

COMMUNITAS

Florida State University College of Social Work

2023–2024



FEATURE

- 04 DEAN SPRINGER
- 06 CHILD WELFARE LEADERSHIP

RESEARCH

- 05 NEW FACULTY
- 11 FACULTY RESEARCH

STUDENTS

- 14 PHD RESEARCH
- 15 STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNI

- 19 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARDS
- 24 ALUMNI UPDATES

CONTENTS



- 03** A Message from the Dean
- 04** Get to Know Dean Springer
- 05** Welcome New Faculty
- 06** Florida Leaders in Child Welfare
- 09** Strengths-Based Approaches in a Risk Based World
Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children
- 10** The Four R's of Emotion
Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children
- 11** Faculty Research
- 12** Trainings for Child Welfare Professionals
Institute for Family Violence Studies
- 13** 40 Years Supporting Florida Families
FSU Multidisciplinary Center
- 14** Co-Parenting Programs for Families Involved in the Criminal Justice System
Institute for Justice Research and Development
- 15** Student Highlights
- 18** Color the College
- 19** Scholarships & Awards Dinner
- 20** Photo Timeline
- 22** #FSUCSW by the Numbers
- 23** Development Update
FSU Launches Florida State Initiative GradWorld
Why Give Back?
- 24** Alumni Updates
- 26** In Memoriam
- 27** Friends of the College of Social Work



Florida State University
College of Social Work
296 Champions Way
University Center, Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570

csw.fsu.edu

(850) 644-4751 (Main Phone)

(800) 378-9550 (Toll Free)

Lauren Antista, Editor In Chief

Naomi Molina, Cathy Nipper, Jennifer Farinella, Shannon Shannon, Editors

University Communications
Creative Services, Design

Cover Photo by Bill Lax, FSU Photography Services



#fsucsw

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

FULL CIRCLE: MY ROAD BACK TO FSU



Rolling into Tallahassee this July, car loaded to the brim with personal belongings and my wife Sunny by my side, the familiar scenery of the canopy of trees brought me back to a similar drive I made on my own 35 years ago. As a first-generation college student, I drove my 1974 VW Bug into town, excited to move into Cawthon Hall with other transfer students from my hometown of Rockledge, Florida.

After completing all three of my degrees at FSU, culminating in my doctorate from the College of Social Work in 1997, I felt like I was leaving my true "home" when I headed west on I-10 toward Austin, Texas to accept my first faculty position at UT Austin. While my years in Austin represented not only my professional development as a social worker, professor, and community builder, they shaped other important elements of a full life as a father. Together, with my wife Sunny, we have four adult

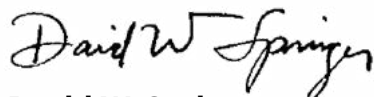
children. With all four at various stages of independence, this season of life felt like a time to serve that has called us both to return to a town and a university that is dear to my heart. Home.

The reception and welcome into this new position as Dean of the College of Social Work has been nothing short of warm and energizing. I am honored to be appointed the inaugural Guy and Delores Spearman Professor of Social Work - a professorship established by long-standing and committed donors of the College. I am eager to reconnect with the social work community, and I am equally committed to forging new connections and strengthening support for our work in the years ahead.

While the road of life has led me back to Tallahassee, there are diverse roads that social workers travel on their journey. In this issue of *Communitas*, we shine a light on the path being paved by our institutes and centers housed in the college to advance child welfare and the needs of children and families through practice, policy, research and education.

We are on this road together.

Serve On!



David W. Springer

Dean of the College of Social Work

Guy & Delores Spearman Professor of Social Work



A SPECIAL THANKS TO DR. CRAIG STANLEY

I extend my warm gratitude to Craig Stanley for his service as Interim Dean, with compassion and care for our social work community. I am grateful for how Craig has helped me navigate my transition with a calming grace and presence. He is an impactful leader and beloved colleague. We wish him well in his new position as director of strategic initiatives in the FSU Office of Faculty Development and Advancement.



Brian Rowland, Cheryl Rowland, Jeff Stoops, Aggie Stoops, Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Craig Stanley, Glenn Stanley, Colette Podgorski

GET TO KNOW DEAN SPRINGER



FOCUSING ON LEADERSHIP & CONNECTION

Get to know Dr. Springer as he steps into a leadership role as dean of the College of Social Work, his higher education alma mater.

What drew you to earning your social work degrees and the profession?

In elementary school growing up along the east coast of Florida, when I ran for class president and later served as a leader in my youth group at church, I was drawn to serving others. I loved having deep conversations with my friends. As the oldest son of two living in a single mother run household, I had first-hand experience and a close-up view of real-life hardships and how those impact families, including my own.

When I entered college as a first-generation student, I felt naturally drawn to the helping professions. I majored in Psychology as an undergraduate at FSU. During my senior year, I began to look at social work as a professional path and met with faculty at the then FSU School of Social Work. Through their guidance and mentoring, I realized it was a good fit to pursue my masters in social work. The MSW was the degree that afforded me the knowledge and the skills to follow a professional calling that was meaningful and impactful.

My years at FSU shaped who I am as a person. My friends from college are those that I count among my closest. One of my college roommates is the godfather to my son and I keep in touch with the same crew that walked my dorm halls and paths here in Tallahassee to this day.

How does it feel to be back at FSU in a leadership role?

I arrived in Tallahassee as an incoming transfer student 35 years ago. FSU has grown and changed over the three decades that I've been away. While it shaped me as a young man, the shape of FSU has since transformed. As FSU has evolved, I too have grown and changed and expanded and I'm really excited about this opportunity to come together. It feels like the right fit at the right time in this season of my career and life, and I'm energized by it.

What is the leadership philosophy that you utilize?

I believe that we lead from where we are to impact those within our sphere of influence, and that we all have the capacity to lead. In keeping with this ethos, over the years I have developed and crystallized a philosophy of leadership - entitled Authentic, Compassionate, Empowering, and Servant (ACES) Leadership - that is my guiding North Star. I am grateful for the caring mentors and inspiring leaders that have helped shape my philosophy of leadership.

I believe that we must navigate ambiguity with strength and compassion. This is amplified when we actively cultivate a diverse and inclusive community that embraces innovation. As social workers, we have a critical role to play in promoting a civil society, which I see as the story of ordinary people living extraordinary lives through their relationships with one another, driven forward by a vision of the world that is ruled by love and compassion, justice, and solidarity.

What do the next few months look like for you as the Dean?

I am eager to meet with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the College to listen to their stories, and to get to know everyone, individually and collectively. Together, we will build upon the amazing momentum for the future of the College - one in which every individual has an opportunity to lean into their own strengths and passion to advance our mission and the profession of social work.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Qiuchang (Katy) Cao Assistant Professor

Dr. Cao is a scholar dedicated to improving the lives of diverse older adults. "I am driven by my desire to improve social inclusion, mental health and health for older adults, especially among racial/ethnic minorities and immigrant/refugee populations. I am interested in integrating an aging lens into social work curricula to prepare future social work practitioners and scholars for developing and implementing evidence-based interventions supporting older populations."

Erika Cuffy Assistant Teaching Professor

Professor Cuffy is a child welfare professional, first-generation Cuban-American and FSU graduate (MSW, 2015). Working in a variety of positions across the state of Florida, she brings a wealth of experience in child welfare, school social work and as an instructor at Southern University her undergraduate alma mater. "Being an alumni of the College of Social Work at Florida State made it an easy decision to come back and teach for the institution that shaped me as a social worker," she related.



Lisa Jackson Assistant Teaching Professor

Professor Jackson's interest and experiences in child welfare are deeply rooted at Florida State. She has worked with the Unconquered Scholars Program at the FSU Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement since 2015 when pursuing her MSW degree (2015). As an instructor she brings a wealth of knowledge helping students experiencing foster/relative care, homelessness and ward of the State status navigate higher education. "FSU is my academic home, so I could not be happier that it worked out this way. I love this campus and the students."

John Moore Assistant Professor

Dr. Moore's research aids individuals and families impacted by substance use and misuse. "I am deeply interested in identifying factors that could promote long-term substance use recovery. There are multiple pathways to recovery, and I developed a strong desire to investigate the pathways to recovery for populations that face clinical and socioeconomic barriers."



Gashaye Tefera Assistant Professor

Dr. Tefera is an international social worker whose scholarly work addresses concerns of immigrant, refugee and indigenous populations, focusing on underserved women and older adults. "Social justice is central to my research agenda. My research is informed by intersectionality, decolonization and indigenization frameworks to bring marginalized and Global South perspectives to the forefront and to contribute to sustainable change."



