

COMMUNITAS

Florida State University College of Social Work

2015-2016



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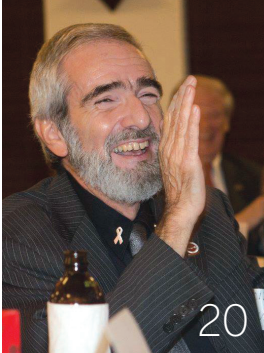
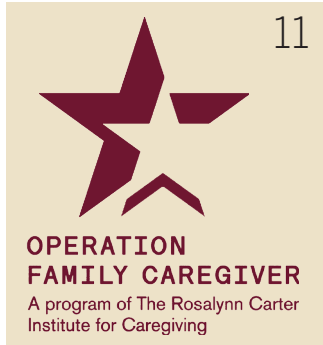
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



"All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity." – Robert F. Kennedy

I am happy to have composed my first contribution to *Communitas* — a magazine designed to connect with you through stories, photos, news, and ideas. Anthropologist Victor Turner said: "Communitas is an acute point of community. It takes community to the next level and allows the whole of the community to share a common experience, usually through a rite of passage." The idea of "rite of passage" certainly rings true, because most readers have the shared experience of professional formation as professional social workers matriculating at FSU. And, believe me, as I have met and talked with hundreds of alumni and students across the nation during my inaugural year as Dean, you have shared as many stories about your rites of passage! As a newcomer, what has most impressed me about these conversations is the universal theme of continuous pride in and connection with this College. In addition, your desire for the College to grow in excellence and success has inspired me to lead in a manner that galvanizes our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to join together to "take our community to the next level."

Communitas is also possible because the College is peopled by particularly committed and diversely gifted faculty, staff, and students. I think you will agree as you look through this magazine. In this issue we say farewell to retiring **Dean Emeritus Nick Mazza** (p. 20). We celebrate the amazing achievements of our **International Program** — led by **Professor Neil Abell** and funded by donors with a vision of a global-

ly-connected community (p. 4). In a panel discussion of current issues in **child welfare reform**, we see the importance of convening practitioners and researchers from social work, medicine, psychology, and other disciplines to think together about complex social problems (p.6). Associate Professor **Dina Wilke** is leading a team of faculty and doctoral students in a crucial Florida workforce study, and earlier this academic year, our Family Institute on Child Welfare invited **Casey Family Programs** to help faculty, community-based providers, and policymakers from all three branches of government to explore the integration of child welfare, behavioral health, and primary care to serve Florida's most vulnerable children.

These gatherings will continue to be a priority for me as the College builds crucial relationships with state and national leaders around the social policy and practice domains of child welfare, family violence, behavioral and primary healthcare, and criminal justice.

I'm especially proud of our partnerships with the **Rosalynn Carter Institute** and the **Operation Family Caregiver** (OFC) program, directed by Associate Teaching Professor Margaret Ashmore. With the support of **FSU President John Thrasher** this initiative has proven to be a tremendous success (p.11).

I also am very pleased to share the breaking news that **U.S. News & World Report** (USN & WR) announced a veritable leap in our ranking from **#44 to #38** — effectively designating our College as a **Top 25 public program**. Such positive appraisals by peer institutions and USN & WR acknowledge the work of our excellent faculty and staff.

The quality of our educational programs also powers up our national reputation and are currently led by deeply committed faculty members — **Stephen Tripodi** (Ph.D.), **Fran Gormory** (MSW), **Pam Graham MacDill** (BSW), and **Katrina Boone** (Field). **Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Craig Stanley** is designing and launching initiatives that will ensure our continued eminence as a place for professional formation and instruction. Finally, we feature our **2015-16 Distinguished Alumni** and **Student Scholarship Recipients** (p.22). Your generous support of these scholarships and programs makes it possible for many students to attain otherwise unreachable goals. Take a few minutes and read about these amazing programs and students (p.14).

Bobby Kennedy's linking of "difficult and perplexing times" with "challenges and opportunities" provides a good understanding of our current situation as a College and as a nation. I invite you to join me in choosing to live and work in our "un-tranquil world" with the confidence that our *communitas* of alumni, friends, students, staff, and faculty will rise to these challenges, and together sustain a College notable for its academic excellence and significant influence. I look forward to even more enlightening dialogue and robust support from you during the year ahead. Please stay in touch!

Jim Clark, Ph.D., LCSW
Dean and Professor



ENGAGING GLOBAL PARTNERS

Exchanging Knowledge and Skill by Neil Abell, Ph.D., Professor and Director of International Programs

The College of Social Work International Programs offers students and faculty an exciting range of opportunities to study and engage abroad. Whether in the Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Grenada, or Trinidad and Tobago, we build partnerships based on mutual interest and strive to create contexts enhancing our understanding of what it means to be global citizens. Human rights and social welfare serve as guiding principles as we study and participate in efforts to identify and support vulnerable populations, and play a small part in connecting the lives of our students to diverse international cultures.

Each semester, students explore opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills by undertaking internships in agencies such as **Dismas House** (a step-down setting for men reentering society following imprisonment) or the **Multidisciplinary Homeless Support Team** (assisting UK citizens and refugees to become more independent) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. They may also work in **St. James Hospital** or the **Dublin Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services** in the Republic of Ireland, or **Positive East** (an HIV/AIDS education and support agency) in East London. Internships fulfill all degree requirements while giving students intimate exposure to the culture and social service mechanisms of the host society, and can

have a lasting impact on views about structures and practices for social welfare service delivery.

Beyond internships, students have opportunities each summer to study human rights, international social work, and criminal justice in Prague. And this year, the CSW is proposing a new course at FSU's London Study Centre examining social work in refugee and asylum seeking contexts. We also support exchange agreements for semester-long study in Australia and Sweden, and each year, offer students an opportunity for service and learning through an Alternative Spring Break program in Grenada, West Indies.

Working with colleagues in Grenada, we are building on a longstanding relationship begun by CSW International Programs founding director **Patricia Lager**. Her work in support of child welfare services and education in Trinidad and Tobago, the US Virgin Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados laid a foundation we have steadily built upon in Grenada, where faculty have also engaged in substance abuse and HIV/AIDS training and research. Among our chief partners, in cooperation with the CSW's **Institute for Family Violence**, is the **Grenada National Organization for Women (GNOW)**, under the direction of **Mrs. Jacqueline Lorice Pascal**. GNOW has acquired broad influence in the national decision making pro-

cess and has a history of programmatic responses on gender equality issues at many levels. With this influence has come increasing demands on the organization to respond to new initiatives from government, the private sector and civil society groups in a manner that addresses political, social, cultural and economic gender inequities. Mrs. Pascal writes regarding our internships that: "this quality of collaboration has served well in strategically shifting a significant part of our advocacy for gender equality into new areas for agency and social and economic empowerment of both men and women in Grenadian society."



She credits **Kayla Stewart**, our first MSW social policy and administration student with advancing these aims through publication of *Status of Women in Grenada and Recommendations for the 2013 National Budget*. Mrs. Paschal adds that the publication, “was instrumental in its dissemination process to a wide cross-section of the Grenadian public (and) has formed part of the frame of reference for technical officers in the Ministry of Finance in policy development; recommendations from the booklet are included in the Caribbean Development Bank funded Country Gender Assessment Report for Grenada (2013-2014).”



Kayla Stewart in Grenada

Writing in her current capacity as Community Impact Coordinator for the United Way in Denton, Texas, Kayla Stewart, MSW, describes her experiences at GNOW as: “one of the most rewarding and exceptional experiences that I’ve had thus far. As a macro social worker I wanted an experience working with community change. Not only did I get in-depth experience working with policy change, but I was also given the opportunity to work with the nation’s political figures. The small size of the nation gave me an opportunity that would have been unavailable to me in the US. My experiences gave me a sense of independence and individualization much different than my colleagues. The amount of responsibility I was given, coupled with the fact that I was in another country made every experience unique and beneficial. In my current professional role, I find that those experiences help make me a better social worker. I am now in a position that requires me to develop,

assess and evaluate programs and projects throughout the community. My experience in Grenada ... gave me the opportunity to develop programs and to evaluate and release information about a policy that effected an entire nation.”

