



communitas

A magazine from the FSU College of Social Work 2012-2013



50 Years of
Integration

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD: UPHOLDING A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



**"The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity."
~George Bernard Shaw**

The College of Social Work continues to shine as it expands student support,

community engagement, and top-notch research "that matters." We have made significant strides in gaining greater support of the larger University (administration and other academic programs), public and private agencies/institutions, and philanthropic individuals/foundations through the last several years. We received this support because we have demonstrated our commitment to our students and the larger community.

Reading through this issue of *Communitas*, I suspect you will pause with each story to reflect on the progress we have made in promoting diversity, advocating for the needs of a broad range of populations, shaping social policy, advancing cutting edge clinical practice, forming national and international collaboration, and so much more. That being said, while we are proud of our accomplishments, including the dramatic increase in graduate enrollment over the last four years (and the highest rate of minority enrollment within the university), we are positioned now to seek even higher ground as we prepare our students to confront the compelling challenges of today's society, engage in the art and science of research that contributes to the betterment of society, and provide service to the local, state, national and international communities. The common theme is that we are indeed a community-centered college.

We have developed four major research initiatives for the College of Social Work: 1. Community Science and Practice, 2. The Trinity Institute for the Addictions, 3. The Institute for Family Violence Studies, and 4. Health and Aging. These initiatives comprise a focused research agenda that includes community partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration. I expect these partnerships to continue to multiply as we will not only be conducting

research, but giving back to the community and using that research to improve services, programs and policy. And, I am proud that so many of our partners are also CSW alumni.

It is my conviction that students at all levels of their social work education (BSW through PhD) can be involved in research. I have initiated and allocated funds for a program to support undergraduate research and creative activity (students as assistants on faculty research and students conducting their own research/creative activity with a faculty mentor). We are also seeing an increase in directed individual studies, faculty-student publications, and student presentations at national conferences. Our students continue to be involved in social action and community betterment through programs ranging from homelessness to genocide awareness; mental illness to personal/family development; foster care to elder care (to name just a few). It is indeed an exciting time to be involved with our College of Social Work. As I have often stated, the FSU College of Social Work is a national leader because of the collective strengths of our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends. I am confident that together, we will continue to excel in one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. Indeed, social work is a career that contributes to humanizing a technological society, promotes social justice, and is empowering through a strengths perspective that recognizes the dignity, worth, and potential of humankind. I do hope you will browse our website to learn more about our College and opportunities for you to support and become involved with our projects and programs. And of course, please feel free to make a call, or just stop by to visit. One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a dean is participating in college receptions and visiting alumni with Colette Podgorski, our Director of Development. It often feels like a family reunion and I consider myself fortunate to have formed so many positive relationships with students through the years. Hope you will stay in touch.

Take care,

Nicholas F. Mazza, PhD
Dean and Patricia V. Vance Professor of Social Work

50 Years of Integration: Hand in Hand Across Time



April 19, 2012 from across campus, people gathered around the Integration Statue on the corner of Woodward Avenue. Students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends formed three human chains to represent the three pioneering individuals who opened the doors at Florida State University to greater enrichment and diversity.

These pioneers included: Maxwell Courtney, the first African American graduate at FSU; Fred Flowers, the first African American athlete at FSU and Doby Flowers, the first African American FSU homecoming princess. Two of these pioneers, Doby Flowers and Fred Flowers, were in attendance.



The three human chains fanned out in three different directions: spanning east to west, south to Woodward Avenue and Jefferson Street, and west toward the College of Medicine. Three metal medallions were passed hand to hand along each human chain to symbolize FSU's collective commitment to diversity. Fireworks went off when the medallions reached the end of the three chains.

College of Social Work alumni, faculty, staff and students were among over 1,500 that participated in the commemoration to represent a campus united.

Doby Flowers



Doby Lee Flowers, a Tallahassee native, was crowned as FSU's first African American homecoming queen in 1970, indicating not only a social shift on campus, but a political shift toward acceptance and tolerance apparent during that time in history. Her brother Fred Flowers also became the first African American athlete to represent FSU. "We've not forgotten, and we've come a long way," she remarked about the commemoration celebration. "By not forgetting, we understand that we have a ways to go."

She earned her bachelor's degree in social welfare and her master's degree in urban and regional planning from Florida State and went on to study at Harvard, earning a certificate in executive management. Ms. Flowers worked for two high-profile mayoral administrations in Boston and New York, championing welfare reform and programs to aid disadvantaged children in both cities before returning to Tallahassee. Along with her leadership role at FSU, she has remained a civil rights activist, humanitarian and role model for young women and girls throughout her career. She is currently a national consultant and the law firm manager of Flowers Law Group, P.A.



Legacy *of* Diversity

Reflections From Another Era



On a clear and sunny morning in September 1962, I began classes in the MSW program at FSU. I was the first black student in the School of Social Work and one of the first group of blacks admitted to the University. The path that led me to this day began when a recruiter visited the State Department of Public Welfare in Gainesville where I was employed, the first and only black staff member at the time. Dared by my colleagues to test the recruiter's veracity, and certain that I'd never hear from him again, I asked for more information about the MSW program. I had received my BSW two years earlier from Indiana University and planned on going on to graduate school.

