

MOSAICS



How do YOU MSW?

Alumni share how they're applying their social work training outside of traditional social work domains

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Commencement 2018

Check out our newest class of graduates—aka freshly minted SSW alumni. We say congrats.

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“Water, the Environment and a Socially Just World”

Third annual symposium explores connections between social work and environmental justice

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News of the SCHOOL

COMINGS & GOINGS

Rachel Blane joined our resource management team as a staff assistant. Blane was previously with UB's Office of Student Accounts for over three years, where her most recent title was residency coordinator.

Joshua Hine has accepted the position of assistant director for student services. He comes to us from The College at Brockport where he served as the second year experience coordinator.

Lina R. Vinder has joined UBSSW as the new director of academic processes and data operations. Vinder comes to us from UB's Graduate School of Education, where she served in a variety of positions; most recently, for over seven years, she held the title of assistant director of enrollment, research and accreditation.

Alison Grizzard, staff assistant for resource management, has moved out of state to pursue other opportunities.

Director of Academic Processes and Data Operations **Leah Feroletto Walsh** left to pursue other endeavors and spend more time with family.

STUDENT NEWS

Part-time advanced standing MSW student **Megan Carroll** participated in World Social Work Day at the United Nations. This event provides students and professionals the opportunity to discuss emerging issues, such as climate change, with the social work profession. Read her blog post about this experience: <https://tinyurl.com/social-work-UN>

MSW graduate **Jessica Clark, MSW '18**, was awarded a highly competitive fellowship through the Veteran's Administration. She will be part of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

Recent alum **Emily Hammer, MSW '18**, received the Western Division NASW MSW Student of the Year 2018 award. This award is given to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence and personifies the values of social work as defined by the NASW Professional Code of Ethics.

PROMOTIONS

Isok Kim was promoted to associate professor. In his research, Kim examines factors influencing the quality of health and well-being among immigrants and refugees in the United States. He is engaged with local refugee communities to conduct community-based participatory research (CBPR), dedicating his time and passion to promote community-driven agendas directly benefitting their community members. His recently published article, "Behavioral health symptoms among refugees from Burma: Examination of sociodemographic and migration-related factors," appeared in the Asian American Journal of Psychology.

For the newly approved doctorate of social work program, **Louanne Bakk**, assistant clinical professor, has been named director. (See story on p. 13)

Laina Bay-Cheng, associate professor and PhD program director, accepted the position of associate dean for doctoral programs.

NATIONAL NEWS

Assistant Professor **Elizabeth Bowen** made national news with her research expertise on homelessness among youth and adults, a topic that is increasingly in the news as homelessness rises. Websites Futurity and Legal Insurrection and newspapers including Utah's Standard-Examiner, Oregon's Statesmen Journal and the Buffalo News were among those reporting.

Assistant Professor **Noelle St. Vil** was quoted, and her ongoing research regarding intimate partner violence and its lingering emotional damage was referenced, in an article on the website Psych Central, as well as in articles on other sites, including Science Daily, Medical Xpress and ScienMag.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Clinical Assistant Professor **Todd Sage** was accepted to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Education Program (ADEP) for social work faculty. With support from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the program trains social work faculty and educates social work graduate students in empirically supported alcohol and other drug (AOD) identification and treatment methods. It also incorporates AOD content into the curricula of schools of social work nationwide.

Congratulations to **Dean Nancy J. Smyth**! She has been selected as the University at Albany's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. This award honors extraordinary achievement, national and/or international recognition or an individual who over the course of a decade or greater has exhibited outstanding success in their profession or in outstanding service to society. Smyth has been dean of the school since 2004; she joined us in 1991 as an assistant professor.

Highlights of her accomplishments since becoming dean include integrating a trauma-informed and human rights perspective throughout the master's curriculum, establishing the Buffalo Center for Social Research, expanding international education and research and raising the rankings of the MSW program to the top 10 percent in the United States.

Professor **Hilary Weaver** was elected to the CSWE Board of Directors as the vice chair/secretary for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Elizabeth Mauro, MSW '92, was honored with the 2018 Western Division NASW Lifetime Achievement Award. She is the chief executive officer at Endeavor Health Services and has nearly 30 years of experience in the social work field.

For other alumni news, see Classnotes, p 14-15

GLOBAL & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



As part of the university's international exchange program, a delegation from the Ukraine that works with women's health issues, including human trafficking, visited with Associate Professor **Gretchen Ely, MSW/PhD**, student **Erin Bascug** and incoming PhD student **Honour Odigie**. The group discussed our trauma-informed, human rights perspective, as well as our curriculum, online program and potential research collaborations.

UBSSW sponsored World Refugee Day in Western New York for the fifth consecutive year. The event was founded by **Ali Kadhum MSW '14**, and many students and alumni continue to be involved. In her comments at the event, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Hilary Weaver noted that the history of social work in the United States is intertwined with the history of immigration. She iterated that through the school's trauma-informed, human rights perspective, we aim to educate social workers to become allies and advocates; that the UBSSW is proud to stand in solidarity with refugees and immigrants.

NEW PROGRAM

The school is pleased to announce that we will begin offering a doctorate in social work (DSW) degree in social welfare. The professional practice doctorate, versus the PhD, is becoming more sought after across allied health professions. The part-time, fully online program debuts in the fall of 2019. See page 13 for more details.

FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

Over the years, I've observed the career paths of many alumni. Some stay within traditional social work jobs, and some go outside of the profession's traditional domains. Often alumni working outside the profession apologize; when they do, I ask if they feel they are still using their social work skills, values and perspective. They always answer "yes." These "alternative path" alumni have a gift to offer all of us. They help all social workers understand what we bring to any context; many social workers are unable to fully articulate all that we bring to our work, and, end up undervaluing ourselves and our work.

--- We have skills in understanding people, complex systems and complex problems, and the interconnections between people and their environments—those elements are prevalent everywhere, not just in human service settings. We know the importance of diversity; how to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among people from different backgrounds. And our core values, such as social justice, the dignity and worth of individuals, integrity, competence and the centrality of human relationships are all elements that our society desperately needs. As social workers, we bring those perspectives and skills to whatever we do.

Just imagine, for example, if Exxon had employed a social worker in a key work oversight role that focused on the company's management, supervision and safety practices. Might such an influence have avoided the human-caused environmental disaster that occurred with the Exxon Valdez?

I'm excited about this issue's article featuring alumni applying their social work values in different careers. I hope it can be the start of a continuing dialogue and, in the long run, help us all to do a better job of identifying our skills and better articulate them to potential employers.

I'm also excited about our new online part-time Doctor of Social Work (DSW) in Social Welfare Program. (Please visit socialwork.buffalo.edu/dsw for more information.) We're focusing on experienced practitioners who want to take their knowledge and expertise to a higher level, to transform their real-world practice. This is called *implementation science*, that is, how to successfully translate new interventions into organizations and community systems.

We're pleased to be able to offer professional social workers the chance to further their knowledge base and capabilities with a practice-based doctoral program—encouraging them to further establish themselves as practice thought leaders.




