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Raymond Bellamy c. 1920s

Carol Campbell Edwards & Fran Gormory, Spring Convocation 2017

Homecoming at Bellamy Building 1980
The FSU College of Social Work celebrates its 100th anniversary. Now more than ever, social work plays a pivotal role for our nation, influencing and impacting people and communities at all levels of society.

FSU College of Social Work faculty, staff, and alumni are leading on the contemporary front-lines of social and economic issues.

My job as a leader is to support high-quality faculty and research, and to sustain an institution of higher learning that makes its impact felt locally, statewide and worldwide. It’s an honor to work with so many dedicated and gifted colleagues.

With this in mind, the FSU College of Social Work is on a trajectory to be a thought leader in child welfare, family violence, criminal justice, health and behavioral health. We already have a solid reputation in the areas of family violence and child welfare, thanks to our Institute for Family Violence Studies and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. The state of Florida depends on crucial consultation and programming produced by these two organizations, and they both continue to advance evidence-informed government legislation and organizational practices.

As we welcome new faculty and staff members in the year to come, the College will see significant growth in the areas of criminal justice, health, and behavioral health. We are also experimenting with social entrepreneurship and financial therapy as new areas for development. Underlying our scholarship and educational efforts, we are pursuing an ongoing and careful examination of how we are thinking about the way we are working. We have to approach these complex challenges with a certain level of humility, a willingness to bring other experts and disciplines into the conversation, as well as by listening and responding to the communities impacted by our work.

All five of these areas create opportunities for intercollegiate and community collaborations that generate novel approaches. The creation of our Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, and Children will aim to enhance and facilitate for these kinds of opportunities for growth and partnership.

Florida State University and the College of Social Work remain dedicated to its core mission of educating new professionals. Our efforts to innovate and impact communities also inform and deepen our mission to prepare our students as they join our research and service initiatives. Together we face the challenges of our field with an understanding of where we have been and a vision of where we are headed.

I invite you to explore this latest edition of Communitas that celebrates the legacy of those who laid the foundation of social work at Florida State, accelerated its growth from a handful of courses, a department, a school and now into the college that it is today. We invite you to join us in remembering and celebrating the past, and very importantly, ask you to join us as we move into our exciting future.
Florida State University College of Social Work has chosen an accomplished expert in non-profit leadership as the new director of the Center for Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children (the CFC Center).

The CFC Center was established in the fall of 2017 through the support of the Stoops Family Foundation, Inc. and FSU alumni Jeff and Aggie Stoops. The CFC Center’s director will guide the center’s mission to generate and sustain transformational knowledge that furthers effective policy, services, and research for the promotion of communities, families, and children.

Piekalkiewicz became director of the Center starting in February 2018. She comes to this new role with more than 30 years of experience in public policy, legislative and governmental affairs, disability rights, and grant writing. In her most recent position, she served as the executive director for the United Partners for Human Services, a membership organization serving human service nonprofits in the Big Bend area of North Florida.

“I welcome this opportunity to work with the College of Social Work advancing the study of best practices that strengthen communities and establish more holistic support for children and their families,” Piekalkiewicz said. “My hope is to ensure that the efforts of the centers and institutes affiliated with the college synergize their efforts and opportunities to create collective impacts that benefit communities, families, and children.”

FSU FORGES PARTNERSHIP WITH ECUST

The FSU College of Social Work welcomed representatives of East China University of Science and Technology to FSU’s campus to meet with FSU leadership in order to forge a future research collaboration and student exchanges. The partnership was initiated by FSU College of Social Work Dean Jim Clark with Professor Amy Ai, who has extensive experience with Chinese scholars in health, trauma and social work.

ELLEN PIEKALKIEWICZ

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

Philanthropic Gifts to The CFC Center are matched $ for $
FORMER DEANS

These highlights represent just a few highlights of the many accomplishments achieved by our previous social work deans. We thank these leaders for their dedication and service to social work education and the social work profession.

COYLE E. MOORE 1950 – 1968

Coyle Moore was critical to the expansion of social welfare at the Florida State College for Women (FSCW). Following his arrival, the sociology faculty essentially doubled in size. He was well known for his initiative and drive. Moore would spend his entire academic career at FSCSW, and held many titles and positions during his 42 years on faculty. He was serving as department chairman when social work became its own department in 1947 and then first dean of the School of Social Work in 1950. He remains the longest serving dean. After his retirement in 1970, Moore remained a loyal supporter of the school until his death in 1990.

“He was a close, dear friend. He and Mabel, his wife, were like parents to us. Mabel was an angel of a person and a part of his success. Their son and Jim were best friends. Dr. Moore was very influential. He was quite a character and had nicknames for everybody. Dr. Moore often provided timely advice. The question he asked I’ve thought about many times over the years is, “What are you going to do to add to the good of humankind?” Neither of us were social work majors, but we are devoted to the College of Social Work because of the Moores. We finished what Mabel had intended, to start a social work scholarship.” – Kitty Ball & Jim Ball, FSU Graduates: 1961 (BS) & 1954 (MS), 1952 (BS)

BERNARD SCHER 1968 – 1972

Bernard Scher came to FSU in 1968, and helped the School of Social Welfare effectively approach new challenges. He took an active role in faculty recruitment. Salaries would increase between 1965 and 1970 by more than seventy-five percent and nearly 20 new faculty were hired. Scher also came to the school at a time when reorganization of the department was a very real possibility. He worked toward relieving concerns of the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) about the ambiguity of degrees in the department, which was resolved in 1973 when it became a School of Social Work and all social welfare degrees were eliminated.

Scher guided a shift in the conceptual framework of curriculum, working with colleagues to focus not just on casework practice, but a multi-method approach. He made a special effort to recruit minority students to the program, making the school’s graduate program the first at FSU to admit an African-American student, Dr. Maxine Thurston-Fuller. He continued on as teaching faculty working with undergraduate students and doctoral students until his unexpected death in 1978 following a brief illness.

“Dean Scher had a reputation as an excellent dean and being very supportive of students.”
– Patricia (Pat) Lager, FSU Graduate: 1983 (MSW); 1967 (BA)

L. DIANE BERNARD 1973 – 1978

Diane Bernard was appointed as the Chairperson of the Department of Social Work within the School of Social Welfare in 1969. She was also appointed dean in 1973 of the newly established School of Social Work, which separated the areas of social work and criminology. At the time, she chaired CSWE’s Accreditation Commission and was well-respected among social work educators nationally.

Social work education in general underwent great change in the 1970s, with the School of Social Work under Dr. Bernard’s leadership, experimenting with several curriculum designs and tracks/concentrations. The Advanced-Standing MSW program was started in 1972, and in 1973, general systems theory was adopted as the integrating framework for the undergraduate and graduate programs. 1974 was also a banner year for the College as the BSW program received its initial accreditation and a doctoral program was established by approval of the Board of Regents. With Dr. Bernard’s resignation and the end of a decade of upheaval and change at FSU, more than one thousand MSW degrees were awarded and the school was well-established. During her 70-year career, she remained a staunch advocate for LGBT rights and the role of women in social work until her death in 2016.
Dr. D. Ray Bardill 1979 – 1994

Dr. Bardill was appointed dean after retirement from his military career with the U.S. Air Force. He led the School of Social Work through two periods of reaccreditation, including the first within the beginning of his deanship. With great support from the Provost at the time, Augustus (Gus) Turnbull, he focused on targeting areas of opportunity for growth and funding. He expanded the off-campus programs in Florida, increasing beyond the Orlando area to include Gainesville, Jacksonville, Panama City, and Pensacola. He initiated the transition from the Bellamy Building to the University Center to gain access to much-needed space. The school also remained the only program with consistent summer funding.

