



CONNECTIONS

SANDRA ROSENBAUM SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Alumni Magazine | 2020



Covid-19, Black Lives Matter, and a new name. The past year has been one of challenge, advocacy, and celebration.



Sandra Rosenbaum
School of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Letter from the Director

This academic year is unlike any we've experienced. Despite the challenges and changes, the resiliency of students, faculty, and staff, and commitment of our community partners and alumni, will make this year one to remember.

It's the people of the school that make a better future possible. We confront adversity. We strive for justice. We stand up to oppression. We learn from mistakes and we will always look to the future. As social workers, educators, and students, we have an opportunity to clear a path away from white supremacy, away from bigotry, away from oppression and toward a future in which the ethos of our work come to fruition — and we live up to our Code of Ethics. But we have work to do.

The past 12 months or so have been full of adaptation. In March, and then again to start this school year, we successfully transitioned all classes to a virtual format and accommodated students in their field placements. We have created platforms and resources for Supporting Black Lives and responding to Covid-19. We're in the middle of a years-long equity, diversity, and inclusion strategic plan that will touch all aspects of life in the school. We've dramatically increased scholarships to students — many of which

are admissions scholarships to lessen financial burden — thanks to support from alumni and friends. We are in the midst of our reaccreditation process which happens once every seven years.

Thanks to what will ultimately be a \$25 million gift from Joel Berman, we became the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work — named after Joel's late wife and our alumna over this summer. The gift is an enormous lift that helps ensure our continued excellence and improved diversity in teaching, research, and service.

Though lock-downs and quarantines were common this year, life is not standing still in the school and neither are we. We can't predict the immediate future. Budgets will certainly be tight and our students need all the support we can muster, but it's time for our school and for social workers to lead.

Kristi Slack
Professor and Interim Director

PS: Professor Stephanie Robert is on a research sabbatical and will return in 2021–22.

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CONNECTIONS

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Kadijha Marquardt-Davis, MSW '20, gives her graduation speech online

Social Work in Time of Crisis and Opportunity

This year feels like one that will be remembered as a pivot point, even as we continue to live through its turmoil: a health crisis, an economic crisis, and social uprising for racial justice. The path we take has yet to be determined and will impact the world for years. What role does social work and the school play at this moment?

On Monday, March 9th students and employees at UW–Madison received an email from Chancellor Blank advising against travel outside Dane County for spring break—which was just days away. By that Wednesday it became clear, most of us would not step back on campus for a long time. Over the next week the school and campus transitioned all classes to remote learning including alternative learning plans for all students in field units and placements. Students took courses from home, apartments, parents' houses, wherever they could find reliable internet as Covid-19 shut down life as we knew it. Unemployment skyrocketed. Injustices and inequities in health, housing, employment, and all aspects of American life were exposed.

Then in May, on the heels of the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, Minneapolis police officers killed George Floyd on Memorial Day—another in a long and disturbing list of unarmed Black people to die at the hands of police in this country. Madison, like many cities and towns, responded with mass protests, rallies, and a social awakening unlike any other—the result of years of struggle by many people long oppressed working for social change.

Voices of social workers are at the center—both in response to the pandemic and in fighting racist behaviors and policies that perpetuate white supremacy and police violence. Questions about the role social workers need to play to interrupt injustice in all forms for a more equitable future rose to the surface of public discourse.

The school created platforms for sharing perspectives, critiquing the context and the profession, and planning change that needs to come and will require more voices within our communities, within the larger context of American life, and within the school itself.

Over a dozen working social workers shared their first-hand accounts of the pandemic on our **Social Workers on the Front Line of Covid-19** blog. Emily Fagre, MSW '14 said, "It's our duty to take the knowledge we've gained during this crisis and transform it into something that moves us all forward." She worked on a hospital unit near Detroit that transitioned into a Covid-19 ICU. "Our understanding of social determinants of health and racial disparities will be critical," she said. Martha Saucedo, MSW '10, a behavior health consultant, wrote, "the high number of COVID-19 cases among BIPOC populations has also led to an increased number of people requiring treatment for mental health issues." Tyler Schueffner shared expertise on what it's like to continue homeless outreach during a pandemic, "this has been an epic struggle, and day by day we move forward, learning, growing, and regaining some of what has been lost." Fourteen school social workers, many of them alumni, banded together and formed

the Madison West High Area Collaborative to provide a variety of services, including food distribution and rental assistance to families as the crisis hit. Their stories and others can be found on our blog at: socwork.wisc.edu.