NANCY J. SMYTH, PHD, LCSW

HOW DO YOU MSW?

Send us a brief description of how you're applying your MSW-gained skills, or how you "pitch" yourself. Are you working in a non-traditional field for a social worker? Send us a brief description at sw-mosaics@buffalo.edu

Mosaics, the newsletter of the UB School of Social Work, is produced twice a year. October, 2018. Volume 13, Number 1.

The University at Buffalo is a premier research-intensive public university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York. UB's more than 30,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 390 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

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MOSAICS



Our alumni demonstrate the versatility and applicability of the degree today

| story by **Jana Eisenberg** | illustrations by **Jennifer Rademacher**

Once you had your MSW, did you know exactly what you wanted to do? Has that remained the same, wherever you are or ended up in your career? And, in the more breathless vernacular of recent articles and school marketing campaigns: is the MSW the new MBA? The new JD?

Earning an MSW equips people with myriad skills—so many in fact, says Dean Nancy J. Smyth, that they often don't even know how much they know. Right now, across the country and around the world, in all kinds of business segments, organizations and employers are coming to realize that these "social work" skills are applicable in a huge range of work environments—not just what we think of as traditional social work jobs.

"Social workers are trained to work with diverse people across differences; to understand on many levels what contributes to identifying problems and solutions," Smyth said. "We're really good at listening and communication, at understanding both the context of and influence on what's being said. And, we're not afraid to get in there."

The emotional motivations that drive most social workers' choice of career—variations on wanting to help people and wanting to be a part of change—are also becoming more obviously essential in a variety of unexpected business settings.

"Technology is becoming much more prevalent," added Smyth. "We need social workers to keep the human in the tech—not to eschew its benefits, but to remember that it's not about the machine, it's about what it allows people to do with it."

The world will always need social workers in traditional jobs; their work is essential and time-honored. However, many people start out their social work education thinking they know exactly what they want to do, and end up in their careers with shifts, both minor and major.

HOW DO YOU MSW?



She also points out that the NASW encourages social workers to run for office—precisely because of their training and ability to work with communities. She’s convinced she’s found the match for her energy and her goals. “I care about community, about social and economic justice,” she said. “Everybody who goes into social work wants to make big changes. Working in government and politics, I believe I actually am.”

AN AFFINITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

Kathleen Callan, MSW ‘03, found her entrée into social work through a love of politics and an early teaching experience. During her final year earning a bachelor’s in “Interdisciplinary Studies: Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government,” and noticing that the subjects aligned with the high school social studies curriculum, she did a semester of student teaching.

She repeatedly found herself referring students to the school’s counseling office and going there herself, seeking answers as to why some kids weren’t succeeding. It made an impact, and when she joined her husband in a move to Buffalo for his PhD, she decided to pursue an MSW.

The first thing she’ll say about the decision is that, with an MSW as a base, “you can do anything!”

The next thing she notes is that those who choose the field frequently share common qualities.

“People who go into social work are concerned about other people,” Callan said. “Concern and empathy are a good start, but I value the skills I learned in the MSW program about how to engage and support client-driven outcomes. That, combined with true compassion and interest in people, can translate to many positive factors, including workplace coalition-building and even political campaigning.”

Callan has always known—and attests that her teachers at the School of Social Work recognized—that her strength and interests were in the administrative arena; she is now chief of administration for the Erie County District Attorney’s Office, where she writes and administers grants among other duties.

“Social workers can be effective in a government setting—I’ve used the example of former [U.S. Senator] Barbara Mikulski, who is a social worker—because we’ve been exposed to so many things; we can analyze the programs that government is trying to administer,” said Callan. “We’re at the intersection of all these orbits.”

TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGH STORYTELLING

Bonita (Bonnie) Winer, MSW ‘74, is an associate professor of instruction at Columbia College Chicago, in Cinema and Television Arts.

Winer earned her undergraduate degree in Education and found herself teaching in a special education classroom—with no training and less help from the system in which she was working. She became aware of the potential of social work education and decided to pursue it. “What we studied—understanding the systems that affect people, whether their needs are being met—felt in line with what I was looking for,” she said.

She worked in the field for a while, through a residential program for troubled youth and their families, and found that system troubling. “The schools didn’t want to adjust, the parents wanted their kids ‘fixed,’ and the kids remained identified as ‘patients,’” she said.

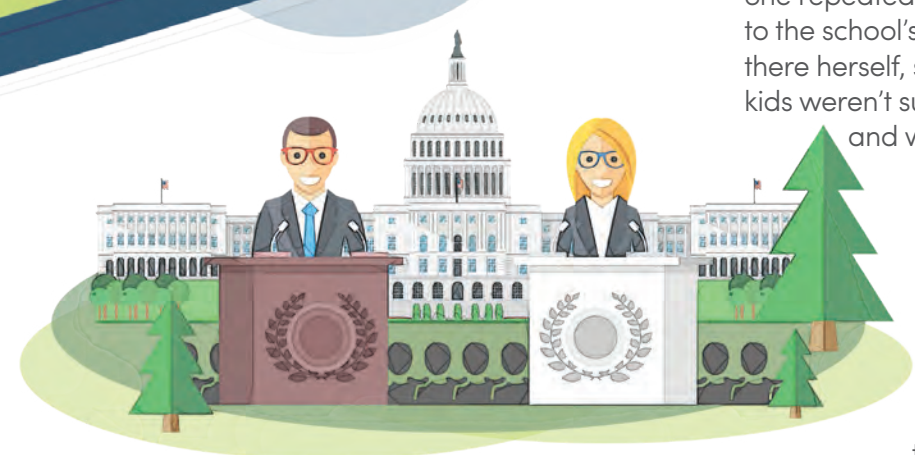
She shifted to private practice, and had another realization: “I was helping others, but something else was pulling me,” Winer said. That “something” turned out to be storytelling; she headed to California, earning an MFA in Cinema and Television at USC.

“Because of my social work background, my orientation to story content was very different,” she said. “The arts are often driven by the artist’s need to express themselves...my need felt more holistic.”

“Through stories, we can experience people, places and events we could never otherwise experience, and see new possibilities for ourselves and the world in which we live,” she added. “Storytelling is a potent vehicle of change, therapeutically and in everyday life.”

She was an editor on TV shows, feature films and documentaries in Los Angeles. “Working in Hollywood is exciting and creative, as well as challenging,” she said. “It’s not always about mutual care.”

Now, as a teacher, her experience and education benefit her students and herself. “My social work education is a powerful foundation, a guiding orientation,” she said. “It’s helpful that I can advise students, and analyze their stories, with a deeper sense of the human process.”



