

SOCIAL WORK



TEACHING

RESEARCH

SERVICE

CONNECTIONS

SANDRA ROSENBAUM SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK Alumni Magazine | 2023



Sandra Rosenbaum
School of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Every year Deans and Directors write letters like these to you, our wonderful alumni, noting the changes afoot and our students' optimism for the future. This time, the passage of months and years seem more material, authentic, noteworthy.

As UW-Madison celebrates its 175th Anniversary, we reflect on our own history in the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work and remember the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

As you may know, Ada Deer, BSW '57 passed away in August. She was a graduate of our program, a remarkable force for social justice, and we were lucky enough to have her as a distinguished lecturer and mentor for many years. Her imprint on our instructors and students will continue for generations. (See more



inside). We also lost long-time lecturer and statewide administrative leader Severa Austin and a number of influential instructors, faculty, and practitioners, including Don Anderson, John Borquist, Joan Burns, and Vivian Wood, who each made immeasurable impact on social work students and communities through their teaching, leadership, and service.

Collectively, we expand the work forged by these pioneers -- in the classroom where our faculty and students receive national recognition for shaping how we think and learn about social justice issues; through impactful practice and policy research, such as a new study about the viability of the Child Tax Credit, and the creation of an Autism Center of Excellence Network; or in the community where we provide free training to update the skills of our community partners, where our faculty provide trainings and expert legislative testimony, and where our graduates make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout Wisconsin.

This year, we will educate, train, and collaborate with nearly 500 students who have decided to focus their talents on social work (and another 700 non-majors who take our classes). We will give them as much funding and support as we possibly can, thanks to your contributions, and we will do our best to put them in positions to succeed and to make our communities healthier and stronger as they move into practice and leadership.

There is always uncertainty for the future. We can't quite imagine all the changes that will come through climate change, technology, or policy, but our faculty, staff, students, and alumni will be there leading, pushing, and making change for all of our well-being. In doing so, we honor the legacy of those whose shoulders we stand on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Robert".

Stephanie Robert, *Director and Professor*

CONNECTIONS

is the alumni magazine of the UW-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work.

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Major universities, like the University of Wisconsin-Madison, often point to teaching, research, and service as the pillars of their mission. Since its inception, the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work has also made these the focus of our efforts. Below we share recent examples of our work in these three key areas.

TEACHING

Teaching in the school is a multi-faceted endeavor. It occurs in traditional classroom settings, online, in field placements and field seminars, and in workshops, conferences, and guest lectures arranged and hosted by school faculty and students. Here we feature only a few of the many activities that fall under the broad concept of teaching.

IN THE CLASSROOM:

This year we're proud that Assistant Professor Lara Gerassi and doctoral student Liz Primo received prestigious awards recognizing their outstanding teaching.



Lara received the *UW-Madison Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Award* in recognition of outstanding teaching and mentorship. The award noted that: "Her innovative classroom strategies consistently engage and inspire students to learn from difficult material with intention, rigor and awareness of their social position

in making sustainable change. Her classrooms produce students who can think and ethically act in a manner consistent with their own and others' minoritized experiences. Gerassi has become a trainer to other instructors on campus and nationally, as she teaches stigmatized topics in the field of sex trafficking, the sex trades, and violence."



PhD student Liz Primo received the *Social Work Student Teaching Award* from the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE). Liz stresses that, "students have complex lives outside of the classroom that influence how they engage within the learning environment." As one student said about her class with Liz, "This class gave me confidence

in my research abilities along with a deeper understanding of the process involved in making policy change."

IN AGENCIES AND FIELD SEMINARS:



Students discuss their Change Agents Project Posters in Field Seminar

Many reading this will have fond memories of the major influence their field agency practice and school field seminars had on their development. Our field program is different from other schools of social work that utilize a liaison model where students are placed in agencies and may only meet with school faculty once or twice in a semester. Ours is an educationally-directed, hands-on learning experience where, in addition to students developing their social work practice skills in an agency setting, students meet weekly in a small group with school faculty and fellow students to discuss their work in their agency and learn about their field of practice. Together, faculty, community social work practitioners, and students partner in ways that are designed to prepare students with the skills and expertise needed for a successful career in social work.

