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School of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Fall 2017

Connections



Photo by Amanda Reseburg.

Faculty Find Important Insights into the Influence of Poverty on Child Maltreatment

School of Social Work Professors Kristen Slack and Lonnie Berger, with Jennifer Noyes, co-edited a new set of studies for a special issue of Children and Youth Services Review.

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Letter from the Director



The new school year is under way and the excitement of the fall season on campus abounds. Our students are busy with classes, learning in their Field placements, and preparing for a future in which their work as social workers becomes more vital each day. Interacting with our smart, passionate, and dedicated students gives me hope for the future.

The beauty of Madison and Eau Claire, the energy of our students, faculty, and staff, and the excitement of all that fall brings cannot mask the reality of uncertain times on campus, and in our country and world. Persistent racial, economic, gendered, and other inequities, natural disasters, and several 'touchstone' events of the last year, from Charlottesville to Madison, highlight the importance of training and educating students to be change makers for social justice.

As a School, we have recommitted to modeling our values to promote social and economic justice. We aim to improve our diversity, equity, and inclusion and prepare students to improve the diversity, equity, and inclusion in the world around them.

It's important to match our rhetoric with resources.

To that end, I was thrilled to recently announce the establishment of the Tamara Grigsby Memorial Fund for Diversity and Inclusion. This fund, seeded by an anonymous donor, aims to help us recruit students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds; increase programming to promote an inclusive environment; provide training for students, faculty, and community members on new approaches to improve diversity and inclusion in the classroom and in our communities; and emphasize through action, the School's commitment to diversity and inclusion in its many forms. Please consider helping us grow this new fund so that we can achieve our aims!

In addition, the new Maureen Pelton Hartwell Fund for Women's Rights is providing support for teaching, research and social justice initiatives that address misogynistic attitudes and behaviors that are all too common in our lived experiences and are perpetuated in many policies and programs.

We look forward to our fourth annual, "Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference" on January 26, including a keynote talk by nationally-recognized speaker, Symone Sanders. This is always an inspiring and useful event and we invite you to attend.

We are so very grateful to you -- our community partners, alumni, and friends -- who support the mission of the school by giving your time, expertise, and moral and financial support. We will continue to need your support, and we look forward to partnering with you in the tough but critical work ahead.

Stephanie Robert

Stephanie Robert

Connections

is the alumni magazine of the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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Insights into the Influences of **Poverty** on **Child Maltreatment**



Former doctoral students: Amy Dworsky (University of Chicago), Sarah Font (Penn State) and Kathryn Maguire-Jack, (Ohio State).

Decades of studies have established a strong link between poverty and child maltreatment, but identifying connections is only half the battle; uncovering root causes is a key aim of child maltreatment research.

A new set of studies, published as a special issue of Children and Youth Services Review (January 2017) and edited by School of Social Work Professors Kristen Slack and Lonnie Berger (also Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty) and Institute for Research on Poverty Associate Director Jennifer Noyes, is the first to try to get at the causal mechanisms behind economic factors that are strongly associated with child maltreatment. Their findings, and those of other researchers, including former social work doctoral students Amy Dworsky (University of Chicago), Sarah Font (Penn State) and Kathryn Maguire-Jack, (Ohio State) significantly increase the understanding of the role of income and poverty in child maltreatment.

"When people think about child abuse and neglect, they tend to focus only on deficiencies in parenting behaviors and not a broader set of stressors that can create or exacerbate risk for children," Slack says. "Poverty and economic hardship need to be systematically considered in our efforts to prevent maltreatment or lessen its consequences. For some families, economic support can make a meaningful difference in whether children experience harm."

In the new studies, researchers asked: What is it about economic disadvantage and inequality that often leads to child neglect and abuse? Taken together, this research collection unveils several common themes:

1. Economic factors loom large as contextual factors and in micro-processes that influence child maltreatment-related outcomes.
2. Income alone does not seem to be a sufficient focal point for efforts to understand the poverty-maltreatment relationship.
3. In exploring the relationship between economic factors and child maltreatment, it is important to attend to the full spectrum of socioeconomic markers – at the individual and family, geographic, and societal levels.
4. Children and families at risk for, or already victimized by, maltreatment disproportionately experience numerous risk factors which combine to create challenges in efforts to prevent maltreatment and reduce its impact across the life course.

Taking into account the 15 studies that comprise this special issue, Slack, Berger and Noyes explain that moving forward, it is clear that efforts to prevent and intervene in situations of maltreatment should more closely adhere to the ecological and theoretical frameworks long embraced by child maltreatment researchers and practitioners – connecting families to services and resources that address a wide range of needs.

However, the policy frameworks that must be navigated by at-risk families and the practitioners who work with them do not always adequately address the reality that child maltreatment is about much more than parenting.

