

COMMUNITAS

Florida State University College of Social Work

2018–2019



STUDENTS

- 04 Resilience Project
- 20 Student Highlights

FEATURE

- 10 Lecture Series
- 17 Maura's Voice

RESEARCH

- 06 Justice Research
- 08 Dr. Lisa Schelbe

ALUMNI

- 14 Awards Dinner
- 22 Alumni Updates

2018–2019 COMMUNITAS CONTENTS



- 03 A Message from the Dean
- 04 Cultivating a Culture of Resilience
- 06 Researching and Responding to Barriers of Prisoner Reentry
- 08 Against All Odds: Aging Out of Foster Care
- 09 Visiting Lecturer: Vishanthie Sewpaul
- 10 Expanding Efforts for Engagement
- 12 Celebrating 100 Years of Scholarship and Service
- 14 Graduates and Scholarship Recipients Honored at Annual Dinner
- 15 Distinguished Graduates
- 16 #FSUCSW by the Numbers
- 17 The Launch of Maura's Voice
- 18 Photo Timeline 2018–2019
- 20 Student Highlights
 - BSW: Rose Antoine
 - MSW: Kapria Lee
 - Ph.D: R. Lane Forsman
- 22 Alumni Updates
- 23 In Memoriam
- 24 Friends of the College of Social Work



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#fsucsw

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

This past year has been filled with great successes and losses. Our graduate programs jumped five spots in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings to no. 33 and our College checked in at no. 20 among public universities. In the latter category, FSU experienced catastrophic Hurricane Michael that decimated the Florida Panhandle, including significant damage to our FSU Panama City campus. The rural Florida and Georgia counties, where so many students and alumni live and work, are now struggling to respond to homelessness, population loss, and business closures that threaten their recovery.

FSU leadership, faculty, staff, and students continue to actively contribute to post-disaster responses. The College recently formed a partnership with Save the Children to fund students and faculty providing psychosocial interventions for children in the Panhandle during summer and fall 2019. We have likewise met with federal and state agencies who have turned to us for long-range recovery assistance. We hear at each meeting how much the region needs professional social workers in schools, hospitals, and community centers. The call to significantly build the health, behavioral health, and social service work force in the region will continue to be urgent, especially as we face new hurricane seasons in the years ahead.

The College also responded to the mass shooting in Tallahassee in November 2018 where FSU senior Maura Binkley and College of Medicine faculty member, Dr. Nancy Van Vessem were killed. Jeff and Margaret Binkley, Maura's parents, opened a research fund called "Maura's Voice," (page 17) and asked our College to curate and design research projects that advance effective prevention and intervention initiatives. Violence against women, mass shootings and community violence have robbed Americans of the peaceful use of churches, schools, theaters and other public places. A democratic society cannot thrive under such threats. I am very proud that FSU President John Thrasher has personally encouraged us to engage in this work. Our students have rallied to be involved as we move forward and design important educational opportunities for them, even as we strive to make significant social impacts.

In the same vein, students played a crucial role in the design and launch of the FSU Student Resilience Project (page 4). It has been a great success here at FSU. This project received national attention as an innovative program for developing the coping skills of college students. Many universities across the nation have begun working with our team to explore partnerships that will benefit their campuses. And we are moving forward with commercialization. The project recently won the 2019 John L. Blackburn Award from the American Association of University Administrators, which is quite an honor. Provost Sally McRorie and alumni Guy and Delores Spearman provided crucial funding for the project.



Dean Clark with Allie, his "co-therapist" on visits to Bay County Schools, Panama City, Florida and Colquitt, Georgia after Hurricane Michael.

You'll also be interested in reading about another innovative initiative with strong social impact—the 5-Key Model for Re-entry (page 6), a signature project of our newly-established Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD). This intervention research spans four states—Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. The IJRD has attracted millions of dollars of funding for a portfolio of exciting research projects and has galvanized students, faculty, and staff in the College and across campus with its creative initiatives for criminal justice reform.

Please explore this issue of our magazine to learn more about these initiatives, along with stories about the 101st year of social work at FSU. I think you'll find the theme of "Resilience" a powerful way to understand our diverse activities and accomplishments. It is no wonder, as social work has always been about facing down social problems and personal adversities, and helping our clients and society to respond with ingenuity, integrity, and compassion. This is the way our readers have chosen to live their lives, and we are fortunate to count you as alumni, friends and colleagues that choose resilience and continue to inspire the work we do at the FSU College of Social Work! ■

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF RESILIENCE

The Student Resilience Project has been getting attention both campus wide at Florida State University as well as across the country. The project, created by the Institute for Family Violence Studies (IFVS) at the FSU College of Social Work, is a ground-breaking initiative that seeks to inform students about the effects of trauma and to strengthen student coping and stress management skills, along with increasing FSU students' sense of belonging at Florida State.

The website (strong.fsu.edu) has proven popular, with more than 15,000 site visits from people across all 50 states since fall 2018. During the fall semester, the site started with a soft launch of peer-to-peer videos, which comprised the first component of the project's campaign.

"The 'What I Wish I Knew' videos were released in the summer for FSU incoming freshman to see. The videos represent the most common problems that students talk about," explained Karen Oehme, director of IFVS. "The stories are called restorative narratives. The idea is as old as Greek mythology—learning through stories. We want students to see other students have similar struggles and have triumphed. And then, we give them action steps that they can take."

A major strength of the Resilience Project comes from the Institute's expertise in developing online trainings. When FSU President John Thrasher approached FSU College of Social Work Dean Clark about developing an accessible tool to help FSU's students, IFVS was uniquely suited for this project.

Karen and the IFVS team understood that to reach students, they would have to understand their audience. From their perspective, the current generation of college students live online, are fearless of technology and are generally accepting of a rapidly changing world. Karen enlisted the help of social work students as a key component of the Resilience Project team. The students served as project ambassadors on campus, spreading the message of the project, and keeping conversation going.

"Having the opportunity to advocate for the Resilience Project has been surreal. Personally, the project has been a daily reminder that there are others out there going through difficult times. It has made college more manageable and has truly made me more resilient," expressed Richard Brito, president of the Resilience Project's Student Ambassadors. "Our Ambassador Team is amazing and gives students a voice in the project. Together, we can impact FSU's student body and provide guidance for them to become Resilient Noles."

