

COMMUNITAS

Florida State University College of Social Work

2019–2020

RISE TO THE — TOP — 20



**NATIONAL PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES**

**SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS
AT A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY**

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Over the past five years, writing my opening letters to you in *Communitas* has been among the happiest tasks as dean of this wonderful college. As we compiled this 2020 edition, we anticipated it to be one of our very best. And yes, we have much to celebrate—the College attained Top 20 status as a public university social work program according to *U.S. News & World Report*, even as Florida State University rocketed to an astounding #18 public university position.

And while our campus-based and distance learning instructional programs continued to receive national attention, the College's research and clinical institutes broke new ground in so many areas: criminal justice reform, trauma and resilience education and intervention, child welfare policy research and training, innovative substance misuse and addiction education, and evidence-based clinical services for children struggling with neurocognitive disorders. (These are only highlights—there is much more at work!) Faculty-driven research grants and awards also geometrically increased, making all of these projects possible.

In March, FSU pivoted to remote learning in response to COVID-19. I am proud to report that Florida State has responded to this unfolding crisis with its characteristic determination. I am moved to see that the drive and “grace under pressure” that we admire in our FSU collegiate athletes continues to be demonstrated each and every day on the academic side of the university by our students, faculty,

and staff. As one faculty member recently emailed our colleagues, “I guess that we are unstoppable!”

All teaching, advising, and mentoring have moved to Zoom and other virtual technologies. The College's early innovations and investments in online learning are truly paying off. Our spring 2020 “digital” graduation was a bittersweet celebration. I continue to be impressed by the “Unconquered” spirit of our students and faculty—many earned special awards and distinctions.

In late May, George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police, which triggered major demonstrations in over 2,000 cities, including Tallahassee and other Florida communities. Our readers are acutely aware of the problems of systemic racism in our nation—it is almost impossible to be a social worker and not understand the historical oppression of People of Color in America. In addition, the profession is fortunate to claim many PoC as leaders in practice and social policy. Our faculty, staff, and students are responding to this call to action, helping us analyze structural issues in higher education at FSU, as well as thinking through implications for teaching, service, and research in the College.

The professionals who lead our institutes and centers have responded to these crises in their analyses of existing and developing initiatives. Each has worked carefully with their teams to think through how they can continue to create meaningful impacts on practice and policies.



We will share these inspiring stories in the days to come. You will likely have noticed our increased communications through our social media platforms to bring our news to you in more immediate ways. Keep an eye on these for updates from the college and university. And if you don't follow our newsletter, sign up by contacting alumni@csw.fsu.edu.

Finally, I want to thank our friends, donors, and supporters who love this College and FSU. Even as economic markets lurched into turbulence, you reached out and provided funding support for students in need, and continued to support our efforts to serve the campus, community, nation, and our world. Dear friends, you have once again proven the intense loyalty and purposeful concern that continue to provide the foundations for this work. Please stay in touch as we navigate and energetically respond to these uncertain times together. We are a community, a family. Go Noles!

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



REBOUND AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Disaster Response for Children and Caregivers

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

Shortly after Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane, hit Florida in October 2018, a Florida State University (FSU) team led by FSU President John Thrasher was on the scene in the Panhandle to assess the damage and recovery needed, including the site of FSU's Panama City campus. Dean Jim Clark of the FSU College of Social Work was among the members of this first FSU response team and an active participant in addressing behavioral healthcare needs in the Florida Panhandle per the request of key community stakeholders and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The College of Social Work partnered with Save the Children in 2019 to provide needed mental health services to children impacted by the storms. With funding from Save the Children and the college's Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, and Children (CFC Center), the Rebound and Recovery Initiative was launched to respond to mental health needs of children, families, teachers and community providers experiencing trauma in the Panhandle after Hurricane Michael.

"Disasters have the potential to cause short- and long-term effects on psychological functioning, emotional adjustment, health, and development trajectory of children," explained Ellen Piekalkiewicz, CFC Center director.

The CFC Center started its response plan with the facilitation of the Journey of Hope Program with elementary, middle and high school students in the Panhandle, a program developed by Save the Children after Hurricane Katrina. The program builds coping skills through structured games, stories, and positive behaviors in a safe, small group setting. Eight social work students facilitated the group activities during the summer and fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

"I found myself learning just as much from the children we worked with. They do not always need to be taught

something new. They need someone to support and empower them to use the strengths and abilities they already have," remarked Savannah Smith, CFC Center program assistant and recent College of Social Work graduate.

With support from Save the Children, the College of Social Work's Field Education Office and the FSU Multidisciplinary, Evaluation and Testing Center (FSU MDC), participating staff and students also received training and experience developing psychosocial group programming while providing critical aid to children and caregivers in the affected communities. The CFC Center developed a webinar (bit.ly/DisasterResponseWebinar) to share responses to children's mental health during emergencies and disasters, with the hope that state and local governments in Florida will factor behavior health into their disaster planning.

"What we need to understand is that adults working with children should be prepared for the types of reactions they might experience as they process a traumatic event," Dean Jim Clark reflected. "This includes psychoeducation and support services to accelerate the healing process."

The College of Social Work team found that many professionals in Panama City had some of the same behavioral and mental health needs as the children they served. The team set about providing workshops and training for professional self-care, so that service providers take care of themselves and equipped to support children who are grieving or traumatized.

"One of the most crucial takeaways is that disaster managers should think beyond immediate crisis response. As communities respond and provide resources, people start to have improved function, but this is still a vulnerable time," stressed Piekalkiewicz. "Some people take different lengths of time to recover. Children are often



thought of as resilient, so support is often withdrawn too soon at the first signs of recovery.”

The CFC Center continues its disaster response in the Panhandle through 2020, but is also adding a research component. With pilot funding from FSU, the center is testing the reliability of mental health interventions to children recovering from Hurricane Michael. The project is led by social work professors, Dr. Tanya Renn and Dr. Michael Killian along with doctoral candidate Julia H. Jones from the FSU Department of Family and Child Sciences (College of Human Sciences). The project will examine evidence-based programs “Bounce Back” and “Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in School” in rural school settings and the impact on children’s

well-being and the parent-child relationship.

With the recent increase in natural and man-made disasters, the CFC Center is making it a crucial part of its mission to identify means to recognize the impact these have on children and how best to help them. The Center’s team will continue to provide leadership and resources to address the critical gap in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. ■

LESSONS LEARNED TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE COPING:

- ✓ Anyone interacting with children after a disaster can be a source of support or assistance, but being unprepared or insensitive can cause further distress.
- ✓ A single disastrous event is part of a cascade of other events for a child. The impact and stress are cumulative events, even if they are unrelated.
- ✓ Mental health remains a stigma that is still a barrier, even in times of crisis.
- ✓ 30-40% of a population affected by a disaster are at risk of developing a new disorder that they did not have before the disastrous event.
- ✓ Traumatic grief is different from other forms of grief and requires different treatment.