Photo: Dr. Lisa Magruder and Shevaun Harris

FLORIDA LEADERS IN CHILD WELFARE LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS

In May, the Florida Institute of Child Welfare's annual symposium, leaders from the institute met with Shevaun Harris, secretary for the Florida Department of Children and Families. The 2023 symposium's theme focused on Leadership at All Levels. Dr. Lisa Magruder, the institute's new director, former-director Dr. Jessica Pryce and Secretary Harris discussed their journey to their leadership roles in child welfare as well as the relationship between the institute and the Department. All three of them are graduates of the FSU College of Social Work. Secretary Harris earned her MSW in 2004, Dr. Magruder earned her MSW in 2011 and Dr. Pryce earned her MSW in 2009.

The dialogue touched on several important questions related to the Department and institute's shared mission to improve the outcomes of Florida families and children involved in the child welfare system alongside the goal to continuously support child welfare professionals.

How did you find your way into the field of child welfare and your current leadership role?

Secretary Harris: During my time in the social work program, I was working on my MSW and I remember volunteering as a monitor at a supervised visitation center. That was like my first real introduction to child welfare way back then. As I progressed through my career, I feel like most of the positions I've had working with vulnerable populations have helped prepared me for my work in child welfare. All along the way, I've been tapped into child welfare working with these populations, as they are all interrelated. It's all been a culmination up to this point.



SHEVAUN HARRIS
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



DR. LISA MAGRUDER
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF
CHILD WELFARE



DR. JESSICA PRYCE
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF
CHILD WELFARE

Dr. Pryce: I took an elective course, death and dying, because I didn't know what I would do with my criminology and sociology degree. The person who taught it was an adjunct professor and he was an LCSW. I had never heard of that. So, he talked about being a social worker, working with kids and teaching at night. In that class I was thinking - I'm going to do that. I'm going to work with the children and then become a professor. I applied to FSU and that's where I went. I did an internship with DCF and became an investigator. I did that for two years, and then went on to focus on the workforce. I became really interested in understanding the workforce and retention and commitment.

Dr. Magruder: Similar to Secretary Harris, I had the opportunity to work with vulnerable populations, particularly in domestic violence. Working in that sector, I felt like there were emerging issues for survivors and their children that got me interested in systems and how systems are supposed to work together and where they don't work effectively. So, I started my research career looking at system collaboration and inter-role collaboration in the area of intimate partner violence, which dovetails with child welfare. We know that there is a great intersection between domestic violence, partner violence and child welfare. I was fortunate enough to begin working with Dr. Dina Wilke at the College of Social Work on the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families and continued my research journey with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. I'm now happy to be the new director.

What are some important milestones in child welfare in the state of Florida?

Harris: Some of the things I'm really excited about since my tenure at DCF, is a focus on prevention. Really trying to work upstream. One of the initiatives we've launched is our Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity Program, which is transforming the way we engage with individuals seeking our services. Through this program we are striving to break that reactionary cycle when you think about child welfare. We've also seen a historic investment in child welfare, over \$150 million infused into the system. That is going to be transformative to the way services are delivered to children and families. Then lastly, we are addressing the intersection of child welfare, mental health and substance use. I'm excited about the advances we're making to integrate child welfare and behavioral health through the launch of our Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network. We are trying to break that horrendous cycle of addiction and relapse. I think that it's going to have huge downstream impacts in our child welfare system.

Magruder: I think the institute's Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families was a major milestone for Florida. We knew turnover and retention were issues nationwide and have been for decades. I think it was the first study to get a high level of participation from workers who were new to the field and to pre-service and followed their journey. I was very appreciative of the opportunities to engage with the department, with Florida Coalition for Children, and the legislature. They invited us to speak at several committee meetings, and to share our findings. That turned into what became Senate Bill 1326, which established our Greater Resilience of the Workforce, or GROW Center, at the institute.

Pryce: Another historic part of that study I appreciated was that when people left a child welfare agency, Lisa and the rest of the team, continued to follow-up with those people because we wanted to learn. That study asked the right questions - Why didn't you stay? Where did you go? Are you still in child welfare? We could really get an idea of what made them leave.

Magruder: I wanted to add that in addition to our workforce-centered research, the institute does several research projects on other areas of child welfare, on how we are serving families and how we are serving children. I've noticed an uptick in our research findings informing bills with the institute being written into them to support research and evaluation. I think we have a good relationship right now with the legislature. They've entrusted us to take on these projects.

What are some current challenges facing the child welfare workforce in Florida?

Harris: So, we are excited to partner with the institute in redesigning our pre-service training. There are a number of challenges when it comes to workforce. I don't think Florida is unique in that regard and there's no magic bullet to address these challenges. But ensuring that staff are better prepared

on day-one with more on the job training and real-world experience will have better outcomes. The feedback we've received from individuals around the state through their exit interviews helps us to learn from the people doing the work. Through our partnership with the institute, we've spent many months speaking with stakeholders to try to get to this point. We're excited to launch the pre-service training this fall.

Magruder: Related to that, we've started hearing about recruitment as a major issue. In addition to providing more preservice training and realistic job previews, we are helping to modernize preservice training. We are bringing in new technology like virtual reality and are trying to figure out how to leverage advancing technology for recruitment purposes and with the selection process of new workers. Kristina Finch, the institute's professional development director, and I are going to run a community cafe session at the Florida Coalition for Children conference later this year to talk to workers and staff on the ground about what support they might need for recruitment.

Pryce: There are so many things that the institute is addressing with the workforce. One important project through our Alliance for Workforce Enhancement focuses on leadership development and well-being. We want leaders to be invested so they stay and continue with the vision for the work. And the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families study showed us the importance of well-being. We're introducing opportunities for ongoing well-being support, so workers have a safe space to meet with experts to talk about trauma and how to build a community of support.

What is the trajectory of the child welfare profession?

Magruder: Something we've talked a lot about internally is the idea of professionalizing the workforce. A lot of positions, particularly child protective investigators and case managers, are considered entry level positions but we do have people coming in with significant knowledge and expertise. We want to make sure that we're taking care of all of them as child welfare professionals, providing the resources and support they need to do their job well and grow in their career.

Pryce: DCF created an Office of Well-Being. That partnership speaks to what Lisa was describing.

Harris: Yes, to recognize the importance of overall well-being and taking care of our employees, we've been fortunate to receive funding to open an Office of Well-Being. It's still in its infancy. One of the big outcomes of that office has really been creating a lot of new supports for our child protective investigators after a traumatic event, recognizing the need to pull them out of rotation and allow them to engage in self-care, trauma-responsive conversations. It's been helpful to have that embedded within the Department. It creates a lot of opportunity to continue our partnership with the institute and enhance its capabilities.

Pryce: I would also say that the training department over at DCF has been a great partnership. We're doing a leadership academy through our Alliance for Workforce Enhancement

Initiative. Leaders are participating in the academy to bring some of the curriculum and ideas to the Department of Children and Families. The leadership development is huge. The leadership academy is not about how to be a supervisor or decision-making in the field. It's really about this high-level leadership and how we can create change for the child welfare field.

Magruder: We also collaborate closely with the Independent Living Office, particularly when we did our work on Senate Bill 80, around evaluating Florida's approach to life skills development. They've been amazing partners. I've also worked with the Human Trafficking sector on the Human Trafficking Screening Tool and working towards that validation. The institute has had a lot of positive collaborations. Because we've gotten to know each other over the years we want to complement, not compete. We can have great conversations about what we are working on, where there are gaps and how we can help.

Harris: This year we are really trying to tackle the issue of permanency and how to improve permanency outcomes. I know the institute is doing research on relational permanency. We're really looking forward to seeing the outcomes from that study. I think it will help inform our overall work for children where reunification or adoption weren't options that worked out. Relational permanency has some real promise.

Pryce: I want to say something around kinship. I know that Secretary Harris is pushing kinship care and keeping kids with their families. The institute has done some work on this.

Magruder: Dr. Anna Yelick, one of our researchers, has been collaborating for several years now on kinship initiatives with Children's Home Network and with Kids Central Inc. She has been looking at some of their novel kinship programs. This really ties into what Secretary Harris was talking about in relation to prevention work. The Family First Prevention Services Act, as well as federal legislation, is trying to shift us to a more prevention-based focus. This is an area with a need for evidence-based practice. Kinship is an area that up until very recently had no evidence-based practices. It's slowly growing. We think we have some hidden gems in Florida, some programs that have data that support kinship care.

What are some of the greatest needs surrounding leadership in the child welfare profession?

Harris: Given the complexity of the work and challenges, the relationship that staff has with their leaders and relationship building are critical. Not only being supportive of your team members but trying to help them grow and mature in the field and feel valued so that they stay. As one of our biggest challenges is retention, that means as a leader making sure you're creating that pathway and making it clearer for staff. That if you stick with this work, here's where you can go. I love to talk about it. I'm a social worker and my husband is, too. He has a shirt that says all the things you can do with a degree in social work, filled with different options. If we can get individuals with all the passion and

love in their heart that they have for this field, we can nurture that and help them to see the longer-range career paths available in this field, we'll be able to keep more.

