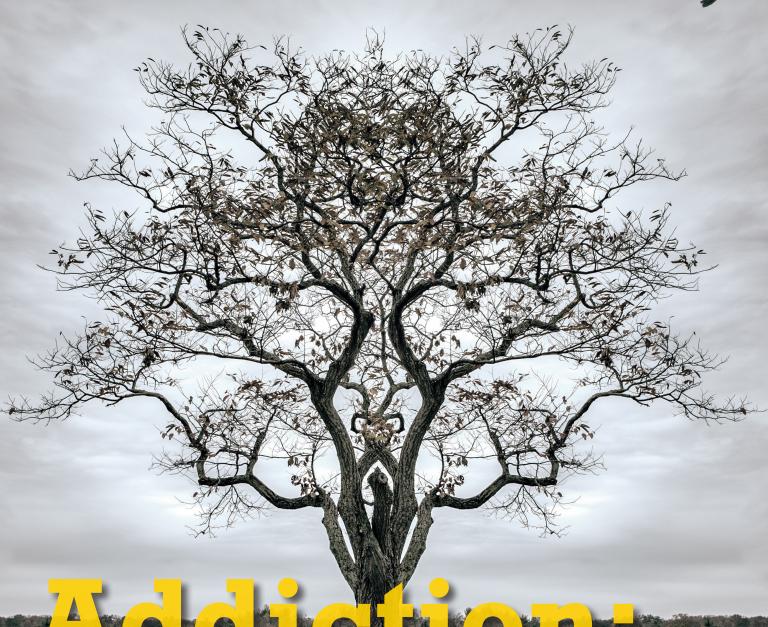
Connections

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends of the School of Social Work





Combating the Chists



Dean's Welcome

I am always pleased to welcome readers to *Connections*. This issue tells many tales of success with a core story about some of our work to slow the scourge of addiction and save lives. Our related process began about seven years ago when we started to refresh our behavioral health teaching, research, and training. We continue this acceleration and have new opportunities and initiatives to report on nearly every month. This work builds on our commitment to evidence-based practice, work across differences, and commitment to the most underserved communities.

We have, of late, changed the name and shape of our mental health curriculum; completed a comprehensive Screening Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment training grant that has installed SBIRT into our foundation curriculum and into many field placements; opened a clinical behavioral health specialization at our University at Shady Grove site; and dramatically increased our behavioral health and primary care field placements through two consecutive HRSA grants and a CSWE HEALS grant. The work is accelerating as we add more field instructors and faculty with addiction expertise who can, in turn, add to our pool of talented mentors, supervisors, and instructors. Just some of that work is reported, here, including announcement of a new UMB Center on Addiction Research Education and Services (CARES) that is co-led by the School of Social Work and the School of Pharmacy.

All of this work is endeavoring to move forward against the concomitantly critical need to address our ability to teach our students to advance anti-racist interventions that contribute to substance abuse and an array of other impediments to success of all people. We also work with the growing awareness generated by the #metoo movement and all the related gender inequality that it seeks to remedy. This to affirm that the UM SSW is committed to welcoming, engaging, and inspiring discussion about diversity and inclusion that it is our collective responsibility to support and respect each other in our work. We emphatically oppose acts of hate, violence, discrimination, and harassment and will work with all willing partners to counteract their genesis and expression.

The University of Maryland School of Social Work will remain engaged and committed, as it has been for more than 50 years of civil rights progress, to protecting and respect each other's rights and to advancing the causes of a strong and just society.

With appreciation for all of our role models, supporters, and readers who join with us, every day.

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW Dean and Professor

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IN MEMORIAM

On the Cover: **Image Courtesy of iStock**

Consider honoring a faculty or staff member with a gift to their Scholarship endowment!

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Parents Contact at Graduation Party



Kyla Liggett-Creel, MSW

Spring is the season of graduations, where parents celebrate the accomplishments of their children. At one graduation ceremony last spring, however, it was the parents who were in the spotlight, beaming with pride as they picked up certificates and posed for family photos at a graduation ceremony held solely for them.

Thirteen parents were recognized for graduating from Parent University, an eight-week parent-training curriculum for West Baltimore parents of children from birth to 3 years old. The program aims to increase responsive parenting and child development through parent/child interaction. The initiative, which has helped 150 families since its inception in 2009, is part of the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW)'s Promise Heights Initiative.



Bronwyn Mayden, MSW

"Today, it's about you and it's about your children. We celebrate you and all of the great work that you are doing here, "Bronwyn Mayden, MSW, assistant dean of the SSW and executive director of Promise Heights, told the graduates and their families at a recent ceremony at the Crispus Attucks Recreation Center. "We know that parents really are the first teachers of their children. and we are so proud that you are here with us and you have gone through over eight weeks with us. We've learned a whole lot about brain development, about discipline, about talking to your kids, health and safety and nutrition and I could go on and on."

Parents meet weekly to learn new methods of playing with their children, support one another and learn about topics such as child-centered play, development, asthma, home safety, safe sleeping habits, health, nutrition, positive reinforcement and other parent-focused topics. The program consists of three main components: family-style breakfast served by Parent University staff and volunteers; parent/child playtime; and parent education through various community partners.

SSW clinical instructor Kyla Liggett-Creel, PhD, MSW, developed Parent University in 2011.

A lot of parents in the Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood — Promise Heights' main geographic focus — can become isolated because of violence in the neighborhood, Liggett-Creel said in remarks after the ceremony. "And so some of the natural socializing that typically takes place with parents in a neighborhood isn't there," she explained.

Through Parent University, moms and dads build a network of support that lasts long after the last class is over, Liggett-Creel said. "Now, they see each other in the grocery store and there is a familiar face. We are helping to change the culture of parenting in the community."

Brenda Martin, who graduated from Parent University with 11-month old Zoey, said she considered the program a blessing.

"I really enjoyed it," Martin said. "They made us aware of a lot of different resources available for the baby." Fellow graduate Tawanda Thompson

We know that children who are exposed to lots of quality interaction with their parents have the best chance of success in school and in life.

-SSW Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD

said she learned new ways of interacting with her 18-month-old son, DeShaun, and that she was not alone in dealing with the hardships of parenting.

"I learned to share my struggles with other parents, and we all gave each other ideas on how to deal with things in a better way," said Thompson. "Sometimes parents just need some extra guidance." added Thompson's mother, Eva Bullock, who was on hand to watch her daughter and grandson graduate from the program.

SSW Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, said the way children begin life affects them for the long-term.

"We know that children who are exposed to lots of quality interaction with their parents have the best chance of success in school and in life," he said. "Parent University helps to reduce harsh parenting and to change the culture of parenting to be more positive and more stimulating."

The initiative has expanded to provide intervention for parents of fourand five-year-olds. The new program called Parent University II, is based on a similar project in Chicago and addresses topics such as child-centered time, routines, challenging behavior, and managing stress.

Barth praised the graduates for persevering.

"It's hard when you are so immersed in parenting to take the time to reflect and to step back and know you need something more. I know I needed something more the first time I went through parenting. I wish I had Parent

University," he said. "I'm so glad that you do, that you've learned additional ways to succeed as parents, to make parenting less stressful and to make parenting more positive. And you've shown not just an interest in parenting but a commitment to parenting by finishing this program. We hope this is just the beginning of your journey with us."

The graduating class also heard encouraging remarks from Janel Nelson, also a previous Parent University grad, and mother of six children, ranging from 6 to 27 years old.

"Relax a little bit and let someone else help you," Nelson advised the graduates. A self-described "control freak," Nelson said, "Parent University was a blessing to me and definitely a

blessing to my family. I appreciate you all for finishing strong. You took the time to do something for your kids."

Mary Ricks, a previous Parent University graduate, benefited from the program so much that she is now a parent mentor.

"Some of these parents never graduated from high school," she said. "I love seeing this today, the end result, this graduation ceremony and the pride they have in completing something." Rev. Lester A. McCorn, DMin, senior pastor, Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, provided the keynote address, sharing his personal story of living in the public housing projects and being the product of a single-parent household, who never knew his father.