In early June, the school created a page devoted to Black Lives Matter resources and held several events for students, faculty, staff, and community members which included discussions about, "Social Work So White;" peer support and racism in mental health services; defunding police and social workers' role; anti-racist social work, and organizational change.

These events plus a school-wide discussion over the summer featured many recent alumni, current students, and area social workers. Those efforts continued into the fall semester.

The school also continued the process of creating an updated Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan to scrutinize current efforts and provide a road map for ongoing and new efforts in the school around diversity, equity, and inclusion in everything we do, from decolonizing the syllabus to admissions and funding to the school building itself.

Regardless of where we all stood at the beginning of 2020, it's clear now if it wasn't then that the world will not go back to a 'normal' that only existed for a few. That we cannot afford to go back to that normal. That in order for all lives to matter, Black lives must matter and that social workers can and need to articulate a clear space for the work of overcoming injustices in health and mental health care, housing, education, employment, child welfare, policing, and all aspects of daily life.

As Interim Director Kristi Slack wrote to students at the beginning of the fall 2020 semester, "the events of the last several months will hold tremendous historical significance when we look back in 5, 10, or 20 years. As social workers and students of social welfare, there is an opportunity before us to define this moment, making a firmer and more rigorous commitment to justice, and building on the foundations of literally hundreds of years of struggle by those who have been continually oppressed and marginalized, to right the wrongs of our nation."

This is the context and this is the moment. How will we step up?

Follow and contribute to the school's continuing efforts at socwork.wisc.edu.

Mental Health: School Continues its Longtime Commitment to and Leadership in Assertive Community Treatment



Emeritae Professors Mona Wasow and Mary Ann Test

In the early 1970's, prior to joining our faculty, now emeritus social work professor Mary Ann Test was one of the founders of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), an intensive and highly integrated treatment program serving individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. This community-based program, started in Madison, has been adopted throughout the U.S. and the world and continues to be recognized as the "gold standard" for the community treatment of persons with schizophrenia.

Under Test's and Clinical Professor Mona Wasow's leadership our school was the first school of social work to develop coursework and field placements training students in severe and persistent mental illness. In 1988, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) awarded the school their "Exemplary Program Award." Deborah Allness, Jan Greenberg, David LeCount, and Peggy Sleeper, all now emeritus faculty, helped strengthen the school's commitment to educating students in the ACT model over the past decades. Many of our former students now lead in the field and train a new generation of ACT clinicians.

"Ultimately we want people to have better access to high quality services so they can recover and live lives that are full of hope."



Dr. Lynette Studer

We have maintained our commitment to educating students in the ACT model for more than 40 years. In 2017, the school hired Dr. Lynette Studer as one of our outstanding clinical assistant professors, who has many years' experience working with persons with severe mental illness and was formerly the Program Director in the State of Minnesota's Adult Mental Health Division. She, along with several other faculty members, insure that we maintain our educational leadership in this field. As part of her work, Dr. Studer and partners at the University of North Carolina's Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health, have received a nearly \$500,000 grant to research the availability, implementation, and funding of ACT and the fidelity to which programs meet the ACT model throughout the United States. What motivates Studer is the same thing that drove Mary Ann Test and her colleagues at the time – improving the care for individuals with serious mental illness. "Working with clients and figuring out how to make the system better so more people have access to ACT is one of the most fulfilling things I've done...Ultimately we want people to have better access to high quality services so they can recover and live lives that are full of hope."

Fathers

Often Overlooked, Subject of Faculty Research

For many years the role of fathers in their children's upbringing and development received little attention in social work and social science research. Several school faculty are investigating the important role fathers play in their children's lives.