Recognizing the salience of context and the various sources of child maltreatment stressors, as well as supports that mitigate risk, is critical in future efforts to combat child abuse and neglect. Thus, there is need for better translation from the research community about the relationship between poverty and child maltreatment, and caution in framing the message to the policy world so that parents and caregivers are not erroneously singled out as the sole focus of change.

You can access the entire volume online at no cost at:
www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01907409/72

Thanks to Deborah Johnson, senior editor at the Institute for Research on Poverty, whose work formed the basis of this article.

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NEWS



Grant Funds Family Engagement in Schools Project

Assistant Professor Alejandra Ros Pilarz received a $50,000 grant to investigate the impact of family engagement on children's school readiness in the Madison Metropolitan School District. She will study how the communication and involvement strategies with parents, implemented by kindergarten directors and teachers, impacts school attendance and how parents perceive and experience these engagement strategies. The project is designed to identify promising methods for family engagement and support in preschool programs, as well as possibilities for intervention to improve family engagement and school readiness.

MSW Student's "Upstage Stigma" Event is a Great Success

Inspired by her field placement at the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), MSW student Emily Erwin-Frank organized a highly successful fundraising and informational performance event to "give voice to the experience of mental illness." Called "Upstage Stigma," performers in song, dance, theater, poetry, and spoken word, "depicted experiences with mental illness, mental health challenges, and shared vulnerable experiences," says Erwin-Frank, as a way of raising awareness about mental health/illness and the importance of fighting the stigma that prevents many from seeking help. A capacity crowd of 225 attended and the event raised over $1,700 for the PACT program.

Field Faculty Meet with State Legislators

One in five school-age children struggle with mental health issues and 80 percent of those students do not get professional help. To address the needs of school districts, and the importance of professionally-licensed social workers in schools, Jenny Braunginn and Katie Larsen-Klodd, who teach our Social Work in Educational Settings Units, met with Wisconsin Representative Jonathan Brostoff and State Senator Luther Olsen. They spoke with the lawmakers about the importance of expanding access to mental health services for school-age children and urging support for a new state budget proposal that would provide additional funding.



Jenny Braunginn and Katie Larsen-Klodd



Dan Meyer, left, accepts award from his mentor and former School faculty member, Irv Garfinkel

Dan Meyer Receives National Social Policy Award

Since joining the faculty in 1990, Professor Daniel Meyer has distinguished himself as an outstanding researcher, teacher and mentor. The Society of Social Work Research (SSWR), whose members represent more than 200 universities and institutions around the world, awarded Meyer its 2017 Social Policy Award. The award is, "in recognition of Dr. Meyer's record of accomplishment that demonstrates the use of rigorous policy research methods, innovation, and significant impact of policy research in addressing important social work policy issues."

Dan's current research interests include effects of child support and welfare reforms; international approaches to child support policy; the economic well-being of women after they leave welfare; multiple-partner fertility; and how much individuals know about the social policies that affect them. Professor Meyer and Social Work Professor Maria Cancian are leading a federally-funded multi-year, multi-method, multi-disciplinary evaluation of child support reforms. Eight states are experimenting with different approaches when individuals get behind in their child support payments. Evaluation findings have the potential to change policy approaches at the state and national level.

Confronting Racial Injustice

Conference Draws 400

In today's social and political climate, confronting issues around building a more racially equitable society are as important as ever. In January, the School of Social Work hosted its 3rd annual Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference, one of many events the School hosts to engage with the community and students on racial injustice. "The conference aims to present a large variety of ways to work on racial and social justice from many perspectives," comments event co-organizer Jenny Braunginn.

Four hundred students, faculty, staff, and community members attended a dozen workshops and panels focusing on this year's theme: "Engaging in Racial and Social Justice Action: the Intersectionality of Race, Mental Health, and Poverty." Attendees also heard keynote addresses from Armando Hernandez, PhD, Assistant Director of Integrated Health for the Madison Metropolitan School District, and Percy Brown, Jr., Director of Equity and Student Achievement for the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District.

Both presentations are available on the School's YouTube page.

Director Receives National Mentoring Award

School Director Stephanie Robert was the recipient of the inaugural Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students Award, from the Group for the Advancement for Doctoral Education (GADE). GADE has representatives from 80 social work doctoral programs worldwide. "The Awards Committee was most impressed with [Robert's] extraordinary, sustained commitment of mentoring doctoral students," said Elizabeth Lightfoot, GADE president and professor of social work at the University of Minnesota.

School Receives Wisconsin Association of School Councils Award

WASC, a "statewide organization of public, private, and parochial elementary, middle, junior, and senior high school student leadership groups," awarded its 2017 Association Friends Award to the School of Social Work. The award recognized our many years of partnering with the group and our sponsorship of numerous events they have held at UW-Madison.