The videos and other innovative resources were made available 24/7 on the project's website to students with an FSU ID. The project team noted particular success from utilizing

STRONG.FSU.EDU



Resilience Student Ambassadors with Anne Perko and Karen Oehme

restorative narratives as a compelling tool for connecting with college students. Students tended to be very receptive to the narratives and their positive messages.

"We know from two decades of research that when you remind people of their strengths, they accept health messaging better. So there's a lot of theory and design that goes into this to figure out what students will accept," Karen stated.

She explained that the ultimate goal of the project was to teach students that there are many different ways to be healthy and that they can learn new skills for coping and stress management. When students feel like they can't do it on their own, resources on FSU's campus are available at their fingertips, but they might not always know where to find them or how to reach out. This site helps them make those connections.

Data on the project shows that since its official launch in 2018, FSU students have found the site a believable and authentic resource. Karen credits the success of the project to the dedicated students, faculty and staff that took part in its development and embraced the project with open arms.

The launch of the Resilience Project coincided with two major traumas during the fall 2018 semester. FSU felt the impact of the mass shooting at a Tallahassee yoga studio in

which a student and faculty member were killed. This would be quickly followed by Hurricane Michael that would devastate the Gulf Coast, including FSU's Panama City Campus and the surrounding communities. An accessible tool to aid with coping met dire needs.

"We wanted students to have a way to talk about these issues because we need each other and we need to know that others struggle, too," Karen stressed. "We need a common language of grief and coping."

Although the project's team had not anticipated such a rough semester, the project's launch occurred just in time.

"We wanted something for everybody. FSU faculty and staff really care about students and a student-centric design. You see it in the implementation and dissemination of this project," emphasized Karen. "We want to be honest with people and acknowledge their strengths and their values. At that point, they are more willing to listen."

The project has made it part of its mission to make sure students feel acknowledged, supported, and at home on FSU's campus. Feedback from the project's student ambassadors has been a highlight of the project, with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

"The Resilience Project at FSU has helped me better understand what FSU students need. It is a unique website that links together all of our campus resources. Not only do I get to work on the project behind the scenes, but I also get to use the site. I enjoy using the site for relaxation tips and stress



Ambassadors advocating for the project on campus



relievers," said Sarah Miller, a Resilience Project ambassador. "My favorite part about working on the project is hearing from other students how the website has helped them. It propels me and other ambassadors forward in aiding the student body through this site."

Karen also emphasized the general support for the project across campus among other staff and faculty. As an example, there was notable support from campus librarians who have first-hand knowledge and experience with just how stressed students can be when visiting libraries across campus. Karen underscored as well the support of Provost McRorie and alumni Guy and Delores Spearman were integral to the program's success.

As for the future of the project, Karen and IFVS have a vision for expanding the program, reflecting the growth and development of the student experience during their college career. New content is being developed for undergraduate and graduate students. And the team is working on a customizable website to be licensed to other colleges to grow a culture of resilience across college campuses nationwide. ■



INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE STUDIES
FAMILYVIO.CSW.FSU.EDU

KAREN OEHME
DIRECTOR



RESEARCHING AND RESPONDING TO BARRIERS OF PRISONER REENTRY

Carrie Pettus-Davis and her research team at the Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) have embarked on a revolutionary approach to research and evidence driven reentry reform for formerly incarcerated individuals. More than 95% of incarcerated individuals are eventually released back into their communities, which translates into approximately 12,000 people being released from state and federal prisons weekly. More than 75% of these individuals are rearrested within five years.

“Many of their best efforts are met with frustration as they struggle to overcome a range of barriers after release,” said Dr. Stephanie Kennedy, IJRD’s Director of Research Dissemination. “Individuals leaving incarceration must juggle required meetings and treatment sessions, long and irregular work hours, and re-connecting with their family and community while managing transportation barriers, housing instability, and their own mental health and well-being.”

The 5-Key Model for Reentry represents a unique reentry services approach built by formerly incarcerated individuals, practitioners, and researchers that Dr. Pettus-Davis and IJRD are using in a longitudinal pilot study aimed at helping incarcerated individuals to transition into their communities. The foundation of the 5-Key Model focuses on the strengths and psychological well-being of formerly incarcerated individuals, rather than on the deficits-oriented models commonly found in the criminal justice system. It is designed to help participants develop well-being by cultivating the 5 keys to reentry success, which are:

- ✓ **Healthy thinking patterns**
- ✓ **Meaningful work trajectories**
- ✓ **Effective coping strategies**
- ✓ **Positive social engagement**
- ✓ **Positive relationships**

Since the study began in May 2018, more than 1,500 participants incarcerated in 50 prisons have been recruited by IJRD team members located in four states (Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas) and 12 urban and rural counties.

“What is most exciting to me about this research, is that we are analyzing our data as we go,” explained Pettus-Davis, “This allows us to learn in real-time about how to adjust the 5-Key Model based on the feedback we receive from study participants and research team members implementing the program during the course of the study.”

IJRD released its first report on this study in November 2018 and the second report in March 2019. IJRD is committed to the rapid translation of research findings, in contrast to what



Virtual reality demonstration at FSU Innovation Hub with Drs. Tanya Renn and Stephen Tripodi



5-Key Model team training in Dallas, Texas

has been described as a 17-year implementation gap between scientific discoveries and changes in policy and practice. Research findings are to be released on a quarterly basis to ensure this quick turnaround.

In their first report, several barriers to stabilization after incarceration were identified, which included external and internal barriers such as: traumatic experience, transportation issues, long work hours at multiple job sites, and required mental health or substance abuse treatment.



IJRD team meeting at the College of Social Work in Tallahassee, Florida

For example:

- › **96% of participants reported traumatic life experiences**
 - » **60% noting they have had loved ones murdered**
 - » **70% have witnessed deaths or serious injuries**
- › **25% met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD**

The second report detailed the psychological toll of reentry for many individuals, underscoring the stress of adapting from the prison environment back into their homes and families. Despite these barriers, the data highlighted the intense motivation of participants to find and keep employment. Researchers adapted their approach to work with participants by connecting with them within their communities at libraries, job sites, or at their homes. Despite these barriers, the data highlights the intense motivation of participants to find and keep employment, rebuild their lives, and succeed.