After several visits to Tallahassee, successfully passing the requisite GRE and interviews with the MSW program director and other faculty, I was admitted. In the 1960's, social workers employed by the state of Florida were encouraged to get their MSW. Leaves of absence and stipends were almost routinely given for this purpose. Nevertheless, my request for an educational leave and stipend was "respectfully declined." Another challenge I faced was finding a place to live in Tallahassee that was in proximity to FSU. Apartments near campus available to other students were not an option for me in a city where housing was racially segregated. I eventually lived in the home of a family in Frenchtown.

Classmates and faculty were genuinely friendly, or at least polite and accepting of my presence. My experiences, however, would undoubtedly have been very different had I been in another department with greater exposure to the general campus population. For the most part, my life as a graduate student was relatively uneventful. I received my MSW in April 1964. Adele Cooper who began the program a year later than I received her MSW in 1965. The School of Social Work had quietly made history by awarding the University's first degrees to African American students.

In the decades following, I became a field instructor for social work students placed in Miami. I joined the inaugural class of the School's doctoral program and received my PhD in 1987. Since 1981, I have been an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Barry University and since 1994, president and CEO of The Thurston Group. More than 50 years have passed since the early 60's and today's students cannot imagine a time when things were different, when a black student was a novelty at FSU. So much has changed - and I am proud to have been a part of that change at Florida State University.



Dr. Maxine Thurston-Fischer



Seminole Club Dining Hall, 1962

Jackie Dupont-Walker

My time at FSU was a bit traumatic for a young black woman, even for one whose father had been a leader in the 1955 Tallahassee Bus Boycott. The atmosphere at FSU was benignly hostile, and the atmosphere in the School of Social Work ranged from hostile to protective. My on campus support system included Mrs. Carolyn Krentzman, my boss at the Student Union, and The Wesley Center's Pastor Austin. He lost some local church support because of the presence of two black students (Maxwell Courtney and me), but never told us of this loss and made us feel at home. Most protective was the custodial and maintenance staff who removed much of the hatred that was intended to intimidate us, who also smiled and established eye contact, signaling that "they had our backs." There was one biology professor in particular who invited me to his home along with other students and wanted me to understand that he disapproved of the culture of discrimination.



In hindsight, that experience helped to build the determination that I have today when facing adversity. It reinforced what my ancestors had lived and taught: My maternal grandfather Willis Jiles who operated the only business owned by a black person in downtown Tallahassee at the time; my father Rev. King Solomon Dupont, a clergyman and business owner who was Vice President of the Tallahassee Civic Association that led the Tallahassee Bus Boycott in the 1950's; the oral history of my paternal great grandfather who purchased his freedom while taking great risks to his life; and my maternal great grandfather who moved from the area to practice his trade with dignity - going to Louisiana to work with horses. I must also acknowledge the the wise decision of my parents to be a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), founded in 1787 to demonstrate that all people were equal in God's eyes and to provide a platform to practice the Methodist doctrine without being treated as second class citizens. That founding symbolically represents the first civil rights movement in this nation and the second civil rights movement started by AME - Mother Rosa Parks.


I have concluded that God's plan for my life included the FSU experience, and I hope that I have been true to that calling on my life by opening doors for others, and standing for right and justice, even if I had to stand alone. I have come to accept the reality of, "Why do you keep trying to fit in when you were made to stand out?" Do I have regrets? No. I would do it again. I would, however, take more advantage of the campus resources, even if it made others uncomfortable. The notion that I was paving the way for others and should not mess it up loomed more important that it should have. Every time I recap the FSU experience, I recommit myself to the journey toward freedom and dignity for all people.

Jacquelyn "Jackie" Dupont-Walker earned her bachelor's degree (social welfare) from FSU June of 1966 and her MSW from Atlanta University. After working in clinical and medical social work, initiating the guardian ad litem program in Los Angeles County, and serving for 5 years as district director for Maxine Waters in the California State Legislature, she founded and lead Ward Economic Development Corporation, a faith-centered community development organization for 26 years. Jackie continues to be a community and social policy activist, currently serving her first term on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy as an appointee of Governor Jerry Brown. For her family, community, church and ancestral legacy, Jackie remains committed to correcting "sick" systems while empowering people to make a difference in the quality of their lives - where they live, work, play and pray.



SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH: COMMUNITY IMPACT

Four Initiatives, One College



*Amy Ai, PhD
Associate Dean of Research*

Each of the College of Social Work's four institutes and centers has a different research focus, but each has in common with the other one major goal – creating positive change to benefit the populations they serve.

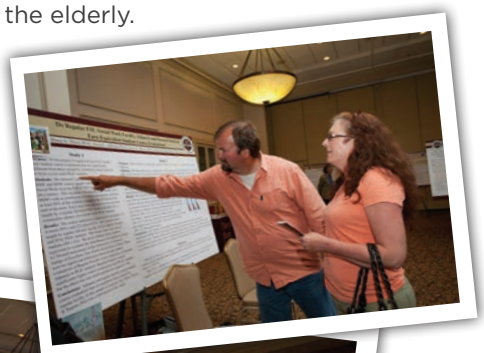
“Research is a top priority of the FSU College of Social Work. We strive to use evidence-based research to serve the community. It is our top priority to guide practice and to shape real-world decisions in both the public and private sectors to enhance the welfare of disadvantaged populations,” said Associate Dean for Research and Professor Amy Ai.

