Welcome Incoming Students!

Pictured Left to Right:
Liz Premo
Rachel Reynders
Sakara Wages
Luke Muentner
Laura Klunder
HeeJin Kim
Yixia Cai
Marissa Abbott

Congratulations 2017 Graduates!

Tenah Hunt (pictured right) is now a researcher at The LEAD Center at UW-Madison. Andrea Larson is a postdoc at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Vanessa Rios-Salas is a postdoc at the World Policy Analysis Center at UCLA.

Inside

Read about what students & faculty are up to on page 2

Enjoy photos from the annual Welcome Picnic on page 3

Learn about our new doctoral students on page 4 & 5

Enjoy other news & event photos on page 6

Read about our doctoral student award winners on page 7

Students & faculty share a few words about Lonnie Berger, outgoing PhD Program Director, on page 8 & 9
Faculty Updates

Katherine Magnuson takes over as Director of the Doctoral Program this fall as Lonnie Berger steps down after 4 years.

Pajarita Charles, Lara Gerassi, and Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick officially join the faculty.

Laura Dresser and Lynette Studer are our new clinical faculty members.

Katherine Magnuson has been chosen as a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor.

Tracy Schroepfer has been promoted to full professor. This promotion is made in recognition of her significant contributions to the school, university, and profession in service, teaching, and research.

Steph Robert received the 2017 GADE Mentoring award for her exceptional mentoring of PhD students.

Alejandra Ros Pilarz received a $50,000 grant from the Madison Education Partnership.

Lonnie Berger received the 2016 UW-Madison School of Social Work Faculty Achievement Award.


Dan Meyer received the 2017 Social Policy Award presented by the Society for Social Work & Research.

Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick has been chosen to be a scholar in the KL2 Program in the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

Maria Cancian has been elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Congratulations!

Student Announcements

Academic Accomplishments

Kristy Anderson was awarded an Analyzing Relationships between Disability, Rehabilitation and Work (ARDRAW) grant for her research on Employment for Transition-Age youth with Autism.

Yonah Drazen was awarded a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being.

June Paul received the 2017-18 NASW Foundation Eileen Blackey Doctoral Fellowship.

Youhung Her-Xiong, Lanikque Howard, Tenah Hunt, Ying-Chun Lin, June Paul, and Vanessa Rios-Salas were our 2016-17 doctoral award winners! See page 7 for details.

Personal Accomplishments

Hana Lee gave birth to her son, Jay, in March.

Tenah Hunt gave birth to her daughter, Thea, in June.

Emma Kahle got married in June.

Young Sun Joo got married in July.

Rachel Reynders gave birth to her son, Rhys, in October.

Congratulations!

School Committees

Thanks to our PhD student volunteers:

Awards & Fellowships: Emma Carpenter
Curriculum: Meghan Jenkins Morales, HeeJin Kim
Diversity: Angela Guarin, Youhung Her-Xiong, June Paul
Field Education: June Paul
PhD: Molly Costanzo
Racial Inequity Conference: Laura Klunder
Title IV-E Admissions: Yonah Drazen
Faculty Search: Emma Kahle
Cultural Dialogues: Sakara Wages, Emma Kahle, Emma Carpenter

Congratulations!
Welcome Picnic 2017!

Every year, we ask current students to plan a fun activity for the picnic. This year, our 2nd year students organized a Wisconsin-themed taste-testing and music trivia competition:

WISCONSIN, OR NOT WISCONSIN

Dissertation Title: A game of acute sensory recognition and the impact of conversational anxiety in new social settings
Welcome incoming doctoral cohort of 2017!

**Marissa Abbott**
Marissa graduated from the University of Rochester with a BA in Epidemiology and a Master of Public Health degree. She spent the last two years working as a California Epidemiologic Investigation Service Fellow at the California Department of Public Health. In that role, she primarily supported the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, a CDC-funded child maltreatment prevention project. Her research interests include the social determinants of child maltreatment, child adversity and resiliency, and programs and policies (such as EITC and paid family leave) and their ability to prevent and mitigate child maltreatment outcomes. Her faculty advisor is Kristi Slack and her peer mentor is Lanikque Howard.

**Yixia Cai**
Yixia completed her MSW with a concentration on Policy Practice from Columbia University, and earned her MS in Urban Studies from University College London. Before coming to Madison, Yixia worked as a research assistant at Columbia Population Research Center on the Poverty Tracker project with Dr. Irv Garfinkel, analyzing the effects of social program participation on income poverty and material well-being among low-income households in New York City. In addition to the deep poverty project, Yixia joined a research team from the UNICEF and the US office of the Luxembourg Income Study Center, where she examined the role of inter-household transfers on monetary welfare and its distribution. Her primary research interests include poverty and inequality with an emphasis on child and family well-being, household assets and debts, the intersection of family structure, economic resources, and social policy. Her faculty advisor is Lonnie Berger and her peer mentor is Ying-Chun Lin.