In addition to internships the CSW Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program, co-led by **Drs. Dina Wilke** and **Neil Abell**, currently provides an opportunity for service learning at the **Programme for Adolescent Mothers**. (PAM) Directed by **Mrs. Alva Lawrence, BSW**, PAM serves young women who would otherwise lack the opportunities to complete their education, prepare for independent livelihood, college if they choose, and to learn parenting skills in a supportive atmosphere. This year, the program returned for the fourth time, providing programming in healthy relationships and character development. Working

with the arts, music, small group activities and discussions, CSW students learned along with PAM students about cultural differences and similarities, and best ways to translate social work practices into mutually beneficial experiences. Twelve CSW students prepared for 10 weeks prior to travel, engaged in an 8 day service learning project, and enjoyed the beauty of the Caribbean. The ASB culminates as the CSW and PAM co-host a luncheon for 25-40 representatives of NGO’s and governmental ministries turning out in support of PAM students. This year’s seminar, “Advancing the Dignity and Worth of Service Users in Global Social Work Practice,” was hosted at the **Grenada Red Cross Society**, another longtime CSW partner, under the generous direction of **Mr. Terry Charles**.

These and other CSW International Program’s projects would not be possible without the generous support of the **Hurrie Trust**, administered by **Judge Thomas Lager** and **Mrs. Patricia Lager**, and by the contributions of **Margaret and John Paschal, MSW**. We are tremendously fortunate to have these opportunities, and grateful to be able to offset some expenses through scholarships made possible by these partners.

The future is bright for CSW International Programs, and we look forward to expanding opportunities for scholarship, service, and research in an increasingly interdependent, global community. ■



THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSLATING SCIENCE TO PRACTICE

The Impact of Academic Scholarship on Children and Families in Florida

Since the creation of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, there has been greater interest across Florida in children, families, and child welfare. The FSU College of Social Work has also seen a dramatic increase in child welfare-focused projects and initiatives that have resulted in new partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration. In the interest of fostering this collaborative environment, the College of Social Work Dean Jim Clark invited several experts in children, families and child welfare from various organizations and colleges within Florida State University including:

- **Mimi Graham**, Director, Center for Prevention & Early Intervention
- **Heather Flynn**, Associate Professor & Vice Chair for Research, FSU College of Medicine (clinical psychologist)
- **Suzanne Harrison**, MD, Associate Professor & Family Medicine Education Director, FSU College of Medicine
- **Patty Babcock**, Interim Director, Florida Institute for Child Welfare
- **Karen Oehme**, Director, Institute for Family Violence Studies
- **Jim Clark**, Dean, FSU College of Social Work
- **Jeffrey Lacasse**, Assistant Professor, FSU College of Social Work
- **Pam MacDill**, Director of the BSW Program & Professional Development, FSU College of Social Work
- **Philip Osteen**, Assistant Professor, FSU College of Social Work
- **Dina Wilke**, Associate Professor, FSU College of Social Work

In February, Dean Clark led a collaborative conversation on the idea of translational science research. Both have become very important for social work and behavioral health with particular relevance to social policy and practice.

Clark: The National Institute of Health estimated that without a translational research approach it takes about 20 years to go from a randomized control trial or other types of controlled studies



into dissemination of any approach. So how do we more effectively and quickly take evidence and get it into the field? What do you think about the challenges of doing work that is relevant and will have impact at the community, state, regional, federal levels?

Graham: We've tried conferences. We've tried a curriculum. We've tried articles in the newspaper. It just seems like such slow, incremental progress. And it seems like policies are made by individual legislative experience. I know that Patty [Babcock] has been preaching for a strategic plan for child welfare. Having the passion, data, and understanding is not enough.

Babcock: I think it all ties back to this community piece. How do you go from a community, to a state, to a national-level agenda? It really comes back to the fact that every community is different. So what is the common bond that you can work across on all three levels? And have we really identified them from a child welfare perspective?

Clark: We need to think differently about policies. To translate science into policy

takes strategic planning. It requires a broader view than say, media-driven or individual-driven agendas.

Harrison: As I was listening to the two of you I thought, you need a marketing strategy. You need to decide which thing is most important and market it. I am a family physician by training. I teach at the College of Medicine, and my research advocacy interests are in, basically, violence. So it's about how violence affects the family unit and health. Even in my lifetime in the medical field, it's interesting how long it took for

people to understand what the ACE study [[cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy)] was saying. People are starting to talk about it like it's some new thing. It is not new. But perhaps that research was not appropriately marketed to the physicians and healthcare providers who might implement it.

Graham: I was in San Francisco last week. Their health department has integrated ACE and have a trauma-informed health department. I came back here and said, well let's go to AHCA [Agency for Healthcare Administration] and talk about how we can have a trauma-informed state. There was limited interest. How do you get that momentum?

Osteen: The things we decide to pursue are often personally driven on a political level, but there is also a political urgency sometimes to the things we do that doesn't align temporally with science. Science is very intensive, and it takes time. There's often not a desire to see a research project to its conclusion when there needs to be something done right now. Therefore, the decision makers don't feel like they have time to look at the science or even for the science to be

done. I think that is a huge disconnect. Even when those decisions are made with a sense of urgency, there is research that could be drawn on. But it's usually not.

Clark: Why do you think that available knowledge is not used effectively in the public sphere?

Osteen: I think that part of it is a lack of understanding of how to use it, how to access it, or how to apply it. And I think there is a difference between those who are making decisions and those who are informing decisions. Those informing

What steps did you take from your University launching pad that you think made the biggest difference in the success of the program?

Oehme: The good news is most of what's needed is already there. The public trusts the University. Law enforcement agencies did not see us as some political group with an agenda, but as a 'neutral' group that was coming in to really help them. They wanted someone perceived as neutral, not necessarily on their side, but someone really trying to understand their interests.

tention and turnover issues. These affect services and create all kinds of issues. So, there was a groundswell of support to begin with. We couldn't do it without having relationships. I've been joking all along that everyone loves the study until we start getting results. That's when there's going to be a lot more discussion about system change. Reflecting on some of the earlier discussion, I'm frankly not a bit surprised that it takes so long to get new knowledge into practice. Knowledge is unstable, right? So I think there needs to be



Harrison



Wilke



Lacasse



Graham & Clark

decisions may be the ones more likely to engage in some of that scholarship or science. But ultimately, it is the ones making decisions that have many other demands, and they may be more interested in any outcome rather than no outcome. The sense of being seen as doing something, that's better than doing nothing. Even if doing something ultimately fails.

Oehme: I think that this discussion of preparing the community for change is a crucial role for the University. We need to take a very active role in that, and that's where I see the [Florida] Institute for Child Welfare: engaging and educating the public, bringing along the public on the concepts of trauma-informed care, which people when they hear about it get excited. I think that our institutes, including the Institute for Family Violence Studies and The Multi-disciplinary Center, need to embrace educating the community as a priority.

Clark: You've had several successful projects. I'm thinking about your domestic violence project with law enforcement. Some people would have said that was impossible to accomplish.

MacDill: Politics... I really agree with you in that I do think that the universities have the opportunity to create these partnerships and I've seen shifts from initial resistance to initiatives that happened with child welfare bills over the last two years. In my experience legislators really do want information, but they want it in a snapshot. They want the research, but they want it in a one-pager. We have this opportunity, because I think there has been more buy in for what social work can bring to Florida, which really didn't exist before.

Clark: I think it is important to create relationships and building trust over the long haul. The hopeful piece of this is that there is readiness in certain sectors of government and the public to work with us, and those are the precise areas to target and to try to innovate.

Babcock: I know we're talking a lot about child welfare, but it goes beyond child welfare. It goes back to what Philip [Osteen] said, it's really about education and effective implementation science.

Wilke: Philip and I are working on a project with child welfare workforce re-

this groundswell of knowledge that points us all in the same direction at the same time that there's political will to make substantive changes.

Lacasse: I don't know exactly what policymakers or practitioners are supposed to do when giving them a clear consensus on some of the issues is extremely difficult, it's very complex, and there are a lot of nuances. I look at the research in my area and it's taken 20, 30, 40 years for things to trickle down. I would agree that no one thinks children can wait, particularly vulnerable populations. I understand why there is intense pressure. Anything we can do to make it more efficient would be welcome.

Graham: I was part of a huge randomized control study with the Infant Health and Development Program. It was on low birth-weight babies who got early interventions conducted at seven different medical schools. There were great outcomes. It showed early intervention really makes a difference. Arkansas was the only one of the seven sites that was able to implement it. The

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uptake of having quality early interventions has been very slow even when we have the data. It was \$12,000 a year per kid and seen as cost prohibitive. But if you look at what those kids cost over a lifetime, it's a bargain. So even if you have the data, if you're able to sell it and have a constituency who's willing to do it, it doesn't move.