With his strong personal background in military service, he championed a commitment to veterans that remains with the college today. He secured paid field placements throughout Veteran Affairs Departments in the Southeast and supported the recruitment of doctoral program students from the military. Dr. Bardill is the second longest-serving dean in the College of Social Work’s history. He considered himself a clinical social worker who used his skills in administration to promote the school and to provide comprehensive education to produce competent licensed clinical social workers. He retired in 1994 and currently resides in Tallahassee, Florida.

“Dr. Bardill was an innovator in family therapy. As a professor, he challenged students to be their best and move out of their comfort zone. I know he touched many lives as an educator and therapist.”  
– Cheryl Rowland, LCSW, FSU Graduate: 1982 (MSW) & 1981 (BS)

Dr. Dianne Harrison’s (formerly Harrison Montgomery) focus was on continuing the momentum of positive innovation within the School of Social Work during her time as dean. External funding was increased to support the school’s faculty and research mission. The Trinity Institute for the Addictions and the Institute for Family Violence Studies were founded. Two interdisciplinary joint-degree programs were established: an MSW/JD degree with the College of Law, and an MSW/MBA program with the College of Business. The first fully online MSW program was launched and received accreditation. Several certificate programs would also be developed during this time, including Child Welfare and Leadership in Executive and Leadership Development; both continue today.

Community outreach was also a point of focus for Dr. Montgomery during her deanship. The school led an effort of the Florida Deans and Directors in Social Work to create a partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families. In 1995, the school also established the Boys’ Choir of Tallahassee with Professor Emeritus Gerald O’Connor, which has remained a Tallahassee institution (boyschoiroftallahassee.com). And in 1996, the College celebrated its 50th anniversary by moving into its new space in University Center C. Dr. Montgomery went on to achieve other leadership positions at FSU and many other well-respected institutions. She is currently president of California State University Northridge.

“Dianne was my instructor, advisor, dissertation chair, and director of the doctoral program while I was at FSU (1984-1987). As an instructor, I remember her ability to quietly challenge us to think critically and deeply. As an administrator, I remember her calm leadership style and level-headedness. She was above board and transparent, but not afraid to share strong opinions. She was also visible in the community and occasionally interviewed on TV. If media folks describe her as ‘therapist’ or ‘counselor’ she insisted on identifying as a social worker. She identifies this way even today as a university president. She fits with her strong commitment to social justice, diversity and inclusion. No surprise she remains a beloved role model to me as a social worker, teacher, mentor, administrator, and leader.”  
– Kia J. Bentley, Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work, FSU Graduate: 1987 (Ph.D.)
BRUCE A. THYER 2002 – 2004

Under Dean Thyer’s administration the School of Social Work began the nation’s first online MSW program, and both BSW and MSW admissions markedly increased. The School exceeded its capital campaign goal by raising over $4.5 million dollars in donations. External contracts and grants increased to over $4.5 million dollars annually as well, paralleling large increases in the faculty submission of research proposals. Dean Thyer applied for and received approval to rename the School as the College of Social Work, and to replace our B.S. in Social Work degree with the BSW. Ongoing support and enhancement was provided to the School’s community-based service program, the Boys’ Choir of Tallahassee, our international studies programs, the Ph.D. program, and to our various institutes and centers. Institute for Health and Human Services Research was relocated from its remote site at Innovation Park to a spacious office suite located adjacent to our School, and a dual master’s degree program in social work and criminology was established. According to the 2004 US News and World Report study rating graduate social work programs, FSU was rated as 25th in the nation, higher than any other program in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee.

“His last year as dean was my first year in the MSW program. He stepped into the role of mentor for me and encouraged me to take big strides, establish ambitious goals, and not limit myself through self-doubt or self-flagellation. He highlighted the importance of working consistently towards my goals. He was, and is, a wonderful mentor and friend.” – David L. Albright, Associate Professor & Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health, University of Alabama, School of Social Work, FSU Graduate: 2012 (Ph.D.), MSW (2006)

C. AARON MCNEECE 2004 – 2008

Dr. McNeece became dean during a time of transition for the school including staff shortages and budget cuts. During this time, he was successful in transforming the School of Social Work into the College of Social Work in 2005 and successfully navigated the college through reaccreditation.

Dr. McNeece focused on maintaining student enrollment with an emphasis on professional training for students in direct practice with individuals and families, and preparing graduate students for leadership in human services. He also worked toward the hiring of professionally trained social workers at the Department of Children and Families. He continued to build upon the dual-degree programs, maintaining enrollment, and support of faculty research.

“Aaron McNeece took me under his wing when I was a doctoral student at FSU in the mid-1990s. Aaron modeled for me how to be an effective teacher and true scholar, and how to live a full and meaningful life as a professor and leader. It was Aaron that encouraged me to apply to UT Austin for my first job as a professor. As always, he steered me in the right direction—it’s 20 years later, and I’m still here. Aaron has had an enormous impact on my career and life.” – David Springer, RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service Director & University Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas at Austin, FSU Graduate: 1997 (Ph.D.), 1992 (MSW), 1990 (BA)

NICHOLAS F. MAZZA 2008 – 2015

Dr. Mazza took on the role of dean during a time of university reorganization between 2008-2010, and was able to preserve the College of Social Work as a freestanding academic unit. He helped oversee a period of major growth of the programs, institutes, research capacity, fundraising, diversity, and initiatives within the college. In 2009, he established the Office of Professional Development, still currently under the leadership of faculty member Pam MacDill. In 2015, Dr. Mazza helped bring the Florida Institute for Child Welfare and a branch of the Operation Family Caregiver Program, which serves caregivers of veterans and service members, to the college as well.

Dr. Mazza’s focus on the community and promoting a student-centered college with an eye for community outreach resulted in the creation of the Social Work Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award. He founded the Arts and Athletics Program, now in its seventh year of providing a positive youth-development camp experience on FSU’s campus for middle school students. With the support of faculty, staff, and a dynamic Director of Development, Colette Podgorski, Dr. Mazza was able to offer the shared story of the College of Social Work and advance its high national recognition.

“Dean Nick Mazza’s office was a haven for me at the College of Social Work. Dean Mazza knew how to find North on an ethical compass. Now, I still hear his voice in my head as I strive to do work that matters.” – Jane McPherson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Global Engagement Director, University of Georgia, FSU Graduate: 2015 (Ph.D.)

Note: The information for the deans from 1950 to 1978 was drawn from Social Work Education at Florida State University: Facts and Figures 1918-1989 by beloved faculty member and Associate Dean (1966-1986)
The origins of social work at FSU were rooted in sociology in the 1920s, and the programs would grow with the campus, expanding and transitioning from space to space. Initially, sociology was in the “Administration Building,” now the iconic Westcott Building. By 1928, the department had grown enough to be moved to the “History Building,” present-day Williams Building, where it would remain for another decade.

