

# communitas

a magazine from the fsu college of social work

2011-2012



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THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

# The FSU College of Social Work: A Word about Endurance, Excellence, and the Next Chapter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Communitas* – the new publication for the FSU College of Social Work. While the College has published alumni newsletters in previous years, the updated look and format of the magazine will allow us to expand our content and hopefully keep you connected in new and meaningful ways.

The College of Social Work has made some incredible strides in recent years. From the summer of 2008 through the summer of 2010, our College was one of many academic units facing major budget cuts and the possibility of being “merged” with other programs. By the fall of 2010, our College prevailed as a strong free-standing unit that received extremely laudatory internal and external reviews. We succeeded by drawing upon the collective strengths of our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the College. I hope you will enjoy and take pride in reading about a sampling of some of our “success stories,” new programs, and initiatives in this long awaited issue of our Alumni Magazine.

My commitment for the College of Social Work is to put students first, from admission to graduation. The extent that we honor that commitment will be reflected in the engagement and support of our alumni. Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to meet with alumni on numerous occasions across the state, and in some instances across the country. I have found that our graduates are doing (or have done) quite well in their careers. I have found that indeed, many of our alumni stand ready to increase their support of the College. This support comes in many forms and possibilities such as providing internships, mentoring, recruiting students, research collaboration, practice initiatives, and financial contributions. We need this support to honor two other major commitments, research and community engagement. Being a student-centered College is consistent with President Barron’s view of the University and in essence is interrelated with being a top-notch research program that is responsive to social problems. Through our active participation in the community, we have the opportunity to model the highest ethical practice and research standards possible. Again, just a brief review of some of the material that you will read in this issue of the magazine will show that we are thoroughly engaged in such areas as the plight of the elderly, domestic violence, homelessness, child welfare, and much more.

We have a commitment to the lifelong professional development of our students, and you’ll read about our new Professional Development Program in this issue. We have

a wide range of certificate programs, are offering Continuing Education workshops, and try to provide information and services relating to jobs, licensing, and other training opportunities. We are leaders in international programs and distance learning. While the College’s major collaborative research interests and accomplishments center around the broad areas of health and well-being, interpersonal violence, and social welfare, one can see a wide range of scholarship covering clinical practice, human rights, criminal justice, aging, addictions, HIV/AIDS, and much more. Adding to our two established Institutes, the Institute for Family Violence Studies and the Institute for Social Work Research, we now have the Trinity Institute for Addictions which includes an emphasis on holistic health. We have been successful in hiring highly sought after faculty members, most recently Dr. Eric Garland, Dr. Tayo Onifade, and Dr. Amy Ai, our new Associate Dean for Research.

Our student admissions have increased. While we constantly seek ways to improve our curriculum, the fact remains that we will continue to prepare our students to be some of the finest clinical social workers, administrators, researchers, educators, policymakers, community organizers, and consultants across the country. We are educating our students to become the leaders of a generation that will advance the art and science of social work. For the purpose of fundraising, academic planning, and developing a research agenda, I am often asked about my priorities for the College of Social Work. Of course, my priorities are part of a shared vision of the faculty. We want our students to be successful, our research to make a difference in improving the lives of others, and our engagement in the community to model social work values and ethics.

And so, we have not only endured but have prevailed over extraordinary challenges to our College. We have maintained the “tradition of excellence” in teaching, research, and service. And although we are one of the best Colleges of Social Work in the country, we need to carry on, improve, and expand our influence. I hope you enjoy *Communitas* and will join me and the “family” of the College of Social Work to write the next chapter in our shared story of excellence. It’s a tradition. It’s a promise.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas F. Mazza".

Nicholas F. Mazza, Ph.D.  
Dean and Patricia V. Vance Professor of Social Work



# com- muni- tas/

The Story  
Behind the Name

It's no stretch to say that the idea of combined strength is not a new one. It has been reworked and reimagined to apply to everything from raising children to saving the world.

In the College of Social Work, the story is no different.

"Social work is a shared story," said Dean Nick Mazza. "It has always been my belief that we are stronger together than we could ever be alone; not only together as a social work community, but together with the populations and individuals whom we serve."

It was this idea of combined strength and community that led the CSW to the term "communitas" when selecting a title for its new alumni magazine.

Even broadly defined, the word "communitas" can be interpreted many ways. One source describes it as, "an unstructured community in which people are equal... or (referring to) the very spirit of community." Another explains the term as, "the sense of sharing and intimacy that develops among persons who experience liminality as a group." Communitas has also been used as a representation of people coming together for the good of a community.