“Study participants are helping guide us toward taking new approaches to identifying what works for whom, how, and why as people navigate the



IJRD student researcher presenting at FSU's Undergraduate Research Symposium

transition from prison back home,” Pettus-Davis noted. “Our study researchers have naturally innovated to connect with study participants in any way they can. I am starting to wonder if we should move away from ‘brick-and-mortar’ re-entry services and more towards mobilized re-entry outreach.” ■



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AGAINST ALL ODDS: AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Dr. Lisa Schelbe's research in child welfare focuses on youth aging out of the child welfare system. This often-forgotten population of young adults seem to face insurmountable odds when trying to establish a stable sense of independence as they enter adulthood. Mounting research shows that all youth need additional resources and support as they transition into adulthood, and youth aging out may require more due to their background and lack of access to family support and resources.

More than 40% of youth aging out of the child welfare system experience significant housing instability in the first two years after leaving care. Essentials like a stable living situation and consistent income are just two of the many vital, but precarious essentials for success that youth aging out struggle with. Unlike their peers, these young adults often lack a safety net that parents and other family members provide.

"They make the best of the life situa-

tions they find themselves in," Lisa Schelbe said. "They choose the best options presented to them, even if there is no clear-cut resolution. They are thrust more abruptly into adulthood without proper safety nets, so the stakes are higher."

Her recent study, which used ethnographic data collected over the course of two years, showed that youth aging out who received housing assistance still faced a multitude of barriers to stable housing and finances, which kept them living on the edge.

Most young adults between the ages of 18 and 30, who are not involved with the child welfare system, are still supported in some way by their parents or family. So, it is no surprise that youths aging out of the child welfare system would require similar support and resources.

According to Dr. Schelbe, the system needs to intervene. Through more than a decade researching this population,



Dr. Lisa Schelbe

she noticed that these young people need a significant increase in the financial investment and ongoing support to have positive outcomes in establishing themselves as contributing members of society.

"There is often too much of a focus on the failures and not enough on the successes experienced by these youths. Despite the significant number of challenges this population faces, they remain resilient in the face of tremendous hardships and social barriers. Despite all this, they experience successes," she explained. "Their ability to power through is inspiring."

Dr. Schelbe has observed first-hand the grit, creativity, and perseverance of young adults aging out whose experiences of adulthood are much more abrupt and challenging than their peers. Her research and other studies like it highlight the need for a more holistic approach from service providers that help better prepare these youths for the transition to adulthood.

She continues to study youth aging out, focusing on those who are parenting or pregnant as well as those who are pursuing higher education. To learn more, contact Dr. Lisa Schelbe at lschelbe@fsu.edu. ■



VISITING LECTURER:

HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLAR VISHANTHIE SEWPAUL

Students, faculty and staff joined hands and swayed to songs in tribute to the late Nelson Mandela at a very special presentation and dialogue with renowned social work and human rights scholar Dr. Vishanthie Sewpaul during her nine-day visit to Florida State University.

"Mandela was a very ordinary man that did extraordinary things," Sewpaul said. "We all have fragments of Mandela in us, and we can do things whether small or big to make a difference."

Sewpaul's visit was sponsored by FSU's College of Social Work, Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, Center for Global Engagement, and Civil Rights Institute.

Her presentation on "Politics with Soul in Dystopian Times: The Legacy of Nelson Mandela" covered his life and ideology, from imprisonment to his freedom and rise to the presidency of South Africa. She emphasized Mandela's reliance on the African principle of ubuntu, "I am because you are." Her message amplified his commitment to living with personal integrity, love, compassion, and forgiveness. Mandela's humility, she stressed, balanced with a determination not to underestimate one's obligation to strive for social justice, was his greatness.

She also touched on her own experiences of apartheid while growing up in South Africa. Repression and subjugation were parts of every sphere of her life, she remembered. Sewpaul credits a high school instructor for encouraging her to recognize her own abilities to bring about change.

On January 24th at the FSU Center for



Attendees with clasped hands.

Global Engagement, she shared principles of emancipatory education, harnessing one's own personal strengths, as well as that of the collective, to work together for the common good.

"Live not for the fruit of action, but for action alone," she said, "because if you dedicate yourself one-hundred percent to the activity at hand, with passion, with love, with dedication, the outcomes will take care of themselves."

During her visit, Sewpaul engaged classes in social work, religion, law, and the FSU social justice community, met with President Thrasher, and was featured at the Provost's luncheon convening

FSU and international African scholars. She was invited and hosted by Dr. Neil Abell, professor and director of CSW International Programs, and Dr. Terry Coonan, executive director of the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights.

"We have someone who is the epitome of humility and respect and who brings dignity and a sense of engagement to all her actions," expressed Abell. "To have her come here was a way to be exposed to a very influential voice from the global south, and the response we've gotten has really affirmed that it was the right move to invite her."

Sewpaul has published widely on social justice, human rights and international social work with a focus on vulnerable populations, globalization and community work. She is professor emeritus of social work at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa, and chaired the development of a definition of global social work, as well as global statements on ethics and standards for social work education. ■



Left to Right: Dr. Neil Abell, Dr. Janet Kistner, FSU President John Thrasher, Dr. Vishanthie Sewpaul, Dean Jim Clark, and Dr. Terry Coonan.



EXPANDING EFFORTS FOR ENGAGEMENT

CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PROMOTION OF COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN

The FSU Center for Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, and Children (CFC Center), a part of the College of Social Work (CSW), was created in 2017 with support of the Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. to generate and sustain transformational knowledge development for effective policies, services, and usable research that aid families and children. The CFC Center is systematically pursuing external funding and partnerships which are guided by carefully defined targets that have been developed in consultation with the CFC Center's advisory council. To facilitate a coordinated CSW approach to translational research, the CFC Center works with the following affiliates: Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center; Institute for Family Violence Studies; Institute for Justice Research and Development; and Trinity Institute for Addictions.

Since 2018, the CFC Center has worked to establish structure, plans and personnel to be a catalyst for lasting change at the College of Social Work and in the community. Engagement with the community is a top priority as a way of forming lasting relationships and partnerships.

"From day one, engagement with the FSU community and beyond has been critical to establish important relationships," said Ellen Piekalkiewicz, director of the CFC Center.

In May 2018, the Center's first collaborative event took place during the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's Prevention Week with Allied Against Opioid Abuse. The two organizations hosted a well-attended panel discussion spotlighting research conducted at FSU on the opioid epidemic. The event brought together the FSU community of researchers and students with youth and elder advocates, behavioral health professionals, law enforcement, and community service providers.