IN EXTRA CURRICULAR WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

The school offers a wide-range of educational opportunities outside the classroom to our students, agency supervisors, and the community at large. Bringing guest experts to campus enhances our ability to offer recent, creative, and intensive training. A few examples of this year's activities include:



Roberta Gassman Distinguished Lecture - "Helping Low Wage Workers & Families Recover from the Pandemic"

Celebrating our graduate and social policy leader Roberta Gasman's 50th anniversary of graduating from our MSW program, a talk, "Helping Low Wage Workers & Families Recover from the

Pandemic" was given by Roberta's daughter, Dr. Anna Gassman-Pines, Professor of Public Policy, Psychology & Neuroscience, Duke University.

Mental Health Training

Supported by graduate and board member Meghan Morrissey and her husband, Michael, we offered a two-day, clinically-focused workshop for students in our mental health focus area, "An Introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT): Enhancing Your Practice with Acceptance, Self-Compassion, and Values-Based Action."



We Offer Two Public Child Welfare Dialogues Annually

This year Megan Finno-Velasquez, Director of the Center on Immigration and Child Welfare in the School of Social Work at New Mexico State University presented, "Child Welfare System Challenges and Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Families" and Professor Lynette Renner from the University of Minnesota presented, "Exposure to Family Violence: Research Findings and Opportunities for Intervention."

Confronting Racial Injustice Conference

Our 2023 Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference focused on disability justice. This two-day, online training attracted more than 2000 students, social work and other human service professionals, and the public. Keynote speakers and breakout sessions addressed the issues of disability and racial justice and provided tools and frameworks to inspire social change.

LAST YEAR, WE AWARDED ALMOST 400K CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS TO SOCIAL WORKERS.



MAJOR GRANTS SUPPORT FACULTY RESEARCH

In addition to their teaching and service responsibilities, the school's faculty are innovative researchers examining the issues and concerns that social workers, other human service workers, and social policy practitioners face in their practice. Their research focuses on interventions and policies to help address these issues at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. One important way faculty fund their work is through highly competitive grants and awards. This year our faculty (alone and with colleagues) participated in grants worth more than \$42 million dollars of support from a wide range of funders. We highlight a few examples below.

National Institute of Drug Abuse Supports Assistant Professor Tawandra Rowell-Cunsolo's Work Examining Substance Abuse



Among Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Tawandra Rowell-Cunsolo's long-term goals are to develop evidence-based interventions that address the intersection of health and the criminal legal system. Approximately 65% of individuals released from incarceration in the United States confront challenges of substance use disorders (SUDs) and the risk of drug overdose is much higher for formerly incarcerated individuals compared to the general population. To examine changes in substance use and access to treatment among this population, Professor Rowell-Cunsolo and her collaborators, recently received a \$3 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The research team will examine predictors of substance use and treatment adequacy among formerly incarcerated individuals with a history of opioid and cocaine use. Participants will be followed for a one-year period post-incarceration to determine which factors

facilitate healthier behaviors and access to treatment services and support.

Associate Professor Lauren Bishop and Colleagues Receive a \$10 Million National Institute of Health Grant to Study Autism and Aging



Although autism spectrum disorder is lifelong, it remains vastly understudied in adults. Most prior research has focused on children and adolescents. This study will be one of the largest prospective longitudinal cohort studies of autistic adults to date. "Aging and early mortality in autistic people are both exceedingly complex

and urgent issues that the field needs to address, but we don't yet know enough," says Bishop. The team hopes the study will provide insight into mechanisms underlying early and/or accelerated aging in autistic people and better understand resilience as well as aging-related changes to improve the long-term health of autistic adults.

Assistant Professor Jooyoung Kong to Study "The Life Course Approach to Caregiving for Aging Parents"



Caregiving for one's parents and family members is a growing reality for many today. While there are joys and challenges, one group that faces especially difficult choices are those adults, who, as children, faced adverse childhood experiences and are now caregiving for that parent. Professor Kong's five year,

highly competitive, National Institute of Health Mentored Research Award will support her research and additional training in this area, with the goal of developing interventions to support caregivers with complicated care situations.

SERVICE



Faculty and staff provide a wide range of service at the local, state, national, and international level. This allows sharing of their expertise while also making connections for further collaborations and relationships. A few of the many examples are below.