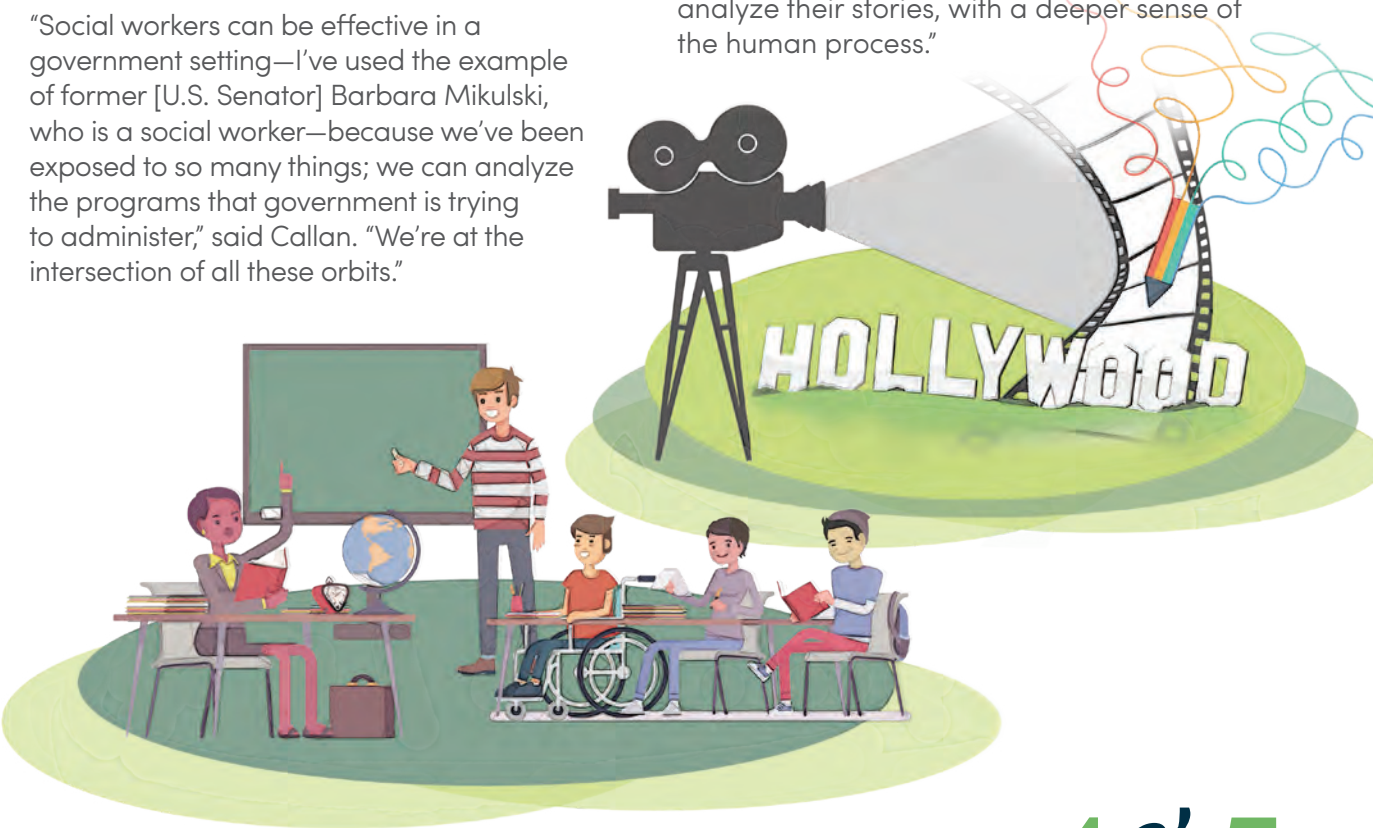
TAKING RISKS TO FIND THE RIGHT FIT

Jennifer Dunning, MSW ‘09, “fully intended” to be a medical social worker; she’s now a senior staff member for New York State Assemblymember Sean Ryan in Buffalo.

Politics and social work? A natural, said Dunning. “Each of my boss’s advisors has a different background—some in legal or government. He seeks my opinion as a social worker,” she said. “Whether working on things like policy and budget or in the office or community, I’m dealing with different personalities every day—as a social worker, I have patience, and the ability to put the pieces together for folks. It’s important to have a social worker’s voice.”

Her original goal was fueled by an early internship at the VA hospital women’s wellness center. Her eventual switch to politics was driven by several factors, including the lack of a job in her field immediately upon graduation. After several months of looking, she put a post on Facebook about needing work. “Assemblymember Sam Hoyt responded, and said, ‘Come to my office, we love social workers!’” she recollected. She began volunteering, which led to more volunteering, political involvement and, eventually, a job. She loved it.

Now she advises others considering a social work education—even if they think they know what they want—to try and be “well-rounded,” willing to take risks. “Your trajectory can change quickly,” Dunning affirmed. “If I had known where I’d end up, I might have taken a policy class; learned more about political advocacy.”



WHETHER IT’S ADOPTION, DECORATING OR SELLING HOMES, IT’S ABOUT PEOPLE

While Mary-Jean Gianquinto, MSW ‘86, knew there was flexibility in a social work degree, she’s been surprised about how it’s opened doors for her throughout her career, which has spanned traditional social work roles (working with geriatric populations, very young children, and an eventual specialization in adoption), interior design, real estate investor and, now, a Brooklyn-based real estate agent.

Gianquinto’s lifelong interest in people is a strong through line, and she appreciates social work’s broad-based versatility. “Unlike so many fields where you learn one thing and apply it in one area, social work affects everything,” she said. “It’s ‘social’; you can be a manager, run a company—it’s about learning to work with people.”

Post-MSW, she earned a degree in interior design; despite being a recent graduate in the field, Gianquinto was welcomed partly because of her social work background. “I was given a lot of responsibility right away,” she said. “As an interior designer, working with people in their homes, very personal issues can come up. I also continued to consult with New York State and private adoption agencies. Throughout that intense work, there’s a continuous theme of enjoying people and their stories; it’s been a gift.”

She believes that being in real estate with a social work background is the “best combo anyone can have.” “Real estate is also a highly charged and emotional business; I give a lot of support and have intuitive feelings about how to work with clients and other professionals,” she said. “For many people, these are among the biggest decisions they’ll make in their lives—I’m attuned to and in tune with what that is about.”



(PEOPLE + DATA) X (ANALYSIS + APPLICATION) = REAL CHANGE

Brian Pagkos, PhD ‘11, MSW ‘03, is now a vice president at M&T Bank, in the Office of the Customer Advocate; he also played a significant role in the development of the evaluation department at Community Connections of New York, a nonprofit which partners with organizations and agencies to improve services and outcomes.

His social work educational experience led to a deep realization; how powerful it is when the people behind the research data, and the community or organization that needs the analysis actually experience the resulting positive change. He became so passionate about it that he went on to earn a PhD in Social Welfare, cementing his knowledge base and skillset.

He didn’t start out seeking the macro-sphere though. “I wanted to be a clinical therapist. But early in my social work education, I realized it wasn’t my path. I wanted to make more change,” said Pagkos. “Phenomenal faculty and staff, including Zoe Koston and Kate Kost, guided me towards a community concentration.”

