Welcome to the 2011 incoming doctoral class!

Emily Warren completed a dual masters degree in social work and public policy at University of Minnesota in 2007, focusing on macro practice and policies affecting women and families. Since then, she has worked at Wilder Research in St. Paul, doing housing-related evaluation work and providing technical assistance to HUD grantees of homeless prevention and assistance programs. Emily’s primary research interests are welfare reform and housing policy. She will work as a PA for Dan Meyer, her temporary advisor.

Tricia Egan has served families in the Dane County community for many years. Her focus has been meeting the mental health needs of mothers who have very few resources. Tricia has also enjoyed teaching as an adjunct instructor at Edgewood and Lakeland Colleges. Her first master degree was in Guidance and Counseling from UW-Whitewater. Tricia is in the joint program, working toward both her MSW and Ph.D. This fall, she is a TA for Colleen Mahoney's new undergraduate class on “Making a Difference”. Steph Robert is her temporary advisor.

Eun Ha Namkung received her BA in Social Welfare from Ewha Women’s University, Korea in 2007, and her MSW from Washington University in 2009. Her MSW thesis was titled “Grandparents raising grandchildren: Ethnic and household differences in health and service”, which won a Junior Scholar award from the Gerontological Society of America. She has volunteered in the Philippines, and has practice experience in medical social work and long-term care, as well as research experience at the Korean Institute for Health and Social Affairs. Her interests are in aging, caregiving, and health services/policies. She will be a PA this fall with Jan Greenberg (advisor) and Marsha Seltzer.
Travel Funds Available for Conferences

We have a small fund to support doctoral student travel to present at professional meetings, thanks to the generosity of our doctoral alums. Unfortunately, it isn’t currently enough to support every student who travels and it does not cover the full cost of travel for those we support. Dissertators must apply for Vilas Graduate Student travel support before asking for School funds for travel. Those who are PAs on faculty grants should ask your faculty mentor for travel funds before applying for School travel funds. Priority for School travel funds goes to students on the job market. If you would like travel support, please contact Steph as soon as you know the following information: Description of conference (title, place, dates), title of paper/poster you are presenting, estimated cost of travel, and indication of other available support for travel.

Doctoral Program Resources

1) We have a new Facebook page for School of Social Work Doctoral Program alums.
2) Check out the doctoral program site at Learn@UW, where you’ll find examples of successful dissertation proposals, grant proposals, job search documents and more!
3) Don’t forget that we now have a small library of professional development books in Tanya’s office that are there for you to borrow: How to teach, how to complete a dissertation, and other good stuff.

Cultural Events: From barn dancing to curling!

Last spring, we had an outing to Folklore Village to attend an old fashioned pot luck and barn dance. A fun, wholesome, sweaty time was had by all. This year, we’re trying to arrange an outing in the winter to learn how to curl! Stay tuned for more details.
Doctoral Program Updates, September 2011

“Did you hear…”

News from the School you should know about

♦ We will be searching this year for two Assistant Professors to start in August 2012. Dan Meyer will be the chair of the search committee, and Yeongmin Kim will be the doctoral representative. Please participate in the process by attending job talks and meeting with candidates. Stay tuned for more details.

♦ Jan Greenberg just completed his time as Director of the School, and Kristi Shook Slack is the new Director. Tracy Schroepfer will be Associate Director and Director of the Part-time Program, and Stephanie Robert will stay on as Doctoral Director.


♦ Doctoral social work classes offered in spring 2012 include:
  • SW948 Quantitative Research Methods (Co-instructed by Magnuson and Robert)
  • SW951 Caregiving Theory (Instructor, Kramer, with 7 other faculty participating)

Thanks Jan, and welcome Kristi!

Doctoral Students Appointed to SSW Committees

Thanks to each of you who has volunteered your time to serve on the following SSW committees this year. We still have openings for a few of the committees, as noted below. Contact Steph ASAP if interested

Faculty Recruitment: Yeongmin Kim
Recruitment and Retention for Students of Color: Rebecca Paradiso
Doctoral Committee: Lynette Studer
Outcome Studies Committee: Angela Waltz
MSW Admissions: Sarah Font
BSW Admissions: Open
Field Education Committee: Open
International Committee: Open
Dr. Yiyoon Chung Wins First Irving Piliavin Award

Congratulations to Dr. Yiyoon Chung, who is the first recipient of the Irving Piliavin Award. This award will be given annually to a SSW doctoral student who is committed to studying "real life problems" through the use of advanced statistical techniques and research methodology. An endowment, created by donations from Irv's family, friends, colleagues, and former students, will fund this annual award in perpetuity. Irv, a faculty member at the School of Social Work and Institute for Research on Poverty from 1970 until his retirement in 1996, championed the critical role of research in guiding social work practice, long before it became popular. He brought methodological sophistication and the use of advanced statistical analysis to his research in the areas of disadvantaged youth, foster care, crime, delinquency control, homelessness and the evaluation of welfare reform. Irv’s wife, Professor Jane Piliavin, presented Yiyoon with the award at the spring doctoral picnic at Steph’s house. Jane was impressed with Yiyoon’s research and said that it reflected well the type of research that Irv valued.

Katie Maguire Jack Wins Research Paper Award

Katie Maguire Jack was the recipient of the 2011 Best Paper Award for her paper titled: “Spanking and child development during the first five years of life.” Along with co-authors Andrea Gromoske and Lonnie Berger, Katie used data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study to examine whether spanking at ages 1 and 3 is adversely associated with cognitive skills and behavior problems at ages 3 and 5. In sum, they found that spanking is indeed bad for kids—stay tuned for their in press publication for more details of their findings!
Congratulations to Melinda Kavanaugh, Rebecca Paradiso, and Mai Lor, who each got married over the last two months.

- Congratulations to Associate Professor Tally Moses, who earned tenure last year, and to Professor Sandy Magaña, who was promoted to full professor.
- Congratulations to Hong-Min Ahn, whose wife gave birth to their first baby, Hanna; and to Katie Maguire Jack, who gave birth to her first baby, Colin.
- Hats off to Doctors Yiyoon Chung, Eunhee Joung, Callie Langton, and Corky Gordon Hempe, who all graduated within the last few months! Woohoo!
- Kudos to Katie Maguire Jack, for winning the Doctoral Dissertation Research Award in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention through the National Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood. Katie was also selected for a Doris Duke Fellowship on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.
- Kudos also to Melinda Kavanaugh for being awarded a Fahs-Beck dissertation grant. Thank you to both Katie and Melinda for putting their grant applications up on the Learn@UW site for perusal by other students who are considering grant proposals.
- Kudos to Hong-Min Ahn, who just won the Institute on Aging New Investigator Award.

Mai and Jesse, just days before their wedding

“Is Steph staring at my baby bump again?”
2011 Welcome Picnic

It was a beautiful day to have a doctoral picnic at Kristi’s house, to welcome the incoming doctoral class and reconnect with friends and their families. And thanks to Betty Kramer for providing some entertainment!
More Pictures from the End-of-Summer Doctoral Picnic