**HeeJin Kim**
Since August 2015, HeeJin has served as a Research and Data Analyst within the Child Welfare Data Analytics Section at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). Her role often involves serving as the technical lead and data analyst for inter-agency data initiatives. Prior to joining DCF, HeeJin was a Policy and Research Analyst at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research where she joined in 2011 after receiving both her BA in Education (2010) and MA in Urban Education Policy (2011) from Brown University. She wishes to continue examining outcomes of Wisconsin’s child protective services population. She is also interested in examining how our social welfare policies—particularly those pertaining to children—have evolved over time from politico-philosophical and sociological perspectives both within and outside the United States. Maria Cancian is her faculty advisor and Melody Waring is her peer mentor.

**Laura Klunder**
Laura previously served as the Program Director for Inclusion Education, and was responsible for overseeing the inaugural year of UW-Madison’s Our Wisconsin inclusion program. Laura holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in social work from UW-Madison. She is a recipient of UW-Madison's Forward Under Forty Award for her overseas activism with Adoptee Solidarity Korea. Tracy Schroepfer is her faculty advisor and Vicky Knoke is her peer mentor.
Welcome incoming doctoral cohort of 2017!

**Luke Muentner**
Luke graduated in May 2017 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a certificate in Education and Educational Services. During his undergraduate years, he worked at The Playing Field, a local childcare center with a mission to provide quality care and education to children experiencing homelessness, in addition to researching children and families affected by parental incarceration. His primary research interests stem from these two experiences as he hopes to continue studying housing instability, incarceration, and the policies and programs that directly influence them. His faculty advisor is Lonnie Berger and his peer mentor is Emma Kahle.

**Liz Premo**
Liz graduated with distinction from the UW-Madison in 2014 with a BS in Psychology and a certificate in Education & Educational Services. As an undergraduate, Liz worked in the Infant Learning Lab with Dr. Jenny Saffran, and she was awarded the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Research Scholar Award. For the last three years, she has worked as a research coordinator for a grant investigating language development in toddlers, and she has volunteered in local Head Start programs and elementary schools. Liz's research interests include the impact of poverty on child development and family well-being, and she is especially interested in issues related to childcare, early childhood education, and disparities in school readiness. In addition to being in the Joint MSW/PhD Program, Liz is a fellow in the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences. Her faculty advisor is Katherine Magnuson and her peer mentor is Molly Costanzo.

**Rachel Reynders**
Rachel attended UW-Madison where she received her BA in psychology and criminal justice in 2015. As an undergraduate, Rachel worked as a research assistant, conducting experiments with 6-14-year-old children looking at emotional processing in both typically developing and maltreated populations. Following graduation, Rachel managed the UW Infant Learning Lab at the Waisman Center where she collaborated to run studies focused on infant language acquisition and learning patterns. Rachel also completed an internship with Child Protective Services of Dane County where she worked closely with infants and children who had ongoing maltreatment cases which lead to the discovery of her primary research interests: intergenerational transmission of child maltreatment, the radiating effects of maltreatment experiences on societal and individual levels and applied interventions for this population. Kristi Slack is her faculty advisor and Angela Guarin is her peer mentor.

**Sakara Wages**
Sakara most recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a B.S in Psychology in May 2017. She graduated with honors and was chosen as commencement speaker. Her senior internship was in the Grant County treatment court which contributed to her current research interests: the effects of social policy, housing stability, and incarceration on parental qualities. Marah Curtis is her faculty advisor and Emma Carpenter is her peer mentor.
News and Events!

Pictured Left to Right: Steph Robert, Deb Meyer, Angela Guarin, Laura Cuesta, Emily Warren, Andrea Larson, Yonah Drazen, Vanessa Rios-Salas, Molly Costanzo, Emma Kahle, Yeongmin Kim, Dan Meyer

UW-Madison Faculty, PhD Students, & PhD Alumni @ SWWR 2017

Spring Luncheon & Visiting Day 2017
Pictured Left to Right: Yixia Cai, Lanikque Howard, Youhung Her-Xiong

Emma Kahle’s wedding!

Rachel Reynders’ son, Rhys!

Tenah Hunt’s daughter, Thea!

Young Sun Joo’s wedding!

Hana Lee’s son, Jay!
Doctoral Student Award Winners!  
2016-17

Vanessa Rios-Salas

Vanessa was awarded the Irving Piliavin Award for demonstrating her commitment to studying “real life problems” through the use of advanced statistical techniques and research methodology.

Youhung Her-Xiong

Youhung was awarded the Sheldon D Rose Memorial Award for her interest in developing a career in group work and research-based direct practice.