Tova Walsh provided pro bono expert advice and testimony on child trauma and the impact of separation on children and parent in *Esvin Fernando Arredondo Rodriguez v. United States*, a lawsuit against the United States on behalf of a Guatemalan family that was forcibly separated at the U.S.-Mexico border pursuant to the "Zero Tolerance / Family Separation" policy.

Lynette Studer is an Advisory Board Member of the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Center which provides training and technical assistance, resource and workforce development for Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Jessica Pac is evaluating a Foster Care Medical Home model that provides coordinated care for Wisconsin children who have been removed from their homes due to substantiated abuse or neglect. The evaluation, commissioned by DCF and DHS, provides insight into the promise of care coordination for Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents.

Paja Charles is on the Board of Directors, Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Inc., which oversees Wisconsin federal public defender attorneys who handle US Federal Court trials.



Audrey Conn (right) with staff member Abbey Scott at new student orientation

Audrey Conn is a member of the State of Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families Out-of-Home Care Committee which support the efforts of DCF to improve services, practice, and policies for children and families.

Marci Ybarra is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Addressing the Long-term impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Families.

Follow more updates from our faculty at socwork.wisc.edu.

BY THE NUMBERS:

474

STUDENT MAJORS

400+

AGREEMENTS WITH AGENCIES FOR STUDENT FIELD PLACEMENTS

111

COURSES DELIVERED

76

STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

5

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BA/BS SOCIAL WELFARE

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

PART-TIME MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

FULL-TIME MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

PHD SOCIAL WELFARE

2

POST-MSW OPPORTUNITIES

POST-MSW SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

POST-MSW CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

WORTH NOTING



PROFESSOR BERGER NAMED ONE OF THE TOP GLOBAL CONTRIBUTORS TO SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARSHIP

The Journal *Research in Social Work Practice* listed Professor Lonnie Berger as the 15th highest contributor to the social work journal scholarship. Lonnie is a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor and Vice Chancellor for Research in the Social Sciences. His research focuses on the ways in which economic resources, sociodemographic characteristics, and public policies affect parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing.

PROFESSOR AARON BROWER'S NEW BOOK WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Professor Brower and colleague Ryan J. Specht-Boardman's book, *New Models of Higher Education: Unbundled, Rebundled, Customized, & DIY*, received the Phillip E. Frandson Award for Literature from the University Professional & Continuing Education Association which, "recognizes the author and publisher of an outstanding work of continuing higher education literature."



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR LARA GERASSI RECEIVED THE INFLUENTIAL SCHOLAR AWARD AT THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE.

Dr. Gerassi's research aims to enhance the wellbeing of people who are involved in the sex trade, including those who have been sex trafficked, and is strongly informed by her clinical experiences with survivors of intimate partner violence and sex trafficking.



THE STATE OF WORKING WISCONSIN 2023

Every year around Labor Day, Clinical Associate Professor Laura Dresser and colleagues provide the most recent data on wages, jobs, disparities, and unions to offer a stronger understanding of what is going on in the state's labor market. See workingwi.org/ for more information.



STUDENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EACH YEAR SEVERAL OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AND HONORS FOR THEIR IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS. WE HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THOSE BELOW:

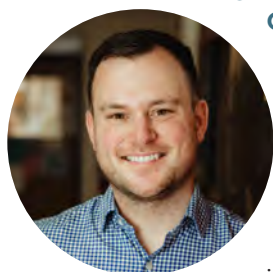


UW-MADISON UNDERGRAD JULIET CHANG RECEIVES UW-MADISON WOLF FELLOWSHIP

This impressive \$45,000 award is, "intended to support a student to pursue their passions without limits." Juliet will use it to support her year-long project to explore the Hmong diaspora in six countries and learn how those with Hmong heritage preserve their cultural practices, particularly those related to food and agriculture.

DOCTORAL STUDENT JACQUE BUCK NAMED A HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Jacque will join the Robert Woods Johnson's Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) program. Designed for doctoral students from historically marginalized backgrounds and populations, Health Policy Research Scholars help students from all fields apply their work to policies that advance equity and health while building a diverse network of leaders who reflect our changing national demographics.