Maria Cancian Named AASWSW Fellow

Congratulations to Professor Maria Cancian, who has been elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. She joins her colleagues Professors Lonnie Berger, Jan Greenberg, Marsha Mailick, Dan Meyer, and Stephanie Robert as fellows in the AASWSW.

Nominated by President Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), before returning to campus recently, she served a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and then Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy for ACF.

The AASWSW is an honorific society of scholars and practitioners who promote excellence in the fields of social work and social welfare, through participation in high quality and impactful work that contributes to social good. They encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship, help inform social policy, and promote the examination of social policy and the implementation of research in testing the impact of new programs and policies.

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Looking Back…

NFL/UW Football Star Reflects on Late Social Work Professor Irv Piliavin's Mentorship

When Troy Vincent, former NFL star and current Vice President of Football Operations for the NFL, entered UW-Madison in 1988, late Social Work Professor Irv Piliavin and Sociology Professor Jane Piliavin became Troy's mentors. "They were everything to me," Troy explains in a recent video about his time at UW-Madison and how important the Piliavins were to his success, from learning "how to tie a tie…to how to have a healthy conversation around issues that may be volatile." Troy reflects on the important role the Piliavins' had in helping him develop into the person he is today. You can watch the video at **news.wisc.edu/big-apple-badgers-troy-vincent**





Vivian (left) and Mary (right) are joined by school alum Karen Bougneit, BA '63 (center).

Emeritus Professors Vivian Wood & Mary Wylie

Though they retired from teaching more than 25 years ago, Vivian Wood and Mary Wylie, both in their 90's, continue to be close friends. They live an active and vibrant life in Sun City, in Phoenix, AZ. Both Vivian and Mary focused their work in aging and gerontology, and Vivian had a special interest in women's studies, and Mary in planning and administration.

Vivian was recently featured in an article in the *Arizona Republic*, "They Were Few But Proud, These Women Who Joined the Marines in World War II." They both send their regards to their former students and colleagues.

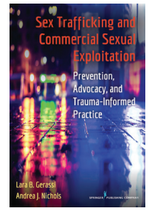


New Faculty

Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick (PhD, University of Pittsburgh) is broadly interested in health and disability issues in social work. Her research focuses on the development of interventions to improve functional outcomes, quality of life, and health in adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Pajarita Charles' (PhD, University of North Carolina) primary interest is in preventive intervention research and social welfare policies that affect disadvantaged children and families. She is particularly interested in father involvement and parenting practices, especially on fathers involved with the criminal justice system.

Laura Dresser's (PhD, University of Michigan) research and practice has focused on low-wage work and workforce development systems. She is currently working on issues of care work and the connection between quality care, quality jobs, and minimum wages.



Lara Gerassi's (PhD, Washington University, St. Louis) experience providing counseling and facilitating psychoeducational groups with survivors of intimate partner violence led her to pursue research on increasing the safety and security for individuals involved in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. She is the co-author of *Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Identification, Prevention, and Trauma-Informed Practice* (Springer, 2017).

Amanda Ngola (MSW, Washington University St. Louis) is our Field Education Coordinator. She joins the School after 11 years working as the Director of Campus Based Services for UW-Madison Health Services, which involved directing the mental health outreach services, supervision, and providing individual and group therapy.

Alejandra Ros Pilarz (PhD, University of Chicago) worked at the Jane Addams Hull House's Head Start program. Through that experience she became interested in early childhood as a critical period of development. Her research examines working parents' challenges and strategies managing work and family responsibilities, and how this influences young children's development.

Lynette Studer (PhD, UW-Madison) brings 20 years of social work practice experience in mental health with particular expertise in Assertive Community Treatment. Most recently she was Program Director for the Adult Mental Health Division of the State of Minnesota.

Retiring Faculty/Staff

Several long-time members of the School of Social Work community have retired. Their contributions over the past several years at the School to their students, the community, and the social work profession cannot be overstated.

Don Anderson had a long career at the School and UW-Madison's Waisman Center. Don, a tireless advocate and educator, taught and mentored hundreds of students, preparing them for careers serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Severa Austin brought her extensive experience (including serving as the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Wisconsin for 10 years) to her teaching and work with students. Severa taught our social policy and administration field unit and advanced macro-practice courses for 17 years.

Diane Brandt worked for over 42 years in the field of social work and 12 years for the University of Wisconsin System. She helped develop the Part-Time MSW Program and served in important roles within the program, including program coordinator and academic advisor.

Sandy Kohn served as Director of Field Education and taught our Social Work in Community Agencies field unit. Among her accomplishments, Sandy developed many new field placements and organized regular continuing education opportunities for our agency supervisors and community social workers.

