

# Mosaics

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## Safe Harbor

## Mosaics

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[www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu)

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 28,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 375 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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# News of the School



NANCY J. PARISI

## Honorary Degree

SUNY Trustee Eunice L. Lewis, **Dean Nancy J. Smyth** and UB President Satish K. Tripathi joined **Paula Allen-Meares** (BSW '70), chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, when she received an honorary doctorate at UB's general commencement in May. Allen-Meares (*second from left*) is a renowned social work scholar and educator.

## Presidential connections

**Erin Danna-Bailey**, senior grants manager at the Buffalo Center for Social Research, met President Barack Obama last summer; and **Tara S. Hughes**, adjunct professor, was a Red Cross representative on a White House panel discussing resiliency in children after a disaster. Hughes, along with **Diane E. Elze**, associate professor and director of the MSW program, developed an MSW class providing Red Cross Disaster Action Team training with a focus on mental health. The course, "Responding to Disasters with Social Work Interventions," enrolled 24 students when it was first offered in January.



## Changing faces

**Hilary N. Weaver**, professor of social work, is now associate dean for academic affairs. A highly sought-after teacher, she joined the faculty in 1993 and has been a presence both regionally and nationally as a researcher on multicultural issues. **Deborah P. Waldrop**, professor, has been named associate dean for faculty development. Like Weaver, she is stepping into the void left by Howard Doueck's sabbatical and retirement (see article on p. 16). Waldrop has been a mentor to countless students interested in geriatric social work as well as to countless faculty who seek promotion through the ranks. **Laina Bay-Cheng**, associate professor, is now director of the PhD in social welfare program, bringing to it her many strengths as a researcher and educator. With the departure of Mantha Wyse, the school has been without its own development officer for almost six months. Dean Smyth has asked **Barbara A. Rittner**, associate professor, to assume the newly created role of associate dean for advancement that will include strategies for advancing the school, both programmatically and financially. **Anthony J. Guzman** is the new director of online programs and has been advancing the number of MSW-level courses available online. **Sarah J. Watson** is now senior project manager and works across many of the school's functions. **Patricia A. Shelly** is the new director of community engagement and expansion. **Leah Feroletto** has joined the school as an academic information and enrollment analyst.

## Institute on Trauma and Trauma Informed Care

UB's Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC) conducted a two-day "Training of Trainers" with local law enforcement officers. It was funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, and was led by Clinical Associate Professor **Sue A. Green**, Research Professor **Thomas H.**



## ARTHUR SCHOMBURG FELLOWSHIP

This year, the school has a total of eight Schomburg Fellows who gathered for a luncheon with Dean Smyth and Diane Elze.

FROM LEFT: Stephanie Velez, Lakia Johnson, Erica Murphy, Vianette Hernandez, Dean Nancy Smyth, Sharon Hall, Larusha Blakely, Celestina Pierce, and Diane Elze, MSW Program Director.

## FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH



In this issue, you'll read that our MSW program ranking has moved up to No. 26, placing us in the top 12 percent of CSWE-accredited programs nationwide. Though solely reputational, the U.S. News & World Report rankings of "America's Best Graduate Schools" have an impact: They influence students' choice of schools, faculty and staff decisions on where to work and employers' perceptions of the value of our degree.

When I arrived at UB (20-plus years ago), I knew we were a too-well-kept secret. When I became dean in 2004, we set out to do a better job telling our story: Four years ago, we increased our ranking to 36 from 46.

Being ranked now in the top 12 percent is recognition by our peers that we are innovators in several domains. These include researching the complex contribution of trauma to the range of social problems in our global society; incorporating core human rights and trauma-informed care to transform practice, programs, policies, research and systems; developing new models of research, field education and social work education through unique collaborations with the community; and pioneering the use of social media to share social work knowledge.

This issue tells some of the unique stories of our students, graduates and faculty—the type of work that gives meaning to a designation like "Best Schools of Social Work."



Nancy J. Smyth, PhD, LCSW

Nochajski and Katie McLain-Meeder, an MSW intern. ITTIC also is joining forces with other agencies and UB units on grant proposals.

## National honor society

At the Garret Club of Buffalo on April 19, the School of Social Work inducted 35 foundation and advanced-year students into our third class of Rho Kappa Chapter, Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society. The chapter members maintained a minimum GPA of 3.95 and all demonstrated the ideals and values of social work. For more details, go to [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/scholarships/rho-kappa.asp](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/scholarships/rho-kappa.asp).

## Field educators reception

Most students appreciate the time and guidance their field educators provide them. Each year we honor all our field educators at a reception. On May 3 at the Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo, we honored **Joyelle Tedeschi** (MSW '08), a licensed master social worker and executive director of the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y., who received the Outstanding Achievement in Field Education Award. Additionally, **Kathleen Wisniewski** (MSW '86) was recognized for her lifetime dedication to field education, as both a field educator and member of the Field Advisory Board.

## SCHOOL'S REPUTATION SOARS

The School of Social Work's reputation continues to grow, as evidenced by U.S. News & World Report's spring 2012 rankings of "America's Best Graduate Schools." The school moved up 10 places to No. 26, bringing it into the top 12 percent nationally.

"Although it's simply one benchmark of a school's overall quality and reputation, it does make people take notice," says UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski. "People across the country are talking about what we already know so well: Our School of Social Work students and faculty are among the very best, their work is scientifically informed by research and our graduates make an impressive and measurable difference for individuals and communities across our country and around our world."

Nancy J. Smyth, dean of the school, adds that students continue to gravitate to the school because of its focus on offering meaningful experiences outside the classroom. "Today's graduate students also appreciate the fact that we embrace innovation," says Smyth. "We're helping to lead the field in many ways through our exploration of new technologies to share and discuss findings with our peers—and to educate the next generation of professionals through our growing online course offerings. Plus, we are using new approaches to help students create highly individualized, interdisciplinary programs."

In the past few years, Smyth adds, the school has successfully recruited faculty from some of the most prestigious schools of social work in the country. Growing philanthropic support from alumni also has been influential in allowing the school to invest in its programs.

"Kudos to Dean Smyth for putting together a team that serves students, the university and Western New York community well," says Dean's Council Chair Toby Fink Laping (MSW '63).

# SHINING LIGHT IN SOCIAL WORK

Recent MSW graduate works  
tirelessly to serve area youth,  
inspiring them to follow her lead

BY BERT GAMBINI

Taking public transportation from Buffalo's inner-city to the University at Buffalo's North Campus involves—depending on the point of origin—combined rides on buses and the rapid transit. It's not easy, and the trip, with its numerous transfers, can certainly try the average rider's patience.

But in May 2012, 15 teens made that trip to support McKenzie Mattison (MSW '12), the recipient of the Haseltine T. Clements Memorial Award, which recognizes a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated concern for human dignity and fostering interracial relationships.

"It was an amazing display and so meaningful for them to be there," says Mattison. "I was extremely touched that they would do that for me."