Magruder: I would add the idea of authentic leadership and modeling that for your staff. Transparency is an important quality. We understand the need to be protective of staff, but transparency when appropriate is helpful in keeping staff feeling in the loop and able to understand the big picture vision of things. Knowing where we're going collectively.

Pryce: I remember when I first met Secretary Harris via Teams when she first came on board, and I was blown away by how much she cared about the workforce. I think that leaders must think about the people doing the work. Sometimes the folks doing the work feel forgotten. But when I met her, I could tell that as a leader she was not forgetting about those out there on the front lines. I never forgot that. I've worked with a lot of leadership, and that's not always at the forefront of their minds.

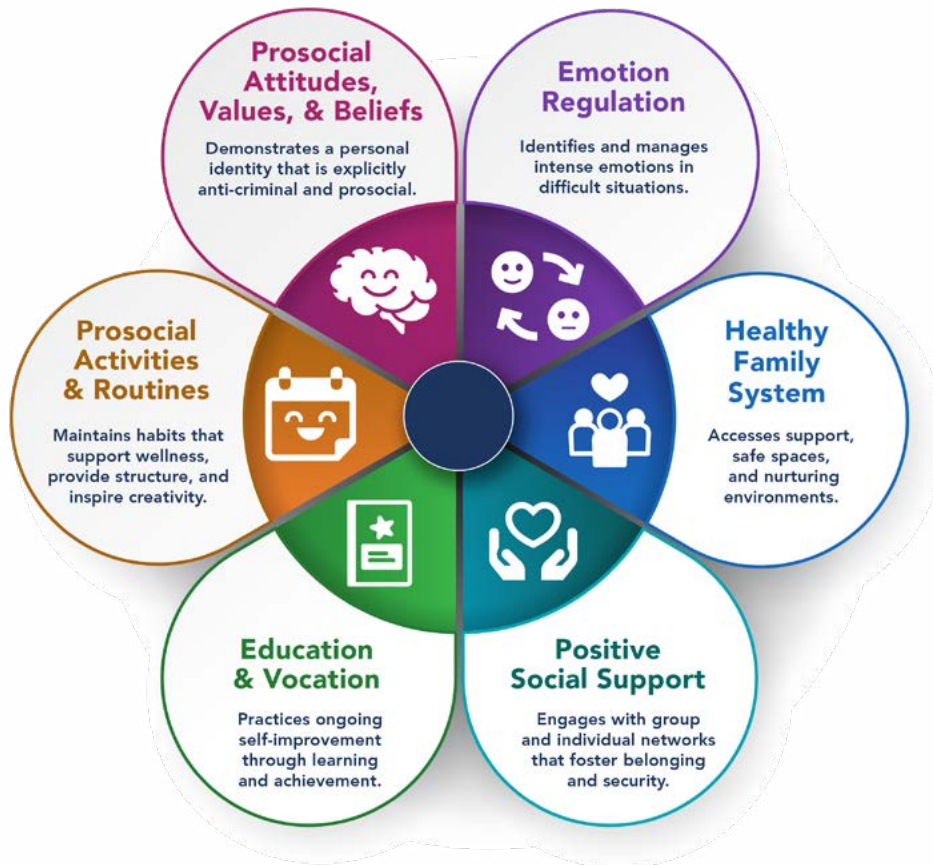
What is most important to know about the evolving child welfare profession?

Harris: I'll just say that a lot of times when we talk about the field of child welfare, there's this dominant label of it being a really difficult job. Sure, it's hard. But even as secretary of the Department of Children and Families, it is the most rewarding job that I've ever had. You wake up every day with purpose. Not everyone can say that they are making a difference in someone's life. I think that is true of every role in child welfare. So, if that's your passion, your bliss or what you're searching for, people should absolutely turn to this field.

Magruder: I love that. It makes me think of the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families. We asked at the end of every survey if there was anything else they had to say. One theme that emerged was that the jobs in child welfare are difficult but rewarding. I think that is a perfect encapsulation of this work. We know that child welfare is not the only part of social work that is difficult. But I agree that if this is where your heart is and where you want to be as a social worker, then there are supports available. For students who want to get involved with the institute, we're going to have a lot of resources for students coming out soon as we develop the institute's Academic Innovation Hub within the GROW Center.

Pryce: Through the institute there's going to be a lot of support. So, we want to make sure people understand that we're transforming how they're learning about the profession. We're transforming preservice, what they learn and how they are trained, and once they're in the field, the institute is going to be providing continuous resources. This includes an app the institute hopes to develop to connect child welfare professionals dealing with the same things they're seeing, to create a community and web of support. Child welfare professionals will also be able to develop their leadership skills. At the institute we're saying, you can carve out your leadership development track and we're going to help you do that so professionals can see a future for themselves in the field.

STOOPS CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN



STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES IN A RISK-BASED WORLD

The Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children’s (CFC) efforts are challenging a prevailing emphasis on risk within the child welfare system. The Center advocates instead for a strength-based model, shifting the focus away from risk alone. This approach considers the factors that protect against risk, known as Protective Factors.

The CFC believes in viewing families as dynamic systems with untapped potential. Using this strength-based approach, the CFC is shifting the conversation towards building upon family strengths by recognizing and nurturing the existing resources. By reframing the narrative and highlighting Protective Factors, the CFC aims to diminish the prevailing risk-centric approach.

To accomplish this goal, the Center’s team conducted an extensive literature review and identified six core Protective Factors that form this shift’s foundation and promote well-being in family welfare.

During their research, the CFC discovered a correlation between Protective Factors and self-growth. This led to the creation of a Self-Growth Series, incorporated into the advanced certification course for Support of Substance Use Interventions in Family Systems (SOS Interventions), which will be offered through the ALIGN program at the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW). The initiative is part of the comprehensive efforts by the Department of Children and Families to improve staff development and retention.

“The Self-Growth series equips individuals within the child welfare system with practical skills and tools for their own personal growth journeys while simultaneously empowering the families they serve,” said Jennifer Luther, CFC program manager.

By developing an intervention framework centered on Protective Factors, the CFC aims to empower individuals, families, and professionals within the child welfare system to foster positive and enduring change, leading to improved outcomes for families and stakeholders.

THE FOUR R'S OF EMOTION REGULATION

Foster care placement represents a difficult, emotional time for a child. Separation from family and unfamiliar environments add to feelings of uncertainty, further exacerbating emotional challenges. Being moved through multiple placements adds to the instability and fear of abandonment children experience.

Children may also carry emotional scars from traumatic experiences that led to their entry into foster care, impacting their trust, self-esteem, and overall emotional well-being.

It can be difficult to keep children calm through times of uncertainty, sadness, anger, and fear. Project Manager and author Jennifer Luther of the Stoops Center for Children, Families, and Communities (CFC) developed a blended professional training to support staff navigating this critical challenge.

"Establishing or reinstating calm in stressful situations can be thought of as part art and part science," said Luther, and a respected expert in behavior change modalities, evidence-based training, and program design. "Professionals can learn basic skills to improve their ability to keep things calm," she added.

Her new model for helping individuals manage intense emotions, the **Four 'R's of Emotion Regulation**, offers four steps to effectively managing emotions.

The model was developed along with other tools to aid residential foster care providers who work with children placed in group or residential foster care placements. In 2023, Luther trained Texas residential foster care providers in de-escalation and behavior management, providing the model as a framework. The back-to-basics approach of the training presented core interventions proven effective in promoting positive behavior change and how to apply it in real-world settings. The feedback from training participants was overwhelmingly positive, with praise for its effectiveness, practicality, and value.

"By implementing the **Four 'R's of Emotion Regulation** model and building on evidence-based practices, professionals can better support children, promoting healing, growth, and emotional well-being in their journey through foster care," said Luther. "At the Center, we hope to continue sharing these approaches with more partnering organizations and programs to improve outcomes for children involved in group and foster care."

1 REALIZE
Identify triggers and cues that lead to strong emotions.

2 RESPOND
Recognize current responses and reflect on typical reactions, determining which aid or hinder the de-escalation.

3 REFLECT
Review what happened and explore new ways to cope.

4 REHEARSE
Practice new ways to cope.



Jennifer Luther, BSW
Program Manager

"At the Center, we hope to continue sharing these approaches with more partnering organizations and programs to improve outcomes for children involved in group and foster care."



ELLEN PIEKALKIEWICZ
DIRECTOR

CSW.FSU.EDU/CFC

FACULTY RESEARCH



Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt
Associate Professor

NEW INSTITUTE PROMOTES QUALITY OUT-OF-HOME CARE FOR CHILDREN

Through the Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children, a new institute was launched in early 2023. The Institute for Quality Children's Services was established to

improve outcomes for children and families relying on out-of-home care.

The mission of the new institute is to establish new and existing partnerships with public and private child service providers and research teams that foster the adoption of evidence-based, quality practices.

The institute is directed by **Shamra Boel-Studt**, an associate professor at the College of Social Work and co-led by **Jonathan Huefner**, a senior research scientist at Boys Town Child and Family Transitional Research Center.