The Trinity Institute for Addictions (TIA) conducts interdisciplinary scientific investigations on biopsychosocial approaches to prevent and treat substance abuse, use and dependence.

The CSW Institute for Family Violence Studies (IFVS) researches community solutions that employ both law and social services to prevent child maltreatment and family violence.
Website: familyvio.csw.fsu.edu

The Community Science and Practice Initiative focuses primarily on delinquency prevention and child welfare programming by utilizing community-based research to inform policy design and analysis.

The Health and Aging Initiative is an interdisciplinary research group made up of collaborative research scholars in the areas of social work, psychology, gerontology, medicine, nursing, sociology and public health, to assess health and social service programs for disadvantaged populations, particularly the elderly.



Undergraduate Research Initiative Launched

The Social Work Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Awards (SWURCAA), an initiative created by Dean Nick Mazza and developed with Pam Graham (Director of BSW Program) and the FSU Office of Undergraduate Research, have provided four undergraduate social work students with the opportunity to work directly with faculty members on some of their current research projects and have been awarded a \$1,000 stipend for their efforts during the spring semester. These competitive awards (based on rigorous criteria) afford selected BSW students the opportunity to experience the discipline and rewards associated with social work research, while assisting faculty members in cutting edge research that matters. This year the awardees of the SWURCAA program include: Christopher Collins, Victoria Hamel, Katherine Millsap and Wang Chun Rosenkranz.

Chris Collins, working with Karen Oehme, JD has the unique experience of working on the project, "Medical Screening of Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors," which entails the College's Institute of Family Violence Studies collaborating with the National Hotline on Domestic Violence and the FSU College of Medicine to conduct a study on whether healthcare providers are screening patients for domestic violence, both in routine care settings and urgent care settings. Chris will assist with research on the complex issues of medical screening and will focus on the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered victims who are screened.

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Research Expo

April 10, 2012 the College hosted a research exposition of 18 faculty members' and 13 graduate students' research, sharing a wide array of social work research topics with the faculty and students from across the Florida State campus and with members of the Tallahassee social services community. Research projects were presented conference-style on graphic-rich posters lining the University Center's Futch Ballroom. Faculty and graduate students mingled with attendees to discuss their research and answer questions. Topics ranged from criminal and juvenile justice to mindfulness interventions, gerontology, substance abuse, health disparities, human rights, poverty, poetry therapy, school social work, domestic violence and many others.



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Victoria Shelton, paired with Tom Smith, PhD will work on the project, "Uncertainty Aspects of Personal Finance Behaviors." This study will create a regression model of the role of uncertainty in personal finance and will use Money Attitudes and Mindfulness as moderators of the overall model.

Katherine Millsap will work with Karen Randolph, PhD on the project, "Evaluation of the Fostering Achievement Fellowship (FAF) Program," in which the College of Social Work will conduct an evaluation of the project. The FAF program is a collaborative effort among Tallahassee Community College, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Big Ben Community Based Car, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and several other local human service agencies designed to strengthen education attainment among young adults who have been emancipated from foster care.

And, Wang Chun Rosenkranz is collaborating with Eric Garland, PhD on the project titled, "Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement for Chronic Pain and Prescriptive Opioid-Related Problems: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial." This research entails a randomized clinical trial of a Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement intervention for individuals with chronic pain and prescription opioid-related problems.

"Working on this project has transformed the knowledge I have gleaned from texts and lectures, bringing the research process to life in a pragmatic and interesting way. I will continue my educational goals and begin my Master's of Social Work next spring, possibly followed by a Doctorate in Social Work. My dream is to create a model for Sustainable Agriculture Therapy in treating addiction and depression for Native American populations. The meticulous methodology Dr. Garland employs and his desire to help those that are struggling with addiction satiates two of my biggest passions: science and service. I am humbled and honored to be working on this project." Wang Chun Rosenkranz said about his assistantship with Dr. Eric Garland.



Wang Chun Rosenkranz

“Working on this project has transformed the knowledge I have gleaned from texts and lectures, bringing the research process to life in a pragmatic and interesting way. I will continue my educational goals and begin my Master’s of Social Work next spring, possibly followed by a Doctorate in Social Work.”

The program is one that the College hopes to expand in order to continue to expose undergraduate social work students to how social work research is impacting practice and policy. While the above awards refer to involving students with the research of faculty members, the College will also provide the opportunity for independent student research projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The Mentored Research and Creative Endeavors (MRCE) awards will have the same general requirements, but will involve a detailed proposal of a project to be conducted over a summer semester. This is a \$4,000 stipend and results in a poster session at the FSU Fall Symposium. The undergraduate research experience is expected to be a truly rewarding experience for both the students and faculty. It is also clear that when undergraduate students are engaged in research, there is a greater likelihood that they will continue with a successful graduate education.

To learn more about these assistantships, contact BSW Program Director, Pam Graham at pgraham@fsu.edu.