THEY PARTICIPATED IN MCKENZIE'S HONOR  
OUT OF RESPECT FOR SOMEONE WHO MADE  
A PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

THE KIDS WERE PARTICIPANTS in Mattison's field placement, a youth empowerment program called "Leaving Our Legacy." Established in May 2010, it's designed to raise community awareness about HIV/AIDS, STDs and teen pregnancy. Mattison was there when the program began, helping to develop policies and procedures while building the kinds of relationships that inspired the support she witnessed at the award presentation. "Those kids were cheering for her," says Peter Sobota, clinical assistant professor, who nominated Mattison for the award. "They participated in McKenzie's honor out of respect for someone who made a practical difference in their lives."

Indeed, Sobota was the instructor for Mattison's first graduate class. From the time he met her, he knew that an occasion like the award ceremony was inevitable. "My first impression was that she was not only someone who was smart, but someone who had a knack for helping people in ways that made the intervention seem more like a cooperative partnership than outside assistance," he says.

But Sobota says Mattison's humility was as impressive as her potential. He remembers clearly that she always sat in the seat closest to the door, as though preparing to run out of the class at any minute if the challenge of graduate work proved too great.

"I still joke about that with her today," he says. "But her work was beyond what the average student was presenting. She had evidence of critical thinking. She made links between classroom discussion and fieldwork. It was advanced level work and she wasn't even aware of it until I started giving her some feedback on her papers."

Mattison was not a traditional graduate student—Sobota says most of the MSW candidates come to the School of Social Work right out of an undergraduate program. Mattison, on the other hand, was a few years older than her peers and had some work experience behind her as well.

*(Continued on next page)*

### "I WAS AT WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO

working as a child-life specialist, providing psychosocial and emotional support to kids," she recalls. "I wanted to build upon that knowledge."

Mattison took Sobota's class as a non-matriculated student not long after a disappointing layoff from the hospital position. Despite her desire to learn, she was still uncertain about her future. But the class turned out to be a natural fit. "Peter's class sealed the deal for me," she says. "He helped inspire me to finish graduate school."

## FAMILY INSPIRATION

Mattison grew up in Springville, N.Y. The tiny village of about 5,000 residents sits near the southern edge of Erie County in the Town of Concord. Social work wasn't Mattison's lifelong career goal, yet many of the qualities she brought to that career were present while she was growing up.

"I've always loved kids and worked as a babysitter when I was a teenager," she says. "I also seemed to be the one who was helping friends through their personal crises—and when you're a teen, everything seems like a crisis."

The inspiration provided by professors, meantime, was preceded by that provided by Mattison's mother. Jan Mattison helped form the local chapter of a national organization that mobilizes churches to meet community needs. Love in the Name of Christ (Love InC) provides transportation, coordinates food and housing needs, and offers referrals to other services for people of all faiths. Jan Mattison served as president from 1996-99 before becoming Love InC's executive director, a position she held until 2009.

"My mother's work with Love InC definitely encouraged me. I was always impressed with the dedication she has for the community and the love that she shows to the people in that community," says Mattison. Today, Jan Mattison continues to volunteer for Love InC's IMAGE program, a life-skills training initiative.

Her mother's work also gave Mattison a glimpse into the lives of the community's less fortunate. And it provided insights into specific challenges she didn't have to face individually, but knew she didn't want to ignore.

In fact, Mattison was in the Big Brothers–Big Sisters program before she considered a career in social work. "I've been with my little brother, Dominic, for about five years, since he was 8-years-old," she says. "When you're in a program like that, you're in the lives of these kids, witnessing their struggles. My mother's work let me see things through her eyes, while the Big Brothers–Big Sisters program let me see things firsthand."

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Erie 1 BOCES is a public educational cooperative in Western New York providing educational services to the region's school districts. Leaving Our Legacy, however, is contained exclusively within Erie 1 BOCES with no district affiliation and so constitutes an unorthodox offering. As such, it's fitting that a dynamic leader like Mattison would make this particular program her home.

"This is a program developed by the youth who take part," explains Erie 1 BOCES Coordinator Suzanne Donovan (MSW '01). "Adults are there to guide, but all the decisions are made with youth input."

"Startup time is a crazy time," says Donovan of Leaving Our Legacy's launch just as Mattison began her field placement at Erie 1 BOCES. "But McKenzie cut through the chaos to make an immediate connection and built an immediate rapport with the youth in the program."

Sobota, who already was an admirer of Mattison's classwork, became an admirer of her fieldwork as well. "Yes. She makes connections," says Sobota. "That in itself is impressive, but remember, these are adolescents, many of whom don't want to get near an authority figure, let alone work with one."

Yet Mattison folded into the group and she respected members'



THESE KIDS HAVE A POWERFUL VOICE, AND LISTENING TO THAT VOICE IS AMONG THE THINGS I LEARNED AT UB TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS THAT ALLOW ME TO HEAR THE NEEDS OF THE CLIENT.





SHE MADE LINKS BETWEEN CLASSROOM DISCUSSION  
AND FIELDWORK. IT WAS ADVANCED LEVEL WORK.



– Peter Sobota, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Social Work



points of view. Sobota says her acceptance of their viewpoints didn't necessarily imply agreement. Still, Mattison knew these kids were the experts in their own lives. "The youth had something to contribute," says Sobota. "McKenzie knew that and was respected because of it."

Donovan says the kids in the program are high-risk youth who, in many cases, lack the support needed to keep them on a safe track. They have a lot of stress in their lives, but Mattison guides them away from stress and toward solutions.

Donovan adds that by helping the kids find answers to their own problems or difficulties, Mattison helps Leaving Our Legacy members to realize they can be part of a community of change. "She is genuine," Donovan says. "She conveys that quality and the kids know that she cares about them."

Mattison's work, meanwhile, is multidimensional. She not only builds personal relationships, but also constructs an environment that creates the conditions necessary to discuss important issues.

"She believes fundamentally that people are more apt to act upon what they say rather than what an expert would say," Sobota notes. "That's extremely sophisticated." Sobota's conclusions about Mattison's fieldwork are based on her own written account rather than his direct observation. Even so, the strength of her ability comes across clearly. "These kids were acting on their own suggestions," says Sobota. "But it was McKenzie who got them to talking."

For her part, Mattison understands that successfully working with the kids in Leaving Our Legacy means building trust. "Teens are marginalized," she says. "They're expecting adults to tell them what to do. But that's not my approach. I take the opportunity to

listen to what they have to say. These kids have a powerful voice, and listening to that voice is among the things I learned at UB—to develop the skills that allow me to hear the needs of the client."

Donovan says that Mattison's accomplishments at Erie 1 BOCES and her work with Leaving Our Legacy made her an invaluable part of the organization's team. "She did so well that I hired her after the internship."