Dr. Pajarita Charles's work focuses on development, implementation, and testing of family-focused preventive interventions to promote positive outcomes for children and families affected by the criminal justice system. She is the principal investigator on a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development grant developing and testing an intervention with fathers recently released from prison to improve parent and child outcomes through father engagement, high-quality parenting and relationship skills, and extended family involvement.

In one recent project, Dr. Charles and colleague Dr. Julie Poehlmann-Tynan, Dorothy A. O'Brien Professor in Human Ecology, partnered with the Dane County Jail to offer what they call "enhanced visits" through the initiative, "Improving Outcomes for Incarcerated Parents and Their Children During Jail Visits." These visits combine coaching for the incarcerated parent and the at-home caregiver during video visits.

Families received a computer tablet to facilitate virtual meetings during the pandemic, as the jail has been closed to outside visitors. Book reading is one of the most popular activities on the virtual calls, which is critical to promoting literacy.

As her colleague Poehlmann-Tynan explains, "I see the most amazing things where the tablet has popped up and the

incarcerated parent is supervising a little kid brushing their teeth, or they're propped up during family dinner, chatting with their homework or the kids show their toys."

In another project with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Dr. Charles will support the implementation of *Parenting Inside Out* a program geared toward incarcerated parents, including fathers at the Green Bay Correctional Institution. In a similar program she helped implement at Dane County's Jail, one father spoke of the program after graduation, "I am very thankful for this program. It has helped me improve my parenting skills in many ways and has taught me how to cope with everyday life situations. This program could be a life saver for parents who don't really know how to interact with their children."

Dr. Tova Walsh, drawing on her prior experience working as a home visitor with low-income families, is examining men's health behavior and relationships across the transition to fatherhood, with the aim of informing efforts to promote healthy pregnancies and positive partnering and parenting. In an article published in the January 2020 journal *Pediatrics*, "A Call to Action: Screening Fathers for Perinatal Depression," Walsh and her colleagues suggest that recent calls for all pediatricians to "incorporate recognition and management of perinatal depression into pediatric practice does not go far enough and is out of touch with contemporary American families." They advocate that pediatric providers "assess the mental health and adjustment to parenting of all new parents, regardless of gender or marital status, and make appropriate referrals for needed care."



Dr. Pajarita Charles (left) with Michelle Alexander

In a new study conducted in partnership with the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative, and in collaboration with the Housing Authority of Milwaukee, Dr. Walsh will explore the ways the stresses and uncertainty posed by Covid-19 compound existing economic instability and family pressures for low-income and noncustodial fathers.

New Faculty



Dr. Tawandra Rowell-Cunsolo joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. She received her PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania and was an Assistant Professor at Columbia University's School of Nursing. Dr. Rowell-Cunsolo's research examines ways in which incarceration affects the health of vulnerable communities, especially in the areas of HIV risk behaviors and substance use.

Retirements



Joe Dooley, PhD, an excellent teacher, taught part-time in the school since 2002. He was also a long-time faculty member in the social work department at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. Before entering academia, Joe was a clinical social worker focusing on LGBTQ clients.



Darald Hanusa, PhD, Senior Lecturer, taught courses in Family Violence to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students over his more than 40 years as a part-time faculty member. He is a psychotherapist and founder of the Midwest Center for Human Services/ Domestic Violence Center in Madison, WI.



Professor Betty Kramer, PhD, a nationally known scholar for her work in end of life care and an outstanding teacher, retired in May after 28 years at the school. In addition to her national service in the field of aging, Betty served as the School's Associate Director and Director of our Doctoral Program. She was the recipient of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Distinguished Researcher Award.



PhD student award winners

Our Students



Molly Costanzo, PhD student, received the prestigious 2020 Student Research Award from the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE), for her paper, “How does disability influence child care arrangements for young children? An examination using the NHES ECPP.” Her paper (with co-author Dr. Katherine Magnuson) was published in *Children and Youth Services Review*.



PhD student **Meghan Jenkins Morales** received the UW Institute on Aging’s 2019 New Investigator Award for her poster, “The Association Between Housing Cost Burden, Unmet Care Needs and Nursing Home Entry Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults.”



PhD student **Leah Awkward-Rich** received an Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship from the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. The fellowship supports the travel and participation of students at the APPAM Fall Research Conference.