The Center also established an annual research lecture series focused on offering interdisciplinary presentations on socially innovative research on FSU's campus and other institutes of higher learning. The five presentations encouraged academics, community partners and members of the public to engage in the research process and networking in order to forge a greater connection between research and the application and dissemination of research into the community.

The inaugural research lecture series focused on the areas of:

- **Substance Abuse & Pregnancy, Policy & Research** (**Dr. Samantha Goldfarb**, FSU College of Medicine and FSU College of Human Sciences)
- **Assessment and Addressing the Crime of Stalking** (**Dr. TK Logan**, University of Kentucky, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research)
- **Conflicts-of-Interest, Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech in Academic Publishing** (**Dr. Jonathan Leo**, Lincoln Memorial University, Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine and **Dr. Jeffrey Lacasse**, FSU College of Social Work)
- **Motivational Interviewing in the Health Professions** (**Dr. Summerson Carr**, University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration)
- **Addressing Substance Abuse in the Criminal Justice System** (**Dr. Tanya Renn**, FSU College of Social Work and **Dr. Michele Staton**, University of Kentucky, College of Medicine)

Photo top: Allied Against Opioid Event Panel, May 2018

The CFC Center's mission is primarily supported by private philanthropy. In 2017-2018, the CFC Center raised \$75,000 from private donors which was then matched 1:1 by the Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. The foundation also provided the CFC Center with additional support of \$100,000.

For more information about the CFC Center and to view the annual report, please visit csw.fsu.edu/cfc.



Dr. Samantha Goldfarb



Dr. T. K. Logan



Drs. Jeffrey Lacasse and Jonathan Leo

Personnel brought on to support the CFC Center's mission include College of Social Work faculty and staff:



DR. MICHAEL KILLIAN
CFC Center Research
Scientist

Assistant Professor,
College of Social Work

Dr. Killian provides information to CFC Center and its affiliates on emerging trends in data, new strategic opportunities and the synthesis of data.



DR. CARRIE PETTUS-DAVIS
CFC Center Research and
Education Council Chair

Associate Professor,
College of Social Work

Executive Director,
Institute for Justice Research
and Development

Dr. Pettus-Davis provides leadership and guidance to the CFC Center's Research and Education Council.



**CHELSEA CARTER
MARTINUS**

CFC Center Research
Dissemination Coordinator

Ms. Martinus works with CFC Center and affiliate staff to develop data visualization products to facilitate the translation of research to practice.

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PROMOTION OF
COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN**

CSW.FSU.EDU/CFC

**ELLEN
PIEKALKIEWICZ**
DIRECTOR



CELEBRATING

100 YEARS

Attendees chanting “100 years!!” echoed through the Champions Club Ballroom as FSU College of Social Work faculty member Pam MacDill shared highlights of the 100-year history of the College of Social Work’s celebratory gala on April 7, 2018.

“100 years,” the crowd shouted.

“Of innovation,” MacDill continued. “We started the first online MSW program in 2002 and we’ve expanded internationally with internships, exchange agreements, courses, and alternative spring breaks.”

MacDill went on to reflect about how facilities have changed since the first social welfare classes were taught in the Westcott Building before moving to the Bellamy Building and finally to the University Center, where classrooms and offices are located today. “We actually had parking,” MacDill said, as the crowd chuckled along with her.

The origins of the College date back to 1918 when the university was the Florida State College for Women and faculty members such as Raymond Bellamy—founder of the Department of Sociology—began teaching courses in social welfare. This strong beginning provided the bedrock for social work at Florida State University, including the development of the BSW, MSW, and Ph.D. programs.

The event began with a reception that allowed faculty, staff, students, and alumni to greet one another. During the reception, FSU researchers and research assistants shared information about the great projects, centers, and institutes associated with the College.

“I’m really excited and honored to be here,” said Veronica France, a master’s student in the College. “It’s such a great event to have a combination of faculty, alumni, and students get together and share what makes the College of Social Work awesome.”

France shared information with event attendees about the College’s annual Arts and Athletics Social Work Camp. The camp brings dozens of middle school students to campus for a week of free activities to introduce them to the university environment and encourage them to pursue higher education all while enhancing leadership development, socialization skills, and self-confidence.

Students were also showcased during the formal dinner program. Anne Nicole Dela Cruz, a junior from Brevard, Florida, reflected on her experience as an undergraduate student in the College.

“The College of Social Work has not only provided me with an incredible education where I found a great skill set, but it helped me find friends and resources in the community I could turn to when I need them, when my friends need them, when my family needs them,” Dela Cruz said. “FSU is really special.”

President John Thrasher followed Dela Cruz, sharing heartfelt remarks.



Left to right: Vicky Verano, FSU President John Thrasher, Mrs. Thrasher, Pam MacDill



Student Speaker Anne Nicole Dela Cruz

“You’re the reason I get up every single day,” Thrasher said. “You and the rest of our great students—because of what we’re doing at Florida State and the transformation that students are making while they’re here and then going out and doing things in the world that are going to change lives. I appreciate them, I really do.”

Guests enjoyed memorabilia from decades past and nostalgic photographs flashed on screens throughout the night. Many called the event an opportunity to reflect on the past, while also looking toward the future.

“I think this celebration is important because it shows us the progress that we’re making and it also inspires us to do even more,” said Carol Campbell Edwards, assistant teaching professor and FSU alumna. “All of the research that’s happening, our awareness of changes in the field, it all promotes innovation and practice in the way we’re teaching. We’re always looking to grow and develop, and I think having this time to focus on where we’ve been only helps to establish where we want to go next.”

OF SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE



“The world has obviously changed quite a bit since 1918, but the College’s commitment to helping people who are vulnerable, oppressed or living in poverty has never changed. The College of Social Work currently has 12,844 alumni working in clinics, hospitals and agencies across the country to address the most pressing problems facing our nation’s citizens...You give so much of yourselves to people who really need help and often have nowhere else to turn...I am in awe of what you do every day.”

– FSU President
John Thrasher





GRADUATES AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HONORED AT ANNUAL DINNER

The annual Distinguished Graduate and Scholarship Dinner, a special gathering to celebrate some of the FSU College of Social Work's best and brightest occurred on October 25, 2018. Each year, the event highlights the contributions of students, alumni, and donors to the FSU College of Social Work, social work education, and social work profession.