## YOUTH ADVOCATE

Today, Mattison continues this work part time at Erie 1 BOCES, while also holding a full-time position as a social worker within a Women & Children's Hospital program called Youth Link. Here she works with youth who are survivors of sexual assault; youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual or queer; and those who are living with or are at risk of HIV infection.

She thinks back to that previous hospital position and how being laid off actually steered her in the direction of the School of Social Work. "At the time, I thought losing that job was the worst thing that could have happened to me. But I returned to graduate school because of that loss. I met people who broadened my mind and helped me grow as a person and as a professional."

When Mattison mentions mentors like Donovan and Sobota, she describes them as having the same qualities they admire in her.

But she always returns to the youth she works with in Leaving Our Legacy. Mattison knows that her professors and early mentors were genuinely invested in her career goals, and she knows the kids played a role as well.

"They have helped mold me into the social worker I am today."









RESEARCHERS WORK TO UNDERSTAND AND REMEDY THE  
GLOBAL ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

# *In Search of* Safe Harbor

BY ANN WHITCHER-GENTZKE

a Pakistani girl about 12, abandoned by her family and about to be sent into forced labor, runs away from home. A young woman in India, meanwhile, wants to leave the sex trade but fears the stigma and recriminations from family members who may not want her back, despite their directly profiting from her prostitution.

Fortunately for the Pakistani girl, a good Samaritan finds her on the street and brings her to a privately run shelter established to help women or girls escape from a violent or abusive home life. The future is more uncertain for the young Indian woman, however, as she has no practical route to legitimate employment that will bring her the money she needs to support herself and her family.

These are familiar scenarios for two School of Social Work investigators who are researching violence against women in South Asia. Their studies, both joint and separate, are helping to illuminate an uncomfortable but critically important topic, one they say requires a global approach in both research and practice.

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Associate Professor Filomena M. Critelli (MSW '77) has studied the role of two nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan that assist victims of domestic violence. These are AGHS, the country's first all-women legal aid practice, and the Dastak women's shelter. Both are located in Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city of 7.1 million people and the capital of Punjab.

More broadly, Critelli is examining the under-recognized role of Pakistan's women's movement in pushing for change. Even with Pakistan's history of political turmoil, the country's feminist leaders are increasingly effective in advocating for women's rights, she says. Critelli's research addresses what she calls "the invisibility of Pakistani women's activism in the scholarly literature and the failure to consider how Pakistani women are agents and activists in their own right." She also has probed the real-life experiences of women who left violent domestic settings to find sanctuary in the Lahore shelter.

Meanwhile, PhD candidate Bincy Wilson is working on a large-scale study of women who are commercially sexually exploited in her native India and in the United States, and the cultural, social and economic factors influencing them to exit the sex trade and pursue healthier, happier lives. Wilson's research, which won a \$5,000 award from the Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation, examines the commercial sexual exploitation of women across two different cultures.

"The topic Bincy is interested in is certainly one aspect of violence against women," says Critelli, who serves on Wilson's dissertation committee and, with Barbara Rittner, co-authored her forthcoming journal article on transcultural issues implicit in sex trafficking. "It's

considered violence against women when they are forced into the sex trade," she says.

"This represents an important step in grounded feminist research—examining transcultural differences in collective and individualistic societies among women escaping violence," adds Rittner, who is Wilson's committee chair.

## A defining moment

Critelli, whose husband is Pakistani, says her current research underscores the global nature of violence against women. During a family trip to Pakistan in 1999, she visited a women's shelter with a cousin who's active in the country's human rights movement. The trip proved to be a defining moment in Critelli's career. "As a practitioner, I had worked with the issue of domestic violence in New York City, and that got me very interested in some of the various cultural issues involved in domestic violence," she says. "I became much more aware

of the global nature of the problem and how these problems in a globalized world are increasing and interconnected. The staff and residents at the shelter were so hospitable and I wanted to come back. So I retooled my research agenda on gender violence and started applying for funding to pursue this kind of study."

In the past several years, Critelli has returned to Pakistan as principal investigator for studies funded by the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy and the Buffalo Center for Social Research. In a study published in August 2012 in *Violence Against Women*, Critelli reported on in-

"One of the things that was often very painful within their own families, or within the spaces they occupied, is that no one was listening."

Filomena M. Critelli

PHOTO BY KUNI TAKAHASHI/  
GETTY IMAGES



Critelli

terviews with 19 shelter residents, seeking to examine their flight from violence "within the social, cultural and

legal realities of Pakistan."

In another study, published in March 2012 in *Critical Sociology* with co-author Jennifer Willet (MSW '08) of the University of Connecticut, Critelli drew on in-depth interviews with the NGO activists in Lahore, examining their strategies amid the complex social, cultural and historical factors affecting women caught in domestic violence. Pakistan's notably patriarchal society—along with factors of poverty, weak governance and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism—strongly correlate with gender and domestic violence, Critelli has found.



Throughout the interviews with shelter residents, Critelli was mindful of both her professional responsibilities and her subjects' emotional vulnerabilities. "As the researcher, you want to get data or case studies that make your work useful to people and interesting. At the same time, I didn't want to sensationalize the pain of these women," she says. "As a practitioner, I was always focused on seeking solutions, helping people. To be extracting information from them, I sometimes felt I was getting more than I was giving."

Yet the women seemed pleased to be openly talking about their experiences. "One of the things that was often very painful within their own families, or within the spaces they occupied, is that no one was listening," Critelli says. "The shelter was one of the first places where

they began to voice their desires, articulate their opinions and thoughts, and move forward."

In studying the roles of the Pakistani NGOs, Critelli says a key finding is how they continue to operate within a human rights framework, seeking and establishing connections between various forms of discrimination affecting women. Such a purview, she says, allows for a more nuanced view of violence against women and should be extended to the U.S. as well. "Within the field of social work in the U.S., there's a push now to try to adopt a human rights framework, but it has been slow. We have had this idea that human rights and human rights violations are something pertaining to other countries," she says. "But in Pakistan—because of the evolution of the movement against

violence in response to repressive laws promulgated by the 1977 military dictatorship—they have started framing it more from a human rights framework."

Critelli hopes to return to Pakistan for further study, expanding on her research to learn more about shelters serving women in the country's rural areas. She also wants to look at additional models for helping women to flee domestic violence, as well as the impact of 25 new shelters set to open in memory of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's female prime minister who was assassinated in 2007.

### **'Life without injustice'**

Wilson's interest in commercial sexual exploitation was sparked by her experiences

*(Continued on next page)*



“In India, women  
often are lured  
into prostitution  
by promises of  
employment to help  
their desperately poor  
families.”

Bincy Wilson

PHOTO BY INDRANIL MUKHERJEE/  
AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Wilson

working for ARZ India (whose name in Hindi means “life without injustice”), an organization combating

trafficking of people for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Since arriving in the U.S. for higher studies and enrolling in the school’s PhD program, Wilson has volunteered regularly with SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation) in San Francisco. The organization combats human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and adults.