Ying-Chun Lin

Ying-Chun won the Student Research Paper Competition with her paper titled, “Classroom Quality and Children’s Academic Skills in Child Care Centers: Understanding the Role of Teacher Qualifications.”

Tenah Hunt

Tenah was awarded the Alfred Kadushin Dissertation Research Award to support her child welfare research.

June Paul

June received the Teaching Excellence Award for her exemplary work as an instructor and her dedication to the students of our School.

Lanikque Howard

Lanikque was awarded the Arthur P. Miles Scholarship for her interest in social policy.
Thank you, Lonnie!

Honoring a great mentor and teacher after 4 years as Doctoral Director!

To Lonnie...

I was lucky to have Lonnie as my instructor and program director when I decided to embark on my first Ph.D. class as a special student, still learning English! He was willing to have me in his class and to support my learning process.

I am grateful for all his support while applying to grad school. He devoted many meetings to discuss my future plans, to consider other programs, and to encourage me in pursuing my dream of coming back to school in the U.S.

Then, as a student in the school, Lonnie has been interested not just in our academic development, but also in our social well-being. He has organized many outings including the Gomeroke at the High Noon Saloon, Nerd Nite, and many get-togethers at his place.

Thank you, Lonnie, for being there for us as program director and mentor. Your continuous support, advice, and encouragement have helped me and many others to move forward in the program.

-Angela M. Guarin Aristizabal

As the PhD director, Lonnie inspired us during our first year of the program. “He was rising up, straight to the top, had the guts, got the glory.” When times got tough he would remind us “we've got to hold on, ready or not.” Lonnie encouraged us to think creatively as we pursued our research ambitions, by reminding us that “you can’t start a fire without a spark.” Lonnie’s laid-back attitude and sense of humor helped us “roll with the punches to get to what’s real.” Juggling all his responsibilities he was “just a man and his will to survive.” Thank you Lonnie for your love for Van Halen and your support as we started on this adventure! We wish you all the best in your future pursuits; “don’t stop believin’” and don’t be a stranger!

-Lisa & Meghan

We were lucky that Lonnie was willing to be the steward of the PhD program. He worked tirelessly to ensure that students were well and ready to succeed in building their own academic paths. He left the program in great shape with an outstanding class of new rising stars... Thank You!!

-Katherine (for the PhD Faculty)

Learning Outstanding Nice Natural Inspiring Enthusiastic

-Hana Lee
More from students...

Lonnie--

We are grateful for all of your support, encouragement, and pitchers of beer as we’ve navigated the hazards of PhD school. Though it was never clear when you slept, you managed to find time for teaching seminar(s), reading abstracts, generally guiding us through our first two years, and happy hours.

Thanks for sharing your wisdom, your home, and your love for Screamin' CynCyn,

Cohort (e)M-V

(Emma, Molly, Melody, Vicky)

Lonnie has a gift for making everyone feel instantly comfortable and relaxed. In all of my first initial interactions with the doctoral program, I felt welcome and glad to be a part of the program - and so much of that was due to Lonnie as the director. We certainly learned a lot from him in terms of dos and donts as students and academics, and he quickly convinced us of the superiority of Greenbush bakery compared to other doughnut shops. He will be missed as the director, and I am very grateful for all of the time and effort he put into making this program a success.

-Emma Kahle

Lonnie was a great director. When I first entered the doctoral program in Fall 2013, I was very worried whether I can go through the long process. But Lonnie always supported us, and gave us the courage and strength. Lonnie also arranged many events for doctoral students. One of the best events was at the High Noon Saloon. Although the music was little bit strange to me at first, I had a lot of fun with fellow students. He really cared for students. I am truly thankful for his kindness, support, and guidance.

-Young Sun Joo

L - Lonnie
A - Authentic
W - Witty
R - Relaxed
E - Educated
N - Nice
C - Confident
E - Easy going

-Youhung & Ying-Chun
Don’t forget...

All doctoral students and faculty have access to the SSW Doctoral Program Resource Center folder on UW-Madison BOX, which has lots of useful information — program guidelines, examples of grant proposals and dissertation proposals, tips on writing abstracts and papers, and more!

Upcoming Doctoral Course Offerings

Spring 2018
SW 947 Student Research Seminar (Magnuson)
SW 950 Disciplinary Perspectives in Social Policy (Berger)
SW 951 Determinants of Mental Illness & Wellness (Moses)

Fall 2018 (tentative)
SW 946 Faculty Research Seminar (tbd)
SW 949 Qualitative Research Methods (tbd)
SW 951 Theories to Inform Intervention (Robert)

Spring 2019 (tentative)
SW 947 Student Research Seminar (tbd)
SW 950 or 951 Policy or Theory Seminar (tbd)
SW 952 Applied Data Analysis (tbd)