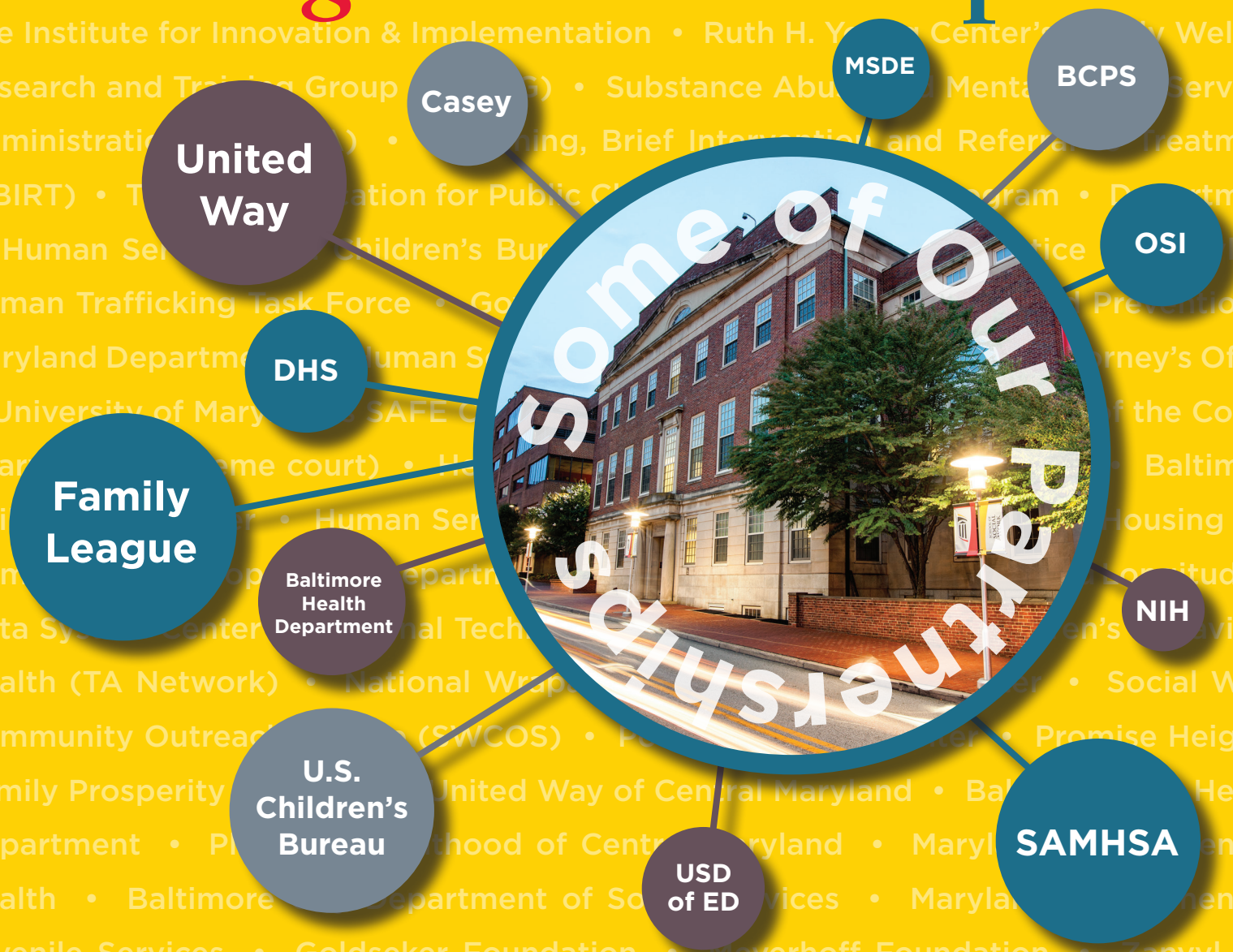


Connections

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

Strengthening Society through Partnerships



Dean's Welcome



I am always pleased to welcome readers to *Connections*. Although we are trying to regularly reach those with an interest in our work via our Maryland in a Minute (e-missives <http://bit.ly/MDinaMinute>), there is something very satisfying about the chance to aggregate our work. This issue tells many tales of success with a core story about the partnerships that make almost all of our work possible. With these partnerships, the UMSSW has grown in size and impact. Our work also has growing complexity and scope—now touching the lives of communities, service providers, and clients in more than 20 states. We have fantastic partners and we hope they think the same of us (even if we somehow failed to mention them in this issue of *Connections*).

This work builds on our commitment to evidence-based practice; work across differences; closely aligned practices, services, and policy work; rigorous research, and a commitment to partnership with and progress for the most underserved individuals and communities. Given our size and talent we are delighted to play a variety of different roles that complement those of our partners and meet the needs of our funders and those who rely on them. It is the greatest satisfaction of my career to watch new partnerships arise and larger and more difficult projects emerge and progress.

All of this work is endeavoring to move forward against the concomitantly critical need to address an array of impediments to the success of all people. Through these partnerships we affirm that the UMSSW is committed to welcoming, engaging, and inspiring discussion about diversity and inclusion that it is our collective responsibility to lead. We emphatically oppose acts of hate, violence, discrimination, anti-Semitism, and sexual harassment and violence, 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, to equalizing rights, opportunities, and outcomes and to advancing the causes of a strong and just society.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard P. Barth'.

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW
Dean and Professor

Connections

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

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Connections is published once a year by the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

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UMB's Promise Heights Initiative Receives \$30M Federal Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Promise Heights, an initiative led by the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW), a five-year, \$30 million grant to continue its effort to improve the lives of children and families in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights.

By Mary T. Phelan



The grant award was announced by the Department of Education as part of the Promise Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Program. This is one of 24 Promise Neighborhood implementation awards announced since 2011, the only one in Maryland, and the only one hosted by a school of social work. Promise Neighborhoods support schools in high-poverty communities to become vibrant centers of opportunity and excellence.

“UMB’s work in the Southwest Baltimore community has been greatly influenced by the pioneering efforts of our School of Social Work and Promise Heights,” said Jay A. Perman, MD, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, (UMB), Promise Heights’ leading partner. “To a large extent, they showed us how to do engagement the right way, how to get input and buy-in from the community, how to grow resources, how to attract partners, and how to sustain meaningful activity, even when sustaining is difficult. This grant shows that hard, hard work pays off, and I couldn’t be happier.”

UMB’s schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy also participate in the initiative in Upton/Druid Heights, a neighborhood near UMB that includes parts of historic Pennsylvania Avenue and extends as far south as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Eutaw Place to the east.

“This funding provides access to educational and enrichment opportunities that underfunded and under-resourced schools like the ones in Upton/Druid Heights so desperately need. When we talk about the achievement gap for children of color, we should be more focused on the lack of equity which exists for schools in high-poverty neighborhoods,” said Promise Heights Executive Director Bronwyn Maiden, MSW.

The implementation grant enables Promise Heights to continue its comprehensive plan for combating poverty and increasing academic achievement in the local community. This grant builds on the \$500,000 planning grant awarded to Promise Heights in 2013, which helped to generate the capacity to deliver and evaluate a full array of evidence-

based services, from cradle to career, and matching funds from local foundations, and local, state, and federal partners. The planning grant was used to collect data, convene focus groups, meet with school principals, and determine the needs of the neighborhood, Mayden said.

“Promise Heights endeavors, every day, to combine the best of community-based participatory program development and evidence-based practices,” added SSW Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW. “We are providing research-informed parenting programs, multi-tiered systems of student support, trauma-informed interventions, and reading interventions. Matching community needs to effective programming has been a great learning lesson. We have also had to become exceptionally skilled grant writers, having written scores of grant proposals (many to help support community partners) over the last decade to develop the capacity to justify this funding. Bronwyn Mayden’s innovative and indefatigable leadership of these efforts have been astounding.”

Money from the implementation grant will be used to bring additional supports to the five Baltimore City Public Schools in Upton/Druid Heights, such as early childhood mental health consultation, social-emotional support, academic support and enrichment, and college and career coaching to ensure pathways out of poverty for youth and their families, Mayden said. Targeted schools in the neighborhood include: Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School; Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy; The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary; Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts; and Renaissance Academy High School.

“Investing in our neighborhoods and lifting those most vulnerable by providing access to essential resources and services is not only among our highest priorities but our obligation,” said Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh. “This significant grant award will enable the University of



Promise Heights Executive Director Bronwyn Mayden, MSW



Mayor Catherine E. Pugh

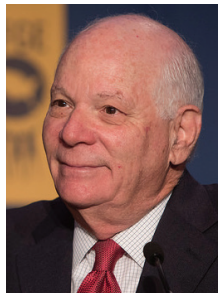
Maryland, Baltimore and our many partners to expand the reach and increase the impact in this vital area of our city. It is this type of broad-based, multi-generational outreach that truly moves individuals, families and whole communities forward. I commend the University of Maryland’s School of Social Work for leading this model initiative. We look forward to continuing to work with them to fulfill the promise that this funding represents for the long-term benefit of the residents of the Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood.”