"You may not see it right now," he told the parents, "but there are advocates for you, parents, that will some day stand in the gap for you. Let people help you celebrate." "There are people here who have seen this milestone in your life. Don't walk past it." Liggett-Creel, K., Barth, R. P., Mayden, B., & Pitts, B. E. (2017). The Parent University Program: Factors predicting change in responsive parenting behaviors. Children and Youth Services Review, 81, 10-20. doi:http://dx.doi. org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.07.017



An immersive Parent University meeting.

SCHOOL'S JODY OLSEN CHOSEN TO LEAD PEACE CORPS

The White House announced that Jody Olsen, PhD, MSW, a visiting professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW), senior faculty advisor of the Center for Global Education Initiatives, and senior lecturer at the Graduate School has been nominated to be director of the Peace Corps. A letter on the White House web page noted that Olsen was deputy and acting director of the Peace Corps from 2001 – 2009.

Olsen began her work at the agency as a volunteer in Tunisia, and later became a country director in the West African nation of Togo, the regional director for North Africa, the Near East, Asia, and the Pacific, and agency chief of staff.

Between tours of duty with the Peace Corps, Olsen was senior vice president of the Academy of Educational Development (AED), a large nonprofit focused on education and economic development in the U.S. and in 150 countries around the world.

Olsen helped inaugurate two new Peace Corps buildings in Lomé, Togo at the 2007 for the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps Togo program.

In 2015, UMB named Olsen a Champion of Excellence, honoring her global impact. "Jody Olsen is a tireless champion for developing the campus infrastructure and faculty and student competencies to ensure that we can

effectively and safely deliver great global education," said Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, UMSSW dean. "She is a terrific communicator, relentlessly optimistic and affirming, and exceptionally knowledgeable about all things international."

A presidential appointment to Director of the Peace Corps must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



Olsen, shown here on the left, helped inaugurate two new Peace Corps buildings in Lomé, Togo at the 2007 for the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps Togo program.

Peace Corps Student Returns to Finish MSW

In 2015, social work student Elizabeth Gill left for the Philippines as a Peace Corps Master International PCMI student. Today she returns to finish her MSW degree after two years of Peace Corps work in the Philippines.

Elizabeth said in 2015 "Two life goals of mine have been to obtain an MSW and join the Peace Corps, but I didn't realize that I could do both at the same time. I am so excited for this amazing, sure to be life-changing, opportunity and am thrilled at the ability to seamlessly integrate Peace Corps and graduate school." Now, ready to come finish her social work studies, Gill reports on what she has been doing at Camp GLOW in Bilar, Bohol, Philippines

While living and working abroad for 2+ years, Peace Corps Volunteers have the unique opportunity to immerse in a new community and learn about the community's values, its assets, its needs, and its vision for the village and its people. I'm a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in Bilar, a small farming town set in the center of the beautiful island of Bohol, Philippines- home to the Chocolate Hills and the world's smallest primate, the Tarsier.

The issues Bilar has prioritized include domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, and the lack of awareness on important health topics such as HIV/AIDS and its prevention. To address these issues, my counterpart and I decided to implement a Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Camp to educate, empower, and equip Bilar's young

women through various activities and discussions. With the help of Bilar's Local Government Unit and the Let Girls Learn Initiative, the GLOW Camp was a success! We had 38 high school aged girls, two from each village of Bilar, attend the 3-day camp.

During the camp, the girls attended interactive sessions on women's empowerment/gender equality, HIV/AIDS awareness, women's health issues, abuse/violence, leadership, and community service, which were led by local nurses, teachers, social workers, policewomen, and Peace Corps Volunteers. The girls are now partnering with the local Department of Social Welfare to assist the social workers with the facilitation of the monthly Community Development Sessions. At these development sessions, the girls have had the opportunity to share what they've learned from the GLOW Camp with others in their community.

The GLOW Camp served as a platform to develop female youth leaders who have already begun to educate their friends, family members, and peers on the relevant and important community issues. "I'm in awe of my community for working so hard to make this camp happen. My counterparts are incredibly passionate, hard-working, and driven and I'm so proud to be living and working with them in Bilar."

We hope that Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen will further strengthen the PCMI program.

SSW RANKED 3rd by COLLEGECHOICE

The University of Maryland School of Social Work came in third in the latest national rankings of MSW programs released by College Choice. UCLA, Washington University, University of North Carolina, and Penn make up the top five of 50 schools they reviewed.

SEE THE LIST: http://www.collegechoice.net/rankings/masters-in-social-work/

Unlike, U.S. News & World Report, the College Choice rankings were made using data from studies compiled from the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA. Students rated their college experiences in a variety of areas including tuition expenses, financial aid coverage, academic reputation, and after-college job placement. In addition, College Choice compared that data from other public sources like U.S. News & World Report, the National Center for Education Statistics, and PayScale.com.





COLLINS RECEIVES CSWE'S DISTINGUISHED RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AWARD





This fall, the SSW's Kathryn
Collins received the Distinguished
Recent Contributions to Social
Work Education Award by the
Council on Social Work Education.
The award was presented at
the organization's 2017 Annual
Program Meeting taking place in
Dallas this coming October.

Kathryn S. Collins is an
Associate Professor at the
University of Maryland School
of Social Work and Co-Principal
Investigator of the National
Child Traumatic Stress Network
(NCTSN) Category II Substance
Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA) funded
Family Informed Trauma Treatment

(FITT) Center and Principal Investigator (PI) of Trauma Education Connections Initiative. She is a current CSWE Trauma Education Executive Taskforce member and former Co-Chair and a member of the CSWE Council/Commission on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education.

The focus of her academic career centers on social justice, disparities in access to trauma reflective services, and developing trauma-focused social work interventions to promote safety and stability for vulnerable and oppressed populations such as minority children, women, and families surviving poverty and chronic violence in the inner city. Dr. Collins is the codeveloper of Trauma Adapted Family Connections (TA-FC), a trauma-informed neglect prevention intervention that is being replicated nationally. Along with her colleagues, she is developing and testing a Community Outreach and Resilience in Schools Program aimed to promote the health and well-being of children and families who have experienced trauma in their communities. Her commitment to the field is long standing with over 20 years of communitybased clinical social work practice with children and families. She has numerous publications and has been the PI or Co-PI on a long series of state and federally funded research. Dr. Collins has earned an extramural research award in the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities for her research focusing on children from minority communities and their exposure to community violence. Further, she brings her research scholarship, practice and life experience to the classroom where she has received several teaching awards across three university settings.



MD 2017 AWARD WINNERS FROM THE SSW

Five individuals with ties to the School of Social Work - three faculty members, one student and one alum - were recently honored by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter during their annual conference with the following honors.

2017 Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Carlton E. Munson, MSW, PhD



Most Maryland social workers have likely attended a conference or workshop somewhere around the state that Carlton Munson has presented. If you haven't, you

certainly know of his reputation as a man highly regarded in the field of social work. He is the consummate professional who not only looks the part but also lives the part. He has devoted his career to advancing clinical social work practice and supervision and has published more on clinical social work supervision than any other scholar in the history of clinical social work. He pioneered the first code of ethics for clinical supervisors and developed the narrative theory of clinical social work supervision.

Dr. Munson is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and director of the Washington Area Supervision Institute at Woodstock Forest Center where he also operates his private practice, focusing on child welfare and child trauma. He was the first graduate of the UMBSSW doctoral program in 1975 and became director of the doctoral program from 1992 - 1999. He was a professor at Shepherd University (and established the BSW program there), Catholic University,

University of Houston, and Fordham University in NYC. His teaching areas have been clinical supervision, clinical child welfare, and psychopathology. Dr. Munson's practice and research focus on trauma and loss in children, including international child abduction.