"Traditional approaches to evidence-based practice have failed to result in large scale adoption in real-world practice settings. This is largely due to overly rigid approaches, lack of funding to support training and support as well as a lack of fit within service environments," Boel-Studt explained.

The cornerstone of the institute's approach will be quality standards to promote the adoption of evidence-supported practices, service accountability and ongoing quality improvement for out-of-home services for children.

Boel-Studt and Huefner have partnered extensively with the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to establish a legislatively mandated statewide accountability system for residential group homes. The institute's co-directors are also collaborating with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to establish similar quality accountability and training platform based on their work in Florida.



Dr. Michael Killian
Associate Professor

INITIATIVE ESTABLISHED TO ADVANCE PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANT HEALTH

In collaboration with UF Health, the Stoops Center for Communities, Families, and Children launched the Initiative for the Advancement of Pediatric Transplant Health Research in 2022. This will enhance interdisciplinary research

related to pediatric transplant health through a statewide network of health researchers and clinicians. The initiative is led by **Michael Killian**, an associate professor at the College of Social Work, and co-led by **Dipankar Gupta**, an associate professor with the UF Health Congenital Heart Center.

"We know how important support is for children receiving organ transplants and their families," Killian said. "The institute's research efforts represent an important means to identify ways to reduce risk and improve quality of life and post-transplant outcomes."

In 2023, Killian and Gupta, along with partnering organization Scene Health, received a \$1.67M grant from the National Institute of Health to launch the initiative's first major project. The study utilizes a digital app developed by Scene Health for transplant physicians across the state of Florida to connect with pediatric patients.



The pilot study will examine the effectiveness of the digital platform and video Directly Observed Therapy on medication adherence with the hope of improving health outcomes for children receiving heart transplants, such as reducing organ rejection and preventing related hospitalizations.

"The grant represents an important integrative and patient-centered approach to improving the lives of vulnerable patients who are experiencing challenges adapting to a complex treatment regimen," Killian elaborated. The project will also benefit from an interdisciplinary team of researchers from Florida State, University of Miami, Miami Transplant Institute at Jackson Health and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE STUDIES

TRAININGS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE FAMILIES

The Institute for Family Violence Studies works to prevent family violence, trauma and to support individual and family resilience through research, training and community engagement. The institute recently developed several projects with this mission in mind, two which have been developed in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare's GROW Center ficw.fsu.edu/GROW/ALIGN.



Advanced Domestic Violence Studies

The institute contracted with the Office of State Court Administrator at the Florida Supreme Court to create Advanced Domestic Violence Studies for all of Florida's judges. The free online course includes eight

highly interactive chapters of training content exploring complex topics in domestic violence. Topics include identifying the dynamics and characteristics of domestic violence victims, the traumatic effects on victims and children, and enforcement of perpetrator accountability measures. Judges, attorneys and mediators can all earn continuing education credit for taking the course.



STARS: Strength Trauma and Resilience Studies Certification

STARS is an advanced online certification program created for the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW). STARS explores the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, and equips child welfare professionals with the necessary skills to improve child safety, and promotes the development of resilience in the child welfare workforce. "The evidence-based, trauma-informed program was developed in collaboration with Florida Department of Children and Families leadership, lead agency representatives, and case management service representatives," explained Karen Oehme, the institute's director.



SAFER: Strategies for Addressing Family Violence & Enhancing Resilience Advanced Certification

The institute will also launch SAFER in fall 2023 in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. SAFER provides additional online training for child welfare professionals addressing domestic violence. The research-based and trauma-informed program improves child welfare professional skills and knowledge base and supports the professional growth of child welfare workers seeking to advance in their careers.

"Specialized knowledge on domestic violence builds expertise for child welfare professionals with the aim to enhance expertise, greater job satisfaction alongside producing improved outcomes for clients they serve," elaborated Lyndi Bradley, IFVS Program Manager.



The Fundamentals of Neurodiversity for Multidisciplinary Professionals

The IFVS has also expanded its substantial professional development portfolio with the new Fundamentals of Neurodiversity, an online professional development training for judges, lawyers, social workers and healthcare providers. The course teaches practical approaches to supporting neurodivergent individuals with a focus on awareness, overcoming barriers, and building resilience. It builds participants' knowledge and skills to be able to understand the needs of neurodivergent people and adapt crucial processes and systems for them to thrive.



KAREN OEHME
DIRECTOR

FAMILYVIO.CSW.FSU.EDU

FSU MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTER

40 YEARS SUPPORTING FLORIDA FAMILIES

In 2023, the FSU Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center (MDC), celebrates 40 years of providing services to Florida Big Bend families. The MDC is part of a network of six regional specialized centers in Florida providing comprehensive diagnostic, counseling, and support services for at-risk children, along with their families and teachers. The center works closely with the Florida Department of Education with services provided to 20 school districts in the Florida Panhandle and a number of community agencies.

The MDC places a strong emphasis on using evidence-based practices and tools to support children facing complex medical, educational, emotional, and behavioral challenges. The MDC also offers specialized evaluations for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Through a comprehensive approach, the MDC addresses child well-being in both home and academic settings. MDC team members provide in-depth information regarding a child's strengths and challenges to parents, teachers, and school support staff, to assist them in implementing appropriate intervention strategies so that children can be successful both in school and at home.

"The approach taken with each child is individualized to align with their specific needs and challenges" shared Joann Milford, MDC assistant director. Since 1983 the center has served over 20,000 children and families in Florida.

The center's team consists of experts in social work, specializing in child welfare and mental health, alongside psychologists in the areas of clinical, counseling, and school psychology. The MDC partners with numerous academic programs at Florida State University including clinical psychology, counseling and school psychology, social work, marriage and family, communication disorders, and art therapy; offering students training and supervision in best practices when working with children and adolescents.

Intern Jordin McMillen, an MSW student with the College of Social Work, is working with the center to gain experience with her population of interest, children and families with neurodivergence and mental health needs. "The MDC has given me the extraordinary experience of working with interdisciplinary professionals through assessments and intervention groups," Jordin shared.

"Throughout my time here, I've witnessed firsthand the value of bringing together varied professions in working towards a common goal." -Jordin McMillen



"My internship has allowed me to wear so many different hats and build concrete and diverse skills."

"The multidisciplinary nature of the center includes important opportunities for professionals at all levels of training," said, Dr. Anne Selvey, the center's director and a licensed psychologist. "We offer internships and training practicums for students and graduates to receive vital hands-on experience working with children and families needing a high level of support."

In addition to assessment services, the MDC also provides intervention services including emotional regulation and social skills groups, parent and teacher training (PCIT and TCIT), and individual therapy.

Teaching/Parent-Child Interaction Training

In recent years, the MDC has increased the research-supported intervention services offered. These include Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT), both of which focus on strengthening the relationship between children up to 7-years-old with their caregivers and educators.

PCIT works to improve the relationship between children and caregivers and incorporates behavioral management strategies they work on together to reduce disruptive behaviors. Similarly, TCIT, which can be successfully implemented in schools provides strategies for teachers to manage classroom behaviors, thereby improving student academic performances and learning experiences in academic environments.

"The center and our training programs are an integral part of Florida State and the College of Social Work's mission to connect and support the community at large," added Ms. Milford. "We are also furthering the Department of Education in Florida's mission to provide high quality services to families."

"The center and our training programs are an integral part of Florida State and the College of Social Work's mission to connect and support the community at large," expressed Ms. Milford.



ANNE SELVEY
DIRECTOR

MDC.FSU.EDU

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



CO-PARENTING PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Elizabeth Curley, a doctoral candidate at the College of Social Work, was initially drawn to the college because it housed the Institute for Justice Research and Development. "When I entered the doctoral program in 2019, I was eager for an opportunity to work with the institute. Its presence at FSU was what motivated me to apply to the doctoral program," she shared.

The Institute for Justice Research and Development, established in 2018, seeks to reduce the need for the criminal justice system through creativity and research. Elizabeth's research on co-parenting during incarceration aligned well with the institute's mission.

"My research is geared toward developing practical interventions with parents who are incarcerated so that they can strengthen family relationships during incarceration and re-entry into the community," Curley described.

Elizabeth began working at the institute as a data collector for a study evaluating trauma-based programming for women in prisons. She also worked for Children of Inmates, facilitating bonding visits and community care for children with incarcerated parents in six prisons across Florida to help these families strengthen and maintain their personal relationships.

Since coming to FSU, Elizabeth has worked on eight different criminal justice research projects. Her work with the institute has produced literature, programming, and policy recommendations designed to better the lives of people who are incarcerated and their loved ones. Recently she also utilized data from the institute's 5-Key Model for Reentry study to validate a measure of social support for incarcerated

individuals, which was presented at the 2023 Society for Social Work and Research conference.