Student Highlights

BSW Student

Sofia Hernandez

Sofia is an undergraduate student in the College of Social Work, working on specialized studies in Arts in Community Practice and the Global Pathways Certificate. She is in several honors societies, spent a semester in Spain and plans to study abroad again this year.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

Before entering college, there was a separation for me between my passion for service and my idea of a future career and professional success. I didn't think I would pursue a helping profession, but the first day of Interviewing and Recording my professor told us, "In order to grow professionally you have to be willing to grow personally." I knew I was in the right place. I had finally found the major that gave me the opportunity to grow in my professional and personal life, hand in hand.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you hope to work with?

I am primarily interested in clinical work and I plan on getting my MSW and becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I enjoyed working with children and the elderly the most. I am also open to the idea of getting a PhD after getting some experience in the field, but for that I will have to see where my career takes me.



How do you currently give back to your community?

I currently work as an intern at Capital City Youth Services, a homeless and runaway youth shelter in Tallahassee, FL. I devote most of my time to supervising kids and making sure they are in a safe, comforting environment. My days are long and stressful at the shelter, but more often than not they are valuable and rewarding. I am getting hands on experience as to how a successful agency runs and am also gaining a lot of insight on the population I work with.

How has the College and FSU helped you to prepare for your career?

The College has given me the opportunity to take courses that will prepare me for the diverse populations I will encounter and to explore different theoretical models, therapeutic approaches, means of advocacy, and types of research that have all given me a deeper sense of my work. The College also does the students a great service by encouraging us to get our hands dirty with different local projects. Mostly every class offered encourages service, and many try to incorporate it into our studies. I find that the College is full of passionate people, which give students the best backbone for learning.



Oceo Harris is a graduate student in the College of Social Work. He received the 2012-2013 Victoria E. Warner Scholarship, which is awarded to a MSW student that received an undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University and plans to work in the African American community.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

Having been homeless, an ex-offender, a recovering alcoholic and addict, no trade nor completion of my education, I feel my experiences would be an asset to others. I could use my accomplishments as a means to give encouragement and support, and to give back to my community.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you hope to work with?

People who have substance abuse issues, ex-offender re-entry initiatives, people who are experiencing homelessness, youth 18 -24 with life challenges, and being a Resource Specialist to connect these people to much needed help.

MSW Student

Oceo Harris

How do you currently give back to your community?

I work through AmeriCorps at the Renaissance Community Center as a Resource Connector to the homeless population. I started a support group for ex-offenders and I role model to many of the individuals who know me from the "streets." I do volunteer work with Big Bend Coalition with homelessness issues and keeping solid relationships with people who are going in a positive direction, extending my support.

How has the College and FSU helped you to prepare for your career path?

My education has been invaluable going through the College. I have learned a lot about myself. Most of my courses are chosen from this perspective. Each faculty member has been inspirational in a unique way, contributing to my educational experience. I will always love group work and class discussion. The environments have been ripe to stimulate professional growth. Even though I came with an unsavory, unappealing past, the College gave me an opportunity to redeem myself. I am deeply grateful. I feel I have been transformed into a social change agent who has been given a priceless gift to be shared with people who really want to revolutionize their lives.

One Million Bones Experiences

Doctoral candidate Jane McPherson & her students from the College of Social Work have engaged the Tallahassee community in making an incredible 18,000 bones, therefore \$18,000, for survivors of mass violence through her efforts with One Million Bones, a national arts-activism project educating about genocide and mass violence and advocating for violence prevention and assisting survivors.



PhD Student

Judy Hefren

Judy Hefren is a doctoral student in the College of Social Work. She received the 2012-2013 Walter Hudson Doctoral Scholarship.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

My path to social work has been to say the least, untraditional. My undergraduate degree is in accounting (B.S., FSU '83). In April 1995, I became a foster parent, which was my first exposure to a social worker. I adopted my son Christopher who came to me with a wide range of diagnoses, which all proved to be false. Based on these experiences I wanted to become an advocate for children. In 2006, I began my pursuit of an MSW, believing that I could be more effective as a child advocate (and have more credibility) if I had related credentials.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you hope to work with?

As with everything about my career, my primary area of interest has evolved. My original intent was to be an advocate for children in the social service system. While I still have a passion about such things, my focus changed. Christopher died in December 2007 as a result of injuries sustained as a passenger in a car crash. Somehow I managed to earn my MSW in August 2009, navigating through the fog that comes with grief. I enrolled in the PhD program beginning in Fall 2009, but it took until January 2010 for me to realize that I need to take my grief experience and do something with it. Almost immediately, I became focused on the issue of how bereaved people deal with the belongings of their deceased loved one. I hope to scratch the surface of this question through my dissertation-motivated research

How do you currently give back to your community?

I went through training to become a volunteer with Big Bend Hospice. All



hospices have a bereavement component, but Big Bend has a commitment to community bereavement. I work with them assisting with monthly events. And in fall of 2012, I had the opportunity to co-facilitate grief groups at a local elementary, middle school, and to be a part of Camp Woe-Be-Gone for teens.

How has the College and FSU helped you to prepare for your career?

