community outreach

David Patterson's Efforts Against Homelessness Featured

Dr. David Patterson’s work with Knoxville’s Homeless Management Information System was featured in the summer 2009 issue of Quest, The University of Tennessee magazine for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. The article was written by Betsy DeGeorge, publications manager at SWORPS, and focused on the importance of connecting local agencies to the homeless community by means of an internet-based data-collection system.

In the article, Dean Karen Sowers noted the importance of Patterson’s work by stating, “This project becomes increasingly important as the economy worsens and unemployment rises. We must continue to promote effective services to our neediest children and families.”

Ruth Martin Honored for Work in the Community

Ruth Martin, former field instructor at the college and recent retiree, was honored at the Knoxville Convention Center on August 7, 2008. Martin, a very active member of the Knoxville community, has been instrumental in the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee’s Office on Aging program LIVE (Living Independently through Volunteer Efforts). In her work with the program, she helps seniors remain independent in their own homes. During her tenure as field instructor, Martin mentored hundreds of undergraduate and master’s level interns.

Covenant Health in Knoxville recognized her tireless efforts to improve the lives of others with the Covenant Platinum Award, which honors seniors who represent positive aging, living life to the fullest, and “putting the ‘plus’ in 65-plus, the ‘gold’ in golden years, and the ‘citizen’ in senior citizen.”

SWORPS Announces the Opening of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation

The college’s Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) is pleased to announce that it has acquired the former Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) and has renamed it the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE).

As a division of SWORPS, CARE employs a team of former SSRI staff who join with other SWORPS professionals to deliver survey research services to a wide range of customers in the fields of social work, transportation, civil engineering, public health, education, child care, human services, and exercise science, among others. Linda Daugherty, who oversaw SSRI projects for over seven years, serves as CARE’s assistant director.

One of the unique features of CARE is its multistation phone bank that allows staff to conduct large-scale telephone interviews and surveys using Sawtooth WinCat software. “Our 22 station phone bank now allows us to keep our own telephone data collection in house. Our staff, including project managers, statisticians, evaluators, data processors, and interviewers are serious and purpose driven, hard working and energetic, ready to take on new challenges, and use new methods to creatively solve new, and old, problems. With CARE as part of the SWORPS organization, we can offer more in-house options to meet the needs of our clients,” states Maryanne Cunningham, associate director of SWORPS.

In addition to conducting telephone interviews using targeted samples and random digit dialing samples, CARE offers the following services:

- Personal interviewing
- Focus group management
- Web-based surveys
- Mail surveys

— Kirche Rogers