**ELLEN
PIEKALKIEWICZ**
DIRECTOR

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

CSW.FSU.EDU/CFC

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER DIALOGUE

In March 2019, a symposium on substance use disorders (SUDs) gathered members of the Florida Higher Education and Substance Use Disorder Consortium with community providers, state government, researchers and students to discuss incorporating SUDs into social work curriculum statewide. Keynote Speaker Captain Michael King met with a small group before the symposium to explore the pathways and approaches to addressing SUDs. The consortium was established by the Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Family and Children along with 10 other Florida universities, Citrus Health Network and the National Association of Social Workers, Florida

Jim Akin: Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter (NASW-FL)

Hugh Clark: Program Coordinator, MSW Social Work, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU); and Southwest Florida Unit Chair, NASW-FL

Jim Clark: Dean and Professor, FSU College of Social Work

Captain Michael King: Regional Administrator (Region 4), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Ellen Piekalkiewicz: Director, Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children

Michael King: So, I am an MSW and my first job was in child welfare. But as an officer in public health service in the early 2000s, I realized that public health had a huge behavioral health component. Most recently, I recognized that social problems we were facing had always been there. Like this dual epidemic of substance use and mental illness. But the increase in suicides, particularly for people between the ages of ten and twenty-four years old is just shocking. These events prompted me to leave my safe harbor at the CDC (Center for Disease Control) to come back to this field.

Jim Akin: My primary concern is the social welfare workforce. Social work programs having a substance abuse curriculum will better prepare social workers to work in the field. It is a perfect example of what universities have always done, which is build programs to address social needs in our country.

Jim Clark: There is quite a history of this in social work.

J. Akin: A perfect example is the Family First Prevention Services Act that is replacing Title IV-E. This act will require case managers and investigators to work with

families to keep them intact and not just remove children. Substance use is probably one of the biggest barriers families are facing. Having social workers trained is vital. Social workers should be on the front line in working with substance use disorders. This symposium and its focus on education fit right in to that equation. It has to be evidence-based practice.

J. Clark: What everybody is saying so far is right on target. One reason for the symposium is, we realized it's highly probable that many students would graduate without any in-depth knowledge on substance use disorders. I think it's because of how services have been financed until recently, and how different areas have been siloed. Substance use is seen as an optional field. As a new practitioner, the first cases out in the field will likely be relating to substance use. It's important what we teach correlates to the realities of our world. It's a shame that an opioid epidemic had to alert us to this need, but it has galvanized leadership across the state. The Florida Association of Deans and Directors are extremely supportive. We are putting intellectual capital from throughout Florida into a curriculum that can be adapted and adopted to particular regions. This is the first step toward required coursework.

Ellen Piekalkiewicz: The exciting thing about the consortium is how engaged all the universities are. We've been meeting by video conference. That's a difficult forum to have cohesion and connection and we've managed to do it.

Hugh Clark: There's a lot of energy involved in those meetings. The willingness to jump on board has been great.

Ellen: We are all meeting in person at this symposium. We have included a facilitated discussion about the latest learning strategies, and best practices. We are learning about research areas that aren't always discussed, including financing substance use and mental health treatment, interventions for women and children and



Captain Michael King



Jim Clark

young adult substance use disorder issues. Being on a college campus means it's important to highlight this last one.

J. Clark: We want this to be a working meeting. Word has spread, and interest has increased. Deputy Secretary Patty Babcock at the Florida Department of Children and Families and other state officials are interested, we have a lot of students and state government workers here. Captain King, what about the synergies between public health and social work? You are kind of living that. Might a public health framework be relevant to social workers looking at substance use disorders?

King: I came into the service as SARS was happening and served through the H1-N1 response. I observed our federal government applying public health principles at a population level and applying behavioral health principles they weren't used to applying. Two issues that came out of those responses were stigma and education. Plus, taking care of the responders. We want to prepare social workers in the same way, preparing them for what they are going to see. There are evidence-based methods for dealing with stigma, or discrimination, and promoting behavior change in mass.

J. Clark: And therein lies the challenge.

King: We provide information and think we've done our job. This is a very traditional academic approach and we know it doesn't work, but it is our default setting.

J. Clark: So, what are some ideas of inciting behavior change?

King: We can share stories about what has worked based on evidence, in a way that humanizes it. We need to meet people where they are, speak their language



Jim Akin



Ellen Piekalkiewicz



Hugh Clark

and be culturally humble. We can't just expect everyone to be on board with these ideas, so there has to be some diplomacy. Making that switch at federal, state and local levels requires a lot of adjustment. Over the last two decades, I've seen public health come to appreciate principles social work has always held dear.

J. Clark: Was that because the study of human behavior and its relationship to infectious disease has become clearer to the CDC?

King: Yes, as an agency they are evolving. We're still struggling to move past the medical model. As a country, we still don't believe in primary prevention. We now realize individual needs and risk factors are different from those of a population. We have to be able to target all of those risks and create the policies and resources to address them.

Hugh: I want to piggyback on what you said about prevention. Even as we started the consortium, it was brought up that we were missing something about prevention. Ellen and I are working on including prevention in the modules in any educational approach with students. We need to be inclusive.

King: And the literature now on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and social determinants of health have changed how we view addiction.

Hugh: At FGCU our social work program is in the college of health and human services. A lot of nurses, physical therapists and physicians assistants don't know about the social determinants of health. We need this to be part of a general knowledge base.

J. Clark: An excellent point. What is promising here is that we realize we need interdisciplinary partnerships, sources of frustration but also great possibility for creativity when we explore how our intellectual and analytic frameworks fit or don't fit. It creates new questions.

King: I wish I could get everyone in public health to read systems theory. The whole social-ecological model makes sense. Public health just got around to this.

J. Clark: How are they applying systems theory?

King: The CDC injury center has been collecting longitudinal social determinants of health data for every state. I shared it with the southeastern states' offices of primary prevention who are collaborating with SAMHSA grantees on issues like food security, transportation, supportive housing and employment for those in substance use recovery or getting out of jail. Promoting ideas like the Federal Bonding Program that allows employers to hire high-risk applicants and still have a sense of security. This builds a resilient community, with access to care and hope. When people don't have hope, they use, they get depressed. Public health is recognizing the need for social workers, I believe.

J. Akin: It's true, social work programs are now frequently part of public health departments at universities across the country. Social determinants in health care are really being emphasized in recent studies. An article I read about aging mentioned the growing problems of loneliness and isolation which directly relates to substance use.

Hugh: That raises the issue of how we deal with substance use issues from both urban and rural perspectives.

King: We have to be able to provide mobile treatment options. We see this with our medication-assisted treatment and restrictions on where that can occur. And we need to make sure people get the right level of treatment. Not everybody needs an in-patient setting. We need other levels of treatment accessible. Even with telehealth, not everyone has an internet connection that can support that. Florida is not alone in that. Many of the Southeastern states are dealing with this.