Working with Erie County and the Departments of Mental Health and Social Services to recruit, train and certify foster families led him to a lightbulb moment. “I began to understand the intent of our work, to improve the effectiveness of social programs,” Pagkos continued.

“You start where people are, collect and analyze data and look at policy,” he said. “Then start asking questions, like how do we inclusively advocate for what we learned? We put it back into a narrative to make actual change.”

At the bank, says Pagkos, his viewpoint and skillset are welcomed.

“Bringing a social work point of view is well received; there is a thirst for it,” he said. “It’s easy to be a social worker around other social workers—here, I’m a social worker around people who aren’t...and we’re still advocating for people who need it.”





Helping community— from social work to selling homes

| by Jim Bisco

"For us, it's about helping people." That's the value statement of Olear Team/MJ Peterson Real Estate, a phrase that characterizes the team leader's inclination since his social work pursuit four decades ago.

"Helping people has always been important to me. I've always felt gratified doing that," explained Michael Olear, MSW '84. After starting out in a broad array of social service positions including child care, developmentally disabled adult care, mental health counseling and coordinated care administration, Olear became "enamored" with the real estate profession. "It's still helping people, but more business oriented," he noted. "I always had an interest in numbers, financing and more of a global picture of how things work."

The 60-year-old real estate leader fondly recalls his experience in the School of Social Work. He was particularly influenced by then-faculty member William Epstein. "He really helped me understand the democratic process and the underlying concepts affecting the development of public policy," Olear said.

As a macro student, Olear worked for Karen Schimke, former Erie County commissioner of social services. "Some of the things I do now, I absolutely mirror from what I learned from her," he said. "One of the things she involved me in was raising awareness of the need for employer-sponsored child care at the workplace, as well as the establishment of a child care resource and referral center. I am grateful to have been involved in those efforts—there wasn't anything like that in Western New York at the time."

After receiving his social work degree, he was employed at Coordinated Care Management. It was a time when the government was realizing that an incredible number of people were languishing in hospitals and driving costs up, and that the system needed to change.

"There was a grant program that I worked on where we were trying to establish the fact that emergency response systems—pendants that people wear to easily signal for help—would actually save the system money if Medicaid or Medicare paid for them," Olear

recalled. "This was 'stone age' new technology. It had all the things that piqued my interest. We proved an incredible amount of savings."

Olear maintains that his experiences both as a student and in the field helped mold his subsequent career. "In particular, listening. That's number one," he said. "I worked with a lot of difficult clients in behavior houses at Baker Victory Services and People, Incorporated. Getting people to agree on things is huge for us."

Those accumulated skills were transferable to the need for helping people who are overwhelmed with the thought of selling the place where they lived, getting homeowners, siblings, children, stepchildren and others to agree on a plan.

"It became more experiential," he said. "We started going more in the direction of specializing in older adults; I also got active in the professional community that serves older adults. In a short period of time, I found myself on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association and the Network in Aging."

Olear also credits his experience in the UB School of Management's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in 2007 with enhancing his business acumen; he's remained an involved alumnus there, mentoring other developing businesses.

The 12-person real estate team he's built over the past 25 years, which covers all of Erie and Niagara Counties, takes a cooperative approach to ensure clients always receive the most comprehensive and helpful service—from decluttering to sensible planning to ultimately selling the home and moving. In a current Western New York housing climate averaging 54 days on the market, the Olear Team's average is 19 days, with an exceptional list price/sale price ratio of 99.4 percent.

The success is a tribute to the team's adherence to every detail in one of life's most emotional transitional experiences. And it doesn't stop there. "We try to give back in our business," Olear added. "For every house we sell, we make a donation to Meals on Wheels."

THE WRITE WAY TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Like many others, Shannon Traphagen, MSW '07, decided to become a social worker because she wanted to help people and make a difference in the world. After 10 years in the field, where she specialized in child trauma therapy and domestic abuse, "something changed," she said. Rather than working one-on-one, she wanted to be doing something where she could reach more people and be more effective.

She went to work in politics, doing research and advocacy that helped draft the groundbreaking New York State Strangulation Bill, which passed in 2010. She also spent time in marketing, before her passion for writing led her to publish several articles that had a broad and positive impact on others. She has now turned that passion into a successful career as a writer.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, a social worker turned writer, has had a huge international impact—and has influenced Traphagen's own work. Walker was a social worker before committing herself to the civil and welfare rights movements, then to her own writing as a way to get her messages out.

Traphagen is now the associate publisher of Buffalo Healthy Living magazine, where she writes articles about health and wellness, often through social justice and policy lenses. "In this economic and political environment, there's no shortage of ways to write about social work and related issues," she said. She brings in healthy eating, wellness, the environment, workplace health and more. When a piece she'd written on adult bullying got national attention, it meant a great deal to her, and proved that she could have a wider effect.

"We are all globally interconnected," said Traphagen. "Writing about these issues, globally and regionally—and how human behavior impacts these issues—is my passion, and how I best utilize my MSW degree."



UBSSW COMMENCEMENT 2018

2017-2018 STUDENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS



ANDREW J. LAUGHLIN AWARD **ALISON LOCKE**
 ANGEL MCKNIGHT-MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD **ADRIANA RAGLAND**
 ARCHIE W. SWANSON HONORARY AWARD **MARY IERACI**
 BERTHA S. LAURY THORN & ROSE AWARD **KWASI BOAITEY**
 DEBORAH ZIMMERMAN AWARD **MAYA RAMOS**
 DENA P. GOLD MEMORIAL AWARD **SAMANTHA BORON**
 DOROTHY LYNN HONORARY AWARD **CHRISTINA CERRUTI**
 DREAM AWARD **REBECCA COBIN, MADELINE OPPENHEIMER, ALLYSON ROACH**
 EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITY PRACTICE AWARD **ASHLEY KEAGLE**
 HASELTINE T. CLEMENTS MEMORIAL AWARD **ALEXANDRA FLEMING**
 JULIAN SOJDA MEMORIAL AWARD **LORIANN DEVITO**
 KRISTOPHER L. BRASELTON MEMORIAL AWARD **KADIJAH MCKENZIE**
 LOUISA CIELEN AWARD **MICHELLE SCOTT**
 MARY O'DONNELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD **JACQUELINE MCGINLEY**
 NASW AWARD **EMILY HAMMER**
 NILES CARPENTER AWARD **DEJA THOMPSON**
 OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD **TARA PETTY**
 ROSE WEINSTEIN SCHOLAR AWARD **ALYSSA BALINT**
 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD **MOLLY RITTER**
 TERESE EUSANIO MEMORIAL AWARD **COLLEEN KRISTICH**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RHO KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY 2018 INDUCTEES

Alyssa Balint
Jeremy Bartlett
Erin Bascug
Maryann Bavisotto
Gina Beach
Holly Connors
Juliette Consigny

Abigail Crosby
Miranda DelVecchio
Jacqueline Diez-Perez
Ainslie Evans
Savannah Figueroa
Alexandra Fleming
Seventy Hall

Nathaniel Hallett
Emily Jacque
Mariah Mann
Whitney Marris
Nora O'Keefe
Christopher Owen
Elise Personte

Kaitlyn Richter
Amber Ried
Rebecca Ringholz
Sonya Sanmateu
Kaitlyn Scanlon
Michael Shurmatz
Abigail Squicciarini

Erika Vertigan
Lydia Weinstein

HONORARY INDUCTEES
Daniel Auflick, MSW '14
Geraldine U. Erokwu, MSW '14

Recognizing Excellence IN RESEARCH AND FIELD EDUCATION

| by Jim Bisco

The School of Social Work's depth of community-based research is navigated toward the heart of myriad social problems via the work of faculty, students and community members themselves. At the same time, introducing the budding social worker into real-world practice via experiential field education can be of paramount influence.