He has a special research interest in the effects of trauma on child development including a focus on receptive and language impairments. Carlton has published seven books and more than 80 journal articles and book chapters, including; Handbook of Clinical Social Work Supervision, The Mental Health Diagnostic Desk Reference, and Social Work Supervision, which have been widely adopted as texts in the US and abroad. He is the founding editor of The Clinical Supervisor Journal. He was the clinician in a precedent-setting Maryland Court of Appeals case that affirmed the right of clinical social workers to perform DSM diagnoses, to testify as experts, and to testify to ultimate issues. The case has had national implications for the practice of clinical social work.

Carlton was born in Baltimore in 1940 when his parents moved there from Hagerstown, Maryland so his father, Maurice, could work at Bethlehem Steel building battleships. Carlton and his mother, Katherine, moved back to Western Maryland when his father was drafted to serve in World War II. Carlton and his wife Joan were high school sweethearts and married in 1960. He joined the US Coast Guard and served during the Vietnam War era.

He dedicated 12 years to his military service and left as a Lieutenant Commander.

In 1964, Carlton was one of the first juvenile probation officers hired in Maryland. Two years later, Carlton and four other probation officers became known as today's Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

Dr. Munson's mentors include Dr. Verl Lewis, the founding dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland; Dr. Ruth Young; Dr. Daniel Thursz; Dr. Hans Falck; Dr. Harris Chaiklin; Dr. Ina Nucho; and Dr. Stanley Mazer.

Carlton's awards are numerous and he has been named an NASW Social Work Pioneer. In addition, he received the prestigious NASW Knee/Wittman Award in 2008, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Forensic Social Work in 2016. In 2013, he was appointed to the Maryland Governor's Commission on Child Custody Decision Making, established by the Maryland General Assembly. He served as Chair of the Commission's Research and Literature Committee. He was one of the few clinical social workers selected to participate in the field trials for the DSM-5.

Carlton Munson has dedicated his professional career to the advancement of the social work profession. He is devoted to NASW. In fact, 2017 marks his 50th year as a member of our organization and serves as the chairperson of our chapter's Professional Standards Committee. He is highly respected by all who are fortunate to know him.

2017 Social Worker of the Year Award

Shae Allen, LCSW-C

Shae Allen is a social worker and doctoral student who has made outstanding contributions to the field of social work in the areas of student development and programs for both veterans and the aging populations. She piloted a veteran-specific Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence program which led to a full-time, integrated position. She served as a voting member of the Maryland Healthcare Coalition Against Domestic Violence Board. She has developed and conducted military/ vet cultural competency and war-era health differences for the UMBSSW Health and Aging track courses for the past three years. She served as a liaison faculty member for the Health Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) program, facilitating veteran and aging training for health and HEALS students, and has played an instrumental role in the inclusion of social work as a key discipline for education within the Baltimore VA's teaching atmosphere.

Her accomplishments as a field instructor and member of the Intern Training Committee include facilitating a macro rotation and making significant contributions in developing a comprehensive Student Lunch and Learn curriculum, and she expanded skills training, leadership development, macro social work integration, topics on aging, and interdisciplinary team training. She is the Caregiver Support Coordinator for the Baltimore VA Medical Center and has recently begun to expand community collaborations for the caregiver program. Shae is also a veteran who believes in giving back to her community.

Her greatest achievement may be the way she has increased awareness and understanding of veteran culture through trainings in academic settings and her work with students. She is a positive role model and influence to both her students and colleagues. She identifies strengths in others and encourages them to pursue opportunities that will lead to their own advancement, as well as to the advancement of those they serve.

2017 Social Work Educator of the Year Award

Nalini Negi, MSW, PhD



Dr. Nalini Negi is an associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work whose research has emphasized the social etiology and mechanisms that confer risk

of psychological distress and substance abuse among migrant populations such as Latino trans-migrants (those who move back and forth between borders) and day laborers. She has been published extensively in scientific journals such as Research on Social Work Practice, Advances in Social Work, and International Social Work, and has edited two books. She is often found in the Latino community listening and supporting community members who are impacted by the most recent immigration ban and providing them with supportive and informative resources on campus and in the surrounding community. She is the chairperson of the UMBSSW Latino Student Association, and for the past two years has been co-lead on the UMBSSW Diversity and Anti-Oppression group pushing relevant school, community and curriculum responses to the issues of racism, oppression, and social justice. Her work is timely and imperative to our social justice principles.

2017 Field Instructor of the Year Award



Lane Victorson, LGSW

Lane Victorson has been a field instructor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work since 2005 and is clearly an inspiration to the students he leads.

He has been involved in community practice ever since serving in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros Islands as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1992-1994. Lane currently works with University of Maryland School of Social Work's Social Work Community Outreach Services (SWCOS) as the director of all community organizing initiatives. This includes coordinating the Neighborhood Fellows Program and serving the role of a Clinical Faculty Field Instructor for 8-10 students. The fellowship places students with organizations and schools working within Baltimore City neighborhoods on a variety of community revitalization and building initiatives. Additionally, Lane coordinates the UMB Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps USA Fellows Program which offers competitive fellowships to returning volunteers who attend the UMB School of Social Work

Lane is an alumnus of the UMBC Shriver Center Peaceworker Program, another fellows program that drew him from the high plains of Kansas to Baltimore City where he has been a resident for nearly 20 years. Lane is also an adjunct professor for the UMBSSW teaching courses in Macro Practice, Community Organizing, and Community Economic Development.

2017 MSW Student of the Year Award

Alessandro Zannirato, PhD

Alessandro Zannirato is working toward his MSW at the University of Maryland School of Social Work to become a multilingual psychotherapist. He plans to work with international clients in the US and on international humanitarian missions. Alessandro lived in South Africa for several years and met countless individuals whose lives had been ravaged by poverty, violence, HIV/ AIDS, and mental illness, which inspired him to become a social worker. He has studied and worked on three continents, has 14 years of experience as an educator, and is fluent in four languages (English, French, Italian, and Spanish).

He earned an MA degree in Foreign Languages from S. Pio V University of Rome, Italy and a doctorate in philosophy from University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is currently on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University.



FACULTY & STAFF PROMOTIONS



Sarah Butts, MSW



John Cagle, PhD



Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD



Joan Pittman, PhD



Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD



Sam Little, PhD





Megan Meyer, PhD Karen Oppenheimer, Kim Saunders, PhD LCSW-C., MEd



Sarah Butts, MSW, to Executive Director, Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative

John Cagle, PhD, to Associate Professor with Tenure

Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD, to Clinical Associate Professor

Joan Pittman, PhD, to Clinical Associate Professor

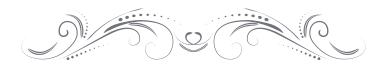
Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, to Assistant Director of the Ruth H. Young Center

Sam Little, PhD, to Associate Dean for Field Education

Megan Meyer, PhD, to Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Karen Oppenheimer, LCSW-C., MEd, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Kim Saunders, PhD, to Associate Dean for Admissions



DAILY RECORD **ALUMNI NEWS**

THE DAILY RECORD

Two 2001 MSW graduates and a member of the School's Board of Advisors were recently named the Maryland Daily Record's Top 100 Women list for their outstanding contributions to Maryland.

A record number of 435 women were nominated this year for the statewide honor. Nominees were asked to complete an application outlining their educational and career history, professional and community involvement, corporate and nonprofit board memberships, and mentoring experience. They were encouraged to submit letters of recommendation from those who are familiar with their professional, volunteer and mentoring accomplishments.

"Maryland's Top 100 Women have achieved amazing accomplishments in their careers, but to be honored as a Top 100 Woman requires more than just career success," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of The Daily Record. "She must be an exemplary citizen, committed to her community, creating change and growing the next generation of leaders through active mentoring."

Awardees from the University of Maryland School of Social Work included:

> Katie Allston, LCSW-C, MSW '01 Executive Director Marian House, Inc.