J. Clark: I think that is something people in this region are very attuned to, the urban and rural differences. What are some of the ethical issues surrounding urban and rural healthcare?

King: Lately I've been thinking about the idea that everyone pays taxes, which are allocated but not applied equally.

J. Clark: That's certainly true.

King: There are no workable solutions yet to deliver timely emergency or even routine services to rural areas. If we want to talk about prevention, we need people

doing wellness and primary care visits. For people to have access to healthy food. Even getting to these things is a challenge. We need to build communities that are connected or connectable.

Hugh: Our education system is a part of that as well with a vast funding difference between the more urban and rural schools. We need trained people in rural areas to provide prevention programs. In urban areas, that is a lot easier.

King: I like that you brought up schools. They become one of those areas that are a logical interception point. We can concentrate on some social services there and make it a common meeting place. The answer to all of these issues lies in areas of increased connection, and that starts with our professions.

J. Akin: In the 1970s, the federal government encouraged states to have mental health services statewide. The plan was for every county in America to have access to mental health services. I think we need to go back to that.

King: I completely agree. It's about resources. What I see now are agencies making several funding options available. There are some examples of successes. Community banks and foundations are supporting rural developments. The more we can educate people on accessing different sources of funding and weaving them together is a workable solution.

J. Clark: To wrap up, what about the role universities play in public health approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery in substance use disorders?

King: Universities are uniquely equipped to provide the evidence base that we all need. A public health model begins with the data. We need academic institutions to keep doing the research and connecting people with that knowledge. I mean, the keys to success in public health are knowing what you do and why you're doing it, partnerships, and letting people know what you are doing for the community.

Ellen: And that's part of our symposium today, to get the information out there and to start a conversation. ■

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH CAPACITY

DR. NORMAN ANDERSON

When Dr. Norman Anderson came to Florida State University in 2017 as the assistant vice president for research and academic affairs, his leadership experience, training and interdisciplinary research background were viewed as assets to FSU faculty. After three years, the benefits to FSU faculty and administrators have become even more apparent.

“After 35 years working in and out of academia, my joy at this stage of my career is being of service to help others achieve their best,” Anderson stated about his role at FSU. Anderson created and launched the FSU Faculty Leadership Development Program, a program designed to offer leadership training to faculty across the university. The program is based in part on the philosophy that leadership development is an ongoing, never-ending process, and is important to pursue whether or not the person is in a designated leadership position.

This year, Anderson joins the faculty of the FSU College of Social Work as a full professor, a role he will serve in along with his current administrative role. “As a faculty member I consult with my colleagues on any aspect of their research, academic work or career goals. Sometimes, my role is simply being a thought-partner for faculty navigating various aspects of the academic world.”

The interdisciplinary nature of his background makes Anderson a valued member of the college’s faculty. Dr. Anderson comes to our faculty with a distinguished record as a leading scientist, including membership in the National Academy of Medicine.

“His integration of health, behavioral health and social justice is especially important to social work researchers striving to design and implement funded, translational research,” said Dr. Jim Clark, dean and professor of the FSU College of Social Work. “Dr. Anderson’s warmth and kindness make him a remarkable mentor and coach. He’s also a gifted strategic thinker who challenges groups to face and respond to the hard questions.”

Anderson draws from his leadership experiences, including the thirteen years he spent as the chief executive officer of the American Psychological Association (APA). Prior to APA, he was an associate director of National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the founding director of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research. In addition, he held professorships at Duke University in psychiatry and psychology, and at the Harvard School for Public Health in health and social behavior. Anderson is also a certified professional coach.

His experience in leadership development is also being utilized across the college by affiliated organizations, including the Institute for Justice Research and Development. As their staff and leadership is scaling up on a national level, Anderson notes, he has helped navigate the complexities that go along with that effort and visualize their leadership strategies.

As the college has expanded its research across the US and internationally, Anderson’s experience has proven crucial for faculty initiatives at the college’s research centers and institutes. Anderson also serves on the board for the College of Social Work’s Center for the Study and Pro-



Dr. Norman Anderson

motion of Communities, Families, and Children, offering guidance on strategic and leadership trajectories for the center.

In his work on leadership with faculty, Anderson provides them with a toolkit comprised of several practices and skills. One of these tools includes an evidence-based leadership model called The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership® (leadership-challenge.org) which is broadly applicable across different disciplines and professional roles. He integrates training using this model with instruction in emotional intelligence, character strengths, and mindfulness.

Anderson began his practice of mindfulness mediation in 1975 during his undergraduate studies to improve his concentration and study habits. Now a certified meditation instructor, he encourages everyone to cultivate their meditation or mindfulness practice for the broad benefits it provides.

“Mindfulness is especially beneficial for leaders as it helps them become calmer under pressure, helps with concentration and mental clarity, and can even assist with communication skills and in fostering compassion for others” explained Anderson.

He looks forward to other opportunities to bring his diverse professional experiences and training to the service of faculty, staff, and students in the College of Social Work and across Florida State campus. ■



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. YAACOV PETSCHER

Dr. Petscher is an associate professor at the FSU College of Social Work (FSUCSW), but he also serves as an associate director for QMI, the Quantitative Methodology and Innovation division of the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) as well as the associate director of FCRR.

Along with his associate directors, **Dr. Christopher Schatschneider** and **Dr. Richard Wagner** of the FSU Department of Psychology, QMI's focus is application of rigorous research methods and advanced statistical analyses to research related to improving social, educational, behavioral, psychological and emotional outcomes.

CURRENT PROJECTS INCLUDE:

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities

FCRR and FSUCSW partnered with the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities to evaluate and improve their assessment tools for people with developmental disabilities.

The Questionnaire for Situational Information is administered by the agency to determine the level of need for individuals they serve. The 10-year old test is being evaluated by QMI and faculty members from the FSU College of Social Work including, **Dr. Lisa Schelbe**, **Dr. Jeffrey Lacasse** and **Dr. Michael Killian**.



Teacher Assistive Scoring Platform

is an educational platform allowing teachers and students to utilize an easy and accessible assessment tool.



The Earlier Assessment for Reading Success

is a web application (app) that assists teachers in projecting reading success in elementary-age students beyond the standard one-year period.



A.R. Chronicles Comic Kayla

Adventures in Reading comic follows Kayla, a girl with dyslexia, on her adventures in reading and encouraging kids to embark on their own.

improvingliteracy.org/kid-zone/ar



Performing Assessment Without Testing

Dr. Petscher and Dr. Schatschneider received a US Patent (9,299,266) in 2017 for this educational assessment system without testing that includes client systems connected to a network allowing students and school officials to communicate with an education framework that performs and manages education assessment."