In the 1940s, with the establishment of a separate Social Welfare Department and the transformation of the Florida State College for Women into the co-educational Florida State University, campus would undergo tremendous growth of its student population and its need for space. Social Welfare would acquire its own building from 1947 until 1962 in the form of a historic Victorian building, a former church and school house. The white, wooden structure was sold in 1962 to make room for other expanding buildings, and the department would be placed in various locales for another five years. In 1967, social welfare and several other departments would move into the newly constructed and spacious Bellamy Building, dedicated in honor of faculty member Dr. Raymond Bellamy. For almost two decades, the School of Social Welfare/Work would have a home in the Bellamy Building until a growing program necessitated the acquisition of more space.

In 1997, the School of Social Work would move into the new University Center, a multi-use facility constructed around Doak Campbell Stadium, where it has remained housed to this day. The College of Social Work has progressed into the new millennium and expanded into its home in University Center, Building C. Recent changes to meet the developing needs of the college’s academic programs, and affiliated institutes and centers began with updating of the Social Work Lobby and the creation of the Guy and Delores Spearman Student Collaboration Lab, a study and meeting space for social work students. The college’s Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center also found a new home off campus in 2018 in the northwestern region of Tallahassee (page 12).

Plans for upgrading additional meeting spaces and classrooms are in the works with hopes to provide cutting-edge spaces optimized for learning and scholarship. To find out more about how you can help support our growth, contact Colette Podgorski at cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu.

FSU Historical Photographs courtesy of Heritage & University Libraries, Florida State University Libraries.
FSU has gone through many changes over the years. In 1909 it was known as Florida State College for Women (FSCW) until 1947 when it became Florida State University, a coeducational institution. During this time period, the ground work would be laid to study social constructs, issues and problems. Thanks to the efforts of special people and through their stories we better understand how great institutions and organizations are established. FSU College of Social Work’s start is due in part to three faculty members—Dr. Raymond Bellamy, Dr. Coyle Moore and Dr. Margaret Bristol.

DR. RAYMOND F. BELLAMY

In the autumn of 1918, Dr. Raymond Bellamy would join the faculty of FSCW. The structure of the college and the roles of faculty were very different in the early 20th century, instructing a few hundred female students on a small campus in a town of about 6,000 residents with only one paved road. Many things were more informal, including faculty-student relations and administration. Teaching faculty often lacked support staff and office space, spent little or no time on research, and spent more time on instruction and support for student activities on campus.

Bellamy acknowledged in his History of the Department of Sociology at Florida State University that in the beginning he knew very little about sociology, but knew a little about a great many things. Bellamy’s eclectic knowledge was a reflection of his own colorful background and diverse interests. Veering away from an early interest in ordination as a preacher, he studied several languages and planned to teach English, but would develop an interest in the sciences. He taught chemistry and physics before enrolling at Clark University to study psychology.

He would remain on FSCW/FSU’s faculty for 38 years until 1956. A year later, the Bellamy Building, home to the economics, geography, government, history and sociology departments would be named in his honor.

When he was originally hired by FSCW President Edward Conradi to start the Department of Sociology, Dr. Bellamy taught only one sociology course in conjunction with courses in economics, political science and history. Bellamy was an able teacher who enjoyed the work and was popular with his students. By 1928 he had 230 students enrolled in sociology and was in need of more help. At this time Dr. Coyle Moore entered the picture, along with what Bellamy described as, a time of “rapid and dynamic change” with “a new lease on life.”
DR. COYLE ELIS MOORE

Dr. Coyle Moore’s experience in the practical application of sociology and social welfare would be in stark contrast to the broad knowledge of Dr. Bellamy, but that would turn the department in a whole new direction. Raised on a South Carolina plantation, Moore majored in sociology at the University of North Carolina and was one of the first doctoral graduates from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Work. Bellamy described him as one to “put up a big show of being tough and rough” while having a “deeply sensitive nature and was very close to his students. Moore would push for the progressive application of knowledge into social welfare practice, the establishment of departmental affiliation with welfare organizations and correspondence courses (distance learning). Moore had his FSCW students reading from a range of texts that dealt with social conditions in the South like Rainbow Round My Shoulder and Wings On My Feet by sociologist and folklorist Howard W. Odum.

His creative vision would lead him to introduce courses in rural and urban sociology, community organization, marriage and family, school sociology, social problems in the south, and criminology. Moore would also serve in several administration roles at FSCW and then Florida State. When FSU became co-ed he became department chair of a newly formed social work department in 1947 and later became the first dean of the School of Social Welfare created in 1950.

The college and department enrollment would grow exponentially under the influence of Bellamy and Moore, creating a need for a third faculty member even during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Dr. Elinor Nims, a fellow grad of Moore’s from Chicago, joined the department in 1930 and remained until 1935. The Depression and low salaries made it hard to keep faculty. A revolving door of faculty would spin for several years until Margaret Bristol was recruited.

MARGARET BRISTOL

In 1938, Margaret Bristol joined the faculty after teaching social welfare at the University of Chicago, using her own books. She would marry one of her students, Loris Bristol, son of Dr. Lucius Bristol, head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Florida. Her decision to join FSCW’s faculty was more personal than professional, as her husband’s health required a warmer climate. Bristol would serve as a classroom instructor as well as the director of field work. She both arranged and supervised field placement internships for FSCW students along the east coast from Florida to New York.

She remained on faculty for 32 years, chairing the Department of Social Work from 1967 until 1969, and as Assistant to the Dean before retiring in 1970.
GROWTH ON AND OFF CAMPUS

RENOVATIONS ON CAMPUS
Recent improvements were made to the social work lobby at University Center C. The updates enhanced the functionality of the space, making it more student-friendly as a gathering and study space. Sound proofing also reduced outside noise for the classrooms and conference rooms. A special dedication wall was also added on the first floor to honor the College of Social Work’s new 1918 Society.

1918 SOCIETY
The 1918 Society is a giving society recognizing financial commitments made to the FSU College of Social Work since 1918. Donors are recognized on a permanent dedication wall at the College.

Leader’s Circle - $250,000 and above
Dean’s League - $100,000 - $250,000
Partners - $25,000 – $100,000

NEW FACILITIES OFF CAMPUS
The FSU Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Testing Center (MDC) celebrated in April 2018 the move to its new location off campus at 2139 Maryland Circle with an Open House event. The newly renovated site has equipped the MDC with the latest technology with several testing and observations rooms, conference and training rooms, group therapy space, and reception area to better serve the families and children seeking evaluation, consultation, and training services for complex medical, educational, emotional, and/or behavioral problems. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare will also be moving to a new space at this off campus site by June 2018.

RAISE THE TORCH
The CAMPAIGN for FLORIDA STATE

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
The College of Social Work has seen a wonderful year of growth. This year wraps up the Raise the Torch Campaign: The Campaign for Florida State with a goal of raising $1 billion to implement bold ideas at FSU to continue its reputation as a preeminent university. The College of Social Work’s goal was to raise $6 million and we far surpassed that. We could not have done it without our distinguished faculty, donors and friends.
Faculty members who graduated from the FSU College of Social Work gathered to talk about the changes seen on campus and to reflect on their own student/alumni/faculty experiences.