More than 80 scholarship recipients were honored, including featured student speaker and MSW student Emily Manning. Manning, the recipient of the Jane Addams Scholarship, offered poignant reflections on the importance of student support that produces exemplary social work professionals. A former educator, she stressed the perseverance required to reach life goals, citing her own journey through life-threatening health issues, stress, and family loss.

"Reaching my goal of obtaining an MSW has not come easy, but I have not done it alone...Each day I'm able to attend, each hour of internship...is a victory," Manning emphasized. "If you didn't know that you were part of someone's victory team before this evening, know this now. I know the College of Social Work has believed in my victory even when it was hard for me to believe in it... Being here tonight gives me an opportunity to honor those on my victory team, to remind my peers that they



Emily Manning, Student Speaker and Scholarship Recipient proudly displays her collection of hospital bracelets she keeps as a reminder of each step forward to reaching her goals regardless of her illness

have incredible stories laced with innumerable victories, and to thank the donor who was quite frankly bold enough to give a dying girl money. Everyone in this room has not only become an essential part of my own victory, but you have given me the beautiful, transforming gift of joining others in their own pursuit of victory." ■



Faculty members Carol Edwards and Fran Gomory announcing recipients



Scholarship recipients and donors enjoying the evening

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Five exemplary FSU College of Social Work alumni were acknowledged for their notable contributions to the social work education and profession. These recipients include:



NANCY B. HILL DISTINGUISHED EMERITUS ALUMNI AWARD (MSW, 1966)

Hill's 35-year career in social work includes a lifelong dedication to working with veterans, as well as a passion for international social work and field supervision of social work interns. She is a licensed clinical social worker in Maine and South Carolina.



CHRISTOPHER COLLINS DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD (MSW, 2014; BSW, 2013)

Collins stood out while pursuing his degrees at Florida State where he received a Social Work Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award and was voted the 2014 Patricia V. Vance MSW Student of the Year. He is currently a licensed clinical social worker at Tallahassee Primary Care Associates in Tallahassee, FL.



HEATHER THOMPSON DISTINGUISHED SOCIAL WORK EDUCATOR AWARD (PhD, 2013; MSW, 2007; BSW, 2005)

Thompson is an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with a noted track record of dedication as a mentor for her students, alumni and adjunct teaching professors. She also serves as the BSW Program coordinator and director of the Child Welfare Institute at FAU.



ROLANDA L. M. JACKSON DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (MSW, 2006; BSW, 2004)

Jackson's dedication and service to the Gadsden County community where she was born and raised has made her a valued and respected member of the community. Along with countless volunteer hours caring for and empowering others, she serves as a school social worker with the Gadsden County School District.



JOHANNA BYRD DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN SOCIAL WORK POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (MSW, 1998)

Byrd has had a 17-year career working with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) that started with an internship with the Florida Chapter. She worked in several roles for the chapter and is currently the executive director of the NASW Pennsylvania Chapter.

#FSUCSW BY THE NUMBERS

2018-2019



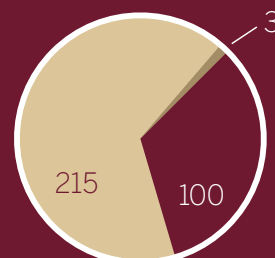
TOTAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED 829

BSW **178** MSW **627** PhD **24**



NUMBER OF
**DEGREES
AWARDED**

2017-2018
318



52% DISTANCE
LEARNERS



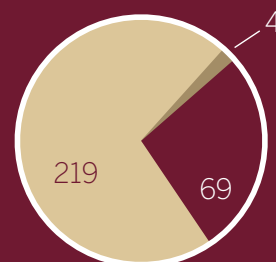
35
FULL-TIME
FACULTY

26
FULL-TIME
STAFF



TENURE-TRACK **20**
SPECIALIZED **15**

2018-2019
292



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

32 

ENDOWED FUNDS

TOTALING **\$2,500,000**

\$150,000 TO SUPPORT FACULTY
& STUDENTS ANNUALLY

\$ STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS

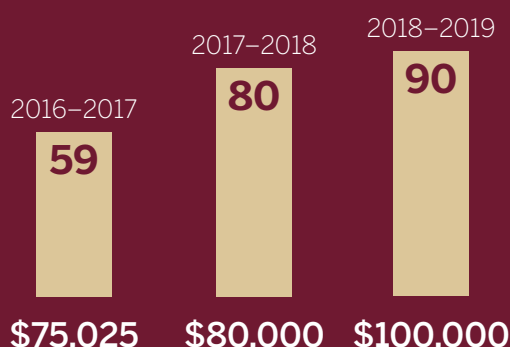
● # of Students Who Received Scholarships
● \$ Amount of Funds Given



580 STUDENTS
IN THE FIELD



850 AFFILIATED
FIELD AGENCIES

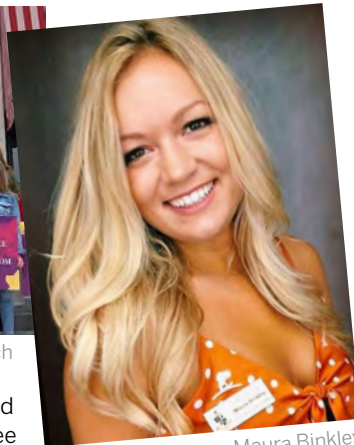




THE LAUNCH OF MAURA'S VOICE



Jeff Binkley, Maura's father, speaking at the Tallahassee launch



Maura Binkley

birthday, March 4th with a press conference on the steps of the Florida Capitol. The goals emphasized were "ideas before ideology, research before rhetoric, policy before politics." Friends, family, supporters, and survivors gathered in solidarity for the project and the effort to end mass violence.

Maura's Voice received further support in March 2019 of more than \$20,000 during FSU's Great Give, the University's annual 36-hour giving campaign.

By February 2019, more than three months had passed since a shooter opened fire in a Tallahassee yoga studio killing FSU student Maura Binkley and FSU faculty member Dr. Nancy Van Vessem and injuring others. Although grief is still fresh for Maura's family, they are rallying for change.

Jeff and Margaret Binkley, Maura's parents, partnered with the FSU College of Social Work to establish the Maura's Voice Research Fund (Maura's Voice). The fund aims to generate research that deepens the scientific understanding of and the effective response to gun violence in America, particularly where violence targets women and children. Maura's Voice will develop knowledge for and test innovative approaches to forensic evaluation, management, treatment, and prevention strategies. The fund also seeks to inform sound policy development and implementation.