Deb Komro, long time staff member, retired after more than 30 years with the School. It would be difficulty to overstate how well-respected and appreciated Deb was to all with whom she worked.

Jane Linzmeyer was the School's librarian for more than 20 years. Always an advocate for diversity and social justice, Jane made the library a place of inclusion for all students.

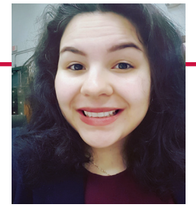
Cindy McMillan specialized in mental health direct practice for 23 years before returning to serve as the academic advisor in the Part-Time MSW Program for the past several years at both the Eau Claire and Madison sites. She was a tireless advocate and supporter of students.

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ALUMNI

New Board Members

The School welcomes three new members to our Board of Visitors this year. The Board of Visitors provides expertise to assist with alumni relations and development.



Judith Emmons (Clancy) Topitzes grew up in Marinette, Wisconsin. She received her BA in Psychology from UW-Madison in 1963 and her MSSW from UW-Madison in 1965. Judy worked at the Mendota State Hospital (now Mendota Mental Health Institute) in the 1960's and in 1969 began a more than 30-year career as a School Social Worker with the Madison Metropolitan School District, where she held multiple roles and represented the district on several Dane County committees.

After retiring in 2001, Judy became President of the board of Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin, served on the board of Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. and has been a member of the Attic Angel Association. In recognition of her ongoing service to the community, she received the United Way Community Volunteer award (2004) and Madison Downtown Rotary Senior Achievement award (2014).

Always a strong supporter of the School, in 2016, she and her husband Nick Topitzes initiated a scholarship for a Wisconsin student of recent immigrant heritage who is attending the UW-Madison School of Social Work.

Caroline Gomez-Tom received her BSW in 2010 and MSW in 2011 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She currently manages the Wisconsin Navigator Collaborative for Covering Wisconsin (CWI), the federally-designated Navigator entity serving 23 southeastern and central Wisconsin counties, where she provides technical assistance to the University of Wisconsin-Extension program specialists and other statewide partners. Caroline also manages the Milwaukee Enrollment Network (MKEN), a multi-stakeholder collaboration co-convened by CWI and the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) to improve consumer outreach and education, strengthen enrollment support resources, and assist Milwaukee County residents in securing adequate and affordable public or private health insurance.

Caroline serves on the board of directors for the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, New Leaders Council - Wisconsin Chapter, Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition, and the Milwaukee Choristers. In 2016, she was honored as one of the "40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Care," by the National Minority Quality Forum. Caroline was born and raised in Racine and lives in Milwaukee with her husband, Derek, and their rescued puppy, Chicken "Katsu" Curry.

Daniel Burrell, PhD '92 retired in 2013 after a 44-year career in higher education and public service. At the time of his retirement he was Associate Vice President of the Milwaukee Area Technical College, a large, diverse college with four campuses. His responsibilities included the college's counseling services, academic advising, and student accommodations services. During his career at MATC he also served in several other leadership positions, including as Dean of the Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dan is a charter member of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE), and, as a strong supporter of UW-Madison, he served on the Wisconsin Alumni Association Board of Directors where he chaired the diversity and inclusivity council. In addition to helping the School of Social Work by serving on our Board of Visitors, Dan will continue to support campus wide diversity programs and initiatives. He says he's, "elated to spend time reading and thinking about the many issues affecting our complex society."

Dan and his wife, Jenice, split their time living between Glendale and Dallas.

Dan graduated from Shaw University (Raleigh, NC) with a BA in sociology 1967, UW-Milwaukee MSSW 1969 and UW-Madison PhD in Social Welfare 1992.

Alumni Share Their Expertise

One important way that alumni support the School's educational mission is by sharing their expertise with students, faculty and the community. Many alumni supervise our student field placements and others teach courses, provide talks, workshops and trainings. Below are a few recent examples of those contributions.

RECENT GRADS PRESENT AT WORKSHOP

Recent grads (from left to right): Meg Diestelmann, MSW '14, Anna Falci, MSW '16, Hadeel Hasan MSW '15, Heidi Schultz, MSW '16 and Mai Chao Thao, MSW '16 took part in a panel discussion, ***"Reflections on Field Education and Supervision"*** at the School's annual Agency Supervisor Workshop.



ALUMNI PRESENT AT CHILD WELFARE DIALOGUES

Josh Mersky, PhD '06, Gabriel McGaughey, MSW '03, and Dimitri (James) Topitzes, PhD '06, presented ***"Moving the Needle: Evaluating and Promoting Well-Being in the Child Welfare System"*** at our semiannual Child Welfare Dialogue. You can view their talk on the School's YouTube site.