OFF TO FINLAND TO STUDY CHILD WELFARE

Doctoral student Michael Hoffmeister was invited by The INVEST Flagship Research Centre at the University of Turku in Finland. He investigated the role of poverty in child welfare system involvement and outcomes for children placed in foster care comparing the involvement and outcomes for children and families in the United States.

PHD STUDENT CARO CRUYS SELECTED FOR INAUGURAL SOCIAL POLICY FELLOWSHIP

This new fellowship from CSWE, SSWR, and GADE, the three major national social work groups, emphasizes the value of connecting social work research to social policy. Caro aims to translate their research to promote policies that support and affirm all LGBTQ people, especially those involved in the foster care system.



GRADUATING SENIOR RECEIVES ONE OF UW'S OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Meg Mercy received the *Theodore Herfurth and Teddy Kubly Award* for Academic Excellence given to only two seniors, "who have made the most effective use of their time at UW-Madison." Meg graduated in May, 19 years after first beginning her studies at UW-Madison.

RECENT DOCTORAL PROGRAM GRAD, KILEY MCLEAN, PHD, RECEIVES THE ANNE RUDIGIER AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

The award recognizes Kiley's "engagement with training programs and significant contributions to the dissemination of policy and research that has the potential to increase the inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities."

TRANSITIONS

**WEIDI QIN JOINS THE FACULTY**

Weidi Qin, PhD, Case Western University, joins the faculty as an assistant professor this fall. Her interests include research on modifiable, protective, and risk factors of health behaviors among older adults with chronic disease, particularly diabetes.

Broadly, she studies the mechanism linking stressful life events, psychosocial coping resources, and health outcomes among older adults from the life course perspective.

PROFESSOR KRISTI SLACK RETIRES

Professor Slack, internationally known for her work in the field of child and family welfare, has retired after 23 years at the school. An outstanding teacher and scholar who served the school in many capacities, Kristi will be working remotely as a Senior Research Analyst at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina. Wanting to also serve the local community, Kristi was recently elected to the Madison City Council.

PROFESSOR AARON BROWER RETIRES

Dr. Brower joined the School of Social Work's faculty in 1986. An expert in educational innovations, transition to college and college success, he held several major positions at UW-Madison and UW-System. Most recently, he was the Executive Director for UW Extended Campus, and the Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at UW-System.

BOARD OF VISITORS COMPLETE TERMS

We will miss the commitment and contributions of several Board of Visitors members who have completed their terms of service. Thanks go to Daniel Burrell, Craig LeCory, Caroline Gomez-Thom, and Judy Topitzes for all they have done for the school.

JOINING THE BOARD THIS YEAR is Michael Schultz, BSW '84, a grants manager with the State of Wisconsin who previously worked in higher education development; and Denise Blackdeer Wagner, BA'94, MSSW '95, Chair of the Board for Greywolf Partners, Inc., and named one Wisconsin's Most Influential Native American Leaders.

LOSSES

We mourn the loss of several faculty members this year whose contributions to our students, their colleagues, and the profession were many.

DONALD (DON) ANDERSON passed away in March 2023.

He joined the faculty in 1976. A life-long advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Don taught introductory and advanced courses in Development Disabilities (DD). He was also the Community Outreach Coordinator at the UW-Madison's Waisman Center and founded several community agencies and community support programs for those with DD and their families. Don had an immeasurable impact on the students he taught and mentored, many of whom continue to work in the field of disabilities today.

SEVERA AUSTIN

Severa Austin passed away in August 2023. A social policy and administrative leader in Wisconsin, and long-time lecturer at school, Severa passed away in Madison. Prior to joining the school in 2000, Severa served as the Director of Planned Parenthood Wisconsin from 1986-96 and was Bureau Director at the state's Department of Health and Social Services from 1976-86. She taught our field unit in social work administration and social policy and developed Macropractice in Organizations and Administration, which is now required for all Advanced Generalist students. Severa was a great advocate and always inspired her students and colleagues to engage further in macro advocacy.

JOHN BORQUIST, passed away in January 2023 in

Madison. John had a 50-year career as a social worker and educator. Retiring after a long-time career with Dane County Human Services, he joined the faculty and taught in the child welfare area at the school for 12 years.