"We really wanted to find something that communicated the tradition of our program, as well as the fundamentals of social work," explained MSW Program Director, Craig Stanley. "*Communitas* is the perfect representation of who we are and what we believe in."

*Communitas* is the shared vision of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends; created with the purpose of strengthening the College's community.

Although the College had previously sent out newsletters (with the first issue of *Currents* in 1997, followed by *The Communicator* in 2005), severe budget cuts caused the College to temporarily suspend production of the publication. The last issue was published in spring of 2008.

"It became so apparent through talking with alumni and friends that they missed the communication from the College," said Blair Gregg, 2011 development officer for the College. "And it's been largely because of their support that we've been able to provide it again."

Nobody, but  
nobody can  
make it out  
here alone.

~ Maya Angelou

In addition to the inaugural issue of *Communitas*, the College of Social Work has plans for other communications as well. Currently, a Facebook page ([facebook.com/fsu.csw](https://facebook.com/fsu.csw)) exists to provide information on the College and University, and to connect with all of the College's constituencies from current students and alumni, to faculty and prospective students. It will continue to serve as a source of information, and as a platform to connect members of the CSW community. Brief updates will also be periodically emailed to alumni and friends of the College, which will allow for more timely notification of news and upcoming events.

And, if all that weren't enough, the College has recently launched a new website ([csw.fsu.edu](https://csw.fsu.edu)) that caters to prospective students, alumni, and friends.

"We want all of the CSW community to know how important they are to the College's vision and success," said Dean Nick Mazza. "Without them, we wouldn't be where we are today, and it is my hope that they continue to stay engaged and involved."

# PARTNERSHIP COMBATS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Karen Oehme, J.D.  
Director, Institute for Family Violence Studies

In addition to maintaining a strong focus on child welfare issues with its Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation, the Institute for Family Violence Studies has embarked on other ambitious projects over the past few years consistent with the College's mission of conducting "research that matters." One such project is The Law Enforcement Families Partnership (LEFP). The LEFP is aimed at preventing domestic violence in the homes of Florida's law enforcement and correctional officers. It is the only project of its kind in the U.S., and it has made great strides since its inception in 2008.

With collaboration from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Sheriffs' Association, the Department of Corrections, the Florida Highway Patrol, and domestic and sexual violence advocacy groups, the LEFP has many components, including an online, interactive curriculum for Florida's 75,000 certified criminal justice officers.

In early 2009, the first two modules of that curriculum — "The Dynamics of Officer-Involved Domestic Violence" and "The Consequences of Officer-Involved Domestic Violence" — were unveiled at a press conference co-sponsored by FSU, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Department of Corrections. In 2010, four other modules were added to the online curriculum, providing tools for agency administrators, information about primary and secondary victimization, and support for healthy relationships. Florida State University awarded the project an SSPEG (Social Science Program Enhancement Grant), commonly known as a Cornerstone Grant, to help build the project.

Since it went live, over 35,000 officers have taken at least one module of the training. Users have indicated nearly a 90% satisfaction rate in the curriculum. This impressive usage earned the Institute two Prudential Davis Productivity Awards in 2010 for saving taxpayer dollars. In addition, users have been completing voluntary, anonymous pre- and post-surveys designed to collect information about officers' attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about domestic violence. In 2010, the LEFP team began publishing scholarly articles on the project and began seeking ways to expand it nationally. We anticipate an unprecedented collection of data to result from the research generated by the project. This data should prove invaluable in contributing to the scholarly knowledge base and in refining the LEFP to make it even more effective in the future.

Multimedia tie-in materials, such as roll-call room posters, affirmation cards, hand sanitizer spray bottles, lanyards and pens, supplement the LEFP message that

"Preventing Violence Begins at Home," and "There is no Code of Silence and No Excuse for Domestic Violence." Thousands of anti-violence posters were mailed to every law enforcement and correctional agency in the state during the summer. The Department of Corrections alone circulated over 20,000 laminated cards that recite an officer's duty to "be a good example by keeping my

**Over 35,000  
officers have taken  
at least one module  
of the training.**

own family free of domestic violence; get help when I need it; and report suspicion of anyone committing domestic violence, including fellow officers." These materials represent an unprecedented effort to highlight the problem of officer-committed domestic violence in an attempt to save lives, careers, and public confidence in criminal

justice agencies. The Verizon Foundation recognized the value of the project and provided funds to help build the multimedia component of the project.