Flynn: Clearly there has to be an intersection between what stakeholders, their organization and agencies, want and what we academics can bring to that. This started for me in the 90s when an OB-GYN health system came to us and said, 'We think we're seeing a lot of depression, but we're not sure, and we want to figure out how to screen. Can you help?' And I said, absolutely. That led to a lot of practice changes in terms of routine screenings and then getting the results into the medical records. I think what we're seeing now is actually a positive trend for research partnerships with communities. Instead of thinking about research to practice, thinking about practice to research and really making practice settings learning ecosystems, which means helping them to change their infrastructure. Funding agencies want these academic partnerships based on utilizing the digitized information that is available to creating these learning ecosystems.

Wilke: I love the idea of a learning ecosystem. It's like building the sidewalks where people are already walking.

Flynn: I think the most successful way for us to work with stakeholders is to give them something they already want.

Clark: Receptivity is an important issue in education, the readiness of the learner to receive information. You brought up something fascinating. Sometimes our results can recommend a shift in policy, or a shift in practice, or even an entire infrastructure that nobody knows how to adapt the findings to. It's not that people don't trust the information or that they inherently don't like the information. It's that science becomes another source of news that is demoralizing because this seems impossible to accomplish.

Flynn: You mean that a strong evidence base can represent an extra burden to the agency or it's depressing to them. I think that this is where a lot of good interdisciplinary collaborations can happen because it's about meeting them exactly where they are and integrating some of these things into their existing workflow. To do that we need to expand our interdisciplinary collaboration.

Clark: This is a big discussion in the emerging strategic plan for the University, the problem of silos and the fact the University is set up in these terms. What have you found to be the benefits and obstacles of doing interdisciplinary work in your own experience?

Graham: 20 years ago we tried to start an infant mental health program here and I decided I couldn't live long enough to get through the bureaucracy that it would take to get it done.

Flynn: Not to be cynical, but I think the way these partnerships usually get off the ground and gain some traction is around a grant opportunity. I've tried it the other way. We've had meetings around interdisciplinary topics like mental health, aging or whatever. People are excited and come to the meetings, but the momentum fizzles unless there is some sort of structured project to dive into. The FSU Office of Research has a new Office of Proposal Development. They're working really hard to stimulate this interdisciplinary research. I think it's in line with FSU's priorities, but it will only happen if we have a grant mechanism. The good news about that is there are a lot of interdisciplinary grants mechanisms, NSF, NIH, HRQ. Major review criteria that gets you a good score is how many disciplines are going to be impacted by this grant. It's knowing about what everybody else is doing.

Clark: I tend to agree with you. It's been my experience that human beings want to work for a tangible reward, especially when the effort is high. A lot of good things come from writing grant proposals or papers, especially friendships. If you want to know somebody, travel with them or write a grant with them. What would need to change in the way we work with our students if we were really going to create opportunities for developing

learning ecologies in the community?

Oehme: They have to like the project. That's how we get students. They think of this really great project and think, 'I can relate to that. That's what I want to do.'

Babcock: I think it touches on what's relevant for them. When teaching a research design we should ask students, where would you like to go? When it has relevance for them, that stigma of research goes away. Same with the agency. Going back to the practice should be the starting point.

Osteen: And I think many of us get caught in the trap of teaching the methodology, which is not what our students need. If they're going to go out and be researchers then they need a methodological background, but as practitioners they don't need to understand methodology. They need to understand process and critical thinking. What's relevant is how to look at this statistical information and make a decision about working with clients. I think we do a disservice to our students around research, but we also do a disservice to the practitioners because we don't continue to work with them in the field. I think in terms of the education piece, at some point here the faculty have to say, "This is not how we're going to teach research. We don't need these methodological books that we use. Let's get rid of that and revise what research means for the practitioner and let's teach it in a very different way."

Harrison: Like a learning collaborative.

Clark: We should start by identifying particularly promising students and developing some fellowship funding for them to continue to work with faculty even after graduation, as they go into the field and work on projects to keep alive their intellectual curiosity and to develop their capacity to do research.

Osteen: And have someone who can do dissemination and translation themselves within the agencies.

Clark: It goes back to relationships too, about being respectful when working with communities. I really appreciate all of these interesting ideas. I'm going to do a lot of thinking about what we talked about. ■

JANENE M. JANES FELLOW IN CHILD WELFARE

Pamela Graham MacDill

Pam Graham MacDill has served in several roles at the FSU College of Social Work, and is currently the Director of the BSW Program and Professional Development. Her work in child welfare has impacted students on campus, individuals in the local community and has spread throughout the state of Florida.



under the **Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement** (2012), collaborates with campus and community partners to empower students to attain education and long-term personal independence. "These remarkable young people have been an inspiration for me personally and professionally," expressed MacDill. Since its inception, the program has retained 91% of the students at the University involved in the program and who have a combined GPA of 3.01.

"Being the Janes Fellow in Child Welfare has influenced me to search for opportunities in my teaching and scholarship to address child welfare issues of importance to the community," said Pam MacDill. One recent example is MacDill's advocacy for students at FSU experiencing foster care, homelessness, or relative care. In 2012, she collaborated with University administrators to identify these students and provide support services. Now the **Unconquered Scholars Program** (care.fsu.edu/College-Programs/Unconquered-Scholars-Program) housed

MacDill's efforts in child welfare have reached beyond the boundaries of Florida State's campus and even the local Tallahassee community, impacting policy statewide. She credits the Janes Fellowship for enhancing her expertise in the field. "This was quite evident during the 2014 Legislative Session when I was asked to testify before the House and Senate Committees on important child welfare legislation," notes MacDill. What resulted from this legislative session was the passing of senate bill SB1666 that brought sweeping changes to the child welfare system, including goals to hire into child welfare positions professionals with social work degrees and the creation and funding of the **Florida Institute for Child Welfare** housed at the FSU College of Social Work.

"The fellowship has made my work more visible to the University and broader community," MacDill explained, "and has played a critical role in demonstrating the commitment of FSU and the College of Social Work to address the key issues in child welfare today." ■

AGNES FLAHERTY STOOPS PROFESSOR IN CHILD WELFARE

Karen Randolph, Ph.D.



In 2010, Dr. Karen Randolph received the **Agnes Flaherty Stoops Professor in Child Welfare** award. Since that time, she has continued to be an active faculty member within the FSU College of Social Work conducting child welfare research. She credits the professorship for providing her the opportunity to "make empirically substantive contributions to the child welfare field in innovative ways." **The Society for Social Work and Research** (SSWR) also recognized her scholarly influence by inducting her into their 2016 Class of Fellows. This designation honors SSWR mem-

bers who advance, disseminate, and translate research that addresses issues of social work practice and policy.

Dr. Randolph is involved in various research endeavors. Currently, she is partnering with **Dr. Mary Kay Falconer**, Senior Evaluator with the **Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida**, to conduct an evaluation of parent education interventions for families of young children at risk of maltreatment. Recently, Dr. Randolph completed an evaluation of the **Fostering Achievement Fellowship** (FAF) program, in partnership with **Tallahassee Community College** (TCC). The FAF program provides academic and other support to youths formally involved in the foster care system who are seeking post-secondary education. Dr. Randolph also re-

cently completed an evaluation, funded by **The Able Trust** that is designed to improve employment outcomes for adolescents and young adults with disabilities in Florida. Many of these youths have been involved in the foster care system.

"This professorship has allowed me to develop meaningful research and practice collaborations with child welfare researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in Florida and across the country," Randolph said. "These collaborations have helped strengthen the transfer of research-generated knowledge into the practice world."

Dr. Randolph stresses that the impact of programs like the Stoops professorship as an important way to promote collaborative scholarship. In addition, the professorship affords scholars such as herself the opportunity to mentor students in their professional development and growth. All of these benefits create a lasting tribute to the donor who established the award. ■



A ROLE OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Craig Stanley

Serving in the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for over a year, **Dr. Craig Stanley** has helped to guide the College of Social Work through a time of tremendous positive growth and change. Working alongside the College's Dean **Jim Clark**, Stanley assists with the College's operations, specifically academic program planning and evaluation, accreditation, academic services and success, and faculty development.

A self-described "accidental academic," Stanley first started working with the College as the MSW Coordinator for Admissions and Recruitment in 2001 after working as a clinical social worker for several years. The faculty position within the College provided him an opportunity to participate in faculty governance and teaching. This exposure to higher education showed him how effective administrators could positively impact students and their educational experiences. "I realized I had moved into a new career trajectory and I decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Higher Education," Stanley related.