There are 2,100 teaching assistants on the UW-Madison campus. PhD student **Melody Waring** was one of only 15 TA’s chosen to receive the 2019 Campus-Wide Teaching Award.

Our Students



PhD student **Emma Carpenter** received the Deborah A. Hobbins Award in Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice from the Center for Research on Gender and Women at the UW-Madison. The award seeks to advance the reproductive health, rights, and justice of residents of Wisconsin and beyond.



MSW student **Roberto Godinez** received a prestigious fellowship from the Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Program to enhance the training of full-time, master's-level, direct practice-focused social work students seeking to work in mental health and/or substance use disorder service delivery to racial/ethnic minority populations.



BSW student **Layne Wetherbee** received a 2019 Bascom Hill Society Scholarship from the University of Wisconsin Foundation. This one-year full tuition scholarship recognizes a student who combines academic excellence with demonstrated leadership ability and outstanding service to the university or their community.

Undergraduate social work students **Julia Gutman** and **MaKayla Liebeck** received Ginsberg Family Awards from UW-Madison. The award recognizes undergraduates for their leadership, service, and scholarship. School alumni, who graduated between 1970–1987, may remember much admired Dean of Students Paul Ginsberg, for whom the award is named.

2019-2020 Students Enrolled: 542

Social Welfare (BA/BS): 121

Social Work (BSW): 48

MSW students: 347 Full-Time program: 140 | Part-Time program: 207

PhD students: 26 (6 are joint MSW)

Students enrolled in the Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Training Program: 27

In addition, 684 other students took our courses.

2020 Students Graduated: 230

Social Welfare (BA/BS): 23

Social Work (BSW): 42

MSW students: 163 Full-Time Program: 95 | Part-Time Program: 68

PhD students: 2

Worth Noting



Professor Lonnie Berger, former Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty, is now UW-Madison's Associate Vice Chancellor for Research for the Social Sciences in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. As part of the leadership of the OVCRGE, which oversees more than \$1.2 billion in annual research expenditures, he will work to promote research in the social sciences.



Assistant Professor Pajarita Charles was chosen to co-lead the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare's, "Promote Smart Decarceration, Grand Challenge." She will lead the effort to organize social work researchers, practitioners, and policy makers across the country to address mass incarceration in the United States through policy recommendations, research publications, development of network resources, and integrating evidence-based research about smart decarceration into social work education.



Professor Marah Curtis was named a *Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor*, recognizing her distinguished scholarship as well as standout efforts in teaching and service. The professorship provides \$75,000 in flexible funding over five years to go towards Professor Curtis' continued scholarly and teaching excellence.



Assistant Professor Lara Gerassi's grant from the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment, will fund her project, "Preparing Practitioners to Identify and Address Sex Trafficking in Northeast Wisconsin."



Assistant Professor Jooyoung Kong is the principal investigator on a grant to study the "Effects of Childhood Family Relationships for Aging Parents in Later Life."



Professor Katherine Magnuson is the "academic partner" on a \$1 million dollar grant to the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association project to develop The Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network. This initiative seeks to strengthen the quality and continuity of local child care providers in the most under-resourced areas of Milwaukee, WI.



Assistant Director of Field Education Amanda Ngola was a member of the University Health Service's Mental Health Task Force which studied and provided recommendations for meeting the campus's mental health needs.



Assistant Professor Alejandra Ros Pilarz is a Co-Principal Investigator of a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Understanding Declines in Regulated Child Care Supply and Subsidy Use in Wisconsin."



Rabbi Morris Allen | Photo by: Julie Berg-Raymond, *The Postville Project*

2020 Distinguished Alumni Award: Rabbi Morris Allen

Rabbi Morris Allen, MSSW '77, was the spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Congregation for 32 years, retiring in 2018. Drawing on his spiritual and social work education towards social justice and social change, Rabbi Allen has made significant contributions on a local, national, and international basis particularly regarding immigrants, labor, and environmental practices.

Though his advocacy and social justice efforts are many, one is particularly notable. In 2008 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided Agriprocessors, Inc., a kosher slaughterhouse and meat packing plant in Postville, Iowa resulting in nearly 400 arrests of immigrant workers, 300 of whom were convicted on document fraud charges within four days. The raid raised many disturbing issues—including how immigrant workers in the kosher meat packing industry were treated.