Susan Notkin, MSSW '79, Associate Director for the Study of Social Policy, gave a talk titled, ***"Youth Thrive: A Pathway to Well-being for Youth in Foster Care"*** at the spring Child Welfare Training Program dialogue.

NEW COURSE – THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

Wisconsin is home to eleven Native American Tribes. A new course, created by Laura Hiebing, MSW '15, ***"The Indian Child Welfare Act,"*** "provides a framework for social workers to interact with American Indian clients in a way that is mindful of the role the social work profession has played in colonizing native people." The course, which is jointly offered with the American Indian Studies Program, meets the UW-Madison Ethnic Studies Requirement.



Professor Dorothy M. Pearson, MSSW '60, PhD '73

2017 Distinguished Alumni Award

The School of Social Work's Board of Visitors chose Professor Dorothy Pearson as the ***2017 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient***. Professor Pearson, now retired, has had a distinguished career in social work education and social work practice. In 1975, Dr. Pearson joined the social work faculty at Howard University. At Howard she provided the leadership that resulted in the formation of its Doctoral Social Work Program and became the first director of that program. She was also named associate dean of the School of Social Work.

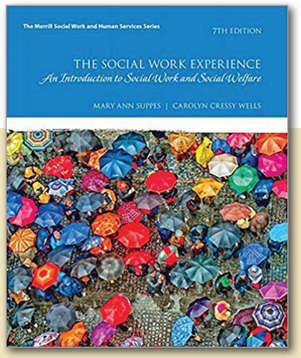
Professor Pearson has received many awards during her career. In 1993, Dr. Pearson received the outstanding alumni award from the Southern University-Baton Rouge where she did her undergraduate work. In 1999 she was recognized by the Council on Social Work Education for her leadership in the establishment and development of their Carl A. Scott Memorial Fund. Finally, recognizing her many contributions to social work education, in 1999 she was named a "Social Work Pioneer" by the National Association of Social Workers.

Professor Pearson has been a wonderful supporter of UW-Madison's School of Social Work. She has served on our Board of Visitors and established two major funds. The Dorothy M. Pearson Graduate Fellowship is awarded annually to a graduate student in the School of Social Work with first preference given to an African-American PhD student. The Dorothy M. Pearson Lecture Series Fund presents an annual lecture focusing on Equality and Social Justice.

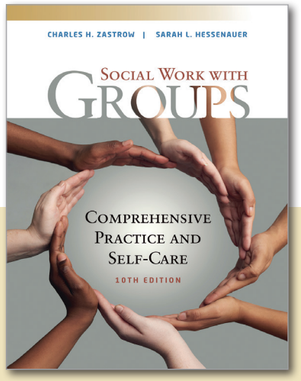
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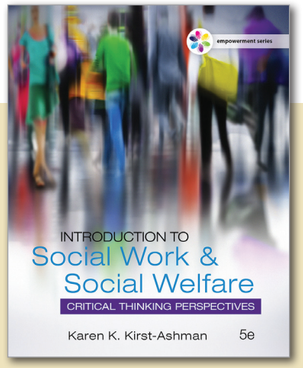
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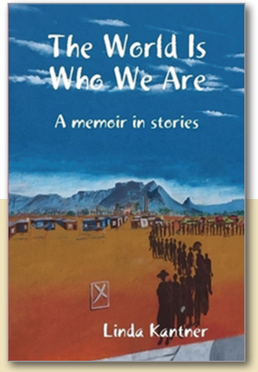
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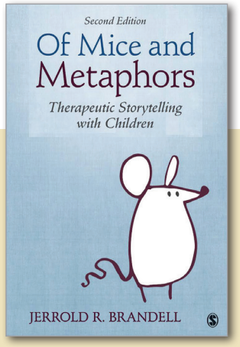
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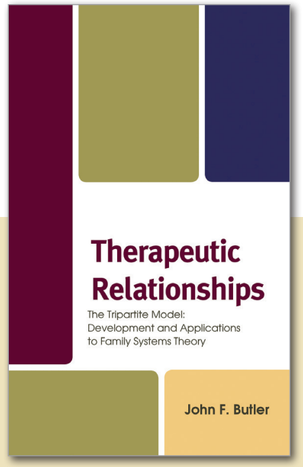
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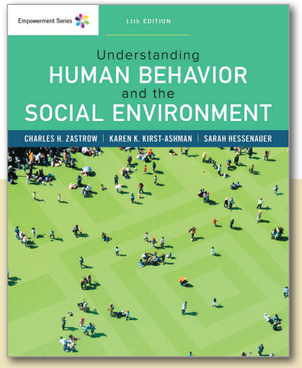
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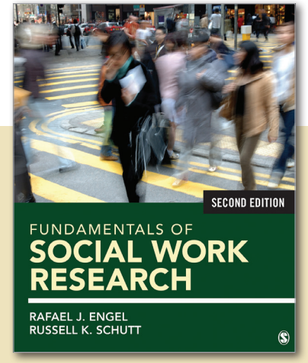
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1. Mary Ann Suppes, MSSW ’61, and Carolyn Wells, MSSW ’68, ***The Social Work Experience: A Case-Based Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare***