The launch of Maura's Voice was celebrated on Maura's

Dean of the FSU College of Social Work Jim Clark will coordinate research for Maura's Voice. Dr. Clark's work focuses on the intersections of behavioral health, violence against women and lethal assaults. Additional FSU researchers include Dr. Amy Coren (Department of Psychology) and Dr. Jill Turanovic (College of Criminology and Criminal Justice).

"Maura's greatest wish was for all the violence to stop. Now, it is up to us to help the Binkley family ensure that Maura's voice—a voice for peace, love, and kindness—will carry on," FSU President Thrasher wrote to the *Tallahassee Democrat*. "She wanted to make a difference in the world, and now her legacy has the potential to save lives."

To learn more and support Maura's Voice, contact Colette Podgorski at cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu. ■

MAURASVOICE.ORG

PHOTO TIMELINE 2018–2019



FSU students & faculty at **LEAD Day, Florida Capitol** (Jan. 2018)



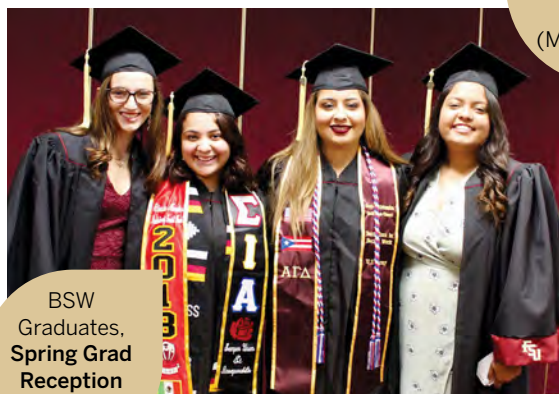
Staff & faculty in **Valentine's Day** attire (Feb. 2018)



FSU Multidisciplinary Center **Ribbon Cutting** (March 2018)



CSW Ambassadors **Brunch** (April 2018)



BSW Graduates, **Spring Grad Reception** (May 2018)



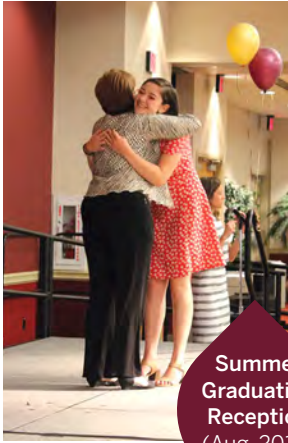
Arts & Athletics **Camp** (June 2018)



Summer Success Institute (June 2018)



Dean Clark & NASW-FL President **Carol Campbell Edwards** (June 2018)



**Summer
Graduation
Reception**
(Aug. 2018)



Field Expo
(Sept. 2018)



**Alumni
Breakfast, FSU
Homecoming**
(Oct. 2018)



**Student
Scholarship &
Distinguished
Graduate Dinner**
(Oct. 2018)



**Orlando
Reception at
Disney**
(Nov. 2018)



**University of
Houston showing
their support
after Hurricane
Michael**
(Nov. 2018)



**AVA Global
Health
Summit**
(Nov. 2018)



**Fall
Graduation
Reception**
(Dec. 2018)



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCING CAMPUS LIFE AND RESILIENCE AT FSU

BSW STUDENT Rose Antoine



Rose Antoine made it her mission to participate in a multitude of activities at FSU to enhance her academic, professional, and interpersonal development. At the Institute for Family Violence Studies (IFVS), she served on a team creating materials for projects on domestic violence, human trafficking, and educating service providers on supervised visitation.

As a Student Resilience Project team member and student ambassador, she assisted with design and implement of the revolutionary project, which helped students deal with the challenges that comes with college life. Utilizing a trauma-informed approach, the Resilience Project teaches students about trauma, resilience, stress management, and how to connect with resources on and off campus.

"Students have told me how much they love the project," Rose reflected about seeing the Resilience Project's impact first-hand. "They feel heard by the university and appreciate that they are receiving help with issues they thought they would be facing alone."

Rose noticed that working on the project also helped her with her own stress. Rose had originally intended to get through college quickly with a three-

year plan. During her freshman year though, she started to notice missed opportunities that became their own source of stress and anxiety. Talking with advisors and mentors, she concluded that she needed to change her plans.

"I didn't realize how normal it was to feel lost and stressed in college," she explained. "I had a lot of stress and anxiety about changing my mind, trying new things, meeting new people, and managing my time. The most important things I've learned at Florida State are to be flexible and to ask for help."

She became more involved with several organizations on campus including the Student Association of Social Workers (Social Chair and Treasurer) and Student Support Services Scope Program. She participated in the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Law Program, mentored with Excellence Dance Studios, and volunteered with the Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County and Kids, Inc. Rose also continues to work with IFVS and has her sights set on a study abroad program.

"Try new things," she stresses to other students who are trying to make the most of their college experience. "Pick activities, organizations, and service projects that enhance your experience. Remember to make decisions that are best for you, and ask for help if you need it."

Getting over her own fears to change her mind and ask for help got Rose on her current trajectory to make the most of her time at FSU with an eye on her goals and her passions. She intends to complete her MSW followed by law school in order to continue pursuing her long-term interest in social justice, and advocating for marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Rose hopes to return to her home country of Haiti, to work with institutions and organizations throughout the Caribbean, improving access and dissemination of services to youths and victims of human trafficking. ■

PURSUING SOCIAL JUSTICE ON A MACRO LEVEL

MSW STUDENT Kapria Lee



A Virginia native, Kapria Lee came to the FSU College of Social Work for the MSW/MPA dual-degree pathway in social work and public administration. This pathway combined her passions of social justice, policy, and research. She knew she wanted to become a social worker based on her three years (2014–2016) with AmeriCorps.

"Although I was helping high school students, they had complex personal issues interfering with their ability to succeed in the classroom," reflected Kapria. "I had to address these issues with my students before I could help them with their school work. This meant connecting students with resources."

Although her current interests are macro-focused, she witnessed through her experiences how programs and the lack of programs can impact individuals.

She also saw firsthand the impact policy can have on individuals during her time with the TRIO program (2010–2014), a federally-funded program helping low income minority students succeed in college.