I know that I love teaching. I enjoy creating an environment where students can experience the power of professional relationships. This is at the core of the potential social workers have to impact lives. I am also in the process of pursuing licensure to help on an individual level as well. I want to combine all of this to educate people regarding grief and loss issues. I am in the process of establishing a non-profit, CDH, Inc., that will be focused meeting the needs of those in pain and empowering the bereaved to not feel the need to explain their pain, regardless of how much time has passed since their loss. CDH, Inc. memorializes my son (CDH are his initials) and communicates to me that "my child's death hurts." While it will always hurt, I want people to know that it does get better.

The primary gift the College has given me is support through my journey following the unexpected death of my only child. Second only to that has been the opportunity to discover my love of teaching. I am so thankful for the opportunities that I have had at Florida State University!

Arts & ATHLETICS

2012 saw the successful conclusion of the College of Social Work's pilot project CSW Arts & Athletics, a two-week summer camp for middle school children focused on positive youth development. From June 18-29, 2012, the program brought 20 young people the unique opportunity of experiencing arts, athletics and college preparatory activities on campus with Florida State students and athletes, staff and faculty.

The brainchild of Dean Nick Mazza, the CSW Arts & Athletics camp was designed to reach out to Big Bend-area youth, including those with limited social and economic resources. Using the combined strengths of arts and athletics activities, the program focused on cultivating leadership development and academic achievement, as well as social and life skills in the camp's participants.



The project was effectively launched thanks to the support of Guy and Delores Spearman, two longtime supporters of the College of Social Work and University activities. "As Delores is very interested in the arts, sitting on several art boards in Brevard. And, we both are long time FSU Booster members. This was perfect for us," Guy Spearman said.



In the December issue of the **Journal of Poetry Therapy**, Dean Mazza provided an overview of the camp and reported on the creative writing component ("Running With Words"). Preliminary findings indicated the writing exercises were helpful in contributing to positive youth development (eg. promoting self-esteem, problem solving, team building, and prosocial behavior.) The collected observational findings will be used to shape a formal, systematic evaluation of the camp in 2013.

CSW Arts & Athletics is a part of the College's larger mission to create collaboration between FSU and the greater Tallahassee community. Moving into its second year in 2013, the camp hopes to continue expanding to reach more local youths and their families, and to produce further research that examines the impact of arts and athletics on youth development.



ALUMNI

Jerrold M. Jackson



Jerrold M. Jackson, LCSW is a part-time clinical social worker at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City and recently received his doctorate in Clinical and Translational Research at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Additionally, he is a Research Scientist, Field

Instructor, and Adjunct Lecturer at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University. Clinically, Jerrold has worked primarily in outpatient child psychiatry as well as inpatient psychiatry at Mount Sinai since completing

his MSW from the FSU College of Social Work in 2008. His interest in pursuing doctoral work in translational research began while doing some community-based mental health work in one of Mount Sinai's school-based clinics in South Bronx, where he encountered the "gap" that often exists between the science of clinical practice and the implementation of clinical practice. This led to a growing interest in the development, implementation and evaluation of empirically-informed mental health service strategies for urban youth and their families, which has culminated in a dissertation and predoctoral fellowship (F31) funded by the National Institute of Mental Health entitled "Multi-Family Groups for Multi-Stressed Families: Outcomes & Implications for Practice."

At NYU, Jerrold conducts mental health recovery research involving dual-diagnosed and formerly homeless individuals with the New York Recovery Study, as well as interdisciplinary research with the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. He also teaches Human

Hiram Ruiz



Hiram Ruiz has been the statewide director of Refugee Services for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) since 2008. Born in Cuba and raised in Miami, Hiram attended Miami-Dade College and Florida State University. He received his MSW from the FSU

College of Social Work in 1975.

"My social work studies opened doors that led me onto paths that would chart the course of my life and career. While still in my MSW program, I was selected to be the student counselor at FSU's London center, in large part because of my social work field placement at the FSU counseling center. Thanks to a shortage of trained social workers in England,

I was offered a job and a work permit and stayed there for eight years, working first as a social worker in predominantly immigrant neighborhoods in London, then as a hospital social worker, and finally in Vietnamese refugee resettlement centers in both Scotland and England—the beginning of what would become a 30-year career working with refugees.

Next stop Africa, where I spent three years working with refugees in Somalia and Sudan with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I subsequently returned to the U.S., to Washington, where I joined the Government of the District of Columbia's refugee program. I was then offered a dream position, as a Senior Policy Analyst with the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR), a private, Washington-based refugee advocacy and public information group. During my 16 years with USCR, I traveled to more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to assess the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons and advocate for adequate U.S. and international responses. I also authored more than 20 publications on refugees. I later served as Director of Communications for USCR and its parent organization, Immigration and Refugee Services of America.

SPOTLIGHT

Behavior in the Social Environment and Program Evaluation to MSW students.

“In retrospect, the FSU College of Social Work was the perfect next step for me following my undergraduate studies in psychology. Like many new college grads, I was not exactly sure what I wanted to do ‘when I grow up,’ ” but with a working knowledge of mental health disparities and a desire to empower the urban poor, I enrolled in the MSW program at the FSU College of Social Work, hoping to find a few answers.