Rabbi Allen took a controversial national leadership role in advocating for a “justice certification standard”—one that

combines the rabbinic tradition of Torah with values of social justice, assuring consumers and retailers that kosher food products have been produced in keeping with exemplary ethics in the area of labor concerns, animal welfare, environmental impact, consumer issues, and corporate integrity. In 2011, Allen initiated a program called Magen Tzedek—designed to provide ethical certification to food products, evaluating companies for their labor and environmental practices—which attracted national attention.

Recognizing his contributions, Rabbi Allen was named one of America’s 50 most significant Jewish leaders by *The Forward* Newspaper and was personally invited to by Israeli President Shimon Peres to celebrate Israel’s 60th Anniversary in 2008.

The annual Distinguished Alumni Award goes to an outstanding graduate of the school. Selected alumni have made significant contributions to social work, social policy, and/or the community.

LaToya Adkins, MSW '13, TedX Talk Particularly Relevant Today



Following a traumatic life event, LaToya Adkins relocated from Wisconsin to North Carolina. In her May 2020 *TedX Talk* at *UW-Madison*, LaToya, who provides mental health services to students at Duke University, shares how becoming better acquainted with and using solitude constructively, she furthered her healing process. Her talk, *Unexpected Power of Solitude and Healing from Loss, Shame and Trauma*, is particularly relevant today.



The Board of Visitors in 2019

Three Alumni Join Board of Visitors

The school has an active Board of Visitors which assists with alumni relations, fundraising, and development. We are pleased to highlight three new members who joined the board recently.

Joyce Degenhart, BSW '57

Joyce, who also received her MSW from the University of Denver and PhD in Clinical Psychology from Marquette University, had a long career in the mental health area prior to her retirement. This included co-owning and directing several mental health clinics in Milwaukee and surrounding areas. She also served as the clinic director of Southeastern Wisconsin Medical and Social Services. A long-time supporter of the three institutions from which she received her education, Joyce has been an active community volunteer in the Racine/Milwaukee area.

Fabiola Hamdan, MSW '97

A strong advocate for the Latino community and long-time employee of Dane County Human Services in Madison, Fabiola serves as Dane County's first Immigration Specialist. She is also the founder of the annual El Dia de Los Niños, a celebration of Latino children. Fabiola has received many awards for her service including the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award and a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Social Workers Wisconsin Chapter and was named one of the "Most Powerful Latinos in Wisconsin." She has been active in many school activities, including serving on committees and supervising student field placements.

Steven Tallant, PhD '85

Steve has been a leader in higher education for many years. He retired in December 2018 after serving for the past 10 years as President of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The university has more than 8,000 students, over 50% of whom are Hispanic. Prior to that he served as provost and vice chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and was a faculty member in their social work department. Before joining academia, Steve had a 20-year career in the military, including serving as the chief of Air Force Family Research at the Pentagon.

Alumni Provide Leadership in Social Work Education



The Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation (COA) is responsible for accrediting and reaffirming the accreditation of more than 800 undergraduate and MSW social work programs. Four School of Social Work alumni are members of the COA and Mary Kurfess, MSSW '83, is CSWE's Director of Accreditation.

(From L to R): **Beverly Black** | MSSW '77, Professor University of Texas Arlington, **Mike Daley** | PHD '83, Professor Texas A&M University-Central Texas
Mary Kurfess | MSSW '83, CSWE's Director of Accreditation, **Bill Heiss** | MSSW '82, University of Wisconsin-Madison, retired,
Helen Petracchi | Phd '92, Associate Professor University of Pittsburgh

Class Notes

Stay in Touch: We love to hear about our alumni, their work, and reflections on the school. Send your updates to: alumni@socwork.wisc.edu

1960s

Judy Topitzes, MSSW '65, a member of our Board of Visitors, is the recipient of *The 2020 John DeMain Award for Outstanding Commitment to Music*. The award recognizes Judy's longstanding and unwavering support of the Madison Symphony League, the Madison Symphony Orchestra and music in the Madison, WI community.