“While working in India, I noticed that the reasons why women were getting into the sex trade—the kinds of services they were receiving, the kinds of issues that were being addressed—were different compared to the ones I saw in the U.S.,” says Wilson. “In the U.S., the emphasis was on more therapy and trauma treatment, where in India it was more about trying to provide economic rehabilitation. We know women are entering because of various factors. We know the kinds of services that are being provided are different, but I wanted to know what the women themselves actually wanted. What are the processes women go through to exit? What kinds of services do you need to provide to help them successfully leave the trade?”

While commercial sexual exploitation has been in existence for thousands of years in various forms of prostitution, only in recent decades has it gained momentum as a global phenomenon and a big business for its cruel purveyors. “It now involves things like exploitation in

massage parlors, or escort services, or pornography, or Internet sex where you’re selling sex on Craigslist,” says Wilson. “Especially in the U.S., this form of Internet sex is very highly prevalent.”

In India, she explains, women often are lured into prostitution by promises of employment to help their desperately poor families. “Perpetrators take them to different places and finally sell them into the sex trade. Moreover, certain cultural practices encourage daughters in the family to be given away into prostitution so they can support the family. In other parts of the country, tribes exist where daughters are sent to work as entertainers. Eventually, however, they are recruited as bar dancers and this often leads to their being commercially sexually exploited.”

## U.S. trends

In the U.S., childhood abuse and family or community alcohol or drug abuse are the most common pathways for women to be lured into the sex trade, Wilson reports. While the U.S. “has a more developed network of public and private social service institutions and child welfare programs,” they often fail some youth who’ve “slipped through the cracks” or have run away from foster care, making them especially vulnerable to the perils of street life.

While the points of entry may differ for the women in the U.S. and India, the impact on victims is largely the same, Wilson says. Only with a proper understanding of the women and their circumstances—including education for men or family members who may be abetting the victimization—will they truly be served in the longer term. “Traditionally, our approach has been to rehabilitate these women, or give them religion as a tool, or try to rescue them. But we need to start looking at why the demand is being cre-

ated and explain to men that it is exploitation of women.”

Wilson says stringent laws are needed to punish perpetrators, as in Sweden, where the man is prosecuted if he’s found to be commercially exploiting women for sexual purposes. “We need to try to prevent this at a grass-roots level by (1) educating high school students about how people are getting lured into this activity, (2) raising consciousness of people in the society not to tolerate such forms of violence against women and children, and (3) providing equal opportunities for women in the society. Maybe then change could happen.”

## Learning from each other

A key lesson of their research is that Western scholars can learn a great deal from their South Asian counterparts, Critelli and Wilson contend. “We have a lot of social work services here in the U.S. that are in silos. We serve kids and we serve adults; child abuse is one thing, domestic violence another. In South Asia, however, they look at violence over the life-cycle—the inequality of preferences for boys over girls, or differences in access to health care based on gender, for example.”

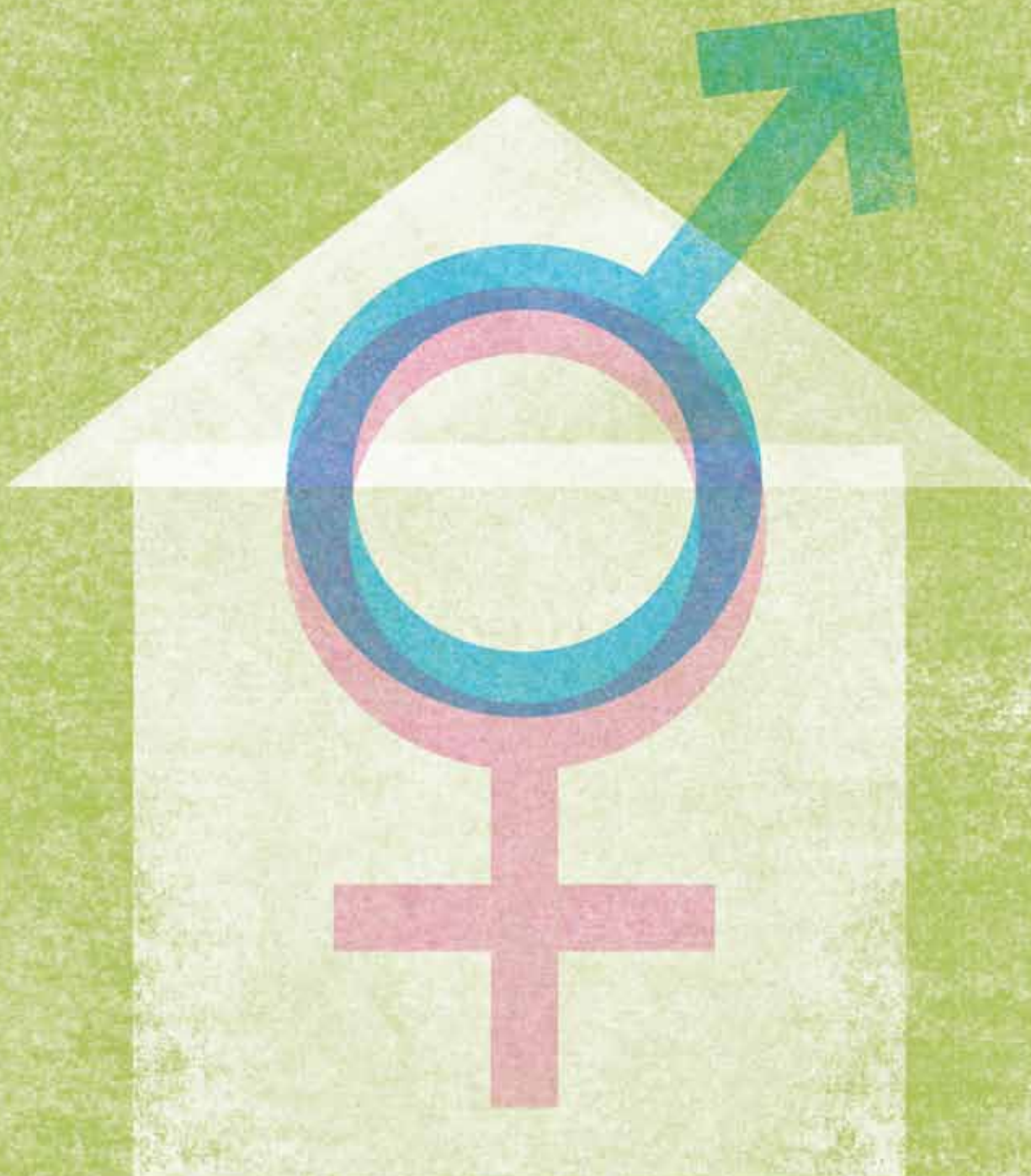
A regional approach also bodes well for shared strategies and interventions. Despite the deep-seated political differences between India and Pakistan, these nations “share a lot of the same problems, a lot of the same issues of women’s experiences,” Critelli says. “In Pakistan, some of the leaders of these programs travel to India to talk to feminists there and they get slammed for that. But I think there’s a lot to learn from each other. The models they develop are more similar to those of the region as a whole. They’re not following our Western models as much. I think that is really significant.”