JOAN BURNS passed away in December 2022. She held a joint appointment in Genetics and Social Work. Joan started a joint genetics/social work counseling program which eventually became solely a genetics program. She worked in several clinics at the Waisman Center and also taught courses in the area of health at the school where she worked closely with students interested in the developmental disabilities area.

ADA DEER passed away in August 2023. Please see page 9.

VIVIAN WOOD, Professor Emerita, passed away December 2022 at age 100 in Sun City, AZ. A distinguished faculty member whose scholarship, teaching, and service were focused in the in the areas of aging and advocacy for women. Vivian's contributions were many during her years at the school and before and after. She mentored many students and was known nationally for her commitment to aging and women's issues.

What many may not know about Professor Wood was her service in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Course Reserve during WW II. When she joined in 1943 there were fewer than 200 women serving. Later, Vivian was one of the founders of the Women in the Military Organization. Honoring her 100th birthday, several months before she passed away, a military-led celebration was held in Arizona.



IN MEMORIAM ADA DEER (1935-2023) OUR 2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

Ada Deer BSW, '57, passed away in August 2023. Several months before, the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work's Board of Visitors unanimously selected Ada as the 2023 recipient of the School's Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding graduate of the school who has made significant contributions to social work, social policy, and/or the community. Ada Deer was an obvious choice given her many contributions.

Ada Deer was born in Keshena, WI as a member of the Menominee Tribe. Throughout her life she was a strong advocate for Native American rights and social justice. She was the first Menominee to earn an undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin. In 1961, she

was the first Native American to receive an MSW from the Columbia University School of Social Work. Her work on behalf of the Menominee led to the Menominee Restoration Act of 1972, which officially returned the Menominee Reservation to federally recognized status. Because of this accomplishment, Deer became the first woman to chair the Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin. Her political activism included running for Wisconsin secretary of state in 1978 and again in 1982. In 1992, she became the first Native American woman in Wisconsin to run for U.S. Congress. In 1993, Deer was appointed assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, as head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She was the first Native American woman to hold that position. While in office, she helped set federal policy for

more than 550 federally recognized tribes.

As an educator and social worker, Ada taught classes at the UW-Madison School of Social Work and, in 2000, she became director of the American Indian Studies Program. Her book, *Making a Difference: My Fight for Native American Rights and Social Justice*, was published by the University of Oklahoma Press, in 2019. Ada received countless awards and honors for her work. Following her passing, her significant contributions were noted in major news outlets nationally.

The school has established the *Ada E. Deer Social Justice Scholarship*, in her honor, which will be given to a student, who, like Ada, is committed to, and working for social justice.

OUR SOUTH KOREA CONNECTIONS

For many years the school has been fortunate to attract excellent students from South Korea who have received their MSW and PhD degrees. As alums, some stay to work in the U.S. and others return to South Korea and work in human service agencies. Meeryoung Kim MSW '92, PhD '01, a member of the school's Board of Visitors has helped keep our alums connected to the school and with each other. To the right is a photo of a recent alumni gathering in South Korea.

Several of our South Korean alumni created a scholarship for a social work graduate student this year!

L-R: Meeryoung Kim, Emeriti, Daegu University; Young Sun Joo, Myongji University; Seungmi Laura Cho, UW Ph.D student; Ok Kyung Yang, Ewha Womans University; Jeungkun Kim, Kangnam University; Hooyung Young, Vice President of United Way Worldwide in Southeast Asia, Korea and Japan



BOARD OF VISITORS MEMBERS



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Steven Tallant



Denise Blackdeer Wager



Michelle Watts

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS NOTES

Tanya Atkinson, MSSW '72, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin was the keynote speaker at NASW WI Advocate Day. Three hundred students and professionals met with most of the State assembly and senate members to advocate for programs and policies to improve the lives of clients and the community.

Michael Van Dyke, MSSW '73, was the long-time Director of Door County Social Services in Sturgeon Bay, WI. His and wife Lynn's passion is their amazing garden at their home in Sturgeon Bay.

Stanley L. Witkin, MSW '74, PhD '76, after a career in academic publishing, has published his debut novel, *Finding Lenny*, (Barringer Pub., 2022), a story about a retired social work professor coming to grips with retirement, aging, dying, and the impact of contingent events on one's life.