As an MSW student in the Clinical Concentration, research assistant via the Leslie N. Wilson Assistantship, and “MSW Representative” to the FSU Association of Student Social Workers, I was introduced to the essentials of clinical social work practice while contributing to the evidence that informs practice, all while advocating on behalf of my fellow classmates. In the classroom, I was exposed to a healthy balance of practical clinical skills,

critical evaluation of psychopathology, and rigorous program evaluation. Additionally, everything I learned in the classroom was put to practice in two great field placements, one with Gadsden County Schools and the other with the FSU Multidisciplinary Center. There simply is no substitute for being fully immersed in the multi-dimensional learning process that is available through the FSU College of Social Work, which solidified my life-long commitment to improving the lives of low-resourced youth and families.”

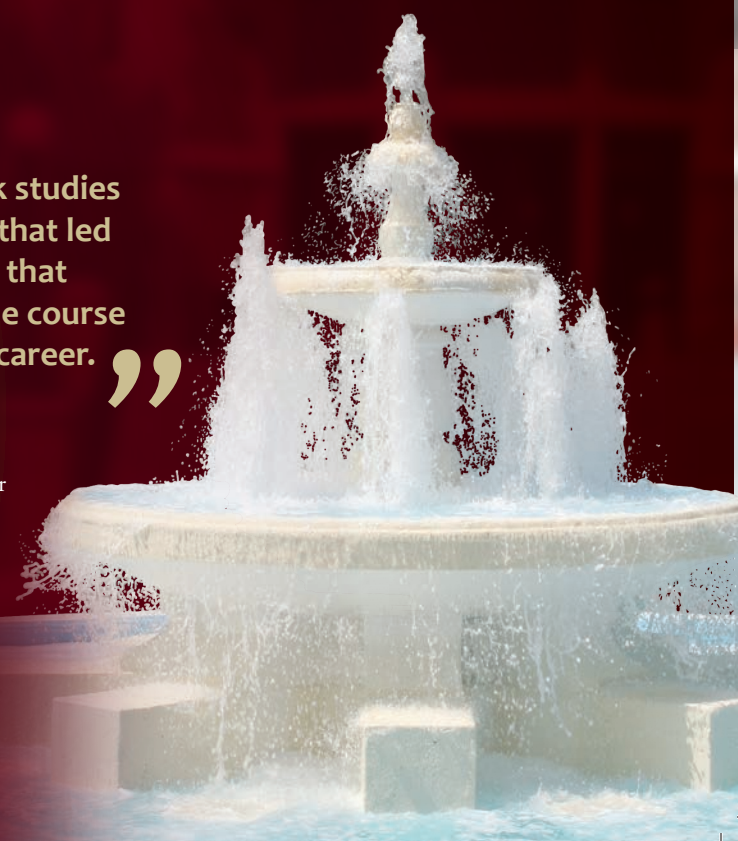
“ In retrospect, the FSU College of Social Work was the perfect next step for me following my undergraduate studies in psychology. ”

In 2004, I moved back to Miami as the political director of a local branch of the Service Employees International Union, which helped janitors and other low-wage workers to organize, and remained there until my appointment as DCF’s Director of Refugee Services.

Although my career has taken various twists and turns and at times has appeared to veer away from social work, to me there is a common thread, and it relates directly to what led me to the FSU School of Social Work in the first place. Whether working with

at-risk youth in London, in refugee camps in Africa, testifying before Congressional committees about what the U.S. should do to protect refugees in Asia, helping janitors get health insurance, or overseeing a program that annually provides some 60,000 refugees in Florida employment, adult education and other services, my career has, bottom line, been about empowering people, giving them a voice, and working to give them the tools or assistance they need to thrive. In short: Social Work. And it was my FSU MSW program that gave me the tools to chart this course (not to mention several life-long friends—Go Class of ’75!).”

“ My social work studies opened doors that led me onto paths that would chart the course of my life and career. ”



Dominic Calabro



An “almost native” Floridian, Dominic moved to Florida from New York at age 11. In 1980, he served as a graduate budget analyst with the Florida Senate Ways and Means Committee and later on in the 1980’s joined Florida TaxWatch, which he currently

serves as president and CEO.

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide non-profit, non-partisan government watchdog and research institute for taxpayers. Under Dominic’s leadership, Florida TaxWatch has earned and maintained widespread

respect among the state’s top leaders, and has a reputation of credibility and respect with Florida’s citizens and the media.

Florida TaxWatch is the only statewide organization devoted entirely to Florida taxing and spending issues, providing research that helps to ensure that taxes are equitable and maximize public benefit and that government agencies are productive and representative in their use of Florida tax dollars. Dominic also serves as the president and CEO of Prudential Financial – Davis Productivity Awards Foundation, Inc. that recognizes, rewards and replicates outstanding examples of government productivity and innovative cost-saving achievements throughout Florida government.

Dominic holds a Master in Social Work (1975) from the College of Social Work, a second master’s degree from FSU in public finance and budgeting and received his bachelor’s degree from Florida International University.