Elizabeth's interest in better understanding the impact of incarceration on children and families led her to the development of a co-parenting program called Inclusive Nurturing Through Elevating Relationships (INTER) and the focus of her doctoral dissertation. The program idea initially took shape during an intervention research course taught by the institute's founding director, Dr. Carrie Pettus.

With support from the institute, Elizabeth developed the INTER program based on the Collaborative Meaning-Making Framework, a theoretical, integrated framework also developed through Elizabeth's work with institute leaders. The INTER intervention developed into an eight-week manualized program to strengthen communication, support, and co-parenting. It will be piloted in 2023 at the Leon County Jail in Tallahassee, Florida, with funding provided by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare.

"Our institute and faculty continuously seek opportunities to innovate and validate programming to improve the lives of justice-involved people," said Kerensa Lockwood, the institute's director.

"My idea has become a reality thanks to guidance and opportunities provided by the institute and the criminal justice-focused faculty at the College of Social Work," Elizabeth added. "The goal after evaluation is to revise and adapt the program to meet the needs of future participants and to have INTER adopted by additional correctional settings in Florida to help as many families as possible through the process of re-entry."



KERENSA LOCKWOOD
DIRECTOR

IJRD.CSW.FSU.EDU



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



CONQUALLA SCOTT
BSW STUDENT

FSU President's 2023 Humanitarian of the Year

Lovingly raised by her grandmother, Conqualla Scott and her brother, Jeremiah, grew up with a model of service that would influence not only her values, but her life goals. Her family's involvement in their church provided her first experiences of community involvement and activism, participating in food drives and singing in the choir.

As she grew older, she sought out more ways to help others in her community, volunteering for projects around her hometown of Tallahassee, Florida. Volunteering events inspired her to establish the first high school chapter of Habitat for Humanity in the Big Bend Area at James S. Rickards High School. Not wanting her volunteer work in high

school to end, Conqualla decided, "I wanted to dedicate my undergraduate career to advocating for minoritized people, those experiencing food and housing insecurity and first-generation students like myself."

Growing up with Florida State University in her backyard also greatly influenced her goals and the path to obtaining them. "From watching football to doing music performances with students from the FSU College of Music and college tours, Florida State was meant to be my educational home," she expressed.

Conqualla immersed herself in opportunities at Florida State, actively participating and mentoring through the FSU Center for Academic Retention and

Enhancement (CARE) and the Unconquered Scholars Program, the FSU section of the National Council of Negro Women and the Renegade Leadership Honor Society.

Watching her grandmother, Loretta Jones, struggle to manage several health conditions while unflinchingly serving others gave Conqualla the drive to join the BSW Program at the FSU College of Social Work with a clear mission in mind.

"I majored in social work to help my community and those who feel as if they are alone," she asserted. "The College of Social Work has continued to push me to better my community in more ways than I could have ever imagined."

She credits the BSW Program, led by Director Carol Edwards and her team Program Assistant Betty Lanese and Advisor Zoey Zeitlin, the College's Field Director Katrina Boone, alongside the CARE Department staff, as being vital to her academic success since her freshman year. "Believing in me, giving me emotional support and a laugh when I needed it the most and even tough love have pushed me to be my best self," she said.

Her efforts at FSU and in the Big Bend community were rewarded and acknowledged this year, when she was named the FSU President's 2023 Humanitarian of the Year from among exemplary undergraduate students nominated from each college at Florida State.

"Celebrate every win, even the small ones," she encourages when reflecting on how she got to where she is today. "It's important to remember that who you are is incomparable to who you will be."

Now in her senior year, Conqualla has set her sights on continuing her education to become a licensed clinical social worker in order to provide counseling to black women with fertility issues and children with life experiences similar to her own.



ROCKY BONASORTE MSW STUDENT

Connecting with Kids Through Arts, Athletics and Experience

As an FSU student and lifelong FSU fan, Rocky Bonasorte continued the enduring legacy at Florida State University of his late father, Monk Bonasorte. Monk played on the Florida State football team from 1979-1980 and returned as a part of FSU Athletics' executive staff in 2008.

Rocky also played on the FSU Football team in 2015 while working towards a bachelor's degree in information communication and technology. But halfway through his undergraduate career, Rocky would find himself facing the devastating loss of his father, his hero and role model, to brain cancer in 2016. He recalls struggling to process this loss while balancing all the other life changes and demands that come with attending college.

"I was struggling to do well academically, and I did not know what I needed to do to make sure I was caring for myself," he remembers. "I thought it was weak to ask for help. I thought I could figure everything out on my own."

His experiences with grief, loss and getting the support he needed proved to be a catalyst toward a career in social work for Rocky. He admits to always being passionate about helping others overcome adversity and rising to a challenge, something he was familiar with as a life-long athlete. That passion took on new meaning though after he sought support services. "Being vulnerable when asking for help is natural, but finding those people and resources that bring the best out of you help you

become a better version of yourself," he emphasized.

He decided to pursue his Master of Social Work degree part-time while continuing to work as a personal trainer at a Tallahassee gym.

"I was anxious about starting my master's degree in a field so different from my undergraduate studies and with almost no experience in social work," he admitted. "But the College of Social Work at FSU has been so welcoming and encouraging. I've met many great people in my classes and professors are always happy to help."

In the MSW program, Rocky found himself drawn to working with youths, and an opportunity came up at the College of Social Work where his experiences in athletics came in handy when he was hired to co-lead the college's Art & Athletics Program by social work faculty member and social work professor, Dr. Shalay Jackson. The program, established in 2012 thanks to the generous support of FSU graduates and donors Guy and Dolores Spearman, is an afterschool program for youths aged 11-14 that promotes positive youth development.

As a program director, co-leading with Christina Weiland, he trains and supports the social work students hired as mentors for the participating youths and coordinates the weekly activities and presentations. He also enjoys being able to work directly with the youths involved and connecting with them through his passion for sports. "The highlights for me will always be their reactions to the FSU Athletics tour, attending an FSU Women's Basketball game and the weekly activities," Rocky shared.

"Sometimes it can be challenging to keep a student's attention considering they just ended a full school day," he noted. Finding those ways to connect with participating youths remains a favorite challenge for Rocky, and even more rewarding when mentors and mentees connect and share excitement and enjoyment.

Rocky is also completing one of his two MSW program field placements, interning with the Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Center's Whole Child Leon initiative. As a behavioral health navigator for the program, he aids in handling referrals from local pediatricians to assist children and their families with connecting to the correct service provider and resources.

While Rocky continues to explore the different opportunities in social work, he retains a keen interest in working with young people. "I hope to work within child welfare to help children in need to have the care and resources to thrive," he said. He also intends to become a licensed clinical social worker after graduation, hoping to continue his own learning and gain experience to provide the best assistance for his clients.

Through his experiences, Rocky has found ways to not only help himself more but improve the lives of those around him. "I want to use my experiences to support others who think asking for help is weak. It is one of the strongest things you can do."



2023 Arts & Athletics campers and mentors



**ESAA MOHAMMAD
SABTI SAMARAH**
PhD CANDIDATE

Improving Outcomes For Children Through Research

As a Florida local, Esaa grew up in Melbourne, Florida and enjoyed all of the outdoor activities it had to offer. After earning his bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Florida, he worked as a research assistant and later research coordinator at the University of Florida Institute for Child Health Policy in Gainesville. While serving as a research coordinator, Esaa had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects designed to improve child and adolescent health throughout Florida. After nearly four years with the Institute for Child Health Policy, Esaa accepted a position with the Florida Department of Children and Families where he served as a child protective investigator in Alachua County.

His time as a Child Protective Investigator with the Florida Department of Children and Families gave him first-hand experience of what many child welfare workers experience. "I was struck by the reliability gaps in the ways in which [child protective] investigators made decisions about child safety, including my own decisions," he stressed. This combined with the pressures of high work stress, heavy caseloads and traumatic client circumstances made decision-making difficult, he shared.

Esaa earned his MSW from the College of Social Work in 2019, earning the Guy & Delores Spearman scholarship while

also continuing his work in child welfare. He decided to pursue his doctoral degree to continue elevating his training in child welfare and to contribute to research and evidence-based solutions to improving outcomes in the child welfare system. Just two years into his program, Esaa dived into research, participating in several studies and projects.

Photovoice: Participatory Research

One of the first projects Esaa became involved with as a doctoral student at Florida State was a Photovoice study aimed at eliciting the perspectives of students in a college support program for individuals who have experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care, or Ward of the State status. Photovoice is a participatory research method that encourages participants to engage in critical self-reflection using self-composed pictures as a medium of exploration.

The students who participated in the study were members of the Unconquered Scholars program at Florida State. Esaa, along with Lisa Jackson, an MSW alumna and Senior Program Director of the Unconquered Scholars program and new social work faculty member, Lisa Schelbe, used the Photovoice methodology to explore the perspectives of undergraduate students in the Unconquered Scholars program specifically examining what it's like to be a college student who has

experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care or Ward of the State status, and what is it like to participate in a college support program. The capstone to the project was a community showcase of the photography by the students to elevate their voices which took place during the Spring semester of 2022.