In a ceremony last spring, exceptional work in those two worlds was lauded, as it is annually, in the form of Excellence in Research (EIR) awards and Field Educator of the Year honors, bestowed upon recipients who have made substantial inroads in study and mentorship. Herewith are those who were honored and their stories.



Left to right: Catherine Dulmus, Nancy Smyth, Annette Semanchin Jones, Annahita Ball, Elizabeth Bowen, Gretchen Ely.



FACULTY Award

*Faculty research focuses
on need for cross-systems
collaboration for youth*

The research impetus has a logical base: systems working together toward a societal betterment. The execution, however, is hazy when it comes to ways through which the homeless services, child welfare and educational systems could collaborate to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children and youth.

This was the task addressed by Assistant Professors Annahita Ball, Elizabeth Bowen and Annette Semanchin Jones, who collaborated on the cross-system approach to help eliminate the elevated risk of educational problems such as poor grades, bullying, high absenteeism and dropping out experienced by students affected by poverty, homelessness, maltreatment and educational disadvantage.

The study design was informed by a life-course framework, eliciting young adults' retrospective recall of childhood experiences interacting with multiple systems. The research team took steps to enhance the scientific rigor of the design, data collection process and analyses of the qualitative study.

"This project is exciting to me because while we all know that systems *should* work together better, not much research has examined *how* this can be accomplished," said Bowen. "I hope that our project can help to address this gap by highlighting the voices of the young people and the providers who are involved in multiple systems."

Ball explained how homelessness and child welfare services influence the youth she is used to working with in education, "and how the education system is often a siloed system with different norms, values and expectations than many of our other social service systems."

Semanchin Jones summed up the significance of the collaboration that brings individual expertise in child welfare, youth homelessness and education systems to deepen the overall understanding of the experiences of vulnerable youth.

"It seems even clearer that we need more opportunities such as this to work together on finding strategies across systems to improve outcomes for children, youth and families – whether that is through research, practice or policy-making," she noted.

Comprehensive field education makes lasting connections

Brandi Biddeman, MSW '01, has been a social work therapist and behavioral health social worker with VA Western New York Healthcare System for 18 years, the last 10 of which she has also served as a field educator for the School of Social Work. Her experience as a student has had a lasting influence she wanted to share.

Providing individual and group therapies, Biddeman's area of specialization is evidenced-based psychotherapies for depression, PTSD and insomnia. "I don't believe in keeping people in therapy forever just to chit-chat. We do very intensive structured therapies, and then discharge them. I see the results every day, all the time," she explained. "This approach allows for improved outcomes for veterans and the ability to increase access to care as veterans see improvements and decreased need for services more quickly."

Biddeman's MSW interns are exposed to all treatment modalities and groups during their internships at VA. "I love being a field educator. In modeling trauma-informed care and ethical social work, I have the ability to shape the future practice in our discipline. It also keeps me fresh, making me a better social worker," she said.



Field Educator OF THE YEAR Award



Brandi Biddeman



Left to right: Nancy Smyth, Brad Linn, Carol Scott.



STUDENT Award

Student study on veterans' PTSD/substance abuse gains insights

While post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is common among veterans and is associated with significant impairment, it rarely comes alone. Often, substance use problems accompany PTSD. Using

survey data from 396 veterans, a study by then-PhD student Brad Linn, MSW '18, aimed to better understand the relation between veteran mental health and substance use.

"My interest was inspired by former first lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's national endeavor, the Joining Forces program, to get veterans the help that they need and a call for the rest of us to help ease their transition into society," said Linn. "While I was a graduate student at UB, I worked on a project that brought that same set of goals and values to the local level, known as Joining Forces UB."

Linn, 37, is proud of the fact that he himself recruited all 396 veterans in his study. "This was my personal network; my efforts. I leveraged the power of social media," he said. "As doctoral students, when we transition out of graduate school into full-time jobs, we usually don't have data. The nice thing about this project is that it gives me my own data to work with for a couple of years while I'm building other projects." He currently has a postdoctoral fellowship at UB, funded by the National Institutes of Health; he will develop his own research agenda and secure grant funding before transitioning into a tenure track job.

One of the things he hopes his study will add to the social work field is the understanding that veterans can't be treated uniformly. "When they present for treatment, it's up to social workers and other members of the helping profession to really get to know the veteran, understand what their symptoms look like, understand what their childhood was like, understand what the genesis of the symptoms was, and then develop a personalized plan for treatment, rather than a cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approach," he said.



Left to right: Nancy Smyth, Kathleen Grimm, Sandra Lauer, Shannon King, Beata Dobson, Juli Chikaraishi, Deborah Waldrop.



COMMUNITY Award

Making a difference with facilitated end-of-life family conversations

Kathleen Grimm, MD, director of supportive care services and palliative medicine, and Sandra Lauer, RN, director of continuum of care, at Erie County Medical Center are investigating how advance care planning influences well-

being in bereaved caregivers. The study is exploring how a facilitated conversation about end-of-life wishes influence caregivers' perceptions of the final stage of a loved one's life and well-being in bereavement. The work evolved together with SSW Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development Deborah Waldrop's longstanding work in the field.

"We're significantly focused on training, including interdisciplinary, with social workers, chaplains, nurses and doctors on how to use a validated research-proven tool to better communicate. This whole field has been fraught with people saying, 'I do it,' 'I got it,' 'I got the directives,' and yet patients and families were not expressing that they felt they had good communication around these advanced care plans," Grimm explained. "Everybody says they're doing 'it' a little differently, creating a lot of forms that are flying around, and patients and families are still left angry and grieving. That's why we started down this path."

"The study started in conversation with Hospice Buffalo," Lauer said. "We were offering education to the social workers on how to facilitate values-based conversations about care preferences using the Serious Illness Communication guide. Dr. Waldrop is doing a longitudinal study with the caregivers to see if it was helpful to them to have these previous conversations; if it relieved them of the grief and the burden of guilt that can come from people making decisions that they may not have talked about in advance. It has gone away from the medical model to a community-based paradigm where the family and the patients themselves control some of that conversation, which is wonderful."