• Jim Clark – Dean of the College of Social Work
• Margaret Ashmore – Teaching Professor & Program Mammator, FSU Operation Family Caregiver site (MSW, 1985)
• Katrina Boone – Field Education Director (MSW, 1985; BSW, 1983)
• Carol Campbell Edwards – Assistant Teaching Professor (MSW, 1985; BSW, 1984)
• Rosalyn Deckerhoff – Director of Online Field Education & Associate Teaching Professor – (MSW, 1993)
• Jane Dwyer Lee – Associate Teaching Professor (MSW, 2003)
• Jeffrey Lacasse – Assistant Professor (Ph.D., 2008; MSW: 2000)
• Pam Graham MacDill – BSW Program & Professional Development Director (MSW, 1977)
• Keithen Mathis – Associate Teaching Professor (MSW, 1992)
• Jessica Pryce – Florida Institute for Child Welfare Director (MSW, 2009)
• Craig Stanley – Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (MSW, 1997)
• Vicky Verano – Associate Teaching Professor (MSW, 1990)

Jim Clark: One of the great assets at the college is faculty/alumni who carry on the traditions of the college, so people coming in, like myself, learn from professors like you. We learn from how you conduct yourselves, and express that loyalty every day.

I appreciate that as a leader, I talk about it when I’m sharing with audiences. With this dialogue, I thought we’d get your perspectives on the journey from student, alumni to faculty.

Rosalyn: We sure have some nice facilities now. One of my favorite memories was Dianne Montgomery’s behavior modification class. We didn’t have phones or iPads. Now you can sit in your pajamas or at Starbucks and write your paper. I’d go to Strozier with my girlfriends and use the card catalogue.

Keithen: And the microfiche.

Vicky: Yeah, staying in Strozier until the wee hours of the morning. Students just look at me like I’m crazy. I found a paper recently I wrote for Kim Maddox. She red-penned this thing. Every page. I got an ‘A’ on the paper, but tons of feedback. I’ll have that forever.

Rosalyn: I still have two Nick Mazza papers.

Keithen: So do I.

Katrina: I was going to say. Me, too!

Jane: I still have my poetry binder we created in Poetry Therapy class on my bookshelf.

Katrina: One of my fondest memories was Michael Frumpkin’s policy class. We had to write this 30-page policy paper. I thought I’d never get through this class, trying to put all those social policies in one paper. I kept thinking ‘How is this going to help me?’ I wanted to be a therapist. The more I got into the class, the more it made sense.

Rosalyn: A long paper by today’s standards.

Katrina: On the typewriter! I must have written that paper three times.

Pam: I graduated in 1977. The quarter system was a real issue. I was from Miami. I had to move up here for one quarter, move back to Miami for my internship for two quarters, and move back here. In one year, I moved four times. Students still face this challenge in internships. It’s good that it’s now on a semester basis.

Margaret: I couldn’t move, so I created my own internship at the Family Mediation Center, which is now Capital City Youth Services. I was the first intern there. J.P. Love was so nice to let me do that.

Rosalyn: I remember Carolyn Steele, who passed away. I took her psychopathology class. I loved the content and loved her even more. I thought ‘This is what a social worker is.’ I got married in between semesters, showed up in her class and she said ‘Your picture was so lovely.’ Back then you had your picture in the paper when you got married. She knew who I was.

Pam: She was my advisor. People would come to her office and just hang out. This was before you could email somebody.

Margaret: She was one of my favorites. I remembered when I started teaching here as an adjunct, she was a great mentor to me.

Pam: Killer sense of humor.

Keithen: She was always so cheerful! I was new to social work coming from criminology. I came in ’92. Social work faculty were so personable and welcoming. There
Margaret: I felt a nurturing who wanted the best for me as a student by people who were loving and warm, Crisis Intervention class. I was surround because of my past. I got an assistantship. I had tears in my eyes. She said, ‘You’re of the meeting she had tears in her eyes, judged, with compassion. I felt free to believe it! Someone was listening to me non for an interview. I went and I couldn’t be making seven bucks an hour. Pam asked MacDill’s hands. It was a rough time. I was born, I started adjunct teaching Psychology, and in 1995 when Griffin was on the Counseling Center, and in 1995 when Griffin was born, I started adjunct teaching Psychodynamics. Craig was in my class. I came to Tallahassee from a small town in North Carolina, where I went to undergrad. I thought, ‘This is the capital?’ It seemed so little and home-towney. It still is in a lot of good ways.

Vicky: You mentioned your son, and when I started here, my son was pretty young. What’s been neat about being here fourteen years is seeing everybody’s children grow up.

Jane: There’s a lot of full circle here. I had Margaret for Crisis Intervention, and Jessica was in my class.

Margaret: She was in all my classes.

Jessica: Yes, I had Margaret for my first class. I just loved her so much that every semester, I’d tell my advisor, ‘Whatever she’s teaching, I’m there.’ I had you every semester, I think.

Margaret: You were such a pleasure to have in class.

Craig: Notice she didn’t say that about me.

Vicky: You said he was your favorite!

Margaret: He was in the nineties. Jeff, you were in my weekend class.

Jeffrey: I was in the first MSW class in Pensacola, but we shifted to coming to main campus. It was the weekend format. I had Margaret, Kim Maddox, Neil Abell, Tomi Gomory, and Ray Bardill.

Jim: Many things have changed over the years. What have you noticed that stayed the same or consistent in the College?

Margaret: For me the passion to teach is still here. That’s meaningful to me. After being in the field for 30 years, I still feel passionate about social work. I love my identity as a social worker.

Katrina: I would also say course delivery. Instructors still want to deliver quality coursework.

Carol: The spirit we were talking about earlier is here. I’ve been here two years now and I see that students feel the same way I felt.

Jessica: I would concur. I wanted to touch on the teaching. It was really impactful to me. I’m not teaching now, but I taught at University of Maryland, Howard University, and University of Albany. I really tried to be like the professors I had here: engaged with students.

Jane: I remember the day in class you said you were going to get your Ph.D. It was great to track your progress through it.

Craig: For me, it’s been the approachability of faculty. I was a part-time student, like Jeff, in Pensacola. I was here primarily evenings and weekends. My undergrad experience was at a small school. I was concerned I’d be lost in a sea of students, but the College surprised me. It’s a large university, but the social work program is a very intimate experience. You get to know your professors and have access to them. With the students I talk to today, that rings true. They feel free to seek out guidance and mentor relationships. I have students that send me updates on their careers and families. Everyone here is nodding, so I think that’s a shared experience.

Rosalyn: We even get to bring them back as field educators for students. They want to stay connected to us, and work with our future social workers.

Jim: How would you describe the characteristics you’re trying to cultivate in your students? Many of you mentioned models or exemplars who taught you.

Rosalyn: Passion.

Keithen: Caring. Being genuine.

Katrina & Margaret: Empathy.
**Carol:** Knowledge.

**Jeff:** Critical thinking.

**Jane:** I knew you were going to say that! I was going to say the same thing.

**Rosalyn:** I want students to be open-minded. I remind students that there are so many other experiences out there. They need to remember that when working with clients. Their experience is probably going to be nothing like the client’s and vice versa. That’s your job, to try to understand their experiences whether or not you agree with it.

**Katrina:** I want students to be realistic about what social work is and how to connect with clients. Oftentimes, they come into social work not knowing what to expect. As they take coursework and enter field, they still may have a disconnect. It’s important to keep having frank conversations.

**Margaret:** I want students to remain curious. I think it’s more fun to live life that way. So often students want the right answer.