# GENDER-NEUTRAL

MSW student plays a pivotal role in UB's new housing policy

*By Ann Whitcher-Gentzke*





When UB introduced gender-neutral housing at the start of the fall 2012 semester, the new policy reflected not only best practices in residential living for college students nationwide, it also incorporated a transgendered student's thoughtful analysis and the ethical principles of social work he holds dear.

**UNLIKE TRADITIONAL HOUSING** that separates students by sex, gender-neutral housing allows male and female students to live within the same residence hall room or campus apartment. The program, now in a pilot phase, sets aside two floors in the Ellicott Complex, plus several apartments in Hadley and Creekside villages, expressly for this purpose.

Trey Ufholcz (MSW '12) became interested in this topic during his field placement at the UB Gender Institute, which supports research and teaching related to women, gender and sexuality. Patricia Shelly (MSW '95), the center's then-associate director, supervised his work there. "Pat allowed me the opportunity and choice to research and advocate change in university policies to uphold equality for all students," he says. Diane E. Elze, associate professor and director of the MSW program, also influenced his research "through her support and encouragement to hold myself and those around me to our ethical responsibility to foster equality for all people."

Ufholcz was researching homelessness and the lack of safe housing for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) youth in Erie County. This inspired him, along with his work at the Pride Center of Western New York, which advocates for LGBTQ people. He soon realized that UB students were experiencing similar issues to what he was observing in his fieldwork.

"We encountered a lot of LGBTQ youth who were homeless, but they weren't recognized as being homeless because they were couch-surfing at friends' or neighbors' homes," Ufholcz says. "I felt I needed to start here at UB and make the campus a welcoming place for LGBTQ students before going to the community."

Ufholcz teamed up with Brian Haggerty, senior associate director of campus living, and James Bowman, special populations outreach coordinator in Wellness Education Services, to research national trends on campus housing and gender equity and to develop a suitable proposal for UB's residence halls.

"A safe living space is necessary for the wellness of the student body," says Ufholcz. "Moreover, the university's nondiscrimination policy includes gender identity so as to recognize and support differences, and all policies—including housing—should be reflective of this. Gender-neutral housing allows for self-determination by allowing students the choice to make decisions regarding their own needs."

Nearly 90 U.S. colleges and universities currently offer gender-neutral or gender-inclusive housing in some form, according to the Transgender Law & Policy Institute. UB's new policy on gender-neutral housing "advances the university to peer-status

with other research institutions," says Ufholcz. "It also increases resident retention by providing another housing option and creates a viable alternative to local private housing."

Ultimately, the group's proposal led to an executive summary that Haggerty presented to Dennis R. Black, vice president for university life and services. Black approved the option and the policy was announced in June 2012. About 40 students are participating in the pilot program, which is expected to attract a broad range of students, from those who identify as LGBTQ to those who wish to live with friends of the opposite sex.

Ufholcz says the availability of gender-neutral housing upholds the principles of his field. "The NASW Code of Ethics calls for social and political action that emphasizes the ethical responsibility to advocate for all people so they have equal access to resources and opportunities. It also states that social workers should act to expand choice and opportunity for all people and promote conditions that encourage respect for cultural and social diversity. Finally, it calls on social workers to prevent and eliminate discrimination. Traditional housing discriminates through heteronormative assumptions—a view that gender roles are fixed to one's biological sex—and upholds people to traditional gender roles that are not accommodating to the entire student body."

Now based in Florida, Ufholcz is researching alternatives for LGBTQ youth in foster care, such as the Host Home program in Minnesota. "This community-based program can be implemented without state or federal funding, as qualifying adults volunteer to open their homes to LGBTQ youth who do not have one," he says.

Meanwhile, the launch of UB's new policy brings him profound satisfaction. "Knowing that students at UB currently have the choice of gender-neutral housing makes everything I did worthwhile."



**"GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING ALLOWS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION BY ALLOWING STUDENTS THE CHOICE TO MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR OWN NEEDS."**

**Trey Ufholcz**

# COMINGS, GOINGS, REM



## HOWARD DOUECK RETIRES: A TRIBUTE

At the end of an evening spent honoring Howard Doueck's contributions to the School of Social Work, his beloved daughter, Sarah, commented, "Wow, Daddy did a good job." Indeed, we all celebrated a career marked by doing a good job, day

after day, job after job. Howard, who retired this year as professor and associate dean for academic affairs, arrived with his family in Buffalo and the School of Social Work in 1986. The family drove across the country from Seattle in a summer of record-breaking heat in a Volkswagen without air-conditioning, packed with almost everything they owned, including a cat. Fortunately, that experience was arduous enough that he never left. We are all grateful for that.

Howard began teaching in middle school, where he learned to balance engagement with an uncanny ability to get students to believe in themselves and to achieve beyond their own expectations. That balance is echoed in Emilie (Schneider) Toth's '93 comment that "Howard Doueck was the only professor who ever encouraged me to publish a paper. I never did end up publishing, but the fact that he believed in my writing ability meant a lot, and really boosted my confidence."

Howard moves seamlessly between being fully appropriate and absolutely hilarious without missing a beat, all the time keeping his mind on both short-term and long-term goals, keeping people motivated and getting those many jobs done. He filled almost every role in the school but dean. He was tapped for too many university committees to list and was an active and productive researcher and scholar, as well as an active member of GADE (Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work) and our other professional groups. He continues to be active in many local community groups and organizations. He is the master of building long-term relationships based on trust and complete faith in his integrity. As Murray Levine, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Psychology, so eloquently put it, "Much of [our] work could not have been done but for the working contacts he maintained with former students now in positions of authority, and who evidently liked, trusted and respected him greatly."

The foundation of that trust, respect and love is built largely on what Wilburn Hayden, associate dean of the School of Social Work in the 1990s, described as Howard's willingness "to work behind the scenes to get the job done without seeking credit for his work."

In retirement, Howard leaves more than a legacy. He leaves us richer and more accomplished because so many of us have learned from and were mentored by him over the past 26 years.

—Barbara Rittner



## REMEMBERING BERTHA S. LAURY (1934-2012)

Bertha Laury's New York City roots could be heard in her accent. The retired clinical associate professor and director of field education earned an undergraduate degree from Paine College and an MSW from Atlanta University, two of the

nation's oldest historically black institutions. The Deep South did not make it into her accent, but it added to her graciousness.

In 1966, she arrived in Western New York where she became a direct practitioner, both at the behavioral science clinic of Women & Children's Hospital and with the Buffalo Public Schools. She soon became a seasoned administrator—the way grass-roots social workers often do—at Booth Memorial Center and at St. Augustine Center. But it was because of her years with the Erie County Department of Social Services that many knew her across the region.