Both noted a long history of working with UBSSW interns at ECMC. "We've had very interesting intersections with the UBSSW," said Lauer. "We had the Social Impact Fellows here last year. They did a great project for us – Integration of Palliative Medicine into Primary Care – and we're integrating that plan now."

She is known for creative approaches, giving students opportunities to practice the skills they are learning in school. By reviewing their syllabuses and integrating the information into a calendar, she is able to match field experiences with what is actually happening in their classroom.

Being named Field Educator of the Year is meaningful for her. "It's confirming I'm doing a good job," she said. "Most of the interns who have graduated still keep in touch with me, whether it's to say, 'I'm starting a depression group. Do you have any ideas for resources or materials?' Or, sometimes I let them know about new job postings. My first intern has worked at the Syracuse VA for a number of years. That's another affirming thing: that there really is a connection and that I really had an influence on their lives."

Left to right: LaShawn Davis, Brad Linn, Scott Bohosian, Amy Regian, Barry Chapman, Andrea Fitzsimmons, Monique Funderburk, Aaron Maracle.

Brandi Biddeman, Sheila Joiner, Jaclyn Strycharz, Donna Leigh, Marie Burger, Kelly Grimaldi, Holly Edwards, Sue Green, Aimee Neri.

Lauren Petrocelli, Jennifer Custard, Rikki Nawotka, Kimberly Ostrowski, Tonya Stonewell, Mary Jo Gervase, Greer Hamilton, Sophia Miller, Marie Dionne.





A natural fit: social work and environmental justice

School of Social Work Global Interest Group annual symposium highlights

| by Jana Eisenberg

Ticking off a list of recent and ongoing national and global environmental challenges, and thinking about those who suffer the most as a result of them, makes it obvious that social work and environmental justice are inextricably linked.

Social workers are increasingly turning their attention to environmental justice and to those affected by disasters. A consistent theme is many cultures' deep connections with natural elements like water and land. The school's Global Interest Group emphasized this connection with their third annual symposium, "Water, the Environment and a Socially Just World," which was held in March at the UB South Campus.

Organizers included a diverse selection of topics and presenters, from the local to the global, including a performance of a Burmese water dance, and representatives from the Seneca Nation who spoke of their roles as water protectors. Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Hilary Weaver, one of the organizers, who is Lakota, spoke at the opening of the day-long session. She noted that many cultures revere the earth and all the natural elements as sacred, both giving life and deserving respect and nurturing.

In her welcoming comments, Dean Nancy J. Smyth pointed out that modern social work has roots in environmental justice: Jane Addams fought for better employee working and living environments in the late 19th century.

A more modern advocate for intervention at the environmental level is symposium speaker Cathryne Schmitz. A professor at University of North Carolina Greensboro, Schmitz is active in educating about how climate change, violence and their effects disproportionately affect young people, poor people, people of color, women, immigrants and refugees.

"I've struggled with how to share information about climate change," she said. "There is lots of data, and no doubt that humans are impacting the environment. But data doesn't move people. How do we get people to feel passion and urgency? Not by making them anxious, but with compassion and empathy."

She urges people to connect through stories and feelings. "What matters to you the most? Simple and beautiful memories—water, moss, plants? The coast or wildlife? People will get involved if it's personal," she continued. "Things in our society like money and debt are social constructs—they aren't real in the same way that the earth and water are. We can't afford to destroy the earth; we don't have a spare."

Shanondora Billiot, assistant professor at University of Illinois and a member of the United Houma Nation, discussed her PhD, "Environmental Changes and Indigenous Peoples: The Interconnectedness of Land Loss, Shared Cultural Experiences, and Trauma." Tribal elders asked her to examine the effects of chronic land

“In every single culture, there are complimentary perspectives about environmental or water issues. And it's not just a matter of justice, it's a matter of survival.”

– Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Hilary N. Weaver





Left: Symposium speakers Cathryne Schmitz and Shanondora Billiot; Right: Assistant Professor Shaanta Murshid moderated panels, this one featuring UB researchers Emmanuel Boamah and Nirupam Aich.

loss on the people and community, rather than her intended topic, mental health and behavior.

Billiot addressed the negative effects of colonialism on indigenous people, and specifically the Houma Nation. She also introduced the phrase “climate refugee.” This and phrases like it (“climate migrant”) are becoming more commonly used. They describe people who are forced to leave their homes because of the effects of environmental changes, often accompanied by rising regional tension or conflict as resources dwindle.

Human influence on the environment—for oil company profits—caused community displacement for the Houma, said Billiot, worsening public health and a shift from their ability to rely on natural resources for their traditional way of life, including culturally, socially and spiritually.

When an environmental disaster hits a community, like poisoned water in Flint, said symposium speakers Assistant Professor Tam Perry and research assistant Max Smith of Wayne State University, it’s important to look at all sectors. They studied the effect of the crisis on older adults, through the lens of years of broken systems and systematic racism which led to the ongoing circumstances.

Through interviews, Perry and Smith learned that the lack of clean, drinkable water, and untrustworthiness of institutions that are supposed to protect them is deeply affecting every aspect of people’s lives. There is rising anxiety over how to get water, and where to store it. Meal preparation becomes challenging, affecting everyday life as well as, for example, the way that traditional holidays or events are celebrated. Illness as a result of attempting to wash with the tainted water, rashes and itching continue. And it mostly affects poor people and those of color.

Panels moderated by Assistant Professor Shaanta Murshid brought an even broader perspective. In addition to Sheila Saia, a U.S. Forest Service environmental engineer based in North Carolina who focuses on climate change response, UB researchers Nirupam Aich and Emmanuel Boamah discussed their work; Aich in nano-technology and global electronic waste and Boamah on farmers’ land and water rights in Ghana. In the next panel, members of the Seneca Nation, Jason Corwin, Clarence Seneca, Darelyn Spruce and Nicky Thompson discussed their roles as water protectors and activists.

In her closing remarks at the end of the intense day, Weaver summed up: “We need to pay attention to what and who is and isn’t valued. We can look at how we are harming the earth, and how we may be feeding into the lies we’ve been fed. In every single culture, there are complimentary perspectives about environmental or water issues. And it’s not just a matter of justice, it’s a matter of survival.”



The Doctor is IN!

Introducing the UBSSW DSW Program

| by Jana Eisenberg

The University at Buffalo School of Social Work (UBSSW) is now offering a professional Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree program. The 39-credit, part-time, fully online program will begin with a Fall 2019 cohort. Aimed at expert MSW practitioners, the DSW will build on our signature strengths of the trauma-informed and human rights perspective, while also capitalizing on emerging technologies to innovate social work education and practice.

Only 15 schools in the country currently offer the DSW; we will be the first SUNY and the first in the region. The DSW, with its emphasis on clinical application, differs from the UBSSW’s research-intensive PhD. For this reason, some of the DSW admission criteria includes a minimum of two years post-MSW direct practice experience, as well as access to a practice population.