Robin McKinney, MSW '01 Director Maryland CASH Campaign

Martha Nathanson, Member SSW Board of Advisors Vice President, Government Relations and Community Development LifeBridge Health

Since 1996, Top 100 Women has recognized outstanding women leaders who are not only leading the way professionally but are dedicating their time and energy to community work as well as mentoring.



NASW, ASWB, CSWE, & CSWA STANDARDS FOR TECHNOLOGY IN **SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ANNOUNCED**

SSW's Gilliam **Plays Role in Its Development**



Julie Gilliam, PhD

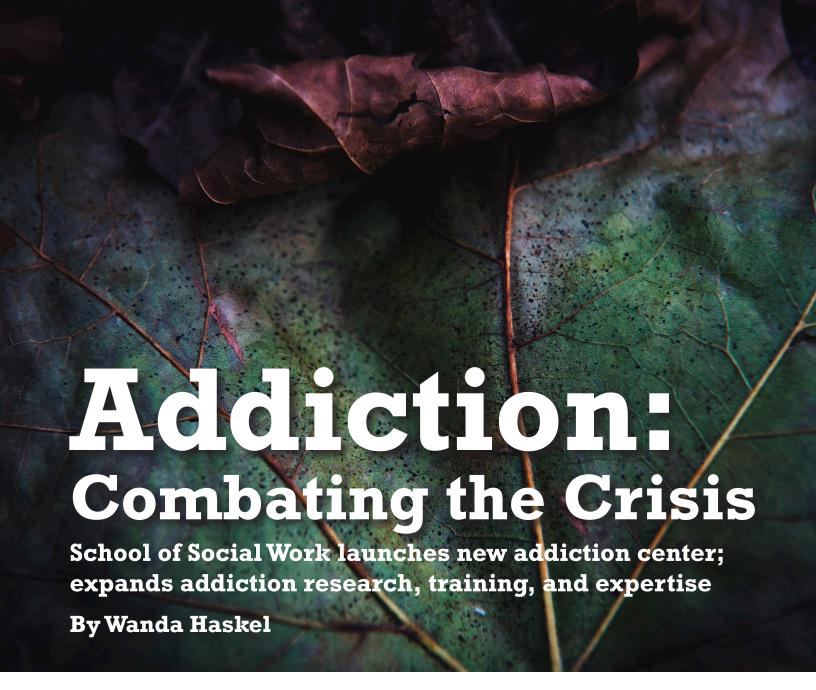
The NASW partnered with ASWB, CSWE, and CSWA to develop a uniform set of technology standards for professional social workers to use as a guide in their practice. The four associations formed the Task Force for Technology Standards in Social Work Practice and jointly developed the Technology Standards in Social Work Practice.

The School of Social Work's Jules Gilliam, Lead Instructional Technologist, served on the Technology Standards Sub-Task Force Advisory Group.

The task force met for almost two years reviewing technology literature in social work services and emerging standards in multiple professions. The task force also reviewed relevant statutes and licensing regulations in various jurisdictions. Multiple drafts were prepared and a draft was released for public comment during the summer of 2016. Many comments were received from individual social workers, social work academicians, and groups including the Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative (American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare) and representatives of a Web-based macro social work group.

In developing these standards, the Task Force for **Technology Standards in Social Work Practice used** several foundation documents, including the NASW Code of Ethics and the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act, along with many other sources.

The standards use a humanistic framework to ensure that ethical social work practice can be enhanced by the appropriate use of technology.



Reports on the devastation related to substance misuse have become shockingly commonplace.

A frightened toddler is discovered in the back of a car, witness to the overdose deaths of her parents who are slumped in the front. A celebrity takes a lethal dose of fentanyl. A senior citizen hooked on prescription opioids turns to heroin. A teenager's promising future is obliterated by carfentanil.

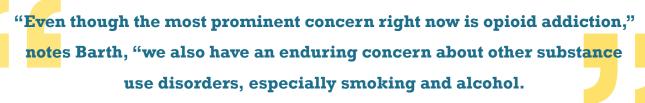
From downtown Albuquerque to rural West Virginia, from suburban Connecticut to Baltimore city, people suffering from substance use disorders (SUDs) are losing their lives at alarming rates, with drug overdoses now killing more people in the United States than automobile accidents or firearms.

The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis wrote in a recent report that the ongoing national overdose fatality rate currently equals "Sept. 11 every three weeks"; and last March, here in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan

signed an executive order declaring a State of Emergency in response to the overdose epidemic. Following Maryland, several other states did the same.

Moreover, substance use disorders, which are at the root of the opioid crisis, affect countless more than those who die from drug overdoses and their grieving families and friends.

Millions struggle with this chronic disease, characterized by continued substance use despite awareness of the adverse consequences. Substance use disorders are prevalent in America and include disorders related to a long list of licit (e.g., alcohol, nicotine, prescribed medications) and illicit (e.g., opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine) drugs. Most commonly, individuals with substance use disorders use multiple harmful substances, and frequently have co-morbid psychiatric, medical, or process addictions (i.e., gambling, eating disorders). The fallout related to substance use is shattering. Relationships are ruined, livelihoods lost, and, at alarming levels, people are dying.



That is why the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) is, says Dean Richard P. Barth, "deeply involved" in developing capacity in the area of addiction—particularly related to substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic—to ensure that students and current practitioners are prepared with the latest, evidence-based knowledge and skills needed to screen for, assess, and treat addiction in a variety of practice settings.

Furthermore, as one of the largest and most respected schools of social work in the country, it is the SSW's privilege and responsibility to provide expertise and develop innovative solutions supported by science to pressing social problems, such as substance use disorders and other forms of addiction.

"Even though the most prominent concern right now is opioid addiction," notes Barth, "we also have an enduring concern about other substance use disorders, especially smoking and alcohol. This is also an opportunity to work on addiction patterns in a larger way."

The initiative includes launching a center committed to addiction-related research, continuing education, policy analysis and services development. The School also persists in updating curriculum, expanding fieldwork opportunities, hiring scholars in the area of addiction, and supporting research to promote more effective prevention and treatment interventions.

CENTRALIZING THE EFFORT



Michelle Tuten, PhD

This fall, in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (SOP), the School of Social Work has opened the Center for Addiction Research, Education, and Service (CARES), an inter-professional center dedicated to addressing the adverse impact of addiction on individuals, families, communities, and society.

Co-directed by SSW Assistant Professor Michelle Tuten and SOP School

of Pharmacy Professor Ray Love, the group will support addiction-related workforce development, the development of innovative models of care, addiction-related faculty research, and policy development and analysis. CARES is being launched, partly in response to the critical needs of individuals and society to address the multitude of problems related to substance use disorders, including those associated with opioid use disorders. Thus, the efforts of the new center are primarily aimed at improving service delivery, access, and outcomes for individuals with substance use disorders. However, "addiction" encompasses a range of disorders and challenges that the center is also committed to addressing as CARES expands its capacity and resources.

"We're really excited about the launch of CARES," says Tuten. "The center is an important avenue for putting significant and organized efforts into addressing service, knowledge and research gaps related to substance use disorders."

With an interest in addiction data quality impairing, the center seeks to help local and state agencies recognize and eliminate critical holes in addiction-related surveillance systems to improve capacity for timely response to emerging trends in the addiction area, and to evaluate and improve addiction treatment systems. Experts from the center's advisory group will also work with CARES faculty to articulate needed substance-related policy analysis and change.

In addition, the center will offer continuing education and interprofessional training for practicing social workers and professionals across the field of behavioral health, such as pharmacists, primary care physicians, nurses, and psychiatrists.

Efforts to expand continuing education related to substance use disorders are already underway at the SSW, which will roll out a certificate program beginning in fall 2018. The program is designed to increase provider knowledge and proficiency related to substance use disorders in three primary areas: the neurobiological underpinnings of substance misuse, evidence-supported assessment of risky substance use and substance use disorders, and evidence-supported interventions.