In addition to the online prevention curriculum, the LEFP formed a statewide committee to create Florida's Model Policy on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence. Completed in mid-2010, the policy assists individual agencies with proactively managing the risk of domestic violence by developing careful hiring and screening practices, emphasizing prevention training, developing positive relationships with community agencies that serve victims, and prioritizing victim safety. The Florida Police Benevolent Association spearheaded the efforts to circulate the Model Policy across Florida, and it has been well received statewide.

A team of outstanding former and current graduate students have worked countless hours on the LEFP project. They include Theresa Androff, Stirling Barfield, Matthew Byrge, Laura Cassels Summerlin, Ericka Garcia, Katie Gerber, Annelise Martin, Alison McLeod, Brianna Schiavoni, Zachary Summerlin, Haley VanErem, Kendra Anderson, Catherine Araszkiwicz, Hannah Nelson, Hanna Johnson, Johnathan Phillips, Anthony McDonald, Rachyl Smith, Taylor Sisson, Emily Martin, Lisa Langenderfer, Elizabeth Hausfield, and Jennifer Holmes.

# News: Professional Development

The College of Social Work has always been committed to helping students and alumni achieve success, but in July 2009 Dean Nick Mazza decided to do more.

“There was really an opportunity for the College to reach out to students, alumni and community members, and enhance their professional careers in social work,” said Mazza. “We established the Professional Development Program to provide additional resources for these groups that will ultimately help them succeed.”

Designed to accommodate all aspects of the profession, the Professional Development Program coordinates certificate programs, provides licensure verification and career information, along



with continuing education training and a job board. To lead this effort, Dean Mazza appointed faculty member Pam Graham as director. Ms. Graham is also the director of the BSW Program.

“I’m very honored and excited about this new endeavor,” said Graham. “The development of this program will allow us to promote social work through the integration of education and research, and give our participants an edge in this competitive job market.”

One of the largest resources of the Professional Development Program is the comprehensive website that houses information about all the services offered. At present, seven certificate programs are available in Arts and Community

Practice, Gerontology Studies, Child Welfare Practice, Disaster Recovery, Culturally Sensitive Case Management, Family Social Work Practice and Leadership in Executive and Administrative Development (L.E.A.D). In addition, the website provides an online CEU course, “What Social Service Providers Should Know about Domestic Violence,” and a constantly updated job board. Launched in April 2011, the site was created through a partnership with the Center for Professional Development and lives within the College of Social Work site ([csw.fsu.edu](http://csw.fsu.edu)).

Graham also has a goal for the Professional Development Program to host regional CEU events throughout the year. The first event of this kind, or “Link and Learn” as they’ve been coined, took place on March 24, 2011 in Gainesville, FL and was very well received. Nearly fifty attendees participated

in the course, “So You Think You Are an Effective Clinician? Prove It!” presented by faculty member Craig Stanley, and enjoyed the “Alumni and Friends Reception” that followed.

“It’s a win-win for everyone,” explained Graham. “We’re bringing valuable training to students, alumni and community members who need and want it, and the College has the opportunity to make connections with social work professionals around the state. Because we want to be an asset, the nominal fee for CEU courses will be fed back into the program so we can continue hosting the “Link and Learn” events, and gradually increase the number we’re having each year.”

Visit the CSW website and click “Professional Development” for more information, or contact Director Pam Graham at [pgraham@fsu.edu](mailto:pgraham@fsu.edu).

**“It’s a win-win for everyone.”**

## Faculty News and Awards

**Dr. Neil Abell** was appointed a member of the CSWE Council on Global Learning, Research, and Practice.

**Ms. Margaret Ashmore** and **Dr. Stephen Tripodi** were awarded with 2010-2011 University Undergraduate Teaching Awards.

**Dr. Eric Garland** was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Fahs-Beck Fund for Experimentation and \$17,000 in intramural awards from FSU for a clinical research study entitled: *Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement for Chronic Pain Patients Receiving Opioid Therapy: Exploration of Cognitive, Affective, and Physiological Mechanisms*. The purpose of this study, which is currently underway and accepting new participants, is to examine the efficacy of an innovative, mindfulness-based treatment for chronic pain and prescription opioid-related problems.

**Ms. Pam Graham** secured a total of \$561,051 in grant funding from the Department of Children and Families through 2014, in addition to \$10,766 from Big Bend Community Based Care.