Reach Every Reader is supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative in partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the MIT Integrative Learning Initiative with FCRR to address the crisis in early literacy by developing innovative assessments and interventions for students K-3.



The K-12 Rapid Assessment is a computer-adaptive assessment developed by FCRR's **Dr. Barbara Foorman**, **Dr. Yaacov Petscher** and **Dr. Christopher Schatschneider**. It seamlessly identifies skills most predictive of success in individual students and identifies at-risk students, providing support strategies and tracking their growth.

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS TO **END MASS INCARCERATION**

As the largest academic research institution in the nation working at the intersection of social work and criminal justice, the Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) is dedicated to generating data-driven solutions to criminal justice reforms. Since IJRD opened its doors in 2018, their mission has been to improve the well-being of individuals, families, and communities impacted by involvement with the criminal justice system.

IJRD has made steady progress in pursuit of this mission through the rapid dissemination of research findings which speed the adoption of innovations that bring about real-world changes in policy and practice. IJRD has also witnessed its own rapid growth over the past twenty months and has grown from three faculty members and two staff members to a team of nearly 100 faculty, staff, and students working in ten states across the nation. IJRD has also brought in nearly \$12 million in federal and foundation grant dollars, contracts and philanthropic giving.

The work being conducted at IJRD has launched Florida State University to national preeminence in the field of data-driven solutions to criminal justice reform.

When reflecting on the scope and scale of the organization's work, Carrie Pettus-Davis, IJRD's founder and executive director said, "I am frequently asked 'What is the one thing we can do to enact sustainable criminal justice reform?' My response is, 'The one thing you should do is not just do one thing.' That's why IJRD is working at all phases of the criminal justice system, helping to divert individuals out of incarceration on the front end with law enforcement and prosecutors, working to increase access to evidence-driven behavioral health interventions during custody, and promote community stability to help individuals thrive as they leave incarceration and come home."

IJRD has seven active research projects in 12 states—the scope of these projects ranges from national to local.

On a national level, IJRD is testing a ground-breaking, well-being focused reentry services program called the 5-Key Model for Reentry in over 100 correctional facilities and 21 rural and urban counties in seven states. And, in collaboration



Carrie Pettus-Davis delivers opening remarks at the inaugural all-team meeting

with the Equitas Project, they have established a national network of prosecutors in 20 jurisdictions working to develop, implement and assess innovative programs to divert individuals with behavioral health issues from incarceration and into community support.

Other IJRD projects are designed to meet the needs of local correctional systems and communities. One example includes a unique partnership with the John E. Polk Correctional Facility in Seminole County, Florida where IJRD is meeting the needs of this local jail by testing a trauma-informed intervention. The intervention begins during an individual's time in jail and continues after their release into the community.

"We hope to help individuals succeed after they release from jail by treating trauma symptoms, improving community stability, and increasing well-being," said Stephen Tripodi, IJRD's associate director and co-principal investigator of the study in Seminole County.

IJRD's unique style uses three signature approaches that distinguish it from other research centers: (1) IJRD incorporates the participation of formerly incarcerated individuals at all levels of the organization, including them as staff members and as a part of a community advisory board. The board reviews all aspects of IJRD's research process to ensure applicability and relevance. (2) IJRD uses an innovative research-to-practice feedback loop, developed under the guidance of a National Scientific Advisory Committee. The feedback loop incorporates feedback from professionals delivering services and developing policy as a means to quickly adapt interventions to maximize their impact. And (3) IJRD releases to the general public quarterly reports on early lessons learned from their studies, which have been used to support state and federal policymakers to enact data-driven policy reforms. IJRD is dedicated to continued growth and hopes to have active research projects in all 50 states in the next decade while simultaneously strengthening the relationship between research and policy.



The South Carolina team accepts the Team Impact Award

THREE NEWLY LAUNCHED PROJECTS:



Supporting Young Men After Release

Funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), this project supports young men released from prison who are returning home. These young men may be at a high risk of returning to incarceration and experiencing a range of other negative outcomes including behavioral health crises and death. IJRD will examine the effectiveness of a comprehensive trauma-informed, employment-oriented intervention that seeks to treat trauma-symptoms with the hope of increasing their well-being, success and public safety. “This project is significant because we are addressing trauma as a contributor to substance use, impulsivity and the misinterpretation of social cues, which can lead to engagement in otherwise preventable criminal behavior,” stated Tanya Renn, IJRD assistant director and co-principal investigator on this project.



Harnessing Technology to Support Individuals Under Community Supervision

This project, also funded by NIJ, aims to develop and test a technological solution to increase support for individuals who are under community supervision. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and wearable technology will be designed to facilitate communication between individuals and their probation officers, as well as to provide access to social workers and round-the-clock access to a virtual counselor to provide crisis intervention assistance. The project is a collaboration between IJRD and colleagues at Purdue University, Florida State University Department of Computer Science and the University of Alabama at Huntsville.



Crisis Stabilization in the Community

The third project, funded by Arnold Ventures, targets individuals experiencing behavioral health crises in the community who are diverted away from incarceration and into crisis stabilization treatment services. This unique project partners with law enforcement and Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. to examine the effects of crisis stabilization. The study will explore whether providing mobile crisis services after individuals are released from the hospital improve outcomes and help them develop well-being and achieve community stability.

Scenes from the inaugural all-team meeting



INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
IJRD.CSW.FSU.EDU | DAY1JUSTICE.ORG

FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE

EMERGING RESEARCH, RESOURCES AND TRENDS

Several bills passed during the 2020 Florida Legislature that aim to improve child welfare outcomes. SB 1326, which passed unanimously, requires the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to:

- Collaborate with the FSU College of Social Work to redesign the social work curriculum to include interactive and interdisciplinary approaches for students to gain an understanding of real-world child welfare cases.
- Collaborate with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and other stakeholders to design and implement a career-long professional development curriculum for child welfare workers.
- Establish a consulting program to assist child welfare organizations improve retention, effectiveness, and the overall well-being of staff to improve child welfare outcomes.

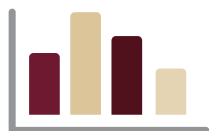
RESOURCES



Podcasts

The institute's first podcast series, *Child Protection Caseworker Support* features the institute's director, Dr. Jessica Pryce, sitting down with child welfare professionals to discuss and offer

guidance on issues pertinent to the field. The second series, *Innovations in Child Welfare* launches in Fall 2020.



Infographics

The institute provides monthly infographics on key topics.