**Rosalyn:** I see this in the classroom when looking at case scenarios or client situations.

**Pam:** There is no right or wrong answer.

**Rosalyn:** Nothing is black and white.

**Vicky:** I tell students that I want them to be engaged. I talk about life-long learning. At the professional level, we have to continue pursuing the best for ourselves as professionals.

**Carol:** Students tend to think burn out comes with the profession. Being positive and optimistic also come with it, but tends to be overshadowed. It’s like compassion fatigue. I haven’t experienced that, but we all have days that are tough and we all have challenges.

**Jim:** I don’t think I’ve ever seen you fatigued.

**Carol:** You have to take care of yourself. When we inspire that, it really makes a difference. I’ve heard a lot of talk about self-care lately, and I hope students carry that forward.

**Jane:** I hope so, too. We need to emphasize that self-care is important, and that some things are not ‘just a part of your job.’

**Carol:** I think what is creating more fatigue is technology. Back in the day, many social workers had an eight to five work day.

**Rosalyn:** Unless you were on-call.

**Carol:** That’s right. Then you used a pager. Now, we’re accessible all the time. People in the field talk about never being off.

**Rosalyn:** It’s bad for our health.

**Jessica:** I think my word, pride, connects to that. Sometimes social work gets a bad rap. Professors here don’t yell ‘I’m proud to be a social worker!’ It’s how you carry yourselves. You were compassionate and committed to the work. I try to do that when I represent FSU and the social work profession. If we want people to come into our profession, we have to show them the face of social work. Pride is what I got from my time here.

**Keithen:** That’s a great thing. I want students to feel well-prepared and confident about themselves when they complete one of our programs. They can go out there and exemplify a social worker.

**Craig:** When I was a student, I worked residential shift work. The logistics of making deadlines and meetings was challenging. That experience helped me think about the needs of our part-time students. Now I have a soft spot for students trying to manage family and responsibilities.

**Rosalyn:** They’re not the majority, so it’s harder to remember their perspective.

**Craig:** We do a great job doing that now. We have a lot of students dealing with demanding jobs and life challenges. I try to remember that school is usually not the only thing going on for them.

**Jane:** I like that you always remind us of that. You remind me of that with my online classes.

**Margaret:** We are connecting to this whole new set of alums online. That’s a vast number of people. I really like the intensive weekends for online students. They are so engaged and appreciative. We want to make them feel a part of FSU so they feel that connection. When Janet Berry asked me if I wanted to teach online, I said, ‘What do you mean on-the-line?’ I didn’t even think I had had a computer for that long.

**Craig:** We used to have to mail students disks and they were supposed to mail them back.

**Margaret:** To really engage our online students, truly engage, it’s exciting work.

**Jeff:** I agree. Our administration does a great job of providing support and engaging students.

**Carol:** Customer service is so excellent. I always feel confident sending a student to anyone. You’re confident they will be treated with respect, valued.

**Rosalyn:** I like the perspective that I have now as both a faculty member and a parent of a college student. I realize now that we have maintained high standards.

**Jim:** I think it’s really important to think about these things, especially what makes this community special. Your personal histories help someone like myself understand those experiences and standards. The culture of this college is perpetuating those values, experiences and behaviors that are extraordinary and positive. What struck me coming here was the positivity of our students. That translates for years into practice. We tend to do as our mentors did. What you all have committed to is making this as meaningful a vocation as possible. It is great to celebrate our 100 year anniversary knowing that this academic community has been able to promote those core values.
CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM TRANSITIONS:
FROM THE 20TH AND INTO THE 21ST

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
Social work curriculum would see a remarkable advancement in the 20th century, and many of the social issues addressed then would remain consistent over the decades. The College of Social Work degree programs now prepares social work students for work in the field with a breadth of knowledge on social work practice and policy.

With the arrival of Elinor Nims on the Florida State College for Women faculty in the 1930s, five undergraduate social work courses became available at the Florida State College for Women in the 1930-31 Catalog including:

- **400a. Principles of Social Case Work:** This course deals with the general principles of social case treatment. Investigations, co-operation, sources and special forms of relief, and social diagnosis are among the subjects considered. Problems of sickness, mental defect, mental disease, desertion, widowhood, old age, and unmarried motherhood will be analyzed. This course is conducted on a case-by-case method.

- **400b. Methods of Social Case Work:** This course deals with the techniques of the social case worker such as observation, interviewing, case recording, diagnosis, and treatment. Special emphasis is placed on the recent contributions to social case work theory and practice by psychology, psychiatry, medicine, and sociology. This course is conducted on a case-by-case method.


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<tr>
<th>BSW STUDENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST GRADUATING CLASS (1957):</td>
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<td>GRADUATES 2017–2018:</td>
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FSU Historical Photographs courtesy of Heritage & University Libraries, Florida State University Libraries
The undergraduate degree in social work would become a “social welfare” degree the same year as the department would become the School of Social Work. In the 1950 Catalog, the school’s undergraduate focus was described as the “pre-professional and professional education and training for social workers.” An undergraduate degree in social work would not be accredited until after the School of Social Welfare separated into the School of Social Work and School of Criminology in 1973. The BSW program would be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education the following year, 1974.

In 2010, a “Minor in Social Welfare” was created with four required courses, allowing students from other majors that require a minor to select this course of study and expose more students to the profession. Currently, the program has approximately 150 students minoring in social welfare.

In 2012, the Bachelor of Social Work program was approved by the state of Florida to be a limited access program requiring an application and a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. A limited access status has created a smaller, but academically excellent diverse student body who are prepared for graduate education. At present, the BSW program has 220 students.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

A one-year graduate professional certificate was established in 1948. Five students received the certificate in 1949, and by 1950 it would become the Master of Social Work degree. The Master of Social Work would remain the only accredited MSW program in the State of Florida’s state university system until 1981.

The MSW program has expanded its offerings to allow for accessibility and versatility both on campus and online. Several full-time programs on campus include the MSW in both the clinical and social leadership concentrations, along with four joint degree programs:

- Master of Social Work and Master of Business Administration
- Master of Social Work and Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Master of Social Work and Juris Doctorate
- Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration

Distance learning opportunities would become available, with an extension of FSU’s campus being added in Panama City, Florida. The School of Social Work offered a part-time evening BSW program in Panama City until a full-time BSW became available in 2000. The other off-campus programs continued to expand into the 1990s with part-time programs in Gainesville, Jacksonville, Panama City, and Pensacola.

With the dawn of the internet age, FSU established the first online MSW program in the United States in 2002, with the first cohort consisting of two dozen students, growing to a current cohort of 318 students. The online program offers an asynchronous part-time MSW program and now makes up a majority of distance learning students in social work in Florida, Alabama, Wisconsin, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana (onlinemsw.fsu.edu).