Reflecting on his role as a dean for academic affairs, Stanley observed that the Ph.D. has enhanced his level of service for the college, university, and the students they serve. "Social work is a service oriented profession," he emphasized. "Leadership and administration are also about service."

The past year has been a productive one under his administrative leadership. The College has implemented new curricula for the BSW and MSW Programs which will be evaluated over the next few years. The undergraduate level curriculum has seen a consolidation of foundation classes that will better prepare students as entry level practitioners while providing a sound foundation for those who wish to go on to graduate school. At the graduate level, the MSW macro curriculum has been refined to focus more on leadership and program development. The clinical curriculum has added courses that focus on clinical skills development. These changes were made with input from students, faculty, and social work professionals in the community and are the culmination of years of

work and planning that started with my predecessor, Dr. Dina Wilke. It's exciting to see this redesign come to fruition."

He has also seen the College through a major growth spurt in the size of the college's MSW distance learning programs online and off-campus (Jacksonville & Gainesville, Florida). Students from these areas now make up almost half of the MSW students enrolled at the College of Social Work. Stanley sees this as a tremendous boon for social workers in the state of Florida and across the country. "We have created access for students who, otherwise, may not have been able to participate in an MSW Program," he said. The College's distance learning programs offer tremendous flexibility for working professionals and a variety of students, but Stanley notes that it is not without its challenges.

As the distance learning programs at the College have expanded, Stanley has worked with current MSW Program Director **Fran Gomory** and other faculty and staff to meet the challenges of continually improving the educational experience for students. In addition to using the Blackboard education platform, the distance learning MSW programs will soon be implementing an online conferencing system that will allow for synchronous meeting sessions and "town hall" meetings for students with faculty and staff. He has also worked with Field Education Director **Katrina Boone**, field staff, and educators to meet the challenge of expanding field placement opportunities for these students. He observes that it is especially exciting to see other College of Social Work alumni at many organizations step up to take on FSU social work interns knowing that students are receiving excellent supervision and guidance.

Serving in various roles at the University over the years, Stanley observes that his strengths lend themselves well to his current roles as a facilitator and collaborator helping to perpetually improve the College and the experiences of its students. "I particularly enjoy bringing people together and listening to ideas and suggestions that build consensus around initiatives to move the College forward in its mission of service," Stanley reinforced. ■

SUPPORTING THE HEROES AT HOME

Operation Family Caregiver

“It really means a lot having someone who actually listens to me and gets to know me and my problems,” a caregiver who completed the Operation Family Caregiver (OFC) program said. “This program works with me and actually helps me to better understand myself and my issues.”

OFC Caregiver Coach **Wendy Turney** noted the tremendous growth in the number of military caregivers served by the OFC site run through the Florida State University College of Social Work since she began working for OFC in 2015. The FSU OFC program, managed by faculty member and clinical social worker **Margaret Ashmore**, has served 36 caregivers, offering free, confidential support to caregivers of those who have served our nation. Specially trained caregiver coaches like Wendy Turney help program participants learn how to overcome obstacles they face and to manage challenges in caregiving. The program also represents a rapid strengthening of support at Florida State for veterans and their loved ones.

President John Thrasher has committed Florida State University to being the most veteran friendly campus in the United States. “The presence of Operation Family Caregiver at FSU,” according to President Thrasher, “is wonderfully aligned with our mission to strongly support military service members, veterans, and their families.” Indeed, the Office of the President is providing financial support for the OFC Military Caregiver Appreciation Luncheon series.

The OFC Military Caregiver Appreciation luncheon series represents a unique way that the OFC program at FSU reaches out to caregivers in Florida. Starting in 2015, the program host-



Caregiver Coach Wendy Turney, Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and Program Manager OFC-FSU site, Margaret Ashmore

ed its first luncheon in Tallahassee to inform and support caregivers in the Big Bend region, with 34 people in attendance. The luncheon series has since held two more well attended events in 2016 in Gainesville attended by 26 attendees and in Jacksonville 35 attendees. Two more events are planned in 2016 for Panama City and Pensacola.

Reaching out to caregivers in these ways has become more important as there are now more than 1.1 million post-9/11 caregivers in the United States, according to a 2014 study by the RAND Corporation. Without support services, caregivers and their families face the risk of poor health outcomes, workplace problems, elevated risk for depression, and a great strain on family relationships. Few programs like Operation Family Caregiver exist that target the needs of military caregivers, even though this population is clearly in need of assistance.

“As our first university-based Operation Family Caregiver expansion site, we are so proud of the superlative efforts of the FSU College of Social Work

to bring quality, evidence-based support to military caregivers throughout the region,” said **Laura J. Bauer**, MPA, National Program Director of Operation Family Caregiver at the **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving**. “On a daily basis they are helping enhance the quality of the life for these hidden heroes who have sacrificed unselfishly right alongside their loved ones. It is an honor to work with such a great team!”

To learn more about the Operation Family Caregiver program at FSU, visit the “Service” tab on the FSU College of Social Work website csw.fsu.edu or call Caregiver Coach Wendy Turney at (850) 645-0902. ■



**OPERATION
FAMILY CAREGIVER**

A program of The Rosalynn Carter
Institute for Caregiving

PHOTO TIMELINE 2015 2016



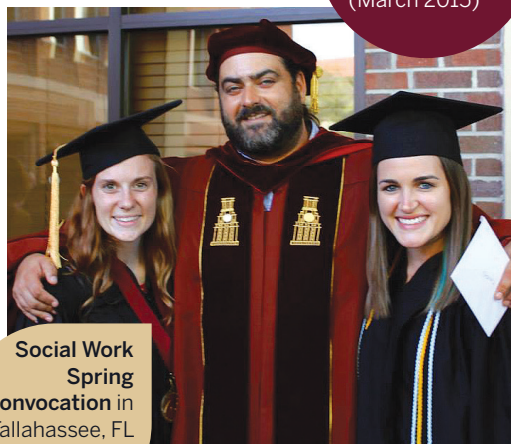
Society for Social Work Research Reception in New Orleans, LA (January 2015)



Diversity Forum 2015: Illuminating the Broad Spectrum of Disability (March 2015)



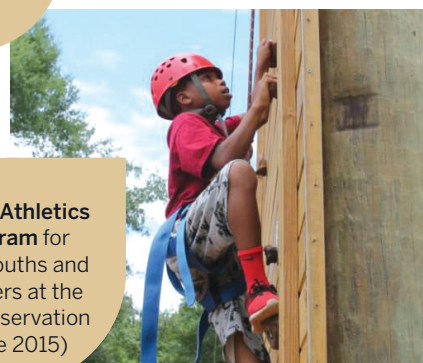
Alternative Spring Break social work students in Grenada, West Indies (March 2015)



Social Work Spring Convocation in Tallahassee, FL (May 2015)



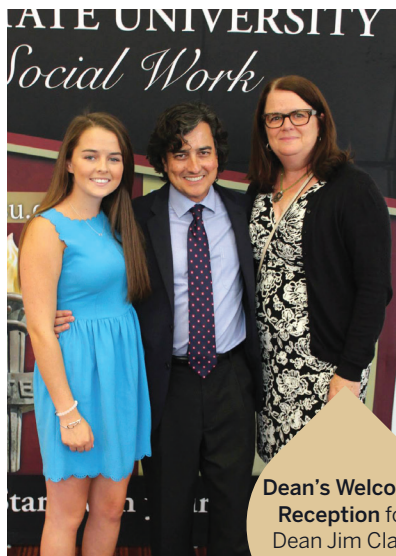
Arts & Athletics Program for local youths and campers at the FSU Reservation (June 2015)



Summer Graduation Reception (August 2015)



MSW Ambassadors at the Fall 2015 MSW Orientation (August 2015)



Dean's Welcome Reception for Dean Jim Clark
(August 2015)

Student Scholarship and Distinguished Graduate Dinner
(September 2015)



Students at the Field Expo meeting to find their field placements
(September 2015)



Faculty, staff and alumni at our booth at the Council on Social Work Education's annual conference in Denver, CO
(October 2015)



College of Social Work and community partners at the Kearney Center Garden Dedication benefiting people experiencing homelessness
(November 2015)



A Celebration of the Career of Nick Mazza
(December 2015)



Students and faculty participating in NASW-Florida's LEAD Day at the Florida Capitol
(February 2016)



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Bachelor In Social Work (BSW)

DIRECTOR

Pamela MacDill, MSW



The Bachelor in Social Work (BSW) program at the FSU College of Social Work is a limited access program dedicated to educating our students to engage in professional work with individuals, families, and communities. As a profession, we work with a wide cross section of humanity, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition, or status. In the interest of serving these diverse populations, the FSU College of Social Work places a strong emphasis on recruiting a well prepared student body, who reflect these values. At the completion of required coursework, students in the BSW program gain hands-on experience by completing a structured field placement of 512 hours under the supervision of a professional social worker.