1970s

Sally Schultz Nord, MSW '72, recently retired after 32 years at Fremd High School in Palatine, IL. She and husband Bill are enjoying their retirement in Palm Coast, FL.

Mary Stamstad, BSW '74, retired after 40 years working for RSVP of Dane County. She explains, "I'm not going anywhere...just from paid status to a volunteer."

Leonard Marcus, MSSW '74 (also PhD from Brandeis), is the Co-Director of the National Preparation Leadership Initiative at Harvard and the lead author of the new book *You're It: Crisis, Change, and How to Lead When it Matter Most*.

Jane Banning, MSSW '79, has recently published *Asparagus Roots*, a small book of flash fiction, poetry, and essays. She also taught a course on civil discourse in the "Learning and Retirement Program," at Nicolet Technical College in Rhineland, WI

1980s

Deborah Rose, MSSW '82, who is an emeritus board member, is active in addressing homelessness in the Corvallis, OR area. She writes, "we work to find answers to the lack of housing and two-year waits for section 8 housing. We have made some headway by creating 1-2 person temporary pods on church properties. The pods allow individuals to have a place to sleep and they share kitchen and bathroom facilities."

Michael Daley, PhD '83, Chair of Texas A&M Central Social Work Department, was named a "Social Work Pioneer" by the National Association of Social Workers. This prestigious award honors members of the social work profession who have contributed to the evolution and enrichment of the profession.

Robert Payne, MSSW, '88, has been selected by the Association of Social Work Boards to receive the 2019 "Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service." The AASWB is the nonprofit association of social work regulatory bodies in the United States and Canada.

1990s

Cassandra L. McKay-Jackson, MSSW '91, (also PhD from University of Illinois at Chicago), is Director of the MSW Program at the Erikson Institute in Chicago, IL.

Jennifer Elkins, MSW '98, (also PhD from Columbia University) is Associate Professor at the University of Georgia's School of Social Work, where she developed and teaches a course to help social workers and lawyers work collaboratively. The innovative course received an Award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work Education from the Council on Social Work Education.

Class Notes

2000s

Anne Medeiros, MSW '00, is the owner of UJUZI African Travel. You can learn more about travel opportunities at ujuzitravel.com

Joe Homlar, MSW '01, was named, head of the State of Colorado's Division of Child Welfare. He shared that Mimi Scheuermann, MSW '02, is Deputy Executive Director, Protection and Prevention at Denver, Colorado Human Services

Ana Stier, MSW '01, a social worker with Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers in Milwaukee was featured in *MKE Lifestyle* about her work with diverse populations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alissa Greif Ovidia, BSW '04, former Board of Visitors member, is the co-author of two recent articles in *Psychology Today's* blog under the heading, "The Ambiguous Reunification of Students Returning to School."

Dan Nordstrom, MSW '06, a behavioral health clinician at UW Health in Madison, WI writes a blog addictionmadison.com/blog following the City of Madison's policies on alcohol.

Angela Cunningham, MSW '06, (also JD from Northwestern), is a lawyer in Kenosha, WI and member of the Board of Trustees at Catholic Charities in Milwaukee, WI.

Melissa Waldo, MSW '08, developed the SEEDS (Self-Esteem, Empowerment, Empathy and Discovery of Self), program at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee. That program, featured in the documentary, *The Kids Are Not Alright: The Mental Health Crisis Affecting Latina Teens*, has been viewed more than 200,000 times at youtu.be/5bovfMAZZMc

Becky Steinhoff, BSW '09, who as the Executive Director of the Goodman Center for 31 years built the center into an important resource for the Madison community, is stepping down to pursue other opportunities.

Leslie Gilmore, MSW '09, is a social worker and positive behavior specialist at Spring Harbor Middle School in Madison, WI.

2010s

Melissa Mueller-Douglas, MSW '11, is the founder of *MyRetreat* at rocmyretreat.com, which focuses on self-care for women.

Angela Baerwolf, MSW '13, a social worker at Black Hawk Middle School in Madison, WI was elected president of Wisconsin School Social Workers Association.

Maura Grasshoff, MSW '14, is a mental health clinician with the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health's East Madison clinic.

