Social Work Professor Dan Beerman has been selected as the Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-North Carolina Chapter, based on his contributions to the community and social work profession over the past 30 years. Prof. Beerman joined the social work faculty in 2001, as Project Director for the Child Welfare Education Collaborative. Prior to that, he had worked in for over 20 years with the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, both with children and adults.

Since 1985, Prof. Beerman is currently President of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority Board of Director, of which he has been a member for many years. Dan has been a huge advocate for the profession of social work and the client populations we serve through his legislative and advocacy work. He has worked on the NASW-NC Legislative Committee since 1992, serving as both a member and as chair. During that time he worked on such important issues as social work licensure and mental health parity. He also served as a Delegate to the NASW National Convention three different times, developing policy statements on economic security, the Code of Ethics, welfare reform, and domestic violence. He has also served as member or chair of the NASW-NC Political Action Committee.

His support for the profession is further manifested by the fact that he regularly provides continuing education workshops through NASW conferences on the topic of professional ethics. The NASW-NC Social Worker of the Year Award is an annual award given to a social work professional who has demonstrated commendable social work practice and involvement with NASW and other professional, civic, and community organizations. The award is presented in March at the annual NASW-NC Ethics Conference and Recognition & Awards Luncheon held in Raleigh, NC.

Minda Howze Barefoot, current JMSW student, is being honored by the National Association of Social Workers-North Carolina Chapter with the President’s Award. During her graduate studies, Minda has achieved academic excellence by maintaining over a 3.8 grade point average. She was also selected to be a North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative (NC-CWEC) Scholar. Minda is currently serving as the elected president of the JMSW class. She was also a 2008 graduate of the UNCG Department of Social Work’s BSW Program, where she served as Vice President of the NASW-Student Organization and was inducted into Phi Alpha, the social work honor society.
From July 2007 to June 2008, Minda served as the Graduate Student Representative for the NASW-NC Board of Directors and served as the collective voice of all MSW student members of NASW-NC. The Presidents' Award/Fund provides an annual award of $1,000 to a MSW student from a CSWE accredited social work program in North Carolina. This is an award that honors past NASW-NC presidents and recognizes MSW students who demonstrate exceptional leadership skills and potential. The award is presented in March at the annual NASW-NC Ethics Conference and Recognition & Awards Luncheon held in Raleigh, NC.