CURRENT CURRICULUM

This new certificate program builds on the School's push in the past five years to integrate behavioral health into the curriculum in line with Maryland's recent merger of the mental health and addictions administrations, now called the Behavioral Health Administration.

In 2014, the SSW renamed its Mental Health specialization, "Behavioral Health," recognizing the interconnectedness of mental health, substance use disorders and somatic health, and the need for social workers to have the knowledge and skills to address all three in their practice. Concurrently, in addition to the downtown location, the School began offering the entire Behavioral Health specialization at the Universities at Shady Grove in Montgomery County, increasing access for students in other parts of the state.

The name change reflects updated requirements, course offerings and content, including the new "Integrated Behavioral Health Policy" course, which prepares students to analyze, develop and implement health and behavioral health policies across a range of settings, with particular attention to evidence-based models that aim to integrate physical and behavioral health services.

SSW students also get exposed to the latest scientific advances and evidence-supported methods for treating substance use disorders through the course "Clinical Social Work with Addictive Behavior Patterns."

"My hope is that the course," says Tuten, "challenges students' perceptions about individuals living with substance use disorders, and the role of social work in providing direct services to this vulnerable and neglected population.

"The course," says Tuten, "challenges students' perceptions about individuals living with substance use disorders, and the role of social work in providing direct services to this vulnerable and neglected population. And, importantly, the course is designed to provide students with an evidence-informed understanding of substance use disorders and the most effective means of treating them."

Gina DeLeonardis MSW '87 is one of the addiction specialists who teaches the course, bringing to bear her long experience in both private practice and agency work. As a clinician and executive director for a Baltimore County community counseling center in the 1970s and '80s, DeLeonardis blazed a trail in SUD prevention and treatment before evidence-based tools and interventions were established. Now, with addiction research "rolling in," the adjunct professor is pleased to offer students cutting-edge content, combining her practical experience with the latest science.

DeLeonardis, who primarily practices individual, family and couples therapy, argues that all social workers, not just those concentrating in SUDs, need to have baseline knowledge and skills in addiction.

"While addiction is a standalone disorder," says DeLeonardis, "it lives in a house with many other disorders. I can't think of anything that embeds itself in so many different places."

To prepare a broad swath of social workers in addiction science, the SSW has developed a Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral or Treatment (SBIRT) training course for all Master of Social Work students and for field instructors. Offered both in the classroom and online, SBIRT is a comprehensive, integrated public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for clients with, or at risk for, SUDs. Over the past three years, the School has trained more than 1,000 SSW students and practicing clinicians in the SBIRT intervention.

In addition, motivational interviewing (MI)—a collaborative counseling technique designed to help clients advance toward positive change—is being infused into multiple SSW foundational and advanced clinical classes. MI, a best practice in addiction treatment, is also part of the content delivered to students in the Title IV-E Education for Public Child Welfare Program—a partnership between the UMSSW and the Maryland Department of Human Resources to recruit and retain professional social workers as practitioners, supervisors, and administrators in Maryland's public child welfare workforce. Furthermore, this year, the School's field placement office hosted MI training for all field instructors.

According to SSW Assistant Dean for Field Education Samuel Little, the field placement office is also busy securing and expanding opportunities for students to get practicum experience in addiction assessment and treatment.

"Right now we have about 12 field placement agencies that have



Sam Little, PhD

an emphasis on services to a population struggling with this very challenging social problem," says Little, "and those agencies provide students an opportunity to be part of the assessment process, case management, engagement with family members, and the development of service plans that help to put individuals on a track toward recovery."

Current placement agencies include Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Addictions Treatment Program,

Powell Recovery Center, American Substance Abuse Professionals, and Ashley Addiction Treatment. Increasingly, opportunities are available, too, for students at agencies and organizations that are committed to an integrated behavioral health treatment approach.

SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE

Another primary aim for CARES is to support and develop addiction-related faculty research and external funding.



Jay Unick, PhD

"The center is an avenue for us to expand and further some initiatives we were already working on," says Tuten, referring, in part, to the noteworthy faculty research that was in progress long before the opioid crisis began getting national attention.

Associate Professor Jay Unick, for example, has studied opioids for more than 15 years. His earlier studies focused on establishing the risk profiles associated with

different types of heroin, such as black tar more common in the western U.S., versus the powder available on the East Coast; and modes of ingestion—smoking, snorting, injecting. As the opioid landscape has evolved, Unick has tracked the risks of overprescribed prescription pills and the introduction of synthetic substances, like fentanyl, that are a major factor in the country's current overdose epidemic. He also studies issues surrounding the price and purity of heroin, and assesses how drug trends and risks vary in different regions of the country.

"Our work was early in identifying the scope of the problem," says Unick, who recently completed on-campus training in the administration of the overdose reversal drug naloxone. "When overdoses started escalating, we had data and we had stories we could tell that helped policymakers understand the nature of the problem."

Thus, Unick, the School's advanced behavioral health policy course instructor, has become a nationally recognized expert on the opioid epidemic, consulted regularly by news outlets, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, and Fox News.



Paul Sacco, PhD

In July, Unick was invited to be a panel member at a U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) workshop exploring the challenges in using currently available data and methods for assessing the impact of certain opioid formulations.

Tuten, too, has spent the last two decades conducting studies on substance use disorders (including opioids and nicotine) in pregnant and postpartum women. She is one

of the early developers of reinforcement-based treatment (RBT), a multi-component, intensive behavioral treatment model that serves to change environmental contingencies or conditions for clients with SUDs so that those conditions effectively compete with the reinforcements derived from substance use.

RBT uses a "constellation of reinforcers," such as educational opportunities, employment, recreation, housing, and a social network removed from the stimuli associated with substance use, tailored to the client, says Tuten of the innovative intervention. "RBT seeks, essentially, to compete with substance use by removing stimuli associated with drug use and engaging individuals in behaviors that are more reinforcing than drug use."

Thanks to rigorous research and positive outcomes, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA) recently listed reinforcement-based treatment on its National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

As well as continuing her work with pregnant and postpartum women struggling with SUDs, Tuten is collaborating on new addiction research with SSW Associate Professor Paul Sacco.

Sacco, a campus leader on behavioral health training and workforce development initiatives, was project manager for the School's SAHMSA-funded SBIRT training program. He is co-director of the Behavioral Health Workforce Integration Service and Education (BHWISE) Fellows Program—a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-funded training program for advanced year MSW students interested in working with children, adolescents, and emerging adults with behavioral health care needs. (BHWISE was recently refunded for another four years for a total of \$1.7 million.)

Tuten and Sacco currently are joining forces, with the UM School of Medicine, to conduct a pilot study on liver transplant patients with alcoholic liver disease (ALD). Their ultimate goal is to develop a behavioral health intervention to improve care for those with ALD and aid the population in maintaining sobriety after surgery.

Recently named associate dean for research, Sacco also teams up on addiction research with Associate Professor Jodi Jacobson Frey and Research Assistant Professor Christine Callahan of the School's Financial Social Work Initiative (FSWI), which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Together, they are working, through the FSWI, toward the development of an intervention for clients with problem gambling. The study is particularly notable because it is administered in credit counseling sessions offered by the nonprofit Guidewell Financial Solutions (formerly known as Consumer Credit

Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc.). This pilot could serve as a foundation for a larger study to test an integrated screening and intervention model for use by credit counseling agencies nationwide.

Frey also chairs the School's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) sub-specialization, which is the only of its kind in the country. The program features a strong emphasis on addiction and behavioral health in the workplace, training students in addiction science and the knowledge and skills needed to provide consultation on SUD-related policies, services, and benefits. Some of the EAP curriculum content also is taught in an internationally focused online EAP certificate program offered through the SSW's Office of Continuing Professional Education.

In addition, Frey's research includes a CDC-funded project to develop a ground-breaking suicide prevention intervention for working-age men. The study includes measures related to substance use disorder because, explains Frey, "substance use is one of the strongest predictors for increased risk of suicide."