Other benefits of the grant will include:

- Increasing the number of community residents hired by Promise Heights to improve outcomes in their own neighborhood. Examples include, expanding B’more for Healthy Babies to reach more pregnant and parenting families to reduce infant mortality and increase protective factors for newborns and infants; hiring parent leaders at each school to increase parent leadership and advocacy skills; employing graduates of Parent University parent education classes to lead future cohorts and mentor other neighborhood parents.
- Expanding work with neighborhood early childhood education providers to ensure children make age appropriate progress toward literacy, numeracy, social-emotional development, and other skills that contribute to kindergarten readiness.
- Providing early childhood mental health consultants to support families and provide professional development for teachers.
- Expanding tutoring services at each of the three elementary schools.
- Increasing after-school slots at each of the five schools to provide extended learning programming designed to support grade-level attainment in reading and math.
- Expanding mentoring services to cover students in grades K-12.
- Adding additional student services coordinators, AmeriCorps members, and Masters of Social Work interns at each of the five Community Schools in the Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood.
- Providing college and career coordinators at the middle and high schools to assist each student in creating a personalized path to post-secondary success.



Gov. Larry Hogan



U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin



U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen



U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings

“I believe every child in Maryland deserves access to a world-class education no matter which neighborhood they happen to grow up in,” said Gov. Larry Hogan. “We are proud to support this life-changing program and are pleased that five schools in West Baltimore will receive crucial funds for much-needed resources, including family case management, educational support, and expanded after-school care, leading to better outcomes for our families and academic success for our students.”

This federal investment in West Baltimore is the direct work of Baltimore’s elected, institutional and civic leaders coming together to address the cradle-to-career needs in their community, said U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin. “As a delegation, we made a promise to continue to invest in Baltimore. These funds continue to meet that promise, and will have a positive, lasting impact on the Upton/Druid Heights neighborhoods. Further, Promise Heights is a fantastic model for communities to address challenges such as the need to reduce infant mortality rates, improve services for residents facing substance abuse issues, support neighborhood schools, increase apprenticeship opportunities for students, and provide our young residents with safe places to learn after school.”

“Addressing the needs of our communities mean investing in our children at every stage of their development – from early childhood education to preparing them for college and careers – and providing for their mental health along the way,” added U.S.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen. “I’ve had the privilege of seeing this effort in action at the Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School and this funding will build on the progress from the earlier planning grant to help children succeed and provide them with community support to grow and thrive. I will continue fighting to ensure that every child in Maryland has the opportunity and the resources they need to achieve their dreams. Partnerships like Promise Neighborhoods can accomplish this goal.”

Congressman Elijah Cummings said he commended the University of Maryland School of Social Work for leading the effort to bring together partners on the federal, state and local levels to create a model that puts education at the center of community revitalization in West Baltimore. “Education is an essential tool in our fight against poverty, and the wrap-around academic and social services that this grant will support will help bolster the Upton/Druid Heights community for students and families and create lasting change,” he said.

Since 2009, the SSW has worked alongside community residents and local partners planning, creating, and implementing strategies to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and families in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights. The intention of Promise Heights is to offer services from cradle to college or career.

In the beginning, a small group of community residents, ministers,

researchers, social workers, and educators met to review the educational and health data for students who attend the five public schools in the neighborhood. The data showed that Upton/Druid Heights was ranked 55th of Baltimore City’s 55 neighborhoods for many of the indicators tracked by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD). The initial group agreed one organization could not significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes and agreed to create a sustained, coordinated commitment to a collective impact process to serve vulnerable children and their families.

There are more than 30 partners including: neighborhood resident associations; Office of the Mayor; UMB; Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; BCHD; Family League of Baltimore; United Way of Central Maryland; Druid Heights Community Development Corporation; Community Churches for Community Development; AARP Experience Corps; Baltimore Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) Campaign; Reading Partners; and the Office of the Governor. Philanthropic support from many foundations and individuals has also built the capacity of Promise Heights to compete for the highly coveted award. ♦



For more information about Promise Heights, please visit www.promiseheights.org.

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Paul Ephross Scholarship in Social Work with Groups

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Camille Baudot Wheeler Scholarship in Policy Studies

Dean Ruth Young Scholarship

These endowments provide permanent support to the School,
are invested for perpetuity, and each year a
distribution is made to a selected scholar.

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FSWI is Celebrating Their 10 Year Anniversary

The School of Social Work's Financial Social Work Initiative (FSWI) is celebrating its 10th anniversary. FSWI has grown from an innovative idea to a national leader in partnering with education and service professionals to help address the pressing financial needs of individuals and families. Financial issues are both a trigger, and a result of, even larger family and community challenges. To prepare social workers to navigate these challenges, FSWI also focuses on the educational needs of MSW students who benefit from this knowledge personally and professionally.

Meg Woodside, a 2007 MSW graduate of the SSW, has led the charge to bring FSWI to the SSW and has been critical to its tremendous success. Who better to tell the story of its 10 years of growth and impact than Meg Woodside in her own words.

THE BIRTH OF FSWI

One of the very first exercises we do with students in Financial Social Work courses is a Financial Genogram where we adapt the process of taking a bio-psycho-social history into a map of attitudes, beliefs, and experiences about money handed down from our family tree.

As the eldest of two girls, one of my earliest Money Memories was watching our father pay our monthly bills at the kitchen table and discussing how much we could save each month toward college. He would vividly demonstrate on green graph paper filled with columns of handwritten numbers why we didn't take the exciting vacations others could take every year.

We openly talked about money and choices and tradeoffs, and how important it was to have goals and a plan and discipline if you wanted to succeed and "have options." I internalized that message to mean that I needed to be in control of money, instead of it controlling me. Money and why things cost what they did fascinated me as a child, but...I was always told that we did not talk about this outside our home.

Years later, I earned an MBA in Finance and enjoyed a career in commercial and private banking before moving into corporate philanthropy roles. After retiring in 2003, the decision to pursue an MSW at UMB in 2005 came after a period of reflection and the realization that I missed helping people solve problems and reach their goals. I wanted to learn how to be a more effective change agent. I thought I would become a therapist, but fate had other plans.

In late 2006, I watched Oprah Winfrey's Debt Diet series that followed the financial struggles of three families, featuring three experts helping them understand their relationship to money and how it impacted every aspect of their lives. Getting to the "why" and emotion behind spending, and motivations for change, sounded like a role for a social worker. I was hooked.

Oprah's Debt Diet approach was thorough and relevant for households with an income who needed to restructure their debts, set spending limits, and build saving habits. But the series didn't go far enough. It left the viewer believing the struggles these families had could be largely solved by changing their financial behaviors and decisions.

It did not address the systemic and cultural barriers to economic stability that act against families and communities, particularly in marginalized populations. Within two years, the Great Recession would illuminate the bigger issues of wealth inequality perpetuated by longstanding economic policies, concentrated financial power, weak consumer protections, and unequal access to quality financial education, resources and products.

By graduation in 2007, I had concluded that the social work profession had succeeded in destigmatizing talking about nearly every topic except money! It remained a topic for the kitchen table, and too often was missing entirely. It was not adequately addressed or integrated into social work assessments and interventions in the field. It felt to me like this huge piece that was missing.

“I had concluded that the social work profession had succeeded in destigmatizing talking about nearly every topic except money!”

I was frustrated that we were spending tremendous public and private resources on programs to help people get a job, reenter society after incarceration, get into college, escape abusive relationships, age out of foster care, access supports, obtain housing, age in place...but we weren't ALSO providing the fundamental financial life skills (and policies) clients needed to sustain the various investments made in their wellbeing.

As a profession, we were not adequately preparing our social workers or our clients to be financially capable. This observation distilled into a personal conviction that financial life skills are a key determinant of disparities experienced in life opportunities and in family financial security. Fortunately, if financial capability is not part of inherited social capital, it can be acquired, although the impact of delayed acquisition over the lifespan can be significant.

Viewing financial capability as a game changer to improving broad programmatic outcomes, I began looking for ways to embed and scale it in service settings. Through a colleague at the Baltimore Community Foundation, I met fellow alumna Robin McKinney, who had been a Casey Fellow and was leading the Maryland CASH Campaign's mission of expanding financial capability and asset building programs for low-to-moderate income families. Robin's familiarity with Reeta Wolfsohn and her Center for Financial Social Work ignited a plan to elevate the need to prepare Maryland's social workers to assess and address their clients' financial stressors.

In 2008, we invited Reeta to campus to meet with Dean Barth and MSW students to discuss her work training social work practitioners that was gaining national attention. The resulting enthusiasm and support from the Dean led to the creation of FSWI in November 2008 and the first FSW course in 2009.

FSWI HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

I served as FSWI's Founding Chair initially, but I knew faculty leadership was critical to our sustainability and success. Fortunately, Dr. Jodi Jacobson Frey joined FSWI as its Chair in 2010, and Dr. Christine Callahan was hired as FSWI research staff, then faculty, in 2012. With their leadership and guidance from the FSWI Steering Committee - which includes university and community partners - FSWI further expanded its impact. Several research studies, additional Continuing Education courses, and an advanced elective course for the MSW program were developed. In 2018, FSWI launched the first university-



Meg Woodside, MSW; Robin McKinney, MSW; Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD



Christine Callahan, PhD

based Financial Social Work Certificate Program in the country.