Yin Shan “Elly” Chung, BSW Candidate

EXCELLING IN ACADEMICS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

At 19 years old, Yin Shan “Elly” Chung left her home in Hong Kong and flew thousands of miles to bravely experience life as an international student in order to pursue her passion. “My greatest passion in life is to help people overcome barriers that they are experiencing so they are able to enjoy a better quality of life,” explains Chung. For the past three years she has been in the United States pursuing her Bachelor in Social Work from the FSU College of Social Work because according to Chung “FSU has the best social work program among the universities in Florida” to prepare her both practically and academically.

Receiving a scholarship from the Southern Scholarship Foundation, Chung lives in the Southern Scholarship house with 30 other female students of various backgrounds. The opportunity has allowed her to immerse herself in American culture and to make the most of her experience at Florida State. She is active on campus as president of the club, Christian on



Campus. And she also completed the Global Ambassador Certificate, giving cultural presentations at several schools in the Tallahassee area. Along with her extra curricular pursuits, Chung has actively pursued academic and research opportunities on campus.

As a member of the **Garnet and Gold Scholar Society**, Chung has demonstrated and been recognized for en-

gagement and well-roundedness as an undergraduate student in the areas of leadership, internship, service, international, and research. She participated in 2014 in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, working with **Dr. Jessica Folsom** at the **Florida Center for Reading Research** to study the social networking skills of students with disabilities. And since 2015, Chung has begun work on her undergraduate research thesis with the assistance of FSU Social Work professor **Dr. Dina Wilke** to examine how the education system in Hong Kong impacts students' self-concept.

Chung will finish off her undergraduate studies in social work through her field placement with the College of Social Work's **FSU Multidisciplinary Center** that provides service and training for children and families experiencing academic, medical and/or behavioral and emotional problems. And she will present her undergraduate thesis this year at the **Florida Undergraduate Research Conference**. ■

Master In Social Work (MSW)

DIRECTOR
Fran Gomory, MSW



The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at the FSU College of Social Work offers a broad range of program options to fit the needs of a variety of students and their busy schedules. Choose a traditional classroom experience in clinical social work or social leadership in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Gainesville or Panama City, Florida or complete the MSW clinical program through our online MSW program, the first program of its kind in the country. The MSW program also offers a number of joint degrees including: MSW/MBA, MSW/JD, MSW/MPA and MSW/MS in Criminology and Criminal Justice. All students, on campus and online, participate in field placements to gain practical experience in their area of interest.

Cynthia Yanez, MSW Candidate
Clinical Program

ADVOCATING IMPROVEMENTS FOR INMATES



Growing up in Miami amidst a fusion of culture and ethnicities cultivated Cynthia Yanez's appreciation for diversity, but she reflected, "I began to understand that the differences I found so beautiful were the same differences that keep many groups and individuals disenfranchised." Yanez

reaching out to disadvantaged populations at an early age, volunteering as a teen at an after school house for at-risk youth and tutoring former gang members to improve their literacy. She continued her outreach to at-risk youths as an Exceptional Student Education Specialist in Gainesville, Florida. Yet, her experiences in the public school system left her wanting more. "I was tired of seeing students go from their classrooms into prison cells," said Yanez.

With the encouragement of her sister Jenny, a public organizer in New Orleans, Louisiana, Yanez was drawn to the field of social work. After her first field placement with Gator TeamChild in Gainesville, Yanez decided to focus on aiding male offenders in the criminal justice system as a forensic social worker by advocating for re-establishing ex-offender rights, proper rehabilitation, and equitable re-entry into society to reduce the recidivism of inmates back into the criminal justice system.

Yanez's approach to social work advocates for not only the rights of the prison inmates she works with, but also for

Isabella Schmid, MSW Candidate
Clinical Program

BALANCING ATHLETICS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Having been an athlete her whole life, Isabella Schmid has mastered qualities that set her apart from many other students. People describe her as being disciplined, committed, hard working, positive, resilient, and strong. Isabella was able to combine two of her greatest passions here at Florida State,

playing soccer at an elite level and following her academic passion in psychology and social work.

Schmid grew up in Germany, playing on several German youth National Teams before committing to FSU. In 2012, Schmid became a part of the **Florida State Women's Soccer Team**, winning the ACC championship three times in a row and bringing home the National Championship in 2014. Looking at her career at FSU, she feels very grateful saying, "FSU has given me a great opportunity to not only grow athletically, but also academically and personally. It's a great environment to follow your passion." Schmid not only succeeded on the soccer field, but also in the classroom, graduating with her Bachelor's degree after only two and a half years.

Schmid is currently working on her Master's degree in the College of Social Work. She has always been interested in the complexity of the human mind and hopes to help oth-

Yanez & Schmid continued on page 31

Jennie "Toli" Gintoli, MSW Candidate
Online Program

REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY



Early in her academic career Jennie "Toli" Gintoli knew she liked working with and advocating for various communities, particularly with the LGBTQ community. Gintoli became active during her first graduate program in Higher Education Administration at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, conducting

research on meeting the needs of transgender college students, and interning in SIUC's GLBT Resource Center. After graduation, Gintoli moved to Vermont to start her career in higher education, as well as running an HIV testing clinic at Green Mountain College for two years.

She worked in higher education for seven years before pursuing a career in social work. After moving to Florida, she worked for the University of South Florida's Housing and Residential Education Department, joining committees for the Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention and facilitating SafeZone workshops for the campus community, while living on campus with students and being on call at all times. After many conversations with her sister (also a social worker), Gintoli realized that her strong skill-set of relationship-building, inclusivity and empowerment would make her a great social worker. The challenge was finding the right social work program. "I needed to find a program that would work with my schedule and long hours, but I still wanted to have interactions with my cohorts," explained Gintoli. "The online program [at the FSU College of Social Work] gives me the flexibility that I need."

Currently, Gintoli is the LGBT Program Manager for the non-profit Metro Wellness and Community Center in St. Petersburg, Florida while still pursuing her MSW through the College of Social Work's online program. "I have had some really great professors that really want to help us be the best we can be in the program and once we finish," said Gintoli. "The program has also taught me to be more accountable for my actions and to be better organized."

Gintoli continued on page 31

Robert Summerill, MSW Candidate
Social Leadership Program

PURSUING IMPACT THROUGH POLICY FOR THOSE IN NEED



With a bachelor's degree in psychology, Robert Summerill was drawn to the field of social work for its approach to confronting the every day realities experienced by people in the real world and its diverse array of practical solutions and aids to serve people in need. Summerill focused his interests on domestic violence, foster care, and conditions in urban environments and the welfare system that

make it difficult for people to escape poverty. "My interest is through a policy lens," he explained. "I would like to focus on how current systems can be improved and innovated upon to more effectively meet the population's needs."

Summerill faced challenging social circumstances in his own life, finding himself in England after completing his undergraduate studies deep in debt and struggling with depression and social anxiety. He credits welfare checks, support from friends and family, and a little bit of luck that he found the employment he needed to find his way out of debt. "Those experiences remind me how much we depend on the kindness, hard work, and ingenuity of others to better ourselves and how important it is to create and sustain opportunities and support systems for others," stressed Summerill.

Through the **FSU College of Social Work Social Leadership Program**, Summerill hopes to become more involved in the process to change the policies, programs and funding that shape the landscape that social work clinicians and their clients will have to contend with. He is also active on a personal level through the **FSU Association of Student Social Workers** volunteering for various organizations like **Habitat for Humanity** and the **Kearney Center** that aids people experiencing homelessness in Tallahassee. Summerill is also a facilitator for **Seminole Safe Zones and Allies** on FSU's campus that encourages allyship, inclusivity and knowledge building about contemporary LGBTQ issues. He also credits presenting with the **FSU Student Disability Resource Center PRISM** group about different kinds of disabilities and challenges, like his social anxiety and depression, at the College's **2015 Diversity Forum** as one of his proudest moments. ■

Doctoral Program (Ph.D.)

DIRECTOR

Stephen Tripodi, Ph.D.