Moreover, Frey consults for the Flight Attendant Drug and Alcohol Program (FADAP) on a peer-based employee assistance program offering flight attendants and family members from more than 25 airlines access to SUD services through their unions. Frey evaluates workplace outcomes related to returning to work post-treatment. Informing executives on how these programs benefit the airline's bottom line, says Frey, helps keep them sustainable.

Important addiction research is underway, as well, at the SSW Institute for Innovation and Implementation. Clinical Research Manager Brook Kearley, conducts a 15-year follow-up study investigating Baltimore's drug courts' impact on participants. Kearley's work suggests that this alternative criminal justice processing method, which focuses on a team approach to SUD treatment, had sustained effects on arrests and convictions among participants, but did not appear to have a significant impact on mortality risk.

EXPERT INJECTION

A significant step toward building the School's capacity in addiction work is bringing in additional faculty members with expertise in this area.

"A lot of people here are working on how addiction might fit in to the overall presentation for any given patient," says Sacco, "but I also think that Dean Barth has shown a lot of foresight in looking to hire people with a background in behavioral health."

Hiring Tuten in 2014 certainly reflects that foresight, as does the addition of two more faculty members.

Professor Fernando Wagner, who came on board this fall, brings a background in psychiatric epidemiology and long experience implementing smoking cessation programs using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach in low income, underserved Baltimore city neighborhoods.

According to Wagner, CBPR is an approach that enables researchers to translate scholarly work directly into help for the people who need it most.

"In terms of workforce development and the needs of the population, we must understand that this is our population, and we can play a unique role in treating and advocating for this population in a more direct and fundamental way."

"What we learned, says Wagner, "is that for social research to produce action, we need to get involved with the people who are going to be affected."

Wagner does just that. He is one of the founders of the Communities Engaged and Advocating for a Smoke-free Environment (CEASE) initiative, which for the past decade has been motivating city residents to quit smoking and take ownership of their own wellness. Since CEASE's work began in 2008, it has expanded to include innovative tobacco prevention programs empowering youth through creative projects to be peer mentors and policy advocates.

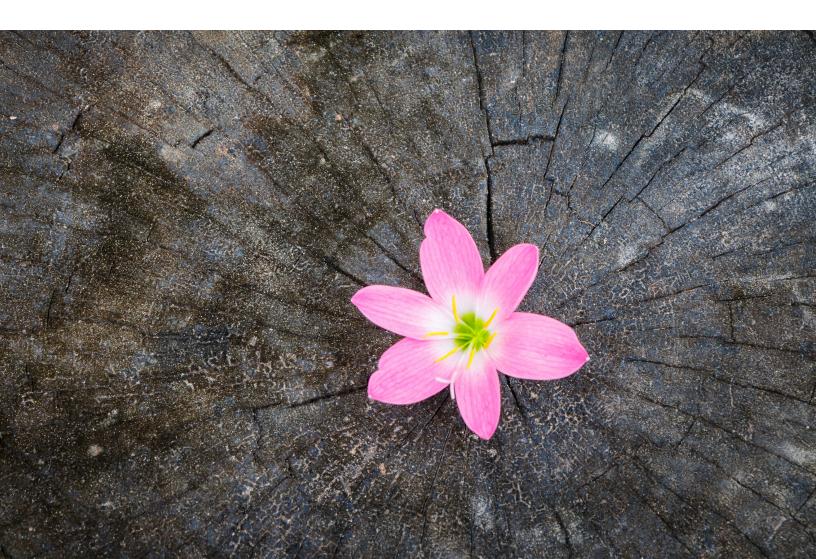
Another new hire with a robust behavioral health background will join the faculty in fall 2018. With graduate degrees from Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, Assistant Professor Alexandra Wimberly is now in a post-doc at Columbia. She brings to the School experience conducting pioneering research with people experiencing intersecting concerns related to substance use, criminal justice system involvement, and HIV.

OUR POPULATION

As the University of Maryland School of Social Work continues to strengthen training, expertise and research in addiction, students at the School are receiving the clear message that this disease touches all areas of practice, and that knowledge and competencies in addiction-related interventions are a must for all members of the social work profession.

Addiction treatment is well within the scope of social work practice, points out Tuten, referring to a historic reluctance in social workers to identify individuals with problematic substance use as "our population."

"In fact, we already serve individuals with substance use disorders because they are the same clients we see in school settings, nursing homes, child welfare systems, criminal justice settings, private practice, and beyond," she adds. "In terms of workforce development and the needs of the population, we must understand that this is our population, and we can play a unique role in treating and advocating for this population in a more direct and fundamental way."



THE CATALYST CAMPAIGN



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GRANTS, HONORS & PUBLICATIONS



Dean Richard Barth, PhD, Associate Professor Bethany Lee, PhD, and PhD student Mary Hodorowicz had their article "Equipping the

child welfare workforce to improve the well-being of children," published in the Journal of Children's Services.



Belcher, PhD and Fred DiBlasio, PhD, along with SSW student Amanda Turnquist, have co-authored the paper "Overcoming medication refusal

Professors John

using a patient-centered approach," that was recently published in Social Work in Mental Health.







Nalini Negi, MSW, PhD

Three members of the School of Social Work faculty have been named Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) fellows.

- · Melissa Bellin, MSW, PhD, associate professor
- Charlotte Bright, MSW, PhD, associate professor
- · Nalini Negi, MSW, PhD, associate professor

Associate Professor Mel Bellin has been appointed to National Spina Bifida Guidelines Task Force.

Associate Professor Mel Bellin, PhD, is a co-author of "Very Poorly Controlled Asthma in Urban Minority Children: Lessons Learned" that has been published in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice.



Associate **Professor Lisa** Berlin, PhD, has been awarded a grant of \$328,021 to lead a 2.5-year evaluation of the Maryland Family Connects program

to be delivered by The Family Tree in collaboration with Sinai Hospital.

Professor Fred DiBlasio, PhD, authored a chapter in the new book "Handbook of the Psychology of Self-Forgiveness." The chapter explored Self-Forgiveness and Treating Personality Disorders.



Research Assistant Professor Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, has published a new book titled, "Linking Health and Education for African American Students' Success."



Bethany Lee, PhD

Associate Professor Charlotte Bright, PhD, Research **Assistant Professor** Jill Farrell, PhD, PhD Candidate Andrew Winters, Research Assistant Professor Sara

Betsinger, PhD and Associate Professor Bethany Lee, PhD, are co-authors of "Family Centered Treatment, Juvenile Justice, and the Grand Challenge of Smart Decarceration" which has been published by Research on Social Work Practice.



Associate Professor Kathryn Collins, PhD, was presented the Distinguished Recent Contributions to Social Work Education

Award by the Council on Social Work Education.



Assistant Professor Sarah Dababnah, PhD, received funding from The **Duke Endowment** to conduct a randomized controlled trial of The Incredible

Years program for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Clinical Professor Nancy Dickinson, PhD, was awarded the National Staff Development and Training Association's (NSDTA) Lifetime Achievement

Award at their national Conference in Savannah, Georgia in September. The mission of the NSDTA is to build professional and organizational capacity in the human services through a national network of membership sharing ideas and resources on organizational development, staff development, and training.



Professor Donna Harrington, PhD, has been selected as the winner of the GADE Award for Excellence in Mentoring of Doctoral Students. Dr. Harrington

received her award at the annual GADE Reception at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Washington, DC (January 10-14, 2018).

PhD Student Susan Klumpner named a returning Council on Social Work Education minority fellow. The fellowship award is for doctoral social work students with a strong commitment to providing behavioral health services to underserved racial/ethnic minority populations.

Assistant Professor Nancy Kusmaul, PhD, has been awarded a 2017 Patient Experience Grant from The Bervl Institute for her work on "Person-Centered Care: Definitions and Perceptions of Various Stakeholders."