FSWI has also led the way in creating an international network of scholars to collaborate on curriculum, research and publications. Drs. Frey and Callahan formed the Financial Capability and Asset Building Social Work Research Consortium (FCAB) in 2012 with academicians interested in FCAB and financial social work. This led to the first national FCAB Convening in April 2015 which drew approximately 70 scholars and resulted in numerous published papers in three leading social work journals. FSWI also contributed to the first academic text on financial social work in 2013, and Drs. Frey and Callahan are co-editors of a direct practice book on financial social work with different vulnerable populations. (See end of page 10) Additionally, multiple universities have consulted FSWI's leadership about how to integrate financial social work on their campuses.

Over the past decade, we have developed vital partnerships with SWCOS, Promise Heights, UMB's Community Engagement Center, and other schools on our campus. Together, programs and resources have been created that have had a direct and powerful impact on both students and community members in Baltimore and beyond. Educating the next generation of social workers, providing free tax preparation, and offering financial education in diverse settings are but a few examples of how social workers are serving individuals and communities utilizing financial social work skills. Our efforts do not end there.

As we reflect on our work over the past decade and think about where we are headed, FSWI will be leveraging our member and partner strengths to explicate the role of financial well-being within the larger systems of health and behavioral health.



FSWI Co-Founder and Founding Chair Meg Woodside, MSW, honored by UMBF at its Founder's Week Gala

We know research plays a key role in future success and innovating best practices. And we know sustained policy and advocacy efforts are a critical factor in reducing long-standing economic inequalities.

FSWI IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS

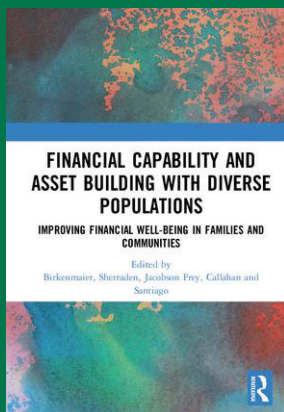
Research underscores the connection between wealth and health outcomes. As we reflect on our work over the past decade and think about where we are headed, FSWI will be leveraging our

member and partner strengths to explicate the role of financial well-being within the larger systems of health and behavioral health. This focus on comprehensive well-being will help to guide the future direction of FSWI-directed work and better define the unique contributions that the UMSSW community brings to the now established, yet ever-growing, field of financial social work.

Social workers look at chronic health conditions like substance use and obesity with a behavioral health framework, and financial health belongs in that equation too. Many of the needed elements for successful outcomes are similar - educating clients, identifying triggers, providing motivational support, building on strengths and assets, managing environmental risks, creating access to better programs and services, scaling supportive resources, and advocating for better policies. This is unquestionably an arena where social workers can excel in reducing systemic barriers, leading policy development, and conducting innovative research.

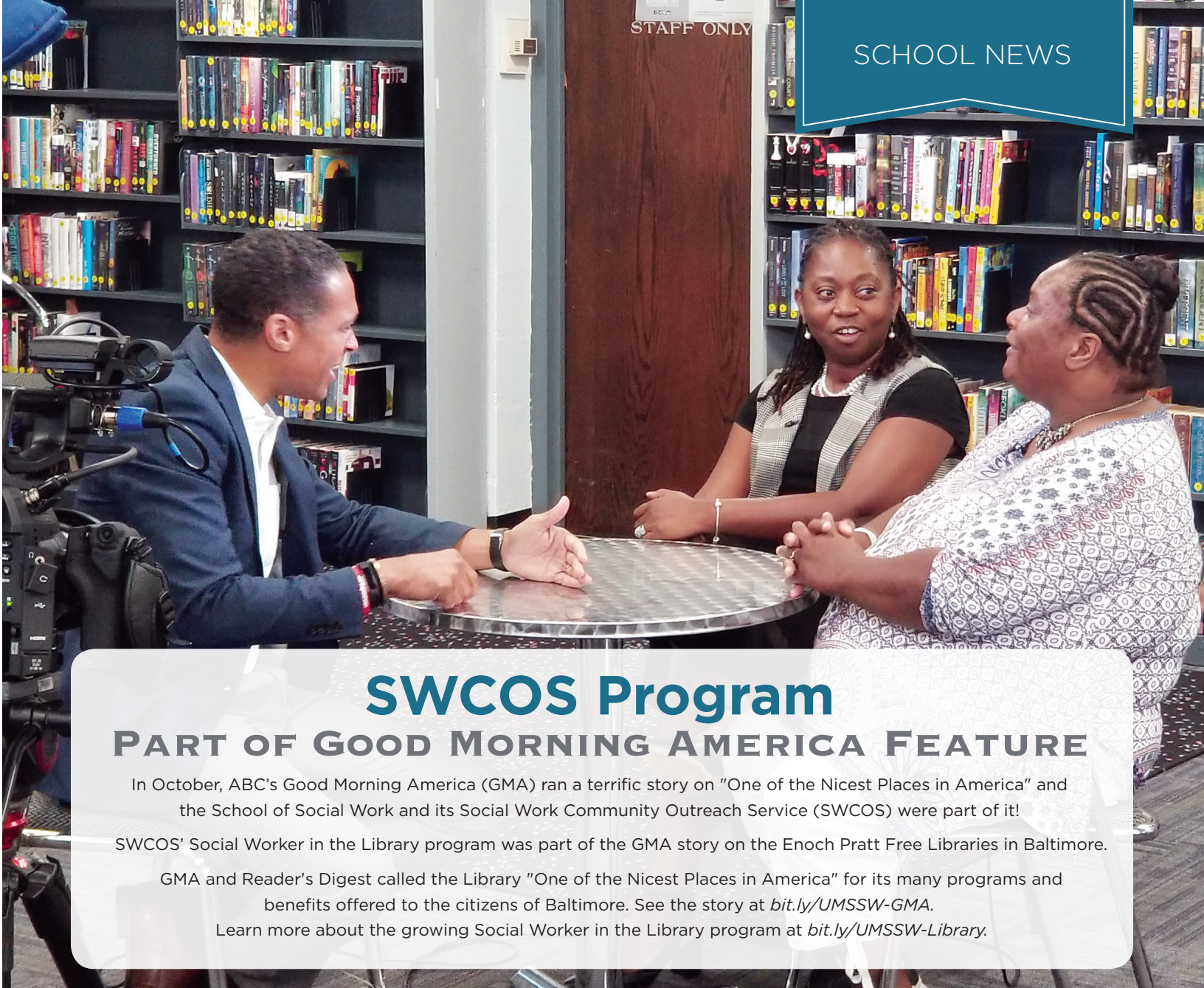
Moving forward, I hope to see financial capability and well-being more fully infused in social work education and practice and viewed as an essential component of an interdisciplinary approach to family and community health and prosperity. I think the assets and partners we have on our campus give UMB a unique opportunity to integrate financial health into other areas of practice such that we are really looking at the “whole” person in a new way within the community and the workplace. It is a very exciting time to be a financial social worker! ♦

To learn more about FSWI, visit www.ssw.umaryland.edu/fswi/



Financial Capability and Asset Building with Diverse Populations

This book underscores the importance of financial capability and asset building (FCAB) practice, policy, and research during a period when vulnerable populations face increasingly difficult economic and financial realities. At the same time, retrenchment and privatization of government-sponsored social services have eroded the safety net available for families. The proliferation of products and services available from both formal and informal financial institutions highlights the need to promote FCAB to avoid and/or recover from financial difficulties, crises and poverty. The contributors to this volume describe findings from interventions designed to increase financial knowledge, management, and access across several vulnerable populations, including immigrant communities.



SWCOS Program

PART OF GOOD MORNING AMERICA FEATURE

In October, ABC's Good Morning America (GMA) ran a terrific story on "One of the Nicest Places in America" and the School of Social Work and its Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) were part of it!

SWCOS' Social Worker in the Library program was part of the GMA story on the Enoch Pratt Free Libraries in Baltimore.

GMA and Reader's Digest called the Library "One of the Nicest Places in America" for its many programs and benefits offered to the citizens of Baltimore. See the story at bit.ly/UMSSW-GMA.

Learn more about the growing Social Worker in the Library program at bit.ly/UMSSW-Library.

GADE AWARD NAMED IN HONOR OF DONNA HARRINGTON



The SSW's Donna Harrington, PhD, a leader in doctoral education who passed away in March 2018, was especially known for being an exemplary mentor of doctoral students. For this reason, the 2018 Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work board voted to name the GADE award for excellence in mentoring doctoral students in her honor. Mentorship was not what Donna did, it was who she was as a person. Donna was the recipient of the 2018 GADE Award for Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students.

Harrington was a leader in GADE. She served on the GADE Board from 2013-2016, functioning as the treasurer from 2014-2016. In addition, she was one of the principal editors of the GADE Quality Guidelines for PhD programs. Harrington served as the Associate Dean for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Education at the University of Maryland School of Social Work where she mentored numerous PhD students. She also chaired over 30 dissertations during her career and advised countless more.

SSW's Frey, Michigan Leaders Shine Hope on Reducing Men's Suicide



By Mary T. Phelan

In Michigan, men die four times more often from suicide than women, and suicide is the second-leading cause of death among working-aged men ages 25-34 (fourth cause of those ages 35-49). The statistics are just as alarming across the country, as suicide was the 10th-leading cause of death in 2016, claiming over 45,000 lives (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports).



Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD,
LCSW-C, CEAP

Leaders throughout Michigan worked together with Maryland researcher Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD, LCSW-C, CEAP, associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, to prevent suicide and encourage men to see that taking control of their mental health and well-being is not a sign of weakness and actually, a very masculine thing to do.

On average, there are 123 suicides per day in the United States, with the rate among males being nearly four times higher than among females (CDC, WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports). Experts say multiple factors contribute to the high risk for men, including but not limited to men's tendencies to minimize signs of suicide and depression. Additionally, seeking traditional mental health services has not historically aligned well with popular definitions of masculinity, thereby leaving many men to struggle in silence, feeling more isolated and hopeless with their pain.

Two years ago, researchers at the University of Maryland and in partnership with organizations throughout Michigan, launched Healthy Men Michigan (www.HealthyMenMichigan.org), an online anonymous screening website for depression and suicide funded by the CDC.



In just two years, more than 225 groups and organizations across the state have joined the campaign to promote Healthy Men Michigan. One of its strongest partners, Kevin's Song, is a growing non-profit organization committed to raising awareness about the causes of suicide and preventing further suicide deaths.

"When our son Kevin died by suicide in 2013 at the age of 41, my husband John and I were shocked and devastated," said Kevin's Song co-founder Gail Urso. "In dealing with our grief, we discovered that suicide was prevalent in our society and over 41,000 people in 2013 would end their lives. We learned that while there are so many wonderful organizations working to prevent suicides, sadly, there is still a stigma around suicide and mental illness that prevents people from reaching out for help. We vowed to do something about these problems and founded Kevin's Song to empower communities to prevent suicide and offer hope and healing to survivors.

"Through our annual conferences, documentary films, workshops and presentations, and by bringing together the many resources that exist to prevent suicide, Kevin's Song is making a difference and, in so doing, honoring Kevin's memory," Urso continued.

Kevin's Song invited Healthy Men Michigan to participate in a documentary about important work being done to prevent suicide throughout the state called Singing Kevin's Song. It aired on regional PBS stations throughout Michigan. Singing Kevin's Song profiled three boots-on-the-ground individuals working to educate, train, and inspire those at the highest risk for suicide: youth, teens, and working-age men.

“Suicide is a public health problem and deserves a comprehensive and public health approach to prevention.”

HealthyMenMichigan.org provides free and anonymous screening and help-seeking tools to reduce suicide ideation and behavior. The ability to access the tools and resources quickly, privately, and anonymously serves to remove a number of potential barriers to getting help.

“Suicide is a public health problem and deserves a comprehensive and public health approach to prevention. *HealthyMenMichigan.org* is one step in working to reach men wherever they might be, whenever they are ready for help — we can no longer wait for men to come to us for help” said Frey, principal investigator for the Healthy Men Michigan project. To date, approximately 6,000 men in Michigan, many of whom are reporting risk factors for depression and suicide and are not currently connected to any formal mental health support services, have completed the screening and are being introduced to resources in their local communities.

Healthy Men Michigan is supported by the Cooperative Agreement Number, 1 U01 CE002661-01, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services. ♦

SSW Brings on a

DIVERSITY
&
INCLUSION

Officer



The School of Social Work is exceptionally pleased to announce that Jeff Ash, EdD, MS, also the UM School of Nursing’s Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, is partnering with the School of Social Work to develop a Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Plan. Ash is working closely with the Dean’s office, the Diversity and Anti-Oppression (DAO) Committee, and the School’s curriculum and

administrative committees to be sure that a plan reflects the work of all of the School. The School expects to have a draft plan to present early in 2019.

Ash is giving special attention to engaging staff in conversations and activities with the promise of helping to increase the sense of inclusion in the School. Ash spends about 20% of his time working with the School.

Strengthening Society

School of Social Work

through Local, Regional and



United Way

BCPS

MSDE

OSI

USD of ED

SAMHSA

HRSA BHWISE

Screening, Brief Intervention
and Referral to Treatment

National
Technical
Assistance
Network for
Children's
Behavioral
Health
(TA Network)

Maryland
Human
Trafficking
Task Force

University of
Maryland's
SAFE Center

Family
League

through Partnerships: Achieves Aspirations and National Partnerships

By Wanda Haskel

U.S.
Children's
Bureau

Advancing the well-being of populations and communities, and promoting social justice, are built into the mission of the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW). Central to achieving this aim is collaboration and partnerships. Addressing such complicated challenges as addiction, mental illness, homelessness, trauma and inequality demands broad expertise and strong, lasting relationships.

That is why the UMSSW, bringing to the table trusted knowledge, skills and capacity, is ever-increasingly joining forces with non-profit and government agencies, schools and community organizations, public and private donors, and other research institutions.

Short-term collaborations enable the School to do a great deal of good, but it is especially gratifying and productive, says SSW Dean Richard Barth, when those collaborations turn into long-term partnerships.

“Structured partnerships that endure for years present special opportunities for the School to have a larger impact, not just on one service provider or client at a time, but on great swaths of providers and clients in need across our state and, indeed, the country.”

Those opportunities have grown rapidly through the years as the School has increased capacity for research, training, evaluation and community outreach. Beyond the teaching faculty who prepare the majority of Maryland’s masters-level social workers, the School employs a sizable staff of researchers, trainers and technical specialists numbering more than 300. These scholars and experts are focused on delivering training, technical assistance and research findings in collaboration with UMSSW partners from Baltimore city to states across the nation. Currently, the School holds 145 active awards on which UMSSW is either the leading organization or is partnered as a subcontractor. Thirty-nine of the awards have subcontracts with partner organizations. These projects total about \$47 million a year.

“It’s a natural partnership because we share the same values and mission in terms of enhancing safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes for Maryland’s children and families,” says Kelman.”

FROM THE BEGINNING

The UMSSW has been nurturing long-term relationships since its founding in 1961. Early partnerships with agencies and organizations, such as the Maryland Department of Human Resources (now the Maryland Department of Human Services), Catholic Charities, and Jewish Child and Family Services, enabled UMSSW’s first students to gain field experience as a required part of the curriculum.

Although the School lacks a historical record, there’s also a long tradition of SSW faculty and staff contributing to its partnerships by serving on boards and commissions in Baltimore and Maryland. Currently, the SSW is represented on 54 boards and commissions.

In the 1970s, some of those early partner agencies began relying on experts at the School to provide evaluation support for social services programs. For example, the UMSSW, led by Professor Susan Zuravin and assisted by, then, doctoral student Diane DePanfilis, helped the Baltimore City Department of Social Services to evaluate their child welfare services program, pioneering the way that universities and public child welfare agencies could work together.

Since then, the School has continuously expanded on that legacy, now routinely providing evaluation services for social programs throughout Maryland and across the country. For example, SSW researchers, led by Assistant Professor Ericka Lewis, recently were entrusted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to evaluate the National Quality Parenting Initiative, a collaborative approach to strengthening foster care implemented at 70 sites across 10 states. A local instance is a partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department to serve as evaluation lead for the department’s federally-funded \$1 million a year project, Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST), to help organize and evaluate the delivery of trauma-informed care to the West Baltimore community.

In the field, the SSW Office of Field Education now partners with 580 agencies throughout Maryland and Washington D.C., and has more recently expanded partnerships in Delaware and Virginia. These partnerships include many public and community schools, hospitals, health care facilities, government offices, community outreach centers, and agencies providing social services. The SSW places about 850 students at these agencies each year. Additionally, since 2015, the Behavioral Health

Workforce Integration Service and Education (BHWISE) fellows program has placed more than 115 advanced MSW students in agencies that offer behavioral health services, and provided them with more than \$1.1 million in funding support and specialized training. The initiative has grown to include agencies delivering medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and the BHWISE program has formed a behavioral health learning collaborative focused on behavioral health integration in partnership with partner agencies and field instructors. Recently, the School wrote and received a \$2.5 million grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to fund student interns placed in agencies providing evidence-based medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid using clients. Three host agencies also received a grant of \$200,000 a year for participating.

TRAINING MARYLAND’S CHILD - AND FAMILY-SERVING WORKFORCE

Just as out of those early partnerships grew a reliance on the SSW for evaluation services, so too did the School begin filling a need for pre- and in-service training for Maryland’s large child- and family-serving workforce. These days, the UMSSW is widely contracted by organizations and state agencies to keep workers current on the latest evidence-based practices.

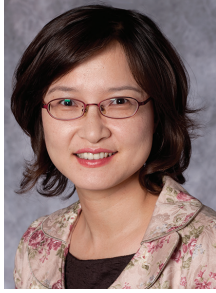
Jennifer Kelman is director of the SSW’s Child Welfare Academy (part of the Ruth H. Young Center), a long-term partnership between the School and Maryland’s Department of Human Services (DHS), Social Services Administration, for which the academy develops and delivers training and education to child welfare workers and resource parents in Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions.

“It’s a natural partnership because we share the same values and mission in terms of enhancing safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes for Maryland’s children and families,” says Kelman. “Working in collaboration strengthens our collective capacity to effectively carry out the work.”