Our investment in the DSW aligns with the demand for it amongst our alumni, communities and the profession’s evolution. The number of programs offering practice doctorates—and, the number of professionals choosing to earn this credential—is growing, particularly in allied health professions such as nursing, pharmacy, psychology and nutrition. Our imperatives include maintaining pace with other disciplines, and assuming a leadership role in shaping social work education and professional practice.

Part of determining the interest and need for the program was our 2012 UBSSW graduate survey; we asked those who are clinical-licensure eligible or had a clinical license if they would consider such a program, and almost 64% of respondents said that they would.

Louanne Bakk, PhD, has been named director of the DSW program, which, in addition to the innovative, fully online educational environment, will provide opportunities to build and participate in global professional learning networks (PLNs).

“Following our trauma-informed and human rights perspective, the DSW program will educate students with a desire to advance their professional practice,” said Bakk, who has been at UBSSW since 2013. “Professionals will have the opportunity to build knowledge and learn to more effectively incorporate these concepts into the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based treatments in direct practice settings with vulnerable populations.”

“It’s exciting—I’m absolutely thrilled to be assuming this role,” she added. “Based on my own practice experience, I see there is a definite need for this advanced training within the profession. I think the program will be extremely popular as we move forward.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  **visit socialwork.buffalo.edu/dsw**
or email swinfo@buffalo.edu.

12&13

Classnotes



'70s

Zygmunt Malowicki, MSW '77, retired from The House of the Good Shepherd in Utica, NY after 41 years—the last 30 as assistant executive director.

Robert Schwartz, MSW '77, is the manager of quality care initiatives at Sheridan Medical Group in Kenmore, NY.

Edo Vander Kooy, MSW '77, has worked at Community Missions of Niagara for almost 25 years. He enjoys his current position as manager of the Personalized Recovery Oriented Services Program, as well as conducts a men's trauma group.

Louis J. Moran, MSW '78, LCSW, published "American Foursquare, Behind the Façade," the second edition of his memoir about his early life; it covers abuse, coming out and psychological insights. Now retired, Moran lives in Denver, CO.

'80s

Bonnie Fader Wilkenfeld, MSW '83, a school social worker and recipient of her PhD in clinical social work from Rutgers University, co-authored "Practicing maternal virtues prematurely: The phenomenology of maternal identity in medically high-risk pregnancy," in Health Care for Women International.

Ellen Fink-Samnick, MSW '83, principal/owner of EFS Supervision Strategies, has been named to the advisory board for Reverberation 5.0, a new national collective to empower women over 50 in the workplace. She resides in Burke, VA.

After 28 years in various positions at Baker Victory Services, **David Gordon, MSW '83**, has opened a full-time practice, working with adults, couples, adolescents and families. He also consults and trains, including extensive work with Adoption Star, specializing in the adoption of older children. He resides in Amherst, NY.

John Shear, MSW '88, is a social worker for Lancaster Public Schools and runs a private practice. He lives in West Seneca, NY.

'90s

Lauren May-Jones, MSW '90, BSW '73, retired from the VA and is now a social work consultant at Catholic Health System/Sisters Hospital School Health Program. She resides in East Aurora, NY.

Anne Sherman, MSW '90, is director of community-based services at Hillside Children's Center. She lives in Bergen, NY.

Mary MacLeod, MSW '91, received her PhD in counseling and human development from the University of Rochester. She resides in Rochester, NY.

Pamela Schasel, MSW '91, LMSW, is a certified care manager at Laping, Surdej Associates, LLC. She lives in East Amherst, NY.

Evelyn Burgess, MSW '92, LCSW-R, is assistant director for UB's Upward Bound Program. She resides in Buffalo, NY.

Christopher Scozzaro, MSW '92, obtained his PhD in counselor education from UB. In addition to being a social worker for West Seneca Central School District in West Seneca, NY, he is in private practice, and is an adjunct teacher at UB.

Frederick Marschner, MSW '97, LCSW-R, owns and operates New Insight Counseling in Tonawanda, NY.

'00s

William Korthals, MSW '00, is a suicide prevention case manager and senior social worker with the VA Myrtle Beach. He resides in Murrells Inlet, SC.

Kristin Surdej, MSW '00, is celebrating 10 years as principal and aging care manager at Laping, Surdej Associates LLC, a private geriatric care management firm in Buffalo.

Pamela Gross, MSW '02, is an elementary school social worker at the Ripley Central School District in Ripley, NY.

Ginny Riedman, MSW '02, became a counselor with the Diocese of Rochester Public Schools in Rochester, NY.

Elizabeth McPartland, MSW '03, is the chief operating officer for Child & Family Services in Buffalo, NY.

After 13 years with Catholic Charities, **Heather Bell, MSW '04**, is now a senior counselor at Horizon Health Services. She lives in Batavia, NY.

Elizabeth Woike-Ganga, MSW '04, is the chief operating officer for BestSelf Behavioral Health. She resides in East Amherst, NY.

Kristen Luppino-Gholston, MSW '05, is now director of the Daemen College Saffrin Center for Sustainability and Civic Engagement. She was formerly with the WNY Women's Foundation, where highlights included publishing "Pathways to Progress, Vol. 2" a report on the status of WNY women and girls, and launching "All In," a large scale gender equity initiative. In late 2017, she was named to Buffalo Business First's 40 under 40.

Lisa Rizzo, MSW '05, co-authored, "A gateway to healing: a community-based brief intervention for victims of violence," in the Journal of Community Psychology. She is a primary care social worker at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY.

In addition to founding and running Rachel's Experience, a non-profit that works with people and communities to prevent diseases, promote cognitive health and improve their quality of life, **Rachel McCarley, MSW '06, LCSW, CSSW**, provides social work services for the Buffalo Board of Education. Her company has been acknowledged by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, and she has received additional awards and recognition. She is working on a book highlighting emotional and cognitive care.

Carol Whitlow, MSW '06, LCSW, now retired, is an active Red Cross Mental Health volunteer. Her activities include traveling the country facilitating workshops with ROTC, pre-deployment and Hero Care call center workers, as well as providing workshops for military children who have had a parent injured or killed.

Ashley Chadwell, MSW '08, an elementary school social worker for Orchard Park Public School District, resides in Lancaster, NY.

Robin Hartinger-Saunders, PhD '08, MSW '97, is an associate professor and director of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Education and Training Program at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA.

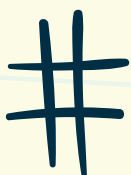
Ryann Hartmayer, MSW '08, has transitioned to become a private practice therapist, as well as joining a group of professionals to create Mind Body Consulting, a collaborative group committed to treating clients from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Jana McDermott, MSW '08, is the Virginia branch director of Bethany Christian Services. She resides in Richmond, VA.

Christine Rine, PhD '08, MSW '97, is the MSW program director and has been promoted to associate professor at Edinboro University. She recently published a book chapter "Analyzing the problem: Access," in C. Moniz & S. Gorin (Eds.), Behavioral and mental health care policy and practice: A biopsychosocial perspective.