In his first year as a doctoral student, Esaa was also able to contribute to the development of a maternal health survey, as well as lead a policy review assessing the continued use of corporal punishment in American public schools. The review, which was conducted in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America, was published as a report to be used by policy makers, practitioners, and researchers.

A Focus on Change

Although Esaa's research experience has run the gambit, his focus remains on identifying factors contributing to the disproportionate removal of minority children from their homes and placement into the child welfare system.

His own experience as a professional plays a large role in his interest in understanding how child welfare professionals impact delivery of service and outcomes. "Child protective investigators shape the perceptions surrounding child removal versus family preservation when conducting safety assessments in the community," he explained. "I view the judgement/decision making as a central role of child welfare training that is essential to ensuring quality social work practice."

After recently starting his own family, Esaa also directly knows the importance of family ties to child development. He noted that child removal remains high in the United States with more than 100,000 children removed from their homes annually. "Substantial empirical evidence documents the negative impact of child removal on children's socioemotional functioning," he added.

Children that experience removal from their homes are more likely to experience mental illness, have higher rates of incarceration, and suffer educationally. Instead of prioritizing child removal, Esaa points to a growing body of empirical evidence arguing for prioritizing methods for family preservation to protect children's safety and well-being long-term.

WINNERS BY CATEGORY

1 ADVOCACY

"Social Workers In Office"
Lucy Lawrence, FSU Student
(BSW)

2 CHANGE

"We Change With Time/With Time We Change"
Ysabel Adams, Middle School Student

3 COMMUNITY

"We Are Here"
Ellen Hamilton, MSW Graduate (1984)

4 COMPASSION

"Pag Amping"
Reian Beltran, FSU Student
(Studio Art)

5 DIVERSITY

"Eyes of FSU"
Shekinah Montgomery, FSU Student
(Psychology)

6 GROWTH

"Fairytale Wonderland"
Cheyenne Belanger, MSW Graduate (2023)

7 LEADERSHIP

"Captain Francisco Menendez..."
Madelyn Rubin, MSW Graduate (1975)

8 PASSION

"The World of Social Work"
Lyndsey Korst, FSU Student
(BSW)



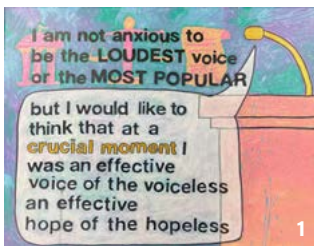
Ellen Hamilton, Cheyenne Belanger, Shekinah Montgomery, Isabel Adams, Madelyn Rubin

COLOR THE COLLEGE

In 2022, the College of Social Work's administrative suite received an updated look and feel. The consensus among faculty and staff in the suite was that an update in artwork was also needed to reflect the values of social work. In the fall of that year, a call for art submissions coordinated by event manager Naomi Molina, requested works of art that represented one or more of the following categories: advocacy, change, community, compassion, diversity, growth, leadership and passion.

More than 20 pieces of art were submitted, with each entry including an artist statement explaining what inspired them. In 2023, a winner from each category was selected by more than 300 votes collected from the College of Social Work community. Winners were invited to campus for a luncheon ceremony and celebration at which they received a trophy for their accomplishment.

The art is hung in the College of Social Work office suite of University Center C, Suite 2500. To view all entries and their artist statements, visit our Flickr photo page at: bit.ly/colorthecollege23.



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS DINNER



Student scholarship recipients at the 2022 dinner

The College of Social Work hosted its annual Student Scholarship and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on October 13, 2022, celebrating student scholarship recipients and exemplary graduates. The five FSU College of Social Work alumni were acknowledged for their notable contributions to social work education and profession. These recipients include:



NOLIA BRANDT, Distinguished Emeritus Alumni Award (BSW, 1972; MSW, 1973; MA, 1993; PhD, 2004) is a four-time Florida State University graduate. Brandt wrote and lobbied for changes in public policy related to program development, funding, service delivery, performance improvement and accountability. She taught at two universities, teaching instructional design, social work, criminal justice, sociology, business and entrepreneurship. Brandt and her husband, Bill, built and ran an award-winning information technology business for 25 years.



WANG (CHUN) ROSENKRANZ, Distinguished Young Alumni Award (BSW, 2013) is a formerly incarcerated social worker and founder of the I'll Be There Project nonprofit dedicated to empowering and uplifting people through the transformative conduit of kindness. He holds a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and joined Bronx Defenders working with adolescent males in the criminal justice system before leaving to establish his nonprofit, which focuses on connection with people experiencing hardships including homelessness, substance use and involvement with the criminal justice system.



DAVID JENKINS, Distinguished Social Work Educator Alumni Award (PhD, 1992) is a licensed clinical social worker and is dean and professor of the Ohio State University's College of Social Work with more than 30 years of experience in social work education. He served as dean of the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work (2016-2022) and on the faculty at Texas Christian University (1991-2016), serving in several leadership roles. His research focuses on the experiences of individuals and families suffering from marginalization, particularly the lives of sexual minorities.



ANGELA MARTINEZ, Distinguished Social Work Practice Alumni Award (MSW, 1975) is a licensed clinical social worker and community psychologist with more than 40 years of experience in South Florida. She has designed and executed research, training and consultation programs for several organizations. She has also served community organizations including Miami's fire and police departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Programming developed by Dr. Martinez has focused on diversity and inclusion in the workplace including leadership, empowerment and organizational development. Martinez has also served on the faculty and in leadership positions of several South Florida universities.



LYNN ROSENTHAL, Distinguished Social Policy and Administration Alumni Award (BSW, 1980) is the president of the Center for Family Safety and Healing in Columbus, Ohio. She is a social worker with expertise in public policy on gender-based violence. From 2009-2015, Lynn served as the first-ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women and a senior advisor to then Vice President Biden. She has held leadership positions in local and state domestic violence agencies including the National Network to End Domestic Violence (2000-2006). Recently, she led a 90-day Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military.

PHOTO TIMELINE



Macro Social Work Student Network Discuss Voting with Students at **Capital City Youth Services** (Oct. 2022)



Student Association of Social Workers **Pumpkin Painting** (Oct. 2022)



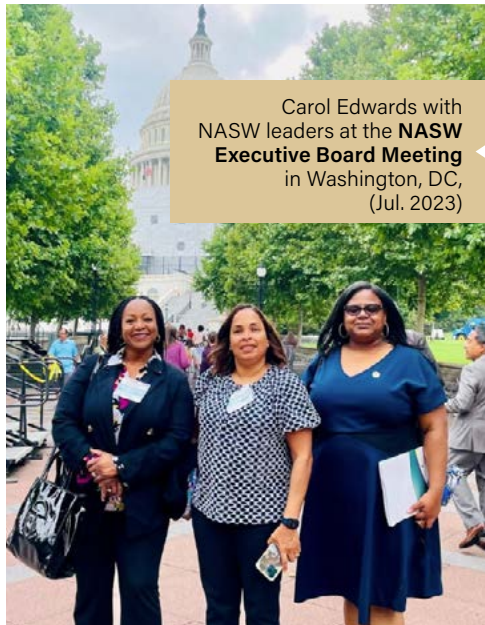
Halloween Costume Contest (Oct. 2022)



Academic Resilience Conference with the **Institute for Family Violence Studies** (Nov. 2022)



National Philanthropy Day with the **National Association of Fundraising Professionals Big Bend Chapter** (Nov. 2022)



Carol Edwards with NASW leaders at the **NASW Executive Board Meeting** in Washington, DC, (Jul. 2023)



Fall Graduation Celebration (Dec. 2022)



Spring Graduation Celebration (May 2023)



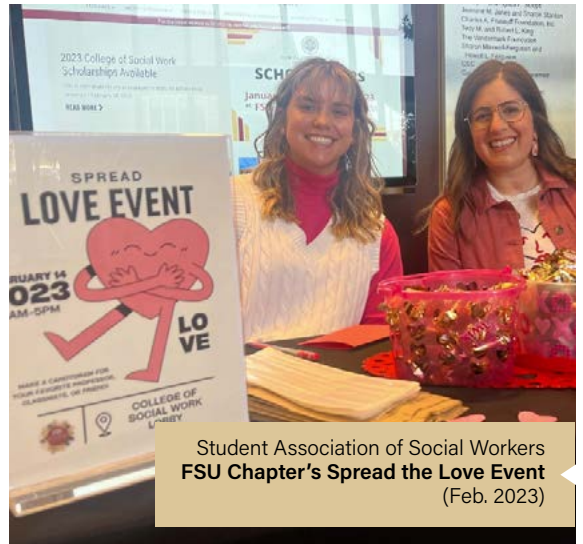
Doctoral Student, Megan Vogt, presenting at **SSWR Conference** (Jan. 2023)



Leyte Dance Theatre of the Philippines Visit during **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** (Jun. 2023)