Bertha began teaching early because she believed in the importance of an educated workforce, first as an adjunct at Niagara University and then at Erie County Community College before

# EMBERING



## INTRODUCING ISOK KIM

The school's newest assistant professor, Isok Kim, PhD, LCSW, could call just about any academic institution home. Exceptionally perceptive of diversity, Kim possesses the indispensable experiences of a practicing clinician, researcher and graduate of the University of Michigan's respected doctoral program. He

is a tremendously valuable asset in a field that hinges on the relationship of translational research to practice perspective, informed theory and cultural consciousness.

Kim possesses an astute understanding of ethnic minority groups' experiences. He is mindful that these can look very different depending on whom you talk to. His fall course, "Multicultural Issues in Social Work," is a subject that has long engaged him. "My research matters to practicing social workers because we need to be aware of cultural issues beyond the traditional black-white paradigm," says Kim. "As the nation grows to be more and more multicultural, we need to be prepared to work with clients from various cultural backgrounds. It is essential, therefore, to be familiar with the plights and struggles of some of the less visible minorities, like Asian-Americans."

The school's immersion in a trauma-informed human rights perspective is well matched with Kim's approach to studies of ethnic minorities. He is fully knowledgeable of the traditional notion of trauma, and ever-perceptive of historical trauma as well. "Chronic, continuous narratives, such as the model minority myth [often applied to Asian-Americans], define lives and restrict functions," Kim says. "Not many people are aware of this more subtle trauma. And it often pits ethnic groups against one another."

Kim currently is studying the impact of coping and empowerment in the context of racial discrimination. For the spring semester, he is excited to be teaching "Responding to Refugees and Immigrants," as well as "Diversity and Oppression." The department's multidisciplinary approach to social work, coupled with Kim's cultural consciousness and practical expertise, will provide his students a firm basis for developing research interests and fully exploring the topic of human rights. "My interactions with professors both in and outside of classrooms were pivotal moments in my professional life that heightened my interest in mental health and social justice," Kim says. "I hope to provide my students with a similar experience."

—Sarah Goldthrite

she joined the School of Social Work as director of field education in 1972. She expanded field placements, selected and trained 200 field educators, and closely supervised the progress of her students. She retired in 1996. We missed her then and feel the loss even more intensely now.

As director of field education, Bertha nurtured students and colleagues to achieve the highest standards of her profession. She willingly opened her home to students and dazzled all of us with her brilliant smile, quick wit and wry sense of humor. She was president of the board of one of the region's largest medical insurers, with a mission of providing access to health care for all.

She chaired the board of a nonprofit of community partners that funded innovative health-focused programs and initiatives. It is not surprising that she was the recipient of numerous awards, including induction into the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame in 2003.

Bertha's friends and colleagues created the Bertha S. Laury Scholarship for her favorite kind of student—one who started as a thorn but became a rose. Indeed, Bertha was always a rose—tough, sometimes prickly, but always a brilliant rose.

—Barbara Rittner





## 2011-2012 STUDENT AWARDS HONORS WERE CONFERRED ON 18 STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD**  
Sarah Nesbitt

**ANDREW J. LAUGHLIN AWARD**  
DeMar McClain

**KRISTOPHER L. BRASELTON  
MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Donna LiPuma

**LOUISA CIELEN AWARD**  
Beatrice Turner

**NILES CARPENTER SCHOLARSHIP**  
Shyquiera Lee

**HASELTINE T. CLEMENTS  
MEMORIAL AWARD**  
McKenzie Mattison

**TERESA EUSANIO MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Elise Blasingame

**BERTHA S. LAURY  
THORN & ROSE AWARD**  
Shawnte Wilson

**DENA P. GOLD MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Lynlee Barbour





OF SOCIAL WORK'S COMMENCEMENT, MAY 12, 2012

**DOROTHY LYNN HONORARY AWARD**  
Sarah Nesbitt

**JULIAN SODJA MEMORIAL FUND**  
Vicky Wideman

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD**  
Andrew Wilton

**LOUIS H. SWARTZ MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Bradley Loliger

**ROSE WEINSTEIN SCHOLAR AWARD**  
Rachel Rotach

**ARCHING W. SWANSON  
HONORARY AWARD**  
Meaghan Barone

**NASW AWARD**  
Paula Madrigal

**DREAM AWARD**  
Samantha Janosick  
Bradley Loliger  
Kelly Thomson

# To our alumni family, friends and supporters:



The 2011-12 academic year has been an extraordinary one for the School of Social Work. For the first time in a number of years, the university is in sounder financial condition and moving forward on an ambitious strategic plan.

**MOREOVER, THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK** is now ranked among the “Best Schools of Social Work” in the nation, according to the U.S. News & World Report rankings. (See article on p. 3.) Our strong standing among our peers is an acknowledgement of our educational innovation, our widely subscribed podcast series and our nationally renowned faculty as important researchers.

Adding to the good news, we just graduated one of our strongest classes and admitted one of our most competitive in years. Indeed, we are expecting the coming years to attract even more competitive and diverse students, including those from out of state and around the world. The best schools across the nation are competing for these very applicants, who will make their decisions based on a variety of factors. We know that UB has a great deal to offer.

Among our attributes, we are situated in a welcoming and affordable community, our tuition is lower than many other state universities, our master’s graduates have success securing employment and passing the licensure examinations at impressive rates, and our doctoral graduates have faculty-researcher placement rates that are among the highest in the nation. All this positions us to recruit some outstanding faculty this coming year. But we need generous donors to help us reach the next level of scholarship support so that we don’t lose a great applicant to another institution offering more financial support.

Finally, we need donors to provide more resources to the Buffalo Center for Social Research for start-up pilot funding for doctoral students and faculty. We especially need our alumni—particularly those we supported with scholarships—to donate so that we can accept and support all those potential applicants with talent and dreams for themselves and their communities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nancy Smyth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "S".

NANCY SMYTH  
DEAN



# People People

## Alumni Association News



### My fellow alumni

Greetings! I recently had the pleasure of welcoming the UB School of Social Work Class of 2012 to our profession. Membership brings a sense of togetherness based on a common bond. The University at Buffalo is New York's premier public center for graduate and professional education. Our School of Social

Work plays an integral role in the university's mission of outreach to the community, state and nation, as well as in furthering UB's international connections. Our common bond is our great university; we are UB alumni and we belong to this "club."

Being a UB alumnus brings different benefits, some tangible and some intangible. If you belong to the UB Alumni Association, you are contributing to its strength because your dues go to support our abundance of programs, services and events across the country and abroad. As more alumni join the association, the breadth and scope of what is offered to you and fellow "club" members are greatly expanded.

It is important for alumni to recognize that UB's reputation directly corresponds to the value perceived in our degrees. UB is a premier center for learning, research and discovery; our school is one of the highest ranked, both at UB and in the nation. Our school and our alumni are an important part of who we are. I encourage you to join the Alumni Association if you are not already a member. For those who are, I encourage you to renew your membership. Please visit [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu) and <https://alumni.buffalo.edu/> to help further this mission of outreach and growth.