2. Charles Zastrow, PhD ’71, ***Social Work with Groups: Comprehensive Practice and Self-Care***, 10th Ed. With Sarah Hessenauer

3. Karen Krist Ashman, MSSW ’73, ***Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Critical Thinking Perspectives***, 5th edition

4. Linda Kantner, MSSW ’82, ***The World is Who We Are: A Memoir in Stories***

5. Jerrold R. Brandell, MSSW ‘77, ***Of Mice and Metaphors: Therapeutic Storytelling with Children***

6. John F. Butler, PhD ’81, ***Therapeutic Relationships: The Tripartite Model: Development and Applications to Family Systems Theory***

7. Charles Zastrow, PhD ‘71, and Karen Krist Ashman, MSSW ‘73, and Sarah Hessenauer, ***Understanding Human Behavior and the Social Environment***

8. Rafael Engel, PhD ’88, and Russell Schutt, ***Fundamentals of Social Work Research***, 2nd Ed., 2016

Congratulations

to several alumni who have recently published books!

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ALUMNI

Clarissa Ahlquist, MSW ’15, works in child welfare at Trempealeau County (WI) Department of Human Services.

Allison Bender, MSW ’16 is a clinical specialist at Community Partnerships in Madison, WI where she works with youth returning to the community after psychiatric hospitalization.

Robert Cowles, MSSW ‘51, age 94, is retired and living in Tucson, AZ. Robert worked in child welfare and program development. His late wife and school alumna, Gladys Cowles, MSSW ’50, also worked in child welfare.

Maima Fant, MSW ‘09, is the Field Coordinator at the College of St. Scholastica BSW program and recently began doctoral study at the University of St. Thomas-St. Kate’s University.

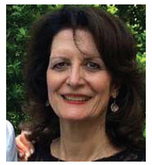
Warren Heinke, MSSW ’70, is retired and living in Rockford, IL. Acknowledging his contributions to the field of child welfare and his commitment to the social work profession, Warren received the NASW Illinois District Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Sherie Hohs, MSW ’03, the LGBTQ!+ support social worker for the Madison WI public schools was featured in Wisconsin State Journal for her work helping teachers, staff, parents and students prevent bullying that is based on bias.

Melinda Kavanaugh, PhD ’13, Assistant Professor of social work at UW-Milwaukee was interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio about the significant role that children sometimes play as caregivers for sick and disabled adults and elderly family members.

Nancy O’Keeffe, MSSW ’80, retired recently after a career in child welfare. Most recently Nancy worked at a residential facility for girls and provided outpatient counseling for adolescents and children.

Robert Payne, MSSW ’88, was elected to the 2017 Board of Directors of the Association of Social Work Boards. Robert has a private practice in Hailey, Idaho, and is a mental health consultant for Higher Ground, a therapeutic recreation program for military veterans.



Helen Petracchi, PhD ’92, was named a “2017 Council on Social Work Education Scholar.” Petracchi, Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work, was recently appointed to the CSWE Commission on Accreditation.

Peggy Redfearn, MSSW ’72, recently retired after 30 years as an elementary school social worker in Racine, WI. One of Peggy’s children worked part-time for the School of Social Work while a student at UW-Madison.

Jane Redfield Yank, MSSW ‘75, has written a white paper on the importance of handwriting for psychotherapists, occupational therapists, teachers, and writers that has been widely distributed by the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation. She is a professor of social work at Walden University.

Celena Roldan, MSSW ’00, was recently named CEO of the American Red Cross of Chicago and Northern Illinois.

Nancy Schiman (Anders), MSSW’83, was recently named Associate Director of Ozaukee Family Services in Grafton, WI. Nancy explains this, “gives me the opportunity to put to use some of my long ago management experience while continuing to work directly with clients as well as program development.”

IN MEMORIAM

MARY ANN BASHLER (GADOW), MSSW ’76, passed away in April 2017. Mary Ann worked at the NewStart Clinic in Madison, WI where she helped develop a weekend outpatient treatment program for those dealing with alcohol and other drug issues.

JOANN KESSLER, BSW ’78, passed away September 2016. After retiring from the Dane County Sheriff’s Office she worked as a social worker and child advocate in Madison, WI.