Graduate students, along with undergraduates and professionals, can also enhance their knowledge through three certificate programs the College currently offers:

- Child Welfare Practice
- Gerontology
- Leadership in Executive and Administrative Development (LEAD)
PHOTO TIMELINE 2017–2018

- Social Work Dance Marathon Team (February 2017)
- Social Work Speakers, Women in Leadership Conference (February 2017)
- Diversity Ball Pit, Social Work Month (March 2017)
- Graduates at Spring Convocation (May 2017)
- FSU Students at NASW LEAD Day, Florida Capitol (April 2017)
- Arts & Athletics Camp (June 2017)
- MSW Graduate Lisa Panisch & Dr. Tom Smith, Summer Graduation Reception (June 2016)
Dr. Jessica Pryce, Fall Graduation Reception (December 2017)

Scholarship & Distinguished Graduate Dinner (November 2017)

Alumni Breakfast, FSU Homecoming (November 2017)

Shamra Boel-Studt, Lisa Schelbe and Megan Deichen Hansen, SWWR Conference (January 2018)

FSU Student and Advocate Inam Sakina, Critical Thinking & Civil Discourse on Social Problems Conference (October 2017)

Fall MSW Orientation (August 2017)
A social work doctoral program was not established in the early years of the Florida State College for Women. As the college grew and became Florida State University, its national reputation for scholarship and research would grow right with it. The School of Social Work cooperated as a unit within an interdivisional doctoral program in “Marriage and Family Life Education and Counseling” (1951-1969). Efforts to develop a social work doctoral program were strongly backed by Dean Scher (1968-1972) and Dean Bernard (1972-1978).

An ad hoc committee followed by a standing committee of dedicated social work faculty worked to develop the doctoral program over four years in the seventies. By 1974, the doctoral program in social work was approved by the Board of Regents. Five students were enrolled in 1975. That same year, the doctoral program would become represented at, and remains an active participant in, the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE). In 1977, William Allan Anderson would be the social work doctoral program’s first graduate (Major Professor Patricia Yancey Martin).

At the time, there were less than 25 social work doctoral programs in the U.S., the closest to Tallahassee was Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The number of programs has since then doubled.

Today, the FSU College of Social Work’s Doctoral Program boasts more than 150 graduates. The program is fast becoming a national destination for social work doctoral education. The program’s aim is to develop well-rounded scholars and leaders in social work research and education. Doctoral students receive unique, hands-on experiences in research and teaching, along with close mentoring by faculty. The program also boasts an emphasis on rigorous statistical knowledge and measurement, research methodology curriculum, and an emphasis on integrating social justice into research.

Social work doctoral students are financially supported during their first three years through research assistantships with faculty their first two years, and a teaching assistantship in their third year. Many also go on gaining teaching experience as adjunct professors at the College of Social Work for the remainder of the program.

More than seventy-five percent of doctoral social work graduates have landed academic positions in the last five years. A majority of them also are presenting at national social work conferences and publishing in major social work journals.

“My proudest accomplishments are reflected in the students I have taught over two decades at The University of Texas at Austin. When they matriculate with a degree in social work, it’s impossible to know where their impact will end. That’s a powerful experience, to know that you’ve played a role in guiding their career and work. This was modeled for me by the professors that mentored me when I was a doctoral student at FSU. So, in some respects, I’m simply passing on that legacy. FSU offers its students a proud and inspiring legacy, especially through its world-class faculty and alumni who are leaders in the profession.”

“Perhaps the most important thing I learned throughout my educational experiences at the College of Social Work was the value of relationships. The doctoral program and research institute faculty, particularly, reinforced the importance of building and sustaining relationships with organizations and communities. This value permeates all that I do as an educator and researcher at the University of Louisville—I remain ever grateful for the caring and supportive faculty at Florida State—without whom I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

David Springer, Ph.D.
FSU Graduate: 1992 (MSW), 1997 (Ph.D.)
Dr. Springer is the director of the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service and a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Stephanie Grace Prost, Ph.D.
FSU Graduate: 2007 (BS, BSW), 2008 (MSW), 2017 (Ph.D.)
Dr. Prost is an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville. Her research focuses on social work and correctional health.
DOCTORAL STUDENTS PRIORITIZE SOCIAL JUSTICE

The social work profession has strong historical roots to the concept of social justice—roots that are acknowledged and promoted within social work professional associations and educational standards. While social justice is a concept often highlighted within schools of social work, the definition has had great variability and differences over time. As one can imagine, this variation influences the manner in which social workers approach issues of social justice, both within academia and the local community.

In the fall of 2017, a few doctoral students in the College of Social Work (CSW), under the direction of Dr. Stephen Tripodi and Ph.D. Candidate Megan Deichen Hansen, embarked on a mission to operationalize the understanding of social justice, and to begin formulating a model for further integrating the concept into the research and community outreach efforts. Engaging doctoral students in these discussions is a key component of transmitting and expanding professional commitments to social justice work, as emerging leaders and scholars in the social work field. As a result, on September 21, 2017, the Coalition for Justice-Driven Social Work was established at Florida State University’s College of Social Work.

Since its inception, the coalition has advanced under its mission that the pursuit of social justice encompasses dynamic and deliberate actions that confront issues of inequality to dismantle oppressive policies and practices across all systems. The coalition identified four action domains within which it will focus its efforts for change: Research, Community, Education, and Policy. The Coalition hopes to become a leader for justice-driven social work through the implementation of domain-defined activities such as, justice-informed scholarship; community forums; the infusion of social justice into all levels of social work curriculum; and participation in policy change. Moving forward, the Coalition aims to develop a logic model to help crystallize its goals and objectives, with the hope of identifying creative approaches to engaging our communities in socially-just research practices.
Making the most of her time at Florida State has been a major priority for BSW Student Zoe Genkin. She credits her role as a Lady Spirithunter for allowing her to immerse herself in campus life. “As a Lady Spirithunter, I have been able to participate in events like Dance Marathon, Relay for Life, and spread FSU spirit at sporting events,” Zoe said.

She is also a CSW Ambassador for the FSU College of Social Work, acting as a student representative at events and advocating for the College and its mission. She attributes the development of deeper connections with social work faculty, staff and student peers through participation with CSW Ambassadors and events like BSW and MSW orientations and Social Work Month.

Zoe chose social work as a career because she is a self-described happy person and wants to make the world a more positive place by working to make others happier. She has a strong desire to work with children and adolescents. She was a camp counselor with Rein Teen Tours in 2017 and also worked for three years at Capital Camps and Retreat Center. Through her current internship at the PACE Center for Girls, an alternative school, she works with at-risk adolescent girls. She’s enjoyed this first experience working with at-risk youth and hopes to continue working with this population.

Upon graduating this year with her BSW, she will return to FSU to complete her MSW. She plans to pursue a career in social work in Florida or the Washington, D.C. area. “I learned over the last four years to really live in the moment and to value connections. Not every moment will be great, but every moment will be a learning experience,” Zoe explained. “Get to know your peers, staff, faculty. They all have something to teach you and want to help you succeed, so take time to build a rapport and learn from them.”

Faced with his own learning challenge in childhood, Glenn Gantner described himself as lucky to get the services he needed at an early age. “I needed extra support due to my difficulty with reading, writing, and anxiety,” He said, explaining how he was drawn to helping others. “In high school, I learned I was the exception. I wanted to make a difference to other kids.” After completing an undergraduate degree in English at LaGrange College, Glenn and his wife April Gantner joined the Peace Corps and served two years in the Fiji Islands. His time with the Peace Corps reignited his passion for working with people. While exploring routes in psychology towards a career in counseling, Glenn decided that the versatility of an MSW fit his career goals. “I felt like it would make me more well-rounded, and more competitive for international work, such as the Foreign Service. In essence, what can’t I do with an MSW?” he joked.