The College of Social Work Doctoral Program's primary mission is to develop social work scholars and leaders in research and education who use systematic methods of inquiry to advance knowledge. We develop well-rounded social work scholars by offering experiential learning in quantitative and qualitative research, advanced statistics, theory, measurement, scholarly writing, and adult pedagogy. We have a strong record of professor-student collaborations and publications that ultimately help students become independent and experienced researchers prepared for a career in academia. The program has a proven record of producing scholars who go on to pursue successful careers in academia.

Stephanie Kennedy
Ph.D. Candidate

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN



During her MSW program at the FSU College of Social Work, Stephanie Kennedy completed two year-long internships as a victim advocate and as an inpatient behavioral health worker, and spent years volunteering at the Tallahassee Leon County Homeless Shelter. These experiences informed much of her scholarship as she was able to observe first hand the most vulnerable members of society cycle through a variety of institutional systems - shelters, jails and prisons, inpatient centers, and the child welfare system. Her decision to pursue her doctoral degree was fueled by her desire to research the effectiveness of strengths-based and trauma-informed approaches and to inform policy.

SELECT DOCTORAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TENURE-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

LEAH CHEATHAM will join the faculty of the University of Alabama School of Social Work in fall 2016 as an assistant professor. Her dissertation title is, "Aging Out of Foster Care with Disabilities: Predictors of Educational Attainment and Employment" (Chair: Dr. Karen Randolph).

STEPHANIE KENNEDY will join the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in fall 2016 as an assistant professor. Her dissertation title is, "The Relationship Between Childhood Polyvictimization and Subsequent Mental Health and Substance Misuse Outcomes for Incarcerated Women" (Chair: Dr. Stephen Tripodi).

11

OF
ARTICLES
PUBLISHED

OF PRESENTATIONS BY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

7

D.C.

2

DENVER

2

INDY

2

NOLA

See all **doctoral accomplishments** on page 18

Kennedy received the **FSU Legacy Fellowship** in 2011, a competitive, multi-year award provided five consecutive years of funding and a research assistantship allowing for her to actively participate in several social work research projects with social work faculty at the FSU College of Social Work. Her research interests and eventual dissertation topic grew out of her experiences with **Dr. Stephen Tripodi** research team on a National Institute of Mental Health funded data collection project conducted in two women's prisons in North Carolina. "The project assessed the relationship between childhood trauma and a variety of behavioral health and interpersonal challenges for incarcerated women," explained Kennedy. "And examined whether experiences of trauma increased a woman's risk of being rearrested or re-incarcerated after release."

Her dissertation, "The Relationship Between Childhood Polyvictimization and Subsequent Mental Health and Substance Misuse Outcomes for Incarcerated

Kennedy continued on page 31



SELECT DOCTORAL HIGHLIGHTS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

King, E. A. (in press). Outcomes of trauma-informed interventions for incarcerated women: A review. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Wilke, D. J., **King, E. A.**, Stanley, B. S., & Ashmore, M. (in press). Teaching clinical skills online: Comparing skill development between online and F2F students using a blinded review. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Prost, S. G. (in press). Development and validation of the hospice professionals' understanding of preparatory grief scale. *Research on Social Work Practice*.

Saunders, D., **Prost, S. G.**, & Oehme, K. (in press). Responses of police officers to cases of officer domestic violence: Effects of demographic and professional factors. *The Journal of Family Violence*.

Prost, S. G., Ai, A. L., Ainsworth, S. E., & Ayers, J. (2015). Mental health professionals and behavioral interventions for obesity: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work*, 1-26. doi: 10.1080/23761407.2015.1031418

Clem, J. M., **Prost, S. G.**, & Thyer, B. A. (2015). Does wilderness therapy reduce recidivism in delinquent adolescents?: A narrative review. *Journal of Adolescent and Family Health*, 7(1). Retrieved from <http://scholar.utc.edu/jafh/vol7/iss1/2>

REFERRED PRESENTATIONS

Deichen, M. E. & Wilke, D. (2016). *Depressive Symptom Presentation Among White and Black College Students*. Presentation to be given at 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

King, E. A., Tripodi, S. J., Veeh, C. A. (2016). *The relationship between severe mental disorders and recidivism in a sample of women released from prison*. Oral Paper Presentation at the Annual Conference, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

King, E. A., Tripodi, S. J., & Veeh, C. A. (2015). *Severe mental illness in incarcerated*

women: Implications for educating future social workers. Accepted for an Oral Paper Presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO (National).

Wilke, D. J., **King, E. A.**, Stanley, B. S., & Ashmore, M. (2015). Teaching clinical skills online: Comparing skill development between online and F2F students using a blinded review. Oral Paper Presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Distance Learning Conference, Indianapolis, IN (National).

King, E. A. (2015). Outcomes of Trauma-Informed Interventions for Incarcerated Women: A Review. Oral Paper Presentation at the Annual Conference, Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA. (National).

Hong, J. S., **Lee, J.**, Espelage, D. L., Hunter, S. C., Patton, D. U., & Rivers, Jr., T. (in press). Understanding the correlates of face-to-face and cyberbullying victimization among U.S. adolescents: A social-ecological analysis. *Violence & Victims*. *J.S. Hong and J. Lee contributed equally and are co-first authors.

Onifade, E., **Lee, J.**, Mennicke, A., Holmes, J. L., & Harris, R. M. (in press). Predicting delinquent behaviors for Korean youth using the parent-child relationship and career goal tension. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. doi: 10.1080/15377938.2015.1126698

Groton, D. B., Gromer, J. M., Mennicke, A., **Lee, J.**, Gul, M., Dupree, E., & Munn, J. (in press). "Give us a chance": Understanding job-seeking among women experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Employment Counseling*.

Lee, J., Abell, N., & Holmes, J. L. (2015). Validation of measures of cyberbullying perpetration and victimization in emerging adulthood. *Research on Social Work Practice*. Online first published on March 31, 2015 as doi: 10.1177/1049731515577890

Lee, J., & Randolph, K. A. (2015). Effects of parental monitoring on aggressive behavior among youth in the United States and South Korea: A cross-national study. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 55, 1-9. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.05.008

Prost, S. G., Ai, A. L., Ainsworth, S. E., & Ayers, J. (2016). *Behavioral interventions for obesity: Challenges for social work research and practice*. Oral paper presentation conducted at the 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

Prost, S. G., Lemieux, C., & Ai, A. L. (2016). *Post-disaster coping in social work students: Examining predictors of substance use*. Poster presentation conducted at the 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

Prost, S. G., Lemieux, C., & Ai, A. L. (2015). *Post-disaster substance use among social work students: Implications for training and supervision*. Oral paper presentation conducted at the annual program meeting Council for Social Work and Education, Denver, CO (National).

Prost, S. G. (2015). *Modeling hospice professionals' understanding of preparatory grief: Development and initial validation*. Oral paper presentation conducted at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, LA (National).

Spinelli, C., & Thyer, B. A. (2015). *Is Recovery from Alcoholism without Treatment Possible? A Review of the Evidence*. Oral paper presentation conducted at the 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

Spinelli, C. (2015). *Initial Validation of the Psychopharmacology in Clinical Practice Inventory*. Presentation given at 20th Annual Conference Anniversary, Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC (National).

Williams, J. M. (2016). *A pilot test on computer communication training for reducing loneliness in older adults*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC (National).

Williams, J. M. (2016). *Lessons learned: Tips on teaching computer communication to lonely older adults*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC (National).

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK BY THE NUMBERS

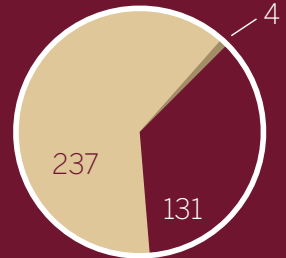


ENROLLMENT SPRING 2016

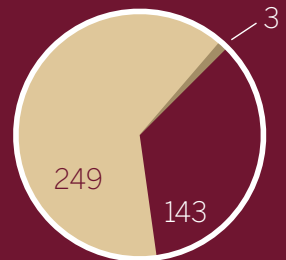


NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED

2013-2014
372



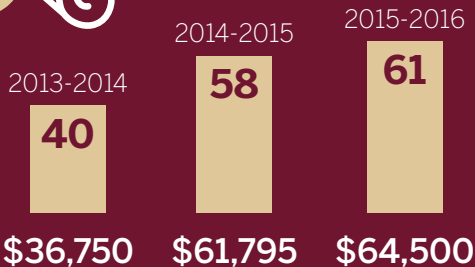
2014-2015
395



○ Bachelor's Degree
● Master's Degree
● Doctoral Degree



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



● # of Students Who Received Scholarships
● \$ Amount of Funds Given



NEED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

	Florida Resident	Non-Florida Resident
Undergraduate Student	\$21,208	\$35,870
Graduate Student	\$28,022	\$44,694

FUNDRAISING REPORT:

- 447 donors raised \$784,009 in FY2015.
- We are \$2,874,430 total toward our Raise the Torch College of Social Work campaign goal of \$7,500,000 by June 2018.