Sofia Snow, BSW '14, a member of the inaugural cohort of UW-Madison's groundbreaking First Wave - Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives hip-hop scholarship program, has returned to campus to lead the program she says changed her life.

Arlyn Gonzalez, MSW '17 works with the City of Madison's Employee Assistance Program where her supervisor is program manager and school graduate Tresa Martinez, MSSW '86.

Gabrielle Tripoli Cypher, MSW '17, is a Clinical Social Worker at Sutter Health in Auburn, CA.

Jonathon Wild, MSW '19, is a social worker at Waunakee Middle School in Wisconsin.

In Memoriam

Robert Cowles, MSSW '51, September 2020—died at age 97. Robert worked in child welfare agencies in Wisconsin, Texas and Ohio before relocating to Arizona in 1964 where he worked in program development until retiring in 1999.

Eleanor Munson, BA '52, Madison, WI April 2020—a social worker at Dane County Human Services, and later an assistant to the pastor at Bethel Horizons Church in Madison.

James Thomas Honnold, MSSW '54 Madison, WI July 2019—had a 40-year career in social work, working first for the Wisconsin Child Center in Sparta, then for Walworth and Racine counties, and finally for 30 years as Welfare Administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services in Madison.

Judith R. Zweifler, BS '64, October 2019—worked as a social worker with persons with developmental disabilities.

Randall Neff, MSSW '75, February 20—was worked for many years at Milwaukee County Behavioral Health and later in private practice.

Suzanna Waters Castillo, MSSW '75—she was Program Director at the UW-Madison's Division of Continuing Studies, where she developed and taught continuing education for social workers and other professionals.

Patricia Bowers, MSSW '75, April 2020—was a psychotherapist in Madison, WI.

Mariellen Laucht Kuehn, MSSW '77, PhD '84—was the Associate Director of the UW-Madison's Waisman Center, which focuses on human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases.

Elizabeth Spencer, MSSW '81, April 2020—had a unique career as an ombudsman with the Madison Gas and Electric Company.

Eleanor Heeringa-Owen, BSW '84, June 2020—was a social worker in Dane and Columbia Counties for 35 year.

Jody Schmitz, MSSW '87, June 2020—was an advisor at the School of Social Work. Later she became Executive Director of Kennedy Heights Community Center in Madison, WI.

Martha McKibben, MSSW '90, October 2019—worked for more than 35 years in the areas of domestic violence, health, and women's issues.

Natalie Anne Nahn Schaefer, December 2019—was a student in our part-time MSSW program and worked as a CNA at UW Hospital Trauma Center. She passed away unexpectedly at age 23.



Ed Erwin, MSW '07 Madison WI, August 2019—diagnosed with schizophrenia Ed was an advocate for persons with mental illness. A member of many advocacy organizations, Ed co-taught the school's field unit in Severe and Persistent Mental Illness for several years.



Dr. Stephanie Robert and Joel Berman

“Being Able to Say Yes!”

When Joel Berman first gave to the school in 2017 in memory of his wife and alumna Sandra Rosenbaum '76, he said he hoped the school would finally be able to look students in the eye “and say, ‘yes.’” In the past, we did not have the resources to fund a number of worthwhile activities and initiatives. Thanks to generous financial support of alumni and friends, including annual gifts, named funds, and estate gifts, the school is able to “say yes” to a growing number of requests and provide support which enhances our educational, research, and service missions. Here are a few examples of how in the last year your support enables us to “say yes.”

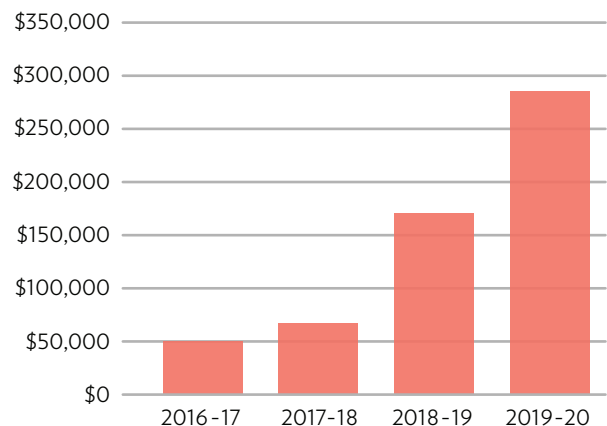


Joel Berman and recent Rosenbaum Scholarship awardees

Said Yes to Scholarships:

Thanks to large gifts from Joel Berman, Martha Ozawa, and many alumni and friends we can offer support directly to students that we could never before. In 2019-20 the school distributed \$287,473 in tuition, stipends, and awards to 44 students, which is an 80% increase from 2018-19, and a 481% increase from 2016-2017. These range from \$1,000 awards to full-tuition scholarships. This is money provided directly from the school and does not include gifts and loans students receive from the university or the federal or state government. “This scholarship will provide students, like me, with the opportunity to cultivate the advanced skill set needed to further improve our social and political culture,” said Nerissa Vogt MSW'20 who received a Harriet Rosenbaum Scholarship last year.

Amount of scholarships awarded by the school in recent years



Said Yes to Educational Activities for Students and the Community:

Our 2020 “Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference” drew more than 500 participants. The keynote speaker, one of the most sought-after experts in the U.S., was Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

More than 100 students and community members attended a virtual two-day workshop, *A Taste of Narrative Therapy*, by nationally known expert Dr. Steven Gaddis, Director and Co-Founder of the Narrative Therapy Initiative.

In late November we will repeat last year’s highly successful two-day *Introduction to Motivational Interviewing* workshop. A student wrote about the 2019 training, “Thank you for supporting students to attend this training. I can honestly say it was one of the most significant learning experiences I have ever had at a training. The instruction was amazing and motivating.”

We sent students and our social work advisors to the three-day 2019 Latinx Social Work Conference in Chicago.



Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, was the keynote speaker at the Confronting Racial Injustice Conference in January



Distinguished Lecturer Emeritus
Ada Deer

Said Yes to our Community Read.

The school purchased and distributed more than 400 copies of *Making a Difference: My Fight for Native Rights and Social Justice* by Distinguished Lecturer Emeritus Ada Deer which will be discussed in various formats throughout the year.

Said Yes to a New Opportunity Fund

There are so many outstanding conferences, workshops and other educational and training opportunities that would enhance our students’ professional development, but for many students the cost of attendance is prohibitive. Thanks to donor support we have created a formal process for students to apply for funds for these activities and significantly increased the number of students we can support. Students who receive funding are encouraged to share the information and resources they obtain with others at the School and in their field placements.

The Elizabeth Althaus Social Work Student Support Fund

Thank you to alum Elizabeth Althaus, BA ’64, MSSW ’68, who joined other alumni who have established named funds at the school to meet specific goals and objectives. In Elizabeth’s case she has endowed a fund that supports a wide range of activities she feels are important opportunities for students. Each year the school will use these funds to provide stipends for rural field placements, travel to present at professional conferences, support for speakers to offer specialized training on innovative social work topics, or other areas that will enhance students’ knowledge base and skill set.

Your Support is Vital

*During times like these our general fund, the most flexible fund we have, is critical.
Thank you for your needed support.*

Three Ways to Donate:



1. ONLINE

socwork.wisc.edu/alumni/give



2. BY MAIL

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3. TELEFUND PLEDGE

You may receive a call from the UW Foundation
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To learn about other ways of supporting the school, such as including the school in your estate plans, please contact
Abby Funseth at the University of Wisconsin Foundation (608) 405-0433 | abby.funseth@supportuw.org or
Mel Morgenbesser, Alumni Relations and Development (608) 231-8082 | mmorgenb@wisc.edu

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In 2017, Joel Berman approached the UW-Madison School of Social Work about a promise he made to his wife, Sandra Rosenbaum. She wanted him to donate to the school in honor of her mother, UW alumnae, Harriet Rosenbaum, in order to put dedicated, well-trained social workers into the field as quickly as possible while reducing the financial barriers to earning the degree. When Sandy passed away that summer, Joel was determined to fulfill that promise.

He's done that and much more. What started with a scholarship fund has become a transformative gift to the school, now named the **Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work**.

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