Webinars

The institute provides webinars with experts on a variety of topics to help increase the knowledge base of frontline child welfare workers. For more information, see ficw.fsu.edu/media

CURRENT PROJECTS

In 2020, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare will complete four projects:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY: Co-Researching Disparities with Broward's Child Welfare Participants and System Partners

The Children's Services Council of Broward County enabled a grassroots, qualitative examination of Broward County's child welfare system to examine the racial disparities in Broward County's child welfare removals through a Community Participatory Action Research framework that employs a racial equity lens. The final report will be available in August 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA: An Examination of Racial Disparities in the Experiences and Outcomes of Crossover Youth

This study examines whether different treatment program models for crossover youth (youth who have crossed over from DCF to the Department of Juvenile Justice) meet the needs of minority families and produce equitable outcomes across racial and ethnic minority groups. The research team is collaborating with two agencies contracted by DCF to provide a service program to crossover youths and their families: the National Youth Advocate Center and the Children's Home Society. The final report will be available in August 2020.

Florida Study on Professionals for Safe Families (FSPSF)

The FSPSF is in the final year of a five-year longitudinal, statewide study that examines individual, organizational, and community influences on child welfare workforce retention. To learn more, visit ficw.fsu.edu/FSPSF.

Evaluation of the Guardianship Assistance Program

Florida Statutes, Section 39.6225 requires the institute to determine the impact of the Guardianship Assistance Program (provides assistance payments to relatives who meet eligibility requirements). The evaluation identifies barriers that may prevent eligible caregivers from participating and provides recommendations to enhance the state's system of supporting kinship caregivers.

The full project report is to be submitted to the Florida Legislature and DCF in January 2021. ■

FICW.FSU.EDU

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE STUDIES

A FOCUS ON TRAUMA-INFORMED RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING

The Institute for Family Violence Studies gained national attention for its evidence-informed Student Resilience Project (strong.fsu.edu). The project, launched in 2018, teaches students coping skills and stress management through a trauma-informed lens. The project's site has had more than 25,000 visitors since its launch, thirty percent of which are return visitors.

The Student Resilience Project has also received acclaim for its ground-breaking approach to improving student well-being. The project received the American Association of University Administrator's 2019 Blackburn Award in Innovation and the Florida TaxWatch 2019 TaxWatch Productivity Award.

Through a GAP Commercialization Grant from the FSU Office of Research, the institute developed a customizable version of the Student Resilience Project site, which can be licensed to other universities. Earlier adopters of the site from across the country will be able to utilize the adaptable toolkit to make resilience more accessible to students on their campus.

The overwhelmingly positive national response to the project also inspired



IFVS students and staff at the University Club

the institute to develop and launch a Professional Certification on Trauma and Resilience in the summer of 2019 (learningforlife.fsu.edu/professional-certification-trauma-and-resilience-level-one) through a partnership with the FSU Center for Academic and Professional Development. The online course provides insights into the impact of trauma, along with information on interventions and healing. Almost 1,000 professionals from a range of fields have registered for the certification. An ad-

vanced level-two of the certification is to be launched in fall 2020.

The Student Resilience Project continues its efforts on Florida State's campus with the launch of the **Resilient Noles**, a student organization dedicated to peer-to-peer engagement through the promotion of the project and a culture of resilience and wellness.

Once students learn about what the project offers, they are drawn to it. Aside from being a fundamental resource for mental health, this project starts the imperative conversation about mental health and is making great strides in breaking the associated stigma," stated Rima Patel, president of the Resilient Noles at FSU. "Together, through the help of the project, we are becoming an ever-resilient Florida State, and I am eager to see this movement make an impact on universities nationwide." ■

Successful Co-Parenting After Divorce

This project offers new trauma-informed videos and content, which teaches parents about the effects of divorce on children. It helps them build healthy co-parenting relationships for the benefit of children involved (sponsored by the Vandermark Foundation). The training is available for free online at any time.

Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation

The clearinghouse added new online training resources. Funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the clearinghouse was created to provide state-wide technical assistance on issues related to the delivery of supervised visitation services to providers, the judiciary, and the Florida DCF.

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

KAREN OEHME
DIRECTOR



PHOTO TIMELINE 2019–2020



June 2019 – Arts and Athletics Program youth take on obstacle courses with FSU veterans



July 2019 – FSUCSW faculty participate on WFSU show *Perspectives* discussion on mental health and disaster recovery for children



August 2019 – Summer graduates celebrate with their families at the Summer Graduation Reception



August 2019 – Fall Planning meeting for FSUCSW faculty and staff



August 2019 – A new cohort of MSW students are welcomed to campus at Fall Orientation



September 2019 – Students visit with local agencies at the Field Agency Fair



September 2019 – A weekend intensive for distance learning MSW students with Fran Gomory



September 2019 – Students and professionals team up during the IBM Design Sprint for the Future of the Child Welfare Workforce



October 2019 – FSU Doctoral Students at the College's CSWE APM reception



October 2019 – The newest cohort of FSUCSW Interprofessional Fellows



November 2019 – Margaret Ashmore and her Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Social Work class do a meditation walk at Lichgate Cottage



December 2019 – Graduates are honored at the Fall Graduation Reception



January 2020 – Arts and Athletics Program youth and mentors share inspiration boards



February 2020 – The Student Affairs Committee make social work students Valentines! <3



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH SOCIAL WORK AND ECONOMICS

BSW STUDENT Molly McQueeney



Molly McQueeney can not recall when her interest in human rights started, but her awareness grew in high school when the graphic image of a Syrian refugee boy washed up on the shore of Greece spread across the media. This alerted Molly to the growing refugee crisis in 2015.

That graphic image awakened a need in Molly to learn more about migrant and refugee families facing displacement. Her interest in human rights grew from there. Arriving at FSU, Molly searched for a major in the helping professions and found the right fit studying macro social work at the FSU College of Social Work.

"The skills I've gained from the BSW program are essential for working with individuals affected by human rights issues," stressed Molly. "The social work code of ethics is key in human rights. Values like 'dignity and worth of the person' and 'social justice' are at the core of human rights activism."

Molly also felt the need to better understand the national and international political and economic climates in order to make a greater difference in human rights. She decided on a double major in social work and economics.

"Economics is a great partner for macro social work. It focuses on cost-benefit analysis and increasing productivity," she explained. "Economics gives me the knowl-

edge to fight for funding for issues I care about and how to create and implement efficient processes and programs."

Molly noted that taking social work and economics classes are a good balance because they simultaneously inform her on different, although not necessarily opposing perspectives, and allow her to think critically on polarizing issues.

"I also explored human rights through student organizations. I joined Darasa (formerly the Migrant Refugee Alliance) and Amnesty International," she said. Working with Darasa, Molly tutors migrant and refugee K-12 students in Leon County. Now the president of Darasa at FSU, Molly represents and advocates for these students at Leon County School Board meetings, supports her fellow tutors, and shares the organization's mission and stories at FSU and in Tallahassee.

With Amnesty International she takes part in weekly meetings in which members are educated on global human rights issues. She is also participating in the planning of the organization's annual Amnesty International Human Rights Conference, and Human Rights Art Show.