**Dean Nicholas Mazza** presented, *Poetry Therapy: Enhancing the Quality of Human Experience and Expanding Consciousness through Language, Symbol, and Story*, at the 119th American Psychological Association Annual Convention, August 4, 2011, in Washington, DC.

**Ms. Karen Oehme**, Director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies, was awarded “*The Distinguished University Scholar Award*” from the Council on Research and Creative Activity for her work on domestic violence issues.

**Dr. Martell Teasley** won the *Gary Lee Shaffer Award for Academic Contributions to the Field of School Social Work Award*, given by the School Social Work Association of America.

**Dr. Stephen Tripodi** was an invited presenter for the conference, “Pink Crime: Women, Crime and Punishment,” at the Ariel University Centre of Samaria, Department of Criminology and Netanya Academic College School of Law. His presentation, *Incarcerated Women in the United States: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Victimization*, was funded by The Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research.

**Dr. Eric Garland** came to FSU in 2010 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to that, he worked as an LCSW psychotherapist and clinical supervisor at a wilderness therapy program near Asheville, NC. He has over eleven years of clinical experience working in mental health and integrative medicine settings. He has been trained in the conduct of clinical research through a fellowship from the National Institutes of Health. Recently, he was awarded the Society for Social Work and Research's "Outstanding Dissertation Award" for conducting a randomized controlled trial of a mindfulness-oriented cognitive intervention that he developed to treat alcohol dependent adults. His research is focused on developing new interventions for stress-related conditions (like addiction and chronic pain) based on findings from the leading edge of cognitive and affective neuroscience. Currently he is teaching Theories & Models of Social Work Practice, as well as Cognitive Behavioral Social Work Practice, a course that he designed to make good use of the new interview/observation suite at the College of Social Work. In this course, his students practice cognitive-behavior therapy techniques behind a one-way mirror through which he observes them and gives them real-time feedback via a Bluetooth headset. This course provides excellent clinical training to our students.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Eytayo Onifade** joined the College of Social Work at Florida State University in fall 2010. Dr. Onifade has experience as a victim-witness advocate, juvenile probation officer, and policy analyst/evaluator for child welfare and juvenile justice systems. He earned his MSW from the University of Georgia, where he also worked with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government as an analyst. Dr. Onifade completed his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in the field of Ecological-Community Psychology. His research has since focused on informal and formal community responses to crime and social injustice. He currently teaches in the policy sequence of the social policy and administration track. He is the principal investigator of a National Science Foundation funded community-based longitudinal study incorporating neighborhood criminogenic factors in delinquency prediction models. The project also entails resource mapping of the community and exploring the role that proximity of resources and services have in encouraging or discouraging juvenile delinquency. The findings of this study are being used to inform community development and juvenile justice policy in the county of interest.



# Legacy

## Remembering David Levine (1919 – 2011)

Former FSU College of Social Work professor David L. Levine was an educator and a social worker, but he thought of himself primarily as a social work educator. He died peacefully on June 14, 2011 at UniHealth Post-Acute Care - Athens Heritage in Athens, Georgia, at the age of 91. He was a proud graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx, NY, winner of the New York Times Essay Contest on the United States Constitution in 1937, and graduated from the City College of New York in 1941.

He received his master of social work from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943 and his doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1953. David began his academic career as a professor at Florida State University (1953-1967), followed by two years as associate dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Syracuse (1967-1969), and then as a professor at the University of Georgia School of Social Work (1969-1994).

David was active in each community in which he lived and served on the board of directors of the mental health centers in Leon County, Florida; and Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. He was an appointee to the Georgia Council on Aging, the advisory body to the state on aging issues, from 1987 until the time of his death. He was a founding board member of the Athens Community Council on Aging and was named Honorary Director, a lifetime position, in 2000. He was proclaimed the Distinguished Older Georgian for 2009 by resolutions of the Georgia General Assembly and the Georgia State Senate. He was named Georgia Champion for Aging by the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging in 2010. He participated in the White House Conference on Aging for three decades and received countless awards from various professional groups reflecting his tireless commitment to advocacy for those who could not advocate for themselves.

David was pre-deceased by his wife Laura (nee Kaplan) in 2006 and is survived by his daughters Deborah L. Davis of Philadelphia, PA, and her spouse Tad and their children Sarah and Ben; Elizabeth Levine of Decatur, GA and her spouse Ann Baker; Helen Levine of St. Petersburg, FL and her spouse Katee Tully; and his son Edwin, of Athens, GA and his spouse Mary Anne McGuire; and long-time family friends Dottie Pettes and Charlon Seegar.