A NOTE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: It has been an exciting year in philanthropy in your college. With only two more years until the FSU's Raise the Torch campaign comes to a close I am confident the College of Social Work will reach our goal and rise in the National rankings. I look forward to future conversations on how you can continue to have an impact in transforming the lives of students for many generations to come.

Please help us reach our goal of alumni giving back by sending a gift of any amount to:
Florida State University College of Social Work, Development Director, Tallahassee, FL 32306. If you have any questions about giving please contact Colette Podgorski at **850-228-8536** or cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu.
Thank you for your support to the College of Social Work.

A CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER OF NICHOLAS F. MAZZA



Scores of FSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni filled the Alumni Association ballroom on December, 3, 2015. The gathering of family and friends celebrated the career of former dean and faculty member Nicholas (Nick) F. Mazza, and paid homage to his decades of teaching, service, and scholarship.

"I have tried to be a poet-practitioner, poet-educator, and poet-dean. Poetry and a poetic approach to social work comes from the heart and forms a special kind of discipline complementary to the science of our profession," declared Mazza. "I would like to be remembered as one who affirmed the "art" of social work, was student and community-centered, and advanced top-notch research that matters in the lives of those we serve."

A slideshow projected onto a large screen at the front of the room, displaying a multitude of photos that

highlighted the many successes and connections during Mazza's career while people mingled, laughed and chatted over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The evening began with remarks by the College of Social Work's new dean, **Jim Clark** and **President John Thrasher**, who made a special appearance to commend Mazza on his contributions and impact on FSU. "We are so pleased to recognize you and honor you for your outstanding achievements," President Thrasher said during the event. "And even though we have just been colleagues for a brief time, I have learned to respect you and admire the great work you have done for Florida State University and impacted the lives of so many of our students."

The program continued with words of praise and thanks from some of the college's faculty and administration including **Neil Abell**, **Margaret Ashmore**, **Dina Wilke**, and **Colette Podgorski**.

"What sticks out for me about Nick was his unwavering commitment to our students. He was popular as an instructor and known for his caring approach. It seemed like whenever we met alumni around the state, country even, that they all seemed to have had Nick for at least one class they took at FSU. As a colleague, Nick was generous with his insights and expertise," Associate Professor **Dina Wilke** said about Mazza. "I think he would want to be remembered for his commitment to the success of the College and particularly his commitment to students. I will remember his focus on and ultimately his success in keeping us an independent college at FSU. I think this is an important part of his legacy as Dean."

You may be leaving the active payroll, but you are not leaving the thoughts of those with whom you've worked, guided, taught, and led.

Associate Dean **Craig Stanley** and faculty member **Stephen Tripodi**, representing the Faculty Affairs Committee, recognized Mazza with the titles of Dean and Professor Emeritus and unveiled his portrait that will be displayed in the College of Social Work. **Katrina Boone**, representing the Field Advisory Committee, presented him with a plaque of appreciation inscribed with one of his most popular and enduring poems, "Hope."

Mazza particularly noted his surprise at the presence of his long-time friend

and mentor at the event, **Dr. Barbara White**, former Dean of the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, former Associate Dean at our College, and FSU alumna, coming all the way from Austin to give her heartfelt speech. "I am grateful to have been asked to participate in this celebration because of the admiration and respect I have for Nick and his example to all of us through his sound thinking, fair-mindedness, and integrity. I witnessed these qualities as a fellow member of the FSU School (then) of Social Work, and as a fellow dean," White said in her speech. "Nick has been a busy person with a dynamic list of achievements as a practitioner, researcher, scholar, professor, commu-

nity activist, creative artist, and dean. You may be leaving the active payroll, but you are not leaving the thoughts of those with whom you've worked, guided, taught, and led."

Among the many who honored Mazza, of special significance for him was the presence of his family, including his new grandson Cole and his daughter Nicole Mazza Anderson, who also spoke a few words in honor of her father's legacy. "Your career over the years has been like one of your marathons. Some miles were easier than others, but you always made it to the finish line. Here you are at the finish line of your career and you finished in style and with so much class," Nicole

Anderson said. "However, anyone who knows you well knows that your family was and continues to be the most important. No matter how busy you were with work, your family always came first. Daddy, what makes you so special is that you always had a great balance between family and work! That alone is a talent."

Reflecting on the evening, Mazza emphasized what an absolute joy the event was and how it went far beyond what he could have anticipated. Luckily, his legacy will not end with this celebration. Programs and initiatives that he established, including founding the **Arts & Athletics Community Outreach Program** for under-served youth, continue to serve the community and profession through the College of Social Work. He requested that people make donations to the Arts & Athletics Program in place of retirement gifts to ensure its continued efforts in community outreach to local youths. Close to \$12,000 was raised for the program in his honor. Mazza will also continue his role as founding editor (1987) of the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*. He is also awaiting the publication of the recently completed second edition of his book, *Poetry Therapy: Theory and Practice*, which will be in print in the summer of 2016. ■



Nick Mazza and Nicole Mazza Anderson



L to R: Stephen Tripodi, Nick Mazza, and Craig Stanley

HOPE

Hope
is the belief
that one hand
reaching to another
can eventually
touch the moon,
allowing the light
to guide us
through the night.

Nicholas Mazza

(*Journal of Humanistic Education and Development*, 26, 257, 1998.)



CELEBRATING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students celebrated some very special alumni and students at the annual Student Scholarship and Distinguished Alumni Dinner at the FSU Alumni Association. Dean Jim Clark and faculty member Rosalyn Deckerhoff presided over the ceremony, which included words of gratitude and inspiration from MSW student and scholarship recipient Rachel Mack. A majority of the 57 student scholarship recipients at the BSW, MSW and doctoral levels were in attendance to receive recognition. And, all five of the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were in attendance to be honored for their contributions to social work.



Distinguished Emeritus Alumni Award:
Jones P. Carter

Jones P. Carter received his MSW (1960) from FSU and spent his career at the Advent Christian Village in Live Oak, Florida. He was instrumental in developing the retirement community and increasing its residents from 60 in 1960 to its current 800 residents.



Distinguished Young Alumni Award:
David Albright

David Albright received his MSW (2006) and Ph.D. (2012) from FSU and is currently Associate Professor and Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health Research at the University of Alabama. He is a military veteran and former research fellow with the Department of Veteran Affairs and the RAND Corporation's Center for Military Health Policy Research.



Distinguished Social Work Educator Award:
Nicholas F. Mazza

Nicholas F. Mazza is Dean Emeritus and Patricia V. Vance Professor of Social Work at FSU. He has been a social work faculty member for 34 years and served as dean of the College of Social Work from 2008-2015. He holds licenses in clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and psychology. Dr. Mazza is also the founding and current editor of the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*.



Distinguished Alumni in Social Work Practice Award:
Art Cleveland

Art Cleveland received his BSW (1979) and MSW (1982) from FSU and is currently an adjunct professor. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist with more than 35 years experience with children, teens, and

their families. He currently maintains a private clinical practice and holds advanced credentials as a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor and Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work.



Distinguished Alumni in Social Policy and Administration Award:
Carol Preston

Carol Preston received her MSW (1992) from FSU and worked for the Florida Legislature for more than 30 years. Her work with the Legislature has included a role as an advocate for issues important to the social work profession. During the 2015 legislative session she was instrumental in working with senators on the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs to bring legislation forward that created the Florida Institute for Child Welfare and other changes positively impacting those in the child welfare workforce. ■



ALUMNI UPDATES

2010's

Sarah Bradburn (MSW '15) is the Children's Crisis Team program coordinator at Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast in Sarasota, Florida.

Kate Herron (MSW '15) is a research development and training specialist at Florida State University.

Jocelyne M. Fliger (MSW '15) is currently the director of Senior Volunteer Programs at Elder Care Services, Inc. in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ashley Schermerhorn (MSW/MPA '15) is a research assistant with the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida located in Tallahassee, Florida.

Selena S. Seib (MSW '15) is currently working at the St. Petersburg Kidney Care in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Sarah L. Christovich (MSW '12) is currently a senior case coordinator at Children's Home Society as a part of their child protection team.