Making an impact on the local level in Tallahassee and FSU is only the beginning for Molly. She is setting her sites on a career path in human rights, starting with a graduate degree in development economics and humanitarianism. She also wants to continue pursuing volunteer opportunities like her recent trip to Chios, Greece in the summer of 2019.

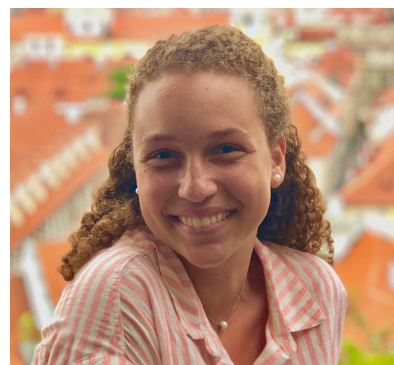
"I volunteered at a refugee camp and the experience was life-changing," she reflected. "I participated in hands-on support of boat landings, usually in the middle of the night. We provided food, water and resources to families fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries. I worked with children in displacement camps three days a week, and gained a better understanding of their needs."

Even in her leisure time, Molly is bent on expanding her understanding and experience of global perspectives and cultures. She volunteers her talents as a fiddle player with the FSU Oldtime Ensemble and FSU Irish Ensemble. Her advice to anyone with similar interests is to explore, any and all opportunities to travel, be mentored or to learn.

"Don't be afraid to try as many things as you can, and don't be afraid to fall in love with something you never expected," she emphasized. "Find the people who will stand by you and encourage you to pursue your passion." ■

NEW COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCES LEAD TO LEADERSHIP

MSW STUDENT Sabrina Sprott



Sabrina Sprott stumbled into social work when she started at Florida State University as an undergraduate student. Her psychology degree led her to explore graduate opportunities at FSU that would expand her career opportunities in the area of mental health. After returning from a birthright trip to Israel where she met Rozsa Gomory, she was introduced to her mom, MSW Program Director, Fran Gomory. Fran put social work on her radar.

Her first day in the BSW program, Sabrina also met her best friend, Elizabeth Murray. Together they decided to try meeting more people with similar interests. They applied to be camp counselors with the FSU College of Social Work's (FSUCSW) Arts and Athletics Program in 2018.

Led by faculty member Dr. Shalay Jackson, the Arts and Athletics Program was established to promote positive youth development in local youth ages 11 to 14.

Enjoying the camp experience so much, both Sabrina and Elizabeth returned in 2019 as head counselors. In 2020, Sabrina was selected as the program's director,

a position she was uniquely suited for due to her increased involvement in the camp and learning what projects and activities really resonated with program participants.

"Arts and Athletics allows local youth to develop social and emotional skills in a fun and collaborative environment on a college campus," said Sabrina, about the importance of the camp's mission. "It also allows college students to teach, inspire, and support local youth as mentors."

Sabrina's leadership in the camp comes at an important time in its development. She and Dr. Jackson oversaw the transition of the Arts and Athletics program from a brief summer camp experience to a week-long program for participants in the spring 2020 semester.

Campers experienced two basketball games—a FSU Women's Basketball game against Miami and a FSU Men's Basketball game against Boston College. They also did an activity with FSU's Resilience Project, toured Doak Campbell Stadium, participated in poetry making with Emeritus Dean Nick Mazza and took part in music therapy with Capital City Music Therapy. Campers also participated in FSU student-run activities such as creating a coping strategy wheel to help them cope with life stressors, completed an obstacle course blindfolded to promote courage and trust, and created mason jars filled with colorful layers of sand representing their strengths.

Directing the Arts and Athletics Program was a happy conclusion for Sabrina and her MSW program experience at FSU. This summer she completes her field internship at the Boca Regional Hospital's Lynn Cancer Center with the hopes of beginning her career in oncology social work.

Sabrina credits her time at the College of Social Work for really helping to step out of her comfort zone, allowing her to fully appreciate what it means to put herself out there in ways that make the most of all her opportunities, including the study abroad program in the Czech Republic.

"If you're interested in the helping professions, you can't go wrong with a degree in social work. I learned more than I ever thought possible about how far-reaching social work is and the importance of empathy and compassion" Sabrina noted, looking back at her time at FSUCSW. "The course work's broad applicability makes it relevant for any field." ■

FOCUSING ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES: THE PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH

Ph.D. CANDIDATE
Lauren H.K. Stanley



Doctoral candidate Lauren H.K. Stanley's focus had always been on working with children and her own educational and professional goals. "I always enjoyed working with kids and in school environments," she explained. After completing her undergraduate degree in psychology (2001) at Florida State University, she worked as a physical education teacher and completed her master's in educational psychology (2014).

After volunteering with Big Bend Hospice and with some exposure to the impactfulness of social work by some influential mentors, Lauren pursued and completed a dual Master's degree program in child development at the Erikson Institute (2006) and social work at Loyola University Chicago (2007). Her experiences in these programs prepared her for clinical social work with children and adolescents. She dedicated herself to developing her social work career, obtaining her social work licensure and supervisory licensure.

"I've been a licensed clinical social worker for twelve years working in child and adolescent mental health, but I really hit my stride in agency work and supervision," reminisced Lauren about her social work journey. "I served as a day treatment program supervisor, a mental health consultant for Head Start services, and a clinical director for a youth community mental health agency. Along the way, I supervised other social workers for licensure and taught as an adjunct for several social work programs."

Adjuncting at several universities allowed Lauren to keep one foot in the academic community, but she admits that a doctoral degree was always on her agenda. As she and her family settled back in Tallahassee, she decided to make an academic home once again at Florida State.

With a focus on early childhood trauma and educational outcomes, Lauren has worked on an array of projects in child welfare and education with College of Social Work research faculty. With Dr. Melissa Radey and Dr. Dina Wilke, she spent two years researching the supervisory and training experiences through the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families, a collaborative project funded by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW). She also worked with Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt, examining factors influencing treatment outcomes in youth residential facilities. Her current assistantship is with Dr. Yaacov Petscher analyzing social influences on reading outcomes in youth.

In 2019, Lauren also took on additional leadership roles at the College of Social Work and with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

"I lead the student-organized Coalition for Justice-Driven Research which, under the guidance of Dr. Stephen Tripodi, seeks to improve the infusion of social justice issues into the curricula and research of the social work doctoral program," said Lauren. "I also joined the CSWE Task Force on Infant and Early Childhood and Developmental Neuroscience, which is a nice fusion of my practice experience and my population of interest for research. I will be with other social workers developing early childhood mental health competencies and resources for practitioners and instructors as it relates to advancing human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice."

Lauren anticipates finishing her dissertation and completing her program in 2021 and is eager to continue exploring the traditional and nontraditional pathways that lie ahead of her. She reflects that her time with the doctoral program has shown her just how capable she really was to make a difference.

