Welcome!

Please welcome our incoming cohort of 2016: Maria Serakos, Jon Baskin, Lisa Klein Vogel, and Meghan Jenkins Morales!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our 2016 graduates: Emily Warren, Leah Gjertson, and Yiyu Chen!

Emily is now a Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University. Leah is a Researcher at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Yiyu is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty.

Inside

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Welcome Picnic 2016!

Trivia Night!
Welcome incoming doctoral cohort of 2016!

Jon received an MSW in 2015 and a BA in philosophy in 2010, both from UCLA. Jon is interested in how policy and mental health service agencies influence and are influenced by theory, practice, science, and ideology. As an MSW student, Jon worked on federally funded studies at UCLA’s Nathanson Family Resilience Center (NFRC), first on a pilot program for children affected by prenatal alcohol exposure and their caregivers, and then on a study of a preventive intervention for military families with young children. During a summer fellowship through UCLA’s School of Public Affairs, Jon interviewed caregivers and service providers in Michigan and Canada for children prenatally exposed to alcohol to ascertain if and how policy differences across Canada and the U.S. circumscribed their experiences seeking, obtaining, and providing services. Tally Moses is his faculty advisor and Hana Lee is his peer mentor.

Meghan attended the University of Iowa where she received her BA in social work and psychology in 2008 and the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis obtaining her MSW in 2012. As a research assistant, Meghan conducted in-home interviews with parents involved in the child welfare system and assessed active duty military personnel for PTSD and depression. Her experience in the field of aging began at the Alzheimer's Association and SAGE Metro St. Louis where she worked on a journal article examining the needs of LGBT older adults in the St. Louis region. After graduation, Meghan worked at a non-profit focused on community based services for older adults and discovered her primary research interests: institutionalization prevention through home and community based services, social and economic inequality across the life course, and civic engagement in later life. Tracy Schroepfer is her faculty advisor and Youhang Her is her peer mentor.

Maria graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2012 with a BS in mathematics and received her MPA from the La Follette School of Public Affairs in 2016. Prior to graduate school, she taught high school in Washington state through the postgraduate service program Lasallian Volunteers and worked as a research assistant at the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center. Broadly speaking, her research interests are poverty-related and include understanding the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage and how childhood poverty affects well-being in later life. She is interested in policy evaluation and the translation of research into practice. Dan Meyer is her faculty advisor and Emma Kahle is her peer mentor.

Lisa received her BA from UW-Madison in 2003 with a double major in history and political science, and obtained her master’s degree with the UW-Madison School of Education in 2005. She worked at the UW Survey Center as a project director until 2011, and then as a researcher at Mathematica Policy Researcher specializing in family support projects. Her work focused on economically vulnerable families, as well as youth homelessness. One of the main projects she worked on was the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED), for which she was the deputy survey director, a grantee liaison, and a senior site visitor. Her research interests include family structure, child support policy, parenting time and visitation, poverty and child development, child maltreatment, and child protective services and foster care. Dan Meyer is her faculty advisor and Angela Guarin is her peer mentor.
Faculty Updates

Alejandra Ros Pilarz officially joins the School of Social Work faculty.

Maria Cancian returns to campus after serving two years as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of USDHHS and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy in the Administration for Children and Families in D.C.

Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick will join the faculty next year after completing her postdoc.

Tova Walsh was chosen for the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) program.

Tally Moses received a grant to work with Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSW).

Lonnie Berger and Steph Robert were inducted into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW).

Lonnie Berger received the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor Award.

Tracy Schroepfer received NASW’s Distinguished Social Worker Award.

The Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) at UW-Madison has been named THE National Poverty Research Center.

Student Announcements

Congratulations to our 2015-16 doctoral award winners: Yonah Drazen, Andrea Larson, Eun Ha Namkung, June Paul, and Michelle Turner! See page 7 for details.

Vicky Knoke was selected to the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) Pre-Dissertation Initiative. Way to go, Vicky!

Vanessa Rios Salas, Tenah Hunt, Young Sun Joo, and June Paul successfully defended their prelims and became dissertators this summer. Well done!

Eun Ha Namkung was selected as one of five NASW/CSWE Social Work HEALS Fellows, an extremely competitive national fellowship. Congrats, Eun Ha!

Lanikque Howard is back from her leave after working for the Administration for Children and Families for two years. Lanikque also received the Equity and Inclusion Fellowship through the Associate of Public Policy and Management (APPAM). Great job!

Tenah Hunt was selected to participate in the American Evaluation Association’s Graduate Education Diversity Internship (GEDI) Program working to engage and support graduate students from traditionally under-represented groups in the field of evaluation. Way to go, Tenah!

Angela Guarin was married on December 26, 2015 in Colombia. Congrats!

Mai Miksic gave birth to her daughter, Gillian, on November 28, 2015. Congrats!

School Committees

Thanks to our PhD student volunteers:

Awards & Fellowships: Ying-Chun Lin
Curriculum: Molly Costanzo and Vicky Knoke
Diversity: Angela Guarin and Youhang Her
PhD: Emma Kahle
Racial Inequity Conference: Melody Waring
IV-E: Yonah Drazen
Tenure-Track Faculty Search: Young Sun Joo
Field Director/Clinical Search: Emma Carpenter

Doctoral Course Offerings

Spring 2017:

SW 947 Student Research Seminar (Berger)
SW 951 Theories that Inform Intervention (Robert)
SW 952 Application of Research Methods (Magnuson)

Fall 2017:

SW 946 Faculty Research Seminar (Berger)
SW 950 Disciplinary Perspectives on Social Policy (Berger)
Third course TBD
Congratulations!

Angela and Ricardo’s wedding!

Yiyu Chen, MSW, PhD ’16, with advisor Dan Meyer

Leah Gjertson, MSW, PhD ’16

Mai’s baby girl, Gillian!
Doctoral Student Award Winners!
2015-16

Eun Ha Namkung

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

June Paul

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

Andrea Larson

Andrea won the Student Research Paper Competition with the paper entitled, “Child rights in the context of off-label psychotropic medication treatment.”

Yonah Drazen

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

Michelle Turner

Michelle received the Teaching Excellence Award for exemplary work as an instructor and dedication to the students of our School of Social Work.
Events & Conferences

Melody and Emma at Spring Luncheon

Molly and Vicky at Spring Luncheon

Tenah with the 2016-17 GEDI cohort.

Spring 2016 PhD Luncheon
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!

In other news...

The PhD and TA offices on the first floor got new furniture this summer!