Other training hubs on campus are The Institute for Innovation & Implementation (The Institute), and the Family Welfare Research and Training Group (FWRTG), which provide large-scale training and technical assistance locally, regionally and nationally.



Terry Shaw, PhD



Haksoon Ahn, PhD



Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD

Moreover, a 2014 grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is supporting behavioral health specialists at the School in the development and delivery of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) training for MSW students and field instructors. The state of Maryland has also engaged the SSW to train human services workers in this comprehensive, integrated public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for people with, or at risk for, substance use disorders.

In addition, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, since 1994, has held the state of Maryland's contract for the Title IV-E Education for Public Child Welfare training program. Drawing down on federal funding, the state engages the UMSSW to prepare social work students specifically for careers serving families and children in Maryland's public child welfare services programs through coursework, workshops, and targeted internship experiences.

SUPPORTING THE STATE

The SSW and Maryland state departments and offices have a long history of successful cooperation, whereby the School of Social Work provides support and expertise.

In the 1980s, Cathy Born, who became a national leader in welfare research, founded the SSW's Family Welfare Research and Training Group, forging a lasting bond with the Department of Human Services. Over the course of 30 years the relationship strengthened to the point that now the FWRTG is entrusted to leverage state administrative data to deliver empirically-based, policy-relevant information in the welfare and child support fields. For over two decades, FWRTG has annually produced *Life After Welfare*, a longitudinal, nationally acclaimed study of Maryland welfare-leavers, which provides a valuable barometer of welfare in Maryland.

Building on FWRTG's strong ties with DHS, Terry Shaw, SSW associate professor and director of the School's Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children further fortified the relationship when he joined the School in 2007. Shaw's task was to work side-by-side with DHS to operationalize the Child Welfare Accountability Act. Eleven years later, he continues to serve DHS, working with Associate Professor Haksoon Ahn,

who is now principal investigator (PI) for the ongoing statewide evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare services, with a strong focus on using child welfare administrative data to inform policy decisions. Other partnerships between the state and the Ruth H. Young Center address pressing issues in Maryland.

Research Assistant Professor Nadine Finigan-Carr is helping Maryland tackle the painful problem of human trafficking. Partners include the U.S. Children's Bureau; U.S. Department of Justice; Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force; Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention; Maryland departments of Human Services and Juvenile Services; U.S. Attorney's Office; University of Maryland's SAFE Center; Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts (Maryland's supreme court); Healthy Teen Network, TurnAround, Inc.; Baltimore Child Abuse Center; and departments of law enforcement in Baltimore city and across the state. The effort will expand to additional counties in the next year.

While Finigan-Carr's projects involve training welfare workers, judges and law enforcement in how to identify human trafficking cases and employ trauma-informed engagement, a multi-decade partnership between the UMSSW and the state Office of Adult Services targets state of Maryland adult services workers for training. The SSW also provides evaluation and technical assistance as the agency sets policy on the delivery of adult services in the state's local social services offices.



Amanda Lehning, PhD

"I love being involved in the training," says the project's PI, Associate Professor Amanda Lehning, an expert on aging in place. "You know that you can actually have an impact on how vulnerable adults across the state are being served." Lehning also works on a contract helping the state to develop an assessment tool to guide adult protective services investigations.

Another ongoing partnership with the state of Maryland exists through The Institute, established in 2005 by the Maryland Children's Cabinet as a center of excellence on systems of care and children's behavioral health. Today, The Institute has contracts with the departments of Human Services, Juvenile Services, Education, and Housing and Community Development to provide a mix of research and evaluation, training and technical assistance, policy analysis, financing work, and project management. For example, Research Assistant Professor and Co-Director of The Institute's Maryland Center Jill Farrell leads efforts with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to provide training for case managers, research and evaluation support, assistance with the design and development of the department's case management information system, support with

“Our goal is to bring partnerships into schools in order to level the playing ground and bring in resources,” says Wendy Shaia, SSW clinical assistant professor and SWCOS executive director.

mandated reporting, and help with strategic planning and the implementation of evidence-based programs. Dr. Farrell has had this partnership with DJS since coming to UMB in 2007.

“We’ve built a long-standing relationship and much trust across the years,” says the Maryland Center’s co-director Deborah Harburger of the association between the SSW and the state. “This is our city. This is our state, too. I think that commitment comes through in our work.”



Michael Woolley, PhD

Because of the School of Social Work’s long record of leadership in partnering with state agencies, the School was deemed an ideal fit to host an initiative that began when a 2010 state law required an independent unit of state government be established to combine pre-K-12, higher education, and workforce data for the purposes of analysis and outcome reporting over time. In 2013, the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center opened its offices on the UMSSW’s downtown Baltimore campus. Using data supplied by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and relying on the SSW to be the research arm of the project, the center provides policy-makers, such as the Maryland General Assembly, and other stakeholders, with reports and information on important education and workforce outcomes. The benefits of this collaboration have spun off an additional large grant (with Associate Professor Michael Woolley as PI) from the Institute of Educational Sciences to develop an approach to generate synthetic data, from actual data, in order to permit wider release of available data.

The short walk from the SSW to the state education department is a bonus, says Ross Goldstein, the center’s executive director. “It helps keep up the partnership and makes discussions easy.” Some MSDE colleagues are also co-located at the School of Social Work.

HEADS TOGETHER

As the profile of how research is done becomes increasingly collaborative, SSW scholars seek to combine efforts with experts at other research institutions both locally and nationwide.

The Institute at the School specializes in these types of partnerships through work with states, tribes, territories, and local governments to develop effective service systems and build

a skilled, informed and well-prepared social services workforce. One way is through leading and coordinating the National Technical Assistance Network for Children’s Behavioral Health (TA Network), a multi-year, multi-million-dollar (about \$8 million a year) SAMHSA contract in collaboration with 14 partners, many of which are universities throughout the country. The network formalizes the partnership concept with an array of contracts and memoranda of understanding with their 14 partners. These ensure that SAMHSA’s goals are met and that the largest investment in children’s behavioral health ever made continues to be a great success.

The Institute is also a founding partner, along with the University of Washington and Portland State University, of the National Wraparound Implementation Center, providing tailored implementation supports to states and communities across the nation on organizational development, financing, and systems design, as well as Wraparound training and coaching. In 2017-2018, the center provided training, coaching, and implementation support in 17 states and trained over 2,500 practitioners.

Additionally, the UMSSW teams up with other Maryland universities and the professional schools within the University of Maryland, Baltimore. For example, the SSW and the UM Carey School of Law partner to provide a clinic to help acclimate residents returning from long periods of incarceration.

BOLSTERING BALTIMORE

Situated in the heart of downtown, the School of Social Work is dedicated to applying its expertise toward strengthening families and improving outcomes for underserved populations within Baltimore city.

One effective way to maximize the School’s impact is by engaging in partnerships involving grassroots community organizing efforts, particularly with the West Baltimore neighborhoods right in the School’s backyard.

Launched in 1992, the SSW’s Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS), is home to an array of such efforts. For more than 10 years, SWCOS has supported Community School strategies at four Baltimore City Public Schools. SWCOS places a licensed social worker in each school who develops partnerships with community organizations to create an environment where academic enrichment, health and social supports, family engagement, and youth and community development improve student well-being.

Moreover, the Positive Schools Center at SWCOS partners with school districts to identify and collaborate around issues related to school climate and punitive discipline, offering training for school faculty and staff.



Wendy Shaia, PhD

“Our goal is to bring partnerships into schools in order to level the playing field and bring in resources,” says Wendy Shaia, SSW clinical assistant professor and SWCOS executive director, noting that to date, SWCOS has touched 50 schools, many of which are in Baltimore city.

Neighborhood Fellows is another long-time SWCOS program aimed at improving life for underprivileged folks in the city. Fellows (SSW students), supervised by SSW field instructors, are placed within revitalization organizations to increase resources through fundraising and grant-writing, and assist with advocacy.

SWCOS’ sustained involvement with underserved neighborhoods and “meet people where they are” approach laid the groundwork for a strong, trusting relationship with both city residents and officials. This is exemplified by recent requests for SWCOS staff to facilitate sensitive conversations between city residents and the Baltimore police department.

Founded in 2009, Promise Heights is also a center for city outreach at the UMSSW. Promise Heights partners with community-based non-profits and faith-based organizations to improve the educational, social, health, and economic opportunities of children from birth to young adulthood in the West Baltimore neighborhoods of Upton/Druid Heights.

(See story about a major new grant award to Promise Heights, in this issue.)

Like SWCOS, Promise Heights uses the Community Schools model to connect residents with programs and resources. Promise Heights has social workers placed within five public schools in West Baltimore, who work with both the children and parents of those enrolled. Sometimes, when those parents are in danger of being evicted, they are referred to Jeffrey Clark, who runs Promise Heights’ Family Prosperity Program. Clark assists parents with staying housed and mapping a course to financial prosperity. The program is a three-way partnership between Promise Heights, which implements the program; United Way of Central Maryland, which provides oversight and operational funding; and Union Baptist Church, a neighborhood institution, which serves as the program’s fiscal administrator for emergency funds. Clark has also developed a strong network with housing/leasing offices, financial non-profits, school administrators and other social services providers, with whom he joins forces to meet the needs of his clients.

