The knowledge to change the world

UB SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY RESEARCH REPORT 2005–06
Friends and Colleagues,

The University at Buffalo School of Social Work proudly presents our 2005–06 annual research report. During the past academic year, the school welcomed new faculty members, including Dr. Catherine Dulmus, newly appointed Director of the Buffalo Center for Social Research, and Dr. Mansoor Kazi, Director of the Program Evaluation Center, part of our Institute for Nonprofit Agencies.

This was an especially productive year at the school as our faculty doubled the number of scholarly presentations given, and doubled the number of grant applications submitted compared to 2004–05. In this publication, the work of our faculty is spotlighted, as are their research interests, recent scholarship, teaching/clinical accomplishments, and relevant past work. We trust you will find their work as interesting as it is diverse.

We invite you to browse and meet our faculty—living proof that at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work, research makes a difference.
I am currently developing the Sexual Life History Calendar, an innovative approach for studying young women’s sexualities. The method’s strengths lie both in what it yields for researchers (i.e., reliable, contextually embedded data), and in what it offers participants: an opportunity to chart their sexual histories and literally see trends and connections between sexual and nonsexual life domains. In this way, I hope to both study and promote young women’s sexual subjectivity and critical consciousness.

Laina Y. Bay-Cheng, Assistant Professor
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Construction of adolescent sexuality, cultivation of young women’s sexual subjectivity, gendered power, youth empowerment, feminist theories and methods.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“My current research and other work are concentrated in the areas of child welfare and the well-being of women and children, including immigrants. Years of social work experience in New York City, one of the most global cities in the world, helped broaden my interests to the international arena. My next project is a study of violence against women in Pakistan. This research will involve interviews with women who reside at DASTAK, a refuge for women in Lahore, Pakistan, as well as staff and the founders of the organization who are working on behalf of human and women’s rights.”

Filomena M. Critelli, Assistant Professor
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare policy and practice, family policy, youth development, immigration and human rights issues.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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As a former child protection social (CPS) worker and trainer in Washington State, I have been interested in how CPS workers make decisions, especially around the issues of child risk and safety, and more generally, how child protection involvement with a family impacts upon clinical practice. Much of my research has focused on these two issues. More recently, I have looked at programs designed to facilitate transitions towards independence for young adults with developmental disabilities.

Howard J. Doueck, Professor and Associate Dean for Research
Ph.D. University of Washington
M.S.W. University of Washington
M.A. Brooklyn College, The City University of New York
B.A. Brooklyn College, The City University of New York

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Decision making in child protection, child abuse and neglect, assessment of risk, mandated reporting, child welfare.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


LIVING PROOF RESEARCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE
Catherine N. Dulmus, Associate Professor and Research Center Director

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child mental health, violence, prevention.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


Catherine N. Dulmus, Ph.D. University at Buffalo
M.S.W. University at Buffalo
B.S.W. Buffalo State College

“Collaboration between researchers and the practice community is essential if the most relevant research questions are to be examined and their findings integrated back into the practice community. As a researcher with interests in school and community violence and children’s mental health as well as Director of the Buffalo Center for Social Research, my recent contributions have focused on fostering interdependent collaborations among practitioners, researchers, schools, and agencies critical in the advancement and dissemination of new and meaningful knowledge.”
“My research has been inspired by my long-standing commitment to, and years of social work practice with, vulnerable populations of adolescents. My scholarship has focused primarily on the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youths, and the development of HIV prevention interventions for adolescents in foster care. Currently, I am investigating service needs, service access, and service utilization among transgender youths and adults; including policies and practices that facilitate appropriate service delivery to this population.”

Diane E. Elze
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Ph.D. University of Washington
M.S.S.A. Case Western Reserve University
B.S. University of Maine

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Risk and protective factors for sexual minority youth; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered issues in service utilization; HIV prevention interventions with adolescents; adolescent health and mental health.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


Susan A. Green, Clinical Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Children and families, trauma, resiliency, community.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT
I am currently working on a project along with Sharon Herlehy, MSW, Assistant Director of Field Education at UB School of Social Work, addressing the issue of vicarious traumatization among court personnel, court referees, and lawyers. According to recent studies, symptoms of vicarious traumatization include sleep disturbance, loss of appetite, anxiety, depression, stress, overeating, sadness, feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, loss of faith in God or humanity, fatigue, anger, intolerance of others, irritability, frustration, cynicism, fear of perpetrator, difficulty concentrating, hyper-vigilance, guilt flashbacks, nightmares, cognitive flooding, hypersensitivity, feeling overwhelmed, and PTSD. Stated differently, victims of vicarious traumatization experienced cognitive, emotional, physiological, spiritual, and interpersonal symptoms.