"Know what you want from your professional self, then ask as many questions as you can and talk to as many people as you can," Lauren advises to anyone interested in pursuing their professional goals. "Be prepared to accept and embrace the many opportunities that come your way." ■

CITRUS HEALTH NETWORK

Citrus Health Network has been a key community organization in South Florida since 1979, providing mental health and physical health services for local communities. Few know the extent of their community efforts, programming or how it came to be. In its current form, the organization is the result of the efforts and vision of President and CEO Mario Jardon, COO Maria Alonso and a dedicated board.

Mr. Jardon was familiar with U.S. Health and Human Services efforts since graduating with his MSW from Fordham University, working in the child welfare system and as a therapist in a community mental health center and running a children's community health center in New Jersey. In 1978, after a national search, he was tapped to lead the establishment of a CMHC in Miami, Florida.

Jardon and his team were concerned with getting in touch with and meeting the

needs of the community. On his insistence, the organization was centrally located and accessible, which extended to its name. Originally Northwest Dade Center, the organization changed its name to "Citrus Health Network," which was shorter and easier to pronounce for diverse and multilingual Miami, he asserted.

In its first year, Citrus almost faced closure due to two major crises. The 1980 McDuffie riots killed 18 people as large areas of Miami's inner-city neighborhoods burned. The Mariel boatlift sent more than 100,000 refugees to South Florida, including Cuban prisoners and psychiatric patients released by Fidel Castro.

With support from their board and the federal government, Citrus overcame these challenges. He continued to envision growth and ways to serve the community. In 2004, Citrus earned a Section 330(e) grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center able to provide community health services along with mental health services. FQHCs quickly became "casas de socorro" Mario explained, relief houses where uninsured people could seek help.

Citrus was on the technology forefront in the 1980s, adopting early computer technology to gain better patient insights. From serving only a few thousand people in the first year, Citrus served more than 30,000 patients in 2019. Their team grew from 12 employees to more than 1,000.

Citrus continues to innovate ways to better fund efforts that serve the South Florida community and are validated as optimally effective. This includes the utilization of braided funding, or multiple co-existing funding sources, says Maria.

"Community mental health centers like Citrus always serve the hardest to treat populations including severely and persistently mentally ill and severely emotionally disturbed children," said Ellen Piekalkiewicz, FSU Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children (CFC Center) Director



COO Maria Alonso and CEO and President Mario Jardon

Citrus provides emergency, transitional, and supportive housing services for people in South Florida experiencing homelessness. Most recently, Citrus became the Community Based Care Lead Agency for Child Welfare for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Citrus has established Children's Reception and Intake Bases (CRIBs), which provide safe spaces to reduce trauma for children entering foster care who are awaiting placement. The CFC Center is evaluating the effectiveness of the CRIBs and Citrus' child welfare efforts to continually improve services.

"We developed these initiatives with the mentality of mental health and social workers. We listen, we learn, we observe," stressed Jardon. "We are here to serve these people."

Citrus' efforts also extend to higher education, with multiple relationships established through research and philanthropy, including with FSU's College of Social Work. In the early 2000s, Mario was looking to support the training of future social workers, Maria recalls. For them, FSU, an institution with a reputation for high-quality social work training, was a logical fit.

With support from their board, Citrus set up the Citrus Health Network Scholarship endowment in 2002 that annually awards scholarships to graduate students interested in working in behavioral health in Miami-Dade. Since its inception, the scholarship has served 38 students.

Students also go to Citrus to complete their social work field placements. "We have interdisciplinary training. They need to learn to work as a team because in the real world they are going to have to work with each other," said Maria. ■



"I am so grateful for being accepted at Citrus for my internship and for the scholarships they provided. The Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit is an amazing, dedicated team. I learned so much from the unit's team. The team made me feel like I belonged and I felt like a part of a family. They respected my input and insight, and often asked my opinion on cases. The experience was invaluable to me on so many levels."

Shaira Shah (MSW, 2019) is a lawyer, nurse and hypnotherapist. She interned with Citrus Health Network for her field placement in 2019 and received the Citrus Health Network Scholarship (2017–2018 and 2018–2019).

#FSUCSW BY THE NUMBERS

2019–2020



TOTAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED **1041**

BSW **206** MSW **811** PhD **24**



70% DISTANCE
LEARNERS

JOINT DEGREE STUDENTS **MSW &**

MPA **13** MBA **1** JD **1** Crim **9**



566 STUDENTS
IN THE FIELD



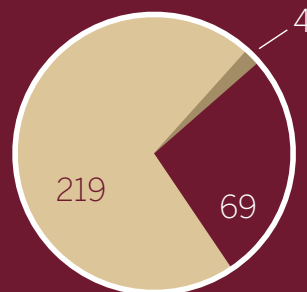
606 AFFILIATED
FIELD AGENCIES

SUPPORT FOR THE **CSW** **623** UNIQUE
DONORS
TOTALING **\$4,178,950**



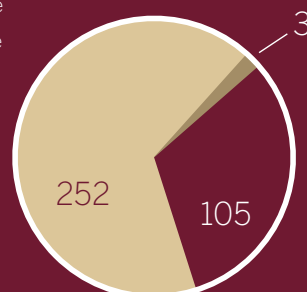
NUMBER OF
**DEGREES
AWARDED**

2018–2019
292



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

2019–2020
360



36
FULL-TIME
FACULTY

51
FULL-TIME
STAFF



TENURE-TRACK **21**
SPECIALIZED **15**

CURRENT **#FSUCSW** ALUMNI
13,200+



HONORING GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Florida State University College of Social Work celebrated its 2019 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients and social work scholarship recipients at a dinner at the FSU Alumni Association Thursday, September 26.

Each year, the event celebrates the contributions of students, alumni, and donors to the College of Social Work, social work education and the profession.

More than 90 scholarship recipients were honored. Oluremi Abiodun was the featured scholarship recipient speaker.

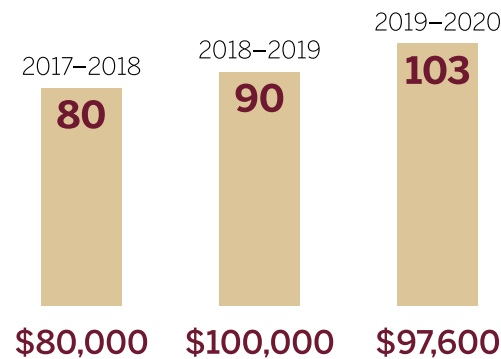
er. She is a graduate student from New Orleans, who is pursuing a master’s degree in social work along with a Juris Doctorate from the FSU College of Law with a focus on public interest law. Abiodun is also a third-year student ambassador at the College of Law and helps first-year law students transition into law school. ■



Oluremi Abiodun

\$ STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

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



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:



PATRICIA (PAT) LAGER DISTINGUISHED EMERITUS ALUMNI AWARD (BA, 1967; MSW, 1983)

Lager is a two-time alumna of the FSU College of Social Work. Prior to joining the College of Social Work in 1988, she had a long career as a child welfare professional. Lager held a deep commitment to cultural diversity, which led her to establish the college's international program. She was appointed director of the program in 2004 and served in the position until her retirement in 2011.