Other partnership webs enable the School of Social Work to find additional ways to reach out to the community. For instance, the SSW helps prevent teen pregnancy and reduce sexual behavior risks among children and adolescents who are in the foster care and juvenile justice systems through direct services to youth, and training and education in sexual reproductive health for child welfare and juvenile justice service workers and foster parents. Partners include the Baltimore City Health Department, Planned Parenthood of Central Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

DONOR/FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS

Much of the work, particularly in community organizing, the School does to advance the well-being of communities and populations happens thanks to longstanding partnerships with dedicated individual donors and foundations.

Just some of the philanthropic organizations that support general operating and specific programs within SWCOS and Promise Heights, for example, include the Goldseker Foundation, the Meyerhoff Foundation, the Zanyvl and Isabelle Krieger Fund, the Kenneth S. Battye Charitable Trust, Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Bunting Family Foundation, the Greif Foundation, the Open Society Institute Baltimore, the Family League of Baltimore, and United Way of Central Maryland. Others, such as the Bou family, have long histories with the School providing scholarships for SSW students.

MOVING FORWARD

The University of Maryland School of Social Work has a profound understanding, says Dean Barth, that carrying out the School’s mission of making progress toward a more just society is best done by combining the strengths of many, brought together by compatible goals and values. That is why the School is extremely appreciative of all the local, regional and national entities that consider the SSW a trusted partner. It is also why the School continues to expand capacity for research and outreach.

“The extent of our positive impact would not be possible without the collaborations that have grown into enduring partnerships,” says Barth. “Our goal for the future is to continue deepening our existing partnerships, while steadily seeking additional, lasting collaborations. We can do infinitely more social good working together with abiding agency and university partners than we can alone.” ♦

Decades of Fostering Stronger Partnerships

Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD '98, has been a force in the social work community for decades. Her work on the national social work stage has helped lead to better and stronger partnerships between social work practitioners and educators across the country. We recently sat down with Joan to get her perspective on the profession today and the future that awaits it.



Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD '98

Q: How has the role of partnerships between social work educators and social work practitioners changed over the years?

Over the course of my national social work career, beginning in 1987, when I was hired at NASW, I have worked to strengthen partnerships and connections between social work educators and the practice community. This has been especially important in the work I have done to promote professional social work practice in child welfare. One result has been that more than 40 states have accessed Title IV-E child welfare training funds to collaborate with schools of social work to provide stipends to BSW and MSW students to pursue child welfare careers. Part of the partnership means that educators need to stay attuned to the challenges and new policies and practice modalities in agencies that need to be incorporated into the curricula. And agencies need to know what are the most effective evidence-based interventions that are being tested through academic research.

Early on in my national career, I would hear statements repeatedly that there is a big disconnect between social work educators and agency practitioners and their administrators. Working with other organizations, like the Child Welfare League of America and the American Public Human Services

Association and its affiliate, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, we began to bring together deans and faculty with agency administrators to discuss strategies to bridge the divide – I think much has been accomplished since that time. However, with the constant leadership change in agencies and schools – the coming together often needs to happen over and over again.

There is a need for academic/community partnerships to occur in many fields of practice. One example in healthcare is the Social Work HEALS program of which the SSW is one of the 10 participating BSW and MSW programs as part of a five-year grant from the New York Community Trust to NASW and CSWE. There are also partnerships in aging, behavioral health, the VA, etc.

However, much still needs to be done. Besides the constant changes in leadership in child welfare agencies, I think a current dilemma is that some schools will allow people to go into social work PhD programs without previous social work practice experience or faculty are hired with degrees other than social work – and thus they may come without connections to agency practice, and in fact, may have limited knowledge and understanding of social work practice.

Q: How is the current political environment impacting social work policy and its future?

The current political environment is impacting the social work profession in many ways. To address some of the issues, and to get more social workers involved in policy practice, in 2017, as part of a larger initiative in social work, the NASW Social Work Policy Institute hosted a summit – Maximizing Social Work's Policy Impact in a Changing Political Landscape. This report highlights many challenges, opportunities for new partnerships with advocacy organizations and highlights ethical dilemmas that social workers might face. www.socialworkpolicy.org/news-events/nasw-hosts-maximizing-social-works-policy-impact-in-a-changing-political-landscape.html

Getting people to vote and making sure that social workers vote is essential. There is much going on in the profession to get organized about and get out the vote efforts.

Q: You have always had a close relationship with the School, why has that been important to you?

My strong relationship with the school, aside from having worked with a few faculty while at NASW between 1987 and 1994, really began when I started my doctoral studies in 1994. Some early work was related to social work in nursing homes in collaboration with Betsy Vourlekis who I worked with at NASW between 1987 and 1989, and she had then left NASW to go to the University of Maryland.

Serving as a doctoral grad research assistant in the Title IV-E program at the School, I followed up on the graduates and worked with the IV-E team and other child welfare faculty to develop child welfare competencies and taught child welfare practice and child welfare policy. This was all closely aligned with the work I was doing at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). I went to CSWE on a part-time basis in 1995 while working on my PhD, and was working on a grant from the Ford Foundation to promote partnerships between public human services agencies and schools of social work, among other initiatives.

I developed several monographs published at CSWE that drew from my work at Maryland, and highlighted contributions from the School; honed my policy implementation doctoral dissertation to complement national concerns about the confusing and inconsistent ways that the Title IV-E entitlement training provisions were being implemented across the country, and worked on a 1996 national survey of schools of social work related to their access to Title IV-E funds, drawing from what I learned in a survey research course taught by my dissertation chair, Lee Cornelius. With Diane DePanfilis, at the School at the time, and Sunny Harris Rome at George Mason University, we put together

a compendium of child welfare curricula used across the country and published by CSWE, as part of a book series CSWE had at the time.

Once I completed my PhD, and came to know the expertise of more faculty, I saw many opportunities for collaboration. Much of this occurred while I ran the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR) from 2000-2009.

In 2005, with support from Annie E. Casey Foundation, I worked with a team at the University of Maryland, led by Diane DePanfilis to do a systematic review of research related to retention of child welfare workers. I also had major collaborations continuing with Betsy Vourlekis and her doctoral student related to the role of social workers and psychosocial care in nursing homes including organizing a 2004 national meeting funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Q: Tell us more about the role Betsy Vourlekis played in your career/life.

Betsy Vourlekis has been a very important person in my career. Betsy was at NASW when I arrived in 1987 and we became close and collaborative colleagues. I learned a great deal from her about what the work was that we were doing and I consider her a mentor. She helped me understand the multiple roles of my position; promoting the role and value of social work, working actively in coalitions; making connections in the federal government with appointed officials and with the everyday staff who are there no matter who is in the political positions and connecting with leading practitioners and academics.

Q: Tell us more about your recent gift to the school.

My husband and I decided to make a gift to the School to support doctoral students as my key connection to the School was through the doctoral program. As social workers' balance school, family and work, scholarship support is very important. I also wanted to create a legacy of my incredible social work career to live beyond me.

Q: What's ahead for you in your social work career?

Interesting question. I am in a transition place after 30 plus years of working in/for national social work organizations, the last three as a consultant at NASW, I left that in June 2018. I have a few continuing roles on advisory committees including at the UMSSW on the Dean's advisory committee. I look forward to continuing to stay involved as a mentor, and perhaps to do some other consulting – and maybe some writing – and organizing my papers. ♦

GRANTS, HONORS & PUBLICATIONS



Charlotte Bright, PhD

“Absorptive capacity in child welfare: measurement challenges and item development,” is new research by Research Assistant **Jenny Afkinich, PhD**, PhD candidate

Andrew Winters, former SSW faculty member **Geetha Gopalan, PhD**, and Associate Dean for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Education **Charlotte Bright, PhD**. The work appears in the recent issue of the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.



Dean Richard Barth, PhD, is a co-author of the article “Externalizing behaviors among adopted children: A longitudinal comparison of

preadoptive childhood sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment.” The work appears in a recent issue of the journal *Child Abuse & Neglect*.



Lisa Berlin, PhD

Associate Professor **Lisa Berlin, PhD**, published a paper with SSW doctoral alum Allison West, PhD. “Occupational stress and wellbeing among Early Head Start

home visitors: A mixed methods study,” appeared in the journal *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.



Sarah Christa Butts, MSW, Executive Director of Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative, has been named a VIP by the *Daily Record*.

The Daily Record created the VIP List to recognize professionals 40 years of age and younger who have been successful in Maryland.



John Cagle, PhD, has been promoted to associate professor.



Sarah Dababnah, PhD



Wendy Shaia, PhD

Assistant Professor **Sarah Dababnah, PhD**, Clinical Assistant Professor and Executive Director of the Social Work Community Outreach Service **Wendy Shaia, PhD**, MSW graduate **Karen Campion**, and PhD graduate **Helen Nichols** have a new article published in a special issue of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. The article, “We Had to Keep Pushing:” Caregivers’ Perspectives on Autism Screening and Referral Practices of Black Children in Primary Care” describes a study conducted in Baltimore which explored barriers and facilitators to timely autism screening and referrals in primary care.