He was an active and dedicated member of the National Association of Social Workers and was serving on the Georgia NASW Ethics Committee at his death. Hundreds of his former students throughout the country, and particularly in the southeast, passionately carry on his legacy.



# STUDENTS: STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## BSW Student



Emily Cunningham, a junior at FSU's College of Social Work, is originally from New Jersey and graduated from high school in Tampa, Florida. With an interest in creative play therapy, she plans to pursue an MSW after completing her undergraduate degree.

Emily has volunteered with several organizations, but she recently had the opportunity to take on a leadership role when a friend asked her to coordinate a volunteer project to raise awareness of homelessness in Tallahassee. In their project, titled, "Conversation Pieces: Socially Engaged Art," they conducted a series of art sessions for the children and adult residents of a local transitional housing community called HOPE. Their goals

included introducing fun activities, teaching art techniques and expression through art, building a sense of community and a sense of empowerment for the participants. With help from the Art Therapy Association from FSU, they collaborated to create a different art project for each session.

The artwork was then showcased at a special event on the FSU campus. Stephanie Beckingham, director of the HOPE community, helped attendees better understand homelessness by discussing the common aspects of humanity that connects everyone. The project was intended to motivate observers to think about homelessness in their daily lives and to take action to support the homeless community. The entire project was made possible through a grant from StudentServ and the collaborative efforts of several organizations and individuals. Emily and her friend hope to make the project an annual event.

## MSW Student



John Sheetz first came to FSU to pursue Bachelor's degrees in international affairs and in hospitality administration after receiving the Palm Beach and Martin County Pathfinder Award in Community Involvement in 1999. As an undergraduate, he was programming chair for the

Service Corps Student Government Board. He also raced with the intercollegiate sailing team. When he graduated in 2003, he went to Italy where he taught English and then worked as a deck hand on a private yacht. Upon his return to the U.S, he worked as an adventure guide for youth in the Florida Keys, and a dining room manager in the historic Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park.

In 2005, John entered the Peace Corps in Ukraine. For two years he served as a Youth Development Volunteer, developing programming to teach civics, health, ecology, and economics through classroom sessions, after-school programs, and the Ukrainian Scouts. After completing his service, John became a trip leader for the adventure travel company Backroads, while continuing to develop programming for a Ukrainian boys' orphanage. He spent three years living in Italy, the Czech Republic and Ukraine, while working on these two projects. To complement his work experience abroad and gain clinical skills and a perspective on American policy, John returned to FSU in 2010 to begin work on an MSW degree. He will study with the FSU social work program in Prague during the summer, and plans to bike with Backroads on a trip from Prague to Vienna.

## Ph.D. Student



Jane McPherson is a second-year doctoral student focusing on the intersection between human rights and social work practice, with a particular interest in the needs of women who have survived state violence. With support from FSU's Center for the

Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR), Jane spent the summer of 2010 working with African survivors of torture at the Torture Abolition and Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC) in Washington, DC.

This year, Jane has continued her work with TASSC by initiating a clinical placement at the agency and supervising one of FSU's MSW students who is currently working there. With further support from CAHR, Jane will spend a summer in Brazil, to research the treatment resources available to torture survivors among refugee and native Brazilian populations.

Jane holds an MSW and MPH from Columbia University. She is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) with almost twenty years of experience in the field. Motherhood, trauma, and the special treatment needs of women have been her areas of clinical specialization. Jane's work is both global and local in scope, extending from rural Florida to New York City, Egypt, and Brazil. She can work in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Since coming to Tallahassee in 2000 (and before returning to graduate school), she coordinated Healthy Start's regional infant-mortality prevention program, provided perinatal bereavement training to outreach workers across the state of Florida, and implemented an infant mental-health program at Gadsden County Health Department. Jane lives in Tallahassee with her husband, novelist Jon Jefferson ([www.jeffersonbass.com](http://www.jeffersonbass.com)), and two teenaged children.





# DEVELOPMENT

## A Message from Development

Since Development Officer Blair Gregg joined the College of Social Work in June 2010, she has had the pleasure of meeting with many alumni and friends, and has remarked upon how touched she has been by their leadership and generosity. As of December 2011, Blair resigned from her position at the College to pursue an opportunity to advance her career interests in marketing and communications with an integrated marketing firm in Tallahassee. Although the parting is bittersweet, Blair's impact was profound and the College will continue to benefit from her dedication and exemplary standards of excellence. Blair, a loyal FSU Seminole, will still be involved with the College and University in other capacities.