During his MSW field placement, Glenn was able to combine his interests in encountering new people and cultures, his love of international travel, and interest in clinical practice through his international field placement with Touchstone Family Association in Vancouver, British Columbia. Vancouver boasts one of the most diverse city populations in the world, and the location Glenn is working in is primarily Cantonese population. He has enjoyed working on his cultural competence while working with multi-cultural families and learning from the counselors at Touchstone. “I’ve learned the importance of letting clients lead the direction of their sessions,” he says about his internship. “I also appreciate that practicum students must record sessions, because it’s been very helpful to my development.”

Glenn is eager to gain experience and become a licensed clinical social worker with a clinical practice. He has big dreams of continuing to participate in international settings as well as collaborating with other related helping professions to aid clients focusing on mind and body healing. “If you are interested in study abroad, you should start as early as possible,” he advised other students eager to gain experience in international settings. “Dr. Abell helped make my fieldwork abroad possible. There are also scholarships.” To learn more about International Program opportunities, contact Dr. Neil Abell (nabell@fsu.edu).
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Support for students has come in a variety of forms, but the first endowed scholarship for social work students was established in 1978 to honor former dean Dr. Bernard Scher. The Scher family created the Bernard Scher Undergraduate Scholarship to perpetuate Dr. Scher’s commitment to social work education and dedication to undergraduate students. In 1985 the college established its second endowed scholarship in honor of Patricia Vance. Today, the college has 30 endowed funds supporting students, faculty and programs.

Scholarships at the College of Social Work have grown to include a variety of scholarships available to students in the BSW, MSW and Ph.D. programs. Scholarships have often been dedicated to honor faculty and alumni of merit or to aid student pursuing a specialty in the social work profession. The two latest scholarships honor alumni Dr. David Albright and Art Cleveland.

DAVID L. ALBRIGHT SOCIAL WORK ENDOwed DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

The David L. Albright Social Work Endowed Doctoral Scholarship provides support to FSU College of Social Work doctoral candidates committed to research and scholarship on military- and veteran-connected populations. Dr. Albright is the Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health and Director of the Office for Military Families and Veterans at The University of Alabama School of Social Work. He is a military veteran and former research fellow with both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the RAND Corporation’s Center for Military Health Policy Research. Dr. Albright works to produce research that is useful for communities, health care providers, and policymakers as they work to address and improve health-related determinants and outcomes among military personnel, Veterans, and their families and communities.

ART CLEVELAND PLAY THERAPY ENDOWMENT

The Art Cleveland Play Therapy Endowment was created by the Cleveland family to perpetuate alumnus Art Cleveland’s impact on the social work community and future clinicians. The award will fund two graduate student’s attendance at the annual Association for Play Therapy conference. Art Cleveland, LCSW, LMFT, RPT-S (MSW, 1982; BSW, 1979) is a dedicated social worker who has devoted his career to the care and treatment of children. Play therapy has been the cornerstone of his clinical practice for more than thirty years. He was awarded the College’s 2015 Distinguished Social Work Alumni Award for his contributions to social work practice.

COVERDELL FELLOWSHIP

Partnering with the U.S. Peace Corps, the FSU College of Social Work began offering the Coverdell Fellowship in 2017 to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers pursuing an MSW degree at Florida State. The fellowship allows Volunteers to continue their work in public service and their pursuit of professional goals by building on skills developed in the Peace Corps and bringing these skills to the local community.
Field education has always played a critical part of social work education because of the practice experience and immersion in the social work profession that it provided. From the start of FSU’s MSW program in the 1950s and the BSW program in the 1970s, field placements was a critical component of the curriculum. Early on, most placements were to be found for students in Florida and within the Southeastern U.S. In the past two decades, placements are now offered across the country and around the globe.

Each year, hundreds of students are placed with field sites that work closely with FSU College of Social Work Field Education Director Katrina Boone and her team to train social work students before they enter the profession.

“Field experience represents a critical component of our students’ education and has been designated as the signature pedagogy of social work,” said Boone. “The social work profession is growing quickly and we are working to ensure that we have prepared social work professionals with direct experience in their field before graduation.”

Boone points out that the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the social work profession is projected to grow at twice the rate of any other occupation, making it essential that social workers enter the field well-prepared.
LIOVANI NAZARIO, Ph.D. (2005), MSW (2000), Program Director, The Oasis Center for Women & Girls

Molly Dunlop, BSW (2016) (pictured right) was an MSW intern with The Oasis Center for Women and Girls in Tallahassee, Florida during the summer semester in 2017. She is pictured here working on activities with some of the girls served by the center.


Paige Torres, MSW (2014) (pictured left) was an MSW intern at the Atlanta VA Health Care System (VAHCS) within the inpatient medicine unit in 2014. She is now a Licensed Master Social Worker for the state of Georgia, and is employed with the 24/7 Veteran Care Unit at the Atlanta VAHCS. Rhonda (pictured right) served as Paige’s placement supervisor and continue to serve as her mentor. The photo was taken on the final day of Paige’s internship in April 2014.

I loved how my preconceived ideas about the world were challenged. I loved that I came to realize that the more I learned, the less I knew for sure. I loved being around so many people who were working as hard as I was to get our degrees and the contribution they all made to my education.

MARY B. JENNINGS, MSW (2008), BS (2006)
The earliest participation of the College of Social Work in international programs began through Florida State’s London Program. A number of students and faculty participated in the early 1970s. It would not be until 1993 that the offerings in social work began to expand. Social work faculty member Patricia (Pat) Lager started a continuing education unit (CEU) trip to London for established social workers to gain experience with different social work systems on an international level. “Initially there were only about nine, but as it grew over several years I decided I wanted to expand the program to provide students with international field placements,” Pat explained. International programs in social work for students began in 1993. By the early 2000s opportunities for international field placements, study abroad, and exchange agreements had extended to include Ireland, Czech Republic, Hungary, South Africa; several islands in the Caribbean. As the international programs expanded, the College of Social Work expanded its coursework to include an online MSW program allowing many exchange students to participate in online coursework in international social work. Pat Lager would become the first director of International Programs within the social work program and would continue in the role until her retirement in 2011 when Professor Neil Abell stepped into the role. She continues to provide invaluable consultation to Dr. Abell and faculty and generous scholarship contributions through the Hurle Trust. With the support of CSW faculty and administration and international partners around the world, Dr. Abell is able to provide students meaningful experiences in international social work. Currently, the program includes:

- Study Abroad and International Field Placements in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Ireland and Canada;
- Study abroad in the Czech Republic and London;
- An Alternative Spring Break program in Grenada in the East Caribbean; and
- Exchange Programs in Australia and Sweden.

Dr. Abell also works on outreach and support with the international agencies and organizations that partner with the College of Social Work. Some of his recent efforts include bringing international partners from both the Czech Republic and Northern Ireland to FSU’s Tallahassee campus to further research, faculty, and student exchanges. He notes, “The opportunity to open doors around the world for our students and faculty is uniquely rewarding. I also hope it fosters cross-cultural understanding and global practice knowledge that will benefit our graduates working at home and abroad throughout their careers. Learn more at: CSW.FSU.EDU/IP
ALUMNI UPDATES

2010s

Michael Alexander-Luz (MSW, 2015) is a counselor at the Lotus Home Women’s Shelter, founded by the Sundari Foundation serving homeless women, youths, and children. He provides biopsychosocial wellness assessments and diagnoses for women entering the shelter. He also provides trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy to youths. He is also the co-facilitator of the Rainbow Lotus LGBTQ support group.