Social Work & Women's History Month Celebration (Mar. 2023)



Student Association of Social Workers FSU Chapter's Spread the Love Event (Feb. 2023)



Volunteer Day at **Second Harvest of the Big Bend** (Mar. 2023)



Opioid Use Disorders and Rural Resiliency Symposium (Mar. 2023)

#FSUCSW BY THE NUMBERS

2022-2023



TOTAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED **1,098**

BSW **125** MSW **952** PhD **21**

JOINT DEGREE STUDENTS **MSW &**

MPA **9** MBA **1** Crim **10**



735 STUDENTS
IN THE FIELD



456 AFFILIATED
FIELD AGENCIES



STUDENT
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

EMERGENCY FUNDING

79 Students

\$12,823.56 Total Amount

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

100 Students

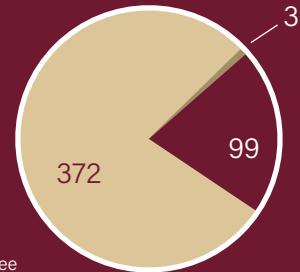
\$108,700 Total Amount



NUMBER OF
DEGREES
AWARDED

2021-2022

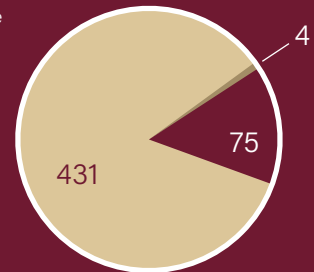
474



- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctoral Degree

2022-2023

510



NEW
ENDOWMENTS

- ▶ William Lloyd Garrison MSW Endowed Scholarship
- ▶ Karen Oehme Endowed Scholarship in the Institute for Family Violence
- ▶ Guy and Delores Spearman Endowed Professorship
- ▶ Jim Clark CSW Leadership Fund

FSU LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE: FLORIDA STATE UNITED



Tri Delta Sorority and FSU Senate Members with Jeff Binkley and Provost Jim Clark at Maura's Voice Memorial Service

November 2022, FSU held a memorial service to remember the fourth anniversary of the 2018 shooting at a Tallahassee yoga studio that took the lives of FSU student Maura Binkley and FSU professor Dr. Nancy Van Vesse and injured five others.

The event was organized through the Maura's Voice Research Fund, established in 2019 by Jeff and Margaret Binkley, Maura's parents to focus on researching and responding to the complex causes and effects of gun violence.

During the event, the Florida State United: One Voice Against Hate initiative was launched to bring more awareness to hate-motivated violence through research and education. The impetus for the initiative began with Jeff Binkley being honored in 2022 along with other individuals for their exemplary work to address the destructive impact of hate-fueled violence on public safety.

Florida State United shares a common goal with Maura's Voice to address hate and violence starting with the university community at Florida State. The event included gathering of friends, family, and supporters for speeches, "Chalk for Maura" segment for writing uplifting messages on FSU's Legacy Walk followed by a candlelight vigil. "As Maura and Nancy exemplified in their lives, love is the most important work we can do," reflected Jeff Binkley to event attendees. "Always remember that only love can conquer hate."

csw.fsu.edu/mauras-voice



WHY GIVE BACK?

It's been a busy time for Florida State University and the College of Social Work. While the college has bounced back from the pandemic and seen tremendous growth, we need your help to sustain that growth. There are so many ways to be an active participant in the College of Social Work and to be a part of its story.

Giving back to the College of Social Work is an important way to enhance the educational and professional value of social work and perpetuating a legacy of philanthropy and support. Giving back can consist of your time, talent and treasures that includes opportunities to endow a scholarship or financial support of a research or outreach initiative. Other opportunities include speaking to students and mentoring in the classroom or at college events. Graduates can also volunteer or participate in leadership opportunities such as the college's Leadership Council and the FSU Alumni Association.

I encourage you to reach out to me at **(850) 228-8536** or cpodgorski@fsu.edu to learn about new and current ways to become more involved with the College of Social Work.

Thanks for all your support,
Colette Podgorski

GIVE.FSU.EDU/CSW





ALUMNI UPDATES

2023-2024

2020s

Mallory Adams (MSW/MPA 2022) is the community resources specialist for the Leon County Public Library in Tallahassee, Florida.

Felicitas Brugo Onetti (MSW 2022) joined the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as an anti-trafficking education and outreach coordinator within the Department of Migration and Refugee Services in Washington, DC.

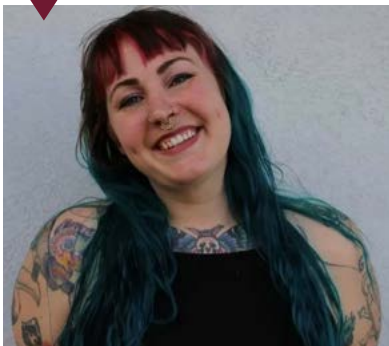
Christopher Collins (PhD 2022) joined the faculty of Salem State University's Maguire Meservey College of Health and Human Services in Salem, Massachusetts as an assistant professor focusing on macro social work.

Taylor Dowdy-Hazlett (PhD 2022) joined the faculty of the University of Kentucky College of Social Work as an assistant professor with a focus on child welfare.

Erica Howard (MSW 2022) is an advocate in Northeast Ohio for Empower Her Network, working with survivors of human trafficking.

Dylan McMahon (BSW 2022) is the volunteer coordinator for the 211 Big Bend emergency support hotline in Tallahassee, Florida.

Taylor Biro (BSW 2021) was selected by the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper as one of the 25 Women You Need to Know for 2022. She is known for her local advocacy efforts and dedication to the local LGBTQ+ community.



2010s

Kristel Avilus (MSW 2018) was appointed as the associate executive director of the Pace Center for Girls Leon in Tallahassee, Florida. She is the first former "Pace girl" to become a director in the center's 38-year history.



Kassandra Starrine (MSW 2017) is currently the director of student affairs for the Southern Scholarship Foundation. She is also working on her PhD in international Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.



Tyron Slack (MSW 2016) is a psychology doctoral candidate at Florida State University and runs his own consulting business, Pursuing Purpose Consulting Services, to support minority student and professionals to enhance their experiences to become better candidates for doctoral programs.

Kristen Richards (PhD 2014) is a licensed clinical social worker and the current Director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program for the Jackson State University School of Social Work.

Kyra Adams (MSW 2012, BSW 2007) launched in 2021 her own organization Maternal and Perinatal Services to provides direct postpartum support alongside offering breastfeeding and childbirth education in Tallahassee, Florida.

David Albright (PhD 2012, MSW 2006) was appointed to the US Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee, a federal committee advising the VA secretary on ways to improve access to healthcare services for veterans in rural areas. He has also transitioned from a professorship with the University of Alabama's School of Social Work to a role as a Professor of Political Science and University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences.



GRADWORLD FSU

GradWorld FSU has a look and feel similar to Google Earth and shares a variety of personalized videos from Florida State University graduate students, postdocs, alumni and faculty to showcase their outstanding achievements and contributions to FSU.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for everyone around the world to see your passion, interests, research goals and learn more about our wonderful university. Become a part of this great scholarly community known as "Family FSU" at gradworld.fsu.edu.

2000s

Jeanne Freeman (MSW 2007) is the CEO of Neighborhood Medical Center and was named a 2023 Top 25 Women You Need to Know by the Tallahassee Democrat. She personally oversees quality of care at the center's six locations, which provide medical services in the Big Bend Area.



Lauren Johnson (BSW 2006) is a social worker and Level 1 Foster Parent in Florida licensed with the Northwest Florida Health Network. She has also advocated on behalf of children in foster care, working directly with Florida government leadership and the Northwest Florida Health Network Board of Directors to amend policies to make them more equitable for families involved within the foster care system.

Kimberly Crowder (BSW 2004) is a reading intervention teacher at Hamilton County Elementary School in Hamilton County, Florida. She is a 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year finalist due to her dedication as a teaching/leader, reading coach and curriculum coordinator.

Shevaun Harris (MSW 2004) was reappointed for a second term as the secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families.

1990s

Terryln Rivers Cannon (MSW 1993) was appointed the president of the School Social Work Association of America on January 1, 2023. She is the first African American president in the organization's history.



1980s

Margaret Ashmore (MSW 1985) retired from her role as a teaching professor with the Florida State University College of Social Work in December 2022. She taught social work courses at the college since 2005 and also serve from more than 16 years prior counseling students through the Counseling Center at FSU.



Sharon Ross-Donaldson (MSW 1985, BS 1983) was awarded the 2023 Social Work of the Year award from the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter.

1970s

Deb Vingle (MSW, 1979) is retired from her social work career assisting survivors of domestic violence. She is currently a yoga instructor teaching yoga for older adults at the Lakeview Center for Active Aging in Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Evelyn Newman-Phillips (MSW 1974, BSW 1972) was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Service Award by Central Connecticut State University where she serves as a professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology.