Rita M. Andolina (MSW '88),  
Chair, SSW Alumni Committee  
[GovGirl55@aol.com](mailto:GovGirl55@aol.com)



### Attention alums

Congratulations and welcome to the Class of 2012! You made it and are joining a group of alumni that is 5,800 strong and spans eight decades. Yes, we have alumni from the class of 1936. You, the Class of 2012, are in good company. The transition from student

and intern to colleague and alumnus may feel very new to some of you. We all know that with newness comes excitement and trepidation. By now, many of you have the right job, in the right place, with the right people and for the right pay. Your dream job!

You made the right choice by attending the UB School of Social Work because our expectations and standards are marked by excellence. We asked much of you as a student and you delivered—be proud of joining a remarkable group of alumni. Your School of Social Work alumni family has been there and continues to be there for you. Our national ranking as one of the best schools of social work (see article on p. 3) was earned because "getting it right" is a collaborative process, not a single event. And this collaborative effort is one that you are very much a part of as an alumnus.

You are now one of our greatest assets and we need your ideas, participation, help and expertise. Countless hours have been donated by alumni like you to the school's mentoring program, reaccreditation project, field education, curriculum development, advisory committees and development initiatives. The depth of the commitment our alumni feel toward the school, the community and the profession is reflected in all these activities. Now, as you begin your professional journey, is a time to join with seasoned alumni on social work's diverse paths as we all strive, now and in the future, to "get it right."

Denise Krause,  
Clinical Professor and Associate Dean for  
Community Engagement and Alumni Relations  
[dkrause@buffalo.edu](mailto:dkrause@buffalo.edu)



# Classnotes

**70 Ellen Grant (MSW '74)** was named commissioner of the Erie County Department of Senior Services in June 2012. She previously was director of Cornerstone Manor, a homeless women's shelter. She has been a managing partner for 24 years for First Advantage Consulting, which provides executive coaching and human service consultation.

**Mark Fruhlinger (MSW '79)** is the EAP manager for the Americas at DuPont. He has a long history at DuPont, starting in 1993 after 14 years with the Alcoholism Council in Niagara County.

**80 Debra Tasman (MSW '82)** has been with Kaleida Health as a clinical social worker since 2009 and is now at Kaleida's Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo. From 2002-09, she was with Western New York Psychotherapy Services.

**Barbara Levy Daniels (MSW '84)** has been in private practice since 1984. She also evaluates those with commercial licenses (governed by the U.S. Department of Transportation) who have experienced a positive drug/alcohol test. Additionally, she is an evaluator for the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles for alcohol-related arrests. A jazz vocalist, she performs locally and is working on a third CD.

**90 Elizabeth Mauro (MSW '92)** has been employed by Mid-Erie Counseling & Treatment Services since 1992 and has served as its executive director since 2006. She began as a child mental health counselor, then worked as a program supervisor, site team leader and corporate compliance officer before assuming her current post.

**Stacia Lee Macklin (MSW '95)** is clinical director at Full Circle Grief Center in Richmond, Va. She supervises the agency's support groups for grieving youth and families, including those who use art, music and creative writing in the grieving process.

**Sonja McAllister (MSW '95)** is a senior counselor at Lakeshore Behavioral Health where she provides psychotherapy to adults in an outpatient clinic. She also supervises other master's-level clinicians. From 2009-10, she worked for Essex County Council Schools, Children and Families in Basildon, Essex, U.K.

**William Sabado (MSW '95)** is deputy executive director at St. Vincent's Services Inc., a nonprofit organization in the Greater New York City area. He also serves on the board of directors for both the William M. Casey Foundation and Executive Leadership Institute Alumni Connections.

**Mary Kay Diakite (MSW '96)** works for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in

the New York City Department of Health Hygiene. She oversees \$20 million in contracts for mental health, supportive counseling, harm reduction, transitional care coordination, outreach to homeless individuals, and assessment and referral services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

**Cherie Spehar (MSW '97)** established the Trauma Healing Center, Smiling Spirit Pathways, in Apex, N.C. She is a certified trauma specialist, certified trauma consultant-supervisor and a play therapist. She serves children, adults and families in trauma healing, trains and speaks nationally, and supervises LCSWs in their licensure.

**Bonnie Northrop Mora (MSW '98)** is a social case work manager and discharge planner in Arizona. She works directly with doctors, nurses, patients, families and health care agencies to provide the best outcomes for patients.

**00 Monique Stays (MSW '01)** has 10 years' experience providing clinical mental health service to SPMI/MICA clients in the Greater New York City area, including at Safe Space.

**Molly Montes Faulk (MSW '02)** is an assistant professor of mental health and psychology at Belmont College in Ohio and is also developing a private practice.

**Jose Correa (MSW '03)** has held various positions at Catholic Charities, including preventive services social worker and preventive services supervisor. He recently transitioned to working with the Buffalo Public Schools as a Closing the Gap site facilitator at Lorraine Elementary Public School 72, where he collaborates with school administration, the student support team, teachers, service providers and families to address barriers to academic success.

**Sean Knoche (MSW '03)** is a licensed clinical social worker and senior staff counselor at UB Counseling Services with Brad Linn (MSW '12), a doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work.

**Kim Morris (MSW '03)** has worked for Homespace Corporation since 2005 and is now its executive director. Homespace is a not-for-profit agency that provides residential and comprehensive services to girls and young women in foster care, ages 14 to 21, who are pregnant or already parents.

**Michelle O'Bar (MSW '03)** has held a variety of positions, including clinical supervisor for case managers, group home therapist, methadone clinic therapist, and private practice and program manager at a women's re-entry center. Currently, she is working as a therapist in a college preparatory boarding school for students of high aptitude who have struggled academically or socially.

**Jennifer Braun (MSW '04)**, a licensed clinical social worker in San Diego, Calif., is wrapping up five years in child welfare services to embark on a new opportunity as a clinical social worker at the VA clinic in La Jolla.

**Shatasha Lenise Cole (MSW '04)** has been working for Catholic Charities in Niagara Falls since 2007. She began her journey as a social worker in the agency's Therapeutic Supervised Visitation Program and transferred to its Kinship Preventive Services Program, working with birth parents and caregivers toward reunification with their children. She now works with refugees, assisting families with obtaining community resources and acclimating to U.S. culture.

**L'Oreal Dunn Glenn (MSW '04)** lives in Charlotte, N.C., where she is a therapist for Piedmont Behavioral Health and has opened Imani Therapy and Consulting LLC.

Previously, she worked for Daymark Recovery Service, Carolinas Healthcare System and the city of New York.

**Tari McGinty-Sarratori (MSW '04)** is coordinator for the Family Court Drug Treatment Court at Erie County Family Court. Previously, she worked as case manager at the Family Drug Treatment Court as part of the New York State Unified Court System in Chautauqua County.