A Message from Development

As I look back on the past year that I have graciously been part of the College of Social Work family, I think about all the amazing people I have met and the countless doors that have opened. The faculty offer authentic passion for their work and continuously demonstrate leadership to all those around them. They sincerely care about the education and progression of their students, and making sure each one of them are given the necessary tools to be successful in their social work career.

The alumni here have a true affinity to Florida State University, but especially to their alma mater, the College of Social Work. Everyone has a different story and journey, but all are equally inspiring. We have alumni working in social policy who are shaping the future and we have alumni working in clinical practice directly helping to improve people's lives on a daily basis.

Historically, Florida State University has overlooked telling our story. Though, we are so grateful for the alumni that do give back, we need more support. The State has taken over \$105 million dollars from our university in the past 3 years so we need your help. It is our priority to retain the best faculty and the brightest and engaged students here at FSU. We cannot do that without philanthropic dollars. If we do not have the programs, the professorships or the scholarships that it takes to be as successful as possible then we stand a dangerous chance of losing what makes Florida State University so special. Giving back to Florida State University's College of Social Work is a significant opportunity that we're given. We each have the chance to make a momentous difference for the future. You're also given the chance to place your dollars exactly where you want to see them go. As your Development Director, I ask for cash gift pledges that span over a 5 year period or making a planned gift by leaving the College in your will. We are also in need of annual dollars for our Tradition of Excellence Fund, which directly impacts opportunities for our College. These dollars make it possible for professional development, continuing education events,



Colette Podgorski
Director of Development
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and guest colloquiums. Alumni gifts also benefit student scholarships, community projects, and educational travel expenses for both students and faculty.

I do want to give a couple wonderful highlights of

major gifts for the 2012 Calendar year. Maxine Thurston-Fischer and her husband, Kenneth Fischer, M.D. gave a more than generous estate gift of \$400,000 that will benefit the Social Work General Scholarship Fund directed toward scholarships to needy students. Guy and Delores Spearman completed their gift for the Arts & Athletics Community Outreach Program for at-Risk Youth and also made a commitment to FSU Healthy Dating 101, an online toolkit designed to educate students, student leaders, athletes, LGBTQ students, college veterans, and student organizations about dating and sexual violence.

Programs that we are currently seeking donations for in addition to the annual fund, scholarships and professorships include:

- The Trinity Institute for Addictions – focuses on biopsychosocial approaches toward the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and dependence across all domains of practice.
- The Geriatric Practicum Program- provides support for stipends, training and mentoring to students interested in gerontology.
- The Institute for Family Violence Studies- prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Community Outreach Programs for at-risk youth (e.g., arts and athletics), the, homeless, and child welfare.

Please contact me, I would love to discuss your philanthropic goals and where Florida State University is in that picture. No one can do everything but everyone can do something!

Alumni: Updates

2012

David L. Albright, PhD is a recent graduate of the College and is currently an assistant professor at the University of Missouri School of Social Work.

Mike Killian, MSW, PhD has accepted a prestigious, international postdoctoral fellowship at the Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work and Social Care Research beginning in August, 2012. He will be based in London, England. As a postdoctoral fellow, he will assist social work faculty at the University of Bedfordshire in researching child welfare issues. Mike's wife April is also an MSW graduate.

2011

Shaleiah Fox, MPA, MSW is currently the program director for Alcolock Texas and volunteers as a guardian ad litem in Austin, Texas.

James P. Canfield, PhD is a recent graduate of the College and is currently an assistant professor at North Kentucky University's College of Education and Human Services.

Brittany Wilkins, PhD is an assistant professor at East Tennessee State University Department of Social Work.

2009

Kristy Gillispie, MSW is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin focusing on children with incarcerated parents.

Michael Womack, MSW, LCSW is a social worker at the Mayo Clinic in the transplant division located in Jacksonville, Florida.

2007

Jessica Bradstreet, MSW recently completed her LCSW and specializes in child welfare. She currently works at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kim Burbank, MSW is deploying with the US Marine Corps to Helmand Province in Afghanistan.

2006

Hyunkag Cho, PhD is an assistant professor at the Michigan State University School of Social Work. His research is primarily focused on intimate partner violence with an emphasis on criminal justice intervention and immigrants.

Cynthia Pelham, MSW works currently for the Veteran Affairs hospital in Concord, North Carolina.

2005

Bill Wertman, MSW was honored with the Top 10 Deserving and Dedicated Social Workers Award from Social Work Today Magazine.

2004

Jacqueline Gonzales, MSW is now working as a disability examiner in North Carolina.

Jodi Schulman, MSW is a California native currently working for the military in San Diego, California on a pilot program helping families with deployment. She also maintains a private practice specializing in counseling adolescents.

2003

Jane Allgood, PhD is a clinical associate professor at the University of Southern California College of Social Work.

Johnny M. Jones, PhD is an assistant professor at Baylor University's School of Social Work.

Dana N. Morris-Brooks, Esq., MSW received her BSW(2001), MSW (2003) and Juris Doctorate (2007) from FSU and is currently a trial lawyer in Tallahassee, Florida.



2002

Jerry Callens, MSW is the executive director for Christian Family Services, a counseling center and adoption placement agency.