John Cagle, PhD

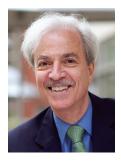
New research by the School's Joonyup Lee, PhD student. and Associate Professor John Cagle, PhD, explores "Factors Associated with **Opinions About**

Hospice Among Older Adults: Race, Familiarity with Hospice, and Attitudes Matter," and is published in the Journal of Palliative Care.



School of Social Work Assistant Professor Amanda Lehning, PhD, and Associate Professor Joan Davitt's, PhD, research article "Social Work and

Aging in Place: A Scoping Review of the Literature," has been published in Social Work Research.



Dr. Michael Reisch, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Social

Work and Social Welfare at the 2017 conference of the Society of Social Work and Research in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was honored for his "distinguished accomplishments [that] have advanced the field and contributed to a more sustainable, equitable, and just future." SSWR fellows are members who have served with distinction to advance the mission of the society to advance, disseminate, and translate research that addresses issues of social work practice and policy and promotes a diverse, equitable, and just society.







Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD

Assistant Professor Theda Rose, PhD, PhD Candidate Judith Leitch, and Associate Professors Kathryn Collins, PhD, and Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD are authors of a new study published in Research in Social Work Practice. The title of their recent work is "Effectiveness of Youth Mental Health First Aid USA for Social Work Students."



Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, recently received a Governor's citation for her hard work and support on human trafficking awareness, victims' rights

and dedication to the Safe Harbor Task Force of Maryland. Amelia Rubenstein is the Clinical Research Specialist leading the efforts for the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI) at the Ruth Young Center with Research Assistant Professor Dr. Nadine Finigan-Carr, Pl.



Professor Jennifer Swanberg, PhD, has been appointed to the Healthy Work Design and Well-Being Cross-Sector Council, an initiative of the

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) spearheaded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

SCHOOL NEWS



Haksoon Ahn, PhD

SSW Doctoral Student Yangfeng Xu and SSW faculty members Charlotte Bright, PhD and Haksoon Ahn, PhD are co-authors

of the recently published research "Responding to child maltreatment: Comparison between the USA and China" published in the *International Journal of Social Welfare*.



Baltimore resident
Kate Wasserman
has been selected
for a prestigious
18-month ZERO TO
THREE Fellowship.
The Fellowship
Program brings

together multidisciplinary, cross-sector leaders that work across the country and around the world to positively impact the lives of infants and young children through research, practice, advocacy, and policy.

Wasserman is lead clinician at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine's Center for Infant Study and HealthySteps Site Director. She provides outpatient mental health treatment for young children, infancy through age 6, and their families with emotional and behavioral concerns due to maternal-infant attachment issues, intimate partner violence and other family traumas, and postpartum depression. With HealthySteps, she provides infant mental health services within the Family Medicine program. Wasserman is also lead trainer for the Race to the Top and Project LAUNCH workforce developmental programs, training primary care providers, mental health consultants, and home visitors on a range of infant mental health competencies, including trauma, early childhood development, attachment, parent-child interaction, and other topics within the field of early childhood mental health. She is also a National Trainer of the Fussy Baby Network.

NEW GRANTS

The University of Maryland/SAFE Center, with significant help from the School of Social Work, received a three-year grant of \$750,000 from the U.S. Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime under the Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking Program.

The School has been awarded a \$1.7 million grant from the Health Resources Services Administration to continue and expand the Behavioral Health Workforce Integration Service and Education (BHWISE) Program. The program will recruit and train 120 MSW students to provide behavioral health services to individuals across the lifespan who live in underserved communities. BHWISE Fellows will be supported through a stipend of \$10,000 per student.

...in The News

Faculty from the School continue to be a national voice on many social work-related topics. Here is a sampling of where Maryland faculty, can be found in the news:







Jay Unick



Bronwyn Mayden

The Washington Post did an extensive story on Baltimore students using art as a voice for their lives. The students attend Baltimore's Renaissance Academy which receives extensive help and support from the School of Social Work's Promise Heights program. http://wapo.st/2hnYhDM

Men's Fitness quoted SSW Professor **Geoffrey Greif** concerning his expertise in male friendships for their article "The new science of friendship: how bro-time can save your life. http://bit.ly/2zD2xJR

The New York Times also quoted **Professor Greif** in a story on a woman abducted at birth and found 18 years later. Greif has long studied how such situations not only affect the one abducted but the families they are reunited with. http://nyti.ms/2AAqgHP

BuzzFeed explored how Seattle was opening the first in the nation "safe Injection facility" for heroin addicts. The School's Jay Unick, an associate professor and medical epidemiologist is quoted in the story about how overwhelming research evidence shows such facilities help prevent overdoses. http://bzfd.it/2ml26PA

Bronwyn Mayden, executive director of the School's Promise Heights program is quoted in a *Washington Post* story that examined how students in trouble West Baltimore high schools experience joy and relief of making it through high school alive. http://wapo.st/2iaAHer

An editorial in the *Huffington Post* by PhD student Judith Leitch, "Being an Ally Means Sometimes Having to Say You're Sorry: Guidelines to Being a Modern Ally," discussed her experiences and ways allies can be more supportive and helpful. http://bit.ly/2yYcyCh

Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, LCSW-C, MSW '82



Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin has dedicated her entire professional career working on the issue of addictions. From clinician to current Director of Health Promotion and Prevention in Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration, Rebbert-Franklin has valuable experience and insights into addressing the growing challenge of addiction in our cities, communities and workplaces. Let's get to know her better.

Q. Tell me about yourself, your career and how it intersects with addition.

A. I've worked in the addictions system since I graduated from the School of Social Work. I started as a clinician, working with individuals who had both a mental health and substance use disorder. I was asked to assume an Acting Director role of a substance use program, and realized I like the program development and policy making pieces of this work. That led me to working at Baltimore County as the Director of Substance Use and then to the State Department of Health, where I am now the Director of Health Promotion and Prevention within the Behavioral Health Administration.

Q. What is the biggest challenge in addressing the topic of addiction in your area of work?

A. I would have to say stigma is the biggest challenge. Addiction is a chronic medical condition, much like diabetes. In both addiction and diabetes, the illness may be well controlled by lifestyle changes and medicine, and there may be periods of instability where an individual needs more intense services. This process is accepted for diabetes in the medical world, but addiction is often seen as self-inflicted and indicating a deficit of willpower.

Additionally, there is a significant body of research that shows greater improvement in employment, family reunification, housing, etc. if medication is used as part of the treatment process. And yet, there are many substance abuse counselors and, even, social workers who, because of their personal bias, recommend against medication. One badge of pride that social workers have is meeting the person where they are and providing the supports they need at that time. In many cases, individuals with an opioid addiction need medication to sustain their recovery.

Q. What, in your opinion, are future trends in your area of work and what do social workers need to know in order to have the skills needed to be impactful in the addictions area as a career?

A. As social workers, those we serve would benefit from an integration of substance use screening and referral into settings such as DSS, primary care, shelters, etc. Early intervention with those with a substance use problem could forestall its progression, so identification of a potential problem is critical. Social workers touch so many systems, and we are in an ideal position to screen and refer those who may need further evaluation for services. As a start, social workers in current practice can advocate for the inclusion of screening questions on intake forms within their system. And, setting up referral pathways will ease the frustration of others who try to navigate the system. For those still in school, social workers have an incredible opportunity to increase their knowledge and comfort with this area through classroom and field work experiences. Through exposure to the subject area, we become more confident in our ability to at least identify those who may have a problem.

Q. How did your Maryland education prepare you for your career? Any specific professor or class come to mind you would wish for us to include as a positive experience or mentor?

A. When I was signing up for an internship, we were given a choice of content areas where we could be placed. A substance-use treatment setting was a reluctant third choice, but I really wanted a mental health setting. Against my wishes, I was placed in an outpatient and residential addictions treatment program, and I loved it! The placement challenged my asssumptions and biases so that I could be of benefit to those in treatment. This early exposure significantly shaped my career path in such positive ways. I didn't get what I wanted; I got what I needed!