“Social workers focus on marginalized communities and I wanted to join a profession that would advocate for the marginalized,” she stated.

Kapria currently serves as a gubernatorial fellow. The fellowship gives Florida students opportunities to gain experience working on high-level projects in state agencies. Working alongside the Bureau Chief of Medicaid Policy and administrators at the Agency for Health Care Administration, Kapria is assisting on projects like writing legislative reports that recommend Medicaid policy options.

Kapria takes her role as a social worker and advocate seriously. Her experiences as a student show her dedication to the profession, social work, and leadership. As an MSW Student Representative with the National Association of Social Workers Florida, Kapria was named Social Work Student of the Year in 2018. Since 2017 she has also served as a CSW Ambassador, representing the College at a multitude of events and activities. In 2017, she also received a Phi Alpha Honor Society MSW Scholarship Award.

After graduation this spring, Kapria will begin work as a policy analyst for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in Richmond, Virginia doing research and program evaluation to influence public policy and improve state government.

“As social work students and professionals we should be comfortable discussing current systems of oppression and acknowledging how past and present systems influence the social inequality we see today,” Kapria said about making the most of her time as a student. “Social work is a profession that allows us to work in any setting. Make the most of your time and be present. There is a lot to learn from everyone around you.” ■

ADDRESSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE FOR A VULNERABLE POPULATION

Ph.D. CANDIDATE
R. Lane Forsman



Doctoral student Lane Forsman wasn't always as academically ambitious and focused as he is in his doctoral studies, but his academic journey is what led him to become an advocate against sexual violence. Initially, he was unable to focus on his education as he found himself dealing with his own personal challenges with his sexuality and growing up in a very religious household. Searching for meaning, he applied to AmeriCorps, a division of The Corporation for National and Community Service, and served three terms in two programs. He worked a great deal in disaster recovery, most notably on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina along with providing aid after flooding in West Virginia and tornadoes in Northern Alabama. After these experiences, he knew he wanted to continue helping people in crisis.

After being readmitted to FSU for his bachelor's, he tried pursuing a STEM degree and later nursing. He realized it was not the medical field that drew him, it was nursing's holistic patient care approach. Lane then found his career trajectory in social work.

“Social work had that focus on understanding a person's situation in its totality while also recognizing that the person is so much more than the concern that brings them to you,” noted Lane.

Once he had turned his focus to social work, Lane continued with his original

interest in disaster recovery, crisis intervention, and long-term stabilization of communities after disasters, but two things occurred that would change his focus long-term. Right before the last semester of his BSW degree, Lane would experience his own sexual victimization. In his attempts to find resources and healing, he noticed a lack of understanding about how to respond to a male survivor of sexual violence. And, during his time in the MSW program and as a social work practitioner, he would encounter openly transgender persons for the first time. Some of them would share similar stories of facing barriers when attempting to find resources after an assault.

Upon encountering numerous situations where social workers were under-equipped or hindered when attempting to provide appropriate and quality care due to a lack of knowledge or resources, Lane decided that the best way to address his personal concerns for these issues was to pursue his doctoral degree in social work.

“Sexual violence research and intervention has largely focused on the cisgender female experience for understandable reasons,” he explained. “Adult males may not experience sexual victimization at the same rate, but we do know it happens and we need to be prepared to respond.”

His research is aimed toward the knowledge and service gap for adult men and transgender persons, particularly in regard to sexual violence. A recent study he presented during a poster presentation at the 2019 Society for Social Work Research conference was titled, “Support or Betrayal: Perceptions of campus support or male victims of campus sexual violence.” Lane's dissertation also focuses on the effect of gender identity on the experience of sexual victimization on campus.

“Part of what we do as social workers is to advance the cause of social justice. Transgender individuals are at increased risk for experiencing all forms of violence,” Lane stressed. “By researching the experiences and needs of this population in relation to sexual violence, I'm hoping to help alleviate some of this suffering.” ■



ALUMNI UPDATES

2010s

Ruby (Michelle) Brantley (MSW, 2018) completed her MSW in 2018 and is currently pursuing a juris doctorate at the FSU College of Law.

Spencer Cole (MSW, 2018) is currently a counselor in Jacksonville, Florida.

Sabrina Kinslow (MSW, 2018; BA, 2007) is the manager for the Blind Children's Program under the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in Dallas, Texas. She was recognized by the FSU Alumni Association as a 2018 Notable Nole, a program which recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of FSU young alumni.

Danielle (Dani) Groton (PhD; MSW/MPA, 2017; BSW, 2009) is an assistant professor at the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Her expertise is on homelessness and housing with a secondary research focus on housing placement for youth survivors of trafficking.

Ariana Bautista (MSW, 2015) is a licensed clinical social worker with the Substance Abuse Treatment Center at the Bay Pines Veteran Administration (VA) Healthcare System in Bay Pines, Florida. She supervises graduate interns, co-manages the Hispanic Employment Program, participates in the VA's virtual leadership program, and is a member of the Quality Care Committee.

Joselyn (Josie) Fliger (MSW, 2015) was recognized by the *Tallahassee Democrat* newspaper as one of their 2019 Top 25 Women You Need To Know. Josie is the director of volunteers and engagement at Elder Care Services in Tallahassee, Florida.

Lisa Jackson (MSW, 2015; BS, 2015) was awarded the Child Welfare Champion Award at the Florida Department of Children and Families 2018 Child Protection Summit. She was honored for her work

as the assistant director of the FSU Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement and the Unconquered Scholars Program.

Robyn Metcalf (MSW/MPA, 2015; BSW, 2013) is the statewide program director for victims of sex trafficking through the Open Doors Outreach Network.

Sarah Goldman (MSW, 2014) is a district aide for St. Petersburg, Florida Representative Ben Diamond in the Florida House of Representatives.

Elizabeth (Liz) Herrick (MSW/MPA, 2014) works in project management with Northrop Grumman, a global security company. She is a commissioner on the Anne Arundel County Commission for Women, a resource and advocacy group for women. She also recently began serving as a clinical/forensic psychotherapist at Anne Arundel Counseling Center. She co-chairs a legislative committee, and participates in a working group to combat human trafficking in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Katherine (Katie) Hood (MSW, 2013; BA, 2010) is currently a program manager for the Florida Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ember Maselli Urbach (MSW, 2013; BA/BS, 2011) is the director of training at the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network working on training development and delivery, policy research, and grant writing.