Tara Taddio, MSW '08, became certified as a registered yoga teacher. She is a social worker for the Buffalo Public Schools, residing in West Seneca, NY.

Andrea Russell, MSW '09, is a social worker at WNY Children's Psychiatric Center Day Treatment. She resides in Buffalo, NY.



'10s

Amanda Budwine, MSW '10, is the director of behavioral health for Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo, NY.

Caryn Domzalski, MSW '10, was promoted to assistant program director at the University branch of BestSelf Behavioral Health. She lives in Cheektowaga, NY.

Rayna Grossman, MSW '10, was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is a rabbi and director of religious services at the Lions Gate, a Jewish continuing care retirement community in Southern New Jersey.

Elaine Rinfrette, PhD '10, is the social work department chair at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. She resides in East Concord, NY.

Renee Garnier, MSW '11, LCSW, is a behavior and medical social worker at MD 24 House Call, Beyond Counseling and Encompass Home Health. She lives in Mesa, AZ.

Patrick Hull, MSW '11, is a therapist for the child development-community policing program in Charlotte, NC. He enjoys partnering with police officers to identify, assess and treat children at risk of developing PTSD. He resides in Rock Hill, SC.

Lisa Maynard, MSW '11, is implementation specialist at the Center for Adoption Support and Education, working on a federal grant to implement adoption competent mental health training in all U.S. states, tribes and territories. In her private practice, she focuses on women's issues, trauma, life transitions and adoption. She resides in Pittsford, NY.

Jamy Stammel, MSW '12, LCSW, is a counselor and therapist at BestSelf Behavioral Health. In addition, she's an adjunct professor at Simmons College and UB, as well as a training affiliate at the UBSSW Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care.

Beatrice Turner, MSW '12, is director of compliance and continuous quality improvement at Jewish Social Service Agency. She resides in Rockville, MD.

Sarah Utkin, MSW '12, is director of health homes for Jewish Family Services and lives in Hamburg, NY.

Danielle Eadie, MSW '13, was promoted to bereavement manager at The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care. She resides in Tonawanda, NY.

Molly M. Harrington, MSW '13, is a clinical consultant at Vatica Health. She is an adjunct professor (psychology) at Erie Community College. She also volunteers for UB's Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

Shyquiera Lee, MSW '13, is a mental health specialist at Endeavor Health Services in its school-based program. She is stationed at school #74 within the Buffalo Public Schools.

Emily Phelps, MSW '13, is the assistant director for Student Life and Leadership/Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at SUNY Oneonta.

Christina Barrett, MSW '14, is an SUD clinical supervisor with Horizon Health Services. She resides in Clarence, NY.

Nicole Israel, MSW '14, a renal social worker for Unity Dialysis Center at St. Mary's, lives in Fairport, NY.

Catherine Mazzotta, PhD '14, an assistant professor at Buffalo State College, co-authored "Insomnia, posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, and danger: Their impact on victims' return to court for orders of protection," in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Paul Muccigrosso, MSW '14, is the program director and a faculty member at Medaille College @ Albion Correctional Facility. He serves on the Brain-Body Health Technology Institute board of directors, and this fall will begin serving as an SSW Joining Forces - UB field educator. He resides in Lancaster, NY.

Angela Doria, MSW '17, is a family consultant at KidsPeace, a therapeutic foster care agency in Williamsville, NY.

Jennifer Kilpatrick, MSW '16, is a school social worker for Cortland County BOCES and resides in LaFayette, NY.

Frankie Kraft, MSW '16, LMSW, is a behavioral health therapist at Niagara Falls Medical Center in Niagara Falls, NY.

Sarah Reynolds, MSW '16, is a primary therapist at Genesee Mental Health Center Child & Youth Services in Rochester, NY.

Lisa Noelle Sears-Ricotta, BA/MSW '16, LMSW, CASAC, is a psychiatric case manager for Erie County Medical Center MICA Clinic. She resides in Orchard Park, NY.

Dawn St. John, MSW '16, is a foster home licensing specialist for Devereux Advanced Behavior Health in Florida.

Kaitlin Tomasulo, MSW '16, a trauma therapist, provides intensive trauma therapy retreats for the Trauma Institute and Child Trauma Institute in Buffalo, NY.

Sara Andrew, MSW '17, LMSW, is a behavioral health therapist in the Community Mental Health Clinic at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in Niagara Falls, NY.

Bakht Arif, MSW '17, LMSW, is a case manager and outreach/training coordinator for the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project in Washington, DC.

Kelly Bates, MSW '17, is an elementary school social worker for the Holley Central School District in Holley, NY.

Christina Cali, MSW '17, is the Rochester Regional Health Women's Community residence supervisor; she resides in Rochester, NY.

Samantha Paige, BA/MSW '17, is the coordinator of student-athlete development at Southeast Missouri State University.

Kaneisha Wheelock, MSW '17, is a HUD-VASH (VA Supportive Housing) social worker with the Seattle VA. She accepted the position part-way through her post-graduate fellowship with the Puget Sound VA Addiction Treatment Center.

Lindsey Allen, MSW '18, is a project coordinator for Peaceprints of Western New York.

Dan Calabrese, MSW '18, is a therapist/clinician at Hudson Valley Mental Health in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Jamie Core, MSW '18, a clinician II in trauma services at the Arizona's Children Association, resides in Tucson, AZ.

Margaret Finnegan, MSW '18, is a DBT therapist for BestSelf Behavioral Health. She lives in Hamburg, NY.

Travis Hales, PhD '18, MSW '14, is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at University of North Carolina Charlotte.

Emily (Hammer) Louisos, MSW '18, is a mental health counselor for BestSelf Behavioral Health. She lives in Williamsville, NY.

Rebecca Levy, MSW '18, is a substance use counselor at Horizon Health Services. She resides in Buffalo, NY.

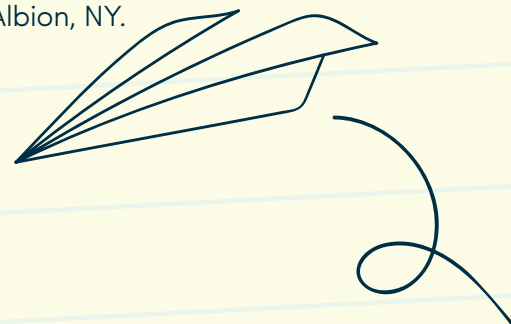
Ling Li, MSW '18, is a behavior health clinician for the Mental Health Service Corps in New York City. She lives in Jersey City, NJ.

Jonathan Puma, MSW '18, is a substance use counselor at Evergreen Health Services and lives in Snyder, NY.

Allyson Roach, MSW '18, is a child mental health counselor for Endeavor Health Services. She resides in Orchard Park, NY.

Matthew L. Schwartz, MSW '18, joined Horizon Health Services as a mental health counselor. He lives in Buffalo, NY.

Kaitlin Scott, MSW '18, is a mental health counselor at Endeavor Health Services. She lives in Albion, NY.



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