1998

Ilene Scharf, MSW, LCSW runs a practice in Melbourne, Florida primarily in child and family therapy.

1997

Hanan K. Bilal, BSW was honored with the Top 10 Deserving and Dedicated Social Workers Award from Social Work Today Magazine.

David Springer, PhD served as former Dean of Portland State University's School of Social Work, the only public undergraduate and the only graduate social work program in Oregon. Formerly he was a professor at University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and director of their Inter-American Institute of Youth Justice. He received his BA in psychology (1990) and his MSW (1992) and PhD (1997) in social work from FSU.

Irene Wainwright, MSW is the manager of psychosocial and bereavement services at Haven Hospice in Gainesville, Florida.

1996

Terry Sweat, MSW is the health department administrator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

1995

Roshawn Banks, JD, BSW recently ran for circuit judge in Ft. Lauderdale and is practicing real estate law. She earned her BSW from FSU and her law degree from the University of Florida.

Mary Rutledge, MSW is currently working for Veterans Affairs in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1994

JoAnne King, MSW administrative director for Florida Hospital Hospice Care that oversaw expanding hospice services into Orange and Osceola counties, was promoted to vice president of ancillary services, overseeing several departments.

1993

Miguel Fernandez, MSW is the assistant deputy director for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and his wife Lisa Fernandez, MSW is in private practice in Georgia.

Cheryl Harrington, MSW maintains a private practice in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, specializing in sex therapy and with an interest in the LGBT community.

Jay Seligman, MSW is a captain United States Air Force and has played several roles while in the armed forces and plans to retire in two years and to continue to use his social work degree.

Richard Turner, MSW currently works for Veteran Affairs in Salisbury, North Carolina.

1992

Heather Gallagher, MSW is the supervisor of Veteran Affairs in Orlando, Florida.

Karen Morris, MSW has had many roles as a social worker, but is currently a public school teacher in Jacksonville, Florida. Along with her fellow teachers, Ms. Morris helped to create a tutoring center free for students called the McKenzie Center.

John Peterson, MSW is the social worker on the Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties Big Ben Hospice (BBH) team. Acting as the "first impression" for BBH, John sets a positive tone for the services patients and their family members can expect to receive. He is also the 2012 winner of the Elaine Bartelt Award recognizing a social worker, counselor or grief support counselor making a significant contribution to counseling practice.

1990

Sophia Dziegielewski, PhD has recently been appointed interim director of the Social Work Program at the University of Central Florida.

1988

Ira Ehrlich, MSW is the Chief Operation Officer at Behavior Analyst Certification Board in Tallahassee, Florida.

1987

Kia J. Bentley, PhD is a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work.

1986

Karen Sowers, PhD is Dean and Beaman Professor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Social Work. She received her doctorate (1986) and MSW (1977) from FSU.

Barbara W. White, PhD recently retired after 18 years as a professor and Dean at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work. Formerly she was the Associate Dean for the FSU College of Social Work and Director of the MSW Program. She received her PhD(1986), MSW (1975)and BSW(1974) from FSU.

1984

Lesia Sipperly, MSW recently started her own private practice with a specialization in horse therapy in North Carolina. Cynthia Turner, MSW worked for the state of Florida for five years, has worked for the state of Georgia for 21 years and is working on her doctorate at Kennesaw State University. She also received her BSW from Florida A & M University.

1983

Janet A. Courtney, PhD, LCSW received her BSW from FSU in 1983 and her MSW and doctorate from Barry University. She is director of Developmental Play & Attachment Therapies, Inc. and is an adjunct professor at Barry University's School of Social Work. She is currently working on a children's book on play therapy.

1981

Karen Ring, MSW recently retired and is residing on the island of Barbados.

1980

Leslie Sahler, MSW, LCSW maintains a private practice with a focus on trauma in Gainesville, FL.

1978

Eileen Garcia, MSW is presently working as a home health medical social worker in the Tampa Bay area.

1977

Bonnie Campbell, MSW received both her MSW and BSW from FSU. She has worked as a social work on several military bases setting up domestic violence programs, worked for the Atlanta court system as an advocate and served as the executive director of a domestic violence agency in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently the program director for Big Brothers Big Sisters in San Diego, California.

1975

Hiram Ruiz, MSW is the Department of Children and Families director of Refugee Services and has contributed a series of blog post about his trip to Asia to DCF's blog My Florida Families (blog.myflfamilies.com).

1974

Ann Menard, MSW is currently an agency supervisor for home care in Tallahassee, Florida.

1969

William Meezan, PhD, MSW is a child welfare scholar and educator and was named Mary Ann Quaranta Chair of Social Justice for Children and distinguished professor at Fordham University. Previously he served as Director of Policy and Research for Children's Rights, a national advocacy organization. Dr. Meezan received his doctorate from Columbia University and his MSW from FSU in 1969.

1966

Robert Segalman, MSW, PhD, published his autobiography, "Against the Current, My Life with Cerebral Palsy." The book is available for free online at www.drboobsautobiography.org or in print for a donation, which go to Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, Inc (501c3).

IN MEMORIAM

Terry L. Lightfoot, MSW received his MSW from FSU in 2002 and his BSW from Saint Leo University in 1998.

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