Margie Zutter, BA '76, recently retired as the Executive Director of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Madison, WI. Forty-six years ago, she had her social work field placement at the agency.

Michael Daley, PhD '83, received two recent national awards. In 2019 he was named a *Social Work Pioneer* by the National Association of Social Workers, and in 2022 he received the *Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education Award* from the Council on Social Education.

Edith Lewis, PhD '85, Professor Emerita at the University of Michigan, received the 2022 *Alexis J. Walker Lifetime Achievement Award*, from the Feminism and Family Science Section of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) recognizing her decades of contributions to feminist scholarship, teaching, and service.

Tresea Martinez, MSW '86, retired as the City of Madison, WI., Employee Assistance and Crisis Incident Stress Manager. A mayoral proclamation lauded her contributions.

Francis Huntley-Cooper, MSSW '94, was honored by the City of Fitchburg, WI which named its Common Council Chambers after her. In 1991 Frances became the first African American mayor elected in the state of Wisconsin. Speaking of her many achievements Governor Tony Evers said "Frances, your efforts and involvement over the years

have been instrumental in making our state a more just, inclusive, and equitable place for all of us to call home,"

Denise Blackdeer Wagner, MSW '95, was named "One of Wisconsin's Most Influential Native American Leaders." Denise, a new member of the School's Board of Visitors, is President of the Greywolf Foundation and former social worker at the VA Hospital in Madison, WI.

Nancy Saiz, MSW '02, was named a 2023 Woman of Distinction by the YWCA Madison, WI. The award recognizes Nancy's long-time commitment to addressing the systemic issues facing communities of color and lower income groups. Currently Nancy works at the City of Madison's Community Development Division.

Kamina King, MSW '09, is a Health Equity Specialist at Carolina Complete Health in Charlotte, NC.

Caroline Gomez-Tom, MSW '11, was elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Caroline, a former member of the School's Board of Visitors, works for Covering Wisconsin, organizing community partners and stakeholders to help more people find affordable health insurance coverage.

Naomi Takahashi, MSW '12, was named one of *Wisconsin's Most Influential Asian American Leaders*. She is the director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and UW Health, where she supports DEI program expansion and strategic development.



Lanikque Howard, MSW '14, PhD '18, received the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Forward Award which "acknowledges rising stars in various fields who exemplify the [Wisconsin Idea](#) through an emphasis on service, discovery, and progress. In 2020, the Biden Administration appointed her as the Director of the Office of Community Services where she provides leadership and oversight distributing

approximately \$12 billion to support a wide range of initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty..,"

Caroline Beidler, MSW '16, recently published [*Downstairs Church: Finding Hope in the Grit of Addiction and Trauma Recovery*](#). She shares her road to recovery from substance abuse and explores the problem of addiction and trauma for women today. See <https://www.carolinebeidler.com/> for more information.

Megan Gour, MSW '19, is a social worker at the pediatric adolescent transgender health clinic (PATH) at UW Health in Madison, WI

Marissa Abbott, PhD '21, is a Social Science Analyst with the Division of Children and Youth Policy at the U.S. Department of Human Services.



PATRICIA FAYE (OSCAR) HOLTAN, BS '51, passed away February 2023 in Stoughton, WI. She was a social worker for the Red Cross and a lifelong volunteer and philanthropic supporter of many non-profit organizations.

MARRIANNE JEAN CULBERTSON, BS '58, passed away in June 2023 in Madison, WI. She worked as a social worker for the state of Wisconsin.

MARGARET EISENSTADT, BS '63, passed away January 2022 in New York City. She had a 2nd career in nursing and was the founder of *Kamishibai for Kids*, utilizing this unique Japanese story telling method to develop reading and writing skills.

LUCY P. CRICHTON, BS '67, passed away in July 2022. Moving to New

Hampshire in the 1970's, Lucy's life was dedicated to making this world a better place through her social work, political activism, and her civic and spiritual engagement.

BERNARD (BERNIE) LONG, MSSW '69, passed away in July 2022. A long-time social worker at Dane County Human Services in Madison, WI, Bernie supervised many social work students.