ANDREW RICHEY DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD (MSW, 2015)

Since graduating in 2015, Richey has served as a loss and bereavement counselor in community hospitals, first in the Tampa Bay region and currently for Penn Medicine in Philadelphia. Within Pennsylvania Hospital's Emergency Department, he serves as the first social worker position in an emergency response setting. Richey is also a full-time doctoral student at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. He is dedicated to bringing attention and destigmatizing the diagnosis for people in the Philadelphia area with sickle cell anemia.



BARBARA WILLIAMS WHITE DISTINGUISHED SOCIAL WORK EDUCATOR AWARD (BSW, 1974; MSW, 1975; PH.D., 1986)

Williams White, who passed away July 19, 2019, was honored posthumously. Williams White was a three-time graduate of the FSU College of Social Work and holds a degree in music education from Florida A&M University (BA, 1964). She served as a professor and associate dean for the college from 1979 until 1993. She became the first African American dean at the University of Texas at Austin, serving as dean of the School of Social Work from 1993 to 2011. Williams White was a prominent scholar in cultural diversity, women's studies and domestic violence. She was a former president of both the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education, the only person in the social work profession to have held both leadership positions.



TERRIYLN C. RIVERS-CANNON DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (MSW, 1993)

Rivers-Cannon is a certified school social worker and graduated from the FSU College of Social Work with her MSW in 1993. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Voorhees College and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Argosy University. Rivers-Cannon is the 2019 National School Social Worker of the Year, awarded by the School Social Workers Association of America, and is the first Georgian and African American recipient. She also has served as president of the School Social Work Association of Georgia. She has worked with youth in the Georgia school system for 18 years.



EARLINE WESLEY DAVIS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN SOCIAL WORK POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (MSW, 1975)

Davis graduated with her MSW in 1975. In the same year, she became the first African American department head in Brevard County, Florida, serving as the director of the county welfare department. She has also served as director of Social Services in Alachua County, Florida, and as director of the Human Services Department in Wichita, Kansas. She continued to make history in 1998 when she was appointed as the first African American female leader in the role of director for the Department of Family and Children Services in Cheatham County, Georgia. Later she became the first African American executive director of the Housing Authority of Savannah, Georgia.



ALUMNI UPDATES

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

2010s

Erin King (PhD, 2019) graduated with her doctoral degree in social work from FSU, defending her dissertation on June 24, 2019. Her dissertation is titled, "An exploration of the effects of primary and secondary trauma on child welfare workers' mental health and commitment in the field" (Chair: Dr. Dina Wilke). She has also accepted an assistant professor position with the University of West Florida School of Social Work in Pensacola, Florida.

Danielle (Dani) Groton (PhD, 2017; MSW/MPA, 2011; BSW 2009) is an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). She presented a poster at

the FAU Research Showcase on research done in collaboration with FSU College of Social Work faculty member Dr. Melissa Radey on "Employment Among Unaccompanied Women Experiencing Homelessness". The poster was recognized by a judging panel as the "Best Poster Presentation" for the FAU College of Design and Social Inquiry.

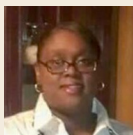
Ariella Bloch (BSW, 2016) is a social worker at Boca Helping Hands in Boca Raton, Florida that provides food, medical and financial assistance to meet basic human needs as well as education, job training and guidance to create self-sufficiency. She was promoted this year to the role of Job Training Admission and Care Coordinator in charge of the Job Training Program recruitment, interviews,

evaluation and case management. In this role, she will apply her social work skills to train, certify and employ students in the organization's seven job training programs. She also holds an MSW from Florida Atlantic University and is working towards her licensure this year.

2000s

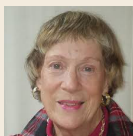
Elena Saldamando (MSW, 2008; BSW, 2005) is currently an oncology social worker at the AdventHealth Cancer Institute in Orlando, Florida. She is also an active member of the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers and the American Psycho-Oncology Society. ■

IN MEMORIAM



Rowena Anastania Daniels (1970–2020) passed away April 5, 2020. She was a life-long learner and dedi-

cated to serving others. She received degrees from Albany State University (BA, 1993, MBA), FSU College of Social Work (MSW, 1995), and Florida A&M University (JD, 2013).



Nancy B. Hill passed away April 4, 2020 in Manchester, Maine. She earned her MSW (1966) from FSU. Her

35-year career in social work included a lifelong dedication to veterans, as well as a passion for international social work and field supervision of social work interns. She was the 2019 recipient of the FSUCSW Distinguished Emeritus Alumni Award.

Katherine Icardi Hummel (1946–2019) passed away in September 2019. She enjoyed a life and career dedicated to the service of others. She earned her MSW degree from FSU in 1982, while simultaneously embarking on a long career with BETA, a non-profit sanctuary for unwed teen mothers.



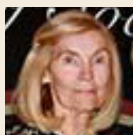
Dudley "Duke" Johnston (1948–2019) of Dayton Mountain, Tennessee passed away June 2019. He earned

his BSW degree from FSU in 1970. Coming from a family of police officers, Duke served as a police officer and detective until he retired after twenty-five years of service in 1990.



Virginia H. Kurtz (1926–2019) passed away in June 2019 in Clewiston, Florida. She attended Florida State

College for Women (BS, 1948) and earned a degree in social work.



Joyce Harper Laidlaw (1928–2019) passed away in November 2019. Joyce grew up in Tallahassee and attended

Leon High School and FSU earning a degree in social work (BA, 1950). She later earned a master's degree in theology and youth education (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) and a master's degree in social work (Fordham University). She was a pioneer in the FSU College of Social Work, establishing the *Don and Joyce*

Laidlaw Scholarship for Graduate Students in Child Welfare in 2001. She remained a strong supporter of the College and the field of child welfare. She was also the first alumni to receive the college's Distinguished Emeritus Alumni Award in 2013.

Gerald "Jerry" O'Connor (1928–2020) passed away in Boca Raton, Florida in January 2020. He was a World War II veteran, and dedicated social work professional. He earned his master's and doctorate in social work at the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the social work faculty at Florida State University in 1969, where he spent more than thirty years until he retired and was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus.



Arthur "Art" O'Hara (1952–2019) of St. Petersburg, Florida passed away in June 2019. He earned his

MSW (1978) from FSU and spent four decades serving children in Florida's childcare system. He served as executive director of two non-profits, R'Club Child Care and Louise Graham Regeneration Center, a nonprofit offering employment opportunity for disabled adults.

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\$ 9,999–1,000

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