**Roselle Scaggs (PhD '04 & MSW '94)** is now a full professor of social work at Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pa.

**Amanda Santangelo Drumsta (MSW '05)** is a licensed clinical social worker and works at BryLin Hospitals as a psychiatric clinical counselor.

**Joshua Dulmus (MSW '05)** is working for Cattaraugus County as a staff LCSW.

**Mary C. Hayes (MSW '05)** is now interim director of community services and public health for Schuylar County, N.Y.

**Joanna McNelis (MSW '05)** has taken an interesting and unusual professional path as a freelance photographer and psychotherapist in the Rochester area. Her current project is Life Through My Lens Photography LLC. She continues to work at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Megan Wasneechak (BA/MSW '05)** is an international adoption journey specialist at Embraced by Grace Inc., an adoption agency in Casselberry, Fla.

**Amber Zito (MSW '05)** is a clinical supervisor at Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland, where she oversees a transdisciplinary team of 30 employees. She also serves as a behavioral health volunteer at the Cleveland Free Clinic and gives local presentations on end-of-life suicide research.

**Matthew Davis (MSW '06)** is a mental hygiene practitioner at the Niagara County Department of Mental Health, where he con-

ducts intake assessments and provides individual evidence-based therapy. He also works crisis on-call rotation.

**Carla Galone (MSW '06)** is a licensed clinical social worker and coordinator of behavioral health services at the Student Support Center, a nonprofit agency in Washington, D.C. The Student Support Center works under several grants to ensure access to social, emotional and behavioral health services and programming for students in the city's public charter schools.

**Kim Ferrino Adams (MSW '08)** is a licensed clinical social worker for the sex offender treatment program at Gowanda Correctional Facility.

**Seaghan Coleman (MSW '08)** has been a staff counselor II at Kaleida's Outpatient Behavioral Health MICA/Trauma Services since 2010.

**Tara Taddio (MSW '08)** is working as an LMSW and certified school social worker with Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES in the Pioneer Central School District. She is assigned to the intensive 6:1:1 classrooms that meet the needs of students who have emotional and behavioral challenges. She is enrolled in the School of Social Work's trauma counseling certificate program to continue her education.

**Jennifer Dunning (MSW '09)** is community liaison for New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan.

**Trevor Jones (MSW '09)** is clinical intake coordinator at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Counseling Center.

**Jenna Witkowski (MSW '09)** is a medical social worker at Erie County Medical Center's Immunodeficiency Services.

**10 Caryn Domzalski (MSW '10)** is working as a dialectical behavioral therapist at Child & Adolescent Treatment Services in Buffalo.

**Judy Hess (MSW '10)** works in Rochester for Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network as an organ procurement coordinator. In her position, she brings social work values into trauma-based situations, working with loved ones as they cope with sudden and tragic loss.

**Deona Hooper (MSW '10)** has created and launched a new social network at [www.socialworkhelper.com](http://www.socialworkhelper.com). It caters exclusively to social work, social care, and human service professionals and students.

**Shoshana Kaplan (MSW '10)** is providing individual and family services in Los Angeles. She is the administrative assistant at United Synagogue Youth Pinwheel Region. She previously was assistant to the director of education at Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle. She also provided hypnotherapy sessions at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center.

**Yadira Ruiz-Burandt (MSW '10)** lives in North San Diego County and works as a therapist for the Behavioral Crisis Center at Rady Children's Hospital. She is thrilled to be able to use her bilingual skills in Spanish at this agency.

**Rich Rutherford (MSW '10)** works at Monsignor Carr Children's Clinic in Lockport, N.Y., as a child and family therapist.

**Sandra Sheppard (PhD '10 & MSW '97)** is executive director of Canopy of Neighbors in Buffalo.

**Audrey W. Brady (MSW '11)** is working as a clinical social worker at Genesee County Mental Health Services.

**Michelle Atlee Davis (MSW '11)** has been working as a family-based mental health therapist for Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems in Warren, Pa., since January 2012.

**Elizabeth Lyon (MSW '11)** is a crisis specialist at Crisis Intervention Services in Elmira, N.Y., responding to crisis pages throughout Chemung and Schuylar counties. She works hand-in-hand with emergency response personnel, including emergency room, ambulance, police, sheriff and state police. She has been trained in solution-focused therapy. Previously, she worked for eight years in vocational rehabilitation with Adults with Disabilities.

**Bonnie Oliver (MSW '11)** is working as a child protection worker with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

**Kate Wolff (MSW '11)** is a case manager at Tioga Opportunities' Department of Aging.

**Amanda Ciesielski (MSW '12)** is a life skills trainer and a respite care provider at Heritage Centers.

**Bianca Guevara (MSW '12)**, a clinical social worker in Rochester, has become an asset to her work team because of her trauma-informed viewpoint.

**Kathleen Stack (MSW '12)** was awarded the prestigious \$25,000 Western New York Prosperity Scholarship and is now working on her MBA in the UB School of Management.

## CALL FOR CLASSNOTES

Got something to say? Some news to share? Send your story to [sjwatson@buffalo.edu](mailto:sjwatson@buffalo.edu) or call Sarah Watson at 716-645-1259.





# GO SHOPPING, SUPPORT THE SCHOOL



THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IS NOW AN AMAZON.COM ASSOCIATE PARTNER.

When you go to Amazon.com through the School of Social Work website to buy a book (or almost anything else), the school will earn a percentage of the sale. We think Amazon.com is a great company to partner with because books are the heart of its business and the core of education.

Go to [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/amazon](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/amazon).<sup>\*</sup> It will take you to the Amazon.com link as part of our Associate Partnership program.

We use these earnings to support special initiatives. You help support our goals when you use our website to go shopping at Amazon.com.

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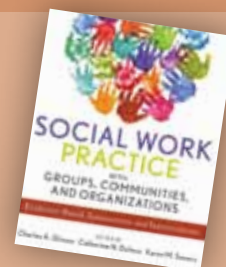
IT'S A VIRTUOUS COMBINATION.

<sup>\*</sup>USE THIS LINK TO PURCHASE

## "Social Work Practice with Groups, Communities, and Organizations"

edited by Catherine N. Dulmus, professor and associate dean for research; Charles A. Glisson and Karen M. Sowers.

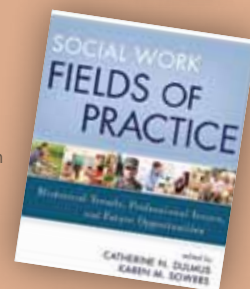
[John Wiley & Sons, 2012]



## "Social Work Fields of Practice"

edited by Catherine N. Dulmus, professor and associate dean for research; and Karen M. Sowers.

[John Wiley & Sons, 2012]



## "Survival Disaster: The Role of Social Networks"

edited by Kathleen Kost, associate professor.

[Lyceum Books, Inc., 2012]