MARCIA KORNFELD SPIRA, MSSW '73, also PhD passed away in October 2022. Marica was a well-respected clinical social worker and Professor of Social Work at Loyola University.

LORETTA MOIR THOMPSON, MSW '83, passed away November 2022. She was a child and family therapist until physical injuries led her toward

engagement with devotional writing, artwork, and home-base support of international missionaries.

SHERRILL (SHERRY) PADGETT, MSSW '84, passed away in March 2023. She was a social worker at Dane County Human Services for more than 30 years.

JUAN JOSE LOPEZ, BA '90, passed away in June 2023. A tireless advocate for underrepresented students and others, he was the first Latino to serve on the Madison, Wisconsin School Board.

DEBORAH (GARFIELD) WUNNICKE, MSSW '96, passed away in August 2023, in Madison. She worked at the Mental Health Center of Dane County before starting a private practice.

DONOR REPORT



"Thank you again for your investment in students and future leaders in the field of social work. This scholarship is an amazing opportunity and blessing that I am truly appreciative and privileged to have received." – Recent Scholarship Awardee

DONOR FUNDS ARE SPENT ON STUDENTS

Financial support from our alumni and friends enables the school to support students in so many ways and allows us to continue to ensure faculty excellence and serve our national, state, and local communities.

Most donor support goes directly to students. This includes more than 40 scholarships for nearly 80 students each year, some of which offer full tuition support and a small stipend, while smaller scholarships allow students to reduce their student loan needs or work fewer hours to support their education. We also provide funds for attending conferences, emergency needs, and indirect student support through enhanced programming outside of the classroom (e.g., special trainings, support for student-led groups).

"I am genuinely grateful for the generosity and support you show to UW-Madison and students like myself. I am committed to my education and the social work field, and I promise to utilize this financial investment you have provided to its fullest potential." –

Recent Scholarship Awardee

Other donor funds are used to support school priorities, particularly our efforts around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, such as recruitment and retention, funding the Social Workers Confronting Racial Injustice Conference, providing free trainings

and CEUs to our agency supervisors, and purchasing books for the Community Read (always on a social justice topic).

A much smaller portion of funds goes to faculty and staff for professional development, conference attendance, and research support.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP AIMS TO AID FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

Joe Wagner and Denise Blackdeer Wagner, who created the real estate firm Greywolf Partners in 2009, established a new scholarship for social work students who are first-generation students; graduates of a public high school; and/or a caregiver. Like most of the scholarships created by alumni and friends of the school, this scholarship helps recognize the outstanding work of our students and most importantly, helps them with their financial obligations and to overcome the cost of attendance. The scholarship is named in honor of Joe's parents, Bob and Melida Wagner.

Denise earned both her BA '94 and MSSW '95 from the school and is one the newest members of our Board of Visitors. She was previously named one of Wisconsin's most Influential Native American Leaders.



BREAKING NEWS: The school is proud to announce our first ever named professorship: the **Anne Wackman Oros Professorship in Social Work**. Look for updates on our website.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

*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

Send checks to:

