortium on Social Development, and visited social work education programs in Dhaka, Penang, and Hanoi. She will continue to develop relationships with these programs and will share her learning with students and organizations in the near future.

Janet Finn is Program Co-Chair for "Unsettling Feminisms: Disrupting the Center, Dismantling Oppression, Transforming Social Work," a historic international (un)conference to be held in Chicago in May 2011. In other news: Janet married her sweetheart Dave Ames on 2/14/10! Check out his books, including True Love and the Woolly Bagger.

After 8 years, 32 graduate classes taught, 12 peer review publications, 14 technical reports, and 16 conference presentations, Associate Professor Tim Conley is taking a 1 semester sabbatical, Fall 2011. Combined with summer it means about 8 months away from the University. He would love to hear from alumni!

Congratulations MSW Class of 2011!