As a College, there is truly much to be proud of, and Blair would wish us to remember that much of that success is due to the individuals and families whose personal philanthropy supports the College in the form of student scholarships, community outreach, faculty awards, annual giving, and many others. Sincere thanks to all of those who continue to support the College's tradition of excellence in social work education.

During a time when we are all, "doing more with less," it is especially meaningful to see people doing what they can to give back. Recent state funding cuts have affected Florida State as a whole, making support from alumni and friends even more vital for our continued success. Even the smallest gesture makes a difference, not only to the student or program that benefits, but as a message of confidence to the College and your vision of the future.

For questions regarding giving opportunities and how you can help the College of Social Work, visit [csw.fsu.edu/give-online](http://csw.fsu.edu/give-online).

FSU Foundation  
[one.fsu.edu](http://one.fsu.edu)

## Development News

- Dr. Diana DiNitto established the Mary DiNitto Endowed Scholarship in honor of her mother's 90th birthday. This generous gift will provide support to students in the College of Social Work with strong interests in the profession and creative ideas for practice broadly defined. Preference will be given to students who exhibit financial need. An alumna and former faculty member of the College, Dr. DiNitto is the Cullen Trust Centennial Professor in Alcohol Studies and Education and Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work.
- The College of Social Work received an additional gift to the Herndon Scholars Program, sponsored by the Helios Education Foundation. Tom Herndon, a CSW alumnus and Leadership Council Member, has graciously directed these funds to be used for student scholarships.
- International Programs within the College of Social Work recently benefitted from a gift from the Robert P. Hurrle Trust, to be used for student travel stipends.
- Jim and Kitty Ball established a generous bequest that will benefit the Coyle and Mabel Moore Scholarship in the College of Social Work.

## Alumni: Profile



### KATIE GERBER

Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire—these are just a few of the African nations Katie Gerber has traveled to over the past year in her work with refugees. Katie works for a Resettlement Support Center (RSC) in Nairobi, Kenya, to prepare refugees and their families for adjudication by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for resettlement to the United States. Resettlement is a vital tool for providing international protection to vulnerable, persecuted people, and the United States is the largest resettlement country in the world, receiving more than half of all refugees resettled worldwide. Katie works as a Field Team Leader, directing RSC missions throughout Africa to help resolve the plight of refugees on behalf of the American government.

Katie and RSC teams travel to remote and urban areas to reach refugees of various ethnic, cultural, religious, political and social backgrounds. Applicants for resettlement to the United States include—among many others—unaccompanied minors, families, victims of violence and torture, individuals with serious medical conditions, and individuals with high profile security risks. RSC teams work closely with international aid organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to accomplish their work.

Katie graduated from FSU in the fall of 2008, receiving a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration. Her work in both fields focused on the “quality of mercy” of U.S. refugee policy. Her education at FSU and within the College of Social Work has enabled herself, and others, to explore the world.



### ROSENTHAL NAMED TO WHITE HOUSE POSITION

Lynn Rosenthal, a 1980 alumna of the College of Social Work, was appointed in June 2009 as the new White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. Ms. Rosenthal, one of the nation's foremost experts in domestic violence policy, is a former executive director of Refuge House in Tallahassee and past director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. For six years (2000-2006), she served in Washington, DC as executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

In the newly created position at the White House, Ms. Rosenthal serves as advisor to the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

College of Social Work professor emerita, Sharon Maxwell Ferguson writes, “I am honored to have known Lynn for well over twenty years from her work in women's health care in Florida, and later in domestic violence. As the president of the board of Refuge House, I interviewed and hired Lynn to be the executive director. She was an outstanding director and statewide spokesperson for the needs of survivors of domestic violence, and a tireless advocate. To me, Lynn epitomizes what it means to be a social worker: an advocate, a policy analyst, an organizer and an effective human services administrator.”

## Alumni: Updates

### 2010

Alison Frances Hood, MSW, is program director for the Space Coast Center for Mothers with Children in Melbourne, Florida.

Tasha A. Jackson, MSW, is a sexual abuse treatment team therapist with the Children's Advocacy Center in Panama City, Florida.