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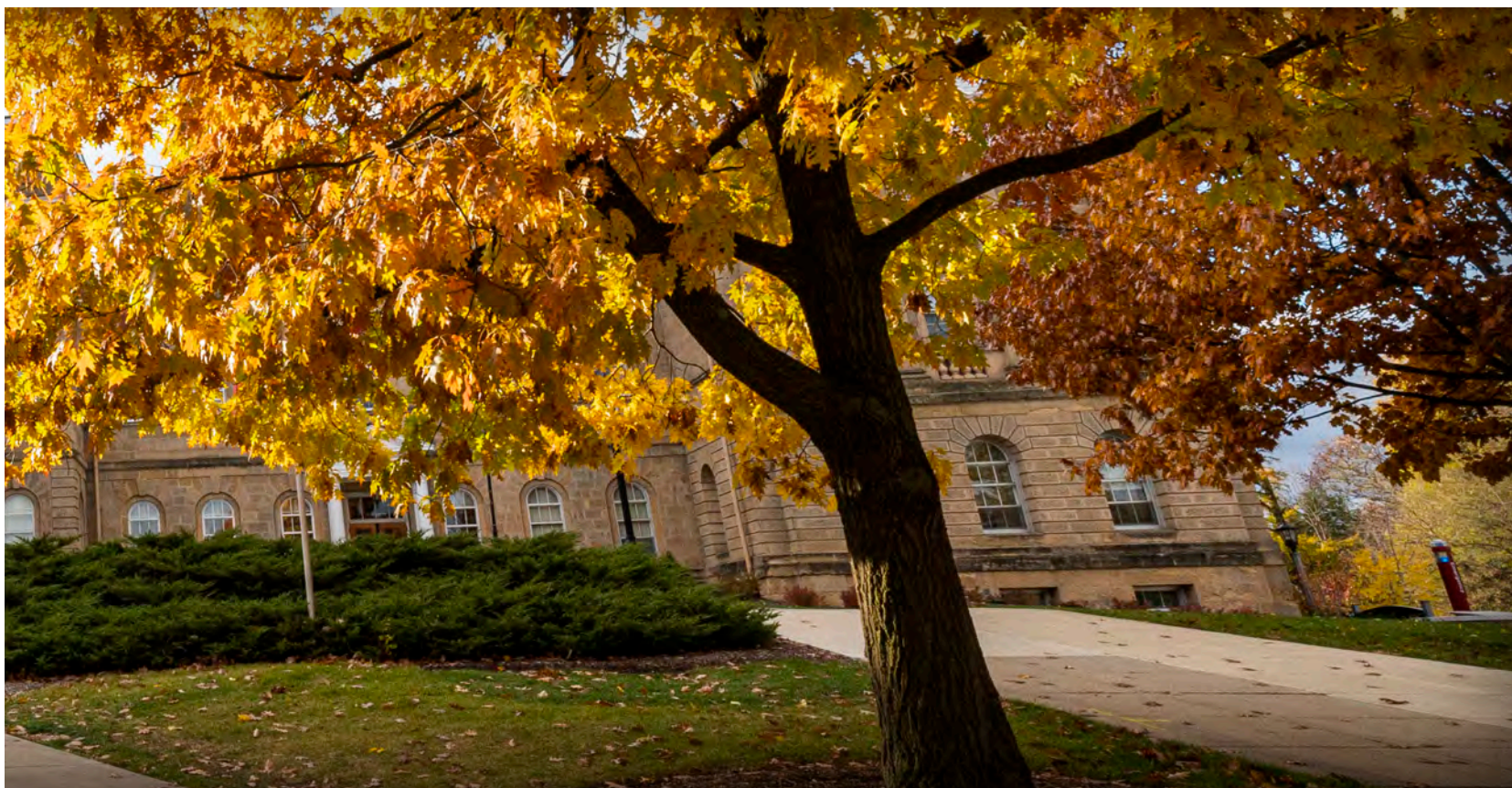
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Part-Time MSW Program

Student Spotlight: York Chow, MSW 2023

How would you describe your experience in the Part-Time MSW Program?

I really appreciate how the program has evolved to better meet the needs of their students. The hybrid model has been very accommodating to our busy schedules! I also like how students in the Part-Time Program can grow from the real-world experiences each of us bring to class.



Why did you choose the Part-Time Program?

UW-Madison offers one of the best MSW programs in the country, and the Saturday scheduling of the Part-Time Program allows me to have an excellent education while keeping my professional full-time job.

How do you think the Part-Time Program has prepared you for entering the field of social work?

One of the best aspects of the Part-Time Program for me is the opportunities I get to apply the materials I learned in class to my day-to-day experiences as a working professional. Field placement has also given me a lot of insight about the strategies start-up organizations use to develop programming. I also appreciate the different backgrounds social work instructors have that gives us a glimpse of the career paths we can have after graduation.

What would you say to someone who is considering the program?

I would tell them that the Part-Time Program is a rewarding experience for its in-depth education and the connections it has to agencies across the state. The years-long commitment to Saturday classes can be difficult, but the network of friends they would make in their cohort alone may be well worth it.

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- Focus in Children, Youth & Family Welfare or Mental Health
- Sub-focus in School Social Work, Child Welfare, Health & Aging, or Substance Use Disorders available
- Deadlines: April 1 (prior BSW) or May 1 (no BSW)
- Call at 608.263.3576 or scan the QR code for more information





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