Amanda Widup (MSW, 2012) is currently the director of TRIO Student Support Services at a community college working with first generation, low income, and disabled students.

Alicia Armstrong (MSW, 2010; MPA, 2013; BSW, 2008) owns and operates Perky Petz, a dog daycare and pet boarding business. She serves as a sexual assault advocate with Refuge House. She is an adjunct professor at FSU teaching human sexuality. She is a group counselor with Hang Tough Foundation and a

long-time volunteer with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Animal Therapy Program.

Susann Prochnow (MSW, 2010) is the program director for the Children's Home Society of Florida in Orlando, Florida. She was recognized by the FSU Alumni Association as a 2018 Notable Nole.

2000s

Julie May McDougal (MSW, 2009; BA, 2004) has been the director of the Early Head Start Program at the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy in Tallahassee, Florida for seven years.

Stephanie Bernstein (MSW, 2008; BSW, 2007) is the Vice President of Business Development and Government Affairs for a human services organization in the Midwest.

Tiffanie Williams (MSW, 2008; BS, 2004) is a licensed clinical social worker in Florida. Through her private practice, MasterPeace Counseling Services, LLC, she has been providing mental health services for nine years.

Julisa Skeels Delmar (MSW, 2003) is a self-employed licensed clinical social worker in Needham, Massachusetts.

Allyce Heflin (MSW, 2005) currently manages the education practice for the Southern Strategy Group, a contract lobbying firm in Tallahassee, Florida. Previously, she was the staff director for the Education Appropriations Subcommittee in the Florida House of Representatives.

Jane Dwyer Lee (MSW, 2003) is an associate teaching professor at the FSU College of Social Work. She was awarded the 2018 Social Work Educator of the Year Award for the NASW Florida Chapter, Big Bend Unit.

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

1990s

Captain Jay Seligman (MSW, 1993; BS, 1990) retired from federal government service in March 2019. Prior to his retirement, he served as the Bureau of Prisons Chief Social Worker. He was awarded the U.S. Public Health Service Meritorious Service medal in May 2018 for his efforts to improve the lives of incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated individuals.

Sylvia Stinson Perez (MSW, 1993; BSW, 1991) was named the director of the Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Assistance Center in January 2019 at the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Brenda Jarmon (PhD, 1992) was recognized by the *Tallahassee Democrat* newspaper as one of their 2019 Top 25 Women You Need To Know. Dr. Jarmon is president of Sowing Seeds of Faith, Inc.

1980s

Carol Campbell Edwards (MSW, 1985; BS, 1984) received an FSU Transformation Through Teaching Award for actions that foster meaning and purpose among their students through their teaching efforts. She is an assistant teaching professor at the FSU College of Social Work. Carol was also elected president of the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter in July 2018 and will serve a two-year term.

Dr. Cynthia S. Turner (MSW, 1984) earned her doctoral degree in August 2019 from the Whitney W. Young Jr., School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University through the Social Policy and Administration Program. She will participate in Clark Atlanta University's commencement ceremonies on May 20, 2019.

1970s

Patricia (Pat) Grise (MSW, 1971) was recognized by the *Tallahassee Democrat* newspaper as one of the 2018 Top 25 Women You Need to Know in Tallahassee for her rich career in public service. She is currently retired, but has been a volunteer baby cuddler at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare for more than 20 years. ■

IN MEMORIAM



Ruth Ida Straus Gifford (March 9, 1938–April 25, 2018) lived a full, adventurous and meaningful life. Born the youngest of four sisters, she grew up in the Panama Canal Zone where her father worked as a machinist. Ida was a skilled swimmer and a strong believer of education. She received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and her MSW at FSU (1971). As a social worker, Ida worked with children in the Florida foster care system to place them in loving homes. She worked with veterans at Bay Pines VA Hospital and helped patients suffering with mental illness at the Utah State Hospital.



Art Cleveland (February 27, 1957–August 11, 2018) was a lifelong music lover and advocate for children. Born in Tallahassee, Florida, Art earned both his BSW and MSW from Florida State University where he also served as an adjunct professor.

As a licensed clinical social worker, he specialized in Child and Adolescent Play Therapy. He owned his private practice for twenty years and worked in behavioral health practice for Constative Pediatrics for fifteen years. In addition, he was an advanced graduate of the

FSU/LSU Harris Institute of Infant Mental Health. He believed and preached that "play is the work of children." Play therapy was the cornerstone of his clinical practice, and Art advocated for free play as essential to the healthy growth of children. His family continued to perpetuate his legacy for the children and families of Florida by establishing the Art Cleveland Play Therapy Endowment in 2018 at the FSU College of Social Work to support graduate students interested in formal training in play therapy.



Maria Delia (Perez) Sanchez (1925–2018) is remembered as a child welfare champion in the Tampa Bay area. Delia was responsible for spearheading the Head Start Program in Hillsborough County, a program assisting low-income pre-

school-aged children. She worked alongside Congressman Sam Gibbons to bring the program to the area in 1965. The way she ran the program became a blueprint for the nation. She worked for Head Start for two decades. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work at FSU (BS, 1945) when it was still a women's college, followed by her master's degree in social work from Columbia University (1947). She was an Ybor City native and the daughter of Spanish immigrants.

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Visit csw.fsu.edu/give to donate online or contact Development Director, Colette Podgorski at (850) 228-8536 or cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu.



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SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI GROUP (SWAG)

The College in partnership with the FSU Alumni Association has established a networking group for social work alumni and friends called the Social Work Alumni Group, or SWAG for short. Interest in creating an opportunity for supporters of the College of Social Work at FSU to connect, network and engage in outreach activities began after the 100 years celebration. Seeing a need for a way to celebrate social work's 100-year legacy at FSU as well as to connect graduates of all ages, SWAG was created. Meet the SWAG Board

- » DAVID ALBRIGHT, CHAIR
- » ROBYN METCALF, TREASURER
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To stay in the loop, join the SWAG Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/FSUSWAG. Connect with Colette Podgorski, Development Director (cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu) to learn more.



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2019 Student Scholarship & Distinguished Graduate Dinner - September 26

The Alumni Center, Grand Ballroom, 1030 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32304

Alumni Homecoming Brunch - October 26 | 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Hotel Duval, Horizon's Ballroom, 415 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

CSWE Reception TBA - October 2019

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SSWR Reception TBA - January 2020

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