CONNECT WITH US

Send your updates to alumni@csw.fsu.edu.



fsu.csw



FSU_SocialWork



FSUSocialWork



fsu_csw



fsucsw



csw.fsu.edu

#fsucsw

IN MEMORIAM

Albert Jesse (AJ) Bacon, Sr. 1962-2022

BSW 2012, MSW 2014

Mr. Bacon passed away October 29, 2022, after a battle with cancer. He served in the Air Force for 20 years. He was minister of First Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, the Anchorage Children's Home chaplain, and Bay County and Florida Disabled Veterans Department commander. He was honored as a Panama City Notable 'Nole in 2020 for his contributions to his community.

Philip Edward Barnes 1953-2022

BS 1969

Mr. Barnes passed away from a recurrent battle with cancer on July 31, 2022. He worked a variety of jobs including owning/operating Philip Barnes photography for a decade, 23 years with Prudential Insurance Company of America followed later work in the graphic design/printing industry.

Catherine (Cathy) Brown Butler 1946-2022

BS 1964

Ms. Butler passed away August 28, 2022. The daughter of a Florida Power lineman and social worker, she was a recognized champion of senior citizens. She enjoyed a diverse career including as a volunteer-at-large and board member of several St. Augustine governmental and non-profit agencies, as well as executive director of the St. Johns County Council for Aging.

Jones Pomeroy Carter 1935-2022

MSW 1960

Mr. Carter passed away July 18, 2022. From Waycross, Georgia, he began his career at Advent Christian Village, a retirement community in Live Oak, Florida, retiring in 1995. Under his leadership, the village became a model intergenerational community. He was also active on a variety of local/state committees and boards and was an ordained minister.

Margaret E. (Maggie) Gunn 1947-2022

MSW 1981

Ms. Gun passed away August 27, 2022, after struggling with chronic illness since 2014.

Roberta Ann Harkey 1941-2022

MSW 1994

Ms. Harkey passed away October 31, 2022. She was a case worker/counselor for Catholic Charities and was a school social worker for the Duval County School Board. She later worked with Guardian Ad Litem as a passionate advocate for children within the court system.

Jilda Kettel 1942-2023

MSW 1966

Ms. Kettel passed away May 20, 2023. From Dahlonoga, Georgia, she was a member of the Delta Zeta sorority and was an avid FSU fan. She spent her career in mental health services, earning her licensure in social work.



Bill Kintz 1940-2022

William (Bill) Kintz passed away December 14, 2022. He worked in the social work field for more than 50 years. His dedication to helping others was noticed early in his career.

He received a Letter of Commendation from President Ronald Reagan in 1982 for his service coordinating for volunteer outreach services following a flood that year in Fort Wayne, Indiana after the president visited the site with disaster relief personnel. Bill served as a faculty member and Jacksonville-area coordinator for the FSU College of Social Work for more than 12 years. He oversaw the supervision and field experiences of countless social work students.

Betty Jo Lossing 1928-2023

BS 1950

Ms. Lossing passed away March 14, 2023. She worked as a social worker in the Sanford area before settling down to raise her family with her husband, Gerald David Lossing, Jr.

Felice Sylvia LaDorne (Seamon) Jones 1950-2023

MSW 1974

Ms. Jones passed away February 1, 2023. At FSU, she was president of the Graduate Students in Social Work Association and received the 1974 Graduate of the Year from the FSU Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers. She served as a professor at Florida A&M University and as an adjunct professor at FSU.



Pamela Wold Graham MacDill 1955-2023

MSW 1977

Pam MacDill served as a staff member of the College of Social Work for more than 25 years. She retired in 2020 and passed away in 2023 after a battle with cancer. Her early career was spent in medical/psychiatric social work and private practice before returning to FSU in the 1990s. She is remembered for her dedication to her students, serving in various roles including

her final role at FSU as the BSW Program and Professional Development Director. She was also integral to establishing the Unconquered Scholars Program, supporting students with experiences of foster/relative care, homelessness and Ward of the State status.

Gilbert McDaniel 1939-2023

BS 1966, MSW 1973

Mr. McDaniel passed away January 5, 2023. He was an Army veteran and his career included 4 years as unit director of the Florida Sherriff's Boys Ranch and 12 years at Daniel Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida, developing and running five group homes for teens.

Louis "Terry" Mink 1950-2023

MSW 1977

Mr. Mink passed away February 19, 2023, in Yuma, Arizona. He was a Vietnam veteran and served as a social worker in Connecticut State psychiatric service for many years before becoming a personal financial advisor, establishing and running the Mink Money-Path Group until 2009.

Alice (Marie) Parramore 1964-2022

BS 1968

Ms. Parramore passed away September 21, 2022, after a battle with brain cancer.

Willie Peacock 1941-2022

BS 1969

Mr. Peacock was a veteran and served as an ordained minister serving with the US Army for 30 years. After retiring in 1999, he served as a pastoral care minister with several churches.

Ann DuPriest Poss 1928-2023

MSW 1961

Ms. Poss began her career began at the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and spent a majority of her career began with the Georgia State Department of Human Resources in the area of foster care and adoption.

George M. Russell 1940-2022

MSW 1972

Mr. Russell passed away in Boerne, Texas on July 20, 2022. Born in Nassau, Bahamas, his family relocated to Florida in the 1950s. He served for a decade as director of social services for the Department of Aging Services in Arkansas and spent the remaining 30 years of his career as a nephrology social worker for the Fresenius Dialysis Clinic in Texas.

FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK*



Become a Friend of the College of Social Work!

Scan the QR code or visit csw.fsu.edu/give to donate online.

Contact Development Director, Colette Podgorski at (850) 228-8536

or cpodgorski@fsu.edu.



\$25,000+

Jeffrey A. and Agnes F. Stoops
Stoops Family Foundation, Inc.
American Endowment Foundation
Cigna Foundation
Francisco J. Sanchez
Guy M. and Delores Spearman
Spearman Foundation, Inc.
Community Foundation for Palm Beach & Martin Counties
Joy H. Hevey
Jeffery S. Binkley
William L. Garrison and Mary J. Mlakar
First Presbyterian Church

\$24,999-10,000

Tom and Cathie Herndon
Helios Education Foundation
Katherine Kole
James C. and Elizabeth R. Smith

\$9,999-1,000

Mark & Lula Hamilton DeGraff Trust
Schwab Charitable Fund
William M. and Nolia Brandt
Early Learning Coalition Of The Big Bend Region, Inc.
Robert F. and Mary K. Frappier
Brinton Hevey and Lisa Hevey
Peter D. and Mary Lee C. Jones
Chapin Hall
Compu-Care Management & Systems, Inc.
Frappier Family Charitable Trust
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc.
Stabilify, LLC
Diana M. DiNitto
Robert E. and Lenore M. Rice
Selfless Love Foundation, Inc.
Epsilon Sigma Of Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Kathryn A. and Walter Felton
Richard M. and Cheryl O. King
Judith B. Albright
Thomas L. and Judith O. Bernier

Leslie and Pamela W. MacDill
James J. Clark and Elizabeth L. Croney
Leah D. Dienger
The Children's Home Society of Florida
James A. and Mary H. Freeman
Jeffrey E. and Nancy S. Lickson
Pamela F. and Jimmie L. Brooks
Dominic M. and Debra L. Calabro
Mark and Nan Casper Hillis
Ruth A. Irvin and John M. Dimaio
Katherine A. LeMaster
Nancy S. and Richard D. McKay
Paul F. McLaughlin
Sarah L. Rosenthal
Nylah Thompson and H.L. Hartford
Margaret E. Wright-Cleveland
IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program
Paul F And Mary Anne McLaughlin Family Foundation
The Blackbaud Giving Fund

\$999-500

John H. and Margaret P. Paschal
Elaine S. Gurley
Cecily A. and Thomas M. Hardin
Patricia B. Hicks
Elizabeth Cheek-Jones
Delta Delta Delta Sorority
Donald W. Adams
William A. Anderson and Robin R. Wingo
Kathleen R. and Charles R. Figley
M. C. and David K. Hosman
Christopher E. Iansiti and Michael A. Fornaro
Walter and Sherry J. Johnson
Rosa L. Jones
Arden W. and Carol Anne Kelley
Ani and Michael B. Mathers
Gregory W. Schneider
Ashbel C. and Janet E. Williams
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc.
Mental Health Risk Retention Group Inc.
The Meyers Group

For a full list of FSUCSW donors, visit csw.fsu.edu/friendsofFSUCSW

** Names are in order of donation amount and list includes all those who made outright gifts, deferred and estate gifts, pledge commitments, stock transfers, real estate gifts or corporate matching gifts of \$500 or more received by the College of Social Work from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Gifts received after this time will be included in the next issue of the magazine.*



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

University Center, Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 55
Tallahassee, FL



CSW.FSU.EDU • #FSUCSW

Change a life.
Start with yours.