Associate Professor **Joan Davitt, PhD**, is a co-author of new research published in *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine* titled “Loneliness, Depressive

Symptoms, and Cognitive Functioning Among U.S. Chinese Older Adults.”



Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, has been promoted to research associate professor.



Elizabeth Greeno, PhD



Bethany Lee, PhD



Michelle Tuten, PhD



Deborah Harburger, MSW

School of Social Work faculty members **Elizabeth Greeno, PhD**, **Bethany Lee, PhD**, **Michelle Tuten, PhD**, and the Institute for Innovation & Implementation’s **Deborah Harburger, MSW**, are co-authors of new research that has been published in *Child and Adolescent Journal*. The article is titled “Prevalence of Substance Use, Housing Instability, and Self-Perceived Preparation for Independence Among Current and Former Foster Youth.”

Research Assistant Professors **Brook Kearley, PhD**, and **Elizabeth Greeno, PhD**, received a \$49,500 award from the Maryland Judiciary, Department of Juvenile and Family Services to evaluate Harford County's Family Recovery Court.



Amanda Lehning, PhD, has been promoted to associate professor.

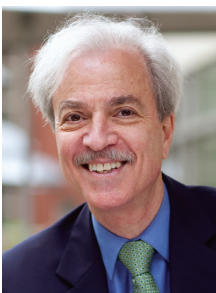


Associate Dean for Field Education **Sam Little, PhD**, is a co-author of the recently published research "Responding to the Grand Challenge to End Homelessness: The National Homelessness Social Work Initiative." The article appears in *Families and Society*.



Nalini Negi, MSW, PhD

New work by School of Social Work Associate Professor **Nalini Negi, PhD**, titled "Social Workers Must Stand Up for Immigrant Rights: Strategies for Action," has been published by the journal *Social Work*.



In September, **Michael Reisch, PhD**, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, presented a 2-part all-day lecture on strategies of poverty alleviation in the U.S. to a delegation of social welfare officials from the People's Republic of China. Reisch's book, *Social Policy and Social*

Justice (Cognella Academic Publishing), just published its 3rd edition. It is the first social work policy text to include policies that have been implemented or proposed since the 2016 election and to discuss the implications of social and political developments during the Trump presidency for U.S. society.



Associate Dean for Research **Paul Sacco, PhD**, Associate Professor **Michelle Tuten, PhD**, 2018 PhD alum **Mary Hodorowicz, PhD**, and others co-

authored new research titled "Substance Use and Psychosocial Functioning in a Sample of Liver Transplant Recipients with Alcohol-Related Liver Disease" in the journal *Transplantation Proceedings*.



Corey Shdaimah, PhD, has been promoted to full professor.

Michelle Tuten, PhD, has been promoted to associate professor. Tuten was also a panelist at a Washington, DC Congressional Briefing in June that was titled "Opioid Crisis Response: Social Work Workforce Readiness."

PhD Student **Orrin Ware** and Assistant Professor **John Cagle, PhD**, have new research, "Informal Caregiving Networks for Hospice Patients With Cancer and Their Impact on Outcomes: A Brief Report," published by the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*.



New Assistant Professor **Alexandra Wimberly, PhD**, is the lead author of new research published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse*

Treatment that looks at "A randomized trial of yoga for stress and substance use among people living with HIV in reentry."



Yanfeng Xu



Debbie Gioia, PhD

Yanfeng Xu, a PhD student at the SSW, along with Professor **Corey Shdaimah, PhD**, and Associate Professor **Debbie Gioia, PhD**, have co-authored a paper titled "Qualitative Research in the Chinese Social Work Academy: Optimism and Invisible Disadvantages." The article was recently published by *The British Journal of Social Work*.



The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center has awarded over \$734,000 to the SSW for a project titled "Expanding MLDS Data Access and Research Capacity with Synthetic Data Sets Year 3." Associate Professor **Michael Woolley, PhD**, is the Principal Investigator.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

The **Open Society Institute** has awarded the School's Social Work Community Outreach Service \$100,000 to help support its **Positive Schools Center's School Climate Change Framework**.

The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)** has awarded the **UMSSW's Institute for Innovation & Implementation** a 5-year grant to support its **B'More SUCCEEDS** program. The purpose of B'More SUCCEEDS is to enhance and expand youth-driven, trauma-responsive, and comprehensive treatment, early intervention, and recovery support for homeless youth and young adults with substance use disorders who are pregnant and/or parenting in Baltimore City.

A \$6.5-million-dollar award from **Maryland's Department of Human Services** will help support the **School's Title IV-E Education Program into 2021**. The **Title IV-E Education for Public Child Welfare Program** is a partnership between the University of Maryland School of Social Work 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.

The **Baltimore City Health Department** has awarded \$150,000 to the **UMSSW's Promise Heights** initiative to help fund its **Map for Success Project**. The purpose of the project is to reach young parents in Baltimore City who need support to achieve their personal development and parental goals.

The **Family League** has awarded over \$200,000 to the **School of Social Work's Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS)** for Community School efforts in Fiscal Year 2019. The purpose of this project will be to provide a Community School Strategy to four Elementary and Middle Schools in Baltimore City: Harlem Park, Wolfe Street Academy, Wildwood (formerly Lyndhurst) and James McHenry.

The **Carroll County Maryland Health Department** has awarded the **SSW's Institute for Innovation and Implementation** funding in the amount of \$239,913 for the first year of its project **E-SMART: Early Screening, Decision-Making, Assessment, Referral and Treatment for Children and Families**. The Institute's **Margo Candelaria** serves as the Principal Investigator for this grant.



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Every gift is important, 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.

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. To report a discrepancy or for more information, please contact the Office of Development at 410-706-0006 or at alumni@ssw.umaryland.edu.

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Mary F. Champion
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Mr. Adam Kane
Ms. Nancy R. Kutler, MSW '84
Ms. Eleanor Roberts Lewis
Peter F. Loungo, PhD '90
Ms. Gail I. Manza MCP '78
Ms. Bronwyn W. Mayden, MSW '77
J. Curtis McMillen, PhD '94
Mr. and Ms. Ivan Pine Mirabelli
Ms. Martha Nathanson
Katherine O'Donovan, MSW '81
Dr. Charles O'Donovan, III

Dr. Julianne S. Oktay
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class of **1968****Lilian Rosenbaum, MSW, PhD**

The Mid-Atlantic Biofeedback Society proudly announced Lilian Rosenbaum, LCSW-C, PhD, BCB as the winner of its Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Rosenbaum's career spanned more than 50 years, part of which was as faculty at Georgetown Medical University. In the early 1970s, she set up her first biofeedback clinical program and her plan was to include clinical practice, research, professional training, and have it be an elective for medical students. Biofeedback was still "bio-WHAT." She was the Principal Investigator for "Effects of Treatment on Drug Abuser and Family." She spent her career teaching, writing, and making a difference to the field and to her clients.

class of **1975****Mary Slicher, MSW**

Slicher, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Project PLASE (People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment) was honored in October by The Ignatian Volunteer Corps with its Madonna Della Strada award. In 1973, Slicher co-founded Project PLASE to remedy the lack of housing and resources available to Baltimore's homeless citizens. First started as a simple walk-in center, today Project PLASE addresses homelessness in Baltimore by providing transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services to homeless adults. They serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities, and ex-offenders, as well as support services for veteran families.

class of **1985****Harold Bailey, MSW**

Major (MDDF) Harold L. Bailey, Jr., MSW '86, Executive Officer, 10th Medical Regiment, Maryland Defense Force (MDDF), received the Maryland Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional service, professionalism, technical expertise, and outstanding performance supporting Operation Vigilant 18-4. During a year of planning and execution, MAJ (MDDF) Bailey served as a Joint Forces Medical Operations Exercise Planner, Medical Liaison Officer, and Joint Forces Deputy Medical Operations Exercise Controller.

MAJ (MDDF) Bailey is a Master Military Emergency Manager with specializations in Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Planning, Continuity of Operations, and Disaster Information Management. He also earned the FEMA Basic Instructor Certificate and is a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Instructor.

In his civilian life, he is a Psychiatric Crisis Evaluator in the University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus Emergency Department, where he also serves as a SSW Field Instructor.

MAJ (MDDF) Bailey co-authored a poster presentation for the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States' Annual Meeting at National Harbor in November 2018. The presentation was titled, "Force Multipliers in Disaster Areas: Lessons from the Performance of the 10th Medical Regiment during Operation Vigilant Guard 2018."