Kate Herron (MSW, 2015) is the Assistant Director of Experiential Learning at the FSU Career Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

Colleen (Speicher) Nehr bass (MSW, 2015) is a school social worker with Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) working in numerous leadership roles. Colleen also practices part-time as a dictatorship specialist for a psychiatric, detox, and rehabilitation facility.

Jacquelyn Pelt (MSW, 2015) is the executive director for No Jeep Left Behind, an organization assisting homeless veterans throughout Florida.

Andrew Richey (MSW, 2015) is a medical social worker in the emergency center of Pennsylvania Hospital. He is also a graduate researcher at the University of Maryland in the second year of his doctoral program with a research concentration on suicide intervention and prevention.

Lee Robbins (MSW, 2015) is the program director at the Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire. As the programs director, Lee develops programs, writes grants, mediates disputes and helps individuals with legal paperwork.

Susan Colligan (MSW, 2013) is the client services director for the Pregnancy Help and Information Center in Tallahassee.

Kandace (Hillebrandt) Rudd (JD 2017, MSW 2012) is an associate with Waldoch & McConaughhay, PA (elder law firm) in Tallahassee, Florida.

Lori Rodriguez-Fletcher (MSW, 2010) is a licensed independent clinical social worker and therapist with Options in Psychology, LLC and provides clinical supervision. She has a post-graduate certificate in Child-Parent Psychotherapy. Lori is an active member of NASW, collaborating with psychologists to advocate legislatively.

More than 12,800 Alumni Across the Country

2000s

Ellen David (MSW, 2008) is a Family Advocacy Treatment Manager for the Department of Defense at the MacDill Air Force Base and is a licensed clinical social worker.

Jennifer Holler, LCSW, ACHP-SW (MSW, 2008) is the Senior Director for Patient and Community Access at Covenant Hospice. She is a licensed clinical social worker and an advanced certified hospice and palliative social worker.

Cedeline Samson (BSW, 2003; MSW, 2004) is a child and family program specialist with the US Department of Health and Human Services, ACF, Children’s Bureau in Dallas, Texas.

Natira Screen (MSW, 2003) is the program director for Unlimited Pathways Inc. and also works for the Department of Corrections. She is an active volunteer with the American Red Cross and the Florida A&M University Alumni Association.

Ellen G. Copeland (MSW, 1985) is currently the Director of Social Work at St. Mary’s Home in Mobile, Alabama.

William F. Galic (MSW, 1983) adopted three sons over the years as a single dad and was a Floridan for 13 years before moving to the State of Alaska. He recently retired from a full-time career in social work in Alaska in 2014, moving to Indiana in 2015. He is currently working part-time as an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska - Anchorage teaching online undergraduate social work courses.

1980s

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1970s

Sherry (Jordan) Johnson (MSW, 1979) retired in January 2017 after 35 years of employment with the Department of Defense. She started as a social worker with the U.S. Army in 1981, began working with the U.S. Navy in 1991 and spent 20 years there. She spent the final five years of her career working for the U.S. Marine Corp. She held a variety of positions, mainly in the area of family violence and sexual assault awareness prevention and treatment.
John J. Alderson (1926-2017) was a former faculty member of the College of Social Work. After serving briefly with the U.S. Army, he completed his Master’s degree in social work at the University of Illinois and worked as a school social worker with Evanston Public Schools. He taught social work at the University of Illinois – Chicago until coming to FSU in 1968.

Cathi Jeanne Atkinson (1950-2018) was a lifelong Tallahassee resident and Florida native. Returning to school after her children were born, she completed her BSW (1987) and MSW (1988) at FSU and was a licensed clinical social worker for more than 30 years. She passed away on January 21, 2018.

Christine Sims Clark (1969-2017) received her MSW (1985) from FSU, two master’s degrees from Temple University (Comparative Religion and Philosophy) and University of Houston (Educational Psychology). After teaching English literature and philosophy for ten years, she started her social work career in Gainesville at Meridian Behavior Services until securing a faculty position at University of Florida College of Medicine on the Child Protection Team.

Patricia C. Griffin (1921-2017) was a former faculty member of the College of Social Work, overseeing field placements. She held a Master’s degree in social work from the University of Chicago and had a full career as a mental health counselor. She later completed a Master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Florida. She was well known for her scholarly work and books on Florida history.

Laura Dolores Pan (1952-2017) received both her BSW (1986) and MSW (1987) from the College of Social Work. She worked as an advocate for people experiencing homelessness in a shelter in Washington, D.C. and then in Boise, Idaho. In 1990, she came to Tallahassee to work in the Florida Department of Health, Family Health Services until her retirement in 2015. She helped create and worked extensively with the Healthy Start Program to aid high-risk pregnant women and infants.

Edward (Ed) Gerald Rawa graduated from Gannon University (1964) and attended St. Mark’s Seminary, St. Mary’s Seminary, and the University of Baltimore. He earned his MSW degree from FSU in 1966 and received grants from both the Veterans Administration and National Institutes. He served as the director of the United Way of Central Florida (1977-1992) until serving as the regional director for Catholic Social Services for the Orlando Diocese. He retired in 2006 after a forty-one year career in non-profit community service.

Richard Arlen Voyles (1930-2017) attended Wayland Baptist College, completed Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth Texas and worked as a Baptist missionary on a Native American reservation in New Mexico before completing his MSW at FSU. He spent the remainder of his career counseling veterans at the V.A. Medical Center in Waco, Texas.

Mary McConnell Whiddon (1921–2018) graduated from Virginia Intermont College (1942) and worked for the American Red Cross during World War II and the Korean War. She earned her MSW (1969) and retired from the Charleston Area Mental Health Center in 1994.

Donald A. Laidlaw (1930-2017) Donald and Joyce Harper Laidlaw (BS in Social Work, 1950) were supporters of the College of Social Work, establishing the Joyce Harper Laidlaw scholarship to support graduate students focusing in child welfare. Donald had a 40-year career with IBM and in 1991, served as the Deputy Secretary of Education for President H. W. Bush.

Allan Koslofsky (1944-2017) earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Queen’s College in 1967, followed by service in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan teaching English in a rural school. He earned his MSW from FSU in 1975, and moved to California to begin a long career with Napa County Mental Health Services working with adults with chronic mental illness. He and Anne Robin were married in Napa on September 25, 2015 and enjoyed two years and three months together.
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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**NASW Reception** - June 16 | 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Blue Fire Grille, Marriott Ft. Lauderdale North, 6650 N. Andrews. Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33903

**Alumni Homecoming Brunch** - October 20 | 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Horizon’s Ballroom, Hotel Duval, 415 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

**2018 Student Scholarship & Distinguished Graduate Dinner** - October 25 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom, The Alumni Center, 1030 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32304

**CSWE Reception** - November 8 | 9:00-11:00 p.m.  
Ariel’s, Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club, Orlando, FL

**SSWR Reception TBA** - January 2019  
Location, San Francisco, CA

*For details and much more, visit [CSW.FSU.EDU/EVENTS](http://CSW.FSU.EDU/EVENTS)*

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