Sharon Herlehy and I are co-facilitators for a bimonthly group of court personnel, court referees, and lawyers.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


“Social Work is a privileged profession in that it allows us to interface with all parts of humanity. I have worked as both a practitioner and educator for almost twenty years, with so many people in so many settings. My experiences have continually given me opportunity to be witness to the human spirit. I so believe in the resiliency of all individuals, and when I teach, I also believe in tapping into the strength of each student.”
“My interests include the evaluation of the effectiveness of social work and other human service interventions and in particular the development of real-time evaluation approaches and methodologies to investigate what interventions work and in what contexts. The methodologies include statistical methods to investigate the patterns and interconnections between the interventions, outcomes, and contexts, e.g., the use of binary logistic regression alongside experimental or quasi-experimental designs, drawing upon both the epidemiology and effectiveness traditions.”

Mansoor A. F. Kazi
Research Associate Professor and Director, Program Evaluation Center
Ph.D., University of Huddersfield
M.A., University of Hull
B.S., London School of Economics


RESEARCH INTERESTS
Program evaluation including investigating what interventions work and in what circumstances; “clear box” evaluations of social work, health, education and other human services; experimental and quasi-experimental research designs combined with binary logistic regression.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Kazi, M. A. F., & Varlow, J. (2006, February). Combining quasi-experimental designs with binary logistic regression to investigate not only what interventions work, but also in what circumstances. The Sixth International Campbell Colloquium, Los Angeles, CA.
“My research focuses broadly on factors that inhibit the provision of, and access to, health and mental health care services. I am particularly concerned about individuals from traditionally oppressed backgrounds who have limited financial means to access quality health care and the federal government’s use of various mechanisms (such as managed care) that partition people out of care. My current research efforts focus on people of color living with HIV and racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes.”

Robert H. Keefe
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Ph.D. University at Albany, The State University of New York
M.S.S.A. Case Western Reserve University
B.A. Ithaca College

Robert H. Keefe, Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Health disparities, HIV, evidence-based approaches to mental health treatment, and health and mental health care access.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Keefe, R.H. & Lane, S.D. (2003, October). Where’s the justice? Fieldwork supervisors speak out on the skills BSW students need to enter fieldwork practice. 21st annual conference of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Reno, NV.


Kim, W., Kim, S. (2006). From good girls to being left with the shell of women: Drinking experiences among Korean women. Second International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Chicago, IL.


Kathleen A. Kost, Associate Professor, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the MSW Program
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin/Madison
M.S.S.W., University of Wisconsin/Madison
M.A., University of Wisconsin/Madison
B.A. University of Wisconsin/Madison


“Throughout my career as a social work researcher, I have been interested in the ways in which culture plays a role in mental health symptoms and behaviors among minority groups, especially Asian-Americans. These days I am focusing on how immigrants change (or do not change) their drinking behaviors in a new environment and why. Current projects include a focus group study on drinking culture among Korean-Canadian elders.”

Kim, W., & Kim, S. (2006). From good girl to being left with the shell of women: Drinking experiences among Korean women. Second International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Chicago, IL.


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Ph.D., University of Wisconsin/Madison
M.S.S.W., University of Wisconsin/Madison
M.A., University of Wisconsin/Madison
B.A. University of Wisconsin/Madison


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


“The primary focus of my research is the study of the distribution of services and support by public and nonprofit organizations and their effects in reducing the problems associated with poverty. This work has focused on the impact of poverty and its associated conditions and events on individuals, organizations, and communities. Recent work extends this interest to the role of social capital and its influence on a community’s response to both natural and human disasters.”
Denise J. Krause, 
Clinical Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Families, interventions, education.

REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


“Social work education is exciting and challenging. In conjunction with colleagues, I am currently involved in two projects focused on different aspects of teaching. The first project is the conceptualization and application of an integrated teaching model designed for instructors of interventions courses. The second project, funded by an educational technology grant, will result in the production of an interactive CD that demonstrates the process and construction of genograms.”

Thomas H. Nochajski
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Ph.D. University at Buffalo
B.A. University at Buffalo

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Prevention for alcohol and other drug problems with children and families; screening, assessment, and treatment of the criminal justice population; program and practice evaluation; and research methodology.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


“My current projects are focused on the three types of prevention: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The primary prevention project is focused on evaluation of a family-based prevention program (Strengthening Families Program) used with children of alcoholics, aged nine to twelve at the time of the program. On the secondary prevention front, one project focuses on convicted driving under the influence (DUI) offenders who attend the Drinking Driver Programs (DDP); a second study considers assessment of convicted DUI offenders and what characteristics identified in the assessment relate to subsequent arrests or development of alcohol or other drug problems. Within the tertiary prevention area, one project is focused on whether the brief client-centered approaches reduce subsequent risk more than standard disease model abstinent-oriented approaches for DUI offenders; a second project considers the impact of mental health problems, or comorbidity, on enrollment, retention, completion, and recidivism for standard drug court participants; and a third is focused in a family treatment court, where interest is in whether the court aids in getting the individual sober, and increasing the likelihood of success for parent and child reunification.”

Denise J. Krause
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

M.S.S.W. Columbia University
B.A. Binghamton University

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problems six months following remedial program participation. American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 32(1), 121–133.


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


Nochajski, T. H. (2004, October). Best practices for DWI rehabilitation programs. 5th Annual Ignition Interlock Symposium, Tempe, AZ.


“My research over the past ten years has largely focused on child welfare practices. Social work has deep roots in child welfare practice and at the present time I am co-director of program evaluation, New York State Social Work Education Consortium that focuses on child welfare research. I have looked at differential uses of B.S.W. and M.S.W.s in child welfare settings, placement, and replacement patterns in child welfare, and the uses of group work with children as well as adult survivors of abuse and neglect. My current projects include examining factors that facilitate functional adaptation to new foster homes in foster children and possible factors associated with adoption disengagement.”

Barbara A. Rittner
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PH.D. PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Ph.D. Barry University
M.S.W. Barry University
B.A. University of Connecticut

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare, interventions, group work.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
“My research is focused on children with disabilities who are victims of maltreatment. I developed three projects that included: (1) a survey of state child welfare systems that examined intake and assessment procedures for children with disabilities, (2) a constructivist analysis of the experience of children with disabilities in one child welfare office, and (3) a national needs assessment of the ability of state child welfare systems to meet the needs of children with disabilities.”

Lawrence Shulman, Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Social work practice, child welfare, group work, school violence, groups.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Patrick Shannon, Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Developmental disabilities, early intervention, program evaluation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
"My current research interests are in the intersection between mental health, trauma, and substance use disorders especially related to complex trauma, a condition that involves affect dysregulation, impulse control problems, interpersonal problems, substance abuse, self-harm, and dissociation. I’m also interested in alternative clinical interventions (e.g., EMDR, mindfulness meditation), especially as they relate to mental health, trauma, and addiction. Finally, because my own work includes both research and practice, I am interested in identifying effective strategies for integrating, blending, and bridging social work practice and research.”

Nancy J. Smyth

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Interventions, including alternative interventions; alcohol/substance abuse; co-occurring disorders; psychological trauma including complex trauma; blending and bridging practice and research; technology transfer.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


"The guiding principle of my philosophy of teaching is that I am involved in a relationship with a student that is focused on their motivation to learn. It makes sense to me that I learn as well or along with the student. We are joined in our efforts to connect what happens in class to what happens in the real world (‘out there’) in practical ways.”

Peter Sobota
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
M.S.W. University at Buffalo
B.A. University at Buffalo

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Interventions, addictions, social work applications in non-traditional settings.

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Social Work (August 2001–present)
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Social Work (1996–December 2000)
Manager, Employee Assistance Program, Motorola, Inc.
Member, Board of Directors, Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.
President, Board of Education, Springville-Griffith Central School District

Charles Syms, Clinical Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Addictions, interventions, child welfare.

PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

My area of interest is substance use and misuse. After spending many years in several different fields of practice, it was apparent to me that substance use and misuse frequently had a significant impact on the individuals and families that I was working with. As a result, I believe that the well-trained social work professional of today must have an understanding of the etiology of substance use and misuse in the client system they work with, as well as skills of engagement and, where appropriate, prevention and/or intervention.”

Charles Syms
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
M.S.W. California State University - Sacramento
B.A. Buffalo State College
"My research focuses on aging and end-of-life care, particularly in how terminally ill older adults and their families face an approaching death, make decisions about how to manage increasing needs for care, how caregivers adapt to loss and how formal service utilization affects their adaptation. I am exploring the differences in how end-of-life care is delivered in urban and rural areas with particular attention to the interrelationship between formal (health and social service) and informal (family and support system) caregivers."

Deborah P. Waldrop
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Ph.D. Oklahoma State University
M.S.W. Syracuse University
B.A. Pennsylvania State University

Deborah P. Waldrop, Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Aging, healthcare, end of life, and human development.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
“The focus of my work is primarily on Native American and other indigenous populations with a secondary interest in refugee populations. I am currently funded by the National Cancer Institute for the project ‘Healthy Living in Two Worlds.’ This project began with an assessment of the health behaviors of urban Native American youth ages nine to thirteen in Buffalo and Niagara Falls with a particular focus on recreational tobacco use, dietary practices, and active versus sedentary lifestyles. We are also gathering information from caregivers for a subset of these youth. This information informs the development of a culturally specific wellness curriculum that was pilot-tested with Native American youth in Buffalo from July 10 to August 10, 2006.”

Hilary N. Weaver

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

D.S.W. Columbia University
M.S. Columbia University
B.A. Antioch College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Culturally competent social work practice, indigenous peoples.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Weaver, H. N. (in press). The professional training of Native American psychologists: A comfortable fit or more cultural loss? Transformations.


REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


Weaver, H. N. (2003). Putting it all together: Resources to enhance your teaching. Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

David Patterson
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. University of Louisville/University of Kentucky
M.S.W. University of Louisville
B.S.W. Spalding University

“The major area of clinical research currently being developed focuses on retaining special, hard-to-reach populations in alcohol and drug treatment services. Although there are sound clinical research studies focusing specifically on treatment retention problems, the main area of my past research concentrates on those who quickly terminate services, such as HIV-infected individuals and those living in extreme poverty. Upcoming treatment retention research hopes to include Native American populations within the Western New York area.”

Adjoa Robinson
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Washington University in St. Louis
M.S.W. Howard University
B.S. University of Maryland

“My research and writing focuses on family involvement in children’s mental health services with an emphasis on planning and decision-making and family-professional partnerships, as well as community-based interventions to reduce health disparities and build organizational capacities in African-American communities. Currently, I am principal investigator of a SAMHSA grant examining the influence of caregiver involvement in service planning and provider cultural competence on child and caregiver functional outcomes.”

BUFFALO CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
CATHERINE DULMUS, DIRECTOR

Located within the UB School of Social Work is the Buffalo Center for Social Research. Committed to promoting a culture of research in the School of Social Work, the center facilitates faculty and graduate students’ research programs by providing assistance in securing extramural support for their scholarly, research, teaching, and community service activities through individual, collaborative, and interdisciplinary grant proposal submissions.

Our vision is to:

- Be an international leader in social work research to improve social functioning and inform public policy;
- Facilitate interdisciplinary research that creates knowledge required to intervene across multiple systems and client groups;
- Establish appropriate intra- and inter-institutional affiliations and consortia to carry out this research;
- Present and publish research results in the public domain, disseminating major findings to the scientific community, policy makers, and to the social work profession;
- Be a training ground for graduate students and new investigators.

Established in 2005, we are off to a great beginning! As this research report indicates, Dean Smyth and the faculty are united in building the Buffalo Center for Social Research enterprise. All are successful scholars who are engaged in important research in a variety of areas, including addictions, aging, evidence-based practice, gender issues, trauma, and violence. In its first year, the center assisted faculty in submitting over $13 million in grant proposals. With current funding sources, including the Hartford Foundation, National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, National Cancer Institute, New York State Office of Mental Health, and the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, we look forward to our second year with much excitement and anticipation of continuing success.

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NEW FACULTY