2000's

Allison Oxford Rifkin (BSW '09) relocated to Sydney, Australia in 2013 and is a pediatric hematology/oncology social worker at Kids Cancer Center at Sydney Children's Hospital.

Elena Saldamando (MSW '08) is currently an oncology social worker at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute in Orlando, Florida. She is also an active member of the Association of Oncology Social Work and the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers.

Taryn C. Dobson, LCSW (MSW '06)

is the director of Clinical Program Development Director at Families First of Florida in Marianna, Florida. Taryn has spend the past 3 years assisting with developing their outpatient services. Over the past several years she has worked with Families First of Florida to enhance their scope of services for children involved in the child welfare system to provide a more comprehensive and trauma sensitive approach to mental health counseling. Most recently Taryn spent the past year bringing the company to the panhandle of Florida to serve the Big Bend Community Based Care Service Area.

Hope L. Boyce (BSW '03) is currently a team leader at Chamberlin Edmonds in South Carolina.

1990's

Sharon Edelstein Ehrlich (MSW '99) is a family counselor for Broward County Schools in south Florida.

April (Lupo) Cole (BSW '98) is currently the associate director of Alumni Relations at San Jose State University in San Jose, California.

Deborah R. Evans (MSW '97) is currently a school social worker with Lee County Schools in Cape Coral, Florida.

Jennifer Palumbo (MSW '96) is a hospice and palliative care coordinator for the Department of Veteran Affairs in Asheville, North Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM

Teri Lynn (Green) Grigsby passed away May, 13, 2015. Born February 25, 1964 in Hammond, Indiana Ms. Grigsby worked as a social worker in Jacksonville, Florida. She was a student at the FSU College of Social Work working on her Master's in Social Work.

Richard (Dick) Leroy Mills passed away at his home in Edgemont, Arkansas on September 11, 2015 after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Topeka Kansas, October 18, 1939, he attended Dartmouth College and graduated from Washburn University in 1965. He served in the U.S. Army until 1967. In Kansas, he worked as a juvenile probation officer, served as director of rehabilitation services for the Capper Foundation, and as executive director of the Community Resources Council. In 1973, he relocated to Orlando, Florida where he worked as the executive director of the Human Services Planning Council. While in Florida he earned his MSW from FSU and began working at Orange County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Center. He retired in 2000 after serving 16 years as the CEO of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast.

Carolyn Praytor "Carol" Smith (MSW) passed away Monday, December 21, 2015 in Woodstock, Georgia. Carol was a native of Tallahassee and a graduate of Godby High School. She held both a BS (1997) and MSW (1998) in social work from FSU and was a licensed clinical social worker.

1980's

Toni Nelson Huff (MSW '89) is the executive director of Columbus CAN! in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Catherine R. Gayle (MSW '85) was appointed by the Council on Social Work Education as a member of the Commission on Accreditation (July 1, 2015-June, 30, 2018). The commission functions to maintain and advocate for quality in social work education through accreditation/candidacy of more than 750 social work (BSW and MSW) programs in the U.S. In addition, the commission acts as the policy body for developing and interpreting accreditation standards and ensuring that policies and proce-

dures are fairly and consistently applied to all social work programs. Dr. Gayle is currently an associate professor and chair of the Department of Social Work at Tuskegee University and resides in Savannah, Georgia.

Shannon Fenn Hughes (BA '84) was named the State of Florida's director for the Division of Community Health Promotion in September, 2015, after serving as interim director. Hughes also serves as the president of the Florida Public Health Association.

1970's

Allan Koslofsky (MSW '75) married Anne Robin on September 25, 2015 in

Napa, California. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon to Cozumel, Mexico snorkeling and visiting Mayan ruins. The couple has happily settled in Champaign, Illinois.

Dr. Daniel Brady (MSW '73) was appointed by Governor Rick Scott on Friday, January 1, 2016 to the Commission on Ethics, a none-member board serving as a guardian for standards of conduct for officials and employees of the state of Florida. Dr. Brady also holds a Master's degree in business administration from FSU and his doctorate degree from Barry University. He succeeds Ivan Ford in his role on the Commission of Ethics and is appointed for a term ending June 30, 2017. ■



STUDENT COLLABORATION ROOM

The Student Collaborative room will be an updated space for social work students to use for studying and engaging in other college activities. The room will be located at the College of Social Work in the University Center, Building C on the Florida State University main campus. This space is conducive to promoting a sense of community, and stimulating energy and excitement in students for classes and service activities. The room was created thanks to a generous donation by FSU College

of Social Work alumnus Guy Spearman and his wife Dolores Spearman to foster stronger relationships and build support among students.

Guy Spearman is a College of Social Work alumnus (MSW 1975) and Dolores is a two-time FSU graduate in history (BA 1998, MA 2008). The Spearman family are true philanthropists who have been long-time supporters of the college, FSU, and many other humane causes. Guy is president of Spearman

Management. The College of Social Work is fortunate to have this as a field placement for our MSW in Social Leadership students. Some of their leadership positions with FSU include the CSW Leadership Council, FSU Alumni Association, FSU Foundation Board, Seminole Boosters, and the National Campaign Committee. Guy was also the 2013 recipient of the College's Distinguished Alumni in Social Policy and Administration award. ■

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Cynthia Yanez, Continued

the acceptance and appreciation for diversity that drew her to working with disadvantaged populations in the first place. "I am a Muslim, Cuban American woman who is passionate about my faith, social justice, and photography," Yanez explains. "I find myself breaking stereotypes because I do not fit into one defined identity due to my cultural background, religious conversion, artistic expression, and overall life experience."

She continues to tutor underprivileged and at-risk youths in Alachua County, and volunteers at local schools to address and break stereotypes of Muslims and Islam in the media. And, in the summer of 2016 Yanez will fulfill her MSW field placement through the **College of Social Work's International Programs** at the **Extern's Innis Centre** in Belfast, Northern Ireland working with male offenders transitioning from prison to community re-entry. She received the **International Programs Field Placement Scholarship** as well as the **Lamar F. Everett Endowed Scholarship** for underprivileged and academically worthy students.

Yanez has plans for the future to continue her advocacy in criminal justice for adequate, accessible rehabilitation and a hope for her own clinical practice to reduce stigma in the Muslim community about seeking therapy. She also continues to pursue her interest in social justice and social awareness through her artistic photographer (industrialtheoryphotography.com), appearing this year in *Vivala* a Latina online magazine for a photo essay and article. ■

Isabella Schmid, Continued

ers overcome their struggles. Her curiosity and understanding personality pushes her compassion to an insur-

mountable level, making her a great advocate for the field of social work. Schmid also credits her experiences as a student athlete and international student for her open-minded and appreciative perspective on life. She values diversity and is fully aware of the unique aspects every person brings to the table.

With a primary interest in mental health and substance abuse, she is making it a goal to better understand the big picture created by the various disciplines in the social work field. "There are many opportunities to learn and grow in the field of social work". ■

Jennie "Toli" Gintoli, Continued

Gintoli would like to work with LGBTQ victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as youth during their coming out and transition process. The contributions she is making to the LGBTQ community will continue long after she completes her MSW. Her first field education experience will be with a domestic violence shelter in St. Petersburg. Gintoli is also currently coordinating and conducting trainings for organizations throughout Tampa Bay on understanding and being inclusive of members in the LGBTQ community, specifically older adults, youth, and trans individuals. She also has been assisting in the implementation of Service and Advocacy for LGBTQ Elders (SAGE) in Tampa Bay. ■

Stephanie Kennedy, Continued

Women" expanded on Dr. Tripodi's study to include a cumulative construct of interpersonal trauma called *polyvictimization*. Collecting her own data at a state-level women's prison, Kennedy designed her data collection

project to test her hypotheses that as childhood polyvictimization increased so would the chronic criminal offenses, incidences of mental health issues and drug and alcohol use in female inmates.

Graduating this year, Kennedy will join University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Social Work faculty as an adjunct professor. "My practice, teaching, and research are all guided by a strong commitment to critically-engaged practice, social justice, and diversity. I owe much of my philosophical orientation to the excellent mentorship I received from the faculty, staff, students of the FSU College of Social Work," reflected Kennedy. And Kennedy will be able to continue to aid women in crisis through her future scholarship and working with UConn's Institute for Violence Prevention and Reduction, and the Human Rights Institute. ■


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Time TBA, Hotel Duval (415 N. Monroe Street)
- SSWR Reception - **1/13/17 New Orleans, LA**
Details TBA

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