JEROLD “JERRY” MAJERUS, MSSW ’53, passed away in March 2017. Jerry worked for Sheboygan, Eau Claire and Dane Counties, and ended his career with the State of Wisconsin Department of Social Services in 1983. He was past president of the Wisconsin Social Services Association.

CHERI MAPLES, MSSW ’79, passed away July 2017. A 20-year veteran of the Madison, WI Police Department, Cheri co-founded the Center for Mindfulness and Justice.

ALAN OLSON, MSW ’72, passed away in October 2016. Al worked at the Mental Health Center of Dane County for 38 years and received an award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) for his distinguished career.

SUSAN (BONFIELD) VOLKMANN, BS ’65, passed away in August 2016. Susan spent many years doing ministry work in Ethiopia and Indonesia with her husband Arthur.

Matthew Smith, PhD ’06, recently accepted a position as an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. His research focuses on developing and evaluating technology-based interventions to improve the everyday lives of individuals with severe mental illness or autism spectrum disorder.

Ramona (Webb) Saunders, BS ’52, worked in child welfare for 25 years. In addition to her two children, Ramona and her husband adopted and raised 5 biracial children in Iowa.

Karla Thennes (Jameson), MSSW ’91, was named Executive Director of Porchlight in Madison, WI. Porchlight is the largest nonprofit provider of low-income housing in Dane County and operates the only emergency shelter for homeless men.



Melissa Waldo, MSW ’08, was featured in the November 2016 issue of Milwaukee’s M Magazine. Melissa works with Latina girls at the Sixteenth St. Community Health Center, where she developed and leads SEEDS, a 16-week self-esteem and empowerment group.



Michelle Watts, MSSW ’91, has started her own “movement,” Forgiving and Kind Everyday (FAKE). Deciding to celebrate her birthday by doing 50 “random acts of kindness” in 72 hours, Michelle created FAKE and encourages others to get involved in similar efforts. For more information contact Michelle at wattsup2u@sbcglobal.net.

Debra Weinberg-Tasci, MSSW ’81, has extensive experience in trauma debriefing with airline personnel, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical workers, and victims of crime. She is co-author of the ***Trauma Recovery Handbook*** published in 2013.

Kristi Wood, MSW ’13, was elected President of NASW Wisconsin.

Stay in Touch!

Has your contact information changed? Do you have news to share?

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DONOR REPORT



Three MSW students at the CRISP Political Boot Camp. Pictured in the middle, with members of the program planning team, are (L-R): Brita Larson, Jennifer Smith, Alyssa Watts.

Alumni Support Provides a Unique Experience for Students in D.C.

Encouraging social workers to become politically involved, running for office, working on campaigns, and actively supporting candidates who promote social justice is always important. When the Congressional Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP) announced a three-day "Political Boot Camp" in Washington, D.C. this July, we were able to send three students to this major training opportunity – thanks to donor support. Our students joined social workers, social work faculty and students from throughout the country who gained skills in preparing to run for office, manage a campaign, and become a campaign spokesperson.

"Whether it's running for a local candidacy or a national role, canvassing for a candidate, or lobbying your legislators, CRISP really taught me that getting involved at the local level is essential, and it's also a good place to start," says Brita Larson, one of the participants. "Based on feedback from our trainers, social workers already have the goods and tools to successfully engage in politics."

These students will share what they have learned with fellow students, faculty, staff and the community, in various venues throughout the year. "Our Code of Ethics demands that we fight for social justice and that we advocate with and for the oppressed and vulnerable among us," said Alyssa Watts. "CRISP showed me that political social work provides the opportunity to do just that, and to do so at an incredibly critical time in our history." Making this opportunity available for students involved substantial expense. Without alumni donor support this would not have been possible.

A Generous Legacy Gift Will Help Insure the School's Future

Thomas Beck, MSW '73, credits his education at the School of Social Work for providing the skills and knowledge that paved the way for his successful career. Tom is the executive director of Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, a large multi-program agency serving individuals and families. As the executive director of a large non-profit, Tom knows how important legacy gifts (a future charitable gift made in one's will) can be to the continued ability of a non-profit organization to provide excellent services. With that in mind, Tom, and his wife Martine Cohen, a public-interest attorney with law degrees from La Sorbonne and Rutgers University, have made provisions in their wills for a significant gift to support the School.

Gifts from Two School Alumni Provide Significant Funding to Support

Our Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Women's Rights

Tamara Grigsby Memorial Fund for Diversity & Inclusion

Wanting to help the School advance its goals of diversity and inclusion, and further our social justice work with the community, an anonymous alum has started the Tamara Grigsby Memorial Fund for Diversity and Inclusion. The fund is named for our alumna Tamara Grigsby, MSSW '00, who passed away in 2016 at age 41. A passionate advocate for children, youth, women and social justice, Tamara served in the Wisconsin Legislature for nine years. Tamara was a dedicated alumna who returned to the School on many occasions to motivate our students and encourage them to work for social justice. The fund will support a range of activities from recruitment of diverse students, faculty and staff to trainings on approaches to improve diversity and inclusion in the School and community.