### 2009

Melissa Ashton, MSW, is an Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the Victim Advocate Program at FSU. She previously worked as a victim advocate at the State Attorney's Office, primarily with domestic violence and sexual assault victims, and as a victim compensation claims analyst at the Attorney General's Office.

Jane Ellen Davis, MSW, is a family care assessment specialist at COPE Center in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Vanicki C. Fleming-Harrell, MSW, is an academic coach at the Center for Success Coaching at FSU, Tallahassee.

Megan McCarthy, MSW, is a social worker at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Angela Nicole McHenry, MSW, is an elderly clinician at Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources in Ellisville, Mississippi.

Amanda Waller, MSW, is a medical social worker at Treasure Coast Hospice in Stuart, Florida.

### 2008

Ellen David, MSW, is a clinical social worker at Columbus AFB in Columbus, Mississippi.

Kelly Hauck, BSW, is a social worker at Community Hospital in New Port Richey, Florida.

Stephanie Grace Prost, MSW, is an MST therapist at Eckerd Youth Alternatives in Tallahassee, offering multisystemic (ecosystems) approach to aiding youth on probation.

Gail D. Stafford, MSW, is a compliance officer in the Governor's Energy Office in Tallahassee, providing oversight of their grant funds.

### 2007

Kathleen Irene Branch, MSW, is a diversion investigator for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Tucson, Arizona.

Ayaana K. Johnson, BSW, is a therapist/counselor for a private agency in Covington, Georgia.

Sarah Wilson Rode, MSW, is a program specialist for the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida in Tallahassee.

Christine K. Thompson, MSW/MPA, is an evaluator for the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida in Tallahassee and a doctoral student in public administration at FSU.

### 2006

Brandy Carlson, MSW, is a prevention & social change initiatives coordinator for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Tallahassee.

Megan Levkulich Griffith, MSW, is a prevention educator/victim advocate for Lakeview Center in Pensacola, Florida.

Sarah Parker Whiddon, MSW, is a clinical supervisor/therapist at Apalachee Center in Tallahassee.

### 2005

Joanna Arrington, MSW, is a research analyst for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Caryl M. Brady, MSW, is a clinical social worker at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

## 2004

Stephanie Shepherd Beckingham, MSW, is director of HOPE Community, a transitional housing program of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition in Tallahassee.

Elizabeth Ann Bishop Mitchell, BSW, is a school social worker for the Hamilton Country Health Department in Jasper, Florida.

## 2003

Susan Kicklighter, MSW, is a school social worker retired from the Volusia County Schools, and currently working with “at risk” high school students at Richard Milburn Academy in Daytona Beach, Florida.

## 2002

Kelly L. Barry, MSW, is a psychiatric social worker at Glens Falls Hospital in Glens Falls, New York.

Jerry D. Callens, MSW, is executive director of Christian Family Services, Inc., a licensed child placement agency in Gainesville, Florida which provides counseling & support for women with unplanned pregnancies.

## 2001

Allison Breland Crotwell, MSW, is director of communications for the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Janice Postlewaite, MSW, is a federal recovery coordinator with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tampa, Florida, providing coordination of care and services to severely injured OEF/OIF service members and veterans.

## 2000

Kendra Fiorentino Wiley, MSW, is an outpatient dialysis social worker at Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Lynn Cash Umberger (Eason), MSW, is a social services specialist for the State of Georgia in Thomson, Georgia.

## 1999

Erica R. Dickey, MSW, is a clinical social worker at Asthma and Allergy Specialists, PA in Charlotte, North Carolina, working with pediatric patients who have been diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis.

Melissa Dawn Blaylock Eifling, MSW, is a social worker at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson Mississippi.

## 1998

Carolyn Friday, MSW, is a licensed nursing home administrator for Archbold Hospital/ Glenn-Mor Nursing Home in Thomasville, Georgia.

Evelyn James, MSW, is a transitions coordinator at Haven Hospice in Gainesville, Florida.

Jennifer Bishop Steinmeier, MSW, is a licensed clinical social worker for the Veterans Administration in Crestview, Florida.

## 1997

Mishele L. Hart Lambert, MSW, is an LCSW providing psychotherapy in private practice in Jacksonville, Florida.

David Myhre, MSW, is a school social worker at Unity Sunshine Preschool in Albany, New York.

Ilka Couto Regino, MSW/MPA, is director of communications for the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C.