MAJ (MDDF) Bailey also co-authored a panel presentation for the Puerto Rico Psychological Association's Annual Conference in November 2018. The panel presentation is titled, "Use of State Defense Forces as Emergency Management Resources: Mental Health Care in Disaster and Emergency Zones." The panel presentation is a collaboration between Soldiers of the 10th Medical Regiment and the Puerto Rico State Guard 900th Medical Battalion.

class of **1991****Jessica Heriot, PhD**

My book, "Riding the Second Wave: How Feminism Changed Women's Psychology and Mine," was published in 2017. The book explores the roots of the feminist transformation of women's psychology, my journey as a psychotherapist, and finding a therapeutic home. It's Available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle. https://www.amazon.com/Riding-Second-Wave-Feminism-Psychology-ebook/dp/B077KBFKKD/ref=sr_1_1?s=books

URL: [amazon.com/author/jh1939](https://www.amazon.com/author/jh1939)

class of **1994****Carol Sisco, PhD**

Dr. Carol Sisco, class of 1994, was recently named the chair of the board of directors at the Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park. She is the managing partner of Sisco Associates. She is a nationally recognized clinician, consultant, and researcher in the field of addiction and the former board chairman of the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) and Reach Out Recovery (ROR). Sisco is a current member of the International Women's Forum Leadership Foundation Board and a previous board member of Reading is Fundamental (RIF).

class of **2001****Jill Fellman Hamilton, MSW**

On May 6, 2018, Jill Fellman married John Hamilton.

class of **2006****Tracye Brewer, MSW**

Tracye Brewer has joined the Jubilee News team and wrote an article "Moving On" which has been published. The article honors the courage that it takes for one to move on in life and enjoy intimate relationships

after abuse. Tracye is a social worker licensed in MD and DC. She facilitates workshops on "The Abuse of Power" teaching strategies for the prevention and healing of abuse. She helps to raise awareness of clergy sexual abuse, working directly with clergy and church leadership. She has over 10 years of experience working with individuals, families, and children as a social worker. As a Medical Social Worker at Kaiser Permanente, she currently works with patients who have chronic illness and end-stage disease. She is also an actress. She recently performed in the stage production "I Want My Vagina Back" playing the role of Claire, a woman struggling to heal from abuse, misfortune, and poor choices. Link to article: <http://whenmenspeak-jubilee.blogspot.com/p/momentum.html?m=0>

class of **2009****Litsa Williams, MSW**

After working as the director of a grief and bereavement support organization, Litsa Williams MA, LCSW-C, co-founded the online grief support community What's Your Grief in late 2012. Since that time the online resource has grown to be one of the largest existing grief support websites on the internet, with over 500 articles, a grief and bereavement podcast, e-courses, webinars, and a thriving social media community. The site recently surpassed 3.5 million visitors a year. Litsa and her co-founder, counseling psychologist Eleanor Haley, have presented at national conferences including the Association for Death Education and Counseling and the National Alliance for Grieving Children. They have been interviewed and quoted as grief experts for news outlets including *NPR*, *Huffington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The New York Times*, and *WBAL* news. Most recently, in December 2017, What's Your Grief opened a community space in Baltimore to provide in-person grief workshops to community members and to provide grief and bereavement continuing education to area providers. Her website can be found at www.whatsyourgrief.com and she looks forward to connecting with any area social workers hoping to increase the conversation around and support for grief and bereavement.

class of **2008****Tanya Bryant-Nickens, MSW**

The former Tanya N. Bryant, LCSW-C, wed her best friend and boyfriend, S. Troy Nickens on April 21, 2018, in a loving ceremony witnessed by about 100 friends and family. The two met in middle school and reconnected on a mutual friend's Facebook page 20 years later. Troy and Tanya have attended numerous SSW events when she served as the president of the Alumni Board in 2011 and 2012.

class of **2018****Catherine Pitchford, MSW**

The Center for Urban Families' Executive Leadership Team, with input from members of their Board of Directors, has selected Catherine Pitchford to be CFUF's Director of Programs. Cathy joined CFUF eleven years ago and has advanced through progressively more responsible positions in the Supportive Services and Economic Success departments, where she has proven herself to be a committed member of their team.

In Memoriam

Terrie Alexander, MSW '96



Congressman John Sarbanes; Terrie A. Alexander; Dr. Barbara Bazron, Executive Director of State of Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration; Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner, Baltimore City Health Department. The officials spoke to laud Terrie's accomplishments during a September 10, 2018 event in Terrie's honor.

After overcoming 17 years of heroin and cocaine abuse, Terrie turned her life around to become a much loved and recognized Baltimore community leader in the fight against the opioid abuse epidemic. Once her son was born in 1996, Terrie was determined to make a significant change in her life. Focused on helping others who were suffering as she had. Terrie earned degrees in addiction counseling and mental health technology from Baltimore City Community College, obtained her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Coppin State University and went on to the Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Alexander was the founding manager of the non-profit Institutes for Behaviors Resources and REACH Health Services Intensive Outpatient Program. On September 10, 2018, Terrie's legacy and life were honored by local and state leaders. The IOP program were renamed the Terrie Alexander Intensive Outpatient Program, to honor her hard work and dedication that has made a difference in so many people's lives.

Bonita J. Dancy MSW '71



Dancy was a retired Baltimore City Circuit Court judge who also served more than a decade as a master for family law cases. She died Nov. 23 in Pikesville., MD

Reflections from SSW Professor Corey Shdaimah: Dean Barth introduced me to her when I was

relatively new to the school, which led to a long relationship with the Baltimore City's model dependency court (which she led at the time) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Among other things, collaboration led to the creation of a four-year long educational project where I led our students in research projects developed with and for the Model Court team to help in the internal evaluation of their efforts, and a number of publications and presentations including some that were co-authored with Judge Dancy aimed at creating judiciary academic partnerships.

Judge Dancy was a remarkable woman not just in her accomplishments but in the way that she approached people. I imagine that her MSW was not only a product of who she was and how she approached her work but also served to reinforce her values and approach.

Adjunct Faculty Member Fran Forstenzer, MSW, LCSW-C

Forstenzer passed away in late 2017. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Pro Bono Counseling Project, 110 West Road, Suite 202, Baltimore, MD 21204.



Barbara Levy Gradet, MSW '79

Gradet was the former director of Baltimore County's Department of Social Services and a pillar of the Baltimore Jewish community. She died May 8 at the age of 69.





In Memoriam

Leonard Press, Former Faculty, UM SSW Career Highlights



In 1952, Leonard Press graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the Johns Hopkins University. He earned his MSSA (MSW) degree from the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University in 1957.

For the following eight years at the Jewish Family Association of Cleveland he served as a caseworker, a staff supervisor and a supervisor of students from the

Smith College School of Social Work.

Returning to his native Baltimore in 1965, Mr. Press was appointed Assistant Professor and Director of Psychiatric Social Work in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine. He was also named a Lecturer (part-time) at the School of Social Work, thus beginning his long association with the School. Former Dean Jesse Harris took the Case Work class from Mr. Press in 1966!

In 1969, after serving as Chief Psychiatric Social Worker at the National Children's Hospital of Washington, DC, he joined the Faculty of the School full-time and was appointed Assistant Dean for Field Instruction and Assistant Professor.

Until his retirement as Associate Professor in 1987, Mr. Press's roles at various times included Chairman of the Clinical Concentration, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee and service on many other committees.

He was also appointed by the Chancellor to chair the Dean's Search Committee at the School in 1976 (which hired Ruth Young) and as a member of the Search Committee for Dean of the School of Nursing (which hired Nan Hechenberger). He also chaired the Search Committee for the Director of Social Work position at University Hospital. (While attending a Seder at the Eutaw Place synagogue, as Lewis Kaplan carried the Torah, he stopped by Mr. Press's pew and via whisper asked for an update on the Dean Search at SSW!)

Throughout his career at the School, Mr. Press was widely regarded as an outstanding teacher who made the classroom a lively laboratory for experiencing and integrating the cognitive, affective and action dimensions of clinical social work practice. His teaching was manifestly enriched through his ongoing involvement in part-time private practice.

He also continued as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, directly supervising residents in the practice of family therapy. He worked closely with Dr. Ephraim Lisansky, Doctor of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine and lecturer at the School of Social Work, and his wife Mrs. Lisansky, who was a Social Worker.

As a central feature of his career, Mr. Press provided staff development programs and consultations to a very large number and a very wide range of private and public social service, mental health agencies and hospitals.

Throughout his career, Mr. Press emphasized community involvement and brought an understanding of social work curriculum to the organizations he served.

In a citation that accompanied his 1983 Social Worker of the Year award (Maryland Chapter, NASW), he was recognized "as the personification of the union between social work, academia and the practice community.

A decade later in 1993, Mr. Press was honored as Clinician of the Year by the Maryland Society for Clinical Social Work. He retired from the School in 1987 to work full time in his clinical practice, from which he retired in July of 2010. In his private practice, his first patient in 1966 paid a fee of \$10 an hour.

Mr. Press's "Alumni Association Speech" of 2006 was titled "The First Fifty Years of Practice are the Hardest."

Len Press made learning complicated clinical skills easy and fun and shaped the lives and perspectives of thousands of social workers.





Save the Date

UMSSW's 13th Annual Homecoming

*Addressing Addiction: Innovations
in Substance Use Services*

Friday, March 8th *from* 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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.

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Concentration/Specialization _____
Home Address _____
E-mail Address _____
Employer _____
Title _____
Employer Address _____
Class Note (please write clearly) _____

Join Us at One of Our Spring Events!

Homecoming 2019

Addressing Addictions:
Innovations in Substance Use Services

Date: Friday, March 8, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CEUs: 5 Cost: \$60 Alumni, \$70 Friends, \$25 Students

Daniel Thursz Social Justice Lecture

Guest Lecturer: Former Senator Barbara Mikulski

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.