The Maureen Pelton Hartwell Fund for Women's Rights

Maureen Pelton, MSSW '86, a member of our Board of Visitors, has long worked on and supported activities related to social justice and women's rights. Maureen, and her husband Charlie Hartwell, have established a fund to provide support for teaching, research and social justice initiatives that address misogynistic attitudes and behaviors. Examples of priority areas for the fund include: sexual violence, reproductive rights, human trafficking, patriarchy and policy, and gender socialization and gender norms.

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Support the School of Social Work

If you value your education, want your school to remain a leader in social work education and social work research, and believe that increasing opportunities for students who want to pursue a career in social work is worthwhile, please help us increase the number of alumni donors.

Every gift—no matter the size—makes a difference.

If you've never made a gift to the school, please make one. If you've given in the past but not recently, please give again. If you are a regular donor, thank you!

And if you can increase your gift, please do. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you about your philanthropic interests and share with you the school's greatest needs.

Employer matching gift programs can double or even triple your gift to the university.

Learn more at *supportuw.org/how-to-give/matching-gifts/*

Your financial support is critical in strengthening the school's educational, research and service programs. Please join your fellow alumni who have made a gift to the school in the past year.

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Give Through Our Telefund Pledge

You may receive a phone call from the UW Foundation during its annual pledge drive. Please remember to designate your gift to the School of Social Work.

CONTACT US

Please contact Mel Morgenbesser, Alumni Relations and Development, at mmorgenb@wisc.edu or (608) 213-8082; or Andrew Kitslaar of the UW Foundation at andrew.kitslaar@supportuw.org or (608) 308-5314.

Thank you for supporting the School of Social Work.



Thanks to the financial support of alumni and friends, we were able to provide scholarships, offer trainings and workshops, recruit top-notch faculty and enhance the teaching, research and service missions of the School. On this page are several of our students who were awarded scholarships this past year thanks in large part to donor support.

Rianna Bailey: AOF - Continuing

Molly Bray: Norma Berkowitz International Opportunities Scholarship

Ann Cacace: Richard E. Schwert Award

Gabrielle Cypher: Katherine Prichard Benz Award

Chelsea Fox: Joseph and Elaine Wojtowicz Scholarship

Alayna Gallegos: AOF - Incoming

Brent Gust: Debra Beebe Scholarship

Youhang Her: Sheldon Rose Memorial Scholarship

Lanikque Howard: Arthur Miles Scholarship

Tenah Hunt: AOF - Continuing

Tenah Hunt: Alfred Kadushin Dissertation Research Award

Jenna Johnson: Kathleen Oberbeck Van Gorden Scholarship

Emily Karch: Kathryn Becker Norman Memorial Scholarship

Shannon Keough: Bernice Straub-Bolek and Jim Bolek Scholarship

Dakota Krenz: Donald G. Benn Scholarship

Jenny Lee: Robert and Lila Dibble Social Work Scholarship

Ying-Chun Lin: Doctoral Student Research Paper Award

Ruby Martinez: AOF - Incoming

Lourdes Medina: Debra Beebe Scholarship

Michelle Miller: AOF - Incoming

Tricia Mooney-Fogarty: Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship

Jessica Oleson-Bue: Debra Beebe Scholarship

Jennifer Onken: Richard E. Schwert Award

June Paul: Teaching Excellence Award

Christine Petrilli: Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship

Casey Resendez: John Cordts Slack Memorial Scholarship

Vanessa Rios Salas: Irving Piliavin Award

Jennifer Roy: AOF - Continuing

Margaret Smith: Arthur P. Miles School of Social Work Scholarship

Gretchen Stutz: Lillian Aked Yatvin Scholarship

Morgan Sullivan: Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship

Dakota Sullivan: Deborah and Curtis Rose Scholarship

Frank Tenorio: AOF - Incoming

David Vargas: AOF - Continuing

Faith Voss: Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship

Samantha Wall: Heather Milne Southwick '53 Scholarship

Rebecca Wanta: Mary Ann Mutchler-Nelson Opportunity Award

Alyssa Watts: Alumni and Friends of the School Scholarship

Taylor Wilson: AOF - Incoming

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Thank You to all of our Donors!

Thank you alumni and friends who supported the School of Social Work January 2016 -- June 2017!

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We made every effort to account for all gifts in this 18-month period, but if you see something in error, please let us know: Email jason.lee@wisc.edu.

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