## 1994

Peter L. Lembo, MSW, is a school social worker for the School District of Indian River County in Vero Beach, Florida, and in private practice with the elderly.

Patricia Perry Parker, MSW, is a social worker for the School District of Escambia County in Pensacola, Florida.

## 1993

Mildred “Midge” N. Mercer, MSW, is a medical social worker at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Home Health Care in Tallahassee.

## 1992

Monique Brozyna, MSW, is a social worker at Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Fanita Jackson, MSW, is OEF/OIF program manager at Orlando VA Medical Center, working with returning veterans and military personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Carol Preston, MSW, is a chief Legislative analyst for the Florida Senate in Tallahassee.

Barbara J. Younger, MSW, is a social worker at Fresenius Medical Care in St. Augustine, Florida.

## 1991

Marlene McLeod McCulley, BSW, is an ESE social worker for Escambia County School District in Pensacola, Florida.

Cynthia Simmons-Turner, MSW, is a school social worker for the DeKalb County School System in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

## 1989

Cecily Hardin, MSW, is a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders coordinator at Child Guidance Center in Jacksonville, Florida.

## 1987

Kia Jean Bentley, Ph.D., is a professor and director of the Ph.D. program in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

## 1985

Sharon Shephard Crabtree, MSW, is a school social worker for Marion County Public Schools in Ocala, Florida.

## 1980

Vicki Suzanne (Smith) Klein, MSW, is a LCSW in private practice in Sarasota, Florida.

Lynn Rosenthal, BSW, was appointed as the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women in June 2009. One of the nation’s foremost experts in domestic violence policy, a former executive director of Refuge House in Tallahassee and past director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Ms. Rosenthal serves as advisor to the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

## 1979

Marilyn (Brookby) Hackley Cromer, MSW, is a bereavement/volunteer services manager for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care in Melbourne, Florida.

Sherry Irene Jordan Johnson, MSW, is a counseling & advocacy program supervisor at Naval Air Station in Lemoore, California.

## 1978

Kathy Bridges Hayes, MSW, BSW ’76, is executive director of the Center for Behavioral Health at Winter Haven Hospital in Winter Haven, Florida.

John C. Waferling, MSW, is a consultant to mental health & chemical dependency inpatient, residential rehab, outpatient partial hospitalization, and chemical dependency-intensive outpatient programs in Montrose, California.

## 1977

Raymond D. McCoy, Jr., MSW, is a school social worker with Virginia Beach City Public Schools in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Pamela Michele Sugg, BSW, received an MSW from Boston University in 1986 and has been a self-employed clinical social worker/certified sex therapist in private practice for ten years, following 18 years

at Yale Psychiatric Institute. She is President-Elect of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists 2010-2012.

## 1976

Barbara A. White, MSW, provides training, consultation, and technical support on infant mental health, quality child care, and programs serving teen parents and their children for the FSU Center for Prevention.

## 1975

Susan Kaye Quinn, MSW, is retired in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

## 1973

Nancy Francisco Stewart, MSW, is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at the Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. Dr. Stewart, who teaches civic engagement, health care, poverty and community development in the BSW program, received the Dean’s Service Award for the College of Arts and Sciences in May 2010 and the “Best Practices” Community Resource Identification Award of the American Cancer Society, Mid South Division, in February 2009.

## 1972

Annie B. Brooks, MSW, is a recovery coordinator at Veteran’s Hospital in Lake City, Florida.

## 1971

Dorothea Heinisch Geuthner, MSW, who retired as professor at Lutheran University of Applied Sciences in Nuernberg, Germany, coaches parishes in organizing work with seniors.

## 1970

Joe L. Pickens, MSW, is executive director of the Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism in Jackson, Tennessee.

## 1967

William Lloyd Garrison, MSW, a non-profit administrator in Cleveland, Ohio, received the Boy Scouts of America’s (BSA) highest commendation, the Silver Buffalo Award for Distinguished Service to Youth. The honor which is reserved for those who give extraordinary service to the nation’s young people was presented to Mr. Garrison for his volunteer service to the Scouting organization.

D. Ann Johnson Reuschel, MSW, is a constituents’ service rep for U.S. Congressman Phil Roe in Morristown, Tennessee.

## 1959

Sandra Fletcher Genetin, B.S. social work, who retired from Strozier Library at FSU in 2004, participates in activities with her church, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Colonial Dames.

## 1957

Barbara Ann Trayer Michael, B.S. social work, is coordinator of pastoral care at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Clearwater, Florida.



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