I'm so grateful to the SSW for giving me the foundational learning and intern opportunity in a field that continues to inspire and motivate me to be the best possible advocate for those we serve!



The following pages recognize the pledges and gifts of alumni, parents, friends, foundations, and organizations that supported the people and programs of the University of Maryland School of Social Work with new pledges and gifts received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Every gift is important, is very much appreciated, and makes a difference. The entire School of Social Work family extends its thanks to its donors for their beneficence, confidence, and support of the School's mission of excellence in education, research, and service.

Unrestricted gifts help provide current operating support for the School's budget, help close the gap between tuition and the actual cost of a student's education, and offer support for research, education, and community outreach. We recognize first-time donors with a > in front of their name and individuals who increased their gift with a @ behind their name. Members of the School's Partner's Circle (five or more years of consecutive giving) are designated with an * after their name. Members of the Heritage Society, those with lifetime gifts of \$10,000 or more, are designated with an % after their name.

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Mrs. Betty E. Golombek, MSW%*

1966

Up to \$99

Mr. William F. Eastman, MSW*@ Dr. Rosalind E. Griffin, MSW* Mr. Paul J. Lurz, MSW

1967

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Samuel Brown, MSW

Attended the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Community Planning as a VISTA Fellow from October 1969 to October 1971. I am the author of five books since retiring from my social work career. My life and career are detailed in the recent publication of "A Satchel of Hope: Roots of an American Dream."

class of **1975**

Alexa Smith-Osbourne, MSW

Alexa Smith-Osborne, MSW '75, PhD '06, has recently been elected a fellow of the national Society for Social Work and Research and promoted to the rank of full professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she has been a faculty member and research scholar since 2006. Since 2012, she has directed the university's center for clinical social work, a translational research hub for the development of resilience and recovery theory and intervention.

Barbara Levin, M.Ed.

She is the Director of Allocations. Grants and Governance at Jewish Federation of Broward County Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area.



class of **1977**

Joel Marcus

After graduating in 1977, I spent 10 years as a full time professional musician. In 1987 I began my psychotherapy career. Since the early 1990s my private practice has been located at the Village of Cross Keys in Baltimore. I have a general adult

psychotherapy practice where I see individuals, couples and groups. In December 2015 I gave a six-hour workshop for the University of Maryland School of Social Work Continuing Professional Education Program on "Removing Barriers to Loving: Why Couples Sabotage the Love They Say They Desire." I was invited by the American Academy of Psychotherapists to give a multi-session training institute to its membership on Couples Therapy. These training sessions were held in Philadelphia in October 2013 and in the Atlanta area in June 2014. I have raised two wonderful sons with my wife Helen Glazer, a visual artist. My web site is joelhmarcus.com

class of **1978**

Mary Ellen (Jacob) Dawson, MSW

Dawson retired June 1, 2016 after over 40 years of social work practice, initially obtaining a BSW from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1975. Social work has been a rewarding and varied career path for her. Initially a psychiatric social worker at a community mental health center, most recently her work has been the promotion of evidencebased programs for older adults in Washington state. She is relocating to Bath, OH to be close to her daughter's family.

class of **1985**

Stuart Fensterheim, MSW

Since graduating from University of Maryland, I have worked in a number of different capacities from clinical settings to administrative. I have been a counselor in managed care settings recently and have been trained with a specialization in emotionally focused therapy. I currently own a private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona. I practice Couples counseling with my dog Ollie and utilize animal-assisted therapy with the clients I serve. My practice is entirely fee-for-service at this point excepting no-third-party reimbursement. I am grateful to the University Maryland for giving me the foundation to be able to live my dream of owning a private practice specializing in couples relationships. With my couples counseling background and training in emotionally focused therapy I am helping couples all around the world have a closing connected relationship in their life. I also give back by offering free podcasts. The Couples Expert podcast, www.the couplesexpertscottsdale.com/podcasts, is in 37 countries around the world and helps families learn how to feel close and important to their partners.

class of **1987**

Heidi Brown, MSW

Brown has been named CEO of the non-profit Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast, Inc., in Sarasota, Florida. Brown was the former CEO Of Aviva and has an extensive background in social and human services.

class of **1989**

Wendy Royalty

I wanted to let my classmates know that my family and I recently moved to Seattle, Washington. If there are any other grads out here, I'd love to catch up. '89 COSA wendy.royalty@verizon.net



class of **1994**

Robert Scuka, MSW

Robert Scuka has had three recent publications. "A clinician's guide to helping couples heal from the trauma of infidelity" appeared in 2015 in the Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy, 14, 141-168. "Relationship Enhancement and Mastering the Mysteries of Love" appeared in J.J. Ponzetti, Jr. (Ed.), Evidence-based approaches to relationship and marriage education (pp. 165-179). New York: Routledge, 2016. "Empirically supported humanistic approaches to working with couples and families" (co-authored with Catalina Woldarsky Meneses) appeared in D.J. Cain, K. Keenan, & S. Rubin (Eds.), Humanistic psychotherapies: Handbook of research and practice (2nd ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2016.

class of **1996**

Jennifer FitzPatrick

Jennifer FitzPatrick's first book, *Cruising Through Caregiving:* Reducing the Stress of Caring For Your Loved One, was published on September 27, 2016.

class of **2013**

Kimberly Washington, MSW

Selected by Catholic Charities to be the Lead Clinical Social Worker for the St. Jude's Project in Washington, DC. She will be providing counseling to patients with life-limiting illness. She was published in the NASW Intersection in Practice Journal. The article focused on the work being doing at Catholic Charities related to providing comprehensive social work to patients diagnosed with neurodegenerative disorders.

In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus Donald V. Fandetti, associate professor; MSSS, Boston University; PhD, Columbia University. Passed away on October 24, 2017 in Ellicott City, MD

1979

Michael Creedon, DSW, passed away September 5.

Connections is a publication of the University of Maryland School of Social Work. It is produced by the School's Office of Communications. Articles and news items should be sent to the Office of Communications at the School.

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Tell Us What's Happening in Your Life!

The School of Social Work wants you to share your news, not only with us, but with your fellow alumni. This news could include a new job or promotion, a birth or marriage announcement, new grandchildren to brag about, or almost any other news you care to share. Please fill out the form and return it to us, and it will be published in a "Class Notes" section of a future edition of Connections. We also encourage you to send pictures!*

If you have moved, changed jobs, or changed your name, help us keep our records up to date. Please fill out the form with your new information and send it to us. You may send the form to:

University of Maryland School of Social Work Office of Development & Alumni Relations 525 West Redwood Street Baltimore, MD 21201-1777

You can also e-mail your "Class Note" to us at alumni@ssw.umaryland.edu or submit it online at ssw.umaryland.edu/alumni_and_development.

*Photos may be sent to the address above or if sending by E-mail, we prefer photos be saved in a tif format at 300 dpi. Images sent below that resolution may not be printed. Please include your name and mailing address on all photos sent. All photos will be returned.

Name
Maiden Name
Home Phone
Class Year
Concentration/Specialization
Home Address
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Title
Employer Address
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Louis L. Kaplan Hall
525 West Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Join Us at One of Our Spring Events!

Daniel Thursz Social Justice Lecture

Community Power: Moving from Service to Justice

Date: Thursday, April 19th Time: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: The Winslow at Parker Metal, 333 W. Ostend St. Baltimore, MD 21230

Lecture: Free, CEUs: 1.0

We will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) as well as the 10th Anniversary of the Daniel Thursz Social Justice Lecture at the newly renovated historic Parker Metal Building where we will welcome our special guests Dr. Kimberly Richards of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and Dr. Anthony Iton from the California Endowment.

An Evening with David Simon

Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018, 5pm

Location: Sagamore Pendry Hotel, 1715 Thames Street, Baltimore, MD 21231

Please join UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, at the Sagamore Pendry Hotel for an alumni event featuring David Simon, writer and producer of the award-winning TV series "The Wire" and "Homicide."

Use the following link to register: www.umaryland.edu/simon